

World Peace

Multi faith Prayer meeting for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia in association with Australia India Business Council, NSW (AIBC), United Indian Association (UIA) and Global Organisation of Person of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Chapters in Sydney, Federation of Australian Indian Associations (FAIA) and Australian Sikh Association hosted a Multi faith Prayer meeting for peace to the victims of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India.

This event was hosted with the Courtesy of Hon Virginia Judge MP, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts and the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW (CRC)

Various dignitaries, religious leaders and VIP's from various religions and faiths condemned the attacks and offered prayers and condolences for the victims of the heinous terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India. Some of the people who prayed / expressed their condolences included



- > Virginia Judge MP NSW Minister for Citizenship and Minister assisting the Premier on the Arts.
- > H.E.SujathaSingh, High Commissioner of India for Australia
- > Hon. Sujan Chinoy, Consul General of India, Sydney
- > Dr. Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chair Community Relation Commission for NSW
- > Hindu prayers by Nandu Mehta, Secretary Ramakrishna Sarda Mission Vedanta Society, Sydney (Hindu) and by Vara Nayaka, President ISKCON Sydney
- > Jewish prayers by Rabi Mandel Kastel
- > Sikh Prayers by Surinder Singh Mutani - President Australian Sikh Association
- > Muslim prayers by Keysar Trad, President Islamic Friendship Group of Australia



Hon Virginia Judge MP NSW Minister for Citizenship



H.E Sujata Singh, High Commissioner of India for Australia



Hon Sujan Chinoy, Consul General of India, Sydney



Dr. Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chair Community Relation Commission for a Multicultural NSW



Graeme Lyall AM, President Amitabha Buddhist Association of NSW



Gambhir Watts, President Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia

- › Hindu prayers by Vara Nayaka, President ISKCON Sydney
- › Buddhist Prayers by Graeme Lyall AM, President Amitabha Buddhist Association of NSW
- › Gambhir Watts, President Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia remembered Mahatma Gandhi's remarkable optimism for the possibility of peace as long as we have faith in Human Nature.

Other dignitaries and VIP's who attended the event included: Hon Barry O' Farrell MP, NSW Opposition Leader, Gladys Berejiklian MP, Amanda Fazio MP MLC, Dr Neville Roach AO, Wajiha Ahmed, Commissioner CRC, Josie Lacey, Hon Sec Jewish Community Organisation and Ian Lacey, Gajendra Kumar, Assistant Director, India Tourism Sydney, Raj Natarajan, President UIA, Vish Vishwanathan, President FAIA, Harmohan Singh Walia, Rohitas Batta, Jagdish Lodhia Presidents of GOPIO chapters, Dipen Rughani, President elect AIBC NSW, Moninder Singh, Bhai, Jasbir Singh, Granthi of Parklea Gurudwara, Minoo Batliwalla, Representing Parsi Community, Ejaz Khan, President Pakistan Australia Association, Sumati Advani, President Sydney Sindi Association, Noshir Sachinwalla, past president FAIA and Australian Zoroastrian Association, Sister Asha Trivedi, Brahma Kumaris, Mala Mehta AOM and others.

Media representatives included SBS Television, ABC Radio, Indian Down Under, Bangla-Sydney.Com and others.

The event was concluded by a peace poetry in Hindi / Urdu and translated in English titled ' Gandhiji Ki Awaz' (Gandhi's Voice) composed and recited by Abbas Raza Alvi, Cultural Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia.



Rabi Mandel Kastel



Abbas Raza Alvi, Cultural Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia



Vara Nayaka, President ISKCON Sydney



Nandu Mehta, Secretary Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Vedanta Society, Sydney



› Keysar Trad, President Islamic Friendship Group of Australia



Surinder Singh Mutani, President Australian Sikh Association

We Salute to the Brave Officers who laid down their lives fighting the terrorists in Mumbai, India

Constable Jaywant Patil, Constable Yogesh Patil, Constable Ambadas Pawar, Railway Police officer M.C. Choudhary, NSG Commando Gajendra Singh, Inspector Shashank Shinde, Sub Inspector Prakash More, Constable A.R. Chitte, Constable Vijay Khandekar, Asst Sub Inspector V.Obale, Sub Inspector Babusaheb Durgude, Sub Inspector Nanasahab Bhonsale, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, Add Commissioner of Police Ashok Kamte, Senior Police Inspector Vijay Salaskar, ATS Chief Hemant Karkare, Staff of Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai, Staff of Trident (Oberoi) Towers, Mumbai.

A Youth View : "As one of the person who was involved in organising the Multifaith Prayer Meeting. I was so impressed with the idea of "Multifaith". I've been in so many pray events in different cultures, but this is the first time I saw so many religions from Hindu to Muslim came together to pray for those who died in Mumbai Terrorist Attack. This is the event where love and human kind were glorified. Every one forgot about their background, cultures, religion. Together, people pray for the victims of the attack. It such a beautiful thing! The Multifaith Prayer Meeting reminded me the words of my late grandma told me when we were in the Holy Hour praying for Vietnamese – American War Victims. "War is the fight between countries and countries, regimes and other regimes, but not between person and person" she said. And that idea just showed right here at the Multifaith Prayer Meeting. During the event, I personally also pray for the terrorists, because I believe whatever side of the war people are, every one are still the victims of selfish, death and evil. I pray that god will lead them back to the right way..

- Tai Do, Vietnamese Student Association