



# Aotearoa

BHARTIYA SAMAJ CHARITABLE TRUST MAGAZINE



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Produced by  
  
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# YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE.

FIND OUT HOW TO  
STAND, VOTE AND  
GET INVOLVED



## Get involved. Stand for election. Vote for the leaders of your community.

Te kāwhiringa pāti 2022 / Local elections 2022

From 21 September 2022, you can vote in your local body elections selecting your next Mayor, Councillors and Board members to represent your voice in decisions made for your community!

Councils and boards have a critical role to play in supporting the resilience and prosperity of all our people, whānau and communities. Making good local decisions matter! Get involved in shaping your community!

Elections are conducted by postal vote and voting closes at noon on Saturday 8 October 2022.



Information for  
Councils



Information for  
Candidates



Information for  
Voters



Information for  
Teachers

# BSCT Members



Roshni Chadha



Jaspreet Singh Kandhari



Ami Chand QSM JP

# Chairperson's Message



We are pleased to release this year's first issue of Caring Aotearoa, a magazine of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust (BSCT). It was after a few hard months of Covid that the magazine has been brought out.

The last one year has been an incredibly challenging due to covid lockdowns – perhaps the toughest we ever faced. At a time when Bhartiya Samaj was facing unprecedented challenges, it had to play a crucial role for community development with less money and fewer people. However, it was due to the contribution of staff and volunteers that we could carry forward the legacy of BSCT.

It is with immense pleasure that I announce registration of Bhartiya Samaj's chapters in Queenstown, Brisbane (Australia), Canterbury, and Wellington & Manawatū as charitable trusts. I hope through these chapters and various initiatives we continue to make a difference in the society.

I am incredibly grateful to our stakeholders, partners, staff and volunteers, who stepped forward despite challenges and helped deliver response services and events post covid lockdowns that gave the much-needed respite to the community.

The magazine profiles many of our initiatives, some members and events we undertook in Auckland and other chapters highlighting the hard work of the members and the contribution these activities have made in the community.

As we head towards the next quarter, we seek new avenues to give back to the community by providing services through raising awareness on elder abuse, providing language and cultural classes for children, and offering distress services, and youth and migrant support.

Jeet Suchdev  
Founder & Chairperson  
Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust

# Editor's Note

When I first attended a meeting of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, one of the first things I noticed was how eager people were to share their feelings, talk to BSCT's founder and chairperson Jeet Suchdev ji and meet each other.

Whether it is a fortnightly get together, Independence Day celebrations or workshops, the smiles, the joy and the lifelong friendships people make here truly influenced their lives and of those living with them. It shows the massive impact BSCT has had and continues to have in the community.

Established in 1995 as a small initiative by Jeet Suchdev ji and Roopa Suchdev ji to support individuals and families newly migrated to New Zealand, Bhartiya Samaj has come a long way since then.

The Auckland model of Bhartiya Samaj is now being replicated in other major cities in New Zealand but in Brisbane, Australia.

Bhartiya Samaj's expansion in other cities is what inspired the theme for this edition of Caring Aotearoa. This issue attempts to introduce leaders created by true leaders - honourable Jeet Suchdev ji and Roopa Suchdev ji of BSCT, who inspired them to take forward the vision and guiding principles of BSCT.

Spearheading BSCT's chapters in Queenstown, Canterbury, Brisbane and Wellington-Manawatu, the leaders have had a privilege to learn from and work with Jeet Suchdev ji. By laying down the foundation of new chapters, they commemorate one of the most pivotal moments in the organization's history.

I hope that reading this magazine will have an impact on everyone aspiring to serve the communities in New Zealand. We may never know how much our words or actions influence the lives of those around us.

Tushar Gaikwad  
Editor, Caring Aotearoa  
Founder, The Parakeets





# True Leaders Create Leaders

What started as a friendly gesture to help the community members in need has grown into an influential community organisation - Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust (BSCT).

BSCT is now one of the largest multi-ethnic South Asian groups in the whole of Auckland with over 1500+ members on record.

The charitable trust is one of the most active organisations bringing hundreds of Indian families together and making a positive difference in the broader community by providing much-needed support and compassion.

Over 27 years of committed work by BSCT in Auckland has led the organisation spread its wings across New Zealand and Australia to make a difference in the lives of as



*Jeet Suchdev and  
Roopa Suchdev of  
Bhartiya Samaj Charitable  
Trust have proved that  
hardwork, dedication and  
positive attitude to serve the  
diverse communities inspire  
many others to replicate the  
success across the world.*



many people.

It is a community organisation that empowers the diverse communities of New Zealand to become strong, confident and in control of their lives. Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Auckland is dedicated to enriching lives, and increasing people's choices and possibilities for realising their potential.

The organisation offers a wide range of services through its Senior Citizens Wing, Children & Youth Wing, New Migrants Support Wing and Social Services Wing. Working responsibly to ensure people of the community benefit by fostering healthy relations, the organisation caters to the social, cultural, and emotional needs of these groups.



“

*Volunteer's efforts embody the spirit of what it means to really be the change we all wish to see in the world, says BSCT Founder & Chairperson Jeet Suchdev.*

Bharitya Samaj aims to build connected and confident communities based on mutual support and companionship.

The team organises various events including health camps, festival celebrations, awareness campaigns, English speaking classes and digital classes for seniors; assists young people and new migrants in seeking jobs; language and cultural classes for children; and reduces barriers to settlement by offering several networking and relationships building opportunities to ethnic communities in New Zealand.

Bhartiya Samaj has over 35 dedicated volunteers who support the organisation throughout the year. The services are delivered with assistance from Members of the Executive Committee of Bhartiya Samaj and volunteers from the community.

BSCT's Founder & Chairperson Jeet Suchdev says that the volunteers are life and blood of the organisation.

