



A U S T R A L I A - I N D I A F O C U S

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Australia-India Joint Ministerial Commission

On 19 May, Hon Mark Vaile MP, Minister for Trade, chaired the ninth Australia-India Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting in Sydney with India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Kamal Nath. The JMC is the key event in the bilateral economic and trade relationship. An important outcome of the JMC was agreement to begin negotiations on a Trade and Economic Framework (TEF) between Australia and India.

India's growing strategic importance and continuing economic expansion mean it is set to become one of Australia's key regional and bilateral partners. Total trade of goods and services between Australia and India was worth A\$7.4 billion in 2004, placing India 13th on the list of Australia's trading partners. The proposed TEF would set the direction for the facilitation and future development of our trade and economic relationship. A key aim will be to boost trade and investment and enhance policy dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

Australia-India Joint Business Council

On 19 May, the Australia India Business Council hosted the successful 2005 Joint Business Councils Meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney.

The JBC meeting was preceded by a breakfast organized by the Lowy Institute and supported by AIBC.

The Joint Business Council included keynote addresses by Australian Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, the Hon Senator Helen Coonan and Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry, the Hon Shri Kamal Nath.



Hon Kamal Nath addresses participants at the Lowy Institute Breakfast on 19 May

Minister Nath invited Australian business to consider investing in India, commenting on India's attractiveness as an FDI location: "We have been told we are too bureaucratic; we have been told that we are poor cousins to China, and we have been told that our sectoral caps for FDI are restricting growth. We have also been told that our infrastructure puts foreigners off.

"For those of you who still think this way, I would like to share the findings of the annual research survey conducted by the global consulting firm AT Kearney. The study polled CEOs and top decision-makers of the world's 1000 largest firms. In 2002, India was the 15th most attractive FDI destination worldwide. In 2003, India moved up to the 6th spot. In 2004 we moved to number 3."

Australia-India Joint Business Council...con't

Australian High Commissioner to India, HE John McCarthy, and Indian High Commissioner to Australia, HE Mr Prabhat Prakash Shukla, both addressed the delegates. Chairman of the Indo Australian Joint Business Council, Mr Vikram Kapur, and President of the Federated Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry also joined the panel of speakers. Speakers at the JBC luncheon included Mr Don Carroll, India Country Manager, BHP Biliton, and Mr Onkar Kanwar, President of FICCI. Roundtable discussions on manufacturing, mining, IT, and financial services took place following lunch, including business representatives and government representatives from both countries. The Premier of NSW, Hon Mr Bob Carr, met with the Indian Minister following luncheon. Mr Carr was joined by the High Commissioner for India, Consul General for India, Mr Ganapathi, and member of the NSW-Asia Business Advisory Council, Mr Neville Roach. Dinner was hosted by Australian Minister for Trade, Hon Mark Vaile, and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia India Business Council. The JBC was sponsored by AIBC members BHP Biliton, Gujarat NRE Coke, Macquarie Bank, Infosys, Ernst and Young, Invest Australia, State Bank of India, EFIC and Austrade.

On 20 May, AIBC Vic arranged a luncheon for JBC delegates in Melbourne. The panel of speakers at the luncheon included Hon Kamal Nath, Victorian Minister for Information, Communication and Technology, Hon Marsha Thompson, President of FICCI, Mr Onkar Kanwar, and Chairman of the Indo Australian Joint Business Council, Mr Vikram Kapur. The delegation also met with the Premier, Hon Steve Bracks, Minister for Manufacturing and Export, Andre Haermeyer, and Minister for ICT, Marsha Thompson. On 21 May the delegation was treated to an afternoon at premier winery Yering Station.

Foreign Minister's visit to India 6 to 9 June 2005

The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP, visited India from 6 to 9 June 2005. The visit comes at a time of keen interest, including among the world's major powers, in engaging more closely with India. Australia has for some time recognised India as an emerging power of increasing importance for our interests. The bilateral economic, governmental and people to people links between Australia and India are well established. Mr Downer's visit provided an opportunity to raise Australia's profile in India and take forward key aspects of the relationship. The visit commenced in Chennai, capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where Mr Downer met the Chief Minister, senior business and government representatives, and addressed the Indo-Australia Chamber of Commerce. Economic growth is particularly strong in the south of India and Downer was able to promote Australian business interests as part of his visit.

