



# Bharati



## Ganesh Chaturthi

*Neha Kothari*

Ganesh Chaturthi, the birthday of Lord Ganesha, is one of the most popular of Hindu festivals. It falls on the 4th day of the bright fortnight of *Bhadrapada* (August-September). This year it falls on September 7. The popular tradition of celebrating this occasion is to make clay figures of the deity and worship it for two days (or in some cases ten days), then immersing it into water (*Visarjan*).

Ganesha, the elephant-headed God, is believed to be the embodiment of wisdom and bliss. He is the first to be worshipped in any Hindu ritual. His names are chanted first before any auspicious work is begun. He is the eldest son of Lord Shiva and the elder brother of Kartikeya. By worshipping Lord Ganesha mothers hope to earn for their sons the sterling virtues of Ganesha.

The following story is narrated about his birth and how he came to have the head of an elephant. Gauri, the consort of Shiva, created Ganesha as a pure white being out of the mud of her body and placed him at the entrance of the house. She told him not to allow anyone to enter while she went inside for a bath. Shiva himself returned home thirsty and was stopped by the obedient Ganesha at the gate. Thinking of Ganesha as an outsider, Shiva got angry and cut off Ganesha's head. When Gauri came to know of this, she was sorely grieved. To console her grief, Shiva ordered his servants to cut off and bring to him the head of the first creature that might be sleeping with its head facing north. The servants went on their mission and found only an elephant in that position. The sacrifice was thus made and the elephant's head was brought before Shiva, who joined the elephant's head onto the body of Ganesha. Lord Shiva made his son worthy of worship at the beginning of all undertakings, marriages, expeditions, studies, etc. He ordained that the annual worship of Ganesha should take place on the 4th day of the bright half of Bhadrapada.

Ganesha's vehicle is a small mouse. Riding on a mouse, one of nature's smallest creatures and having the head of an elephant, the biggest of all animals, denotes that Ganesha is the creator of all creatures. Elephants are very wise animals; this indicates that Lord Ganesha is an embodiment of wisdom. It also denotes the process of evolution: the mouse gradually evolves into an elephant and finally becomes a man. This is why Ganesha has a human body, an elephant's head and a mouse as His vehicle. This is the symbolic philosophy of His form.

On this occasion, I pray that all obstacles be removed from your path to happiness and wisdom.

*Vakratunda Mahakaaya, Suryakoti Samaprabha  
Nirvighnam Kuru Mey Deva, Sarva Kaaryeshu Sarvada.*

Translated, it means: The Lord with the curved trunk and a mighty body, who has the luster of a million suns, I pray to thee Oh Lord, to remove the obstacles from all the actions I intend to perform..

### From the Editors Desk.....

Greetings! The September issue of Bharati is here. A special thanks to Muralidharan Raghavan for his contribution to this issue.

I extend a warm welcome to all the new students at Texas Tech University. I hope you all have a enriching experience at TTU, both educationally and personally. We have two articles for you in this issue. One is about the resources available to do a good literature search. The other one is a smart guide to eating out in Lubbock. I would also ask you to refer to the article "Student Safety at night" in the May 2005 issue and "Five circles of car buying" in the June 2005 issue of Bharati. I hope these help you get settled in your lives in Lubbock.

***Bouquets or Brickbats? Shoot an email to vrishali\_subramanian@yahoo.co.in.***

Until next month,  
Vrishali Subramanian

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## Knowing your Sources

*Sowmitri Tarimala*

*"The next best thing to knowing something is knowing where to find it. - Samuel Johnson"*

The above words ring true when you are faced with 'Literature Search'. It is an exercise all the students already in the US are familiar with and, in all certainty, something the 'new' students will be involved in. Be it getting a little help on your assignments or selecting a topic for your project or a simple task that your boss (aka professor/advisor) gave you to pull up an article on a hot research topic, it saves a great deal of time (read as more time for timepass!!) and effort if you know where to look. For students involved in research, it is supremely important to get their hands on peer reviewed articles and journals, to move their theses in the right direction. So, here are a few resources I've relied upon in the last three years, which hopefully might prove useful, with emphasis on electronic resources to get full length articles/papers.

