

# Sherman Challenged at IALA I-Day Fest



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[Cont. from page B19]

when the honor of unfurling the Indian flag was given to Rajesh Kumar Dubey, who was attending that day as the representative of the Indian Consulate in San Francisco. With Nauzad, a popular Southland singer with a following throughout the United States, acting as the master of ceremonies, the cultural entertainment program featured 12 song and dance presentations by performers of all ages.

Every once in a while, Nauzad would interrupt the program to give special mention to various organizations that had a booth, such as Asha, an action group for basic education in India, and Asians For Miracle Marrow Matches.

This year's celebrations had over 80 booths, including a health fair. In keeping with the economic times, there was a booth offering loan modifications to help those stave off foreclosure by declaring bankruptcy.

Right: Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca (left) chats with IALA president Raman Chadha (right) as Anaheim city councilman Harry Sidhu (second from right) and Los Angeles commission Mahesh Parekh look on.



In addition to an inflatable slide and obstacle course for the children, there were also several local Indian restaurants serving food, including Haldiram's, which was introducing the first-ever microwaveable Indian meals.

Immediately prior to the official program, several men and women representing the major states of India were brought on stage, where they briefly greeted the crowd in their regional languages before joining together in singing the Indian national anthem.

Escorted by Dr. Parvin Syal, Los Angeles commissioner Mahesh

Parekh and IALA official Nina Dhillon, Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca slowly toured the booths in the early evening, occasionally stopping to pose for those who wanted their photographs taken with him.

Shortly after 7:30 in the evening, just as Baca was leaving, Sherman arrived. Escorted by Syal, Parekh and Dhillon, he also toured the grounds before heading toward his own booth near the stage, where he passed out his signature combs, copies of the American Constitution and re-election campaign literature.

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