The primary focus on the visit to New Delhi was the fourth round of the bilateral Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue (FMFD). Mr Downer met Indian External Affairs Minister, Natwar Singh, for the dialogue on 8 June. A key topic of discussion was the convergence of Indian and Australian security and economic interest in East Asia. In Delhi, Mr Downer also met with Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the Ministers for Defence and the Environment, as well as the Deputy Chair of the Nation Planning Commission which plays a key role in economic policy. During his visit, Mr Downer reiterated Australia's continuing support for India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. He also pursued interests across a broad range of areas including a proposed increase in high level ministerial visits, particularly in science and technology, energy, agriculture and defence; greater cooperation on counter-terrorism; and cooperation between the Australian and Indian film industries.

In addition to Australia's capacity to assist India in meeting its energy demands, there was also a strong focus on the education sector. Both countries are looking to expand education cooperation. Mr Downer and his Indian counterpart also agreed to jointly support a touring exhibition of Bradman memorabilia to India in the near future.

Border-Gavaskar scholarship brings Indian players to CBCE

Three of India's brightest prospects will arrive at the Commonwealth Bank Centre of Excellence (CBCE) next week for a six-week stay as part of the annual Border-Gavaskar scholarship. The scholarship program was founded in 2000 as a joint initiative between Cricket Australia and the Australia-India Council (AIC).

The three players – bowlers Vikram Rajvir Singh and Rudra Pratap Singh, and batsman Fiaz Fazal – were selected for the scholarship by a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) panel headed by Indian great Sunil Gavaskar.

Now in their sixth year, the scholarships are financially supported by the AIC which was established in 1992 to strengthen and foster ties between Australia and India across a range of sectors, including sport. The scholarship program is an important part of the AIC's objective to promote understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

During their six-week stay at the CBCE (20 June - 31 July), the players will receive specialist tutelage and development support from some of Australia's leading coaching staff at the CBCE, including head coach Tim Nielsen. The players will also participate in an emerging players tournament run by the CBCE in July involving the New Zealand Cricket Academy, Australian Institute of Sport scholars and players from Karnataka State in India.

CBCE Director Trevor Robertson said the scholarships offered the young cricketers a tremendous opportunity to broaden their playing and personal experience. "Since the Border-Gavaskar scholarship was launched, we have seen a number of promising Indian players visit Australia to participate in some of our coaching programs and gain valuable experience under foreign playing conditions," said Mr Robertson.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for the players and the three young Indian cricketers due to arrive here next week have been earmarked in their country as players of the future for India.

"The experience they will gain while at the Commonwealth Bank Centre of Excellence will hopefully help their growth on a personal and playing level. Australia and India share a passion for cricket and we are pleased that through the Australia-India Council, we are able to provide an opportunity to host these talented cricketers."

Welcoming India's young cricket ambassadors, AIC Chairman Darren Gribble said that cricket was a common bond between the two countries that helped to foster the people-to-people links. Mr Gribble said that the scholarship is a valuable opportunity for emerging young players to gain experience by being exposed to different environments and conditions.

Previous Border-Gavaskar scholarship recipients are:

2000—Mohammad Kaif – batsman (7 Tests, 87 ODIs); Sridaran Sriram – batsman (8 ODIs) ; Shiv Sunder Das – batsman (23 Tests, 4 ODIs)

2001—Deepak Chougule – batsman; Vinayak Mane – all-rounder; Parthiv Patel – wicket-keeper (19 Tests, 14 ODIs)

2002—Lakshimiphathy Balaji – fast-bowler (8 Tests, 28 ODIs); Gautam Gambir – batsman (8 Tests, 5 ODIs) ; Thilak Naidu – wicket-keeper/batsman

2003—Raiphi Vincent Gomez – all-rounder; Udit Brijesh Patel – off-spinner; Siddharth Trivedi – fast-bowler

2004—Shikhar Dhawan – batsman; Suresh Raina – all-rounder; Yalaka Venugopala Rao – batsman.



The Greeks, performed by Indians, directed by Australians, in Hindi

From 12-19 May 2005, in the heat of late spring, audiences in New Delhi were treated to a unique fusion of dramatic talents. India's National School of Drama (NSD) in concert with Australian theatre practitioners, John Clark and Peter Cooke, produced "The Trojan War" by John Barton and Kenneth Cavender. Based on three plays from 'The Greek' by John Barton and Kenneth Cavender- 'Iphigenia in Aulis', 'The Trojan Women' by Euripides and 'Agamemnon' by Aeschylus, the play tells the story of the Trojan wars. The trilogy of plays was first performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1979.

