



Australia-India Relations Sentiment Survey

Final report

May 2025



Social
Research
Centre

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri People who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our company is located, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri People who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the ANU is located, and the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia, where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. The Social Research Centre is committed to honouring First Nations peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

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List of abbreviations and terms

Abbreviation or term	Naming or description in full
ABS	The Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANU	The Australian National University
DFAT	The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ECTA	Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement
Indian Australians	Those born in India or with a parent born in India or those with Indian ancestry
SPIR	The School of Politics and International Relations (at the ANU)
The Centre	The Centre for Australia-India Relations
The Sentiment Survey	The Australia-India Relations Sentiment Survey

Executive summary

Background

The Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was initiated in 2020, signalling a new level of long-term and wide-ranging cooperation between Australia and India based on shared interests. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has developed alongside the Quad (a partnership between Australia, India, Japan and the United States), and has seen an expansion of two-way trade facilitated by the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). Deep people-to-people links underpin the relationship – Australia is now home to almost a million Indian Australians, and the Indian diaspora is Australia's fastest growing large diaspora community.

Public opinion is a key ingredient in sustained and consistent international engagement. The general population play essential roles in informing the range and depth of cooperation, and the opportunities and constraints for foreign policy. Stronger awareness about Australia's international partners makes it less likely that Australians will be overly influenced by misinformation, disinformation, or that Australians will respond to geopolitical events based on outdated stereotypes.

Gauging public opinion is particularly important among groups with high salience for the issues, such as Indian Australians, or those that have close business, family, or other ties with the country. In spite of this, knowledge of the beliefs, preferences, and concerns of the Australian and Indian public regarding their countries' intensified cooperation is limited.

The Centre for Australia-India Relations (the Centre) at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commissioned the Australia-India Relations Sentiment Survey (the Sentiment Survey) to understand the attitudes of the Australian community towards India and the bilateral relationship. The data collected will inform future initiatives to build India literacy within Australia as part of fostering strong people-to-people ties and supporting trade and investment interests with India.

The Centre engaged the Social Research Centre (SRC) in collaboration with the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) at the Australian National University (ANU) to conduct quantitative and qualitative research with Australians aged 18 years and over.

A total of **2,158** Australians were surveyed in September and October 2024, drawing on a nationally representative sample consisting of **1,865** non-Indian Australians and **294** Indian Australians (defined as those born in India or with a parent born in India or those with Indian ancestry). Three virtual focus groups, with 7 respondents in each group, were also conducted to delve deeper into the experiences of younger and middle-aged Australians as well as Indian Australians.

This report details the findings across each of the areas of the research, including respondents' experiences and general knowledge about India, perceptions of India's economic and strategic importance to Australia, levels of cultural connections and understanding, and attitudes to Indian Australian communities. The report also includes four vignettes profiling the views explored in focus groups.

Experience with India

The research shows that only a minority of Australians have travelled to India (12%), but that almost half would like to travel to India in the future. Of those that have travelled to India, only a very small percentage had a negative experience (less than one in five).

General knowledge about India

There is a lack of general knowledge about India and its place in the world. Australians are more able to identify that India is the most populous country in the world but less sure of India's economic heft.

Perceptions of India's economic importance

Most Australians continue to see China as Australia's most important economic partner in the Asian region.

A small number of Australians (7%) see India as Australia's most important economic partner, but the majority put India in the top three economic partners in the Asian region (alongside China and Japan).

When asked about India's current importance to Australia's economy, 70% of Australians rate India as very important or important. A majority of Australians (58%) are also optimistic that India's economic growth prospects will be strong over the next five years.

Perceptions of India's strategic importance

Almost seven in 10 Australians recognise that India is very important or important to Australia's national interests over the next five years.

An even greater proportion (83%) believe that closer Australia-India relations are beneficial for the Asian region.

Attitudes to India's international role

Australians view India's global economic integration positively, with more than six in 10 respondents agreeing to some extent that India's economy is open to international trade and investment. This is substantially higher among Indian Australians (89%) compared to non-Indian Australians (61%).

Australians have strong confidence in the Indian government's economic policies – almost two thirds of respondents view the Indian government as being focussed on pursuing economic growth. Confidence in India's focus on social policies, such as healthcare, education, and welfare programs, is lower, but a sizeable proportion of respondents (42%) report they lack the knowledge to respond to this question.

Only 16% of respondents believe that people in India enjoy the same level of personal freedoms as in Australia.

Only 44% of respondents strongly agree or agree that India has a positive influence on world affairs, but around a third lack the knowledge to say.

Cultural connections and understanding

Thirty five percent of Australians report having a very good or good understanding of Indian culture. The predominant form of engaging Indian culture is eating Indian food, but respondents also report that they engage culturally through Indian music and movies.

Around three in five Australians feel they have either poor or very poor understanding of Indian culture.

Importantly, 81% of respondents recognise that understanding Indian culture is crucial to economic ties.

Australians were specifically asked what they believe is most necessary to build a stronger people-to-people ties between Australians and Indians. The activities they rate most highly are travel and tourism, trade and investment opportunities, education opportunities, science and technology initiatives, and arts and cultural events.

Engaging Indian Australian communities

Interactions with the Indian Australian community are reported most frequently in workplace and retail trade and services settings.

Australians readily recognise the crucial role the Indian diaspora plays in the Australian economy. Seventy three per cent recognise this with respect to Indian skilled migrants, 64% acknowledge this for Indian international students, and 62% recognise this crucial contribution of Indian temporary workers.

They also see the Indian Australian community as enhancing the bilateral relationship, with 72% believing the Indian community has a positive impact.

There is a general recognition that Indian Australians, like other diaspora communities in Australia, may continue to experience discrimination in Australia. When Australians are asked to nominate what challenges

members of the Indian community face in Australia, the most prevalent challenge identified by a quarter of them is racism, but 39% do not know enough to say.

Implications for Australia-India relations

The translation of country sentiment into foreign policy is not always straightforward. To truly understand the Australian population's opinion on the bilateral relationship and identify the strongest policy preferences, findings need to be analysed in the broader context of international relations and as new developments emerge. But the questionnaire developed for this research provides a robust instrument to measure public opinion and the research offers key findings for the Australia-India relationship.

Firstly, the research finds that most Australians recognise India has a large and growing economy and see India as an important country for Australia's security and prosperity now and into the future. There is optimism about India's economic prospects in the next five years and support for enhancing business engagement between the two countries.

Secondly, even though their engagement may have been somewhat superficial through Indian cuisine, many Australians have engaged with Indian culture and have an interest to engage more in the future.

Importantly, Australians appreciate the role of cultural competency in establishing trade and investment relationships with India, even if the base level of cultural understanding is currently low.

Thirdly, the positive contributions made by Indian Australians to Australia's society, its economy and the relationship with India are widely recognised.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the research showed very clear differences between the responses of Indian Australians and those of Australians without Indian heritage (referred to as 'non-Indian Australians' in this report), reflecting their varying levels of interest and awareness.

Bilateral challenges and opportunities may be differently perceived by Indian Australians, as compared to those without Indian heritage. This survey finds that Indian Australians are more likely to feel that news about India is both underreported and portrayed negatively in the media.

One of the clearest findings that emerges from the research is that there is a large proportion of Australians who do not feel they have sufficient knowledge to respond to questions about various dimensions of the Australia-India relationship. This includes around one in five on the question of India's role in Australia's national interests, one in three for questions about India's economic growth, and two in five for questions about India's social policy.

The lack of knowledge tends to be greater for women, younger Australians, those with lower levels of education, and those that have not travelled to India.

This knowledge gap presents an opportunity for government, universities, and civil society to make India and its relationship with Australia more accessible to the public, to reach out to particular groups, and to foster mutual understanding through greater cultural exchange. The knowledge gap also suggests a larger role for Indian Australians in initiatives to enhance India literacy, informed by their appreciation of the mutual benefits in bilateral ties and India's place in Australia's future.

1. Overview and methodology

This report summarises the Australia-India Relations Sentiment Survey (the Sentiment Survey) and accompanying qualitative research conducted by the Social Research Centre in collaboration with the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) at the Australian National University (ANU).

The Sentiment Survey was conducted on behalf of the Centre for Australia-India Relations (the Centre) – part of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Centre was established by the Australian Government in 2023 to serve as a national platform to enhance collaboration and engagement between Australia and India.

The primary objective of the Sentiment Survey is to provide evidence on community sentiment regarding India, the Australia-India relationship, and the contributions of the Indian Australian diaspora. This reflects a key mission of the Centre to improve domestic understanding about India's place in Australia's future from a strategic, economic, and cultural perspective. The research will inform future initiatives to build India literacy within Australia as part of fostering strong people-to-people ties and supporting trade and investment links with India.

The data presented in this report is also intended to create baseline population level data to understand community sentiment, contribute to public debate about the relationship and its domestic drivers, and facilitate monitoring and evaluation.

Data was collected through the Social Research Centre's Life in Australia™ probability based online panel and a non-probability sample managed by Multicultural Management and Marketing (MMM) to boost for Indian Australians. Respondents completed an online survey of 17.5 minutes on average from mid-September to mid-October 2024. Data from the two sources were blended using statistical weighting techniques to minimise the bias associated with the non-probability sample.

Across all charts and tables, blue text indicates higher results ($p \leq 0.05$) and red text indicates lower results ($p \leq 0.05$) as compared within sub-groups.

Throughout the survey, reference was made to the region ranging from the eastern Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean including India, China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. Although reference is made to the term 'Indo-Pacific', to maximise comprehension among respondents, this geographical area was referred to as the 'Asian region' in the survey and an accompanying map was provided to respondents to illustrate this region.

Several items from the questionnaire, including the map and labelling of the Asian region, underwent cognitive testing prior to the survey being finalised. Ten cognitive interviews were conducted with adults via videoconference. These interviews examined the extent to which respondents understood the questions being asked and their ability to provide sensible and accurate answers. Changes to the questionnaire were implemented based on this feedback.

Following the survey, three virtual focus group discussions, with 7 respondents in each group, were conducted to gain deeper insights into experiences and attitudes towards India and Indian Australian communities.

All aspects of the research were undertaken in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (the National Statement), the Australian Privacy Principles, the Privacy (Market and Social Research) Code 2021, Research Society Code of Professional Behaviour, and ISO 20252:2019 standards.

2. Experiences with India

2.1. Overview

In this section, we explore the experiences with travel to India amongst survey respondents.

We can reasonably assume that travelling to a country can favourably change views towards it. There is some support for this common-sense notion, with a study undertaken by Tasci and Moreno-Gil¹ showing that post-visit image of a country tends to be more positive on average than pre-visit image, though this impact declines with time. One reason this may occur is due to inter-personal interactions during travel; travellers who have more cross-cultural interactions while travelling have been shown to have more positive changes in cultural attitudes in a study by Fisher and Price².

In the 12 months between October 2023 and September 2024, there were around 532,000 Australian residents who returned from short-term travel to India³. Although India was not one of the top 10 destination countries for returning residents in 2024, there has been a significant increase in people returning from a short-term trip to India over the last few decades.

Unsurprisingly, Indian Australians are much more likely to have travelled to India than non-Indian Australians. However, there are other characteristics that shape this direct experience with India, including age and education. Importantly, only a very small percentage of those who travelled to India had a negative experience (less than one in five). Almost half the Australian population (including 44% of non-Indian Australians) would like to travel to India in the future.

2.2. Past travel to India

Twelve percent of all respondents indicate they have travelled to India in the past. Ninety one percent of Indian Australians say they have visited India, compared to only 9% of non-Indian Australians.

Amongst non-Indian Australians, travel to India is greatest among older Australians. Around 5% of non-Indian Australians aged 18 to 44 report they have travelled to India, compared to 12% of those aged 45 years and over. People with relatively high levels of education are more likely to have travelled to India.

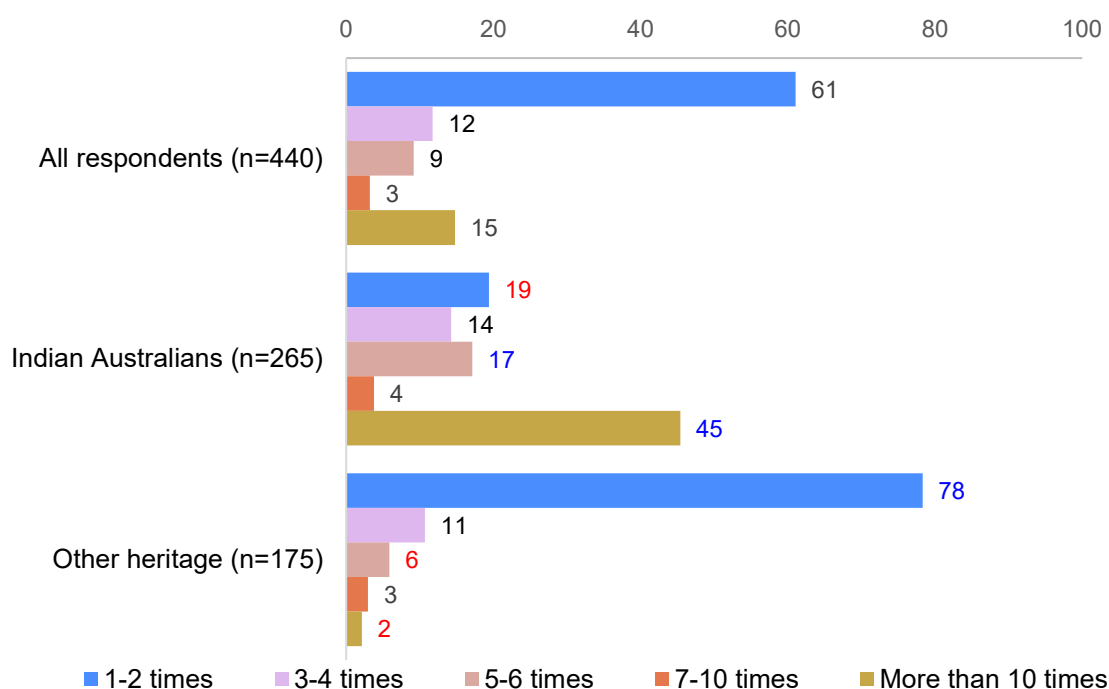
The number of visits to India also varies significantly by heritage, with non-Indian Australians having typically travelled to India only once or twice (78%). In contrast, almost half (45%) of Indian Australians having visited the country more than 10 times (refer [Figure 1](#)) This highlights the very strong connection that Indian Australians have to their country of cultural heritage.

