

AI SV Views

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**Australia India
Society of
Victoria Inc.**

Australia

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

President's Message

We are blessed and lucky to be living in Australia in the current COVID world. Whilst we have had the worst run here in Victoria out of all states and territories of Australia. Compared to the rest of the world, we are living in the safest environment.

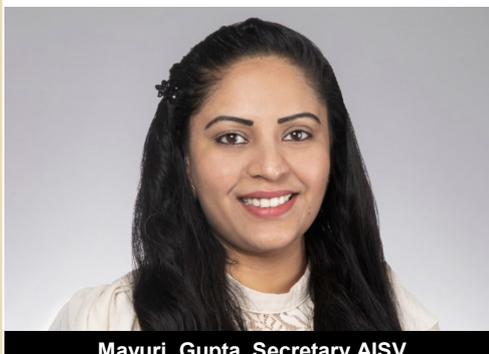
The infections and cases continue to drop, which is very encouraging. The cure and the vaccine is still a distant hope, but we are set to reduce restrictions enabling us to get our life back on track.

This is the worst financial crisis we have seen in our lifetime, and we will continue to feel the effects for a couple of generations.

The AISV has been very active during this Pandemic. From helping in the translation of social messages into Indian languages to helping stranded people get back to their families. We have also been helping run a meal program with the Mental health foundation of Australia to supply meals to the people in need.

Besides, we are running a program in conjunction with Indian Care to help International students needing help.

We were unable to hold our Independence Day celebration and our AGM due to COVID restrictions but managed to get a couple of Zoom meetings done to keep our efforts coordinated.



Mayuri Gupta, Secretary AISV



Karan Gandhok, President AISV

My best wishes for all members of AISV and their families. A big Thank you to the fellow committee for putting in the effort to keep things moving in these trying times.

Stay safe and well.

Karan Gandhok, President.

Secretary's Message

AISV was to have its AGM in March/April this year. However, because of the Pandemic, it was not possible to have a quorum for the AGM. After much deliberation, the executive committee has decided to have the AGM on Zoom or similar platform. You will be receiving phone calls from the committee members to check your availability to attend the meeting from home or alternately give your proxy vote to the President or Chairman of AISV. We would very much appreciate your cooperation by attending the AGM, which will fulfil our obligation to Corporate Affairs. Please let us know your intention to attend the AGM by emailing to secretary@aisv.org.au

Mayuri Gupta, Secretary.

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Chairman's Message

It took the pandemic of the coronavirus to open our eyes to many of the problems confronting the world.

Firstly, the lockdown in various countries showed us the amount of pollution we were creating in the world. For example, for the first time in over 70 years, the people of Punjab were able to see the snowfields of the Himalayas, The pollution-free towns of India looked clean and pristine. Some of the cities looked like towns in Europe, beautiful and spotless. Other high polluting nations of the world had similar experiences.

Secondly, the pandemic brought our attention to the "third world statuses of many developed first-world nations. The highest rate of the spread of virus and deaths occurred in Italy, Spain, Greece, Sweden, the UK and America. Unfortunately, the deaths occurred in the poorer, impoverished, old and migrant population, especially in countries like America and the UK. In some of the European countries, it was mainly the aged and infirm and nations that did not have the infrastructure to look after the very ill in their poorly equipped hospitals.

Thirdly, the head of nations who ignored the WHO warnings and warnings of their infectious disease specialists fared the worst. Unnecessary lives were lost that could have been saved had it not been for their ignorance and defiance of the expert health advice of their health organisations, such as the Centre for Disease Control. In this respect, the USA, Brazil and Sweden top the list.

What a difference the leader of a nation makes in these times to the standing of its country in the world suffering from a pandemic. President Trump ignored the advice of its experts, and as a result, America has so far the highest number of coronavirus cases in the world, over a million known cases with over two hundred thousand dead. The dead were mainly the poorer Afro American, Hispanic and migrant populations in the country. Unfortunately, these were the very people who did not have, or could not afford, private health insurance and who died in the pandemic. Yet much of the suffering could have been avoided had President Trump, President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil and Sweden's (epidemiologist) followed the advice of the very learned and expert health officials working in WHO.

The most direct human cost as of today is more than a million people in the world who have died, suddenly and prematurely. More than 200,000 deaths in the United States, over 142,000 deaths in Brazil and 5,870 deaths in Sweden out of a population of 10 million. President Trump, President Bolsonaro as well as Mr Anders Tegnell, Sweden's State Epidemiologist should be held liable for the fact that they sent message after message that masks were optional or not necessary, isolation was a no-go and testing people for possible exposure was not required despite expert advice from the WHO. One could ask the question what is the penalty, in a legal sense, for letting thousands die by negligence, omission and failure to act?

