

AISViews

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**Australia India
Society of
Victoria Inc.**
Australia

<https://www.aisv.org.au>
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President's Message

Dear Members,

As we endure the harsh chill of winter, with inflation reaching its highest point in over three decades, I, Karan Singh Gandhok, as your President, want to acknowledge the genuine hardship many Australians face. The cost of living crisis, aggravated by increasing mortgage payments and soaring utility bills, is nudging our economy towards a mini-recession. Every day Australians feel the pressure of having to make the painful choice - to heat or eat.

However, amid this grim reality, we must recognise that we are still in a more favourable position than many other countries. This should not make us complacent but grateful that our destinies led us to this beautiful part of the world.

The Indian Diaspora continues to grow both in numbers and influence. The recent visit of Hon'ble Narendra Modi to Australia and the warm reception he received from the Australian Government and the Indian community was a moment of great pride for us all. I remember the visits of Hon'ble Morarji Desai in 1978, Hon'ble Mrs Gandhi in 1981, and Hon'ble Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. None of these great leaders drew the audience that our current Prime Minister did. This is a testament to the growing significance of the Indian community in Australia.

On the business front, the bond between India and Australia continues to strengthen. Our sporting interactions, particularly in cricket, have been bolstered by the increasing Australian representation in the IPL. The Aussies' victory over India in the Champions Test undoubtedly gave



Karan Gandhok, President AISV

them the momentum to pull off an impressive win in the first Ashes Test.

As we approach the Voice Referendum, we must embrace our past to forge a better future. However, we must remain vigilant and prevent this process from being manipulated by those with vested interests.

Our recent Mehfil night in May was a resounding success, and the AISV remains committed to fostering improved relations within our Indian Diaspora. As we gear up for our AGM, I urge all members to get involved. Your innovative ideas and suggestions are invaluable for the continued evolution of our community.

As we navigate these challenging times, please stay safe and warm. Our collective resilience and unity will see us through.

Best Regards,
Karan Singh Gandhok
President

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Chairman's Message

Esteemed Members and Fellow Australians,

Today, I write to you with a call to honour and elevate voices that have resonated on this land for over 60 thousand years, voices that belong to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Their history is steeped in more than 500 distinct cultural groups that thrived here long before Captain Cook's landing in 1770. They are the proud keepers of the world's most ancient living culture, yet their voices have often been drowned out in our nation's Parliament discourse.

As a dedicated medical practitioner, my experiences have unveiled the stark health disparities haunting our Aboriginal communities. Diseases that we can easily prevent or manage, like Rheumatic Heart Disease, are taking our children's lives more frequently than in the most impoverished nations of Africa. Chronic afflictions such as Diabetes, Chronic Liver disease, lung cancers, bronchus, trachea, and, tragically, intentional self-harm continue to shadow our Aboriginal populace.

In a landmark move, the Albanese Government has introduced the historic "Voice of Parliament" bill this year. This independent advisory body stands to enlighten our Parliament on the unique and pressing issues Indigenous Australians face. However, the bill faces resistance from a right-wing faction within the Liberal Government, which could obstruct its passage.

This referendum is a beacon of justice long overdue, and I implore every one of you, especially the Indian Diaspora and all migrant communities who call Australia home, to vote "Yes". It is incumbent upon us to unite in this cause and ensure the passage of this referendum, thereby honouring the custodians of the world's oldest living culture.

On another pressing matter, the escalating war in Ukraine has entered its 16th month, wreaking havoc on Ukraine's infrastructure and resulting in the tragic loss of thousands of lives. The recent destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam has led to widespread flooding across Southern Ukraine, displacing tens of thousands and wreaking havoc on the natural environment.

As the international community, including NATO and Western allies, provide Ukraine with much-needed support, we must remain vigilant about the growing desperation of Mr Putin. His threats to deploy nuclear devices, which include the potential endangerment of Europe's largest nuclear facility, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station, are deeply concerning.

Mr Putin's policies echo the destructive path taken by some of history's most ruthless leaders, such as Adolf Hitler, whose sole aim was to exterminate an entire race and dominate the world.

In these trying times, we must not waver in supporting the Ukrainian people and their courageous wartime president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

My grandson, Luca Aurora, penned a poignant poem on the war that resonates with our current global predicament:



Dr. Gurdip Aurora, Chairman AISV

****WAR****

*War is a horrible place, dying, dreadful, defeated.
No one ever wins in war,
Screaming people, bombs raining down,
Guns getting ready to fire
Loved ones dying amidst screams of pain.
Life or death out there,
Every man for themselves. Violence, death, and stupidity.
Innocent people dying, all for nothing,
When will they learn nobody wins in war?
Refugees, protests, guns.
As Michael Franti said, you can bomb the world to pieces,
But you cannot bomb the world to peace.
Tanks, bombs, guns. The world will never learn.
All the soldiers and innocent people that have died,
Yet, we still fight.*

Remember that our strength lies in unity, hearing each other's voices, and standing together in the face of adversity.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to these vital matters.

With utmost respect, Dr Gurdip Aurora

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.

Secretary's Report

With great honour, I present the Secretary's Report following our Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in June 2022.

****Membership and Community Expansion****

Our AISV family has grown stronger, welcoming six new members since the last AGM. Their arrival injects fresh perspectives and energy into our thriving community.

Year of Collaborations and Endeavours

****Film and Art Promotion****

Our collaboration with the Indian Film Festival Melbourne (IFFM) significantly contributed to the event's reach and success.