¹ Tasci, A.D., & Moreno-Gil, S. (2024). *Destination image change through the course of a visit: a longitudinal study*. *Consumer Behavior in Tourism and Hospitality*.

² Fisher, R. J., & Price, L. L. (1991). International pleasure travel motivations and post-vacation cultural attitude change. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 23(3), 193-208.

³ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/tourism-and-transport/overseas-arrivals-and-departures-australia/latest-release>

Figure 1 Number of times travelled to India by heritage (%)

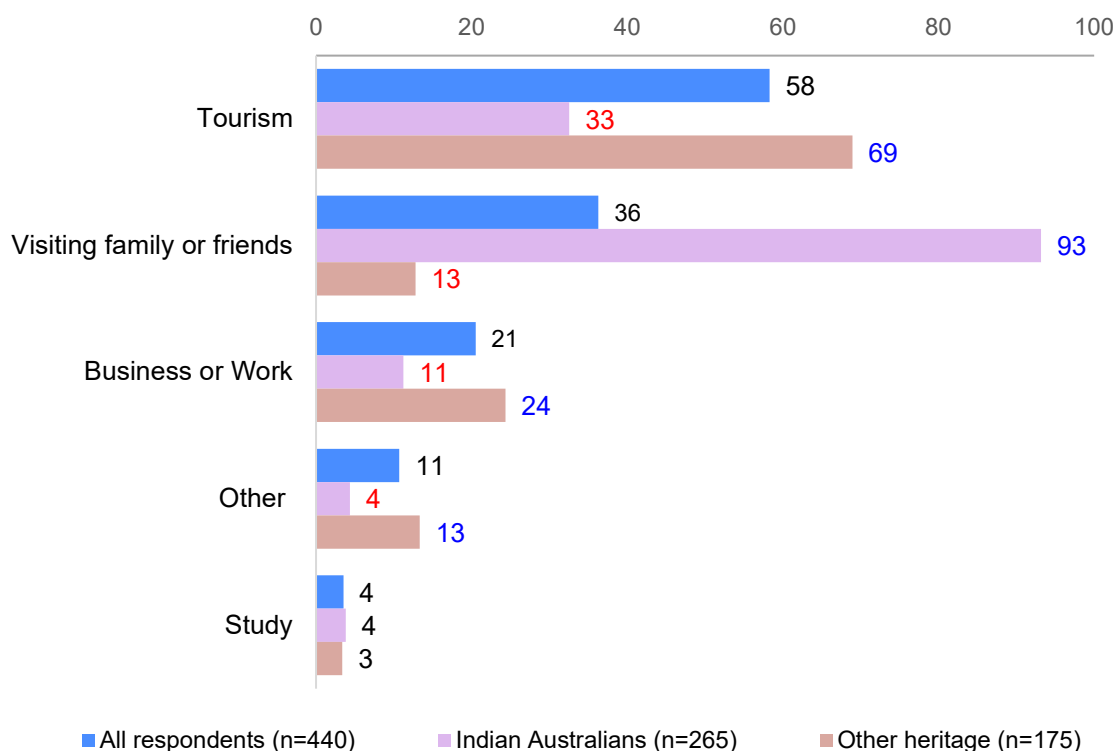


B2. How many times have you travelled to India? Base: Respondents who have travelled to India (n=440).

Note: 'Not sure' (0%) and 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for '7-10 times' (n=16).

Respondents who have travelled India in the past were asked about the purpose of their visit and their general experiences. The primary purpose of visits for Indian Australians is to see family or friends (93%), whereas tourism (69%) is the main reason for non-Indian Australians, followed by business (24%) (refer Figure 2).

Figure 2 Purpose of travel to India by heritage (%)

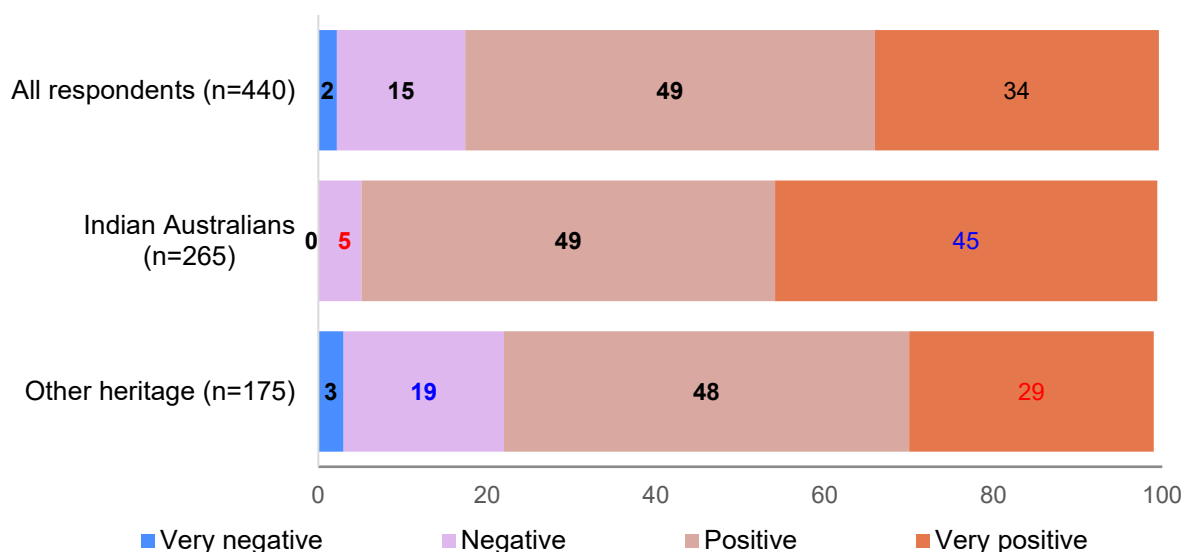


B3. What was the purpose of your visit(s) to India? Base: Respondents who have travelled to India (n=440).

Note: 'Not sure' (0%) and 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for 'Study' n=14.

Among those who have travelled to India, 82% report having positive or very positive experiences generally (refer [Figure 3](#)).

Figure 3 Experiences generally of visiting India by heritage (%)



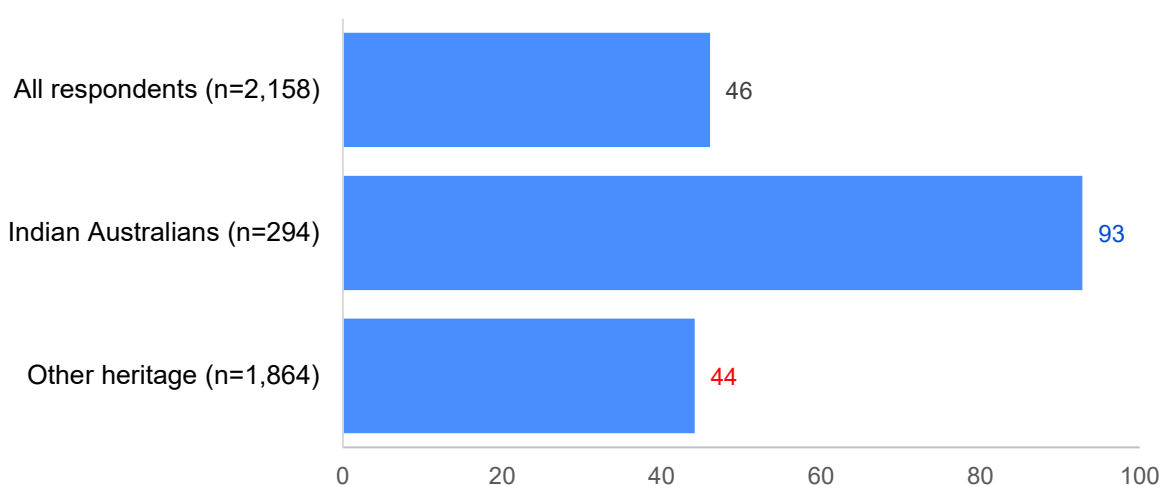
B4. How would you describe your experiences generally of visiting India? Base: Respondents who have travelled to India (n=440). Note: 'Not sure' (0%) and 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for 'Very negative' (n=5).

Past positive experiences of travel to India are related to likelihood of future return travel. A higher proportion of non-Indian Australians who report a past positive experience indicate a desire to travel to India again (93%), compared to those who had no future plans (54%).

2.3. Future travel to India

Likelihood of future travel to India is moderate, with 46% of all respondents indicating this possibility (refer [Figure 4](#)). In line with other findings, there is a much higher percentage of Indian Australians that would like to travel to India in the future (93%), compared to 44% of non-Indian Australians.

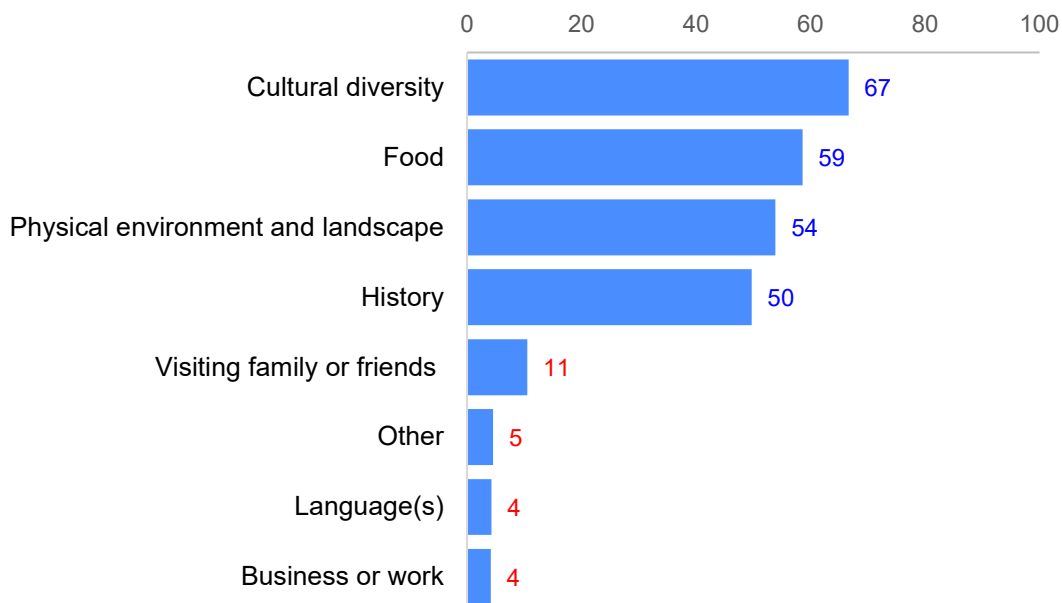
Figure 4 Future travel to India by heritage (%)



B5. Would you like to travel to India in the future? Base: All respondents (n=2,158). % Yes shown. Note: 'Not sure' (1%) and 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure.

Across all respondents, reasons for travel to India centre around four broad categories from a list which was provided in the survey (refer [Figure 5](#)). A desire for cultural diversity and food are the top travel reasons, while physical environment and history follow. Food is a particularly strong attraction among those aged 25-34 in comparison to respondents aged 65 and over.

