Our beloved founder Guru, Pujya Swamiji Gitananda Giri Guru Maharaj told us, “If you want to really know someone’s character, put them in a crisis and then you will know them inside out”. He also told us that responsibility is the ability to respond (responsibility=responsible) to any situation in the most apt manner. Thank you Swamiji, and thank you Ammaji. You have truly moulded the most wonderful and responsible Yogic character in all members of our YOGNAT TEAM.

If anyone would have told me that we would be having the ‘Most Successful Ever’ Annual Day of Yognat this year without Ammaji on stage, I would have split my sides laughing saying, “Are you joking?” Well, life is indeed amazing and Ammaji was admitted to the JIPMER hospital emergency services the night before the annual day, had a minor surgery on the morning of the annual day and we DID have the “Most Successful Ever Annual Day” in the history of Yognat!!

Through this experience I was able to realise even more clearly Ammaji’s greatness for she was able to direct us to perfection though her Siddhi of being physically in the hospital and yet psychically with us at the same time. I had doubts whether I would be able to sing the whole programme without breaking down for my singing is based on my emotionality. However I never felt her absence for even a single moment and was amazed that I dint have a single thought such as “I wish she were here”. So many of the people felt this way and it was truly something special that even our guests who were extolling her greatness, and the magnificent work at Yognat never felt the need to say, “Oh, if only Ammaji was here”. She was truly with us every moment and later I came to know that she told Yogacharini Vibha and Dr Balaji who were taking excellent loving care of her in the hospital that she was hearing the entire programme! At one point she told Vibha, “I am hearing the Jathiswaram is going on now” and when Vibha phoned Shalini, the Jathiswaram was indeed going on!!
Ammaji had prohibited anyone from coming to the hospital and told all of us “Go out there and get going, for we are going to have the best ever annual day and we need to be that glorious TEAM for that to happen”. Most people would have either cancelled or postponed the show and wallowed in self pity hoping all would converge on their bedside and here was this great soul, this Maha-Atma saying, “Do your Dharma, don’t worry about me”.

All the participants, teachers and guests showed up on time and we were able to as usual start right at 2.05pm on 26th June 2011 with the lighting of the traditional lamp by Srila Sri Velu Swamigal and Mutthamizh Mamani I Pattabiramane in the presence of all members of the Yognat team. The continuous programme without a break from 2.05 pm to 10 pm of Spectacular Yoga Asana Demonstrations, Carnatic Vocal Music, Classical Bharata Natyam and Folk Dances involving more than 400 participants must indeed be a record! Then, there were all the supporting staff of make up artists, costume designers, tailors, musicians, light and sound, stage decoration, canteen management, teachers, memento makers, printers and so on! More than 1200 persons thronged the Subhalakshmi Marriage Hall creating a Festival ambience.

As Kalaimamani Rajamanickam later said, “No other institute has been able to carry on organising annual days ever year coupled with dance dramas and Yoga sport
events without a single break, hats off to Yognat and to Ammaji and Dr. Ananda”.

Mr. Sriram Subramania, MD of Integra Software Services reminisced about their 17-year-old relationship with Ammaji and Yoga Life and said, “We are one of the top-6 companies in the world today thanks to Ammaji teaching us the importance of punctuality and perfection right from our inception”.

The Government whip and MLA of Orleanpet Mr. Nehru appreciated the amazing abilities of the young students and promised all possible support for the good work of Yognat while Dr. Muthu, the president of the Puduvai Tamil Sangam appreciated the cultural awareness being created by Yognat though Ammaji and Dr. Ananda. “I haven’t seen such dedicated souls anywhere in my life and we are fortunate to have such superhuman being amongst us serving society with distinction” said he.

Most of the dance items were original to our Institute with original music composed by Dr. Ananda with the dance choreography a joint effort of Dr. Ananda, Smt. Devasena, the teachers and Ammaji. Smt. Devasena gave admirable support for the entire performance along with the talented musical team.

Nearly twenty dance items were presented along with the chanting of the Maha Lakshmi Ashtakam and five levels of proficiency of Carnatic vocalists. Team Yoga Asana Tableaux were performed by kids as young as 4 years of age to senior boys who are now working professionals in their late twenties. It was a mind boggling variety of Carnatic Arts of all kinds, with acrobatic difficult Asanas performed as a team.
The highlights included the “**Kanden Kanden**” composition depicting the stories of Kannapan and Karaikal Ammaiayar who were able to have the Darshan of Lord Shiva through their simplicity and love.

The folk dances and the Dasavathara Thillana were special hits while the banner dance was the best it has been in many years with the young kids putting in great effort to make it a grand spectacle.

The Senor Boys put on the most spectacular and mind boggling presentation they have ever done and then dedicated it to Ammaji who had motivated and stimulated them to such a peak this year.
The special presentation on Bindus coordinated by Yogacharini Shalini took the audience into a meditative state as it showcased the various yoga practices and concepts related to the major five axial Bindus, Tattvas, Mandalas and Chakras.

Major Awards presented on the occasion included: BEST BOY 2011 to M. SWAROOPARAMANAN; BEST GIRL 2011 to S DEVALENA @ SOWMIYA and the YOGNAT FAMILY AWARD 2011 to Dr DURAIKAN and Family (Dr Gowri Durairajan and Selvi Darshini). The Annual Sangeetha Samrat Shri VIJAYA BHASKAR MUSIC AWARD for Carnatic Music was presented to GOWTHAM KRISHNA (senior category) and VINODHINI (junior category).
K SWATHI was selected to receive the Shri Vijaya Bhaskar Music Scholarship Award for 2011. The award has been instituted by Smt Mangalagowri and Shri CK Manoharun in the name of her father Shri Vijaya Bhaskar who was a famous music composer.

The MICHAEL DANCKWERTS Awards for Yoga and Cultural Excellence instituted by Chris and Annette Danckwerts of Australia in memory of their son, a lover of Indian spirituality were given to S. VIDYA SHANKARI and KR KANAGALAKSHMI.

“The Yognat Team really came together in the crisis and did the impossible” said Smt Neela Sekar, a long time student of Yognat. Filled with emotion she continued, “How well Ammaji has trained you that you can do the job of a dozen persons in such a responsible manner despite such a catastrophic situation. God will always bless you for sure. Well, as far as I am concerned you and Ammaji are already God.”