

BUSINESS TALK

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Hon. Mr. Barry O'Farrell, Premier of New South Wales, visits India and addresses members of the Chamber

The Premier of New South Wales, Hon. Mr. Barry O'Farrell, made his first official visit to India during November 12-18, 2011 to promote and increase the bilateral ties between India and NSW. A high profile Business Mission consisting of 30 members from the financial services, infrastructure, resources, information technology and education sectors accompanied the Premier. The Mission visited Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru and engaged in several business briefings hosted by a number of industry organizations in India.

World Economic Forum - India Economic Summit

The Premier commenced his Mission at Mumbai with an address at the World Economic Forum – India Economic Summit on 13th November. The Premier observed that “As leader of a State that is home to some 60,000 people of Indian origin, I see how successfully our Indian residents are leveraging their knowledge and cultural links to grow trade and investment between our two nations. In today’s integrated global economy, Indian expatriates and their descendants now serve as India’s ambassadors overseas, showcasing Indian values internationally”.

Business Luncheon

A Business Luncheon was jointly organised by Australia India Business Council and Gujarat NRE Coke Ltd in association with the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Indian Merchants’ Chamber on 14th November at Mumbai.

MoU between Cricket NSW and Mumbai Cricket Association

The Premier witnessed an MoU signed between Cricket NSW and Mumbai Cricket Association for exchange of the two teams’ reciprocal visits biannually and co-operation in other spheres like coaching, junior development and women’s cricket.

Tri-Partite agreement between TAFE NSW Institutes and Gujarat NRE

At New Delhi, the Australia India Business Council, Gujarat NRE Coke Ltd and TAFE NSW (Australia) together hosted a Business Forum and Luncheon on November 17, 2011. A tri-partite agreement between TAFE NSW Sydney and Illawara Institutes, and Gujarat NRE Coke Ltd was also signed on the occasion to develop a new Vocational Training Institute in India. This project is in the background of Government of India’s target of 500 million skilled labourers by 2011.

MoU between AISNSW and five Indian Schools

Mr. Barry O'Farrell, along with Human Resource Development Minister of India, Mr. Kapil Sibal, witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between five Indian schools and the Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW). Under the new agreement, the Association will provide high quality professional training courses to principals and senior executives in Indian schools.

The signing took place at the Holy Child Auxilium School in New Delhi, where AISNSW had been conducting a leadership training session for 90 teachers and executive staff from the school. Under the MoUs, AISNSW will provide training to five schools – Holy Child Auxilium School, Vibgyor High in Mumbai, the Suncity World School in Gurgaon, the Samhita Academy in Bangalore and Saraswathi Vidyalaya in Trivandrum.

India Vision Institute

To underpin the future development of eye care services in India and advance the vision correction industry, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Brien Holden Vision Institute, Australia and the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), India. The initiative is set to roll out via the newly established India Vision Institute. The MoU was signed at the Australian High Commission in Delhi at a meeting attended by the NSW Premier, Mr. Barry O'Farrell, and the Vice Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, Professor Fred Hilmer. The stimulus has a total value of over \$ 700,000 in cash and 50 higher education scholarships to be offered over the next five years. The scholarships will include Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Public Health, Master of Business Administration, Master of Optometry and Master of Science.

International Volunteer Program

The Premier launched a volunteer program that will see NSW university students travel to India to work on education projects for poverty-affected children in the state of Karnataka. The program was launched at the Banyan School in Bangalore, the first project in India run by Sydney-based charity, the 40K Foundation, which provided a permanent building for the education and support of 200 severely impoverished children whose parents work in nearby quarries.

Reception hosted by Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce

The Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce hosted a reception in honour of the Premier and the accompanying Business Mission at Taj west End, Bengaluru on November 18. The programme turned out to be a warm and lively event with a participation of nearly 80 people from the corporate community in Southern India. One of India's leading coking coal producers in Australia, Gujarat NRE Coke Ltd, was the co-host for the event.