**1) *Google*:** OK, I know this is a no-brainer, but this is the simplest and quite an effective source. The incredibly popular search engine could be your one-click stop for general searching on any topic under the sun and if you are lucky you may even find the article you are looking for right here. The Google search can also be enhanced using keywords or searching within results. Google also has a beta version of a search engine especially for research papers called Google Scholar, whose page aptly says "Stand on the shoulder of giants".

**2) *Texas Tech Libraries*:** With four different libraries (University library, Architecture library, ICC library and Southwest Special collections library), Tech boasts of the finest collection of books covering the diverse disciplines, entire spectrum of the curriculum and some. Let me focus on the university library, due to its relevance to the topic at hand. Apart from housing over 5 million books spread over a vast expanse, it provides a mine of electronic resources.

The university library subscribes to a great number of current periodicals and journals, with the most recent issues (1- 2 years) are available electronically via the library search system, known as the SFX, which accesses the electronic databases – EBSCO, FirstSearch, Lexis-Nexis and WilsonWeb. Each of these databases have a vast collection of journals covering various topics. To do away with the details, the 'find articles' link on the webpage takes you to 'electronic journals' which in turn directs to a page where the e-journals are listed alphabetically. Armed with the relevant details such as the journal title, issue/volume number, year of publication and pages, you can find what you are looking for.

If you can't find a certain article in the University Library, you can use the document delivery facility. This facility pulls out the requested material free of charge (or a mentioned nominal cost) . To use it, go to <http://library.ttu.edu/ul/> and click on Document Delivery under Services. You need to fill out a form with the particulars of the material you want and the library will try to find it . The Library also has the same facility for books, dissertations and multimedia items which can be borrowed for a specific time period by requesting it at Interlibrary loan under Services.

For students in Biology and/or related fields, the TTU Health Sciences Library is also a good resource .They have a wider collection of biological and medical books and subscribe to more journals in that genre. It is often worth to visit them to check out their resources. Graduate students at TTU can get a free library card at the TTUHSC library which allows them to check out fifty books.

**3) *ISI web of Knowledge*:** A topical search engine appropriately named "Web of knowledge", this is another extremely useful database with its link listed on the university library webpage. Enter the key words of the topic, and / or the author's name and this powerful engine digs up the relevant references dating back to 1981. This feature is extremely useful when one wants to know about the latest publications related to your research. However, the biggest drawback of this engine is that it gives you access only to the abstract of the journal and not the entire text. This shortcoming can be overcome by using the above mentioned e-journals feature to find the relevant articles.

**4) *SciFinder Scholar*:** This is the most powerful tool I've come across. This is a search engine that can be installed on your computer from the following link <http://library.ttu.edu/ul/subjects/sciences/chemistry/sfsfaq.php>. This is a topical search engine, like Web of Science, but the similarity ends there. This engine is connected to two electronic databases known as CAPLUS and MEDLINE with a combined collection of over 100,000 journals, with issues dating back to the

1930's and search extending to patents. Along with the standard features of searches using key words and authors, this also can provide the information such as the structure, formula, and properties of every chemical known to mankind. However, its best feature is that you can access the full text (if available electronically) by clicking the small computer icon beside the article. Many more slick features can be discovered and utilized as one gets more familiar with this tool.

It is important to bear in mind that, to access all the above mentioned electronic resources, the computer has to be on the TTU network. So, how can you work from your apartment without leaving the comfort of your couch? It is easy - you can connect to the TTU network using Virtual Private Network (VPN), the link is again provided on the university library webpage <http://library.ttu.edu/ul>.

Here are some bonus tips...

