



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

ARTS & LITERARY JOURNAL
2023

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Harmony of Culture and Science

Organized By:
NBT India Day Committee
(A service project of Agraj Seva Kendra)
www.nbtindia.org

Supported by: North Brunswick Township School District and North Brunswick Township
Grant has been partially funded by Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund



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Kanwaljit S. Uppal

Co-Chairperson:
Rajeev Shrivastava

Treasurer:
Surendar Reddy Revuri

Outreach Coordinator:
Rajesh Mehta

Advisor:
Gangadhara Rao Vakkalagadda

Program Coordinator:
Blisse Vakkalagadda

Vocal Music & Flyer Coordinator:
Kuldeep K. Uppal

Competitions Coordinator:
Sonali Sinha

Dance Coordinator:
Naina Goel

Skit Coordinator:
Archana Sengar

Instrumental & Journal Coordinator:
Indu Shrivastava

Decorations Coordinator:
Agma Chouhan

Fundraising & Technology Coordinator:
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Kishore Mitikiri

Photography & Video Coordinator:
Kapil Shrivastava

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023

*Learn about India's history and culture, serve
your community, and share your heritage*

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

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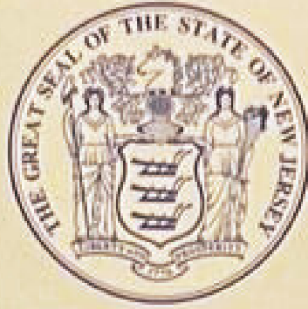


www.nbtindia.org
NBTIndiaDay@gmail.com

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New Jersey General Assembly



STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

By Assemblyman DANIELSEN

- WHEREAS**, The year 2023 marks the Seventy-Sixth Anniversary of India's Independence; and,
- WHEREAS**, The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey is pleased to acknowledge this auspicious occasion, which will be observed by citizens of India and people of Indian heritage in this State and throughout the world on August 15, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS**, India Independence Day marks the struggle that began many years ago with Mahatma Gandhi to liberate the region from British rule and to establish the unified nation-state of India which emerged on August 15, 1947; and,
- WHEREAS**, New Jersey's sons and daughters of Indian descent are justifiably proud of their rich and vibrant culture, and in turn, this State is indebted to the significant influence and impact Indian Americans have made in service to this nation and as exemplary members of their communities; and,
- WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and right for the members of this House to pause in their deliberations to mark the Seventy-Sixth Anniversary of India's independence and to salute all those who have brought their hopes and aspirations to these shores in pursuit of the American dream; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this House hereby extends warm greetings and salutations to all those celebrating India's Seventy-Sixth Anniversary of sovereignty and encourages all New Jerseyans to participate fittingly in the observance of India's Independence Day; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, be signed by the Speaker and attested by the Clerk.




Craig J. Coughlin

Speaker of the General Assembly

Attest:


Dana M. Burley

Clerk of the General Assembly

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



Kanwaljit S. Uppal, PhD

Dear Friends,
We are all celebrating the 76th Anniversary of India's Independence Day, and I would like to welcome you all to this momentous occasion. Again this year, we are fortunate to celebrate this occasion in person and are pleased about that. In fact, the pandemic opened doors that led this group to adopt methods for managing this program, including the use of technology and remote work to hold meetings and practices.

The theme for this year is: "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat - Harmony of Culture and Science." Our teams have worked on different activities showcasing the importance of the ancient Indian culture with a scientific basis, including scientific developments found in ancient scriptures such as the Vedas. This topic exemplifies that our country is based on ONE SPIRIT, making it one of the BEST in the world in many fields, including YOGA, AYURVEDA, ASTRONOMY, and many others.

Similar to previous years, students participating in this event are learning all of the national songs and different forms of dances ranging from Bollywood to Classical that are well aligned with the theme of this year. In light of our theme encompassing culture and heritage, we express our gratitude towards the Board of Middlesex County Commissioners for supporting us with the fund grant through Agraj Seva Kendra in organizing this event.

The event has given an opportunity for students to learn as they prepare for the various competitions (public speaking, art, and essay) and the skit on the topics relating to the theme this year. Many young students have worked with adult and senior mentors to learn the secret of becoming successful leaders in the future. Today, I also want to reminisce on my association with this organization as a co-founding member alongside my wife, Kuldeep Kaur Uppal. This organization has allowed me to continue working actively in the community. A big thank you to all of the executive committee members for their support, without which we would not have been able to serve the community.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to thank the North Brunswick School District and the North Brunswick Township officials for supporting us in all aspects, such as providing us with the facilities and amenities that are very important to make this event successful.

Thank you to all of the participating families and students from the community for becoming a part of this program and making it a grand success every year.

Happy India Independence Day!

Sincerely,

Kanwaljit S. Uppal

Chairperson, on behalf of the entire NBT India Independence Day Executive Committee 2023



MESSAGES

NEW JERSEY SENATE



SENATOR BOB SMITH
17TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
216 STELTON ROAD, SUITE E-5
PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854
(732) 752-0770
FAX (732) 752-1590
email: senbsmith@njleg.org
Website: www.senatorbobsmith.org

CHAIRMAN
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
STATE HOUSE COMMISSION

August 2023

Dear Friends,


Please allow me to extend my greetings and well wishes to everyone gathered at this important annual India Independence Day event. May the message of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat - Harmony of Culture and Science” resonate for all.

As State Senator in the 17th Legislative District, I commend the leadership for their dedication to this annual event. The mission to broaden horizons and develop future leaders while promoting cultural awareness is one that I strongly support. It is through education and understanding that we all grow as a peaceful community.

This township wide event allows us to appreciate one another and celebrate our shared values. This experience is invaluable for all who participate, and this is something that as a State Senator I encourage my constituency to take part in.

Again, best wishes to all for a delightful and successful event!

Very truly yours,


Bob Smith
State Senator District 17

PROCLAMATION

By Mayor and Council – Township of North Brunswick

WHEREAS, on August 15, 1947, India gained its independence from the British Empire. The British Parliament approved the Indian Independence Act of 1947 which allowed the Constituent Assembly of India to write the Constitution of India marking the beginning of India's independence after nearly two centuries of British rule; and

WHEREAS, the Indian independence movement was led by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Patel; through their message of nonviolence and civil disobedience, they inspired civil rights leaders from around the world; and

WHEREAS, India's Independence Day is one of India's three national holidays and it is celebrated by over 1.3 billion people across the country with flag-hosting ceremonies, kite-flying, and parades; and

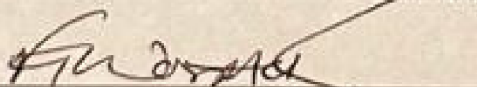
WHEREAS, diversity is one of the United States greatest strengths. North Brunswick is proud to be home to a large Indian-American population who contribute greatly to the social, economic, and civic health of our Township; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the NBT India Day Committee in partnership with North Brunswick Township and the North Brunswick Township School District, is to organize an all-inclusive event that promotes cultural awareness and highlights the importance of community integration; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Harmony of Culture and Science" which translates into United Nation (India) is the Best Nation – Harmony of Culture and Science. This year's event will focus on the cultural and scientific harmony as it pertains to a United India, showcasing the achievements in India's heritage in science, technology and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Township of North Brunswick proudly joins our Indian-American community in celebrating India's independence

