

Statement

Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier



Thursday, 1 August 2024

STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER

Almost 15 years ago, as Victoria's Minister for Industry and Trade, I wrote to the then Premier about the need to establish a strategic relationship with India.

For two places with so much in common, I was sure there were untapped opportunities we needed to explore.

I can't take full credit for the idea – the benefits of better engagement with India spoke for themselves – but it was the beginning of a new chapter in our partnership.

Since then, that partnership has gone from strength to strength. And in September, I will make India my first trip overseas as Premier of Victoria.

India is an incredibly important part of our community and economy, making valuable and valued contributions to all aspects of our state.

We are home to the largest Indian-born community in Australia, with more than a quarter of a million mums, dads and kids, business owners and students, doctors and nurses, artists and engineers – all working hard and raising their families here.

And from food and fibre, education and innovation – this trip will strengthen our collaboration with one of our most important trade and investment partners.

It will also seek to strengthen our bonds – community to community, person to person.

Sport is the lifeblood of so many communities both here in Victoria and India. Despite the rivalry between our cricket teams, we know the power of sport to connect people no matter their background, age or gender.

Films also break down barriers – sharing much about who we are, where we come from and our shared future. India's vibrant film industry showcases the very best of the colourful cultural stories that India is celebrated for.

Another key focus – ensuring an equal future for women and girls, making sure that everyone is safe, respected and has every opportunity to pursue their dreams and contribute to society – from sport, education and the arts.

This visit to India will celebrate these connections, and further identify opportunities for collaboration in priority areas including education and education technology, innovation in industry, the creative sector, and the wider visitor economy.