- Through VPN, you can connect to your desktop in your office/lab from your home and work without having to set foot out of the apartment. This remote desktop connection is great feature if the weather is inclement or if you simply you feel lazy (like me)!
- How can you transfer large files using remote desktop connection without having to burn a CD or using a flash drive? It's simple. Create a secondary yahoo or hotmail id, log on to the messenger and do a file transfer. I shamelessly admit that I used this feature, not for research, but to transfer a movie file.
- Every Tech student has access a free 100 MB allotted space, known as Tech Drive, where one can upload files by logging on with ones eraider username and password. It's a handy pen/flash drive you don't have to carry and can be accessed at <https://www.raiderlink.ttu.edu>.

Now that you all are armed and ready, Happy Hunting!!

## **African American gentlemen always look forward to the Indian Independence Day**

*Legene Brooks*

While sitting around with nothing to do and making friends with Texas Tech Indians, I found myself just more than a friend. I found myself reaching out to those Indians who just recently arrived into our city and I wanted to welcome them and make them feel at home.

While servicing in Europe, in the United States Air Force, I understood what it is like to be a minority and miles away from home, not knowing anyone. I know how I wanted to be treated, therefore, my heart went out to the Indian population and I did everything in my power, from helping them move into their new apartment to taking them shopping at WalMart. My heart wanted them to feel welcome.

While driving a group of Indian guys to Hutchinson Junior High School in 2001, I was invited to attend my first "Indian Independence Day". I felt as if I'd died and went to heaven, because everyone was extremely nice. The entertainment and the Indian food was great and each year it has gotten better.

While serving as a playwright for my own company, "Heavenly Productions Inc.", two Indians gave me something more than I could ever deserve. Krishnan Pazhayanoor and Bharath Ramachandran orchestrated and designed my webpage free of charge, in which I am greatly appreciative. I could never repay those gentlemen for the time, effort and work they have invested.

While sitting down in my Indian friends' apartment for dinner, I was very fortunate to meet two ISA executive committee members for 2005-2006. I met the editor Ms. Vrishali Subramanian and the public relations officer Mr. Kushal Seth who were extremely nice and invited me to this year's Indian Independence Day. Again, everyone was nice and the entertainment and food was great as usual.

In closing, what can I say? If you are a non-Indian native who lives in Lubbock, "You have not lived life to the fullest extent until you have met our Indian natives." As for myself who is African American, I will always look forward to the Indian Independence Day which is a day filled with fun, entertainment, education and food. Its truly a day you will never forget.

## Lubbock Desi Eatout Guide

*Muralidharan Raghavan*

With a hectic schedule, we hardly have time to try the various diners around Tech. Read on to find out more on where to go and what to expect on the menu.

As with any place you go to in the US, a word of caution, you would need to specifically mention “NO MEAT”, “NO PORK”, “NO BEEF” depending on what you want to avoid. Also, most of the beans contain pork fat in it.

Let your stomach do the listening from here on ...

### **One Guy From Italy - 1019 University Ave., Lbk. 806-747-1226**

Right across the University on University avenue, one can never get enough of this pizza. It is truly the best you will ever have in Lubbock.

### **Pinnocchio's - 1201 University Ave., Lbk. 806-796-1111**

Hog into pizzas and salad. Right opposite the university entrance, this is best for the \$4.50 Tech student's buffet – eat all you want, with a free drink.

### **Ci Ci's Pizza - 2821 50<sup>th</sup> St., Lbk. 806-785-8888**

Opposite the South Plains Mall, it is a great place for family dining with a pizza, pasta, and salad bar. With an awesome assortment in the pizza bar, it's a great place for pizza lovers, so be sure to try the \$5.00 buffet.

### **Great Wall - 1625 University Ave., Lbk. 806-747-1264**

This is said to be a great place for the meat lovers (I cannot vouch for it though). “Make it HOT” and you will find it appealing to your desi taste buds. Mouthwatering Chinese food in an atmosphere that takes you away to China and with the beer, wine & liquor served, makes it a perfect hangout.

### **Little Panda - 1221 University Ave., Lbk. 806-762-6548**

An inexpensive quaint little Chinese restaurant across from the Texas Tech University campus serving spicy chinese dishes.

