

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

PROGRAM

- Welcome Address - Chairperson Ramnivas Singh and Co-Chairperson Sonali Sinha
- Prayer - "Samgacchadhvam"
- Pledge of Allegiance
- American National Anthem - "Star Spangled Banner"
- Flag Hoisting Ceremony
- Indian National Song - "Vande Mataram"
- Indian National Anthem - "Jana Gana Mana"
- Group Song - "We Shall Over come"
- Felicitations of the Dignitaries
- Executive Committee Felicitations
- Introduction of Emcees
- Instrumental Concert - "Bridging Cultures Through Melody"
- NBT India Day Outstanding Youth Leader Scholarship Awardees Recognition
- Indian Classical Dance - "Kathak : An Expression of Tradition"
- Dance Drama - Dadaji Ki Kahaniyan Sangharsh Se Swatantrata Tak
 - Story Begins - Sangharsh Se Swatantrata Tak
 - Grown Up Dance - "The Land That Dreamed of Hope"
 - Story 1 - Shivaji Maharaj
 - Elementary School Dance - "The Lion of Swarajya - Gatha of Veer Shivaji"
 - Story 2 - Rani Lakshmibai – Jhansi Ki Rani
 - Middle School Dance - "Lakshmi bai: The Flame of Courage"
 - Story 3 - America 250: The Journey of a Nation
 - High school Dance - "From the Crown to Liberty: The American Story"
 - Story Finale - The Colors of Freedom!
 - Dance - "The Colors of Freedom"
- Theme Finale Song - "Goonji Vasundhara, Goonja Aasmaan"
- Vote of Thanks
- NBT India Day Award Ceremony
- Wrap Up with Behind the Scene

Emcees: Anish Sinha, Akshita Thakur, Ojas Shrivastava, Daivik Shah, Ayush Sharma, Arnav Chouhan, Nishchal Polanki, Rishab Patel, Sonia Patel and Sia Dixit

Emcee Leads: Anish Sinha and Ojas Shrivastava

Mentors: Anusha Vakkalagadda, Sunidhi Mitikiri and Yashvi Patel

Emcee Coordinator: Blisse Vakkalagadda



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PROGRAM DETAILS

Welcome Address: Chairperson Ramnivas Singh and Co-chairperson Sonali Sinha

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,
Devábhagarí yathápúrve samjánáná upásate.
Let us share our wealth without differentiation, like sages of the
past, so that all may enjoy the universe.
Samánii va ákútiḥ 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: Ishan Shrivastava

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: Anya Chouhan

Flag Hoisting Ceremony

India became a free, democratic nation on August 15, 1947, after a
freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi through the
principles of Ahimsa (nonviolence) and Satyagraha (truth and
peaceful resistance), inspiring movements for justice around the
world.

The Indian National Flag, the Tiranga, symbolizes the world's
largest democracy. Saffron represents courage and selfless service,
white stands for truth and peace, green signifies prosperity and
harmony with nature, and the Ashoka Chakra reminds us to
uphold righteousness through our actions.

As we honor India's Independence Day, we celebrate the nation's
rich heritage, its people, and its enduring spirit, with the timeless
prayer: "May my country's future rise high and may she always
bask in victory captures the crescendo - Jai Hey!"

Vande Mataram – National Song of India

Vande Mataram, India's National Song, was written by Bankim
Chandra Chattopadhyay in his 1882 novel Anandamath.
The poem beautifully portrays Mother India through her rivers,
fields, and natural beauty, expressing deep love, pride, and
gratitude for the nation. Its timeless refrain, "I bow to thee,
Mother," continues to inspire patriotism and devotion.

Led By: Mrs. Kuldeep K. Uppal

Jana Gana Mana – National Anthem of India

India's National Anthem, "Jana Gana Mana," was written and
composed by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. It is a heartfelt
prayer seeking the Creator's blessings for the nation, its people, and
a future with peace, unity, and prosperity.

Led By: Mrs. Kuldeep K. Uppal

We Shall Overcome - Hum Honge Kamyab

We Shall Overcome is a timeless anthem of hope, unity, and
courage. It reminds us that by standing together, we can overcome
any challenge. We sing it in celebration of our freedom and our
shared hope for a peaceful future together.

Mentor & Coordinator: Mrs. Kuldeep K. Uppal

Guitar: Arnab Chouhan

Percussion: Rishab Patel & Ojas Shrivastava

Felicitations of Dignitaries

NBT India Executive Committee Felicitations

Introduction of Emcees

Instrumental Band Concert: Bridging Cultures with Melody

World cultures have different histories and traditions, but they are
united by the melodious language of music and a shared belief that
freedom helps us embrace new beginnings and build a brighter
future together.

