



Courtesy PSI

The U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai and the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the "AIDS-Free India" event at the consulate lawns in Mumbai on March 15, 2007 to spread HIV/AIDS awareness and galvanize private sector commitment to combat it. The evening saw an elite gathering of more than 200 people from the corporate sector, Bollywood, government officials, NGOs and journalists. Hollywood film star and Youth AIDS Ambassador Ashley Judd, who had come to Mumbai to raise awareness about HIV, was the guest of honor. Judd, a brand ambassador for Population Services International, also interacted with children at the Apne Aap orphanage in New Delhi.

Resham Narula, an audience member, got up on stage to "get down" with U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Felita Rowe, keyboardist Technical Sergeant Harry N. Herndon and other members of Pacific Trends on a "fusion" version of *Rock 'n' Roll, Soniye* at the American Center in New Delhi in March. Pacific Trends, part of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia, was in town to participate in a military tattoo and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Indian Air Force. The U.S. air force is only 60. The band also performed in Kolkata and Chennai and included Indian composer A.R. Rahman's *Pray for me, brother* in its concerts.



VIKAS NARULA

# NEWS SCAPE

Photographs by ANAND RUDRA



To revitalize public space destroyed by the December 2004 tsunami, the International City/County Management Association, with funding from USAID, designed and built two community playgrounds in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu in January. More than 1,000 men, women and children donated their labor in both towns and designs were carried out by people in the U.S. state of Florida who have also survived recent natural disasters.



U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez shopped at Dilli Haat in New Delhi and discussed an urban micro-financing program with the women artisans and shopkeepers. During his February visit, he sought to dispel fears that large American retailers like Wal-Mart would be bad for India's independent store owners. "When you get a presence of an experienced operator, it adds tremendous efficiencies for the economy and for the supply chain. That helps everyone from the farmer, all the way through to the retailer and to the consumer," said Gutierrez.



Courtesy Karen V. Waters

As a Fulbright grantee in India, Karen V. Waters, PhD and professor of English at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, is teaching English literature and American poetry at Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi. She has also lectured on multicultural literature, on American writers such as Virginia Woolf and Emily Dickinson, presented a paper at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi on 19th century visual images of Western colonial power, and attended a Fulbright conference in Darjeeling. Her home university also donated 700 textbooks to Jamia Millia Islamia.

[www.fulbright-india.org](http://www.fulbright-india.org)



GURINDER OSAN © AP-WWP

Jeffrey Krieger, principal cellist for the Hartford Symphony Orchestra in Connecticut, performed in New Delhi in February at a concert that also included Saskia Rao playing her Indianized cello with Durjay Bhaumik on tabla. The audience included more than 100 musicians, music lovers and children from the NGO Prayas. Krieger, who also performed in Jaipur, is among the new generation of solo recitalists who have incorporated technology, the computer and video, as well as an electronic cello.



Photographs by VIKAS NARULA



Sanjaya Malakar, 17, with his long hair and wide smile, has made history by becoming the first Indian American to reach the finals of the *American Idol* reality television show, now in its sixth year. Malakar, from Federal Way, Washington state, survived several rounds of live eliminations and sometimes brutal commentary from the judges before hundreds of millions of viewers of the world's most watched TV show.



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