Performed in Hindi by final year NSD students in an open air amphitheatre with special sets and costumes, the plays brought together artists from India and Australia and also two prominent schools of theatre. The players gave strong dramatic performances to overflowing houses in keeping with the classical material.

A large review in the arts supplement of India's major national newspaper, The Hindu, praised Director John Clark and the students for a "beautiful interpretation" of the plays. The well-received performances reflect the depth of Indian theatrical and dramatic traditions and the value of international collaborations such as this. NSD and NIDA been collaborating for over 20 years and have been involved in several exchanges of students and staff.

The plays were directed by John Clark who served as the director of the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) from 1969 until 2004. The sets and costumes designed by Peter Cooke, one of Australia's leading set designers and Deputy Director of NIDA. The Designer of Lights, Ashok Sagar Bhagat, is a leading Indian lighting designer from NSD and was the Art Director for the internationally well-received flim, Bandit Queen, based on the life of Indian woman bandit, Phoolan Devi.

Cultural Connection Through Ceramics

The quietness of the Prasads' way of being set the tone for the series of activities held in Geelong, Victoria, during March and April this year. The family presented workshops based in the traditional techniques of generations of expertise in pottery. Giri Raj Prasad and his wife Angoori Devi have both been recognised for their contribution to pottery with National Awards as has their son Bhuvnesh Kumar. Shyam Prasad their oldest son has chosen a career in photography, as the only English speaker in the family he contributed to the programme by tirelessly interpreting and responding to questions on culture and pottery techniques. The craft presented being of a very visual nature at times few words were needed.



Giri Raj Prasad and Angoori Devi

The two main workshops were held in Geelong. The first coordinated by Karingallery. This is an organization that facilitates a working space for people with disabilities. The wider community including many local potters also attended this workshop.

The other was at the Institute for Koorie Education (IKE), Deakin University. The students doing the distant arts course were the participants for this workshop. Honour students that participated in the 2003 workshops were thrilled to meet with Giri Raj again and to meet his family. That project has been much spoken of in the intervening years with pots from that time on prominent display. The Prasads were respectfully 'welcomed to country' by a traditional owner.

The first component of the workshops was the use of traditional Rajasthani pottery wheels to make pieces that workshop participants could then decorate. Some beautiful pieces resulted, IKE students used imagery appropriate to their culture which was fascinating for the Prasads to see. A potter using a wheel is mesmerizing, and for those who attended the workshops and had had experience in the use of a potter's wheel could appreciate the skill in mastering these 'silent' wheels. The second component was the building and firing of a kiln similar in design but reduced in size of the kiln the Prasads use in their home workshop. Once again for those with some experience in kiln technology the simplicity in construction design and firing was inspiring. For those without this background it gave an insight into the complete ceramic process. Those who attended the workshops were impressed by the dedication to the craft of pottery the Prasads exhibited. During these workshops there was also time for some Indian food and music. Giri Raj playing the harmonium and Bhuvnesh tablas and at IKE a diggeridu came into play.

The other main aspect of the programme was a residency at Qdos Gallery and Studio in Lorne, Victoria. Here the Prasads had access to equipment and a range of clay and glazes available in a contemporary Australian ceramic studio. They also had the benefit of working with Graeme Wilkie a highly regarded and award winning ceramic artist who generously demonstrated and worked collaboratively with the Prasads. Successful pieces from the workshops, the residency and pottery the Prasads had freighted from their home studio were exhibited at Karingallery Geelong at the end of the project. It was an appropriate finale. Seeing such fine pottery together and experiencing the warmth of the relationships developed over the time the Prasads were in Australia was rewarding for all those whom participated.

New Chairman for Australia-India Council

Mr **Darren Gribble** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the (AIC) and succeeds Mr Michael Abbott QC. Mr Gribble was Australia's High Commissioner to India from 1994 to 1997 and was first appointed to the AIC in March 2001. Since Mr Gribble's appointment to the board he has made a substantial contribution to AIC activities and will he continue to bring an astute understanding of both Indian and Australian Government policy to board deliberations.

