



Kerala Association of Colorado



## 22nd INDIAN DANCE FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 7th 2022, 3:00 PM

### VENUE

Cherokee Trail High School  
25901 E Arapahoe Rd, Aurora 80016

<https://kaoc.app>  
[info@colorkerala.org](mailto:info@colorkerala.org)  
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## ABOUT KAOC

Kerala Association of Colorado (KAOC) is a community driven cultural organization for Malayalees (people from the South Indian state of Kerala) in Colorado, serving for more than 35 years. It acts as the bedrock for all types of arts and cultural activities for Keralites in Colorado.

KAOC is a registered non-profit organization exempt from taxes and certified per the federal regulations for non-profit as a 501(c)(4) organization (Fed ID 84-1530554). KAOC provides a forum for its members to meet and exchange views and to foster a spirit of friendship, goodwill and understanding. The primary purpose of a cultural organization like KAOC is to bind the community together by promoting and preserving its identity, traditions, and values.

By providing public programs through which cultural heritage can be shared, KAOC strives to build bridges between various cultural groups and the larger Indian Community. KAOC is committed to serving the community through its annual Indian Dance Festival, Music Night, Onam, Christmas Celebrations, Sports Tournaments and Literature Campaigns.





## ABOUT INDIAN DANCE FESTIVAL

The Indian Dance Festival is a premier platform for all talented Indian dancers in Colorado. Entry to this event is open to everyone and has proven to be an educational insight into Indian culture and values.

Professional and amateur artists of Colorado perform various Indian dance forms like Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, Kathak, Odissi, Bhangra, Bollywood etc., demonstrating the rich cultural heritage of India.

Kerala Association has been organizing the Indian Dance Festival annually for more than 20 years. This festival has proved to be one of the biggest gatherings of the Indian Community in Colorado.



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I was born and raised in Fiji Islands, in the South Pacific. My grandparents were from India, thus mother's side from North India and father's side from South India.

I have been married for 25 years and have four children, a daughter-in-law and two wonderful grandchildren.

I have been in United States of America for 20 years now, and a proud Citizen of USA. Most of my schooling was done here in states and worked in restaurant industry as manager.

I acquired Tejal India Grocery three years ago in 2019 with many challenges on the way, had great and tremendous support from all the excellent customers during unprecedented times. Thus, it has been a very humbling experience to be able to own, manage and operate the business as a woman.

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## UTSAV

It is said that the greatness of a culture can be found in its festivals. This year we proudly present “Utsav - Festivals of India”, a dance extravaganza to celebrate the magnificent festivals and diverse yet glorious cultures of India.

Indian festivals are a true reflection of its rich culture and traditions, bringing people closer and creating a strong bond of humanity. Some of the main Indian festivals include Diwali, Holi, Onam, Vishu, Eid, Christmas, Pongal, Ganesh Chathurthi, Krishna Janmashtami, Vaisakhi, Dussehra and Durga Puja.

We are ecstatic and equally humbled to be working with Colorado's best Classical, Semi-Classical, Folk and Bollywood dance artists to bring to you the most vibrant dance depiction of the festivals of India. Come, celebrate with us!





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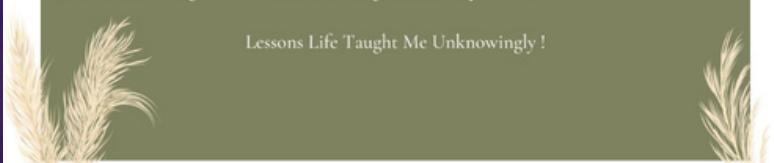
Every time you take action and achieve something, you build confidence in yourself. After all, life is about taking action, engaging in new experiences and achieving goals. And these goals don't have to be big. The smaller ones are perhaps more important. If you say you're going to clean the house, do it! It'll make you happy.

In fact, according to Psychology, by setting small goals and achieving them, your brain may receive a spike in dopamine – a neurotransmitter that makes us feel good. This is why people benefit from to-do lists.

So if you are trying to love yourself into a new role, new life, or new relationship, you need to be firm, but be fair with yourself.

Take back control and learn to love yourself for a better life by turning the lens inward, instead of looking at others to make things better for yourself.

