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**Australia India Society of
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President's Message

The President of India, the Hon Shri Pranab Mukherjee made an address to the nation on the eve of Republic day 2014. He spoke on the issue of corruption, which has plagued the nation since it gained Independence in 1947. In his address he stated, "Corruption is a cancer that erodes democracy, and weakens the foundations of our state. If Indians are enraged, it is because they are witnessing corruption and waste of national resources. If governments do not remove these flaws, voters will remove them".

In my opinion, the latter part of this statement is far from the truth Mr President. Voters will not remove the politicians because the politicians pay them to vote for them. Sometimes the payment per family is large enough to sustain them for a whole year or more. Unfortunately, three quarters of the Indian population is extremely poor and has been now for four generations. For these individuals, the security of having money to pay for food for their families and children is a good enough reason to continue to vote for these politicians knowing they have criminal records and are blatantly corrupt. Corruption has unfortunately spread its tentacles wide enough engulfing the police, the armed forces as well as the judiciary. A recent example is politicians who have distributed smart televisions and laptops in exchange for votes.

The corruption in India is now unashamedly open and is done in the knowledge of the people, the media and law enforcing agencies. Indian media has widely published allegations of corrupt Indian citizens stashing trillions of dollars in Swiss banks. As of December 2013, more than 150 of India's 523 parliament members have been accused of crimes including rapes. Many of the biggest scandals since 2010 have involved very



Dr. Gurdip Aurora

high level government officials, including Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers.

The ministers involved in these scams are free and still holding ministerial positions. Mr President, you have stated that "our democracy has never been betrayed by the people; its fault lines, where they exist, are the handiwork of those who have made power a gate way to greed". Mr President we all are aware of this 'power and greed' but what has been done or being done to combat this?

Prior to being elected as President, Mr Mukherjee was the finance minister, a very senior minister in the ruling congress government He was a decent, honest and a very ethical and hardworking politician who was never involved in political scandal during his entire career. I am sure he must have been aware of the corruption in the government ranks. Why did you, Mr President not speak out then and expose the corrupt ministers in your government?

Mr President you have written, "Populist anarchy cannot be a substitute for governance. False promises lead to disillusionment, which gives birth to rage, and

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that rage has one legitimate target: those in power”.

I do agree with this statement. One day people power will display its wrath and anger against those in power. Indians have tolerated much for over 66 years and a rebellion will happen at some time in the future. If and when that happens we, the overseas Indians, who are bitterly disappointed with the State of the nation, will strongly,

support any movement that will remove corrupt Politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen and governments and bring some fairness and equity to the 750 million living in squalor conditions. Hopefully India will prosper one day and get rid of its third world status and become a ‘First World Nation’.

Dr. Gurdip Aurora, President.

Jan 26, 2014 India's 65th Republic Day Celebration

Australia India Society celebrated Australia day and India's Republic day on 26 January at the Cinnamon Club in Cheltenham. It was a very successful function attended by over 100 people including refugees from Afghanistan and Iran who had settled in Australia. Also invited were international students. This was their first attendance to a National day function ever. They had never been close to an MP or a minister in India and they were amazed how MP's attending the function went from table to table to meet with the people. Also most amazing for them was the fact that these MP's were enjoying the Bollywood music and dancing with the crowd. 'In India one cannot come closer than 100 feet from a MP and here the MP's made an effort to talk to us and offer us support and help' they commented. The students were busy taking photographs to send them back home.



Ms. Harjit Bedi
Secretary

The guests included the Hon Heidi Victoria, Minister for Arts, Women's Affairs and Minister for Consumer Affairs. She also was representing the Premier of Victoria, the Hon Dennis Naphthine. She wore a beautiful black embroidered sari and looked a "Princess" in that attire. The opposition was represented by Mr Jude Pereira, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Daniel Andrews. Also in attendance was Ms Elizabeth Miller, MP Member for Bentleigh, Ms Lorraine Welford, Member for Mordialloc, Mr Nirmal Chaudhary, Deputy Consul and head of Chancery, Indian Consulate and Multicultural Affairs Commissioner Mr Abeselom Nega with his wife.



Dr. Gurdip Aurora with Hon Heidi Victoria, Minister for Arts, Women's Affairs and Minister for Consumer Affairs.

All the speakers congratulated Australia India Society of Victoria for a great evening to celebrate the National Day of Australia and India.



Multicultural Affairs Commissioner Mr Abeselom Nega

The entree was served buffet style and consisted of crisp, hot Samosas, Paneer Pakoras, delicious Potato and Papri Chaat and a delicious chilli chicken.



International Student Participation

The cultural program comprised of the Bollywood dazzlers who literally dazzled the audience with their moves. The group was a varied mix in their origin with French, a Malaysian, a Sri Lankan and an Indian performer.

The dance troupe took to the stage once more after dinner and with another very energetic performance at the end of which they dragged a fair few members of the audience including Heidi Victoria, Lorraine Wreford, Elizabeth Miller and Mrs Nega on to the dance floor for a quick lesson in Bollywood dancing.

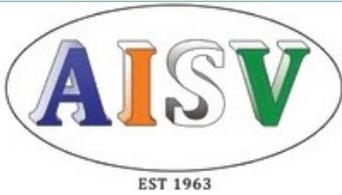
The feedback afterwards was very complimentary; all those attending were generally very happy with the food, the venue and the program. A yet another remarkable achievement for the AISV!

Harjit Bedi, Asst. secretary

Recent Awards

2011: Winner of the Victorian Multicultural Awards for excellence towards community services.

2013: Winner of the most prestigious award, the "Bharatiya Pravasi Samman Award" bestowed upon an Overseas Indian Association by the President of India.



AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Day: Sunday 30th March 2014

Time: 12.30 PM

Venue: Tandoori Junction Indian Restaurant, 29 Railway Pde, Glen Waverley

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)



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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 to be held on Sunday 30 March 2014

Signed

Dated.....

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Australia India society of Victoria is holding its Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 30, 2014 at the Tandoori Junction Restaurant, 29 Railway parade, Glen Waverley. The time is 12.30 PM for lunch and the meeting will start at 2.00PM. The agenda and the minutes of the last years AGM will be circulated on the day.

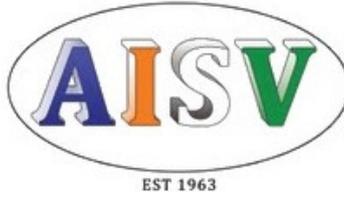
All are cordially invited to attend.

Please keep Friday 15 August 2014 free

Australia India Society of Victoria will be celebrating India's Independence Day on Friday 15 August 2014 at the Manningham Function Centre, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster VIC 3108. The format of the celebrations will be dinner/dance and a cultural program by various ethnic groups. It will be a gala event and invitations have already been sent to the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition. Please support our function by attending in large numbers.

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.