



THE SCINDIA SCHOOL

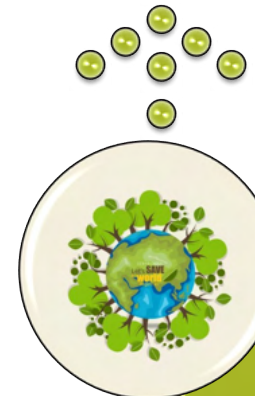
THE NANHI CHHAAN NATIONAL SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST, 2022



NANHI CHHAAN OBJECTIVES

The Nanhi Chhaan National School Essay Contest (NSEC) is a national competition held on an annual basis - a first of its kind initiative by Nanhi Chhaan. It is an awareness and skill building platform with the aim of spreading awareness on important social issues amongst young audiences.

Essay topics are chosen around some of the important issues on the social agenda of the country. For the **Ninth year**, the topic selected was '**Indian Culture What Does It Mean.**'



Save Environment



Save Girl Child



Save Humanity



Mr. Harpal Singh



The Chairman's Message

Nanhi Chhaan Foundation

- Ever since we started the Nanhi Chhaan National Essay Contest in 2013, we have received an overwhelming response from schools and students across the country. We had started this contest to provide a platform for the youth to be aware about, engage on and subsequently advocate for some of the most fundamental issues facing our society today. We shall persist with our objective of reaching out to students across India to make them aware of the importance of critical aspects such as women empowerment, environment protection and promotion of secular values in our country."



Mr. Ajay Singh

The Principal's Message



THE SCINDIA SCHOOL



It was Mr. Harpal Singh who first introduced me to the Nanhi Chhaan Foundation. Little did I know, it would soon ask us to host its National Essay Competition. I have always held the skill of essay writing in high regard. It is an immensely important tool to express one's thoughts and analyze them to their fullest potential. The Nanhi Chhaan Essay Competition especially, has the ability to provide children with the kind of nuanced exposure education would be left incomplete without. We, as a school are immensely grateful for the opportunity to host an event of a change.



CHIEF GUEST

Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
(Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel)



OUR JUDGES



G. Parthasarathy
(Former Indian High
Commissioner to Australia)



Sharmila Bakshi
(Head of Senior School Vasant
Valley)



Deepak Kapoor
(Chairman, Save the Children &
Ex Chairman PWC)

Essay Topic 2022 - Indian Culture What Does It Mean



Saumaya Beri
Vasant Valley, Delhi

Cash Prize (Student) – INR 30,000

Cash Prize (School) – INR 15,000

NGO (Selected by Student) –
15,000

Essay by Sumaya Beri - Vasant Valley School



Indian Culture What Does It Mean

India is a country so diverse in so many ways that there are barely any words to describe it. With myriad languages, religions, cuisines and cultures, it is truly a melting pot in every sense of the word. In the words of Sadhguru, “Indian culture is the most complex and colourful culture on the planet. The way people look, their language, their food, their way of dressing, and their music and dance- everything changes every fifty or hundred kilometres in this country.” But in the midst of all this “khichadi”, is there any room left for humanity?

At times, the answer appears to be a glaring and resounding NO. With the rising tide in crimes and cover-ups, the news is always focused on tragedy or Bollywood controversy. The tales of men brutally raping innocent women and getting off scot-free, stories of religious violence going unpunished and accounts of general intolerance are swiftly becoming a part of our daily routine. We still laugh at the casual misogyny of all those WhatsApp forwards about how terrible Indian wives are. We still skip over the heart-wrenching stories of injustice, anger and unnecessary violence in favour of the same churned out vitriol centred around the love lives of the latest spotlighted movie star. We still seem to believe it is the woman’s fault when someone abuses and violates her, simply because she showed a bit of skin or walked alone at night. Maybe this is a part of our culture we don’t want to confront every day, but we cannot just ignore the holes in its fabric.

Essay by Sumaya Beri - Vasant Valley School



Homophobia, religious intolerance, casteism and corruption are apparently sewn into our country's culture. Mental health remains taboo, and despite its (understandable) deterioration through the pandemic, we still believe that boys shouldn't cry, depression is a joke, and anyone struggling with their state of mind is either crazy or just overly sensitive. To sum it up, rape culture, misogyny, stigma and intolerance appear to be India's everlasting trends. But is this really Indian culture?

