



**Executive committee**  
[ecommittee@aisv.org.au](mailto:ecommittee@aisv.org.au)

**President**

Dr. Gurdip Aurora  
T: +61 397 635 005  
M: +61 417 357 715  
[president@aisv.org.au](mailto:president@aisv.org.au)

**Vice President**

Ms. Roshni Francis  
T: +61 431 510 114  
[vp@aisv.org.au](mailto:vp@aisv.org.au)

**Treasurer**

Mrs. Uma Ganapathireddy  
M: +61 401 535 310  
[treasurer@aisv.org.au](mailto:treasurer@aisv.org.au)

**Secretary**

Mr. Remesh Remesan  
M: +61 419 109 539  
[secretary@aisv.org.au](mailto:secretary@aisv.org.au)

**Asst Secretary**

Mr. James Edwards  
[james.edwards@aisv.org.au](mailto:james.edwards@aisv.org.au)

**Committee Members**  
[committee@aisv.org.au](mailto:committee@aisv.org.au)

Mr. Rajkumar Gorantla  
M: +61 437 852 450  
[raj@aisv.org.au](mailto:raj@aisv.org.au)

Mr. Sunil Deep Singh  
M: +61 401 562 800  
[sunildeepsingh@aisv.org.au](mailto:sunildeepsingh@aisv.org.au)

Ms. Veena Singh  
[veena.singh@aisv.org.au](mailto:veena.singh@aisv.org.au)

**Australia India Society of Victoria Inc.**

1401 Ferntree Gully Road  
Scoresby  
VIC 3179  
Australia

<http://www.aisv.org.au>  
<http://www.aisv.com.au>  
<https://www.facebook.com/aisv.org.au>

## President's Message

A very alarming report on food adulteration and contamination has emerged on the SBS Radio and Television. An exclusive and extensive investigation by SBS has revealed banned imported foods are readily available in supermarkets in Australia and unfit for human consumption.

As part of this investigation, SBS commissioned independent lab testing of a number of imported foods from India and Pakistan available in Australia.

The report found food imported from the subcontinent being sold in South Indian Grocery Stores either not fit for human consumption or very deleterious to the health and welfare of the individuals consuming these imported Indian food products.

Kohinoor brand basmati rice found to contain Buprofezin, an insecticide banned in Australia.

Popular Indian spice brand MDH found to contain pesticides above the accepted Australian limit.

Banned substance Betel Nut readily available for sale in Australia

Complan - a powdered milk drink for growing children manufactured by Heinz in India

Indus Basmati - rice from Pakistan

Verka Ghee - a clarified butter widely used by South Asians in their daily cooking.

An investigation has now uncovered many anomalies at ethnic grocery stores, from changed "best before" dates on labels to hidden ingredients which could harm people suffering allergies.

"Best before" dates had been changed by months, even years, and unlisted ingredients ranged from milk



Dr. Gurdip Aurora

solids to nuts.

Ayurvedic medicines imported from India are no exceptions. Very recently SBS uncovered that a very popular sex enhancing drug Kamini contains a significant amount of codeine and opium, and some experts believe consuming just two tablets will give the user a "hit".

The tragedy is that this drug was as early as 2010 known to the Indian authorities to contain large amounts of Opium. According to newspaper reports a study by the PGI (Post Graduate Institute) had claimed in 2010 that each tablet of Kamini Vidrawan Ras, which was being sold at chemist shops as a herbal formulation, contained 160 mg of pure opium.

PGI's Drug De-addiction and Treatment Centre has since 2008 been seeing young addicts hooked to such herbal formulations. Under the garb of Ayurveda medicines which do not fall under any drug authority regulation, the herbal

## Inside this newsletter

Vice President's Message

Flyer - AISV Republic Day Celebration Invitation & Secretary's Message

Annual Membership New/Renewal Application form

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

formulation is sold openly and is abused widely by addicts in the city and its periphery.

It was inferred during the study that those addicted to the herbal formulation 'Kamini' on an average consumed 300 mg to 2,400 mg of pure opium from the medicine. The study, 'Herbal Medicines: Perfect Garb for Opioid Abuse? A Case Series from India', was published in The American Journal on Addiction in 2010.

