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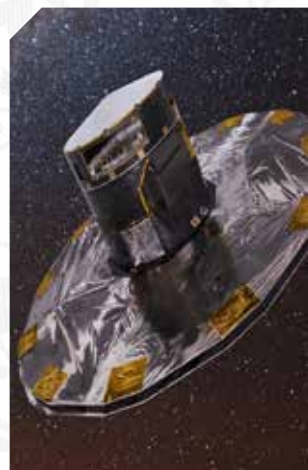
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# Nuclear Fusion

## India and Australia's Clean Energy Frontier

In recent years, the world has been increasingly turning its attention towards nuclear fusion as a potential game-changer in the quest for clean and sustainable energy sources. India and Australia, two nations with significant scientific and technological capabilities, have been at the forefront of research and development in this field. In this editorial, we delve into the prospects and challenges of nuclear fusion as a source of clean energy, exploring the collaborative efforts between these two countries and the global implications of their advancements.

### 1. The Promise of Nuclear Fusion

Nuclear fusion holds immense promise as it seeks to replicate the energy-producing process of the sun by fusing hydrogen atoms to release an abundant and clean source of power. Unlike nuclear fission, which is the process used in current nuclear power plants and produces radioactive waste, fusion has the potential to provide virtually limitless energy with minimal environmental impact.

### 2. India's Fusion Program

India has been making significant strides in the field of nuclear fusion through its participation in the ITER project (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) in France. ITER, a collaboration of 35 nations including India, aims to

demonstrate the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a commercial energy source. India's contributions to ITER, both in terms of funding and scientific expertise, highlight its commitment to harnessing fusion energy for a sustainable future.

**India has been making significant strides in the field of nuclear fusion through its participation in the ITER project (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) in France.**

### 3. Australia's Role in Fusion Research

Australia, known for its innovative research and development capabilities, has also been actively involved in nuclear fusion research. The Australian National University (ANU) hosts the Plasma Fusion and Laser Science Laboratory, which conducts cutting-edge research on fusion energy. Australia's expertise in laser-driven fusion technologies complements the global efforts towards achieving practical fusion energy.

### 4. Collaborative Efforts

The collaboration between India and Australia in the field of nuclear fusion holds great potential. Joint research initiatives, knowledge sharing, and

resource pooling can expedite progress towards achieving sustainable fusion energy. By combining India's experience in the ITER project with Australia's expertise in advanced fusion technologies, both countries can contribute significantly to the global clean energy landscape.

### 5. Challenges and Hurdles

While the prospects of nuclear fusion are promising, there are several challenges that must be addressed. The extreme conditions required for fusion reactions, such as high temperature and pressure, present engineering and materials science challenges. Additionally, the long-term sustainability and cost-effectiveness of fusion as an energy source need to be carefully considered.

### 6. Global Implications

The success of nuclear fusion as a clean energy source is not limited to India and Australia alone; it has far-reaching global implications. Fusion has the potential to provide a clean and virtually limitless source of energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change. Collaborative efforts between nations can accelerate the development of fusion technology and pave the way for a more sustainable energy future for all.



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# The Indian impact Elevating Australian cities with vibrancy and growth

TINA DAYAL

The contribution of the Indian community to the fabric of Australian cities is a narrative of vibrancy, growth, and mutual enrichment. From Sydney's bustling streets to Melbourne's art-filled laneways, Indians have played a pivotal role in shaping the urban and cultural landscapes of Australia. This article delves into the city-wise impact of the Indian diaspora, supported by government data, to highlight the significant ways in which this vibrant community has uplifted Australian cities.

## Sydney- A Cultural and Economic Powerhouse

In Sydney, the Indian community has not only grown in numbers but also in influence. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Greater Sydney area is home to a significant portion of the country's Indian population, with substantial growth observed over the last decade. This demographic shift has brought with it an economic boost, with Indian-owned businesses thriving in sectors such as technology, healthcare, and retail. The cultural impact is equally palpable, with annual events like the **Deepavali Festival at Parramatta** drawing thousands, celebrating Indian culture and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

## Melbourne- Innovation and Community Spirit

Melbourne, known for its diversity and culture, has seen a similar uplift. The ABS data indicates a robust Indian community in the city, contributing significantly to Melbourne's reputation as Australia's cultural capital. Indian students, in particular, have been a boon to the education sector, with universities like the **University of Melbourne and Monash University** hosting a large number of students from India. This influx has supported the local economy, through both tuition fees and living expenses. Community initiatives, such as the **vibrant Holi Festival** celebrated in Federation Square, add a splash of colour to Melbourne's cultural calendar, engaging wider communities in Indian traditions.

## Brisbane- Growing Influence and Integration

Brisbane's Indian community, though smaller compared to Sydney and Melbourne, has shown remarkable integration and growth. Government data highlights a steady increase in the Indian population in Queensland, with Brisbane at the heart of this growth. Indian professionals have made significant contributions to Brisbane's sectors such as IT, healthcare, and engineering. The city's culinary landscape has also been enriched, with Indian cuisine becoming increasingly popular among locals. Community events, such as the **Diwali celebrations at the Brisbane City Hall**, showcase the community's active engagement and contribution to the city's multicultural ethos.







**Perth- Economic Contributions and Cultural Exchange**

In Perth, the Indian community's impact is multifaceted, spanning economic contributions and cultural exchanges. The Western Australian Government's data reflect a growing Indian population, with many drawn to Perth's mining and resources sector. Indian engineers, IT professionals, and business owners have become integral to the local economy. On the cultural front, events like the **Perth Diwali Festival** attract wide participation, highlighting the Indian community's role in enriching Perth's cultural diversity.

**Adelaide- Education and Cultural Enrichment**

Adelaide's Indian community, though smaller, has made significant strides, particularly in the realm of education and cultural enrichment. With a number of Indian students choosing Adelaide for its educational institutions, there has been a noticeable impact on the local economy and cultural scene. The city hosts annual events such as the **Adelaide Diwali**

**Festival**, which not only celebrates Indian culture but also promotes multiculturalism and inclusivity.

**The cultural contributions, from festivals to food, art, and music, have added layers of richness to Australia's multicultural identity.**

**The Broader Impact**

Across these Australian cities, the Indian diaspora has contributed to the economic fabric through entrepreneurship, professional expertise, and as a vital part of the workforce. The cultural contributions, from festivals to food, art, and music, have added layers of richness to Australia's multicultural identity. Moreover, the educational sector has benefited from the influx of Indian students, contributing to Australia's position as a global education hub.

These contributions, however, are not without challenges. The journey of integration

and acceptance has seen its ups and downs, with the Indian community facing issues related to racism, cultural integration, and visa policies. Yet, through resilience and a commitment to contribution, the Indian diaspora continues to play a significant role in the development and enrichment of Australian cities.

**Looking Ahead**

The story of the Indian community in Australia is one of continuous growth and contribution. As cities evolve, the influence of this vibrant community is undeniable, bringing economic vitality, cultural richness, and educational prowess. The ongoing journey of integration and mutual enrichment promises to further strengthen the bonds between India and Australia, making Australian cities more vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic. The numbers and data only tell part of the story, the true measure of the Indian community's impact is seen in the multicultural tapestry of Australian society, enriched and uplifted by its diversity and vibrancy.





# NAVIGATING DIPLOMATIC WATERS AUSTRALIA CAN MANAGE DIFFERENCES WITH INDIA ON SENSITIVE MATTERS - ENVOY

INDRASISH BANERJEE

Australia's diplomatic relations with India have recently been under the spotlight, following the Australian envoy's confident assertion that both nations can manage differences on sensitive matters effectively. This statement reflects a maturing partnership, highlighting both the complexity and the depth of bilateral ties in today's geopolitical landscape.



## Understanding the Bilateral Context

The relationship between Australia and India has traditionally been cordial but has faced its share of challenges and divergences on several fronts. These include trade barriers, immigration policies, and differing stances on regional security issues. Despite these challenges, both countries have increasingly recognised the importance of a strategic partnership, particularly in the context of a shifting power balance in the Indo-Pacific region.

## Key Areas of Difference

Several sensitive areas have occasionally tested the bilateral relations between these two Commonwealth nations-

### 1. Trade and Economic Policies

Differences in agricultural trade policies and tariffs have been a point of contention. Australia's push for greater market access for its agricultural products conflicts with India's protective stance towards its small-scale farmers.

### 2. Climate Change Commitments

Environmental policies and commitments to climate change initiatives have also seen diverging approaches. Australia's reliance on coal and India's ambitious renewable energy targets pose challenges for harmonising their environmental strategies.

**Australia's confidence in managing differences with India on sensitive matters is indicative of a mature and forward-looking diplomatic stance. This approach not only aids in smoothing over potential rifts but also enhances the overall stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.**

### 3. Defence and Strategic Interests

Although both countries are part of the Quad alliance, their strategic priorities in the Indo-Pacific do not always align, particularly with respect to China. Australia's more confrontational stance towards China contrasts with India's nuanced, sometimes cautious approach.

## Diplomatic Assurance and Strategic Dialogue

The recent assertion by the Australian envoy underscores a commitment to not only address these differences but to leverage them towards fostering a stronger bilateral relationship. The envoy's statement is a testament to the robust diplomatic channels and mechanisms that both countries have developed over the years. Regular high-level meetings, strategic dialogues, and joint military exercises are reflective of an ongoing effort to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation.

## Techniques for Managing Diplomatic Differences

Australia and India employ several strategies to manage and mitigate potential conflicts arising from sensitive issues-

### Regular Diplomatic Engagements

Continual diplomatic dialogues at various levels ensure that both parties are aligned or, at the least, understand each other's perspectives and limitations. These engagements also serve as a platform for addressing grievances and conflicts in a constructive manner.





**Environmental policies and commitments to climate change initiatives have also seen diverging approaches. Australia's reliance on coal and India's ambitious renewable energy targets pose challenges for harmonising their environmental strategies.**

**Multilateral Cooperation**

Engaging in multilateral settings, such as through ASEAN, the United Nations, or the Quad, provides a broader framework within which both nations can collaborate, thus softening bilateral tensions.

**People-to-People Ties**

Strong cultural and educational ties, with a significant Indian diaspora in Australia and increasing educational exchanges, foster a deeper mutual respect and understanding, which is crucial in navigating through diplomatic sensitivities.

**The Role of Economic Interdependence**

Economic ties between Australia and India have grown significantly, with trade and investment being key pillars of the relationship. Both countries are keen on enhancing their economic interdependence, which in turn acts as a deterrent against letting disagreements escalate into more significant conflicts. The

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, signed in 2020, aimed at strengthening cooperation in areas such as defence, maritime security, and technology, also includes commitments to boosting trade and investment links.

**Future Prospects**

Looking ahead, the relationship between Australia and India is poised for further growth, with both nations showing a willingness to engage deeply on both strategic and economic fronts. The evolving dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region, marked by the rise of China and shifting global trade patterns, will likely propel Australia and India closer together, as both seek to navigate these changes while safeguarding their national interests.

Australia's confidence in managing differences with India on sensitive matters is indicative of a mature and forward-looking diplomatic stance. This approach not only aids in smoothing over potential rifts but also enhances the overall stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. As both nations continue to engage on various fronts, the emphasis remains on dialogue, mutual respect, and a shared vision for a peaceful and prosperous region. This strategic partnership, therefore, is not just beneficial for the two countries but also serves as a cornerstone for broader regional stability.

**Focus on Common Grounds**

Both nations strive to focus on areas of mutual interest, such as maritime security, counter-terrorism, and economic cooperation, to build trust and goodwill. This approach helps in cushioning the impact of disagreements in more contentious areas.

**Although both countries are part of the Quad alliance, their strategic priorities in the Indo-Pacific do not always align, particularly with respect to China. Australia's more confrontational stance towards China contrasts with India's nuanced, sometimes cautious approach.**



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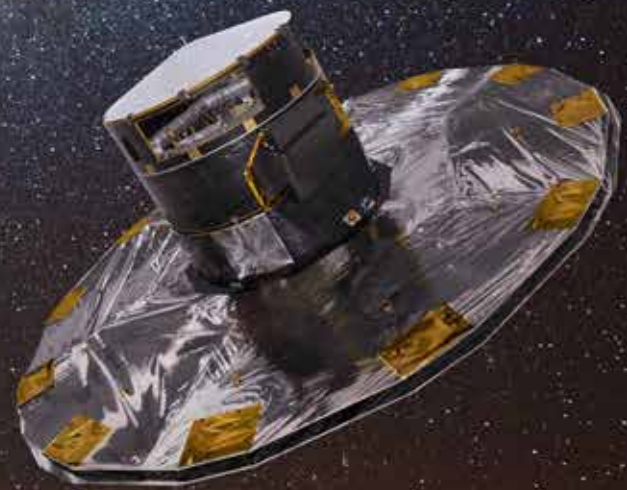
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# GAIA TELESCOPE UNVEILS FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON THE MILKY WAY'S PAST

PRIYAM CHATTERJEE



The Gaia space telescope, a marvel of modern astronomy, has recently provided new insights into the complex history of our galaxy, the Milky Way. This sophisticated observatory, launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2013, has been meticulously scanning the cosmos to create the most detailed 3D map of our galaxy ever attempted. The latest data release from Gaia offers unprecedented details about the Milky Way's structure, its dynamic processes, and evolutionary history, painting a more nuanced picture of our cosmic neighbourhood.

## Unravelling the Milky Way's Mysteries

Gaia's mission is primarily focused on astrometry – the precise measurement of the positions, distances, and motions of stars. By observing more than a billion stars, Gaia helps astronomers peel back layers of galactic history, revealing how the Milky Way has evolved over billions of years. The recent findings highlight several fascinating aspects of our galaxy-

### 1. Revised Stellar Motions and Positions

Gaia's observations have led to corrections in the previously understood positions and velocities of thousands of stars. This not only improves our map of the Milky Way but also refines our understanding of the gravitational forces at play within the galaxy.

### 2. Discovery of Stellar Streams

One of the significant revelations includes the discovery of stellar

streams, which are groups of stars that move together across the galaxy. These streams are remnants of smaller galaxies and star clusters that our Milky Way has torn apart and absorbed, providing direct evidence of our galaxy's growth through cosmic cannibalism.

### 3. Insights into the Galactic Bar

The data has shed light on the Milky Way's central bar, a dense area of stars extending from the galactic centre. This feature appears to be more pronounced than previously thought, influencing the dynamics and evolution of the galaxy's inner regions.

### 4. Mapping Dark Matter

Gaia's detailed mapping of stellar motions helps astronomers infer the distribution of dark matter, an invisible substance that makes up about 27% of the universe. Understanding dark matter distribution is crucial for comprehending the galaxy's gravitational framework and its influence on everything from star formation to the galaxy's rotational speed.

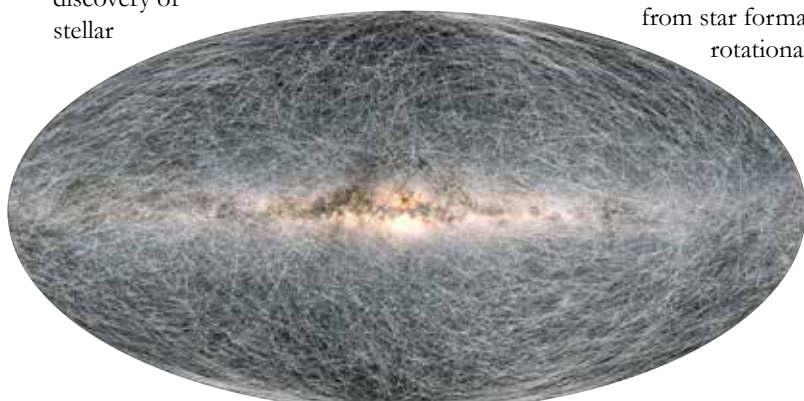
## Technological Triumphs of Gaia

The Gaia telescope's achievements are underpinned by cutting-edge technology. Equipped with two optical telescopes and a billion-pixel camera, Gaia can capture extremely faint and distant stars. The precision of its instruments allows it to measure the diameter of a human hair from 2,000 kilometres away. This sensitivity is crucial for accurate astrometry and the reliable detection of stellar motions.

Data handling is another critical aspect of Gaia's mission. The spacecraft generates approximately 40 GB of data daily, which is transmitted to Earth and processed by a network of supercomputers. The processing algorithms correct for biases and errors, ensuring the high precision required for the mission's success.

