



Australia India Society of Victoria inc.



# AISVIEWS

*Newsletter of AISV – April 2011*

## Management Committee:

**President** - Dr Gurdip Aurora  
Tel : 9763 5005; 0417 357 715

**Vice President** - Dr. Manjula O'Connor, Tel : 0419 354 482

**Treasurer** - Uma Ganapathi Reddy  
Tel : 0415 341 627

**Secretary** – Sheena Bakshi  
Tel : 0421 890 550

**Asst. Secretary** - Vijetha Arekatla  
Tel : 0415 746 351

## Committee Members

Shashi Rane – Tel : 9560 6212

Jasmeet Bakshi – Tel : 0402 314 109

Natrajh V Narayann

Tel : 0421 785 379

**Raj Kumar Dhamodraswamy**

Tel : 0437 852 450

**Ian Dorman – 0459 111 085**

## AISV Sub-committees

### PR/Promotion

Gurdip Aurora (Chair), AISV Committee

### Newsletter/Website

Natrajh N(Chair), Jasmeet Bakshi, Vijetha

### Cultural

Shashi Rane (Chair), Pratima Francis

### Immigration

Gurdip Aurora (Chair)

Natrajh N, Manjula O'Connor

### Youth Affairs

Vijetha Arekatla (Chair), Manjula O'Connor, Raj K Dhamodraswamy

### Women's Affairs

Manjula O'Connor (Chair), Vijetha Arekatla, Pratima Francis

### Major Events

Sheena Bakshi (Chair), Gurdip Aurora, Manjula O'Connor, Jasmeet Bakshi, Shashi Rane

All Correspondence to:

Australia India Society of Victoria

P O Box 482, Brunswick, VIC 3056

Or email to - [aisv@aisv.org.au](mailto:aisv@aisv.org.au)

## Dr Aurora's speech at the Australia Day/India's 62<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day Celebrations 12 February 2010

The Hon Martin Ferguson, Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism

Mr. Rakesh Kawra, Vice Consul of India and Mrs Mona Kawra

Friends, ladies and gentlemen

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to tonight's celebrations of Australia day and India's 62<sup>nd</sup> Republic day

Since India gained independence in 1947, it has become the world's eleventh largest economy by nominal GDP and the fourth largest by purchasing power parity; it has also become one of the fastest growing major economies in the world.

It is the world's sixth *de facto* recognised nuclear weapon state and has the third largest standing armed force in the world. India is a highly industrialised country and is one of the five "BRICK" nations. 'BRICKS' is an acronym that refers to the countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to be at a similar stage of newly advanced economic development.

India has the largest number of cows in the world and hence it is very common to see these animals on the streets of all towns in India. It is also the largest milk producing nation in the world and the consumption of milk in India has increased six fold in the last decade.

Minister Ferguson, when your secretary rang me to check if there was any particular issues in my speech that I would like the minister to address, I told her that I will be raising the issue of Australia's moratorium of uranium sales to India especially in the light of

## **AISV AGM**

**Sunday 10th April 2011**

**Venue: Tandoori Junction**

**29 Railway Pde North, Glen Waverley**

**Time: 12:30pm**

Please RSVP (for catering purposes) by 8th April to Vijetha Arekatla on 0415 746 351 or email:

[gaurora@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gaurora@ozemail.com.au)

## **NOTICE**

### **RELOCATION OF INDIA PASSPORT & VISA SERVICES (IPVSC)**

In a press release the Consulate General of India has announced that the India Passport & Visa Services Centre will be relocating to Swanston Street from Docklands on 27th April 2011.

For more details:  
Please see the attached Press Release

### **Disclaimer**

Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.(AISV) disclaim all and any liability to any person in respect of anything and of the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done by such a person, in reliance whole or partial, upon this newsletter or any part of the content of this newsletter.

Australia India Society of Victoria is an integrated non-sectarian, Indian Association in Victoria. It represents Indians and Australians from many parts of the world. AISV membership is open to anyone who is interested in India, her culture and her people. The aims of AISV are to promote cultural and social events in context of India, safeguard interests of its members and to act as representatives for the Indian community in Victoria at various Federal, State and Local governmental levels.

President Barack Obama's announcement in late 2010 of U.S. support for India's membership in the nuclear suppliers' group, the Australia Group, the Wassenaar arrangement and the Missile Technology Control Regime.

During a visit to India in December 2010, French President Sarkozy also expressed his country's backing for India's inclusion in nuclear suppliers group (NSG) and the growing importance of nuclear energy for the country.

The approval was based on a formal pledge by India stating that it would not share sensitive nuclear technology or material with others and will uphold its voluntary moratorium on testing nuclear weapons. The pledge was contained in a crucial statement issued during the NSG meeting by India outlining the country's disarmament and non-proliferation policies.

Now Germany has said it will support full membership for India in the elite nuclear club irrespective of whether or not it signed the NPT. Germany is the third major country, after the US and France, to back India's case for NSG.

