

# BUILDING FOR BUSINESS

Sun photo by TIM KROCHAK

## High-level Indian group visiting city

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Hina Shah stood in welcome yesterday, holding a small silver tray with two tiny bowls — one of rice and one of a bright red pigment.

As Shivraj Patil, India's fourth most influential politician, stepped from the plane, she took a grain of rice and pressed it into a smudge of red she made on his forehead. Shah, a member of Winnipeg's Indian community, then handed him a single red rose.

In return, Patil, Speaker of India's Lok Sabha (Parliament), tucked a well-worn bill behind one of the bowls.

### Good omen

It would bring good luck and be a good omen for the two-day high-level visit to Winnipeg, aimed at further cementing a relationship between Manitoba and a country that represents more than 800 million people or 15 per cent of the world population.

Patil, accompanied by Indian Minister of State Eduardo Faleiro, Consul General of India Rajiv Bhatia and several members of Parliament, is the guest of the Manitoba government and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

Roy Read, head of the chamber's trade development advisory panel, said from a business perspective, it's a question of



■ Shah places rice and red pigment on Patil's forehead as Manitoba legislature Speaker Louise Dacquay looks on.

building relationships.

"You do business with friends," Read said.

Manitoba's trade with India, which currently stands at \$18 million, is expected to reach \$150 million by the year 2000.

The prime minister is discussing a Team Canada mission to India in January and if Premier Gary Filmon goes, he will already have met key officials, he said.

About 60 Manitoba business people involved in trade with India were also invit-

ed to meet the Indian delegation.

While here, the officials will tour the Royal Canadian Mint, which produces foreign currency, and St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre, internationally recognized for its cardiac research.