



PARLIAMENT
OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Nepal and India

4 –12 October 2023

REPORT | MAY 2024



© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License

[https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/.](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

ISBN 978-1-76092-660-1

Contents

- Members of the Delegation 1**
 - Leader of the Delegation 1
 - Delegates 1
 - Officials 1

- Introduction 2**

- Nepal 3**
 - Wednesday, 4 October 2023 3
 - Thursday, 5 October 2023 8
 - Friday, 6 October 2023 11

- India 15**
 - Saturday, 7 October 2023 15
 - Chennai*** 15
 - Sunday, 8 October 2023 16
 - Monday, 9 October 2023 17
 - Bengaluru*** 19
 - Tuesday, 10 October 2023 21
 - New Delhi*** 21
 - Wednesday, 11 October 2023 22
 - Thursday, 12 October 2023 25

- Acknowledgements and other remarks 28**

- Appendix A: Official Program of Activities 29**
 - NEPAL 29
 - INDIA 33

Members of the Delegation

Leader of the Delegation

- The Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Federal Member for Oxley, Queensland
Australian Labor Party

Delegates

- Senator Dean Smith (deputy leader of the delegation)
Senator for Western Australia
Liberal Party of Australia
- Ms Joanne Ryan MP
Federal Member for Lalor, Victoria
Australian Labor Party
- Ms Libby Coker MP
Federal Member for Corangamite, Victoria
Australian Labor Party
- Senator Ralph Babet
Senator for Victoria
United Australia Party

Officials

- Ms Natalie Van Dartel
Advisor to the Speaker
- Ms Kate Portus
Delegation Secretary

Introduction

In October 2023, a bipartisan parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Hon Milton Dick MP, embarked on a visit to Nepal and India. The overarching goal of the visit was to bolster bilateral relations between Australia and the two nations respectively.

The delegation engaged in a series of meetings with parliamentarians, business leaders, think tanks, not-for-profit organisations, as well as with Australian alumni and many others.

The primary objectives of the visit were to:

- Enhance relations between the Australian and the Indian and Nepalese parliaments respectively, to foster a deeper understanding and collaboration between them.
- Strengthen Australia's connections by furthering relationships between Australian parliamentarians and individuals representing businesses, organisations and community groups in the two nations.
- Better understand and strengthen the people-to-people and trade links that form the foundations of each bilateral relationship.
- Attain a comprehensive insight into the prevailing domestic political, economic, and social landscapes of India and Nepal, encompassing areas such as technology, innovation, trade, education and training, aid and development, climate change and environmental sustainability, renewable energy, and democracy.

The delegation received a warm welcome everywhere it went in Nepal and India, underscoring the high regard in which Australia is held in both nations. The delegation was grateful for the opportunity to fortify these strong bilateral relationships.

This report provides an overview of the places visited, discussions held, and key aspects of the bilateral relationships with Nepal and India. The official program of activities is included at Appendix A for reference.

Nepal

This Australian parliamentary delegation to Nepal marked the first of its kind in 63 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The delegation was honoured to be the first after so many years and was keen to further strengthen parliamentary relationships and to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that Nepal faces, and its experience in transitioning to federalism.

Australia and Nepal share deep ties - people-to-people links and education form the foundation of the bilateral relationship. Nepal is the third-largest source of international students in Australia, and the Nepalese diaspora is Australia's fastest growing migrant community. Australian remittances are a strong support to Nepal's economy. The trade relationship between Australia and Nepal is growing, and both countries share a commitment to democratic values and the international rules-based order. The Australian delegation was keen to learn more on the ground.

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Australia/Nepal bilateral relationship briefing

The delegation was warmly welcomed to Nepal by Her Excellency Ms Felicity Volk, Australian Ambassador to Nepal and her professional team. On the first morning of the official program, HE Ambassador Volk expertly briefed the delegation on the bilateral relationship between Australian and Nepal, outlined current events, political and otherwise, the Nepalese political party system and its move to federalism, Australia's aid relationship with Nepal and other issues that were likely to be raised with the delegation during its visit.

Australian Embassy staff meet and greet

HE Ambassador Volk then introduced the delegation to the Australian Embassy staff in Kathmandu, and the delegates were delighted to meet and talk with them. Speaker Dick, on behalf of the delegation and the Parliament of Australia, thanked them for all the work they do in supporting Australia's interests in Nepal, and emphasised the important role each and every one of them play in the efficient operation of the busy Embassy.

Call on the Speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives

Speaker Dick and the delegates were honoured to then call on The Right Honourable Mr Devraj Ghimire, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal in Singha Durbar. Speaker Ghimire welcomed the delegation 'with his heart' and noted the historical nature of the visit. He observed the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and Nepal in 1960 and that the current relationship is strong, and his view that this visit will strengthen it into the future.

Speaker Ghimire spoke about the Nepalese diaspora in Australia - made up of students and residents – that has further deepened the relations between the two countries. He also noted his particular interest in exchanging experiences of a federated system of government, with Nepal having recently transitioned to a federal democracy. Speaker Ghimire also emphasised that the Australia-Nepal Friendship Group in Australia was an excellent sign for the relationship, and he announced the establishment of the equivalent group in Nepal.

Speaker Dick noted that this was an historic day, and that he and his delegation felt very privileged to be there. He stated his hopes that the visit would strengthen their relationship as Speakers and deepen the relationship between the Parliaments of Australia and Nepal.



Speaker Dick meeting with Speaker Ghimire.

Call on the Chairman of the National Assembly

The delegation then called on The Right Honourable Mr Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairman of the National Assembly of Nepal (the upper House of the Federal Parliament of Nepal). Chairman Timilsina expressed his delight in welcoming Speaker Dick and the entire delegation on what was an historic first parliamentary visit to Nepal in 63 years.