“Their efforts embody the spirit of what it means to really be the change we all wish to see in the world. I want to thank all the volunteers and members for their selfless and ongoing service to the community,” says Jeet Suchdev.

Roopa Suchdev says, “We take a lot of pride in the fact that our volunteers work responsibly to ensure people of the community are benefited by fostering healthy relations among all members and catering to the social, cultural and emotional needs of these groups.

The organisation hope to take forward its vision to other chapters by inviting volunteers to join its mission to work with the community for building positive and happier communities in Aotearoa.

Jeet Suchdev has been guiding and advising various chapters of BSCT to ensure the best practices and models from Auckland are replicated across New Zealand and Australia.



# Our Services

01



## Senior Citizen Wing

Mutual support and companionship for the Senior citizens through regular get togethers/programs, festival celebrations, recreational outings, Skill development programs and other services making them socially inclusive, connected, strong and confident. To empower them and enhance their skills we constantly keep adding new programs for their benefit.

02



## Children & Youth Wing

Multicultural Playgroup for children from 0-5 years, where young children and their mothers get a space to express their creative play capabilities and have a safe space for learning and socializing. Language and Cultural classes, Annual summer camp and Holiday Programme for Children 6- 14 years for building and nurturing skills, values and attributes of self-awareness, self-management and responsible decision making. It also helps them to keep them connected with their cultural roots thereby helping in stronger family bonds.

03



## Migrant Settlement & Distress Support

Assisting New Migrants to settle down in New Zealand by providing them with relevant information and resources. To ensure the wellbeing of the people and community, we offer support and professional advice to people in distressed situations. Provide social services by resolving issues such as family harm, elder abuse by assisting them in seeking counselling, legal help and advocacy support.

04



## Culturally Appropriate Care Home

To address the cultural needs of older people requiring rest home care, we collaborated with Bupa David Lange Care Home to launch a culturally appropriate Aashirwad Wing for the South Asian Communities. Community development programs through partnerships with other government/local organisations like Auckland Council, Wastewise, Electoral Commission and many more.

ROOPA



जीना  
इसी  
का  
नाम  
ले

## रूपा सचदेव, QSM

कृति अपने मन ही मन में न जाने क्या बड़बड़ कर रही थी, कभी सर हिलती कभी हाथों से कुछ गिनती जाती। मैं आधे घंटे से भी ज्यादा उसका तमाशा देख रही थी। आखिर मैं मेरे सब्र का बांध टूट गया मेने अपने होने का एहसास कराया, क्या बात है कब से देख रही हूँ तू क्या अजीब-अजीब हरकते कर रही है।

कृति ने अजीब आँखों से मुझ पर नजर डाली ओर कहा, तू क्या दुनिया से अलग है तुझे पता नहीं चलता क्या हो रहा है, पता है कितना अजीब लग रहा है जैसे ये दुनिया बिल्कुल उल्टी हो गई हो देख न, कैसे हम इतनी प्लानिंग करते थे सुबह उठते ही और अब -----

क्या? अब मैंने पूछा लगा जैसे वो कोई दिव्य स्वप्न देख रही हो।

सुबह उठ कर चाय पियो दिन में खाना खा लो, रात को फिर खा कर सो जाओ। देख न covid ने इंसानों को क्या बना डाला है, जो पक्षी मेरी खिड़की पर आ कर मुझे जगाते थे अब तो उनकी आवाज ही नहीं आती, तुझे पता है जिन पशुओं को देखने हम चिड़ियाघर जाते थे अब वो हम को देखने आते है वो भी घर के दरवाजे तक। स्कूल हम जाते नहीं, कॉलेज बंद है, bus, car, train कुछ भी नहीं, पता है हमारा वर्ल्ड टूर का प्रोग्राम बना था, पर प्लैन तो ऐसे पड़े हैं जैसे मरे हुए पक्षी।

सारी की सारी उम्मीदों पर पानी फिर गया क्या कहूँ सोचा क्या था क्या हो गया, मुझे लगता है १०० सालों में किसी ने ऐसा हादसा नहीं देखा होगा। पता नहीं दिल को स्वीकार्य नहीं हो रहा की ये हो सकता है, मुझे लगता है मैं मानसिक रोग से पीड़ित हो जाऊँगी।

उसकी बातें बहुत ही देर से सुन रही थी, फिर मैं जोर से हसने लगी मेरी हंसी सुन कर कृति ने मुझे जोर से झंझोर दिया उसे लगा मैं पागल हो गई हूँ। मैंने उसको अलग करते हुए कहा पागल मैं नहीं तुम सब लोग हो गए हो।

अरे! आज के युग को तो सलाम करना चाहिए, साइंस ने हमारे लिए कितने रास्ते खोल दिए है। कीर्ति तूने कभी सोचा था की हम अपने लोगों से बिना पैसे के बात कर सकेंगे व्हाट्सप्प, अपने खोए हुए या भूले भटके दोस्तों को कभी देख भी सकेंगे फेसबुक, ट्विटर, गूगल पर।

मैं तो हेरान होती हूँ पुराने जमाने के लोग इन सब चीजों के बिना कैसे जीते होंगे।

सारी दुनिया हमारी हथेली पर है, जानती है स्मार्टफोन की वजह से किसी से कभी भी कितनी दूरी हो फेसटाइम पर उसको देख कर आमने सामने बात कर सकते है, बड़े से बड़े इंटरव्यू जूम पर और वेबिनार कितने भी लोग हो तो कर सकते है।

