



CALGARY MARATHI ASSOCIATION



२०२४ स्मरणिका
2024 Memorabilia

जोडी मराठी मन



About Calgary Marathi Association (CMA)

CMA is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Marathi culture by bringing together Marathi-speaking individuals and families in Calgary and the surrounding area.

For more than four decades, CMA has grown through the dedication of volunteers, members, artists, youth leaders, seniors, teachers, and community supporters. Each year, the organization creates opportunities for cultural celebration, language learning, social connection, service, and community leadership.

The 2024 year continued this tradition through cultural festivals, special events, Marathi Shala, youth activities, Samadhaan seniors programming, sports, community collaborations, sponsor engagement, and broader city-wide representation.

Visit us at: <https://www.cmacalgary.ca>



CMA Vision and Mission

Our Vision

- ❖ To be a socially responsible community that preserves, promotes, and enhances Marathi culture, heritage, values, and language.
- ❖ To foster unity, inclusiveness, and multicultural participation while helping the next generation remain connected to their cultural roots.

Our Mission

- ❖ To celebrate Marathi customs, traditions, language, arts, and festivals in a meaningful way for families in Calgary and surrounding areas.
- ❖ To support community service, educational initiatives, youth development, senior engagement, and the overall well-being of CMA members.
- ❖ To welcome all Canadians who wish to participate in and learn about Marathi culture while strengthening the spirit of multiculturalism in Canada.



स्मरणिका SMARANIKA

मराठी बोला, वाचा आणि लिहा
Speak, Read & Write Marathi



Calgary Marathi Shala/School is a non-profit organization operating under the umbrella of Calgary Marathi Association.
Inspiring young minds to love Marathi through language, culture and creativity.
website : <https://www.cmacalgary.ca/pages/marathi-shala-school/>

Our Vision

- To nurture interest for learning the Marathi language primarily in the younger generation extendable with online conversational Marathi classes for older students.

Our Mission

- Connect young generation with the Marathi culture and heritage through listening, speaking, reading, writing, performing arts and elocution.

Shala Objectives

- Strengthen the heritage, culture, festivities of the Marathi traditions.
- Support initiatives to promote and preserve the rich legacy of Marathi Language including support to Marathi families around Calgary.
- Educate and inform the younger generation of the diverse cultural heritage of India in general and of Maharashtra through various activities
- Support new Immigrant's kids speaking Marathi and ease the transition, by arranging multiple community activities.
- Conduct multiple projects aligned with the festivals to encourage their art and skills.

• Foundation

- Volunteering efforts and commitments of teachers, coordinators and support from the Marathi community.
- Teach Marathi as a second or third language to the students in a North American environment.
- Support of Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM) of North America in providing a progressive language learning study program, material and tutorials to our CMA Marathi Shala students.
- CMA's efforts to work with school boards to acquire foreign language credits for Marathi through accreditation and/or seal of biliteracy.



Academic Structure

Calgary Marathi Shala follows the same academic structure as Calgary Board of Education. Scholl start in first week of September and ends on June 30th. There are 2 semesters, five months in each

Curriculum

A five-level “Marathi Language Learning” progressive curriculum, study guidelines and supporting materials developed by Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal North America, in collaboration with Bharati Vidyapeeth Pune, State Maharashtra, India.

Admission

- Admission deadlines are 30th September of each academic year.
- CMA family membership (January to December) in any given year is mandatory to admit any student prior to the deadline.
- Google registration forms are available on the CMA website.
- Based on the information provided in the forms, the teachers will assess the students and then admit them in a suitable grade.
- Age limit – Minimum 4 years, Maximum 13 years

Classes

- Minimum one hour in a week. Classes are mainly online, but in-person class in 4 to 6 weeks.
- In-person classes are mainly arranged on some special events, festivals or celebrations. online or in-person.

Events

- Marathi Bhasha Din
- Shiva Jayanti
- Christmas parties
- Diwali – Making Diyas & Lanterns.
- Ganesh Festival – Ganesh murti creation.
- Story telling, Singing Poems and songs
- Kille Spardha
- Nibandha Spardha

Parent Teacher Meetings

Two Online parent teacher meetings arranged in 2024 -2025 academic year, to provide the exam details and school final day activities

Exams

- A minimum of 70% attendance is compulsory to appear for the exam
- Exam papers are set by BMM.
- BMM also charges exam fees \$25USD + textbook fees \$5USD
- Exams are being conducted in Centra Library, on designated date and time for all levels.

2 Unit tests
1 Mock test
1 Final exam

There are written as well as oral exams. More focus is on oral exams.

