



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

JULY-AUGUST 2003 – ISSUE 25



## MID-TERM VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA

Australia's High Commissioner to India, Ms Penny Wensley AO, who has been in India for some 20 months, returned to Australia in June-July for her mid-term consultations. In a busy and productive program, the High Commissioner visited Perth, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane, meeting individuals and organisations with an interest in Australia-India relations, in government, the business community, NGOs and academic, scientific and cultural institutions.

The number of individual meetings - 160 - plus the wide range of issues discussed and the high level of attendance at the numerous public briefings and speeches the High Commissioner gave in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney were all indicators of the growth taking place in our bilateral relations and of a quickening interest in prospects for further expansion in the future. The Australia-India Council (AIC), the Australia-India Business Council, (AIBC) Australia-India Chambers of Commerce (AICC) and the Asia Society all featured high in the High Commissioner's program. She briefed an AIC Board meeting in Canberra, addressed State Chambers in Perth and Melbourne, and met AIBC Chairman Neville Roach and Asia Society Founding Director Richard Woolcott.



(Photo L to R - Mr Neville Roach, Chairman, Australia India Business Council and H.E. Ms Penny Wensley, Australian High Commissioner to India at the Asia Policy Update Forum in Sydney hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and the Australia India Business Council)

In Perth on 6 June, the AICC joined forces with 'Business News', the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Workskills Professionals, Alcoa and the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to host a highly successful international trade breakfast and networking event - part of the newly-established "Meet the Ambassadors" program. Ms Wensley focused on trade and investment between the two countries and offered some frank advice on the "do's and don'ts" of doing business with India. In Melbourne, the AICC and AIBC co-hosted a reception on 10 June sponsored by BHP Billiton, which has a long-standing presence and major interests in India, where the High Commissioner spoke on "The Indian Economy: Trends and Opportunities". In Sydney, the AIBC, in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, organised on 27 June an Asia Foreign Policy Update forum where a distinguished audience of over 150 attendees enjoyed a candid and challenging address on India's foreign policy and the implications for Australia and Australia-India relations.

Ms Wensley's messages were hard-hitting: India was changing - a country on the move; despite the many internal problems and constraints, its economy was growing and would continue to grow; the new pragmatism in its foreign policy and renewed pressure from within and without for accelerated economic reform should create significant opportunities for Australia-India relations; there were new synergies and complementarities in our interests emerging which we needed to recognise and exploit to mutual advantage. Ms Wensley commented that neither country figured high among the other's priorities and agendas. There was ignorance in both countries about contemporary realities and complacency about the state of Australia-India relations. While relations were growing and were broadly positive, we viewed each other through an out-dated prism and simplistic stereotypes and perceptions which underestimated our respective achievements, capabilities and strengths and what we had to offer each other. There was scope for much greater growth-in all areas and aspects of the relationship;

Ms Wensley emphasized that it was very much in Australia's interests to invest in the relationship, to commit more effort to it and to work consciously to build it. But India also needed to accord Australia greater priority in its foreign relations. Both countries needed to recognise that Australia-India relations were significantly under-developed compared with our respective relations with other major countries in Asia and elsewhere. We needed to work steadily and deliberately to strengthen the framework and expand the infrastructure for a modern, dynamic relationship. Above all, we had to change attitudes and stimulate interest in the very real possibilities for a transformed partnership.

Ms Wensley will return to Australia later this month for a meeting in Canberra of the Heads of Mission of Australia's major Asian posts, to complete her mid-term consultations through a visit to Adelaide and to accompany Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha on a visit to Australia for the annual framework dialogue with Mr Downer. Mr Sinha is scheduled to give a major speech on India- Australia relations in Melbourne on 29 August (see *Upcoming Events of Interest* pages 13/14).

## **MAJOR INVESTMENTS BY INDIA IN THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINING SECTOR**

Civil works have started on the world's largest ammonia plant on the Burrup Peninsula, near Karratha in northwest Western Australia. Burrup Fertilisers Pty Ltd will outlay A\$630 million to bring the 760 000 t/a liquid ammonia plant into production which, at this stage, is scheduled for in the second quarter of 2005. Product from the facility, the first of five major gas-based downstream processing industries planned for the Burrup Peninsula, will be shipped overseas, most likely to India where it will be used by the developer's parent company, Oswal, for the manufacture of fertilisers.

The investment by the Oswal Group, is the single, biggest investment to date in Australia by an Indian company. The project, expected to generate 500 construction jobs, and full-time employment for 60 people has been welcomed and facilitated by the Government of Western Australia.

Australia also has a new player in its copper industry after giant Indian conglomerate - Aditya Birla Group - bought the Nifty deposit in Western Australia's east Pilbara region. The Nifty deposit is Australia's third largest copper sulfide deposit.

India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr Ram Naik visited Western Australia during the week of 23 June 2003. Mr Naik was joined by Indian High Commissioner to Australia H.E. Mr Rajendra S. Rathore and Mr M Ganapathi, Consul General, Indian Consulate General Sydney, and met with Premier of Western Australia, Mr Geoff Gallop MP and participated in the NELP IV Road Show.

## **VISIT BY CHAIRMAN OF TATA SONS TO AUSTRALIA**

Mr Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Sons (India's largest private sector group) visited Australia in early July on client visits for Tata Consulting Services (TCS). Mr Tata spoke at a Private Breakfast organised by the Australia India Business Council (AIBC) and the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre. Mr Tata also met with NSW Premier Mr Bob Carr MP, NSW Deputy Premier Mr Andrew Refshauge MP and NSW Treasurer Mr Michael Egan MP during his visit.



*(Mr Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Sons, India – Source: IndianLink – www.indianlink.com.au)*

Mr Tata is arguably India's most well-known businessman. Tata is India's largest private sector group with over 95 companies employing 231,000 people covering such diverse industries as steel, power, hotels, ICT, automobiles and tea. Besides his directorships on the Boards of various Tata companies, Mr Tata is Chairman of two of the largest private sector promoted philanthropic undertakings in India, and serves in important capacities in various organizations in India, including membership of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and membership of the Indian Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry.

