



अनुभव

Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

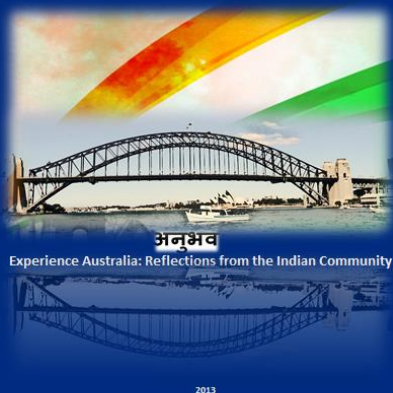
2013

Story of a **Migrant Community's**  
**Role, Contributions, Issues, Challenges**  
&  
more...  
...in the **Sustainable Development**  
of  
**Australia.**

A Report  
by  
**Jayantee Mukherjee Saha**

## Contents

Aei4eiA



© Copyright **Aei4eiA**, 2013,  
All Rights Reserved.

For information or permission to  
reprint please contact-

[Aei4eiA](http://www.aei4eia.com.au)

Sydney, NSW, Australia

E mail: [info@aei4eia.com.au](mailto:info@aei4eia.com.au)

Website: [www.aei4eia.com.au](http://www.aei4eia.com.au)

**5 - Preface**

**7 - Acknowledgements**

**9- Executive Summary**

**11- Indian Community in Australia- At a glance**

Brief history of migration

Where Indians live in Australia

A quick look at the profile of Indians in Australia

**20- Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community**

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

New South Wales (NSW)

Northern Territory (NT)

Queensland (QLD)

South Australia (SA)

Tasmania (TAS)

Victoria (VIC)

Western Australia (WA)

**59- Way Forward- Hard Works, Warm Hearts**

**63- Methodology**

**64- References**

**List of Exhibits**

**Exhibit 1-** Year of Arrival: Migration trend of Indians in Australia and key incidences impacting it

**Exhibit 2-** Year of Arrival: Migration trend of Indians in Australia and key incidences impacting it (state wise)

**Exhibit 3-** Where Indians Live in Australia

**Exhibit 4-** English Language Proficiency of Indians

**Exhibit 5-** Median weekly income of Indians

**Exhibit 6-** Top 10 occupations of Indians nationals who were granted visa in 2011-12 and 2010-11

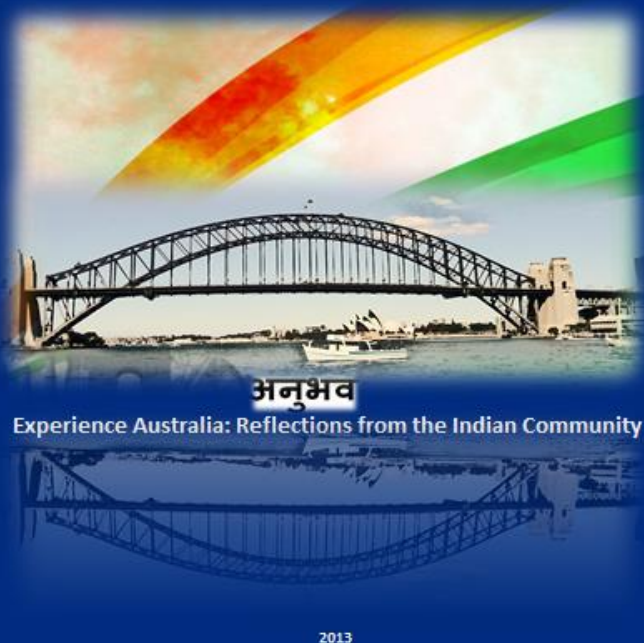
**Exhibit 7-** Marital status of Indians in Australia

**Exhibit 8-** Dwelling structure of Indians in Australia

**Exhibit 9-** Mortgage and Rent figures of Indians in Australia

**Exhibit 10-** Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community (Summarised)

Aei4eiA



[National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry](#)

**Author:** Saha, Jayantee Mukherjee.

**Title:** Experience Australia: reflections from the Indian community

**ISBN:** 9780646912547 (paperback)

**Subjects:** East Indians--Australia.  
East Indians--Australia--Social conditions.  
East Indians--Australia--Economic conditions.  
East Indians--Australia--Social life and customs.  
Australia--Emigration and immigration.  
India--Emigration and immigration.

**Dewey Number:** 305.891411094

## About The Research

The study has been carried out using both **qualitative** and **quantitative** methods. The sources of this research have been drawn from a wide range of **primary** and **secondary** material including official statistics, **published data**, books, journals, research articles, news reports, and seminar and **conference papers**. The **fieldwork** for this research took **eight months**. Random '**purposeful sampling**' method was used.