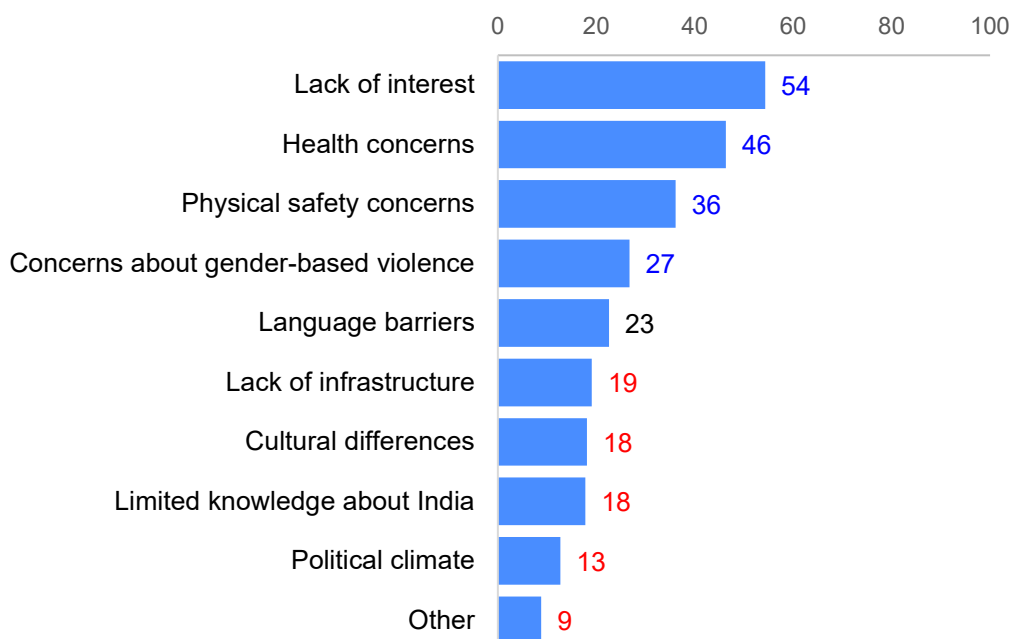
Figure 5 Purpose of future travel to India (%)



B6. Why would you like to travel to India in the future? Base: Respondents who would like to travel to India in the future (n=1,084). Note: 'I don't know enough to say' (2%), 'Study' (1%), and 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Multiple responses allowed therefore percentages may not sum to 100%.

The survey also canvassed reasons for **not** wanting to travel to India in the future. Respondents chose from a list of reasons provided in the survey. A general lack of interest and health concerns stand out as the main reasons for not wanting to travel to India, while concerns for physical safety and gender-based violence follow as third and fourth most mentioned (refer [Figure 6](#)).

Figure 6 Reasons for not travelling to India in the future (%)



B7. Why would you not like to travel to India in the future? Base: Respondents who would not like to travel to India in the future (n=1,057). Note: 'I don't know enough to say' (3%) and 'Prefer not to say' (2%) responses are not shown in the figure. Multiple responses allowed therefore percentages may not sum to 100%.

Middle aged Australians 35 to 55 years (focus group)

Background

Australians aged 35 to 55 years, while having diverse identities and lifestyles, mostly engage with Indian culture through culinary, sporting and interpersonal experiences. There are positive perceptions towards India overall, but limited awareness of India's domestic and international affairs. The Australian Indian community is seen to positively contribute to the social and economic fabric of Australian society.

Connections to India

For this group, the experience of Indian cuisine is the prominent connection with Indian culture in their everyday lives.

"The most close personal experience that most of us have would be the food and the cricket... Love Indian food and go [to eat] a couple times a month maybe more. Great food and healthy food..."

Many also have cultural exposure through interpersonal relationships with Indian Australians including neighbours, friends, and colleagues. There is a strong association between India and Australia in cricket. Some have experience with Indian businesses, with mixed sentiment due to differences in culture and conduct. Most have never travelled to India, so trace their connection to India to second-hand experiences, including conversations with colleagues or individuals with Indian heritage.

Perceptions of India

India is commonly thought to face major challenges of overpopulation and poverty, with strong associations with slums and the presence of charitable organisations. Elements of India's cultural sphere are less familiar. There is also limited awareness of India's political landscape and participants are uncertain about India's role within the Asian region. In contrast, China is often front of mind as a more prominent political player in the region. Any existing perceptions are based on information on global events through mainstream news and social media. However, participants hold a degree of mistrust in the bias of journalists and social media on these topics, especially posts from platforms like Facebook.

Attitudes towards the Australia-India relationship

For this group, Australia and India are perceived to have strong diplomatic ties, which some participants link to increased migration from India to Australia. In contrast to other findings, this group observes a general absence of negative news headlines about India, which contributes to their positive assessment of the relationship.

"India is becoming an important partner for Australia in terms of security, defence, trade; perceptions of China have changed over the years and maybe we will lean on a country like India more."

The Australia-India relationship is generally seen as positive for Australia's interests with participants citing two-way trade and possible economic benefits between the two countries. However, few people are able to specify the tangible impacts of the Australia-India relationship on the broader community.

Views on Indian Australians

Attitudes towards Indian Australian communities are positive overall, being considered as an integral part of Australia's multicultural fabric. Many hold positive sentiment towards Indian migrants and tourists in enriching the Australian labour force and sharing culinary and family traditions. Participants recognise however, the continuing presence of intolerance and racism in the broader community. There is a shared appreciation for the growing prevalence of cultural events and religious holidays celebrated within workplaces and council areas, and providing more visibility of Indian culture for the broader community.

"As I get older you hear a bit more about...their festivals and... Diwali festival ... incorporating a lot of other cultures' special days into our general life than it was before"

Future storytelling

Many reiterate the valuable contributions of Indian communities in shaping Australia's multicultural society due to the increasing presence of culinary and festive traditions across the country. This group of Australians highlight the importance of increasing cultural awareness in order to "break down stereotypes about Indian people" leading to improved social cohesion in the broader community.

3. General knowledge about India

3.1. Overview

The Australian public does not need to have detailed knowledge of India's demographic and economic structure to be supportive of the relationship between the two countries. However, a stronger knowledge base makes it less likely that Australians will be overly influenced by misinformation, disinformation, or that Australians will respond to geopolitical events based on outdated stereotypes.

Several questions were asked of respondents about India's population ranking, economic position and average worker income. Australians have a slightly more accurate view of Indian demographic size but are unsure of India's economic circumstances. Findings suggest a general lack of knowledge about India and its relative place in the world.

Knowledge about India's current population ranking globally

A third of respondents correctly identify India as the most populous country in the world, while 38% list it as being the second largest country by population. Ten percent of all respondents claim that they do not know enough to say.

Knowledge about India's current position in the global economy

More than a quarter of respondents correctly recognise India as the fifth largest economy globally by GDP. A greater proportion of Indian Australians (40%) provide a correct response as compared to non-Indian Australians (25%). Importantly, about one in three of all respondents report that they do not know enough to say.

4. Trade and investment

4.1. Overview

Overall, trade might contribute positively to Australians' sentiments towards India through the effects of "soft power".⁴ Services, such as education and tourism, make up a relatively large proportion of trade between Australia and India and can generate lasting people-to-people links.

The reverse might also be true, in that any improvements in mutual perceptions of Australian and Indian residents may help facilitate bilateral trade.

India is the world's fastest growing major economy and is on track to be the world's third largest economy by 2030. In late 2022, Australia and India began implementing the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement⁵ (ECTA), with over 85 per cent of Australian goods exported by value to India tariff free. India was Australia's fourth largest export market (behind China, Japan, and South Korea, but ahead of the US). To continue to seize the opportunities from India's growth, in February 2025 the Australian government launched *A New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India*, which identifies the key focus sectors to set the course for the next phase of the economic relationship.

Australian attitudes towards the economic relationship between India and Australia tend to reflect current international trade volumes. Australians continue to see China as Australia's most important economic partner. However, there are a small number of Australians (7%) that see India as the most important, and a majority of respondents put India in the top 3 (alongside China and Japan).

4.2. India's role in Australia's prosperity

To understand perceptions about India's role in Australia's future prosperity, respondents were asked about the current economic ties between the two countries, business interactions with India, and views on Indian products and services.

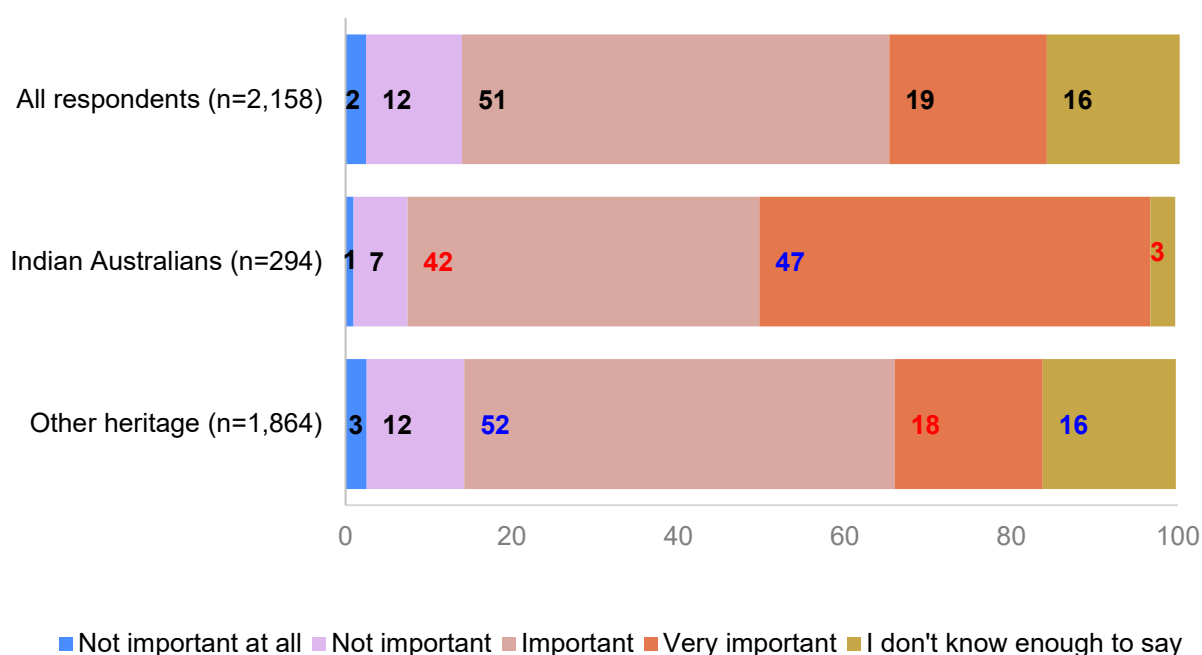
Perceptions about India's current importance for Australia's economy

When asked about the current level of importance of India to Australia's economy, 70% of respondents rate India as very important or important, while 16% report they do not know enough to say (refer [Figure 7](#)). A greater proportion of Indian Australians (89%) perceive India as important to some extent than non-Indian Australians (69%).

⁴ Wagner, J. (2020). Soft power and Germany's exports - First evidence from transaction data. *Economics Bulletin*, 40(1), 624-631.

⁵ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/australia-india-ecta>

Figure 7 Perceptions about India's importance currently for Australia's economy overall by heritage (%)



C1. To what extent do you think that India is important or not important CURRENTLY for Australia's economy overall? Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Not important at all' (n=3).

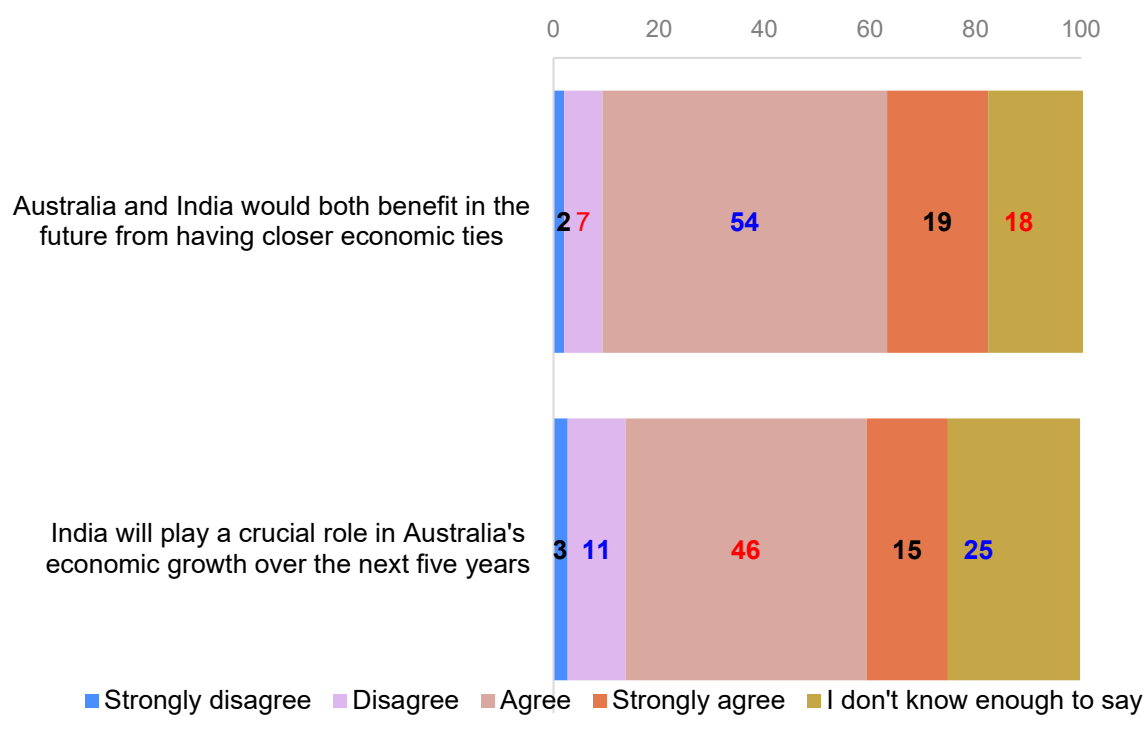
Perceptions that India is currently very important or important to Australia's economy are higher among non-Indian Australians who:

- would like to travel to India in the future (82%), compared to those who had no plans to do so (59%); and
- report a very good or good (80%) understanding of Indian culture, as compared to those reporting a poor or very poor (66%) understanding.

