



*Australia India
Business Council*

Australia India Business Council (AIBC) Ltd. NSW

Media Release

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AIBC NSW 2012 Australia India Address: Keynote Address by The. Hon. Tony Abbott Leader of the Federal Opposition.

“India is not only the emerging democratic super power. It’s also the emerging English-speaking super power,” declares Tony Abbott.

The Australia India Business Council (AIBC) NSW Chapter’s 2012 Annual Australia India Address, held last week, emphasised the significance of trade and investment between Australia and India and the level of commitment given to this by the governments of both nations.

The event held on Saturday, 1 December 2012 at the Sydney Hilton, was attended by The Hon. Tony Abbott, Leader of the Federal Opposition, His Excellency, Biren Nanda, High Commissioner of India in Australia; Arun Kumar Goel, Consul General of India in Sydney and Nihal Gupta, Chair of the NSW Multicultural Business Advisory Panel, among other senior representatives from government and business.

In his Keynote Address, Mr Abbott proclaimed that as Prime Minister of Australia, should this honour fall to him, he would treat India as seriously as he had always done and as one of the key countries helping to shape the future of Australia and of the wider world.

He said there were three categories of countries that were particularly important to Australia - our neighbours, our major trading partners and our key strategic allies - the countries with which we share important values - and India falls into all three categories.

“It is not only the emerging democratic super power. It’s also the emerging English-speaking super power. As far as I am concerned, this means it should never be the emerging super power that’s taken-for-granted or neglected.

“By 2050, India is forecast to be the world’s most populous nation. Unlike China, which is tipped to grow old before its citizens grow rich, India is tipped to grow rich before it goes grey”, he added.

Mr Abbott acknowledged and thanked the Australia-India Business Council for the work it was doing to build links - personal as well as economic - between the two countries.

“This is a very important relationship and I am so pleased to be here tonight to see it flourish,” he stated.

HE Biren Nanda in his Address noted in this Asian Century, the Australia India bilateral relationship was experiencing historic growth as demonstrated by the recent visits to India by the Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and the NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell.

He said India and Australia had several commonalities, which served as a foundation for closer cooperation and multifaceted interaction.

"Both are strong, vibrant, secular and multicultural democracies. They both have a free press and an independent judicial system and the English language is an important link," he added.

In her speech, Sheba Nandkeolyar, President of the AIBC NSW, highlighted the important role played by the AIBC NSW which has been actively involved and has been a business leader in providing inputs for FTA discussions between India and Australia as also on other trade and business discussions.

She added that AIBC New South Wales had experienced a very busy year, not only with a range of activities for members, but also working to build relations with the NSW Government through the Premier's Office and with Ministers, including Pru Goward and also with the Department of Trade and Investment.

"I am delighted to announce tonight that Premier O'Farrell has agreed to address us early in the New Year and I would like to thank Nihal Gupta for announcing this," she said.

Attached are transcripts of the Hon Tony Abbott's Keynote Address and the AIBC NSW President Sheba Nandkeolyar's Speech and images from the event.

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.

Founded in 1986, it is the only national body representing bi-lateral trade and investment relations between Australia and India.

AIBC was registered as a company limited by guarantee in 2012 and a new constitution for the organisation was also registered in 2012.

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

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