चल छोड़ इन बातों को, अब तुझ को सबके घर में बंद होने के सुख बताती हूँ।

तुझे कब याद है सारे परिवार ने एक साथ मिल कर खाना खाया था, समय बिताने के लिए केरम या लूडो या अंताक्षरी खेली जो बातें हम भूल गए थे वो हम हँसते खेलते एक साथ मिल कर करते है, अपने स्वास्थ्य का ख्याल खाने पीने की चीजों का कितना ख्याल रखते है, जिन घर वालों से बात चीत करने का समय नहीं होता था, उनके साथ कितनी बातें व दुख सुख बांटते है।

मुझे लगता है शायद भगवान चाहता था कि हम अपनों से दूर न हों, उनके करीब रहे, शारीरिक नहीं मानसिक भी एक दूसरे के गम में साथ दे, इतना ही नहीं अपने पड़ोसियों का भी ख्याल रखे, उनको किसी चीज की जरूरत हो तो वो भी दे, जो बुजुर्ग कहीं जा नहीं सकते उनका खयाल रखें।

मुश्किलए तो जरूर आई हम हतोत्साह भी हुए पर हम सबको ज़िंदगी जीने का मकसद समझा दिया, ये जो वक्त आया है चला जाएगा पर ज़िंदगी की बहुत बड़ी सीख दे गया है।

आने वाला पल जाने वाला है, हो सके तो इसको खुशी में बीता दो, पल ये जाने वाला है।

हम सबने इसका बहुत ही बहादुरी से सामना किया है, आशा है आप सब इससे उभर भी चुके होंगे।

याद रहे परिस्थिति कैसी भी हो, मनःस्थिति नहीं बदलनी चाहिए।

# BSCT in Wellington & Manawatū



To carry forward the legacy of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, the charity sets up its Wellington-Manawatū chapter considering a growing number of Indian and South Asian communities in the Central New Zealand.

It all began with a simple desire to assist migrant communities seek support, flourish and feel proud of their rich cultural heritage in their new home.

From keeping people supplied with basics during lockdowns, to helping the elderly and family harm victims protect themselves, Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Auckland has made significant strides in New Zealand.

With this, Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust now has four chapters across New Zealand (Auckland, Queenstown, Canterbury and the Wellington-Manawatu region) and one in Brisbane, Australia.

Despite several challenges including the

covid lockdowns and border closure that kept the volunteers of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust on toes, the charity is expanding across Aotearoa and there is no looking back.

BSCT founder and chairperson Jeet Suchdev says, “It is a proud moment for Bhartiya Samaj to expand its services and vision to Central New Zealand as the number of Indian, South Asian and other ethnic communities we work with are continuously going up in the region.”

President of Bhartiya Samaj’s Wellington-Manawatū Chapter Rishi Sharma says, “The Wellington-Manawatu Chapter has been founded on the pillars of key values & objectives of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust and with the guidance and leadership of honourable Jeet Suchdev ji.”

“I am glad that people from the community have already started signing up as members and we have a good mix of members



coming from all backgrounds and age groups. The chapter is all about its volunteers who I am sure will share their amazing ideas and put in hard work to replicate the success of Bhartiya Samaj in Central New Zealand.”



*Bhartiya Samaj Wellington-Manawatū Chapter has been founded on the pillars of key values of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust Auckland and under the leadership of honourable Jeet Suchdev ji, says Rishi Sharma, President, BSCT Wellington-Manawatū.*

The chapter's goals are in line with the significant values of the charitable trust - to keep the rich cultural heritage alive for future generations, foster connections, provide advocacy for settlement and support, and promote social cohesion ensuring unity in diversity.

“Our presence in the Wellington and

Manawatu region is one of the significant achievements of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust,” says Suchdev.

For any details, reach out to:  
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Email: [rishi\\_rajsharma@hotmail.com](mailto:rishi_rajsharma@hotmail.com)



The  
woman  
who  
made  
learning  
fun  
in  
lockdown

Bhavini  
Doshii





to consult a counsellor as the thought persisted. The parents soon realised that the child was bringing out his intense frustration of having been locked in as the pandemic affected the education system.

As schools were shut, kids missed out on interacting with their peers, going to the school and many life-skills learning.

It was absolutely essential to supplement the loss of these activities. That is when, Doshii decided to provide free and inexpensive books and learning materials to children across the country. Doshii said it was not rocket science.

“We distributed books and basic resources like pencils, paper, erasers, and crayons to make children learn through books and activities, taking them off the computer screen.”

“The kids loved it,” she said. “It’s really made them smile.”

Doshii firmly believes that it takes the whole village to raise a child. Following the same principles, she has been serving the tamariki (children) in the community.

MoreForKidz foundation trust worked for whanau and children during lockdown. The trust planned various activities such as, online playgroups, webinars for parents, and wellness programmes including meditation and Yoga. Most importantly, the Trust gave out 1000 fun learning packs for all ages from 6 months old to 12 year olds.

“All children should have an opportunity to achieve their full potential and contribute to a healthy, robust society and environment.”

MoreForKidz Foundation Trust believes in improving wellbeing of kids throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to make the country the best place in the world to be kids.

For more information, check out:  
[www.moreforkidz.org.nz](http://www.moreforkidz.org.nz)

“

*All children should have an opportunity to achieve their full potential and contribute to a healthy, robust society and environment -  
 Bhavini Doshii*

