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For committee members see page 2

The President's Message

Independence Day

Australia India Society of Victoria (AISV) and Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria (FIAV) are jointly celebrating India's 64th Independence Day on Saturday 20th August at the Manningham Town Hall in Doncaster. The chief guest for the evening is the Hon. Martin Ferguson, Minister for Energy and Resources and Minister for Tourism. The Hon. Nick Kotsiras, Minister for Multiculturalism and Citizenship is also our chief guest for the evening and would be representing the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Ted Baillieu. In addition Ms. Heidi Victoria, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier of Victoria and Mr. Jose Alvares, Director of Immigration will also be attending as our guests.

I would urge you all to attend the function and show your support to AISV.

August 15 is a very significant day for all Indians across the world and we feel very proud and patriotic towards our mother land. India is the largest democracy in the world but Democracy has failed India very badly. India today has become the most corrupt nation in the world and this corruption and nepotism is attributed to the politicians in the Central (Federal) and State governments as well as Bureaucrats. As a result this corruption has flowed down to the law enforcing authorities, the judiciary and the police, businesses as well as a section of the armed forces.

The fiasco at the Delhi Commonwealth games last year brought us Indians nothing but shame. A government auditor's inquiry was set up to see where things went wrong. The inquiry has now published its findings and indicted no other than the Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit and the Prime Minister's Office for gross mismanagement

Contracts were awarded with favouritism and bias for different aspects of the Games, the report finds. There were "constant deviations from the original scope of work which led to delays and increased costs and extra payments of millions of dollars".

The politicians are openly and blatantly and unashamedly involved in corruption, money laundering, plundering the nation of its wealth and transferring trillions of dollars in foreign bank accounts. The result is that today there are over seven hundred million people in India living in absolute poverty and have done so for

Inside this newsletter

Vice Presidents Message ...Page 3
Republic Day Celebrations....Page 4
Crimes against international students ...page 5
VICCT project.....page 5
AISV Past Achievementspage 7
Membership application/renewal form....Page 8

generations. These are the 'have not's. Unless there are urgent reforms combating corruption and money laundering, there is going to be a 'people's revolution'. As a matter of fact, those of you following the Indian news would probably have realized by now that a revolution has already started but the politicians are either ignoring it or failing to realize that there is a revolution going on.

If these reforms do not take place in the very immediate future, India will burn much more fiercely than Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and the Burrows and Counties in London are burning today, the riots started there by the youths who are deprived as well as depraved. In India it will be the 'have not's' fighting for their right to a share of the nation's wealth.

Organ Donation:

About two months ago Australia India Society of Victoria was approached by my Division of General Practice, the Greater Eastern Primary Health to apply for joint funding to promote organ transplantation to the Hindu, Aboriginal and Torres Islander community. I must clarify here that I am one of the Directors of the Division and have been so for the last 9 years.

I am pleased to inform you that the joint application was successful in securing \$49,900 funding to increase awareness of Organ and Tissue donation among the Indian community residing in Melbourne's Eastern region.

Almost all the religions in India, namely the Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Baha'i faith and Church of Christ 'Organ Donation' is an act of charity and goodwill and allow organ donation as well as transplantation.

Hindus believe the soul is immortal and is reborn in new physical forms. There is nothing in the Hindu religion indicating that part of the dead body cannot be used to alleviate the suffering of other humans. Amongst Islam, it allows organ donation provided donors consent in writing prior to death. The Organs of Moslem donors must be transplanted immediately. Islam strongly believes in the principal of saving human life. Many schools of Islamic Law have invoked the principle of priority of saving lives and have permitted organ transplant as a way to achieve that.

The focus of this Grant is to build awareness and knowledge about organ and tissue donation among specific cultural and linguistically diverse communities, who have lower donation rates, and to dispel myths and promote the importance of family discussion when making the important decision to donate.

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Shortly we will commence community consultations, and seek the advice of a senior community member who would be willing to be our contact with the Indian community.

