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## Ms India GA Pageant Has New Winners

Atlanta: Sabrina Nooruddin was crowned Ms India Georgia 2009, while Eshani Brambhatt won the Ms Teen India Georgia 2009 title at a glittering ceremony held at the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center in Duluth recently. The pageant, now in its twentieth year, was organized by the India America Cultural Association (IACA).

The winners will represent Georgia in the Ms India USA and the Ms Teen India USA pageants later this year.

Aparna Mehra was first runner-up and Rita Tiwari came in third in the Ms India GA segment. Poorna Rajeevan was first runner-up and Jennifer Ahsan second runner-up in the Teen Ms India GA contest.

Close to 500 people attended the annual pageant, which is as much a showcase of talent, as it is of beauty, poise and confidence. The young women were judged for poise, grace, talent, confidence, style and talent. There was an evening gown segment, a talent segment, and an Indian outfit round.

Five participants from each pageant were selected to move on to the finals. These ten top scorers then randomly picked their judge's name from a bowl for their Q&A round.

Full story on Pg 5.....



Sabrina Nooruddin (right) was crowned Ms India Georgia 2009, while Eshani Brambhatt won the Ms Teen India Georgia 2009 title. Photo by Vinod Devlia.

## Delta Cancels Nonstop Flight To Mumbai

Last Atlanta – Mumbai flight on October 21

BY RATI KUMAR

Atlanta: Masala chai, a comfortable seat and a plethora of movies – all at 35,000 feet in the air. Delta Airlines conjured up a new convenience for the Indian Americans and those doing business with India; nonstop flights across the world. The acquisition of the ultra long range Boeing 777-200LR, helped the airline launch daily nonstop flights last year from Atlanta to Mumbai, and other places in Asia.



In November 2008, the inaugural flight to Mumbai was launched from Atlanta, the hub of southeast American business. "I recollect everything", muses Viren Mayani, Public Relations Co-Chair at the Georgia Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (GIACC) and part of the delegation on the flight. "This was a strategic flight, considering the explosive growth of the Port of Savannah (Georgia)." He says that this nonstop route helps people manage their cargo as well as take a flight from the same location, making business travel more efficient.

Ritesh Desai, the President of the GIACC, was also one of the dignitaries on the inaugural Delta flight to Mumbai and recalls it being extremely enjoyable. He emphasizes that personal travel too, became more convenient. "Before I knew it, I heard 'We are preparing to land'." He further states "I know of many businessmen, elderly people, and friends with children, who have found that this (flight) has made it extremely easy to fly."

However, without a warning, the economic meltdown hit, lowering the demand for the direct flights as companies cut travel expenses. Delta moved its Atlanta – Mumbai flights to New York in June. They recently issued a statement suspending the nonstop flights altogether. The last Atlanta – Mumbai flight is scheduled for October 21 from Atlanta. Delta has also announced the discontinuation of their nonstop flights to Shanghai and Seoul from September 1.

Delta will offer flights between the U.S and India through Amsterdam on Northwest Airlines and through Paris on Air France.

As for the effect of this cutback on business relations, Desai is optimistic that since more and more businesses are moving to Georgia, including a huge number of Indian businesses, the business relationship between India and Georgia will only get stronger.

Continued on Pg 4.....

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