Mr **Michael Abbott QC**, retired from the board of the Australia-India Council (AIC) in May 2005. Mr Abbott joined the AIC as an inaugural board member in 1992 and served two terms as Chairman (March 1999 – May 2005). Mr Abbott has played a very active role and has contributed substantially to the Council's efforts, both as Chairman and as a member, in furthering the bilateral relationship.

Reappointments:

Professor Suzanne Crowe - Professor of Medicine at Melbourne's Monash University and Head of the AIDS Pathogenesis and Clinical Research Program at the Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research. Professor Crowe is actively involved in the development of Australia-India research links in the HIV/AIDS field.

Professor Bruce Bennett AO - a former Rhodes Scholar and a graduate of the Universities of Western Australia, Oxford and London.. Based in Canberra, he is Professor of English at the School of Language, Literature and Communication, University of New South Wales, Australian Defence Force Academy. Professor Bennett's work has focused principally on the literature and culture of Australia and he has been instrumental in the development of Australian Studies in Indian universities.

New Appointments:

Mr Vinod Daniel - Chairman of AusHeritage and Head of Materials Conservation and the Built Environment at the Australian Museum.. Mr Daniel has been instrumental in building cultural heritage links between Australia and India. He is an Australian with Indian roots who understands the intangible aspects of the two cultures and has been successful in managing many Australian heritage preservation initiatives in India.

Ms Gillian Bird - Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ms Bird is a career officer who has overall responsibility for Australia's bilateral relations with South East Asia and South Asia, including India.

Enhancing the WA-India trade relationship

An MOU was signed between the Western Australian State Government, the Indian Government and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CME) to enhance and already growing trade relationship.

State Development Minister, Hon Alan Carpenter said the MOU would provide Western Australia with an avenue to increase engagement with one of the world's rapidly emerging economies.

"I am encouraged by the opportunities that India presents for WA in the supply of mining services and believe we can promote future programs of co-operative exchange through the MOU framework" said Mr Carpenter.

AIC Australian Studies Fellowships enter third year of academic collaboration

The Australia-India Council announced three senior and two junior fellowships for the study of Australia for the year 2005, in the third year since the inception of the program in 2003. Part of the wider Australian Studies program of the Council, the fellowships provide an opportunity for Indian university teachers and post-graduate students to undertake advanced studies in Australia, adding a significant new dimension to the education and research relationship between Australia and India.

The following applicants were successful in the 'senior' category:

Professor Sanjukta Dasgupta, of the Department of English, Calcutta University: "Race, Gender and Location: Australian Women's Writing".

Professor Makarand Paranjape, School of Languages and Literature & Cultural Study, JNU: "Postcolonial Sacred: Australian explorations"

Professor Y Yagama Reddy, Centre for Studies on Indochina and South Pacific, Sri Venkateswara University: "Australia-India Partnership: Towards a Paradigm Shift"

The two junior fellowships were offered to:

Dr Neelima Kanwar, ICDEOL Department of English, HP University, Shimla: "Construction of Aboriginal Identity"

Mr Rupakjyoti Borah, School of International Studies, JNU: "India in Australia's foreign policy: 1991-2004"

Applications were invited in a wide range of areas of mutual interest, including Australian literature; politics and history; environment and health; film, media, communications and performing arts; issues relating to Indigenous Australians; ethnicities and multiculturalism; tourism; and gender studies. On behalf of the Australia-India Council, the fellowship program is being managed by a consortium of four Australian Universities, led by the Curtin University of Technology. The other three universities in the consortium include La Trobe University, Monash University and the University of Queensland.

South Australia chapter of AIBC launched by Premier Rann

The Premier of South Australia, The Honorable Mike Rann, formally launched the South Australian Chapter of the Australia India Business Council on 30 June 2005. Speakers included Chairman of the Australia India Business Council, Mr Neville Roach AO, High Commissioner for India, His Excellency Mr. P.P. Shukla and the Consul General of India, Mr. M Ganapathi. Mr Brian Hayes QC will head the South Australian chapter of the AIBC. The launch of the SA chapter followed a pre-launch networking event on 6 June, organised by the Council for International Trade and Commerce SA.

At the launch, Premier Mike Rann announced the appointment of former Australian Test Cricket player Darren Lehmann as South Australia's official Special Envoy to India. Premier Rann predicted that Darren's profile in India as a national cricketer would be of enormous value to the State's relationship with India.

