

MMLA Kojagiri Celebration - Oct 2015 Satellite event at Simi Valley

By: Vivek Dabholkar



This year MMLA team identified an opportunity to celebrate कोजागिरी with the community. An event was set for 30th October. With a conservative estimate, a small community hall was booked and team started planning and campaigning three weeks before the event date. Over the next few days enthusiastic and overwhelming response from the community prompted the organizers to upgrade to a bigger and nicer facility.

As planned, the program started at 8:30 PM. Organizers and community volunteers were right on time and helped setup the music system, food and necessary arrangements well before the event started. कोजागिरी began with अंताक्षरी including girls/women at one side and boys/men on the other team. Lively

exchange of Hindi/Marathi songs ensued for next 40 minutes. There was a lot of fun matching songs and counting points. As more guests walked in, they joined the teams and added to the fun. The अंताक्षरी concluded with both teams claiming the victory. 😊

At the end of अंताक्षरी, started the game of Housie (Tambola). Kids in the group helped sell the housie tickets. They did a fantastic job in ensuring everyone got the tickets and collected contributions. Kids and adults all enjoyed the game. There were 5 winners and the jackpot was won by Mitali Rangnekar.

As planned, the game of housie was completed by ten o' clock and the group took a small break for snacks which consisted of Samosas and Jalebi with a highlight of homemade Masala Dudh. Everyone enjoyed the snacks while having गप्पा टप्पा with each other.

As snacks wrapped up, दांडिया music started making rounds and getting everyone moving. With initial hiccups in getting the formations right, the groups figured it out and then everyone enjoyed the दांडिया रास for next one hour. Kids, adults and grownups all participated in the दांडिया and had great fun dancing with decorated sticks to the tune of catchy rhythmic music.

As published, the event concluded at 11:30. Everyone helped with the cleanup and the event venue was vacated by midnight.

Overall, this year's कोजागिरी celebration was a fun filled event attended and enjoyed by 80+ strong community members.

The event was organized by MMLA committee members Supriya Kulkarni, Sudip Nadkarni and Vivek Dabholkar. The event was attended by the MMLA president, Anupama Samant. The committee would like to give out special thanks to Avanti Vaishampayan, Vinay Soitkar and Akash Gaiki for their help in organizing the event.