

<b>Member</b>	Lee Tarlamis	<b>Electorate</b>	South-Eastern Metro
<b>Period</b>	01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$13,115.76
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims 0  
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance \$0.00

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims 0  
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance \$0.00

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>				
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	
05-Sep-23	18-Sep-23	Electorate Business	\$2,730.00	

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 10  
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$2,730.00  
See attached travel report for further details

# PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL REPORT

## INDIA

**5 September 2023 - 18 September 2023**

**(Electorate Business)**

### **Attendees**

**Mr Lee Tarlamis OAM MP, Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Ms Belinda Wilson MP, Member for Narre Warren North**

**Ms Emma Vulin MP, Member for Pakenham**

### **Itinerary - Base Cities**

**Bangalore**

**Shirdi**

**Chennai / Tamil Nadu**

**Ahmedabad / Gujarat**

**Mumbai**

**Thiruvananthapuram & Kochi**

# Statement of Objectives

**Lee Tarlamis OAM MP**  
**Government Whip in the Legislative Council**  
**Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan Region**

The largest Indian population in Victoria is in the South-Eastern Metropolitan Region, which I proudly represent as the Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Victoria's first Indian cultural precinct, Little India, Dandenong, is also located in my electorate and enhances the already strong Indian communities that live in the south east and celebrate Victoria's Indian culture. It provides a hub for Victoria's Indian communities to own and celebrate, and for all Victorians to share the rich and vibrant Indian culture.

In September I undertook a delegation trip to India aimed at strengthening our bilateral ties, exploring potential business opportunities, and to further understand the shared values and interests between Victoria and India.

## **Deep Cultural Resonance:**

The Indian community, representing a significant portion of the South-Eastern Metropolitan Region, holds deep-rooted cultural and traditional values. Prominent festivals such as Diwali, Holi, and Vaisakhi are testament to these rich traditions.

Being immersed in these festivities in my electorate has given me a profound appreciation of their cultural significance and being able to travel to India to experience these cultural and traditional values and traditions first-hand has further solidified the importance of nurturing our connection.

## **Strategic Partnerships and Discussions:**

During this delegation trip, intensive meetings and discussions were conducted with key business representatives and government officials from the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Mumbai and Kerala.

These deliberations were centred around potential avenues of mutual growth and opportunities for both Victoria and India.

## **Film and Television Industry Opportunities:**

During the delegation trip, a key area of focus was the burgeoning film and television sector of India. Victoria's diverse and picturesque landscapes make it an ideal destination for film and TV productions. By engaging with key stakeholders from India's entertainment industry, we have unlocked avenues for substantial investment opportunities. Such partnerships promise not only to invigorate the Victorian film and TV sector by harnessing local talent and resources but also to position Victoria as a sought-after travel destination for Indian audiences.

## **Marine and Coastal Management Insights:**

A revisit to Kerala's fisheries department provided an excellent opportunity to share some of Victoria's successful strategies regarding Marine Park and coastal management. Such exchanges of expertise offer valuable insights for both regions, underscoring our commitment to preserving and enhancing our marine ecosystems whilst also addressing the impacts of climate change.

## **ASTRALAYA - Bridging Victoria and India through Business and Culture:**

ASTRALAYA, the Australia India Business and Culture Council, is a non-profit organisation that is playing an important role in nurturing and deepening ties between Victoria and India. Their exemplary efforts in coordinating significant meetings with representatives from various state governments, corporate entities, and the Indian film industry have been invaluable in fortifying the bonds between the two regions.

Through ASTRALAYA's proactive initiatives, there exists a golden opportunity to bolster our bilateral, cultural and commercial ties. Their dedication towards fostering mutual cooperation ensures that both Victoria and India can explore and unlock new avenues of commercial and cultural opportunities.

It's through such bridging initiatives that we can truly realise the potential of a symbiotic relationship, bringing the rich tapestry of culture and the dynamism of business from both Victoria and India onto a shared platform of growth and mutual respect.

