

MILPITAS

The Indus Heritage Day was a successful celebration of shared culture and community organized by three organizations, India Community Center, Pakistani American Culture Center and The 1947 Partition Archive team.

The trio teamed up to debut a Silicon Valley first: the Indus Heritage Day. The 1947 Partition Archive initiated the effort in an attempt to bring various South Asian communities together to celebrate shared pre-Partition histories, and to educate the people on the intriguing ancient Indus Valley civilization.

The event took place at India Community Center (ICC) in Milpitas, CA. Indus artifacts were on display along with a prominent Indus timeline noting important progress and historical occurrences.

Inside the main hall, there were five booths with activities for children. They learned to make 5000-year old Harappan style hats inspired by figurines discovered from that period.

This was followed by Dr. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer's lecture, "Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley" based on his lifetime of archaeological research in Harappa and Mohenjodaro. Dr. Kenoyer was born and raised in Eastern India and is fluent in Urdu, Hindi and Bengali.

Dr. Kenoyer discussed the decline and transformation of this civilization and its major contributions to later cultural traditions of South Asia.

When asked about the event and the 1947 Partition Archive initiative, Dr. Kenoyer said, "I am so thankful to all the organizers who developed and made this project work so well. It is a brilliant idea to bring together the Pakistani and Indian community to share and experience their common heritage."

The event also featured the documentary film "In Search of Meluhha: Untold story of the Indus Civilization" by Saqib Mausoo, a Pakistani documentary filmmaker.

Sixteen children from Xpressions dance company performed two Indus regional folk dances: Chalo Mela Ma, a regional dance

Heritage day: Uncovering mysteries of ancient Indus Valley



Dr. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer



The 1947 Partition Archive Volunteers.

from Rajasthan and Gujarat linked to the unique rituals and prayers of these geographies and Dandiya Raas which is derived from Ras Leela, and performed by Lord Krishna and Gokul and Vrindavan with the Gopies (cowgirls).

One of the co-organizers, Tanuja Bahal, executive director, ICC said, "Community partnerships ensure that diverse groups bring varied perspectives to the table. In particular, this event brought the South Asian community together to not only celebrate their common heritage but also to learn about an ancient civilization."

The event was sponsored by a number of local businesses and individuals, as well as art and culture organizations including the Global Heritage Fund and Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India (SACHI).



Children wearing Indus Valley Civilization clothes.

SPIKERS CUP TOURNAMENT HELD

FREMONT

The Spikers Cup Volleyball Tournament 2012 was held in Fremont. It was organized by TEAM members. Fremont Vice Mayor Anu Natrajan opened the tournament by throwing the ball at the net to start the match. It was a family outing along with the Spikers Cup 2012 being held.

TEAM is a non-profit organization of 10 people who send help back to India by collecting \$10 from each person. TEAM selects a few members every month in a lucky draw and awards \$500 to execute a project in any school of the member's choice.



The selection process goes on every month until all the members of the group are selected. Members get income tax deduction for the money they contribute.

Members get to help their schools and villages of choice in India. By doing it through TEAM, members can benefit from US income tax deduction and also obtain company matching funds for improving their school in India. The members also meet in regular intervals for school selection, during which they interact with other Indian families.

