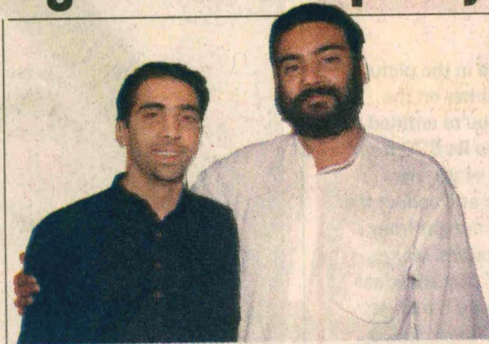


# Partners In Progress & Prosperity

Vinita Faridi

WHEN THE Dutch first landed in India, they started a relationship of co-operation between the two countries that has endured for the last 400 years. It only strengthened after India's independence, with bilateral trade and investment, development programmes and cultural exchange. To celebrate the same, the Royal Netherlands Embassy has chalked out a programme that will explore new opportunities to enhance co-operation between the two countries. Talking about the programme, Netherlands' Deputy Ambassador **Rita Rehman** reiterated the need to trust each other. "India is a land of opportunities," said Rehman, whose ancestors mi-



Above: Ashley Lobo (left) and Roysten Abel are part of the programmes announced by Rita Rehman, Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands (left) and Robert Aarsse, Head Cultural Affairs (far left)

PHOTOS: MANOJ VERMA

grated to Surinam from India in 1870, "and we are proud to be associated with it. There is a growing market for Indian herbal remedies, yoga and

anti-stress alternatives in the Netherlands. Also Indian fabric and Indian films are very popular." Rehman revealed that there are theatres in



Amsterdam where Hindi films run to a packed audience comprising Surinamese of Indian. And Dutch locales, specially the tulip fields are



quite a favourite with Indian filmmakers.

While a business delegation headed by the Dutch Minister for International Economic Affairs & Trade will visit India next month, it is on the cultural front that there will be maximum interaction. A dance troupe, comprising 14 to 18-year-olds from **Ashley Lobo's** Danceworx and Purmerend's Balletschool Louise have put together a presenta-

tion that will be presented at the Kamani Auditorium on October 14 and 15. **Roysten Abel** is directing a play interpreting Anne Frank's diaries, to be staged in December.

But the highlight of the cultural package is an exhibition of 17th century Dutch art, found in the private collections in India. These have been collected by the staff of the Baroda Museum and restored by a Dutch conservator. These will also travel to Mumbai and Bangalore.

Other activities include an Agro Tech exposition in Chandigarh, and a seminar on globalisation.

And the Dutch should know the true meaning of globalisation, because as **Robert Aarsse**, Head Cultural Affairs, said, "The Dutch can be credited with the first multinational company in the world, much before the British formed one." ■