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# *Utsav*

FESTIVALS OF INDIA

## EVENTS

### INAUGURATION

### PERFORMANCES

Shivoham School of Dance  
Nritya Jeevan Hai  
Nishaya Dance Troupe  
Tip Tap Toe Dance With Annie  
Laya Dance  
Bollywood Dhamaaka

Shivangi 2.0 by Kairali School of Dance  
Beats of Bollywood  
The Rhythm  
Pranavalaya  
Desi Caliente

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Nartaki Dance Group  
Blossoms  
Taaras  
Swarangal  
Team Jazba

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### CONCLUSION



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## 1. Shivoham School of Dance - Bharatanatyam

Choreographer - Sulakshana Jayaram

Students of Shivoham School of Dance present Ganga Stotram, a composition of Shri Adi Shankaracharya on goddess Ganga. This piece extols the beauty and magnificence of the life-giving waters of the Ganges. The team presents it as a tribute to the celebration of the festival of Ganga Dussehra. This Bharatanatyam composition has been taught and choreographed by Guru Sulakshana Jayaram.



Performers: Diya Nair, Meera Bipin, Snigdha Kumar, Riya Veetil, Shreya Pradeep, Shreya Sundaresh, Siri Reddy, Arundhati Nair



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## 2. Nritya Jeevan Hai - Bharatanatyam, Bhangra, Gharba

Choreographer - Natasha Paul

Natasha Paul, with her group of friends who bonded through dance, showcase the diverse cultures of India with a mashup of three songs taken from the celebrations of Natyanjali from the south with Bharatanatyam, Vaisakhi from the north with Bhangra, and Navaratri from the west with Garba. These dances come together to show how India celebrates its extravagant festivals and shows her joyous spirits through dance.



Performers: Natasha Paul, Maria Mundackal, Aaralyn Vadakkan, Hannah Cyril, Syna Joseph, Navika Thomas

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## 3. Nishaya Dance Troupe - Semi Classical, Bollywood

Choreographer - Meghana Bisani

This Semi-Classical/Bollywood fusion by Nishaya Dance troupe depicts Ganesh Chathurthi, a festival that celebrates Lord Ganesh the God of new beginnings, the remover of obstacles and the God of wisdom and intelligence. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak initiated Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav in Maharashtra where this festival is widely celebrated. Huge processions of devotees dance along with integrated movements of the lezims welcoming Lord Ganesh and people greet their favorite god in an atmosphere charged with devotion and affection.



Performers: Meghana Bisani, Anjali Bhale, Shweta Gattu, Ridhi Kaul, Archana Shinde, Moumita Chakraborty, Payal Prakash, Sonam, Vijeta, Shalini

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## 4. Tip Tap Toe Dance - Bollywood, Bhangra

Choreographer - Annie Mittal

Tip Tap Toe Dance With Annie brings to you a fusion of Bhangra and Giddha showcasing the festival of Lohri which commemorates the arrival of longer days after the winter solstice. Lohri was traditionally celebrated towards the conclusion of the customary month, when the winter solstice occurred. It commemorates the lengthening of the days as the sun moves northward. The dhol, a big drum, and boliyan, short sets of lyrics that recount events or stories from Punjab, are typically used in the dance form Bhangra. The most common themes in these lyrics are love, patriotism, strength and celebration.



Performers: Annie, Tej , Akanksha, Priti, Aditi, Jasmeet, Shruti, Rashmi





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## 5. Laya Dance - Kuchipudi

Choreographer - Prathyusha Apparasu

The Ashtalakshmi stotram, choreographed in Kuchipudi dance form, is a devotional stotram dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi and her eight forms. The eight stanzas of this stotram describe and praise the eight divine forms of the Goddess Lakshmi. During Navratri days, Ashtalakshmi stotram is recited or heard to begin your day by expressing your devotion for the Mother Divine through these soulful renditions; and create a wave of bliss, enthusiasm, and positivity in and around you.