## The Impact on Astrophysics

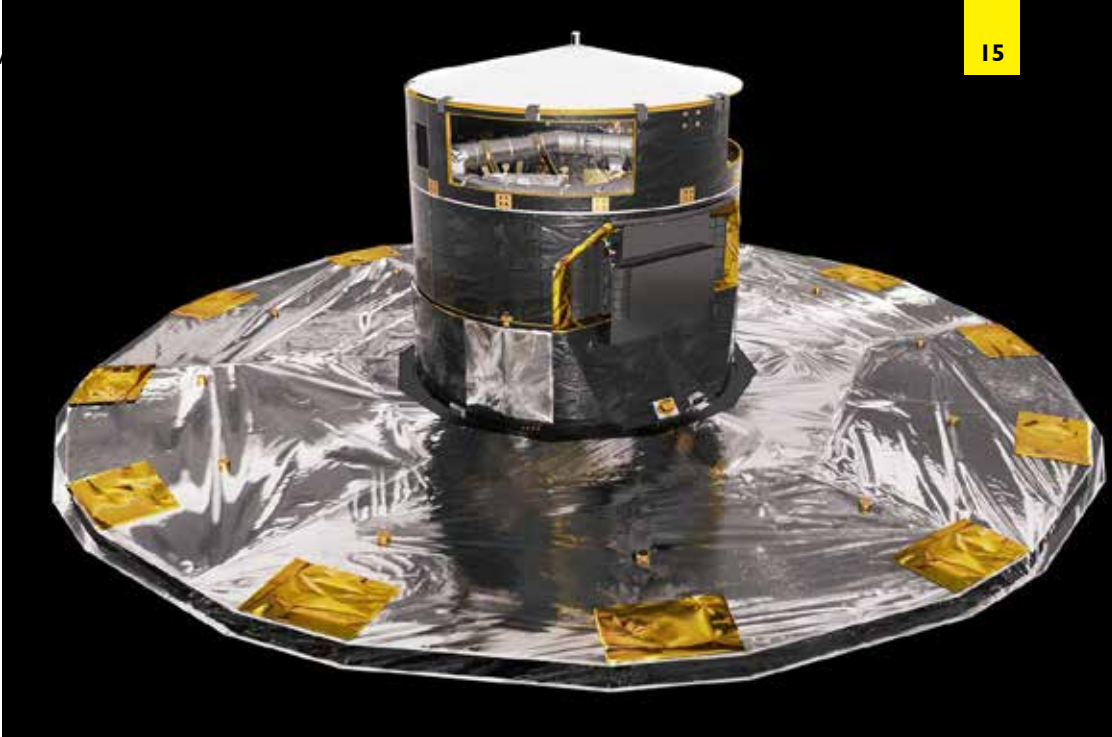
Gaia's findings are revolutionising multiple fields of astrophysics. By providing a clearer



The data has shed light on the Milky Way's central bar, a dense area of stars extending from the galactic centre. This feature appears to be more pronounced than previously thought, influencing the dynamics and evolution of the galaxy's inner regions.



**The Gaia telescope continues to be an indispensable tool in our ever-expanding pursuit of knowledge, revealing not just the history of the Milky Way, but hinting at the future dynamics of our cosmic environment.**



picture of the Milky Way's formation and evolution, these insights challenge and refine existing theories about the galaxy. For instance, understanding the formation of stellar streams helps astronomers learn more about the Milky Way's past interactions with its galactic neighbours.

Moreover, the accurate mapping of stellar positions and velocities enhances our ability to predict future celestial events, including star collisions and the paths of stars as they orbit the galactic centre. These predictions are vital for planning future missions and for the long-term monitoring of potentially hazardous asteroids and comets.

**Collaborative Scientific Endeavours**

Gaia's mission exemplifies the power of international collaboration in science. Hundreds of scientists and engineers from across Europe contribute to the planning, operation, and data analysis processes of

Gaia. This collaborative effort not only pools resources but also brings together diverse expertise to tackle the complex challenges of space exploration and astrophysics.

**Future Prospects**

As Gaia continues to operate, further data releases are expected to provide even more detailed insights into the Milky Way's composition and history. These future releases will likely uncover more about the roles of dark matter and dark energy in shaping the galaxy. Additionally, Gaia's data will assist in identifying exoplanets as it monitors the positions of stars, which can wobble due to the gravitational pull

of orbiting planets.

The ongoing analysis of Gaia's data is a beacon of progress in our quest to understand the universe. Each piece of data refines our cosmic map and enhances our understanding of where we, on Earth, fit within the vast tapestry of the galaxy. The Gaia telescope continues to be an indispensable tool in our ever-expanding pursuit of knowledge, revealing not just the history of the Milky Way, but hinting at the future dynamics of our cosmic environment. Through this mission, we are reminded of the dynamic and ever-changing nature of our universe, and of the continuous human endeavour to understand it.



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# Australian perceptions of Indian culture and people

CHIRAG THAKKAR

In the melting pot of cultures that Australia prides itself on, the Indian community has emerged as one of the most vibrant and significant. With a history of migration that dates back to the 1800s, Indians have become an integral part of the Australian social fabric, contributing to its multicultural ethos. However, the perception of Australians towards Indians is a complex web, woven with threads of admiration, misunderstanding, stereotypes, and evolving acceptance. This article delves into the nuanced views held by Australians about Indians, exploring the factors that influence these perceptions and the reality of Indo-Australian relations today.

Australia's demographic landscape has been significantly shaped by Indian migration, especially in the past few decades. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Indian population in Australia has grown rapidly, making it one of the largest expatriate communities in the country. This increase in population has inevitably led to greater interaction between Australians and Indians, influencing mutual perceptions.

**the future of Indo-Australian relations seems promising. Both nations have expressed interest in strengthening ties, not only through economic partnerships but also through cultural and educational exchanges.**

On one hand, Australians have a profound respect for Indian culture. The vibrancy of Indian festivals, the richness of its culinary traditions, and the depth of its historical heritage are widely celebrated in Australia. Events like Diwali and Holi are not just confined to the Indian community but have found resonance across broader Australian society, showcasing an appreciation for the cultural diversity Indians bring to the table.

The contribution of Indians to the Australian economy and society is another aspect that garners admiration. Indian professionals, students, and entrepreneurs have made their mark in various sectors, including information technology, education, healthcare, and business. Their hard work, ambition, and success stories have contributed to a positive image, highlighting the valuable skills and perspectives Indians add to the Australian



workforce and community.

However, the relationship is not without its challenges. Stereotypes and misconceptions about Indians still persist in some quarters, fuelled by media portrayal and isolated incidents. There have been instances of racial discrimination and violence against Indians, which have strained relations and led to widespread concern within the community. These incidents, although not reflective of the broader Australian sentiment, have prompted discussions on racial tolerance and the need for a more inclusive society.

Education and interaction are key to overcoming stereotypes. Many Australians who have had personal or professional interactions with Indians hold positive views, underscoring the importance of cross-cultural exchanges

in fostering understanding and respect.

Educational initiatives that promote an accurate understanding of Indian culture, history, and contributions to Australia are crucial in dispelling myths and building bridges between the two communities.

The Indian diaspora in Australia also plays a significant role in shaping perceptions. By actively participating in the socio-economic spheres of Australian life and engaging in cultural exchange, they help demystify Indian culture and demonstrate the mutual benefits of a diverse society. The success of Indian Australians in various fields, including politics, sports, and entertainment, also contributes to a positive image, showcasing the potential of an integrated multicultural society.

Looking ahead, the future of Indo-Australian relations seems promising. Both nations have expressed interest in strengthening ties, not only through economic partnerships but also through cultural and educational exchanges. The increasing interaction between Australians and Indians is likely to continue enhancing mutual understanding and respect, contributing to a more cohesive and inclusive society.

The perceptions of Australians towards Indians are reflective of a broader dialogue on multiculturalism and diversity. While challenges remain, the overall trend is one of growing appreciation and respect for the contributions of the Indian community. By fostering open dialogue, encouraging cultural exchanges, and addressing stereotypes, Australia can continue to nurture a society that values diversity and harnesses the strengths of its multicultural population.

**The increasing interaction between Australians and Indians is likely to continue enhancing mutual understanding and respect, contributing to a more cohesive and inclusive society.**





# Multicultural leaders unite for 60th Red Shield Appeal, launched by The Hon. Daniel Mookhey

MEDIA RELEASE

The Salvation Army's national multicultural launch of the annual Red Shield Appeal was officially launched by The Hon. Daniel Mookhey, MLC Member of the Legislative Council – NSW and NSW Treasurer on Monday along with Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, Territorial Commander of The Salvation Army.

Business, community, and media leaders from multicultural audiences who spoke over 30 languages attended and celebrated the event.

Celebrating its 60th year, The Red Shield Appeal is The Salvation Army's flagship fundraising appeal and Australia's largest and longest running doorknock appeal. This year,

**With unwavering support from multicultural communities over the years, The Salvation Army works tirelessly to provide inclusive support services and deepen community connections.**



The Salvation Army are aiming to raise \$38 million nationally to fund vital work around the country, including the key work The Salvation Army does within multicultural communities.

Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, Territorial Commander of The Salvation Army said, "The Salvation Army have been committed to standing alongside and supporting those from multicultural communities for the last 140 years, and we continue to provide services and programs in communities that have a lasting impact."

"The Salvation Army multicultural launch provides The Salvos with an amazing opportunity to connect with multicultural community leaders who are passionate about supporting people within multicultural communities. We are also extremely grateful to MultiConnexions, who have supported The Salvation Army and hosted this event for over 20 years."

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey said: "Multicultural communities in Australia are

an integral part of the economic and social fabric of our society. We are proud of our multicultural communities who contribute enormously in all facets of Australian life. It is my privilege to launch The Salvation Army's annual 60th Red Shield Appeal in 2024 to multicultural communities across Australia. The Salvos are a valuable and inclusive organisation, helping people in need without discrimination."

Sheba Nandkeolyar, CEO of MultiConnexions and Eva Burrows Award recipient said: "Multicultural audiences in Australia are proud of their country of origin, and also proud to be able to contribute to their country of adoption – Australia. With unwavering support from multicultural communities over the years, The Salvation Army works tirelessly to provide inclusive support services and deepen community connections. MultiConnexions is honoured to support the Red Shield Appeal multicultural launch over the years but more so this year

being a milestone 60th year."

Each year, through The Salvation Army's nationwide network of over 400 centres and 2,000 services in areas such as homelessness, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, youth support, family and domestic violence, financial hardship and much more, the Salvos provide\*:

- Assistance to one person every 17 seconds
- More than 1.67 million sessions of care to over 250,000 people in need
- Over 1.2 million bed nights to those who need accommodation
- More than 1.63 million meals to those who access our homelessness services

**To donate to The Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal, or if you need support from The Salvos, visit [salvationarmy.org.au](http://salvationarmy.org.au) or call 13 SALVOS. You can also donate at any Salvos Store.**





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# Deciphering the deluge

# The forces behind Dubai's unprecedented flooding

NIVEDITA NAGPAL

In a region synonymous with arid landscapes and towering dunes, the recent catastrophic flooding in Dubai has prompted a flurry of questions and concerns. As the city grapples with the aftermath, experts and citizens alike are keen to understand the origins of such intense rainfall, especially in a city not typically associated with such weather extremes. A significant point of inquiry has been the role of cloud seeding, a weather modification technique that the United Arab Emirates has employed for years.

### The Storm that Swamped Dubai

Dubai, part of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), experienced unprecedented rainfall that led to severe flooding, disrupting daily life and causing substantial property damage. The city, built to epitomise modernity and resilience, found its infrastructure overwhelmed, with roads submerged and businesses shuttered. The intensity and volume of the rainfall were

unusual for a region that receives an average annual rainfall of just 100mm

### Understanding Cloud Seeding

To comprehend the potential impacts of cloud seeding on the recent storms, it is essential to first understand what cloud seeding is and how it functions. Cloud seeding involves the introduction of substances into the atmosphere

Dubai's unusual flooding sparks inquiries on causes, including cloud seeding, amid arid region's surprise

that serve as cloud condensation or ice nuclei. The most common chemicals used are silver iodide, potassium iodide, and sodium chloride. These particles encourage the formation of droplets or ice, which coalesce and may eventually fall as precipitation if the cloud and atmospheric conditions are suitable.

The UAE has been at the forefront of using cloud seeding as a method to enhance water security in a region that is naturally water-scarce. The technique is aimed at boosting rainfall in order to replenish aquifers and reservoirs that are crucial for the country's water supply.

Dubai's rare heavy rainfall caused floods, damaging infrastructure and disrupting daily life in the modern city built for resilience.





### Cloud Seeding- A Contributor or Coincidence?

While it is known that the UAE conducted cloud seeding operations around the time of the flooding, attributing the floods solely to this practice is not straightforward. Cloud seeding is generally used to enhance precipitation within existing cloud systems and is not known to create storm systems on its own. Furthermore, the science of cloud seeding is still not entirely predictable, and its efficacy varies greatly depending on atmospheric conditions.

Experts suggest that while cloud seeding might have enhanced the rainfall, the primary drivers were the robust weather system and the conducive atmospheric conditions. Thus, it's likely that the cloud seeding operations intensified what would have already been a significant weather event.

### Analysing the Weather Patterns

Meteorological analysis indicates that the immediate cause of the heavy rains was a potent weather system that moved into the UAE from the east. Enhanced by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Gulf of Oman, the system was ripe for intense precipitation. The atmospheric conditions included a high level of humidity and an influx of warm air, which contributed to cloud formation and subsequent rainfall.

**Cloud seeding may have enhanced rainfall, but major floods driven by natural weather conditions primarily.**

### Moving Forward- Policy and Preparedness

The Dubai floods have underscored the need for urban infrastructure capable of handling extreme weather events, irrespective of their cause. Urban planners and policymakers are now faced with reassessing the city's flood management systems to accommodate the possibility of such unpredictable weather events in the future.

Moreover, the incident has highlighted the need for further research into the impacts of cloud seeding, including how, when, and where it should be deployed. As climate variability increases, understanding the interplay between natural weather events and human-induced changes is crucial.



### The Debate Over Cloud Seeding

The flooding has sparked a broader debate about the use of cloud seeding as a meteorological intervention. Proponents argue that cloud seeding is a vital tool for managing water resources in arid regions and has been a part of the UAE's environmental strategy for decades. However, critics caution about the unintended consequences of tampering with natural weather patterns and the potential for such technology to exacerbate weather extremes under certain conditions.

The Dubai floods have provided a stark reminder of the power of nature and the need for preparedness and resilience in urban planning. Whether or not cloud seeding played a decisive role in the recent deluge, the event is a call to action for enhanced weather monitoring and infrastructure robustness, ensuring that cities like Dubai can withstand whatever weather comes their way. As the region moves forward, balancing technological interventions with natural dynamics will be key to safeguarding its future against similar unprecedented events.





# A flourishing partnership

## The rise of the Indian community and educational ties between Karnataka & Australia

AMIT BATRA

**A**ustralia's demographic landscape is transforming, with the Indian community now recognised as the country's second-largest and fastest-growing overseas group. This shift is not only reshaping cultural interactions but also bolstering educational ties, particularly between the state of Karnataka and Australia. The Australian Consul General in Bengaluru recently highlighted the burgeoning number of partnerships in education, emphasizing a mutual commitment to nurturing these connections.

### The Growing Indian Community in Australia

Over recent years, the Indian community in Australia has seen exponential growth, making significant contributions across various sectors including technology, medicine, and academia. As of the latest statistics, Indians represent the second-largest immigrant group in Australia, showcasing a vibrant mix of cultures and traditions that enrich the Australian social fabric.

This growth is supported by a strong network of community groups and cultural organizations that facilitate smoother

integration of Indians into Australian society. Festivals such as Diwali and Holi are celebrated with great enthusiasm across Australian cities, reflecting the community's vibrant culture and its increasing influence in shaping the multicultural identity of the country.

