



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Melbourne Airport celebrates Diwali - the Indian Festival of Lights

Melbourne Airport today celebrated Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, to welcome Indian passengers travelling to and from Melbourne and promote cultural diversity.

Passengers enjoyed performances of traditional Indian drumming and dancing with decorative banners and a replica temple in the international terminal providing a backdrop to the festivities.

Melbourne Airport CEO Chris Woodruff said "The wonderful diversity of India's culture has enriched the fabric of the Victorian community and Melbourne Airport is proud to showcase the cultural kaleidoscope of India through these Diwali celebrations and make our Indian visitors feel welcome."

Diwali is celebrated today by Indians throughout the world and signifies the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. The festival has become a platform for bringing the Indian and wider communities together.

"The Indian market is significant for Melbourne Airport, with 223,000 passengers travelling between Melbourne and India over the last 12 months, more than 2100 passengers per week," Mr Woodruff said.

"Victoria is home to Australia's fastest growing Indian community and last year the Indian market continued to drive growth in international passenger performance, up by 9.5 per cent."

"Australia's Tourism Forecasting Committee predicts Indian visitor growth to Australia of 11 per cent this financial year."

"Indian visitors continue to make a major contribution to tourism in Victoria and Melbourne Airport is delighted to work with our partners, including Celebrate India, to support these festivities for the second year running."

Happy Diwali!

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