



## Bridging Imaginations South Asian Diaspora in Australia

*Edited by Amit Sarwal*

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- *Special Message by HE, Mr Peter N. Varghese, AO, Former High Commissioner of Australia to India*
- *Foreword by W/Prof. Hema Sharda, Director, South Asian Relations, University of Western Australia*

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*Migration of the South Asian peoples to Australia has resulted in a continually growing and flourishing diaspora, one of the most prosperous communities, with an ever-increasing role and responsibility in all areas of society. One of the challenges in writing about the South Asian diaspora in Australia is the nature of the beast: the multifarious migration and entry points into Australia range from colonial indentured workers to political asylum seekers to transnational marriages to students and high-end professionals. How did their journeys and experiences generate bridges that have influenced the historical, cultural, social and academic perceptions of the ever-changing continents? It is hoped that this critical anthology will help present a dynamic community in transit, and showcase the achievements of the South Asian diaspora during the last decade, which have not only made a significant impact on Australia's multicultural landscape but also furthered South Asian–Australian engagement.*

**Dr Amit Sarwal is Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University, Australia and also the Founding Convenor of Australia–India Interdisciplinary Research Network (AIIRN).**

Dr Amit Sarwal with his extensive knowledge of both India and Australia and an outstanding research and publication record is known to everyone working in the field of Australia–India relations as a dynamic and energising presence. He is already a leader in the rapidly growing field of Australia–India relations and his research and organisational skills ensure that he will play a critical role in the development of this field over the next two decades. *Bridging Imaginations: South Asian Diaspora in Australia* is his significant contribution in the field of Diaspora Studies and Australian–Asian relations. **David Walker, Alfred Deakin Professor and Chair, Australian Studies, Deakin University**

With his characteristic foresight Amit Sarwal has edited yet another foundational volume dealing with cross-cultural themes in Australia. This time the subject is the emergent South Asian diaspora. Written with passion and scholarly precision, the essays in the volume establish the parameters for any future study of the South Asian diasporic imaginary in Australia. **Vijay Mishra, Professor of English Literature and ARC Professorial Fellow, Murdoch University**

A useful addition to the study of the South Asian diaspora in Australia, this collection of essays contains some informative, some theoretically astute chapters. It also helps bridge critical gaps in our understanding of the area. **Makarand R. Paranjape, Professor of English, Jawaharlal Nehru University**

This is an exciting collection which serves as a timely reminder of the extraordinary historical depth of the Indian presence in Australia. Drawing on the contributions of a range of eminent scholars from diverse disciplinary standpoints, this book will stand as a major contribution to contemporary understandings of Australia–India connections, substantially deepening our knowledge of an intriguing subject which for too long has been dismissed as being sustained on a diet of curry, cricket and commonwealth. This book presses way beyond this tricotomy of Cs to delight, confront and astound the reader at the close engagement of Australia and India since the earliest interactions as colonies within the British Empire. **Kama Maclean, Senior Lecturer, History, University of New South Wales**

