

## Record crowd on World Goa Day

**MELBOURNE, AUG 21.** Some Goans living in Melbourne celebrated their annual event called 'World Goa Day' 2004 on 21 August 2004 at Springvale City Hall, Springvale, Melbourne. The theme of the function was identity and assimilation with mainstream Australians. The event had some cultural dances such as Corrodinho, a Portuguese folk dance, RNB youth dance performed by young Goans, ball room dancing (with two live bands FCR and Take 2 in attendance) a DJ for young Goans and their friends and a variety of Goan culinary dishes with a serenade of violins, piano and guitar enhancing the ambience in the food galore with delicious Goan dishes such as Xacuti, Caldinho and Sorpotel.. The event had an

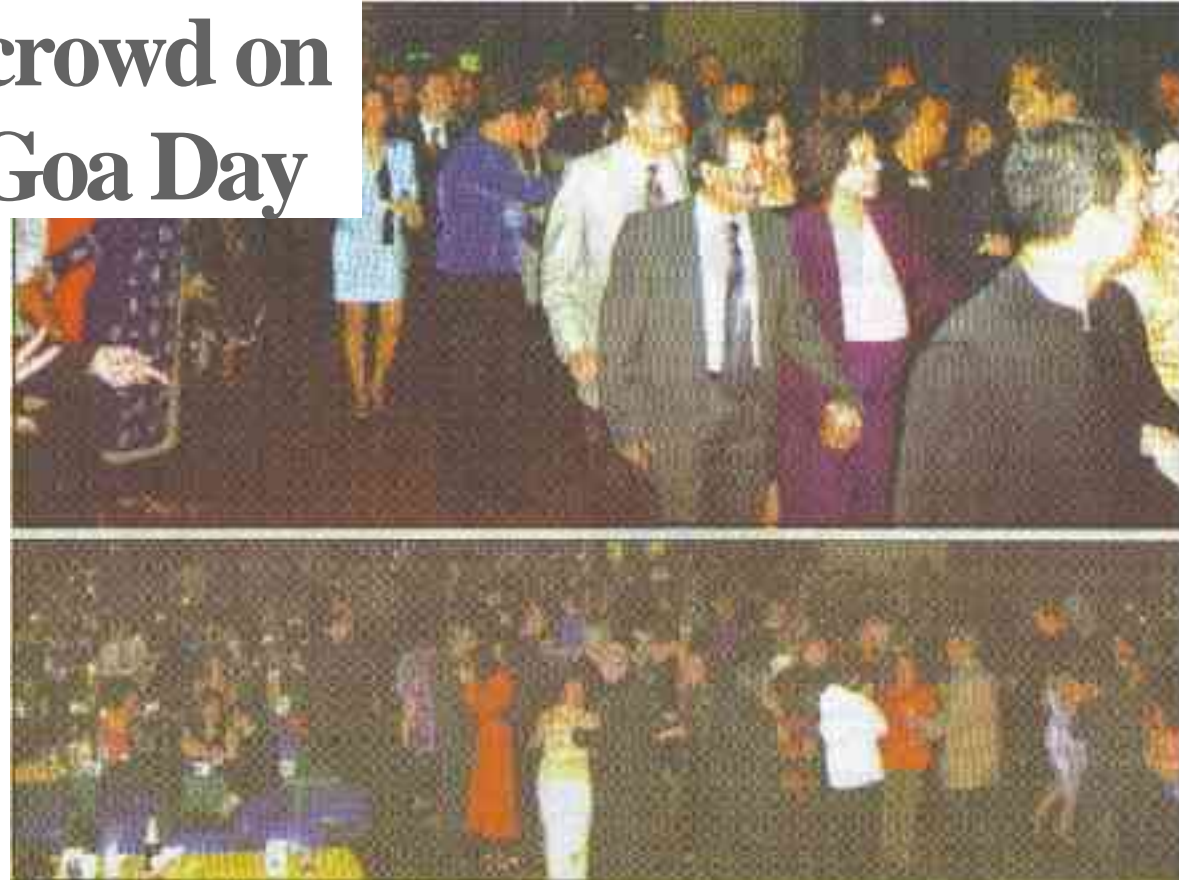
unbelievable price of \$20-00 per head..

The function was attended by 730 people out of the approximately 9000 Goans that call Melbourne home. Goans, along with our Australian friends celebrated 'Togetherness' and a spirit of friendship and understanding were evident that night. The function was attended by distinguished guests such as the Senator of Victoria, a MP. from Hon. Steve Branck's office, a high level representative from the Alzheimer's Australia in Victoria, a Bishop of Roman Catholic Church in Melbourne. This event was a grand success by all counts. Oscar Lobo, Co-ordinator of the World Goa Day 2004 event says:

Goa was a Portuguese

possession for 451 years, until 1961 when it became a part of India. Its Portuguese influence is reflected in the family names of the people of Goa and the surnames of some people are: C'aldeira, Correia, Da Guma, D'cruz, D'sa, Figuciredo, Noronha, Vaz etc.

Mr Oscar Lobo further adds that: It is only through giving and taking that humanity can live in Peace. He says we need to build structures on new grounds and not



old grounds.



Some of the audience posing for a photograph with Mr Oscar Lobo, Co-ordinator of World Goa Day Function (above in centre)