The NBT India musical band concert plays 4 songs. On America
250 this year, "God Bless America" is a song of celebration and
gratitude for the freedoms and opportunities that have defined the
United States.



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Instrumentals play Lata Mangeshkar's iconic rendition of "**Vande Mataram**" from Anand Math, originally written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. It became an enduring symbol of India's freedom movement, honoring the courage, sacrifice, and love of country that shaped the nation's journey to freedom.

The song "**Aisa Des Hai Mera**" is a heartfelt tribute to the beauty, diversity, and spirit of two different countries. Whatever our nationality, our traditions have the same ideologies.

The song "**Mera Joota Hai Japani**" is a timeless celebration of unity in diversity. We can embrace global influences while remaining proud of our own culture, just as different instruments create a richer harmony when played together.

For many families, India represents the heritage passed down through generations, while America represents new opportunities and a future built on the same enduring ideals of liberty and hope.

Mentor: Indu Shrivastava

Youth Leader: Ojas Shrivastava

Participants: (* Section Leaders, + Youth Volunteers)

Clarinet: Ojas Shrivastava*, Ishan Shrivastava*, Ananya Meda, Vihan Shrivastava, Naman Venugopal

Flute: Nishchal Polanki

Guitar: Arnav Chouhan*, Nivesh Gupta Konjeti+

Percussion: Rishab Patel*

Keyboard: Daivik Shah*, Anya Chouhan+, Krish Virani, Harini Konjeti

Saxophone: Kandarp Porwal*

Violin: Anish Sinha*, Pranav Krishna Prasad+, Gautam Bhattaru, Dev Nichani

Viola: Anurag Bajaj

Cello: Rayan Khokhar

NBT India Day Outstanding Youth Leader Scholarship 2025-2026 Awardees Recognition

Kathak Dance: An Expression of Tradition

Set to the song "O Re Piya," this Kathak performance celebrates the grace and beauty of one of India's oldest classical dance forms.

Through expressive storytelling, intricate footwork, and elegant movement, it honors India's rich artistic heritage and the timeless traditions that continue to inspire generations.

Mentor & Coordinator: Naina Goel

Youth Leader: Akshita Thakur

Youth Volunteer: Sia Dixit

Participants: Sunidhi Mitikiri, Anya Chouhan, Akshita Thakur, Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Anusha Vakkalagadda, Sia Dixit, Mahima Singh, Aradhya Sharma, Swara Vaidya

Dance Drama: Dadaji Ki Kahaniyan Sangharsh Se Swatantrata Tak. This skit follows "**Dada ji**" (grandfather in Hindi) as he shares stories of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Rani Lakshmibai, and the American Revolution** with kids, showing that the spirit of courage, justice, and freedom transcends borders. Though India and America have different histories, they are united by a shared love of liberty.

Mentor & Coordinator: Naina Goel

Youth Volunteer: Nishchal Polanki

Participants: Nishchal Polanki, Angad Vaidya, Taksh Nahata, Anshika Sharma, Ananta Bhat, Saurabh Bajaj

Grown-Up Dance: The Land That Dreamed of Hope

For generations, farmers have looked to the monsoon with hope, knowing their crops and livelihoods depend on its timely arrival. Through "**Barso Re Megha Megha**" and "**Ghanan Ghanan**" songs, this performance captures their anticipation as rain clouds gather, followed by the disappointment when the skies remain dry. It is a tribute to the resilience and unwavering spirit of farmers in the face of nature's uncertainties.

Youth Leader: Kandarp Porwal

Participants: Rakesh Amarnani, Manish Singh, Bhavana Singh, Rajiv Nichani, Shubhada Maru, Vivek Bajaj, Manisha Prajapati, Rakesh Prajapati, Poonam Mishra, Pradeep Mishra, Sourabh Porwal, Nidhi Vaidya, Akshay Sharma, Blisse Vakkalagadda, Anuja Shah, Aruna Patel, Swapna Polanki, Agma Chouhan, Swetha Tupili, Leena Balusamy, Indu Shrivastava, Naina Goel, Kuldeep K. Uppal

Story 1: Shivaji Maharaj

This performance celebrates Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's vision of Swarajya, self-rule founded on courage, justice, and love for the motherland. Through powerful dialogue, patriotic spirit, and a vibrant dance by the elementary school kids, it honors his leadership while celebrating the enduring values of unity, freedom, and cultural pride.

