

# Families torn apart by virus



SA KRISHNA, former fiancee Radhika Subudhi, is stuck in India. Picture: Ray Vaidhyanath

## Couple have left no stone unturned to start new life in SA

### BARCELONA MAIL, ROME VISUALS

SOUTH Australia's strong onshore media and online efforts to provide emotional support to lonely and frantic families holding the coronavirus crisis in their home country.

Adelaide news anchor Kalash Gupta, who is a co-founder for the community group Indian Professionals in Australia, said yesterday people within his community were looking for their home back here.

"While we feel comfortable here, we also have a sense of grief of not being able to give any help to our loved ones back home," he said.

"Just to ease something on someone happens, we are pretty much stuck here."

Mr Gupta and others in the community with loved ones in

India said they were "so that at least we can see and tell them to be safe and give them extra comfort, that we're all there for you," he said.

"We can't be there physically, but we can be there with you."

Sudhanshu Misra, president for the United Indians of South Australia, said it had been a spiritual year for the tight-knit community.

"If you see any social media you see the ones back in India - at someone's family someone, which is almost every day you hear that story," Mr Misra said.

"This [that] we were in a safe country, a safe and a bubble, but in India... it's very disturbing."

For Sai Krishna, the depressing news is particularly gutting. He is still waiting to



Sai Krishna and Radhika Subudhi, who are stuck in India. Picture: Ray Vaidhyanath

get married and start a life with fiancee Radhika Subudhi, who is stuck in India.

Mr Krishna, 40, is an Australian citizen working and living in SA, while Subudhi, 31, has a master's degree in a Master's degree at the University of Adelaide.

The couple were set to marry in May 2020 in India but the pandemic, disrupted

flights from India are expected to be passed until at least May 25, with about 8000 Australian still trying to return home.

"It's very stressful. I am not doing great, but I can't complain," he said.

"I can't wait to start my life with Radhika. It's meant to be. Sometimes I am scared to

but I made promises to her and I can't do that."

Ms Subudhi quit her job in April 2020. Looking for work, she started in May and moving to Australia to start her new life.

Mr Krishna contacted Southey MP Nicole Timms, who is here just to coach with the Australian Border Force, but their situation remains the

same. Flights from India are expected to be passed until at least May 25, with about 8000 Australian still trying to return home.

"I have got recruited as well and have left to start a new life in Adelaide and start a life with my fiance. We're taking care for two hours - we keep talking each other when we can together."

"It feels like we are taking two steps forward and two

steps backward." The pair have engaged a lawyer to apply for another exemption.

"One of the options for us is when I go to India we get married and then I apply for Radhika's partner visa from there," Mr Krishna said.

Adding that, they may move to the US, where she has a visa to "start our lives together."

### UNIS, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

STUDENTS enrolled at Adelaide University had working visas from India are being given medical and counselling support from South Australia.

The student services team has been offering telehealth advice from doctors and other professionals, pro-plus-office international quarantine Lo and yesterday.

"We're providing academic, welfare and where possible, healthcare support," she said.

Students from 800 students from India, the second largest source country after China. Of those, 20 are allowed, unable to get to Adelaide because of travel restrictions.

The coronavirus crisis is likely will exacerbate what's already on when international students can travel here.

Adelaide vice-chancellor, when SA's economic recovery will be back a creating how the \$100 a year revenue stream from SA.

It was a concern 'not get for universities but for the broader community'. Flinders University vice-chancellor Colin Strickland said.

"The longer we delay these returns, the longer the economic recovery will be," he said.

Flinders University has about 100 of its 500 Indian students studying abroad. Support services are available 24/7 and have been increased throughout the pandemic.

### “Everyone has a father, uncle or cousin who’s gone away”

On the impact of travel bans, he said: "The damage done in 2020 is growing worse in 2021 and will compound into 2022."

The loss of revenue will "play havoc" on the job market and not just a university and public sector.

A national report by Victoria University's Mitchell Institute estimated the fatherless service would result in \$11.5 billion in lost revenue in a \$19.5 billion contraction by the end of 2022.

Loss of the students' spending on rent, food, travel and entertainment would impact through the economy, the report said.

SA was given approval last

November for a trial to bring back 400 students but it failed. To reverse the earlier SA needs to submit a management plan to the Federal Government but has yet to take that step.

Prime Minister Morrison said SA was 'keen' to get students back in quickly but as early as possible.

"The Federal Government has made it clear that there must be some outside the normal case and so we're continuing to look at different ideas for this," he said.

SA had successfully brought in Pacific Islanders to work in the food sector.

"We'd do exactly the same, find a site which is secure, it's safe for our international students," Mr Morrison said.

"They make an enormous contribution to our economy."

However, safety of SA was done was the priority.

Prime La said as well as students, Adelaide University has many academics staff who have been in India.

"Nobody is unaffected - everyone has a father in someone's next or cousin who passed away," she said.

Students in Adelaide were under stress, stretched across time zones as they try to cope with loved ones at home while keeping up with an work, leading to an increase in compassionate care extensions for assignments.

The urgent people to "be kind" to international students, especially those from India.

## International flights restart as vax row erupts

### ANDREW HUGHES

MORE than 200 international arrivals are due to arrive in Adelaide this week after a seven-day travel ban was lifted yesterday.

Up to 76 passengers on Singapore Airlines flight 602/277 landed at T3 on Wednesday before being transported by bus to the Grand Chancellor each hotel in Flinders St for 14 days quarantine.