In his remarks at the private breakfast, Mr Tata said that India has missed the opportunity to be 'the factory of the world' by not being able to promote itself well enough, but believes that India is *the* place of investment by foreign companies in the future.

He noted that "misconceptions were present in both sides of the Australia-India business relationship, and that these need to be altered by more interaction between the two countries.... The world should look at India in its own right rather than a leg on their visits to other countries in Asia, and should take note of India's abundance of natural resources, tourism potential and, importantly, the intellectual capital of its people"

Mr Tata also admitted that Indian companies are also not aware of technologies available in Australia and as such there is an important bridge for his own country to cross. He believes that there are opportunities in India for small Australian companies who can offer their technical expertise to India, as well as for the larger companies that have already or are considering entering the Indian market.

## VISIT OF DR RAJA MOHAN, STRATEGIC AFFAIRS EDITOR OF THE HINDU, 19-26 JULY 2003

Dr Raja Mohan, the Strategic Affairs Editor of *The Hindu* newspaper, visited Sydney, Canberra and Perth over 19-26 July under the Special Visits Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

During his visit Dr Mohan discussed strategic, defence and international relations and the Australia-India relationship more broadly in seminars at the Australian National University, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Murdoch University and in a range of other meetings. On 21 July in Sydney Dr Mohan delivered an address on *The Shaping of India's New Foreign Policy* at a luncheon sponsored by the Asia Society and the Australia-India Council and supported by the Australia India Business Council and DFAT.



Dr C Raja Mohan is regarded as one of the leading strategic analysts of Indian foreign policy. He served on India's National Security Advisory Board during 1998-2000, was the Washington Correspondent of *The Hindu* (1993-95) and has a masters degree in Nuclear Physics and a Ph.D. in international relations.

In his recently published book *Crossing the Rubicon: The Shaping of India's New Foreign Policy*, Dr Mohan notes that following India's nuclear tests in May 1998, some key tenets of its foreign policy, in particular the traditional emphasis on idealism was jettisoned for pragmatism, with India renewing its global engagement and transforming its external relations.

(Dr Raja Mohan addresses the Australia-India Council and Asia Society Luncheon in Sydney – © Photo: Raj Suri)

## THIRD AUSTRALIA INDIA SECURITY ROUNDTABLE

To be held in early October in Chandigarh, India, the Australia India Security Roundtable is an important forum for “second-track” dialogue on issues that are key to security and defence planning. This year's roundtable will build on the success of the previous two meetings to broaden and deepen understanding between security and defence analysts in both countries. The current uncertain global climate makes this meeting very timely. Discussions will include vital strategic issues such as global power relations post-Iraq, extremist threats to security and how to assist states in crisis. Naturally, there also will be a focus on Australia-India bilateral security and defence relations, and areas in which the two countries can work more closely together.

The enduring aim of the roundtable has been to contribute to policy development in both Australia and India. To this end, the discussions are focussed on appropriate recommendations to both governments. Since its inception, the roundtable has been supported by the Australia-India Council and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and continues to play a valuable role in expanding Australia's links with India.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BRINGS THREE YOUNG INDIAN CRICKETERS TO AUSTRALIA



(Photo—Left to Right—Mr Udit Brijesh Patel, Mr Siddharth Trivedi, Mr Michael Abbott QC, Mr Raiphi Vincent Gomez, and Mr Damien Fleming)

The Border-Gavaskar Scholarship Program was founded in 2000-01 as a joint initiative between the Australian Cricket Board and the AIC. All-rounder Raiphi Vincent Gomez, off-spinner Udit Brijesh Patel, and fast bowler Siddharth Trivedi were the recipients of the 2003 scholarships, and undertook a five-week training program at the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy (CBCA) in Adelaide from 5 June to 6 July 2003. The Indian trio received specialist coaching under the guidance of CBCA senior coach and former Australian player, Damien Fleming.

Welcoming India's young cricket ambassadors at the CBCA, Chairman Michael Abbott QC said the AIC was delighted to support the cricket scholarship program, now in its fourth year. “By building on and strengthening Australia's cricketing links with India, these scholarships play an important part in the AIC's program to promote mutual understanding through exchanges in many areas, including sport,” said Mr Abbott.

**SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL**



The Australia-India Council (AIC) was established by an Order-in-Council on 21 May 1992, implementing a key recommendation of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade’s July 1990 report on Australia’s relations with India.

The objective of the AIC is to advance Australia’s interests in India by:

- fostering the deepening and strengthening of relations between the two countries
- demonstrating to India Australia’s excellence in all fields including the arts, education, science and technology, health and sport
- promoting knowledge in India and Australia of each other’s society and culture.

The AIC achieves this objective by initiating and supporting activities involving individuals and groups in Australia and India that:

- raise the awareness in India of Australia and Australian capabilities, including through the supporting of Australian studies in India, and vice versa
- promote and support the bilateral relationship through visits, exchanges and institutional links in the following broad thematic areas: The Arts (including film); Education; Society (including health and sport), Science, Technology and Environment; and Public Awareness

The activities of the AIC complement and support official exchanges at the governmental level. The AIC does not fund activities that are the responsibility of other funding bodies or other government agencies (eg academic research, development assistance, activities under bilateral science and technology agreements, and trade promotion activities normally handled by Austrade), or activities which are commercially viable in their own right.

The AIC recognises that the bilateral relationship can only continue to flourish and extend through a broad range of social and cultural cross-cultural contacts.

The AIC consists of a Chairman and Board Members (up to eight in number) who are distinguished citizens of Australia and who are appointed by the Governor-General upon the recommendation of the government.

(Continued overleaf)



(Photo—Seated left to right—Mr Darren Gribble, Mr Michael Abbott QC, Ms Betty Churcher AO; Standing left to right Ms Carol Robertson, Mr Doug Chester, Ms Safina Uberoi, Prof. Bruce Bennett AO, Professor Suzanne Crowe and Mr Sandy Hollway AO)

**AIC CHAIRMAN:**

**Mr Michael Abbott QC:** Barrister; resident in Adelaide.

**AIC BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Professor Bruce Bennett AO:** Professor of English, University of New South Wales, Australian Defence Force Academy, resident in Canberra.

