

Inter Faith Meeting Organised by UIA

Joint Indian and Pakistani community Multi faith prayer meeting, Grand Apollo Function Centre, Burwood on Sunday 16th October 2005



It was on that fateful day in October 2005 that tragedy struck in the form of a massive earthquake in the geographical regions of Kashmir bordering India and Pakistan. Thousands of lives were lost and millions were totally devastated and their lives dislocated. In order to pay homage to the departed souls and to bring some solace and help to the survivors, a multi faith joint meeting was organised by the United Indian Associations in close conjunction with the Pakistan Association of Australia. Such a joint meeting has been held for the first time ever in Australia.



The meeting attended by about 80 interested people, was opened by Mr Devendra Kumar, Secretary UIA and was then handed over to the Master of Ceremonies, Mr Lalli Sethuram from Technocrats' Association and Governing Council Member of UIA. Invocation was rendered by Pushpa Jagadish. The Consul General of India Mr M Ganapathi and Consul General of Pakistan Mr Ejaz Ahmed conveyed their grief at the tragedy and offered their solace to the affected people. Hon. Virginia Judge, State Member of Parliament for Strathfield and Hon. Laurie Ferguson, Federal Member of Parliament for Reid and Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs expressed their sorrow at the tragedy.

Dr. Sidalingeswara Orekondy (President, UIA), Mr Gambhir Watts President, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Australia, Mr Bawa Singh Jagdev (Sikh Mission Centre, Sydney), Mr Noshir Sachinwala (President, Federation of Australian Indian Association) also spoke and offered prayers.



Religious leaders who spoke were:



Narinder Singh Sikh Mission Centre,Austral
Janab Farooqi Rooty Hill
Sri Vasudevacharya Hindu priest
Pt. Rakesh Shastri Mukti Gupteshwar Temple,Minto
Mr David Powell Uniting Church
Sri Ramanujacharya Hindu priest
Group of Budhists Monks



Mr Ejaz Khan,
President of Pakistan
Association of
Australia enumerated
the wonderful work
his community has
been doing by
collecting donations



in kind and sending to the affected region in container loads. He has also been able to collect sizable funds to be transferred to the victims.



Prominent attendees from Indian Community were Dr Parbhat Sinha, Mr Raj Natrajan,Dr Rohitas Batta,Dr S P Bhatia, Dr Narsimha Reddy,Mr Pillay, Mr John, Mr Moninder Singh, Mr Raj Datta, Mrs Rekha Bhattacharya, Mrs



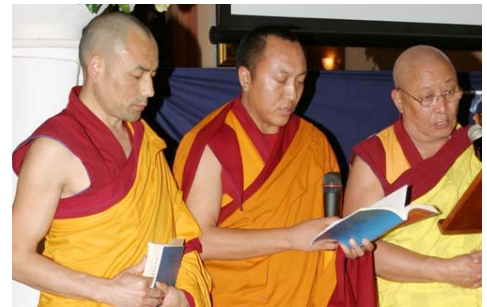
Dr Parkash, Mr Rajwant Singh,Mr Bijay Kumar, Mr Vish Vishvanathan and others.



Well known personalities from Pakistani Community included Dr. Akram, Mr Malik Bashir, Dr Khan, Mr Insaf Ali Khan and others.



A big thank you to all who attended this first ever joint meeting as also to SBS,World Vision, the local press and to Apollo Function Centre, Burwood.



This highly successful meeting concluded with a feeling of goodwill and cooperation.

ROHITAS BATTA
MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR AND
GC MEMBER, UIA
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