### **Subway - 1003 University Ave., Lbk. 806-744-1535**

The world's largest submarine sandwich franchisee, this is a great place for weight-watchers and veggie junta. Get an extra layer of cheese, get your bread toasted and add some sweet onion dressing on top, and you are sure to love it.

### **IHop - 1627 University Ave. Lbk. 806-744-515**

Where does one go at 6pm when he/she feels the need for breakfast food? If you're one of those people who love eggs, pancakes, waffles, and the like, then this is definitely heaven for you. Their French toast is to die for not to mention the Belgian Waffles.

### **Taco Bell - 5714 4<sup>th</sup> St., Lbk. 806-749-1114**

Dig into the best taco's in town. For the veggie lovers, get the Bean Burritos and Chalupas, with cheesy potato on the side. Value for money, and a treat for your tummy, check it out when you go to Walmart next.

### **Thai Pepper - 3702-A 20<sup>th</sup> St., Lbk. 806-795-7444**

Located near the Covenant Hospital, this is one place with a great variety. Modify any dish to your liking, make it more spicy, add some rice or noodles and top it with the chilli sauce. Their best – the Thai Ice Tea – you need to relish it to know the difference, so go ahead and taste it.

### **Fazoli's - 1902 West Loop 289, Lbk. 806-791-4400**

It is an inexpensive place with limited options for the veggie lovers. One has to try their great bread and fast-food Italian that still tastes home cooked. Order any dish and dig into the mouthwatering free garlic breadsticks – they taste great with buttermilk ranch.

### **Rosa's Café & Tortilla Factory - 4407 4th St., Lbk. 806-785-5334.**

Enjoy the Mexican food served in a festive atmosphere and don't forget to try the homemade tortillas ( guaranteed fresh) and queso. A must go for the meat-eaters, but wouldn't recommend to the so called grass-eaters.

## Recycling Waste : Baby steps in being environmentally friendly

*Mary Gutierrez*

Recycling your solid waste is the grassroots way of showing your concern for the environment. This article attempts to answer some of the queries regarding how materials can be prepared for recycling.

Lubbock has three drop-off centres located at the following addresses: a) 2002 Elmwood Street b) Department Office 208 Municipal Drive c) 1631 84<sup>th</sup> Street. They are open from Monday through Friday from 8 a.m to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m to 2 p.m .If you have any queries, you can call them at 775-2482. More information can also be found at the website: <http://solidwaste.ci.lubbock.tx.us/index.htm>.

The materials currently accepted at the drop-off centres are :

- ◆ Cleared and colored glass
- ◆ #1 and #2 plastic
- ◆ Aluminum and beverage cans
- ◆ Tin food cans
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard
- ◆ Newspaper
- ◆ Computer paper (greenbar or shredded)
- ◆ White & pastel copy or ledger paper
- ◆ Yard waste (grass clippings, tree trimmings, bushes, etc.)
- ◆ Old appliances, metal and white goods
- ◆ Used motor oil, antifreeze, and filters
- ◆ Large bulky items that will not fit in your residential dumpster (couches, mattresses, stoves, etc.)

In order to make your recycling efforts count, the items need to be properly prepared, sorted & processed .The items are to be prepared in the manner described below. All items are to be placed in the appropriate dumpster located in the recycling centre.

- ◆ Clear & Colored Glass: Remove caps & rinse.
- ◆ Beverage Aluminum cans: This does not include foil wrap, tin pie pans or other aluminum items. Rinse & crush.
- ◆ Steel/Tin Food & Beverage cans: Remove lids & easily removed labels, & rinse .
- ◆ Plastic containers: This category includes : PET #1 clear and tinted plastic bottles and jugs (eg. soft drink, water & beverage bottles), HDPE#2 opaque natural plastic bottles and jugs (eg milk, water, & other beverage bottles & jugs), HDPE #2 colored plastic bottles & jugs (eg detergent jugs, bleach jugs, etc. No motor oil containers or margarine or other tub containers ).For all plastic containers , remove caps, lids, and easily removed labels. Rinse and flatten container.
- ◆ Computer Paper, White /Pastel Office Paper and Newspapers: They should be Dry & unsoiled .No florescent or cardstock papers are accepted.
- ◆ Corrugated Cardboard Boxes: They should be dry, unsoiled and flattened. No cereal or dinner pasteboard boxes are accepted.
- ◆ Used Motor Oil and Filters : Pour used motor oil in Igloo and place filter in the barrel.