**Ms Betty Churcher AO:** Adjunct Professor, Centre for Cross Cultural Research, Australian National University; resident in Wamboin, NSW.

**Professor Suzanne Crowe:** Department of Medicine, Monash University and Director of the AIDS Pathogenesis Research Unit at the Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research; resident in Melbourne.

**Mr Darren Gribble:** Business consultant and former Australian High Commissioner to India; resident in Canberra.

**Mr Sandy Hollway AO:** Business consultant and special interest in promoting Australian capabilities as demonstrated in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games; resident in Sydney

**Ms Safina Uberoi:** Film and television producer and director; resident in Sydney.

**Mr Doug Chester:** Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, resident in Canberra.

For more information, visit [www.dfat.gov.au/aic](http://www.dfat.gov.au/aic)

Or contact: Ms Carol Robertson, Executive Director, AIC  
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**AIC FUNDING:**

The AIC provides funding for innovative proposals which will, in the Council's assessment, advance the Council's objectives. The Council seeks funding applications from individuals or organisations in Australia for projects which are likely to promote long-term contact and cooperation between Australia and India. In considering funding applications, the Council will give priority during 2003-2004 to projects in the following areas:

- The Arts (including film);
- Education (including Australian Studies in India and Indian studies in Australia);
- Social issues (including health and sport);
- Science/Technology and Environment;
- Public Awareness (including public policy issues).

The Council will also consider applications for funding support for a limited number of projects and activities in other areas consistent with Council objectives, giving preference to projects which add value to previous Council-supported projects and which include substantial funding support from other potential project partners. Visit [www.dfat.gov.au/aic](http://www.dfat.gov.au/aic)

**DIDGERIDOOS IN DELHI: AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS CULTURE IN INDIA**

With vivid Tiwi art, didgeridoos and a flag ceremony, the Australian High Commission in New Delhi delivered a festival of Australian indigenous culture to coincide with NAIDOC Week 2003. From 26 June to 10 July, the "Kiripuranji" exhibition of contemporary art from Australia's Tiwi Islands was shown at the prestigious Indian Habitat Centre Visual Arts Gallery in New Delhi. The High Commission timed this to overlap with National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week. This striking exhibition, provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program, was very well received by Delhi's arts community, media and the wider public.



*(Photo—Delhi musician Rashid Ansari teaches didgeridoo in the schools workshop organised by the Australian High Commission at the Kiripuranji art exhibition during NAIDOC Week)*

The High Commission also turned the gallery into a space for a wide range of programs to promote Australian indigenous culture and identity. Delhi's resident specialist in Aboriginal art, Australian artist Carolyn Fitzpatrick, gave guided tours of the exhibition and a public lecture on Aboriginal art. Austrade hosted a "collector's night" to promote future sales of indigenous art. A film on Tiwi art was shown and a collection of books on indigenous Australia was displayed. And a group of skilled Indian didgeridoo players brought the gallery alive with the distinct sound of Aboriginal Australia - music that drew an enthusiastic response.

The High Commission was fortunate to discover the Delhi band "Earth Rhythms", whose members are passionate about the didgeridoo and have studied under some leading Australian didgeridoo teachers. The musicians gave powerful performances, blending didgeridoo with Indian instruments. They loaned their collection of didgeridoos for display, and held workshops for school students in how to play this unique instrument. The culmination of the two-week program was a NAIDOC Week reception and flag ceremony at the gallery on 8 July, hosted

by High Commissioner Penny Wensley AO. To the sound of the didgeridoo and surrounded by Tiwi art, more than 300 guests applauded as the national, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were unfurled.

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORK AND INDIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE STRENGTHEN BONDS**

Since 1996 RUHSA (Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs, a Department of Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, Tamil Nadu) has provided field placements for over 45 social work students from the University of South Australia (UniSA)'s School of Social Work and Social Policy. Building on this relationship, the Australia-India Council will fund a total of seven study tours for RUHSA staff to visit UniSA, four of which have taken place to date.

A group of the Australian social work students and graduates who have been to RUHSA in India have established the Supporters of RUHSA Association (SORA) to both help prepare upcoming students for their Indian experience and to support RUHSA staff on their study tours in Australia, providing them with a wide range of cultural and community exposure in South Australia and interstate during their visit to Australia. Sustainability of the partnership has been paramount in all the activities and the strong links forged will assure this. More information on the RUHSA/UniSA partnership can be found on <http://people.unisa.edu.au/Frank.Tesoriero>

## SARI TO SARONG: 500 YEARS OF INDIAN AND INDONESIAN TEXTILE EXCHANGE

This Exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra from 11 July – 6 October 2003 explores the centuries-old interactions between the rich and varied cultures of India and Indonesia. The memories of ancient cross-cultural contacts are wonderfully captured on the fabrics and costumes from two of the greatest textile-producing nations of all time. With works created from a wide variety of material and techniques, including silk, cotton, gold, beaten bark, brocade, ikat resist, embroidery and batik, Sari to Sarong is one of the most ambitious textile exhibitions ever mounted. The 200 textiles from the National Gallery of Australia's world-renowned Asian collection demonstrate the remarkable exchanges of ideas, techniques, materials, designs and imagery – royal, religious and decorative – between India and Indonesia over the last 500 years.

The exhibition begins and ends with that important symbol of trade, the popular, although often enigmatic, ship motif. Textiles feature the Hindu legends, such as the *Mahabharata*, and Indian architectural forms, such as the mandala and stupa, together with the sumptuous gold cloth and costumes of the royal palaces that adopted Indian forms of hierarchy and statecraft, reveal the enduring legacy of Indian cultural influences, especially in Sumatra, Java and Bali.

