

Member	Meng Heang Tak	Electorate	Clarinda
Period	01 April 2023 to 30 June 2023		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$11,310.60
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$5,997.53
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

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

Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims					
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

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
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

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
10-Feb-23	19-Feb-23	Flights to India to engage in Electorate Business exploring trade and investment opportunities.	\$7,384.97

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 0
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$7,384.97
See attached travel report for further details

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL REPORT

INDIA

10 February 2023 – 19 February 2023

Attendees

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

Mr Matt Fregon MP, Member for Ashwood District

Mr Meng Heang Tak, Member for Clarinda

Mr Dylan Wight, Member for Tarneit

Itinerary – Base Cities

Bangalore

Hyderabad

Andhra Pradesh / Amaravati

Tirupati

Ahmedabad / Gujarat

Delhi

Agra

Kerala / Thiruvananthapuram

Statement of Objectives

Meng Heang Tak MP Member for Clarinda

Clarinda District is home to a very large number of Indian populations in Victoria, which I proudly serve as the Member for Clarinda.

Being the Member for Clarinda District, I have a great understanding of the Indian community's deep cultural ties to their culture, customs, and values. The cultural festivals of Diwali, Holi, and Vaisakhi, which are fervently observed in my electorate, are ones that I truly appreciate every year.

I travelled to India as part of my electorate business to strengthen the relationship between Victoria and India, make contacts with business executives and government officials, and comprehend the shared values and interests of our governments to inform my job as their Legislative Assembly representative.

Victoria is a superb site for making movies and television shows, which will promote Victoria to the enormous Indian tourism market.

Meeting Indian business representatives from the Indian film and television industry was a major goal of this trip because the Victorian government would appreciate the chance for investment here.

This would not only create economic benefits for the Victorian film and television industry – with local production staff employed – but also promote Victoria as a top tourist destination for Indians.

I'm glad this trip to India was able to establish those first connections and start conversations about Victoria's attractiveness as a hub for Indian trade and investment.

ASTRALAYA - Australia India Business and Culture Council, a non-profit organisation, was instrumental in setting up important meetings with state government representatives, companies, and the Indian film industry to enhance links between Victoria and India. Through this council, there is a chance to strengthen bilateral culture, and commerce, foster cooperation, and open new commercial prospects between the two nations.

As a result, trade between Victoria and India will be effective in growing the local economy, adding jobs, and attracting investment. Nonetheless, there is always an opportunity for growth in these areas.

The Trade Relationship Between India and Victoria

1. India is Victoria's second-largest merchandise trading partner, with merchandise exports valued at \$9.1 billion in 2019–20. [1]
2. Trade between India and Victoria is an important element of both countries' economies. Victoria is India's largest trading partner, with two-way merchandise trade reaching \$ 20.6 billion in 2019-20. [2]
3. The Government's dedication to liberalising and diversifying trade with India is the driving force behind this substantial trading partnership. [3]
4. Victoria's exports to India include coal, gold, wine and educational services, while major imports from India include gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, apparel and processed foods. [4]
5. Victoria has strengthened bilateral trade, investment, and tourism by establishing solid economic ties with India.
6. Victoria's international education strategy prioritises India as a priority market, and Victoria and India have a growing bilateral connection in the field of education.
7. Victoria has made large investments in India, such as the air freight route between Melbourne and Mumbai.
8. Perishables from India, including seafood, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables, may now be transported to Victoria thanks to this corridor, generating revenue for both nations.

The goals, significant gatherings, and policy talks that happened during the nine-day period are described in this report.

