



UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.

Incorporation No: Y 2133 744

PO Box 9682, Harris Park NSW 2150 Australia

<http://www.uia.org.au>

Over 25 years of Community Service



Media Release - Australia India Friendship Fair 2022

After a gap of nearly three years due to the pandemic, United Indian Associations (UIA) is proud to announce hosting of yet another successful Australia India Friendship Fair on Sunday 21st August at Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta. This year was even more special because it coincided with India's "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" commemorating India's 75 years of independence as well as celebration of UIA's Silver Jubilee of service to the Australian Indian community.

On a beautiful Sunday morning the Fair started off punctually at 11 am and exhibited a variety of spell-binding cultural performances showcasing colourful dances and songs originating from different parts of India. Audiences were enthralled by outstanding dances by different groups in colourful ethnic dresses and excellent mellifluous singing by respected local artistes as well as outstanding youngsters who presented a repertoire of musical genres ranging from patriotic to local language songs as well as popular bollywood features.

The very popular preventive health checks and medical information service was once again carried out by Dr Amrit Hingorani and his dedicated team from Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association (AIMGA).

Midway through the day the enthralling Sydney Malayalee Drum group proclaimed commencement of official proceedings and UIA Secretary Mr Satish Bhadranna launched the official part of the ceremonies, Mr. Graham King represented the Australian Indigenous community and welcomed all guests and wished UIA for more successful community work in the indigenous language and the National Anthems renditions were presented by the delightful young children of Hindi School.

UIA welcomed and felicitated various Federal, State and Community Leaders as well as NSW Australian of the Year Prof. Veena Sahajwalla in celebration of the Silver Jubilee during this formal part of the event.

UIA President Dr Sunil Vyas welcomed and addressed the dignitaries and participants. He acknowledged the contribution of past Presidents, Executives and Governing Councils for their service and noted UIA's commitment to ongoing service. He also reflected on Australia India following a trajectory of shared values and aspirations of social justice into the future and looking



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beyond the usual 'Commonwealth, Cricket and Curry' of our shared history. He also reminded the distinguished guests and leaders that Australians of Indian origin passionately love both countries and as "a living bridge between the two nations" would happily allow their talents to be harnessed for an even stronger relationship.

Her Worship Lord Mayor of Parramatta Donna Davis, Hon. Manish Gupta Consul General of India, Hon. Chris Bowen Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Hon. Geoff Lee State Minister for Corrections and State Member for Parramatta, Hon. Julia Finn Shadow Minister for Sport and Youth and representing the NSW Opposition Leader Mr Chris Minns, Dr Andrew Charlton Federal Member for Parramatta, Insp Daniel Nugent of NSW Police and Dr G.K. Harinath Chairman Emeritus of Multicultural NSW also addressed the crowd with warm and supportive messages for UIA and the Indian Community and commemorated the close Australia-India Friendship.

Notable special felicitation plaques were conferred on Founder Members Ms Sumati Advani, Dr S. Orekondy and Dr Hem Rao for their lifetime of service to UIA and the community. Silver Jubilee celebration plaques acknowledging outstanding service to UIA were also presented Mr Onkaraswamy Goppenhalli and Mr Shivakumar Mallikarjuna.

UIA Vice-President Mr Dave Passi gave the Vote of Thanks at the end of the formal proceedings.

The difficult task of coordinating the cultural and song performances was efficiently carried out for the event by Cultural Co-ordinator Ms Dimple Jani and multiple complex background issues were very ably handled and resolved by the UIA team of Messrs. Satish Bhadrana, Sreenadh Brahmapuram, Kiran Desai, Vijaykumar Halagali, Kachappilly Jose and John Joshy. A smooth flow of proceedings throughout the day was made possible by the very warm and interactive MCs - Pushpa, Khushaal and Neha who conducted the day flawlessly. The late afternoon performances of the event were conducted by the charming and vibrant MC Ms Vaibhavi Joshi who helped to close the event punctually at 6pm.

The whole event was highly commended by attendees. Guests welcomed UIA's inclusive nature of the community celebration which was packed with superb cultural and song performances and a variety of food stalls and choices.



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UIA gratefully acknowledges the support of our principal Sponsor Multicultural NSW and the NSW Government. UIA is also very grateful to our other sponsors, all the participants and performers and all the hard-working volunteers from the Executive Committee, the Governing Council and our member organisations for making this special event successful.