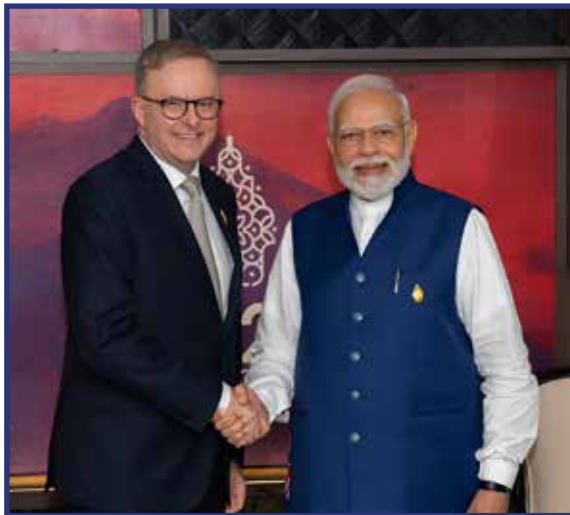
### The Role of Universities in Deepening Ties

Key universities in Karnataka and Australia have been instrumental in forging these educational links. Institutions like the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and the University of Melbourne have launched joint PhD programs and research grants that allow students and researchers to gain international exposure and work on projects that have global relevance.

Furthermore, vocational training programs are also part of the educational exchange, catering to a broader spectrum of students and professionals. These programs are tailored to enhance skills in areas such as information technology, healthcare, and engineering, which are in high demand in both regions.

### Educational Synergies Between Karnataka and Australia

The relationship between Karnataka and Australia has entered a particularly dynamic phase, with education forming the cornerstone of this engagement. Both regions are renowned



for their academic excellence, and this common ground has paved the way for substantial collaborative ventures.

The Australian Consul General in Bengaluru pointed out that both regions offer a welcoming environment for educational collaborations, which is evident from the increasing

number of partnerships. These collaborations are multifaceted, often involving student and faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and initiatives that combine industry and academic expertise to solve real-world problems.

### Mutual Benefits of Educational Partnerships

The benefits of these educational partnerships are manifold. For students, these programs offer a global perspective, preparing them for careers that transcend national borders. Australian students gain unique insights into India's rapidly growing tech industry and its role in global markets, while Indian students in Australia can take advantage of the country's innovation-led approach and strong research capabilities.

For universities, these collaborations enhance their international standing and attract a wider pool of talented applicants. Joint research initiatives allow them to pool resources and expertise, leading to innovations and breakthroughs that might be more challenging to achieve independently.

### The Broader Impact on Bilateral Relations

The strengthening educational ties between Karnataka and Australia are a microcosm of the broader relationship between India and Australia. As these interactions deepen, they foster a better understanding and appreciation of each other's strengths and challenges. The Indian community's growth in Australia and the educational partnerships with Karnataka are not just enhancing bilateral relations but are also building a foundation for future collaboration across various sectors.

As we move forward, the ties between Karnataka and Australia are set to become a benchmark for international cooperation in education, demonstrating how shared values and mutual respect can lead to prosperous and lasting relationships. This evolving partnership stands as a testament to the power of education in bridging distances and differences, fostering a connected world where knowledge and culture flow seamlessly across borders.

**Australia's Indian community grows, reshaping culture and enhancing educational connections, especially with Karnataka.**

### Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the enthusiasm surrounding these educational exchanges, challenges such as visa regulations, recognition of qualifications, and cultural adjustments remain. Both Karnataka and Australian educational authorities are working closely to streamline processes and ensure that bureaucratic hurdles do not impede the flow of knowledge and talent.

Looking forward, the potential for expanding these educational ties is vast. Areas like artificial intelligence, sustainable development, and public health are ripe for joint initiatives, reflecting both regions' commitment to addressing pressing global challenges.



# Exploring the Indian Cultural tapestry in Australia

MAHESH MOHAN



Australia, often referred to as the “Land Down Under,” is not just a melting pot of diverse cultures from around the world but also a place where you can experience a slice of India without leaving the continent. From vibrant festivals to authentic cuisine and spiritual retreats, there are numerous places across Australia that beautifully portray the rich tapestry of Indian culture. In this editorial, we will take you on a journey through some of these remarkable locations.

## Little India in Melbourne

Melbourne’s vibrant Little India, located in the heart of the city, is a microcosm of India itself. The aromatic spices waft through the air as you wander down the bustling streets, lined with shops selling intricate saris, traditional jewellery, and an array of Indian street food. On weekends, the Diwali Festival transforms this neighbourhood into a sea of lights and colours, celebrating the Festival of Lights with enthusiasm and fervour.

## The Taste of Kerala in Brisbane

Brisbane boasts a unique culinary scene with a focus on South Indian cuisine, particularly from the state of Kerala. You can relish the flavours of Kerala’s aromatic spices and coconut-infused dishes at various restaurants. It’s an authentic culinary journey that brings the essence of Kerala to the heart of Australia.

## Indian Film Festivals

Australia hosts several Indian film festivals throughout the year, showcasing the best of Bollywood and independent Indian cinema. These festivals provide a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of Indian storytelling, featuring films that explore a wide range of themes, from romance to social issues.

## Indian Art and Crafts in Perth

Perth hosts numerous Indian art and craft exhibitions that showcase the talent of Indian artisans. From intricate handwoven textiles to stunning jewellery, you can explore and purchase a wide range of Indian handicrafts. These exhibitions are a testament to the rich artistic heritage of India.

**Australia offers Indian culture experiences through festivals, food, and retreats, unique and vibrant.**

## The Festival of Lights in Sydney and Melbourne

The Diwali Festival, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated with great enthusiasm in both Sydney and Melbourne. These annual events feature stunning light displays, traditional dance performances, and a wide array of Indian street food. It’s a time when the entire Australian Indian community comes together to share the joy and warmth of this significant cultural celebration.

## Parramatta’s Curry Precinct in Sydney

Sydney’s Parramatta district is renowned for its Curry Precinct, where you can savour authentic Indian cuisine in a variety of restaurants. From spicy curries to tandoori delights, the culinary experience here is a treat for the senses. Don’t forget to visit during the annual Parramasala Festival, which showcases Indian music, dance, and art, providing a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of India.

## Adelaide’s Meditation Retreats

For those seeking inner peace and spiritual enlightenment, Adelaide offers a range of meditation retreats inspired by Indian practices. These serene sanctuaries provide the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Here, you can learn the art of yoga, meditation, and mindfulness, all while immersing yourself in the teachings of ancient Indian philosophy.

## Holi Celebrations Across the Country

The vibrant and colourful festival of Holi is celebrated with gusto across many Australian cities. From Sydney’s Holi Mahotsav to Melbourne’s Holi Festival, these events bring the spirit of joy and unity to the forefront. Participants of all backgrounds come together to throw colourful powders and celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

Australia’s multicultural fabric warmly embraces the essence of Indian culture. From the bustling streets of Little India to the serene meditation retreats, from the fiery curries of Parramatta to the stunning lights of Diwali, there are countless places across Australia where you can experience the beauty and diversity of India. So, next time you’re in Australia, embark on this cultural journey and let the vibrant tapestry of India enrich your Australian experience.

**Explore Australia’s Indian culture: Little India, curry, Diwali, meditation, diversity.**





# HAVE ADVENTURES, NOT REGRETS

MEDIA RELEASE

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade partnered with the Insurance Council of Australia to research Australians' sentiments around travel, travel insurance, and Smartraveller.

The research found that Smartraveller is a trusted source of advice. But it also found that Australians still take unnecessary risks when they head overseas, especially with travel insurance.

Travel doesn't always go to plan. It's essential to know the risks and ensure you're covered if things go wrong.

## Insurance isn't an optional extra

Travel insurance is as vital as your passport. An unexpected accident or illness can cost many 1000s of dollars.

Yet two in five (41%) Australians consider travelling overseas without insurance. This rises to

- 54% for travellers under 30
- 46% for those with a household income of less than \$100,000.

One in seven (15%) recent travellers without insurance said they didn't get it because of the cost. But if you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel.

The most common reason (24%) for Australians considering travel without insurance was going somewhere they see as safe. This could be because they've been there before, have family there, or just feel it's a safe country. Travel insurance covers the unexpected, such as:

- accidents
- theft, loss and damage of valuables
- illness
- cancellations.

These can happen anywhere. Even if the country you're travelling to is safe. Get travel insurance no matter where you're going or what you're doing.

## Smartraveller is a valuable tool

67% of travellers visited Smartraveller before travelling overseas.

Almost all who visited Smartraveller felt it made them more:

- aware of risks (94%)
- equipped to manage risks when travelling (92%).

But 67% of travellers said they might still travel somewhere with an advice level of 'reconsider your need to travel'. And 27% said they might still travel to a 'do not travel' destination.

## What do our advice levels mean?

- **At level 3** - 'reconsider your need to travel', there are serious and potentially life-threatening risks.
- **At level 4** - 'do not travel', your health and safety may be at extreme risk.

The help the Australian Government can provide in level 3 and 4 destinations may be limited. Your travel insurance may also not be valid.

Read more about our travel advice levels here <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/node/33#levels>



**smartraveller**  
.gov.au

The research found that Smartraveller is a trusted source of advice. But it also found that Australians still take unnecessary risks when they head overseas, especially with travel insurance.



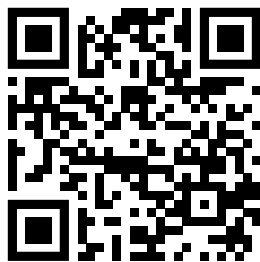


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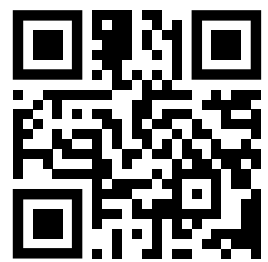
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# Fostering solidarity- Australians' vital role in uplifting Indian society

MITALI SARDESAI

In an era where global cooperation is more crucial than ever, Australians are playing a significant role in the development and upliftment of Indian society. Their contribution, spanning a diverse range of sectors, not only underscores a commitment to international solidarity but also highlights the deepening relationship between Australia and India.

## Educational Empowerment

At the forefront of this collaborative journey is the field of education. Australian academic institutions have become key players in empowering Indian students, offering them unparalleled opportunities for higher education and research. The 'Sydney Scholars India Scholarship Program' by the University of Sydney stands as a testament to this effort. By providing scholarships to Indian students, these institutions are facilitating cultural exchange

and granting access to world-class education, thus fostering a global learning community.

## Educational Initiatives Beyond Scholarships

Beyond scholarships, Australian educational involvement also includes faculty exchange programs and collaborative research projects, contributing to a vibrant academic exchange that enriches the educational landscapes of both nations.



## Technology and Innovation

The technology sector has witnessed Australian experts and Indian professionals coming together on projects such as 'Tech4Good'. This collaboration is focused on developing sustainable, affordable technology solutions aimed at improving agricultural productivity and sustainability in India, thereby addressing one of the nation's critical economic sectors.

## Technological Exchange Beyond Agriculture

The technological exchange between Australia and India goes beyond agricultural solutions. Australian tech firms are collaborating with Indian counterparts in areas like software development, digital infrastructure, and smart city projects, bringing innovative solutions to contemporary challenges.



## Healthcare Beyond Medical Aid

Australian contributions in healthcare extend beyond direct medical aid. They include sharing best practices, training medical professionals, and providing support in healthcare management and infrastructure development.

## Healthcare Initiatives

In the healthcare sector, Australian organisations have been instrumental, particularly in reaching out to India's rural and underprivileged areas. 'Doctors For You, Australia' is one such organisation that has made a profound impact. Ranging from organising medical camps to conducting health education programs, their work became especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, with Australian medical teams playing a vital role in relief activities and vaccine distribution across India.



### Environmental Projects Beyond Conservation

Australian involvement in India's environmental efforts includes collaborative research in climate change, water management, and renewable energy projects, contributing to sustainable development goals.

### Environmental Sustainability

In the realm of environmental conservation, Australian environmentalists and NGOs have been actively involved in India. Initiatives like 'GreenAid', focusing on afforestation, wildlife conservation, and sustainable living practices, are addressing some of the pressing environmental challenges that India faces, including pollution and deforestation.

**Australians help India in many areas, building a strong bond between the two countries and supporting global cooperation.**



### Community Development Beyond Volunteering

Australian involvement in community development in India also includes capacity building, skill development programs, and supporting grassroots organisations, aiding in sustainable community growth.

### Cultural Exchange Beyond Festivals

Cultural exchange between Australia and India is not limited to festivals and events. It encompasses collaborations in arts, music, literature, and cinema, further deepening the cultural ties between the two countries.



**Australians aid Indian society in education, healthcare, technology, environment, and culture, bolstering bilateral ties and fostering societal advancement. Their contributions span diverse sectors, enhancing cooperation and mutual development between the two nations.**

### Cultural and Community Programs

Cultural exchange programs also play a significant role in this bilateral relationship. Events like the 'Festival of Australia' in India have been pivotal in facilitating cultural, artistic, and academic interactions, thereby promoting mutual understanding and respect between the two cultures.

Furthermore, the commitment of Australian citizens to Indian society is evident in their engagement in community development projects across India. From volunteering in rural development to teaching in educational institutions and participating in community health initiatives, these efforts are a clear demonstration of Australians'

commitment to supporting and developing Indian communities.

In essence, the active participation of Australians across various sectors in India is a reflection of a robust bond between the two countries. Through their engagements in education, healthcare, technology, environmental conservation, and cultural programs, Australians are playing a crucial role in supporting the development and growth of Indian society. This collaboration not only benefits the targeted sectors but also strengthens the ties between Australia and India, paving the way for a future of continued cooperation and mutual development.



# Bridging distances Indian media and social networks' role in uniting the diaspora in Australia

RAKHI MALHOTRA

In the vast expanse that separates India from Australia, digital bridges constructed by Indian media and social networks have emerged as vital lifelines for the Indian diaspora. These platforms not only connect but also inform and engage Indian communities abroad, creating a sense of belonging and continuity with their cultural roots. This editorial explores the multifaceted role of Indian media and social networks in fostering a connected and informed Indian community in Australia, highlighting their impact on cultural preservation, community building, and integration into the multicultural Australian tapestry.

## The Digital Diaspora- Connection and Continuity

For the Indian diaspora in Australia, digital platforms offer a window to their homeland, keeping them connected with the cultural, political, and social developments of India. Indian news websites, streaming services, and social media channels provide real-time updates and entertainment, bridging thousands of kilometres with the click of a button. This constant flow of information and content helps maintain a sense of continuity with India's evolving cultural landscape, ensuring that the diaspora remains connected not just to their

families but to the broader narratives shaping their homeland.

## Social Networks- Community Building in the Digital Age

Social media platforms have transformed the way diaspora communities interact, offering spaces for engagement, discussion, and cultural exchange. Facebook groups, WhatsApp chats, and Instagram pages dedicated to Indian communities in Australia serve as digital town squares where individuals can share news, celebrate festivals, and seek support.

These networks play a crucial role in community building, allowing members to find a sense of belonging and community in a foreign land. They facilitate the organisation of cultural events, religious gatherings, and social meetups, ensuring that the Indian diaspora in Australia has a vibrant communal life that mirrors the social fabric of their homeland.

## Media as a Cultural Conduit

Indian media outlets operating in Australia, including radio stations, television channels, and online publications, act as cultural conduits, offering content that resonates with the diaspora's experiences and aspirations. These platforms not only provide entertainment and news but also play a significant role in cultural preservation. By broadcasting traditional music, dance, and festivals, they keep the rich tapestry of Indian culture alive in the hearts and minds of the diaspora. Moreover, they offer a platform for showcasing the talents and achievements of Indians in Australia, highlighting the contributions of the community to the broader Australian society.

## Navigating Integration and Identity

The role of Indian media and social networks extends beyond connection and entertainment; they are pivotal in navigating the dual identity that characterises the diaspora experience. Through targeted content that addresses the challenges and opportunities of living in Australia, these platforms offer guidance on integration into the multicultural Australian landscape while retaining a distinct cultural identity. They provide a space for dialogue

The future lies in leveraging these digital tools to further bridge distances, promote cultural exchange, and support the diaspora in navigating the complexities of their bicultural identity.







**They offer a platform for showcasing the talents and achievements of Indians in Australia, highlighting the contributions of the community to the broader Australian society.**

leaders, media organisations, and platform administrators to promote digital literacy and open dialogue that transcends cultural silos.

**The Way Forward**

As Indian media and social networks continue to evolve, their role in shaping the diaspora's experience in Australia becomes increasingly significant. By fostering a connected, informed, and engaged community, these platforms contribute to the vibrancy of the Indian diaspora, enriching the multicultural mosaic of Australia. The future lies in leveraging these digital tools to further bridge distances, promote cultural exchange, and support the diaspora in navigating the complexities of their bicultural identity.

