

Sai Health Fair Held At Gujarati Samaj Of Atlanta

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Atlanta: The 23rd SAI Health Fair, held at the Sardar Patel Bhavan Hall, Gujarati Samaj of Atlanta, Tucker, Georgia, on Saturday, October 10, 2009 elicited a huge response. The Health Fair, as always, was spearheaded by well-known physician, Dr. Sujatha Reddy as a tribute to the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi on his 140th birthday and also to promote his and Dr. Martin Luther King's philosophies of Non-violence, community selfless service and Social justice. The event was sponsored by the Gujarati Samaj of Atlanta in collaboration with the Gandhi Foundation of USA, Sneham Charity Organization, BAPS Charities, Patel Bros, Global Mall and Khabar Inc.

Over 400 people of diverse nationalities and cultures from all over Atlanta availed themselves of the free consultancy and tests services provided by 30 dedicated physicians representing 18 specialties, 16 nurses and EKG technicians and over 50 service-oriented volunteers including from Georgia State University, Emory Medical School and UGA, Athens College of Pharmacy who attended to the various health related concerns of

the people after they registered for blood tests, free EKGs; free glaucoma screenings; preventive Cardiology tests, free Bone Density tests to de-



tect osteoporosis and free Consultancy in, dermatology, orthopedics, dentistry; endocrinology, Internal Medicine, Cardiology, ENT, gastroenterology, urology, ophthalmology, pulmonary medicine, chiropractic medicine, physical therapy, chronic

150 vision and Glaucoma screening tests, (40 abnormal) were done by Dr. Indira Menon from the Eye physicians and surgeons, Decatur, Georgia.

Many, including elderly and disabled people, lined up as early as 6.30 a.m. The spacious and well-lit hall had neatly laid out tables, where over 300 EKGs (male and female) were carried out, by Southern Heart Specialists, Riverdale, Georgia and Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Cardiovascular Group, PC, Lawrenceville, and Dr. Kakkar Aman, Heart and Vascular Care, Cumming, Georgia. Dr. Shalini Reddy and Dr. Sesi Reddy, together with medical students from Emory, carried out over 200 cardiovascular Risk Assessment tests, and also provided education and advice on, anti-smoking and nutrition, while Melanie Cassity, RN of Athens Regional Medical Center gave information and advice on diabetes. Over 150 vision and Glaucoma screening tests, (40 abnormal) were done by Dr. Indira Menon from the Eye physicians and surgeons, Decatur, Georgia. Bone Mineral Density screening tests were in big demand Over 50 (abnormal 24) bone-density tests,

under the supervision of Dr. Sujatha Reddy were performed by Madhusudhana Siddagunta and Vijaya Reddy. Majority of the attendees wanted Blood tests. Over 340 cost-effective, basic quality comprehensive Chemistry profile of blood tests with PSA, and HBA1c were carried out at a nominal fee of \$20 per test. The lab work was provided by the Medical Center of Central Georgia Lab., Macon. It is noteworthy that the results of the blood work were mailed within 48 hours! The test results helped identify some life threatening results which were immediately notified to the participants.

Gujarati Samaj of Atlanta arranged for the complimentary breakfast and lunch for participants, doctors, nurses and volunteers. SAI Health Fair publicity and coverage was carried by Khabar magazine; India Abroad, NRI Pulse Newspaper, wownow.com; Kavitchhibber.com and Atlantadunia.com. In addition, presidents of several local Associations also helped to notify their members about the Health Fair.

Commenting about his research studies, Professor of Medicine, Emory School of Medi-

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Atlanta Indian Churches Celebrate 'Praise Music Fest'



Atlanta: City Indian Churches celebrated "Praise Music Fest '09" featuring, Jollee Abraham, Chennai, India (A former Film Playback Singer, who sang for leading Indian Movie Industry Music Directors, M. S. Viswanathan, Ilayaraja, T. Rajender etc., now a Gospel Singer) on October 31, 2009 between 6 - 9 PM at Atlanta Christian Assembly Hall, Decatur Atlanta, GA. The goal for this event is to promote more peace, harmony, and unity among Asian Indians to serve the Indian communities here in the US and in India in a more effective manner. Also, the hope is to strengthen the bond of love, friendship, and fellowship for the improvement of interpersonal relationships among Indians. Also, the goal is to recognize pastors/ministers serving Indian Christian Community.

