

The Export Supply Chain Service (ESCS) is an Austrade initiative to **coordinate supply chain insights** while connectivity to international markets remains volatile, capacity diminished and rates expensive.

VISIT ESCS HOME

# Export Supply Chain Service

## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIA

March 2023

### The AI-ECTA

Enhancing the competitiveness of Australian exports, the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA) came into effect on 29 December 2022. For information on implications and opportunities for Australian agricultural exporters, [read Austrade's analysis](#).

### Sea Links

With 7,517 kilometres of coastline, India has 13 major and more than 200 smaller ports.

Indirect sailing (transhipment) options from Australia are available via ports like Singapore, Tanjung Pelepas, Port Kelang and Hong Kong.

Transit times vary depending on transit port and layover time, ranging from 40-55 days from East Coast Australia and 30-45 days from West Coast Australia.

From late March 2023, SeaLead will launch a new direct service. Operating from East Coast Australia via Port Kelang into Nhava Sheva and Mundra it will reduce transit times to 22-30 days.

The Indian Government has over US\$82 billion invested in more than 500 port-related projects, including the development of a new mega port Vadhavan, near Mumbai.

#### Mundra

Mundra is the largest container port in India and connects the northern hinterland (including Delhi) by rail and road.

#### Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam is located near the ports of Chennai and Kolkata, and mainly serves India's eastern and southern hinterlands. It is India's third largest port in terms of cargo volume.

#### Nhava Seva

Nhava Seva is the second largest container port and the terminal of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, a 1,506 km long (under-construction) corridor connecting Delhi and Mumbai.

#### Chennai

Known as the "Gateway to South India", it's the largest facility in the Bay of Bengal and provides a rail link to the inland container depot in Bengaluru.

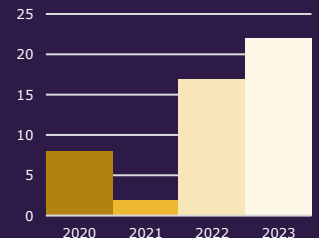
### Air Links

Connectivity between Australia and India is increasing – direct passengers flight numbers are currently 275% higher than pre-Covid and there are ample flight options via Singapore and Hong Kong.

- Qantas signed a recent agreement with Indigo, a signal of the emerging growth of the Indian travel market to Australia.
- Air India has 220 aircraft on order from Boeing and 250 aircraft from Airbus. Aircraft deliveries will start in late 2023.

The four largest airports in India, by international freight handled, are Delhi (DEL), Mumbai (BOM), Chennai (MAA), and Bengaluru (BLR) - all have cargo terminals capable of handling perishable goods:

- Air India flies a wide-body B788 once-daily between SYD and DEL, and MEL and DEL. Qantas flies a wide-body A332 four times weekly between MEL and DEL.
- Qantas flies a wide-body A332 and four times weekly between SYD and BLR, which is an emerging destination for perishables.



**AU - IN Flights Over Time**  
(first week of March)

In week ending 05 March 2023, there were 22 direct flights between Australia and India - a **275% increase** compared to the same period pre-COVID.

