



Prime Minister Delivers Australia India Address



I am personally very committed to the relationship and I know the Prime Minister of India is and I know that both sides of India politics are very strongly committed to it. Its added value, of course, is that it comes on top of those bonds of history and sport which many Australians, through different experiences have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy in the future.

- The Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia

Also in this issue

*AIBC Celebrates 20 Years
Qantas Codeshare with Jet Airways India*

*Australia-India Strategic Research Fund
Tiwi Art Exhibition in Hyderabad*

Prime Minister Delivers Australia India Address

A capacity crowd of 550 attended the 2006 Accor Qantas Australia India Address which took place in Sydney on Friday 1 September and featured The Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia, as keynote speaker.

The Prime Minister's speech was his first public address on India since returning from his official visit to the country in March 2006.

The Prime Minister set the scene for his speech by recalling his meeting with the Prime Minister of India, the Honorable Dr Manmohan Singh, at an ASEAN meeting in December 2004 at which the Indian Prime Minister noted that Australia and India are two countries that have so much in common, but so little to do with each other.

The Prime Minister noted that India and Australia's common linkages of law and language, commitment to democracy, our shared experience in fighting in two wars, and of course, a passion for cricket have all contributed to the warm relations that our two countries share and will continue to share as our relationship grows. Furthermore, India's emergence as a major power economy with a growing appetite for products and commodities that Australia produces places it as an increasingly important strategic and economic partner for our country.

The Prime Minister praised India's investment in education and skills development, pointing out the many fine Indian technical institutions. Migration from India to Australia is growing - about 11 to 12 per cent of Australia's migration programme is now made up of citizens from India. It is the third largest source of migration to Australia and the second largest source of overseas students.

With so many things in common, the Prime Minister closed his speech by anticipating that the relationship will grow and that the warm relations between our two countries and shared values and respect will have long lasting benefits on both sides.

The AIBC NSW wishes to thank our platinum event partners Accor and Qantas, gold event Sponsor, IBM Australia and silver sponsor, Infosys, for their support of this event.



Sujan Chinoy, Consul General of India, and Mohan Monteiro, President AIBC NSW with the Prime Minister.



Neville Roach AO, Chairman Emeritus AIBC and the Prime Minister.



David Baffsky AO, Accor Asia Pacific (Centre) with John Coates AC and The Hon Justice Annabelle Bennett AO.



Roger Langsdon, Infosys, with guests.

1986-2006
CELEBRATING
20 YEARS



*Australia India
Business Council*

Australia India Business Council - Celebrating 20 Years

The AIBC was formed in 1986 following a meeting in Australia between the then Prime Ministers, the Hon Bob Hawke and the Hon Rajiv Gandhi to help fulfil their shared vision of the enormous potential for bilateral trade and investment. Since 1986, India's star has risen in our region and globally and government, business and community links between Australia and India have grown well beyond what could have been hoped for 20 years ago.

The visit by the Prime Minister and the strength and quality of the select group of senior business leaders that accompanied him, many of whom represented AIBC member companies, was clear evidence of Australia's recognition of India's status as an emerging economic powerhouse and important strategic partner. Six bilateral agreements were signed during the visit, including a trade and economic framework and

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on customs, defence and biotechnology cooperation. Several commercial agreements between Australian and Indian businesses were also reached.

AIBC, as the only national bilateral business association totally focused on building stronger business links between Australia and India for the benefit of our members and both countries, is proud of its contribution to the growth of the relationship throughout our 20 years, including the many years before India's economic emergence was generally recognised.

We have built close relationships with Federal and State governments, the diplomatic corps and industry bodies in both countries and have promoted the mutual opportunities of our bilateral relationship through an active program of events in Australia and business missions to and from India.

We have state chapters located in NSW, ACT, VIC, SA, WA and QLD as well as industry chapters which focus on specific sectors with the greatest potential for growth. This enables us to add value to the efforts of governments and business associations throughout Australia. Our events highlight opportunities to our members and the wider business community and provide practical information to help businesses engage in bilateral business.

Our vision for the next 20 years is that relationships between Australia and India in business and more generally will become among the strongest that both countries enjoy. Trade, investment and movement of people will grow in both directions. Our Prime Ministers and senior ministers will meet every year for substantive discussions. We will conclude a Free Trade Agreement and work as allies in the cause of multilateral trade and investment liberalisation.

