



## Hosting Independence Day: A CAS demonstration

When we were in Grade 11, we planned a spectacle for the 15th of August. The Independence Day project spanned 4 weeks. It took 2 weeks of planning and another week to prepare for the Independence Day week. The preparation started in July with the IBDP-1 students spent two weeks brainstorming for this project. Since this was our first project, planning was new to us. However, we decided to divide ourselves into groups based on personal interest and group strength. A majority of us were in groups that we preferred, such as content creation, planning, execution. We worked in tandem with the teachers, who modified and approved our plans for the Independence Day week.



This year we decided to design events to acquaint our students on some aspects of our culture and history. We also wished to pay tribute to our armed forces. We therefore decided to cater to the essence of this patriotic day by conducting activities such as art competitions based on the independence day theme, a quiz on the independence struggle, creative expressions in the form of national dances, nukkad natak (street play), and a homage to the armed forces (in the form of a presentation).



Time management was a challenge because we had limited time to practice something as creative as dance and nukkad natak. However, after many practice sessions and further practice at home, most of us were comfortable with our roles in either event. In addition to time management, we also had some concerns with respect to coordination - owing to the sheer number of activities (some students were a part of multiple activities). To overcome this difficulty we had to meet regularly twice a week to understand how much of our plan was achieved and what needed to be done next. This gave us clarity as we were all on the same page. Thanks to mutual cooperation, we were able to successfully carry out the activities.



On the 15th of August, our day began with the hoisting of the Tiranga and the singing of the national anthem. We later moved to the auditorium, where several grades performed in the spirit of the Independence day. We also had a professional Bharatnatyam dance group come to our school. When they finished, we were in awe of their graceful movements. The dance transitioned into a nukkad natak about the meaning of Independence in the modern context. Some of our classmates performed a dance on a patriotic song that was choreographed by our dance teacher. The celebration concluded with a tribute to our armed forces, the brave warriors who defend our borders.



Since many of us were new to NIS, we were not well acquainted with each other. This led to an obstruction while collaborating for our first project. In spite of our differences, we were able to unite and attain our goal. This experience enlightened us about the benefits of collaboration and teamwork. The planning phase, although tiring, gave us an idea on how to plan and initiate a CAS experience. The struggles we had in our respective creative experiences (nukkad natak and dance) also made us develop new skills. In the end, this was an event that required commitment from all of us to make it the wonderful experience it was.



## Personal Experiences

‘While planning the Independence Day event, I felt I was able to truly connect with my Indian identity. The preparation process gave me the opportunity to conduct research about India’s history which made me appreciate the events and individuals that helped shape the country I live in today. Additionally, I enjoyed participating in a variety of events from the Armed Forces tribute to the dance, allowing me to venture out of my comfort zone and assess my strengths and weaknesses.’ - **Anay Contractor**

“The Nukkad Natak was a different experience for me. A street play doesn’t give you the opportunity to have mics, therefore, I had to be loud to be heard. I also had to be careful about my body language during the nukkad natak, which also made being loud a harder task. I am thankful to our director, Ms. Swati for guiding us through it.”- **Vardaan Chaphekar**

‘The 2018 Independence Day was especially important for me as it was my very first experience of celebrating the day. Being part of it right from the planning stage to seeing it brought to fruition on the day gave me a memory that I will cherish forever. Celebrating the day and being part of the dance made me want to know more about the country. Since I am not a trained dancer it took me some time to learn the steps in the limited time that we had. Due to this, I had difficulty synchronising my steps with the others. The experience taught me a lot about myself. It also made me want to learn Indian dance, Hindi, and more about the culture of my country.’

- **Rhea Nair**