

NITIE, Mumbai celebrates Navaratri, Dussehra and Diwali festivals

In October- November 2021, NITIE, Mumbai **celebrated the Navaratri, Dussehra and Diwali festivals** under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative. The festivals were celebrated to showcase the rich Indian heritage and culture, customs and traditions, including Maharashtra. The programme enabled NITIE students from diverse parts of India to understand and appreciate the richness of Indian diversity. Moreover, the series fostered them a chance to dress traditionally, establish interconnectedness, and celebrate festivals with fervour.

On these occasions, NITIE EBSB Club, in collaboration with NITIE Staff Club, organized Durgasthapna Pooja. Prf. Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Director, NITIE, Deans, Registrar, Faculty members, Officers and students of NITIE attended the celebrations with great enthusiasm. Navratri marked the arrival of the Goddess Durga. Students and the citizens on the campus understood the values and rationale for rituals like Kalash Sthapna or Ghatasthapna and why we celebrate Navaratri. NITIE EBSB Club also organized Dandiya night for the students. Dandiya dance forms are a dramatization (sort of like a mock-fight) of the nine-day battle between Goddess Durga and the demon king Mahishasura, in which the Goddess emerged victoriously. NITIEzens energetically dance with colourful bamboo sticks, striking them to the beats of instruments like the dholak and tabla.

The Kids on campus dressed up in the avatars of Gods and Goddesses staged how Lord Ganpati was beheaded and how Lord Shiva refixed the elephant head, symbolizing intelligence and wisdom par excellence. The drama also staged women empowerment through the nurturing and powerful Mata Parvati. Kids were applauded for their scintillating performance. Teaching young children the rituals support establishing their connections with traditional values.

Artists from Bhajan Mandali, Powai, were invited to perform traditional bhajans depicting the culture of Maharashtra. Their Bhajans included Vandana of Lord Ganesha, Maa Durga in an authentic Maharashtrian folk style, splendidly spreading the culture of Maharashtra to the students who join NITIE from the diverse states of the country.

NITIE EBSB club also celebrated Diwali festivities. The festival is celebrated by lighting earthen lamps. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". We are sure that all the participants, whether students, officers, faculty members, or staff members, rejoiced themselves with the spirit of unity, sharing and strengthening their emotional bonds and gaining wisdom of overcoming darkness, evils, and ignorance.

Also, we strictly adhered to the much needed COVID protocols during all of these celebrations.