The Indian media and social networks have undoubtedly become the lifelines of the Indian diaspora in Australia, offering more than just a connection to their homeland. They are pivotal in preserving cultural heritage, building community, and facilitating integration, thus playing a crucial role in the diaspora's journey towards establishing a cohesive identity that embraces the best of both worlds. As these platforms continue to adapt and grow, their potential to unite and inform the Indian communities abroad will only increase, heralding a new era of connectivity that transcends geographical boundaries.

**By broadcasting traditional music, dance, and festivals, they keep the rich tapestry of Indian culture alive in the hearts and minds of the diaspora.**

on issues such as racial discrimination, visa policies, and cultural adaptation, offering advice, solidarity, and advocacy. This dual focus helps the Indian community in Australia balance integration with the preservation of their heritage, fostering a sense of pride in their dual identity.

**The Challenges of Digital Connectivity**

While the benefits of Indian media and social networks in connecting the diaspora are manifold, challenges such as misinformation, digital divide, and the risk of cultural insularity also emerge. Ensuring the credibility of information and fostering inclusive platforms that encourage cross-cultural exchange are ongoing concerns. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from community



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# Indian Innovations

# A technological boon for Australia

DIVYA SINGH

Indian technological advancements have made a significant impact across various sectors in Australia, showcasing the strength and potential of Indo-Australian collaboration in technology.

## Cybersecurity Enhancements

Indian tech firms have been instrumental in enhancing Australia's cybersecurity. Companies like 'SecureWiz' have introduced advanced firewalls and intrusion detection systems that have made a considerable impact. In a notable case, the Melbourne-based 'AussieTrust' bank witnessed a 60% reduction in cyber threats after implementing solutions from SecureWiz. Furthermore, 'PredicThreat', an AI-driven tool for pre-emptive threat detection, has been adopted by several Australian government agencies, resulting in a 45% decrease in cybersecurity breaches.

## Smart City Development

The 'IntelliCity' project, a collaboration between Indian and Australian urban planners, employs IoT and big data to improve urban living. In a Sydney pilot project, this initiative led to a 30% improvement in traffic management and a 25% reduction in energy consumption, along with a 20% increase in public safety metrics.

## Advancements in Healthcare

The Indian-developed telemedicine platform 'HealthConnect' has dramatically expanded healthcare accessibility in remote Australian regions, with a 40% increase in service reach. Another notable innovation, 'AI-Medic', offers AI-driven diagnostic tools and has improved diagnostic accuracy by 35% in various Australian hospitals.

## Agriculture Technology

Indian advancements in agricultural technology have also found their way to Australia, with precision farming tools and climate-resilient crops helping Australian farmers improve yields by up to 20%.

**Indian tech innovations impact Australia, highlighting Indo-Australian potential for collaborative advancements.**



## E-Governance and Public Service

The 'GovEz' platform, an Indian tech initiative, has streamlined governmental processes in Australia. Its adoption has resulted in a 40% increase in public service delivery efficiency and a 30% rise in public satisfaction with government services.

These instances highlight the crucial role of Indian IT innovations in enhancing cybersecurity, smart city infrastructure, healthcare, education, and governance in Australia. The collaboration between India and Australia in these domains demonstrates a strong commitment to using technology for improved efficiency and better services.





### Revolutionising Education

'EduFuturo', an e-learning platform developed by Indian tech experts, has transformed education in Australia. This AI-based system has led to a 50% rise in student engagement and a 20% improvement in academic performance in schools where it's been implemented. It has also been instrumental in reducing the rural education gap by 15%.



### Challenges and Collaboration

Despite challenges like regulatory differences and market adaptation, the collaboration in technology between India and Australia continues to grow, driven by mutual benefits and a shared vision for a technologically advanced future.

### Environmental Management

Indian innovations in environmental management, particularly in water conservation and waste management, have been adopted in several Australian municipalities, leading to better resource management and environmental sustainability.

### Telecommunications Contributions

In telecommunications, Indian companies have been involved in the development of 5G networks in Australia, contributing to faster and more reliable mobile and internet services.

### Energy Sector Innovations

In the energy sector, Indian tech firms have introduced smart grid technologies in Australia, leading to more efficient energy distribution and reduced wastage. These innovations have contributed to a 15% reduction in energy costs in some Australian cities.

### Training and Skill Development

Indian tech firms have also been involved in training and skill development in Australia, helping to build a more technologically adept workforce and fostering knowledge exchange.

### Cultural Exchange through Technology

This technological collaboration also facilitates a cultural exchange, with Australian entities gaining insights into Indian innovation and vice versa, fostering a deeper understanding and partnership between the two countries.

### Boost in Bilateral Trade

The influx of Indian technology has not only benefited various sectors in Australia but also boosted bilateral trade, creating new economic opportunities and strengthening the economic ties between the two nations.



### Impact on Australian Society

The impact of these technological innovations extends beyond mere efficiency and cost-effectiveness. They also contribute to societal welfare, bringing about positive changes in everyday life and work in Australia.

In summary, Indian technological innovations have become a boon to Australia, touching various aspects of life and work. From enhancing cybersecurity and revolutionising education to streamlining governance and advancing healthcare, these innovations represent a synergy between Indian ingenuity and Australian openness to technological adoption, paving the way for a future of continued collaboration and mutual growth.



# Digital theft for nuclear gain

## North Korea's crypto heists funding its nuclear ambitions

DEEPAK GOPALAKRISHANAN

In the shadowy corners of international finance and global security, North Korea has found an unconventional means of sustaining its nuclear ambitions- cryptocurrency heists. This burgeoning digital frontier has become a battleground where Pyongyang's operatives engage in sophisticated cyber warfare, targeting the vast, often unregulated reserves of digital currencies. This strategy not only highlights the regime's adaptability to technology but also underscores a growing threat to global financial stability.

# CRIME SCENE

### The Nexus of Cryptocurrency and Geopolitics

Cryptocurrencies, by design, offer a level of anonymity and are subject to minimal regulation, presenting an attractive loophole for entities facing heavy international sanctions. North Korea, isolated and heavily sanctioned due to its nuclear programme, has turned to cryptocurrency theft as a significant revenue stream. These digital heists provide the regime with necessary funds to circumvent economic blockades and

finance their nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

**The Lazarus Group's activities extend beyond simple financial gain. They also gather intelligence that could be beneficial for national security preparations and advancing nuclear capabilities.**

### Scale and Scope of the Heists

Reports from the United Nations and various cybersecurity agencies indicate that North Korean hackers, linked to the Reconnaissance General Bureau, North Korea's top military intelligence agency, have stolen over \$2 billion in cryptocurrencies in recent years. The tactics employed are diverse, ranging from phishing scams to malware attacks, exploiting the security vulnerabilities of crypto exchanges and individual wallets.

One notable method involves the use of sophisticated malware that infiltrates computer networks, allowing the hackers to initiate unauthorised transfers of cryptocurrency. Another strategy is spear-phishing, where specific individuals are targeted with deceptive communications, tricking them into revealing their private encryption keys or directly transferring funds to wallets controlled by the hackers.

### The Lazarus Group - A Cyber Warfare Behemoth

Central to North Korea's cyber heists is the Lazarus Group, a notorious collective of cybercriminals believed to be operated by





the North Korean government. This group has been implicated in several high-profile attacks, including the infamous WannaCry ransomware attack in 2017, which affected thousands of computers across 150 countries, causing billions of dollars in damages.

The Lazarus Group's activities extend beyond simple financial gain. They also gather intelligence that could be beneficial for national security preparations and advancing nuclear capabilities. By targeting financial institutions, cryptocurrency exchanges, and energy providers, they collect critical information and test the capabilities and responsiveness of potential adversaries.

### International Responses and Challenges

The international community has struggled to respond effectively to North Korea's forays into digital theft. The decentralised and often unregulated nature of the cryptocurrency market makes it particularly challenging to track and safeguard against such thefts. While sanctions continue to be the primary tool used by the United Nations and individual countries to pressure North Korea, these measures have had limited impact on curbing cyber activities.

Moreover, efforts to enhance cybersecurity and protect digital assets have been inconsistent across the globe. Countries and private entities alike are urged to increase their cybersecurity measures, enforce stricter regulations on cryptocurrency transactions, and improve collaboration between international law enforcement agencies.

### The Broader Implications for Cybersecurity

North Korea's success in funding its nuclear programme through

cryptocurrency theft sets a precedent for other rogue states and criminal organisations to follow. This elevates the issue from a mere financial concern to a matter of international security. The potential for cryptocurrencies to fund illegal activities can undermine the global financial system, highlighting the need for a coordinated international approach to both cryptocurrency regulation and cybersecurity.

### Towards a Cooperative Future

Addressing the threat posed by North Korea's digital heists requires a multifaceted approach. Firstly, enhancing the security protocols of cryptocurrency exchanges and wallets is crucial. This involves not only better technology but also educating users and administrators about the risks and signs of cyber intrusions.

Secondly, there is a pressing need for international legal frameworks to regulate cryptocurrencies more strictly. Such regulations would help in tracking and preventing the flow of funds to and from illicit activities. Lastly, global cooperation is essential in sharing intelligence, tracking cybercriminal activities, and enforcing sanctions effectively.

The merging of digital finance and international security presented by North Korea's crypto heists is a stark reminder of the new age of warfare and crime. As the world becomes more interconnected digitally, the repercussions of such actions become globally significant, demanding an equally global response. The urgency for enhanced protective measures and international cooperation continues to grow as these threats evolve in complexity and scale.



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# Strengthening Ties

# AUSTRALIA RECOGNISES INDIA AS A

# TOP-TIER SECURITY PARTNER

ALI RAZA



Australia's latest national defence strategy marks a significant shift in its geopolitical focus, with India now recognised as a top-tier security partner. This development is a testament to the evolving dynamics within the Indo-Pacific region, where strategic alliances are increasingly dictated by the need to manage rising tensions and foster regional stability.

## Background of the Strategic Alliance

The recognition of India as a principal security ally aligns with Australia's broader strategic objectives to enhance collaboration with major democracies in the Indo-Pacific. Historically, Australia and India have shared cordial, if somewhat underdeveloped, diplomatic and military relations. However, in recent years, growing concerns over regional security threats, most notably the rise of China's military and economic influence, have driven Australia to seek stronger alliances with other democratic nations.

## Key Components of the New Defence Strategy

Australia's revised national defence strategy includes several key components that underscore India's role as a central partner-

### 1. Enhanced Military Cooperation

Australia plans to increase joint military exercises and personnel exchanges with India. This move aims to improve interoperability and understanding between the two forces, covering a range of activities from naval drills in the Indian Ocean to joint air force exercises.

**As geopolitical tensions continue to shape the landscape of the region, the partnership between Australia and India will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in maintaining regional balance and fostering enduring peace and stability.**



### 2. Intelligence Sharing

The strategy highlights a significant increase in intelligence-sharing efforts, aimed at countering threats to regional security and enhancing maritime surveillance. This is particularly crucial in light of increasing maritime activity by strategic competitors in the Indo-Pacific waters.

### 3. Cybersecurity Collaboration

Recognising the growing threat in the digital domain, Australia seeks to bolster its cybersecurity measures through partnerships with India. This involves collaboration on cybersecurity technologies and joint strategies to combat cyber threats, which are increasingly becoming a part of modern warfare.

### 4. Defence Technology and Innovation

The strategy proposes closer ties in defence





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technology and collaborative research and development projects. This could include the co-development of defence equipment and sharing of innovations that cater to the specific strategic needs of the Indo-Pacific region.

**Strategic Implications**

The inclusion of India as a top-tier security partner is a move that has significant strategic implications-

**Balancing China**

This partnership is part of a broader strategy by Australia to balance China's assertive posture in the region. By aligning more closely with India, Australia aims to enhance its strategic depth in the Indo-Pacific.

**Quad Group Strengthening**

India's elevation in Australia's defence strategy also reinforces the strategic importance of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), which includes the United States, Japan, India, and Australia. This alignment serves as a counterbalance to China and aims to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific.

**Economic Benefits**

Beyond security, this strategic partnership is likely to spur increased economic ties, with enhanced trade in defence equipment and technology sharing, potentially boosting both countries' defence industries.

**Australian and Indian Reactions**

The announcement has been met with approval in Australia, where there is a strong recognition of the need for a robust response to the complex security challenges in the Indo-Pacific. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) views these enhanced ties with India as a critical step

in ensuring the ADF's preparedness and ability to respond to emerging threats.

In India, the response has been equally positive. India sees this partnership as an opportunity to solidify its role as a major security provider in the region and to further its strategic interests. This recognition by Australia also helps validate India's longstanding commitment to being a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific.

**Future Directions**

The path forward for this strategic partnership involves not only increased defence and security collaboration but also enhancing political and cultural ties between the two nations. Future dialogues will likely explore ways to extend cooperation into areas such as climate change, economic recovery post-COVID-19, and technological innovation.

Moreover, both nations are keen on ensuring that their strategic partnership contributes positively to the broader regional architecture, promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Australia's recognition of India as a top-tier security partner is a clear indicator of the shifting patterns of alliance and influence in Asia. As geopolitical tensions continue to shape the landscape of the region, the partnership between Australia and India will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in maintaining regional balance and fostering enduring peace and stability. This strategic move not only enhances the security frameworks of both nations but also sets a precedent for future international cooperation in a complex global environment.



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# Diplomatic perspectives-

## Australia and Israel on witnessing India's electoral process

DAISY AKHTAR



The world's largest democracy is gearing up for another monumental electoral exercise, and international eyes are keenly focused on India. Notably, Australia's envoy has expressed an eager anticipation to experience India's elections first-hand. This sentiment is echoed by Israeli diplomat Tammy Ben-Haim, who has praised India, describing it as her "favourite largest democracy in the world." These diplomatic engagements highlight the global significance of India's democratic processes and the deep interest they garner from countries such as Australia and Israel.

### Australia's Envoy- A Front-Row Seat to Democracy

The announcement by Australia's envoy to experience the Indian elections first-hand underscores the strong diplomatic and democratic bonds that link Australia and India. This initiative is more than just a diplomatic formality; it represents a profound respect for India's robust democratic traditions and an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations through shared democratic values.

Australia and India have a history of cooperation that spans various sectors, including defence, trade, and education. By witnessing India's elections, the Australian envoy not only pays homage to these ties but also reinforces the mutual interests of governance transparency and democratic integrity. This experience will provide valuable insights into the electoral process of a diverse and populous nation, contributing to a deeper understanding that may inform Australia's engagement strategies with India and beyond.

### Israeli Diplomat's Admiration for Indian Democracy

Israeli diplomat Tammy Ben-Haim's statement calling India her "favourite largest democracy in the world" reflects a sentiment of admiration and respect towards India's democratic ethos. Israel and India, despite their stark differences in size and demographic composition, share commonalities in strategic interests and democratic values. Ben-Haim's comments are indicative of the broader Israeli perspective that views India as a crucial ally not only in political and economic arenas but also as a fellow democracy.

Israel's focus on India's electoral system highlights the significance it places on democratic health and vibrancy, which are crucial for the stability of strategic partnerships. The emphasis on democracy serves as a cornerstone for deeper bilateral relations, fostering a mutual understanding grounded in shared governance principles.

### The Global Significance of India's Elections

India's elections are a massive logistical undertaking, involving over 900 million eligible voters in recent polls. The scale and diversity of India's electorate make its elections a subject of study and admiration worldwide. For countries like Australia and Israel, understanding the intricacies of managing such a vast democratic exercise provides critical insights into governance, public administration, and electoral integrity.

Furthermore, the way India handles the complexities of its elections—ensuring they are free, fair, and inclusive—serves as a benchmark for democracies around the world. The international community, including observers from various countries and organizations, often looks to India to draw lessons on electoral management and innovation.



and interest in India's democratic mechanisms enhance diplomatic relations and highlight the universal values that underpin democratic societies.

As India prepares for its electoral showcase, the attention it draws from countries like Australia and Israel underscores the interconnectedness of democracies worldwide. The experiences shared and lessons learned from such grand democratic exercises are invaluable, fostering a global dialogue on democracy that transcends borders and cultures. This mutual admiration and respect for democratic processes enhance diplomatic ties and contribute to a richer, more nuanced understanding of governance in the 21st century.

India's democratic processes are gaining global attention, with Australia's envoy eager to witness first-hand elections, and Israeli diplomat Tammy Ben-Haim praising India as her "favourite largest democracy."

### Democratic Observations and Bilateral Synergies

The participation of diplomats like Australia's envoy in observing Indian elections is a testament to the importance of democratic exercises in fostering international relations. Such engagements allow for the exchange of ideas and best practices in electoral governance, which can help strengthen democratic institutions globally.

