

Peter Primrose MLC

Minister for Small Business,
Minister for Volunteering, Minister for Youth,
Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs



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Indians celebrate 60 years of republic

The NSW Minister for Small Business, Peter Primrose, congratulated Australian-Indians on the eve of the 61st Indian Republic Day on 26 January, 2010.

Attending a United Indian Association celebration event in Parramatta, Minister Primrose said the coincidence of Australia's and India's national days was symbolic of the two countries' close friendship.

Republic Day commemorates the transition of India from a British dominion to a republic on January 26, 1950, and the adoption of India's own constitution, three years after independence.

"Just as all Australians will be observing their national day on the 26th, Australian-Indians have another reason to celebrate 60 years of their motherland being a sovereign state," Mr Primrose said.

"This is a fitting time to urge all Australians to pause and reflect on the friendship and close bonds between our two countries.

"Australia is a welcoming and tolerant country that has benefited from the contribution of millions of people from around the world.

"Celebrating the 'birthdays' of both nations on the same day is an apt time to acknowledge the part Australian-Indians have played in building our great country and to the continued part they play in enriching our cultural and social diversity.

"While we may be friendly rivals on the cricket field and at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, the deep affinity of friendship and cooperation will remain strong between our two countries.

"I would like to thank Mrs Aruna Chandrala, the President of the United Indian Association, its committee and members, for inviting me to this dual celebration event.

"It has been an opportunity to meet members of the Australian-Indian community in Sydney, to pass on the good wishes of the NSW Government and its citizens," Mr Primrose said.