

Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America Holds its 4th Annual “Hindu Heritage Day ”

Rohan Sharma (rohanwcb@gmail.com)

Kearny, NJ, Saturday, June 15, 2019—Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA) held its 4th annual “Hindu Heritage Day” (HHD) on Sat., June 15, 2018 at the Hindu Community Center in Kearny, NJ, from 12 - 6 PM. The event attracted hundreds of attendees throughout the day, and was recognized by the State of New Jersey for its contributions to the NJ community.

VHPA organizes HHD to celebrate India’s diverse culture and heritage through a fusion of music, dance, food and cultural activities. The family-friendly festival, open to everyone, was themed “*The Contribution of Hindu Americans*”. It featured a College Admissions Panel with students from Ivy League universities, a beautiful Cultural Program, an inspiring Poster Competition, a fun Children’s Quiz, as well as games and other activities.

The event was made even more special by the recognition it has received from the State of New Jersey. Indeed, the State of NJ formally declared June 15, 2019 as the official Hindu Heritage Day. The state proclamation and the letter from the Hon. Governor Bill Murphy can be viewed on our website.

The event was a smashing success. Local vendors and sponsors enjoyed the community exposure, and attendees commented that program was engaging and well-run. Numerous volunteers, along with a core Planning Committee, joined forces to make sure the event ran smoothly.

The Cultural Program was the main attraction and featured youth performances in music, dance, and theatre.

The Children’s Quiz challenged students on their knowledge of Hindu history, with prizes for the winning team.

A special feature this year was the College Admissions Panel where a number of students from prestigious universities like Harvard University, Princeton University, and the University of Oxford, answered audience questions and gave their perspectives on the college admissions process.

A Poster Competition was held in the main hall, with 15 beautifully-designed entries on the contributions of the Hindus in America. Cash prizes from \$75 to \$350 were awarded.

“VHPA wants to provide today’s youth with a platform to exhibit their talent and skills and connect these second-generation youth and their families with their rich heritage,” says Brahm Sharma, President of the NJ Chapter.

Arun Joshi, Secretary of the NJ Chapter, adds, “By making HHD an annual event, we want to help the public understand cherished Hindu values and various aspects of the vibrant Indian tradition.”

Dr. Jai Bansal, the Chapter Treasurer, pointed out, “Features like the poster competition act as a catalyst for our youth and their families to collaboratively explore their heritage and the richness of their cultural roots.”

In the future, the organizers of this event plan to bring an even more diverse crowd to the event, especially youth and those curious about Hinduism. They look forward to expanding the event to include more activities and attractions, while inviting more youth to perform in the cultural program and to volunteer at the event.

About the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America/ World Hindu Council (VHPA):

VHPA is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit and volunteer-based charitable organization, founded to address the needs of the Hindu society and support humanitarian causes worldwide. For more information or photos, please contact NJ Media Coordinator Rohan Sharma at (609)-937-3034 or at rohanwcb@gmail.com.

###