

GCHCA News....



GOLD Coast Hindu Cultural Association celebrated Deepawali recently with all the Hindus in Australia. GCHCA President Dr G. Subakumar in his Deepawali greetings mentioned that "Deepawali in the modern era has its own twists and turns. What we had as a religious festival in the land and region Hinduism flourished for centuries has evolved under the influence of Globalization and Consumerism into a Christmas style worldwide celebration. Deepawali has become the third most celebrated festival world over next to Christmas and Eid al-Fitr. Even Buckingham Palace and White House has caught up with Deepawali spirit." He further said, "With globalization, the style of celebration has also changed to many different forms, often reflecting the geographical and cultural differences and the socio-economic status. Starting from a simple family celebration with kids and parents and Grandparents having a peaceful family time, different form of religious festivities and rituals to now on the other end a more lavished form in five star hotels with DJ music, yet the spirit of Deepawali remains the same. The younger generation should be educated the significance of Deepawali, the "Festival of lights" which illuminates our houses and offices to symbolize the Victory of Light over Darkness, Good over Evil and Knowledge over Ignorance during the festive season. While I wish you all a happy and peaceful day, let us remember, in true Hindu fashion, those who are less fortunate than us to be part of this celebration, the frail, sick and the elderly." Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association celebrated the Navaratri Festival for the fourth

consecutive year in a cultural and colourful way with the wider participation of the community on 8th of October 2016. More than 400 people both Hindus and Non Hindus participated and enjoyed the festival, which was held in the Bicentennial Community Hall in Nerang, Gold Coast. The festival was sponsored by the Gold Coast City Council and other Commercial establishments Krish Indian Cuisine, Bombay Affair and South Coast Radiology.

The festival started at 6pm with Pooja to festival goddess Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi by Sri Barataraj and lighting of lamp by invited special guests. The program was moderated by Kabilan Chollan & Akalya Inthirajith. Youth Supporter of GCHCA, Mr. Vikram Nedunchezian delivered the welcome address.

Various Indian dance forms were staged by talented and rising artists. The first item for the day was Barathanatyam (Keerthanam), a classical south Indian dance performed by Sivarubini Mugunthan & Ramya Arunagiri from Nadananjali School of Dance, Brisbane. Another Bharathanatyam dance was performed for a

Keerthanam by Abirami Somasundaram from the Nadananjali School of Dance. Both dances were choreographed by Smt. Chitra Yogi Srikhanta. Thilana, a Barathanatyam dance was performed by Simran Bhuta, Eesha Ranchorod, Mahima Mahesh and Sandya Indrajit, students from the school of Easwaralaya Kalaikoodam. The dance was choreographed by Smt Manga Surendran. A solo North Indian Odissi Dance, a classical Indian dance forms from the state of Orissa in India was performed by Sanatani Rombola. Further adding to the variety of dance forms was Mohiniyattam dance, a classical Indian dance from Kerala was performed by Dr Chaithanya Unni. The term Mohini is the female avatar of the Hindu god Vishnu in Indian mythology. Another



• Kerala Dance Drama at GCHCA Navarathri.

Barathanatyam dance was performed by Smt. Padmalakshmi Sriram, Shivani Sriram and Malarville Srinivasarao from Lalitha Kalalaya School of Bharathanatyam.

In addition to dances, various vocal and instrumental music programs also got staged. A solo instrumental music, Mridangam as a Thani Avarthanam was performed by Sri Siddharth Mahendran Adityan, a senior mirudangam student learning under Dr. Arthavan Selvanathan from Arthanvan School of Mirudangam.

This was followed by a vocal performance of a combination of carnatic and Hindustani style music. Smt. Usha Chivukula on vocal was accompanied by Sri Thiru Aravinthan on the Flute and Sri Sanjeyan Sivaananthan on Tabla. Later Bansuri, a Hindustani Style flute was performed by Sri Darshil A. Shah. He was accompanied in Tabla by Sri Sanjeyan Sivaananthan.

Dr G Subakumar, President of GCHCA addressed the gathering and explained the goals and objectives of GCHCA and achievements to date. Chief Guest Councillor Peter Young (Division 5, City of Gold Coast) also delivered a special Guest speech to the audience. Director of Resources, Media, Publicity & Asset Management of GCHCA, Dr N Mugunthan delivered the vote of thanks.

Last program for the evening was a Dance Drama Performance, a skit in Malayalam, based on the story "poothapattu", by the Or-

ganization of Hindu Malayalees Queensland. It was performed by the Rajni Nair, Jaya Pradeep, Deepa Renil, Vanaja Radhakrishnan, Anila Krishnan, Master Siddharth Renil, Master Aryan Renil, Master Pranav Nair, Rajesh Nair, Babu Pillai, Rahul Nair, Krishnan AK, Abhilash S, Radhakrishnan P and Somalatha Pillai and directed and coordinated by Rajni Nair.

The festival ended with delicious dinner and community interaction. Everyone came to the festival cherished the cultural events as well as the food.

GCHCA like to express that they will continue to deliver the Hindu cultural events in South East Queensland and is planning to build the proposed Hindu Cultural Precinct in coming months. As the land for building the Hindu Education and Cultural Precinct is now ready after tree clearing the committee is attending the final building approval before initiating the building work. GCHCA is also in a drive for more funds for the Gold Coast Hindu Education and Cultural

Precinct. All monetary contributions of \$2 or more to the GCHCA Building Fund will be eligible for a tax deduction. The first phase of the project is estimated to cost around 1.5 million dollars. We, therefore humbly appeal for your support. Any contribution would make a difference and every cent counts towards helping our community realize its dream.

All tax-deductible donations (\$2 or more) can be deposited into the following: Commonwealth Bank Account: The GCHCA Building Donation Account BSB: 064-474 Account Number: 104 88 900 Web site: www.GoldCoastHindu.org. Email: gchcan@gmail.com