Darren will support local businesses looking to export to India, encourage investment by Indian companies into South Australia and promote South Australia and India as mutual tourist destinations. He will promote education opportunities in South Australia for Indian students and work on increasing the numbers of Indian business and skilled migrants. Darren will also accompany trade missions to India.

The Vice Chairman of AIBC SA, Mr Brian Hayes QC, will work closely with Darren and the State Government on a range of India activities.

Queensland India Business Briefing

The second Queensland-India Business Briefing for 2005 was held in Brisbane on 12 May, with over 50 people attending. The Honourable Mike Ahern, Queensland's Special Commissioner for Africa, Middle East and India, was the Master of Ceremonies. The briefing featured two Queensland companies who have been successful in doing business in India - Union Switch & Signal (US&S) and Superior Jetties.

US&S has offices in Bangalore and Kolkata and is playing an important part in providing state of the art technology to modernise the Indian Railway system. Their primary client in India is the Ministry of Rail and they recently secured a major contract to supply a Train Protection Warning System for Indian Rail. Graham Russell, General Manager Australia, spoke on US&S's success in doing business with the Indian Government and the development of their market strategy for India.

Based on the Gold Coast, Superior Jetties manufactures a large range of marine berthing, boat lift systems and quality pontoons. They have supplied to a number of clients in India, including Sahara India and the Leela and Intercontinental Hotels. John Hogan, Managing Director, discussed Superior Jetties' strategies for dealing with the large private-sector Indian firms. This included the need to adapt your product to the Indian market, be open to new ideas and be prepared to spend time cultivating relationships with decision-makers in the Indian companies.

Gayle O'Brien, Business Manager (South Asia) for the Queensland Government, and Vice-Chairman (Qld) of the AIBC since 2002, provided an update on Queensland Government initiatives related to India, including a proposed Queensland Mining Services & Equipment Trade Mission to India in late 2005 and a visit to Brisbane by the Indian Minister for Mines in late May 2005. The Queensland-India Business Briefings are a quarterly event jointly organised by the Queensland Government and the AIBC. The next Briefing will be held over lunch on Tuesday 16 August. For further information, please contact Gayle O'Brien, Vice Chairman (Qld), on 07 3224 4155 or Gayle.O'Brien@premiers.qld.gov.au

Australian delegation visits FRAMES 2005

More than 20 Australian delegates took part in FRAMES 2005 - the biggest annual convention on the business of entertainment in Asia. The conference included an Official Australian Enclave sponsored by the government of South Australia as well as press conferences and other related activities. FRAMES 2005, took place in Mumbai from 4-6 April.

During the conference the boutique publication - 'India's Guide to working with the Australian Film and Media Industry' was released by Tony Burchill, Australian Trade Commissioner, New Delhi. The guide and pitching session offer various options and information on utilizing Australian locations, personnel and services.



Official SA Enclave at FRAMES 2005, Mumbai

Sponsored by the government of South Australia, the Australian delegation, stall and guide was supported by: the NSW Film and Television Office, The Pacific Film and Television Commission, the South Australian Film Corporation, Ausfilm, Queensland State Government, Film City Inc, and The Post Lounge. The Indian entertainment sector is growing at 18% annually with one of the largest audience bases in the world.

NASSCOM SME Delegation—Visit to Australia

Dr Ganesh Natarajan, Chairman of NASSCOM, Innovation Initiative Forum and CEO of Zensar Technologies, headed a SME Delegation of eighteen companies in Information and Communication Technology, to Australia in May 2005.

The delegates visited CeBit in Sydney from 23 to 25 May, followed by a visit to Melbourne between 26 and 27 May 2005.

Australia India Business Council's ICT Chapter, Australia India Information Industry Business Network (AIIIBN) in conjunction with Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) coordinated various activities for the delegates in both Sydney and Melbourne.

AIIA was also a key coordinator for the activities in CeBit and a peak body in ICT sector similar to NASSCOM in India.

AIIIBN was established following the signing of an MOU for co-operation among the Information industries in 2000, which was signed by Australia's Minister for Trade, Hon Mark Vaile, and the then Indian Minister for Information and Technology, Mr Pramod Mahajan.

In Sydney, delegates attended a briefing hosted by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, and supported by the Australian Information Industries Association (AIIA), Hannover Fairs Australia, the Australian Computer Society (ACS), Australian Technology Park Precinct Management (ATPPM) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE).