**Where to from here:**

This trip has been pivotal in laying the foundation for future collaborations, investments, and strengthening of ties between Victoria and India. The seeds sown during these meetings hold the promise of blooming into thriving ventures that can benefit both regions immensely.

I remain committed to championing these initiatives for the betterment of our South-Eastern Metropolitan community and Victoria at large.

# The Evolving Trade Relationship between Victoria and India

The trade dynamics between India and Victoria have seen robust growth, underlined by mutual interests and strategic collaborations. This report outlines the salient features of this relationship and the key events and discussions during the recent delegation trip.

## Trade Overview:

- Our relationship with India is closer and more important than ever.
- India is the world's fifth largest and fastest growing major economies.
- According to Global Victoria, two-way merchandise trade between Victoria and India is valued at \$2.4 billion in 2021-2022. [1]
- By 2030, India is estimated to have the third largest economy in the world. [2]

## Underlying Drivers:

The Government's commitment to liberalising and broadening trade ties with India stands as the bedrock of this flourishing trading association and the recently signed Australia India Economic Cooperation Agreement opens many more opportunities that were previously not viable.

## Key Exports and Imports:

- **Exports to India:** Victoria's principal exports encompass coal, gold, wine, and a bouquet of educational services.
- **Imports from India:** Gems and jewellery, pharmaceutical products, textiles, and a range of processed commodities mark the major imports from the Indian subcontinent.

## Strengthening Bilateral Ties:

Victoria has entrenched its bilateral relations with India, emphasising trade, investment, and tourism, leading to an enriched economic relationship.

## **Some of the key industries of opportunity for Victorian exporters:**

### ***International Education***

Victoria remains an Australian destination of choice for South Asian students. India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are all in the top ten largest student markets for Victoria. India is one of the most significant student markets and Victoria welcomes the most Indian students of any Australian state.

India's new National Education Policy is transforming the education system across all levels of education and includes a strong focus on enhancing international partnerships. Edtech is generating new opportunities to partner in innovation and provide new education solutions. [3]

### ***Liveability Services***

India is increasingly looking for partners with expertise in water management, waste management, and technical services that support the growth of India's economy and cities. Victorian companies are having success joining Indian partners to pursue these opportunities. [3]

### ***Food and Beverage***

India represents a major market for Victorian wool, pulses, fruit and nuts and some packaged foods. The recently signed Australia India Economic Cooperation Agreement offers tariff reductions across a range of agricultural products which will benefit Victorian exporters.

The Indian craft beer market is the fastest-growing segment within the Indian AlcoBev market.

Victoria has opportunity to position itself as a preferred supplier of ingredients, including hops and malt, and provide expertise to the rapidly growing craft brewing industry in India. [3]

### ***Creative industries***

Digital games is an emerging sector for Victoria. The digital gaming sector in India is growing at a rapid pace, with the number of people playing online games growing by 80 per cent from

360 million in 2020 to 390 million in 2021. EY estimates that by 2023, there will be 450 million gamers in India. [3]

Victoria presents promising opportunities for the development of film and television production capabilities, encompassing OTT platforms and live events originating from the Indian subcontinent. With our advantageous position, we can actively promote Victoria as a compelling production destination and work towards incentivising India to engage in this market.

### ***Tourism:***

Victoria's diverse attractions, including Melbourne, the Great Ocean Road, and the Yarra Valley, make it a popular destination for international tourists.

India was Victoria's second largest tourism market by value in 2019 and is the fastest growing international visitor market to return to Victoria following the reopening of Australia's international borders.

Follow this link to access International Tourism Summary: India for the year ending December 2019:

[https://business.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1823609/International\\_Tourism\\_Summary\\_INDIA\\_year\\_ending\\_December\\_2019.pdf](https://business.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1823609/International_Tourism_Summary_INDIA_year_ending_December_2019.pdf)

The return of tourists from India is mostly driven by visiting friends and relatives, education, business and sports and events travel and is supported by direct flights run by Qantas and Air India between Melbourne and New Delhi. [3]

### **Investment Initiatives:**

The inception of the air freight route between Melbourne and Mumbai stands as a testament to Victoria's investment endeavours in India. This pivotal route facilitates the transportation of perishables like seafood, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables from India to Victoria, paving the way for enhanced revenue streams for both nations.



