



Strong bond: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Sydney. GETTY IMAGES

India-Australia ties built on trust: Modi

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the foundation of India-Australia relations lies in mutual trust and respect, as he along with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese addressed the Indian diaspora at a mega event here.

During the event, a suburb in Australia – Harris Park – was renamed “Little India”, reflecting the strong bond between the

two strategic partners.

Mr. Modi also announced that India would open a consulate in Brisbane to fulfil a long-pending demand by the diaspora. The Prime Minister was given a rousing welcome by thousands of Indians who thronged the Qudos Bank Arena.

Mr. Albanese described India as a “force of global good” and a “bright spot” in the world economy.

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“Today India is being called a force of global good. Wherever there is a disaster, India stands ready to help. Recently, when the earthquake caused devastation in Turkey, India extended a helping hand through ‘Operation Dost’,” Mr. Modi said.

Asserting that the strategic partnership between India and Australia is constantly deepening, Mr. Modi said, “We hope the bilateral trade between the two sides will more than double in the next five years”. The two countries signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement last year. “We are building resilient and reliable supply chains. This will provide momentum to the business of both sides,” he said.

There is a geographical distance between India and Australia, but the Indian Ocean connects us, Mr. Modi said and added that no matter how different the two countries are, they are connected at various levels. “Yoga connects us. Cricket is something which has kept us connected for ages...,” he said amid loud cheering from the crowd.

The Prime Minister also said the two countries have moved forward in recognising degrees issued by each other and this will benefit students of both sides.

Mr. Modi thanked his Australian counterpart for renaming Harris Park ‘Little India’. Harris Park is a hub in Western Sydney where the Indian community celebrates festivals and events such as Deepavali and Australia Day.

Addressing the gathering earlier, Mr. Albanese said Mr. Modi gets a “rock star reception” wherever he goes. “The last time I saw someone on this stage was [American singer] Bruce Springsteen and he did not get the welcome that Prime Minister Modi has got. Prime Minister Modi is the boss,” Mr. Albanese said. Springsteen was nicknamed ‘boss’ by his fans.

Area sabha meetings will be conducted four times a year

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The meetings of area sabhas in municipal corporations, municipalities and town panchayats in Tamil Nadu will be held four times a year – January 25, April 14, September 15 and December 10. Orders to this effect have been issued on the directions of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

January 25 is the National Voters' Day, April 14 is the birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar, September 15 is the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai and

The dates are:
January 25, April 14,
September 15 and
December 10

December 10 is the International Human Rights Day.

The State government issued a press release in this regard on Tuesday.

According to the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Rules, 2023, each ward in a municipal area has been divided into area sabhas.

These sabhas would meet once every three months.



Ban on gutkha, pan masala extended

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The State government has extended for one year from May 23, 2023, the ban on the manufacture, storage, transport, distribution or sale of chewable food products such as gutkha and pan masala, containing tobacco and nicotine.

The order was issued by the Commissioner of Food Safety, in pursuance of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006. Tamil Nadu initiated the ban in 2016, and as per the provisions of the Act, the State extends the ban for a period of one year, every year, sources said.

India raises terrorism issue at G-20 meet, lambasts Pakistan

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

India flagged the issue of state-sponsored terrorism at the G-20 event on Tuesday, and lambasted Pakistan for its bid to oppose the third tourism working group meeting in Srinagar.

Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting at Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy took potshots at Pakistan, as the high-profile meeting with participation from foreign countries concluded peacefully with "representation from 27 countries".

China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, all G-20 members, and Egypt, a special invitee, did not attend the meeting after Pakistan objected to India's move to hold a meeting in Srinagar.

"J&K is a part of India. Pakistan has no right to talk about it. The country should rather pay attention towards its own people. Whatever we do is for the benefit of our people. Who is Pakistan to say anything? This is our land, these are our people, and thousands of people have sacrificed



Manoj Sinha

their lives for it," Mr. Reddy said.

On China's decision not to attend the Srinagar meeting, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that "does not make any difference". "China not coming is China's loss, not India's," he said.

Mr. Sinha raised the issue of state-sponsored terrorism. "For almost 30 years, this land of peaceful co-existence of almost all religious sects had to suffer state-sponsored terrorism by our neighbouring country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi through development schemes, which empower masses and effective administration, isolated the terror eco-system that thrived with the support from across the border," he said.

What is the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism?

What is carbon leakage? How will the new policy affect trade between India and the EU?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

In May 10, co-legislators at the European Commission signed the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). It has been described as a "landmark tool" to put a "fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries."

What is the CBAM?

Its primary objective is to avert 'carbon leakage'. It refers to a phenomenon where a EU manufacturer moves carbon-intensive production to countries outside the region with less stringent climate policies. In other words, replace EU-manufactured products with more carbon-intensive imports.

From 2026, once the CBAM is fully implemented, importers in the EU would

have to buy carbon certificates corresponding to the payable carbon price of the import had the product been produced in the continent, under its carbon pricing rules. Conversely, if a non-EU producer is paying a price (or tax) for carbon used to produce the imported goods, back home or in some other country, the corresponding cost would be deducted for the EU importer. The Commission, in coordination with relevant authorities of the member states, would be responsible for reviewing and verifying declarations as well as managing the central platform for the sale of CBAM certificates. Importers would have to annually declare by May-end the quantity and embedded emissions in the goods imported into the region in the preceding year.

The idea here is to avert the possibility of carbon leakage alongside encouraging producers in non-EU countries to green their manufacturing processes. Moreover, it will ensure a level playing field between

imports and EU products. This would also form part of the continent's broader European Green Deal which endeavours to achieve 55% reduction in carbon emissions compared to 1990 levels by 2030 and become a climate neutral continent by 2050.

Why are countries worried?

CBAM would initially apply to imports of certain goods and selected precursors, whose production is carbon-intensive and are at risk of 'leakage' such as the cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity and hydrogen sectors.

In 2021, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had concluded that Russia, China and Turkey were most exposed to the mechanism. Considering the level of exports to the union in these sectors, it stated India, Brazil and South Africa would be most affected among the developing countries. Mozambique would be the most exposed least-developing

country. Important to note, countries in the EU combined represent about 14% of India's export mix for all products, steel and aluminium included.

Mannat Jaspal, Associate Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) notes that India's exports in the five segments represented less than 2% of the total exports to the EU between 2019 and 2021. However, according to Ms. Jaspal, while the impact of the regulation may appear limiting, its long-term effects can be severe for multiple factors. First, EU being India's third largest trade partner and given the latter's projected growth trajectories, the size of exports (including in the CBAM sectors) will invariably rise. Secondly, CBAM's scope would expand beyond its current ambit to include other sectors as well. "Given India's products have a higher carbon intensity than its European counterparts, the carbon tariffs imposed will be proportionally higher making Indian exports substantially uncompetitive," she told *The Hindu*. And finally, international climate policies (including CBAM) will compel other countries to impose similar regulation eventually translating to "a significant impact" on India's trading relationships and balance of payments.

It was informed, earlier this month, in a joint statement during the inaugural EU-India Trade and Technology Council, that "the two sides have also agreed to intensify their engagement on carbon border measures."