

# 3rd Annual Convention

*August 4-5, 2001 Greater Boston, Massachusetts*

**Nearly 250 people gathered** from several parts of USA & Canada on August 4, 2001 at the Keefe Tech High School in Framingham, MA to participate in the 3rd annual convention. It was indeed a pleasant sight to see people of every age group meeting together showing their utmost affection, love, support and dedication for the homeland.

The evening started with an exhibition *Uttarakhand at a Glance*, portraying the culture, heritage and rituals of Uttarakhand and highlighted the natural scenic areas that attract millions of tourists from all over the world. Contributions to newly formed state by AT India was also displayed by Mr. Jack Croucher, Which added a rich warmth feeling of being home.



The cultural program was hosted by Mr. Prakash Badola & Mrs. Pushp Kumar of MA. It started with the *Ganesh Vandana*, by Garima Pant of MD. It was amazing to see a second grader little girl recite memorized Sanskrit Shlokas generating the spiritual setting in the auditorium. A group of adults sang Swagatam, Shubh Swagatam welcoming all attendees. A hymn composed by Mr UK Bist described the natural beauty and social / religious splendor of the motherland. It was presented by a group from VA. Next was a group dance by children of ages between 5 to 8 years – *Bhumro - Bhumro* – which received everyone's applause in rhythms as the little children danced. The participants were Kriti Badola, Natasha & Radhika Kumar, Shivi Agarwal, Megha Aggarwal of MA. The dance item *Maiya Yashoda, Yeh tera Kanhiya* performed by two sisters Megha & Monica Mamgain of NJ reminded everyone the stories of Lord Krishna and Radha. *Baniyo ka Business* followed this; a native dance by Mrs Saroj Gosain & Mrs Anita Adhikari of VA. Mother and daughter in real life acted as husband & wife on the stage with their conflicts in business and were loved by the audience.

*Saisura ka Danda* a native song was sung by Parul Bahuguna of Toronto and hearing the plight of this bahu moved everyone. Another dance was performed by Natasha & Radhika Kumar – *Main Albeli Ghumu Aakeli* – with gypsy influences and everyone loved the colorful performance. *Maroo Bano Rung-a-Rung Bechari* – a native song was sung by Mrs Kura Mastwal of Maryland. Next was the native dance describing the beauty of native women of Uttarakhand – *Chamma Chamma Hathaoi Ma Chuddi Bajdi Na* performed by Shailja Ghildiyal, Ruma Agarwal & Sunita Badola of MA.

*I am like a Bird* was another famous song sung by Parul Bahuguna of Toronto and was appreciated by all. Mr Jaspal Singh also sang *Jin Jhuloo Pur*. He composed it when he witnessed the violence against peaceful demonstrators of Uttarakhand Andolan at Jhula Ghar in Mussoorie. It did remind us of the sacrifices and hardships of people during the Uttarakhand movement. Mrs. Kura Mastwal again won the heart of the audience by singing *Haath Jodi Ki*. The next item was presented by Mr. Ajay Kala, Mr. Ajay Rawat & Mr. Surju Mastwal of VA – *Dhebra Hurch Gini Mera Bakra Hurch Gini Mera* showing the desperation of a shepherd who lost his lambs and goats and thus requesting people to help him in locating them. This was followed by another song – *Phulari tuye Dekhi le Aando ya man ma Mero* sung by Mrs Madhuri Bahuguna of Toronto which inspired some spirited members of our audience to come up and dance on stage. It seemed as if the whole auditorium was dancing to its rhythm. The cultural show concluded with patriotic song presented by Natasha Kumar, Radhika & Kriti Badola, *Hum Honge Kamyab*, and everyone present in the auditorium joined them showing their love for the motherland and determination and confidence in achieving their goals.

After cultural show raffles were drawn for items provided by Reebok International, AT India, and UANA. Mr. Adhikari, Mr. PS Negi, Mr. Deepak Nautiyal, Mr. Ajay Rawat, Ms. Veena Barthwal, Mr. & Mrs. Harish Pant and Mr. & Mrs. Singh came on stage to announce the raffle winners. Rajiv Rawat provided the info on next day's seminar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a second day of events and Mr Jack Croucher explained a bit about his work and love for Uttarakhand. With this, the evening's events adjourned, the audience went to the social gathering and dinner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pushp Kumar  
Coordinator of Boston Organizing Committee  
Billerica, Massachusetts, September 20, 2001