

 $\mathbb{TRIVANI}$ 

Association of Nepali Teraian in America's Quarterly Newsletter



#### **President's Message**

Dear all,

It has been over a year since I took the presidential role for the ANTA. It has been an immense pleasure and satisfaction to work with my current executive team. I would also like to thank you all for the generous support and encouragement you have given us.



Over the past year, ANTA conducted several cultural events and activities that we have listed in this publication. We were able to conduct many in-person gatherings in various cities for Holi, Chhath Puja, and Eid celebration. Our online events included webinar for educational journey, financial literacy, and others. Trivani is a testament of our activities and efforts. Through our programs, initiatives, and tireless efforts, we have strived to bring the community together and strengthen the bond. IN THIS ISSUE

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#### TRIVANI - MAY 2023 President's Message (cont.)

We will continue our efforts to serve the purpose of our organization and look forward to your participation and continued support. We welcome and would support the sharing of ideas, as your perspectives are invaluable in shaping the future direction of our organization. Please feel free to reach out to me or any of our executive members for this.

Looking forward to another year in ANTA. Thank you.

Sincerely, ANTA President Mridula Gupta <u>president@terai.org</u> <u>www.terai.org</u>

#### **Editorial**

Celebrating Unity and Gratitude:

As Editor-in-Chief of Trivani, the quarterly publication of the Association of Nepali Teraian in America (ANTA), I am delighted to express my heartfelt appreciation to our vibrant community for their unwavering support. Our journey together has been nothing short of remarkable, and I extend my deepest gratitude to each member of ANTA.



I would also like to extend a special thank you to the entire Central Executive Committee (CEC) for their dedication and tireless efforts in making ANTA a beacon of unity and progress. It is through their guidance and vision that we have been able to strengthen our bonds and achieve new milestones.

Trivani, as a platform, is committed to bringing our society closer and fostering a sense of togetherness. We strive to amplify the voices of our community, share their achievements, and address pertinent issues that impact us all. With the invaluable support of our readers, contributors, and volunteers, we are confident that Trivani will continue to serve as a source of inspiration and unity.

Together, let us embrace the diversity within our community, celebrate our shared heritage, and work towards a future filled with prosperity and harmony. Thank you for being an integral part of the ANTA family and for making Trivani a true reflection of our collective spirit.

Warm Regards, Prabhat Kumar Jha Editor-in-Chief, Trivani <u>antapublication@gmail.com</u>

### DISCLAIMER

The sole purpose of this newsletter, *Trivani*, is to provide information about ANTA activities. The information contained in this newsletter is solely for informational purposes and should not be taken as legal advice. The opinions in the articles are solely the opinions of the writers of those articles. ANTA does not convey any warranty about the contents. If you have concerns or need more information on the subject matters of articles, please contact the authors directly. The reader should read the articles on their own responsibility and understanding. As permitted by law, ANTA excludes any warranty, guarantee, representation, and suggestions relating to the newsletter.

### ANTA Support Free Health Camp & First Aid (Jan 28, 2023)



On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, ANTA proudly co-sponsored a team of Health Services Nepal for a free Health Camp and First Aid at the Shree Pashupatinath temple premises in Kathmandu. This event aimed to provide essential healthcare services to the community and promote the well-being of individuals.

ANTA's contribution of \$400 played a significant role in making this event possible. The funds were utilized to support the medical team, provide necessary supplies, and ensure the smooth operation of the health camp. The event attracted a large number of participants, and the response from the community was overwhelming

The Health Camp and First Aid initiative proved to be a grand success, with numerous individuals benefitting from the services provided by the dedicated team. Participants had the opportunity to receive medical check-ups, consultations, and first aid assistance, addressing their immediate health concerns. The event emphasized the importance of accessible healthcare services and promoted awareness about preventive measures and general well-being. ANTA extends heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Raushan K. Mishra and team for their valuable contribution and support in organizing and coordinating the event. His expertise and dedication greatly contributed to the success of the health camp.

By organizing this free Health Camp and First Aid initiative, ANTA demonstrated its commitment to the community's welfare and health. The organization continues to actively engage in activities that promote the well-being of individuals and contribute to the betterment of society. ANTA remains dedicated to supporting similar initiatives in the future, focusing on providing healthcare services, raising awareness about health-related issues, and fostering a healthier and more prosperous community. Through such collaborative efforts, ANTA strives to make a positive impact and fulfill its mission of serving the community's needs.