Indian textiles traded into the archipelago and surviving (only in Indonesia) as sacred heirlooms have also provided inspiration. Dating from as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the textiles reflect the capacity of Indian artisans to adapt age-old techniques to new market demands. Huge mordant-painted and dyed cottons display Hindu and Jain images – *Ramayana* battles and scenes of elegant court women – popular in both India and Indonesia, while others incorporate Persian, European and Indonesian imagery. The *patola* silks, patterned with intricate ikat resist-dyed techniques, have also survived as treasured heirlooms in the majestic courts and remote villages of Indonesia.



These Indian heirlooms provide the diverse sources that have fascinated Indonesian textile artisans over centuries. One Indian design might evoke myriad motifs across the Indonesian islands – in cotton, silk or gold thread, ikat, embroidery or batik – making a fascinating study of inspiration and exchange. Sometimes vividly figurative and often sumptuously decorative, the dialogue between the two cultures is the focus of this major exhibition, which includes some of the finest surviving examples of traditional Indonesian and Indian cloth.

Michael Abbott QC (Chairman of the Australia-India Council) recognised these textiles for their antiquity and was one of the first in the world to collect them and his donation has formed the quorum of the trade textile section of the exhibition.

(Picture left: Coromandel coast, India Traded to Taraja region, Sulawesi, Indonesia Ceremonial cloth and sacred heirloom [mawa or ma'a] early to mid 18th century handspun cotton, natural dyes, mordants; mordant painting, hand-drawn batik 223.0 x 175.0 cm Gift of Michael and Mary Abbott 1987)

## COATES INDIAN MUSIC COLLECTION FINALISED

After more than 2 years of painstaking care and attention, the recordings of Indian music collected by Bill and Irene Coates during the years 1954 to the 1980s have been digitally re-recorded and preserved as the Coates Indian Music Collection. The project was made possible with the financial support of the Australia-India Council, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Eastern Music in Sydney, and the Research Centre for Ethnomusicology in Delhi. Copies of the Collection are held with these two institutions and will be made available to the public through their library systems. Compiling the Collection was of course only possible through the wonderful gift of the tapes by Irene Coates to the Institute.

The Collection contains examples of all of the principal performers of middle of the last Century, which is acknowledged as a "golden age" of Indian classical music, and includes 148 performers, being 68 instrumentalists, 63 vocalists and 17 percussionists. Although the sound quality of most of the recordings is not of commercial standard (although what current technology can do to enhance this quality is something that an expert could well look at!) the Collection is invaluable to students and performers of Indian Music, and musicians generally who recognize the value of the Indian tradition music to world musical culture.

The tapes themselves presented handling difficulties as many of them were understandably in poor condition with the iron oxide flaking from the tape and the tapes stretching. Also the recordings of the different performers were made in no special order, but simply as opportunities presented themselves over the years. This meant that 2 copies had to be made: the first copy transferring the recordings to digital files, and the second to order these into collations of the same performers. The result is 154 CDs containing 850 separate pieces of music that is catalogued and searchable by database. The announcement of the official launch of this project, and the arrangements for access to the recordings, will be made by the Institute shortly.

## **AUSTRALIAN STUDIES SCHOLARS ON LEARNING SPREE**

The first cohort of five Australian studies scholars on "fieldwork" visits to Australia in 2003 (under the AIC supported inaugural Australian Studies Fellowships program, managed by Curtin University and La Trobe University for a consortium of Australian universities which include Curtin, La Trobe, Monash and Queensland) are making the most of their time here. Their studies range from Aboriginal theatre to farm forestry.



*(Photo Left to Right: Dr GJV Prasad, Associate Professor of English at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and junior fellowship awardees Ms Naga Radhika, Department of English, University of Madras and Ms Susan Thomas of the Centre of Linguistics and English, JNU)*

Two other senior academics from universities where Australian Studies are taught have also visited Australia to gather material for their courses to attend conferences and to meet Australians in their fields of interest. They further demonstrate the value of these visits. Dr GJV Prasad, Associate Professor of English at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, is on his first visit to Australia. Dr Prasad is a noted author and scholar and gave a paper at the Australian Drama Studies Association conference in Brisbane and is researching his favourite Australian playwright, David Williamson. Dr Prasad's students at JNU are studying for PHD and Masters degrees. This visit will enable him to supervise students more successfully on Australian topics.

IASA's (Indian Association for the Study of Australia) second international conference is to be held from 15-17 January 2004 with the Centre of Linguistics and English, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi, playing the host. The conference is supported and sponsored by the Australia-India Council. [www.iasa-india.org](http://www.iasa-india.org)

## **NSW TRADE MISSIONS TO INDIA – DECEMBER 2003**

The New South Wales Department of State and Regional Development is organising a Trade Mission to India on 4-12 December 2003, in conjunction with the NSW Asia Business Advisory Council, followed by a Market Visit to India (Chennai) from 11-16 December 2003. The Trade Mission will cater to a range of industry sectors, with the Market Visit specifically being for companies in the food/beverage sector as it is timed to coincide with the "Foodpro" India event in Chennai. This mission will build on the success of a similar Mission in December 2002, and a recent India Market Briefing held by NSW Department of State & Regional Development and Austrade in Parramatta in June that attracted over 80 participants.

A "Doing Business in India Seminar will be held on 18 September 2003 by the Department of State and Regional Development, in conjunction with Australia-India Business Council. Peter Kane, Acting Senior Trade Commissioner, Austrade New Delhi will be a guest speaker at this event. To register your interest for the above, contact Ms Raji Bhatia, DSRD at: [raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au](mailto:raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au)

## **QUEENSLAND BUILDING ON RELATIONSHIP WITH KARNATAKA**

Queensland Department of State Developing will host a business delegation from the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) on 25-26 August 2003. This delegation will be led by the Hon RV Deshpande, Minister for Large & Medium Industries, Karnataka Govt. Further information can be obtained from AIBC Vice Chairman for Queensland, Ms Gayle O'Brien at: [gayle.obrien@sd.qld.gov.au](mailto:gayle.obrien@sd.qld.gov.au)

## **AUSTRADE INDIA SENIOR PERSONNEL CHANGES**

Mr Peter Kane has been appointed as Acting Senior Trade Commissioner for South Asia, located in Delhi. He is responsible for Austrade's six Indian offices, along with Colombo and Dhaka. Peter has had prior assignments with Austrade in Seoul and Toronto. In the late 1980s he was Dalgety Australia's European representative, based in Hamburg.

