

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

ARTS AND LITERARY JOURNAL 19TH EDITION



Organized by NBT India Day Committee (An Araj Seva Kendra service project)
Supported by the North Brunswick Township and School District
NBTIndia.org

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Instrumental & Journal Coordinator:
Indu Shrivastava

Decoration Coordinator:
Agma Chouhan

Technology Coordinator:
Kapil Shrivastva

Volunteers Coordinator:
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NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

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

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न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

July 17, 2026

MESSAGE

The Consulate General of India, New York, extends warm greetings and congratulations to the NBT India Day Committee on its Annual India Independence Day Celebrations.

The theme, **“Bridging Culture, Celebrating Freedom Together,”** meaningfully brings together India’s 79th **Independence Day**, the **250th anniversary of the United States**, and 150 years of India’s National Song, Vande Mataram. It reflects the enduring values of freedom, unity, democracy, and cultural harmony shared by India and the United States.

We commend the Committee, Araj Seva Kendra, North Brunswick Township and the North Brunswick Township School District for creating an inclusive platform that promotes awareness of India’s freedom movement, strengthens community integration and encourages youth leadership. Your efforts to engage young people through research, art, writing, exhibits, and performances will help future generations remain connected to India’s heritage while contributing confidently to American society.

We wish the celebrations every success and continued growth in the years ahead.


(Binaya S. Pradhan)

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



RAMNIVAS SINGH

Dear Friends, Families, and Community Members,

On behalf of the entire executive committee, I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations on this year's India Independence Day celebration.

NBT India Independence Day is more than a cultural festival - it is a celebration of our people, traditions, and shared values. Through music, dance, art, food, and community service, we create opportunities to learn from one another, strengthen friendships, and inspire future generations to embrace diversity with unity, respect, and pride.

This year's theme, "Bridging Cultures: Celebrating Freedom Together," reflects the spirit that unites us as proud members of the Indian American community and the many diverse communities we proudly call home. It celebrates the values of freedom, democracy, diversity, and mutual respect while honoring the enduring friendship between India and the United States.

This year is especially meaningful as we commemorate two remarkable milestones in history. The United States celebrates 250 years of independence, reminding us of the enduring ideals of liberty and democracy. At the same time, we honor the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, a timeless song that inspired India's freedom movement and became a lasting symbol of courage, unity, and national pride. These milestones share a common message: freedom flourishes through courage, unity, and the collective spirit of people working together.

As we gather to celebrate our heritage and our shared future, let us continue to build bridges, not walls, across cultures, fostering understanding and creating a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, respected, and empowered.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Middlesex County Commissioners and Agraj Seva Kendra for their unwavering support, partnership, and commitment to our community. I am deeply thankful to North Brunswick Township and the North Brunswick School District for generously providing the venue and for their continued encouragement in celebrating our shared heritage, diversity, and unity.

My sincere appreciation goes to the NBT India Day committee, performers, volunteers, sponsors, community partners, and everyone who joins us in this celebration. For the past 19 years, your dedication, generosity, and community spirit have made NBT India Independence Day a cherished tradition that continues to bring people together and strengthen the bonds of our community.

May this celebration inspire renewed friendships, deeper understanding, and a shared commitment to building a stronger and more inclusive community.

Wishing you and your family a memorable, meaningful, and Happy Independence Day!

Jai Hind, God Bless America!

With warm regards,

Ramnivas Singh

Chairperson

NBT India Day Committee – 2026



New Jersey General Assembly



STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

By Assemblyman DANIELSEN

WHEREAS, The Township of North Brunswick, Middlesex County, will mark the Seventy-Ninth Anniversary of Indian Independence with a special India Day Celebration on August 1, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey is pleased to join with the residents of North Brunswick upon this auspicious occasion, which commemorates India's long struggle for independence and its emergence as the world's largest Democracy, one rooted in the ideals of fairness, dignity, and peace and guided by the spirit of liberty and freedom for all; and,

WHEREAS, This highly anticipated event has been brought to fruition due to the steadfast partnership of STEM academic nonprofit Agraj Seva Kendra and North Brunswick Township High School, which have, through their public-spirited endeavors, provided an apt opportunity for students to gain invaluable volunteering experience and receive recognition for their excellence in English, mathematics, and civic education; and,

WHEREAS, The day's festivities, which will feature a broad array of entertainment and activities for all ages, align with the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of India's national song, *Vande Mataram*, and the Semiquincentennial Anniversary of the United States of America's founding—a fortuitous moment which bears witness to the shared colonial heritage of our two nations and our peoples' laborious struggles in achieving independence; and,

WHEREAS, The strength and prosperity of the State of New Jersey and the effectiveness of our American society greatly depend upon the sterling qualities of our diverse ethnic groups, exemplified by the Garden State's vibrant Indian-American community, who share their rich culture with others in pursuit of the common good; and,

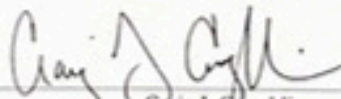
WHEREAS, It is altogether right and proper for the members of this House to pause in their deliberations to salute the dedicated individuals who have devoted their time, energies, and talents to ensure the success of the North Brunswick Township India Day Celebration; now, therefore,

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

That this House hereby acknowledges the Seventy-Ninth Anniversary of Indian Independence and encourages all New Jerseyans to participate fittingly in its observance; and,

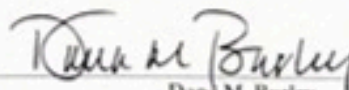
Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution be signed by the Speaker and attested by the Clerk.




