



Indian Cultural Society of Tasmania Inc.

Indian Cultural & Community Welfare Centre

Barat Bhavan (India House)

7, Lodge Street, Glenorchy, Tasmania 7010, Australia

GPO Box 14A, Hobart, Tasmania

14th October 1996
News Letter No. 1

Dear Members

It gives me immense pleasure to address you again through this Newsletter after a long absence from Hobart. As you may be aware when I was the President of the Society for the year 1994-95, Bhavini & myself left for Jakarta, Indonesia on 26th February 1995. I am sorry for disappearing from the scene so suddenly but I had only three weeks to pack up and report on my new assignment as a Bridge Specialist with Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation of Australia to work on Jakarta Outer Ring Road Project.

It was a very rewarding & interesting experience both academically and socially and a real eye opener for learning more about India since Indonesia in my opinion is the best country at the present which can be compared with India. I would recommend anybody going to India to go via Indonesia to see how the country has progressed and to help visualise how India may look like in the near future. By the way Indonesia is now a good shopping destination especially since Singapore has rather become expensive.

I would like to thank all those members who turned up for the Annual General Meeting on 22nd September, 96 at the Migrant Resource Centre and elected me as the President of the Society for the year 1996 -97. I am very delighted to have been elected as the President of the Society especially as the Indian Cultural Society of Tasmania enters the 25th year of its being as it was established on 30th July, 1972. Let us congratulate those Founding Members and the First President of the Society Mr. Ikram Naqvi. I would also like to thank you for electing and committee members as seen in the photograph below:

From left to right: Mr Abnash Singal (Member), Dr. Ulhas Lad (Vice-President)
Mrs Surinder Mahindroo (Member), Mr Dinesh Patel (President)
Mr Saleh Parkar (Secretary), Mr Brij Datta (Treasurer)



Two of the Founding members of the Society **Mr Abnash Singal and Mr Saleh Parkar** are still going strong and are serving on this year's committee. Congratulations to both of them.

On this occasion of the Society entering the 25th year, I have requested Mr Ikram Naqvi, the First President of the Indian Cultural Society of Tasmania to reflect back on our achievements. Ikram has obliged and forwarded me the following message for the members:

REFLECTION OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT

I am honoured to be asked to reflect on the achievements of the Indian Cultural Society of Tasmania as it approaches its 25th Anniversary.

Inaugural meeting of your Society was held on 30th July, 1972 in the Union Building, University of Tasmania. Among the founding members, Abnash Singal, Saleh Parkar and Mahendra Pathik are still living in Hobart and making their contributions to the Welfare of the Indian Community in Tasmania.

For a small community we have achieved a great deal. We are a cohesive group and have made positive contributions to the Australian society. Contributions of our members have been recognised nationally. Some of them have served and are serving on National and State Advisory Committees. Our members have done well professionally and our children are performing well academically and professionally.

Culturally, we have enriched the Tasmanian Community by exposing them to Indian Dance, Music, Food, Festivals, Craft and Language. Establishment of the India House 'Bharat Bhavan' was a significant development.

While we should be proud of our achievements we have to look to the future. Success of our Society is due to hard work of many dedicated members. However, time has to encourage young members of our community to take the lead in furthering the objectives of the Society of promoting and integrating Indian culture in Australian society.

I am confident that we have the talent and the will to ensure that the future will be as exciting as the past.

Thank you.

Ikram Naqvi



UPCOMING EVENTS:

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 26th September, 1996 and it was decided to have a number of functions throughout the year. The first function of the year is organised to celebrate **DIPAWALI on 8th November 1996 at the Migrant Resource Centre at 49 Molle Street, Hobart starting at 7.00 p.m.** As usual members are requested to bring a spicy or a sweet dish and are requested to get in touch with **Bhavini Patel on 236209 or Dr. Gita Lad on 294111.** Please remember the function is organised for you by the committee and it is upto all the members now to attend and make it a success.

I would report the details of the other functions in my second and subsequent newsletters as they are finalised.

GENERAL NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS:

Congratulations to Gunnasselán Thambía & Vígi for having a baby girl. The baby girl was born on 18th September, 96 her name is **Ashani**. Both Ashani & Vígi are doing fine. Also, Gunna has got a new job recently and wish him all the best for the future.

Dr. Gita Lad has left for Bombay, India on 9th October to celebrate a family wedding and returns on 25th October, 96 just in time for the DIPAWALI function.

