

# Sri Kakinada Jeeyar Swamiji Visits Atlanta

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Atlanta, GA: Sri Swamiji, the Srivaishnava saint and philosopher was in Atlanta between May 28th and June 1st delivering spiritual discourses at the Sai Murali Banquet Hall and performing prayers and havans at the newly opened Hanuman Mandir in Alpharetta.

Sri Swamiji popularly known as Kakinada Jeeyar has a unique background of having obtained a Masters degree in Nuclear physics from Andhra University, India and won Swamy Jnanananda Gold medal for the year 1977 and was the only research scholar awarded with CSIR fellowship that year on campus. He was Kasturi Rangacharya at the time. While a lot of other events came into play, Mathaji Jnaneswari, the spiritual Head of Santhi Ashramam was instrumental in metamorphosing Kasturi Rangacharya into Tridandi Sreeranga Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami.

The scientist turned saint soon became Sreeman Sreebhashyam Applacharya Swamivaru Peethadhipathi (the head of monastery) of Sreemat Upanishad Siddhanta Acharya Peetham in 1995. Swamiji has established a trust named Srimath Upanishad Siddhantha Acharya Peetham in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India and built an ashramam in an area of about 14 acres. Other trusts founded by Swamiji are meant for spiritual and social service. Swamiji has done penance a couple of times and the last one we were told was for one year without food.

At the Hanuman Mandir in Alpharetta, Swamiji gave "Mangala Sasanams", blessing to the 7 ft long Hanuman Statue brought into Atlanta all the way from Tirupathi and also gave permission

to "Hanuman Aavishkaranam".

Sri Swamiji has designed a unique multimedia presentation of 21 hrs shown as a serial program, gist of Upanishads, for 7 days. The essence of Upanishads is kept in a nutshell and presented to the public using today's terminology from physics, chemistry and economics. The purpose of Swamiji's visit to US was to share his knowledge of Vedas and Upanishads with everyone. Through the program Swamiji teaches ways to condition the body and mind and advanced techniques of meditation which he believes will help balance the materialistic and spiritual aspects of life. During his visit to Atlanta at the Sai Murali Banquet Hall, Swamiji talked about the importance of handling today's younger generation. He emphasized the significance of preserving our rich culture by creating awareness in the younger generation. "We must pass on cultural treasure to our next generation just like the way we take every care to inherit the properties owned by our parents and the way we pass on our possessions to our progeny" he added. Speak-



ing of spiritual and materialistic life, Swamiji said the two were not differently placed and are al-

ways together in any human being but proportions may vary. He also encouraged parents to see that their children from a very early age are told about giving thanks to the Lord. He added that mother's role is very important in a child's life as she is the friend, teacher and guide to him in his formative years so whatever habits she installs in him are reflected later as ethics are inscribed on the young mind only upto an age of twelve and most of the dos and donts are learnt only then. "The small thanks giving process ignites the spiritual aspect of the child and this conditions his mind thereby balancing his thoughts and deeds later as a result he grows into a good individual

who is the base of a harmonious society. This process ultimately results in a peaceful world" he said.

Swamiji rendered a Sankshepa Ramayana Parayanam (an abridged version of Ramayana) on the 29th of May at the Hanuman Mandir and on the 31st he performed Sri Lakshmi havanams for the economic stability and growth of the people in the country.

## Workshop On Unique SALT Education Model

Atlanta, GA: University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and 3R Foundation in association with S.T.E.P. Academics (501-C3) and Aspire International, LLC. GA conducted a successful one-day workshop on Super Accelerated Learning Theory (SALT) on Saturday May 15 at Global Mall.

The four-hour workshop was conducted by Prof R Ramsamoj from University of Mass, Dartmoth, MA. This event was attended by a wide cross section of Georgia school system administrators, representatives, parents and children of diverse age groups.

The response and acceptance at the workshop was overwhelming and in view of parental interest and insistence, senior Georgia educators Ms Lauren Fofana and Dr. Meenu (coordinators) have decided to run a four-weeks summer program from July 5 thru July 29 at Berkmar High School (405 Pleasant Hill Road Lilburn, GA 30047) in Gwinnett County for the benefit of children from ages 5 thru 13. Following the summer program, they contemplate running after-school and/or ELT, SES programs at local county schools based on SALT model. This model has the propensity to uplift the sagging standards of education in the state of GA.