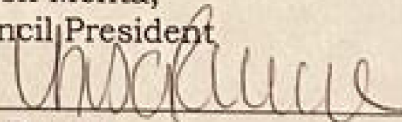
NOW THEREFORE, WE the Mayor and Council of the Township of North Brunswick, **Do Hereby Proclaim**, August 12th, 2023 as India Independence Day and call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Francis M. Womack III,
Mayor of North Brunswick Township



Rajesh Mehta,
Council President



Lisa Russo,
Municipal Clerk

August 1, 2023



MESSAGES

FRANCIS M. WOMACK III
Mayor



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK

710 HERMANN ROAD

NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY 08902

FRANCIS M. WOMACK III
MAYOR



MUNICIPAL BUILDING
(732) 247-0922-Ext. 430
FAX (732) 545-8774

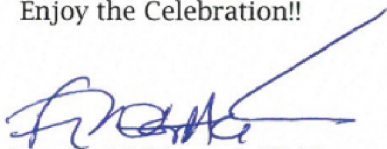
August 12, 2023

Welcome to North Brunswick Township's India Independence Day Celebration!!

We here in North Brunswick are very proud of our diversity as it has become an integral part of our community. The theme of this year's event is "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat - Harmony of Culture and Science". This event will portray the principle of the cultural harmony of the people; though we live in different geographical areas with diversity we can still respect and honor others culture, music, dances and customs.

We welcome you to North Brunswick and to the 16th annual North Brunswick Township India Independence Day Celebration! It is our honor for you all to be here.

Enjoy the Celebration!!


Francis M. Womack III, Mayor
Township of North Brunswick

MESSAGES



North Brunswick Police Department

710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Joseph A. Battaglia

Chief of Police

Ph. 732-247-0922 Ext. 400 Fax: 732-220-0761

August 12, 2023

Welcome to India Independence Day 2023!!

Diversity is considered to be one of the United States greatest strengths. We here in North Brunswick are very proud of our diversity and consider it to be an essential part of our community. Our growing Indian-American population contributes greatly to the social, economic, and civic health of our township.

“Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat - Harmony of Culture and Science” is the theme for this year’s event. It is a day where we will all join together in celebration and respect each other and for all of our different cultures.

Welcome to North Brunswick Township! Enjoy this annual celebration!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Battaglia".

Joseph Battaglia, Chief
North Brunswick Police Department



सत्यमेव जयते

Warm Welcome to the Ambassador of India to the United States of America



Ambassador Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu is a seasoned Indian diplomat focusing strongly on US relations. Ambassador Sandhu has contributed significantly to India's international relations and global diplomacy throughout his thirty-year diplomatic career. He served in Washington DC twice, including as Deputy Chief of Mission from 2013 to 2017. He held key roles at the United Nations and the Indian Embassy in Colombo. Ambassador Sandhu also served as High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka from 2017 to 2020.

His varied roles include Joint Secretary positions in the Ministry of External Affairs, and he played a pivotal role in establishing the Indian Embassy in Ukraine. He studied at St. Stephens' College and Jawaharlal Nehru University. He assumed his role as Ambassador to the United States on February 3, 2020, presenting his credentials on February 6, 2020.



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

August 7, 2023

MESSAGE

I am delighted that India Independence Day celebration is being held at North Brunswick Township on August 12, 2023. This 15th August, we mark our 77th Independence Day and closure of our India@75 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. And hence, the occasion is of special significance. The Township's theme of the program is 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', that is, 'One India, Excelling India'. And this is being discovered through the medium of culture and scientific pursuits – an approach which has greater resonance in the India-US canvas; technology collaboration formed the centerpiece of the historic State visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Washington this June. India and the United States have agreed to step up collaboration in the fields of semiconductors, space exploration, generative AI, cloud computing, bio-manufacturing and green hydrogen, among other subjects.

Next month, India will be hosting the G20 Summit in New Delhi, where it will lead and shape global conversation based on its commitment to 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. This year is also special, for we are celebrating it as International Year of Millets. I urge our community members to join us in this people's movement aimed at addressing health challenges and climate change. Millets are gluten-free super foods which provide solutions to many challenges we face. I hope these and other facets of India will be showcased at the celebrations so that our youth have a greater appreciation of India's thought and leadership.

I wish the NBT India Independence Day event all success.

Jai Hind!


(Randhir Jaiswal)

Dr. Kanwaljit Uppal
Chairperson
NBT India Day Committee

MESSAGES

On behalf of the North Brunswick Township Board of Education, our staff, families and students, congratulations on the celebration of 76 years of Indian independence! India Day is an event through which you can explore the rich traditions of Indian culture, heritage and community.

This year's theme is "Harmony of Culture and Science." India has a unique heritage focused on a strong culture and science and technology innovation.

Celebrate and show gratitude for the Indian Culture and all of the benefits that have come from the innovations in science and technology. Enjoy this wonderful day!

Sincerely,
Janet Ciarocca

JANET CIARocca
Superintendent of Schools



On behalf of North Brunswick Township High School, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our school district for the 2023 NBT India Independence Day celebration. I want to thank the members of the committee for hosting this educational event for our community.

As a former teacher in the high school Social Studies Department, I always believe in the importance of cultural celebrations as a way for all of our students, families, and community to learn more about each other. As a Principal, I believe that at NBTHS and throughout the school district, we understand that our greatest strength is the diversity that exists in our entire community.

Therefore, we embrace this year's theme of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat - Harmony of Culture and Science" and the showing off of the great achievements in science and technology made by India since its independence.

I welcome you to the 2023 India Independence Day and hope that each of you have a wonderful time today.

Sincerely,
Michael Kneller

MICHAEL KNELLER
**Principal of North
Brunswick Township High
School**



MESSAGES

GOVINDA RAJAN
CEO of Agraj Seva Kendra



Dear Friends,

The North Brunswick Township community (NBT) has celebrated India Independence Day every year since 2007, and partners with the North Brunswick Township High School and the North Brunswick Township to bring arts and culture to the community. Even during COVID, the events were conducted virtually for two years, which is commendable.

Scores of students and their parents practiced intensely for the past couple of months during summer, bringing out this wonderful program. This year we would especially like to thank the county of Middlesex for the generous grant to promote dance performances in the Indian Classical dance forms of Bharatanatyam, Odissi and Kathak in collaboration with Naina Goel. Middlesex County has a vibrant arts, history, and cultural community that celebrates its accomplishments, and North Brunswick is a forerunner!

Thanks to the long time committee member Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal for her involvement since 2007 to teach the students and their parents patriotic and theme-based songs.

