

2010 India Day / Utsav / 64th Indian Independence Day Celebration

President's Welcome Address

Delivered by Thayumanasamy Somasundaram, President, IATLH
IndiaDay/Utsav 2010, Saturday, Saturday 21, 2010, 2:00 PM
Moore Auditorium, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306.

Good Afternoon,

My name is Thayumanasamy Somasundaram and I am the current President of the India Association of Tallahassee. First of all I want to welcome our Guest Speaker Dean Laughlin, Special Guest Sri C.D. Seshadri, all the members of Indian Students Association of Tallahassee (INSAT), members of India Association of Tallahassee (IATLH), and the general public. Thanks for taking time to come to our Premier India Day/ Utsav 2010—a cultural program and a fair. For the first time in a long-while INSAT and IATLH has been working together to bring this evening's events. During this event we will also mark the 64th Indian Independence Day with songs and music celebrating mother India and her great children.

I take this opportunity to welcome the student performers, young performers, experienced artists, event coordinators, parents, volunteers, vendors, exhibitors, and the general public. It is your enthusiasm and idea that has crystallized into this unique event. Utsav, which started five years ago with an audience of few dozen people has grown today with several hundreds people and has become the second biggest Indian event with at least 20 items. This is direct reflection of the growing number of Tallahassee students, residents, and children who can trace their heritage to the Indian sub-continent. So, it is important to celebrate events like this and share the rich culture and heritage of India with others. Our hope is events like these highlight the talents of people and help bridge differences among people. Adding a vendor/exhibitor fair is another opportunity to learn about our arts and fashion.

Many of you may have seen a copy of today's program schedule. For those who may not have seen it, the schedule is the following:

- *Unfurling of Indian Flag by Special Guest Sri C.D. Seshadri*
- *Singing of National Anthems of India and the United States*
- *Address by Guest Speaker Professor Karen Laughlin, Dean Undergraduate Studies, FSU*
- *Start of Utsav Cultural Program Part 1*
- *Intermission*
- *Start of Utsav Cultural Program Part 2*

So I request now everyone to stand-up for unfurling of the Indian Flag and singing of national anthems.

Sri C. D. Seshadri will now unfurl the Indian Flag.

Sincerely,

Thayumanasamy Somasundaram

President of IATLH (2010-11)