# **ANTA Activities**

#### ANTA's way of preserving our culture

ANTA has taken a significant step in preserving and promoting our rich cultural heritage in Columbus Ohio. Shiv Mishra, Arati Sharma, Tauleshwar Chaudhary, and Bindu Chaudhary, active members of ANTA, recently participated in a local Hindu temple event called "Shri Maryada Purushottam Ram Maha

Yagna." This four-day event showcased various Mithila wedding traditions, particularly those related to the Mithila bride, "Mata Janaki."

Arati Sharma and her talented students were given the opportunity to perform a captivating "Barat Welcome dance" during the event. This performance held special significance as it marked the first time a Maithali song was performed within the temple premises. ANTA extends its heartfelt gratitude to Arati Sharma and her team for not only showcasing their incredible talent but also for raising awareness of our Mithila culture and the renowned Janakpur, known as "Sita's maika," within the Indian community.



By actively participating in such cultural events, ANTA aims to preserve and promote the diverse traditions and customs of our community. The organization recognizes the importance of safeguarding our cultural roots and ensuring that future generations remain connected to their heritage.

The inclusion of Maithali songs in a religious event like the "Shri Maryada Purushottam Ram Maha Yagna" is a testament to ANTA's dedication to showcasing the richness and beauty of our cultural tapestry. It not only provides an avenue for community members to express their artistic talents but also enables others to experience the essence of Mithila traditions and customs.

ANTA firmly believes that cultural preservation is not just a responsibility of the older generation; it requires active participation and engagement from individuals of all ages. By encouraging young talents like Arati Sharma's students to showcase their skills, ANTA is instilling a sense of pride and ownership in our cultural heritage within the next generation. Such initiatives help foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our traditions, leading to their continued preservation.

Through their involvement in events like the "Shri Maryada Purushottam Ram Maha Yagna," ANTA is making remarkable strides in creating a platform for cultural exchange and dialogue. The organization's efforts not only benefit the local Indian community but also contribute to the larger tapestry of cultural diversity in the Columbus area.

ANTA's commitment to preserving our culture is commendable, and we encourage other community members to actively participate in similar events and initiatives. By coming together, we can ensure that our customs, rituals, and traditions continue to thrive and enrich our lives for generations to come. Let us celebrate and embrace our cultural heritage, for it is the foundation that binds us together as a community.



#### **Cultural Activity**

During the 3rd day of the "Shri Maryada Purushottam Ram Maha Yagna" event at the local Bhartiya Hindu Temple in Columbus, ANTA's dedicated youth volunteer, Susma Chaudhary, and her team delivered a remarkable performance. They began with a rendition of the revered "Hanuman Chalisa," followed by a short play.

"Hanuman Chalisa" is a widely cherished Hindu devotional hymn that praises the valor and devotion of Hanuman. Recited by millions of Hindus daily, it holds a special place in their hearts and spiritual practices.

ANTA extends its heartfelt gratitude to Susma Chaudhary for her active involvement and commendable performance. Her dedication and talent contributed significantly to the success of the event, captivating the audience and spreading awareness of our cherished cultural traditions.

Susma's participation serves as an inspiration to the youth, encouraging them to actively engage in preserving and promoting our rich heritage. ANTA recognizes and appreciates the invaluable contributions of its young volunteers, as they play a vital role in ensuring the continuation of our cultural legacy.

Once again, ANTA expresses its gratitude to Susma Chaudhary for her outstanding performance, which showcased the beauty and significance of the "Hanuman Chalisa" and enriched the experience of the attendees.

#### Ram Sita Vivah Event

ANTA members in Columbus, Ohio, played an active role in showcasing the vibrant Mithila culture to the local Indian community during the Ram Sita Vivah event. One of the highlights of their participation was the captivating performances of Maithili songs and dances, marking the first-ever Maithili performance at the temple.

This initiative proved to be an excellent platform for raising awareness about the unique Mithila culture and the significance of Janakpur, known as "Sita's maika," within the Indian community. By incorporating Maithili songs into the event, ANTA members effectively showcased the beauty and richness of their cultural heritage.

This participation not only provided an opportunity for community members to express their artistic talents but also fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation of Mithila traditions. ANTA's active involvement in such events demonstrates its commitment to preserving and promoting our cultural roots, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their heritage.