Performers: Sneha Koppurapu, Sarayu Polakam, Tanmaye reddy, Saanvi Vallem, Bhavya Kethamareddy, Shritha Gunturu





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## 6. Bollywood Dhamaaka - Bollywood

Choreographer - Renu Rawat

Bollywood Dhamaaka brings to life the colorful festival of Holi through freestyle Bollywood dance. This group was born in 2012 when a few moms casually started discussing options to lose weight while enjoying it at the same time. Renu, being familiar with a few moves, started these sessions which later got extended to kids as well. This group now has more than 70 students with batches from beginners to advanced levels for ages 3 to 50 years and teaches/learns Bollywood on a volunteer basis. Classes are conducted every Saturday and Sunday from 8 AM to 1PM at Broomfield. They have completed over 65 performances thus far and do more than 3 shows every year in support of CFAA- a non profit organization.



Performers: Mousumi, Sunaina, Sravanthi, Usha, Renu



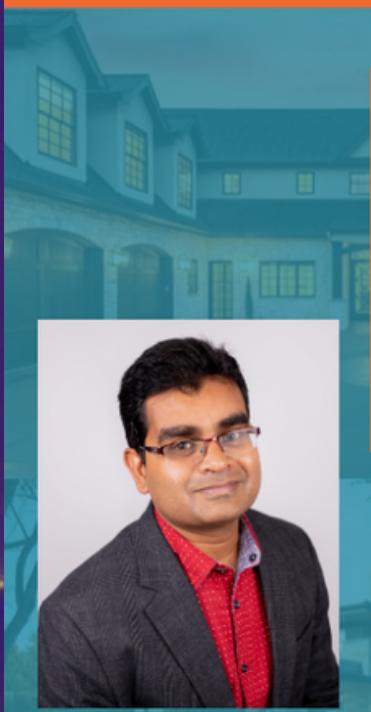


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## 7. Kairali School of Dance - Semi Classical

Choreographer - Unnimaya Menon

Shivangi 2.0 is a dance saga about Navaratri and Vijayadashami brought to our esteemed audience by Kairali School of Dance. This performance is choreographed by Guru Unnimaya Menon, who is a renowned teacher for Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi and an established choreographer in semi-classical dances. Kairali school of dance has always vowed to be aligned to the motto of events like Indian Dance Festival- 'Dance with talent and passion' The Saga is about Mahishasura, the buffalo demon who performed Akhora Tapasya with the intention of pleasing Lord Brahma and thus being granted the boon of immortality. But Lord Brahma had other plans for him and persuaded Mahishasura to opt for an alternate boon. With so much pride and self esteem, Mahishasura demanded for ATHANASIA from all, except 'Women'. This was a plot set for the incarnation of Goddess Durga, which was a mythological illustration of 'Women empowerment. This in turn led to the decline of Mahishasura regime after a ten day encounter. Indians across the world celebrate Navaratri with a lot of pride and devotion.



Performers: Anika Nair, Anshrutha Sathish, Athena Vimal, Naisha Naik, Nandini Murali, Nikita Pillai, Nitya Pudtha, Prarthana Anil, Radhika Gupta, Ratna Unnikrishnan, Tamanna Chollampat, Truptimayee Sahu, Sanavi Pillai, Vimal PC





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## 8. Beats of Bollywood - Folk

Choreographer - Bhumika Awasthi

The vibrant group "Beats of Bollywood" dances to the tunes of folk music from the royal state of Rajasthan and the colorful and energetic Gujarat, to showcase their love for dance and to celebrate different festivals. Folk dances in India are a representation of the rich cultural heritage and narrate stories in a unique and captivating way. It's a celebration of love and life and is choreographed by Bhumika Awasthi Choudhary.



Performers: Bhumika Awasthi, Bhavna Verma, Sushma Rao, Sowmya Raghu, Poornima Lokesh, Nikhitha Challa, Priyanka Tiwari, Sonia Vahalia, Richa Rai, Sahana Rao, Pooja Reddappagari, Sheetal Verma, Anika Agarwal, Nishitha Anantula





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## 9. The Rhythm - Semi Classical, Folk, Bollywood

Choreographer - Sukanya Das

The Rhythm team's lovely semi-classical performance is their wholehearted Samarpana to Lord Krishna to celebrate Krishna Janmashtami. Also known as Gokulashtami, this is an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, worshiped as the eighth avatar of Vishnu and is the God of protection, compassion, tenderness, and love. Hindus celebrate Janmashtami by fasting, singing, praying together, preparing and sharing special food, visiting Krishna or Vishnu temples and many communities organize dance-drama events called Rasa Lila or Krishna Lila.