Perceptions about India's role in Australia's economic future

When asked about perceptions of India's role in Australia's economic future, almost three quarters of respondents agree to some extent that Australia and India will both benefit from having closer economic ties and more than six in ten agree to some extent that India will play a crucial role in Australia's economic growth over the next five years (Refer [Figure 8](#)). In line with other findings, Indian Australians demonstrate substantially higher levels of agreement with both statements.

Figure 8 Perceptions about India's role in Australia's economic future (%)



C2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158).

Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0% for C2_a, 0% for C2_b) responses are not shown in the figure.

4.3. India's relative economic importance

Table 1 illustrates the countries the community considers to be the four most important economic partners for Australia in the Asian region currently. By a very clear majority, China is seen as the most important economic partner currently by almost seven in ten respondents. India, Japan, and South Korea follow, with varying degrees of importance across the second, third, and fourth positions.

Notably, India is considered the second most important economic partner by 29% of respondents, indicating recognition of its economic role. Japan also features prominently and is considered the second most important economic partner by 28%.

Table 1 Views on most important economic partners currently for Australia in the Asian region (%)

(%)	Most important	Second	Third	Fourth
Base	(n=2,158)	(n=1,945)	(n=1,853)	(n=1,760)
China	69	10	4	2
India	7	29	22	13
Japan	9	28	22	18
South Korea	1	7	11	14
Indonesia	2	11	18	18

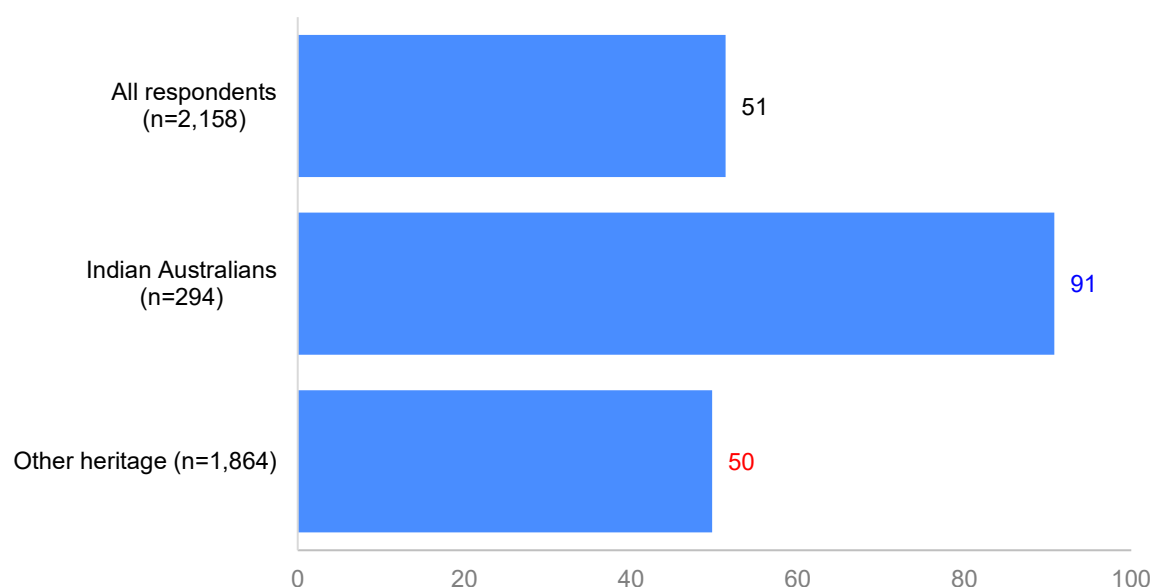
C3. Which countries do you consider are the most important economic partners CURRENTLY for Australia in the Asian region? Base: C3_1 (n=2,158), C3_2, (n=1,945) C3_3 (n=1,853), C3_4 (n=1,760). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the table.

Indian Australians are more likely to view India as the most important current economic partner for Australia (39%) compared to non-Indian Australians (6%).

4.4. Indian goods and services

Across all respondents, 51% have bought or consumed Indian goods or services in the last 12 months, highlighting accessibility of Indian products in the Australian market. Unsurprisingly, 91% of Indian Australians report purchasing or consuming Indian goods or services, reflecting strong cultural ties and a desire for products from their country of heritage (refer Figure 9)

Figure 9 Consumption or purchase of Indian goods or services in the last 12 months by heritage (%)



C4. Over the last 12 months, have you bought or consumed or purchased Indian goods or services? % Yes shown. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'I don't know enough to say' (17%) and 'Prefer not to say' (0%) are not included in the figure.

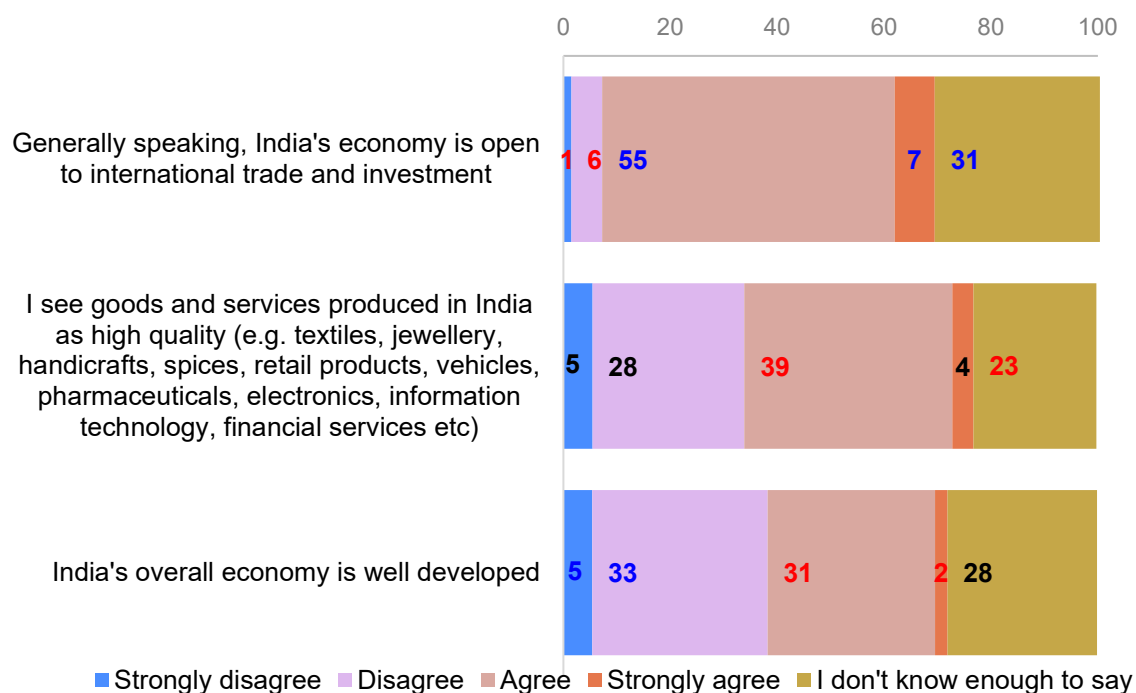
Perceptions about India's economic openness and its goods and services

The findings reflect positive views on India's global economic integration with more than six in ten Australians agreeing to some extent that India's economy is open to international trade and investment.

There is a favourable perception of the quality of Indian goods and services. Indian Australians are more likely to strongly agree or agree that Indian goods and services are high quality, with 82% expressing this sentiment, compared to 41% of non-Indian Australians.

A smaller proportion of respondents (33%) consider that India's overall economy is well developed.

Figure 10 Perceptions about India's economy and its goods and services (%)



C6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0% for C6_a, C6_b, C6_a) responses are not shown in the figure.

5. India's economic and strategic importance

5.1. Overview

India's role in Australia's foreign policy has been enhanced by the diplomatic partnership between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States known as the Quad. This partnership is considered by the Australian Government⁶ as a key pillar, complementing bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation.

One of the key findings from the survey is that the vast majority of respondents see the Australia-India relationship as being important over the next five years.

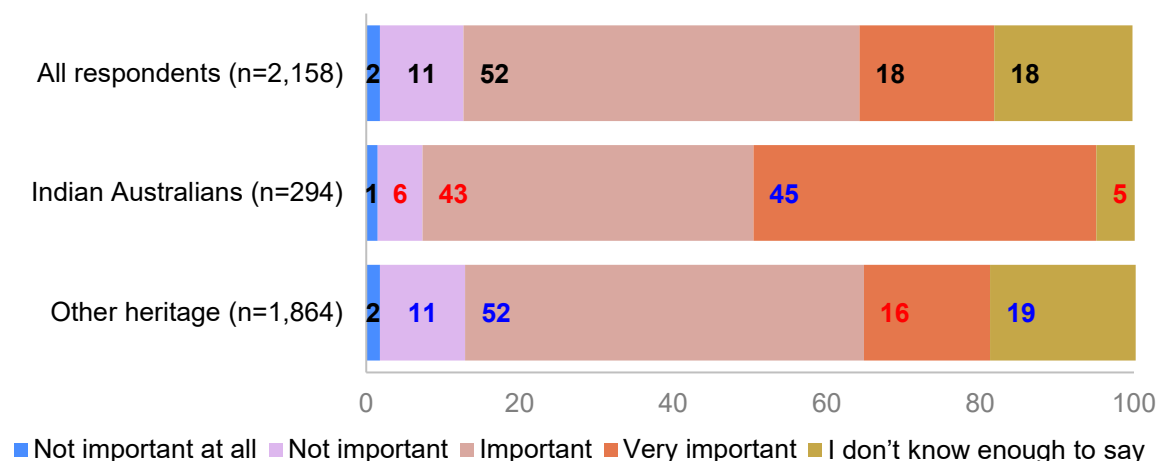
However, there is a minority of Australians (particularly non-Indian Australians) that do not feel they have sufficient information to answer questions about India's role in Australia's security and prosperity. This includes around one in five on the question of Australia's national interests, around three in ten for questions about trust, more than one in three for questions about India's stability and economic growth, and two in five for questions about India's social policy.

The difficulty with these questions tends to be greater for women, younger Australians, those with low levels of education, and those that have not travelled to India. To engage more Australians in deliberations around the strategic relationship, there is an opportunity to reach out to some of these groups and enhance their knowledge.

5.2. India's value to Australia strategically

Almost seven in ten Australians consider India very important or important to Australia's national interests over the next five years (refer Figure 11). This view is more strongly expressed among Indian Australians (88%) than non-Indian Australians (68%).

Figure 11 Perceptions about India's importance to Australia's national interests over the next five years by heritage (%)



D1. To what extent is India important or not important to Australia's national interests over the next five years?

Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Not at all important' (n=4), 'Not important' (n=16).

Looking specifically at non-Indian Australians, perceptions about India's importance to Australia's national interests over the next five years is higher (very important and important) among those:

- aged above 65 compared to younger respondents below 35 and

⁶ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/regional-architecture/quad>

- who report a very good or good (79%) understanding of Indian culture as compared to those reporting a poor or very poor understanding (66%).

In addition to understanding the characteristics of Australians that see India as being important or very important to Australia strategically, it is important to also understand where there is a self-perceived lack of knowledge. A regression analysis finds that for non-Indian Australians, the likelihood of a person feeling that they do not know enough to answer is higher for those that only completed Year 12 and those that have not travelled to India.

5.3. Most important Asian partners

Table 2 illustrates which countries the Australian community consider to be the four most important currently for Australia's national interests in the Asian region. Consistent with perceptions regarding economic partners (refer section 4.3), China is clearly seen as the most important country for Australia's national interests (60%) followed by Japan (11%), with India considered the most important by 7% of respondents. India's growing strategic significance is highlighted by the fact that 30% of respondents view it as the second most important country. Japan is considered the second most important by 26%.

Table 2 Views on most important countries currently for Australia's national interests in the Asian region (%)

(%) Base	Most important (n=2,158)	Second (n=1,883)	Third (n=1,791)	Fourth (n=1,701)
China	60	8	5	4
India	7	30	19	14
Japan	11	26	22	17
South Korea	1	7	13	16
Indonesia	5	15	17	17

D2. Which are the four most important CURRENTLY in the Asian region for Australia's national interests? Base: D2_1 (n=2,158), D2_2 (n=1,883), D2_3 (n=1,791), D2_4 (n=1,701). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the table.