Craig J. Coughlin

Speaker of the General Assembly

Attest:

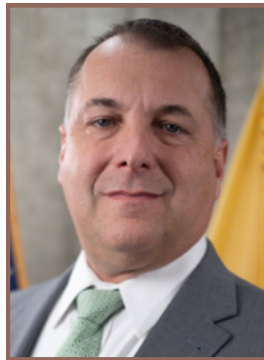


Dana M. Butley

Clerk of the General Assembly

MESSAGES

NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JOE DANIELSEN
Assemblyman

On August 15th, 1947, India gained its Independence from the United Kingdom thanks to people who took risks and persevered in the face of danger. Today, we must mimic the bravery of those who fought for freedom seventy-nine years ago.

The struggle for Indian independence was rooted in the same desire for liberty, democracy, and equality that inspired the American War of Independence. And for that reason, amongst so many others, the friendship and partnership between India and the United States has been rock solid since 1947. India and her people are strong in will, never backing down from a challenge and never hesitating to do what is right. And the Indian American community, which makes up a large and important part of Legislative District 17 and of New Jersey as a whole, has become a cornerstone of our state's life.

I am so happy to join in person as North Brunswick celebrates India Independence Day. I would like to thank Councilman Mr. Rajesh Mehta and the entire NBT India Day team for inviting me to speak. I encourage you to continue to inspire, share stories, and support one another. Confront feelings of fear and, instead, move forward with courage and compassion.

I am honored to celebrate India Day with you.

Best,

Joe Daniels (Assemblyman, NJ)

PROCLAMATION

By Mayor and Council – Township of North Brunswick

WHEREAS, on August 15, 1947, India gained its independence from the British Empire; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Independence Act of 1947 was approved by the British Parliament; 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

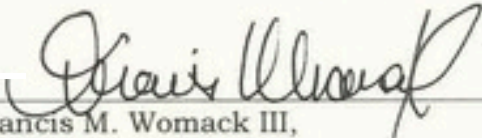
WHEREAS, the Indian independence movement was led by Mahatma Gandhi among others and through their message of nonviolence and civil disobedience, they inspired civil rights leaders from around the world, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

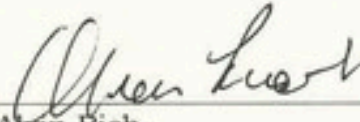
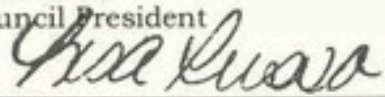
WHEREAS, India's Independence Day is celebrated by 1.3 billion people across the country with flag-hosting ceremonies, kite-flying, and parades; and

WHEREAS, diversity is one of United States greatest strengths, and 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 Country; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Bridging Culture, Celebrating Freedom Together". This theme celebrates the spirit of the 79th India Independence Day, America's 250th Anniversary, and the 150th anniversary of India's National Song together. 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 2nd, 2025 as India Independence Day and call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.


Francis M. Womack III,
Mayor
Township of North Brunswick


Alvin Rich,
Council President

Lisa Russo,
Municipal Clerk
August 1, 2026



MESSAGES

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK

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FRANCIS M. WOMACK III
Mayor

July 9th, 2026

Dear Friends,

Welcome to North Brunswick Township's **19th Annual India Independence Day Celebration!**

North Brunswick is proud to be a community where people of many cultures, traditions, and backgrounds come together to enrich our Township. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and today we celebrate the values that unite us while honoring the traditions that make each of us unique.

This year, we have chosen a powerful theme, **"Bridging Culture, Celebrating Freedom Together."** This theme celebrates the spirit of the **79th India Independence Day, America's 250th Anniversary**, and the **150th Anniversary of India's National Song**. Together, these historic milestones remind us that freedom, unity, and cultural understanding transcend borders and generations.

As we celebrate together, we honor not only India's rich history and heritage, but also the enduring ideals of freedom, democracy, and service that continue to inspire people around the world. Events like this remind us that by embracing one another's cultures and experiences, we build a stronger, more connected community for everyone.

On behalf of the Township Council and the residents of North Brunswick, thank you for joining us as we celebrate this special occasion. We are honored to share this day with you and hope you enjoy all that today's festivities have to offer.

Happy India Independence Day, and enjoy the celebration!

