

DBSV Celebrated Teej with Great Enthusiasm

‘DBSV Teej Celebration 2023’

“Preserving Culture- Raising Hope”



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND:	3
2. ABOUT DIDI BAHINI SAMAJ VICTORIA (DBSV) TEEJ CELEBRATION	3
3. EVENT DETAILS	4
4. EVENT OBJECTIVES:	5
5. EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:	5
6. CONCLUSION AND PROGRAM EVALUATION:	10
7. SNAPSHOTS.....	11

1. Background: Among many festivals, Teej is regarded as the most significant and sacred Hindu festival. It is observed in different parts of the Hindu country by the women and girls to seek blessings for their husband's long time and unmarried girls fast to be blessed with the eternal soulmate like Lord Shiva. Teej festival is associated with Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is symbolic of the love, devotion and respect for a Hindu woman's husband, as Ma Parvati underwent extreme penance over several births for 108 years to win over Lord Shiva. It also marks the occasion of wearing traditional colourful attire, bangles, jewellery and women sing and dance on the traditional songs with a full sense of freedom and enjoyment.

2. About Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV)

Teej Celebration: Since 2014 every year DBSV has been celebrating Teej as a part of the DBSV's vision to promote Nepalese culture and tradition here in Australia. Teej is the most famous festival among Nepali women. Given that we strive to celebrate Teej to provide an opportunity for all women to enjoy their womanhood, the richness of cultural essence and diversity through dancing and singing. Moreover, we endeavour to support women to boost their confidence and well-being with a dance performance and to enhance the spirit of unity among women. Through the Teej event, we also aim to raise hope and endowment to assist women in Nepal who are victims/survivors of sexual assault and rape. We intend to reintegrate those women and girls into society to prevent further exploitation and to curtail the risks of assaults, emotional abuse, neglect, and violence from society. DBSV is so proud that we were able to support and restore the lives of more than 125 women and girls in the Mid-western region of Nepal through our last 8 Teej events. Hence, part of the fund raised from the event has been donated every year to support the same cause on an ongoing basis. Our support would bear the cost for the provision of safe short-term crisis accommodation, and support for other essential services such as legal advice, medical treatment, counselling, family, and social mediation process, and vocational education. For the provision of these services,

we are closely working in partnership with AAWAJ (a profound local NGO working in family violence in the Mid-Western Region of Nepal). DBSV highly believes that our commitment to support signifies a lot to raising new hope and aspirations in the lives of those women and girls in Nepal and on the other hand rendering lots of satisfaction among women (Teej-celebrants) here in Australia

3. **Event details:** Teej is one of DBSV's major cultural celebrations with

the theme of preserving culture- raising hope. Celebration of Teej has been creating a win-win situation. In one hand we are celebrating our culture here in Australia and on the other hands, we are making efforts to support women in Nepal who have been the survivor of sexual assault (rape). Like every year, this year the festival of Teej was celebrated with great enthusiasm by DBSV on 26th August 2023 at Coburg Townhall with the presence of more than 600 Nepalese women and distinguished guests from different local bodies and organisation. It was a gala time for all the Nepalese community members as they performed with true essence of the traditional clothes, values, folk dances, song to mark the occasion. The venue of the vent was decorated in a colourful and vibrant manner, the overall atmosphere in the event was electric, with people dressed in traditional clothing and the sound of music and laughter filling the air which sets the perfect tone for the festivities.



4. **Event Objectives:** The major objectives of the Didi Bahini Samaj

Victoria Teej Celebration 2023 include:

- * To provide an opportunity for all women to enjoy womanhood and the richness of cultural essence and diversity through dancing, singing, cultural performances, and connection.
- * To support vulnerable women in the Mid-western region of Nepal with the theme of Preserving Culture Raising Hope. Hence, part of the fund raised from the event will be donated to support survivors of sexual assault and its prevention in Nepal.

