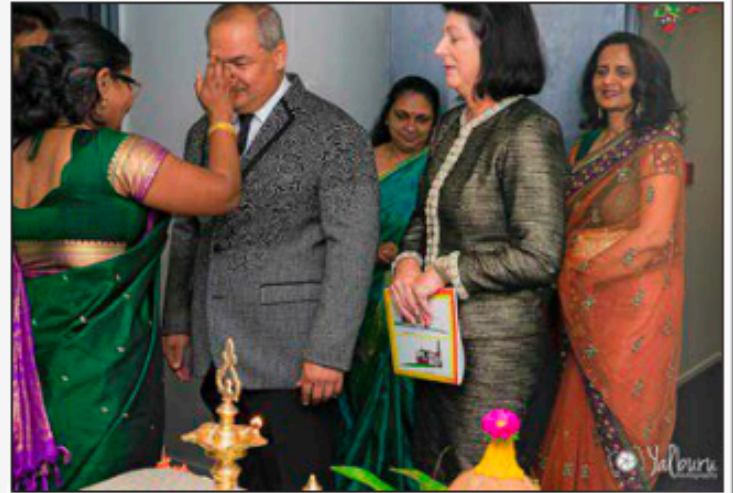


GCHCA Navarathri (Dasara) Festival

GOLD Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) proudly celebrated their annual Navarathri (Dasara) Festival in grand style at the Nerang Community Centre hall, Gold Coast on 17th of October, 2015. His Worship the Mayor, Cr Tom Tate and his wife graced the occasion as Chief Guests. The Honourable premier of Queensland Annastacia Palaszczuk send a message to the festival and stated that Queensland State is richer for its multiculturalism, and the Government is committed to promoting, celebrating and valuing the many benefits our multicultural society delivers to all Queenslanders. She further commended the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association for organising this popular festival and actively promoting our State's diversity.

The programme was inaugurated with pooja and honourable guests lit the ceremonial lamp. Various cultural programmes including Bharathanatyam Dances, Carnatic Style Vocal Music, and Carnatic and Hindustani style instrumental music of Venna, Sitar, Flute, Miridangam and Tabla were conducted. Both individual artists and virtuosos from a myriad of art schools in Brisbane and Gold coast performed at the event. Student artists came from Easwaralaya Kalaikoodam Dance School, Nadananjali School of Dance, Madhura Vaani Isai Palli and Ashu Babu Memorial Tabla School.



His Worship the Mayor, Cr Tom Tate in his chief guest address, congratulated the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association for their commendable work and thanked them for inviting him to such an entertaining cultural evening. He pledged ongoing support from the City Council to such a worthy cause. The GCHCA President Dr Chinniah Arunagiri guaranteed that GCHCA is working hard to build the Hindu Cultural Precinct before the Gold Coast for Commonwealth Games in 2018. He also reminded that such magnitude of a project cannot be delivered by the community alone and wider participation from local council, state and federal government is vital, especially on the financial side, for the success of the project.

The event concluded with a delicious vegetarian dinner, mainly sponsored by the Krish Indian Cuisine, the Indian Restaurant with branches in Varsity Lakes, Robina and Worongary. The other major sponsor (logistics and staff) was Saffron Indian gourmet restaurant in Broadbeach. It was noted that a lot of community members wanted to attend the event, but were unable to get the tickets due to limited number seats available at the venue. Therefore, for next time, GCHCA is considering to celebrate this wonderful occasion at a larger venue, to facilitate the larger audience attendance.

