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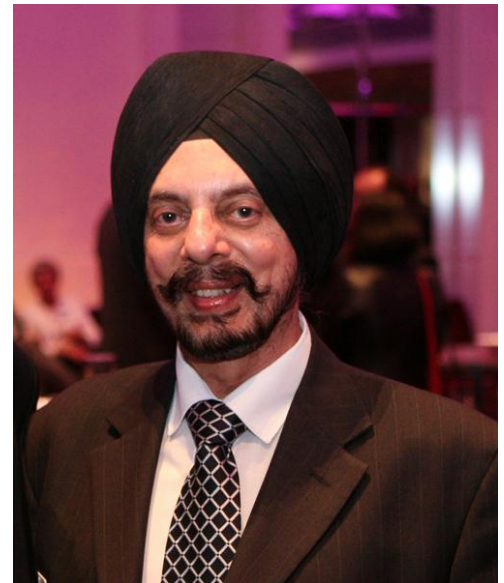
President's Message

About three weeks ago I received an invitation to provide written input to the National Consultation on Citizenship. This move was a result of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's decision to introduce a legislation to strip dual nationals of their citizenship. He had appointed Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells and Mr Philip Ruddock MP to conduct a community wide dialogue about the "responsibilities, as well as the rights of citizens, as well as the privileges of citizenship". Senator Fierravanti-Wells's new role would be to use community engagement to try to tackle the issue of radicalisation. Mr Ruddock, a personal friend of mine and the Australia India Society of Victoria for over 25 years has served as a Minister of Immigration as well as the Attorney General in the Howard government.

As we are all aware several Australian born Muslims have gone to fight alongside the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, which is a Salafi jihadi extremist militant group led by Sunni Arabs from Iraq and Syria. A few of them were involved in public beheading of journalists, aid workers and westerners working with humanitarian organisations there. An unknown number of these 'jihadi' are believed to have been killed in the war there. Prime Minister's move to strip them of their citizenship would prevent them and their families from returning to Australia.

The war in Syria, Libya and Iraq predominantly involves the Muslim community fighting an ideological war on religion, a 1400 year old war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

Thousands of Muslims from the western world have gone to the war torn countries to 'fight with their fellow religious partners', a barbaric war that seem to



Dr. Gurdip Aurora

have no boundaries of human dignity and respect for fellow human beings. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed in these reprehensible wars which seem to have no rules of engagement and total disregard toward the safety and welfare of the civilian population, women and children.

As the President of Australia India Society of Victoria and having very limited in-depth knowledge of the Australian constitution and the powers of the Australian parliament to bring about the above changes, I opted not to put a formal submission to this inquiry.

Indians do not have the right to dual citizenship. All Indians who have Australia Passports are citizens of Australia and I am sure the Indian government would have nothing to do with them as by becoming Australian citizens they have forfeited the right of any protection by the government of India.

Indians largely are very peace loving people and hopefully will never be involved in terrorist activities. The present Indian Diaspora has integrated well with in the frame work of Australian society

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Photos from AISV Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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and law and consider "Australia home". Indians are generally very loyal to their adopted country and I distinctly remember the sorrow and sadness amongst the Indian community on one occasion when the Australian Flag was burnt by a certain section of the community in Canberra.

We as Indians condemn the barbaric and dreadful killings of innocent civilians anywhere in the world. We strongly agree that Australian 'jihadi's' fighting the war in Iraq and Syria or anywhere in the world and or Australian's involved in criminal activities should not be allowed back in to Australia. We also recommend appropriate punishment for perpetrators of such violence to be dealt within the frame work of the law of the country.

Dr. Gurdip Aurora, President.

AGM Photos

Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.(AISV) conducted AGM on 17th May 2015 at the Tandoori Junction Restaurant in Glen Waverley. A glimpse of the meeting in progress.



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.

You Are Invited!

THE AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.



Cordially invites you and guests to attend-

India's Independence Day Celebration

Featuring...

A Brief observance of Formalities to honour the Occasion

A sumptuous Buffet Dinner

Bollywood Type Entertainment by Local Dance Group

Swing and Sway and Dance the Night away

To the Fabulous Melodies and Rhythms



of

A LIVE SIX PIECE BAND



On: Saturday, August 15, 2015

Venue: The Cinnamon Club

Address: 1291 – 1293 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham

Time: 6:30pm to Midnight

Special guests will include Honourable Members of Parliament

Tickets \$45 for members & Seniors

\$50 for non members

\$25 for children aged 5-12 years

For Enquiries and Bookings, contact:

Sunil- 0401 562 800

Uma- 0415 341 627

AISV account: 083-414 690471204

Gurdip-0417 357 715

Raj-0437 852 450

Pravin-0413 257 694



Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.

ABN 47 351 032 576 / Incorporated 1985 - A0004545G

Annual Membership* - New/Renewal Application Form

Select: **New Application / Renewal**

Title/s

First Name.....Surname.....

Partner/Spouse's First Name.....Surname.....

Children's names

1.....

2.....

3.....

Address

.....

CityPost 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: \$500, Family: \$80, Concession: \$50, Single: \$50

Cheque Payable to Australia India Society of VIC Inc. or Online transfer : BSB 083-414 Account number 69-047-1204

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 / Place

Membership Application to be mailed to:

1401 Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby, VIC 3179

* Except Life membership

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.