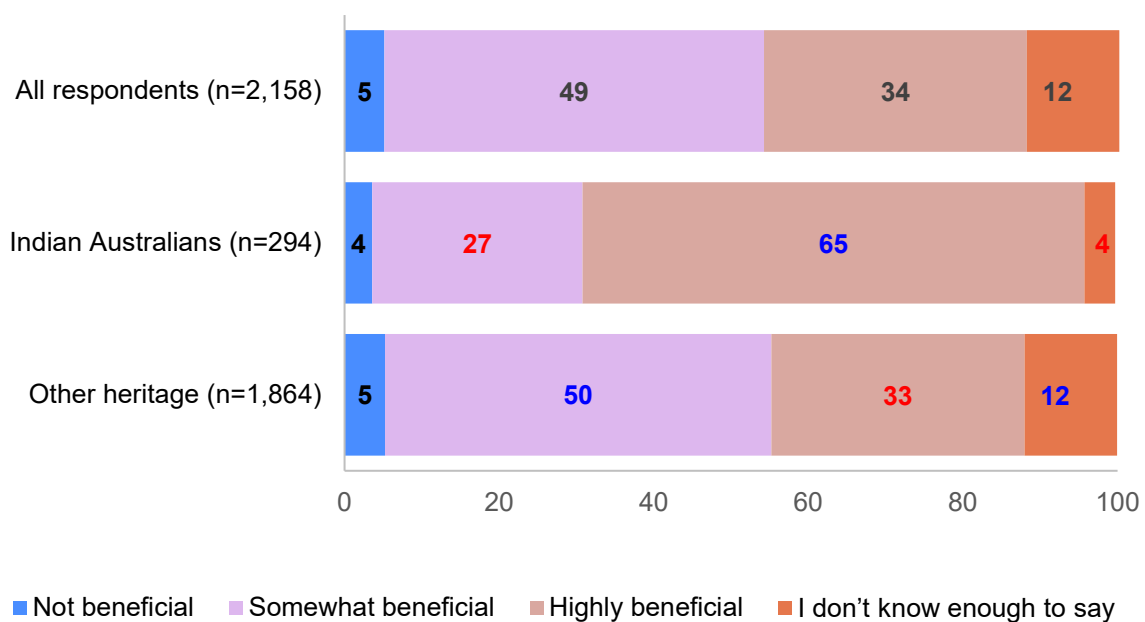
5.4. Trust in India's regional leadership

For insights into the bilateral relationship between India and Australia and understanding of India's influence in international affairs, a series of questions were asked about India's strategic value to Australia, the state of the bilateral relationship, India's regional and global leadership, and its political and economic prospects.

Views on perceived benefits from closer Australia-India relations in the Asian region

As shown in Figure 12, just over eight in ten respondents (83%) believe that closer Australia-India relations are beneficial for the Asian region.

Figure 12 Views on perceived benefits from closer Australia-India relations in the Asian region by heritage (%)



D4. To what extent do you believe that a closer Australia-India relationship is beneficial for the Asian region?

Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Not beneficial' (n=10).

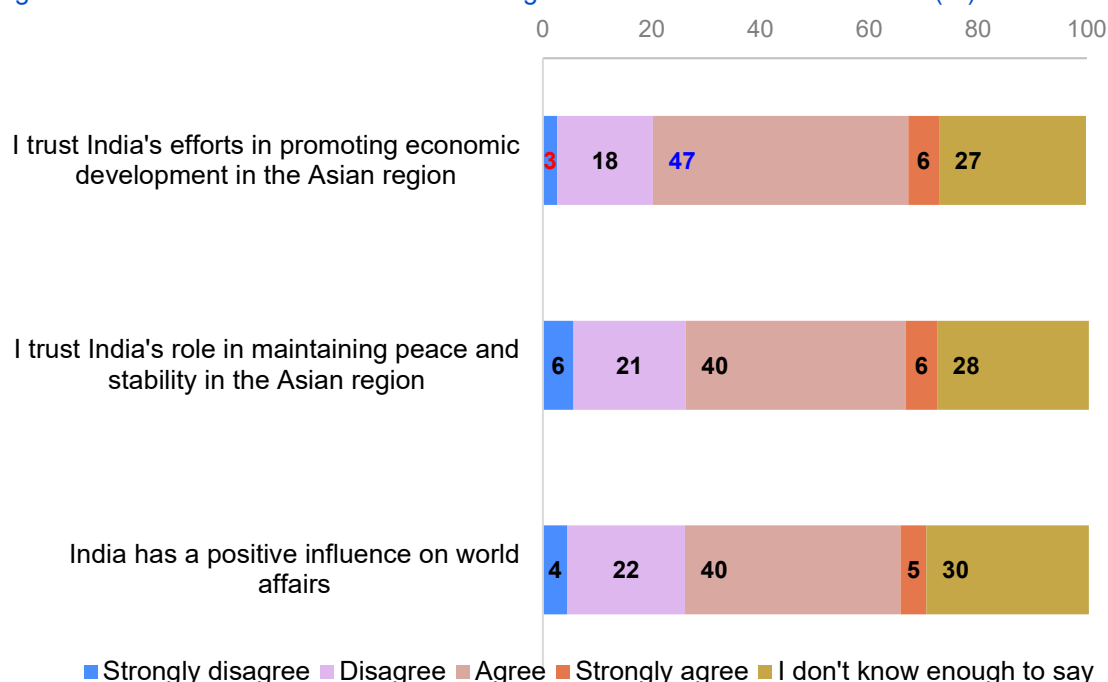
Trust in India's role in the Asian region and its international influence

As seen in Figure 13, when asked about trust in India's efforts and influence, 52% of respondents strongly agree or agree that they trust India's efforts in promoting economic development in the Asian region. This sentiment is particularly strong among Indian Australians, with 80% expressing trust, compared to 51% of non-Indian Australian respondents.

Trust in India's role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asian region is slightly lower, with 46% of respondents saying they strongly agree or agree.

Additionally, 44% of respondents strongly agree or agree that India has a positive influence on world affairs.

Figure 13 Trust in India's role in the Asian region and its international influence (%)



D5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0% for D5_a, D5_b, D5_c) responses are not shown in the figure.

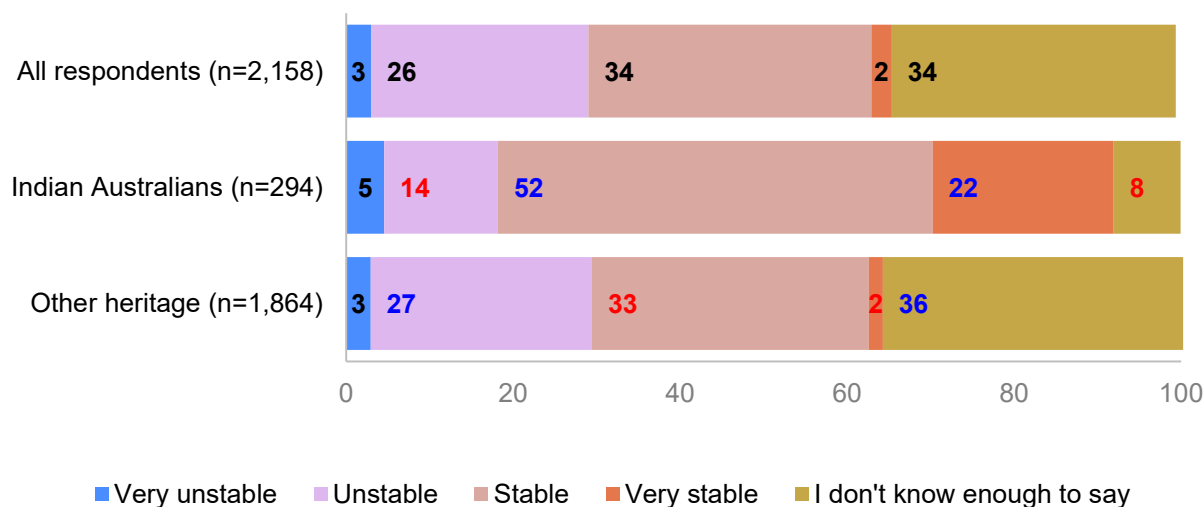
5.5. India's political and economic prospects

This section provides insights into perceptions of India's political stability and economic growth over the next five years, as well as views on the Indian government's focus on various social policies.

Perceptions about India's political stability over the next five years

Overall, 36% of respondents believe that India's political environment will be stable over the next five years (refer Figure 14). Almost three-quarters of Indian Australians (74%) believe India is politically stable as compared to only 35% of non-Indian Australians. Importantly, more than a third of non-Indian Australians claim that they do not know enough to say.

Figure 14 Perceptions about India's political stability over the next five years by heritage (%)



D6. To what extent do you think that India's political environment will be stable or unstable over the next five years...? Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Very unstable' (n=11).

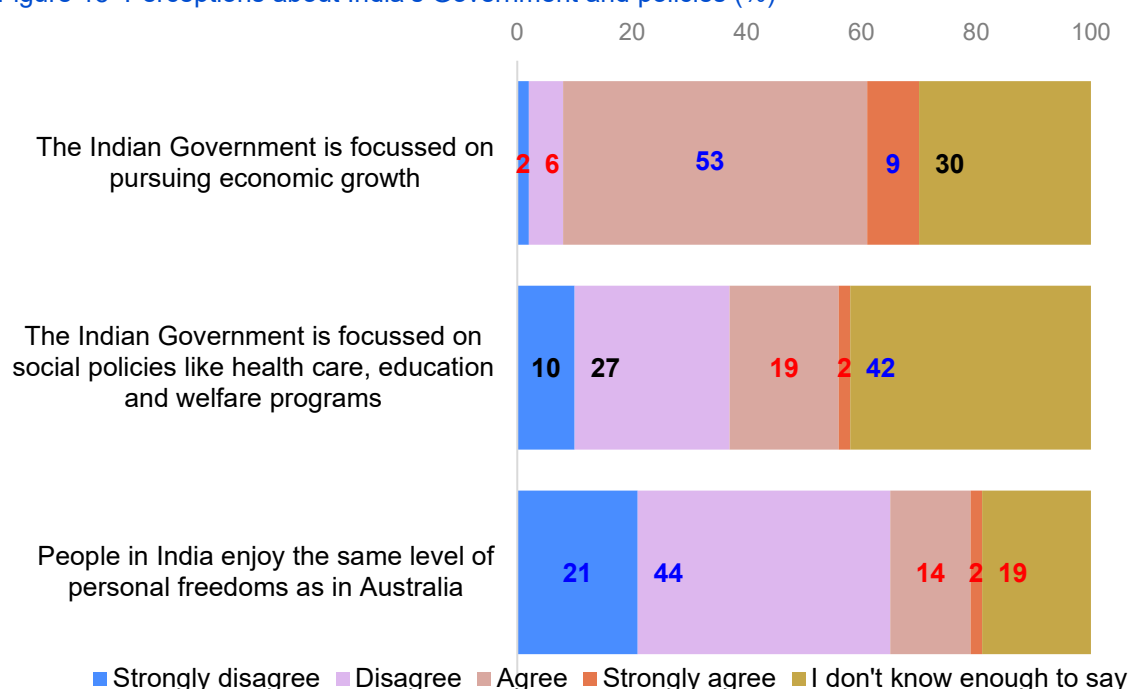
Perceptions about India's government and policies

Figure 15 shows respondents' views on the Indian government's policy focus. Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) view the Indian government as being focussed on pursuing economic growth. This suggests strong confidence in the Indian government's economic policies across different demographic groups.

However, confidence in the Indian government's focus on social policies, such as healthcare, education, and welfare programs is lower. Only 20% of respondents agree to some extent that the government is prioritising these areas, with 59% of Indian Australians and just 19% of non-Indian Australian respondents expressing this sentiment.

Additionally, only 16% of respondents believe that people in India enjoy the same level of personal freedoms as in Australia. This view is held by 50% of Indian Australians and 15% of non-Indian Australian respondents.

Figure 15 Perceptions about India's Government and policies (%)



D8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note 'Prefer not to say' (0% for D8_a, D8_b, D8_c) responses are not shown in the figure.

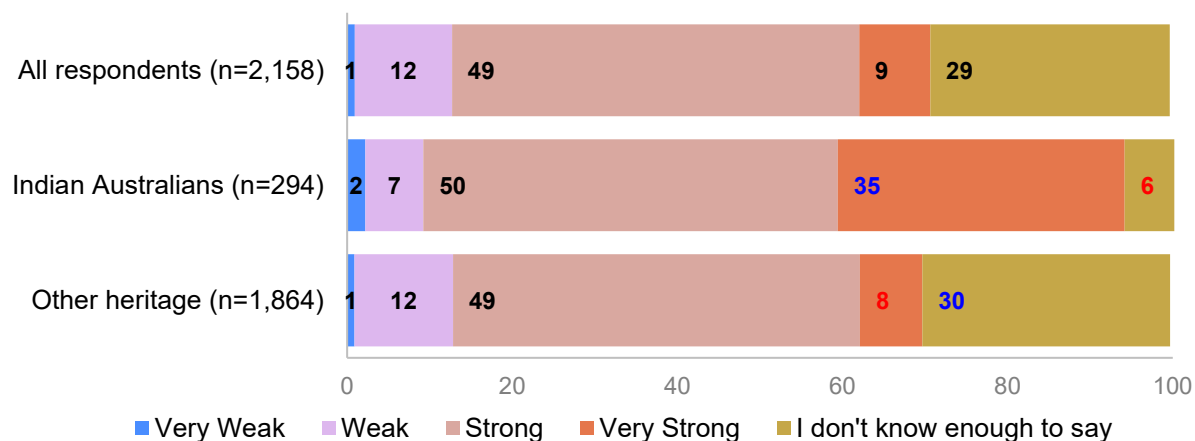
A large proportion of respondents (65%) disagree or strongly disagree that people in India enjoy the same level of personal freedoms as in Australia, while 19% report they do not know enough to say.