Thanks to the NBT India Day Committee members for training the students in essay writing, public speaking, skit, and various other activities. The NBT India Day Committee has put in a lot of effort to present this event. I congratulate the entire NBT India Day Executive committee under the leadership of Chairperson Kanwaljit Uppal and Co-Chairperson Rajeev Shrivastava, for their involvement in bringing out this wonderful event.

I thank the North Brunswick Board of Education and the staff for their partnership and continued support in making this event a success. Thanks to all the dignitaries for their messages and the proclamations on this occasion. Special Thanks to the township of North Brunswick for their support to keep such cultural events in North Brunswick.

Last, but not least, I thank you all for your kind support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Govinda Rajan CEO
Agraj Seva Kendra

MESSAGES

Dear Fellow Citizens and NBT India Executive Committee,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick, it is my pleasure to extend our warm greetings on the occasion of celebrating 76 years of India's Independence.

The United States and India are the largest democracies in the world, and we share common values of freedom and diversity. Events like this are the foundation of ethnically diverse societies and teach an appreciation of Unity in Diversity.

North Brunswick is core to our Rotary club, and North Brunswick has one of the most vibrant Rotary Youth clubs, known as the Rotary Interact club. It gives us immense pleasure to learn that the residents and students of North Brunswick are celebrating "India's Independence Day" and sharing the joy with fellow citizens.

Independence to India was made possible by generations of freedom fighters and the great sacrifices of many brave men and women. It is heartwarming to witness Agraj Seva Kendra providing the platform to honor these great warriors and appreciate what was bestowed upon us. Our club was founded by people of Indian Origin, and many of them are active volunteers of Agraj Seva Kendra and NBT day celebrations. Today, it's our pleasure to offer our support to Agraj Seva Kendra again this year on behalf of the Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick.

We are proud that our Interact club kids from North Brunswick are actively involved in celebrating and organizing this event and also participate in numerous projects serving their local communities and charities. Kids in these clubs are exposed to leadership, STEM, cultural, and civic engagement opportunities and are taught the spirit of Rotary- "Service above Self."

We Rotarians have done many projects like donation of food items to food pantries, family shelters, health camps for seniors and the local community, 5K run to encourage health and well-being, Donation of blankets and Toys, Support/Donations to COVID affected community, and also support International Projects related to Dialysis facilities, War Refugees, Orphanage and Senior Shelter.

In the coming days, we will be focusing on our regular activities for the community as well as leadership skills development, mindfulness, mental health, and active engagement with seniors. This year with collaboration of Rotary international, we are planning to focus more on improving Mental health by organizing outdoor physical activities like Hike ,Run and Walk.

With the synergy between the two organizations, I hope we will be able to collaborate on more projects serving our local community.

We sincerely wish you success in this event as well as all future projects.

VENKAT JAGARLAMUDI

**President of the Rotary Club of
Plainsboro, North and South
Brunswick**



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023

PROGRAM

- Welcome Address - Chairperson Kanwaljit S. Uppal
- "Samgacchadhvam" - Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Flag Hoisting Ceremony
- "Jana Gana Mana" - Indian National Anthem
- "Star Spangled Banner" - American National Anthem
- "Vande Mataram" - Indian National Song
- Introduction to Emcees
- "Natya Manjiri" - by Classical Dance Participants
- Guests of Honor Speeches
- "Soldiers' Sacrifice" - by Elementary School Dance Participants
- High School Public Speaker
- "Unity In Diversity" - by Middle School Dance Participants
- Elementary School Public Speaker
- "Power Of Om" - by High School Dance Participants
- Intermediate School Public Speaker
- NBT India Day Award Ceremony
- Middle School Public Speaker
- "Harmony of Culture and Science" - Skit
- Vote of Thanks - Co-Chairperson Rajeev Shrivastava
- "One India, Great India" - Instrumental Concert
- "Celebrating our Unified Nation" - by Ladies Dance Participants
- "Aaye Hain Hum Dur Dur Se" - Group Theme Song
- Committee Felicitations

Masters of Ceremony: Aarshi Goel, Akshita Thakur, Anish Sinha, Anusha Vakkalagadda, Eva Patel, Nidhi Mitikiri, and Yashvi Patel

Emcee Mentors: Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Ashna Sinha, and Isha Shrivastava

PROGRAM DETAILS

Prayer – Samgacchadhvam

Samgacchadhvam samvadadhvam sam vo manámsi jánatám,
Let us move together, let us radiate the same thought-wave,
let us come to know our minds together,

Devábhágarñ yathápúrve samjánáná upásate.
Let us share our wealth without differentiation, like sages of
the past, so that all may enjoy the universe.

Samánii va ákútiñ samáná hrdayánivah,
Let our aspirations be united, let our hearts be inseparable,

Samánamastu vo mano yathá vah susahásati
Let our minds be as one mind, so that we live in harmony and
become one with the Supreme.

Led By: Mrs. Kuldeep K. Uppal

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of
America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation
under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Led By: Ojas Shrivastava

Flag Hoisting Ceremony

India proudly became a free, democratic nation on August
15, 1947. The freedom movement led by Gandhi, based on
the principles of “Ahimsa” and “Satyagraha,” has inspired
people across the globe to bring about change in their own
country. The National Flag of India or the “tiranga,” the
“tri-colored” represents India, the world’s largest democracy,
and is hoisted to honor the country. The color saffron
represents renunciation in action, the white in the center
represents purity of thought, and green represents prosperity
and our close connection with the earth that sustains us. The
Dharma Chakra represents the Wheel of Dharma and is a
reminder that it is our duty to commit to right actions in life.

Jana Gana Mana – National Anthem of India

Indian National Anthem “Jana Gana Mana” was written
and composed by the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

The poet asks Vidhata, The Creator, to bless his
country, his fellow countrymen and most of all
benedictions for a bright future for his country. He
evokes in us a pride for the States and regions, the
magnificent mountains and rivers that form the
majestic land of Bharat and the people of Bharat who
sing the glory of their Creator.

May my country’s future rise high and may she
always bask in victory captures the crescendo - Jai
Ho! Jai Ho! Jai Ho!

Led by: Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Led By: Sia Dixit

Vande Mataram – National Song of India

Vande Mataram, the National Song of India is a poem from
the famed novel Anandamath written by the poet Bankim
Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1882.
Mother India is described in all her glory in this beautiful
poem written in Sanskrit and Bengali. The beautiful rivers,
plentiful fruit orchards, the cool breeze, the rich harvest, all
inspire the poet to sing praises of his motherland. “I bow to
you Mother,” says the poet humbly as he bursts into a
melodious song, his heart filled with wonder, pride and joy as
he describes his country.

Led By: Mrs. Kuldeep K. Uppal

Classical Dance: "Natya Manjiri"

This Indian classical dance medley is a combination of many

PROGRAM DETAILS

dance forms including Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Odissi and Kathak. The aim of this piece is to showcase the different cultures of India through dance and to provide an auspicious beginning to the program. Please enjoy this piece that welcomes India's diversity through arts with open arms.

