India Association of Ohio State University

Cultural Gala

An evening of cultural dance, music and variety program

Venue: Ohio Union, Conference Theatre
O.S.U Campus (1739 North High Street)

Time: 4.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Date: Sunday, February 19, 1989.

** Refreshments will be served **

Join in an evening of fun and celebration and make the program a success!

For more information contact:

Pankaj Gupta 299-5077
Sameer Bhargava 299-7181
Deepa Balasubramanian 294-2065
Roopali Mukherjee 487-0572
Suresh Subramaniam 263-4480.

Entrance: FREE for members (and invited guests)
$1.00 for non-members
Annual festival celebrates India Day

By Lynn Echelberger
Lantern campus reporter

The Federation of Asian Indian Students of Central Ohio is holding its third annual India Day Festival as part of its 1989 India Day Celebrations.

The festival runs today and Friday, and includes a banquet at the Hyatt Regency downtown as well as a concert by Anup Jalota, an Indian singer.

Prasad Vishnubhotla, vice president of the FIA, said the banquet will feature discussions on India, Mahatma Ghandi, and Indian cultural heritage. Lt. Gov. Paul Leonard and Indian Consul General R.K. Rai will be among the featured speakers. The banquet begins at 8 p.m.

Anup Jalota will perform Friday at the Worthington High School Auditorium at 8 p.m. Jalota sings in six Indian languages, has earned 85 Gold and Platinum records and has performed public concerts in 100 cities on five continents.

The Federation of Asian Indian Associations has been organizing the India Day Festival each year to coincide with Ghandi’s birthday, which is October 2.

Vishnubhotla said the India Students Association at Ohio State is a member of the Federation of Asian Indian Associations. The group at Ohio State encourages students to look at their cultural needs and helps students to integrate into American society.

Ticket prices for the Jalota concert are $10 for students and are available Ticketmaster outlets. For banquet tickets and information call Vishnubhotla at 848-4959.
India Day honors Mahatma Ghandi’s birthday

By Jeff Whetzel
Lantern staff writer

This past weekend members of the Asian Indian community in central Ohio celebrated India Day to honor the man who helped them gain their independence from Britain in 1947. Oct. 2 marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the political leader of India whose unique style of passive resistance distinguishes him from other world leaders, said Abid Hussain, ambassador of India to the United States, in a speech Friday night as part of the India Day celebrations.

Hussain was the keynote speaker at a banquet held at the Confluence Park.

"Gandhi was a fascinating and great personality," Hussain said.

"There have been many who have fought for independence, but the means he adopted to achieve this goal is what separates him from everyone else. He used the arguments of love, ethics and morality," he said.

India Day is sponsored by the Federation of Asian Indian Associations of Central Ohio, a non-profit organization composed of eight member associations, including the Students Association of Ohio State and the International Students Association of Ohio State.

“Our goal is really cultural," said Manoj Guha, president of the federation.

“It is a non-political, non-religious organization that works on how we can mesh the Indian and American cultures," Guha said.

He said this was the fourth year the federation has celebrated India Day. Although the event is usually held on the first weekend following Gandhi’s Oct. 2 birthday, the program was delayed this year because of the unavailability of a banquet site the following weekend.

The two-day celebration included the banquet Friday night featuring Ambassador Hussain and a fashion show, seminars at the Drake Union Saturday about various Indian issues, and an Indian dance ballet by dancing twins Uma Suresh and Raman Bharadvaj and their daughters, Priya Suresh and Svetlana Bharadvaj, also held at the Drake Union.

Hanumant Rao, chairman of the India Day Celebrations Committee and an assistant professor of marketing at Ohio State, said the event gives people the chance to get a taste of Indian culture.

“The purpose of India Day is to project to the public what India is all about and to showcase India for what it is through its art and music," Rao said.