Most of our corporations will have significant investments and operations in both countries as well as collaborative relationships that extend regionally and globally. There will be mutual recognition of qualifications and sharing of educators, researchers and students. Bilateral tourism will expand exponentially. Australia will benefit even more from India's contribution to our permanent and temporary migration, while substantial numbers of Australians will study and work in India. Our skilled resources will complement each other in the global delivery of services.

Throughout the exciting years ahead, AIBC will continue to play a leadership role, informing policy development, disseminating useful information, organising a rich programme of events, workshops, courses and missions, and encouraging Australians and Indians to strengthen business ties and personal friendships for mutual benefit and founded in mutual respect.

Foreign Minister Downer Commits to Strengthening Bilateral Relations between Australia and India



The Hon Alexander Downer MP with Brian Hayes QC, Chairman AIBC.

"I Love India" - was the opening statement of Foreign Affairs Minister, The Hon Alexander Downer MP, at the Accor Qantas Australia India Address in Adelaide, on Friday 18 August.

The Consul General of India, Sujan Chinoy, also attended this significant event and addressed the audience.

The Foreign Minister's address noted the exponential growth in the interest in India around the world and especially in South Australia and the key role that the Federal Government is playing in raising the Australia - India relationship to a new level.

Mr Downer reiterated that India has undertaken significant reform and its engagement with other major powers in the region will have a significant influence on Australia's strategic environment.

Mr Chinoy renewed his promise to proactively drive the bilateral relations to encourage close co-operation between key industry sectors with outstanding potential.

Federal Chairman and Chairman of AIBC SA, Brian Hayes said that the fabulous turn out to this Address is testament to the importance of India as a potential market to South Australian businesses and will encourage governments to give India the priority it deserves.

Australia-India Strategic Research Fund

The Australian Government in conjunction with the Government of the Republic of India has established the Indo-Australian Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the Indo-Australian Fund for Scientific and Technological cooperation in Biotechnology. As part of the Australian Scholarships package \$20 million of funding will be provided over five years commencing in financial year 2006/07 for collaborative research activities between Australia and India through the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF).

The AISRF aims to facilitate and support Science and Technology research cooperation between Australia and India. The fund will assist Australian researchers to increase their participation in leading edge scientific research with Indian scientists, to support the development of strategic alliances between Australian researchers and Indian researchers.

Indo-Australian S&T Fund (jointly managed by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training - DEST - and the Indian Department of Science and Technology - DST) supports collaborative activities through projects that build productive alliances, exchange opportunities for Australian and Indian expertise, and creates opportunities for researchers in both countries. Priority will be given to the bilaterally agreed areas of: agricultural research; astronomy and astrophysics; environment sciences; micro-electronics devices and materials; nanotechnology; renewable energy; and marine sciences.

Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund (jointly managed by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training - DEST - and the Indian Department of Biotechnology - DBT) priority areas are: Biomedical devices and implants; stem cells; vaccines/medical diagnostics; transgenic crops; nutraceuticals and functional foods; and bioremediation.

The Indo-Australian S&T Fund and Indo-Australian Biotechnology fund application rounds will open on 25 September 2006 and will close on Friday 24 November 2006.

Guidelines and further information is available on <http://www.dest.gov.au/science/aisrf>

Governor of Victoria Keynote Speaker for AIBC Luncheon

The AIBC Victorian chapter celebrated its India's Independence Day in style with the Australia India Address, held on 17 August 2006 at which the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser A.C. was keynote speaker.

An impressive list of dignitaries in attendance included Mrs de Kretser, the Honorary Consul General for India, Mr T.J Rao and Mrs Rao and former Prime Minister of Australia, the Right Honorable Malcolm Fraser.

The Governor delivered the Australia India Address to 200 business leaders and guests and in so doing, followed in the footsteps of the Premier, the Hon Steve Bracks, who delivered the inaugural address in 2005.

The Governor's speech highlighted the achievements and strides that India has made since Independence, the wealth of intellectual capital available in India and the opportunities for collaboration with Australia in fields such as medicine, and biotechnology.

Professor de Kretser's address was warmly received by the crowd and he thanked the AIBC for the opportunity and stated that he would be pleased to return after his forthcoming visit to India to share his thoughts.

Following lunch, the Honorary Consul General for India in Victoria, Dr T. Janardhana Rao, spoke on behalf of the Indian Government. Dr Rao spoke about the Independence movement during his childhood and that India was on the verge of achievement great things.

