



## East Bay Marathi Mandala Diwali Dhamaka 2005 Report



Pleasanton 8 November 2005.

As per the great tradition of EBMM about 250 of its members witnessed the celebration of a quality Diwali Function called “Diwali Dhamaka 2005” in Multipurpose Room of Lydiksen Elementary School, Pleasanton, of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2005 from 2-8 pm.

After the interesting Ganeshotsav 2005 function on 11<sup>th</sup> September, we had very little time at our hand but due to the grand success of Ganesh Festival, EBMM Committee was highly motivated. First meeting for Diwali Planning was conducted at beautiful Creekside Park in Pleasanton on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005. As usual Food, Entertainment, Membership, Finance, Pooja committees were formed and the work started with great enthusiasm.

Under expert & experienced leadership of **Nitin Gandhi & Vilas Thuse**, Diwali Function Plan was prepared. Considering the overwhelming response to the hobby groups of EBMM, this year first time Sport Tournaments for Chess, Carrom, Tennis & Table Tennis were arranged.

Our great sports fan **Milind Vaidya** was the in-charge of the Sports and he handled this responsibility very well. Carrom Boards were provided by **Kiran Naik, Hemant Kapadne, Parag Ingale & Vilas Thuse**. **Milind** arranged the Table Tennis Table. The winners & runner ups of these tournaments are as follows:

**Carrom: Hemant Kapadne, Milind Vaidya**

**Tennis: Prakash Bhoj, Prachi Naik**

**Table Tennis: Parag Ingale, Milind Vaidya**

**Chess Junior: Aniket Patil, Nachiket Dakwale**

**Carrom Junior: Nikhil Patil, Mihir Naik**

**Tennis Junior: Tanay Jaeel, Mihir Naik**

**Table Tennis Junior: Saurabh Dakwale, Nachiket Dakwale**

After the big bang of the Sports Tournaments everyone’s curiosity about the Diwali Function was at peak. Finally 5<sup>th</sup> November arrived. Let’s see how was this “**Diwali Dhamaka 2005**”.

At the reception desk, **Rahul Kulkarni** & his father **Mr. Vishwanathrao, Shreepad Chinchankar & Shirish Patil** registered the participants of the function.

**Anjali Karandikar** was the master of ceremony, who offered a warm welcome to the participants.

This year first time the Diwali Function began with **Laksmi Poojan** at the hands of parents of **Dr. Seema Deshmukh, Mr. Vyankatesh & Mrs. Mangala Joshi** as well as L&T Infotech’s Sr. Manager **Mr. Abhijit** and **Mrs. Asmita Parab** under the expert “Paurohitya” by **Vilas Thuse (Panditji of EBMM)**. As usual the Pooja Samagri was provided by **Anjali Gandhi**. After the prayers of Lakshmi – the goddess of wealth, Diwali Function was started.

Diwali is a festival of lights. Diwali means rows of lamps (earthen). Some ladies of EBMM presented fabulous “**Deep Dance**” & “**Garaba Dance**”. **Dr. Preeti Chitgopekar** had choreographed these dances. **Preeti** is an expert Dentist and runs her Dental Clinic in the city of Napa, about 60 miles from her residence in Pleasanton. Everyday she has to commute about 3 hours. However, she meticulously got the practice of these dances done at her house due to which the ladies could present such a delightful performance. Many times the practice for Kids’ dance was also conducted at her house.

This program was very much liked and received “Once More” from the audience. **Dr. Preeti, Gauri Abhyankar, Deepali Harshe, Uttara Pitale, Sharada Kulkarni, Roopa Bhoj, Harshada Patgaokar & Sayali Vasnik** participated in these dances. **Anjali Bhaid** handled make up and costumes including “nauvari” of **Neha Kulkarni** with a professional touch, which added beauty to the performance.

Wonderful world of Kids gets you lost. Under very effective direction of **Anjali Karandikar** kids presented a Natukali (small drama) “**Jaduche Pustak – The Magical Book**”, based on comic story “**Sadu Aani Dadu**” by famous Marathi Author P. L. Deshpande (Pu. La.). Child artists **Akash Karandikar** (Dadu), **Gauri Joshi** (Dadu’s wife Manda), **Sonali Karandikar** (Shobha Shahapurkar – Typist), **Nachiket Dakwale** (Daji Kudalkar), **Saurabh Dakwale** (Kaviraj Shanta Mahadkar), **Tanay Jaeel** (Parshurampant Barve) & **Gaurav Inamdar** (Sakharam Peon) acted in this drama.