Taking the 'strongly disagree' as a measure of concern about Indian personal freedoms, Indian Australians (19%) are not substantially more or less likely to have concerns than non-Indian Australians (21%). There are differences in age groups, with 25% of those aged 18 to 54 reporting concerns about Indian personal freedoms, compared to 14% of those above 55 years.

Perceptions about India's economic growth over the next five years

Figure 16 indicates that almost six in ten respondents (58%) believe that India's economic growth prospects will be strong or very strong over the next five years. Optimism about India's economic growth is higher among Indian Australians (85%) compared to others (57%).

Figure 16 Perceptions about India's economic growth over the next five years by heritage (%)



D9. To what extent do you think India's economic growth prospects will be strong or weak over the next five years...?
 Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Weak' (n=20), 'Very weak' (n=5); Other heritage: 'Very weak' (n=17).

Looking specifically at non-Indian Australians, perceptions about India's economic prospects being strong or very strong over the next five years is higher among:

- men (69%) compared to women (46%)
- those who had travelled to India in the past (74%), compared to those who had not (55%) and,
- those who view India as very important or important (72%) for Australia's national interests over the next five years, compared to those who view India as not important to some extent (35%).

6. Facilitating cultural connections and understanding

6.1. Overview

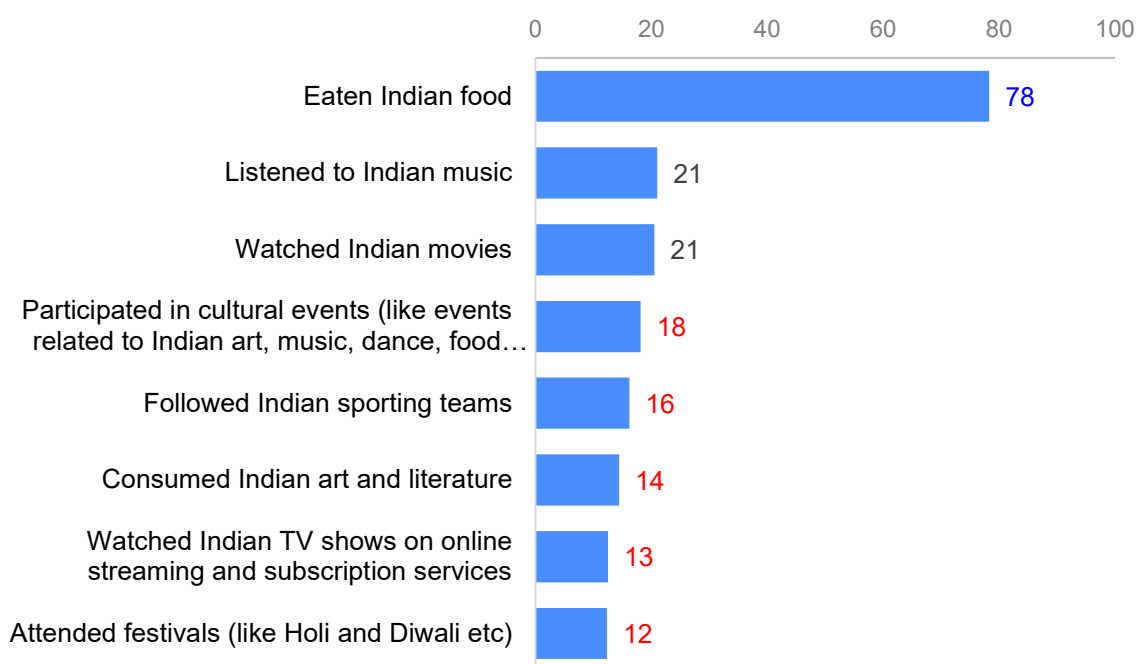
For many Australians, engagement with Indian cultural activities is key to building understanding and links with the country. Although the main form of cultural engagement identified - eating Indian food – might seem somewhat superficial, a number of studies point to the potential of national cuisines to have substantial soft power effects.

6.2. Personal engagement and access to Indian culture

This section provides insights into the Australian community's personal engagement with Indian culture.

As shown in [Figure 17](#), eating Indian food is the most common way respondents engage with Indian culture, with 78% of participants indicating this activity. Additionally, 21% of respondents reported listening to Indian music, and another 21% mentioned watching Indian movies as their means of cultural engagement.

Figure 17 Activities undertaken in the last 12 months to learn more about India and its culture (%)

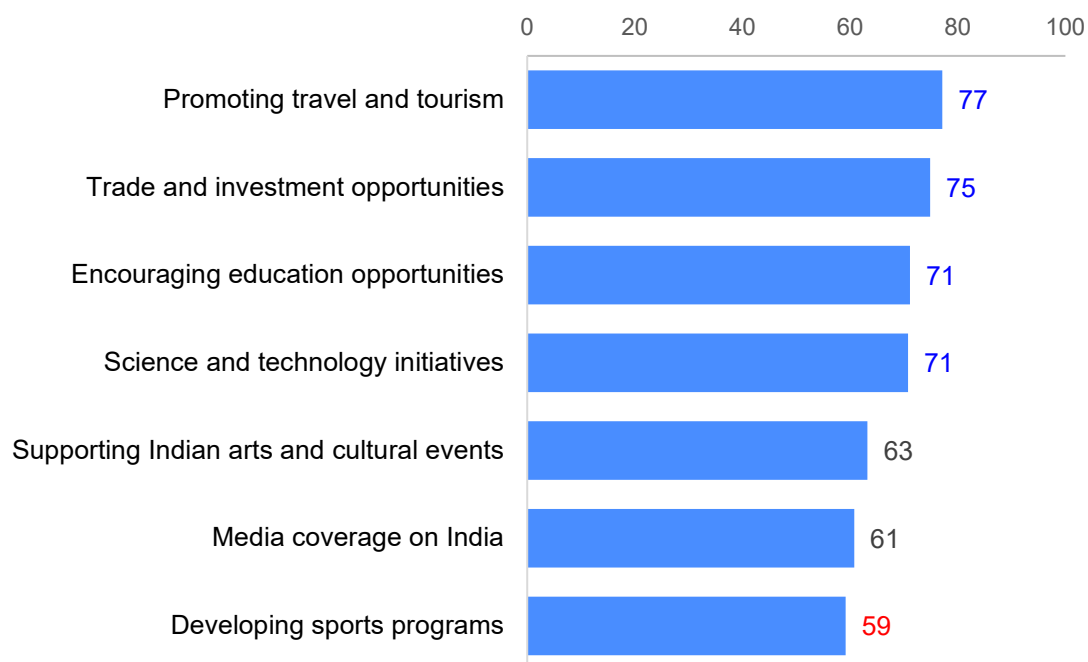


E1. Which of the following activities have you undertaken in the last 12 months to learn more about India and its culture?

% Yes shown. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'I don't know enough to say', 'Other', and 'Prefer not to say' responses are not shown in the figure.

The survey also canvassed activities that are perceived as most needed to build a better Australia-India relationship. Respondents chose from a provided list of reasons. Promoting travel and tourism (77%) and trade and investment opportunities (75%) stand out as the main activities, while encouraging education opportunities and science and technology initiatives (71% respectively) closely follow (refer [Figure 18](#)).

Figure 18 Activities needed most to build relationships between Australia and India (%)



E2. Which of the following, if any, do you think is needed most in order to build people-to-people relationships between Australia and India? % Yes shown. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'I don't know enough to say', 'Other', and 'Prefer not to say' responses are not shown in the figure.

Vignette 2

Young Australians – politically interested (focus group)

Background

This group consists of young Australians aged 18 to 34, whose primary encounters with India are through cultural experiences, particularly Indian cuisine. They are generally optimistic about the relationship between India and Australia in the future. They are politically aware and view Indian Australians as an important part of Australia's multicultural society.

Connections to India

For this group of Australians, their most tangible connection to India lies in its culinary landscape, experienced through local takeaways or restaurants. Travel to India also reveals its vast diversity, from bustling cities to serene hiking trails, fostering an awareness of India's vibrant identity.

Perceptions of India

While this group of Australians perceive India as an exciting, dynamic place, they acknowledge its complex political climate. Some hold negative perceptions of India's political leadership and management of complex issues such as religious tensions and minority rights.

The group's understanding of these topics stem from different sources like mainstream news or their university coursework.

Attitudes towards the Australia-India relationship

There is a strong sense of optimism about the future of the Australia-India relationship among this group of Australians. High profile visits to Australia, such as that of the Indian Prime Minister, are seen as positive steps towards building a stronger partnership between the two countries.

"Having the Indian Prime Minister over just a couple of year ago... (shows) there is a lot of support between the two governments."

Many recognise that this relationship has improved over the past few years with participants noting an influx of skilled migrants from India. Overall, their understanding of the tangible impacts of the relationship and its economic implications remains vague.

Views on Indian Australians

Attitudes towards Indian Australians are positive, reflecting a sense that Australia, as a multicultural nation, embraces various cultural backgrounds.

"Australia doesn't have a very strong national culture, I believe that we are just an amalgamation of lots of people from lots of different countries, so there's no reason why anybody wouldn't be able to fit in."

A commonly held view is that Australia should not encourage cultural assimilation, and instead benefit from the richness of cultural diversity. Young Australians feel that negative stereotypes of the Indian community have receded as exposure to the community has increased.

"Maybe people are more accustomed to Indian culture and so maybe now ...it comes with less hurdles than some different populations from more recent migrants from communities or cultures that are not as familiar to the Australian public".

Future storytelling

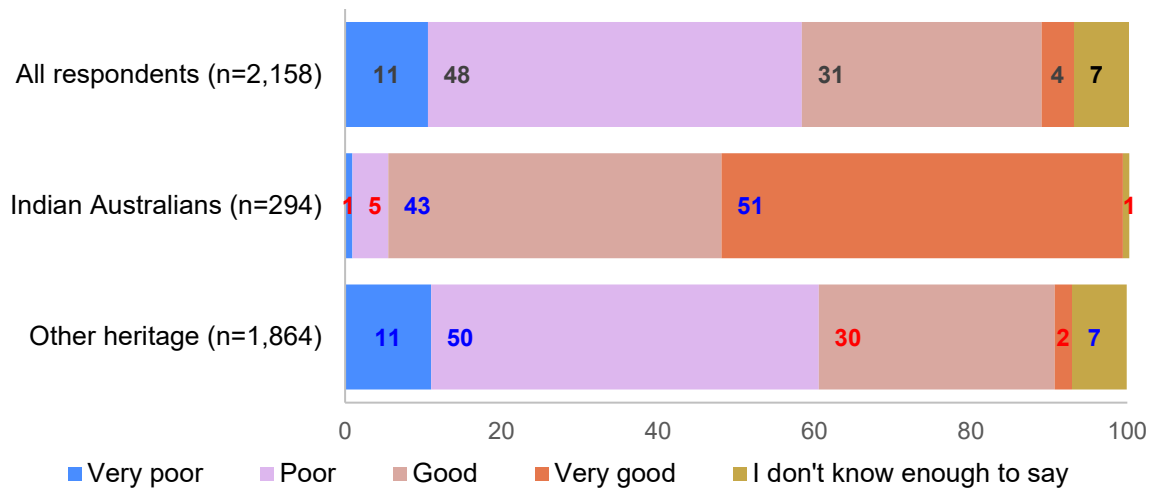
Some view that narratives involving cricket could resonate widely as a point of cultural connection, given its shared significance in both countries. However, others feel that these stories could feel oversimplified and might overlook deeper narratives across the diaspora. Stories of migration, resilience, and other shared histories might provide a means for resonating with the experiences of different Australian communities, such as First Nations Australians.

6.3. Understanding of Indian culture and cultural competency

Extent of overall understanding of Indian culture

When asked about the extent of overall understanding of Indian culture, 35% of all respondents report having very good (4%) or good (31%) understanding (refer Figure 19).

Figure 19 Extent of overall understanding of Indian culture by heritage (%)



E4. To what extent do you feel that you have a good or poor understanding of Indian culture overall? Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Poor' (n=14), 'Very poor' (n=2).