Minister, I have read the Wikileaks files in the Age newspaper and the details of the secret talks on uranium sales to India and your talk with US Ambassador, Jeffrey Beach in 2009 that "a deal to supply India with nuclear fuel could be reached in 3-5 years" and an about turn in your statement in Parliament three days ago that "the position of the Australian Government is that we are not in a position to sell uranium to India".

Minister I understand the change in your stance in the light of changed dynamics of the two major parties following the last election. Neither Labor nor Liberal party has a majority in the Parliament and Labor is clinging to power with the help of the Greens and Independents.

In India's defence one has to agree that though it (India) has not signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Non proliferation Treaty, it has an unblemished non-proliferation record.

Minister, India's neighbour to the north, Pakistan, a failed state from where terrorism originates has recently tested a nuclear ballistic missile. It is also building a fourth plutonium reactor at the Khushab nuclear complex. The world is also worried about Iran and its nuclear capabilities.

Minister, one wonders which of the nations to which Australia sells uranium and are signatories to the non proliferation treaty is supplying nuclear know how and material to these two nations in question?

India is a stable democracy and an emerging economic power and for Australia to deny sale of uranium to India is completely out of step with the world's most powerful nations supporting India in the nuclear suppliers' group, the Australia group, the Wassenaar arrangement and the Missile Technology Control Regime.

India requires uranium for its energy requirements and I would urge the Labor and Liberal members of the Parliament to demonstrate a bipartisan support to the sale of uranium to India.

Minister, I am not a Clairvoyant but I strongly believe that not only the future of Australia but the entire world would depend in which way China and India grows!

Finally the Indian community in Melbourne and Australia has rallied together to collect funds for the flood relief victims of Queensland and Victoria and has donated several thousand dollars so far and more fund raising events have been planned in the forthcoming weeks to collect more funds for the Victorian flood relief victims.

Finally I would like you to charge your glasses with your drinks and request the Vice Consul to propose a toast to the Queen of Australia and the Hon. Minister Martin Ferguson a toast to the president of India

Jai hind

## **AISV CELEBRATES** **100<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL** **WOMEN'S DAY**

AISV Taskforce Against Domestic Violence hosted a very successful 100<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day celebrations at the premises of the Indian Consulate General in St Kilda Road, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 8 March 2011. It was attended by 140 people of all ethnicities and many Family Service Organisations and medical professionals.

Dr Manjula O'Connor, Vice President of AISV and Chair, AISV Taskforce against Domestic Violence, held several meetings with interested participating groups and worked tirelessly to organise this event. The day was made possible by co-operation and/or funding from - Australia India Society of Victoria, The University of Melbourne's Centre for International Mental Health, Drummond Street Services, In Touch-Previously Immigrant Women's DV Service, DISHA-Indian ladies Philanthropic organisation, The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence, KAPS Institute of Management, Indya Bistro, Lord Mayors Charity Fund and The North Melbourne Football Club.

The theme of the day - **‘Women And Men United To End Violence Against Women And Girls’**.

This was the first ever International Women's Day celebrated by an Indian organisation in Victoria, and indeed in Australia. The aim was to highlight violence against women and children in all communities.

The nature and characteristics of family constellation and dynamics varies in each community, as does the nature of disharmony, and abuse.

Each community has to find ways of strengthening its family system and protect its children and women from emotional, physical and sexual violence.

The International Women's Day was initiated as a formal vehicle to acknowledge the need for a co-operative effort between men and women, community and religious leaders to find

means of prevention and early intervention of Family Violence. Sushi Das, *The Age* columnist as the MC superbly held the function together.

The event was attended by the public and by several members of the many ethnic communities.

As the guests arrived, they were greeted by AISV Committee members and refreshment drinks such as wine and soft drinks were served. Indya Bistro served cauliflower pakodas, chicken tikkas and samosas as snacks.

The formal procedures started with a bang by the Indian Consul - General, Ms Anita Nayyar who welcomed the guests. She spoke about choosing career over her marriage, which she said was aided by her father, much to her mother's sorrow! Her mother feels sorry even today as Ms Nayyar chose not to marry.

The event also served as a fitting occasion to offer our best wishes to Ms Nayyar, who has completed her term at the Consulate.

The Chief Guest speaker for this event was Andrea Coote MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Families and Community Services. She spoke about the insidious nature of the family violence and the urgency for us all to act. She appreciated that the "AISV TASKFORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" had created a grass movement by networking and creating a multi-ethnic Taskforce.

North Melbourne Football Club CEO, Mr Eugene Arocca is a White Ribbon Ambassador. He spoke eloquently the need for football heroes to watch their behaviour towards women. He said the club was against any careless, disrespectful, emotionally, sexually or physically abusive behaviour towards women.

Magistrate Ms Noreen Toohey from Sunshine Magistrate's Court spoke of the need for culturally and linguistically diverse communities to be aware that

family violence which consists of physical, sexual, emotional abuse, financial and spiritual control is against the Australian Law. She said the communities need to take charge of this issue within their cultures, but like everyone else they must live within the Australian Law.