Yet again, we hear a staunch and reverberating no, but this time even more definite than the last. Our culture is vibrant. It is welcoming and warm. Our people are always ready to help each other. Our hospitality is second to none; "athithi devo bhava" prevails. Our religions celebrate each other's holidays. We sing together, dance together and laugh together. Most importantly, Indian culture is to criticise. We criticise our government, our infrastructure and our fellow Indians. The word may have an overtly negative connotation, but this dissent only points out how much we truly want to improve. We are a nation of dreamers, and that is our strength. We always want better for ourselves, and if we want it bad enough, we work towards it together. When we feel something is wrong, we speak up against it. Our culture affords us a basic moral code, and when it is violated, we know to use our voice. That is why Indian culture is democratic.

Essay by Sumaya Beri - Vasant Valley School



Our culture is to fight **together** against grievances and support the aggrieved, inconsequential of whether or not they are personally known to us. It is heartening to see that the spirit that united a nation to fight together against the colonisers and gain independence is still alive today; the spirit that led other religions to endanger themselves for the sake of Sikhs they did not even know during the 1980s riots remains embedded in our culture. We rarely see it on the news. We rallied for the resolution of the Nirbhaya and Hathras rape cases, protesting against injustice even when it didn't involve or affect us. Today, when we make ourselves sit down to hear the day's harrowing news, we sympathise with the victim. We may still engage in victim blaming, but we are coming to realise it is wrong. Maybe even the most archetypal Indian aunties and uncles are changing.

It is in our nation's very foundation to help others; generosity is an understated but predominant element of our culture. While people argued and held debates about government policies, etc, attempting to politicise the pandemic, there were unseen heroes invested in trying to procure oxygen tanks and hospital beds for total strangers- Hindus and Muslims alike. We stopped our fighting and came together. As per the 'Everyday Giving in India Report 2019', Indians donate a total of about ₹34,000 crore every year to help others, mostly strangers. This has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, where our magnanimity truly shone- a constant undercurrent of humanity through all the stories of sorrow and tragedy.

Essay by Sumaya Beri - Vasant Valley School



Intolerance sometimes comes across as a way of life in India, but it is by no means in our culture to discriminate. Langar at the Gurudwara is not subject to segregation based on religion. Holi is celebrated by all communities. On the 15th of August, we wave our flag **together**, however performative or fickle the sentiment may seem. Such examples are not as few and far between as is readily assumed. That is why Indian culture is one of togetherness.

Our culture leads us to transcend the barriers that the news so often sensationalises. It teaches us to laugh at ourselves and laugh with each other, regardless of caste, creed, religion or economic background. Now, it is beginning to teach us, slowly but surely, to seek help when needed and speak out for what we believe in. That is our India. That is our culture. It is no longer to be defined by the closed-minded people who are frequently spotlighted. It is no longer to be defined by prejudice. **It is no longer to be defined by anything.** As Gandhiji once said, “A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.” Like our people, our culture is by no means perfect, but it is constantly evolving; our arms are slowly opening to embrace differences, our mindsets are slowly becoming more accommodating. Maybe that is even better.

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Kshemaahna Nagi
Vidyashilp Academy, Bangalore

Cash Prize (Student) – INR 20,000
Cash Prize (School) – INR 10,000
NGO (Selected by Student) – 10,000

Essay by Kshemaahna Nagi - Vidyashilp Academy



Indian Culture What Does It Mean

“Amma, please!” I whimpered, pulling my outstretched arm back, “These bangles are ancient! I don’t want to wear them!”

“These bangles are a family heirloom, I wore them, your grandmother wore them, your great-grandmother wore them, *it’s our culture!*” exclaimed my mother.

My exasperated countenance assumed the complexion of rancid butter at the mere thought of destroying my carefully curated look. “No!” I shrieked and tossed the bangles aside.

My grandmother was watching this petulance unfold with her wizened eyes. She pulled me aside, gently and said:

“Just imagine the atomic bomb, millions of innocent people incinerated as its fireball’s rampage spread. Now, imagine an opposite scenario, a beautiful ball of illumination that spreads slowly, ascribing a sense of belonging, divinity and expression to everyone in its path that is Indian culture.”

Her wrinkled voice was brimming with excitement and her eyes seemed to be looking at something far, far away. Her powerful words caused me stop and ruminat- Indian culture, what does it really mean?