The trade relationship between Victoria and India is dynamic and multifaceted. During the delegation's trip we took part in important meetings and policy dialogues that have further reinforced this bond. As we move forward, it remains imperative to continue fostering these ties, ensuring mutual growth and prosperity.

## Summary of meetings and visits:

*Meeting with Ms Hilary McGeachy, Australian Consul General in India, Bangalore and Andrew Collister, Consul in India, Bangalore*

We met with and received a briefing from the Consulate-General in Bengaluru, Australia's fifth diplomatic outpost in India. This new post supplements the existing missions in New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, and Mumbai.

The establishment of a Consulate-General in Bengaluru is indicative of the profound and burgeoning relationship between Australia and India.

*Meeting with Mr M. B. Patil Minister of infrastructure Development - Government of Karnataka  
Meeting with Mr D.K. Shivakumar Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka and Minister for Water Resources and Bengaluru Development and Town Planning*

*Meeting with Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao - Minister of Health and Family Welfare - Government of Karnataka*

*Mr. Priyank Kharge - Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, I.T & B.T. Government of Karnataka*

Karnataka stands as a state of escalating commercial and strategic significance within the ambit of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

A sequence of deliberations was convened, focusing on the potential harmonies that can be fostered in the realms of energy, infrastructure, education, IT, and skills development sectors.

*Attended Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) & Rotary Club of Bangalore (RCB) Joint interactive meeting with Victorian Parliamentarians:*

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) and the Rotary Club of Bangalore (RCB) convened an interactive session with representatives from the Victorian Parliament, Australia.

The event, which was attended by 175 representatives from over 34 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME's) across diverse sectors including Information Technology and Software Services, Biotechnology and Lifesciences, Aerospace and Defence, Renewable Energy, and

many others, facilitated a comprehensive discussion on the potential and prospects of Indo-Australian business and trade cooperation.

FKCCI is a 107-year-old organisation and has a membership drawn from all sectors of industry, trade and services. Apart from being the oldest parent chamber of any state in India, it stands as one of the five foremost chambers in the country. Currently, the membership at FKCCI stands at 3,000 direct members and more than 250,000 indirect members drawn from all sectors of trade, commerce and industry, spread over Karnataka, including 26 District Chambers of Commerce and 135 Trade Industry Associations.

RCB is 89 years old and is one of India's largest and oldest Rotary Clubs. With over 350 members, it runs very large projects related to Education, Health, Economic well-being, Youth and the Environment.

The opportunity to interact and collaborate with these organisations enabled us to draw on their knowledge and expertise and gain rare insights into the opportunities available with businesses from Karnataka.

### *Visit to Shirdi - abode of the revered Holy Saint, Saibaba*

Shirdi epitomises unity, faith, and resilience. This spiritual hub is celebrated for being the abode of the revered Holy Saint, Saibaba, who advocated the universal principle, "SABKA MALIK EK" - Everyone's Master is One. With his teachings of peace and human values, Saibaba transformed Shirdi into a beacon of spirituality, drawing millions from around the world.

The Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, not only governs the revered Saibaba Samadhi Temple and its precincts but also significantly contributes to the village's development. This trust offers an array of facilities, including accommodation and complimentary meals, while also managing educational institutions, water supply, and charitable hospitals, reflecting its multifaceted commitment to the community.

During our visit we had the honour of receiving the blessings of the temple by the CEO taking us to Dwarakamai where we made an offering of coconuts into Dhuni, paying our respects to Sai Baba in Samadhi Mandir. We were honoured with a traditional presentation of a shawl

and statue of Sai Baba before having the opportunity to address the Temple's Committee of Management.