Looking specifically at non-Indian Australians, self-perceived cultural understanding is higher among those who have travelled to India in the past (58%), compared to those who have not (30%)

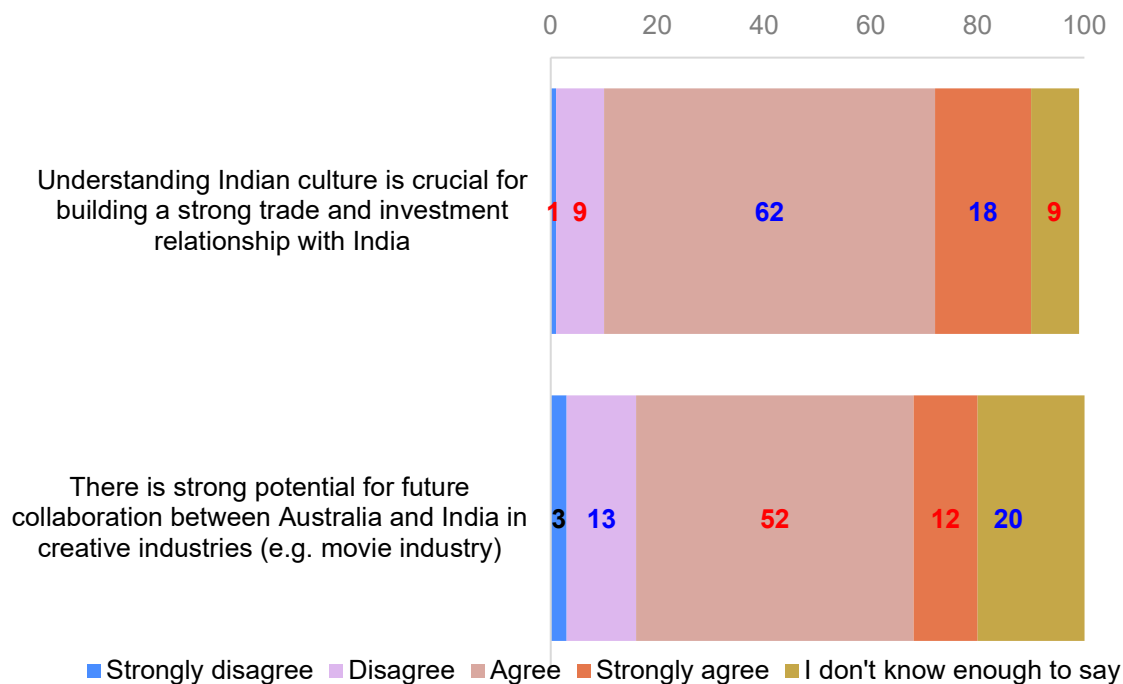
Perceptions about importance of cultural competency about India

Cultural competence broadly refers to 'the ability to participate ethically and effectively in personal and professional intercultural settings'⁷. As shown in Figure 20, the importance of cultural competency in establishing strong trade and investment relationships with India is widely recognised. Eighty one per cent of respondents believe that understanding Indian culture is crucial for success in these areas.

Furthermore, 64% of all respondents agree to some extent that there is strong potential for future collaboration between Australia and India in creative industries, such as the movie industry. This sentiment is especially high among Indian Australians, with 87% in agreement, compared to 63% among non-Indian Australians.

⁷ <https://www.sydney.edu.au/nccc/about-us/what-is-cultural-competence.html>

Figure 20 Perceptions on importance of cultural competency about India and opportunities for collaboration in creative industries (%)



E3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0% for E3_a, E3_b) responses are not shown in the figure.

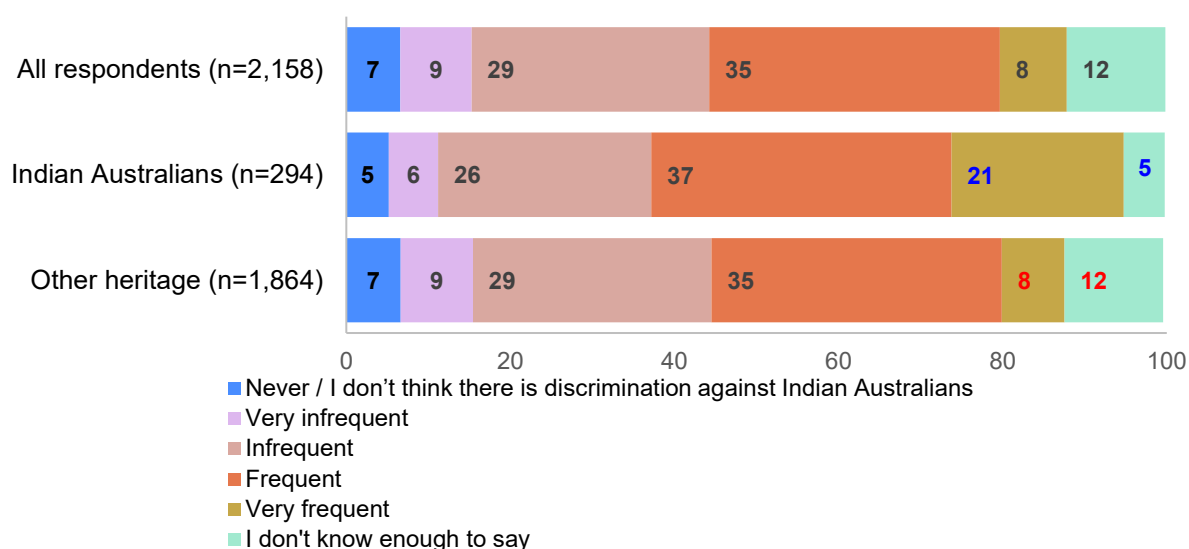
6.4. Experiences of Indian Australians

Views on discrimination against Indian Australians in the local community

Reporting data from 2023, the most recent *Mapping Social Cohesion* report of the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute found that: 'one in six (18 per cent) people said they experienced discrimination in the last 12 months because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion. This includes more than one-in-three (36 per cent) from non-English speaking backgrounds, 41 per cent of migrants from a Chinese background, 50 per cent of Indian Australian migrants... and 39 per cent of people who have migrated to Australia in the last 10 years.'

When asked about the experiences of Indian Australians in their local community, 44% of respondents believed that discrimination against Indian Australians is very frequent or frequent. This perception is particularly high among Indian Australians, with 58% reporting very frequent or frequent discrimination, compared to 43% of non-Indian Australian respondents reporting this perception (refer [Figure 21](#)).

Figure 21 Frequency of discrimination against Indian Australians in the local community by heritage (%)



E6. How frequent or infrequent do you think discrimination is against Indian Australians in your local community?
 Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Very infrequent' (n=18), 'Never' (n=15).

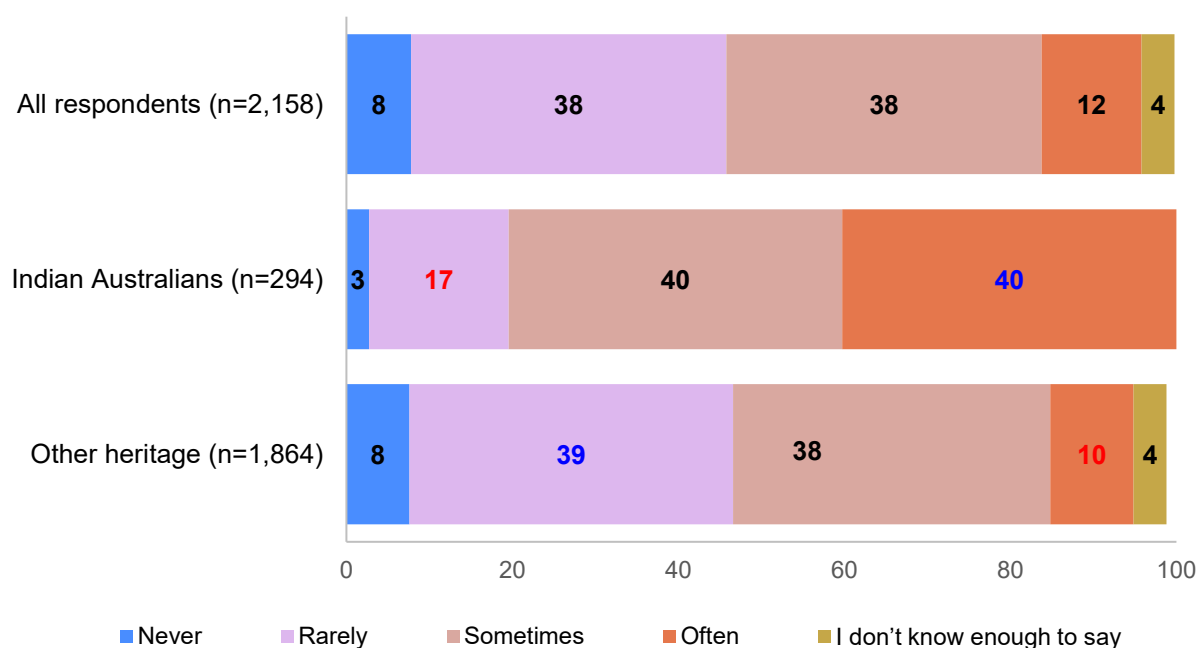
Using a regression analysis and excluding those that think they do not know enough to say, perceptions of discrimination are higher for Indian Australians, women, younger Australians, and those with moderate levels of education.

Frequency of reading or hearing about India in the news in the last 12 months

The survey enquired how often respondents had read or heard about India in the news across different media platforms (print, TV, online) over the past year (refer [Figure 22](#)).

Predictably, Indian Australians show a much higher engagement, with 40% often engaging with news about India and 40% sometimes reading or hearing about India in the past year. Non-Indian Australian respondents have lower engagement, with 10% often engaging with news about India and 38% sometimes.

Figure 22 Frequency of reading or hearing about India in the news in the last 12 months by heritage (%)



E7. Thinking about the last 12 months, to what extent have you read or heard about India in the news (print, TV or online)? Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the figure. Small cell size for Indian Australians: 'Never' (n=6).

Looking specifically at non-Indian Australians, reading or hearing about India in the news 'often' in the past year is higher among:

- those who had travelled to India in the past (23%), compared to those who had not (9%); and
- those who reported a very good or good (18%) understanding of Indian culture as compared to those with a poor or very poor (7%) understanding.

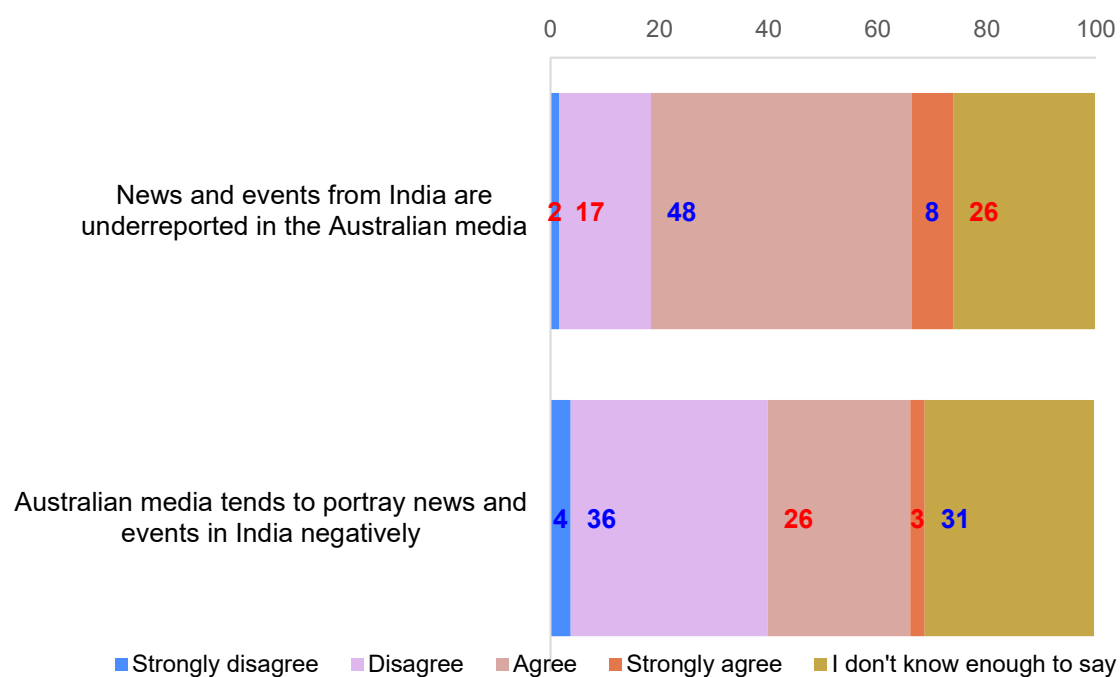
Perceptions on news and events about India

The survey also asked about respondents' perceptions of how news and events about India are represented in the Australian media (refer [Figure 23](#)). Fifty five per cent of respondents feel that news and events from India are underreported in the Australian media.

In addition, 29% respondents agree to some extent that the Australian media tends to portray news and events about India negatively.

These sentiments are more pronounced among Indian Australians, with 75% feeling that news about India is underreported and 54% agreeing that news about India is portrayed negatively.

Figure 23 Perceptions on news and events about India (%)



E8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0% for E8_a, E8_b) responses are not shown in the figure.

Vignette 3

Young Australians - Cricket enthusiasts and economically pragmatic (focus group)

Background

This group consists of young Australians aged 18 to 34, for whom cricket is the first association that comes to mind when they think of India. While they have limited knowledge of Indian politics, they are aware of the economic ties between Australia and India, often discussed in the context of diversifying trade. They recognise that racism against Indian Australians exists and are aware of lingering stereotypes.

Connections to India

For this group, sport, especially cricket, are seen as a casual but meaningful way to connect with Indian colleagues or friends. Working alongside Indian coworkers or growing up interacting with people with Indian descent has provided glimpses into Indian culture.

Perceptions of India

India is viewed as a vibrant, rapidly growing economy, with participants holding both admiration and uncertainty about its economic trajectory. There is a sense that India is positioning itself as a key competitor to China in the Asian region, with western countries increasingly shifting business operations to India to reduce reliance on China. However, when it comes to India's internal political dynamics, there is a gap in knowledge. India is seen as both a rising global player and a country marked by disparities. This group of Australians typically draws on news channels and conversations with colleagues for information about India.

