

Hum Sub
presents
Basant Bahar 2026
Dharma – A Spiritual Awakening

As we prepare to welcome 2026 with renewed hope and optimism, Hum Sub invites you to celebrate the spirit of spring through **Basant Bahar 2026**—a vibrant showcase of India's cultural legacy.

We are now accepting applications to stage a production at this year's event. Selected groups will receive a **Cultural Grant** (amount TBD) to support their efforts in promoting India's rich heritage and fostering cultural awareness in our community.

Theme: Dharma – A Spiritual Awakening

We invite proposals for original productions or dance dramas centered on two extraordinary individuals who embodied righteousness and fearlessness:

- **Rani Ahilyabai Holkar** – Rani Ahilyabai Holkar was the queen exemplar who defied all norms of her day to stand tall on the firmament of the Holkar Dynasty of Central India in the mid-18th century. Many were the dramatic elements that defined her life and it is to her sagacity and fearlessness that modern India owes the continuance of her sacred cultural heritage.
- **Swami Vivekananda** – When a young Vivekananda, all of 30 years, stepped up to the podium at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893, and started with “Brother and Sisters of America”, few could have foreseen how his simple message of universal acceptance would take American audiences by storm. It is to him that India owes her image in the world as a place of knowledge and spiritual insight.

We are looking for productions that can showcase these stories through the effective use of traditional Indian music and dance, including Rabindra sangeet and nritya (for the Vivekananda production) as well as folk traditions. This is envisaged as a collaborative effort of different dance and musical groups in the true spirit of a HUM SUB (“All of us”) offering.

Program Guidelines

- Must align with the theme and focus on the two highlighted figures
- Minimum of 15 participants
- At least 75% of participants must be age 9 or older (minimum age: 7)
- Must be an original production not previously performed
- Grant funds may be used for costumes, props, rehearsals, and other production needs
- Must uphold respectful and inclusive portrayal of Indian culture
- Duration: Not to exceed 50 minutes
- Dance schools have a unique opportunity to collaborate for Basant Bahar 2026 in ways that elevate both artistic quality and community impact. Cross-group collaboration with

schools and cultural organizations is highly encouraged. This may include joint choreography, shared resources, or co-led segments.

- Please ensure your production is informed by meaningful research—not just Wikipedia. Depth, accuracy, and cultural understanding will be valued highly in the selection process.

Important Notes

- Once a contract is signed:
 - Withdrawal penalty: \$250
 - Deviation penalty: \$200 (for significant changes from the approved concept)
- No formal audition, but a program review and possible choreographer interview will be conducted
- Applications will be evaluated on uniqueness, creativity, and clarity of concept
- Final decisions rest with the Cultural Committee
- Final program must be ready for informal presentation at least 30 days before the event

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** Saturday, November 15, 2025
- **Decision Notification:** Monday, December 1, 2025
- **Performance Review:** Saturday, January 31, 2026
- **Rehearsal:** Saturday, March 7, 2026
- **Event Date:** Sunday, March 8, 2026
- **Venue:** Cary Arts Center, Cary, NC

Apply Now

Please submit your proposals by **Saturday, November 15, 2025**.

For questions, contact us at **basantbahar@humsub.net**.

Let's come together to honor timeless values and create a memorable cultural offering for our community, bringing to life the spirit of **Dharma** through art.