### *Visit to Shri Saibaba Hospital: Meeting with CEO & Medical Director*

The primary objective of the hospital is to offer top-tier medical care at affordable rates, ensuring free services to individuals Below Poverty Line (BPL) and subsidised rates for the underprivileged segments of society. Consequently, a Super Speciality Hospital was inaugurated in honour of Shri Saibaba. Despite being a charitable institution overseen by the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, the hospital maintains uncompromising standards of healthcare. The foundational assets, encompassing faculty, equipment, and infrastructure, are of premier calibre.

The CEO and Medical Director sought help in obtaining discontinued equipment by public hospitals in Victoria.

In response to this appeal, Aumsai Sansthan Temple in Mordialloc, which is located in my electorate of South Eastern metropolitan Region, committed to donating a TMT machine to the hospital.

Additionally, through collaborative efforts with the Rotary Club and charitable donations, other requested equipment will also be made available to the institution.

### *ANZ – India Business Chamber Event*

This event brought together industry leaders and members of the ANZ-India Business Chamber in Chennai to have an interactive 'meet and greet' session. This presented an opportunity to learn more about the potential growth of businesses already engaged with Victoria as well as exploring new and emerging opportunities.

It was also an opportunity to discuss opportunities for Victorian businesses to enter the Indian market.

We were able to engage in 'one-on-one' discussions and answer questions about possible endeavours and pathways to further develop these.

A feature of the event was a cultural program by students from Madras Christian College in Chennai.

### *Visit to Apollo Cancer Proton Centre: Meeting with Medical Director Dr Rakesh Jalali*

The Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC) holds the distinction of being South Asia and the Middle East's sole proton therapy centre, and it is also India's inaugural JCI-accredited cancer hospital.

Representing a cornerstone of advanced cancer treatment, APCC stands as a symbol of hope for myriad patients spanning 147 countries, providing state-of-the-art care, and empowering them to face their challenges with renewed courage.

Dr Jalali gave a presentation on Proton Therapy treatment and discussed possible business operations and opportunities of Apollo in Victoria.

### *Meeting with Fairmacs Group and Coco Blair:*

Fairmacs Group are one of the shareholders in Cerro Foods, Hallam which is located in my electorate of South Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Fairmacs provides comprehensive logistics solutions, elevating businesses with enhanced services, cutting-edge infrastructure, and efficient systems that push the limits of traditional logistics.

Coco Blair procures coconuts from certified organic plantations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, emphasizing fair-trade, collaborations with local farmers, and women's empowerment through rural employment opportunities.

One of their products is MILAGRO, which aims to champion a sustainable organic food movement, fostering a conscious community.

Fairmacs is currently procuring 18 metric tonnes of meat from Victoria and have facilities for wine suppliers of Victoria to reach the consumers in India.

They are interested in assisting with the development of new, and expansion of existing, markets for Victorian products in India.

### *Meeting with Gemini Film Circuit*

Gemini Film Circuit is a pioneer in film studio and production with over 75 years' experience in India. It has produced over 2,000 movies independently in several languages. It provides leading studio rendered services for thousands of movies in Indian languages.

Gemini are exploring opportunities for their expansion in Victoria which will result in a large-scale investment and job creation.

We had productive discussions with Gemini Management regarding their comprehensive proposal that has already been presented to Invest Victoria by them.

### *Visit to Sabarmati Ashram*

Sabarmati Ashram, Gandhi's inaugural sanctuary in India, stands as a testament to his timeless teachings that have globally inspired non-violent quests for civil rights and societal transformation. Gandhi instilled in us the belief that we can embody the change we desire in the world.

### *Visit to Vrajdharm Haveli: Attended business meeting by Vaishnava Business Network*

Shree Nathdwara Haveli in Melbourne is located in Hallam which is in my electorate of South Eastern Metropolitan Region and is an extension of Vrajdharm Haveli in Ahmedabad.

We visited the Haveli (Temple) in Ahmedabad and received blessings from Shri Vrajeshkumar ji Maharajshri.

During this visit we met with members of Vaishnav Business Network who are devotees of the Haveli and engaged in discussions about business opportunities and possible collaborations between Victoria and India.