Sincerely,

Francis M. Womack III
Mayor
Township of North Brunswick



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

MESSAGES

OFFICE OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY SHERIFF



MILDRED SCOTT
Middlesex County Sheriff

Our Independence Day is not just a public holiday. It's a time to think about our history and the bravery of those who built our nation. The word of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi reminds us to protect the freedom we enjoy and inspire the younger generation to work towards progress.

Sincerely,
Mildred Scott,
Middlesex County Sheriff

NORTH BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT



710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Director Joseph A. Battaglia
732-247-0922 x400 Fax 732-220-0761

July 10, 2026

Welcome to India Independence Day 2026!

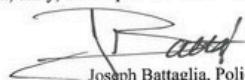
This year's theme, "Bridging Culture, Celebrating Freedom Together," beautifully reflects the values that unite our communities. It not only commemorates India's remarkable journey as an independent nation but also celebrates the **250th Anniversary of the United States of America** and the **150th Anniversary of India's National Song** together. These historic milestones remind us that freedom, democracy, and cultural heritage are timeless ideals that transcend borders and bring people together.

India Independence Day celebration is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the rich traditions, history, and contributions of the Indian-American community while strengthening the bonds of friendship, understanding, and mutual respect among all people. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and events such as this foster unity and inspire future generations to embrace the values of inclusion, service, and civic pride of our township.

The Police Department is proud to support community events that promote cultural awareness and encourage meaningful partnerships between law enforcement and the communities we are privileged to serve. Together, we continue to build relationships founded on trust, cooperation, and a shared commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

As you gather to celebrate this special occasion, I extend my sincere appreciation to the NBT India Day Committee, volunteers, sponsors, and community leaders whose dedication and hard work make this celebration possible each year.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and successful India Independence Day celebration. May this year's festivities continue to strengthen the bridges of friendship between our cultures and serve as a lasting reminder that freedom, unity, and respect are values we all cherish.


Joseph Battaglia, Police Director
North Brunswick Police Department



MESSAGES



NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Dear Community Members,

Returning to North Brunswick Township Public Schools continues to be one of the greatest joys of my professional career, particularly because it provides opportunities to celebrate the rich cultural diversity that defines our community through events such as the India Independence Day Celebration.

I am deeply grateful to the India Independence Day Committee for its unwavering commitment to organizing this meaningful annual event. Your dedication not only honors India's rich heritage but also provides our students, families, and community members with valuable opportunities to learn about the traditions, values, and contributions that strengthen our increasingly interconnected world.

This year's inspiring theme, **"Bridging Culture, Celebrating Freedom Together,"** beautifully reflects the shared ideals that unite us. As we celebrate the **79th Anniversary of India's Independence, America's 250th Anniversary, and the 150th Anniversary of India's National Song**, we are reminded that while our histories may be unique, our aspirations for freedom, democracy, unity, and opportunity are universal.

These celebrations serve as a powerful reminder that cultural understanding begins with learning from one another. By embracing our diverse languages, traditions, and histories, we strengthen the bonds that unite us as one community. Programs such as this inspire our students to become globally minded citizens who appreciate the richness of different cultures while recognizing the common values that connect us all.

North Brunswick Township Public Schools remains committed to fostering an inclusive educational environment where every culture is celebrated, every voice is valued, and every student has the opportunity to learn from the diverse experiences of others. Together, we continue building bridges of understanding that prepare our students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

Thank you once again to the India Independence Day Committee for your leadership, vision, and dedication in bringing our community together through this outstanding celebration. I wish everyone a joyful and memorable Independence Day celebration.

Sincerely,

Brian Zychowski, Ed.D.

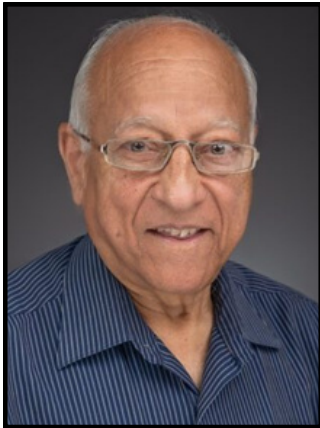
Superintendent of Schools

North Brunswick Township Public Schools



BRIAN ZYCHOWSKI
Superintendent of Schools

MESSAGES



RAJESH MEHTA

**Councilman
North Brunswick Township**

Thank you for creating a platform where future generations can learn, lead, and connect with their roots while strengthening the multicultural fabric of North Brunswick. Happy Independence Day to all, and let us continue to celebrate freedom together.

With respect and pride,

Rajesh Mehta

Councilman, North Brunswick Township

It is an honor and privilege to extend my heartfelt wishes to the Indian-American community of North Brunswick and beyond as we gather to celebrate India's Independence Day. This occasion is not only a tribute to the struggles and sacrifices of millions who fought for freedom, but also a celebration of India's rich cultural and linguistic heritage.

It is a great occasion to celebrate India's 79th Independence Day along with America's 250th and 150th anniversaries of India's national song, Vande Mataram, under the theme of **"Bridging Culture, Celebrating Freedom Together"**. Bridging cultures means embracing the richness of our diverse traditions, perspectives, and experiences while recognizing the values that unite us. By celebrating freedom together, we create opportunities for understanding, respect, and collaboration across communities, fostering a world where every voice is heard, every heritage is honored, and our shared humanity becomes the foundation for a more inclusive and harmonious future.

