



**High Commission of India  
Canberra**

**PRESS RELEASE**

On 06 April 2011, the Union Cabinet, Government of India, approved the opening of a Consulate General of India in Perth, Western Australia.

The Consulate General will be headed by a Consul General, who will be of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India and will cover Western Australia (WA) and Northern Territory (NT).

A large Indian community of approximately 40,000-45,000 resides in Western Australia (*about 10% of the Indian community in Australia*), which is growing faster than in any other state in the country. There are also estimated to be about 8,000 Indian students in WA and NT. The demand for consular services from this area has thus increased significantly in recent years.

The Consulate General of India in Perth will cater to the needs of the Indian community in WA and NT and provide consular services. The Consulate General will also be responsible for issuing visas for India in respect of applications received from WA/NT.

An important aspect of the Consulate General's work will relate to promotion of economic, trade and investment relations between India and WA and NT. WA accounted for 55.70% of Australia's total exports to India in 2009-10; exports from WA in this period were A\$ 8.6 billion out of total Australian exports to India of A\$ 15.4 billion. Indian investment has also been growing significantly in WA in recent months.

Procedures are under way for the opening of the Consulate General, which is expected to become fully functional in the next few months.

**19 April 2011**