The recycling centres provide free compost and mulch for residential use only. Please bring your own shovel and containers for these materials. Each year, the Solid Waste Department conducts a Christmas Tree Recycling Program. All residents are encouraged to take Christmas trees to several drop-off sites throughout the city. The Christmas trees collected are ground into mulch and redistributed to local residents at the Recycling Drop-off Centers.

As is evident from these details, recycling is definitely a process which requires conscious commitment. But there are few more definitive ways of demonstrating concern for the environment and natural resources.

## The days to remember....

*Sanket Unhale, Vikram Shabde and Sowmitri Tarimala*

India Student Association has always been at the center of our student life at Texas Tech. Due to the events they host, the functions they arrange and the way they keep the community well knit, we always feel proud for being part of this organization. Surely, we are not the only persons heaping such praise... well at least not the members of so called "Taurus Gang" who traveled all the way from Arkansas, Louisiana, Arizona and various cities within Texas to participate in the Independence day celebrations.

The ISA members have been complaining about shortage of events, especially movies and free food. These comments made many, including ourselves, skeptical about the way the Independence Day function would be organized. But 13<sup>th</sup> August 2005 was the day, everyone currently at Texas Tech will cherish for a long time. It is easy to ignore the fact as to how much time, effort and planning goes into an event of such magnitude, as most of it happens behind the scenes. Kudos to the ISA committee who worked hard and treated everyone to a quality cultural nite and delicious food.

Starting the program in a little unusual way, without any formal announcement and inauguration for the start of the function, Pradyuta pleased everyone with the prayer "Vakratunda Mahakaya" followed by a very good welcome dance by Ms. Shwetha. Dr. Jharna Choudhary was greeted with much fervor by the committee and the audience to follow the most awaited event of the year... prize distribution. All the winners were honored by the chief guest and aptly cheered by the audience for their good performance in Summer Sports. The program was gripping, with the song numbers and dances that followed accompanied by nice compeering by Apoorv and Nirvani. The fusion instrumental music by Atul, Kiran, Arijit and Ricardo was highly refreshing for the audience. The tunes "Galyat sankhli sonyachi" and "Hero" had us dancing in the aisles!! All the dances were well choreographed and the dancers were agile and energetic in their performance. The filler items where Atul asked questions of the audience were good fun though one (and hopefully everybody else) did feel little ashamed at not being able to tell what our national flag stood for.

Then came the punch... 'Mile sur mera tumhara.' A very effective and well organized performance, which was made the day for everyone. Atul's idea for this program was perfectly executed by the participants, evoking pride and fond memories.

The jam session which followed, though organized for everyone, seemed to have participation only from the "Taurus gang," which was celebrating the reunion of the members. Everyone graced the dance floor with lot of enthusiasm. Only one thing could keep them away, which actually did... The dinner! Once again Gopuram treated the people with very good food, tasty, fresh and there was plenty. Overall the function was a hit and kudos to the committee for pulling it off.

Then came the much anticipated Taurus Reunion. Not many people now in Lubbock will know Taurus. College Pointe, Heritage, Intern and now College park are the favorite apartment complexes now. But there was a time when Taurus was green (Well, it still is, but just in color). Taurus used to be home of famous (or notorious, take your pick) "Taurus Gang" which is now dispersed due to most 'members' taking up jobs or other careers at different locations throughout the US. So, naturally the gang was eagerly waiting for the Independence Day weekend for the reunion. After a terrific event at the Cavazos, we had our own celebrations, full of fun, lots of chatter and cricket (not to forget the alcohol) over the weekend. Everyone is now back in their 'new' homes, new jobs and entirely different environment. But Lubbock, Texas Tech and Taurus is what we miss the most!