As a township, we thrive on inclusion, mutual respect, and multicultural exchange. Our local Indian-American residents embody this spirit by contributing to education, public service, arts, and innovation—often while preserving and promoting their mother tongues.

I commend the organizers, community leaders, and volunteers who have brought this celebration to life.



MICHAEL KNELLER

**Principal
North Brunswick Township
High School**

On behalf of North Brunswick Township High School, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our school district for the 2026 NBT India Independence Day celebration, hosted at Linwood School this year.

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 and someone who enjoys the study of History, I embrace this year's theme of "Bridging Culture, Celebrating Freedom Together," which will bring together the celebration of the 79th anniversary of Indian Independence, the 150th anniversary of India's National Song, and America's 250th anniversary as a nation!

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. Bringing together the celebrations of both countries' anniversaries of independence will only further highlight how we support each other through our diversity.

I hope that you will find the 2026 NBT India Independence Day celebration to be a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

Michael Kneller

MESSAGES



GOVINDA RAJAN
CEO - Agraj Seva Kendra

Dear friends,

On behalf of Agraj Seva Kendra, a tax-exempt nonprofit Organization, and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to the NBT India Independence Day celebrations 2026. The theme for this year is “Building culture, celebrating Freedom Together”.

This year, we are celebrating the 250th Independence Day of the United States of America, the country we have adopted as our motherland, as well as India's Independence Day.

The NBT India Day Committee, under the Chairmanship of Ramnivas Singh, has planned the event with dances, songs, Instrumental music, skit, and competitions to involve members of all ages practicing for several weeks to bring out the best show.

I congratulate the performers for their strenuous efforts. I thank the NBT India Day Community for bringing Arts to the community at large.

I thank the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners for the generous grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund, without which it may not be

possible to conduct the event on such a large scale.

I also thank the North Brunswick Township Board of Education and the public schools for their partnership and continued support in making this event a great success. Last, but not least, I thank the parents and the community at large for their support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Govinda Rajan

CEO – Agraj Seva Kendra



Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick



MAMTA SHAH

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 as we celebrate India's Independence Day.

As the new president of the Rotary Club, it is an honor to work with you all, and I am deeply grateful for this connection.

North Brunswick is central to our Rotary Club and is home to one of the most vibrant Rotary Youth clubs, the Rotary Interact Club. We are thrilled to see the residents and students of North Brunswick actively celebrating "India's Independence Day" and sharing in the joy of this historic occasion.

India's independence was achieved through the sacrifices of many brave men and women. It is heartwarming to see Agraj Seva Kendra providing a platform to honor these heroes. For over ten years, our club has proudly supported Agraj Seva Kendra and the NBT Day celebrations.

Our Interact club members from North Brunswick are actively involved in organizing this event and participating in various community service projects. These young leaders gain valuable experience in leadership, cultural activities, and civic engagement.

Our Rotary Club has undertaken numerous projects, such as donating food to pantries, organizing health camps, supporting shelters, and running 5K events to promote health. We have also supported international projects related to healthcare and aiding war refugees. In the coming days, we will focus on community activities, leadership development, mental health, and senior engagement. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Agraj Seva Kendra and wish you success in this event and all your future endeavors.

Warm regards,

Mamta Shah

President, Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



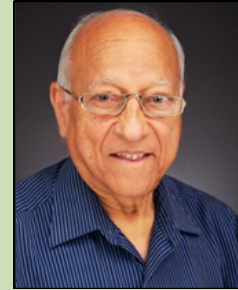
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Gangadhara Rao Vakkalagadda



Indu Shrivastava



Agma Chouhan



Kapil Shrivastava



Kishore Mitikiri

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 thy hands,
Thou dispenser of India's destiny.
Victory, victory, victory to thee.

VANDE MATARAM

Vande mataram (2)
sujalam, suphalam malayajasitalam
shashya syamalam, mataram,
vande mataram
shubra jyotsna, pulakita yamini,
phulla kusumita, drumadala sobhinim
suhasinim, sumadhura bhaminim,
sukhadam varadam mataram,
vande mataram (2)

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

GOONJI VASUNDHARA

GOONJI VASUNDHARA, AA A A, AA A A GOONJA AASMAAN
GOONJI VASUNDHARA, GOONJA AASMAAN,
SANSKRITI SWATANTRATA KA, AAJ KAREIN GAAN,
AAJ KAREIN GAAN, KAREIN GAAN, KAREIN GAAN,
GOONJI VASUNDHARA...
VIVIDH RANG ROOP, VESH BHASHA ANEK HAIN (2)
PANTH HAI ANEK SABKI, MANZIL TO EK HAI
EK YAHI MOOL MANTAR VASUDHAIV KUTUMBAKUM...
EK RAAG HAI HAMARA.... HAI ANEK TAAN.
GOONJI VASUNDHARA....
NAVYUG KA AAVAHAN, VISHAV KAY JAWAN TUMHEY... (2)
AAGEY BADH KAY LADO, ANYAAY SE, ABHAAV SE, AVIDYA SE.
MAN MEIN SANKALP YAH, EK YAH, EK YAH.
GOONJI VASUNDHARA....
GOONJI VASUNDHARA GOONJA AASMAAN, SANSKRITI
SWATANTRATA KA, AAJ KAREIN GAAN,
AAJ KAREIN GAAN, KAREIN GAAN, KAREIN GAAN
GOONJI VASUNDHARA....