Performers: Pallavi Ghose Mohapatra, Rajeswari Banerjee, Archana Mahajan, Sucharita Sarkar Das, Sukanya Das, Aishwarya Manian





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## 10. Pranavalaya - Semi classical

Choreographer - Lata Reddy

This dance is a semi-classical fusion dance depicting the story of Lord Rama's victory over Ravana (triumph of good over evil ), celebrating Dussehra. Lata has been choreographing and dancing for years and is also a trained classical dancer. She has taught at UCCS and various dance studios along with having students of her own.



Performers: Anup Bhatt, Hetal Naik, Madhuri Akasapu, Pallavi Kadam, Remya Mohan, Vinodh Mohan, Visa Tanikella, Lata Reddy





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## 11. Desi Caliente - Bollywood/Bhangra

Choreographer - Subbu Palaniappan

Desi Caliente will be bringing their fusion style Bollywood & Bhangra dance moves to celebrate Holi. Desi Caliente is a dance company that combines Bollywood, Bhangra and Latin dance forms into a hot fusion of distinct styles. Founded in 2010 by Subbu, Desi Caliente has been performing and teaching in the Boulder and Denver metro area. This performance is guaranteed to be high energy, fun and will get the crowd grooving.



Performers: Subbu Palaniappan, Jessica Bryen, Ashley Patchen, Kaitlin Soucie, Priyanka Nair, Bethany Wilcox, Brianne Lozier, Garima Malhotra, Danaly Howe, Gaurav Shukla, Rachel Yamahiro, Elizabeth Ruiz





## BREAK TIME

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No food/drinks allowed in the auditorium





KAOC YUVA 2022

YUVA is an initiative by the Kerala Association of Colorado targeting the Youth of our community. It focuses on enhancing the youths organizational and social skills, which in turn will make them more responsible of the baton of righteousness they would be carrying on to adulthood.

The YUVAs are active participants in volunteering and coordinating the organizational activities for the KAOC committee.

There are workshops being conducted for youth with YUVA in forefront. We have already done many workshops, with many more coming up.



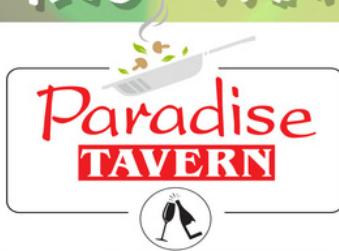
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## 12. Nartaki Dance Group - Folk

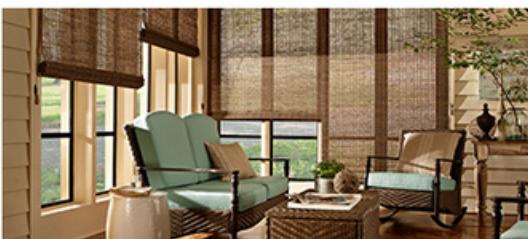
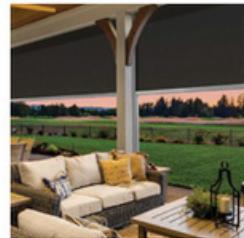
Choreographer - Saswati Dash

Nartaki dance group presents “Rasarkeli Bo”, a very popular Sambalpuri folk dance of Odisha to portray the festival Makar Sankranti. Sambalpuri dance is the most famous folk dance of Western Odisha. This dance is performed by the tribal people in a festive mood and the women dance while the men provide musical accompaniment. The women generally dress themselves in colorful Sambalpuri Saris and wear a scarf on the shoulders holding the ends below with both hands. This dance is performed mainly during marriage ceremonies.



Performers: Ashwini Shivashankarappa, Maruthi Nagaraju, Swetha Nelluri, Aditi Shenoy, Ramya Nitturi, Rakhi Masand, Saswati Dash





## Contact

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### 13. Blossoms - Folk

Choreographer - Fasmin Rafeeq

Bhangra is the folk dance of Punjab and is associated with the Vaisakhi festival. Team Blossoms presents a highly energetic Punjabi style dance to the famous songs Rang de Basanti and Nagada Baja.