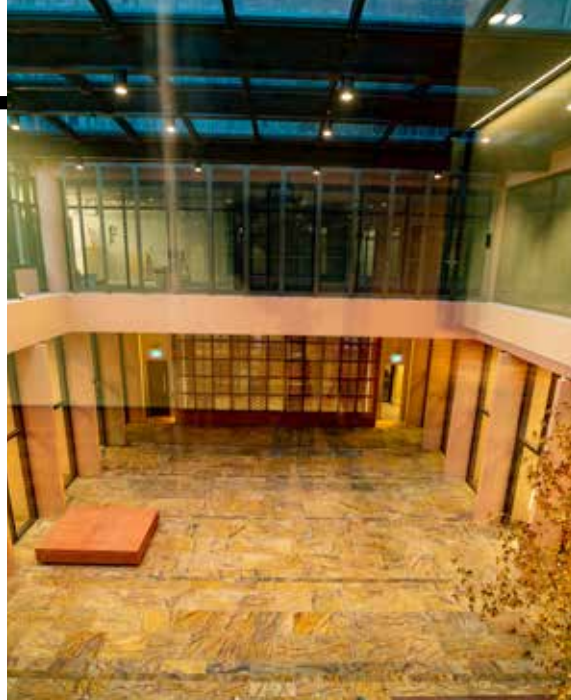
Coronavirus lockdowns tested limits of even the most patient people. When parents were struggling to keep their children engaged, Bhavini Doshii of The Rainbow Corner Childcare and Home-Based Care offered simple yet effective way to keep the children entertained. Games, puzzles, crosswords and artsy activities—everything to keep the children play and learn during lockdowns.

Like many students who moved to remote learning, Dhruv Patel was also jumping on Zoom calls, missing his classmates.

While his parents were struggling to keep the house in order during the second lockdown in September 2021, 12-year-old Patel insisted on getting a ‘toy gun’ to kill those responsible for spreading coronavirus in New Zealand.

Initially, his parents mocked the thought but they had







# New Milestone of Indian High Commission in New Zealand

The High Commission of India moved to its new premises at 72 Pipitea Street at Thorndon, Wellington in June 2022. The building houses the Chancery along with nine residential quarters and it also includes an auditorium, a business centre, meeting rooms, a library and a visitors' hall for public services. The building is an architectural marvel with an environmentally friendly design featuring stone cladding made with Bansi pink natural sandstone brought from Rajasthan. A Chinar tree, symbolising the heritage of Kashmir stands tall in the building's central atrium and a Jali screen in the atrium fosters a unique Indian identity.



# Making Auckland an Age-Friendly City



The older population is growing faster than any other age-group in Auckland. A third of the city's population is over 50 and the number of older Aucklanders is expected to reach a total of 353,600 people by 2033.

Gone are the days when seniors were seen as a burden in society. There is a greater awareness and evidence that the aging population brings many opportunities.

As the Auckland City Council has officially been accepted into the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities, the council looks at increasing the city's ability to support an

ageing population.

'Age-friendly' refers to having services, infrastructure and culture that meet the needs of communities, and are inclusive of the ageing population.

The city council looks at creating policies, physical and social environments that support the well-being of older people.

To create age-friendly environments, the city has continuously been improving its physical infrastructure including public transport, buildings, and footpaths to promote well-being of seniors and encourage social participation of the ageing population.



## Auckland joins the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

It has also been taken into account that seniors remain engaged, active, contributing and valued members of the communities in which they live, work and socialise.

Co-chair of the Seniors Advisory Panel Gayle Marshall says that there is enough evidence that seniors make a significant contribution to their families and communities, and have a wealth of knowledge and skills to share. "Participation of older adults in workplaces, communities, households, and families makes a huge difference."

The age-friendly communities are better for all ages. These provide a place where people of all ages are able to live healthy, participate in activities, make contributions to the communities and enjoy active later lives, for as long as possible.

# Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury aims to bring welfare and support to communities

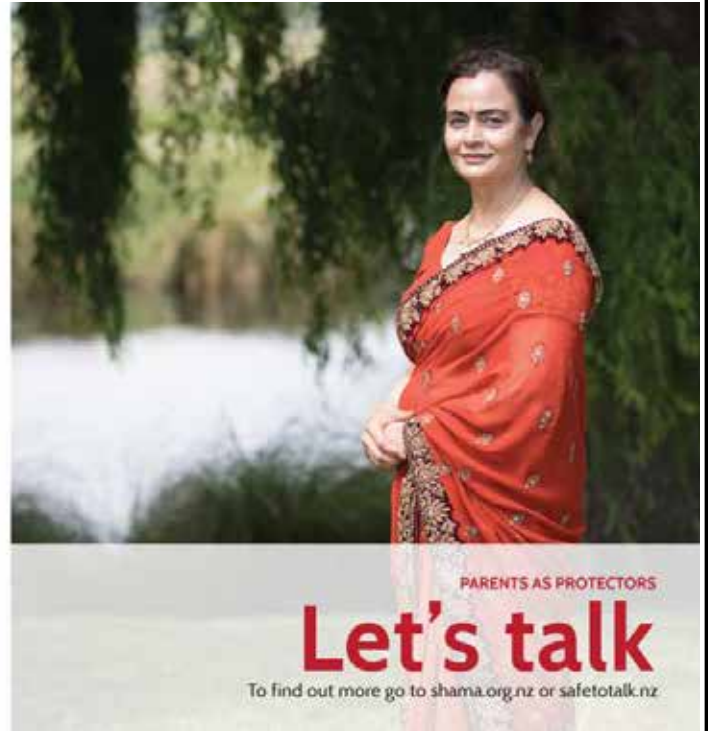


Expansion of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust to Canterbury is one of the most significant steps to support and unite communities in South Island.

To protect my child,  
I teach them about our culture.  
Culture is not an excuse for abuse  
– that is not ok.  
Be the person your child trusts.

BE AWARE OF THE QUIET WARNING SIGNS. CHILD HARM IS NOT ALWAYS OBVIOUS.

OUR PARTNERS



With the registration of Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury as an incorporated charitable trust, it eyes at serving and supporting communities, and keeping the culture alive in New Zealand.

Founder and Chairperson of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust Jeet Suchdev says, “It is an honour and pride for the trust to offer a platform to various ethnic communities to keep their culture alive while they live thousands of kilometers away from their motherland. The Canterbury chapter is a significant step in the right direction.”