Moreover, these observations can lead to bilateral synergies where countries collaborate on enhancing electoral transparency and integrity. For instance, technological advancements in voting and voter registration systems are areas where India, Australia, and Israel can share knowledge and innovations.

### Strengthening Democratic Alliances

The interest shown by Australian and Israeli diplomats in India's elections also symbolizes an acknowledgment of the strategic importance of democratic alliances in today's geopolitical climate. In an era where democratic values are increasingly under pressure in various parts of the world, reinforcing commitments to democratic principles is crucial.

The public endorsement of India's democratic processes by high-ranking diplomats not only enhances India's stature on the world stage but also encourages a global environment where democracy is celebrated and protected. These expressions of support



# फ्री किंडर: एक परिवार की सफलता की कहानी



MEDIA RELEASE

विक्टोरिया में, फ्री किंडर कार्यक्रम प्रारंभिक बचपन की शिक्षा में एक मिसाल स्थापित कर रहा है, जो युवा दिमाग को पोषित करने के लिए एक मज़बूत ढांचा प्रदान करता है। समुदाय की विविध आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए, यह पहल केवल एक शैक्षिक अवसर से अधिक है; यह एक व्यापक समाधान है जो परिवारों के लिए विशेषज्ञ देखभाल, पर्यवेक्षण और महत्वपूर्ण वित्तीय बचत प्रदान करता है।

## फ्री किंडर से पहले परिवार की स्थिति

उपनगरीय मेलबोर्न में शर्मा परिवार को ले लीजिए। कई अन्य लोगों की तरह, दैनिक दिनचर्या एक अंतहीन ज़िम्मेदारी थी। राज, बड़े बेटे, अक्सर अपनी छोटी बहन माया के लिए कार्यवाहक की भूमिका निभाते थे, जो अपने स्वयं के पाठ्येतर हितों का त्याग करते थे। मेहमान दादा-दादी ने मदद करने की कोशिश की, लेकिन इसके बजाय, खुद को बच्चों की देखभाल की भौतिक मांगों से अभिभूत पाया, साथ ही अपनी उम्र संबंधी चुनौतियों से भी भरा हुआ।

मां अनीता, उनकी तनावपूर्ण स्थिति को याद करते हुए कहती हैं, "हमारे बच्चों को दूसरों की देखभाल में छोड़ना हमारे लिए चिंता का विषय था। यहां तक कि देखभाल के लिए दादा-दादी या बड़े भाई-बहनों से भी यह मांगना बहुत अधिक है, क्योंकि उनकी क्षमताएं सीमित हैं। अतः हमें ऐसा लगने लगा जैसे हम अपने बच्चों के विकास के बुनियादी ढांचे पर समझौता कर रहे हैं और परिवार पर बहुत अधिक दबाव डाल रहे हैं।"

## फ्री किंडर लाया परिवर्तन

फ्री किंडर कार्यक्रम के तहत 3 साल के किंडरगार्टन में नामांकन करने से शर्मा परिवार के जीवन में एक बड़ा परिवर्तन आया। राज अब क्रिकेट खेलने लगा और साथ ही संगीत भी सीख पाया, जिसने उसकी

व्यक्तिगत विकास और सफलता में बहुत योगदान दिया। देखभाल की ज़िम्मेदारियों से मुक्त होकर दादा-दादी एक अधिक आरामदायक जीवनशैली का आनंद ले सकते थे, जिससे उनके स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण में स्पष्ट सुधार हुआ। और सबसे जरूरी, छोटी माया, किंडर के विशेष देखभाल में सुरक्षित थी, और नई सीख का अनुभव कर रही थी।

परिवार के तनाव के स्तर में महत्वपूर्ण कमी के बारे में बात करते हुए, अनीता बोली, "माया का एक सुरक्षित सुविधा में, प्रशिक्षित पेशेवरों की देखभाल में रहना, नई चीज़ सीखना, दोस्त बनाना, मेरे लिए अमूल्य है। मैं बता नहीं सकती कि यह मेरे लिये कितना राहतकारी है। साथ ही मेरे बेटे और ससुराल वालों को भी अपने लिए समय मिला। सब खुश है, ये सभी की जीत है।"

## आर्थिक और भावनात्मक राहत

फ्री किंडर कार्यक्रम का आर्थिक पहलू शर्मा परिवार के लिए समान रूप से परिवर्तनकारी रहा है, जिससे उन्हें प्रति वर्ष लगभग \$2500 की बचत होती है। इससे वे पैसे बचाने में सक्षम हो गए, जिसका उपयोग परिवार की अन्य महत्वपूर्ण जरूरतों के लिए किया जा सकता था।

"लागत और खर्च बढ़ने के साथ, आर्थिक लाभ वास्तव में एक बड़ी मदद है, खासकर, क्योंकि यह न केवल पैसा बचा रहा है, यह हमें अपने बच्चों के भविष्य में निवेश करने का अवसर भी प्रदान कर रहा है," अनीता बताती हैं।

शर्मा परिवार के समान, फ्री किंडर कार्यक्रम ने विक्टोरिया में कई अन्य लोगों के लिए शैक्षिक और पारिवारिक परिदृश्य को फिर से परिभाषित किया है। आर्थिक दबावों को दूर करके, माता-पिता की चिंताओं को कम करके और बच्चों के विकासात्मक अनुभवों को समृद्ध करके, यह कार्यक्रम न केवल बच्चों की शैक्षिक नींव तैयार कर रहा है, बल्कि बड़े पैमाने पर उनके परिवारों को भी बेहतर स्वास्थ्य और खुशी प्रदान कर रहा है।

"लागत और खर्च बढ़ने के साथ, आर्थिक लाभ वास्तव में एक बड़ी मदद है, खासकर, क्योंकि यह न केवल पैसा बचा रहा है, यह हमें अपने बच्चों के भविष्य में निवेश करने का अवसर भी प्रदान कर रहा है," अनीता बताती हैं।

विक्टोरिया में परिवारों के लिए, यह कार्यक्रम केवल एक निःशुल्क सेवा नहीं है; यह प्रत्येक बच्चे को अपनी शैक्षिक यात्रा की बेहतर शुरुआत करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है और उन्हें आगे की चुनौतियों के लिए तैयार करता है।

यदि आप भी विक्टोरिया में तीन या चार साल के बच्चों के माता-पिता हैं, तो फ्री किंडर वेबसाइट को जरूर देखें - <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-kinder-english> फ्री किंडर वेबसाइट पर आप अपनी पसंद की भाषा में भी जानकारी पा सकते हैं - <https://www.vic.gov.au/kinder/translations>

Kinder Tick विक्टोरिया के परिवारों को अपने बच्चों के लिए एक अनुमोदित किंडर कार्यक्रम का पता लगाने में मदद करता है।

अपनी स्थानीय किंडरगार्टन सेवा में, सेवा या केन्द्र की इमारत या परिसर में, इनकी वेबसाइट पर या इनकी सूचना सामग्रियों में Kinder Tick लोगो के लिए देखें।





# Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic saga, 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'

Released on  
**NETFLIX**

MEDIA RELEASE

1 MAY 2024

Netflix unveils visionary director Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. Offering a spectacular glimpse into the world of pre-independence India, every frame is steeped in intrigue, passion, and drama, set to captivate audiences from today, only on Netflix.

To mark the release of *Heeramandi*, Netflix hosted glittering preview screenings in Sydney and Melbourne, giving members of the fastest growing community group in Australia an opportunity to come together for a sneak peek at one of India's most anticipated series of the year.

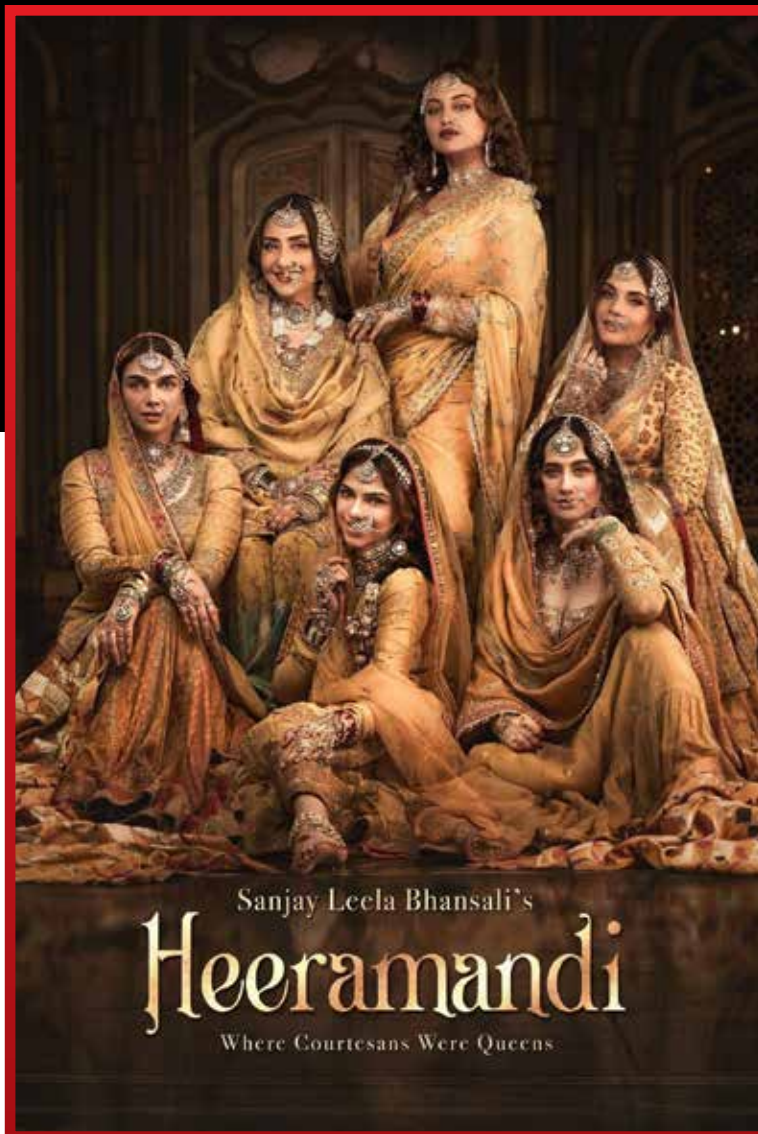
In Sydney, guests at an intimate VIP preview were among the first in the world to see the opening two episodes of *Heeramandi*. Event Cinemas hosted media personalities and members of the South Asian community at the inaugural launch event in Australia.

Known for its vibrant Indian culture, Melbourne's Dandenong was the obvious place to launch *Heeramandi* in Victoria. A preview screening brought together members of the city's large Indian community in the beautiful Drum Theatre, atmospherically styled to resemble a pre-Partition Indian bazaar. Greeted by the sight of the theatre lit up against the evening sky, guests feasted on samosas, had the chance to receive a henna tattoo, and explored the 'Diamond Market', with fabrics and fragrances reminiscent of 1940s India.

## The Director & Lead Actors of *Heeramandi*

Critically acclaimed auteur, Sanjay Leela Bhansali has received five National Awards. He's a filmmaker, screenwriter, music composer, editor, producer. Is considered an icon of Indian cinema having directed and produced multiple hits: *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022), *Padmaavat* (2018), *Bajirao Mastani* (2015), and the adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela* (2013), among others. In a career spanning across three decades, his films celebrate the Indian way of life and are rooted in culture. In 2015, he was awarded the '*Padma Shri*', the fourth highest civilian award of India for his contribution to Indian Cinema.

**Manisha Koirala** is a Nepalese actress who has made her mark in the Bollywood industry. Her acting debut was in a Nepali film called '*Pheri Bhetaula*' in 1989 while her Bollywood debut was in one of the top-grossing films '*Saudagar*' in 1991. The actress has also starred in South Indian films across different languages in *Tamil*, *Telugu* and *Malayalam*. In a career spanning more than a decade, the actress has given some scintillating performances in movies like *1942: A Love Story* (1994),

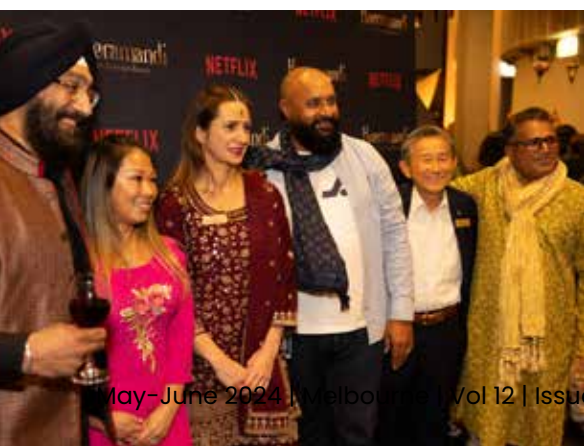


*Mann* (1999), *Lajja* (2001) and along the way picked up several awards and won recognitions for her acting.

**In Sydney, guests at an intimate VIP preview were among the first in the world to see the opening two episodes of *Heeramandi*. Event Cinemas hosted media personalities and members of the South Asian community at the inaugural launch event in Australia.**

**Sonakshi Sinha** made her foray into Bollywood with one of the biggest hits of 2010, *Dabangg* alongside the superstar Salman Khan. Her demure character as the village belle won her the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. Since her debut, the actress has been a part of several top-grossing films including *Rowdy Rathore*, *Dabangg 2*, *Son of Sardar*, and *Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty*.

~ All episodes of '*Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*' captivating audiences worldwide on Netflix from May 1 ~





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# Who do you share your birthday with?



## Taurus (April 21-May 21)

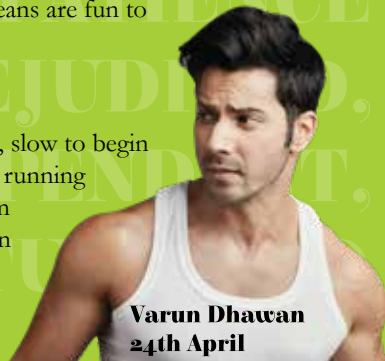
If you wait for the wind to turn the magazine's page for you, congratulations, you are a true Taurus. You would have been great as a prince, who has to do nothing at all but gets everything one might need in the world. You want all the goodness and wealth without spending a lifetime working for it. Taurus born people are more likely to settle down in a secure job or get married, than invest in a business or climb the Mount Everest, although you might spend some quality time at the foothills clicking photographs, not just because you like it, but because it doesn't involve much physical activity. They are artistic in nature but are unlikely to create a masterpiece unless they stop cribbing about what's gone and stop worrying about what's coming. Their careful, patient and romantic persona makes them good at relationships, but don't unleash the bull by preaching them about right or wrong.

### How They Drink

'Hold the drink' is their motto. They can drink a lot, yes, but don't think if they should. Quite often bar fights or loud jokes involve the heavy drinking Taurus bulls. Till the time an argument about them being second best breaks the harmony, slightly drunk Taureans are fun to be with.

### How They Make Love

A Taurus might be like an old car in bed, slow to begin but once switched on, goes miles before running out of fuel. You will have to seduce them and keep them interested. They believe in taking time and satisfying their partners because may be they just can't let all the hard work go to waste.



**Varun Dhawan**  
24th April

## Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

If you are in a conversation for 15 minutes and you haven't uttered a single word, you are most likely in the pleasant company of a Gemini. They are restless and make sure that everyone in the group shares this feeling. They think fast and are almost always on a move, making them resourceful companions because they can get their way by pleasing people with their charming and outgoing personality or plainly by getting on people's nerves. They don't like to be restricted or being told things, so if you tell them to wear a uniform at work and keep quiet for more than 3 minutes daily, they'll probably switch. They have so much going on inside their heads that sometimes they themselves can't decide what they want. Their tendency to be constantly attracted by the most flamboyant person or thing around often leaves them with incomplete knowledge, although granting versatility.

### How They Drink

You can't really tell when they are drunk and when they are sober, which is a little dangerous to be honest. You never know when they'll pass out in your arms while telling you anecdote number 997 from their 'dear diary'. Change is in their blood so you will see a whole rainbow of cocktails shuffling in their hands every five minutes. Just be ready to catch your Gemini friend when you see the seventh colour been sipped down.

### How They Make Love

Life is a game, so is sex. They'll play like a child on its favourite ride, enjoying every moment. But don't expect them to be on the same ride forever. Gemini born people are not known to be faithful lovers. They are attracted towards change as and when they see it. Sexual interaction doesn't have to be deep and soulful, the atmospheric feel and playful desire is enough to satisfy a Gemini. When you are with one, watch out for pleasant surprises.