5. **Event Highlights:** The event started with informal program and

cultural activities including diverse range of cultural dance performances by various unit committee groups members on display, traditional music, group floor dance, music, free Photo booth, free instant photo printing service, free face painting and kids' engagement. The formal program of the event started at 6pm with country acknowledgement, inaugural speech by program host Jyoti Khatiwada followed by welcome dance performance on the stage by honourable chief guest, valuable guest attendees, Nepalese community leaders, event partner, event sponsors and DBSV Advisors (present). After the welcome dance, formal program host Anita Bhandari and Jyoti Khatiwada welcomed and greeted the honourable chief guest, other special guests including Nepalese Community leaders from various community organisation and event sponsors:

- Kathleen Mathew Ward State Labor Candidate for Broadmeadows (Chief Guest)
- Vivienne Nguyen, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Sue Bolton- Socialist Alliance candidate for the Labor-held seat of Wills.
- Mr Essan Dileri - Team Leader Diversity and Intercultural Development, Melton City Council
- Monica Harte – Councillor Merri Bek Council
- Gandhi Bhattarai, President, Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre
- Mrs Laxmi Yonzon , Representative – Nepal General Consulate Office

- Catherine Schmidt, Uniting Church Glenroy
- Sadia Khatri, Voice of Australia
- Parsuram Sharma Luitl, Multicultural Liaison Officer at Victoria Police, Community Advocate

DBSV Teej Sponsor and Supporter

S. N	Sponsorship	Name
1.	Title sponsor /Event Partner	Expert Education and Visa Services Melbourne, Australia “Rely on Expert”
2.	Gold Sponsor	a. Ratna Jewellers: Nepali Jewelry Store, Melbourne Australia b. GuideStar Training and Professional Services Pty Ltd
3.	Sponsor/Catering Partner	Lumanti Melbourne ‘The Taste of Remembrance’
4.	Sponsor	Buddha Travel & Tours Pty. Ltd
5.	Sponsor	Magic Momo Kafe Authentic Nepalese Restaurant
6.	Sponsor	Green Leaf Landscaping & Gardening Pravin Patel
7.	Sponsor	Indreni - Grocery.Meat.Veggie Shop Melbourne, Victoria
8.	Sponsor	Your Dream Home ‘Conveyancing’ PTY LTD (Pravat Paudel – Licensed Conveyancer
9.	Photography and Videography Partner	Captured Moment- The Photo Factory – Photography Subind Creation- Videographer Mr Subash Bastakoti
10.	Decoration Partner	Kathmandu Décor- Krishna Pyakurel, Women Entrepreneur
11.	Dj Partner	Dj Neil -Sunil Parajuli



After the acknowledgement of event guests and sponsor, the program continued by the welcome speech conveyed by organisation President Roshani Shrestha which was followed by speech from event Chief Guest Ms Kathleen Mathews. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Kathleen highlighted the DBSV purpose for Teej celebration and threw light on the significance of fund raised through event to support victim survivors in Nepal. The formal event ended with a vote of thanks by organisation Vice-president Nirmal Nyaupane.

After formal event, the Teej celebration continued with floor dance and music, and musical performances by Nepalese renowned Guest artists Ravi Oad (Nepali Idol, Singer and musician) and Anita Chalaune (Singer). The guest artist performed various songs which every event



attendee thoroughly enjoyed. The performances included folk and classical music which were treat for the eyes and ears for the audience.



Another important aspect of the Teej event was the showcase of Nepalese women entrepreneurs. Through the event, DBSV aimed to acknowledge and highlight the Nepalese women entrepreneurs (who were introduced during our 2022 International Women's Day). This event aimed to provide them with an opportunity to share their expertise and to encourage female entrepreneurs by showcasing and promoting their entrepreneurship among community members. Women entrepreneurs present at the event exhibited their products.

