

COMMUNITY

Over 1,400 attend JSMC's successful India Day Mela 2010

PHOTOS AND STORY BY
ASIAN MEDIA USA

Bartlett, IL: The Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago (JSMC) here organized the Mela 2010 on August 15, to celebrate India's 64th Independence Day. The event

flag ceremony. Guests of honor Illinois State Senator John Milner and Lokesh Muniji of Delhi, blessed the event by lighting a lamp signifying liberty and unity. Mela chief Vipul Shah, who is also a membership secretary of

friends, have fun, eat great food, and bring unity among the community.

Lokesh Muniji spoke about his passion for India's culture and its moral values. The Indian flag was hoisted by JSMC Pathshala students with



A huge gathering of members of the community at JSMC India Day Mela.



IL State Senator John Milner and Lokesh Muniji with members of JSMC Executive Committee at India Day celebration.

was fully sold out with overwhelming response from JSMC families and community members. Over 1,400 people attended the event.

The event opened with a dual

JSMC, welcomed the gathering and gave an overview of the Mela. He emphasized that the purpose of the event was to celebrate India's Independence Day, make

the singing of *Jana Gana Mana*.

Senator John Milner, who greeted the audience with *Vande Mataram*, spoke about Indo-American unity and the

history of the great nation of India.

JSMC Chairman Prabodh Vaidya spoke about the future plans of the JSMC and how it could contribute to maintain the Jain values and the Indian culture.

President Atul Shah, in his closing remarks, proposed a vote of thanks. The flag ceremony was moderated by Sunil Jain, a trustee of JSMC.

The vendor fair was a major attraction of the Mela where 40 vendors from the Chicagoland area representing their businesses participated.

With over 12,000 Mela tokens sold, the Jain food stalls were a super hit. Everyone enjoyed

over 25 Jain vegetarian Indian and non-Indian dishes prepared and served by various JSMC community groups of volunteers.

Attendees were also able to take advantage of the photo studio where they could take their pictures with the beautiful temple as the background. The women enjoyed shopping, *Mehndi*, eyebrow threading and *Rakhi* stalls while the children enjoyed playing carnival-type games and outdoor games.

Bingo, karaoke, and raffle rounds entertained the attendees.

The grand finale was a cultural program with award winning performances by JSMC members.

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