Nightlong Cultural Extravaganza Marks Mahashivaratri Celebrations At Isha Yoga Centre

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The Veillangiri hills reverberated with drum beats on a pleasant Monday evening as drummers warmed up for a nightlong performance of music and dance at the Isha Yoga Centre to usher in Mahashivaratri.

The festivities started with 'bhairavi yatra', a choreographed procession of Linga Bhairavi, accompanied by drum beats and music of pipes. And it set the tone for the evening revelry.

President Ram Nath Kovind then arrived on the stage, which was fully illuminated, in front of the 112-foot bust of Adiyogi and planted a tree at the venue in memory of the CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the terrorist attack at Pulwama last month.

Tradition Meets Modernity

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who shared the stage with the President, said the nation’s border has been witnessing painful events of late. “There are problems at the border on a daily basis. Young men are dying there. These are problems we have endured and even nurtured for the past 75 years. To make a nation, we need to make great human beings.” He said the world was in a state of ecological disaster now, due to the mindless pursuit of progress.

“Moving people from religion to responsibility and turning their gaze inwards is the only way to save the world from an ecological disaster.”

Ram Nath Kovind, meanwhile, inaugurated the Adiyogi Divya Darshan. The light and sound show was the showstopper of the evening. The spectacle, in which the bust of Adiyogi at the foothills of Veillangiri was lit up with colourful lights, was complete with a narration of how Lord Shiva as Adiyogi unveiled the essence of yoga. This was followed by nightlong cultural extravaganza, which comprised dance performances by Dhukha Seth Dance Company and music by the Manganiyars.

The event also featured music performances by Amit Trivedi and band. Singers Hariharan and Karthik performed along with Isha Yoga Centre’s music band. Sounds of Isha.

The cultural programme was paused at midnight for a meditation session, but only to continue later.

While there are calls for women’s empowerment, our cultural ethos has emphasized it through the Arthmanariseswara form of Shiva, said President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday. He was speaking at the 55th Mahashivaratri Celebrations at the Isha Yoga Centre in Veillangiri near the city.

“Lord Shiva has many forms. Arthmanariseswara is one of them. It indicates that the masculine and feminine aspects should be balanced in a human personality and society,” he said.

The President also drew a parallel to the mythology of Lord Shiva to say that a worthy life was one lived in service of others. Quoting the verse of Hindu poet Mythili Saran Gupta, he said normal people live honest lives, deprived people live by snatching from others, the poor live with the best of everything. But lord Shiva takes the poison of negativity, grief and sorrow in the world upon himself,

While the Indian youth would play a crucial role in shaping the future of not only India, but the whole humanity, it was important to give them a proper foundation.

The President added that the Indian culture had also influenced the cultures of Afghanistan, China and Japan.

Noting that a lot of youngsters have taken up practicing yoga, he said Indian youth would play a crucial role in shaping the future of not only India, but the whole humanity. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been promoting yoga and state ministers S. P. Velumani and Dindigul Srinivasan were present at the event.