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DESI TALK

IN CHICAGO

Nikki Randhawa Haley takes oath as **governor** of South Carolina

Hail to the Chief



Telugu Association Celebrates Sankranthi, Republic Day

By A STAFF WRITER

LEMONT, IL
The Tri-State Telugu Association organized a cultural program Jan. 15 to celebrate Sankranthi and India's Republic Day. The festivities were held at the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago in Lemont.

Attended by number of art lovers, the program began with the patriotic song "Tenela Thetala Matalato," according to a press release. Classical dances included a Kuchipudi performance titled "Muddu Momu" and a Kathak performance by Gauri Jog. Presentations based on Telugu movies included "Sada Siva," which was choreographed by Sobha Tammana, and a performance to the song "Panchadara Bomma."

Another dance, "Jaya Krishna Mukunda Murari," presented by children, was choreographed in Kuchipudi style by Aruna Chandra, the press release said. "Telugu Bharathi," a patriotic program, and "Sankranthi Lakshmi," choreographed by Prasuna Vootkur, added to the



spirit of the celebrations.

Students of Vanitha Veeravalli presented "Brindavani Tillana" in Bharata Natyam style and students of Janaki Anandavalli Nair presented "Suruti Tillana" in Mohiniattam style. "Swagatham Krishna," describing the mischief of Lord Krishna, was presented by students of Sowmya Kumaran in Bharata Natyam style.

The highlight of the evening was the Telugu comedy "Maa Inti Vanta" performed by Shanthi Muvva, Jyothi Bhataram and Rajani Akurati.

Directed by Padmaja Budhavarapu, the skit had the audience in splits, the press release said. Another special attraction was a karaoke by local professional singers.

Praveen Jaligama and Parimala Prasad. The event was compered by Padmaja Sonty and concluded with India's national anthem.

Above, students of Vanitha Veeravalli present "Brindavani Tillana" in Bharata Natyam style Jan. 15 at the combined Sankranthi and Republic Day celebrations organized by the Tri-State Telugu Association at the Hindu Temple in Lemont, Ill. Below left, a presentation during the cultural program. Below right, actors in the Telugu comedy "Maa Inti Vanta."