The success of this event serves as an inspiration for other community members to actively engage in similar initiatives. By coming together, we can continue to celebrate and embrace our cultural heritage, strengthening the bonds within our community. Let us take pride in our traditions and work together to ensure their preservation for generations to come.

### ANTA Chhath Pooja

(Oct 30, 2022)





ANTA, orchestrated a grand celebration of Chhath Puja in the state of Ohio. The event was a resounding success, and it witnessed the participation of numerous devotees who congregated to pay homage to the divine deities, Chhathi Maiya and Lord Dinnanath. The auspicious occasion was graced by the presence of our esteemed president, Dr. Mridula Gupta, who not only attended the event but also actively participated in the sacred rituals.

Chhath Puja holds immense significance in Hindu culture. It is a festival dedicated to worshipping the Sun God, Surya, and his sister, Chhathi Maiya. The festivities span four days and involve various rituals, including the offering of prayers, fasting, and engaging in rigorous penance.

The first day of Chhath Puja is known as Nahay Khay, during which devotees take a holy dip in a nearby water body and observe a strict fast. The second day, known as Kharna, involves fasting throughout the day and breaking it with a special prasad, consisting of rice, jaggery, and ghee. The third day, referred to as Sandhya Arghya, is when the main rituals take place. Devotees gather near a water body, such as a river or pond, and offer prayers to the setting sun while standing waist-deep in water. They perform the "sandhya-arghya" by offering water, milk, fruits, and other sacred items to the Sun God. The final day, called Usha Arghya, marks the culmination of the festival. Devotees offer prayers to the rising sun and conclude the Chhath Puja with gratitude and reverence.

The participation of Dr. Mridula Gupta, our esteemed president, in the Chhath Puja celebration in Columbus, Ohio, was a momentous occasion. She actively engaged in the rituals, including the "sandhya-arghya" during the evening and the "morning arghya" to conclude the event. Dr. Gupta's presence not only served as an inspiration to the devotees but also highlighted the importance of preserving and honoring our rich cultural traditions.

Chhath Puja is deeply rooted in Hindu culture and holds immense significance. It is a time when devotees express their gratitude to the Sun God, who is considered the ultimate source of energy and life. The rigorous fasting, penance, and the offering of prayers during Chhath Puja are believed to purify the mind, body, and soul, and bring blessings, prosperity, and well-being to the devotees and their families.

ANTA's organization of the Chhath Puja in Ohio demonstrated its commitment to promoting and preserving our cultural heritage. By providing a platform for devotees to come together and celebrate this auspicious occasion, ANTA played a crucial role in fostering community spirit and unity among individuals of the Hindu faith.

The successful conclusion of the Chhath Puja celebration in Columbus, Ohio, filled the air with joy and devotion. The participation of Dr. Mridula Gupta and the enthusiastic engagement of devotees further emphasized the cultural significance and relevance of this age-old tradition. Through such celebrations, ANTA continues to strengthen the bonds within the community, ensuring that our cultural heritage is passed down to future generations.

Jai ho Chhathi Maiya, jai Dinnanath! May the blessings of Chhathi Maiya and Lord Dinnanath be bestowed upon all, bringing prosperity, happiness, and spiritual enlightenment.

### ANTA Kansas- Missouri Chapter Holi (Mar 5, 2023)



The festivities of Holi commenced with a fantastic start! Holi, a joyous festival that signifies the triumph of good over evil and welcomes the arrival of spring, was celebrated with great enthusiasm. It provided an opportunity for individuals to strengthen their bonds with loved ones and cultivate harmonious relationships.

The vibrant and lively Holi celebration organized by our community members from Kansas-Missouri was truly remarkable, as captured in these captivating photos. The event was filled with excitement, laughter, and merriment, spreading joy and happiness among all participants.

ANTA extends warm wishes to everyone who is celebrating Holi, hoping that this festival brings immense happiness, prosperity, and an array of colors into their lives. It is a time to cherish the moments spent with family and friends, creating beautiful memories that will be treasured for years to come. We would like to give a special shout-out to Mr. Basant Chaudhary for his remarkable efforts in organizing this event and ensuring its grand success. His dedication and commitment have contributed significantly to the enjoyable and memorable experience for all participants.

As Holi continues to be celebrated, let us embrace the spirit of unity, love, and togetherness. May the festivities of Holi fill our lives with positivity, optimism, and renewed energy as we embark on a journey of shared joy and harmony.