While addressing the business community, Mr. O'Farrell said that as the Premier of New South Wales his first visit to India is to promote NSW as a stable destination for investment and to help NSW companies to reach out to India. He emphasized the role of trade and education as connecting links between India and Australia.

Mr. O'Farrell also put in a special word for India's Consul General in Sydney, Mr. Amit Dasgupta, and said the community should be proud of him.

Earlier, Mr. C. Sarat Chandran, Director of the Chamber, in his welcome address observed that India and Australia have different landscapes, but out of these different landscapes we can create some synergies. A good example will be to combine NSW's strength in mining with India's software skills to develop a world leadership in mining software.

Mr. Clary Castrission, CEO of 40K Foundation remarked that education can change the whole trajectory of a person's life and remains central to opening up new possibilities for families in the region.

Mr. Arun Kumar Jagatramka, Chairman and Managing Director of Gujarat NRE Coke Ltd, in his concluding remarks observed that NSW mines are playing a significant role in the energy needs of Indian industry.

Untapped potential for Indian textile & handicraft in Australia

Australia is emerging as an important market for Indian textiles and handicrafts. To capitalize on this untapped bilateral trade potential, as many as 60 Indian businesses showcased some of the finest wares at the three-day Australian International Sourcing Fair held from November 22-24 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Sydney, Australia.

“Brand India’s aim is to introduce or re-acquaint the Australian textile, fashion and design industry to what India has to offer in terms of creativity, quality, variety, Flexibility and timeliness,” said Mr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India (TEXPROCIL).

The event is seen as a catalyst for raising the profile of Indian merchandise to Australian buyers. Major departmental stores like Kmart, Myer and Target are already sourcing from India.

Since Australia imports handicrafts from various other sources, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) will now aggressively market by participating in various trade shows like this to boost exports,” said EPCH Executive Director, Mr. Rakesh Kumar.

The Fair also gave Australian designers an opportunity to put their product to major retailers. There has been special interest on a wide range of jute bags and khadi products from a number of Australian buyers.

Australia’s largest Trade Mission to India

The Victorian Government is leading a Super Trade Mission of more than 100 organisations to India in February 2012. The Super Trade Mission will showcase the best of Victorian industry capability covering sectors including: automotive, aviation and aerospace, cleantech, education, food and beverage, ICT, life sciences, sustainable urban design and tourism.

The State of Victoria offers an economy larger than that of Singapore, New Zealand and Ireland. With an open economy with low-barriers to entry, Victoria is one of the most supportive and efficient places in the world to start a new business. For more information visit www.trade.vic.gov.au

Australia to fast track 457 visas to woo skilled workers

The Australian Government is looking to attract more skilled overseas workers by fast tracking changes to the 457 visa system to fill the looming skill shortages, especially in the mining and technology sectors. The 457 work visas will be fast-tracked and the employer sponsorship approval period will be increased from the current three to six years.

“This will continue to ensure that the 457 program is responsive to the economic cycle and provides a flexible avenue for employers to fill immediate and short-term skill vacancies, while maintaining opportunities and conditions for Australia workers”, says Mr. Chris Bowen, the Australian Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

According to Mr. Reg Howard-Smith, CEO of Western Australian Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME), Western Australia’s resource sector alone will require an additional 33,000 workers over the next few years, with the majority of positions being skilled trades people, engineers and metallurgists as predicted by CME’s latest State growth outlook. This is good news for people looking for work in Australia or for those applying for Australia working visas as the State Government is expecting an estimated 117,000 worker shortfall by 2015. This number will be increasing to more than 170,000 by 2017.

India is now consistently one of the top three source countries for permanent and temporary migration of skilled workers. As Australia struggles to fill up the needed workforce required to complete the current \$ 236 billion worth of resource projects which are under way across Australia and the further \$ 191 billion awaiting the final stages of approval, Australia’s mining and resource industry are now in immediate need of skilled workers.

