

Spanish Cultural Exchange Program

As part of the vibrant Spanish cultural exchange program, I had the wonderful opportunity to host a Spanish student in India during the festive season of Diwali, 2024. Her visit was filled with immersive activities that gave her a glimpse into the rich traditions and colorful celebrations of Indian culture.

During her stay, she participated in several engaging workshops, including an energetic Bollywood dance session, a sari draping experience, and a mehndi (henna) workshop where she got intricate designs drawn on her hands. I had the chance to show my exchange student the magical Diwali lights at Shivaji Park, Dadar, Mumbai. She also explored some of the city's iconic landmarks like the Gateway of India and the beautifully lit Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) station. A stroll along Marine Drive during sunset left us both mesmerized by the sea and skyline. One of the most memorable experiences was attending a ballet performance directed by the legendary Shiamak Davar at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC). Known as a pioneer of modern dance in India and the man who brought jazz and contemporary styles to Bollywood, Shiamak is an icon in the realm of Indian performing arts. The performance was not only captivating but also offered my exchange student a profound insight into the artistry and passion of one of India's most celebrated choreographers.

We also enjoyed delightful shopping excursions, where she picked out traditional Indian attire and festive souvenirs for Diwali. She relished a variety of Indian cuisines, from vibrant street food to rich, aromatic curries. Our Diwali celebration together, lighting diyas and bursting firecrackers at home, was a moment of pure joy and cultural connection. Watching her delight in every experience was truly heartwarming.

Overall, this exchange was a beautiful confluence of cultures, shared experiences, and lasting friendships, a journey that deepened our appreciation for both diversity and togetherness.