



Kiran Infertility Center Newsletter

January– February 2013 Volume 2, Issue 1

Sankranti– the festival of Kites!

India celebrated its 64th Republic Day on the 26th of January this year. January is also when Makar Sankranti - one of the most auspicious occasions for the Hindus, and is celebrated in almost all parts of India in myriad cultural forms, with great devotion, fervour, and gaiety. It is a harvest festival and also marks the arrival of Spring in India. This is the only Indian festival whose date always falls on the same day every year: January 14, with some exceptions. While the traditional Indian Calendar is based on lunar positions, Sankranti is a solar event. Makar Sankranti has an astrological significance, as the sun enters the Capricorn (Sanskrit: Makar) zodiac constellation on that day.

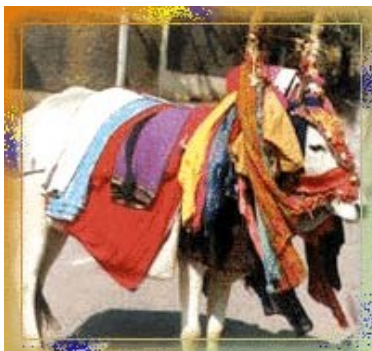
People offer thousands of their colorful oblations to the Sun in the form of beautiful kites. The act stands as a metaphor for reaching to their beloved God, the one who represents the best. Both young and old— everyone enjoys this kite flying. People keenly await this festival to fly kites, called 'patang' in Hindi. Kites are made of special light-weight paper and bamboo and are mostly rhombus shaped with central spine and a single bow. The string often contains abrasives in order to cut down other people's kites. Friends and family get together on roof tops, play music & horns, eat sweets, fly kites & making merry!

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To Hindus, the Sun stands for knowledge, spiritual light and wisdom. Makar Sankranti signifies that we should turn away from the darkness of delusion in which we live, and begin to enjoy a new life with bright light within us to shine brighter and brighter. We should gradually begin to grow in purity, wisdom and knowledge even as the Sun does from the Day of Makar Sankranti!



Team Focus



Dr. Naresh Sekhar

Managing Director

M.B.B.S Fellowship in Gastroenterology

Dr Naresh Sekhar - the Managing Director and Male Infertility Specialist for K I C., has an experience of more than 30 years in treating male infertility and responsible for furthering medical education in the field of infertility. Our center has trained more than 100 doctors in the field of infertility and assisted reproduction. His leadership is our driving force, always egging us on to increase our overall standards to achieve better results and to provide better service.

His Favorite quote- “100 % is not enough, you have to put in 101%”



Giving back to the Society **AMMA Women's Welfare Society**

-an initiative by the Kiran Infertility Centre, India

Still 30% of Indian population is classified as living below the poverty line and earn a dollar per day to secure their living. On one hand India is thriving to be a Global Superpower but There are many parts of India, unseen, impoverished and uneducated and these people do not have access to basic medication, nutrition and hygiene. Due to illiteracy and prevalent social structures in India women are often at the receiving end of the patriarchal dominance existing in the INDIAN Psyche!

With an intention to help Women in need , we at KIC have come up with this foundation which will help poor and needy women from society. AMMA Women's Welfare Society is a NGO, Non Profit Non Governmental organization that has been set up to help the poor women in the society, to provide them opportunities to earn their living by teaching them vocational trade such as stitching, pottery, arts and crafts, etc., for educating them about basic hygiene and nutrition, to provide shelter to homeless, a forum to provide social justice to women, a conciliatory forum to try to resolve issues related to family matters. To summarize, it is an initiative to provide a better and secure place for women in the INDIAN society.

"Any society, any nation, is judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members - the last, the least, the littlest." We firmly believe in the above adage and In our effort to contribute to the society and to improve the standard of living of the under privileged and poor Women in the India, we at KIC have come up with a novel idea to support these kind of women who are in need of help by establishing the "AMMA Women's Welfare Society". "AMMA" when translated in Hindi and other vernacular languages in India means "Mother".

Located around 7 Miles out of Hyderabad, this organization is based at a building of four floors completely dedicated for poor, needy and downtrodden women. This building has a capacity to accommodate more than 300 people at a time and is equipped with a doctor and other facilities round the clock. Women who have been forced to leave their houses due to various issues are provided food, shelter and Medical care free of cost and the facility is visited by prominent people from the medical and Law Field who try reconciliation in case of family differences and disputes and we try to send these ladies back to their homes after resolving these disputes.