Meaning

Today, on this day of freedom, we raise our voices together.
Let the earth and sky echo with our song.
We may have different languages, colors, and beliefs, but our destination is one.
This song is a call to the youth to fight injustice,
poverty and ignorance with courage.
With the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is one family,
Let us celebrate our culture and independence, united as one nation.

WE SHALL OVERCOME

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.
We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We'll walk hand in hand someday.
We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We are not afraid today.
We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall live in peace someday.



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



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 hṛdayánivah,
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: Arnav 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.



PROGRAM DETAILS

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 & Coordinator: 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, Shashi Mehta, 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

PROGRAM DETAILS

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 & Coordinator: 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



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Grow greenery in your home and strengthen Dharma in our society.



Dharmansh is a collective effort by Hindus who believe that preserving and promoting our values, cultures, temples, education, and community institutions is a shared responsibility.

Together, we grow Dharma. Together, we build our future.

YOUR PLANT. OUR PURPOSE.

The idea of plant sales during cultural programs has been bearing fruit.

This idea was germinated and put into practice by HindiUSA volunteers, Hansa Singh and Rachita Singh.



When thousands of Hindus each contribute a small amount, together we create a powerful force that can make a lasting impact.



As you plant this sapling in your home, let it serve as a living reminder that Dharma flourishes only when each one of us nurtures it.

Your support is not just a donation, it is an investment in our heritage, our children, and the future of Hindu civilization.



"परोपकाराय फलन्ति वृक्षाः । परोपकाराय बहन्ति नद्यः ॥"
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YOUTH LEADERS



Akshita Thakur
Dance Lead



Anish Sinha
Competitions Lead



Daivik Shah
Dance Lead



Ojas Shrivastava
Instrumental Lead



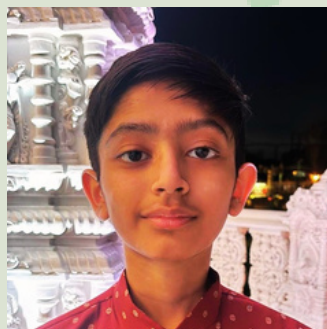
Arnab Chouhan
Decorations Lead



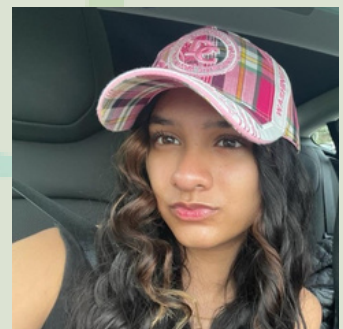
Kandarp Porwal
Dance lead



Nishchal Polanki
Skit Lead



Rishab Patel
Music Lead



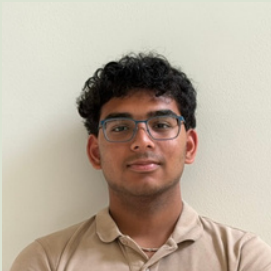
Sia Dixit
Skit Lead



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026



YOUTH VOLUNTEERS



Ayush Sharma
Dance Volunteer



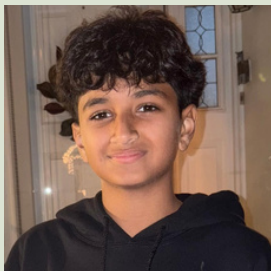
Sonia Patel
Dance Volunteer



Avaneesh Verma
Skit Volunteer



Nivesh Gupta Konjeti
Skit Volunteer



Krishiv Desai
Media Volunteer



Mahima Singh
Dance Volunteer



Anya Chouhan
Singing Volunteer



Ishan Shrivastava
Instrumental Volunteer

NBT INDIA DAY OUTSTANDING YOUTH LEADER AWARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2025-2026



Anusha Vakkalagadda



Sunidhi Mitikiri



Yashvi Patel



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Glimpses of NBT India



Chairperson - Rajeev Shrivastava

Chief Guest - Mayor Francis M. Womack III

Theme - Celebration Of Linguistic Diversity



Group Singing

Competitions & Awards



Executive Members



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Independence Day 2025



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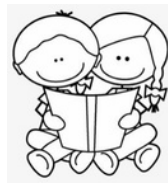
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Milestone - HindiUSA is celebrating **Silver Jubilee year (2025-26)**, marking 25 years of its successful mission in serving society

- ❖ HindiUSA is a Non-Profit Organization running Hindi classes in the USA for **25 years** from now and has more than **4000 students** in various states mainly NJ (30 Branches), Connecticut, California, Missouri, Maryland, Georgia, North Carolina, and Massachusetts.
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- ❖ Builds student's self-confidence Hindi poem recitation and cultural program platforms are provided.
- ❖ Registration fee includes Books & participation in various cultural programs.