Speaker Dick expressed to Chairman Timilsina what a wonderful honour it was to partake in this historic visit, and that he himself choose Nepal as one of his first visits as Speaker of the House of Representatives in recognition of the deep and abiding affection Australia has for Nepal, and because of the 130 000 Nepalese that now call Australia home.

The delegation went on to discuss an array of important issues including:

- Nepal's implementation of federalism and what it could learn from the Australian experience
- Australia's approaches to cryptocurrency and cybercrime
- the increasingly investment-friendly opportunities in energy, agriculture and factory assemblage in Nepal
- Australian tourism to Nepal and the desire to have direct flights with Nepal Airlines
- scholarship opportunities in Australia for Nepalese students
- Nepal's leading efforts in climate change action in the region, and
- Australia's commitment to seeing Nepal graduate from Least Developed Country status by 2026.



Speaker Dick meeting with Chairman Timilsina.

Lunch hosted by Speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives

After a busy morning, the delegation was pleased to arrive at Kathmandu's Hotel Annapurna to attend a working lunch hosted by Speaker Ghimire, with Nepalese parliamentarians and some members of the newly formed Nepal-Australia Friendship Group. The delegation enjoyed traditional Nepalese cuisine and a fruitful discussion ensued. The group informally discussed Australian and Nepalese political systems, committee structures, the operation of the caucus and further ideas about how to develop an even more productive relationship between the two countries.



Speaker Dick, HE Ambassador Volk and delegates with Nepalese parliamentarians and members of the newly formed Nepal-Australia Friendship Group.

Governance roundtable - facilitated by The Asia Foundation

After lunch, the delegation travelled to Panipokhari to attend a governance roundtable, facilitated by The Asia Foundation (TAF). Along with the impressive team from TAF, the delegation was honoured to meet with two members of the Nepalese Legislative Assembly - the Hon Dr Bimala Rai Paudyal and the Hon Dr Swarnim Waglé.

Ms Megan Nalbo, Country Representative at TAF, opened the roundtable by giving a country context briefing, including on Nepal's administrative structure and its newly established federalism. Other issues were touched on including Nepal's increase in life expectancy, literacy rates and GDP, but climate change and natural disasters were identified as remaining threats to Nepal's stability and its new constitution.

The group had a particularly engaging discussion on the progress, challenges and opportunities for Nepal and federalism - issues such as the changing demography

of Nepal and the short-term prospect of an aging population into the future, the exiting of large numbers of the population to other countries for study and work opportunities, and a resulting remittance-dependent economy. Participants spoke of and asked questions around structural reforms for jobs into the future, digitisation, and the challenges around fiscal viability for Nepal.

Reception hosted by The Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives with business leaders at the Ambassador's residence

In the evening of Thursday, 4 October, Speaker Dick hosted a reception at HE Ambassador Volk's residence for the Nepalese business community. The delegation was pleased to meet with a large group including Australian alumni representatives, deputy mayors, university and think tank representatives, members of the Nepal Australia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, businesspeople, representatives of the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs' Association of the Nepal and the South Asian Women Development Forum and others.

HE Ambassador Volk warmly welcomed the group and spoke of the rapidly expanding bilateral relationship between Australia and Nepal, noting that one aspect of the multi-layered relationship is that the Nepalese are the fastest growing migrant population to Australia. Speaker Dick spoke to the delegation's honour at being the first Australian parliamentary delegation to Nepal in 63 years, and emphasised the strong ties between the two countries, and the value Australia places on the strong people-to-people and education links that they share. The delegation then enjoyed networking opportunities with members of the community.



Speaker Dick, HE Ambassador Volk and female business leaders at the Nepalese business community reception at the Ambassador's residence.

Thursday, 5 October 2023

On Thursday, 5 October 2023 the delegation was due to travel to Pokhara, about 200 kilometers northwest of Kathmandu. Due to inclement weather and the subsequent closure of the Pokhara airport, unfortunately the day trip had to be cancelled.

The delegation wishes to sincerely thank all the embassy staff, the local officials and the organisations in Pokhara, including the Green Pastures Hospital, and the farmers and staff working at KHETI Farm, who put in a lot of work preparing for the delegation's visit that was ultimately unable to proceed.

Despite this disappointing cancellation, the Embassy staff quickly pivoted and prepared another full day of successful meetings for the delegation.

Tour of the Global Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Education (GATE) College and briefing on the TAFE Certificate III course

The delegation kicked off the day with a tour of GATE College - an award-winning tourism and hospitality academy founded in Kathmandu. It offers bachelor's degrees in international hospitality management and professional hospitality, vocational courses and international internships. In 2015 TAFE NSW established a partnership with GATE College to help cater for the high demand from Nepal in the national and international hospitality industry. A benchmarking and recognition program between TAFE NSW North Coast and GATE was introduced for the Certificate III in Commercial Cookery.

At the time of the delegation's visit, more than 60 GATE students had successfully achieved their TAFE NSW Certificate III in Commercial Cookery and GATE trainers have also completed a TAFE NSW Certificate IV in Training and Assessment qualification, with support from the Australia Awards program. GATE is one of the main hospitality partners for most of the Australian Embassy events in Kathmandu.

Mr Khem Lakai, the college's CEO, warmly welcomed the delegation and led them on a tour the college, which included the kitchen garden growing a wide range of fruits, vegetables, herbs and coffee and then into the commercial kitchen to meet and talk to trainee chefs. In the college café, they enjoyed a sample of the food, drinks and hospitality from the trainee chefs and hospitality staff. Mr Lakai and other members of the college discussed the demographic of the students, their trajectory post-graduation, and how the college is looking to increase access for students from western Nepal. The delegation was most impressed with the quality of food and service the college provided.



Speaker Dick and Senator Smith touring GATE College and talking with CEO, Mr Khem Lakai.

