

# Kannada Koota Celebrates Sankranti At HTA

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Atlanta: Nrupatunga Kannada Koota(NKK) gathered the Kannada crowd for Sankranti celebrations this February 27th at the Hindu Temple of Atlanta. Tribute to popular Kannada artists, Entertainment, Food, and new President for the Ex-

singers was delightful. A group folk dance by adults was well appreciated. An interesting and unique mimicry dance also intrigued the audience. A comedy play featuring a family that converses based on filmy situations and actors was well received by the crowd. Patriotic songs and dance to the popular Mungaru Male also had folks cheering. A



ecutive committee were all part of the festivities.

The program began with a Prayer and the American National Anthem followed by a fitting homage to Kannada artists such as popular Kannada actors Dr. Vishnuvardhana, renowned singer and music composer Dr.C.Asmath, and theatre and film personality Chandodi

very interactive sing along karaoke of Kannada songs that invited the audience to sing along was very successful in invoking everyone's interest and feeling part of the revelry. The Indian National Anthem marked the end of entertainment. Originally scheduled for Feb 13th, the event was moved to the 27th due to the snowy conditions that have taken over Atlanta this year. This however did not seem to deter the participants or the members of NKK in any way.

Dr. Ramaswamy introduced Pradeep Vittalmurthy as the new President of the Executive Committee for the year 2010. Pradeep expressed his desire to give his best to NKK. The night ended with members being treated to food as always. A pleasurable evening topped with good food is indeed always a good combination that keeps members coming back for more every event year after year. Here's wishing NKK many more memorable events in the years to come.



**Pradeep Vittalmurthy, the new President of the Executive committee of NKK.**

Leela that passed away the past year. Music played in the background as a slide show walked folks down the memory lane reminding the loss of talent in the Kannada film Industry.

Entertainment for the evening came in all forms - dances, drama, music, a combination of dance and drama and from all age groups. Directed by volunteers, kids and adults enthralled the audiences with their performances. Variety of children's programs entertained the audience. An adorable musical dance drama based on Panchatantra reinforcing the significance of teamwork was presented by kids all dressed in colorful costumes. A music medley of Kannada songs with color coordinated

# Encore Concert By Naila Mughal



Naila graciously acceded to the pleas of her huge Punjabi fans and sang a lot of popular hits for them. However, she could not please her Gujarati fans as she did not know their language.

Naila Mughal's popularity has already spread to the neighboring Alabama since her performance in Atlanta in January. This time she went to Birmingham and Huntsville to enthrall her fans. As

BY GIRISH MODI

Atlanta: Naila Mughal's last performance in Atlanta was terribly exciting to ghazal lovers. Driven by enthusiasm, the fans asked her to visit Atlanta again for a repeat performance. Naila thought the invitation was more informal and less serious. But her fans were determined and prevailed upon Mustafa Ajmeri to organize another Naila Nite and predictably Naila came back on Friday February 19th for an encore performance at the Global Mall Auditorium.

The hall was jam-packed this time and Naila lived up to her reputation. She sang ghazal after ghazal without disruption for over four hour, mesmerizing the audience. Naila did not rest content singing only her signature items, but also added some new varieties to her repertoire.

expected, she received an enthusiastic welcome in these two cities and she promised to visit them again.

In Birmingham and in Huntsville concerts, the overwhelming majority of Gujaratis present persistently asked her to sing a Gujarati song. Finally in Huntsville, Naila yielded to their wish as she felt it not fair to disappoint them. She learned few lines of the famous Gujarati Garba "Mehndi to wavi mandave" during the break and sang later in the show to captivate the audience.

In these three concerts, Naila Mughal was accompanied by the renowned keyboard player Saad Ali. Rahil Sadiq, a young, tall, handsome man from Chicago, who is studying for business management, accompanied Naila as a tabla player. In each of three concerts, the audience was thrilled by the master performance of this new artist.

## Kodali Bags Two Titles In USTA Championships



Atlanta: Anudeep Kodali of Cary, won two titles ( Singles and Doubles) on Feb. 16 & 17, 2010 in the United States Tennis Association (USTA) 12- year old Boys' National Championships held at Cooper Creek Tennis Center, Columbus, GA. Currently, Anudeep is ranked 10 in the nation in his age group. He trains at Cary Tennis Park, Cary, NC.



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