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For more information, Please Contact
Coordinator -Yogita Modi (609-721-2321)

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(North Brunswick Chapter)

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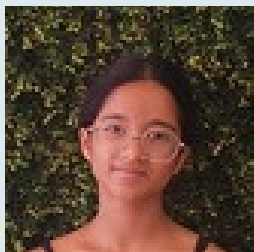
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संज्ञा सर्वनाम लिंग वचन विशेषण क्रिया पर्यायवाची विलोम वाक्य-रचना शब्द-भंडार

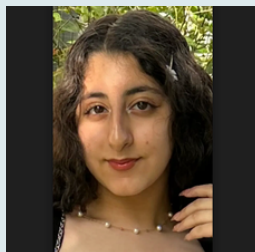
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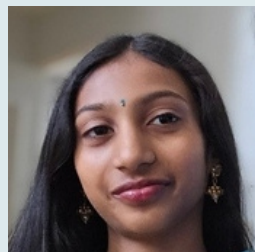
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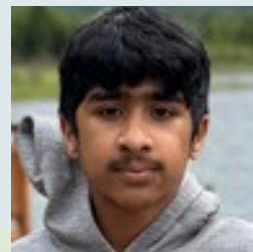
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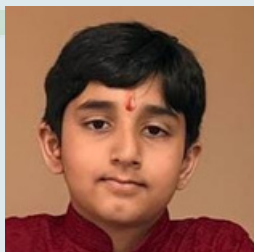
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Ananya Meda



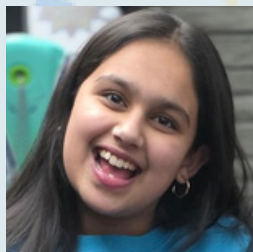
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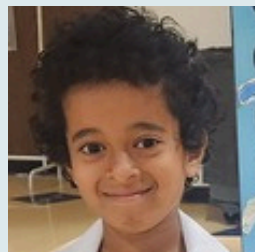
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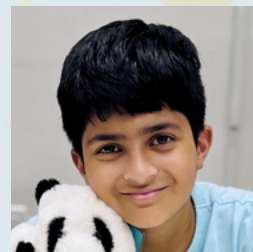
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Swara Vaidya



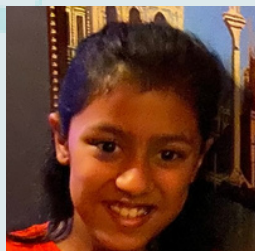
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Nityam Porwal



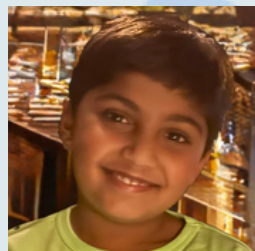
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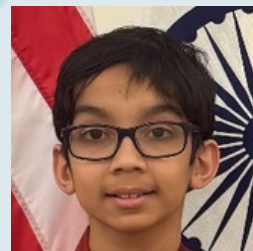
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Harini Konjeti



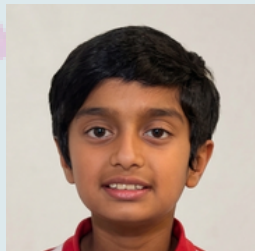
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Siddhant Shankar



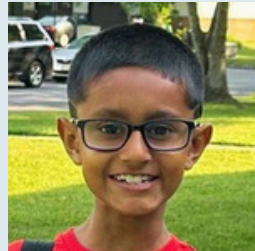
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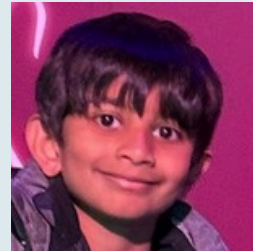
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Anurag Bajaj



Dev Nichani



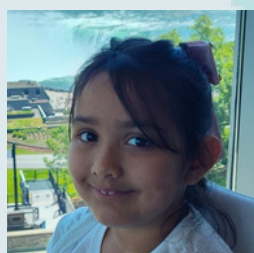
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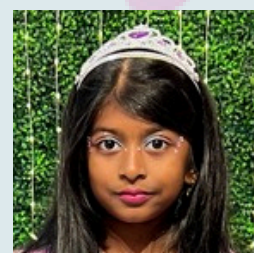
Pragyashri Krishna Prasad



Sai Karthik Simha Bhattacharya



Anshika Sharma



Disha Dunant

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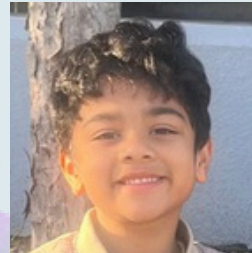
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Anmol Singh