### Some of the factors to be considered in Training-cum-Job programs

*Chitra Solomon (Courtesy :email from Dinesh)*

Look beyond the glossy ads:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How many marketing people and recruiters do they have?</li> <li>2) How many consultants do they have?</li> <li>3) Who are their clients?</li> <li>4) What is the duration of the training program?</li> <li>5) Is the accommodation free till they get the project?</li> <li>6) Do they have any in-House projects?</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7) When will they do the H-1 processing?</li> <li>8) Will they pay for H-1 processing fee?</li> <li>9) What will be the percentage split(70-30 or 80-20) when they get the project?</li> <li>10) How long has the company been in business ?</li> <li>11) How many branches do they have?</li> <li>12) Do they have an offshore facility in India?</li> </ol> |
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## Comedy Character

*Ajay Ramachandran*

Comedy Character n.

- 1) A person whose job is to make people laugh by telling jokes and amusing stories or by copying the behavior or speech of famous people
- 2) A person, especially an annoying or inept one
- 3) A foolish or stupid person.

The above term is newly coined and has been in use for a while now. Well, you cannot find it in the Oxford English Dictionary nor any other lexicon, for there is no such expression officially. It is a term that has crept into the vocabulary of the social circles I move in. I think it was one of my earlier room mates who first used it. I take a certain pleasure in popularizing the term whenever I talk. It is a mystery though how it has caught on and started to assume different forms and meanings. Here are just a few of its avatars.

### *n. Australo-phile:*

There is an Australian professor in my department who—as many from Down Under are—is cricket-crazy. He would always make it a point to pass a comment or two on their cricket team's superiority whenever we met in the hallway. Once my friend, an Indian from India, and I ran into him. Unfortunately, it was the week when the Aussies had created history by defeating India in India. I smiled at him rather awkwardly. "You really weren't a match, were you?" he gloated in his unmistakable accent. Unable to rebuff him, I continued my silly smile. My friend was visibly shaken by the comment. No, not in a patriotic sense.

"Me? I'm Australian" he announced as if supporting India was a deadly sin. The bespectacled professor furrowed his brow for a few seconds and nodded his way into a classroom. From that day onward, I heard his research, he being from civil engineering background, has shifted to The History of the Peoples of Australia.

### *n. Absent-minded Professor:*

He has a reputation of remembering minute details that many tend to forget. He actually likes it. Recently he was out of town to meet few of his friends for the long weekend. After having a good time there it was time to return. While leaving his friend's place, he double checked whatever he brought and put it safely in his travel bag. The drive back was long and exhausting that he wanted to hit the bed as soon as he reached home. It was a sitcom-like scene when, in front of his apartment he fumbled for his keys and realized that they were safe and sound in his friend's home in another state. To illustrate that I am not very egotistic, I have confined this particular account of myself to the third person.

### *n. An inquisitive person:*

Curiosity can be a good thing. This bloke (not me, I rarely ask questions) was always eager for knowledge. To quench that thirst, he inquired everything. All that is fine but the problem was he asked twenty questions where two would have sufficed. Too much of something is not good either. So it did not take more than a few days for my friend, with whom this guy stayed briefly, to find out he had run out of all possible answers. The two were cooking one day when our hero began to bombard my friend with courtroom interrogation. Fed up with all of that, my friend said, "Look, I am making potato curry, okay. Don't worry, you don't need to help me. You can just sit and watch. And no questions, please. I am tired of that. No questions." To which the immediate reply was "Why?"

These are just few examples of the purported meanings of 'comedy character'. There are many more that the term has lost any significant meaning. Probably "Yes the comedy character was here today" sounds more exciting than "Yes he was here today." To the politically correct and the feminist, the term is not exclusively attributable to that section in our society which is supposedly strong and un-fair called the 'males'. I have always been a believer in equal rights.

"All the world's a stage

And all the men and women merely .....comedy characters..."

Don't fret, friends, Shakespeare will not mind. He's been long dead anyway.