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MEDIA RELEASE

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India Australia Friendship Fair 2009

SUCCESSFUL MEGA FAIR CELEBRATING THE CULTURE AND TASTE OF INDIA – JAI HO

The India Australia Friendship Fair 2009 brought the best of Indian culture and flavor to Sydney on Sunday 9th August. The Athletic Centre at the Olympic Park came alive with camels, food stalls, Bollywood songs & dances, VIPs and celebrities. The fair lived up to its reputation as Australia's largest Indian cultural and commerce display and one of the largest gatherings of Indians outside of India.

The Fair was organized to celebrate 62nd Indian Independence Day and 15th anniversary of UIA. Over 15000 people attended the fair and the Sun God blessed the crowd with sunny day. The event started at 10 am with a prayer song and finished at 7 pm with spectacular fire works. The visiting dignitaries and crowd were entertained by array of cultural activities spanning from singing, dancing, acting to Bollywood fashion. A vast variety of business and commerce stalls was a testament to the success of this fair in helping to promote India Australia relationship. The taste buds were kept busy with about 30 food stalls representing different tastes of India.

The Fair was attended by array of ministers and parliamentarians, including Hon Nathan Rees, Hon. Barry O'Farrell, Hon. Barbara Perry, Hon. Paul Lynch, Hon. Laurie Ferguson, Hon. John Murphy, Hon. Louise Markus, Hon. David Borger and Hon Michael Daley. The VIPs included, Mayor of Auburn Ms Irene Simms, Mayor of Hornsby Mr Nick Berman, CRC Commissioner Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, his Excellency Amit Dasgupta Consul General of India and Consul Gautam Roy.

Over 150 performers graced the centre stage including home grown Bollywood star, Tania Zaetta, the legendary Kamahl. The Indian singing sensation, Mano, who traveled from India, entertained the Sydney-siders with his rich melodious voice in several Indian Languages.

The speeches were keynoted by Hon Nathan Rees who announced a generous grant for UIA and safety assurances for the international students. The crowd also appreciated his announcement of bringing the famous Jai Ho A R Rehman to stage a Sydney Festival event in Parramatta Park. Mrs. Aruna Chandrala, President of UIA and Director of the Fair during her speech highlighted the progress of India Australia relationship from Commonwealth to Curry to Cricket to Commerce.

For any further information contact: Mrs. Aruna Chandrala, 0410 338 900