Travel Itinerary

Day 1: 10.2.23

Melbourne – Sydney – Bangalore

Stayed at Radisson Blu Atria Bengaluru

Day 2: 11.2.23

Bengaluru – Hyderabad (Flight)

Stayed at Marigold

Day 3: 12.2.23

Waste to Energy plant – Bowenpally Vegetable Market

Ahuja Engineering – T3 (Trash to Treasure) Solutions

<http://www.aespl-india.com/waste-to-energy.html>

Evening

Meeting with Mr Krishna Reddy CEO, Megha Engineering Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL)

<https://www.meil.in/>

Day 4: 13.2.23

Hyderabad – Vijayawada

Mr Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

<https://www.ap.gov.in/>

Mr Gudivada Amarnath, Minister of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications

Mr Y V Subba Reddy, TTD Chairman

Meeting at APIIC Head office

Meeting at Andhra Pradesh State Council for Higher Education

Meeting at APNRT

Vijayawada – Tirupati (Flight)

Stayed in TSR Guest House

Day 5: 14.2.23

Visit to Holy Shrine of Lord Venkateswara Swamy

<https://www.tirumala.org/>

Tirupati – Hyderabad (Flight)

Hyatt Place

Meeting with Film producers from the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Gemini Film Circuit

Meeting with Vijayendra Prasad – Prominent Film Writer and Director

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V. Vijayendra Prasad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V._Vijayendra_Prasad)

Father of S.S. Rajamouli

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S. S. Rajamouli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S._S._Rajamouli)

Day 6: 15.2.23

Hyderabad – Ahmedabad (Flight)

Meeting with Pacific Group of Companies

Meeting with Gplife Healthcare

Ahmedabad – Delhi (Flight)

Stayed in The Ashok

Day 7: 16.2.23

Delhi – Agra – Delhi (Car)

Visit to Taj Mahal and Masjid/Mosque at the Taj Mahal

<https://tajmahal.gov.in/>

Visit to Bangla Sahib Gurudwara

<https://dsgmc.in/DharmParchar/GurdwaraBanglaSahib>

Attended the Indo-Australian Congregation Event

Day 8: 17.2.23

Delhi – Thiruvananthapuram (Flight)

Visit to Kerala Secretariat Annexe II

Mr Mohammed Riyas – Minister for Tourism and Public Works Department

Kerala State Government

<https://www.keralatourism.org/>

Visit to Kerala Legislative Assembly

Visit to Secretariat Main Block

Meeting with Principal Secretaries – Fisheries and Law

Visit Shri Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple

Travel to Kovalam Beach

Stayed at KTDC Mascot Hotel

<https://www.ktdc.com/mascot>

Day 9: 18.2.23

Kerala – Delhi (Flight)

Elecrama 2023

<https://elecrama.com/>

Delhi – Melbourne (Cathay Pacific)

Summary of Meetings and Visits

Day 3. Waste to Energy plant – Bowenpally Vegetable Market

The anaerobic system from AES is prefabricated and delivered to the site prepared for operation.

Applications using small – to large-scale feedstocks can use this solution.

Kitchen waste, such as leftover cooked food, fruit and vegetable peels, waste cooking oil and grease, and organic wastewater like ganji (rice water), may all be efficiently digested by the design to produce biogas and bio-fertilizer.

T3 is an effective solution for disposing of organic waste, removing odour, flies, and disposal costs.

It is also a great alternative fuel source. LPG is replaced by biogas, which is stored and used as fuel for cooking.

This highly nutrient-dense liquid fertiliser can be pumped for use in fields, gardens, and landscape areas. The fertiliser is odourless, pathogen-free, and plant-ready.

Day 3. Meeting with Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited (MEIL)

MEIL is a diverse industrial conglomerate, established in 1989. It is a rapidly expanding global corporation that has finished numerous iconic projects that reflect historical changes and celebrate economic and cultural progress.

To enhance people's quality of life, it has also constructed numerous significant infrastructure projects around the world. Water management, engineering, construction, manufacturing, transportation, hydrocarbons, power, process industries, and defence are just a few of MEIL's key business segments.

MEIL works to make use of local technological advancements for the benefit of everyone in society.

MEIL is interested in exploring opportunities for its expansion in Australia with its base in Victoria which has the potential to attract large-scale investment and job creation.

Day 4. Meeting with Mr Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh Government

Andhra Pradesh is a state of growing commercial and strategic importance under the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

A series of discussions were held on synergies that can be created related to energy, education & skills development sectors.

