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Musical brings ancient values to fore

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BENGALURU: Dressed in an elaborate costume, 10-yearold Nandakishore eagerly waited to take the stage at Koramangala Indoor Stadium. "Iam playing a horse from the Egyptian civilization. We spent a lot of time rehearsing and it was a lot of fun," said the boy bubbling with energy.

Nandakishore was among the hundreds of students from schools run by the Parikrma Humanity Foundation, who were waiting in the wings. They were participating in a musical as part of their 14th annual day celebrations. "We helped them conceptualize the idea but the students did everything themselves, from choreography to direction," said Shukla Bose, founder, Parikrma.

The musical, rehearsals for which took less than a month, saw each of the five Parikrma centres choosing a civilization: Indus, African, Egyptian, Native American and Chinese. Titled Imagine-One World, the musical depicted the value of these civilizations an the importance of holdin on to your roots.

Chaithra, a BTech engi neering student from M Ramaiah College of Engineering and alumnao Parikrma, performed a rendition of John Lennon's Imagine - the theme of the programme. "Parikrma has always encouraged me to be the best version of myself," she said.

Pavitra and Catherine, along with 30 others, were in-charge of the costumes and sets. "We stitched the costumes, beaded the necklaces and made the headdresses," said the 14-yearolds who are members of the school art club.

The musical brought together the five Parikrma centres - four schools and one junior college - for the first time to sing and dance. The occasion saw prizes being handed out to students for general proficiency, athletics and sports competitions and other contests.