### ANTA Columbus Holi Program (Mae 12, 2023)

ANTA joyously celebrated the ancient Hindu festival of Holi, also known as the Festival of Love and the Festival of Colors, on Saturday, March 12th.

Holi is a festive day that symbolizes the arrival of spring, the end of winter, and the blooming of love. It is a time for people to come together, meet others, play, laugh, and let go of past grievances as they seek forgiveness and mend broken relationships. Additionally, Holi commemorates the triumph of good over evil, honoring the victory of Lord Vishnu as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashipu. This joyful festival lasts for a night and a day, beginning on the evening of the Purnima (Full Moon Day) in the Hindu month of Phalguna, typically falling around the middle of March in the Gregorian calendar. The first evening, known as Holika Dahan or Chhoti Holi, involves the burning of the demon Holika, while the following day is celebrated as Holi or Rangwali Holi. Originally celebrated in Nepal and India, Holi has also spread to various regions of Asia and parts of the Western world through the Nepali and Indian diaspora.

ANTA wished everyone a very happy Holi and hoped that their homes would be filled with joy, love, and strength as they celebrated this joyous occasion.

### Rewrite ANTA Holi Celebration Tristate (Mar 25, 2023)

ANTA enthusiastically celebrated the ancient Hindu festival of Holi, known as the Festival of Love and the Festival of Colors, on Saturday, March 25th, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Burke Lake Park Shelter 'C' in Fairfax Station, VA. The event witnessed a remarkable turnout, with over 50 attendees coming together to celebrate.

Holi signifies the arrival of spring, the end of winter, and the blossoming of love. It is a time for people to gather, interact, engage in playful activities, share laughter, and embrace forgiveness, allowing them to mend broken relationships. The festival also commemorates the victory of Lord Vishnu as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashipu, representing the triumph of good over evil. This vibrant celebration spans a night and a day, commencing with the Holika Dahan or Chhoti Holi ritual on the evening of Purnima (Full Moon Day) in the Hindu month of Phalguna. The following day is dedicated to Holi or Rangwali Holi, where people joyously embrace the colorful festivities.

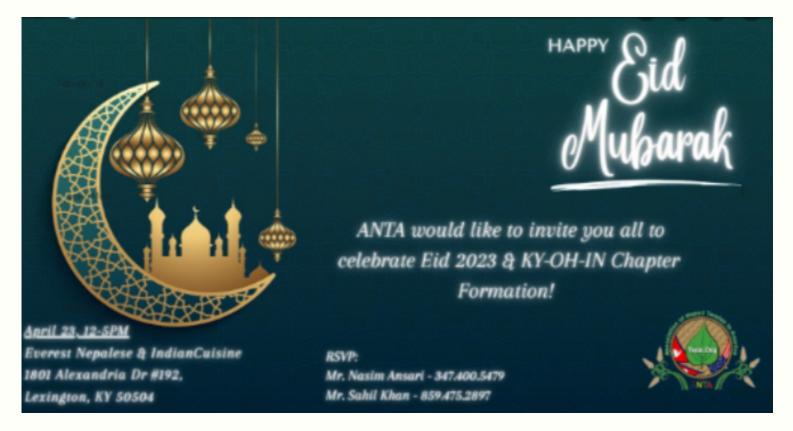
While Holi originated in Nepal and India, its popularity has extended to various parts of Asia and the Western world through the Nepali and Indian diaspora.

ANTA extended warm wishes for a joyful Holi and hoped that homes would be filled with happiness, love, and strength during this auspicious occasion



### Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Chapter formation and EID celebration

(Apr 23, 2023)



ANTA is delighted to announce the establishment of the KY-OH-IN Chapter, led by President Mr. Sahil Khan. This new chapter aims to strengthen the local community, promote cultural integration, and provide a platform for Madheshi people to come together and celebrate their diverse cultural heritage in America. ANTA's first EID celebration was a resounding success. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet numerous new faces and connect with the diverse community. People from Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana came together to join in the festivities and celebrate this joyous occasion. I am deeply grateful to Mr. Sahil Khan, the lead of our local chapter, and Mr. Nasim Ji, a member of our central executive committee, for their exceptional coordination in organizing this event.