In April Don Cairns took over the running of Austrade's operations in Mumbai where he is Trade Commissioner and Consul General. His territory covers Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. Don was formerly a trade commissioner in Bucharest, Islamabad, Shanghai and Beijing following twenty years as a marketing manager with a multinational firm in South East Asia.

## **AUSTRALIA INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL IN STRONG GROWTH PHASE**

The Australia India Business Council (AIBC) is growing rapidly, reflecting the increasing trade, investment and cultural relations between the two countries. The AIBC now has over 110 members across its 3 membership classes, an increase of 40% in the past 12 months, with the majority of that being in the first half of 2003. Membership of the AIBC is open to large corporations, medium sized companies, and also small companies / individuals.

The Mission of the AIBC is to build stronger links between Australia and India for the benefit of members and both countries. Formed in 1986 following the mutual recognition of enormous trade potential between the two countries by Prime Ministers' Mr Bob Hawke of Australia and Mr Rajiv Gandhi of India, it has become the peak body for promoting business links between Australia and India, and 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 is a national organisation with Executive representatives and members in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, and a National Secretariat based in Sydney.

### **BENEFITS OF AIBC MEMBERSHIP**

With its strong links in both countries to trade and other government agencies, the diplomatic corps and both general and sectoral industry bodies, the AIBC offers members productive access to a wide range of useful introductions and business leads to facilitate and accelerate business development. Specific benefits include:

- Forums and events through which to explore business opportunities and expand the profile of your organisation in the corporate community;
- Complimentary entry for all member classes to 3 specified events in each state per year;
- Complimentary entry for guests of Ordinary & Associate members to 3 specified events in each state per year;
- Discounts for further events with joint partners;
- Newsletter and member updates that provide informed knowledge of the rapidly changing business environment in India and the continually strengthening Australia India relationship.
- [www.aibc.org.au](http://www.aibc.org.au) provides links to government and business associations whose information and services are complimentary to the objectives of the AIBC.
- Free consulting advice provided by leading corporate and international tax and legal consultants.
- Sectoral interest groups within the AIBC in the fields of IT/Communications, Education, Film/TV/Media/Entertainment, Banking and Insurance, Resources & Mining, Tourism, Construction & Infrastructure, Food & Beverages and Environmental Services.
- Unparalleled access to visiting Indian delegations;
- Special programs for small and medium enterprises;
- Access to government agencies and other business associations, members, consultants and specialist service providers;
- Complimentary initial consulting advice/diagnostic provided by leading corporate and international tax and legal consultants.
- An annual Joint Meeting at which government and business people can exchange ideas and opportunities

These unique connections provide the foundations for potentially beneficial relationships for you.

### **CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

All categories enjoy the same benefits, but with different levels of AGM voting rights).

- Ordinary – Companies employing more than 50 persons - \$1100 including GST;
- Associate – Companies employing 10 - 50 persons - \$330 including GST;
- Affiliate/Individuals – Companies employing less than 1-10 persons or Individuals - \$165 including GST.

### **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The AIBC also has various sponsorship opportunities to suit your business needs. Sponsorship can be in cash or "in kind". Contact the AIBC for further information by Email: [info@aibc.org.au](mailto:info@aibc.org.au) or Tel: +61 2 8234 7410.

**ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIA INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL IN 2002/2003**

- A Joint Business Council meeting in New Delhi attended by over 50 Australian delegates who accompanied the Australian Minister of Trade, the Hon. Mark Vaile MP. Thanks to Austrade for their assistance.
- Publication (with the Australia-India Council) of the free bi-monthly electronic newsletter 'Australia-India Focus' which focuses on cultural and business items of interest between Australia and India.
- Drafting of a new constitution to allow incorporation (granted 27 June 2003) and to reflect the current aspirations and requirements of the Council, including (amongst other changes):
  - New State as well as Sectoral chapters
  - Provision of new class of Affiliate/Individual Member
  - Voting rights for all members commensurate with membership class.
- Development and maintenance of the AIBC web-site at [www.aibc.org.au](http://www.aibc.org.au) (with thanks to Infovergix)
- A significant increase in the distribution of information by the Secretariat to members and to the public.
- A significant increase in the hosting of business visitors from India;
- The commencement of a regular program of AIBC events in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. At least 3 'complementary admission for member' events a year in each state are planned, as well as other general events hosted and co-hosted the Council.
- The strengthening of links with the Australian, Federal, State and Territory Governments and their diplomatic, trade and education representatives in Australia and India;
- The strengthening of links and support of the Indian High Commission and Consulate General in Australia;
- The development of links with kindred associations such as TiE, Asia Society, the Australia-Asia Institute, AsiaLink, and the Australia-India Council.

The AIBC also participated in and assisted:

- A NSW Business delegation to India in December 2002 led jointly by the Director General of NSW State and Regional Development, Mr. Loftus Harris and Neville Roach, Chairman, AIBC;
- A visit by the Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Peter Beattie MP, organised by Ms. Gayle O'Brien, Queensland Dept. of State Development. Special thanks are passed to Mr Mike Ahern, former Premier of Queensland and Special Representative for Queensland with respect to India;
- Receptions & Luncheons in Perth, Melbourne (with AICC Vic) and Sydney (with Asia Society AustralAsia Centre) for visit of H.E. Ms Penny Wensley AO, Australian High Commissioner to India during June 2003;
- Private Breakfast with Mr Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Sons

**AIBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2003/2004**

**CHAIRMAN**

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## BEYOND BOLLYWOOD: DISCOVERIES FROM INDIA - MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Indian cinema is the largest film industry in the world, but only in recent years has it created any kind of impact outside that sub-continent. Besides the bindis, bangles, music, romance and dance of the now ubiquitous Bollywood archetype, there is an interesting spectrum of independently made films that reveal the layers and intricacies within a fascinating and multi-faceted society.

