



## **Australia India Business relationship set to reach new horizons; Australia India Business Council NSW Annual Address 2015**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**30 September 2015**

The Australia India Business Council (AIBC) NSW 2015 Annual Australia India Address, held on Monday, 28 September, highlighted the unrealised potential for business and investment opportunities between Australia and India.

Over 250 business leaders, AIBC members and associates and distinguished guests attended the event at Four Seasons Sydney. Among the speakers were, the Hon Christopher Pyne, Federal Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, His Excellency Navdeep Suri, High Commissioner of India to Australia, the Hon John Ajaka, NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, officially representing the Hon Mike Baird MP, NSW Premier and Mr. Sunjay Sudhir, Consul General of India, Sydney.

Also present at the dinner were the former NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell; Hon. Pru Goward MP Minister for Women; Dr Geoff Lee, MP Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism; Glenn McGrath, Australian Cricketing Great; Ms Annette Pinder, Executive Manager, Migrant Financial Services, CBA; among other senior stakeholders from business and government.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Mr. Christopher Pyne said, "Our relationship with India has been underdone over the years, but I don't think that's going to be the case now and into the future...Prime Minister Modi granted me a one-on-one meeting which I think speaks volumes about his attitude to the future relationship with Australia."

Minister Pyne also spoke about the tremendous opportunities that the mining and agricultural sectors have for India and Australia.

"Australia has tremendous opportunities to support India to grow its economy, to employ its people and to create wealth through the mining sector," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the Premier of NSW, Minister John Ajaka acknowledged the growing relationship between Australia and India.

"India is a significant market for services and resources that NSW produces. NSW Annual exports to India are more than \$800 million per annum. NSW received more than half of all visitors from India to Australia last year contributing \$190 million to the NSW economy," Mr Ajaka said.

In his address, HE Navdeep Suri, High Commissioner of India to Australia presented live images of the Indian Prime Minister Modi's current visit to the United States. They highlighted the growing interest of the American organisations in doing business with India.

He elaborated on the economic upsurge in India and the enormous opportunities offered to Australian companies.

While trade and business ties were the focus of the event, an 'Up, Close and Personal' interview by Sheba Nandkeolyar, AIBC National Vice Chair with Mr. Sunjay Sudhir, Consul General of India, Sydney provided an opportunity to understand Consul General's views on Mr. Modi's dynamic government and a host of other personal insights.

AIBC National Chairman, Dipen Rughani's conversation with Australian Cricketing Great, Glenn McGrath added a much loved cricket flavour to this business event.

AIBC NSW President, Mr. Raja Venkateswar welcomed everyone to this annual event in the Australia India business space.

Mr. Venkateswar said, "I think the time has come for that great leap of faith, the leap from mediocrity to excellence; from unambitious existence to remarkable success. I personally think CECA and FTA are inflexion points in the overall ecosystem."

He said the AIBC was on hand to help people through their business journey with India and vice versa.

Irish expat and film industry entity, Deborah Bradshaw was Master of Ceremonies at this event and kept the audience engaged with her wit and humour.

The AIBC NSW Annual Address drew attention to the fact that the Australia-India business relationship is now entering a golden period due to the FTA/CECA discussions which are expected to see fruition by end of the year. This means a plethora of opportunities for the Australian Indian business relationship.

## ENDS

**Background Notes:** The Australia India Business Council Ltd (AIBC) is a national membership organisation with active branches in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra.

The AIBC maintains close relationships with federal and state government agencies, the diplomatic corps and industry bodies, and showcases opportunities to the Australian business community through an active program of events nationally.

AIBC conducts a wide range of activities in Australia and India which include:

- policy and business planning initiatives with major stakeholders including the Government of India, Government of Australia/State Governments, major government trade and investment bodies
- organising targeted business delegations to India.
- hosting Indian business delegations in Australia.
- the Annual Australia India Address with very high profile speakers organised by each AIBC State office.
- India Budget & Economic Update
- major business events with dignitaries from India and Australia.
- numerous business networking events for our members.
- business information and educational events for our members