In an effort to promote diversity and inclusivity within our community, ANTA took the initiative to acknowledge the religious festival of Eid al-Fitr, which is celebrated by our Muslim brethren worldwide. This festival holds great significance as it marks the conclusion of the month-long fasting period of Ramadan. We are pleased to inform the ANTA community that, with the assistance of our esteemed CEC member, Mr. Nasim Ansari, and community leader, Mr. Sahil Khan, we had arranged an in-person event to commemorate Eid al-Fitr in Lexington, KY. It was a testament to our commitment to fostering unity and cultural understanding within our organization.

The EID celebration provided a platform for individuals from different backgrounds to come together, exchange warm greetings, and celebrate this auspicious occasion. It was a time of joy, reflection, and gratitude, as we collectively appreciated the significance of Eid al-Fitr. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who attended the event and made it a memorable experience. Their enthusiastic participation and support were instrumental in creating an atmosphere of harmony and inclusivity. We are truly fortunate to have such a vibrant and diverse community within ANTA.

We look forward to organizing more events that celebrate our rich cultural tapestry and promote unity among our members. Together, we can continue to build a stronger and more harmonious community, embracing the values of diversity, inclusivity, and mutual respect. Once again, we express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Sahil Khan, Mr. Nasim Ji, and all those who contributed to the success of ANTA's first EID celebration. May the spirit of Eid al-Fitr continue to inspire us all and foster greater understanding and unity within our ANTA community.



# ANTA Webinars

### Webinar on Financial Literacy: Navigating through the market volatile times in the USA (Aug 20, 2022)



#### Venue: ANTA zoom

#### Time: 12:00 PM EST, Aug 20

ANTA was delighted to invite participants to a free learning session on the topic of " Financial Literacy: Navigating through Market Volatile Times in the USA." The session aimed to provide valuable insights into a range of financial instruments that could assist individuals and families in better future planning. Attendees had the opportunity to gain knowledge about various financial skills and understand different financial risks that are often disregarded due to a lack of knowledge and mentorship. The organization hoped that this eye-opening session would indeed offer the necessary life lessons.



During the session, esteemed experts shared their expertise and provided participants with practical insights. They discussed a variety of financial options available, empowering attendees to make informed decisions in an ever-changing market landscape. The session aimed to bridge the gap in financial literacy and equip individuals with the necessary tools and understanding to navigate through market volatility with confidence.

ANTA recognized the importance of financial knowledge in personal and community development. By offering this learning opportunity, the organization sought to empower participants and enhance their financial literacy. The session provided a supportive and enriching environment for attendees to engage with industry experts and fellow community members.

To join the session, participants were directed to follow ANTA's Facebook page, where the Zoom details were shared. This allowed individuals to access the session remotely and conveniently from their own locations. The event provided an excellent platform for learning and networking, enabling participants to expand their knowledge and connect with like-minded individuals.

ANTA believed that investing in financial education was key to building a brighter and more secure future. By attending the learning session, participants had the opportunity to develop vital financial skills and gain the confidence needed to make informed decisions. The organization aimed to empower individuals and families to take control of their financial well-being, ensuring a better understanding of the options available to them.

The session served as a valuable resource for enhancing financial literacy and improving participants' financial well-being. ANTA encouraged individuals to seize this opportunity for personal growth and development. By actively engaging in the session, attendees were able to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the complex world of finance successfully.

ANTA's commitment to promoting financial literacy and providing access to valuable learning opportunities was evident in its efforts to organize this informative session. By actively participating, individuals took a proactive step towards a more secure and prosperous financial future.

### Webinar on A Journey Through The High School (Nov 12, 2022)

ANTA hosted a highly informative and free webinar on the topic of "A Journey Through The High School," aimed at providing valuable guidance and insights to high school students and their parents. The organization always strived to bring positive changes to the Nepali Terai community in the USA, and this webinar was another step in that direction.

The webinar was designed to educate community members about the high school journey and the college application process. ANTA recognized that there were several aspects of high school education and academics that were often overlooked or misunderstood by students and parents, creating challenges, particularly for students from immigrant families. Therefore, the organization invited experts who had successfully guided numerous students through their high school years.

The esteemed panel of experts included Ms. Trischelle Campbell and Ms. Rekha Kantha. Their invaluable insights and experiences added immense value to the webinar. The coordination of the event was overseen by Mr. Tauleshwar Prasad Chaudhary, the General Secretary of ANTA. Mr. Tauleshwar, a Senior Data Analyst at JP Morgan Chase, brought his expertise and firsthand experience as a parent of a 12th-grade senior year student to the table.

