

UIA Celebrates Indian Republic Day /Australia Day 2007

Indian Republic Day/Australia Day, 2007, was celebrated by United Indian Associations, in a grand style, on Saturday, 27 January, 2007. The venue was Nilla Reception Lounge, Ashfield. The function was well attended and was a great success.

The evening started with the welcome by the secretary, Mr. Devendra Kumar. He introduced the Master of Ceremonies, Ms Pallavi Sinha, who took over the proceedings and conducted the evening in her usual professional and confident manner. Pallavi explained the significance of Indian Republic Day and Australia Day and outlined the programme for the evening.

The program began in the traditional Indian way by invocation of Lord Ganesha. The invocation song was sung by the well known singer Rekha Shukla.

This was followed by national anthems of Australia and India. A ceremonial lamp was lit by the chief guest, Mr. Sujan Chinoy, the Consul General of India and the UIA President, Dr. Prabhat Sinha.

The function was attended by a galaxy of dignitaries which included Hon. Phillip Ruddock, Attorney General of Australia; Virginia Judge, Member of Strathfield, representing the Premier; Cr. Bill Carney, Mayor of Strathfield representing the leader of opposition; Laurie Ferguson, Federal Shadow Minister of Multicultural Affairs, Urban Development and Consumer Affairs; Tony Burke, Federal Shadow Minister for Immigration, Integration and Citizenship; Julie Owens, Federal Member of Parramatta; Barbara Perry, Member of Auburn; Paul Lynch, Member of Liverpool; Gavin McCairns, Director of Immigration; Jose Alvarez, Deputy Director of Immigration; Wajida Ahmad, Commissioner CRC; Gambhir Watts, Commissioner CRC and the chief guest Mr. Sujan Chinoy, Consul General of India.

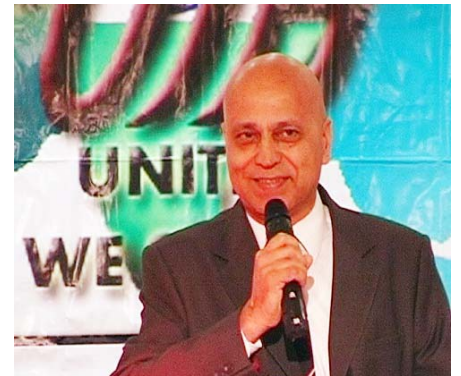
A glowing tribute was given by the speakers especially mentioning the role UIA has played in bringing Australian Indians and the mainstream Australians together. The ever increasing ties between India and Australia and continuing need for better relations between two great democracies of the world was highlighted by the dignitaries.

The Master of Ceremonies, Pallavi, extended special thanks to Hon. Phillip Ruddock who came straight from the airport to attend the function. He had recently returned from a trip to India and praised the leadership and the developing economy of India and reminisced his experiences during his several visits to India.

The UIA President, Dr. Prabhat Sinha, outlined India's glorious past including the invention of the decimal system without which no worthwhile scientific discovery would have been possible. He said that modern India and Australia are shining examples of successful democracies, leaders in the fields of politics, economy and humanities and propagators of multiculturalism. He emphasised the need to rekindle the linkages with the country of our origin India and our adopted country Australia.

The first Newsletter of UIA was launched by Mr. Tony Burke, who had left his daughter's birthday specially to attend this function.

The entertainment programme ensued which showcased the Indian performing arts.

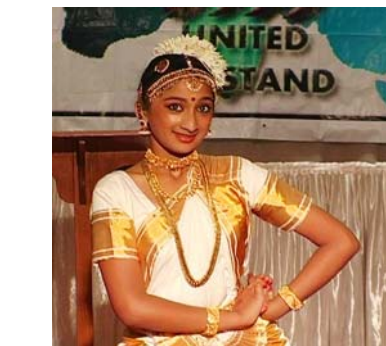




The theme of the cultural programme was tradition and patriotism. Mohiniattam, the traditional dance from Kerala, performed ever so gracefully by Anjana Rajeshchandran, held the audience spellbound. This traditional dance was followed by a Patriotic song sung by Ravi Busi. To change the tempo, came the vibrant Bhangra Dance, folk dance from Punjab performed by Maney, Honey, Amu and Simran.



The finale of the cultural programme for the evening was a Fusion dance number, a happy mix of East and West, starting with classical Indian music followed by Western style of Music and then ending with a patriotic dance mix. This difficult rhythmic dance was performed beautifully and meticulously by the well known dancer, Mansi Saxena. This dance had captivated the audience and was greeted with thunderous applause.



A sumptuous and delicious dinner was provided by Taj Thali caterers. The Vote of Thanks was given by the Vice President of UIA, Dr. Rohitas Batta, who thanked all the dignitaries, the sponsors, the participants, the organisers and the Master of Ceremonies, Pallavi Sinha. Special thanks were given to Neena Sinha and Kedarnath for organising a very balanced and enjoyable evening of great entertainment.

Nirmal and Surendra continued entertaining the audience with their melodious Bollywood songs which was followed by Dance Music which brought all the people to the dance floor dancing till the wee hours.

All in all the evening was a grand success and enjoyed by one and all. Once again, UIA, under the leadership of Dr. Prabhat Sinha and his team has demonstrated its commitment to the Indian community and to lift UIA's image amongst Australians at large.