Rev. Avinash Raiborde opened the Praise Music Fest '09 evening with prayer. Rev. Christopher Palli welcomed the audience. Bro. Jollee Abraham sang gospel songs from four Indian languages, Hindi, Malayalam, Telugu, and Tamil. Indian youth filled the stage with fantastic instrumentals through violin and guitar. Also, Jollee Abraham released his 4 CDs of gospel songs in Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi through the Indian Christian Community leaders in Atlanta. Rev. Bill Murray (a former Senior Pastor of Midtown Community Church) was the Chief Guest for the evening and he shared a message on the importance of Unity in the community to achieve

greater and higher things in life for God's glory. On behalf of the Indian Christian Community, Dr. Paul Joseph recognized pastors, missionaries, organizers, and musicians in the Christian Community while Chief Guest, Rev. Bill Murray presented gifts to the ministers helped by Mrs. Preethi Joseph. Rev. Shibu Cherian offered the vote of thanks. The final prayer was given by Rev. Palmer Paramadhas. Prayers were offered to God to shower blessings upon Indian communities in Atlanta and for the healthy living.

The following pastors/ministers were present at the event and were recognized for the outstanding service to the Indian Christian Community in Atlanta. Rev. Avinash Raiborde (First India Baptist Church), Mrs. Norma Charles (South Asian Missionary of GA Baptist Convention), Rev. Palmer Paramadhas (Atlanta Tamil Church), Rev. Shibu Cherian (Atlanta Church of God), Rev. Samuel Raj Moses (First Tamil Church in Atlanta), Rev. Christopher Palli & Rev. Peter Palli (Atlanta Telugu Christian Fellowship), Rev. V. P. Abraham (GA Full Gospel Assembly), Rev. Niel Reddy (Caribbean, Pacific, Asian Church), Rev. Thompson Samuel (Atlanta Christian Assembly), Rev. Raj Nagi (Asian Indian Christian Church), Rev. Samarpan (Nepali Church), and Dr. Paul Joseph (Atlanta Indian Christian Fellowship). Bro. John Jacob and Rev. Samuel Thompson organized the music orchestration for the evening. The entire event was coordinated by Dr. Paul Joseph.

Bangamela 2010 To Be Held In Nashville, TN

Atlanta: The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of Mid America Bengali Association (MABA) announced recently that the next Bangamela-2010 will be held in the country music capital of the world- Nashville, TN from July 2 to 4.

The word "Bangamela" literally means a confluence of Bengalis - people with roots in West Bengal and Bangladesh - at a fair showcasing Bengal's artistic, cultural and literary heritage. From a humble beginning in Louisville, Kentucky in 1999, Bangamela has now become a household name and a "must attend" program in the lives of mid-American Bengalis. MABA is the parent organization of

for this grand endeavor has been selected as Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville. Bangamela 2010 steering committee has negotiated a reduced rate for accommodation in the same hotel for all registrants of this event. As the number of hotel rooms at the reduced rate is limited, you are requested to register for Bangamela 2010 and book your hotel at your earliest convenience. The registration form is available at www.bangamela.org/registration.shtml.

The theme for Bangamela 2010 is "Aa Mori Bangla Bhasha" This event will exhibit diversif-

ied cultural enrichment in this region through programs, forums, and various other activities to promote cultural and business exchanges between North America, India, and Bangladesh. As usual with other Bangamelas, vendors from Indian subcontinents and USA will also be exhibiting their products at the same venue. Good food is an integral part of the mela.

The entire Bangamela 2010 team is busy with various arrangements for presenting Bangamela next year, which will be unique and something to remember for a long time to come, said a press release issued here recently.

"We hope we can meet your expectation and go beyond that. Please join us with your family and friends to make this celebration a successful event."

For additional information on Bangamela 2010, please visit www.bangamela.org



Collage of images from Bangamela 2009 held in Atlanta, GA on July 17-19. Courtesy Shankar Sengupta.

this yearly event and normally co-sponsor this celebration with the participation of a host city. For more information on MABA and its various other activities, please visit www.mabaonline.org.

By the directives of MABA general body members, MABA will not only sponsor the whole event but will also take on the added responsibility of playing host to this gala next year, with the direct participation and help from the Bengali population of Nashville and its surrounding areas. The venue