WE CONDUCTED A SEVEN-DAY LONG FUNCTION AT THE TEMPLE WHEREIN MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE GATHERED.
SHIVSHANKARAN PILLAI, A TEMPLE TRUSTEE

chools celebrate indi Divas

ol children in a Hindi skit on September 14. VINCENT SEBASTIAN

Kamat
mat@hindustantimes.com

Hindi Divas was celebrat- many city schools. Sainath School, St Xavier's High l, St Lawrence High School, e some of the schools that rated Hindi Divas on mber 14.

e students of St Xavier's School, Airoli, conducted is competitions for an entire to bring about awareness e importance of the nation- guage.

ecution, debate, mimicry, a kavi sammelan, riddle, waro ki bauchar, monoact- oem recitation, etc were ucted.

St Lawrence, Vashi, the cel- ion started by praising the Almighty. Veena Kulkarni, a gold medallist in the field of education and others were invited as chief guests, who spoke about the importance of national language and its identity in the world. On this occasion, teachers and students gave motivational and inspiring speeches to show the importance of Hindi language. The main aim of the celebration was to show its utility in day-to-day life.

Anshu Mala Verma, principal of Sainath School, said: "We also celebrated Hindi Divas in our school. Various programmes like poetry, skits, etc. were performed by children to showcasing the importance of the national language. By presenting such a day, we can bring about awareness in the minds of our young generation and depict the importance of this day."

Prisoners to perform at Vashi Durgotsav

FESTIVE SPIRIT City will have prisoners from Kolkata perform a dance drama at ICL ground

Tasneem K
htlives@hindustantimes.com

VASHI: Vashi Sarbojonin Durgotsav Committee will celebrate 'Durgotsav-2011' under the auspices of Vashi Cultural Association once again this year. The celebrations, as in the past years, will have various entertainment programmes, including performances by top and well-known contemporary artists from West Bengal. In a novel move, the association will also hold a dance drama to be performed by prisoners from Kolkata.

To be held from October 2 to 6, this will be the seventh year of the celebrations. It will be held at the sprawling one-lakh sq ft ICL School ground in Sector 15, Vashi.

Arindam Datta, chief convener of the programme, said: "As part of our social responsibility this year, we are privileged to present a unique dance drama on Tagore's Valmiki Pratibha done by the inmates of Alipore central jail and Presidency jail with around 70 participants under the direction of Alokananda Ray. It has brought about revolutionary changes in the concept of jail that has been transformed into correctional home. The dance drama has played magic by bringing total transformation in the participants. Valmiki Pratibha is a unique endeavour not merely for its symbolism as the prisoners' journey but is also a symbol of culture therapy itself, a movement that has been embraced by the prison inmates as means of salvation. They have performed all over the country. We feel proud to be a part of this historic project."

■ The Durga puja celebrations will see a lot of unique themes and celebrities in the city mandals. BACHCHAN KUMAR

The association is expecting a footfall of around 20,000 people for the dance drama. On the other aspects of the festivity, Datta said: "Over the years, we have been witnessing several thousand devotees and culture-loving populace of different communities from Navi Mumbai and Mumbai visiting our puja. We expect it to be better attended in Durgotsav-2011. The total footfalls per day are expected to be around 12,000. It will not only be festivities alone. We, as very conscientious citizens, do our bit for social causes. It will be continued this year, especially through special medical and educational schemes for disadvantaged children of the locality along with other NGOs."