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Originally published November 29, 2006

Community gets glimpse of Indian culture

By **Thayumana Somasundaram**
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The most eagerly anticipated cultural event for the Tallahassee area Indian-American community is Cultural Glimpses of India, organized by the India Association of Tallahassee, a 250-member cultural and social association of South Asian Indians.

This year's Cultural Glimpses of India was celebrated Nov. 18 at Lawton Chiles High School. Participants showcased their talents in dance, drama and songs, painting a colorful portrait of India and its diverse people and places.

ADVERTISEMENT The president of the India Association of Tallahassee, **Srinivasa Kishore**, introduced this year's special guest, superintendent of Leon County Schools **Jackie Pons**, and event sponsors.

The cultural program started with a prayer song and was followed by a dance. Then eight children ages 6 to 13 performed a comedy Tamil (a south-Indian language) play titled "Punishing the Fraud," by **K. Nallasivam** and adapted by **Bhanu and Thayumana Somasundaram**.

In the play, a fake doctor and his assistant team up to con the public. The play ends with a moral: Fraud gets punished.

The unique aspect of the play was that the children learned to speak and act in their mother tongue, instead of English, and performed it live in front of a huge audience.

At the intermission, Indian food was served, followed by several dances and songs in many Indian languages representing virtually every region of India.

One thousand people from every cross section of Tallahassee attended the event, and it was a great success!

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PALANIYAPPAN SHANMUGANATHAN
/Special to the

The "Punishing the Fraud" cast with the coordinators at Cultural Glimpses of India are, from left to right, Thayumana Somasundaram, Aravindh Shanmuganathan, Ajay Shanmuganathan, Vivek Badisa, Vivek T. Somasundaram, Rahul Vasudevan, Abhinav Harish and Bhanu Somasundaram. Not pictured are Rohit and Palaniyandi Vasudevan and Pawan Badisa.



Special to the Chronicle

Somasundaram

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