**Anushka Sharma**  
1st May



**Manoj Bajpayee**  
23rd April



**Zarine Khan**  
14th May



**Madhuri Dixit**  
15th May



**Sunny Leone**  
13th May



**Karan Johar**  
25th May



**Shilpa Shetty**  
5th June



**Dimple Kapadia**  
5th June



**Ameesha Patel**  
9th June



**Sonam Kapoor**  
9th June



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# India and Australia

## A global bond of strength

GAURAV MALHOTRA

India and Australia, two nations with distinct histories and geographies, have forged a unique and robust partnership that extends far beyond their borders. Their collaboration, rooted in shared values and strategic interests, has transformed into one of the most formidable global bonds. In this article, we delve into the multifaceted relationship between India and Australia, exploring how their synergy has evolved into a significant global strength.

### Economic Resilience

India and Australia have emerged as economic powerhouses in their respective regions. Their complementary economies and strong trade ties have not only benefited both nations but have also contributed to regional stability. With thriving trade in minerals, agricultural products, and services, they have created a resilient economic alliance that withstands global challenges.

### Strategic Alignment

Both India and Australia share a commitment to upholding the rules-based international order. They are active members of various international forums, including the United Nations and the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue), alongside Japan and the United States. This alignment promotes global security and stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

### Defence, Counterterrorism and Cybersecurity

The defence partnership between India and Australia has seen significant growth. Collaborative initiatives, joint exercises, and defence dialogues enhance their military capabilities and bolster regional security. Their mutual commitment to maritime security and counterterrorism efforts showcases their shared dedication to global peace.

Both the countries have jointly addressed the growing threats of terrorism and cyberattacks. They have collaborated on intelligence sharing, cybersecurity measures, and countering radicalisation. Their cooperation in these areas contributes to global efforts to combat these challenges.

### Education and Innovation

Both nations recognise the importance of education and innovation in the 21st century. Indian students contribute significantly to Australia's education sector, and research collaborations between universities fuel innovation. Their joint efforts in science, technology, and space exploration have global implications.

**Their multifaceted relationship extends far beyond their geographical boundaries, creating a significant global strength that contributes to peace, security, and prosperity on a global scale.**

### Cultural Exchange

Cultural exchange and people-to-people ties play a crucial role in strengthening the India-Australia bond. Festivals, art exhibitions, and cultural events showcase the rich diversity of both nations. The Indian diaspora in Australia and the Australian community in India foster cultural understanding and connections.

### Climate Change and Sustainability

India and Australia acknowledge the urgent need to address climate change and promote sustainability. They have participated in international climate agreements and are working together to develop renewable energy solutions. Their combined efforts contribute to global environmental sustainability.

**Collaborative initiatives, joint exercises, and defence dialogues enhance their military capabilities and bolster regional security.**



### Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

India and Australia have cooperated in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. Their swift responses to regional disasters and crises demonstrate their commitment to assisting their neighbours and contributing to global humanitarian efforts.

### Health and Scientific Research

Collaborative research in health and medical sciences has been instrumental in addressing global health challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. India and Australia have worked together to share knowledge and resources, contributing to the global fight against infectious diseases.

### Peacekeeping and International Contributions

Both nations actively participate in United Nations peacekeeping missions and contribute to global humanitarian and development efforts. Their dedication to international peace and stability underscores their global responsibilities.

The India-Australia partnership stands as a testament to the potential of collaboration between nations with shared values and aspirations. Their multifaceted relationship extends far beyond their geographical boundaries, creating a significant global strength that contributes to peace, security, and prosperity on a global scale.







## र पदेन ( , )

क् + र = क्र → क्रम, वक्र

प् + र = प्र → प्रातः, प्रकार

ट् + र = ट्र → ट्रक, ट्रेन

## र रेफ ( ' )

र् + क = कर्क → तर्क, फर्क

र् + त = तर्त → शर्त, गर्त

र् + व = वर्व → पर्व, गर्व

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# What is



Explore. Connect. Entertain.

Made in India Magazine is a Multicultural Lifestyle monthly that brings communities, cultures and democracies together by the form of integrated print and online media. A glossy upmarket feature with the right mix of captivating multicultural content reaching the Indian and South-East Asian diaspora of Australia.

## Explore

...new cultures, tastes, traditions and events

## Connect

...to the larger Australia-wide Multicultural Indian community

## Entertain

...friends and family with everything Bollywood, Cricket, Spiritual, Glamour, Fashion, Food and Recipes



- **UPMARKET PREMIUM GLOSSY MAGAZINE**
- **AUDITED CIRCULATION**
- **STORIES AND VIEWS OF AUSTRALIANS FROM INDIA AND THE LARGER INDIAN SUBCONTINENT**
- **FREE AND SUBSCRIPTION MODELS**

Members of a growing Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese, Sri-Lankan, Bangladesh and Fiji Indian communities thriving in Australia share common traditions, festivals, cuisines, lifestyle and values.

Our Magazine celebrates this potpourri of multiculturalism among Australians hailing from different backgrounds of the Indian Subcontinent. A format that is eye-catching, engaging and easy to connect to - by all Australians! Our network of 1500 distribution outlets including Indian grocery stores, Restaurants, Dentists, GPs, Hairdressers and Community Centres ensure we reach 150,000 people each month.

## FREQUENCY

Monthly Print and Online

## CIRCULATION

18546 Copies CAB Audited Melbourne  
18546 Copies CAB Audited Sydney

## DISTRIBUTION

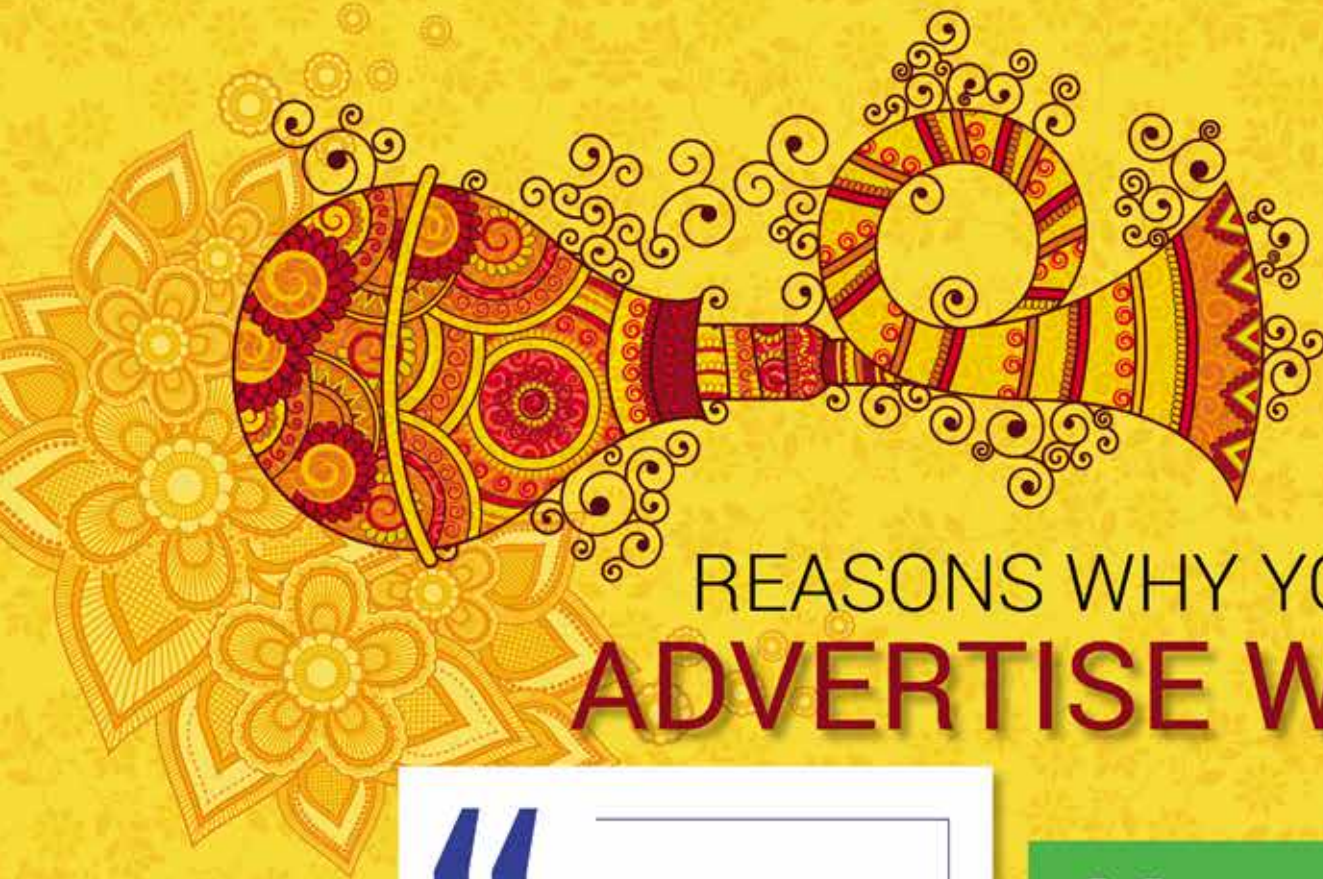
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## ONLINE REACH

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### DISTRIBUTION

We have exclusive distribution ties with more than 1500 locations like dentists, restaurants, cafes, hairdressers and medical centres. Not only is our targetted distribution diverse, but it is also customisable and flexible.

”

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### GREAT ONLINE PRESENCE

More than 80,000 likes on Facebook and more than 180,000 e-Magazine subscribers get to view our magazine each month.

”





“

## TARGETING

Our readers are among the 700,000 people of Indian heritage originally from India and 6 South-East Asian countries that form the Indian Subcontinent.

”

“

## DIVERSITY

The Australian Indian community is a microcosm of India - colourful, rich and diverse. We cover everything from mouth-watering cuisine recipes and travel ideas to current affairs, political views, book reviews and bollywood gossip.

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## DUAL FOCUS

At Made in India, your success is our success. We live by two fundamental tenets give our readers the best reading experience, and give our advertisers the best return on investment. No half measures.

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## CULTURAL MIX

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# Can you solve these?

The objective of the Sudoku puzzles (1&2) is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9. For a better challenge, why not time your game? Let us know how fast you were able to solve these!

1

7		4	5					
5	9	8				1		6
			6				7	
2			3		7		6	
3								2
	4		9		2			3
	8				5			
9		7				2	3	5
					3	4		9

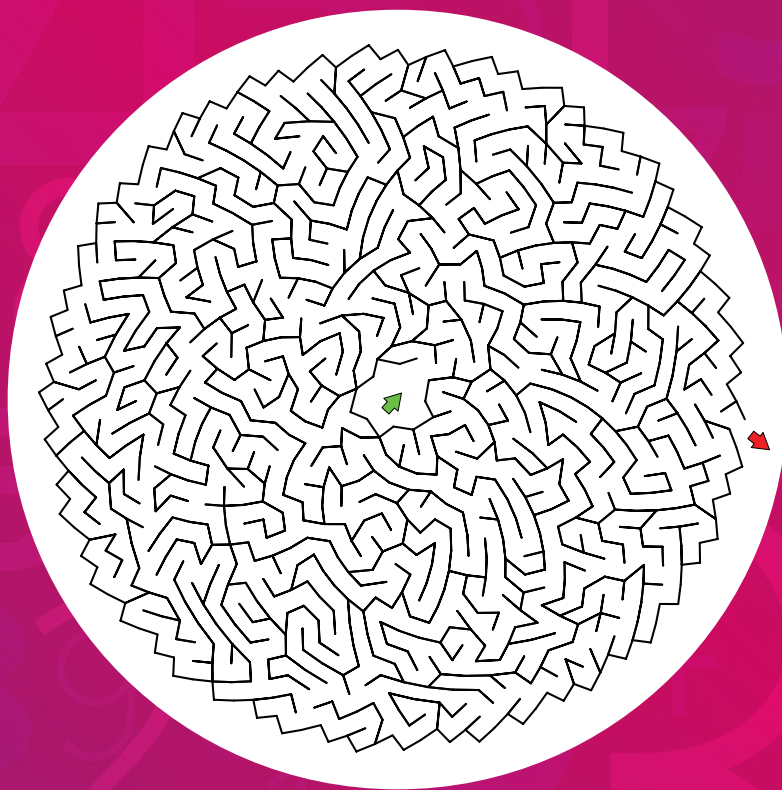
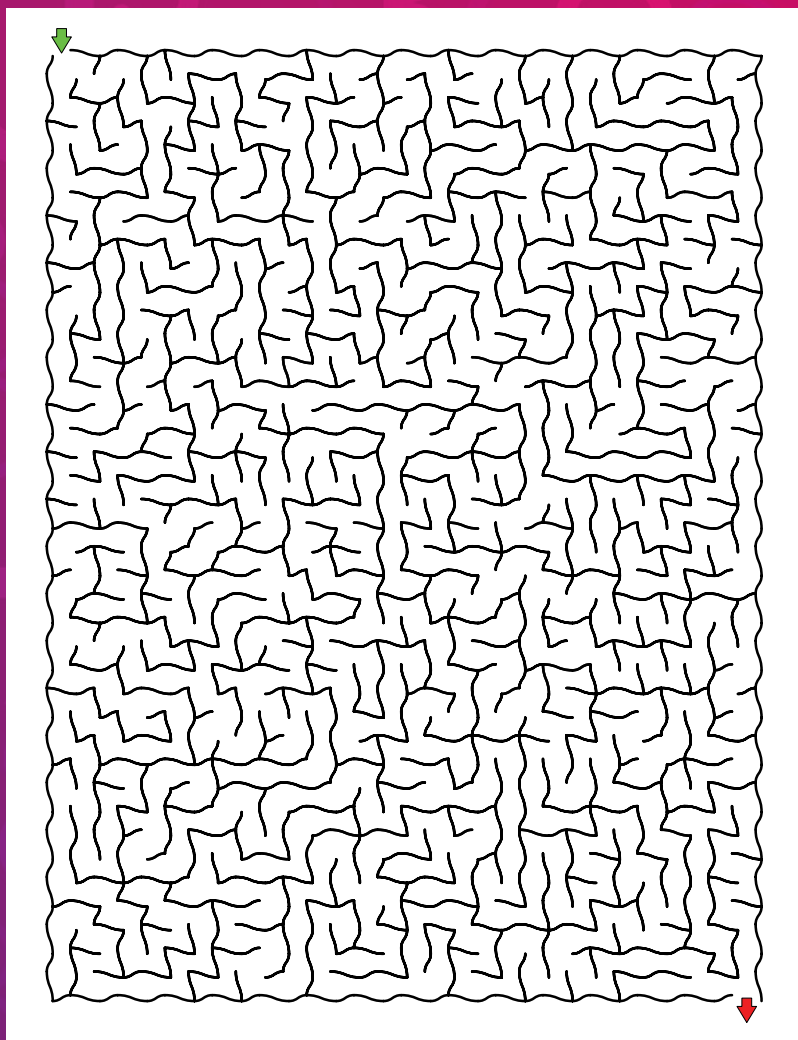
2

	4				7			
7					6	8		4
	3	6		2			7	9
				7	9	1	2	3
		9				6		
6	7	1	2	8				
4	5			9		3	1	
1		3	4					2
			3				4	

Can you make your way out in less than a minute?!

Q.3: What goes up but never comes down?

Q.4: What question can you never answer yes to?



