

Bahrain Nagarathars

Pillaiar Nonbu in Bahrain

Bahrain Nagarathars celebrated the Pillaiar Nonbu at Mr Palani Alagappan's villa in Zinj, Kingdom of Bahrain on Tuesday ,22 December 2009 .

Mr Palani Alagappan and his wife Meena Alagappan warmly welcomed all the Nagarathars.

The Pillaiar, nicely decorated with garland and flowers; sticks tied with Avarampoo (flower) were placed at the sanctum; Thumbu pidithal (achis drew a house on the wall with thread dipped in kolamavu); Aval, karuppatti seedai and Pories made of Arisi, Ellu (sesame seeds), Solam (corn), Kambu (millet) in separate Cups and Vellai Paniaram, Karuppatti Paniaram, Medu vadai, Kalkandu vadai, Thirattupaal on a banana leaf were offered to Pillaiar; Kuthu Vilakus and a Kamatchi Vilaku filled with ghee were lighted.

At 6:30 p.m the celebrations started with devotional songs sung by all, lead by Mrs and Mr Nachiappan. After the prayers, at 7:30 p.m. Mr Ramasamy the eldest among the Bahrain Nagarathars showed the Arathi and distributed the lighted elai to all the Nagarathars including future Nagarathars (expected mothers had additional ellai for the foetus). All the Nagarathars prayed to Lord Pillaiar and received his blessings with the lighted elai and delighted. **87 Elais were taken.**

For the first time in Bahrain Pillaiar Nonbu, "Elam" (auction) was sucessfully held to generate funds for the charity (educational and marriage assistance) that was started a year ago so that we can increase the number of assistance. Enchanting Mr. Sevugan captivately conducted the auction of Salt, Kalkandu (sugar cubes), Manjal (turmeric), lime and dates.

Mr Rajendran sponsored and distributed gifts to all the Children and they were on cloud nine.

Around 8:45 p.m. the sumptuous dinner of Laddu, Thirattupaal, Kalkandu Vadai, Karuppatti Paniaram, Idly, Idiyappam, Medu Vadai, Vellai Paniaram, Sambar, Kosumalli,

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Cocunut Chutney and Tomato Chutney were served on Banana Leaf. A rare scene these days!

Mr Alagappan gave away goody bags to all the guests. At 10:30 p.m., we left Mr. Alagappan's Villa.

The entire event was meticulously organized and the credit goes to the united efforts of all the Bahrain Nagarathars especially to the following nagarathars' for their extra efforts and time put in to organize this event:

- 1) The Event Management wing and volunteers for their involvement and guidance;
- 2) Mr Palani Alagappan and his family for their spacious villa and the arrangements;
- 3) All Achis for preparing various delicacies;
- 4) Mr Kannappan Sevugan for conducting the "Elam";
- 5) Sponsors of the Elam items and other items;
- 6) Mr Rajendran for sponsoring Gifts to the Children

In Bahrain, this is 8th year that Pillaiar Nonbu is celebrated as a gathering in a house. We are **fortunate to celebrate a Pillaiar Nonbu so grandly in a distant land** outside India, that too, in an Arabian Country. It is our wish that **the cohesiveness of Bahrain Nagarathars' continues** with the blessing of Lord Pillaiar and this tradition is carried on with the same eagerness, enthusiasm and excitement, year after year, forever.