Youth Leaders: Ashna Sinha, Anusha Vakkalagadda & Aruhi Vakkalagadda

Participants: Anya Chouhan, Sia Dixit, Aarshi Goel, Shanaya Goel, Sunidhi Mitikiri, Sonia Patel, Yashvi Patel, Priyasha Shah, Mahek Sharma, Ashna Sinha,

Muskaan Suri, Akshita Thakur, Anusha Vakkalagadda, and Aruhi Vakkalagadda

Speeches by Guests of Honor:

Ambassador of India to USA Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Mayor of North Brunswick Township Francis M. Womack III

Elementary School Dance: Soldiers' Sacrifice

The dance presented by the little kids is a celebration of our soldiers and their sacrifices. With songs like "Rang De Basanti" they showcase how fearlessly and joyfully our soldiers fight for our safety while being far away from home. With the second largest army in the world, many efforts are made to keep India as wonderful as it is. Celebrate with our children as they present this beautiful dance.

Mentor: Naina Goel

Participants: Vedika Vuggini, Aryan Vuggini, Ishan Shrivastava, Vihan Shrivastava, Nikaansh Goel, Harini Gupta, Kanishka Chavda, Anya Chouhan, Nivesh Gupta, and Prisha Sehgal

Middle School Dance: Unity In Diversity

This dance is about the wonderful holidays and festivals of India and the power these hold. This performance showcases India's many great celebrations and reminds us of why these festivals are significant. They unite us all for celebration and happiness. The diversity of India's festivals and holidays are what make them so special. These festivals bring people of all backgrounds together establishing a sense of unity and social

peace despite their different backgrounds, cultures and religions. This dance shows the importance of these special occasions.

Mentor: Naina Goel

Participants: Rishab Patel, Sia Dixit, Avaneesh Verma, Sonia Patel, Shanaya Goel, Daivik Shah, Mahek Sharma, and Arnav Chouhan

High School Dance: Power of Om

This next dance represents the power of Om. Om originated from the Hindu faith and comes from the Sanskrit language. Today, this word is used worldwide in various forms such as meditation, yoga and is also considered a symbol for Sanskrit chants and mantras. Hindu scriptures define the word Om as the primordial sound of creation. This performance shows how the word Om is used worldwide and unites all cultures, people and religions.

Mentor: Naina Goel

Youth Leaders: Aarshi Goel and Akshita Thakur

Participants: Akshita Thakur, Aarshi Goel, Nidhi Mitikiri, Yashvi Patel, Nikhil Goli, Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Akshat Verma, and Priyasha Shah

NBT India Day Competitions Award Ceremony

Awards presentation for the various competitions conducted as a part of NBT India Day celebrations, sponsored by Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick. RCOPN&SB is actively involved in projects at local, national and international level and is long time supporter of NBT India Day.

Skit: Harmony of Culture and Science

Traditional Indian practices have a basis in science and technology and have contributed significantly to development in these fields. This skit will present examples from the areas of Ayurveda, Yoga, Astronomy, Architecture and Environmental Protection.

Mentor: Archana Sengar

Youth Leaders: Arnav Chouhan, Aarna Mehra, Nikhil Goli

PROGRAM DETAILS

Participants:

Aarshi Goel, Nivesh Gupta, Prisha Sehgal, Priyasha Shah, Nidhi Mitikiri, Raunak Sehgal, Daivik Shah, Sirtaj Suri, Mahek Sharma, Shanaya Goel, Sonia Patel, Ojas Shrivastava, Sia Dixit, Anya Chouhan, Arnav Chouhan, Rishab Patel, Anish Sinha, Akshita Thakur, Muskaan Suri, Ishan Shrivastava, Vihan Shrivastava, Rudra Sharma, Avaneesh Verma, Kanishka Chavda, Aanya Muniyappa, Akshat Verma, Arnav Chouhan, Aarna Mehra, and Nikhil Goli

event to present this exciting dance. This year, our ladies' dance performance takes inspiration from the vibrant essence of these celebrations. This dance embodies the spirit of unity, happiness, and friendship that these events inspire.

Mentor: Naina Goel

Participants: Naina Goel, Neha Shrivastava, Aruna Patel, Sri Lakshmi Vuggini, Shashi Mehta, Blisse Vakkalagadda, Indu Shrivastava, and Kuldeep Uppal

Vote of Thanks - Co-Chairperson

Rajeev Shrivastava

Group Theme Song – Aaye Hain Hum Dur Dur Se

Aaye Hain Hum Dur Se is a patriotic song that emphasizes how India brings together its diverse people, consolidating their cultural differences into making a powerful nation. The song's lyrics encourage us to come together with the single goal of spreading love and unity.

Instrumental Concert: One India, Great India

NBT India's youth musicians showcase India's great history of cultural music and express their appreciation for India's great achievements in medicine, technology, astronomy, and other sciences. We hope the combination of all the instruments will produce a melody reminding you to enjoy and appreciate India's musical wealth.

Led By: Mrs. Kuldeep K. Uppal

Mentor: Indu Shrivastava

Youth Leaders: Yashvi Patel and Ojas Shrivastava

Participants:

Piano: Daivik Shah, Sirtaj Suri, Ishan Shrivastava, Vihan Shrivastava, Raunak Sehgal, Anya Chouhan, Sia Dixit, Avaneesh Verma, and Mahek Sharma
Violin: Yashvi Patel and Anish Sinha
Chello: Prisha Sehgal
Guitar: Arnav Chouhan
Flute: Rishab Patel
Clarinet: Ojas Shrivastava, Sunidhi Mitikiri, and Sonia Patel
Trumpet: Anusha Vakkalagadda
Saxophone: Akshita Thakur
Percussion: Aruhi Vakkalagadda and Bharan Kalasapati

NBT India Committee Felicitations



Ladies Dance: Celebrating our Unified Nation

The celebration of festivals and holidays is a way for our nation to unite its diverse cultures and emotions in a fun and exciting event. Our ladies dance this year uses that lively

JANA GANA MANA

Jana gana mana adhinayaka jaya he
Bharata bhagya vidhata
Punjaba Sindhu Gujratam Maratha
Dravida Utkala Banga
Vindhya Himachala Yamuna Banga
uchchala jaladhi taranga
tava shubha name jage
tava shubha ashish mange
gahe tava jaya gatha
jana gana mangala dayaka jaya he
Bharata bhagya vidhata
jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,
jaya jaya jaya jaya he!

Meaning:

Thou art the ruler of our minds, of all people
The dispenser of India's destiny!
They name rouses the heart of Punjab, Singh, Gujarat, and
Maratha, of the Dravida and Odisha and Bengal;
It echoes in the hills of Vindhya and the Himalayas, and
mingles in the music of Ganga and Yamuna and is chanted
by the waves of the Indian sea.
They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise. The saving
of all people waits in they hands,
Thou dispenser of India's destiny.
Victory, victory, victory to thee.