Which covers

Personal information, comprehension, conversation

Story telling

Chanting prayers, shlokas, national anthum and songs



Final Exam Deatail for 2024 – 2025 school year

- Total 28 students appeared for BMM final exams from Balwadi to level 5.
- Total 6 students out of these 28 also appeared for Balbharati final exams.
- BMM conducted Balbharti exams as a pilot project first time this year with the help of Maharashtra State Boward of Education, Pune.
- Conducted internal exams, total 42 students appeared for these internal exams
- Junior and Senior Balwadi - 40 students,
Grade 1 – 1 student
Grade 4 – 1 studen appeared for the internal Calgary Marathi Shala exams.
- All students passed their exams with very good grades.

Certifications

- Calgary Marathishala provided certificates to all students and teachers at the end of the year.
- These certificates are signed by BOT, Principal and Precident of Elected Committee for that year
- BMM also provide the certificate for all student according to their levels

Sr. No.	Teacher Name	Designation &/ teaching grade	Number of students
1	Nikhil Sidhaye	Teacher - Grade 5	2
2	Meghali Gadakha	Teacher - Grade 4	4
3	Bhagyashri Lele/Nair	Teacher - Grade 3	1
4	Mrunal Joshi	Teacher - Grade 2	2
5	Manjari Joshi	Teacher - Grade 1	6
6	Smita Ropalekar	Coordinator/Teacher - Grade 1	8
7	Bhupali Ponshe	Teacher - Grade 1	4
8	Aparna Zade	Teacher - Sr. Balwadi	6
9	Nachiket Patankar	Teacher - Sr. Balwadi	6
10	Vinay Dhande	Teacher - Sr. Balwadi	6
11	Chanda Kate	Coordinator/Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	5
12	Deepika Patwardhan	Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	5
13	Dhanashree Pawar	Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	6
14	Manjiri Shende	Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	6
15	Nutan More	Pricipal/Teacher - Jr. Balwadi	7
16	Bageshri Vamburkar	Volunteer Teacher	
			Total 74

Teachers, Coordinators & Principal -



After Final Exam

Vinay Dhande – Teacher
Nachiket Patankar – Teacher
Mrunal Joshi – Teacher
Patil – Parent
Nutan More – Principal & Teacher
Nupoor Nanoti – Parent
Chanda kate – Coordinator & teacher
Smita Ropalekar – Coordinator & Teacher
Aparna Zade – Teacher
Meghali Gadhakh - Teacher

Annual Day Event

- The school celebrated its annual day in the last week of June 2025. Students showcased their Marathi language skills through shlokas, bhajans, short plays, and dances, and presented Marathi heritage and culture.
- Some distinguished chief guests (MLAs and ministers) were present at this program, which added to its grandeur, and Marathi language gained recognition even outside the Marathi community. Many congratulations to the children of the Marathi school and their parents. The children worked very hard and celebrated the annual day.



Welcoming MLA Julia Hayter

From Left

Shala coordinator - Smita Ropalekar
Shala Principal – Nutan More
BOT/Chaiperson – Jashree Thatte -Bhat
MLA – Julia Hyetr
EC President – Swati Girap
EC Vice President – Vidula Mane
EC Secretary – Dhanashree Pawar
EC Treasurer – Bageshree Vamburker



Welcoming Minister Rajan Sawhney

From Left

Shala coordinator - Smita Ropalekar
Shala Principal – Nutan More
BOT/Chaiperson – Jashree Thatte -Bhat
Minister – Rajan Sawhney
BOT/Chaiperson – Jayashree Thatte/Bhat



Smita Ropalekar – Coordinator & Teacher
Dhanashree Pawar – Secretary
Bageshree Vamburkar - Treasurer
Vidula Mane – Vice President
Swati Girap - President
Milind Kulkarni - BOT
Jayashree Thatte Bhat – BOT Chairperson
Nutan More – Shala Pricipal

Nachiket Patankar – Teacher
Majari Joshi – Teacher
Deepika Patwardhan – Teacher
Bhupali Ponshe – Teacher
Aparna Zade – Teacher
Nutan More – Principal & Teacher
Deepali Sonone - Teacher
Dhanashree Pawar – Teacher
Meghali Gadhakh – Teacher
Manjiri Shende – Teacher
Smita Ropalekar – Coordinator & Teacher
Vinay Dhande – Teacher

Volunteer appreciation



Calgary Marathi Shala NEWS, 1st September 2024 – June 30th 2025
<https://www.cmacalgary.ca/pages/marathi-shala-school/>



That is the end of the school year 2024 – 2025
Thanks you!



