



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **THE INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE LAUNCHES INAUGURAL EXHIBITION IN THE HEART OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY**

**SINGAPORE, 10 November 2011** – The upcoming Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) has launched its first exhibition titled *Adoring Vishnu – Vaishnava Traditions in South and Southeast Asia*. With support from the Hindu Endowments Board of Singapore, *Adoring Vishnu – Vaishnava Traditions in South and Southeast Asia* is housed at the iconic Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Little India, one of Singapore’s four major Vishnu temples. Mr K. Rajandeeran, Chairman of the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple, was present as the Guest-of-Honour.

2 *Adoring Vishnu – Vaishnava Traditions in South and Southeast Asia* will provide in-depth insights into the origins of Vishnu – the well-known Indian deity – in South Asia, and his subsequent influences on visual and performing art traditions here in Southeast Asia. The exhibition brings to life the story of Vaishnavism through engaging displays and interactive stations, with the majority of the featured artefact imagery drawn from Singapore’s National Collection. Another highlight of the exhibition is a processional figure of “Vishnu on Garuda” on loan from the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple itself.

#### **A Sampling of the Upcoming IHC**

3 With the IHC scheduled to open in late 2013, the launch of *Adoring Vishnu – Vaishnava Traditions in South and Southeast Asia* serves as a sampling of the upcoming IHC’s offerings. Dedicated to the showcase of the heritage and cultures of the Indian communities in Singapore and their development, the IHC’s permanent galleries will trace the migration of Indian diasporas towards Southeast Asia, detail how the Indian communities evolved in Singapore and further elaborate on the contributions of the Indian community towards nation building.

4 With Vishnu’s strong foothold in Indian and Southeast Asian traditions, *Adoring Vishnu – Vaishnava Traditions in South and Southeast Asia* provides a fitting start to IHC’s curatorial efforts. Through the curation and staging of public exhibitions prior to the opening of the new centre, the IHC hopes to generate greater awareness about the centre and contribute to the presentation and promotion of key aspects of Indian heritage and culture. Together with the support of community organisations such as the Hindu Endowments Board of Singapore, such efforts will aid the IHC in establishing itself as a “beacon” of the Singapore Indian community.

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### **About the Indian Heritage Centre**

The Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), under the Heritage Institutions Division of the National Heritage Board, traces the history of the Indian and South Asian community in the Southeast Asian region. Located at the Little India Heritage District, the centre has been scheduled to open in 2013 and will feature small scale museum facilities as well as programming and educational spaces.

### **About the National Heritage Board**

The National Heritage Board (NHB) champions the development and promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It makes heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through staging innovative programmes and forging partnerships with both private and people sector counterparts. NHB leverages on state-of-the-art technology and refreshing new approaches to make heritage more dynamic, alive and exciting for different audiences. It also manages both national and public museums, the National Archives of Singapore, the Preservation of Monuments Board and the Heritage Conservation Centre. NHB was formed on 1 August 1993 as a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA). Please visit [www.nhb.gov.sg](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

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