**By joining the *Experiences,***

***Listening to the range of responses,***

**From *Apprehension, to Agony, to Acclamation,***

**Recording factual data,**

**We present-**

**A repository of information and collection of sentiments!**



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>



**Australia** and **India** has a connection dating back to **130 million years**. The story goes that once upon a time both these countries were **land-locked**. Recent scientific evidences also found a **genetic connection** between the two countries dating more than **4,000 years**, though it was not until **a few centuries ago** that Indian communities started settling in Australia.



## Did you know...?

As per one of the earliest Australian censuses recorded in the year **1881**,  
there were **998** people who were born in India;

*The most recent Australian census* recorded in the year **2011**, counts **295,362**  
people who were born in India;



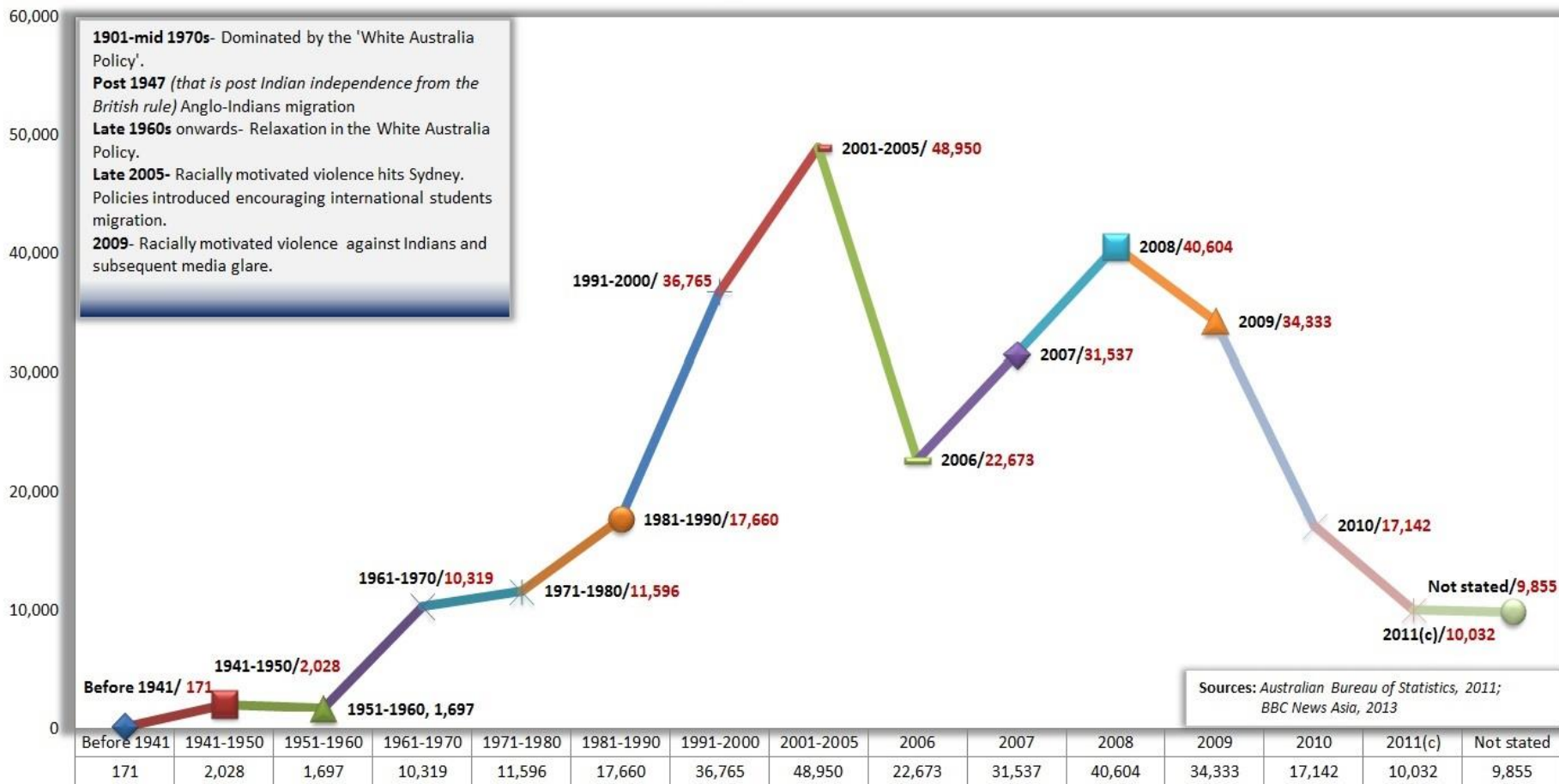
Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>

# Migration trend of Indians in Australia and Key incidences impacting it

(Overall)



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eIA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>



**Dr. Tapas Biswas**

Assistant Director - Murray-Darling Basin Authority  
Past President - Bengali Cultural Association of Canberra.