The coronavirus has overtaken tuberculosis and hepatitis



Dr. Gurdip Aurora, Chairman AISV

as the world's deadliest infectious disease and is still spreading fast. It has spread across the globe, infecting millions of people and paralysing entire economies.

However, in Victoria, the coronavirus has spread like wildfire owing to the negligence of a few government organisations. The Victorian government has since been ardently following the advice of the medical experts and masks turned out to be more helpful than Western experts had predicted. Social distancing and lockdown on an unheard-of scale have been more feasible and practical than anticipated. The difference in danger between an outdoor gathering and an indoor one was found to be greater than expected and preventive measures like wearing masks and swift responses like isolating and testing people for possible exposure were found to be much more critical. These measures are working, and the number of coronavirus cases is coming down in Victoria. On a sad note, over eight hundred people have died and most of them in aged care facilities because of an initial inadequate response to the virus and more so because of lack of adequately trained staff, lack of personal protective equipment and inadequate medical care during the pandemic. Mistakes have been made in the control of the virus leading to 859 deaths so far in Australia, mostly in Victoria. Hopefully, we all learn some lessons as a result of this catastrophic pandemic.

Dr. Gurdip Aurora, Chairman.

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.

INVITATION TO ATTEND AISV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - 2020

Dear Member(s),

On behalf of the 'Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. (AISV)' and the Committee for 2019-2020 Administration years, the Secretary is pleased to invite you to the 'Annual General Meeting (AGM)', scheduled to be conducted through Zoom or similar platform.

All Members, who are in receipt of this notice, are requested to attend and actively participate in the AGM.

The tentative agenda is shown below; should you wish to add any, please do not hesitate to inform the secretary by emailing to 'secretary@aisv.org.au', asap. We need 30+ Financial Members to conduct the AGM and hence encourages all members to attend. Please indicate your intent to attendance by emailing to 'secretary@aisv.org.au' ASAP. **Thank You!**

Note:

The AGM Chairperson will be the 'Chairman of AISV: Gurdip Aurora'.

Minutes of 2019 AGM, Reports of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of 2019-2020 Administration years will be circulated prior to the commencement of the AGM.

The 'Election Process' for the 2020-2021 Administration Years will be conducted by a 'Returning Officer' (chairperson will announce the name at AGM).

AGM Details:

Date: 22 November 2020, Sunday

Time: 13:30

Venue: Online (Zoom or Microsoft Teams or Google Meet will be communicated closer to the date)

AGM Agenda:

- * Meeting open: Quorum check, Report distribution etc.
- * Acceptance of the minutes of the 2019 AGM
- * Business arising from the minutes of the last AGM
- * Reports: President, Secretary & Treasurer
- * Election of Office Bearers: 2020-2021 Administration Years
- * Appointment of Auditor
- * Any Other Business: includes any agendas requested by members to the Secretary.
- * Meeting Close

Hoping to receive email expressing your interest and meeting you at AGM-2020- Thank You!!

Mayuri Gupta, Secretary.





2019 Independence Day Celebration





Event: Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA)'s Meal Delivery Initiative

Highlights: AISV Assisted MHFA in delivery of 30,000 cooked meals to various locations in Melbourne for the communities and international students in need, from the 1st week of August!

Top: Karan Gandhok along with Mr Alex Lim president of the Chinese Chamber of commerce alongside Ms Christina Chia, president of the Australian Asian Family Association.

Bottom: Karan Gandhok and Ms Santi Whiteside.





AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Day: 22 November 2020, Sunday, 13:30 hrs
Venue: **Online** (Zoom or similar platform)

All financial members are requested to attend

NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

I, (full nameof (full address)
.....being a financial member
of Australia India Society of Victoria Inc., nominate
for the position of (position title)

I, (full name).....of (full address)
.....being a financial member
of AISV, support this nomination.

Signature of Proposer

Signature of Secunder

Acceptance of the Nomination

Ibeing a financial member
of AISV accept this nomination for the position of

Signature of NomineeDated.....

Positions:

- President (must be a member of the previous Committee)
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee Members (5 positions)

Duly filled 'Nomination Forms' must be emailed to committee@aisv.org.au

PROXY FORM

I,(full name) of
.....being a financial mem-
ber of AISV herewith endorse Name
to act as my proxy for AISV's Annual General Meeting to be held on

SignedDated.....

Duly filled 'Nomination Forms' should be emailed to committee@aisv.org.au



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 emailed to: Membership@aisv.org.au

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.