2024 Highlights and Achievements

<p>Operational Strength</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Record membership base with 271 total memberships in 2024❖ Strengthened internal financial planning and governance practices❖ Improved digital operations through proactive Google platform engagement❖ Expanded CMA's community reach through stronger engagement with local professionals, businesses, and service providers	<p>Event and Community Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ First Annual Shala Day organized as a large-scale community hall event.❖ First out-of-town Banff seniors picnic organized using an executive coach bus.❖ Ganpati event introduced guest-friendly seat selection through the Tugoz platform.❖ A 29-foot LED video wall enhanced audience engagement and visual impact at a major event.
<p>Cultural and Youth Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Diwali Pahat was revived as a classical music festival with professional singers.❖ Youth members were engaged as emcees to build leadership and public engagement skills.❖ First Natya Sangeet play experience was fostered through cultural exchange in Calgary and Edmonton.❖ Created a first-of-its-kind guest recognition initiative in CMA history.	<p>Collaboration and Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Strengthened major event planning and execution for Ganpati, Garba, Diwali Pahat, and Diwali Deepotsav.❖ United Bharat representation brought Bharatiya mandals together for the 2024 Stampede and IndiYeah Fest.❖ CMA contributed to a Fan Favorite award through broader community representation.❖ CMA supported Blood Donation collaboration and education advocacy for Marathi language and Hinduism curriculum awareness.



2024 Event Calendar and Community Reach

Month	Event(s)	Reach / Participants
Jan	Makar Sankranti; Ramayan Movie	110+; 300+
Feb	Youth Snow Tubing	45+
Mar	Carrom Tournament	20+
Apr	Gudhi Padwa	320+
Jun	Shala Annual Day	160+
Jul	Stampede; Khel Divas; Family Camping	Citywide; 40+; 30+ families
Aug	Seniors Picnic - Banff; Biking @ Canmore-Banff; IndiYeah Fest	40+; 40+; 7K+
Sept	Ganesh Mahotsav; ISC & IIC Ganapati	~800; community collaboration
Oct	Navratri Garba Night; ICICG Cricket Tournament	350+; 12 teams
Nov/Dec	Diwali Pahat & Deepotsav; Badminton Tournament	280+ / 430+; 35+



Makar Sankranti and Ramayan Movie

मकर संक्रांत आणि रामायण चित्रपट

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Date: Makar Sankranti: January 20, 2024, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM; Ramayan Movie: January 2024	Venue: New Indo-Canadian Centre, 1916A 30th Ave NE Bay 8, Calgary, AB T2E 7B2; movie venue	Reach / Participants: Makar Sankranti 110+; Ramayan Movie 300+
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CMA opened 2024 with a Ladies Only Makar Sankranti Haldi Kunku gathering and a Ramayan Movie special event.

Together, these January programs combined tradition, cultural storytelling, family participation, and community connection at the start of the year.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Celebrated Sankranti through Haldi Kunku, friendship, blessings, and seasonal renewal.
- ❖ Included the Ram: Prince of Ayodhya event as a culturally significant special program.
- ❖ Reflected CMA's ability to deliver both traditional community gatherings and broader cultural programming.





Gudhi Padwa and Shala Annual Day

गुढी पाडवा आणि शाळा वार्षिक दिन

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Date: Gudhi Padwa: April 20, 2024; Shala Annual Day: June 2024	Venue: Gudhi Padwa: Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre; Shala Annual Day: NICC hall	Reach / Participants: Gudhi Padwa 320+; Shala Annual Day 160+
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Gudhi Padwa brought the community together to celebrate the Marathi New Year with performances, festive food, and cultural pride.

The first Annual Shala Day was organized as a large-scale Marathi Shala community event, recognizing students, teachers, parents, and volunteers.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Celebrated the Marathi New Year with strong community attendance.
- ❖ Showcased children, youth, and local talent.
- ❖ Recognized Marathi Shala as a major language and culture-preservation initiative.

Gudi Padwa Event Highlights

Light refreshments followed by Traditional Dinner

Event at central location in downtown at Chinese Cultural Center

Child care during Marathi Natak*

Gudhi poojan followed by Dhol tasha

Amazing Cultural Performances

Comedy Musical Marathi Natak
'पति गेले ग काठेवाडी' (Pati Gele ga Kathewadi) - By MSBC





Paalvee Youth Events

पालवी युवा उपक्रम



Date: Multiple dates: Snow Tubing - February 2024; Khel Divas - July 2024; Biking - August 2024	Venue: WinSport; Calgary Park; Canmore-Banff biking route	Reach / Participants: Snow Tubing 45+; Khel Divas 40+; Biking 40+
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Paalvee continued to provide youth with opportunities to participate, collaborate, volunteer, lead, and grow through outdoor, social, and activity-based programming. Youth involvement was also strengthened through opportunities such as emcee roles at major CMA events, helping build confidence and public engagement skills.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Supported youth leadership, volunteering, and peer collaboration.
- ❖ Encouraged outdoor recreation through snow tubing, Khel Divas, and biking.
- ❖ Built pathways for the next generation to stay connected with CMA beyond stage performances.