Attitudes towards the Australia-India relationship

These young Australians see India as a key player in the outsourcing of services. India's potential as a source of affordable labour and skills attracts comparisons with China. There is a gap here in awareness of broader geopolitical considerations or cultural exchange, as the relationship is primarily seen through an economic lens.

"India is the emerging new industry space for Australia if you want to outsource... it [the relationship] is important now more than ever and the importance of it will increase into the future rather than decrease at this stage."

Views on Indian Australians

This group holds mixed views towards Indian Australians. On one hand, there is a perception that Indian Australians are friendly, generous and community minded. On the other hand, some concerns remain about the quality of Indian colleagues' skills or education in the workplace.

"There's still not a lot of acceptance of Indian people and culture. I think there are still certain stereotypes that are very much more prominent... but I definitely think there is a lack of acceptance and therefore understanding about Indian people in general."

Future storytelling

These Australians believe it would be meaningful to address the discrimination that Indian Australians experience, and showcase their family and community mindedness, which are often admired but not widely discussed in the Australian media. They suggest stories could focus on the diversity of skills Indian Australians bring to the workforce and the values that shape their lives.

7. Contributions of Indian Australian communities

7.1. Contributions to the Australian economy, society and to the Australia-India relationship

The survey asked about the situations in which respondents interact with members of the Indian Australian community (refer Table 3). The findings suggest that interactions with Indian Australian communities are most frequent in professional and service contexts, such as work and retail trade.

The most common context is in retail trade and services, followed by work, personal relationships or friendships, social events, community events, and educational institutions.

Table 3 Situations of interaction with members of the Indian Australian community (%)

Situation	All respondents (n=2,158)
Retail trade and services as part of purchasing or consuming goods or services	67
Work	48
Personal relationships or friendships	32
Social events	23
Community events	21
Educational institutions	16
Never	6
Other	6
I don't know enough to say	4

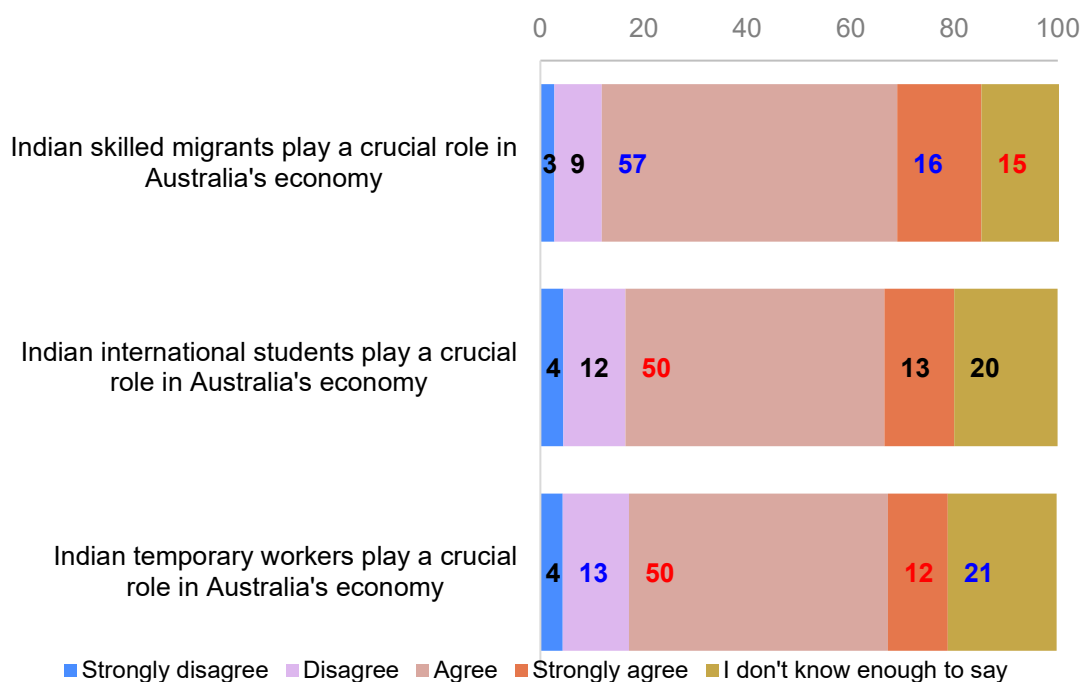
F2. In what contexts do you interact with members of the Indian Australian community? Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0%) responses are not shown in the table.

7.2. Extent of the recognition of the diaspora's contributions

The survey asked respondents about the extent of recognition of the economic and social contributions made by the Indian Australian community to Australia and the Australia-India relationship. Findings suggest strong recognition of the economic and social contributions of the Indian Australian community.

As shown in [Figure 24](#) there is strong recognition of the crucial economic contribution of Indian skilled migrants, international students, and temporary workers. Specifically, 73% of respondents recognise this with respect to Indian skilled migrants, 64% acknowledge the crucial role of Indian international students, and 62% similarly recognise that Indian temporary workers play a crucial role in Australia's economy.

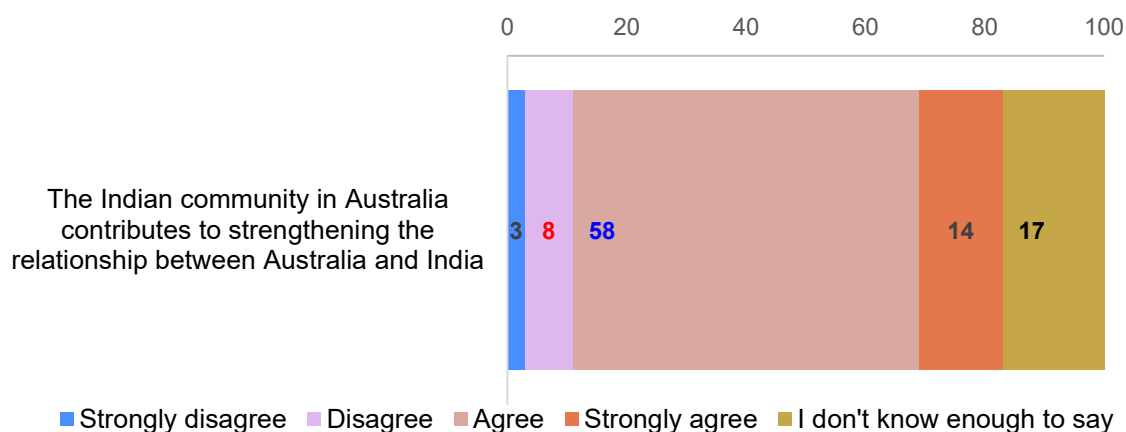
Figure 24 Perceptions about role of the Indian community in Australia's economy (%)



F3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0% for F3_a, F3_b, F3_c) responses are not shown in the figure.

Seventy two per cent of Australians believe that the Indian community has a positive impact on the relationship between Australia and India (refer Figure 25).

Figure 25 Perceptions about role of the Indian community in Australia's society (%)



F3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Prefer not to say' (0% for F3_d) responses are not shown in the figure.

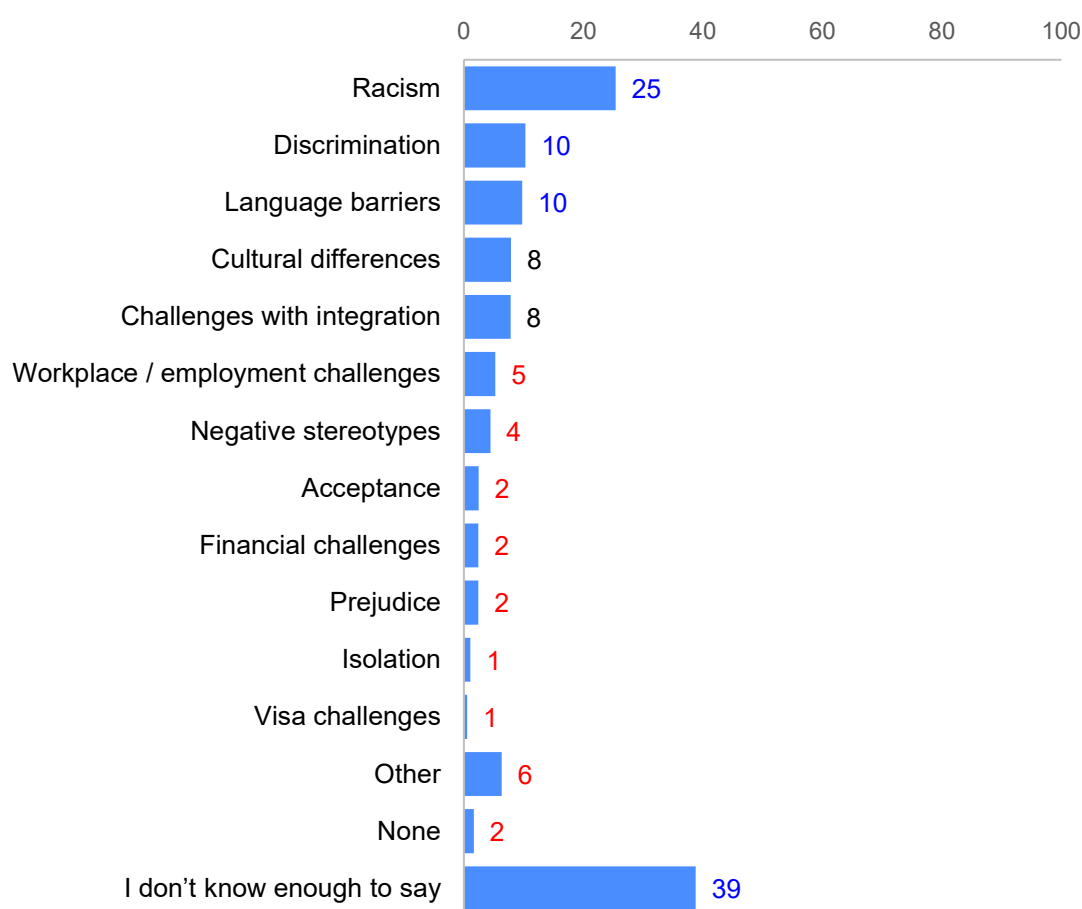
7.3. Challenges faced by the Indian diaspora

The survey aimed to identify the various challenges that members of the Indian community in Australia are perceived to face (refer [Figure 26](#)).

A quarter of Australians suggest the most common challenge faced by Indian Australians is racism. This percentage is similar for Indian Australians and non-Indian Australians, indicating that both groups share similar beliefs regarding this challenge.

Discrimination and language barriers are also notable issues, highlighted by 10% of respondents. Importantly, 39% of respondents indicated that they do not know enough to say what challenges the Indian community faces.

Figure 26 Challenges faced by members of the Indian community in Australia (%)



F6_coded. What challenges do you think members of the Indian community face in Australia? Base: All respondents (n=2,158). Note: 'Invalid' (1%) and 'Prefer not to say' (2%) responses are not shown in the figure.

Indian Australians (focus group)

Background

This group comprised Indian Australians of different ages, genders and from different walks of life. For some, their identity as Indian Australian is punctuated by cultural tensions, as they navigate being a minority within the broader mainstream culture, with many sharing personal experiences of prejudice. There is knowledge of India's economy and politics though this knowledge is varied.

Connections to India

Indian Australians in this group see food and cricket as tangible ways to connect with their cultural heritage in Australia. Cricket matches and shared meals foster social connections, but for some they can be perceived as superficial stereotypes. The group tends to be passionate about social justice and the topic of India's wealth inequality provokes emotive responses and a sense of unease.

"It is my belief that food is a universal thing which connects communities and various cultures. Food has been an avenue for connecting with my parents and other people".

Perceptions of India

Indian Australians depict India as a country of dichotomies. In one respect, India is rapidly developing, an emerging power and a country of opportunities. On the other hand, India faces social and political challenges. Some share concerns about wealth inequality and gender-based rights in the country.

"It [India] is a very, very wealthy nation, they do actually have a lot of money coming into the country, it's just obviously not dispersed as well as a lot of other countries...there's immense wealth and then extreme poverty."

To stay abreast of developments in India, a range of sources are used, including social media, news, and friends and family.

Attitudes towards the Australia-India relationship

The relationship between India and Australia is seen as neutral or good, based on ongoing migration, trade with India and cultural festivals in Australia. Indian Australians see uncertainties with China as reason to believe that the Australia-India relationship could provide greater opportunities and reliability, with a common sentiment that Australia should "not keep all its eggs in one basket."

"Tensions are high with China...We do need to try and keep other avenues open, in terms of trade and especially for mass production...If you start to cut off all the all the countries that do all of that mass production, then cost of living goes up even more."

Views on Indian Australian contributions

Indian Australians see Australia as a multicultural country accepting of Indian culture, which contributes to Australian society through food, yoga, the workforce, and festivals like Diwali. Skilled migrants are considered pivotal to Australia's economy. Some consider racism is declining, but share memories of past prejudice.

"Even the prime minister comes to say Happy Diwali to the Indian Australian population. It's like everyone knows what's going around. People like to see the culture, and everyone enjoy it."

Future storytelling

Celebrating Indian culture and raising awareness of Indian communities in Australia through stories of both positive aspects such as food, festivals, migration success and challenges like racism is seen as vital for fostering empathy.

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