Councillor Tim Laurance Singh spoke as the male representative of the Indian community. He mentioned the difficulties faced by international students in the area of family violence including sexual abuse and emotional abuse were a cause of concern.

The cultural highlight of the event was the Bollywood dance items presented by Ms Ayesha Tiwari and her group. Uma (Huma) Thakar, the one and only sari-clad Indian female comedienne brought laughter to the crowd with her Indian-Australian humour.

The proceedings of a very successful evening were formally closed with a vote of thanks offered by the Chair of AISV TASKFORCE, Dr Manjula O'Connor to all the supportive organisations, distinguished guests and audience, including MP Ms Bronwyn Pike, Mr Rakesh Kawra the in-coming Indian Consul-General, and Ms Debbie Gross- the visiting DV expert from Israel - invited by the 'Jewish Taskforce against Family Violence.' Refreshments and drinks were once again served by Indya Bistro catering services.

After the formal part of the evening was over, some guests stayed on for informal chats with the invited guests and for more drink and samosas. This was when people relaxed and some stimulating conversation took place!

*Article by Pratima Francis, Sub-Committee AISV, Committee Member AISV Taskforce Against FV In Multi-Ethnic Communities.*

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**Advertisement Rates:**

Full Page \$150, Half Page \$ 80  
Quarter Page \$ 50, Leaflet Insert \$ 50.  
Repeat Ad 20% discount, AISV members 25% discount.

## **Research Project On Domestic Violence Commenced 20 March 2011.**

### ***Please Join Us In This Important Venture.***

We are pleased to announce the commencement of our research project on Domestic Violence ( DV) with Focus Groups. We are seeking means of prevention of DV and treatment strategies.

We have held 3 focus groups now- SUNSHINE, GLEN WAVERLY AND BALWYN.

We have targeted different socio-economic groups, students, new arrivals and long settled migrants. We ask what a happy harmonious Indian family looks like, what does a dis-harmonious/unhappy Indian family look like.

The next step is using Theatre, as means of seeking community knowledge on how to prevent DV and intervene early. Writing scripts and then acting Domestic violence problem scenes as a theatre performance. The solutions will be sought from the audience who will be community members from the Indian Community.

We will invite men and women, students, new arrivals as well as the long settled migrants on the stage as well as the community participants. We urge the community to support this very important project. The Indian family is the anchor of our culture. We need our family to be strong, happy, vibrant- not depressed, sad, in a dark place.

The total cost of the project is \$90,000. We have so far received \$76, 750 in funding from 3 sources. \$50,000 from the Legal Services Board, \$19,000 from AISV, \$7, 750 from the Broadmeadows Court Fund.

Anyone wishing to join, please contact Dr Manjula O'Connor- [manjulao@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:manjulao@unimelb.edu.au)

Dr Manjula O'Connor  
Vice President, AISV

**AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC**

**PROXY FORM**

I, .....  
(full name)

Of .....  
being a current member of AISV herewith endorse

Name .....

to act as my proxy for AISV's Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

Signed .....

Dated.....



**AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**Day: 10th April 2011 ; Time: 12.30 pm to 2:30pm**

**Venue: Tandoori Junction, 29 Railway Pde Nth, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150**

All financial members are requested to attend

**NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER**

I, (full name).....

of (address).....

being a financial member of Australia India Society of Victoria Inc, nominate

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Prof .....

for the position of (position title) .....

I, (full name).....

of (full address).....

being the financial member of AISV, support this nomination

Signature of Proposer .....

Signature of Seconder .....

Acceptance of the Nomination

I .....

Being a financial member of AISV accept this nomination for the position of

.....

Signature of Nominee .....Date.....

- Positions: President (must be a member of the previous Committee)
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee Members (5 positions)

Duly completed nomination forms should reach the Returning Officer, AISV Inc, PO Box 482, Brunswick, Vic, 3056 by Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

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## Consulate General of India

344 St. Kilda Road  
Melbourne 3000  
Telephone: 61 3 96826203  
Facsimile: 61 3 96968251  
Email: [cgo@cgimelb.org](mailto:cgo@cgimelb.org)

### PRESS RELEASE

#### India Passport & Visa Services Centre (IPVSC) Office Relocation

This is to inform all concerned that the India Passport & Visa Services Centre will be relocating to Swanston Street from Docklands on 27th April 2011. The existing office at Suite 9.18- 9.19, Level 9, 401 Docklands Drive, Docklands, Victoria 3008 will be closed from 21st April to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011, and no application will be accepted by the IPVSC during that period.

The new office will be located at Part 4 Suite, Level 12, 55 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000. The IPVSC will reopen at its new location in Swanston Street from 27th April 2011 at 8:30 am. The closest Train Station is Flinders Street. The closest Tram Station is at the junction of Collins St / Swanston St. Contact phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same.

During the period that the IPVSC will be closed, those who need passport and visa services in an emergency can contact the Consulate directly for the same on 0430020828. Please note that this is only to cover emergencies and only for passports and visas, not for any of the other services being offered by the IPVSC i.e. OCI and PIO cards, driving licence verifications and police clearance certificates.

Melbourne  
1 April 2011