The University of Queensland evening at Chennai

The University of Queensland hosted a special event in Chennai on 21st November, 2011 to mark the University’s expanding relationship with India and Indian Universities. The Evening saw two very rich presentations by Professor Luis Feduchi from the School of Architecture, The University of Queensland and by Prof. A. Srivathsan, Adjunct Professor at Anna University on “Architecture for a sustainable urban India – a regional approach”.

Ms. Anna Ciccarelli, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), spoke on the occasion highlighting the University's history of over 100 years and its growing profile as a great centre of excellence and knowledge in Australia and beyond.

Curtin University Delegation visits India

A 5-member delegation from Curtin University, Western Australia, visited Kolkata, Chennai and Cochin in the last week of November 2011 with the objective to strengthen University partnerships and closer engagement with Indian industry.

The team consisted of:

- Professor Moses Tade, Dean of Engineering
- Professor Brett Kirk, Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
- Syed M. Islam, Chair Professor
- Vishnu Pareek, Professor
- Shivali Mehendale (Curtin's in-market representative in India)

While in Chennai, the team discussed with Mr. C. Sarat Chandran, Director of Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Mr. P. Gopalakrishna, Secretary, on developing a relationship between the Chamber and University in promoting students enrolment and corporate sponsorships of Indian students seeking admission to the University.

Contact details of 115 Australian companies seeking business in India

The Chamber's successful 10th Business Mission to Australia in September 2011 has interacted with over 100 companies in four cities – Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. The Chamber is happy to share the contact details of these companies with members of the Chamber. Members may contact the Chamber for details.

Chamber's Annual Report – opportunity for advertisements

The Chamber has completed another year of intense activities in 2010-11 in the background of the growing trade and investment relationships between India and Australia. The Annual Report will capture these developments in all its dimensions. The Report is widely seen as a reference publication for Indo-Australian business developments for each succeeding year.

Because of its targeted circulation, an advertisement in the Annual Report will give good visibility and high exposure for Indian companies seeking business in Australia and for Australian companies looking for business opportunities in India.

Those, who wish to release an advertisement in the Chamber's Annual Report for 2010-11, may get in touch the Chamber (E: indaust@dataone.in / admin@indoaustchamber.com)

MyFactoryIndia – An Australian manufacturing facility in Chennai

Want to improve exports and overcome increased import competition and reduced margins, enter into a cooperative arrangement with MFI, an Australian entity established in 2005. The company owns and operates facilities in the Special Economic Zone, Chennai, India, and has positioned itself for expansion by undertaking work for others. For more details, visit www.myfactoryindia.in or contact Bill Besim via email bbesim@myfactoryindia.in or telephone 0433331320 or (+61)433331320

NEW MEMBERS

The Chamber extends a warm welcome to the following Corporate Members:

- **Ramyam Intelligence Lab Pvt. Ltd**, Bangalore (www.ramyamintel.com)
Products/Services: Software Development.
- **SBI Capital Markets Ltd**, Mumbai (www.sbicaps.com)
Products/Services: Investment banking – M&A, private equity, joint venture advisory.
- **Bharti Centre For Learning And Development**, Jaipur (E: bharti12sadhu@gmail.com)
Products/Services: Textiles and handicrafts, international education consultancy and sports education.
- **Bharat Re-Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd**, Chennai (www.bharatre.in)
Products/Services: Insurance brokers (direct & re-insurance)
- **ELS International Education Pathways Pvt. Ltd**, Chennai (www.els.in)
Products/Services: International education.
- **Brar Import Export**, Delhi (E: brar837@yahoo.com)
Products/Services: Readymade garments and handicrafts.

For Corporate Membership application form, please visit www.indoaustchamber.com

Visit www.indoaustchamber.com to get a complete view of Indo-Australian business developments.

Past Issues of 'Business Talk' can be accessed through the Chamber's website

Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce

'Arjay Apex Centre', New No. 51, College Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 006. India
T: 91-44-2821 3231 F : 91-44-2822 5603 E: admin@indoaustchamber.com / indaust@dataone.in
W: www.indoaustchamber.com