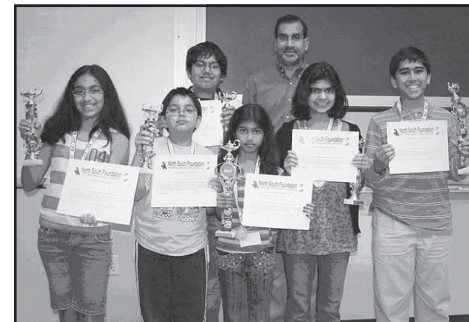
The SALT model is holistic, whole brain learning that catalyses the acquisition, processing, storage and retrieval of knowledge in a child's brain with almost perpetual memory due to elevated mental consciousness. Tools and techniques used are simple yet effective. This was proven even in the short duration workshop. So parents can certainly expect a marked improvement in their children's intellect levels consequent to the summer program which would be well worth. The SALT model accelerates learning and transcends all streams in an integrating manner.

## North South Foundation Hosts Annual Contests

Atlanta, GA: North South Foundation (NSF) Georgia chapter hosted the annual regional academic contests for Children of Indian Origin at Emory University, Atlanta on May 1st and 2nd. Over 460 registrants ranging from Pre-K to High School competed in Spelling, Geography, Essay Writing, Public Speaking, Math, Science and Vocabulary.

The competitions at Emory attracted over 700 attendees. Competitions included written and oral rounds. Following the competitions, each contestant is

individually communicated his/her score and rank through their personalized view into NSF website. Children who score above a certain cutoff established by the national committee will proceed to compete with Children from other chapters in US that meet the cutoff in the National Level competitions held in August. Over the years NSF children have gone on to compete and win in various mainstream competitions such as Scripps Spelling Bee, National Geographic Bee, USA Brain Bee, and Math Olympiad. "NSF provides



an excellent platform for Children to compete in a manner that is fun and engaging" said Mrs. Devi Selvakumar, GA Chapter coordinator for NSF. "Thanks to the selfless efforts of all our volunteers, in spite of record number of registrations for the GA chapter, we had a very successful event" said Mrs. Selvakumar.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar, Renowned Philanthropist, Department of Medicine, Emory University addressed the children on May 1st during the prize distribution ceremony and presented trophies to the children. On May 2nd, the children and the parents were joined for the trophy presentation by Captain Rohan Bhatia, CEO and founder of Centennial Aviation Club.

Founded in Illinois in 1989, NSF aims to provide college scholarships in India to children who excel academically but have financial needs to support ongoing education. The registration fees paid by participants at the academic contests form a significant portion of funds raised by NSF. To-date NSF has awarded over 4,500 scholarships in India.

## Fundraiser For Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Atlanta, GA: In an attempt to raise funds for Sankara Nethralaya of Chennai, the Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust ( Ophthalmic Mission Trust) based in Rockville, Maryland organized a concert by P.Unnikrishnan on May 23rd at The Hindu Temple of Atlanta. Unnikrishnan was accompanied by Embar Kannan playing the violin and Arjun Kumar on the mridangam.

The concert began with a varnam in Abhogi; followed by Deva Deva in Maya Malava Gowla, a composition of Swathi Tirunal Maharaj. Unnikrishnan wowed his audience with Bantu

Reethi in Hamsanadu; Ramachandra in Vasantha; Purushottamudaveevu in Revagupti; Ragam, Tanam, Pallavi in Shanmukha Priya and Ragamalika, Rama Rama in Thillang, Krishna Nee begane Baro in Yaman, Pivare Rama Rasam in Ahiri Bhairavi, Brahma mokkatE in Bhowli and a few more after thaniyavarthanam on mridangam.

The event in Atlanta was organized by a group of volunteers headed by Dr. Seshu Sarma, a trustee of SN OM Trust. The core group of volunteers include: Ashok Kumar, Sundar Sundararaghavan, Uma Narayan, Ram Mallappa, Bob Nayar and Madhu Iyer. With around 350 attendees, the concert raised over \$ 18,000.

Bhavini and Rajan, Sankar Subramanian, Prasad Tata, and the Sarma family fund were major donors for this event. Anyone willing to help with Atlanta fundraisers may contact Dr. Seshu Sarma at seshusarma@yahoo.com



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## The Hanuman Mandir

### Temple Timings:

9.00 am to 12.00 pm  
(11.30 am Aarathi)

5.00 pm to 9.00 pm  
(7.30 pm aarathi)

Weekends: 9.00 am to 9 pm  
Lalitha Sahasranama Paarayana  
(Every Friday 7.00 pm) By Devotees

Vishnu Sahasranama Paarayana  
(Every Saturday 7.00 pm) By Devotees

11 times Hanuman Chalisa Paarayana  
(Every Tuesday, Sunday 6.30 pm) By Devotees

Hanuman Panchaamrutha Abhishekham  
(Every Tuesday – 10.30 am)

Hanuman Beetle Leaves & Vada Maala Puja  
(Every Tuesday 7.00 pm)

390 Cumming Street, Alpharetta GA  
30004 Next to Amma Kitchen  
770-475-7701