

Inauguration of Bhavan's Institute for Indian Arts and Culture and Bhavan's Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology on 30 August 2006

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan literally meaning *The House of Indian Knowledge / Wisdom* opened its first centre in the Asia Pacific in Sydney which was inaugurated by the then Minister of External Affairs, India Hon. Yaswant Sinha on 30 August 2003. Since its inception Bhavan Australia has been actively pursuing its commitment towards enhancing the understanding of Indian culture and promoting multiculturalism. To underline this commitment Bhavan Australia, as it is now known hosts, a number of cultural events throughout the year.

On its fourth anniversary on 30 August 2006 another significant milestone for Bhavan Australia was achieved when the Bhavan's Institute of Arts & Culture and Bhavan's Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology at, Abattoir Heritage Building B, Olympic Park in Sydney were formally inaugurated by the Consul General of India, Hon Sujan Chinoy, Hon Julie Owens, Federal MP for Parramatta with a prayer song and the traditional lighting of the lamp.

The institute offers courses in Indian classical dance and music. Classes in Tabla, Sitar and Kathak dance have already been commenced. Bhavan Australia proposes to add courses in Bharatnatayam, Veena, Hindi and other related subjects sooner.

Ms Cathnerine Knox, Director of the Bhavan Australia welcomed the chief guests and the gathering. In their speeches both Hon Sujan Chinoy, Hon Julie Owens, Federal MP for Parramatta while congratulating the Bhavan on this initiative, the work of the Bhavan in Australia and the untiring work put in by the president Mr Gambhir Watts. Mr Watts during his speech welcomed and thanked the dignitaries for taking the time for attending the inauguration. He also stressed the Bhavan's commitment in promoting Bhavan's ideal that the "World is One Family" and its motto "Let noble thoughts come to us from every side". Mr Nick Hubble, Executive Director of Sydney Olympic Park Authority said that the opening of the Bhavan was in line with the activities being planned for the Olympic Park Site. He added that it was pleasure working with the Bhavan in and helping it to establish the Centre.

A Book 'GITA - The Song Extraordinary' printed and published by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in India written by Dr Damodar Thakur was also launched by Hon Sujan Chinoy, Hon Julie Owens. Professor Thakur, a renowned literary and linguist, addressed the gathering and said a few words about his book.

A vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Som Majumdar, Vice President of Bhavan Australia.