****Multicultural Briefing and Qualification Assessment Session****

We were privileged to represent AISV at a multicultural community briefing with Prof. Ben Cowie, Acting Chief Health Officer, and during the Free Overseas Qualification Assessment Session from Business Victoria. The information from these engagements has been shared on our Facebook page for our community's reference.

****76th Indian Independence Day****

We celebrated the 76th Indian Independence Day in grandeur with FIAV, AICCT, and AIBC. The Indian Consulate, led by Counsel General Shree Sushil Kumar Ji, was our joint partner in the AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV celebration. Other dignitaries gracing the occasion included Ms Nicole Seymour, Deputy Mayor Knox Council; Ms Vivienne Nguyen AM, Chairperson Victorian Multicultural Commission; Hon Matt Fregon, representative for the Premier & State Government; and opposition representative Mr Asher Judah. Our Secretary, Ruchi Sharma, masterfully orchestrated the event, reflecting her dedication and commitment to our organisation. During the event, AISV Chairman Dr Gurdip Aurora was felicitated and acknowledged for his contributions to the Indian community. Our President, Mr Karan Singh Gandhok, extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all our volunteers and attendees.

****Diwali Celebration****

The Diwali celebration, organised alongside the Punjabi Club of Victoria, was unforgettable, immersing us all in our shared cultural heritage.

****Community Partnership****

AISV has been a solid community partner, supporting various overseas artists' shows in Melbourne and the MS Diva, Australia, personality contest.

****Harmony, Peace, and Cultural Diversity Event****

Upon invitation from HWPL (IWPG/IPYG), we had the pleasure of representing Indian culture at an event celebrating Melbourne's harmony, peace, and cultural diversity.

****Red Shield Appeal Multicultural Launch****

We participated in the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal Multicultural Launch, where our showcase of Indian cuisine, dance, and Henna art received much appreciation.

****AISV Musical Nights****

Our musical nights on September 25, 2022, and June 17, 2023, allowed our patrons to unwind and enjoy a rich musical experience.

Reflections and the Road Ahead

This past year has been a test of our resilience, and I am proud to say that our AISV community has risen to the challenge. The shadow cast by the COVID-19 pandemic and rising living costs have certainly tested us, yet our collective strength and unity have shone through. We stand together, more connected and determined than ever before.

In these testing times, it is of utmost importance that we do not lose sight of our mental health and well-being. We must continually nurture our spirits, fostering a sense of positivity and unity, reminding ourselves and each other that even in the face of adversity, we have the resilience to prevail. This too shall pass, and in its wake will leave a stronger, more tightly-knit community.

As we turn the page to a new chapter, we do so with optimism and a clear vision. Our objective for the coming year is to leverage the foundations of unity and strength we've built to explore new opportunities, foster growth, and further empower our vibrant community. We are excited about what the future holds and remain committed to keeping you informed every step of the way. Follow our [AISV Facebook](#) page to stay updated on our latest initiatives and community news.



Ruchi Sharma, Secretary- AISV

Should you have any inquiries, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share, we are always here to listen. You can reach out to us at secretary@aisv.org.au.

In closing, I wish you warmth, safety, and joy. Let us remember that together we are stronger, and together we are AISV. Let's continue to support each other and strive for greatness. Together, we can make a difference.

Best Regards,
Ruchi Sharma
Secretary

INVITATION TO ATTEND AISV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - 2023

Dear Member(s),

On behalf of the 'Australia India Society of Victoria Inc. (AISV)' and the Committee for 2023-2024 Administration Years, the Secretary is pleased to invite you to the 'Annual General Meeting (AGM)', scheduled to be conducted **on Sunday, August 6, 2023**.

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

Please do not hesitate to inform the Secretary by emailing secretary@aisv.org.au asap. Should you wish to add any topic for discussion to the tentative Agenda below. We need 30+ Financial Members to conduct the AGM, encouraging all members to attend. Please indicate your attendance by emailing to secretary@aisv.org.au before **Sunday, July 30, 2023** (would also help in catering) - **Thank You!**

Note:

The AGM Chairperson will be the President of AISV: Karan Gandhok.

Before the start of the AGM, we will circulate the Minutes from the previous AGM, Reports of the President, Secretary and the Treasurer.

A 'Returning Officer' will conduct the 'Election Process' for the 2023-24 Administration Years' (the chairperson will announce the name at AGM).

AGM Details:

Date: Sunday, August 6, 2023

Time: 11:00-11:50 (Lunch), 12:00 (AGM)

Venue: [Carrington Park Leisure Centre, 20 Oconnor Rd, Knoxfield VIC 3180](#)

AGM Agenda:

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

Hoping to receive an email expressing your interest and meeting you at AGM.

Thank You!

Ruchi Sharma, Secretary.



AUSTRALIA INDIA SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date: **Sunday, August 6, 2023** Time: 11:00-11:50 (Lunch), 12:00 (AGM)

Venue: **Carrington Park Leisure Centre, 20 Oconnor Rd, Knoxfield VIC 3180**

All financial members are requested to attend

NOMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

I, (full name of (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 received by **Sunday, July 30, 2023** and should be emailed to secretary@aisv.org.au and cc to admin@aisv.org.au

PROXY FORM

I,(full name) ofbeing a financial member of AISV herewith endorse Name to act as my proxy for AISV's Annual General Meeting to be held on **Sunday, August 6, 2023**

SignedDated.....

Duly filled 'Nomination Forms' must be received by **Sunday, July 30, 2023** and should be emailed to secretary@aisv.org.au and cc to admin@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 / Annual 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 secretary@aisv.org.au and cc to admin@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.