**Ektaal - The Great India Project**

‘You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.’

*Rabindranath Tagore*

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**Vision**

‘Ektaal in Sanskrit means ‘one beat’ or ‘one rhythm’ and is a term deriving in the first instance from music and dance. Ektaal perfectly represents our plan to engage with the Indian community as equal partners in a coordinated and harmonious fashion, and conjures up the importance of a mutual understanding and respect for our different cultures.

Ektaal - The Great India Project (‘Ektaal’) is a holistic approach to a culture, a community and a market. Its aim is to focus attention on India and engage with businesses and community groups in India and Australia.

**Rationale**

India is an emerging superpower and Australia needs to significantly develop its trading and cultural links to better position itself as a major partner.

Ektaal represents a unique approach in Australian-Indian relationships in two ways. Firstly, the project begins with an approach to Indian communities in Australia and is as much concerned with community outreach as with international strategy. Secondly, the entire model of Ektaal is partnership.

The project is not an exercise in student recruitment, but rather an attempt to develop relationships with Indian institutions which work on the basis of mutual respect, shared skills, shared interests and adult conversation between equals.

Ektaal will provide focus on a growing market and take into account both the needs of India and its cultural diversity. Macquarie University will deepen its relationship not only with Indian communities in Australia and expatriate Australians living in India, but with Australian companies expanding their presence in India, and Indian companies investing and developing operations in Australia. Ektaal provides an exciting opportunity to partner with Macquarie University in building meaningful Australia-India bilateral engagement.

**The Tagore Chair in Arts and Culture**

Her Excellency Mrs Sujatha Singh, High Commissioner of India in Australia, has generously pledged the support of the Indian Government for Ektaal – The Great India Project by agreeing to help fund a Professorial Chair for five years in the first instance. In addition, the Indian Consulate has donated a substantial number of Indian-related books to strengthen the University library collection.

The Tagore Chair in Arts and Culture is an important first step in strengthening research capacity on India at Macquarie University. The University welcomes the opportunity to discuss potential partnership arrangements to support other professorial research specialisations.
**Ektaal - Collaborative Research**

The India Research Centre

**Purpose**

The India Research Centre is destined to become Australia’s leading centre of research excellence on India. Organisations with an interest in developing closer ties between Australia and India are invited to explore research partnerships with Macquarie University.

The India Research Centre has been established to engage with the research communities of South Asia and scholars across Australia and act as a catalyst for the development of vital international research links.

**Research collaboration**

India Research Centre members are drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including Anthropology, Sociology, Cultural Studies, Music, Media, Law, and Asian Languages. Within these diverse disciplines, the India Research Centre will help achieve mutual respect and understanding through:

- Cultural, political and social science research on India and Indian immigrant diasporas
- Engagement with Indian performance culture in written and practice based forms, opening up new forms of collaboration, and
- Collaboration with Indian communities in the arts and on issues of common concern

**A selection of current research projects**

**Media, Arts and Culture**

- Indian media and its response to the challenges of globalisation
- Indian migration, diaspora and transnationalism
- Classical music traditions of India and the political economy of music
- The cultural consequences of globalisation
- How the Hindu religion generates social capital among Indian migrants in Sydney
- Hybrid identity construction and state multiculturalism practices in relation to Indian diasporic communities in Singapore and London
- Labour migration from South Asia, including Indian low-wage workers from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil, into the Gulf city-state of Dubai

**Politics and International Relations**

- Discourses on Indian nationalism and modernity
- India’s foreign policy, government and politics
- Australia-India bilateral and strategic relations
- India’s role in the Asia Pacific region
- Changing international perspectives on Kashmir
- India’s place in South Asia
- Understanding Indian and Pakistani Muslim cultures
- Nationalism and transnationalism in relation to race, ethnicity, multiculturalism, terrorism and religion

**Medicine and Health**

- The experiences of clinical medicine by marginalised social groups
- The experience of reproductive technology in Tamil Nadu
- Transnational reorientations of maternity, the changing shape of kinship and reproduction: surrogacy in India and their Australian ‘intended parents’
- How legal and ethical regulations on reproductive technologies are experienced in clinical settings
Ektaal - Culture and Engagement

Macquarie University ‘joins hands’ with Indian communities to make a lasting impact

Indian Cultural Programs

The University, working collaboratively with Indian and Australian business and community groups, has developed a successful cultural programme which has grown quickly in importance and profile.

- In August 2010, the University launched A Touch of Spice: Indian Sydney, an exhibition of the Indian experience in Sydney.
- The Pallavi Company performed two concerts in 2010 on the Macquarie University campus.
- In January 2011 the University presented the art exhibition, India: Past, Present and Abroad. This exhibition featured works which connected the historical past with the present through the lived experiences and narratives of Indian communities in Australia and abroad.
- Each year, Macquarie University will bring a significant Indian scholar to Australia to present the annual Rabindranath Tagore lecture. The first lecture, to take place during the Tagore Festival in May 2011, will commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

In support of these activities the Indian Consul-General has generously donated a bust of Tagore, to be installed on campus in 2011. It will be a symbolic focus for cultural events.

The Hath Milao Institute

Macquarie University is seeking to establish long-term and far reaching relationships with Indian communities. A sustainable legacy of Ektaal will be the Hath Milao Institute (Hath Milao means to ‘join hands’ in Hindi).

The University invites potential sponsors and donors in Australia and India to ‘join hands’ and help us to provide low cost access to educational programmes for economically disadvantaged people in India. Working together, we can dramatically improve the lives of many people.

The focus of ‘Hath Milao’ will be the provision of post-secondary education opportunities. Macquarie University will work with a range of Indian non-government organisations to provide an infrastructure base for the delivery of services. Our aim is to partner with organisations that can provide coverage across the many regions and cultural groups that make India such a wonderfully diverse and vibrant society.

Macquarie University students will provide tutorial services as volunteers or through the participation requirements of their degrees. The University will provide course content at a nominal fee in India.
Ektaal - Scholarships opportunities for Indian students

Ektaal – The Great India Project gives sponsors the opportunity to create named scholarships for outstanding students from India to study at Macquarie University.

Our vision is for a program of endowed scholarships which will deepen understanding and long term linkages between Australia and Indian scholars, writers, scientists, corporate leaders, diplomats, and politicians.

In establishing the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford over a century ago, Cecil Rhodes emphasised the importance of personal attributes such as energy, truth, courage, and moral force of character in addition to scholastic achievements. Macquarie University looks forward to discussing criteria for the selection of applicants with businesses and individuals who wish to encourage the values, ideals, and knowledge critical to the prosperity and sustainability of our globalised world.

Scholarships may be established at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Undergraduate Scholarships

There is a tremendous opportunity to offer scholarships to outstanding students at Indian high schools to undertake their first degree at Macquarie University.

Master’s degree Scholarships

Macquarie University offers many outstanding postgraduate courses. Master’s degree scholarships will give Indian students the opportunity to advance their studies in an international environment.

Higher Degree Research Scholarships

Macquarie University offers higher degrees by research leading to the qualification of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil). Given the depth and breadth of research at Macquarie University, there are significant opportunities to create scholarships across many specialisations.

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