Day 5. Meeting with Telugu Film Producers Council

Telugu cinema, also known as **Tollywood**, is the segment of Indian cinema dedicated to the production of motion pictures in the Telugu language, widely spoken in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Hyderabad's Film Nagar is home to the Telugu film industry. Telugu cinema has the largest box office as of 2021 among Indian film industries. The maximum number of tickets sold for Telugu movies in 2022, totalled 23.3 crores (233 million).

There are opportunities for Victoria to secure the hosting of future major events such as the South Indian Movie Awards – one of the most prominent entertainment awards ceremonies that reward the artistic and technical achievements of the **South Indian film industry** and the **Celebrity Cricket League (CCL)** – inspired by the popularity of the Indian Premier League (official T20 League Tournament of India), with franchises in major Indian cities.

Day 5. Meeting with Gemini Film Circuit

Gemini Studios was an Indian film studio based in Madras, Tamil Nadu. It was launched when film producer S. S. Vasan bought a film distribution concern at an auction and renamed it.

The new studio opened under the name Gemini. The new facade had statues of 'The Gemini Twins', blowing the bugle.

There are opportunities for their expansion in Victoria which has the potential to attract large-scale investment and job creation.

Day 5. Meeting with Mr Vijayendra Prasad MP – Rajya Sabha – Parliament of India, Film Screen Writer, Director

Father of S.S.Rajamouli – Director – RRR- Winner of 95th Academy Award for Original song – “NAATU NAATU” – Telugu song.

His perspective and extensive knowledge of the industry is an amazing resource for understand the opportunities that exist to maximise the potential opportunities in this sector. The need to better align tourism policies with creative arts so that they complement each other is so important.

We should be exploring opportunities for the production and commissioning of scripts that are written about Victoria and reflecting what makes us unique as a more effective way of ensuring engagement and securing local content rather than just filming in a few locations.

Government investment and support at all levels for the sector is a key component.

Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, scripted with a Spain tourism backing increased tourism by 65% after its release in 2011.

Victoria would also benefit from a visit to Victoria by Mr Vijayendra Prasad to discuss these matters further and explore additional opportunities.

Day 5. Visit to Holy Shrine of Lord Venkateswara Swamy

Sri Venkateswara Swami Vaari Temple is a Hindu temple situated in the hill town of Tirumala in the Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh.

The temple is devoted to Sri Venkateswara, a manifestation of Vishnu who is thought to have come to earth to deliver humanity from the trials and tribulations of the Kali Yuga. As a result, the area was given the name Kaliyuga Vaikuntha, and the local deity is known as Kaliyuga Prathyaksha Daivam.

The Temple is constructed using South Indian architecture and is believed to have begun construction in 300 CE.

Day 6. Meeting with the Pacific Group of Companies

The Pacific Group offers the following accurate, dependable, high-quality services and solutions to companies in many countries around the world, including in Australia, Accounting, Finance & Bookkeeping, Recruitment Services, Marketing Services, Software Services, HR & Payroll Services.

It's current client base in Australia are in NSW but they are interested in exploring expansion opportunities to Victoria.

Day 6. Meeting with Gplife Healthcare

Gplife Healthcare Pvt Ltd. have engaged in research and development for the last 17 Years in Phytochemistry and AI Statistical models to solve chronic diseases and their symptoms by Phytoconstituents/Phytochemicals Synergy effect.

They have developed an algorithm to replace all unscientific excipient mechanisms with active chemicals (phytocompounds), increasing therapeutic results and reducing side effects to restore the noble nature of healthcare and usher in a revolution in the sector.

They are exploring opportunities to manufacture the products in Australia with Victoria as its base, subject to TGA approvals.

Day 7. Visit to Taj Mahal and Masjid/Mosque

The Taj Mahal is an Islamic marble mausoleum located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, beside the Yamuna River.

The Taj Mahal, which draws 6 million tourists a year and is regarded as the best example of contemporary Mughal architecture, has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

India has a long and diverse architectural history that includes Indo-Saracenic, Hindu, Mughal, Sikh, and other architectural styles.