Prisha Kumar



Taksh Nahata



Ananta Bhat



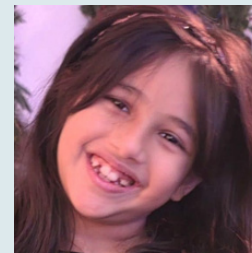
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Saurabh Bajaj



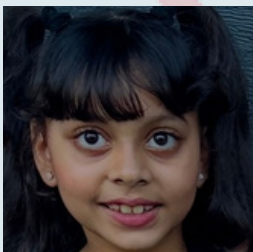
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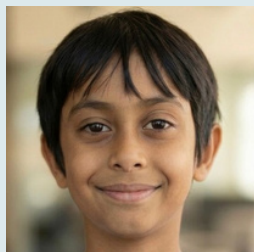
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Asmi Reddy



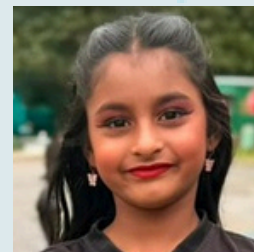
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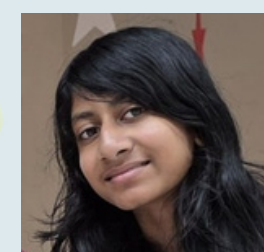
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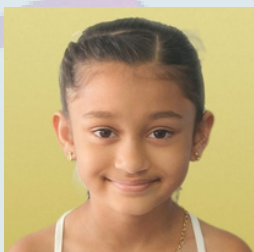
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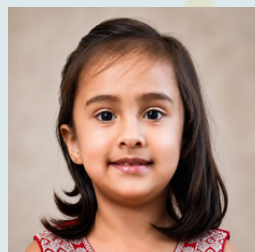
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Lummy Balabantaray



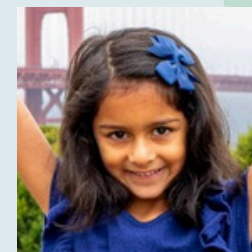
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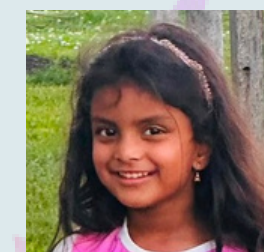
Prishaa Bhatia



Sharvina Choudhary



Tridha Pande



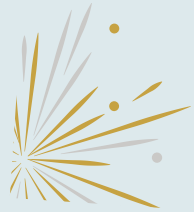
Vaishnavi Kancharla



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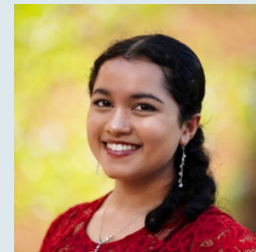
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Anagha Bhopale



Anuja Shah



Aruhi Vakkalagadda



Aruna Patel



Ashna Sinha



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Bharath Polanki



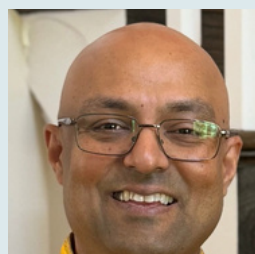
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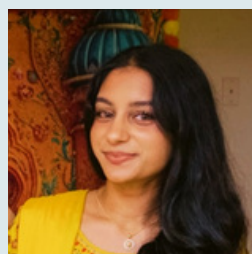
Darshna Amarnani



Eunice Swetha Tupili



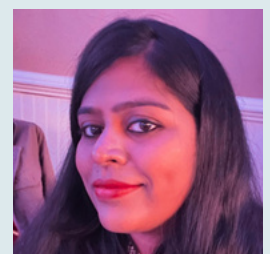
Harshal Dalal



Isha Shrivastava



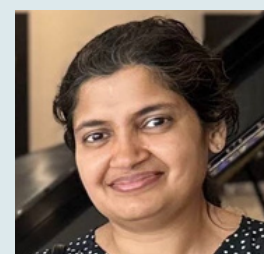
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Leena Balusamy



Manish Singh



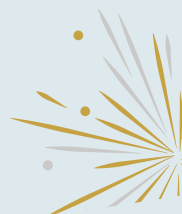
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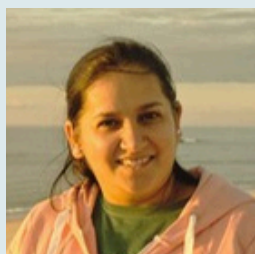
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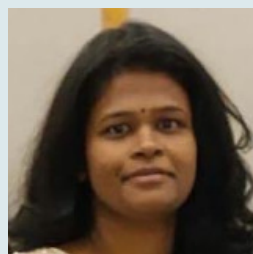
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Rajiv Nichani