The webinar served as a perfect learning opportunity for high school students and their parents. It not only provided insights into the future career planning and college preparation process but also shed light on various aspects of the high school education journey. ANTA encouraged participants to seize this opportunity and empower themselves with the knowledge that would contribute to their personal growth and success.

ANTA firmly believed that missing out on a great opportunity was akin to losing a significant chance for personal and educational development. With this in mind, the organization urged viewers to zoom in on a better future by actively participating in the webinar. The event promised to be a platform for learning, discussion, and self-investment.

Participants had the convenience of joining the webinar either via Zoom or through the ANTA Facebook page's live stream. This ensured that individuals could engage with the content and experts from the comfort of their own homes. The flexibility in joining allowed for wider accessibility and participation from the community.

By hosting this webinar, ANTA continued its mission of bringing positive changes and providing educational opportunities to the Nepali Terai community in the USA. The organization recognized the importance of empowering students and parents with knowledge about the high school journey and college preparation process. Through the expertise of the invited experts and the coordination of Mr. Tauleshwar Prasad Chaudhary, ANTA created a platform for valuable insights, guidance, and self-improvement.

ANTA encouraged all high school students and their parents to actively participate in the webinar, as it held the potential to shape their future educational endeavors and career paths. By investing time in this opportunity, participants were taking a proactive step towards a better, more informed education, college preparation, and career planning.

In conclusion, ANTA's free webinar on "A Journey Through The High School" provided an enriching platform for students and parents to learn from experts, gain insights into the high school journey, and navigate the college application process. The organization's commitment to fostering positive change and empowering the Nepali Terai community was evident in its efforts to bring this exciting educational opportunity to the participants.



## ANTA Education And Publication Announcements Bhavpreeta Book Launch

ANTA recently released a captivating anthology titled "Bhavpreeta," comprising a collection of 100 poems in 10 different languages from Nepal. This literary masterpiece is the result of the collective efforts of fifty talented poets hailing from diverse regions of Nepal and America. The book launch was graced by the presence of Mr. Narayan Deo ji, adding to the significance of the occasion.

"Bhavpreeta" offers readers a remarkable literary experience, presenting a wide range of emotions, perspectives, and themes through its thought-provoking and amusing poems. The anthology serves as a platform for showcasing the unique voices and creative expressions of the contributing poets.

Enthusiastic readers can acquire a copy of "Bhavpreeta" for a reasonable price of \$20 per book. The purchase process is conveniently facilitated through PayPal on the website Terai.org. Alternatively, interested individuals can also get in touch with ANTA directly to arrange for their copy.

This book holds immense appeal for poetry lovers, as it presents an array of original and captivating pieces that delve into the depths of human experiences and emotions. From heartfelt verses to light-hearted compositions, "Bhavpreeta" offers a diverse and engaging reading experience for individuals of all tastes and preferences.

ANTA's publication of this anthology is a testament to its commitment to promoting and preserving the rich literary traditions of Nepal. By bringing together poets from various backgrounds and regions, they have succeeded in creating a unique compilation that celebrates the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Nepalese community.

"Bhavpreeta" is more than just a book; it is a celebration of language, creativity, and the power of words to transcend boundaries. Readers are invited to immerse themselves in this literary journey, exploring the vivid imaginations and unique perspectives of the contributing poets.

#### Hindi and Nepali Language session

ANTA played a pivotal role in promoting and preserving the diverse culture, rich heritage, and languages spoken across various regions of Nepal in the United States. The organization's efforts aimed to foster a connection between the new generation and their Nepalese cultural roots. Last year, ANTA initiated language sessions, and the overwhelming response received encouraged them to continue this year as well.

ANTA expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the entire CEC team for their dedication and hard work in making these language sessions possible. A special shout-out goes to Pratibha Karn and Nasim Ansari, whose exceptional contributions kickstarted the session.

The language classes have been scheduled as follows:

Nepali: Wednesday at 8 pm Hindi: Sunday at 11am

To ensure accessibility, the sessions will be recorded and made available for a duration of two weeks from the day of the online class. This allows individuals who may have missed a session or wish to revisit the content to take advantage of the recordings. Participants are encouraged to reach out to ANTA for access to these recordings.

ANTA emphasizes the importance of enjoying the process of teaching and learning during these language sessions. The organization envisions a fun and interactive environment where both instructors and participants can engage in an enriching experience.

