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Indian-Americans honored by India Association

By [Thayumana Somasundaram](#)
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Two prominent Indian-Americans were honored Jan. 26 by the India Association of Tallahassee during the 59th Indian Republic Day celebration.

Naresh Dalal, professor of chemistry at Florida State University, and **Satish Kastury**, recipient of the prestigious Gold Medal of Government of India for his worldwide contributions to environmental sciences and engineering, spoke about their lifelong commitment to science and environmental causes. They encouraged the people in the audience to go one step beyond to achieve greatness.



THAYUMANA SOMASUNDARAM/Special to the Chronicle
Priya Ashok and Deepa Sekar sing a Tamil song.

The celebration held at Covenant Presbyterian Church, began with the unfurling of the Indian flag by Dalal, recipient of 2007 ACS Southern Chemist & Florida Chemist awards for his contributions to science and teaching. This was followed by the singing of Indian and American national anthems.

Several members of the association sang patriotic songs in several Indian

languages in keeping with the tradition of Republic Day celebrations. After the songs, **Robert Arnett**, author and photographer of the internationally acclaimed books, "India Unveiled" and "Finder Keepers?" spoke about his travels to India. He presented a 20-minute slide show that took the audience through a journey of India, from the Himalayas in the north to Kanyakumari in the south. He mentioned that the philosophies of East and West share ideas, and both teach us to be good citizens.

The association then donated 21 copies of "India Unveiled" and 39 copies of "Finder Keepers?" to Leon County's public schools and libraries. **Debra Sears**, administration and operations manager of the Leon County Public Library, accepted the books on behalf of the library.

The India Association of Tallahassee (www.iathl.org) is a Florida non-profit organization devoted to promoting the cultural, social, and educational activities of people from India.

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Priya Ashok and Deepa Sekar sing a Tamil song.

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