Day 7. Attended the Indo-Australian Congregation Event

The Indo-Australian Congregation hosted by Business World was held in honour of our Delegation of Victorian Government MPs and was attended by representatives from business and government, including the following representatives from the Government of India:

- **Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi – Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture**
- **Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad MP – Lok Sabha – Parliament of India**
- **Mr Prakash Javadekar MP – Rajya Sabha – Parliament of India**
- **Mr Vivek Tankha MP – Rajya Sabha – Parliament of India**

This was a great opportunity for the exchange of ideas and to talk about the collective efforts by MPs of both India and Australia to build strong ties between our countries, especially with new the free trade agreement ECTAA.

It was also an opportunity to discuss possible bilateral business, cultural and investment opportunities between Victoria and India.

Day 8. Meeting with Mr Mohammad Riyas – Minister for Tourism and Public Works Department

The Kerala Government's Department of Tourism is a significant government Ministry that oversees and controls tourism in Kerala.

Kerala Tourism is the nation's fastest-growing State Department of Tourism, and the Ministry has frequently been cited as a crucial division that worked assiduously to elevate Kerala Tourism to the status of one of the Top 100 Super brands.

Victoria is the home for most Malayalees in Australia with a large proportion of them being in the healthcare sector, including as nurses and midwives.

The Minister expressed interest in setting up a Tourism Club to promote tourism and business relationship between Kerala and Victoria.

Day 8. Visit to Kerala Legislative Assembly

The state legislature of Kerala, India, is known as the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly is made up of 140 members who represent constituencies all throughout Kerala.

We undertook a tour of the State Legislature at the behest of Kerala legislators which is an impressive building that is only 25 years old.

Day 8. Meeting with Principal Secretaries – Fisheries and Law

The Department of Fisheries are interested in the establishment of Marine National Parks, dealing with issues of costal erosion, and acquiring equipment to better communicate with their fishing fleets.

They are seeking guidance and the establishment of an information exchange program with Victoria as a jurisdiction who have already successfully established Marine National Parks and has been taking steps to address issues of coastal erosion in some locations around our State.

We also had a discussion to gain an understanding of some aspects of the legal system and framework in Kerala.

Day 9. Attended ELECRAMA 2023

ELECRAMA – the world's largest standalone showcase of electrical and allied electronics equipment and technology. It is organized biennially by the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA).

IEEMA was founded in 1948 and is the apex association of manufacturers of electrical, industrial electronics and allied equipment in India.

IEEMA's 950+ member companies straddle the complete power value chain in generation, transmission and distribution equipment including cables and wires for buildings and vehicles and new and renewable energy.

During this event we meet with the event organisers and toured the impressive displays from companies attending from around the globe, including Australia.

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.

Recommendations

1. Reform and Promote Victoria's policies around economic enhancements for film and television production, to incentivise Victoria as an attractive production destination.
2. Foster closer relationships with the Indian Electrical & Allied electronics Industry to encourage greater trade and investment opportunities in Victoria
3. Ensure State Government agencies and have strategies in place to connect and promote Victoria to Indian visitors and investors
4. Further promote Victoria within India, and visa-versa, as desirable tourist destinations. Possible options include State Tourism Clubs.
5. Establish State-to-State information sharing arrangements for the exchange of information about policies and initiatives that have been implemented in respective jurisdictions.
6. Further explore opportunities for Victoria to host significant events like the South Indian Film Awards, Celebrity Big Bash, and other major events in the future.
7. 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.

References

- [1] **A Study on the Bilateral Trade Relations between China and ASEAN Ten Countries Based on Lotka-Volterra Model.**
<https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202211.0216> Accessed 2023-03-04
- [2] **East India Company , The**
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781315845364/east-india-company-philip-lawson> Accessed 2023-03-04
- [3] **Rediscovering El Dorado: Australia's Past and Future Trade Relations with Latin America.** https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/9781137501929_6 Accessed 2023-03-04
- [4] **Australian-Latin American Trade Relations in Educational Services.**
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/9781137501929_8 Accessed 2023-03-04