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Saraswati Puja celebration

Home News Tribune Online 02/15/08

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By **RITU JHA**
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With an objective to promote Indian

culture and religion among children, Sreeshti, a non-profit organization in

Edison, celebrated Sarsawati Puja on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Saraswati is a Hindu goddess of knowledge, learning, or education, intelligence, crafts, arts, and skills.

Thus, many students or even scholars worship her for her blessings. This religious festival

however, is of great significance in Eastern India.

To observe the celebration a statue of goddess

Saraswati was imported from India and about 200 people performed a puja (prayer) that gathered to celebrate the event in Edison.

Subhasis Sarkar, one of the founders of Sreeshti, said Sreeshti's objectives is to pass the cultural, literary and artistic legacy of India to their second generation —children who are born and raised in this country and have a very limited exposure to the cultural heritage of India.

"The kids raised here have a lot of flavor of the American culture. They are not getting actual

Indian religion and culture," said Sarkar.

"It was a big success," said Sarkar. He added that it was not an easy task to celebrate the event, but group members and their families helped in organizing

everything themselves and made it look easy.

The day's event was divided into four segments: Kids' program and instrumental performance, dance recital, comedy play and musical soiree.

Sarkar said about 30 children participated in the drawing and cultural shows. And the children

enjoyed the ethnic dress fashion show a lot.

The "Wives Club' performed dances featuring

different states of India and a comedy play "Abu Husein', an adaptation from the fabled "Arabian Nights' was directed by Subhasis Das.

The event concluded in the evening with the

musical soiree performed by seven singers. They sang 12 popular songs in different Indian dialects.

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