If you are interested in being involved with this project please contact me at gaurora@ozemail.com.au

or Kristy de Lisle at Greater Eastern Primary Health at healthpromotion@geph.com.au .

Gurdip Aurora



Dr. Manjula O'Connor
Vice President

The Vice President's Message

WHITE RIBBON DAY CELEBRATIONS AS A MULTIETHNIC EVENT

Dr Manjula O'Connor, Vice President

Many of you may not have heard of WHITE RIBBON DAY.

White Ribbon Day was created by a handful of Canadian men in 1991 on the second anniversary of one man's massacre of fourteen women in Montreal. They began the White Ribbon Campaign to urge men to speak out against violence against women.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared November 25 the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW) and the White Ribbon has become the symbol for the day.

From 2000, the Commonwealth Government Office for Women ran awareness activities on the International Day, and, in 2003, the Australian branch of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM, began a partnership with men and men's organizations to make this a national campaign. Ten thousand white ribbons were distributed in 2003.

Thousands of men have been nominated White Ribbon Ambassadors. The Ambassadors raise awareness on the issue of Domestic Violence, act as advocates against domestic violence .

1 in 3 women will suffer Domestic Violence at some time in their life time . This is a very high number and it calls upon men of Indian and other communities to stand up and do something .

AISV Taskforce Against Domestic Violence in Indian and Ethnic Communities is planning WHITE RIBBON DAY celebrations. We are planning to hold the celebrations with other ethnic groups.

MULTI –ETHNIC APPROACH WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

London riots are a reminder of the success of Australian and the Victorian Multicultural model.

Respect and recognition of each other's cultural heritage, cultural strengths is vitally important as this enhances multi-cultural harmony. Hence 'AISV Taskforce Against Domestic Violence in Indian and Ethnic Communities 'is working with other ethnic communities, in particular The Jewish Community, The Bangladeshi Community .

Sure lack of employment , lack of respect of one's education in ones previous country can be a source of disharmony. Again respect and understanding of training and education in ones country of origin is a way of avoiding misunderstandings .

Successful Multi-cultural policy at the Government level is also operating at the Royal Australian College of Psychiatrist (RANZCP), of which I am a fellow.

International Medical Graduates hailing from many countries of the world in recent years have come to comprise a significant proportion of the medical workforce in Australia, especially in psychiatry and particularly in non metropolitan areas. This not only meets the needs of the community for health care but supplies a skilled medical workforce without the full costs of specialist training.

The issue was brought home to me by a modified process in my own college (RANZCP) that evaluates overseas qualifications of International Medical Graduates. In a modified process , devised by the College, a respectful and sympathetic hearing is given to the medical graduates in face to face interview lasting one hour . They are asked to describe their medical experience and training in their country of origin. This validates the International Medical Graduate , which in turn enhances their self-respect .

This is an example of success of the Victorian and Australian Multi-cultural Policy.

Dr. Manjula O'Connor

Details of the 2011 White Ribbon Day are at www.whiteribbonday.org.au (ed)

Republic Day Celebrations

The committee of the AISW are starting the planning for the annual
Indian Republic Day Celebration

This celebration will be held on the 11th February 2012. Put that date in your calendar and watch this newsletter for more details as we get closer.

If you have any suggestions etc please contact any of the committee members

MEDIA RELEASE

Crimes against International Students in Australia

August 11 2011

A report into the incidence of assault and robbery crimes against overseas students in Australia between 2005- 2009 has been released today by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC).

The Australian Government takes very seriously any allegations that people are being criminally victimised. In 2010 the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Stephen Smith, announced that the AIC would conduct independent research into crimes against overseas students with particular reference to crime rates against Indian students.

This is the first major study of its kind in Australia.

AIC Director, Adam Tomison, said: "This ground-breaking analysis data-matched 418,294 students from five source countries with police victim records over the five years. The nature of the data did not allow the AIC to engage in specific analysis of racial motivation. That said, there was nothing in the overall findings that lends support to the view that Indian students have been singled out primarily for racial reasons."

