



**India - Australia Joint Ministerial Commission  
14th Session, New Delhi, India, 29 January, 2013**

**Joint Statement**

The 14th Session of the India - Australia Joint Ministerial Commission convened in New Delhi on 29 January, 2013. The Commission was co-chaired by Shri Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, India and the Hon'ble Dr. Craig Emerson MP, Australian Minister for Trade and Competitiveness and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Asian Century Policy.

The Ministers welcomed the positive momentum in the India-Australia relationship, based on shared values, converging interests and growth in economic links. The successful state visit to India by Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard in October 2012 underlined both countries' deep commitment to advance the Strategic Partnership agreed in November, 2009. The Minister for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Bob Carr, held the 8<sup>th</sup> Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2013, to review the bilateral relations and build on the momentum achieved by Prime Minister Gillard's visit. The two countries also met at Ministerial level to advance Agriculture, Energy, Education and Science & Technology links.

Mr. Sharma and Dr. Emerson emphasised the importance of closer trade and investment relations as a critical component of the strategic

partnership. The Ministers underlined the importance of a solid institutional framework to facilitate future growth in bilateral trade and investment. In this context, they highlighted the priority they placed on the conclusion of a mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). Ministers welcomed progress through four rounds of negotiations to date, including the exchange of goods offers. They looked forward to a future exchange offers on services. Ministers reiterated that a comprehensive, high quality equitable agreement would broaden the base of merchandise trade, remove non-tariff barriers that impede trade in services, and facilitate and encourage investment.

The Ministers welcomed the growth in the bilateral investment relationship and agreed on the importance of strong bilateral investment flows particularly in priority areas such as mining, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, clean technology and tourism.

The Ministers recognized the critical role played by industry in driving trade and investment between the two countries. In this regard, they expressed their strong support for the initiatives of the India Australia CEO Forum, co-chaired by Mr. Lindsay Fox AC and Mr. Naveen Jindal. Mr. Sharma and Dr. Emerson welcomed the outcomes from the second forum meeting on 16 October, 2012 held in New Delhi including agreement to promote skills training, increased mutual cooperation on infrastructure development, promotion of services trade, and the creation of 'investment champions' to identify opportunities and navigate government processes. The Ministers commended the important work under way in the Forum. The Ministers welcomed the third meeting of the Forum to be held in Australia in March 2013.



The Ministers discussed Australia and India's mutual interests in the effectiveness of global and regional economic institutions. Dr. Emerson took the opportunity to brief Mr Sharma on the 2012 White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century. Dr. Emerson highlighted the importance Australia placed on working with regional partners such as India. Mr. Sharma welcomed the prominent role accorded to India in the White Paper and highlighted India's increased economic engagement with Asia through its network of regional agreements and growing trade and investment.

The Ministers welcomed the launch of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations towards a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial regional economic partnership agreement. They discussed their mutual commitment to strengthening the East Asia Summit (EAS) as a forum that incorporated all the major economies in the India-Pacific region.

The Ministers discussed the importance of consolidating the G20 as the pre-eminent global economic forum. They welcomed the role played by the G20 as a driver for global economic stability and prosperity in the context of the continued fragility of the global economic environment. G20 leaders recognised at Los Cabos the importance of an open, predictable, rules-based, transparent multilateral trading system and the centrality of the WTO to it. Dr. Emerson outlined Australia's priorities as host of the G20 in 2014, including fostering private sector-led growth and investment in infrastructure and the energy sector. In this context, Mr. Sharma noted India's need for \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment by 2017 and the possible opportunities for Australian investment and expertise in infrastructure development.



The Ministers underlined their commitment to reinforce the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), both during India's remaining period as chair and Australia's two year term as chair from November 2013. In particular, they commended the work being done in IOR-ARC on trade facilitation, customs cooperation and business-to-business cooperation, as useful practical steps towards greater regional trade and economic cooperation.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to finding ways to break through the current impasse in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations. They expressed disappointment that it had not been possible to conclude the Doha Development Agenda to date, but agreed on the importance of moving the process forward, particularly in the current global economic environment. They also agreed on the need to resist rising protectionist pressures.

The Ministers welcomed the inaugural Ministerial-level dialogue on energy security in December 2012 as a significant step in developing a strategic relationship on energy and resources. Ministers also welcomed the decision of the Australian Government on uranium exports to India, and the announcement to commence negotiations on a bilateral civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement in March 2013.