Essay by Kshemaahna Nagi - Vidyashilp Academy



A culture is defined as a system of values, traditions and beliefs espoused by a large group of people. The edifice of Indian culture came into existence with the advent of the Indus Valley Civilization- “the cradle of civilization”. Various social and political customs such as the joint family system were conceived of in this monumental era. The Vedic Age enriched Indian literature with the sacred texts of the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Sam Aveda and Atharvaveda. The Bhagwat Gita, narrated by Lord Krishna to his devotee and friend, Arjuna illuminates the right path for people across the globe today. Indian culture, soft and supple like clay, has been molded by the events that unfolded in the Indian subcontinent. Trade along the silk route facilitated the promulgation of our glorious Indian culture for instance, the Hindu Arabic Numeral System in foreign lands. It also helped incorporate elements of Chinese, Arabic and Islamic culture. The administration of India changed hands from the Cholas, Chalukyas, Mauryas, Guptas to the Mughals. Each era left its distinct flavor in the potent concoction of Indian culture. Cultural artefacts such as the Taj Mahal, Konark Sun Temple, the Kalighat Temple and the Gol Gumbaz garner admiration even today.

However, tangible artefacts are a part of a greater whole when it comes to Indian culture. According to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Our Nation,

"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people."

-M K Gandhi

Essay by Kshemaahna Nagi - Vidyashilp Academy



Indian culture is constituted by our diverse customs. For instance, Indian women embellish themselves with “solah shringaar” or “sixteen adornments” on auspicious occasions. Bangles are an important facet. This is delineated by Sarojini Naidu, the “Nightingale of India”, in her poem, “The Bangle Sellers”.

**“Bangle sellers are we who bear
Our shining loads to the temple fair...
Who will buy these delicate, bright
Rainbow-tinted circles of light?”**

-Sarojini Naidu, “Bangle Sellers”

Indian culture gleans through little habits in our daily lives: touching the feet of elders as a token of our respect and affection, drinking every last drop of the nourishing turmeric milk given by our mothers every evening, resorting to our homemade “kadha” from Charakh’s ayurveda when we are ailing. Respecting teachers is a tradition propagated from the Gurukul system. The humble namaste resounded with people in pandemic times instead of the customary handshake.

Essay by Kshemaahna Nagi - Vidyashilp Academy



Indian culture is a constant celebration, we immerse ourselves in colour during Holi, welcome Lord Ganesh home during Ganesh Puja, affectionately build a human chain during Krishna Janmashtami and set our homes ablaze with lights of myriad hues on Diwali. UNESCO has declared the Durga Puja festivities, native to West Bengal, a world heritage event.

Indian culture is a symphony of the senses- composed of notes of vibrant music, dance and food. It is the birthplace of Carnatic and Hindustani Classical music. The mellifluous melodies composed by Pandit Ravi Shankar are famous the world over for their wonderful lyrical quality. Folk and classical dances such as Bihu, Garba, Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Dandiya and Chhau have enchanted viewers and knit communities closer together since time immemorial. The ancient texts of “Manasollasa” composed by Someshvara III, demonstrate the careful attention paid to the preparation of each Indian meal. It is in an Indian belief that,

“The way to a person’s stomach is through their heart.”

We spend our childhood relishing the scrumptious food cooked by our mother. From soft, fluffy dosas which melt in one’s mouth to tangy curries and delectable payasams, Indian cuisine encompasses a gamut of mouth-watering dishes. What truly makes Indian culture unique is its streak of respect to women. Gargi and Maitreyi, the female philosophers helped compose the Vedas. Shabri’s tale of unflinching devotion to Lord Ram is legendary. Gita Gopinath, an Indian origin woman became the first deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, women have always occupied an important position in Indian culture.

Essay by Kshemaahna Nagi - Vidyashilp Academy



Indian culture is a “melting pot”. It is an umbrella which embraces regional and religious diversity. However, many facets of Indian culture are weaning away today like a river drying up. Tribal languages and art forms are being lost to the sands of time. Yet, cultural heroes are working around the clock for their preservation. Banwang Losu, a student from Arunachal Pradesh developed an independent script to save the native “Wancho” language from fading away.

Besides this, the new generation’s attempt to ape Western culture as well as cultural appropriation has inflicted gaping wounds on our beloved Indian culture. These issues can only be eradicated if all citizens strive towards cultural respect, restoration and preservation instead of drifting away. In the words of Marcus Gravey:

“A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots”

After this rollercoaster of self-discovery, I had an epiphany. I bolted back to my room and hastily put on the bangles. My mother was perplexed to see this heart change. Tears of pride and joy glistened in her eyes. I threw my arms around her and chirruped gleefully:

“It’s our culture!”



Prizes for all the Participants - Titan Smart Watch

Prizes for 30 of the best – One week Personality development programme sponsored by NU (NIIT University) at their Neemrana Campus.