Solutions

1

7	6	4	5	2	1	3	9	8
5	9	8	7	3	4	1	2	6
1	3	2	6	8	9	5	7	4
2	5	9	3	4	7	8	6	1
3	7	1	8	5	6	9	4	2
8	4	6	9	1	2	7	5	3
4	8	3	2	9	5	6	1	7
9	1	7	4	6	8	2	3	5
6	2	5	1	7	3	4	8	9

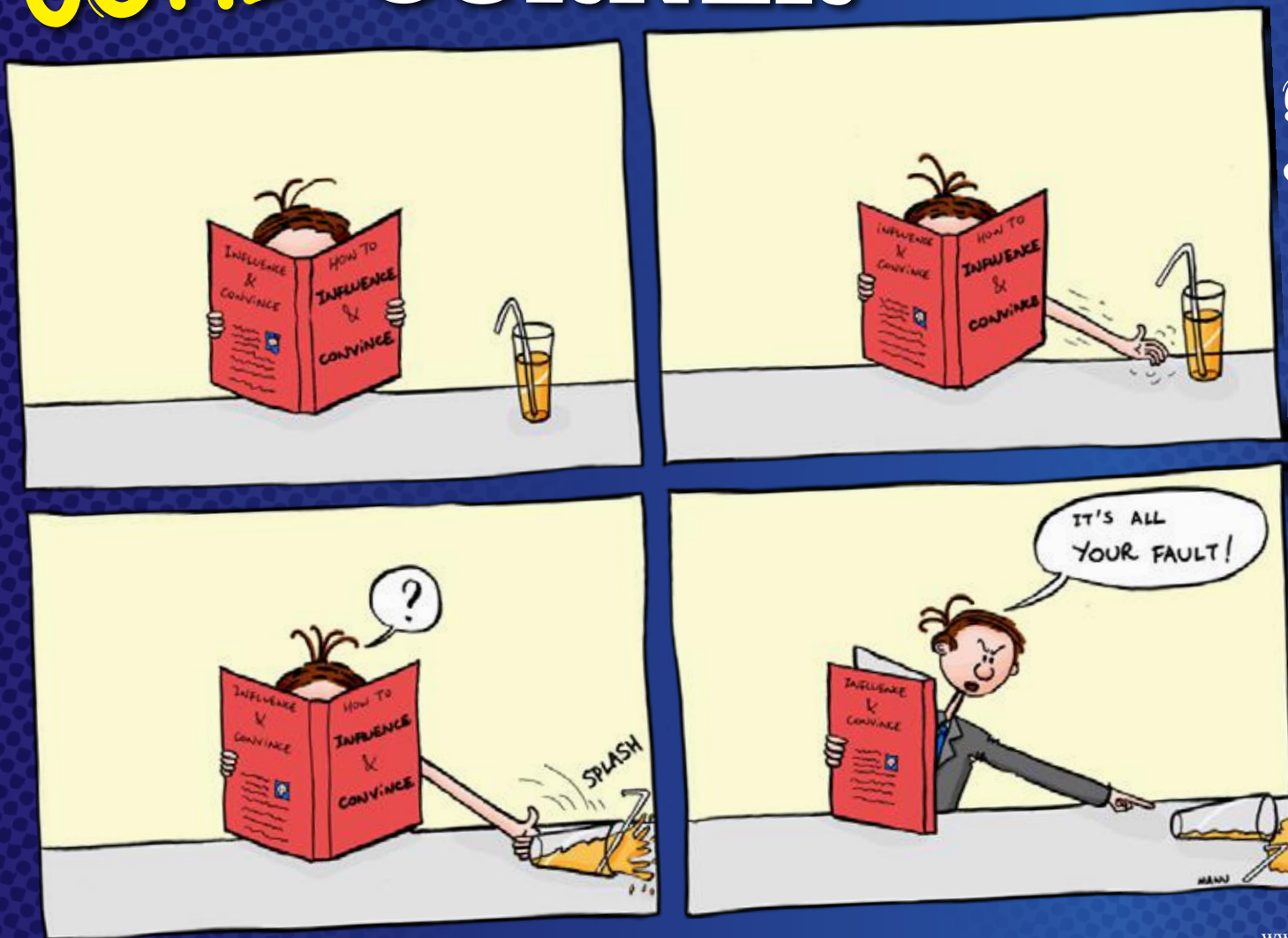
2

9	4	5	8	3	7	2	6	1
7	1	2	9	5	6	8	3	4
8	3	6	1	2	4	5	7	9
5	8	4	6	7	9	1	2	3
3	2	9	5	4	1	6	8	7
6	7	1	2	8	3	4	9	5
4	5	8	7	9	2	3	1	6
1	9	3	4	6	8	7	5	2
2	6	7	3	1	5	9	4	8

3. Your age. 4. Are you asleep yet?



# COMIC CORNER



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## THE Akbar-Birbal CHRONICALS



A LITTLE LESSER AND A LITTLE MORE

One day, Birbal's ten years old daughter accompanied him to the royal court. When Emperor Akbar saw her, he lovingly called her near him and called for gifts and sweets for her.

While conversing with her, the Emperor asked, "Do you know Persian, O little girl?"

"A little lesser and a little more, Sir" The girl replied.

Akbar was puzzled with her reply and asked Birbal what his daughter meant.

Birbal said, "Huzoor, She knows Persian a little more than those who do not know Persian, and knows a little lesser than

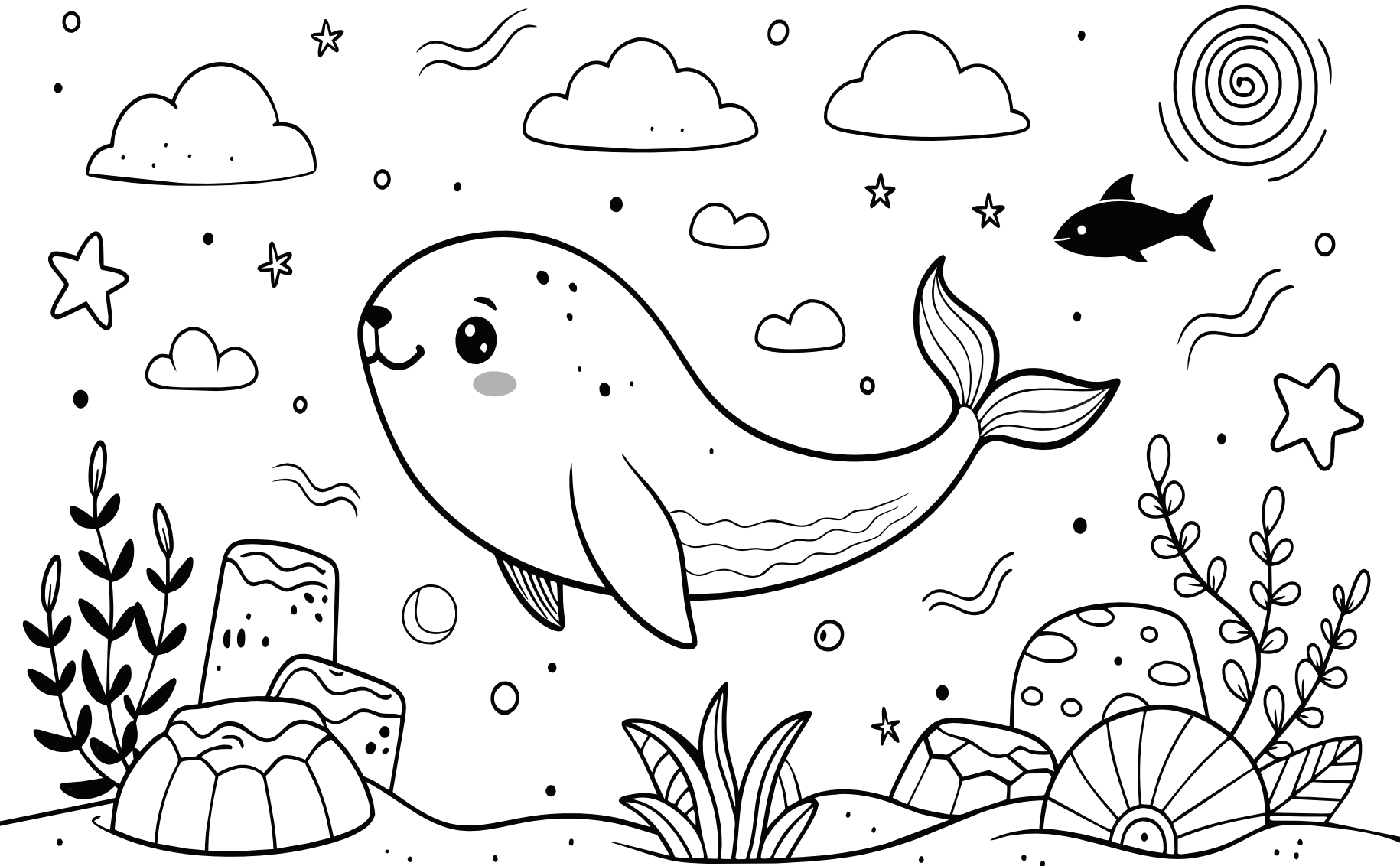
those who know Persian well."

Akbar understood that Birbal's daughter had the same wits as her father.

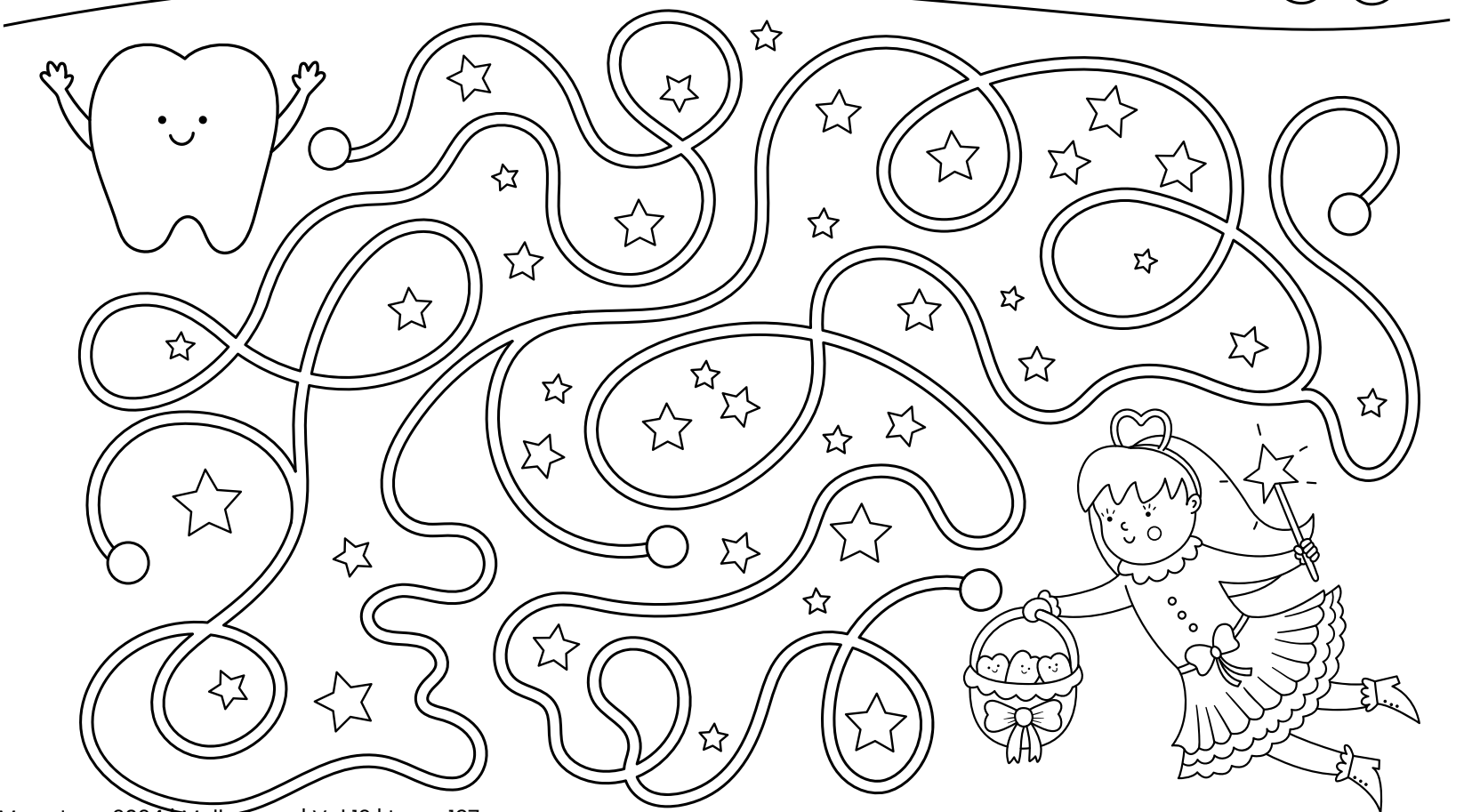
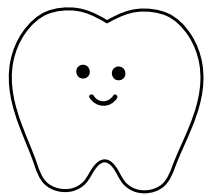




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# Did YOU Know?



The Amazon rainforest produces **half** the world's oxygen supply.



An elephants ears are used to **regulate** body temperature.



That after petrol, coffee is the **largest** item bought and sold.



Tiger Woods' real **first** name is Eldrick.



The Australian aircraft carrier for **QANTAS** stands for **Queensland And Northern Territories Aerial Service**.



The tea bag was **invented** in 1908.



The brand Nokia is **named** after a place in Southern Finland.



Dolphins **can** hear underwater sounds from 24km (15miles) away.



M&M's chocolate stands for the initials for its inventors **Mars** and **Murrie**.



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# Cheap and effective Australian skincare brands that work for oily Indian skin types

DIVYA MANGAL



**W**aking up in the morning to find an oily T-zone or getting a white cast on the face after applying a moisturiser are some common issues women often face. Furthermore, it becomes quite challenging for them to choose proper products that suit their skin tone when it comes to makeup.

Indian women living in Australia often face particular issues related to skin and often face difficulty adapting to the varied temperatures across the year. Especially those with oily skin are the ones who suffer the most with makeup prep. Hence, we bring you a few helpful tricks that will provide full skin coverage and prevent a makeup meltdown.

## Start a skincare routine and stick to it

Cleansing and toning your face before you get started are absolutely essential. It's like wiping the slate clean to give yourself a fresh start. You don't want oil and grime to pile makeup on!

Use a mild but effective cleanser to eliminate all the impurities accumulated on the skin.

Also, tone your face with a rose water toner or anything that suits your skin to calm it down and reduce pores. Toner will also reduce inflammation and reduce the chances of breakouts.

Washing your face is the most basic and essential daily routine step.

Our skin comes in contact with environmental pollutants, dirt, and other factors that should

be gently removed each day. Wash twice a day, morning and night, to avoid clogged pores, dullness, and acne.

So, you can choose face cleansers with natural ingredients or gel-based formulas; for example, face washes that have jojoba and aloe vera are good. Also, you can choose products which have salicylic acid, benzoyl peroxide, glycolic acid, etc.

After that, you can cleanse and tone, helping to even out your skin texture, which will help you to make your makeup last longer.

## Apply a light moisturiser with sunscreen

Before jumping the gun and getting started with the makeup, there's yet another step left to complete in your skincare routine for oily skin. After cleansing and toning, hydrate your skin with a light, non-greasy moisturiser.

Many people skip moisturising because it seems counterintuitive for oily skin. But moisturising actually helps with oil control! Washing off the natural oil from the skin during cleansing only triggers it to produce more oil

in order to protect the moisture barrier. Moisturizing provides that protection and prevents the skin from over-producing oil.

Also, look for a moisturiser with an SPF or sun protection factor. UV radiation can do a lot of damage by triggering the skin and causing inflammation. This is absolutely crucial for those who spend time outdoors.

## Start your makeup routine with a primer

You probably already know this, having seen so many Youtube and Instagram videos wherein you will find influencers priming their faces before applying foundation. But why? Priming your face before you get on with the foundation and concealer is an absolute must, especially for oily skin.

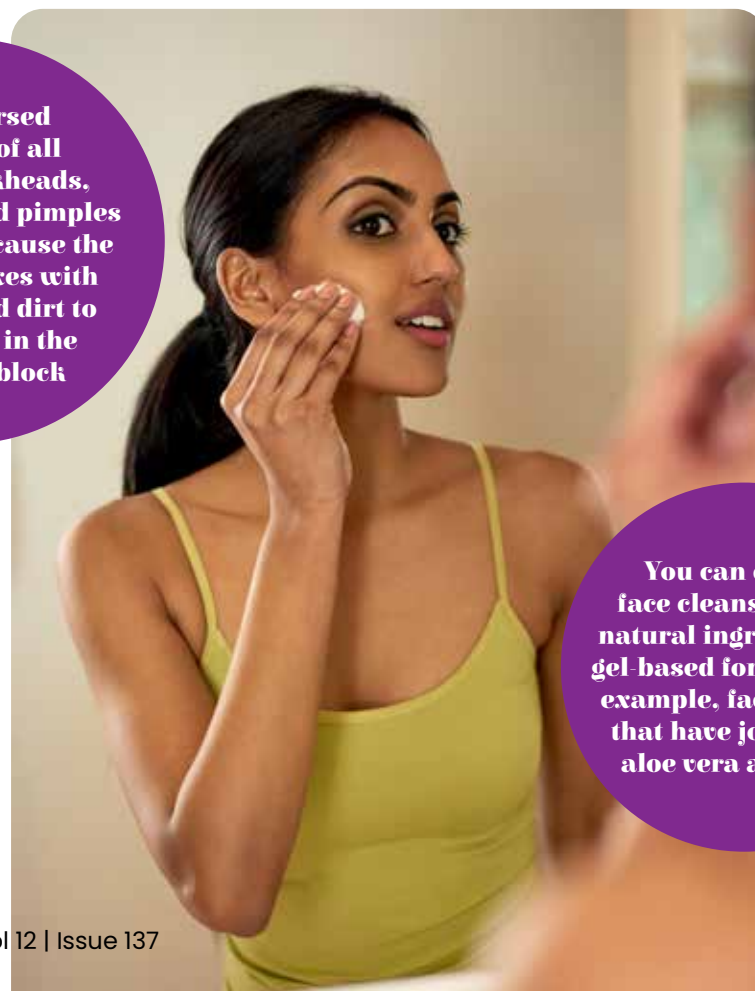
One, it helps to smooth out the skin further and give it an even texture. Secondly, it helps with controlling oil production. Most importantly, it works like glue to hold your makeup and prevent it from sliding off. Do you want long-lasting makeup? Prime, prime, prime.