Performers: Nidhi Nandakumar, Nayana Kuyilath, Nakshatra Remya Biju, Shreya Menon, Nithika Nambiar, Shreya Nair, Bianca Saju, Uma Nair







## 14. Taaras - Semi-Classical

Choreographer - Kriss Monson

Thrissur Pooram is an annual temple festival held in Thrissur, Kerala. It is the largest and most famous of all poorams in India and considered one of the greatest festival gatherings in Asia. Team Taaras' enchanting semi-classical dance choreographed by Kriss Monson recreates this unique and vibrant Pooram experience on stage.



Performers: Nandini Surendranathan, Kriss Monson, Renju Peroor, Reshma Manu, Alisha Chauhan, Ushus Sajeev, Viji M



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# *Utsav*

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## 15. Swarangal - Semi classical

Choreographers - Anjana, Lekshmi, Babitha

Team Swarangal presents a semi-classical dance to portray the festival of Aiyappa Mandala Pooja through a melodious lullaby 'Harivarasanam', sung for Lord Ayyappan at Sabarimala Sree Dharma Sastha Temple, in Kerala, India. The divine song "Harivarasanam" or Hari Haratmaka Ashtakam is recited just prior to the closing of the temple doors at night.



Performers: Anjana Gopakumar, Babitha Bipin, Deepthi Nandan, Lakshmi Dileep, Lekshmi Gopinathan, Priya Pandalay, Vidula Girish





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# *Utsav*

FESTIVALS OF INDIA

## 16. Team Jazba - Bhangra

Choreographer - Manali Agrawal

Team Jazba will be showcasing Gidda and Bhangra, the most popular Punjabi folk dances characterized by speed, coordination, balance, jumps, leaps, high kicks, and rotations. The dances are typically performed at times of celebration, such as harvest (Vaisakhi), weddings, melas (festivals) like Lohri, Jashan-e-Baharan (Spring Festival) etc.



Performers: Manali Agrawal, Pallavi Kadamb, Anshu Shrivastav, Vaibhavi Desai, Meena Mathias, Samiksha Bindra, Suchita Athavale, Falguni Patel, Siona Gupta, Mehir Mathias, Aaryn Mathias, Vishal Desai, Prashant Rane.





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## 17. Raaga Mudras - Folk, Semi classical

Choreographer - Jency Fabin

This is a classical and folk style dance based on 'Makar Sankranti', an important pan-Indian solar festival, also known as Pedda Panduga in Andhra Pradesh, Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Magh Bihu in Assam, Magha Mela in parts of central and north India. This festival is dedicated to the Hindu religious sun god 'Surya'. Celebrations include Kite flying, bonfires, fairs, Surya Pooja in river, feast, arts, dance, socialization, Cow Pooja etc.



Performers: Anupama Nair, Aparna Beena, Divya Raju, Jibin Varghese, Jency Fabin, John George, Kathy Jacob, Kavyavrindha Bhasi, Lisona Simon, Niko Medina, Niranjana Praseed, Rehan Khan, Sini Nair, Sona Jose, Suman George



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## 18. Gaandharva Kshethram - Kuchipudi

Choreographer - Keerthanna Jothiraman

Kuchipudi is an Indian classical dance originating from the state of Andhra Pradesh. This beautiful depiction of the graceful kuchipudi dance form is being performed by Keerthanna Jothiraman's team and is based on the Shivratri festival. Shivratri is celebrated in honor of lord Shiva and also refers to the night when Shiva performs the heavenly dance called Tandava.



Performers: Akshita Kakumanu, Navya Roy, Charitha Kunapuli, Namitha Kastury, Harshita Sai Konda





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## 19. Urvashi Theaters - Bhangra Fusion

Choreographer - Jagjit Singh

Urvashi Theatres presents a modern Bhangra fusion dance choreographed by Jagjit Singh. Jagjit Singh is an acclaimed bhangra dancer and this performance is a tribute to the Lohri festival, symbolizing happiness that is derived from the union of souls and is presented with scintillating movements by men and women as they express their abundant joy. It captures the beguiling vibrancy of Punjabi traditions while embracing the eclectic vibes of Kerala culture. The magical fusion of Punjabi and Kerala wedding themes come alive with energetic dhol beats. The vivid dance steps from different song sequences succinctly blend the rhythms of north and south India.



