



THE HON STEVEN MARSHALL MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

B1047735

Mr Rajendra Pandey
President
Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. (South Australia Chapter)
Email: rajendra.pandey@vhp.org.au

Dear Rajendra,

We write to express our sympathy about the devastating COVID-19 situation that is currently unfolding in India.

We can only imagine how incredibly stressful and upsetting the events in India are for our own South Australian Indian community, with many having lost family and friends, and growing increasingly concerned about the health and safety of loved ones.

Our Indian community has made an enormous contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of South Australia. During the pandemic, Indian community organisations have displayed outstanding leadership and have played a critical role in helping ensure our State remains safe.

During this unprecedented time, the Government of South Australia stands with the Indian community. We support the Australian Government's recently announced initiatives that will see our nation send an initial humanitarian support package to India. The package includes 500 oxygen concentrators (ventilators) and other medical supplies, including masks, gloves, goggles and face shields, with more aid to follow to help address the current medical emergency.

On behalf of the South Australian Government, we want to reassure the Indian community that together with the Australian Government, we are closely monitoring the situation in India and will continue to support our Indian community in South Australia during this difficult time.

The Australian Government is providing in-depth information for Australians in India, Australians currently overseas trying to return to Australia, or Australians remaining overseas. The information is available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Smart Traveller website: <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/COVID-19>.

If you have family members or friends in India who are Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents and who wish to return home to Australia, please ask them to register directly with DFAT at <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/COVID-19/trying-get-home/COVID-19-registration>.

Once again, on behalf of the South Australian Government, we want to convey our sympathy and let you know we are thinking of you and standing in solidarity with you and your community members during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Steven Marshall MP
PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

04/05/2021



Hon Jing Lee MLC
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER

04/05/2021