Key findings show:

Rates of *assault* for Indian students were lower than or on par with rates for the general Australian population.

Rates of *robbery* against Indian students were higher than average for Australians in larger states for most years.

The proportion of *robberies* against Indian students occurring at commercial locations was approximately double that recorded for students from other countries.

Over half of robberies against Indian students on commercial premises occurred at service stations.

Robbery is an opportunistic crime. The higher rates of robbery against Indian students, compared with other international students, and Australian comparison populations, appeared to be more likely to occur because of a range of factors: in particular, differences in employment, with large numbers of Indian students working in higher-risk employment (taxi driving and in convenience/fast food stores and service stations), working evening/night shifts and their use of public transport.

As the data did not include offender profiles, the AIC could not engage in specific analysis of racial motivation. The fact that assault rates on Indian students were either below or the same as the rates of assault for the general Australian community suggests that race is not a primary motivation.

The 172 page report provides a detailed analysis across jurisdictions and is available on the AIC website www.aic.gov.au

AIC media contact: Colin Campbell 02 6260 9244 / 0418 159 525

AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (AISV) INC. VICTORIAN INDIAN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE TRUST (VICCT)

The AISV and VICCT invites members of the Indian and Australian Community and like minded interested Indian Regional Associations to participate in the building of the Indian Community Centre and Indian Retirement Village...Comprising...

1. 20 Single Bed Room AND 20 Double Bed Room, fully furnished, independent units
2. Hostel Accommodation for twenty five AGED RESIDENTS
3. Nursing Home accommodation for THIRTY Residents
4. Reception Centre
5. Community Resource Centre/Library/School

Hostel accommodation for the Aged and Nursing home accommodation will be partially funded by the State and Federal governments.

Estimated total cost of project is eight million dollars excluding land.

Land area required for above project – over five acres.

This project will only succeed with your active participation and involvement.

How can you help as a member of the Indian Community?

- Join the Australia India Society of Victoria Inc (Established in 1963)
- Become a trustee of the Victorian Indian Community Charitable Trust (Subject to approval by the commissioner of taxation)
- Become actively involved in community affairs and help raise funds for the above project by holding suitable fund raising activities.
- Attend meetings to discuss progress in the development of the above project.
- Receive monthly newsletter to keep you informed on the progress of the retirement village.
- Work as a team to help build the Retirement village.
- Regional Associations can affiliate with AISV

What if you do not wish to join AISV?

You may not wish to join the AISV but can still assist in the formation of the retirement Village. By joining the AISV it will become easy for the trustees to keep you informed of the progress of the development of the retirement village through our monthly newsletter. The strength of AISV depends on an increased membership and the ability to lobby strongly on behalf of the Indian community

Australia India Society is the oldest integrated non-sectarian Indian association in Victoria representing all Indians irrespective of their place of origin. The main aim of AISV is to assist the fulfillment of the aspirations of Indians in their adopted country (Australia) and to encourage their active participation in and contribution to a just and culturally diverse activity.

The VICCT is an income tax exempt charitable entity under Subdivision 50-5 and deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. It is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR). Donations of \$ 2.00 and above are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

The trustees of the VICCT are

Mr. Abhishek Vivian Prasad
Mr. Alex Singh
Mr. David Panayi
Dr. Gurdip Aurora
Mr. Ian Dorman
Dr. K.P. Saratchandran
Dr. Manjula O'Connor
Mr. Shreenivas Mudumba

AISV Past Achievements

The Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. (AISV), established in 1963, is the oldest and largest integrated non-sectarian Indian association in Victoria, representing all Indians irrespective of their place of origin. It is recognised and respected as such by the Governments of India and Australia. It also has a significant Australian membership.

The main aim of AISV is to assist in fulfilling the aspirations of Indians in their adopted country (Australia) and to encourage their active participation in, and contribution to, a just and culturally diverse society.