Samadhaan Seniors Picnic - Banff

समाधान ज्येष्ठ नागरिक सहल

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Date: August 2024	Venue: Banff / Cascade Pond area	Reach / Participants: 40+
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CMA's Samadhaan group organized its first out-of-town seniors picnic to Banff, using an executive coach bus to create a comfortable and inclusive experience. The event gave seniors an opportunity to socialize, enjoy the outdoors, share conversations, and remain actively connected with the community.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Created dedicated programming for seniors aged 60 and above.
- ❖ Expanded Samadhaan beyond local gatherings into a memorable out-of-town experience.
- ❖ Recognized seniors as active contributors to CMA's cultural and social life.





Stampede, IndiYeah Fest and United Bharat Representation

स्टॅम्पेड आणि युनायटेड भारत प्रतिनिधित्व



Date: Stampede: July 5, 2024; IndiYeah Fest: August 15, 2024	Venue: Calgary citywide public events / venues	Reach / Participants: Stampede citywide engagement; IndiYeah Fest 7K+
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CMA expanded its public footprint by contributing to the 2024 Stampede and IndiYeah Fest through broader United Bharat representation.

This effort brought Bharatiya mandals under one umbrella, supported citywide visibility, and contributed to recognition including a Fan Favorite award.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Consolidated pan-Calgary mandals for broader community representation.
- ❖ Managed high-visibility public engagement through E2E 2024 Stampede coordination.
- ❖ Supported a major Independence Day collaboration with 7K+ community engagement.





Family Camping

फॅमिली कॅम्पिंग

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Date: July 2024	Venue: Pigeon Lake	Reach / Participants: 30+ families
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CMA's family camping event created a relaxed outdoor environment for members to connect with nature, enjoy screen-free time, and build friendships beyond formal programs. The Pigeon Lake camping experience gave families and friends time for shared meals, games, campfire conversations, and informal bonding across age groups.

Key Highlights

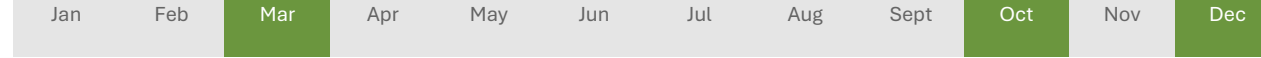
- ❖ Created a family-friendly outdoor experience.
- ❖ Encouraged nature connection, recreation, and informal community bonding.
- ❖ Offered a cost-effective and memorable community getaway.





Sports Events

क्रीडा उपक्रम



Date: Carrom - March 2024; Cricket - October 2024 ; Badminton - December 2024	Venue: Multiple venues	Reach / Participants: Carrom 20+; ICICG Cricket 12 teams; Badminton 35+
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CMA's sports programming promoted physical activity, teamwork, discipline, healthy competition, and community spirit.

Events included Carrom, ICICG Cricket Tournament, and Badminton Tournament, giving members of different ages and skill levels opportunities to participate.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Promoted healthy lifestyles and mental well-being.
- ❖ Built community spirit through friendly competition.
- ❖ Encouraged participation across age groups and skill levels.





Calgary Ganesh Mahotsav

कॅलगरी गणेश महोत्सव

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Date: September 14, 2024	Venue: Genesis Centre	Reach / Participants: ~800
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CMA's Ganesh Mahotsav remained one of the most significant and cherished events of the year, bringing the community together in devotion, culture, and celebration. The 2024 event introduced guest-friendly seat selection through the Tugoz platform and deployed a 29-foot LED video wall to elevate audience engagement and visual impact.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Celebrated one of CMA's flagship cultural and religious events.
- ❖ Brought members together through pooja, prasad, performances, Dhol-Taasha, and volunteer service.
- ❖ Demonstrated improved event management through technology adoption and enhanced stage visuals.

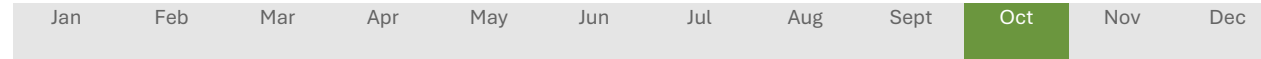






Raas Garba - Navratri Celebration

रास गरबा / नवरात्र उत्सव



Date: October 12, 2024	Venue: Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre	Reach / Participants: 350+
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CMA celebrated Navratri through a lively Raas Garba Night that brought members together for music, dance, color, and festive energy.