Mr Brij Datta & Indu are leaving for New-Delhi, India soon after DIPAWALI and would return on 10th December, 1996.

Mr Abnash Singal and Jean are leaving for a family wedding at Chandigarh, India on 8th November in the morning and **we will miss them in the DIPAWALI Function.**

Mr Bijoy Datta & Sunita have left for Calcutta, India on 9th October and are expected back in Hobart around 2nd March, 1997.

Dr. Jacob George is also leaving for India 21st December, 96 to see his parents and is returning to Hobart on 18th January, 1997. Their daughter Susan and her husband Dr. Philip Wright have recently moved from Melbourne to Launceston.

Dr. Raj Prasad & Prashila are going to Fiji to visit their parent on 3rd January, 97 and returning to Hobart on 21st January, 1997.

I must stop as this looks like an Exodus and this is no recipe for my itchy feet!

let me start something new.



Mr Mahindra Pathik has been elected as the Senior Vice Chairperson for the Ethnic Council of Tasmania and the President of Ethnic Broadcast Inc. for the year 96-97 . As you may know Mahendra is a very active person and has served on the Committee for the Indian Cultural Society and the Ethnic Community of Tasmania for a long time. In fact he is also one of the Founding Members of the Indian Cultural Society. However, his longest service to the community is through his Radio Program on every Saturday Morning. He has been entertaining the Indian Community with music and other broadcast since last 18 years. How many of us would like to get up early on Saturday morning and run to the Radio Station at 9.00 a.m. ? Congratulations & please keep up the good work, Mahendra.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY:

Since the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd September, 1996 only 16 members have paid up the subscription. **All existing members and intending new members are requested to post their subscription at the Society's GPO Box 14 A, Hobart as given on the front page of this Newsletter or pay it to the Treasurer Mr Brij Datta.** I am also forwarding all the existing members a **Membership Application Form and request you to atleast find one friend to join the Society.** As they say More the Merrier and would have double the fun! Please do your best in this regard.

OTHER EVENTS:

DIWALI FESTIVAL-FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT LAUNCESTON:

The Indian community of Launceston has organised Diwali Festival dinner function on 2nd November, 1996 . The organisers Mr Ajit Pal and Dr. Sahu expect about 200 people to attend the function which is to be held at Sir Raymond Ferral Centre at the University of Tasmania, Launceston at 6.30 p.m. There will be variety of Indian foods and interesting cultural programs. Tickets are very reasonable being \$ 20.0 for Family, \$10.0 for Individual and \$5.00 for Students.

Ajit tells me that this is the first time Indian Community has organised a big dinner function like this in Launceston and has requested members of our Society to support. I would request those members interested in attending to reserve the tickets soon by **contacting Ajit on 03-63 27 2317 at Home or 03- 63 35 4759 at Office.**



JUST A PLAIN JOCK FOR A THOUGHT!

A Programmer and an Engineer are sitting next to each other on a long flight from LA to NY. The Programmer leans over to the Engineer and asks if he would like to play a fun game. The Engineer just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks.

The Programmer persists and explains that the game is real easy and a lotta fun. He explains " I ask you a question , and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5. Then you ask me a question , and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$5.

Again, the Engineer politely declines and tries to get sleep.

The Programmer, now somewhat agitated, says, "OK, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$ 5 and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$50.!"

The catches the Engineer's attention, and he sees no end to this torment unless he plays, so he agrees to the game. The Programmer asks the first question:

"What is the distance from the earth to the moon?"

The Engineer doesn't say a word, but reaches his into his wallet, pulls out a five dollar bill and hands it to the Programmer.

Now, it is the Engineer's turn and he asks the Programmer:

"What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down on four?"

The Programmer looks up at him with a puzzled look. He takes out his laptop computer and searches all of his references. He taps into the Airphone with his modem and searches the net and the Library of Congress. Frustrated, he sends email to his Co-workers --- all to no avail.

After about an hour, he wakes the Engineer and hands him \$50. The Engineer politely takes \$50 and turns away to try to get back to sleep.

The Programmer, more than a little miffed, shakes the Engineer and asks " Well, so What is the answer?"

Without a word, the Engineer reaches into his wallet, hands the Programmer \$5 and turns away to get to sleep!

Thank you for your patience. See you all at the DIPAWALI Function On 8th November.

Yours friendly

Dinesh Patel (President)