## Work in thin layers

You can use a blending sponge or a brush to apply as little product as you can. With makeup, less is more! If you think you need more concealing, layer

**Oily skin is cursed with acne of all kinds – blackheads, whiteheads and pimples too! This is because the excess oil mixes with dead skin and dirt to accumulate in the pores and block them.**

**You can choose face cleansers with natural ingredients or gel-based formulas; for example, face washes that have jojoba and aloe vera are good.**





on. But instead of slathering on a thick mass of foundation and concealer, work in thin layers. This will ensure you get a more natural finish and prevent your makeup from becoming patchy after some time.

**Choose a translucent setting powder**

A setting powder will give your skin a matte finish – you’ll agree that it’s highly desirable for oily skin! Use a damp sponge to pat the powder all over your face. Finish off with a powder brush and a light hand to blend it in further.

Don’t overdo it, though! A thin layer should be enough to cut the shine. Too much will make your makeup look patchy.

**Go for non-comedogenic products**

It sounds like a mouthful but

‘non-comedogenic’ simply means non-pore-clogging. Use makeup that is oil-free and doesn’t settle in the pores to clog them, which is extremely crucial for those who have oily skin.

Oily skin is cursed with acne of all kinds – blackheads, whiteheads and pimples too! This is because the excess oil mixes with dead skin and dirt to accumulate in the pores and block them. Sometimes, they can get infected, too, to form pimples and painful lesions.

Non-comedogenic products reduce this risk and keep your skin healthy and acne-free!

**Choose products that guarantee long-lasting coverage**

Oil and sweat break down your makeup, making your 2 pm face look like a nightmare. Look for

products specifically designed as water-proof and smudge-proof for a long-lasting finish. Long-wear products are formulated differently, with different ingredients to stay on for a longer time than traditional makeup.

**Carry blotting paper**

Always carry blotting paper with you – it’ll serve as your best friend, especially mid-day, when your face may start developing that dreadful oily shine. Pat the blotting paper on the skin to allow it to absorb all the excess oil. Don’t wipe; simply press it on the areas of the skin that are oily.

Don’t forget to remove your makeup before going to bed.

We’ve all been there; after returning from a long day at work or a party, we don’t have the energy to wash our faces or carry out an elaborate night skincare

routine. However, despite our exhaustion and unwillingness, we must remove makeup.

One of the biggest reasons is that leaving makeup on overnight clogs up the pores and leads to skin breakouts. If your skin has a bumpy texture or is riddled with scars caused by acne, there’s only so much makeup can conceal!

Taking care of your skin is absolutely essential if you want your makeup to give you the best look. Cleansing and toning before going to bed also help with oil control. They also allow your skin to repair and rejuvenate through the night, which cannot happen if it’s still covered with layers of makeup. Add a night cream to your night routine to encourage healing and keep those wrinkles and fine lines at bay.

**Exfoliate your skin**

The problem with oily skin is the excess oil that messes up with makeup, so oil control will help you go a long way! Exfoliate your skin with a gentle exfoliator to deep-cleanse the pores and slough off the dead skin layer. This reduces the chances of acne and gives your skin an even texture. This, in turn, means a better makeup finish.

Clay masks are a good choice for oily skin. You can also explore **konjac sponges** which work as blackhead extractors. They have the

right abrasion that makes them effective without wounding the skin. A number of homemade fruit and botanical oil masks are also worth a try to achieve that much-needed oil control.

Australia has an abundance of skincare brands that cater to oily skin at a variety of price points. Here are some of the most affordable and effective Australian skincare brands to consider for managing oily skin:



1. **Sukin:** A popular Australian natural skincare brand, Sukin offers affordable products that are vegan and cruelty-free. Their "Oil Balancing Range" specifically caters to those with oily skin.
2. **Bondi Skin Co.:** They offer a range of serums designed to combat oily skin and other skincare issues. The products are also vegan, cruelty-free, and Australian made.
3. **Swisse:** Swisse's skincare line is full of natural ingredients and their "Deep Pore Cleansing Clay Mask" is particularly good for oily skin.
4. **A'kin:** A'kin has a 'Shine-Free Facial Moisturiser' specifically designed to control oiliness and shine.
5. **Australian Bodycare:** This brand's "Tea Tree Oil" range can help combat the excess



oil without drying out the skin, thanks to its natural antiseptic properties.

6. **Alpha-H:** Known for their 'Balancing Moisturiser & Gentle Exfoliant', Alpha-H offers a variety of products designed to combat oiliness and promote balanced skin.
7. **Aspect:** Although a bit on the higher side in terms of cost, Aspect's "Clear Skin Complex" is a highly recommended product for oily skin.
8. **Essano:** Essano has a range of organic and vegan-friendly products. Their "Rosehip Gentle Foaming Facial Cleanser" is effective in controlling oil and removing impurities.
9. **Natio:** Natio's skincare range is widely available and affordable. Their "Acne Clear & Purify Toning Lotion" is specifically designed for oily and acne-prone skin.



10. **Thursday Plantation:** Known for their tea tree oil products, Thursday Plantation

offers a variety of options for oily skin. Their "Tea Tree Face Wash Foam" helps to control oil without stripping the skin.

11. **Jojoba Company:** Their

'Australian Jojoba' can be used as a natural balancing moisturiser for oily skin.

When choosing products, remember everyone's skin is different and what works for one



person may not work for another. It's always best to patch test new products and introduce them slowly into your skincare routine. If you are unsure about what products to use, a consultation with a dermatologist may be beneficial.





# HOUSING CRISIS

## A barrier to Indian students' educational aspirations in Australia



ARPITA PAWAN

**A**ustralia's appeal as a prime destination for international students is facing a significant challenge. A burgeoning housing crisis is now threatening to derail the dreams of many aspiring students, particularly those from India, who wish to pursue higher education on Australian shores. This shortage of affordable student accommodation is not only a logistical barrier but also a major financial and emotional strain for students far from home.

### THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

The issue has reached a critical point where Indian students, who constitute one of the largest groups of international scholars in Australia, are finding it increasingly difficult to secure affordable housing. Cities like Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, which host the majority of Australia's higher education institutions, are also where the housing crisis is most acute. The shortage is compounded by soaring rental prices, which have escalated due to competitive demand and limited supply.

### CAUSES OF THE HOUSING SHORTAGE

Several factors contribute to the current predicament. Firstly, the post-pandemic recovery has seen a resurgence in international travel and student arrivals, which had previously dwindled due to COVID-19 restrictions. This sudden influx has put immense pressure on the available accommodations.

Secondly, the Australian real estate market has experienced significant price increases, making rental properties less affordable for students, who typically have limited financial resources. Additionally, there is a lack of specifically designated student housing, which forces students into the broader rental market where they must compete with local residents and other migrants for housing.

### COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Community organisations and Indian expatriate groups in Australia are stepping up to support incoming students. These groups often provide temporary housing solutions and guidance on navigating the Australian rental market. Universities too are bolstering their support services to assist international students with housing issues, providing everything from legal advice on tenancy rights to practical assistance in finding suitable accommodations.

### RESPONSES AND SOLUTIONS

In response to the crisis, several measures are being proposed and implemented by various stakeholders, including universities, government bodies, and private sector participants. Universities are actively exploring partnerships with private developers to construct more on-campus residences. There is also a push towards converting some commercial properties left vacant post-pandemic into student housing.

Government intervention is also critical. Policy measures such as regulating rent increases and incentivising the construction of affordable rental housing are necessary to alleviate the pressure. Some local governments are considering reforms to zoning laws to allow for the building of high-density student accommodations near universities.

**Australia's housing crisis deters international students, especially Indians, due to unaffordable accommodation and challenges.**

### IMPACT ON INDIAN STUDENTS

For Indian students, the impact of this shortage is multifaceted. Apart from the obvious challenge of finding a place to live, there is the added financial burden of higher rents, which can divert funds away from other essential living expenses and academic resources. This situation often leads to increased financial pressure on their families back home.

Moreover, the uncertainty and stress of securing accommodation can affect students' academic performance and overall well-being.

In some cases, students have had to defer their studies or opt for institutions in other countries where the housing market is less competitive and more accommodating to foreign students.

### THE ROAD AHEAD

The housing shortage presents a complex challenge that requires a coordinated approach among all stakeholders involved. While immediate measures can alleviate some of the pressures, long-term, sustainable solutions are necessary to ensure that Australia remains a welcoming and viable option for international students.

Educational institutions, policymakers, and the private sector must collaborate more closely to address this issue comprehensively. Innovations in housing, such as modular homes and co-living spaces, coupled with robust support systems, can make a significant difference.

The vibrancy and diversity that international students bring to Australian campuses are invaluable. Ensuring they have a safe and affordable place to live is crucial in maintaining Australia's status as a top destination for higher education. The ongoing efforts to resolve the housing crisis will not only help protect the educational dreams of Indian students but also uphold Australia's reputation as a supportive and inclusive study environment.





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# Embracing diversity - Australia's growing affection for India and its people

NAYAN CHANDRA



## Historical and Cultural Ties

Australia, with its vibrant multicultural fabric, has seen a growing affection for India and its people, rooted in shared histories as former British colonies. This shared past has fostered mutual respect and understanding, setting the stage for a rich bilateral relationship.

## The Indian Diaspora in Australia

The Indian diaspora in Australia has seen remarkable growth. As of the 2021 Census, there were over 721,000 people of Indian origin in Australia, making up about 2.8% of the population, a significant increase from just over 455,000 in the 2016 Census. This burgeoning community has introduced a myriad of Indian cultural elements to Australia.

## Cultural Exchange and Influence

The cultural impact is evident in the widespread celebration of Indian festivals and the popularity of Bollywood. Indian festivals like Diwali and Holi are celebrated with great enthusiasm in major Australian cities, reflecting the nation's embracement of Indian culture.

## Economic Partnerships and Education

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like Diwali and Holi are celebrated with great enthusiasm in major Australian cities, reflecting the nation's embracement of Indian culture.

## Political Alignment and Global Cooperation

Politically, Australia and India have engaged in significant cooperation. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, involving the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, highlights the countries' aligned interests in a stable Indo-Pacific region.

## Everyday Interactions and Community Engagement

The everyday interactions between Australians and Indians have grown with the Indian population's rise. Language classes for Hindi and Punjabi are increasingly popular, reflecting Australians' interest in Indian culture.

## Culinary Exchange and Shared Love for Cricket

Indian cuisine has become a staple in Australia, with Indian restaurants flourishing across the nation. Cricket, a shared passion, further unites the two countries, with high-profile matches drawing large audiences in both nations.

## The Arts and Entertainment Scene

Indian arts, including Bollywood cinema, dance, and music, have found a receptive audience in Australia, highlighting the growing cultural exchange.

## Future Prospects and Continuing Growth

The future of this relationship is promising, with the Australian government's India Economic Strategy aiming to lift India into Australia's top three export markets by 2035, and to make India the third-largest destination in Asia for Australian outward investment.

Australia's fondness for India and its people symbolises a relationship built on mutual respect and shared values. This bond, strengthening over time, is a testament to the power of cultural diversity and international friendship.

The relationship between Australia and India, deepening and diversifying over the years, stands as a shining example of international cooperation and cultural harmony, bridging continents and cultures.





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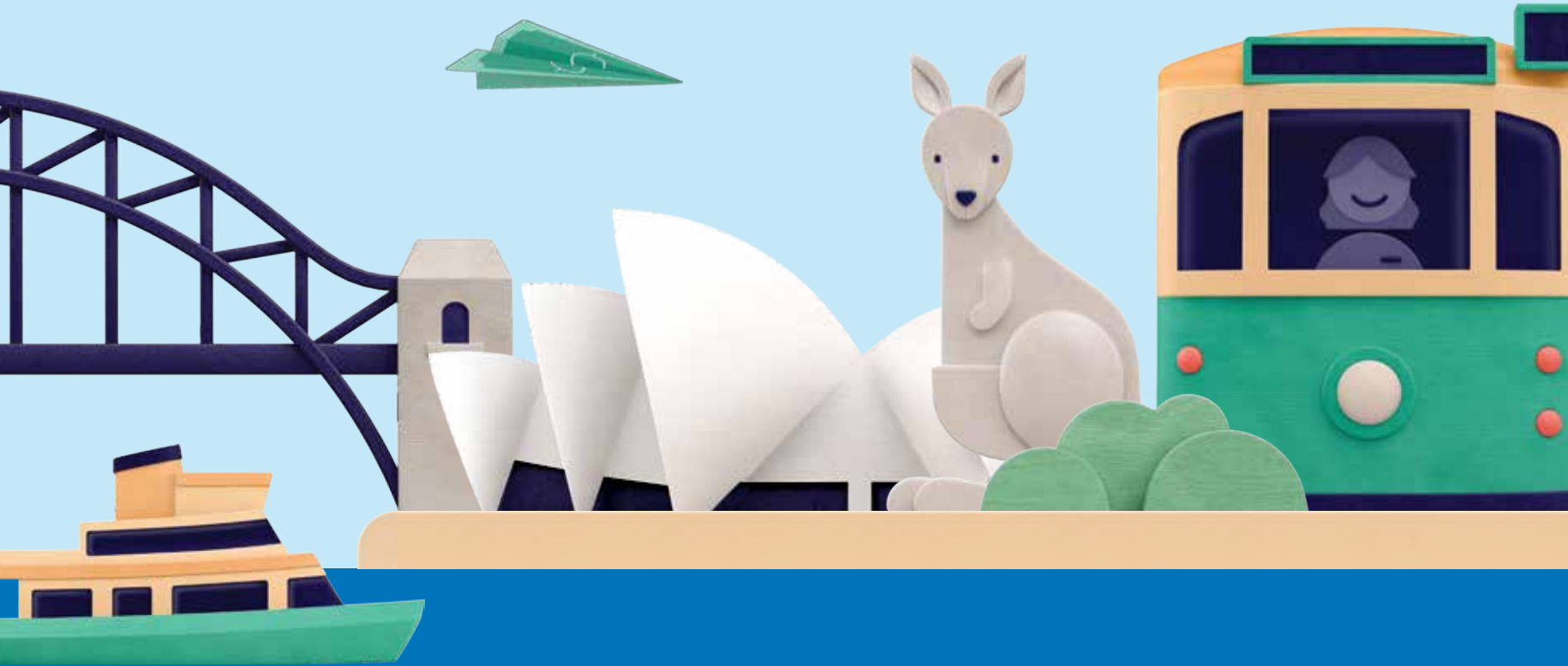
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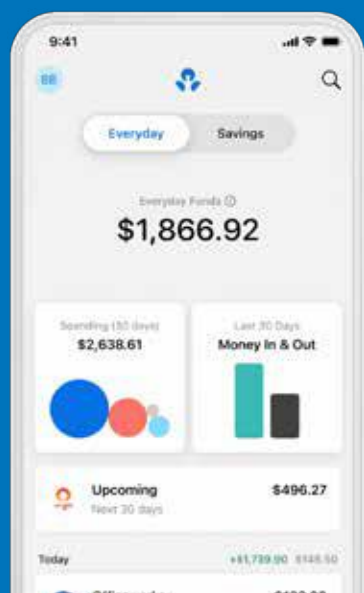




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