VANDE MATARAM

Vande mataram, vande mataram,
sujalam, suphalam
malayajasitalam
shashya syamalam
mataram
vande mataram
shubra jyotsna pulakita yamini
phulla kusumita
drumadala sobhinim
suhasinim
sumadhura bhaminim
sukhadam varadam mataram
vande mataram

Meaning:

Mother, I salute thee!
Rich with hurrying streams, bright with orchard gleams,
Cool with the winds of delight
Dark fields waving Mother of might
Mother is free.
Glory of moonlight dreams,
Over the branches and lordly streams,
Clad in the blossoming trees
Mother, giver of ease
Laughing low and sweet
Mother I kiss thy feet,
Speaker sweet and low!
Mother, to thee I salute

AAYE HAIN HUM DUR DUR SE

Aaye hain hum dur dur se
sabko ye samajhane
ek hai bhara shreshth hai bhara, hum to bus ye jaane
Bhed bhav ko mita
Pyaar ka mann main deep jalane
Hamara pyar hai amar, hamari ek hai dagar
Bhin bhin hai boli hamari
Bhin bhin bhashayen
Bhin bhin hai jaati dharm par
Ek hi abhilashayen
Ek hi apna deen dharm hai
Hum to bas ye jaane
Hamara pyar hai amar
Hamari ek hai dagar
Ek hi maati, ek hi gulshan
Kyaari juda juda hai
Rang birange phool khile hain
Khushboo juda juda hai
Ye hai tiranga sabse pyaara

Meaning:

We have come from far away
To make everyone understand
India is one and excellent, we know this for sure
Eliminate discrimination
Lighting a lamp for spreading love
Our love is immortal, we have one aim
We have different ways of speaking
Different languages
We have different castes, religions, but...
Our desires are one
There is only one belief
We know just that
Our love is immortal
We have one aim
The same soil, same gardens
The flower beds are separate
But colorful flowers are in bloom
They all smell different
We love the tricolor flag of India

NBT INDIA DAY 2023

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023



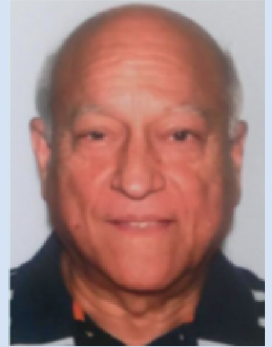
Kanwaljit S. Uppal



Rajeev Shrivastava



Surendar Reddy Revuri



Rajesh Mehta



Gangadhara Rao Vakkalagadda



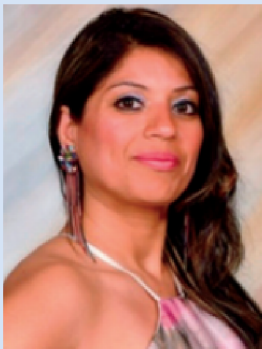
Blisse Vakkalagadda



Kuldeep K. Uppal



Sonali Sinha



Naina Goel



Archana Sengar



Indu Shrivastava



Agma Chouhan



Ramnivas Singh



Kishore Mitikiri



Kapil Shrivastava



NBT INDIA DAY 2023 ADULTS

ADULT PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS



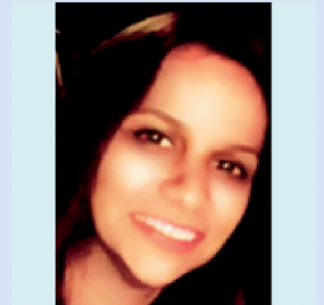
Aruna Patel



Baljeet Kaur



Jagruti Patel



Lymphia Miranda



Neha Shrivastava



Manmohan Kaur



Manprit Suri



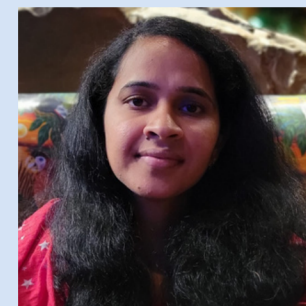
Radharani Chouhan



Sanjay Sengar



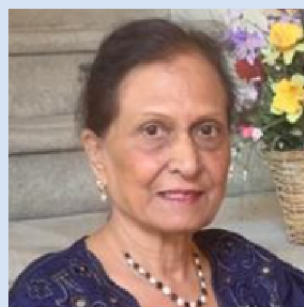
Sanjeev Dixit



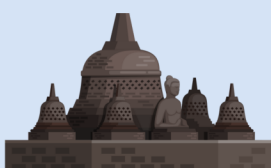
Sri Lakshmi Vuggini



Vivek Sinha



Shashi Mehta



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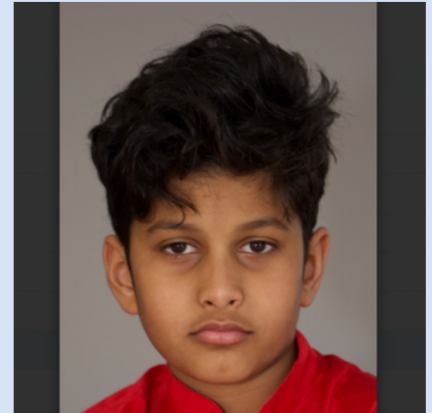
PARTICIPANTS