More than 40 more people are due to arrive today on two flights from Singapore and Dubai.

International arrivals were suspended yesterday after a three-day suspension on overseas flights sparked by a surge of all travellers

but a Malaysian Airway flight that on Saturday had been ordered over concerns about the potential volume of Indian arrivals.

It is the first flight to enter that arrival last weekend from Chennai, in India's southern, via Kuala Lumpur. At least 17 passengers left on that flight of SA arrivals, but of whom were to stay at SA and the rest to travel on to WA.

Concerned authorities have increased tests on the passengers who landed before the ban was imposed on Saturday night.

SA Health Minister Steven Brand said the flight of SA arrivals in WA created yesterday after a three-day suspension on overseas flights sparked by a surge of all travellers



A passenger arrives at Adelaide Airport yesterday. Picture: Ray Vaidhyanath

## Business, cricket ... our long-standing connection with India

### PAUL WILSON

SOUTH Australia's Indian community was growing rapidly before the pandemic hit, as migrants capitalised on visas and how to move to the state.

Those numbers included primary visa processing while there were acute places for those wanting to go to regional areas.

About 81,000 Indian residents were moving to SA every year, an annual growth of 27 per cent.

Indian community leader and Post-Prime Minister Krishna Narayanaiah said the SA

relationship and labour affairs Commission had a number - and the growth was driven by regional visas. Those attracted to SA included doctors, operators, engineers and other professionals.

Dr Narayanaiah said a ban on flights should have been applied to high-risk nations, rather than a single country.

But he said people couldn't do the temporary visas to travel or arrivals was necessary to prevent COVID-19 from overwhelming Australia. Exemptions could be applied to extreme cases.

Dr Narayanaiah said links between India and SA had been strengthened by a shared offshore market.

"I'm not a great expert for us, it's a religion - for the current Indian migration, visa, health, and stable Covid is a second home for us," he said.

Dr Narayanaiah said the first time he visited Adelaide in 2002. He was playing the match when India beat Pakistan at the Oval in 2002.

SA's cricket team has never had an Indian support, but the first Test in Adelaide between Australia and India in 1980 was highlighted by a double century by Sir Donald Bradman.

In some ways, India has as much greater economic and strategic importance, mainly due to the recovery in growing prosperity and burgeoning population.

India is SA's seventh largest export destination by country. The top five exports in 2019-20 were copper, iron/ore, iron ores/concentrates, iron ores/concentrates (iron), iron and steel waste and scrap.

The Liberal Youth Government has re-engaged with India through multi-lateral trade efforts in India services trade, as well as the Middle East and North Africa. The previous

Labour government formed an SA-India Advisory Council, with former state minister Business, Council national president Brian Hayes, QC, as strategic adviser.

An SA-India engagement strategy targeted energy and natural resources, education and training, aerospace and defence, water and clean tech as the most appropriate areas for shared growth.

The number of Indian students coming to Adelaide for higher studies had been on a steady decline before the pandemic struck, with 8900 students choosing to study here in 2019.



India cricket fans at Adelaide Oval in 2015.

GET THE BEST OF PRINT AND DIGITAL [advertiser.com.au/subscribe](http://advertiser.com.au/subscribe)

# The Advertiser

We're for you

## T-BIRDS OF PREY

THE Adelaide Thunderbirds will go from the hunted to the hunter this season.

Head coach Tania Obst is putting full faith in her "diverse" list as the players prepare for their season opener against the Giants at PriceLine Stadium on Sunday.

**FULL REPORT: SPORT**  
**SEE HOW THEY SHAPE UP, LIFTOUT: PAGE 27**

8-PAGE LIFTOUT INSIDE TODAY



Thunderbirds Lenize Potgieter, Shamera Sterling and Georgie Horjus ready for this weekend's season opener. Picture: Sarah Reed

## PLEA FOR HELP Community rallies in wake of COVID-19 devastation

# HEARTBREAK IN INDIA

CHRIS RUSSELL, VEATHIKA JAIN

FAMILIES are desperately seeking information on loved ones, local universities are helping students online with medical advice and counselling, and fundraising drives are under way as the Indian COVID-19 crisis deepens. It comes as the country experi-

enced almost 350,000 new cases yesterday, deeply affecting SA's big Indian community. "If you use any social media, you see the news back in India - in someone's family, someone dies, which is almost every day you hear that story," said Sadanand More, president of the United Indians of SA. **SPECIAL COVERAGE: PAGES 8-11**

## Tables turn on learning

NATASHA BITA

SCHOOLS will not teach students to tell the time until Year 2 or recite times tables until Year 4 under a more simple syllabus to start next year.

A "chainsawed" national curriculum has postponed the

teaching of key maths and science concepts so children have more time to master the basics of literacy and numeracy.

Year 1 students will no longer be taught how to tell the time on an analog clock or how to use fractions.

**CONTINUED PAGE 6**



## GANG FEUD

VIOLENCE ON OUR STREETS

[ SEE PAGES 4-5 ]

## Budget pledge on jobs

CLAIRE BICKERS

UNEMPLOYMENT will need to fall below pre-pandemic levels before the Federal Government's razor gang looks at measures to repair the budget.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg will today unveil the bold tar-

get of driving the nation's jobless rate below 5 per cent, while also promising there will not be any dramatic cuts in next month's Budget. "We won't be undertaking any sharp pivots towards austerity," he will say in a pre-Budget speech. **CONTINUED PAGE 4**