Tour of the Museum of Nepali Art

The delegation was pleased to be able to make a stop at the Museum of Nepali Art (MONA), which documents, conserves and preserves the country's artistic heritage. The delegates were treated to a wonderful array of traditional and contemporary Nepalese works of art and were very thankful for the hospitality displayed by Mr Rajan Shakya and Mrs Saguna Shakya.

Visit to MAITI Nepal

The delegation then travelled to MAITI Nepal, an NGO established in 1993 to combat human trafficking and to protect Nepalese girls and women from crimes such as domestic violence, child prostitution, child labour and various other forms of violence and exploitation. MAITI Nepal has recently received Australian support to launch anti-human trafficking campaigns in four districts and establish border surveillance outposts in the far west region of Nepal.

The delegation was humbled to meet the MAITI Nepal team, and hear from Mr Achyut Nepal, Deputy Manager about the work they do. The group engaged in a discussion around domestic measures – preventative and curative – that are undertaken in Nepal, the importance of Australian government support of their awareness raising and border surveillance activities, and further issues and challenges like lack of funding, delays in court proceedings and contradictory legislation, a dearth of data collection and geographical prevalence and trends.

The delegation was then taken on a guided tour of the facility, which provides a safe home, education and counselling for women and children survivors of girl trafficking and domestic violence. The delegates were moved to meet in person these women and children, and some members of the delegation even took the opportunity to play basketball with the younger students.

Earthquake walking tour – Durbar Square, Kathmandu

The delegation then headed to Durbar Square to see firsthand the historical and culturally significant World Heritage-listed site of Durbar Square, which was damaged by the Gorkha earthquake in 2015. This assisted the delegates to understand Nepal’s vulnerability to disasters and better understand the challenges of post-2015 earthquake reconstruction, to which Australia contributed.

The delegates were guided through the bustling streets (artfully dodging trucks, cars, motorbikes and bicycles) by staff of the Nepal Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), a leading NGO working on disaster risk management in Nepal and internationally. The delegates were struck by the need for Nepal to continue to improve its disaster preparedness and response, and the importance of Australia’s aid in that endeavour.



The delegates and tour guides on the earthquake walking tour.

Friday, 6 October 2023

Swayambhu Maha Chaitya (Monkey Temple) visit

On the morning of Friday, 6 October 2023 the delegation travelled to the Swayambhu Stupa - one of Nepal's, if not the world's holiest pilgrimage Mahayana Buddhist sites, and an UNESCO World Heritage Monument Zone Site – to better understand the historical and spiritual origins of the Kathmandu Valley. The large colony of monkeys that roams the stupa complex has led to its common name – 'Monkey Temple'.

Mr Luke Davis, an Australian alum of the Lincoln School in Kathmandu and now an employee there, was a tour guide for the delegation. Mr Davis has also been involved in the development and reconstruction of the stupa complex since extensive damage was caused to it by the 2015 earthquake. He provided many wonderful insights into the major pilgrimage site, explaining its history and its importance of the Tibetan, Hindu and Buddhist cultures as a symbol of spiritual peace and enlightenment.

The delegation was very appreciative of Mr Davis' time in sharing his knowledge and passion of this revered religious site.

Roundtable with AutismCare Nepal Society

Next stop for the delegation was Harisiddhi, Lalitpur in the south-west of Kathmandu to visit with AutismCare Nepal Society (ACNS), an NGO founded in 2018. ACNS is one of the most active autism organisations in Nepal, run by parents and caregivers for people with autism. Importantly, the Australian government has partnered with Australia Awards alumn and ACNS Chairperson, Dr Sunita Maleku Amatya, in work to champion the rights of people with autism and other neurodiversity.

Speaker Dick, on behalf of the delegation, thanked Dr Amatya for all the work that she and her team do for autism care and policy reform, emphasising that it is also a priority for the Australian government and the Minister for Social Services. Dr Amatya explained to the delegates about the work that ACNS does, including:

- awareness campaigns
- advocacy
- lobbying, and
- the establishment of a flagship parent and child training program and a diploma course on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for teachers.

Dr Amatya told the delegates that one in 36 children in Nepal have a neuro-developmental disorder, and that most of this population needs lifelong support. Stigma around ASD is still very strong in Nepal, meaning acceptance is the biggest issue, leading to late intervention and poor prognosis. The delegates then toured the ACNS facility and were delighted to witness firsthand children with ASD learning in classrooms with parents and caregivers in a supported and guided way.



The delegates and the team at AutismCare Nepal Society.

Climate change roundtable working lunch with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) representatives and tour of ICIMOD Living Mountain Lab

The delegation then travelled to ICIMOD for a working lunch roundtable and a brief tour of its Living Mountain Lab. Delegates were pleased to hear more about Australia’s long-standing partnership with ICIMOD, an important regional organisation working on issues linked to sustainable mountain development. The visit also allowed delegates to better understand Nepal’s environmental challenges including:

- climate change
- pollution
- biodiversity loss
- demographic changes, and
- water retention and soil movement issues (for farmers especially).

Dr Pema Gyamtsho, Director General of ICIMOD explained how, in the face of these threats, they are developing interventions including early warning systems, high impact weather assessments and air monitoring stations. Their focus is also on education and training for small landholders around slope management and water management practices, including rainwater harvesting techniques and education around native and exotic species. Nepal is now establishing legislation frameworks around these practices to ensure better outcomes, and building relationships with neighbouring countries to build international cooperation for these purposes.

Tour of Patan World Heritage Site

The delegation then headed to Patan World Heritage Site, just south of central Kathmandu. The group was given a two-hour walking tour guided by Mr Anil Chitrakar, one of Nepal's foremost experts in climate, conservation and development.