Anya Chouhan



Aryan Vuggini



Avaneesh Verma



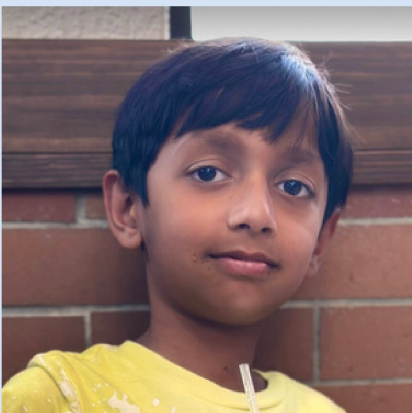
Bharan Kalasapati



Daivik Shah



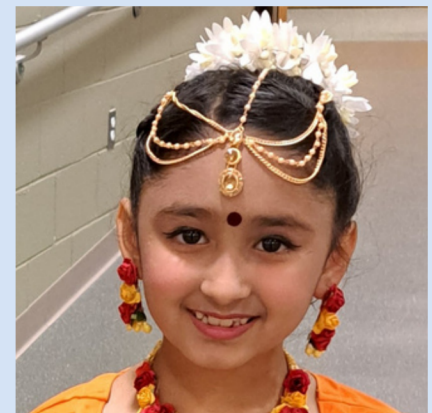
Harini Gupta



Ishan Shrivastava



Mahek Sharma



Muskaan Suri



NBT INDIA DAY 2023 PARTICIPANTS



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023

PARTICIPANTS



Nikaansh Goel



Nivesh Gupta



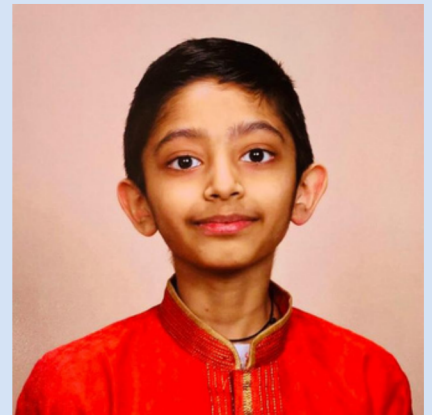
Prisha Sehgal



Priyasha Shah



Raunak Sehgal



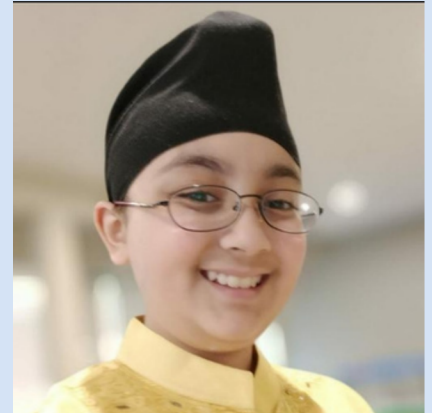
Rishab Patel



Rudra Sharma



Saanvi Singh



Sirtaj Suri

NBT INDIA DAY 2023 PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS



Sonia Patel



Veidika Vuggini



Vihan Shrivastava

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS



Aarna Mehra



Shanaya Goel



Sia Dixit



NBT INDIA DAY 2023 PARTICIPANTS



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023

YOUTH LEADERS



Ashna Sinha
Classical Dance



Aruhi Vakkalagadda
Classical Dance



Isha Shrivastava
Journal



Nikhil Goli
Skit



Anusha Vakkalagadda
Volunteer Coordination



Eva Patel
Emcees



Nidhi Mitikiri
Volunteer Coordination



NBT INDIA DAY 2023 PARTICIPANTS

YOUTH LEADERS



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023



Yashvi Patel
Instrumental



Aarshi Goel
Dance



Akshita Thakur
Dance



Anish Sinha
Emcees



Ojas Shrivastava
Instrumental

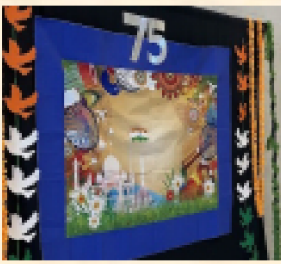


Arnav Chouhan
Skit



Akshat Verma
Skit





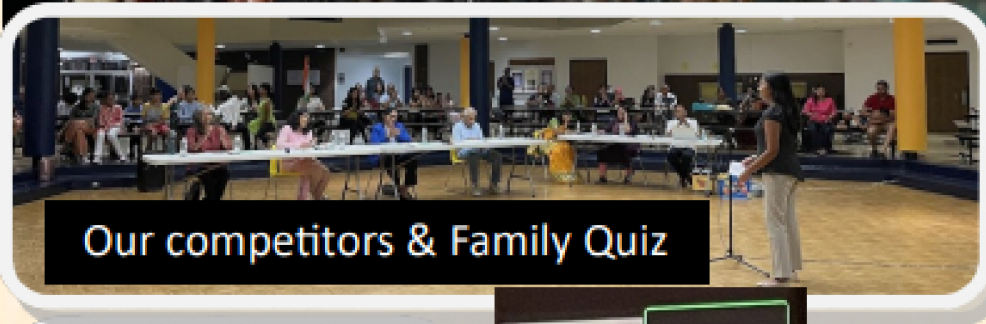
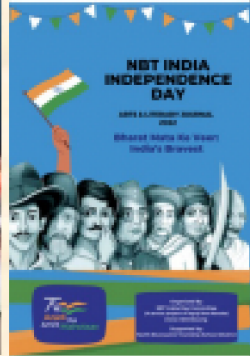
Glimpses of NBT India

Chairperson– Kanwaljit S uppal

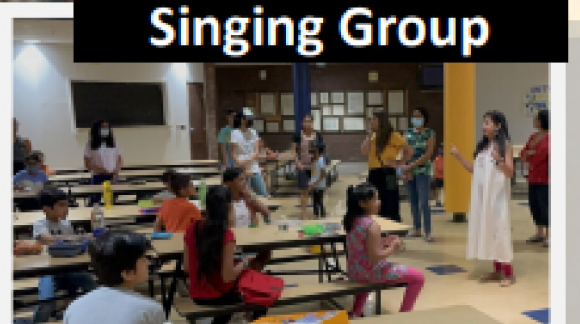
Independence
Day 2022

Chief Guest– Dr. HR Shah

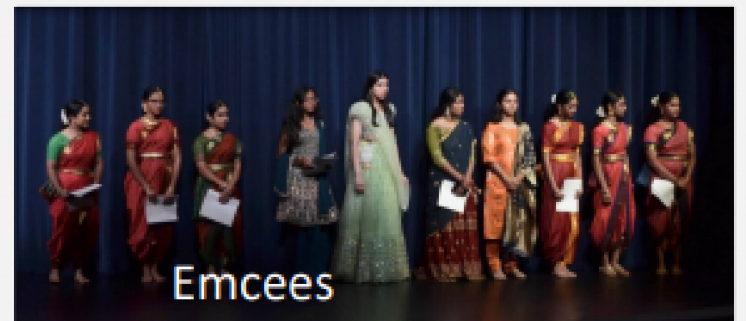
Theme: Bharat Mata Ke Veer, India's Bravest



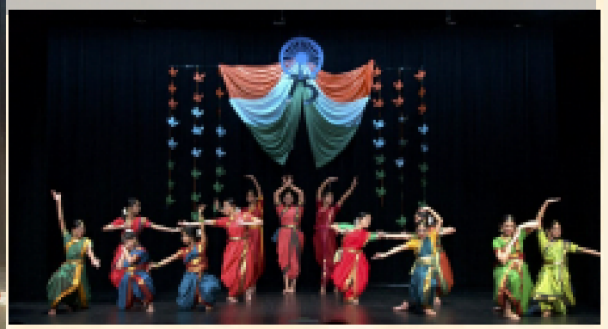
Our competitors & Family Quiz



Singing Group



Emcees



Independence Day 2022



Instrumentalist



Dancing Talent



Competitions Awards

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of PN&SB

Art Competition

Category	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Elementary	Ishan Shrivastava	Muskaan Suri	Anya Chouhan
Intermediate	Prisha Sehgal	Sia Dixit	Nikaansh Goel
Middle	Shanaya Goel	Sonia Patel	Arnav Chouhan
High	Yashvi Patel	Nidhi Mitikiri	Aarshi Goel

Essay Competition

Category	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Elementary	Anya Chouhan	Ishan Shrivastava	Vihan Shrivastava
Intermediate	Prisha Sehgal	Raunak Sehgal	Sia Dixit
Middle	Ojas Shrivastava	Sonia Patel	Arnav Chouhan
High	Nidhi Mitikiri	Nikhil Goli	Yashvi Patel

Public Speaking Competition

Category	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Elementary	Ishan Shrivastava	Muskaan Suri	Vihan Shrivastava
Intermediate	Aryan Vuggini	Prisha Sehgal	Raunak Sehgal
Middle	Ojas Shrivastava	Shanaya Goel	Sirtaj Suri
High	Nidhi Mitikiri	Nikhil Goli	Akshat Verma

Thanks to all the judges who contributed to making this a success!