“We see it as an opportunity to offer support and welfare to communities. The chapter is going to play a crucial role in giving a sense of identity to the migrant communities in the region.”

President of Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury Surinder Tandon says, “Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury Chapter has already been helping the Indian community during the Covid lockdowns by providing them with relevant information for isolation, vaccination, and making available masks

and RAT kits. The mission of the trust is to help people of Indian origin to strive and excel socially, culturally, economically, and professionally.”



The chapter’s goals are in line with the significant values of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Auckland - to keep the rich cultural heritage alive for future generations, foster connections, provide advocacy for settlement and support, and promote social cohesion ensuring unity in diversity.

“We are grateful to members of the Canterbury-wide Indian community for their support to our activities,” says Tandon.

A list of activities and events planned for 2022 are:

- A Karwachauth celebration on October 9.
- A Karwachauth pooja on October 13.
- A mega Diwali festival on October 29.

For any details, reach out to President of Bhartiya Samaj Canterbury, Surinder Tandon at [surindertandonz@gmail.com](mailto:surindertandonz@gmail.com)

# Bhartiya Samaj Auckland takes its vision to Brisbane



President of Bhartiya Samaj Brisbane  
Abhishek Sharma talks about taking the vision of Bhartiya  
Samaj Charitable Trust, Auckland all the way to Australia.



### *1) Why does Brisbane need Bhartiya Samaj?*

Brisbane chapter has been launched to continue delivering the core values of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust in Auckland, which embraces empowering people with knowledge, to build strong identities and to connect with diverse communities while extending our services to the community in Brisbane, Queensland.

### *2) What inspired you to start the first chapter of Bhartiya Samaj in Australia?*

I moved to Brisbane about 6 months ago after living in Wellington (NZ) for almost 19 years. When we moved to Brisbane, we faced some hurdles in accessing information regarding accommodation, schooling, medical registration, mortgage, insurance, etc. We realised many immigrant families find it difficult to access information. I, therefore, started the Brisbane chapter of Bhartiya Samaj to support migrants with relevant information, which is one of the core values of the organisation.

### *3) Tell us about three key things the Brisbane chapter will focus on the next three months.*

- a) Helping migrants to settle in BNE – QLD by disseminating the information.
- b) Building inclusive communities.
- c) Collaborating with various other community organisations to conduct events.

### *4) What have been the challenges?*

- a) Initially, to identify the like-minded people/volunteers who are passionate to be part of the Bhartiya Samaj Brisbane chapter. With almighty's grace, we currently have 7 committee members and 15 volunteers.
- b) Understand the legal aspects and to find the right personnel\authority to form a "Legal Entity of Bhartiya Samaj" in Brisbane.
- c) Identifying and building relationship with other charitable organisations.

### *5) Any message for Queenslanders who want to join Bhartiya Samaj.*

We are a passion-driven organisation with a genuine desire to make a positive impact in the community and\or people's lives with our strong determination and commitment. If you are up for the challenge or keen to know more, please feel free to get in touch or join today!

For more information contact,  
President of Bhartiya Samaj's Brisbane Chapter Abhishek Sharma at  
BSBrisbane@outlook.com

# Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust Queenstown flourishing with zeal to excel



It was in 2015 when the idea of setting up Bhartiya Samaj in Queenstown came about. With the hard work and support of enthusiastic members, the Queenstown Lakes Community grew. The idea was translated into a registered chapter of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Queenstown this year.

The aim was to empower Aotearoa's diverse communities to become strong, confident, and in control of their lives. In Hindi, Bhartiya refers to a person who nationally identifies with India [Bharat] and the Indian community [Samaj].

The goal is to make the Indian and South

Asian communities feel connected to their roots, culture, and values, and provide a platform to freely express themselves in their new home. The charity acts as a platform for all the communities to share knowledge and culture with each other and to learn from and support everyone.

## **Queenstown Lakes community**

There are currently 15 fee-paying members. The annual membership cost is NZD25 a person. The Facebook page of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Queenstown has more than 1000 members.

## Events and activities

The following events are celebrated every year by Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Queenstown and guests pay a token amount to participate.

Lohri is a traditional winter folk festival held in northern India in January. It is primarily celebrated by the Sikh and Hindu communities that come from the Punjab region of India. Our annual celebration usually attracts 300-500 people.

In March, the Queenstown chapter celebrates Holi, a popular ancient Hindu festival, also known as the Festival of Love, the Festival of Colours, or the Festival of Spring. The festival celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha & Krishna. It is considered the second biggest Hindu festival after Diwali. People play with colours, water, flowers and more. About 500 people take part in the Holi celebration every year in Queenstown.

The Independence Day of India is celebrated every year on August 15 to honour bravery, sacrifices made by courageous leaders and freedom fighters, and rich culture and history of the nation. It is the National Day of India marking the date in 1947 when India declared itself an independent country.

Popularly known as the Festival of Lights or Deepavali, Diwali celebrations take place every year in Queenstown in the month of October-November. Not only in India, Diwali is also celebrated in many countries including Malaysia, Fiji, Singapore and Nepal. The festival marks the triumph of good over evil, purity over impurity, and light over darkness. It is one of the most important Hindu festivals. Every year, Diwali celebrations see a huge attendance of more than 1500 people in Queenstown.

For more details, reach out to:  
President of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust,  
Queenstown Mangal Behal.  
Mobile: 021 254 9482  
Email: [info@bsq.co.nz](mailto:info@bsq.co.nz)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/info.bsq](https://www.facebook.com/info.bsq)



# Awareness on Elder Abuse



The grand event took place at Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall, Auckland on June 11. Dignitaries including Honorary Consul of India in Auckland Bhav Dhillon, President of NZICA in Auckland Narendra Bhana, President of the Auckland Indian Association Dhansukh Lal, Co-chair Auckland Council's Senior Advisory Panel Gayle Marshal encouraged elderly to voice their concerns if they face any abuse.