These borne & brought up USA kids speak fluent American English, but their fluency in Marathi and their presence of mind on stage was remarkable. Credit of this magic goes to the efforts taken by **Anjali Karandikar**.

Thereafter the audience was spell bound by awesome dance “**Agadam Bagadam**” by 18 small kids choreographed by **Deepali Harshe**. **Ketki Abhyankar, Sanika Kulkarni, Ankita Inamdar, Ria Chinchankar, Rashmi Bhoj, Rheeya Pitale, Saloni Wasnik, Durva Kapadne, Priyanka Walimbe, Sonali Rajurkar, Shachi Deshmukh, Vaidehi Deshpande, Krutika Ingale, Riya Joshi, Sonia Atre, Neil Mahure, Hrishikesh Ingale & Shaunak Rajurkar** are these amazing kids who participated in this dance.

It was a tough task to choreograph a dance with so many different actions from these small kids but **Deepali** did it successfully while taking care of her own 2 years old son Mihir. **Neha** extended a great support and **Namita Joshi** made good arrangement of few rehearsals at her home. All the parents of these kids helped a lot in making this performance a great success.

It was now the turn of elder ones to perform after these excellent performances by kids. Directed by famous director **Mr. Anand Ghanekar** of **CalAA (California Arts Association)**; based on a humorous story by famous writer V. P. Kale (Va. Pu.), a hilarious comedy **Aaj Tari Bhandshil Na?** was performed by **Sharad Kulkarni** (Deodhar – a middleclass man worried about hot tempered wife), **Meera Jaeel** (Sanjeevani - Hot tempered wife of Deodhar), **Shardul Jewalikar** (Mirashi), **Prashant Karandikar** (Barve), **Yogen Upadhye** (Divekar), **Ajit Kher** (Tongaonkar), **Anjali Inamdar** (Mohini Marathe) & **Sanjay Apte** (Brother-in-law of Deodhar).

Sound arrangement and the introduction was done by **Nitin Gandhi**, Music was given by **Vilas Thuse** and back stage was handled by **Mayur Kulkarni** were the partners in the success of this drama. **Nitin & Vilas** contributed a lot by selecting the script, selecting the actors and actresses, providing vital inputs by giving valuable suggestions to improve. **Nitin, Sanjay, Meera & Anjali** provided a very informal and friendly atmosphere at their houses for the rehearsals.

After the fabulous entertainment, it was time for a break and have some snacks arranged by our Food Committee. By courtesy of a Pleasanton business woman **Preeti Parekh** tasty snacks were made available to the members at concession. **Sugandh Indian Cuisine** in Pleasanton offered free hot tea to the participants. Food arrangement made by **Anjali & Nitin Gandhi, Dr. Preeti & Sunil Chitgopekar, Vandana & Shreepad Chinchankar, Shilpa Kher, Pooja Jaeel, Ashvinee Naik, Neeta Patil, Mayur Kulkarni, Gauri Abhyankar, Neha & Prakash Kulkarni, Varsha Upadhye, Prasad Deshmukh, Dr. Vaishali & Ravi Gundimeda** was appreciated by everyone.

One thing is noteworthy here; **Dr. Vaishali Gundimeda** (former **Ms. Bhagwat**) is visiting her sister Anjali Gandhi in Pleasanton for her own delivery. **Vaishali** & her husband **Ravi** who is a Civil Engineer in Dallas, participated in this function & extended great help. While this report was being prepared, we received a good news of arrival of a Baby Boy on 7<sup>th</sup> November in Gundimeda Family. EBMM greatly appreciates Gundimeda family for their help and extends hearty congratulations on the new arrival.

After the interval the function began again with colorful fancy dress show by EBMM kids organized by **Anjali Inamdar, Gaurav Joshi, Riya Vaidya, Saniya Vaidya, Yuvraj Mahadeshwar, Tanvi & Kunal Kardile, Nikita Bankar, Neel Bhide, Neil Joshi, Mrunmayi Deshpande, Abhinav Kulkarni & Eeshan Kulkarni** presented exciting characters.