- Promotion of understanding and friendship between new migrants from India, those from other countries and indigenous Australians.
- Serving as a medium for established Indian-Australians to assist newly arrived fellow countrymen and women.
- Promotion of Indian culture for improved understanding of India's heritage, preferably through demonstrated support of activities of established Indian dance/ Music/ other arts schools.
- Involvement with Local, State and Federal Government agencies to ensure that in addressing issues affecting migrants, Indian-Australians' needs are not overlooked.
- Engaging in charitable activities to help Indian-Australians and other deserving persons in dire circumstances who do not qualify for mainstream social service support.
- Encouraging and facilitating networking and mentoring between established Indian-Australians and newly arrived Indian-Australians to help the latter succeed in a new and competitive environment.
- Enhancing quality of life through entertainment and other varied activities.
- Since its establishment in 1963 the Australia India Society of Victoria has contributed extensively in all of the above-mentioned activities.

Some of AISV's noteworthy achievements have been:

- Establishment of the Indian Visa issuing facility in Melbourne.
- Establishment of the Victorian Indian Community Charitable Trust (VICCT). This is a recognised charitable agency approved by the Australian Taxation Office. It is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR). Donations of \$ 2.00 and above are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Its aim is to provide help and support to underprivileged and aged members in the community. Several hundred members and local Australians have been assisted through this charitable trust. Submissions to various governmental bodies such as:
- Law Reform Commission of Australia regarding changes to the Equal-Opportunity Act and on Multiculturalism and Law.
- Council on Overseas Professional Qualifications on recognition of Indian Qualifications.
- Immigration Department on matters relating to Immigration policy and Acts of Parliament.
- The Premier's Department on the Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation, to protect the rights of Indian-Australians.
- Established special arrangements with Australian Unity for medical insurance for elderly Indians visiting Australia (a mandatory requirement for visitors).
- Establishment of the Koori scholarship fund (in association with the Victorian Aboriginal Education Australia Inc. and the B'nai B'rith Jewish community relations group) to support Koori students through their secondary education.
- Organisation of cultural and social activities for the community, actively encouraging and promoting members talents along with visiting overseas artists.
- Participation in local community events such as the Australia Day celebrations.

- Celebration of the two Indian National functions-Republic Day and Independence Day.
- Helping victims of domestic violence in the Indian community
- Helping International students to assimilate in the Australian way of life and to understand the Australian culture

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

While remaining focused on the Society's vision and mission (by pursuing similar activities to those mentioned above), the major initiatives in the medium term will be to actively canvass ways of addressing the requirements of those in need and the elderly in the community.

With the maturing of the community, social challenges similar to the ones faced by the mainstream Australian community such as marriage break ups, deaths of spouses, drug and alcohol dependency, desertion by children, domestic violence, loneliness and poverty may need to be managed from an Indian perspective.

The aging of first generation Indians who reach the retirement age poses issues of low care accommodation as well as nursing home care.

The needs of second generation Indians will have to be understood and addressed in order to ensure they stay well connected with their heritage. The community needs are many and varied. There are ample opportunities for members to get involved and make a difference to the quality of life of Australians of Indian origin.

Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.
Membership Application/Renewal

(Please Print)

New ApplicationRenewal.....

Title/s First NameSurname.....

Partner/Spouse's Name

Children's names 1.....2.....3.....

Address (if address changed please provide your previous address below)

.....Post Code

Tel (B/H)Tel: (A/H)Mobile:

Email:

Other Details: (Hobbies, Interests)

.....

Would you be interested to join the committee of AISV Yes No.....

Membership Category (Circle one) Life: \$300 Family: \$30 Concession: \$20 Single: \$20

Do you want a receipt Yes No

I hereby apply/renew membership of AISV in the above category. I am aware of the rules and regulations of the society.

.....

Signature Date

Membership Application may be sent to:

The Secretary
Australia India Society of Victoria
P O Box 482
Brunswick VIC 3056
Australia

Change of Address:

Please complete the form with your new address and return to the AISV Secretary at above address, please indicate your previous address below to compare with our records.

Previous address

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The 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