Competitions Emcees: Aarshi Goel, Akshat Verma, Akshita Thakur, Nidhi Mitikiri, and Nikhil Goli

ART & Literature

ESSAY

Nidhi Mitikiri, High School Category

This year's theme, "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat," emphasizes India's diverse and flourishing culture. It has been 76 years since India gained independence and since then, India has made innumerable contributions to science and culture.

Louis Pasteur, a well-known chemist, once said, "Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity and is the torch that illuminates the world." India's contributions to the physical sciences and mathematics have forever changed not only its people, but the world. One specific field that was advanced by the research of Indian scientists is astronomy.

A well-known scientist is Aryabhatta. He was an astronomer who researched celestial constants and other astronomical calculations. He also dedicated his time to researching lunar and solar eclipses. His

computations include the duration of both types of eclipses and the size of the eclipsed part of the Earth. Because of his accuracy, Aryabhatta's observations and ideas were crucial to the studies of future astronomers. In fact, his calculation of the duration of a lunar eclipse was 17 seconds more accurate than one made in the 18th century, which was hundreds of years after his.

Another field that was especially advanced by the research of Indian scientists is the medical field. Perhaps the most well-known system of Indian medicine, Ayurveda aims to improve both physical and mental health through self care practices. It originated around 3,000 years ago and today, it is used by around 80% of India's population and thousands more people around the world. The integration of various healing practices, including herbal medicine, physiotherapy, and lifestyle changes, helps achieve mind-body balance. Just as India's contributions to science and technology have been noteworthy, its contributions to the culture and arts have also had a profound impact.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the souls of its people." Composed of 36 territories and provinces, India is home to almost one and a half billion people who speak hundreds of different languages. The cultural practices of these regions vary widely, but it is the harmony of these peoples and cultures that allows India to be such a diverse and beautiful country. One well-known aspect of India's culture is classical dance. I have practiced bharatanatyam since I was very young and over the years, I have learned a lot about different art forms and the significance of mythology in our traditions.

Originating from Tamil Nadu, Bharathanatyam is a South Indian temple dance that tells the stories of Hindu mythology. Kuchipudi, which originated from Andhra Pradesh, joins singing and dance together to depict a dance drama. The 8 classical dances, like the various facets of India, are different from each other in many ways, but they all fall under a common theme: they portray the beauty of Hindu mythology and our culture. It is important to note, however, that the entirety of India's traditions surpass any specific religion or culture; together they form a single entity. In conclusion, the harmony of India's various cultures along with its many scientific accomplishments makes it the country it is today-- a country to be revered for its heritage, achievements, and prosperity.

ART

Yashvi Patel, High School Category



ESSAY

Ojas Shrivastava, Middle School Category

Vallabh Bhai Patel, India's first home minister, once said, "If a country isn't united, then it cannot be a strong nation. But if it is united and harmonized properly, it can become a spiritual superpower." This quote talks about the concept behind 'Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat,' or 'One India, Great India.' Many initiatives were started in India for Ek Bharat, but no one really prioritized making a Shresth Bharat. Well, that was until 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi prioritized Patel's vision and created the 'Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat' initiative. He advised that this program should be started from the ground level, or from a bottom-up approach. Now, let's see what Prime Minister Modi's methodology was for implementing 'Ek

Bharat, Shresth Bharat.' This methodology can be split into four 'C's'; Connect, Celebrate, Collaborate, and Co-Create. The first 'C' is to connect. Pair up two states, for example, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Manipur etc. Then, launch several activities connecting people, culture, science, language, literature, resources, and much more. A great example is the Kashi-Tamil

Samagam, connecting North and South India's diverse cultural and traditional practices. The second 'C' is Celebrate. Celebrate and harmonize the paired up states' traditions and try to understand the science behind it. A fantastic example is the recent adoption of the Sengol which comes from Tamil tradition and signifies the transfer of power. After Celebrate comes Collaborate. Collaborate resources from the paired states. Then, use them in activities such as Skill India, Make in India, Ayushman Bharat, etc. This way we can take local resources to the global platform. Lastly comes Co-create. Co-create new ways of living from the already collaborated resources and use them in daily activities such as Yoga, Ayurveda, cloth, alternative fuel, etc. More recent examples are the Vande Bharat, the first bullet train in India, and Chandrayaan, which could make India the first country to explore/reach the South Pole of the Moon. All of these were made from local resources too!

If India is harmonized properly, inevitably, it will be a great nation, and I have no doubt about it. With initiatives like 'Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat,' our country is not only further united, but is becoming a superpower in the world. Our forefathers made huge efforts to make India united, and now it is our responsibility to make India great.

ART

**Shanaya Goel, Middle School
Category**



ESSAY

**Prisha Sehgal, Intermediate School
Category**

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat has been launched to celebrate unity and diversity of our nation and showcase the rich culture Heritage and customs of states and appreciate the diversity that is India. Let me tell you an interesting fact, unity in diversity was coined by Prime minister Nehru and that means harmony between groups of people with different backgrounds, religions, and faiths. India is a birthplace of different

religions such as Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Although India is a Hindu majority country it also has Muslims, Sikh, and Christian communities living together with each other. That is why we see temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras built close to each other.

Ek Bharat creates a sense of oneness, togetherness, and harmony among Indians. Indian culture is very ancient and a combination of various customs, foods, architecture, festivals, and religions.

Each state in India has its unique way of celebrating the festivals, but the main essence of the festivals Remains the same. Diwali, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Baisakhi, Lohri, Eid, Christmas, all these festivals are celebrated in India by everyone. For some it has religious significance, but for others it might just be a way to spend time with family. But this is only possible when people are educated about each other's Fates and religion and everyone accepts each other with full understanding and harmony.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The ways to reach unity shows our beauty in diversity, the difference in opinion, faith, religion is its strength not weakness."

We all love food, isn't it, and I am sure everyone will agree with me if it is Indian cuisine, it just takes your taste buds to a different level! Indian food is as diverse as India with the cuisine being complex using numerous ingredients and a wide variety of food preparation styles. The diversity in Indian food is its use of herbs and spices the

way they are used in any dish imparts it a unique flavor and authenticity. Turmeric, Ginger, Garlic, Cinnamon, Thyme, and Cloves all are used in Indian cuisines in different forms in, different states. The spices we use in our food are aromatic, antioxidants, anticavity and boost immunity systems. This is why the whole world praised these Indian spices during the corona pandemic. Similarly during the pandemic people realized the science behind doing namaste. It helped avoid transmission of germs but we could still convey our greetings to others.

In conclusion I'd like to mention like different colors come together and form a colorful rainbow similarly people come together and form different states which become one India strong India which is Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat. I'll leave you with a famous song, "Mila sur mara turmeric, to sur bana hamara." It is not me and you it's we that matters. Thank you!



ESSAY

Anya Chouhan, Elementary School Category

What is the harmony between India's culture and science? In most countries science and culture aren't in harmony, but in India it is!

