

IAASA celebrated India's independence day in style on 12th August 2006 in Adelaide

All program choreographed by Rachana Sen and Grishm Bhatt

Jehan har kadam kadam pe dhari badle rang, jehan ki boli mein rangoli saat rang, Des Rangeela Rangeela, Des Mera Rangeela

They wore white outfits and dupattas of all colours. As they danced to a synchronised choreography set to a medley of patriotic Bollywood songs and folk songs, it was like all the exuberant Indian colours were on display. What better occasion than the celebration of India's 60th Independence Day.

Indian girls from Gujrat, Rajasthan, Kashmir, Bengal, Punjab and Tamil Nadu wowed everyone at Union Hall, University of Adelaide on August 12, organised by the Indian Australian Association of South Australia.

Preethi Mohan's voice in the background proudly said, " They are all performing dances of their own states," and thousands of miles away from the Indian soil, it felt like home. Grishm Bhatt, student coordinator of the dance extravaganza which involved thirty one students of different backgrounds said, " It was one hell of an experience. We had some juggling, between uni and assignments but the best thing is we did it and they asked for an encore."

Rhea Mehra, an Indian student who watched the celebrations with high strung emotions said, " I had to hold back tears when boys from different states performed bhangra to the beats of ' Rang De Basanti'. Back home, I have not seen such enthusiasm on this occasion, I guess the distance makes us appreciate being Indian even more."

Consul General, Sujan R Chinoy was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He said the Indian economy has immense potential and shared pride over the way India and China have been re-writing the world's economic and political order.

Guest of Honour, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Minister for Multi-Cultural Affairs, Carmel Zollo, praised the Indian community for their enthusiastic participation in the multi-cultural environment of South Australia.

The event kicked off with a slide show prepared by Mayur Kora, exhibiting the past and present of India in an exhilarating visual feast. The slide show set the mood soon to be followed by the rendition of the national anthems of Australia and India.

President of IAASA, Vittala Shettigara welcomed the four hundred guests. Murali K Thalluri, the young Indian filmmaker whose film on teen issues, Two Thirty Seven has rocked the film world, was honoured on the occasion. After receiving a token of appreciation from the Consul General, he said he was absolutely surprised when the extremely critical audience at Cannes gave him a standing ovation after watching his film.

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