Glimpse
of our
Journey
from
2014
(Essay
Topics)

2014 - Dowry is illegal & immoral

2015 - Gender equality is the only way forward

2016 - Refugees are our collective concern

2017 - Child marriage – it must be stopped

2018 - Empowering women – will society benefit?

2019 - How to promote greater harmony amongst different religions?

2020 - Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Society and Environment

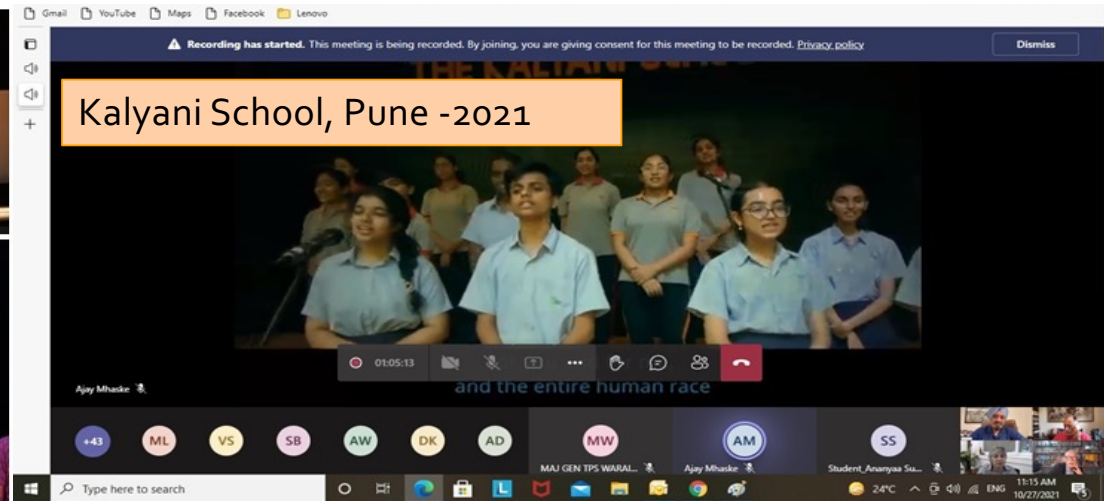
2021 - How can compassion heal humanity and the planet

Glimpse of our Journey

Kalyani School, Pune -2019



Kalyani School, Pune -2021



Sankara School, Chennai -2018



Essay Event - Gwalior 2022



THE SCINDIA SCHOOL





“It’s good to get advice from someone who has done it before. Learn that quickly and then experiment around with it.”

Mr R S Pawar,
Vice – President, Board of Governors
The Scindia School

“ I think all Scindians should engage with India’s social agenda.”

- Mr Harpal Singh,
Chairman, The Nanhi Chhaan Foundation





Jai Vilas Palace - Gwalior





“The future belongs to a more just and equal society, it is our duty to educate the next generation to ensure this.”

- Ms Divya Verma,
Faculty, The Scindia School

“ I think that environment protection needs to be a collective initiative. We need to work together to ensure our safer and better future.”

- Ms Manisha Singh,
Faculty, The Scindia School





THE SCINDIA SCHOOL





Rajendra S Pawar
(Chairman & Co – Founder
NIIT Ltd.)

Top 30 Participants got
the opportunity to be a
part of the 5 Days NIIT
University Personality
Development Programme
at Neemrana



Interactive Sessions by NIIT University Professors

Highlights of the Session

- Electronix
- Plan my Business
- Language Skills Enhancement
- Leadership Skills
- Bio Futures: Life & Technology





Interaction with Mr R.S Pawar (Chairman, NIIT Ltd.) and Mr. Harpal Singh (Chairman, Nanhi Chhaan Foundation)



Education Trip to Neemrana Fort



PRESS RELEASE

सिंधिया स्कूल फोर्ट, ग्वालियर में दो दिवसीय नन्ही छांव राष्ट्रीय स्कूल निबंध प्रतियोगिता का समापन

ग्वालियर में सिंधिया स्कूल में दो दिवसीय नन्ही छांव राष्ट्रीय स्कूल निबंध प्रतियोगिता 2022 का समापन समारोह संपन्न हुआ। इसमें नई दिल्ली बसंत वैली स्कूल की शुभाग कौरी ने प्रथम स्थान या द्वितीय स्थान पर योगदान दिया। विद्या शिल्प अकेडमी, गुवागट्ट रहीं। प्रतियोगिता में देश के 200 विद्यार्थियों के 30000 छात्रों ने भाग लिया। प्रतियोगिता के विजेताओं को 17 छात्रों को चयनित किया गया। कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ में सिंधिया स्कूल ब्रांस बैंड ने अतिथियों के सम्मान में कई धुनें प्रस्तुत की। प्राचार्य अजय सिंह ने स्वागत भाषण प्रस्तुत किया।

