

### Raksha Bandhan

This is one of the first & a grand festival celebrated at JIRS in the month of August. The Rakhi symbolizes the sister's prayers to God to safeguard her brother & protect him. In return the brother promises to protect the sister & keep her always happy.

A solemn occasion where sisters tie the sacred thread on the wrist of their brothers is celebrated every year at JIRS with full fervour & emotionalism. The decorated plates with sacred threads, lighted lamps, variety of puja items, floral & colour powder rangolis adorn the temple. The house parents with children burn midnight oil to create marvels of floral carpet patterns & over 50 hand painted thalis all over the temple floor. All boys dressed in their traditional attire wait lined up in front of the temple awaiting their turns to be tied with the rakhi threads which strengthen their bonds of brother-sister relationship further.

Unity in diversity could also be seen when Koreans, Thai boys & girls also enjoy tying the rakhi & put the tilak on the brother's forehead & do the arathi. Wow!!! It is really a pleasant sight to see the sisters' thalis filled with gifts & chocolates which the boys would have saved their tucks of Sundays for many weeks.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009, JIRS had a festive look with children in their best dresses enjoying the joyous festival of bond between brother & sister.

In the evening we had the Inter house Rakhi making competition when a variety of rakhis were made by the children with their own creative way.