Youth Leader: Sia Dixit

Participants: Prisha Prajapati, Vihaan Prajapati, Pragyashri Krishna Prasad, Divyan Sahoo, Maisha Patel, Prishaa Bhatia, Vaishnavi Kancharla, Alisha Azeed, Tridha Pande, Dhiya Nayee, Asmi Reddy, Laya Koushik, Prisha Kumar, Tiya Reddy Angu, Bhattaru Gautam, Dev Nichani, Neelaksh Polanki, Anurag Bajaj, Disha Dunant, Veidika Vuggini, Bhattaru Karthik, Lithisha Reddy Angu

Songs: Shoorveer, Mann Mein Shiva, Malhari, Majhya Raja Ra, Heart of Courage



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Story 2 : Lakshmi Bai: The Flame of Courage

The skit continues with Dadaji sharing inspiring story of Rani Lakshmbai. Jhansi is a powerful Bollywood dance performance by the middle schoolers that celebrates courage, strength, and resilience through energetic choreography, expressive movements, and vibrant music.

Youth Volunteer: Ayush Sharma, Avaneesh Verma.

Participants: Mahima Singh, Aradhya Sharma, Swara Vaidya, Ananya Meda, Harini Konjeti, Rayan Khokhar, Aryan Vuggini, Siddhant Shankar, Sakshi Bhat, Anya Chouhan, Aarya Suryawanshi, Lummy Balabantaray, Sharvina Choudhary, Kyra Patel, Aaditya Lall, Divyansh Sharma.

Songs: Ghamandker, Milla to marega, Aye re tufan, Kai Kai malika, Veer Shivaji

Story 3: America 250 - The Journey of a Nation

Set during the American Revolution, this scene portrays ordinary colonists uniting against British rule, highlighting the courage, sacrifice, and determination that shaped the birth of the United States and its enduring ideals of freedom. Following the skit, a high-energy fusion dance by the high schoolers celebrates the American spirit through vibrant Bollywood music and dynamic choreography. The performance honors the values of freedom, diversity, unity, and opportunity, showing how different cultures come together in celebration.

Youth Leaders: Daivik Shah

Youth Volunteer: Nivesh Konjeti

Participants: Anusha Vakkalagadda, Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Sunidhi Mitikiri, Akshita Thakur, Daivik Shah, Rishab Patel, Kandarp Porwal, Sia Dixit, Ayush Sharma, Sonia Patel, Avaneesh Verma, Arnav Chouhan, Nivesh Konjeti

Songs: Marjaani, On The Floor, Fasla, Can't Hold Us, Heart of Courage

Skit Finale: The Colors of Freedom

Dadaji concludes his final story, the children realize that although India and America have different histories, both were shaped by the shared ideals of courage, freedom, and justice. They learn that true freedom is preserved through unity, responsibility, and mutual respect. The performance ends with a celebration of the enduring friendship between India and America, reminding us that while our traditions may differ, our values and aspirations unite us.

Group Theme Song: Goonji Vasundhara

This year's theme song calls to bridge cultures & celebrate freedom together. We may speak different languages and come from different cultures, but we share a common purpose. It inspires us to face injustice, poverty, and ignorance with courage while embracing the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is one family. Together, we celebrate our culture, our freedom, and our shared future.

Mentor & Coordinator: Mrs. Kuldeep K. Uppal

Percussion: Ojas Shrivastava (Tabla), Indu Shrivastava (Cabasa)

Vote of Thanks

NBT India Day Competitions' Award Ceremony

Healthy competition helps children develop confidence, teamwork, and valuable life skills in a fun and supportive environment. As part of the NBT India Day celebrations, awards are presented to participants of all ages, with sponsorship from the Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North, and South Brunswick.

Mentor: Gangadhara Rao Vakkalagadda

Youth Leader: Anish Sinha

Journal Design: NBT India Day Journal

The NBT India Day Journal reflects the event's theme from cover to cover, showcasing performances, activities, and highlights. Presented to every attendee, it serves as a cherished keepsake to remember and celebrate the day for years to come!

Mentor & Coordinator: Indu Shrivastava

Youth Leader: Nischal Polanki

Decorations: NBT India Day Event Decorations

The Decoration Team brings the vision of NBT India Day to life by transforming the venue into a vibrant celebration of India's Independence Day.

Mentor & Coordinator: Agma Chouhan

Youth Leader: Arnav Chouhan

Youth Volunteers: Anusha Vakkalagadda, Sunidhi Mitikiri, Akshita Thakur, Anya Chouhan, Aryan Vuggini, Sonia Patel

Technology: NBT India Day Competitions & Event

Technical support is the backbone of NBT India Day, ensuring the smooth execution of the event and the competitions leading up to it.

Mentor & Coordinator: Kapil Shrivastava

Youth Volunteer: Ishan Shrivastava

Media, video & still photography

This aspect is crucial to capture the NBT India Day event and various competition activities.

Mentor & Coordinator: Kanwaljit S. Uppal

Volunteers: Isha Shrivastava, Krishiv Desai, Kapil Shrivastava, Manish Singh, Ranjith Bhattaru, Vikram Patel

