DEAR FRIENDS OF MUMBAI,

AS WE WELCOME THE SECOND DECADE OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM, I SEND YOU ALL GOOD WISHES FOR A JOYOUS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.


WE WERE THE PRESENTING SPONSORS AT THE INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF LOS ANGELES AND GOLD SPONSORS AT MISS SHOWBIZ INDIA, STAGED AT THE HOUSE OF BLUES.

AT OUR LITTLE INDIA TOUR IN ARTESIA WE WERE JOINED BY NOTED COOKBOOK AUTHOR ANNE WILLAN, AND WE HAD A SUCCESSFUL DIWALI GALA DINNER AT GAYLORD RESTAURANT IN BEVERLY HILLS.

I RECENTLY RETURNED FROM MUMBAI AND HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH THE MAYOR OF MUMBAI, MRS. SHUBHA RAVL — ONE AT THE MAYOR’S BUNGALOW AND THE OTHER AT HER OFFICE IN THE CITY HALL. AN AYURVEDIC DOCTOR BY PROFESSION, SHUBHA GAVE ME AN INSIGHT INTO THE LOCAL SOCIO-POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SPOKE FRANKLY ABOUT MUMBAI’S CHALLENGES INCLUDING CORRUPTION AND THE UNSTOPPABLE EXPANSION OF SLUMS.

MUMBAI HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS: THERE’S A SPANKING NEW SEA LINK BRIDGE FROM WHERE THE SKYLINE LOOKS LIKE THAT OF HONG KONG, THERE ARE AUTO SHOWROOMS OF SUCH SWANKY CARS AS ROLLS ROYCE, BENTLEY AND PORSCHE AND THERE’S A MULTITUDE OF HIGH-END SHOPPING MALLS. THE STREETS LOOKED A LITTLE CLEANER TO ME AND TRAFFIC A BIT SANER.

MUMBAI IS THE CITY OF DREAMS AND FOR INDOPHILES, I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE A TRIP THERE TO EXPERIENCE THE CITY’S HOSPITALITY. IF NOT, WE HOPE THAT YOU CAN JOIN OUR EVENTS IN 2010 TO SAVOR THE SPIRIT OF MUMBAI IN LOS ANGELES.

HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

NAMASTE,

MIRA ADVANI HONEYCUTT
CHAIRPERSON, LA MUMBAI SISTER CITY

At right: Mira Honeycutt with Mumbai mayor Mrs. Shubha Raul and LA author Joel Kotkin.
At the 2009 Diwali celebration dinner at Gaylord’s Lotus Room in Beverly Hills, guests enjoyed a sumptuous feast; wines from Saddlerock, Clautiere, and Rideau; gifts from Cat in the Lotus, Cottage Art, and India Sweets and Spices; dance entertainment by Sharanya; and stand-up comedy by Komal Bhojwani.

Photos courtesy of David Salazar.
Diwali  Festival of Lights
CONTINUED

The Mumbai board presented a proclamation to sponsors Jyoti and Many Nagrani of Cottage Art.

Sharanya (Miss Showbiz India 2009) performing a Bollywood dance

Singer Asha Puthli who did the raffle drawing with Henry Gellis and his winning basket

Pamela Wrona with her raffle win of a table linen basket
**Upcoming Events**

**THE MUSIC CIRCLE** has been presenting the finest in Indian classical music to audiences in Southern California since 1973. Upcoming concerts include:

- February 6: Shujaat Khan, sitar
- March 27: Aruna Narayan, sarangi
- May 8: Aashish Khan, sarod
- June 5: Mahesh Kale, vocals

All concerts will be held at Occidental College's Herrick Chapel in Eagle Rock. Visit [www.MusicCircle.org](http://www.MusicCircle.org) for more details.

In February the Pasadena museum will host two events featuring India:

- Feb 21 at 2 p.m.: Authors on Asia presents ‘The Essential Marathi Cookbook,’ written by journalist/chef Kaumudi Marathe
- Feb 25: Opening of the Indian Miniature Paintings exhibit

Get more information at [www.pacifiasiamuseum.org](http://www.pacifiasiamuseum.org).

**LA Sister Cities International** will participate in the LA Art Show at the LA Convention Center January 20–24. Representing the Mumbai Sister City will be Palos Verdes-based painter Ranjan Goradia. Tickets for the show may be purchased online at [www.laartshow.com](http://www.laartshow.com). Admission is $15 for a 1-day pass, $30 for a 4-day pass.

**ONGOING AT THE NORTON SIMON MUSEUM IN PASADENA**

is a world-class permanent Indian art exhibit. The collection features Chola bronzes from South India, sculpture from the Gupta period, exquisite Rajput paintings, and much more. For museum hours and directions, see [www.nortonsimon.org](http://www.nortonsimon.org).