

# Punjab recreated at Hari Om Mandir Lohri

SURESH BODIWALA

CHICAGO: Unprecedented crowds thronged the Hari Om Mandir in Medinah on January 13 to celebrate the vibrant festival of Lohri that has always been celebrated at the Mandir in the traditional North Indian Style, with favorite foods, songs and customs of Punjab. This year too, despite the very cold and frigid temperatures, over 1000 devotees came for the festivities

The Temple Management had made adequate arrangements to serve the special meal of the season - Makki Ki Roti, Saag, Lassi and Gur Wale Chawal. Along with this, the traditional items like Bhugga, Popcorn, Rewari, Moongphali, Khajoor and Chirvara were distributed as Prasad.

Another attraction was a beautiful village of Punjab,



As part of Lohri festival, ladies dressed in colorful Phulkaris and Punjabi suits performed Giddha and Jagger

(Pind in Punjabi), set up to depict the true culture and ambience of this festival. Colorful Phulkaris adorned the walls, while idols of young girls in typical Punjabi suits and boys

in colorful turbans were displayed to showcase the village scene. A Charkha, a Chakki, a Dahi Matki, a well, a hand cart full of peanuts, rickshaws, a cart laden with the

harvest crop, Manjis, Pirhis, some of the commonly seen items in the streets of a Punjab Village, were all displayed here. Men with dhols and women in their Giddha

spirit also shown on these streets, completed the visual.

After enjoying a sumptuous dinner, people gathered in the congregation hall to sing and dance on this auspicious occasion. A group of ladies carrying colorful earthen pots on their heads, popularly called "Jagger", danced to Punjabi folk songs and in no time the entire hall was seen clapping and dancing, and charged with energy.

Last but not the least, the Lohri Bonfire was lighted and people gathered around to offer the Prasad items to the Holy God of Fire. As the "Sunder Mundriye" Lohri song echoed to the beat of the Dhol, everybody - young and old - was seen dancing and enjoying.

## Get to work and stop grandstanding: Jhingan

SURENDRA ULLAL

*'The Congressman has to put our American citizens, soldiers and children ahead of illegal immigrants'*

CHICAGO: The United States government is shut down due to the 'NO' votes of Illinois 8th District Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, Senator Dick Durbin, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and other Democrats who are more interested in establishing citizenship for illegal immigrants than making sure our military, and needy children, and others who rely on government funding are properly taken care of, according to Vandana Jhingan, a candidate for the US Congress 8th Dist. Illinois

Congressman Krishnamurthy, rather than voting for a continuing resolution to keep the government open, or, better yet, negotiating a long-term plan that reduces spending and balances the budget, was on Fox News grandstanding and promoting an open borders style immigration policy.

Vandana Jhingan said, "The Congressman has to put our American citizens, soldiers and children ahead of illegal



Vandana Jhingan

immigrants. And he needs to support immigration policies that respect the rule of law, solve skilled immigration problem, limit chain migration, end the unfair lottery system, and prioritizes the 200,000 legal dreamers waiting in line first while securing our borders."

She observed that while she was "equally sympathetic to the plight of the DACA kids and young adults, shutting down the Government does not help these kids. Congress has until March 5 to solve the DACA issue. Why shutting down now? People are tired of political talk, they want action and real solutions to real problems. That's what I will provide if elected to Congress."

Jhingan, a front ranking Indian American community activist, is often described as Chicago Jhansi Ki Ranni as she is fighting for just causes, is a resident of Schaumburg and a member of the Schaumburg Board of Health.

## Formal launch of Hindi Library on Jan 26

RAMESH SOPARAWALA  
India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The dream cometh true. Finally for the first time in Chicagoland, and probably in the USA, there will be a place exclusively catering

world when they celebrate Republic Day of India.

Hindi Lovers Club headed by Smt Gurbachan Kaur Shewakramani had been striving hard to have a facility for those who love Hindi language



Hindi Lovers Team celebrating Gurbachan Kaur Book Launch. Indian Consul Bhatti is on the right

to Hindi lovers and well wishers with a formal launch of Hindi Library in the heart of Mini India Town on Devon Avenue on January 26, an auspicious day for Indians across the

or those who want to promote this national language among Indians and non Indians here. Their efforts are finally bearing fruit.

Cont'd on page 22