Needy women with no shelter are also provided free accommodation in this premises, they work as domestic help's in other houses and after their working hours they are also trained for free in various activities like making of handicrafts, blankets, clothes, tailoring, embroidery etc., which will help them earn their livelihood in future. There is also a small residential school planned in the same premises, where the children of these women will be provided basic primary education. The activities of this foundation also involved providing medical care access to people living in remote villages across the state, a Medical Camp has been organized in Vijayawada on 23rd Dec 12, 8 doctors participated in this Medical Camp and Medical check-up of more than 300 people was carried out free of cost. In coming years we intend to open such Centre's across the state and to help needy and poor women in the state. We intend to make our Society a safe and secure place for women.

Parent Focus

Albert & Amin



It is said that good things come to those who wait. It could not be any truer in our case! After contacting and exchanging emails with surrogacy agencies, we found our match with Kiran Infertility Centre. In December 2010 we signed our agreement and began our journey preparing to be parents within a year. Nature had better plans for us! After my first visit to Hyderabad India in March we thought that within a year from then we'd be parents. Again, Nature had better plans for us. 2011 came and went and we started getting a bit discouraged. Was it us? Are we too old? Were we not meant to be parents? Was it a sign that we should give up? Through this process, Anjani and Dr. Samit were very supportive. Reading about people who had started this journey with us and after us becoming parents was a bit intimidating, and they were able to explain to us in a way we could understand that science, technology and nature must come together at the right time to achieve success.

Would I do this all over again? Not even a question! We are planning on siblings for my daughter and will return to Kiran Infertility Center if at all possible to accomplish this! A family that practices medicine and supports each other like the Sekhar family does, definitely gets my vote! Laws are still being defined and the climate is uncertain if people like me will continue to be allowed to become parents via surrogacy in Beautiful India.

2012 began with our renewed determination to "help wake our baby from sleep in another place and join us here on Earth". This time everything came together at the right time and we received good news in June! We were pregnant! We have felt the pain of losing babies during the first trimester and were on pins and needles through the first 12 weeks again! Anjani and Dr. Samit kept us updated without over promises yet still positive. The bi-weekly updates were just enough information to keep us excited and still on an even keel. I had asked the team at KIC to please give me notice so that I could be present for my baby's birth. I had envisioned that day to be during an Indian Holiday and had even asked about what festivities would be happening around the time of my baby's expected delivery date.

Unfortunately, there were none in that time period. Nature had her own plans! I received the call on January 10, 2013 at about 11 am from Anjani. In his typical casual voice he told me that our surrogate had elevated blood pressure and that meant the time was close! I had about 2 hours to rush home and pack to make the next flight to India! As a true father, I forgot to pack almost everything we had been preparing for this event. I forgot baby bottles, baby formula, and all the things that dads are supposed to be in charge of bringing for a birth!

Anjani said that there would be baby stores close to the Service Apartment I would be staying at where I could redeem myself. Sure enough, there were two shopping centers close by with enough baby items that I was able to prepare for my baby's birth. The Service Apartment is a blessing because Saly, with her years of experience in baby care, was able to tell me exactly what I would be needing, and in weeks to come, how to properly care for my newborn!

Magen Sophia was born on January 14. If that day was not special enough, the country's sky was filled with a myriad, if not more, of kites flown by children and children at heart! You see, she was born on an Indian holiday after all! Makar Sankranti. A day that observes the winter harvest and the coming of Spring. Makar Sankranti signifies that we should turn away from the darkness of delusion in which we live, and begin to enjoy a new life with bright light within us to shine brighter and brighter. We should gradually begin to grow in purity, wisdom and knowledge even as the Sun does from the Day of Makar Sankranti.

On my first visit to India I asked Dr. Samit why he did this and specifically, why he worked with gay people wanting to be parents. His answer will forever ring in my heart. Because indeed, No one should dictate who can love and raise a child based on preconceived prejudices. If there is true love and a heartfelt desire to create and raise your own family, do so.

