



Session 8

Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council
October 2 - 4, 2026 | Buena Park, California

Ankit Bahl
Hindu Students Council

Speaker Bio



Ankit Bahl is an executive board member for the Hindu Students Council and regional coordinator for HSC chapters in Canada.

He holds an Honours BSc in Human Biology from the University of Toronto, where he also served as HSC club president.

Ankit currently resides in Winnipeg, Canada, where he manages his family's jewellery business.

Presentation Abstract



Identity, Belonging, and Leadership Development:

Speaking from personal experience, Ankit will highlight how Hindu youth growing up in North America can connect to their dharma from childhood to adulthood. The importance of mandirs, baal vihaars, and Hindu Students Council chapters will be explored.

Baal Vihaar/Vidya Bhavan



Baal Vihaar/Vidya Bhavan



- Navigating a dual identity: **Hindu** (your own faith community) & **American/Canadian** (broader society)
- The importance of the mandir space in fostering a sense of belonging for school-aged children

Hindu Students Council (HSC)



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- The importance of HSC as a space for identity and belonging of Hindu youth in **high school and college/university**
- Building confidence and leadership skills rooted in cultural pride and purpose

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Mentorship

- Mandirs, Baal Vihaars, and HSC chapters are vehicles for **dharmic-values based training**—they must work collaboratively
- Paying it forward for the Hindu youth of tomorrow is **seva**

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