After this an unconventional Antakshari based on Hindi Film Songs entertained all of us. This Antakshari contained unusual items like singing a song based on the name of an article picked up from a bag, Singing a song from a particular scene from a movie, identifying movie & singer after listening to a few lines of a song etc...**Neha Kulkarni** was the host, Audio arrangement, technical arrangement (Computer & Projector) was handled by **Nitin Gandhi & Pravin Mahure**. Following teams participated:

**Red Team (Winner): Parag Ingale, Hemant Kapadne, Kanchan Kapadne**

**Green Team: Prakash Bhoj, Manish Kulkarni, Sameer Gandhi**

**Purple Team: Nivedita Joshi, Ashvinee Naik, Neeta Patil**

**Blue Team: Sharad Kulkarni, Aarti Bankar, Madhurika Kulkarni**

**Orange Team: Meera Jaeel, Harshada Patgaonkar, Sucita Rajurkar**

**Yellow Team: Pooja Jaeel, Anjali Karandikar, Vivek Karandikar**

After this program everyone enjoyed delicious Mango Icecream sponsored by **Om Spices, Concord & Lakshmi Grocers, Livermore**. Credit of this arrangement goes to the last minute efforts by **Varsha** in convincing them. **Mr. Surya Yerra** is a partner with **Mr. Ashok Reddi** in Om Spices & with **Mr. Venkat** in Lakshmi Grocers. EBMM sincerely thank them for their generous support.

After this **Prashant Karandikar** attracted everyone with his song. **Prashant** is visiting US on behalf of **L&T Infotech** (a leading Software Company of the industrial giant Larson & Toubro Group of India) for a project and staying in San Ramon with his 25-30 colleagues. These enthusiastic Mumbaikars cheered up the artists of EBMM and at the same time added spice with their humorous comments. They really generated an atmosphere that we see in a college gathering in Mumbai or Pune.

From the same group **Aniruddha Agnihotri** entertained with a joke, **Abhijit Parab, Parag Samant, Umesh Zemse, Pradip Kotkar** & their all colleagues supported and appreciated all the programs. This always ready to help group has become an integral part of EBMM family in no time. According to them even in Mumbai such quality programs are seen very rarely.

After all these entertainment programs **Dr. Preeti Chitgopekar & Shreepad Chinchankar** conducted evergreen program of **Tambola**.

**Shilpa Kher** organized the on the spot Greeting Cards Exhibition by EBMM kids **Gauri Joshi, Sanika Kulkarni & Tanay Gandhi**.

**Kanchan Kapadne, Namita Joshi, Uttara Pitale & Sonali Rajurkar** participated in Rangoli Exhibition.

All the winners & runners up in sports tournament as well as the child artists were presented Appreciation Certificates.

Hall decoration & event management was looked after by **Milind Vaidya, Neeta & Shirish Patil, Prasad Deshmukh, Prakash Bhoj, Mayur Kulkarni**. **Nitin Gandhi** made the arrangement of drinking water filter.

EBMM is thankful to the employees of Lydiksen Elementary School **Mr. Jose, Mrs. Diana Liggett**, music teacher **Mr. Greg Davis** and **Mrs. Gibson** of Pleasanton Unified School District for their help & support in providing us the hall and other facilities.

Every good thing has to come to an end & so yet another successful venture of EBMM came to an end living lingering memories of an excellent program. All the members were given a packet of Ladu & Chivada as Diwali Gift from EBMM.

The architects of this wonderful program are hard working committee members of EBMM namely:

**Anjali & Nitin Gandhi, Dr. Preeti & Sunil Chitgopekar, Vandana & Shreepad Chinchankar, Ashvinee & Kiran Naik, Neeta & Shirish Patil, Neha Kulkarni, Varsha Upadhye, Milind Vaidya, Prasad Deshmukh, Anjali Karandikar, Anjali Inamdar, Shilpa Kher, Gauri Abhyankar, Sharada & Rahul Kulkarni, Sharad Kulkarni, Shardul Jewalikar & Vilas Thuse.**

This enthusiastic team worked very hard to make this function successful. EBMM is thankful to the family members of the committee members & the artists for their support, help & understanding without which this function would not have been of a great caliber.

EBMM is fortunate to have very enthusiastic members and sincerely thank all the participants for their whole hearted support to the activities of EBMM.

Although the report has become a bit long, the scope of the function & the endless efforts that have gone into it need to be acknowledged appropriately so that our next generations will have a great history to repeat.

Memories of such a fabulous function have been captured by **Ravi Gundimeda** & others. Please visit our website and let us know your feedback.

Thanking you very much! See you soon!!

### **EBMM Committee**

<http://www.ebmm.org>

(News Report by – Vilas Thuse – [vilas.thuse@ebmm.org](mailto:vilas.thuse@ebmm.org))