Eyes wide open

EVENT Yaksha 2012 concluded on Mahashivarathri with a night long musical extravaganza. PANKAJA SRINIVASAN and K. JESHI along with four lakh others had no trouble at all staying awake.

The gathering looked like a shifting sea of blues, greens, reds and yellows as people swayed, clapped, danced and sang along.

Isha sang out to Lord Chidambaram and the energy levels sky rocketed. Jaggi Vasudev smiled, danced to the beats and mingled with the crowd. He urged them to stay awake and feel the energy. “It is a day not just for wakefulness, but also awakening,” he said.

Mahashivarathri at Isha (clockwise from top left) The aarati, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev amid the audience; Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar; Kailash Kher; Hariharan and Leslie Lewis

photos: K. ANANTHAN

He explained the significance of Yoga and how there was a connection with the sun, the moon, planet earth and our bodies.

At the stroke of midnight, he initiated the gathering into a simple meditation technique. The brahmacharis followed it up with a grand aarati. Singer Kailash Kher announced, “This is the moment I have been waiting for”. When he and his band Kailasa started with mein toh tere pyar mein deepana ho gaya, the effect on the audience was electrifying. They joined in singing tu jane na... tu jane na... when Kailash rendered his soulful kaise bataseyin, kyun tujhko chale, yaara bataa na paraya...

“Mazaa saake buda dhyan hai...enjoy your life,” declared the singer and sang the youthful taaba taaba ve tere soorat mohla al va tere soorat.

He invited three women from the crowd to dance along to tere bin nahi jagta mera dil dolna... Director Sekhar Kapoor was seen joining in the dance along with Sadhguru to the beats of Kailasa. Kher entertained the audience with the thumping bhangam harm ke, and with songs from his new album Rangde. The hugely loved tuney kya kar dala mar gayi main mit gayi main... teri deewani deewani... and Allah ke bandey drew his concert to a close. As the night progressed, it was time for some fusion. And, two of the best in the business – Hariharan and Leslie Lewis cast their spell.

After the slower “visions in your eyes telling me no lies” they performed the foot tapping dil mera kahun dhun dhun dina... The audience loved it and there was an encore. It was jugalbandi between Hariharan’s voice and the uplifting melodies of the flute in The raindrop. When someone requested a Tamil song, Hariharan sang two – the popular uyire uyire, and nila kausirathu.

When the colonial cousins broke into sa ne dha pa and chappa chappu charkha chalaya (To wake you all up),” they said, even the shyest in the audience couldn’t help dancing. Fittingly, the dawn after Shivaratri was ushered in by the song Krishna nee beegane boro.

Come back as Jesus
Come back and save the world
Come back as Rama. Forgive us for what we’ve done
Come back as Allah Come back as anyone...