# Mānawatia a Matariki!



## Mātariki MĀORI NEW YEAR

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust reflected on the significant occasion for its Māori friends. BSCT's patron Dr. Bruce Hucker enlightened the members over the importance of Matariki for Māori and for all who live in the beautiful land of Aotearoa.

A session by Jai ji and Shalini ji from Aotearoa Sustainability Group (ASG) on waste management

was an eye opener. A melodious performance by well-known radio presenter and singer Gopal Bhatia ji, along with Jaishree ji and Vidya Teke ji enthralled the audience.

As usual, the celebrations concluded with scrumptious food and laughter.





Organised by New Zealand Parliament, Pan Asian New Year Celebration 2022 was hosted by Minister Michael Wood and MP Vanushi Walters in association with Indian Diaspora.

Seven countries from across South Asia displayed their rich culture with entertaining music and dance.

# Pan Asian New Year Celebration 2022



The then High Commissioner of India His Excellency Muktesh Pardeshi graced the event with his presence.

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust's Founder and Chairperson Jeet Suchdev addressed the gathering, and Roopa Suchdev and Roshni Chadha also attended the event at the Parliament.



# Yoga in the sky: Uplifting spirits



Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust's Founder and Chairperson Jeet Suchdev and Co-founder Roopa Suchdev rolled out Yoga mats in a yoga session conducted, on June 21, in New Zealand's most iconic building Sky Tower in Auckland.

With a brilliant sunrise and a mesmerising view from Auckland's highest viewpoint, the International Yoga Day

turned out to be a relaxing, unwinding and a rejuvenating experience for the many participating guests.

The International Yoga Day is celebrated to recognise India's gift of Yoga to the global culture of wellness.

The International Yoga Day was officially recognised by the UN after a push by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



# Diaspora comes together to farewell outgoing High Commissioner

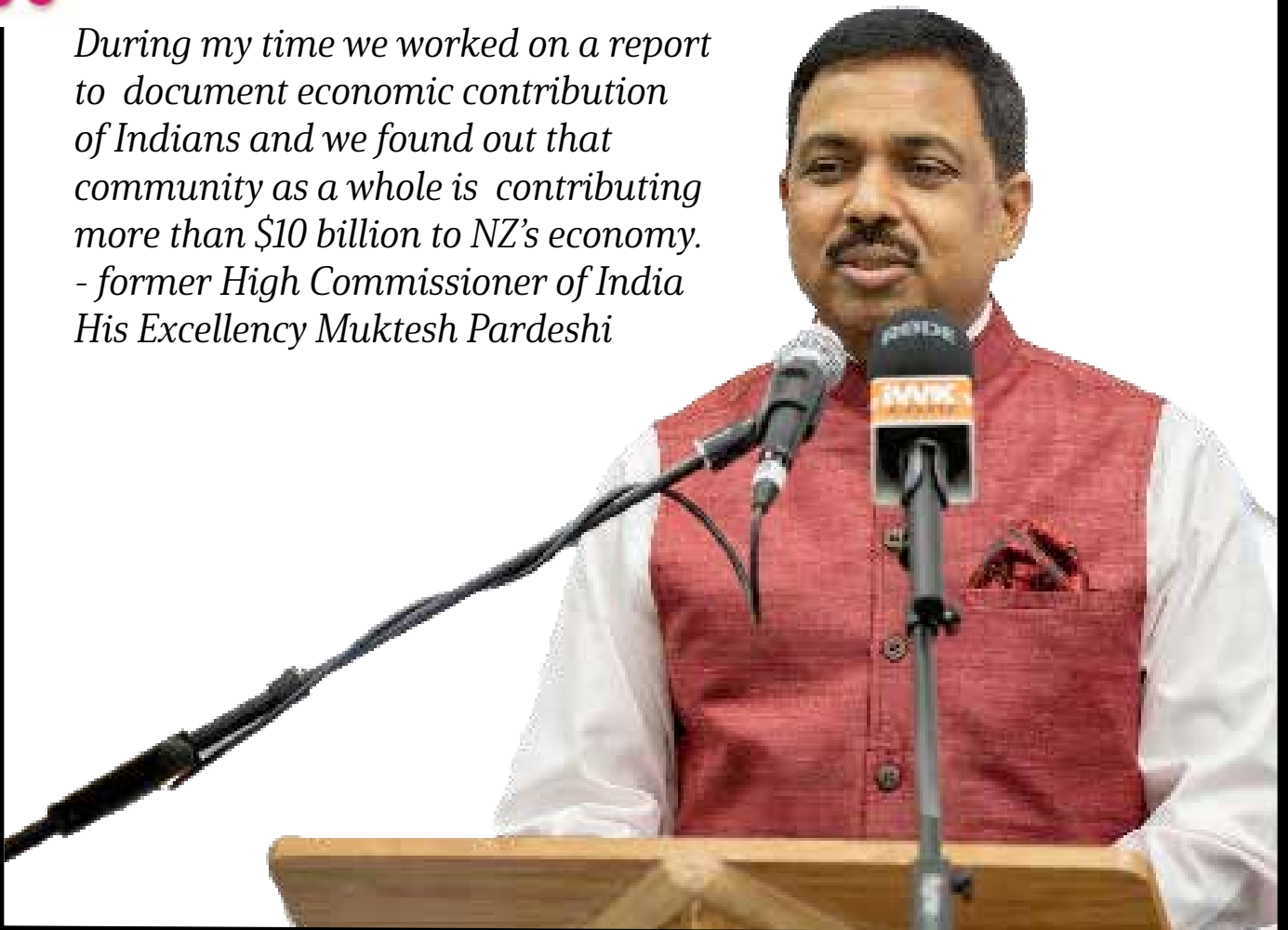






“

*During my time we worked on a report to document economic contribution of Indians and we found out that community as a whole is contributing more than \$10 billion to NZ's economy.  
- former High Commissioner of India  
His Excellency Muktesh Pardeshi*





Community leaders from across the country came together in August to bid a farewell to the then High Commissioner of India His Excellency Muktesh Pardeshi at Auckland Indian Association's Mahatma Gandhi Centre.

