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Carnival Spirit At Global Mela Draws Thousands



BY VEENA RAO

Atlanta: An estimated 7500 people thronged the Global Mall in Norcross on October 10 for the seventh annual Global Mela. The mall was jam packed with people at all times during the day, making this the biggest, most successful fair at the mall. As always,

Zee TV's *Choti Bahu*. The pretty actress spent time signing autographs and meeting with her fans.

Georgia State Senator Kurt Thompson who paid a visit to the mall, said he was impressed with the turnout, and the fact that businesses were thriving even in a weak economy.

Part of the parking lot of the mall was converted into a veritable heaven for kids, with several moonwalks, slides and bouncers. The area was filled with happy, bouncy children and thrilled parents. Visitors were warmly greeted at the entrance to the mall with free raffle tickets and a gift. The grand prize was a gold pendant sponsored by Legacy Jewels.

There were plenty of free attractions for children and adults alike- face painting, mehndi, free balloons, sand art, cotton candy and popcorn, snow cones and diya painting and more. There was even a green screen photo booth that had several excited takers.

There was plenty of

food at discounted prices for the teeming crowd. Ashiana restaurant had set up a food stall at the entrance. The food court was overflowing with patrons at all times.

Around 30 vendors had set up booths at the second level of the mall selling everything from garments to jewelry to services. Several non-profit organizations were present.

DJ Ameet kept the crowds around him with his energetic music, and people swayed to the live dhol beats. The cultural programs at the Impact Conference Center were well attended. Several Atlanta groups and individuals showcased their talent to an appreciative audience. Ms Diwali Queen 2009 graced the occasion. The culture fest was hosted by Global Mall's Shiv Aggarwal, who was also seen shaking a leg with dancers on the stage.

Aggarwal later thanked the community, the volunteers and the media for their support of the mela.

This reporter's mother, who was visiting from India, was impressed with the turnout, the talents showcased at the cultural programs and the celebratory feeling at the mela. "The spirit of India thrives here," she encapsulated.



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