The event was one of the title-sponsored 2024 programs and reflected CMA's willingness to celebrate broader Indian cultural traditions alongside Marathi heritage.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Celebrated Navratri through dance, tradition, and community participation.
- ❖ Created an inclusive atmosphere for beginners and experienced participants alike.
- ❖ Expanded CMA's sponsor-supported event model.



Diwali Pahat and Diwali Deepotsav

दिवाळी पहाट आणि दीपोत्सव

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Date: November 9, 2024	Venue: Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre	Reach / Participants: Diwali Pahat 280+; Diwali Deepotsav 430+
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Diwali brought CMA's annual calendar toward a joyful conclusion with celebration, music, light, family, and community.

In 2024, CMA revived Diwali Pahat as a classical music festival featuring professional singers, while Diwali Deepotsav continued as a major community celebration with strong attendance.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Revived classical music programming through Diwali Pahat.
- ❖ Closed the annual calendar with a major community celebration through Diwali Deepotsav.
- ❖ Included sponsor support and a high-value grand-prize experience for guests.



PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR

DIWALI

दीपावळ

(DEEPO TSAV)

Tickets include Graceful Performances

Tickets include Refreshments & Dinner

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SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 9 5 PM - 11 PM

Chinese Cultural Centre, 197 1st SW

जोडी मराठी मनं

CALGARY MARATHI ASSOCIATION
info@cmacalgary.ca • www.cmacalgary.ca





Special Initiatives and Community Impact

Cultural and Civic Initiatives

- ❖ Ram: Prince of Ayodhya promoted culturally significant Hindu historical storytelling in January 2024.
- ❖ Veer Savarkar programming was used to recognize sacrifice and historical remembrance.
- ❖ IndiYeah Fest created a pan-Calgary mandal collaboration for Bharat's 78th Independence Day.
- ❖ CMA helped consolidate pan-Calgary mandals to represent Bharat under one umbrella.

Education, Language and Service

- ❖ Marathi language recognition progressed so students learning Marathi through CMA Shala can receive credit.
- ❖ Education advocacy supported curriculum awareness, including Hinduism history in Alberta K-6 context.
- ❖ CMA collaborated with Indo Calgary Group for blood donation awareness.
- ❖ Active blood donors doubled from 16 to 33 persons.



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STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES



**The Partners for Life program
is honoured to recognize
Calgary Marathi Association**

39 Units

Your tremendous support has made a significant difference in the lives of patients and the success of our mission. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to **Canada's Lifeline**.

Proud partner:



**Blood
for life**

**Plasma
for life**

**Stem Cells
for life**

**Organs & Tissues
for life**



CMA Team 2024

CMA टीम २०२४

Group	Names and Roles
Board of Trustees	Sanjay Kelkar - Chairman; Ravi Injal - Director; Jayashree Bhat - Director; Milind Kulkarni - Director
Executive Committee	Anil Avhad - President; Amit Tilak - Vice-President; Mandar Marathe - Secretary; Sonali Mujumdar - Treasurer
BOT Sub-Committee	Rohan Sankhe - Special Event Director; Prachi Arvikar - Internal Auditor; Vaishali Mahavir - BMM Coordinator
EC Sub-Committee	Priti Dhore - Cultural; Sachin Joshi - Samadhan Club; Bageshri Vamburkar - Annapurna; Mohit Halkare - New Immigrant; Swaraj Dubli - CMA Youth; Nikhil Kulkarni - Sports; Harshal Kale - Dhol Tasha Pathak; Sandeep Pawar - Cyber Media; Vaibhav Kulkarni - Media



Closing Remarks

समारोप

Throughout 2024, Calgary Marathi Association continued to bring the community together through cultural festivals, youth initiatives, senior programs, sports, Marathi Shala activities, special events, sponsorship partnerships, and broader public representation.

The year reflected a more mature organization: stronger finances, wider sponsor participation, expanding membership, improved event technology, large-scale community collaborations, and continued commitment to Marathi language and culture.

Each event reflected the dedication of volunteers and the trust of members. CMA's strength lies not only in its programs, but in the many hands that plan, organize, perform, cook, teach, sponsor, guide, and serve.

आमच्या सर्व सदस्य, स्वयंसेवक, कलाकार, शिक्षक, युवा, ज्येष्ठ नागरिक आणि समर्थकांचे मनःपूर्वक आभार.