'Kamini tablets' is sold as an aphrodisiac or often as a stimulant by many South Asian grocery stores around Australia, and as alleged to SBS, more and more people are getting addicted to it.

I would like to warn the readers that they need to be very careful in buying food products from Indian stores.

Australia India Society of Victoria is celebrating India's Republic Day and Australia Day on January 26, 2017. The details of these celebrations appear elsewhere in the newsletter.

I would request you to support AISV by attending this important event.

Finally, I would like to wish our membership and readers a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

**Dr. Gurdip Aurora, President.**

### Vice President's Message

It is an honour and privilege for me to be taking on the position of Vice President of AISV. I have been involved with AISV since my childhood years and have witness the great achievements and wonderful capacity of this longstanding committee.

A little bit about me and my background and why I took this position. I work as a Project Engineer in the gas industry and have lived in Northcote, Melbourne for most of my life. Besides my work, I enjoy travelling, good food, a healthy social life and a good boogie. I went to RMIT University, survived the student life and came out with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure). Instead of jumping straight into the seemingly mundane work life, I travelled a fair bit of the world in search of spectacular and interesting (sometimes questionable) experiences. Alas, money doesn't grow on trees so I started working as a Draftsperson for a traffic and transport company and went on to become a Field Engineer working on oil rigs on a fly-in fly-out basis - a truly awesome experience. I'm now happy to be working in Melbourne with friends and family close at hand.

When I was approached by President Dr. Gurdip Aurora about taking this position, I had a few interests: the preservation of multiculturalism in a young community, being a part of a well rooted and active committee with a vision, the opportunities that come with being a part of AISV, collaborating with likeminded people and not to mention exciting functions and events! My view of our committee is that it has tremendous potential. The group consist of members who have built it's very foundations, members enthused to make a genuine difference in the community and all of us are committed to doing our bit in this forever evolving multicultural society.

I am very grateful for the support of my fellow members in fulfilling the role of Vice President to this reputable committee. AISV's vision to aid and promote Indians and the Indian culture in our community is an empowering one. This committee is essentially an invaluable medium dedicated to supporting new migrants and advancing the needs of established Australian Indians. We work towards a common goal to promote cultural respect, education and information,



**Ms. Roshni Francis**

support, integrity and participation and I am very proud to be a part of it all.

**Ms. Roshni Francis, Vice President.**

### Disclaimer:

Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. 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 cordially invited to Australia India Society of Victoria's celebration of India's Republic Day and Australia Day

**Thursday 26th January 2017**  
6:30pm until Midnight @ Mint-o-Mustard  
42 Newquay Promenade,  
Docklands VIC 3008

**Join us for a delicious Indian Buffet dinner!!**  
Members \$35 // Non-members \$40  
Contact: 0417 357 715 or 0419 109 539

## Secretary's Message

### Discontinuation of existing 'AISV Manual Mailing Process'

Dear Members,

The current AISV Committee took a decision to discontinue the manual mailing process to its members, (via Australia Post: newsletters and/or correspondences), from March 1, 2017 and to replace it with electronic mailing process (emails).

In November 2016, AISV Secretary informed those Members, who currently receive AISV mails via post, of that decision, in writing, and requested them to provide their preferred email account and contact numbers to the Secretary.



Mr. Remesh Remesan

**Thank You to those members who have provided their email accounts and contact details!**

This is a reminder for those members who are yet to respond. Please email from your preferred email account to '[secretary@aisv.org.au](mailto:secretary@aisv.org.au)' quoting your name as shown on the envelope and your contact telephone numbers. **Appreciate your doing this asap.**

A decision will be made in the February Committee Meeting on further steps to be taken for those members who have not responded till end of January, 2017. The Secretary will inform those members of that decision, in writing, using the existing manual mailing process.

**AISV will discontinue the manual mailing process from March 1, 2017!**

The AISV Committee take this opportunity to wish all our Members and Readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

**Remesh Remesan, Secretary.**

## CONGRATULATIONS UMA!!!

Please join us in congratulating Uma Ganapathireddy, AISV Treasurer, for successfully completing Graduate Certificates, in

- (1) Family Violence
- (2) Australian Migration Law and Practice

Qualified to help in both Domestic Violence & Migration fields.

**Well Done Uma!!!**



Mrs. Uma Ganapathireddy



# 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**

.....

City .....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: \$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**

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.