The Ministers acknowledged the critical importance of education and skills development in helping to achieve both countries' targets for innovation, productivity and economic growth and welcomed efforts underway to strengthen the bilateral knowledge partnership. In particular, they commended growing collaboration under the auspices of the Australia-India Education Council between India's nascent Sector Skills Councils and Australia's Industry Skills Councils on standards and approaches to vocational training.



They recognised that education presents one of the most valuable opportunities for both the countries to lay the foundation for an enduring partnership with enormous opportunities to deepen collaboration between institutions across the education and training sectors, business and industry. The Ministers noted the contribution of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund.

The Ministers highlighted research work underway to lift agricultural productivity and make crops more disease-resistant. The two Ministers recognized the potential for greater focus and collaboration in food security, including through enhanced agricultural trade and investment. Mr. Sharma encouraged greater Australian investment in the Indian agriculture sector, including for cold chains and storage and logistics management of agriculture and horticultural produce.

They noted the significant growth in the bilateral agricultural cooperation, including the establishment and first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Agriculture held in New Delhi in September and the proposed first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Wool and Woollen products in February 2013. They announced plans for Australia and India to host a regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) workshop in 2013. They also commended the work by both countries in improving market access for meat and horticultural products.

The Ministers agreed on the important role of people-to-people links in the expanding bilateral relationship. Dr. Emerson noted that India represented last year the largest source of skilled migration to Australia and the second largest source of international students. Bilateral tourism was also growing at a rapid rate, with around

150,000 visitors travelling in each direction over the last twelve months.

The Ministers warmly welcomed the success of Oz Fest, Australia's largest ever cultural festival in India including educational and business events in 18 locations all over India.

The Ministers felt that direct flights between India and Australia would provide a further boost to bilateral engagement.

The Ministers agreed that the next Joint Ministerial Commission will be held in Australia in 2014.



(Anand Sharma)  
Minister of Commerce, Industry  
and Textiles, India



(Dr. Craig Emerson)  
Minister for Trade and  
Competitiveness and  
Minister assisting the  
Prime Minister on  
Asian Century Policy,  
Australia



## **List of Participants for JMC**

### **Indian Side**

Shri Anand Sharma  
Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles

Shri S.R. Rao  
Commerce Secretary

Shri J.K. Dadoo  
Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce

Shri Amar Sinha  
Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce

Shri Sudhanshu Pandey  
Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce

Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri U.K. Singh  
Joint Secretary,  
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Shri Rajesh Khullar  
Joint Secretary,  
Department of Economic Affairs

Shri Talleen Kumar  
Joint Secretary, DIPP

Shri Arun Kumar  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Mines.

Shri Gajendra Bhujabal  
Economic Adviser,  
Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Shri V.V. Yadav  
Director (TPD), Department of Commerce

Shri Zothan Khuma,  
Director, Department of Commerce

Smt. Uma Sekhar  
Director, L&T Division, MEA

Shri B. Prashanth Kumar,  
Director (Trade),  
D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.

Shri Ashish Kundra, PS to CITM

Shri R.K. Ojha  
Director, DoC

Shri. Pushpendra Rajput,  
Deputy Secretary  
Ministry of Steel

Shri Parikshat Kadan,  
Under Secretary (South), MEA

Shri Abhay Jain  
Under Secretary, DoC



### **Australia Side**

Hon. Dr Craig Emerson MP,  
Minister for Trade & Competitiveness and  
Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Asian Century Policy

H.E. Mr Patrick Suckling  
Australian High Commissioner to India

Mr Lindsay Fox AC  
Co-Chair, Australia-India CEO Forum

Mr Lachlan Strahan  
Deputy High Commissioner to India

Mr Bernard Philip  
Deputy High Commissioner-Designate to India

Mr Mark Mulligan  
Office of the Minister

Mr Mark Pierce, Assistant Secretary, South and Central Asia Branch,  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr Matt Crooke, Minister-Counsellor (Treasury), Australian High  
Commission

Mr Grayson Perry, Senior Trade Commissioner (Austrade), Australian  
High Commission

Mr Jeremy Green, Counsellor (Economic), Australian High Commission

Ms Slava Zeman, Counsellor (Agriculture), Australian High  
Commission

Mr Peter Nolan, Counsellor (Education), Australian High Commission

Ms Nicole Thomas, Counsellor (Energy, Resources and Tourism),  
Australian High Commission

Ms Sarah Kirlew, Acting Director, India Economic and Regional  
Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr Chris King, First Secretary, Australian High Commission

Ms Chiara Porro, Second Secretary, Australian High Commission