Performers: Jagjit Singh, Dinesh Jayapal, Christy Joseph, Madhu Purushothaman, Bijili Purushothaman, Preetha Sayuj, Sayuj Haridas, Viswaroopan Somnath, Rekha Vish





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## 20. Nadanalaya Dance Academy - Bharatanatyam

Choreographer - Srimohana Balasubramaniyam

In keeping with this year's theme of festivals, this Bharatanatyam performance depicts the chariot festivals in temples done through the devadasi tradition. This chariot festival is also known as Ther Mallari. The choreographer is Sri Mohana Balasubramaniam the art director of Nadanalaya Dance Academy.



Performers: Priyanka Balasubramaniyam, Srilekha Siddartha, Bhavana Chivukula, Priya Chivukula, Sowmini Sanjuktha Arun, Daksha Gopalakrishnan, Sarika Sanjai, Annie Sanjeev, Deekshitha Sakthivel, Ruchitha Badikinchala, Rahul Balasubramaniyam, Saran Sanjai





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## 21. AnyBodyCanDance - Bollywood

Choreographer - Sajitha Rajesh

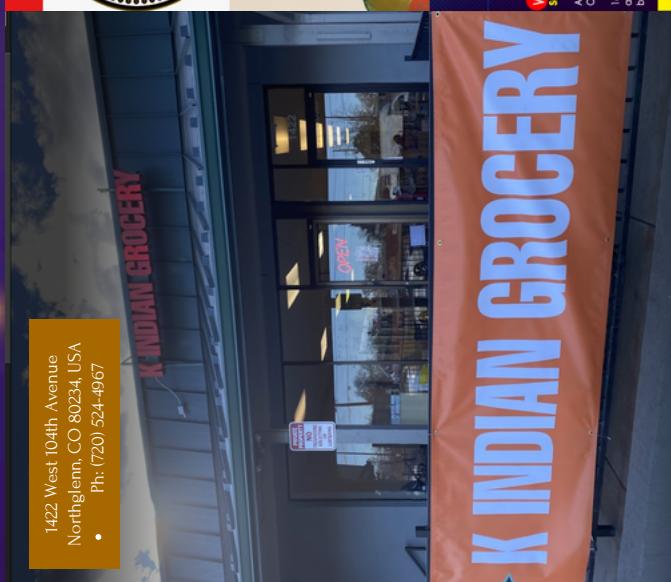
We are ending this evening with a Bollywood fusion dance representing the various festivals of India like Ganesh Chathurthi, Kaavadi & Gujarati festivals.



Performers: Sajitha Rajesh, Vijeta, Juno, Angel Mary Alias, Bindu Pradeep, Bridget, Devi, Divyasree, Jaya, Swaroopa, Remya, Sandhya, Sangeetha, Shoma, Steffi, Vidya, Vineeta, Vasudev, Eva , Avantika, Atharv, Stevan, Zerina, Tessa, Shannon, Deepak, Anna



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We wish you the best!

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KAQC 2022 IDF Team





# Kerala Association Of Colorado PRESENTS

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The infographic features a central illustration of a diverse group of people cheering, surrounded by various sports icons:

- Criquet:** A yellow bat and ball icon with a green checkmark above it. Dates: JUN/SEP.
- Football:** A black silhouette of a person kicking a ball. Dates: SEP/OCT.
- Soccer:** A white and black soccer ball. Dates: AUG/SEP.
- Tennis:** A white tennis racket and ball icon. Dates: MAY 21.
- Chess:** Two chess pieces (king and queen) on a board. Dates: JUN/SEP.
- Badminton:** A white shuttlecock. Dates: OCT/NOV.
- Table Tennis:** A white paddle and ball icon. Dates: OCT/NOW.
- Handball:** A green handball with the number 28. Dates: OCT/NOV.
- Volleyball:** A black silhouette of a person jumping to hit a ball. Dates: OPEN ALL.
- Boxing:** Two boxers in a ring. Dates: AUG/SEP.

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Kala Prathibha (9-11 year old)  
Pranav Arayakkat



Kalathilakam (9-11 year old)  
Meghna Sayuj



Event conducted in March 2022



# Utsav

FESTIVALS OF INDIA

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