Patan, also known as Lalitpur, or Yala, is considered the most significant historical site in the city and has been listed by UNESCO as one of seven Monument Zones of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site. It is said to have been designed after the Buddhist Dharma Chakra, the wheel of righteousness, and more structures have been added over the centuries, reflecting both Hindu and Buddhist influences. The 1934 and 2015 earthquakes damaged the city, but the delegates were pleased to see the most recent efforts to rebuild and preserve this important Nepali cultural heritage.



The delegates at Patan World Heritage Site

Australian Alumni Reception at Nepali Ghar Hotel

On the evening of Thursday, 5 October the delegation travelled to the Nepali Ghar Hotel to meet with the Nepalese Alumni of Australian Institutions. The reception was attended by alumni of Australian universities who are now leaders in Nepal in their fields such as climate change, the private sector and education. They included senior government officials, civil society members and academics. HE Ambassador Volk welcomed the group, and the delegates enjoyed networking with the alumni, discussing the strong people-to-people links between Australia and Nepal across a range of government, non-government areas. The alumni took great pleasure in sharing their personal stories and experiences of living and studying Australia.

This marked the end of the delegation's Nepal program.

India

The bilateral relationship between Australia and India is at an all-time high. Australia and India are comprehensive strategic partners and free trade agreement partners, with prime ministerial and ministerial meetings a regular occurrence. Like Nepal, India has hundreds of thousands of its citizens studying in Australia and a large diaspora who now call Australia home.

The Australian delegation was delighted to visit India at such a time - to establish and further strengthen relationships with leaders in Indian parliaments, businesses, academia, not-for-profit and other sectors. The delegates wanted to better understand the Indian political system, the dynamics of the North and South, India's economic growth story and to emphasise the regard in which Australia holds India.

Saturday, 7 October 2023

On Saturday, 7 October 2023 the delegation travelled from Kathmandu to Chennai, India. It was met by Ms Sarah Kirlaw, Consul General Chennai, Mr David Eggleston, Deputy Consul General, Mr Samuel Myers Vice Consul and others from the Australian Consulate General Chennai team.

Chennai

Indo Australia Chamber of Commerce 34th Annual Day Dinner

On the evening of 7 October, the delegates attended the Taj Connemara Hotel for the Indo Australia Chamber of Commerce (IACC) 34th Annual Day Dinner, where they were pleased to be joined by His Excellency the Hon Mr Philip Green OAM, Australian High Commissioner to India, Mr Gaven Standon, President of IACC and Ms Petula Thomas, CEO of IACC, and many other participants. IACC, which is headquartered in Chennai, facilitates and promotes trade and investment between India and Australia.

Speaker Dick delivered a special address at the event and spoke about the growing India-Australia economic relationships and opportunities for collaboration across sectors. Thiru V Arun Roy, IAS, Secretary to Government, Industries Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Government of Tamil Nadu also addressed the group and spoke about the wide range of opportunities that Tamil Nadu has to offer to Australian companies looking at investing in the state. HE High Commissioner Green OAM then delivered the keynote address, and

acknowledged the important role that the IACC plays in advocacy and building commercial partnerships.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for members of the IACC to be awarded for their efforts - 11 companies were celebrated for their impactful investments in India/Australia and four successful female founders for their leadership and vision.



Speaker Dick, High Commissioner Green and IACC members participating in the Hindu tradition of the Lighting of the Lamp at the IACC 34th Annual Day Dinner.

Sunday, 8 October 2023

Briefing on the bilateral relationship between Australia and South India

On the morning of Sunday, 8 October 2023 the delegates received a comprehensive briefing from HE High Commissioner Green OAM and Consul General Kirlaw on the bilateral relationship between Australia and South India. Issues canvassed included:

- trade
- education
- tourism
- technology
- advanced manufacturing and critical minerals, and
- a snapshot of the other socio-economic factors of India's 'dynamic South'.

2023 ICC World Cup Cricket tournament - India vs Australia

In the afternoon, the delegation enjoyed an afternoon at the MA Chidambaram Stadium watching India vs Australia in the 2023 ICC World Cup Cricket tournament. Despite Australia losing this first match, the group enjoyed the unique atmospherics of an Indian crowd cheering on their national team.

Monday, 9 October 2023

Working breakfast with federal members of the Tamil Nadu Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party

On Monday, 9 October 2023 the delegates attended a breakfast meeting with Federal Members of the Tamil Nadu Parliament from the Tamil Nadu Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party to discuss Dravidian Politics, which is grounded in achieving social equality.

The delegates met with Dr Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Member of Parliament for North Chennai constituency, Mr M M Mohamed Abdulla, Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House), Mr Manuraj Shunmugasundaram, Advocate and DMK Spokesperson. A fruitful discussion ensued on topics such as:

- the makeup of the Tamil Nadu Parliament, including the number of Members, female representation and political parties
- recent affirmative action legislation, and
- pre-selection models.



The delegation with Consul General Kirlaw and federal members of the Tamil Nadu Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party.

Visit to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

The delegation then departed for the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, which is now based in the heart of Fort St George in buildings used by colonial legislators. Here, the delegation received a tour of the assembly and were delighted to sit in the visitors' gallery to watch some the parliamentary session in action.

The delegates met with the Honourable Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru M Appavu, the 16th Speaker, elected unopposed in May 2021 and who shares allegiance with the Tamil Nadu Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party.

The delegates were then generously welcomed into the offices of the Honourable Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, where they discussed the rules of the legislative assembly, Questions on Notice, parliamentary inquiries and the committee systems in Tamil Nadu and Australia.



Speaker Dick meeting with Speaker Thiru M Appavu at the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.



The delegates facing the boisterous Indian media pack on their exit from the Tamil Nadu Legislation Assembly.