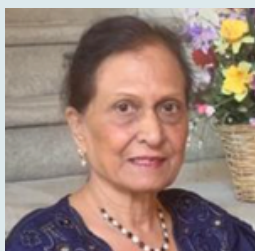
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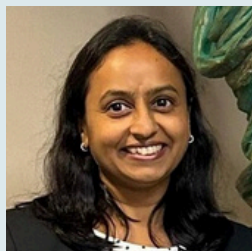
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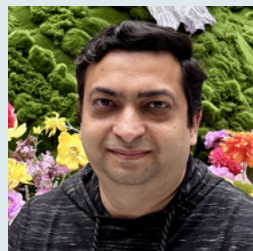
Sapna Porwal



Shashi Mehta



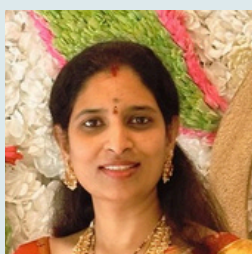
Shubhada Maru



Sourabh Porwal



Sudesh Khokhar



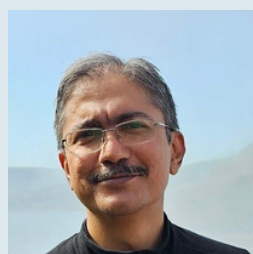
Swapna Polanki



Vikram Patel



Vivek S Bajaj



Vivek Sinha



Yashvi Patel



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Competitions Awards

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Art Competition

Category	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Elementary	Anurag Bajaj	Kaira Dani	Disha Dunant
Middle	Ishan Shrivastava	Divyansh Sharma	Aradhya Sharma & Anya Chouhan
High	Aditi Kshirsagar	Arnav Chouhan	-

Public Speaking Competition

Category	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Elementary	Veidika Vuggini	Dev Nichani	Anurag Bajaj
Middle	Ishan Shrivastava	Aaryash Rathor	Vihan Shrivastava
High	Arnav Chouhan & Nikita Venugopal	Ojas Shrivastava	Ayush Sharma

Family Quiz Competition

Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
The Patel Family	The Tupili Family	The Sinha Family

Patidar Golguppa (Pani-Puri) Eating Competition

Category	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	Adult
Name	Pragyashri Krishna Prasad	Aradhya Sharma	Sia Dixit	Rajyalakshmi Konjeti

Cover Page Design Competition

Winner	VIHAN - SHRIVASTAVA FAMILY	Journal Cover Page
Runner Up	DEV - NICHANI FAMILY	Journal Inner Page

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

Debate Moderator: Anish Sinha

Competitions Emcees: Ojas Shrivastava and Sia Dixit



Art Competition Winners



Anurag Bajaj



Kaira Dani



Disha Dunant



Lithisha Reddy Angu



Ishan Shrivastava



Divyansh Sharma



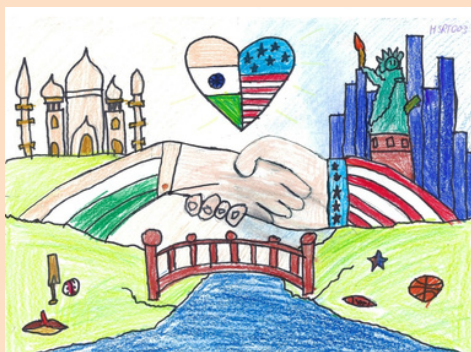
Aradhya Sharma



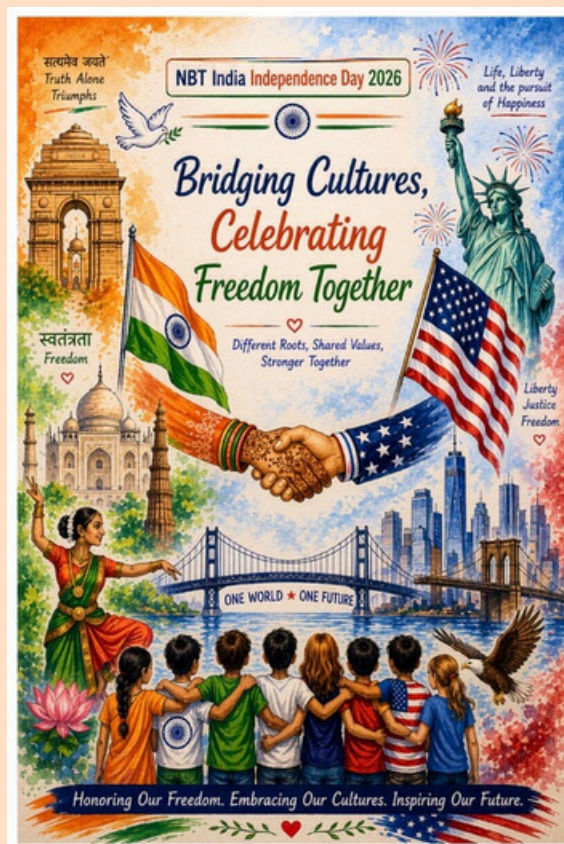
Anya Chouhan



Aditi Kshirsagar



Arnab Chouhan



Dev - Nichani family



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