Dr Rao concluded by announcing that he would be stepping down as Honorary Consul General at the end of August 2006 and that a full time Consul General had been approved. He thanked everyone for their support over the last 24 years that he had served the Indian Government on an honorary basis. He also thanked Dr Martand Joshi, the outgoing Honorary Consul, for his support over the last six years. Dr Rao was officially presented with a Citation for his contribution. Dr Joshi was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts.



Professor and Mrs de Kretser with Harish Rao, President AIBC VIC and Dr Rao

Qantas Signs Codeshare with Jet Airways, India

Qantas and India's premier airline, Jet Airways, have announced a codeshare arrangement that will expand Qantas' network within India from 6 September 2006.

Executive General Manager Qantas Airlines John Borghetti said the codeshare on Jet Airways meant that Qantas now offered a greater than daily frequency from Mumbai to Sydney when combined with the existing Qantas thrice weekly Airbus A330-300 services. In addition, Perth gains a daily codeshare connection to Mumbai.

"India is an important and growing market for Qantas and this partnership with Jet Airways provides us with an opportunity to further develop our business. We will also offer Delhi, a new point on the Qantas network, with daily connections from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth via Singapore. Cairns, Darwin and Adelaide will also benefit with excellent connections," he said. "Our customers will travel in Jet Airways' fleet of two-class Boeing 737-800 aircraft," Mr Borghetti said.

Jet Airways Chief Executive Officer, Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, said the airline was pleased to partner with Qantas and launch the codeshare service on the Delhi-Singapore and Mumbai- Singapore routes. "Australia is a popular destination in the Indian market and the codeshare service will offer a seamless experience on the India-Australia route," Mr Prock-Schauer said.

Qantas Frequent Flyer members can earn points on the codeshare services. The new codeshare services became available for sale from 14 August. Jet Airways operates more than 320 flights daily to 44 destinations across India and five international destinations including London (Heathrow), Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Colombo and Kathmandu.

Australia Network

Australia Network is the new name of the Australian television service to the Asia Pacific region. Australia Network will deliver high quality and contemporary programming about Australia and its engagement with the region to more than 40 countries. The Australia Network footprint stretches throughout most of Asia and the Pacific region. The broadcast can be accessed from North Mongolia, west India, Indonesia, PNG and across the Pacific to the Cook Islands and the fringes of French Polynesia to the east. The broadcast is free to air via satellite transmitting on two simultaneous channels on the PAS-8 and PAS-2 satellite, but it is most commonly watched via a local rebroadcaster via cable.

Screening programs specifically produced for regional audiences, Australia Network draws on the vast inventory of programming available from both the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and Australian commercial television networks and independent production houses from around the world. A key requirement of the service is to provide a credible and independent voice through programs that present a 'window' on Australia and Australian perspectives of the world. The service will feature extensive news and current affairs programs and Australian-produced education programs.

For more information please go to the Australian Network website: <http://australiannetwork.com/default.htm>

To view Australia Network TV in India, contact the rebroadcaster directly for information:

Dish TV (pay via satellite) www.dishtvindia.in

Setpro Holdings (distribution representatives) www.tv18online.com

KIRIPURANJI: Clever with Our Hands

Kiripuranji: an exhibition of contemporary art from the Tiwi Islands, was opened in Hyderabad on 22 July 2006 in the State Gallery of Fine Arts. Meaning 'Clever with our Hands', the exhibition was organised under the auspices of AusArts-India, an Australian Government promotion of Australian art and culture currently ongoing in India.

The exhibition presented a collection of contemporary Indigenous Australian paintings reflecting the richness of Tiwi culture, including work on paper, paintings, carved and painted ceremonial poles and textiles.

Mr John Fisher, Counsellor, Australian High Commission and Ms P Gayathri, Assistant Director, State Gallery of Fine Arts jointly inaugurated the exhibition, attended by a number of artists and art lovers.

The exhibition also commemorated the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee week (NAIDOC week) which is an observance to mark the contributions and achievements of Indigenous people and culture to non-Indigenous Australia.



Australia-India Teacher Exchange Program

Ten Delhi school teachers, including two principals, have returned from a tour of Australia under the auspices of the Australia-India Teacher Exchange Program (AITE). The program is managed by the Asia Education Foundation (AEF) in partnership with Australian Education International (AEI), New Delhi and is part funded by the Australia-India Council.