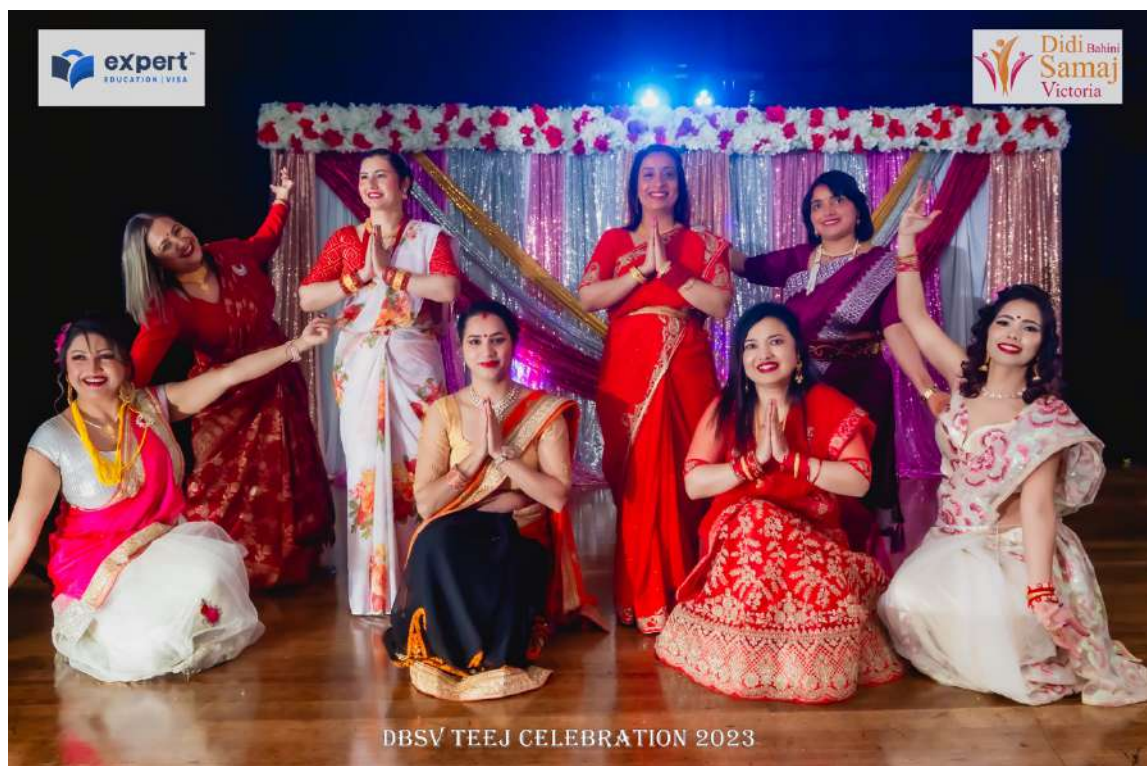
Authentic Nepalese food from Lumanti Melbourne, a showcase of cultural clothes, ornaments and jewellery, raffle ticket were some of the other highlights of this year Teej event. At the very end of the event, the raffle winner announcement session was organised where representative from our title sponsor/event partner Surya Pokhrel from Expert Education and Visa Services Melbourne and our Gold sponsor, Ratna Jewellers were duly invited to facilitated the selection and announcement of winner's name. As a raffle gift this year we had Gold Tilari 'ornament' from Ratna jewellers and 3 gift hampers from our title sponsor. After the announcement of name of the respective winners, the programme officially concluded at 10pm with the joyful song and folk dances by attendees.



6. Conclusion and Program Evaluation: In

conclusion, the Teej celebration provided an opportunity to every woman to enjoy their womanhood and a time to come together and celebrate the diversity and the cultural essence of Nepalese women festival and of a community. The decoration, exciting dance performances, group dance, showcase of women entrepreneurships, delicious food and cultural performances by our guest artists all contributed to a fun-filled, successful and memorable event.

The feedback from event participants and their engagements, joy specifies a high level of happiness and gratitude. There were many positive remarks about the DBSV Teej celebration, the objectives behind the celebration, and the organization, structure and process of the program.



7. Snapshots







Program Schedule
DBSV TEEJ CELEBRATION 2023
Preserving Culture - Raising Hope

Time	Program	MC
17:00	Welcome to all dance group • Housekeeping • Navigating to all services: 360 degree video, First aid, kids program – Frozen them, Catering, PPP, raffle ticket, donation into donation box for a cause. • Appreciation to sponsors including titled, gold, silver and sponsors • DBSV Unit group dances 1. DBSV Aintree, 2. DBSV Glenroy, 3. DBSV Craigieburn, 4. DBSV Doreen/Maranda 5. DBSV West 6. DBSV Melton,	Anju/Julie
1800	Start formal session Country of acknowledgement, Why Didi Bahini celebrating teej?	Julie/Annieta
18:10	Dance on stage with guests, sponsors, advisers with song of AHA BHO AHA	Julie/Annieta
	Welcome speech of DBSV president	Mrs Roshani Shrestha,
	Chief Guest speech – Ms. Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP, State Member of Parliament for Broad meadows.	Julie/Annieta
	Special guest speech	Julie/Annieta
18:30	Vote of thanks by DBSV Vice president and end of formal program	Mrs Nirmala Neupaney
19:35	Commencement of Floor dance with Guest Artist	Bini/Ansu
20:00	Floor dance	Bini/Ansu
21:00	Announce of the winners of the raffle and handing over gift by Ratna Jewelers and Expert Education and Visa Services.	Bini/Ansu
21:15	Continue floor dance	
	Everyone wishes by saying Happy Teej 2023 with both hands spreading and invite to continue with floor dance	Bini/Ansu/all mcs

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE DIFFERENCE