The impressive turnout at the farewell acknowledged the substantial achievements of Mr. Pardeshi's stint in New Zealand. He had been recognised as one of the most accessible, friendly and action-oriented High Commissioners of India in Aotearoa.





# Enabling diversity to thrive.

The Ministry for Ethnic Communities is the government's chief advisor on ethnic communities, ethnic diversity and the inclusion of ethnic communities in wider society.

We work with communities, other government agencies and a range of organisations to help increase social cohesion and ensure Aotearoa New Zealand is a place where everyone feels welcome, valued and empowered to be themselves.

We also provide information, advice and services to ethnic communities and administer funds to support community development and social cohesion.

One of these funds is the Ethnic Communities Development Fund. This fund has \$4.2 million a year available for projects that support ethnic communities to grow their skills, celebrate their culture and take part in society. It is also available for initiatives that support our communities as they deal with the challenges of COVID-19.

For more information about the Ethnic Communities Development Fund, including how to apply, please visit our website.

[www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz](http://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz)



Ministry for  
**Ethnic  
Communities**  
Te Tari Mātāwaka



Daljit Singh



Dr. Anil Channa



Ghouse Majeed



Gurdeep Singh Talwar

# UNITED

United Voice is a group representing several registered community organisations & nearly all ethnicities living in New Zealand. Formed in 2020 to raise concerns over several migrants stuck overseas.

Supreme Sikh Society of NZ, along with 20 other Sikh Organisations | South Asian Leadership New Zealand | New Zealand Indian Central Association (20 affiliated branches and associated member organisations) | New Zealand Chinese Association | Mr. Bhav Dhillon (Supporting in personal capacity) | NZ Punjabi Multimedia Trust | Waitakere Ethnic Board | MANA- Andhra Telugu Association New Zealand (MATA NZ) | NZ Telugu Association | Migrant Careers Support Trust | The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI) | Auckland Tamil Association Inc | Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust | Way of Life Foundation | Telangana Association of NZ | Pakistan Association of New Zealand | New Zealand Kannada Koota | Telangana Jagruthi NZ | Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition (ARCC) | Korean Society of Auckland Inc | Christchurch Multicultural Council | Gujarati Samaj New Zealand Inc | NZ Indian Business Association | Auckland Indian Association | Bangladesh New Zealand Friendship Society Inc (BNZFS) | Migrants United Council Inc. |



Jaspreet Singh Kandhari



Narinder Singh Warraich



Navtej Randhawa



Jeet Suchdev,  
Convener

# VOICE

United Voice has come up as an important advocacy group to raise concerns of migrants and ethnic communities in the government, and seek assurance and a fair-solution from the government.

Yogi Divine Society NZ | Indian Global Business Chambers | Waitakere Indian Association Migration Experts | GOPIO Auckland South Chapter | Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust | Chinmaya Mission New Zealand | Woman Care Trust | Urdu Hindi Cultural Association | Sahaayta New Zealand | Chinese New Settlers Services Trust | Biz Whiz Advisors & Training Ltd | Communities Action Trust | NZ Indian Senior Citizens Inc. | NZ Sikh Women's Association | Indian Association Manukau NZ | Auckland Marathi Mandal | Auckland City Multiethnic Council | Professional Visa Solutions | Gandhi Niwas | Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust Queenstown | GOPIO Auckland Central Chapter | Nepalese Cultural Centre- New Zealand Inc. | Naree Women's Group | Multicultural New Zealand | Migrant Heritage Charitable Trust Inc. | Canterbury Punjabi Association | Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at New Zealand Inc. | BAPS Shri Swaminarayan mandir | Girit Association | MoreForKidz | Lions Club Of Remuera | Immigration Youth | Haryana Federation



United Voice's p  
Foreign-trained

Foreign-trained doctors in New Zealand constantly face discrimination in getting placements in DHBs.

Dr Sunanda Taneja (name changed), 46, graduated from prestigious medical university in India. She came to New Zealand in 2015 and took the equivalence New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX) in 2019.

Even after qualifying the tough exam, Taneja, who worked as a doctor in her home country for 10 years, faced several hurdles in finding a placement in any DHB in New Zealand.

When she applied to the job matching

due to the current policies in the health sector.

United Voice is a voluntary group representing several organisations and nearly all ethnicities (including those from African and Asian sub-continent, Middle and Far East nations) living in New Zealand.

“The journey of migrant doctors is particularly hard as it is. This journey becomes insurmountable when hurdles of bias and judgement are put in place.

“Finding a GP in a Third World country is not as difficult as it is in New Zealand at the

# plea for doctors

Critical shortage of doctors in New Zealand has been making headlines in the international media.

The irony is foreign-trained doctors currently living in the country are still not allowed to work.

system, she was told she was ineligible because she had studied overseas. She contacted all 20 DHBs to see if there were any vacancies after all the doctors studied in New Zealand and Australian had been placed. However, there were none.

After two years of struggle, she decided to move to Australia where she immediately bagged a job offer.

Not everyone is as fortunate as Taneja. There are hundreds of immigrant doctors who have been struggling to find a placement in DHBs, despite spending thousands of dollars on NZREX registration and clearing the tough examination.