## *Visit to BAPS*

The Swaminarayan Akshardham in Gandhinagar Ahmedabad (Gujarat) serves as a Hindu Temple, a divine abode, and a centre for spiritual and cultural enrichment. It mirrors the ageless teachings and rich traditions of Hinduism through its intricate art and design. Dedicated to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and the revered figures of Hinduism, this traditional structure was unveiled on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1992, under the guidance of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, realised by the dedication of expert craftsmen and volunteers.

During our extensive tour of the 25-acre facility, we were able to pay our respects to Swaminarayan and offered abhisekh to Neelkanta Idol.

We also attended the Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show which transported attendees to the land of the dead where they witness the fearless Nachiketa confront Yama, the God of Death, and ultimately receive from him the knowledge of immortality and eternal happiness.

BAPS in Victoria, which also has an Sanstha (Temple) in Cranbourne which is in my electorate of South Eastern Metropolitan Region, were involved in facilitating this visit.

## *Attended meeting by Business Network International (BNI), Ahmedabad – Hera Chapter*

This was an interactive session with 65 Members of BNI Ahmedabad Hera Chapter on business opportunities in Victoria, where we were able to gain important insights into the new and emerging opportunities for collaboration with businesses looking to enhance or expand into the Victorian market.

This body meets weekly, reporting to members on their achievements and weekly targets, and is also focused on attracting new members to further build on their connections in other sectors that are not currently represented in the Chapter.

I was able to attend as a guest and address attendees on the invitation of Virendra Shah from Sarjan Associates.

### *Meeting with Kamal Jain*

This was an invaluable opportunity to gain insights into the film industry from someone who has extensive experience and knowledge.

We discussed some of his past and current projects and incentives received from overseas shooting by various countries. He indicated that he is ready and interested in working with Victorian film industry and artists to complete both web series and movies in Victoria. He would be willing to work on possible script ideas and visit Melbourne to scout locations for web series and movies.

### *Meeting with Riyaz Bharucha and Lin Chavan – Vedanta Cultural Foundation*

The Vedanta Cultural Foundation stands as a testament to the timeless philosophy of Vedanta – an ancient system of knowledge that originated in the sacred texts of India.

This philosophy explores the nature of reality, oneself, and the ultimate purpose of human life. At its core, Vedanta encourages individuals to seek self-realisation and attain a state of spiritual awakening. It does not belong to any specific creed or religion; rather, it transcends these boundaries, offering universal truths that are relevant to all of humanity.

The Vedanta Cultural Foundation serves as a platform to share these universal principles – providing a space for individuals to explore the depths of their inner selves.

At this meeting we were able to discuss the possibility of hosting an event in the Parliament of Victoria during the tour by Riyaz Bharucha of Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Fiji.

### *Meeting with Chief Secretary of Kerala State*

A revisit to Kerala's state department provided an excellent opportunity to share some of Victoria's successful strategies in infrastructure development, education, health management and nursing.

Details of information exchanged with attendees and further information will be shared as next phase.



*Meeting with K.S. Srinivas Principal Secretary to Government – Fisheries & Ports,  
Government of Kerala*

This follow-up meeting with the Principal Secretary and departmental representatives provided an excellent opportunity to follow-up of issues raised during our previous meeting, including the sharing of some of Victoria's successful strategies regarding Marine Parks and coastal management.

We delivered a presentation to those in attendance covering the Victorian Governments Marine and Coastal Policy and Coastal Management Strategy.

Details of the information presented will be exchanged with attendees and further information will be shared as a next phase through the connection of our respective departments to establish further collaboration.

We are hopeful that this is the first of many such department-to-department connections that can be established.

*Meeting with Major Archbishop & Cardinal George Alencherry*

Reception by Major Archbishop & Cardinal George Alencherry at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church, Kakkanad.

During our visit we met with their Priests, nurses and other members of the clergy where we learnt more about their congregations around the world, including Victoria, where they have a Church in Greenvale and in Dandenong South which is in my electorate of South Eastern Metropolitan Region. These parishes serve the large and growing Malayali community in Victoria.