A seminar was also held at the Australian Technology Park Precinct Management (ATPPM), ATP International (ATPI) and AIBC's ICT Chapter, the Australia India Information Industries Business Network (AIIIBN).

In Melbourne, a cocktail reception was hosted by Hon. Marsha Thomson, Minister for ICT Victoria. The Minister welcomed the delegates and highlighted Victoria's interest in the Indian economy. The Minister told delegates of her successful Trade Mission to India in October 2004 and of the recent announcement to open a Victorian Trade Office in Bangalore.

Mr Kee Wong, Victorian Chairman for AIIA, apprised delegates about the overall ICT industry in Victoria and its strengths.

Dr Ganesh Natarajan provided a detailed outline of the Indian economy, ICT participation, future growth of the industry and the objectives of the Trade mission.



Presentation by Andrew Harrington at Multimedia Victoria

Australian Universities urged to consider setting up campuses in India

"Australian universities should set up campuses in India within the next three years or risk missing out on the explosion of Indian students wanting a foreign education" said India's IDP Country Director Henry Ledlie. Ledlie said it was anticipated that in 20 years, 800,000 Indians would leave to study abroad every year, and at least 10 per cent of them were expected to come to Australia.

"There is a possibility that the Australian nation and its institutions might not be able to take 80,000 Indians, but there is certainly room for another Monash in India or a Curtin in India," Mr Ledlie said. "Australia can invest bricks and mortar, not just intellectual capital. India is looking for bricks and mortar too."

"Between 17,000 and 18,000 Indian students go to America every year to study," he said. 12,000 - 14,000 students go to Australia each year, and 18,000 - 20,000 to the UK. In 2001, Australia attracted a higher number of Indian students than the UK. "They had about 5000 and Australia had about 7000."

Drawing on the UK example of interdepartmental co-operation to increase student numbers, Ledlie suggested the Australian trade, education, tourism and immigration department "come up with a Team Australia approach"

Any country educating international students needed to remember that the student was a customer. "People sometimes forget the students are the ones who are paying the money, especially Indian students who are taking out tremendously large bank loans," Mr Ledlie said. He recommended Australian universities put in place memorandums of understanding with the Indian Government, within the next three years, to begin opening campuses.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST—AUSTRALIA

- 27th July "The India retail boom", Sydney [Email: aibc@fastmail.com.au](mailto:aibc@fastmail.com.au)
- 2nd August, "Doing Business in India", Brisbane [Email: aibc@fastmail.com.au](mailto:aibc@fastmail.com.au)
- 15 August AIBC Indian Independence Day Event, Sydney [Email: aibc@fastmail.com.au](mailto:aibc@fastmail.com.au)
- 16 August Third Queensland Government-AIBC Business Breakfast, Brisbane (AIBC member discounts available) [Email: Gayle.OBrien@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:Gayle.OBrien@premiers.qld.gov.au)
- 19-20 September, AJM Australia India Resources Conference, Sydney (AIBC member discounts available) [Email: divya.raghavan@aseanfocus.com](mailto:divya.raghavan@aseanfocus.com)
- 18-19 October "Mergers & Acquisitions 2005", Melbourne (discount for AIBC members available) [Email: aibc@fastmail.com.au](mailto:aibc@fastmail.com.au)

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST—INDIA

- For events in India, please refer to the website of the Indian Consulate General (Sydney) www.indianconsulatesydney.org/Programme_of_Events_India.pdf; and the High Commission of India (Canberra) www.highcommissionofindiaaustralia.org/Impevents_pg.htm

Australia-India Focus

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

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Australia-India Focus is also available from the Australia India Business Council's website at www.aibc.org.au/newsletter/htm and the Australia-India Council's website at www.dfat.gov.au/aic



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 inquiry 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

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The AIBC is a national NGO and is recognised by the Australian government as the peak body for promoting business links between Australia and India.

The AIBC is the first point of contact by government and business representatives from both countries seeking access to industry, business and government leaders of both countries.

The AIBC maintains close relationships with strategic government agencies, the diplomatic corps and industry bodies, and also has an affiliated counterpart in India, the India Australia Joint Business Council.

The AIBC has representatives and members across all states and territories in Australia, and has three different membership categories available.

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

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