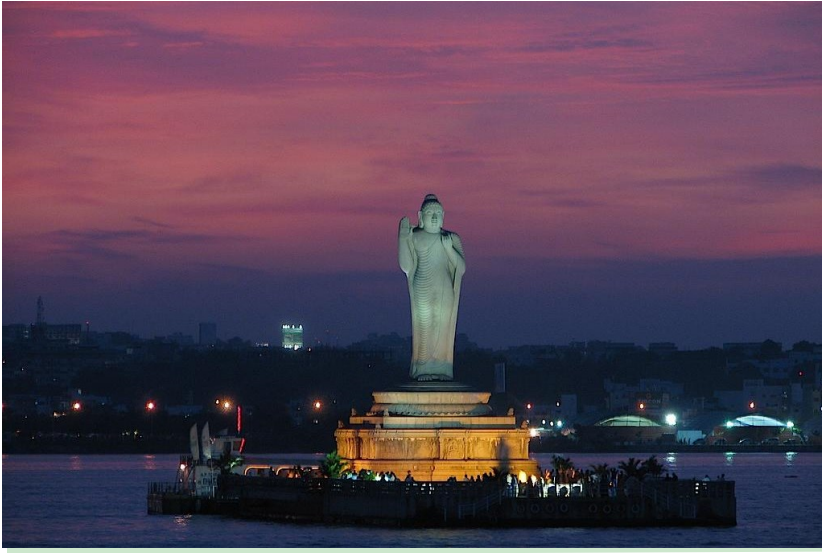
If this day could have been completely orchestrated by Kiran Infertility Clinic, it still could not have been as perfect a day for my daughter's birth. A day with so much color in the sky. Happy children on roof tops. And a reminder that we must always move towards the Light and never to Darkness. The hospital staff where my daughter was born was so helpful and understanding. I had initial concerns over hospital settings I am familiar with and a hospital in India which I had never been to. Quickly I learned that the hospital's concern over my baby's health and well-being was a top priority, as was the health and well being of every baby born there. Were there any hiccups during my stay in Hyderabad? Sure. No trip of any kind would be complete without some. But Anjani and KIC made sure that I had everything I needed in paperwork as they were hearing was needed from offices in charge of our departure visas.

Regulations and laws are constantly changing these days in India for surrogacy. That means more paperwork. KIC keeps up with these demands even if last minute! I can certainly understand a busy season demands much attention and Anjani could be counted on being at the office until late hours. When I was denied an exit Visa letter from FRRO until the date they had designated I should receive it, they spoke to the officials concerned and made sure that I had that letter with enough time to calm my nerves down and pack for our journey home. I left India February 14th with a wonderful Valentine's Day Gift! Concerns over surrogates and their health and well-being are real. We will always be appreciative for what our surrogate did for us. I told her that her gift to us would never be taken for granted. It may take time and perseverance, but really, Great things come to those who wait! ~Albert and Amin



Hot Spot

Necklace Road



One of the largest man made lakes is situated at Hyderabad. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that it connects the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. A famous monolith of Lord Buddha is installed at the center of the lake. Hussain Sagar Lake is popularly known as the Tank Bund, a major spot of tourist attractions. The Hussain Sagar was constructed on a tributary of the Musi river by Hussain Shah Wahi during the reign of Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah in 1562. It is a sprawling artificial lake that holds water perennially.

Buddha statue is situated in the middle of the Hussain Sagar Lake, silhouetted against the sunset. Its made completely of white granite. Boating and Water Sports are a regular feature at Hussain Sagar. The yachting and Sailing clubs at the lake are active and the annual regatta draws a good number of sports persons and lay people alike from all around the country. There are a lot places of amusement nearby such as a water park, a snow park, 3 different gardens, and nice themed restaurants and places to hang out. It is a must-see place when you are in Hyderabad!

Donor Focus

Miss A



Since arriving in Hyderabad I was only treated with such friendliness, everyone's extremely friendly and makes you feel important. The facility and staff are extremely friendly and professional and make you feel right at home!

Thank you Dr Samit Sekhar and Anjani Kumar for all the help and friendliness. Also a great thanks to the Taj Banjara Hotel for making the stay absolutely 5 star experience. Hyderabad is an absolute beautiful , friendly place! I truly hope that my contribution will fulfill someone dream of becoming a parent!

Some Happy Moments



Amazing

Statistics these 2 months:

- 20 New Intended Parents joined our program
- 25 International Intended Parents visited KIC
 - 7 Caucasian donors inducted.
 - 8 Indian donors inducted
- 40 embryo transfers carried out .
- 25 pregnancies. 9 Births

“Every
child begins
the world
again.”

- Henry David
Thoreau



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