*“I arrived in Australia in the year 1996... Broadly, Australians are welcoming....But, in those initial days there was an element of indecision whether to live here or go back to India”.*

However, when, soon after he arrived in Australia he received an offer from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) New South Wales (NSW) to join as its Environmental Scientist, he decided to live here and contribute to the country's development objectives.

*In his words, “it was this sense of economic security and recognition of knowledge and skills that prompted me to decide to live and contribute to the scientific development of the country....I believe how a society look upon you also depends on how you portray yourself”.*

**A Scientist of Eminence...**

*Winner of the prestigious SARDI Achievement Award- 2008...*

**Significantly contributing**

To the scientific development of the

**Australian Agriculture & Irrigation industry....**







**Dr. Sanjeev Sabhlok**

Senior Manager, Department of Treasury and Finance,  
Government of Victoria, Australia,  
Executive Director (Honorary) - India Policy Institute.

**A former Indian Bureaucrat ...**

**A political philosopher...**

**A senior official with the Australian Government ...**



*“Barring a few instances, my general experience of living in Australia has been very positive. In Australia, one doesn't come across racism on a daily basis. However, it is certain that it affects career prospects in Australia, although it is gradually changing for the better.*

*Many Australians of Indian origin are doing well in their own fields. But Indians are not as well-knit as they could be. Hence, a strong collaborative message does not come across.*

*Australian-Indians can contribute significantly by becoming a link between the two countries...*

*We need more Australian-Indians to become ‘Change Makers’. We should advocate policies that will be mutually beneficial to both countries”.*



**Dr. Yadu Singh**

Cardiologist,

President, Indian Australian Association of NSW (INDAUS) Inc.

**A Successful Cardiologist...**

**A Prominent Community Leader**

**An advocate of positive**

**Bilateral relations between Australia and India ....**

*“Australia is a great country to live and work. I do not believe that Australia is a racist nation, although I recognise that there are some people who hold racist views, just like any other country of the world. Australia is my “Karm Bhumi” (place of work) and India is my “Matra Bhumi (birth place) and I will always have a significant emotional bonding for India. One thing I find quite disturbing is that some of us are not as supportive to our own people as we should be.*

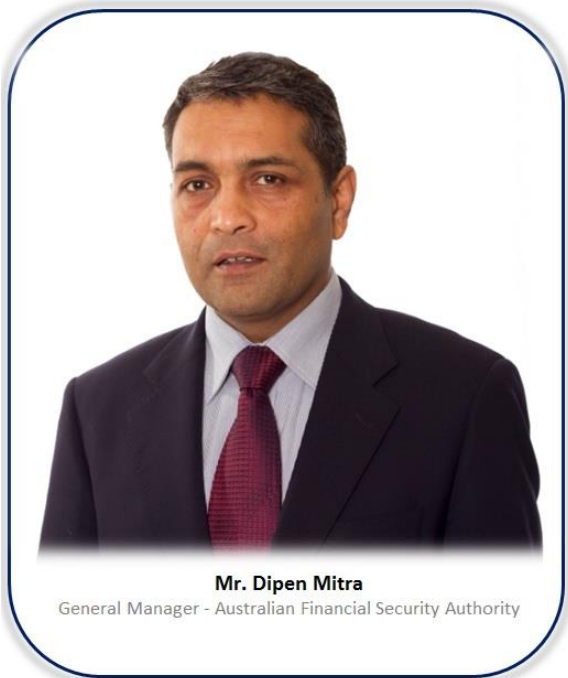
*At times we are jealous, have tall poppy syndrome and are poorly networked. As a community, we need to encourage an integrated Indian identity within the broader Australian identity”.*



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by **Aei4eiA**

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>



Mr. Dipen Mitra

General Manager - Australian Financial Security Authority

*“People often say Australia is the lucky country – to me it is a country that provides one the opportunities to realise one’s potential... Once I joined AFSA, I started enjoying living here....*

*...One’s attitude, and how one projects oneself in social interactions outside of the Indian community very much influences how ‘accepted’ and ‘integrated’ one feels in one’s adopted country....*

*In this Asian century, when we are trying to build closer ties with Asia, we need to look into different options for engaging with the educated citizenry- who will play pivotal roles in the building of their respective nations and form strategic and trading alliances across the region in the future.”*

A highly experienced Chartered Accountant ...

National Management Board member- Australian Federal Government Executive Agency...

Driving transformational change agendas

To create high performing teams,

Sustainable organisational value &

Positive social impacts.....



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community



Mr. DLR Prasad  
Director Mines - Adani Australia

*“The Adani Group's Carmichael coal block is the largest ever investment (USD 10 billion) by any Indian company in the country. I think resources sector is one of the key sectors where Australia-India...*

*Can form mutually beneficial collaborations... India lacks infrastructure and there is a huge demand for energy resources there, whereas Australia needs investment and employment generation....*

*....I have never faced any racism here. My (Australian) colleagues love me. I am well integrated into the society and have good friends here including cricketers, academicians, businessmen and more...”*

A man of action ...