Bengaluru

In the afternoon of Monday, 9 October the delegation travelled from Chennai to Bengaluru and were met and warmly welcomed by Ms Hilary McGeachy, Consul General Bengaluru and Ms Harriet White, Vice Consul Bengaluru.

Roundtable hosted by the Takshashila Institute

Upon arrival in Bengaluru the delegation directly headed to the Takshashila Institute, an independent centre for research and education in public policy with strong links to Australia including. The Takshashila Institute also hosts Australian High Commissioners and Australian fellows under the New Colombo Program, including Mr Josiah Neal (at the time of the roundtable).

The delegation was pleased to participate in a fascinating discussion on:

- avenues for more India-Australia cooperation
- emerging technologies
- technology in India, and
- the importance of education links.



The delegation with Consul General McGeachy and Mr Nitin Pai, Co-founder and Director of the Takshashila Institute

Reception hosted by Ms Hilary McGeachy, Consul General Bengaluru

In the evening of 9 October, the delegation attended a reception hosted by Consul General McGeachy, enjoying the opportunity to network with representatives from Indian politics, academics, local think tanks and Australia alumni.

Speaker Dick welcomed the group and emphasised Australia and India's important people-to-people links, and the city of Bengaluru's importance to the bilateral relationship, including hosting many of Australia's largest companies, linking them to India's booming digital economy and innovation ecosystem.

Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Wipro Limited

On Tuesday, 10 October 2023 the delegation visited Wipro Limited, a leading Indian big tech company that provides digital transformation services and consultation worldwide. The visit provided the delegates with the opportunity to discuss emerging and future tech projects with an Australian connection, and an exciting tour of the Lab45 Innovation Centre for an immersive AI experience.



The delegation about to embark on a virtual reality experience (left) and Speaker Dick talking with Wipro employees (right).

New Delhi

In the afternoon of 10 October, the delegation travelled from Bengaluru to New Delhi and were met and welcomed by Ms Tammy de Wright, Political Counsellor, Mr Michael Rees, Second Secretary and other members of the Australian High Commission in New Delhi.

Reception with the Raisina Forum for the Future of Diplomacy

On the evening of 10 October, the delegates attended a reception at the Australian High Commissioner's residence, in collaboration with the Raisina Forum for the Future of Diplomacy. The reception was attended by Raisina participants, think tankers, diplomats, political figures and key High Commission staff. Welcome remarks were made by Speaker Dick, Senator the Honourable Sue Lines, the President of the Senate of Australia (who had arrived in India for the ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) and Parliamentary Forum P20 being held in New Delhi) and HE High Commissioner Green OAM.

Wednesday, 11 October 2023

Roundtable on India's economic growth story and the economic relationship with Australia, hosted by the Confederation of India Industry

On Wednesday, 11 October 2023 the delegation, along with President Lines, attended a roundtable on India's economic growth story and the economic relationship with Australia, organised by the Confederation of India Industry (CII). CII is India's national business sector representative organisation.

The delegation was pleased to be accompanied by Austrade's Ms Catherine Gallagher, General-Manager South Asia and to meet with Mr Marut Sen Gupta, Deputy Director General of CII and the rest of the esteemed panel. The roundtable proved an excellent opportunity for discussion around India's green transition and digitisation, and the importance of the Australia-India relationship in matters of trade and investment. The discussions also touched on India's desire of direct flights between Australia and India, skills shortages and Indian and Australian banking systems.

The group also spoke of the importance of the Australia- India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), and the necessity for continued negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which will build upon ECTA outcomes to capitalise on the potential for closer economic ties between Australia and India.

Meeting with Mr Bajjayant Panda, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Vice President and Spokesman

Following the roundtable, the delegation met with Mr Bajjayant Panda, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Vice President and Spokesman. President Lines and Speaker Dick spoke of the extremely strong people-to-people links between Australia and India, our shared democratic values, and the turbo charged nature of the relationship and level of engagement between the two countries.

Mr Panda spoke across a breadth of issues facing Indian politics and India more generally, including:

- the history of the BJP and its status as the largest political party in the world
- the policy impacts to the country under President Narendra Modi
- gender imbalances in parliament
- the increase in girls' education

- voter turnout
- urban vs rural electoral trends
- media interference
- housing, and
- agricultural reforms.



Ms Libby Coker MP and Senator Smith meet with Mr Bajjayant Panda of the BJP.

Working lunch with the India Foundation

After this fruitful discussion, the delegation was pleased to head for lunch, hosted by the India Foundation. Dr Ram Madhav, President of the India Foundation delivered the welcome address, and the concluding remarks were delivered by Vice Admiral (Retd.) Shekhar Sinha, Chairman, Board of Trustees, India Foundation. President Lines and Speaker Dick both spoke of their gratitude to the India Foundation for the reception and more broadly to the generous hospitality the delegation received in country, and the deep and enduring friendship and partnership between India and Australia. The lunch allowed the delegates to enjoy informal discussions with attendees across a range of social, political, and economic issues facing India and Australia.

Meeting with Mr Manish Tewari, MP of the Lok Sabha and a member of the Indian National Congress party

After lunch, the delegation was warmly welcomed into the home of Mr Manish Tewari, MP of the Lok Sabha (the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament) from Punjab and a member of the Indian National Congress party. Mr Tewari and the delegates had a fascinating discussion around:

- Indian elections and voting patterns across local, state and federal levels
- the 'North/ South divide' and the lack of universal representation of all sides of politics across India
- the state of opposition politics in India, there being no designated 'opposition leader' in the country at that time
- India's relationships with its nearest neighbours
- the rise of identity politics, and
- the Indian diaspora in Australia.



