

Achievements of UIA during the last 2 years

UIA is in the 12th year of its inception. During the past 11 years UIA has organised a number of events and activities for the benefit of the Indian Community in Sydney and NSW. Some of the major achievements in the last two years are as follows:

- ★ India – Australia Friendship fair 2003 & 2004 during the Indian Independence day week.
- ★ Republic day & Australia day celebrations.
- ★ Setting up of a comprehensive UIA web site with a section for Overseas Students Helpline as a community service.
- ★ “Home Help” project for senior citizens of Indian origin is in advance stage of planning.
- ★ UIA umbrella Public Liability Insurance for the benefit of member organisations with nominal contributions from them.
- ★ The dream of setting up of a community centre with a view to having a common place for UIA and its member organisation meetings is getting very close to reality.
- ★ Development of good public relations with Immigration and Multicultural departments.
- ★ Organised open forum meeting for discussing and dealing with community issues relating to:
 - Dr. Jayanth Patel
 - Handi Gandhi Restaurant
 - DNA Magazine
- ★ Countering the negative impact of Dr. Jayanth Patel issue in the radio & print media around the country.
- ★ Expansion of UIA organisation base which has now 11 member organisations.
- ★ Active participation at Deepavali celebrations in NSW Parliament House.
- ★ Active participation in the Holi mela
- ★ Formation of a team of volunteers to help in case of National Emergencies.
- ★ India-Australia Friendship Fair 2005.

Dr Siddalingeswara Orekondy, UIA-President met Hon Peter McGauran, Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs at his chambers to congratulate him on assuming the office. The UIA president had taken the privilege to discuss about the new legislation on Dual Citizenship brought in by Indian Government for Person of Indian Origin living overseas.

Hon. Minister has assured that the Australian Government welcome the new legislation passed by Indian Parliament and congratulated the Indian community for achieving their dreams.