This led Jaspreet Singh Kandhari of United Voice to file a submission on behalf of 47 NZREX qualified doctors who were allegedly discriminated

moment. At the same time, a lot of immigrants who qualify NZREX leave for Australia, Canada and the US. It only puts more burden on the current healthcare system.

“The irony is we are facing a shortage of qualified doctors while we have the resource under our nose,” says Jaspreet Singh Kandhari of United Voice.

Calling it ‘Brain Waste’, Johanna Thomas-Maude from Massey University says, “With so many foreign-trained doctors in New Zealand unable to work, even after passing their licensing exams, the problem is less about brain drains or brain gains. Rather, it reflects a ‘brain waste’ for both the doctors and the country, as covid threats loom high.” Thomas-Maude is carrying out her doctoral studies in the matter.



Putting  
school  
holidays  
to good  
use



They put on printed shift dresses and Go Go boots. They hopped on the dance floor and tapped in the iconic white boots.

It was a disco day for students of Bal Vikas Language and Cultural Classes of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Auckland on the last day of school holiday programme in July.

With disco fever and a lot of fun-filled activities, Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust made sure the holidays don't turn out to be boring for students.

The special holiday programme at Bal Vikas Language and Cultural Classes helps children make the most of the school holidays.

Over 15 children, aged between 6 and 14 enrolled and participated in the seven-day event.

Each day was filled with fun, creativity and outdoor activities, followed by a healthy breakfast. Many stimulating activities were carried out with an aim to inculcate teamwork and creativity, and enhance student's interpersonal development and knowledge of Indian culture.

While a special film screening and lessons on Hindi literature by Sunita ji made children learn about life in India; music, dance and face painting sessions filled fun in the boring holidays.

The programme concluded with a gift distribution ceremony and a Bollywood session bringing together teachers and students on the dance floor.



# In case of emergency, *reach out*

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## Senior Citizens:

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust  
0212221020 / 096200579

Age Concern New Zealand  
0800652105

NZ aged care association  
044733159

Elder Abuse  
08003266865

Retirement villages association of NZ  
044997090

## Emergency:

Police, Fire and Ambulance- 111  
Police Non Emergency contact- 105

## Health:

Healthline (Ministry of Health)  
0800611116

Mental Health foundation of NZ  
08006885463

Suicide crisis helpline  
0508828865

Anxiety Phone line  
08002694389

Health and disability Commissioner  
0800112233

## Family Violence and Distress Support:

Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust  
021665609/ 09-620 4606

Bhartiya Samaj Distress Support  
0212221020

Victim Support  
0800842846 (Volunteer-  
0800865868)

Are You Ok (Family Violence  
Helpline)  
0800456450

National Network of Stopping  
Violence  
0276941051

## Children:

Bhartiya Samaj Multicultural  
Playgroup  
096200579 / 02108881461

Plunket Line  
0800933922

Parent Helpline  
0800568856

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren  
0800472637

## General:

Youthline- 0800376633

Alcohol Drug Helpline- 0800787797

Arthritis New Zealand- 0800663463

Banking Ombudsman (Fixing bank  
problems)  
0800805950

Births, Deaths and Marriages  
0800225252

Citizens Advice Bureau- 0800367222

Housing New Zealand- 0800801601

Inland Revenue- 0800775247

Insurance and Financial services  
0800888202

Lifeline (24/7 support by qualified  
counsellors and volunteers)  
0800543354

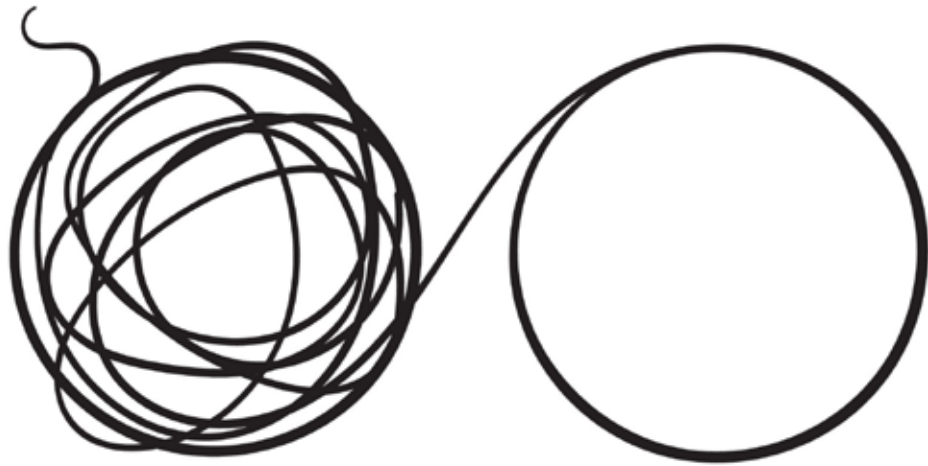
Motor vehicle licensing and  
registration 0800108809

Bond enquiries  
0800737666

Mediation  
0800836262

St John's Hindi Carer Calling Service  
0800780780

Auckland Justice of Peace  
Association  
099169276



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0226242540



## Together We Can & We Will

Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust (RAACT) has been working for domestic violence victims since 2008. The organisation focuses on the development of South Asian Community experiencing inequality and violence. RAACT adopts non-judgemental, non-political, and non-religious approach. The confidentiality of the client is strictly followed by the team. The organisation has multi-lingual skilled, experienced, and knowledgeable staff. We work hand in hand with immigration advisors, lawyers, police officials to provide services to our clients. The team has been continuously conducting workshops to empower and educate the society about domestic violence in various forms. All our services are free of cost.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE  
TAKE A STAND AGAINST**

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Talk to Us: 021-665-609  
09-620-4606**

### Services Include

- Counselling / Mediation
- Crisis Intervention
- Legal Support
- Ongoing Personal/Individual Services
- Elder Abuse Awareness
- Networking