By offering these language sessions, ANTA continues its commitment to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Nepal. The organization recognizes the significance of language in preserving cultural identity and fostering a strong sense of community among Nepalese individuals living in the United States. ANTA invites individuals to join the language sessions and embark on a journey of language acquisition and cultural immersion. Through these sessions, participants have the opportunity to learn and connect with the languages and traditions that form an integral part of their Nepalese identity. In conclusion, ANTA's language sessions have been a valuable platform for promoting the languages and cultural heritage of Nepal within the Nepalese community in the United States. The organization expresses gratitude to the dedicated team behind these sessions and extends an invitation to all individuals interested in learning and preserving the Nepalese languages to join the sessions. Let the teaching and learning be a joyful and engaging experience for all involved.

### ANTA DC-MD-VA Chapter (Apr 19, 2023)

ANTA is pleased to announce the establishment of the ANTA DC-MD-VA Chapter, which will serve the Maryland, Virginia, and DC regions in the Tristate area. In a momentous celebration last month, ANTA friends and family gathered in Virginia to commemorate the vibrant and joyful festival of Holi with immense excitement. It was during this festive occasion that Mrs. Jayanti Jha was unanimously selected as the Chapter President, and we are delighted to have her at the helm of the chapter. We are also delighted to welcome Mr. Kumar Chaudhary and Mrs. Rashmi Jha, both esteemed community leaders, who will join Mrs. Jayanti Jha in providing guidance and support to the regional chapter.

The establishment of the ANTA DC-MD-VA Chapter signifies a significant step forward in strengthening and uniting the community. The chapter aims to engage and connect with the lives of individuals from the Terai region residing in the area, fostering cultural ties and promoting inclusivity. Through various initiatives and activities, the chapter will create a more vibrant and interconnected community, providing opportunities for personal and collective growth.

We congratulate Mrs. Jayanti Jha, Mr. Kumar Chaudhary, and Mrs. Rashmi Jha on their new roles within the ANTA DC-MD-VA Chapter. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to them and the entire chapter as they embark on this journey of serving the community and making a positive impact. Together, we look forward to a successful and fulfilling tenure that will further strengthen the bonds of friendship and unity within our community.



### Property right sought for Nepali diaspora: Himalayan News Service Kathmandu

#### (Jun 21, 2022)

Newly-elected President of Association of Nepali Teraian in America Mridula Gupta said the Nepali diaspora should be given rights to acquire and dispose property in Nepal on par with Nepali citizens.

Talking to THT, Gupta said there should be no hurdle for the Nepali diaspora to transfer their property and benefits earned through investments in Nepal to their countries of residence. "At present, a lot of Nepalis who want to invest in Nepal are not doing that because non-resident Nepalis faced hurdles in transferring their profits back to their countries of residence," she said.

There are only a few countries where Nepal can send migrant workers for foreign employment. This means the chances of getting remittances are limited.

Liberalizing rules for non-resident Nepalis' investment in Nepal would help Nepal create more jobs and opportunities in Nepal.

Gupta said that her organization wanted to link the Nepali diaspora to their cultural roots in Nepal by exposing the children of the Nepali diaspora abroad so that they could be exposed to their native culture. In order to inculcate Nepali cultural values in the new generations of Nepali diaspora in foreign countries, ANTA is trying to expose the new generation to Nepali culture, language, and festivals.

Her organization is trying to start online classes of languages spoken in Nepal such as Maithili, Bhojpuri, Awadhi, and Nepali for children of the Nepali diaspora in America and other foreign countries. "Knowledge of language is important to inculcate native culture in children," she said.

She said Teraians have a good presence in America and elsewhere and there was a need for linking them with Nepal. She said ANTA was also mulling support for 10 Nepali students, preferably girl children, to attain 10+2 education annually.



ANTA will select 10 students on the basis of merit, keeping in mind their financial situation. ANTA, being a diaspora organization, is always ready to help Nepal in times of natural disasters as it did during the 2015 Gorkha earthquakes, Gupta said.

She also said during her two-year tenure, she would try to unify the fragmented groups of the Madhesi diaspora.

"We are a non-profit organization, there is no need for Teraian communities abroad to remain fragmented," she argued.