नन्ही छांव फाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष हरपाल सिंह ने कहा कि जबसे हमने 2014 में नन्ही छांव राष्ट्रीय निबंध प्रतियोगिता शुरू की है, देशभर के स्कूलों और छात्रों से जबरदस्त प्रतिक्रिया मिली है। फिर सभी 17 प्रतिभागियों को मंच पर आमंत्रित कर विजेताओं को सम्मानित किया।

प्रतियोगिता में भारतीय संस्कृति पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए कि भारतीय संस्कृति प्रतियोगिता ने भारतीय संस्कृति पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए कि भारतीय संस्कृति



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सिंधिया पर आधारित एक नृत्य नाटिका भी प्रस्तुत की। प्रतियोगिता में बसंत वैली स्कूल, नई दिल्ली की शुभाग कौरी विजेता और उपविजेता विद्यार्थिनी अकादमी, गुवागट्ट से योगदान वाली रहीं। सभी प्रतिभागियों को स्वर्ण पदक और स्मृति चिह्न दिए गए। विजेता को 30 हजार का प्रथम पुरस्कार और उपविजेता को 20 हजार रुपय का पुरस्कार और स्मृति चिह्न भेंट किए गए। इस मौके पर राजेंद्र पवार, नर्मला बख्शी, दीपक कपूर, अजय सिंह, विष्णु चतुर्वेदी पवन चर्मा, मनोज मिश्रा आदि मौजूद रहे।

समापन समारोह में नन्ही छांव फाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष हरपाल सिंह ने कहा कि जबसे हमने 2014 में नन्ही छांव राष्ट्रीय निबंध प्रतियोगिता शुरू की है, देशभर के स्कूलों और छात्रों से जबरदस्त प्रतिक्रिया मिली है। फिर सभी 17 प्रतिभागियों को मंच पर आमंत्रित कर विजेताओं को सम्मानित किया।

event city सिंधिया स्कूल फोर्ट में हुआ समापन समारोह नन्ही छांव निबंध प्रतियोगिता के फाइनल में बाजी मारी दिल्ली की सुमाया बेरी ने

पत्रिका plus रिपोर्टर

ग्वालियर, सिंधिया स्कूल में नन्ही छांव राष्ट्रीय स्कूल निबंध प्रतियोगिता 2022 का समापन समारोह संपन्न हुआ। इसमें नई दिल्ली की सुमाया बेरी ने प्रथम स्थान पर बाजी मारी। कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ में सिंधिया स्कूल ब्रांस बैंड ने अतिथियों के सम्मान में कई धुनें प्रस्तुत की। प्राचार्य अजय सिंह ने स्वागत भाषण प्रस्तुत किया।



नन्ही छांव फाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष हरपाल सिंह ने कहा कि जबसे हमने 2014 में नन्ही छांव राष्ट्रीय निबंध प्रतियोगिता शुरू की है, देशभर के स्कूलों और छात्रों से जबरदस्त प्रतिक्रिया मिली है। फिर सभी 17 प्रतिभागियों को मंच पर आमंत्रित कर विजेताओं को सम्मानित किया।

प्रतियोगिता में भारतीय संस्कृति पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए कि भारतीय संस्कृति प्रतियोगिता ने भारतीय संस्कृति पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए कि भारतीय संस्कृति

भारतीय संस्कृति का मूल्य क्या है जिसकी वे सबसे अधिक प्रशंसा करते हैं। इसके साथ ही सिंधिया स्कूल के बच्चों ने भारतीय और पारंपरिक संगीत पर आधारित एक नृत्य-नाटिका भी प्रस्तुत की। प्रतियोगिता में बसंत वैली स्कूल, नई दिल्ली की सुमाया बेरी विजेता और उपविजेता विद्यार्थिनी अकादमी, गुवागट्ट से योगदान वाली रहीं। सभी प्रतिभागियों को स्वर्ण पदक और स्मृति चिह्न दिए गए। विजेता को 30 हजार का प्रथम पुरस्कार और उपविजेता को 20 हजार रुपय का पुरस्कार और स्मृति चिह्न भेंट किए गए। इस मौके पर राजेंद्र पवार, नर्मला बख्शी, दीपक कपूर, अजय सिंह, विष्णु चतुर्वेदी आदि मौजूद रहे।



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