

# Chicago Batukamma with traditional flavor

SURESH BODIWALA



Renowned folk singer Shalini [pink sari] at Batukamma Telangana's Floral Festival

CHICAGO, IL: Telugu Association of Greater Chicago (T.A.G.C ) celebrated Batukamma/Dusshera with the

support of Telangana State Government Tourism department and the American Telangana Association on a

grand scale here last week

Batukamma festival is an integral part of Telangana life and culture and is a symbol of family relationships.

TAGC celebrated Batukamma/Dusshera with more than 1000 plus guests at Gazebo hall, SVS Balaji Temple Aurora. Last year Telangana State Tourism department officially announced supporting TAGC as their first international Association to be a part of the state government festivals as well as all the events conducted by TAGC.

Under the TAGC President Elect Jyothi Chintalapani's leadership and women board of directors, close to 125 women wore matching sarees and brought color and uniqueness. This initiative was done to support impoverished weavers in Telangana and help them financially.



AGC volunteer team with Batukammas

Gazebo Hall and central area were decorated with colorful fall flowers under the leadership of TAGC decoration committee chair Swetha Janamanchi and volunteers. TAGC President and Board offered sarees, flowers, pasupu & kumkum, vodibiyam and nose ornament to goddess Parvathi at temple, prior to the event.

renowned folk singer Shalini came all the way from India to attend the event. Women played Batukamma with energy and passion till the end of the event. Kids participation and involvement was the highlight at the event. At the end of the event, all the Batukammas were taken as a procession with live traditional



TAGC Board and guests in Shami Pooja

TAGC Batukamma chair Mamatha Lankala and TAGC President Ramachandra Rade welcomed all with delicious vegetarian lunch. The event started with a prayer song. Re-

Sannai and Dolu musical performers and were immersed in a pond close by. Gifts were presented to Batukamma competition winners.

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