



BMM Convention 2015 - 'My Thoughts'

Anaheim Convention Center was at a good location with two great hotels next to it. The auditorium was very good. On rare occasion the sound system raised it's ugly head. Surrounding program facilities in the center and the nearby hotels were excellent.

The registration was quick, it took us total of ten minutes on Thursday afternoon. The seat assignment for the main auditorium was a great idea, hopefully it becomes standard for the future. Great thing about it was no one was holding seats for their late comer friends/relatives.

The food was great, typical Marathi with a little bias towards Kokan. There were plenty of deserts which was great for us sweet tooth folks. Other food also had a lot of dishes to choose from. Since there was option to take what you want I took what I want. We went to the food lines as soon as the program was over, thus avoiding extra long lines. It did not take us longer than 25 minutes any time.

I would suggest for the future to have couple of lines with proper identification for senior citizens. The wida/pan was very good. Unfortunately many folks were taking too many. It may have resulted in some people not getting any. Similar thing about chiwada packages.

The entertainment program was very good. Gupte-Samant program was good specially for the younger crowd. I treated it like a rock concert, remembered we were young during Beattlemania. Phadanvis' and Randive's speeches were really good with different perspectives. Only one Natak in main auditorium from midwest was not worthy of the auditorium. Other programs in main auditorium and surrounding facilities were very good.

School reunions were good. In the future room assignments should be done sooner.

Exhibitions were good for window shopper like me. Hopefully the merchants made enough money.

Being in California, we could visit Santa Ana and Venice beach during the extra day that we had at the end.

Praful Ajgaonkar

Houston (Sugar Land), TX

My Experience of - Excellence Shelter presented- BMM Convention, 2015



BMM 2015 was one-of-a-kind experience. With approximately 3800 attendees, the Anaheim Convention Center was always lively and bustling during the July 4th long weekend. During the convention, I attended several programs. The opening ceremony was definitely worth watching! I really enjoyed all the dances. However, I think that for most **teenagers** like myself, the speeches at the beginning of the ceremony were a bit too prolonged. Since I am a teenager,



I also attended a couple of the teens programs, such as the Bollywood Dance Workshop and the DJ. I had a great time at both of these programs because I personally love dancing. These two programs were the highlight of BMM for me. We were all super pumped, so after the DJ night a lot of us danced at the Avadhoot Gupte & Vaishali Samant concert, which was amazing. So I guess we can say that all of us teenagers really did dance the night away!

Even though the Bollywood Dance Workshop and DJ were hits, I think that there should have been more for the teenagers to do. On the first day of the convention, we were able to check ourselves in and out of the Teen lounge' so we were able to spend some time there. However, on the second and third day, we were told that we needed our parents to check us in and out. We wanted to have the freedom to check ourselves out, because a lot of us had to volunteer at certain times.

I think that in the future, it would be helpful to have the parents fill out a form on the first day that allows their children to check themselves in and out for all the days. So on the second and third days, a lot of the teenagers were just walking around because they did not want their parents to keep coming back and forth. In my opinion, there should have been more events targeted towards teenagers during the day.

I liked the food at the convention because I got to taste a lot of Indian food that I hadn't tried before. I was also a volunteer for the registration and welcoming/hospitality committees and both of these committees had people from different generations. So for me, BMM 2015 was truly a "Maitrya Pidhyanche".

- **Pratima Khunte (Torrence, CA)**