Speaker Dick, President Lines and delegates meeting with Mr Manish Tewari, MP of the Lok Sabha and a member of the Indian National Congress party

Informal gathering with Australian High Commission staff and their families

In the early evening of 11 October, the delegation was delighted to informally gather at the Henry Lawson Club located within the High Commission compound to meet and chat with staff and their families working and living at the High Commission in New Delhi. Speaker Dick and President Lines both thanked and acknowledged the High Commission community for all they do in their overseas service to support the commission's presence in New Delhi and beyond.

Thursday, 12 October 2023

On Thursday, 12 October 2023 Speaker Dick separated from the broader delegation to attend (with President Lines) the ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) and Parliamentary Forum P20 being held in New Delhi in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The delegation, now led by Senator Dean Smith, continued with the last day of the official program.

Visit to Raj Ghat, the resting place of Mahatma Gandhi

The delegates were humbled to have the opportunity to visit Raj Ghat, the resting place of Mahatma Gandhi and pay their respects at this revered site in India.



The delegates and Australia High Commission staff paying their respects at the Raj Ghat, the resting place of Mahatma Gandhi

Engagement and lunch with Butterflies NGO

Following this, the delegation travelled to Butterflies, an NGO established to teach vocational and life skills to youth from vulnerable, low socioeconomic backgrounds, and homeless children, in particular. The Australian High Commission in New Delhi has a Direct Aid Program partnership with Butterflies, with an ongoing grant going to its School of Culinary Catering (BSCC), which trains vulnerable adolescents in catering and other professional skills, along with some academic learning.

The delegates were impressed with the dedication and success in which Ms Rita Panicker, Founder and Executive Director, manages the programs, along with the other committed professionals in the team. Delegates were provided a tour of the kitchen and enjoyed some discussions with the young student chefs. The delegates then enjoyed a delicious lunch cooked by the students, including lamb curry, nawabi kofta and saffron rice, over a fascinating discussion about the success of the program, including a 100% placement rate post-graduation, some being offered internships and paid employment in four/five star hotels.



The delegates meeting with the staff and students of Butterflies NGO

Meeting with the Centre for Media Studies

With appetites satiated, the delegates headed to their last official engagement of what was a busy and productive time in India. The Centre for Media Studies (CMS) hosted the delegates for a meeting on the media landscape in both Australia and India.

The CMS is an independent not-for-profit think tank that advocates for equitable and responsive government, developed through its research and capacity building programs. The Australian High Commission has an ongoing grant to CMS, through the Direct Aid Program partnership, that goes to training media students to report on environment and sustainable development issues.

The group enjoyed a lively discussion on topics like:

- the Indian media, entertainment, news and journalism landscape
- media ownership in India and the dominance of political and corporate forces, and
- broadcasting mediums in India - print, TV and radio, and the effect of social media.

This marked the end of the delegation's India program.

Acknowledgements and other remarks

The deep ties between Australia and Nepal and India respectively, and the ongoing strength of these bilateral relationships, was evident to the Australian delegation. There is much promise of further engagement and linkage into the future, and the delegates were pleased to contribute to this with this visit.

The delegation enjoyed a busy and rewarding schedule and excellent hospitality during its visit. The delegates would like to acknowledge the invaluable support they received in the lead up to, and during the trip. In Nepal, Her Excellency Ms Felicity Volk, Ambassador, Mr Paul McEachern, Deputy Head of Mission, Ms Kavitha Kasynathan, First Secretary, Mr Krishna Karki, Program and Research Officer and the entire Australian Embassy team in Kathmandu worked tirelessly to provide a comprehensive itinerary, high quality briefings, and around-the-clock logistical support to ensure all the delegates' needs were met.

In India, the delegates again enjoyed a comprehensive itinerary and excellent briefings. In particular, the delegates wish to thank: His Excellency Mr Phillip Green OAM, High Commissioner to India; Ms Tammy de Wright, Political Counsellor, New Delhi; Ms Mish Khan, Second Secretary (Political), New Delhi; Mr Michael Rees, Second Secretary, New Delhi and the entire Australian High Commission New Delhi team. In Chennai, Ms Sarah Kirlew, Consul General, Mr David Eggleston Deputy Consul-General and Mr Samuel Myers, Vice Consul and the whole Consulate General Chennai are thanked for their work. In Bengaluru, Ms Hilary McGeachy, Consul General and Ms Harriet White, Vice Consul and their team provided an impressive itinerary and excellent on-the-ground support, particularly for a newly established mission.

The delegation also acknowledges the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra and the Parliamentary Library, who provided excellent background briefing materials prior to the visit.

The delegation appreciates the assistance and support of the International and Parliamentary Relations Office. Ms Shannon Karppinen arranged travel and accommodation and provided excellent ongoing support while the delegation was in Nepal and India. The delegation thanks her for her support.

The Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Delegation Leader

Appendix A: Official Program of Activities

NEPAL

WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2023 – KATHMANDU	
9am	<p>Australia/Nepal bilateral relationship briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Her Excellency Ms Felicity Volk, Australian Ambassador to Nepal <p><i>Venue: Australian Embassy, Kathmandu</i></p>
9.45am	<p>Australian Embassy staff meet and greet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Kamakshi Yakthumba, Program Manager- Mr Krishna Karki, Program and Research Officer- Ms Sunita Gurung, Program Manager- Ms Sofila Vaidya, Program Officer- Ms Sanjana Pradhan, Ambassador Executive Assistant and Public Diplomacy Officer- Mr Rajesh Tuladhar, Corporate Services Manager- Mr Kumudh Gurung, Consular, Passports and Security Manager- Mr Pawan Karki, Property and Facilities Manager- Mr Rabi KC, Administrative Assistant- Bal Maharjan, Customs Clerk and Driver- Ramesh Khadka, Customs Clerk and Driver- Contract staff (grounds and maintenance) <p><i>Venue: Australian Embassy, Kathmandu</i></p>
10.30am	<p>Call on the Speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rt Hon Speaker Mr Devraj Ghimire <p><i>Venue: Singha Durbar, Kathmandu</i></p>
11.15am	<p>Call on the Chairman of the National Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rt Hon Mr Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairman of the National Assembly of Nepal <p><i>Venue: Singha Durbar, Kathmandu</i></p>

