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Swamiji Vishalji, Abhisheam performing the rituals. -News Asia

### Baisakhi Day celebrated

#### Sri Yantra: a journey to ultimate enlightenment

Balaji Temple in Sunnyvale celebrated New Year Sowramana Ugadi festival on Saturday April 14 2007, a very auspicious day called Chaitra Masa Krishna Paksha, also Baisakhi day. The two-day celebration started on Friday night by performing Sri Yantra puja and chanting of Lalitha Sahasranama. Sri yantra is called the mother of all yantras because all other yantras are derived from it. Sri Yantra is a configuration of nine interlacing triangles centered around the bindu (the central point of the yantra), drawn by the super imposition of five downward pointing triangles, representing Shakti; the female principle and four upright triangles, representing Shiva; the male principle. Man's spiritual journey from the stage of material existence to ultimate enlightenment is mapped on the Sri Yantra.



Sir Laskshmi, Alanka Ram bedecked in garlands. -News Aisa Photos

California!!!. This was followed by Archana for Balaji and MahaLakshmi and Naivaidyam including laddooz which were made fresh at the premises. This was followed by chanting verses from all 4 vedas by Pandit Narayana Swamiji, Ramayan chaupayi by Mohinder Sethi, Bhagawat Gita Verse by Shiva Prasad, Krishna Bhajan by Manasa, Drums and Nadaswaram instrumental music, and a melodious hymn on Srinivasa rendered by Vijayalakshmi. Hundred and fifty devotees attended the puja, and were treated with Teertham and Maha Prasad. Throughout the day, the temple was filled with devotees.

Saturday morning devotees chanted Venkateshwara Suprabhatam followed by Balaji Abhishekham performed by Chief Priest Pandit Narayana Swamij. It was a very enthralling sight to see Balaji Murthy drenched in different color liquids. Pandit Narayan Swamiji and devotees chanted traditional sooktams. While the Alankara was done, devotees chanted Vishnu Sahasranama and sang Bhajans. When the curtain opened the devotees got a feast for their eyes as they were greeted with the most beautiful sight of Balaji and MahaLakshmi decked in rich clothes and jewelry and fresh flower garlands. It reminds one of Balaji in Tirupathi, India, but it is right here in Sunnyvale



Mansa singing bhajans at Balaji Temple.- News Asia Photo

It was a very nice way to celebrate New Year. Balaji Temple has acquired new land at 5004 North First street in San Jose North of Highway 237, formerly known as Alviso. Balaji Temple is holding a Grand Fund Raiser on June 16, 2007 on the new temple sight to raise funds to build new and bigger temple. All are invited to attend.