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President's Message

The Independence Day function is shaping up to be an interesting evening. AISV did make a bold move to hold the function on Thursday 15 August, India's Independence Day. The cultural programs have been finalised with an exciting Ukrainian folk dance and the traditional Bhangra and Bollywood dances. Several members of parliament and ministers have accepted our invitation to attend the evening.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the last date for booking a seat for the function would have passed. Those who have already booked their seats, I would request them to come a few minutes before the 6.30 PM time for security checks, visitors passes etc., No one is allowed in the Parliament House without a visitors pass.

We have organised a free tour of the Parliament house and this would be a good opportunity for people to have a look where MPs make a decision about the future of Victoria. The two Houses of Parliament have 128 Members in total, 88 in the lower house and 40 in the upper house. Government is formed in the lower house while the upper is a house of review. All members serve four-year terms.

On another issue I had an opportunity to meet with the Hon. Julie Bishop, Shadow Minister for Foreign affairs on Sunday 4 August. It was a frank question and answer session in which I raised the issue of relations between India and Australia. Her predecessor, the Hon Alexander Downer told me towards the end of his term in office that quote, "The relationship between India and Australia was not that of love and hate. A love hate relationship can be fixed with dialogue, communication and good will. Unfortunately the relationship between India and Aus-



Dr. Gurdip Aurora

tralia was of indifference. And Australia was mainly responsible for this indifference. I hope India still considers Australia as an ally and a good friend." End of quote.

I asked the Minister if the relationship between India and Australia would cease to be that of indifference and her government would work hard to improve this relationship and if Australia would understand the security needs of India, seeing it is surrounded by hostile neighbours, one which poses constant threats of terrorism and the other threatening with land grab.

The minister stated the India was always a friend and a close ally and she was very sensitive to the issues I had raised. Australia will continue to build strong ties with India and work closely with its security needs. She also commented on building strong trade links with India.

Only time will tell how the Liberal party and its Prime Minister builds a strong relationship of trust and goodwill between the two nations.

Dr. Gurdip Aurora, President.

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Secretary's Report



Ms. Harjot Bedi

AISV held family harmony day on Sunday 28th July at Eric Raven Reserve (off Estella Street) in Glen Iris. The event was organized primarily, by the Vice President of AISV, Monica Raizada and was attended by approximately 100 guests including their families and children.

A five member panel was appointed to discuss current Domestic violence issues in the community and suggest ways to address them. The panellists were Jay Manya, Nesan Naidoo, Vijaya Vaidyanath, Preeti Jabbal and Gurpal Singh.

Together they held a robust discussion on issues of family violence followed by a question and answer session on the subject. The audience applauded their efforts and requested that more such interactive seminars be held in the future to educate the Indian community.

Mrinali Raizada was the MC on the day and did a fabulous job of introducing and connecting the panellists. All were awarded AISV certificates for their contribution.

The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP was the



The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP



chief guest on the day. She commended the efforts of AISV on highlighting and educating the audience on such a rampant issue.

AISV provided a two course lunch supplied by Metropol receptions which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The children were kept entertained and amused by a fairy and face painting while their parents were engaged in the forum.

The afternoon concluded at 4.00 PM.

Harjot Bedi, Asst. secretary

Distressing news about Hindu Society of Victoria (HSV)

I am a life member of the Hindu Society of Victoria (HSV) right from the time it was founded. I was extremely distressed when I saw the headlines 'Hindus accused of lying on Visas' Herald Sun July 9 2013. The article was attributed to James Campbell and Matt Johnson, authors of the article.

On reading the article, it became apparent that the Immigration authorities had accused Melbourne's largest Hindu temple of lying to

them in order to get visas for two men who are not entitled to them.

The heading was absolutely and completely reprehensible and insulting to the entire Hindu race.

Though I am a Sikh, my roots are from Hinduism. I am from a generation of a Hindu family from a time where the first born son was made a Sikh. Naturally I felt humiliated and insulted by such headlines.

I do not know whether such a damning article was as true as it was made to be, but I am of the opinion that the office bearers responsible for this serious breach of trust should be removed from office and never be allowed to hold office of public importance and the elders of the HSV should ensure that such an act is never repeated again. The action of a few office bearers of HSV has put the entire Indian community to shame and disrepute.

Dr. Gurdeep Aurora, President

High Commission of India

Canberra

Press Release on the occasion of the announcement of the Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (Overseas Indian Day) Meeting in Sydney

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Government of India has decided to hold the 2013 Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention in Sydney over three days from November 10-12, 2013.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Hon. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Hon. Barry O'Farrell, Premier of NSW, jointly made the announcement at 1530 Hrs. AEST via a video link simultaneously in New Delhi and Sydney.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vayalar Ravi noted that the objective of the event is to reach out to those members of the community who have been unable to participate in the annual PBD in India, and to provide a platform for the Indian community in Australia and the Pacific to contribute to the relationship between countries of the region and India.

Shri Vayalar Ravi also remarked that the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) has been celebrated in India on January 9th each year since 2003 to mark the contributions of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.

Noting the significance of the date of PBD, in his remarks Mr. O'Farrell said that Mahatma Gandhi was a "universal icon", and not just an Indian one. "Sydney is the perfect location for this conference as it is Australia's financial and cultural capital", he said.

Regional PBDs are organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the collaboration of the host Government, the Indian Mission, Prominent Overseas Indians and Organisations catering to the needs of the Indian Diaspora.



Participation in the event is expected from all States and Territories of Australia and from neighbouring countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Manila, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Fiji and the Pacific Islands.

This convention is not only for the Indian community, but for all persons who are interested in plugging into India's growing relationship with Australia and other Pacific countries. It is expected that more than a thousand individuals will participate in the conference.

The programme of the event will feature discussions on different aspects of India's relationship with Australia and countries of the region including

resources, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, skills and education, languages, women in business and culture.

Speakers at the event will include Ministers and prominent dignitaries from Australia and India, prominent members of the Indian community, Australian and Indian business representatives and academicians and media persons.

Details regarding the registration, venue and accommodation/logistics will be made available by end-June, 2013.

May 30, 2013

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 Inc.

Annual Membership* - New/Renewal Application Form

New ApplicationRenewal.....

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

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 may be sent 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.