At a reception hosted by the Australian High Commission, the teachers shared their individual experiences and expressed appreciation for their Australian counterparts where they were met with lot of enthusiasm and warmth. The teachers announced their plans to organise workshops on the teaching and assessment methodologies adopted by schools in Australia for fellow teachers.

A key outcome of the program is that both Indian and Australian teachers will return to their home county with a greater interest and understanding of each others contemporary society and culture. This will provide the teachers with the impetus and confidence to initiate and/or further develop the study of Australia/India in their classroom. Ongoing links and relationships between both countries will be further developed and assist continued interaction and dialogue between Australian and Indian teachers and their students.

The Indian teachers visited Australia in May 2006 and had the opportunity to teach at Australian schools. One of the highlights of the program was home stays with Australian teachers. The visit of the Indian teachers followed a visit to India by a group of 20 teachers from select Australian schools in January 2006. The exchange program has been running for eight years, involving over 200 Australian and Indian teachers.



Inauguration of Bhavan's Institute for Indian Arts and Culture and Bhavan' Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan literally meaning The House of Indian Knowledge / Wisdom opened its first centre in the Asia Pacific in Sydney which was inaugurated by the then Indian Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Yaswant Sinha on 30 August 2003. Since its inception Bhavan Australia has been actively pursuing its commitment towards enhancing the understanding of Indian culture and promoting a diverse society. To underline this commitment Bhavan Australia, as it is now known, hosts a number of cultural events throughout the year.

On its fourth anniversary, 30 August 2006, another significant milestone for Bhavan Australia was achieved when the Bhavan's Institute of Arts and Culture and Bhavan's Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology (located at, Abattoir Heritage Building B, Olympic Park in Sydney) were formally inaugurated by the Consul General of India, Hon Sujan Chinoy and Ms Julie Owens MP, Federal Member for Parramatta, with a prayer song and the traditional lighting of the lamp.

The institute offers courses in Indian classical dance and music. Classes in tabla, sitar and kathak dance have commenced. Bhavan Australia proposes to add courses in bharatnatayam, veena, hindi and other related subjects.

For more information on Bhavan Australia and its various activities please visit www.bhavanaustralia.org

The Australia India Focus Newsletter is produced bi-monthly by the Australia-India Council and the Australia India Business Council.

Australia-India Focus aims to inform our readers on the range of cultural and business activities occurring between Australia and India. The views expressed within this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Australia-India Council or the Australia India Business Council.

Articles may be reproduced freely with acknowledgement. Please direct your editorial enquiries to info@aibc.org.au

Subscription to Australia-India Focus is free. To receive Australia-India Focus by email, simply provide your email address, name and mailing address to info@aibc.org.au.

Australia-India Focus is available as a PDF document for download from the website of the Australia India Business Council www.aibc.org.au in the newsletter section and the Australia-India Council's website at www.dfat.gov.au/aic.



Australian Government



The Australia-India Council (AIC) was established in 1992 in response to a recommendation by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, following an enquiry into Australia's relations with India.

The Council initiates or supports a range of activities designed to promote a greater awareness of Australia in India and a greater awareness of India in Australia, including visits and exchanges between the two countries, development of institutional links, and support of studies in each country of the other.

The Council offers support, in the form of funding, for projects likely to contribute to the development of the relationship within the context of AIC objectives and guidelines.

For more information, visit www.dfat.gov.au/aic

The Executive Director, AIC
PO Box 5363 Kingston ACT 2604
Telephone (02) 6261 3833
Facsimile (02) 6112 3833
E-mail: ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au

AIBC's mission is, "To build stronger business links between Australia and India for the benefit of our members and both countries."

This is achieved through a rich programme of seminars, workshops and networking events around Australia, the coordination of inbound and outbound trade and investment missions, linkages to government agencies and other professional and industry associations in both countries. As a business organisation, the AIBC aims to ensure productive access to a wide range of useful introductions and leads, dissemination of useful and timely news and information through our website, newsletters and emails and professional development programs for our members.

The AIBC works with business and government representatives to build upon many of these developments and activities.

For more information, visit www.aibc.org.au

The Executive Director, AIBC
Suite 1206, Level 12, 87-89 Liverpool St,
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: +61 2 9262 7111 (Ext 22)
Fax: +61 2 9267 4500
E-mail: info@aibc.org.au