### 6th General Convention (May 29, 2022)

Association of Nepali Teraian in America (ANTA) is proud to announce the grand success of its 6th General Convention 2022 held on 29th May 2022 in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

The event took place in the presence of founders, advisors, and the board of directors. It was a historic moment to have six founders: Mrs. Annapurna Deo, Mr. Jay Mandal, Mr. Lalit Jha, Mr. Mukesh Singh, Dr. Pramod Kantha, Mr. Ratan Jha, and advisors Mr. Bal Krishna Jha and Mr. Sushil Jha. The event was also attended by the prominent dignitaries of various national and regional organizations. This included Mr. Rajiv Shrestha (Non-Resident Nepali Association, Treasurer), Dr. Damodar Poudel (Central Ohio Nepali Association, President), Mr. Bhuwan Pyakurel (City Council Member, City of Reynoldsburg), and Mrs. Nasara Banu (President of Nepali American Organization of Ohio) and other delegates from various other organizations. The event was also graced by the acclaimed singer from Nepal Mr. Yubaraj Chaulagain and veteran Mithila painting artist Mr. Ajit Sah.

The event formally started with "Deep Prajwalan" by our chief guest respected Narayan Deo followed by National anthems of the USA and Nepal sung by the kids of our community. All the esteemed guests were honored by various members of executive boards. More than 100 friends and family of ANTA attended the event and over \$8000 was raised during the event facilitated by Mr. Rajesh Shah.

Mr. Sushil Jha, head of the election committee announced the result and declared the new "Central Executive Committee" led by President Dr. Mridula Gupta. Outgoing president Mrs. Aprajita Jha, former General Secretary Mr. Dhiraj Chaudhary, and former treasurer Mr. Mukesh Karna handed over the baton to the new committee followed by the speech by both outgoing and incoming presidents. An oath ceremony was performed where all the new members took the oath and signed the document to abide by the laws of ANTA and the US Constitution. All ANTA intellectual property were transferred from the outgoing committee to the new committee. One of the major highlights of the convention was the publication and inauguration of "Bhavapreeta (भावप्रिता)" a historical endeavor that comprises poetic collections from more than ten languages spoken in Terai, Nepal. The book was inaugurated by the respected Mr. Narayan Deo. All the proceeds from the book sale will be donated to ANTA funds.

Broad conversations on the upliftment of the socio-economic and identity of Madhesi were discussed with six founders, advisors, board members, and other delegates. An in-depth discussion and impactful roadmap were presented contributing to the further elevation of the people of Madhesh.

The award session was held in the evening session to honor the accomplishments of the members for their commitment to the ANTA and to the community in general. Mrs. Annapurna Deo was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for her profound and exceptional commitment to the Madhesi diaspora. Different awards and certificates were distributed to other panel members and youth volunteers for their involvement in community services. Youth volunteer Mr. Saurav Chaudhary was awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) for more than 250+ hours of volunteering services to the community and will receive a special Gold Medal and a signed certificate from the 46th President of the United States of America, Mr. Joe Biden.

The cultural program was trailed by the award ceremony where every one of the guests, delegates, and children sang and moved to different traditional and folk music. The event was finally concluded with the closing remarks from the incoming president Dr. Mridula Gupta.

Let's congratulate the new board for the tenure of 2022 - 2024.

Sincerely,

Prabhat Jha

Spokesperson, ANTA

#### **Updated Sub-Committees**

#### **Publication and Media Committee**

Coordinator: Mr. Prabhat Jha Members: Dr. Namrata GR Raut Mr. Tauleshwar P Chaudhary

#### **Global Outreach/Network Committee**

#### Coordinator: Mr. Prabhat Jha

#### ANTA Youth Volunteers

Mr. Saurav Chaudhary Mr. Sandesh Jha Mr. Sushant Mishra Mr. Ridam Shah Ms. Adya Jha Ms. Susma Chaudhary Ms. Prisha Karna Ms. Ridhi Shah

#### Youth Volunteer/Compiler

Susma Chaudhary is a Senior at Dublin Scioto High School, and she is 16 years old. She was born in Kapilvastu, Nepal, and immigrated to the United States with her parents at the age of four. She now resides in Dublin, Ohio. Since a young age, Susma has been in dance and performed at various events. She aspires to go into the medical field as a pediatric surgeon.







# $\mathbb{TRIVANI}$

#### Association of Nepali Teraian in America's Quarterly Newsletter



#### BY THE ANTA PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

DESIGN AND COMPILATION: SUSMA CHAUDHARY

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions or submissions. We are available at <u>antapublication@gmail.com</u>. Stay tuned for the Eight issue of Trivani, coming soon!