An expert mining engineer...

With decades of experience under his sleeves ...

Headhunted from India to take charge of...

One of the significant coal mines in Australia...





**Mr. Karunakara DT**

Senior Mechanical Engineer - Entura, Tasmania, Australia,  
Past Vice President - Hindu Society of Tasmania

*“Here we are geographically isolated from the rest of the country. The environment is relaxed and we have easy going people here. Indian culture is pretty much respected. People love curry; get connected through Bollywood and Cricket. It is a good idea to mix with the local people and also appreciate what this country has given us. We cannot change our skin colour but can contribute towards the growth of this nation. Be a Roman in Rome!”*

A Senior Mechanical Engineer...  
With years of experience in ...  
Hydro Power Generation Services...  
Working for the Government of Tasmania, Australia ...  
A representative of the Indian community of Tasmania ...



अनुभव  
Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

*Majority of the respondents appreciated the quality of life, egalitarian society, good healthcare and education system, organised systems/procedures and beauty of the natural environment in Australia...*

**But**

*Do you know the other-side of the story?*



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>



**Dr. Dhara Shah**

Cross Cultural Consultant, Sirva Relocation  
Sessional Lecturer & Tutor for HRM, Griffith University, Australia

*"It was hard to get in. In spite of being highly qualified and having prior work experience, I had to wait for a long time. Initially, it was quite a frustrating experience and I longed to go back".*

**Dr. Dhara Shah, PhD (HRM), MHRM (Hons) BCom.**  
Cross Cultural Consultant, Sirva Relocation  
Sessional Lecturer & Tutor for HRM, Griffith University  
Brisbane, Queensland (QLD), Australia.



**Mr. Amarinder Bajwa**

Director Technical Operations, E-Power Australia Pty Ltd,  
Director, Bellsoft Technologies Pty Ltd  
Past President, United Indian Association (UIA),  
Vice President, National Sikh Council of Australia.

*"Australia is a good country to live. But the Immigration laws should be fairer. Here there are instances where even PhD holders and well-educated people from our community had to drive taxi to meet ends. It's a clear waste of skill-set and public money. I think it is worth trying to get them in employment and that way it is not only good for the individual but also Australia. As a country it can gain immensely by properly utilising its manpower resources".*

**Mr. Amarinder Bajwa, B.E (Electronics),**  
Director Technical Operations, E-Power Australia Pty Ltd,  
Director, Bellsoft Technologies Pty Ltd  
Past President, United Indian Association (UIA),  
Vice President, National Sikh Council of Australia.



*"I was a well-respected practitioner back in India, having a high profile job at an MNC of international repute...when I migrated here, I secured an elementary level job and lived in a rented flat.... I always felt that I am not doing what I am capable of. There was a sense of incompleteness..."*

Dr. Debu Mukerji (PhD (SKEMA University France - Strategy, Program & Project Management);  
FIEAust CPENG (Mech); Metallurgist (LMIIM, India))

*...and More....*



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>



## Did you know?

On one hand, Indians in Australia are *qualified* (were almost **three times** as likely as other Australians to have a Bachelor degree or above), *English-speaking and are socially stable* while on the other hand, *as on August 2012, the unemployment rate among Indians in Australia was 6.2 per cent which was higher than the national unemployment rate of 5.1 per cent.*

*In many cases, their skills remain under-utilised even though they are the top most sources in the skilled migration category....*



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>

## Did you know why?

Does it have anything to do with the overall perceived image of India (often characterised by 3Cs- *Chaos, Corruption and Cronyism*)?



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>

Now that both the countries have recognised mutually-convergent strategic perspectives and interdependence in multiple areas and are eager to forge deeper and broader bi-lateral relations- is it not a need of the hour to take stock of the current situation and then move ahead towards maintaining a mutually-beneficial sustainable relationship?



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>

**Could Australia be a talent magnet for the Indian Community- by genuinely evaluating its immigration policies and cultivating right skills and qualities that will be mutually beneficial to both countries?**



अनुभव

Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eiA.com.au/>

What could Indian community in Australia  
do to raise its profile and  
portray the best qualities?



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>

*Would you like to be part of the solution?*

After all, 'Experience' is a two-way affair and it requires  
**hard works- warm hearts ....**



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>

# Thank You धन्यवाद।

For more information on the report please contact-

Aei4eiA

E mail: [info@aei4eia.com.au](mailto:info@aei4eia.com.au)

Visit our Website: [www.aei4eia.com.au](http://www.aei4eia.com.au)



Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Experience Australia: Reflections from the Indian Community

Brought to you by Aei4eiA

<http://www.aei4eia.com.au/>