



SANT NIRANKARI MISSION

Washington DC Metropolitan Area Spiritual Center

4501 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly Virginia 20151

SNM DC Bal Sangat and Adults Participate in India Republic Day January 27th, 2024

After weeks of preparations and practices, many that were virtual, the Bal Sangat performed Jai Ho Dance at the India Republic Day held at Langley High School in McLean Virginia. This event was hosted by the National Council of Asian Indian Association, who had invited many organizations within the Indian community of Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia areas. The NCAIA is a large organization of Indian Americans in the Greater Washington D.C. Area, and they are highly engaged in the various communities partnering and collaborating with all levels of government, non-government, medical, educational, and social organizations, and institutions with the motive to render support to the community.

Bal Sangat children enthusiastically danced keeping in sync with the musical beats and each other. Participating in this cultural event provided experiences for the youth to personally explore their heritage while living in the United States.

The Bal Sangat youth who participated in the dance routine were; Armaan Ugave ji, Kyra Yadav ji, Serena Thummala ji, Nirmitt Varma ji, Sanchit Varma ji, Preet Nayyar ji, Ruhaani Nayyar ji, Daniel Batra ji, Chelsea Batra ji, Gyan Kanwar ji, Pritika Gupta ji, Vivaan Gupta ji. The youth were directed by teachers Preeti Nayyar ji, Anju Batra ji, Shobita Bajaj ji, and Dan Slebodnik ji.

The dance team wore white tops with dark trousers donning a sash showcasing India's colors of orange, white, and green. Waving the Indian flag with matching face paint, the youth were decked out "Indian style". Also performing a routine were H. Paul Singh ji, Harnoor Singh ji and Ankur Kumar ji. The dhol beat got the audience's attention while H. Paul ji sang the songs in honor of India. Their performance was then combined with the previous group of bhangra dancers, and the stage was electrified with lyrics and dance keeping to the beat of the dhol.

This India Republic Day event was attended by His Excellency, the Honorable Ambassador of India to Washington D.C. Taranjit Singh Sandhu and many other local dignitaries. Finally, Reverend Prem Kamal Dadlani ji, Coordinator In-Charge of Washington DC Center shared the mission's message of universal brotherhood and world peace.

All enjoyed the performances of young children dancing, bhangra dancing of various age groups, songs, classical dance and song. Bal Sangat has performed in previous events in the past years to partake in the community giving opportunity to connect the Mission with the larger community. The NCAIA had celebrated and hosted events, such as, India's Independence Day and Republic Day and other national events to which our Sant Nirankari Mission Spiritual Center was invited to participate.

-By Daniel Slebodnik- Washington DC – January 2024

