

# India-Australia trade accord comes into force

The agreement will also eliminate Double taxation on IT services which were making Indian businesses less competitive and less profitable in the IT sector



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 29 DECEMBER

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), an institutional mechanism aimed at encouraging and improving trade between the two countries, came into effect today. With this, India has achieved the unique distinction

of operationalising two trade agreements this year.

The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement came into force on 1 May.

The ECTA was signed on 2 April and ratified on 21 November. The two countries exchanged written notifications on 29 November.

Addressing industry representatives and the media in

Mumbai, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the accord has been negotiated with the speed of Blet Lee and the perfection of Sachin Tendulkar.

"There is a lot of potential for exporting finished goods to Australia since they hardly manufacture anything, they are largely a raw material and intermediate producing coun-

try, we will get cheaper raw materials which will not only make us more competitive globally but also enable us to serve Indian consumers better, enabling us to provide more quality goods at more affordable prices," he said.

Goyal said Australia, which is largely dependent on imports, will benefit hugely. It will soon start seeing a lot more finished goods coming in from India, providing a huge amount of work and job opportunities in both goods and services.

The agreement, he said, will also eliminate Double taxation on IT services which were making Indian businesses less competitive and less profitable in the IT sector.

"I appreciate the Australian government for being very sensitive and considerate, giving us full cooperation throughout the negotiations, especially in protecting the interests of the farmers and dairy sector of India.

Products like agricultural products and dairy sector - which were very sensitive for India and without which Australia has never done an agreement before - have been protected. I am hugely grateful to the Australian government for this," Goyal added.

## PM Modi terms India-Aus trade pact 'watershed moment' in bilateral ties

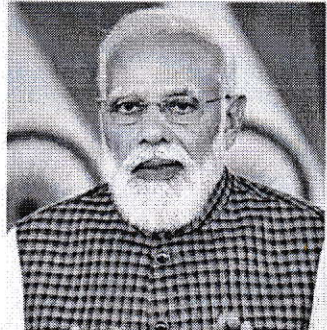
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 29 DECEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the India-Australia trade pact, which came into effect on December 29, is a watershed moment for a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Modi also said that he looked forward to his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese's visit to India in March.

Earlier, Australian PM Albanese said that he will visit India in March next year with a business delegation committed to improving two-way trade between the two nations.

"The Australia-India Trade Agreement, which came into force today, will deliver new opportunities to Australian businesses. At the invitation of PM Modi, I will visit India in March with a business delegation committed to improving two-way trade between our two



nations," Albanese tweeted.

Modi replied to Albanese's tweet, saying "Glad that India Aus ECTA is entering into force today. It is a watershed moment for our Comprehensive Strategic

Partnership. It will unlock the enormous potential of our trade and economic ties and boost businesses on both sides. Look forward to welcoming you in India soon."

