

IRCC had organized a celebration of Indian culture, art and food to mark India's republic day this year on 25 January 2009 at The Coral Springs sports complex. The entrance was adorned by a beautiful archway with IRCC members ushering in the guests and welcoming them to an enjoyable Indian experience.

The hoisting of the National flags of USA and India marked the inauguration. The chief guest of the festival was Santu Brook, the Mayor of Coral Springs. As he raised the flag of USA, Dr. Man hoisted the Indian flag. Beautiful renditions of the US and Indian National Anthems followed.

The cultural programs kicked off with a patriotic dance number quickly followed by a popular Gujarati group dance set to the



ever-so-enjoyable song "Dholi turo". The traditional folk dance from Punjab "Bhangra" had people up on their feet. The list of programs covered a wide range of Indian music and dance forms from the north, south, east and west. The highlight of the day was the kite flying program. Children began to fly the kites. The adults were excited even more. One could see the fathers showing their children how to handle the kites. The families shared stories of their good old kite-flying days back home. It was walk down memory lane.

Meanwhile in the perimeter, people were enjoying aromatic, spicy Indian food and delicious sweets. The kids seemed to enjoy by playing in Bounce house and rock climbing. Ladies were checking out the jewelry counters and boutiques. There were books, DVDs and music CDs.

The organizations that participated were Association of Indians in America (AIA), APAIA, Art of Living, RAPS, Chinmaya Mission, Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce, GSU-PIO, Greater Punjab Association of Florida, Florida Hindu Parishad, South Florida Hindu temple, Shree Temple, Indian Muslim Council and Sahara.

We hope IRCC continues to organize such successful festivals in the future.



- photographs by Anand Photob