I have engaged with the Malayali community extensively and have had the pleasure of attending many of the Onam celebrations and other significant celebrations in my electorate.

## Travel Itinerary

### Day 1: 05.09.23

Flight: Melbourne – Bangalore

Stayed at Radisson Blu Atria Bengaluru, No 1 Palace Road, Bengaluru – 560001, Karnataka, India

### Day 2: 06.09.23

Breakfast: Meeting Ms Hilary McGeachy - Australian Consul General in India, Bangalore and Andrew Collister, Consul in India, Bangalore

Meeting with Mr. M.B. Patil - Minister of Infrastructure Development - Karnataka

Meeting with Mr. D.K. Shivakumar - Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka and Minister for Water Resources and Bengaluru Development and Town Planning

Meeting with Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao - Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Karnataka

Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) and Rotary Club of Bangalore Joint interactive meeting with Victoria delegates

Meeting with Mr Rajev COO Caring with Colour - Bengaluru

Stayed at Radisson Blu Atria Bengaluru, No 1 Palace Road, Bengaluru – 560001, Karnataka, India

IND \$12,320 (2 nights) = AUD \$232.00

### Day 3: 07.09.23

Meeting with Mr. Priyank Kharge - Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, I.T & B.T.

Flight: Bengaluru - Shirdi

Stayed at Renest Shraddha Inn - Shirdi

Meeting with Shivaji Gondkar, Hotel Temple View

Stayed at Renest Shraddha Inn – Shirdi

(No receipt – not claiming)

**Day 4: 08.09.23**

Visited Shirdi Sai Hospital

Meeting with Lt. Col. Shailesh Oke, Medical Director

Meeting with Mr P. Siva Sankar, IAS CEO Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi

Visited Sai Prasadalya

Flight: Shirdi - Chennai

An Australia Evening by ANZ - India Business Chamber

Stayed at The Accord Metropolitan.35 Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetty Road, Lakshimi Colony, T. Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600017, India

**Day 5: 09.09.23**

Visit to Apollo Proton Cancer Centre

Meeting with Dr Rakesh Jalali, Medical Director and Head - Radiation Oncology

Meeting with Mr Sudhir Shete, Mr Sunil Shete, Fairmacs Group and Coco Blair

Meeting with Gemini Film Circuit

Stayed at The Accord Metropolitan.35 Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetty Road, Lakshimi Colony, T. Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600017, India

IND \$12,000 (2 nights) = AUD \$226.00

**Day 6: 10.09.23**

Flight: Chennai – Ahmedabad (Departed 4am)

Visit to Sabarmati Ashram

Visit to Vrajdham Haveli

Meeting with Vaishnav Business Network

Visit to Akshardham, Ahmedabad

Stayed at Fairfield by Marriott, 174/175 Laxminiwas Bunglows, Ashram Road, Wadaj, Ahmedabad, Gujarat – 380013, India

IND \$8,633.80 = AUD \$163.00

**Day 7: 11.09.23**

No Meetings – Worked from Hotel (Emails etc. in relation to Electorate Office Matters)

Stayed at Lemon Tree Premier: The Atrium Ahmedabad, Off Nehru Bridge, Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad – 380001, Gujarat, India

IND \$4,700 = AUD \$91.00

**Day 8: 12.09.23**

Meeting with BNI - Ahmedabad Chapter

Ahmedabad - Mumbai (Vande Bharat - Train)

IND \$3,019 = AUD \$56.00

Stayed at Hotel Sea Princess, Juhu Beach, Juhu, Juhu Tara Road, Mumbai – 400049,  
India

IND \$15,680 (2 Nights) – AUD \$313.00

**Day 9: 13.09.23**

Meeting with Kamal Jain - Producer & Director - Kairos Kontent Studios

Meeting with Riyaz Bharucha and Lin Chavan – Vedanta Cultural Foundation

Stayed at Hotel Sea Princess, Juhu Beach, Juhu, Juhu Tara Road, Mumbai – 400049,  
India