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image, the Australia-India Council and the Directorate of Film Festivals in India are proud to support the Melbourne International Film Festival in presenting *Beyond Bollywood: Discoveries From India*, a spotlight program highlighting the best in exemplary, independent Indian film, from 23 July – 10 August 2003. The Melbourne International Film Festival also welcomes Buddhadeb Dasgupta, director of the much-anticipated *A Tale of a Naughty Girl* and Gautaman Bhaskaran, special correspondent for leading Indian newspaper *The Hindu*. For details, articles and resources, visit: [www.acmi.net.au/beyondbollywood](http://www.acmi.net.au/beyondbollywood)

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINE EXPORTERS TO INDIA

The Government of India has a new policy which offers an opportunity for Australian wine producers to increase exports. The Ministry of Commerce announced, in Policy Circular No.4 of 14 May 2003, a duty free import facility for the service sector (as per para 3.8 of the Exim Policy) for units which had average foreign exchange earnings in the previous three years. Other service sector units are allowed 10 per cent of their average foreign exchange earnings in the previous three years. The entitlement and the goods are not transferable. Applications from hotels are now being considered and

## INDIAN GOVERNMENT LIFTS BARRIERS ON ROYALTY TO FOREIGN FIRMS

Moving ahead on its commitment to liberalise the FDI regime, the Indian government on 25 June 2003 lifted the restriction on duration of royalty payments by Indian JVs to their overseas partners under the foreign technology collaboration agreement policy. Joint venture companies were, till now, allowed to pay royalty to their foreign technology partner only for seven years from the date of commencement of commercial production or ten years from the date of agreement, whichever is earlier. However wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign firms were permitted royalty payment up to 8 per cent on exports and 5 per cent on domestic sales to their offshore parent companies on the automatic route without any restriction on the duration of the royalty payments.

With a view to further liberalising the policy and extending a uniform policy dispensation, the Government has decided that all companies, irrespective of the extent of foreign equity in the shareholding, will now be permitted on the automatic approval route to make royalty payments at 8 per cent on exports and 5 per cent on domestic sales without any restriction on the duration of the payments. The ceiling on payment of lump sum fee/royalty on the automatic route would, however, continue to apply in all cases. Source: [www.cacci.org.tw/membership/Policy%20Updates.doc](http://www.cacci.org.tw/membership/Policy%20Updates.doc)

## AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR RADIO SERIES ON INDIA

Broadcaster Natasha Mitchell, presenter of "All In the Mind", a weekly program on ABC Radio National and Radio Australia visited India earlier this year with the support of the Australia-India Council. Her 4 part series, *An Indian Mental Health Odyssey*, recently won a Gold World Medal at the preeminent New York Radio Festivals.

Natasha travelled to India's south in February to produce a series about mental health issues, and to meet with leading Indian professionals and advocates working in the field. Her trip coincided with a national conference of caregivers for people with major mental illness, which she attended at the invitation of Jim Crowe, president of the World Fellowship of Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders. Parents, partners and professionals from every corner of India gathered to share their stories and experiences, in what was an historic meeting to establish a new national coalition. Natasha also visited the National Institute for Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), located in the leafy I.T capital of Bangalore, where she met with some of India's foremost psychiatrists, including Dr Srinivasa Murthy, Editor-in-Chief of the World Health Report (2001).

Her radio series explores the challenging themes of stigma, family, gender, trauma, spirituality and cross-cultural psychiatry, and is already being distributed in India by the team at NIMHANS as an educational resource for healthcare students and workers on the ground.

### **LOW COST TESTS TO MONITOR HIV INFECTION IN INDIA**

In this pilot project funded by the Australia India Council (AIC), Mandy Dunne, a senior laboratory scientist from Burnet Institute, Melbourne Australia visited two laboratory sites in India to establish a low cost manual test for monitoring of HIV infection. The number of cases of HIV/AIDS in India is currently unknown but estimates are greater than 5 million (and perhaps as high as four times this figure). Persons who are diagnosed with HIV in most parts of India have poor access to medical care and in particular have no access to the expensive laboratory tests used in the developed world to assess how much damage has been done to the immune system.



Photo: SRL Ranbaxy Laboratories, Mumbai — Ms Rashmi D Khadapkar, Ms Mandy Dunne, Dr. B.R. Das and Dr. Samedha Sahni

With companies in India now making antiretroviral drugs (anti-HIV drugs), there is an even greater need to have access to these tests to determine which patients are most likely to benefit from the medication and to assess their response to therapy. This AIC-sponsored project, which commenced in January, 2003, provided training to scientists working at YRG Care Laboratories (Chennai) and SRL Ranbaxy Laboratories (Mumbai), two cities with high HIV case loads. The test they have been trained to perform is less expensive than the assays currently used in Australia, the US and other resource-rich countries. However, this test, using low cost equipment and requiring inexpensive laboratory reagents, performs very well in comparison to the “gold standard”.

In the second phase of this project (September, 2003), a further visit is planned to these two laboratories to assess the performance of the low cost CD4 assay (which measures damage to the immune system) as

well as introducing a second assay for monitoring, the viral load (which measures the amount of HIV in blood). In addition, planning is underway (through Confederation of Indian Industries) to introduce these tests to laboratories in other cities, including Delhi.

As a follow up, these scientists working at YRG Care in Chennai were recently sponsored by the Fogarty Foundation (USA) to receive further training at the Burnet institute in Melbourne, to equip this laboratory with further skills so they can participate in international clinical trials.

### **AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI HIGH ACHIEVER AWARD PRESENTED TO INDIAN BUSINESSWOMAN**

IDP Education Australia in India and the Australian Alumni Association are showcasing the achievements of graduates of Australian education institutions who have made outstanding contributions to the Indian community and industry with the Australian Alumni High Achiever Award.