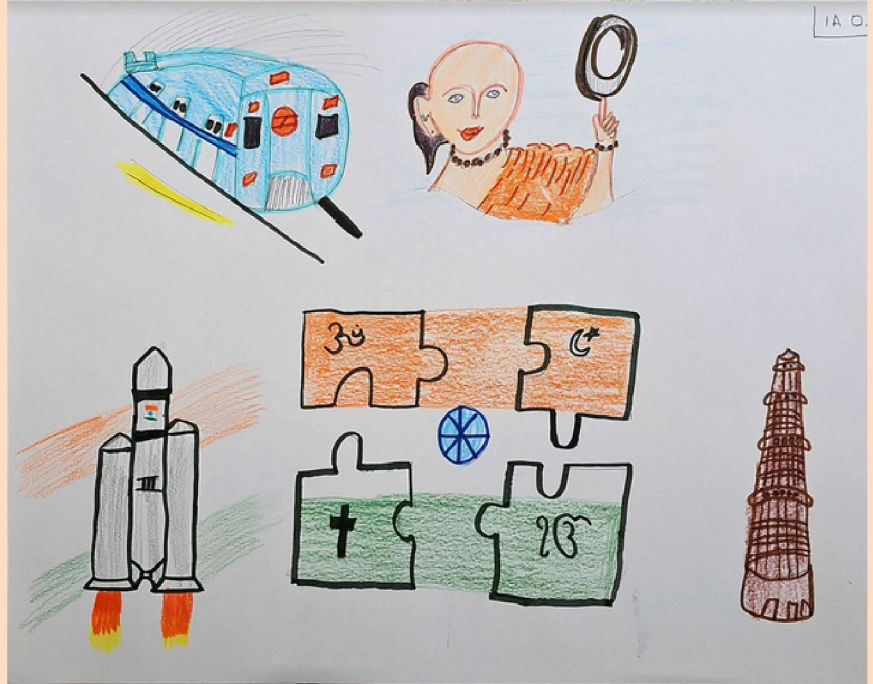
In ancient times in India our scientists/saints made many contributions to the world. Some of the contributions include, the decimal system which is used around the world, the discovery of zero which is one of the most important mathematical concepts.

In ancient times our saints encoded the value of pi in a shloka. The shloka translated to katapayadi sankhya.

Trigonometry which is used for surveying, navigating and in other fields, astronomy which led to the discovery of many planets and stars, medicine including the use of herbs, natural remedies and yoga are all ayurveda. These are just a few of the many contributions India has made to our world. I'm sure India has many contributions to come in the future.

ART

Prisha Sehgal, Intermediate Category



ART

Ishan Shrivastava, Elementary School Category



PVSA Recipients 2022 & 2023



Aruhi Vakkalagadda



Isha Shrivastava



Vedika Sengar



Sheel Dixit



Nikhil Goli



Aanya Muniyappa



Anusha Vakkalagadda



Nidhi Mitikiri



Yashvi Patel

PVSA Recipients 2022 & 2023



Aarshi Goel



Akshita Thakur



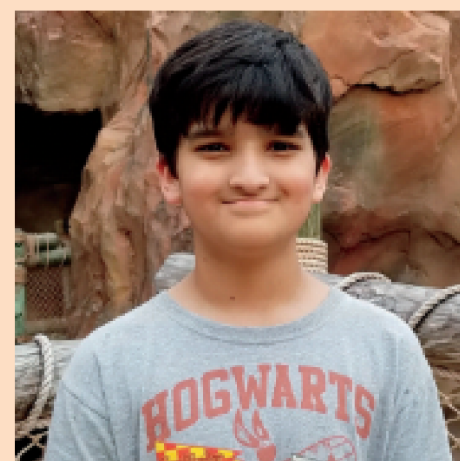
Anish Sinha



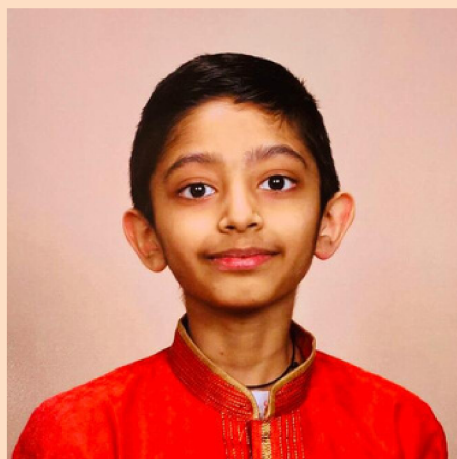
Ojas Shrivastava



Arnav Chouhan



Kandarp Porwal



Rishab Patel



Shanaya Goel



Senior Scholarships

The NBT Senior Scholarship recognizes outstanding high school seniors who volunteered as youth leaders during India Day activities.

The Committee awards Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Isha Shrivastava, Poojitha Kalasapati, and Vedika Sengar with the NBT Senior Scholarship for their multiple years of dedicated service. Their growth has been tremendous, and they have worked tirelessly with and for fellow North Brunswick youth, families, and community members. We applaud their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment and wish them the best in all their future endeavors.



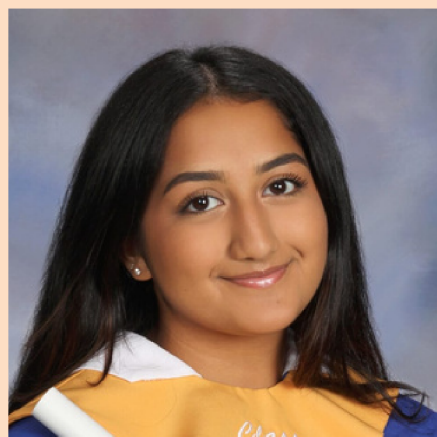
Aruhi Vakkalagadda



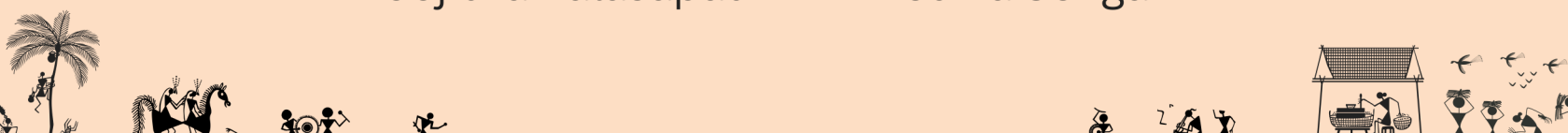
Isha Shrivastava



Poojitha Kalasapati



Vedika Sengar



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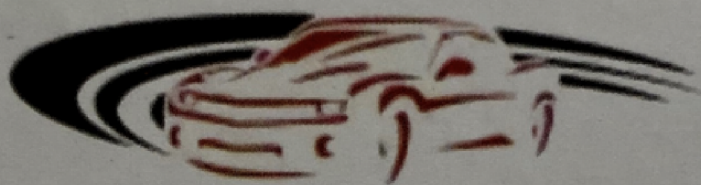
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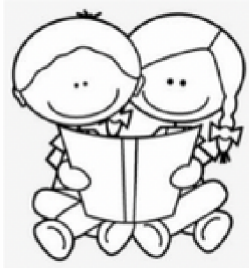
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