12.15pm	<p>Lunch hosted by Speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rt Hon Speaker Mr Devraj Ghimire - Nepalese parliamentarians and members of the newly formed Nepal-Australia Friendship Group <p><i>Venue: Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu</i></p>
2pm	<p>Roundtable on governance facilitated by The Asia Foundation (TAF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon Dr Bimala Rai Paudyal, Member of the National Assembly (Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist-Leninist: CPN-UML) and former Minister for Foreign Affairs - Hon Dr Swarnim Waglé, Member of the House of Representatives (Rastriya Swatantra Party), Former Vice Chair of National Planning Commission - Ms Meghan Nalbo, Country Representative, TAF - Dr Seira Tamang, Senior Governance Adviser, TAF - Mr Bishnu Adhikari, Governance Director, TAF <p><i>Venue: The Asia Foundation office, Panipokhari</i></p>
6pm	<p>Reception hosted by Speaker the Hon Milton Dick MP with business leaders at the Ambassador's residence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretary Mr Madhu Kumar Marasini, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies - Over 60 business community leaders in Nepal including: Australia alumni; academics and think tank members; deputy mayors; and members of the Nepal Australia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) and the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs' Associations of Nepal (FWEAN). <p><i>Venue: Australian Embassy, Kathmandu</i></p>

THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2023 – KATHMANDU

10.30am	<p>Tour of the Global Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Education (GATE) College and briefing on the TAFE Certificate III course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Khem Lakai, Founder and CEO, GATE College <p><i>Venue: GATE College, Kathmandu</i></p>
12pm	<p>Tour of the Museum of Nepali Art (MONA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Rajan Shakya and Mrs Saguna Shakya <p><i>Venue: Thamel, Kathmandu</i></p>
2.30pm	<p>Tour of the NGO Maiti Nepal and briefing on activities against human trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Achyut Nepal, Deputy Manager of Maiti, Nepal <p><i>Venue: Maiti Nepal, Gaushala, Kathmandu</i></p>
4pm	<p>'Earthquake walk' to view and discuss earthquake reconstruction work including support from Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr Ganesh Kumar Jimée, Deputy Executive Director, Nepal Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET)- Mr Ranjan Dhungel, Director, NSET- Ms Rajani Prajapati, Structural Engineer/Manager, NSET <p><i>Venue: Durbar Square, Kathmandu</i></p>

FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2023 – KATHMANDU

8.30am	<p>Guided tour of Swayambhu Maha Chaitya (Monkey Temple)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Luke Davis (Tour Guide), Educator, Sports Coach and Program Director at the Lincoln School in Kathmandu, and author of several children's books. <p><i>Venue: Swayambhu Maha Chaitya</i></p>
--------	---

10.30am	<p>Roundtable with AutismCare Nepal Society (ACNS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Sunita Maleku Amatya, Chairperson, ACNS - Ms Neelam Gautam, Current Vice Chairperson and former Secretary of ACNS - Mr Shyam Bhandari, Treasurer and former Vice Chairperson of ACNS - Er Sachin Shrestha, Executive Member, ACNS - Mr Surendra Bajracharya, Chief Administrator, ACNS - Ms Kripa Shrestha, Parent and Child Training Head, ACNS - Ms Mahalaxmi Karki, Project Manager, ACNS - Ms Sijan Shakya, Education and Training Coordinator, ACNS <p><i>Venue: AutismCare Nepal Society, Harisiddhi</i></p>
12pm	<p>Roundtable working lunch with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) representatives on climate change and tour of ICIMOD Living Mountain Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Pema Gyamtsho, Director General ICIMOD - Dr Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Lead Strategic Group: Reducing Climate and Environmental Risks - Dr Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Action Area Coordinator, Managing Cryosphere and Water Risks - Dr Surendra Raj Joshi, Head Living Mountain Lab, Godavari - Ms Annie Dare, Head Communication - Dr Shiba Satyal Banskota, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Lead - Mr Yona Khaling Rai, LML Site Supervisor <p><i>Venue: Living Mountain Lab, Godavari</i></p>
2.15pm	<p>Guided walking tour of Patan Durbar Square, UNESCO World Heritage Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Anil Chitrakar (Tour Guide), Conservation Activist <p><i>Venue: Patan Dhokar to Patan Durbar Square</i></p>
6.30pm	<p>Reception with Nepali Alumni of Australian institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Min Bahadur Shrestha, Vice-Chair, National Planning Commission - Dr Kiran Paudyal, Chairperson, President Chure Terai-Madhesh Conservation Development Board - Dr Ram Prasad Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Finance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Govinda Prasad Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development - Dr Dibya Singh Shah, Dean & Head, Department of Nephrology and Transplantation Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Institute of Medicine <p><i>Venue: Nepali Ghar Hotel</i></p>
--	---

INDIA

SATURDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2023 – CHENNAI, INDIA	
6:30am	Depart for Chennai, India
7pm	<p>Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce - 34th Annual Day Dinner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HE High Commissioner the Hon Philip Green OAM - Ms Sarah Kirlaw, Consul General Chennai - Thiru V Arun Roy, IAS, Secretary to Govt., Government of Tamil Nadu - Mr. Gaven Standon, President, Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce (IACC) - Petula Thomas, CEO, IACC <p><i>Venue: Taj Connemara Hotel, Chennai</i></p>

SUNDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2023 – CHENNAI, INDIA	
7am	<p>Informal guided walking tour of Mylapore district to see Mylapore Temple and historic Old Madras</p> <p><i>Venue: Mylapore, Chennai</i></p>
9:30am	<p>Briefing with the High Commission and Consul General on bilateral relationship and South India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HE High Commissioner the Hon Philip Green OAM - Ms Sarah Kirlaw, Consul General Chennai <p><i>Venue: Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai</i></p>

2pm	<p>Attendance at the 2023 ICC World Cup Cricket: India vs Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Hon Dr PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan, Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services of the Government of Tamil Nadu - Mr Pramod Ranjan, Managing Director and CEO, Oriental Hotels - HE High Commissioner the Hon Philip Green OAM <p><i>Venue: MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai</i></p>
-----	---

MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2023 – CHENNAI & BENGALURU, INDIA	
8am	<p>Breakfast meeting with Tamil Nadu Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party (DMK) Federal Members of Parliament on Dravidian Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Kalanidhi Veeraswamy (Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu) - Mr M M Mohamed Abdullah (Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu) - Mr Manuraj Shunmugasundaram, Advocate and DMK Spokesperson <p><i>Venue: Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai</i></p>
10am	<p>Tour of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Hon Thiru M Appavu, Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - Dr K Srinivasan, Secretary TLA <p><i>Venue: Fort St George, Chennai</i></p>

11am	<p>Viewing of the sitting of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly</p> <p><i>Venue: Visitors' Gallery, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Fort St George, Chennai</i></p>
12pm	<p>Call on the Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honourable Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services <p><i>Venue: Fort St George, Chennai</i></p>
2pm	<p>Depart for Bengaluru, India</p>
4.30pm	<p>Roundtable discussion at the Takshashila Institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Nitin Pai, Co-founder and Director - Mr Pranay Kotasthane, Deputy Director, High Tech Geopolitics - Mr Anupam Manur, Assistant Professor of Economics - Ms Sowmya Prabhakar, Head of Corporate Affairs - Ms Shambhavi Naik, Head of Research, Advanced Biology Program - Mr Bharat Sharma, Research Analyst, Indo-Pacific Studies - Ms Anushka Saxena, Research Analyst, Indo-Pacific Studies - Mr Amit Kumar, Research Analyst, Indo-Pacific Studies - Mr Josiah W Neal, Visiting Research Analyst <p><i>Venue: Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru</i></p>
7.30pm	<p>Reception hosted by Australia Consul General Bengaluru, Ms Hilary McGeachy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives from Indian politics, academics from preeminent institutions and local thinktanks, and Australian alumni. <p><i>Venue: The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Bengaluru</i></p>

TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2023 – BENGALURU, INDIA

9am	<p>Visit of Wipro Limited and tour of the Lab45 Innovation Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Sanjeev Jain, Senior Vice President, Global Business Operations <p><i>Venue: Wipro Limited, Bengaluru</i></p>
1.30pm	<p>Depart for New Delhi, India</p>
7.30pm	<p>Reception combined with the Raisina Forum for the Future of Diplomacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- HE High Commissioner the Hon Philip Green OAM- Mr Samir Saran, President of the Observer Research Foundation- Mr PP Chaudry MP, Chairman Committee on External Affairs and Lok Sanha MP, Rajasthan- Mr Anil K Antony, National Secretary and National Spokesman, BJP- Mr Gaurav Gogoi MP, Deputy Leader of the Indian National Congress, Lok Sabha- Ms Sharma Mohamed, Spokesperson, Indian National Congress- Mr Bahrat Joshi, CEO of J Curve- Participants of the Raisina Forum for the Future of Diplomacy <p><i>Venue: High Commissioner's Residence, New Delhi</i></p>

WEDNESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2023 – NEW DELHI, INDIA

10am	<p>Roundtable on India's economic growth story and the economic relationship with Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minister Commercial Ms Catherine Gallagher, Austrade- Mr Marut Sen Gupta, Deputy Director General, CII- Mr Anil Wadhwa, Former Ambassador, CII Taskforce- Mr Bharat Joshi, CEO of J Curve- Mr Pranav Kumar, Vice President, International Trade Policy and Compliance, Reliance Industries
------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Sandeep Jayaswal, Managing Director, Aussan Laboratories - Mr Tabrez Ahmad, Group Director, Government Affairs for Asia Pacific, Dell Technologies <p><i>Venue: Confederation of Indian Industry office, the Mantosh Sondhi Centre, New Delhi</i></p>
11.30am	<p>Meeting with BJP National Vice President and Spokesman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Baijayant Panda <p><i>Venue: Private residence, New Delhi</i></p>
1pm	<p>India Foundation – lunch reception event hosted by President Ram Madhav</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Ram Madhav, President, India Foundation - Mr Harivansh Singh, Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha <p><i>Venue: Jehangir Hall, Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi</i></p>
3pm	<p>Meeting with Mr Manish Tewari, MP, Indian National Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Manish Tewari, MP, Lok Sabha, Punjab, Indian National Congress - Ms Sarah Storey, Deputy High Commissioner to India (outgoing) <p><i>Venue: Private residence, New Delhi</i></p>
5:30pm	<p>Meet and greet with High Commission New Delhi families</p> <p><i>Venue: Henry Lawson Club, Australian High Commission</i></p>

THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2023 – NEW DELHI, INDIA

10am	Visit to Raj Ghat, memorial to/resting place of Mahatma Gandhi <i>Venue: Raj Ghat</i>
11:45am	Engagement and lunch with Butterflies NGO (Direct Aid Program Partner) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Rita Panicker Pinto, Founder and Executive Director <i>Venue: Butterflies NGO, Jaunapur, New Delhi</i>
2pm	Meeting with the Centre for Media Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr P N Vasanti, Director General, Centre for Media Studies <i>Venue: Centre for Media Studies, Research House, Saket, New Delhi</i>
End of official engagements	