(Photo—from left to right—Mr George Cherian, President of the Australian Alumni Association in India; H.E. Ms Penny Wensley AO, Australian High Commissioner to India; Ms Kiran Mazumdar Shaw; and Mr Henry Ledlie, IDP India Country Director)

Australian High Commissioner to India, Penelope Wensley AO, recently presented the inaugural award to the Chairman and Managing Director of Biocon India, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw. Kiran won the award for her contribution towards the biotechnology industry and healthcare in Indian society. She is an ambassador for the Australian education system as she represents qualities such as excellence, innovation and diversity, and her achievements demonstrate that Australian education and training is relevant to Indian industry needs. Kiran said she owes much of her success to her education and training in Australia, and the people that she met during her stay.

The Australian Alumni High Achiever Award was organised by IDP Chennai and executive committee members of the Australian Alumni Association. IDP is working with the Australian Alumni Association to strengthen links with employers and human resources consultants to offer placement services with local Indian industry for returning graduates. A referral agreement is in place between IDP and the Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce.

**FDI INTO INDIA – 2003 SURVEY**

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has released their FDI Survey for 2003 on the Experience of Foreign Direct Investors in India (available at [www.ficci.com/ficci/index.htm](http://www.ficci.com/ficci/index.htm)). Over 135 foreign invested companies across all sectors and locations in India were surveyed.

Overall assessment of India as an investment destination was 40% positive, 44% neutral and only 16% negative. 82% of those surveyed see opportunities for greater FDI. Almost three-fourths of the companies surveyed rated the efforts of Government to attract FDI as ‘average to good’. 62% reported making profits, 9% are breaking even, with the Spread of profit making firms broad-based. 53% of the companies reported capacity utilization in excess of 75%. Another 27% utilized ‘50% to 75%’ of their installed capacity. 78% are planning expansion of their Indian operations, with the remainder to maintain status quo, with none planning to decrease their current level of activities.

**Strengths:**

Operationally - Overall policy framework has been rated ‘average to good’ by 82% of the respondents. Availability of skilled manpower judged to be ‘good’ by 82%. Handling of approvals and applications at the Center rated as ‘average to good’ by nearly 70%. Ease in bringing in funds assessed as ‘medium to high’ by a resounding 87%;

Market Conditions - Intense competition, moderate growth rates, challenges in market penetration and consequent pressure on margins is how the Indian market has been rated by investors. Growth rate in Indian market judged as ‘medium’ by 66% and as ‘high’ by another 16%. 61% say level of competition in India is ‘high’. Another 36% termed it as ‘medium’;

**EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN EXPATRIATES IN INDIA**

**Indian hospitality** wins hands down, with 75% rating their interaction with Indians as ‘good’. **Safety and security** aspect has been rated as ‘average to good’ by almost 90%, indicating that even in these times of global turmoil India is perceived as a safe place to work in. However **Social infrastructure** like healthcare, education, recreation is found inadequate by 49%

**FACTORS CRITICAL FOR FUTURE FDI INFLOWS (ranked)**

1. Stability in policy guidelines
2. Reduction in ground level obstacles
3. Rate of return
4. Healthy market growth
5. Manpower availability and skills
6. Stable exchange rates

**FDI SECTORS OF FOCUS (ranked)**

1. Consumer goods
2. IT & related activities
3. Chemicals & chemical products
4. Motor vehicles and other transport equipments
5. Electrical; machinery and apparatus
6. Machinery and machine tools
7. Rubber & plastic products

**TOP 5 STATES IN INDIA AS PER INVESTOR PERCEPTIONS**

1. Maharashtra
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Karnataka
4. Tamil Nadu
5. Gujarat

Infrastructure - Telecom facilities in the country have been rated as ‘good’ by 44% and as average by 42%. Availability of bandwidth is ‘average to good’ according to 67% of the respondents. The contention that cost of real estate is prohibitive has been dismissed by nearly 50% of the respondents. Only 11% opined that the problem of real estate prices is ‘very serious’;

**Weaknesses:**

Operational - Ground level hassles are a disturbing feature. 91% stated this to be ‘medium to high’. Further strengthening of the legal and regulatory framework is needed as 47% evaluated this as ‘bad’. Mechanism for repatriation of funds to be made more efficient say 45% of the respondents

Infrastructure - Infrastructure facilities other than telecom and bandwidth availability leave a lot to be desired. Situation relating to power and roads most worrisome. 73% and 71% rated them as ‘bad’. Satisfaction level with infrastructure facilities like water, transport, airports and ports also low with 60%, 49%, 49% and 43% corroborating this view;

Other Impediments - Time consuming systems and procedures, the bureaucratic layers and the multiple bodies to be dealt with lead to time and cost overruns. Procedural delays have been rated as ‘quite to very serious’ by 96%. 85% have assessed problems on account of the existing tax regime as ‘quite to very serious’. 75% have expressed anguish over rigidity that characterizes labour laws. ‘Made in India’ label requires strengthening in the opinion of 71% of the respondents.

**UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST—AUSTRALIA**

- *Beyond Bollywood: discoveries from India* spotlight program at the 52nd Melbourne International Film Festival (23 July – 10 August 2003) - Supported by The Australian Centre for the Moving Image, the Australia-India Council and the Directorate of Film Festivals in India – [www.acmi.net.au/beyondbollywood](http://www.acmi.net.au/beyondbollywood);
- The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Sydney –Monthly Seminar– 12 August 2003, 5:45 pm for 6:15pm, Ernst & Young, Level 20, 321 Kent Street, Sydney—“Changing Face of Indian Business Opportunities” - Mr M Ganapathi, Consul General, Indian Consulate General, Sydney, and Mr Arvind Joshi - Chief Operating Officer (Aus/NZ) ICICI Infotech—For more details, please visit <http://www.tie-sydney.org>
- Indian Independence Day Dinner Function with Hon. Clive Brown, Minister for State Development, Western Australia – Organised by AICC (WA) and Indian Consulate, Perth - 6.30 PM for 7.00 PM on 13th August 03 at Agni Indian Restaurant, 17 Wotan Street, Innaloo, Western Australia. RSVP Mr. Jason Fleay, AICC Email: [jfleay@fleaybandy.com.au](mailto:jfleay@fleaybandy.com.au) or Ms. Sushma Paul, Honorary Indian Consul in Perth – Email: [consul@wa1.quik.com](mailto:consul@wa1.quik.com);
- Australia South Asia Research Centre, The Faculty of Asian Studies, The National Institute for Asia and the Pacific, & The National Institute of Economics and Business present Seminar on “Business Prospects in India - Culture, Society and Economy“- Monday, 18 August 2003 - 9am to 7pm followed by dinner - Australian National University Canberra ACT. Registration fee: \$500 (online reg. avail.) - Email: [asarc@anu.edu.au](mailto:asarc@anu.edu.au);
- Conference on Women in Leadership: Economic Empowerment in the Asia Pacific Region - Monday 18 to Thursday 21 August - Ms Rajni Aggarwal, President, Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs; Quality Hotel SC, 111 Goulburn St, Sydney; \$100 for Monday's program; \$190 for full conference – Contact [TanouyeN@EastWestCenter.org](mailto:TanouyeN@EastWestCenter.org);
- Asia-Pacific Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment at Swinburne University, Melbourne hosting Mr Anant Nadkarni, Tata Group's Council for Community Initiatives – Address on Corporate Social Responsibility - 6.30 pm, Tuesday 19 August 2003, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, University of Melbourne, Swanston Street, Parkville - Admission free of charge, RSVP to Bernadine Fernandez at Asialink by email: [b.fernandez@asialink.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:b.fernandez@asialink.unimelb.edu.au);
- India's Independence Day Celebrations – 22nd August 2003, 12:00 Noon - 9:30 pm, Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt St, Sydney - Visit NRIs Community Website [www.nris.com.au](http://www.nris.com.au);
- Business delegation from Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) to visit Brisbane on 25-26 August 2003. This delegation will be led by the Hon RV Deshpande, Minister for Large & Medium Industries, Karnataka Government. For more information contact Ms Gayle Queensland Department of State Development (Vice Chairman, Queensland, AIBC) on [Gayle.OBrien@sd.qld.gov.au](mailto:Gayle.OBrien@sd.qld.gov.au);
- Asia Society AustralAsia Centre with support of Australia India Business Council—Asia Foreign Policy Update Luncheon— Mr. Yashwant Sinha, External Affairs Minister, India—Friday 29 August 2003, 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. Ballroom, Park Hyatt, Melbourne—Enquiries: Tel (03) 9650 0998 or Email: [asiasoc@asiasoc.org.au](mailto:asiasoc@asiasoc.org.au)
- Launch of first Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Centre in Australia by Honourable Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Minister for External Affairs of India, 30 August 2003, 11:30am – Sheraton on the Park, Sydney - Email: [gambhir@bmgw.com](mailto:gambhir@bmgw.com)
- Clayton Utz/Sydney University Lecture with Mr Fali Nariman, President of the Bar Association of India—*East Meets West: Tradition, Globalisation and the Future of Arbitration* —11 September 2003—Email: [jfield@claytonutz.com](mailto:jfield@claytonutz.com)
- Doing Business in India Seminar, 18 September 2003, 5:00pm-7:00pm at NSW Trade and Investment Centre, Level 44 Grosvenor Place, Sydney - Register your interest with [raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au](mailto:raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au);
- TiE–Sydney and Australia India Business Council— Annual Luncheon & Workshop - 27 October 2003—Contact: [info@tie-sydney.org](mailto:info@tie-sydney.org);
- NSW - Trade Mission to India, 4-12 December, 2003 - Registration form at [www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au](http://www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au) - Trade Missions and Market Visits or email [raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au](mailto:raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au); NSW - Market Visit to India (Chennai), 11-16 December, 2003 (coinciding with "FoodPro" India) – Registration form at [www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au](http://www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au) - Trade Missions and Market Visits or email [raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au](mailto:raji.bhatia@business.nsw.gov.au);

**UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST—INDIA**

- Delhi International Jewellery & Watch Exhibition 2003 - 1 - 4 August, 2003 - Pragati Maidan - New Delhi - [ite@nda.vsnl.net.in](mailto:ite@nda.vsnl.net.in) - Organisers contact : Ms Neeta Arora, I.T.E. India Pvt Ltd E-mail: [iteindia@vsnl.in](mailto:iteindia@vsnl.in);
- 9<sup>th</sup> Delhi Book Fair ' 03 23 -31, August, 2003, Pragati Maidan New Delhi - 2<sup>nd</sup> SAARC Book Fair will be concurrently held. - The Fair is organised in cooperation with Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP). - Contact [tpo@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in](mailto:tpo@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in)
- Vibrant Gujarat— Global Investors Summit—28-30 September 2003, Tagore Hall, Ahmedabad, Gujarat—Summit focus on infrastructure, tourism,petroleum & Gas, biotechnology, agro & food processing and mining & minerals
- INMEX 2003 (Indian and regional maritime industry), 8-11 October 2003, Mumbai (Visit <http://www.inmexindia.com/>);
- 16<sup>th</sup> Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair - 13-16 October , 2003 - New Delhi, India [www.epch.com](http://www.epch.com) Contact : The Secretary, Export Promotion Council For Handicrafts Email: [epch@vsnl.com](mailto:epch@vsnl.com)
- [19th World Mining Congress and Expo 2003](http://india-invest.com/events.htm), 1st - 5th November, 2003 New Delhi, India (visit <http://india-invest.com/events.htm>);
- Climate Technology Bazaar (Conference & Exhibition), 10-13 November 2003, New Delhi, Organised by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and TERI; [www.ciionline.org/events/473](http://www.ciionline.org/events/473)
- Indian Ports and Shipping 2003— 8- 10 Dec 2003, Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai (visit <http://india-invest.com/events.htm>)
- IASA's (Indian Association for the Study of Australia) second international conference - 15-17 January 2004— Hosted by

**INFORMATION ON AIC, AIBC AND AUSTRALIA-INDIA FOCUS**



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](http://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 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](http://www.aibc.org.au)

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**Australia-India Focus**

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