

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

India – Australia Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report for 11.06.2025 depicting the Embassy of Australia.

2. The India-Australia bilateral relationship is underpinned by shared values of a pluralistic, Westminster-style democracies, Commonwealth traditions, expanding economic engagement and increasing high level interaction. The longstanding people-to-people ties, ever increasing Indian students coming to Australia for higher education, growing tourism, and sporting links, especially Cricket and Hockey, have played a significant role in further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. In recent years, India-Australia relationship has charted a whole new trajectory of transformational growth. Bilateral cooperation has seen exponential growth in existing frameworks of cooperation and further expanded across a wide spectrum of new areas opening up new possibilities, both at bilateral as well as global level.

3. The Indian community in Australia continues to grow in importance, with the population of about 9,76,000 (Census 2021). After England, India is the second largest migrant group in Australia. There is a constant flow of students and tourists from India. The growing significance of the community is reflected in the large-scale celebration of Indian festivals in Australia. The number of Indian students currently enrolled for studying in Australia is estimated at around 118,869 (July 2023), making Indian students the second largest cohort of foreign students in Australia. Under the New Colombo Plan of Australian Government, Australian undergraduates have studied and completed internships in India.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

4. India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner. As a trading country partner of India, and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCI&S, India's exports to Australia during 2024-25 had been recorded at 8.58 billion USD and India's imports from Australia during the same reference period stood at 15.53 billion USD. India's imports from Australia were significantly high in 2022-23.

Export-Import statistics as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are as follows :

(USD Billion)			
Year	Total trade	Import	Export
2020-21	12.29	8.25	4.04
2021-22	25.04	16.76	8.28
2022-23	25.96	19.01	6.95
2023-24	24.10	16.16	7.94
2024-25	24.11	15.53	8.58

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

5. India’s main exports to Australia are refined petroleum, medicaments (incl. veterinary), pearls & gems, jewellery, made-up textile articles, while India's major imports are coal, confidential items of trade, copper ores & concentrates, natural gas, non-ferrous waste & scrap, ferrous waste & scrap and education related services.

6. The India-Australia economic relationship has grown significantly in recent years. As part of its efforts to develop strong economic relationship with India, the Australian Government commissioned the India Economic Strategy to 2035 to define a pathway for Australia to unlock opportunities offered by Indian Economic growth. The paper was released in July 2018. An update to the India Economic Strategy was released in April 2022. Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Shri Piyush Goyal released the CII Australia Economic Strategy Report in December 2020. The report gives a macro-overview of Australia, reviews Australia’s business environment, highlights market opportunities in Australia for Indian products and delineates investment and cooperation opportunities in 12 focus sectors and 8 emerging sectors.

7. The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (“Ind Aus ECTA”) was signed on 2nd April, 2022 by CIM Hon. Shri Piyush Goyal and former Australian Trade and Tourism Minister Hon. Dan Tehan in a virtual ceremony, in the presence of PM Modi and former PM Hon. Scott Morrison. CIM Shri Piyush Goyal visited Australia from 5-8 April 2022 after the signing of ECTA.

8. India-Australia CEO Forum is a mechanism for business from both nations to engage directly on ways to build the bilateral trade and investment relationship (It was established in 2011 and revitalized in November 2014). The Forum includes heads of Indian and Australian business from a broad range of sectors, including energy and resources, agribusiness, financial sector, telecommunications, IT, education and pharmaceuticals. The last meeting (CEO Dialogue) was held in Sydney in November 2018 during the visit of Hon. President of India to Australia. CIM launched the India-Australia Business Champions with then Trade and Tourism Minister Hon. Dan Tehan on 27 September 2021. The CEO Forum was chaired by CIM Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon. Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism on 9 March 2023 in Mumbai, during the visit of Hon. PM Albanese to India.

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :

1. India and Australia have signed multiple Agreements/ MoUs covering areas such as Education, Tourism, Defence Production, Environment, Industrial research, Development & Innovation, Space, Renewable Energy, Civil Aviation, Cooperation in Geology / Mining.
2. India and Australia also co-operate in various multilateral fora. Australia supports India's candidature in an expanded UN Security Council. Both India and Australia are members of the Commonwealth, IORA, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Pacific Partnership on Climate and Clean Development, International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and have participated in the East Asia Summits. Both countries have also been cooperating as members of the Five Interested Parties (FIP) in the WTO context. Australia supports India's membership in the APEC. In 2008, Australia became an Observer in SAARC.
3. **Visit of PM Narendra Modi to Australia:** Hon. PM Narendra Modi visited Sydney on 22-24 May, 2023. During the visit, both PMs held the bilateral meeting on 24 May, exactly 1 year after their first meeting in Tokyo in 2022 on the sidelines of Quad Leaders' Summit. This was the 6th meeting at the level of PMs since Hon. PM Albanese assumed office in May 2022 and came just 2 months after the State visit of Hon. PM Albanese to India in March 2023. The outcomes of the meeting included signing/exchange of Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA) and Terms of Reference of Taskforce on Green Hydrogen, announcement to open a new Consulate General of India in Brisbane and opening of Australian Consulate General in Bengaluru. Hon. PM Albanese also attended and addressed the vibrant Indian-Australian community at the Qudos Bank Arena. He announced establishment of Centre for Australia-India Relations in Parramatta, Sydney. Both PMs laid the Foundation Stone of Little India Gateway to be established in Harris Park, Parramatta. Nelson Avenue in Perth was renamed as Sailani Avenue to honour the sacrifice of Indian ANZAC Private Nain Singh Sailani during World War I. Sydney Opera House and Harbor Bridge were illuminated with colour of Tiranga. During the visit, PM Modi also met with H.E. General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor General and Hon. Peter Dutton MP, Leader of Opposition, addressed a Business Roundtable, in addition to meeting with select CEOs and key personalities in diverse fields.
4. AFM Hon. Penny Wong visited New Delhi from 28 February-3 March, 2023 and participated at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Hon. EAM met AFM Hon. Penny Wong in Sydney on 24 May 2023, on the margins of the visit of PM Modi. EAM, along with AFM Hon. Penny Wong and Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Retno Marsudi held a trilateral meeting on 12 July 2023 on the sidelines on ASEAN engagements in Jakarta, Indonesia.
5. The 18th India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was held on 11 March 2023 in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by CIM Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon. Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell.
6. MoU on Technical Cooperation for Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI) was approved by Union Cabinet in June 2022.
7. Australia has given market access for export of pomegranate fruits (8 September 2020) and

pomegranate arils in July 2022. During the 1st Annual Summit on 10 March 2023, both PMs welcomed the finalisation of market access for Australian Hass avocados to India and Indian okra to Australia.

8. An MoU on Cooperation in Sports was signed during visit of former PM Turnbull to India in April 2017 and was renewed during the visit of Hon. PM Albanese to India in March 2023, along with signing of the India-Australia Audio-Visual Co-production Agreement. A MoU in the field of Tourism was signed between the two countries during the visit of PM Modi to Australia in November 2014 and was renewed in February 2022. JWG meeting on Tourism was held in April 2019 in Australia.

Source: www.mea.gov.in