**Day 10: 14.09.23**

Flight: Mumbai – Thiruvananthapuram at 05.50am

Mascot Hotel, Mascot Square, Thiruvananthapuram – 695033, Kerala, India

IND \$5,572 = AUD \$106.00

Meeting with Dr V. Venu IAS, Chief Secretary of Kerala

Meeting with Mr K. S. Srinivas IAS - Principal Secretary - Fisheries, Government of  
Kerala

Travel by Car: Thiruvananthapuram - Alappuzha

Stayed in Alappuzha Boat House

(No receipt – not claiming)

**Day 11: 15.09.23**

Travel by Car: Alappuzha - Kochi

Major Archbishop & Cardinal George Allencherry

Flight: Kochi - Dubai

**Day 12: 15.09.23**

Dubai Airport

**Day 13: 16.09.23**

Flight: Dubai - Bangalore

Stayed at Radisson Blu Atria Bengaluru, No 1 Palace Road, Bengaluru – 560001,  
Karnataka, India

IND \$6,160 = AUD \$115.00

**Day 14 & 15: 17.09.23 & 18.09.23**

Flight: Bangalore - Singapore - Melbourne

## International Travel Claims Summary:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
International & Domestic Airfares	\$4,384.50
Accommodation	\$1,246.00
Commercial Transport	\$56.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,686.50</b>

## Conclusion:

Strong social and economic ties have existed between Victoria and India for a very long time.

We annually welcome numerous students choosing Victoria for tertiary studies and further education options, with the number of new immigrants who have immigrated from India growing.

After the pandemic, we have faced new difficulties, mainly among them the reported worsening of talent shortages in important sectors including healthcare, tourism, hospitality, and construction.

This gives a chance for a rebound driven by increased productivity and innovation as we manage labour market shifts and methods to rebuild and resuscitate these industries in Victoria.

Additionally, it offers the chance to collaborate with nations like India, whose population is growing at a rate of one Australia each year, opening so many opportunities to grow our existing endeavours and expand in new sectors.



## Recommendations:

1. Enhance and promote Victoria's policies around economic enhancements for film and television production, including OTT platforms and live events from the Indian sub-continent to incentivise Victoria as an attractive production destination.
2. Ensure State Government agencies have effective strategies in place to connect and promote Victoria to Indian visitors and investors.
3. Increase Victoria's visibility as a popular tourist destination in India. Initiatives like establishing and promoting State tourism clubs or other bodies across India and in Victoria in collaboration with Indian counterpart States should be explored as an option.
4. Continue to establish State-to-State information sharing arrangements to facilitate the exchange of information about policies and initiatives that have been implemented in respective jurisdictions.
5. Continue to explore opportunities for Victoria to host significant events like the South Indian Film Awards (SIIMA), Celebrity Big Bash and other events in the future.
6. Continue to facilitate trade delegations and other visits to continue to build on the foundations that have already been established with a view to continually grow and expand in new and emerging areas and sectors.
7. Assist with organising and hosting an event with Riyaz Bharucha from Vedanta Cultural Foundation in the Parliament of Victoria during his tour of Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Fiji.
8. Continue to explore opportunities and encourage the hosting of events and organisations that promote an understanding of the ancient and traditional Indian culture and foster stronger bonds between our two countries. These opportunities will showcase and celebrate our many shared values. This can be done both in the Parliament of Victoria and in our respective electorates.

## References:

[1] Victoria, G. (2023). *India*. [online] Global Victoria. Available at:

<https://global.vic.gov.au/explore-our-global-markets/india#:~:text=%242.4%20billion>

[2] www.vic.gov.au. (n.d.). *Victoria's India strategy | Victorian Government*. [online] Available at: <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorias-india-strategy>.

[3] Global Victoria [online], Explore our global markets, Key industries of opportunity for Victorian exporters: <https://global.vic.gov.au/explore-our-global-markets/india#market-snapshot>