



IABCA AWARDS 2026 INFORMATION PACK



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KEY DATES IABCA 2026

Item	Date	Location
IABCA Awards Entries Open	Sunday, 3 November 2026	Online
IABCA Awards Entries Close	Friday, 30 January 2026	Online
IABCA Awards Finalists Announced	Friday, 6 March 2026	Online
IABCA India Immersion Week & Awards Gala - Winners Announced	August 2026	TBC

2026 IABCA Awards

The India Australia Business & Community Alliance supported by The Centre for Australia-India Relations, exists to celebrate the India-Australia relationship whilst simultaneously contributing to its development.

Through the IABCA Awards, we invite you to share stories of bilateral success across social impact initiatives and trade & investment. Featuring twelve categories recognising excellence across the fields of science, research, innovation, and our circular economy, IABCA presents a major opportunity to further strengthen the India- Australia relationship by acknowledging achievements on a global stage.

Submitting an IABCA nomination is completely free and is entirely online. Please note that entries will be closing as per above.

Finalists will be announced early 2026 and Winners will be revealed at the **IABCA India Immersion Week in India**.

Entry Portal

All award submissions must be completed online via the IABCA Awards Portal, which can be accessed [here](#).

Please note that applicants are welcome to download this information pack and compile their entry offline, however, to be eligible for IABCA your final entry must be submitted online prior to the deadline.

Applicants are welcome to enter as many awards as they deem relevant to their career, business, or projects.



Awards Entry Process

There are four components to an IABCA Award entry which are split across four tabs in the online nomination form.

In total there are four tabs named Details, Award Criteria and Attachments.

Details: In the details tab we request basic information about your business and key contact details

Award Criteria: This is the core component of an IABCA nomination and what the judges will score. The Award Criteria for each category can be found in this document.

Attachments: Here you will attach photos/images and a video to further support your entry.

CONTACT IABCA

Award Portal, Award Entry & Media Enquiries:

Vivian Shen-Edwards, Event Operations & Brand Support Coordinator.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR IABCA AWARDS

Thank you for engaging with us on the India Australia Business & Community Awards (IABCA) platform. To enter you must agree to the following (eligibility criteria and terms and conditions)

1. Organisations, Businesses, Not for Profits, and Individuals that work across the Australia India space are eligible to nominate.
2. Any individual with Indian Heritage including Australians based in India who are bridge builders are eligible to nominate.
3. Australian and Global companies that export services or products to India and or to Australia are eligible to nominate.
4. Indian investors in the Australian market are eligible to nominate.
5. There are no fees associated with nominating, the entire process is free
6. Organisations and Not-for-profits must have been operative for a minimum of twelve months.
7. Nominations should include achievements and success stories for at least a 12-month period. The nomination should address each point of the award criteria to be eligible.
8. Full-time or part-time employees of Gandhi Creations, commercial sponsors, members of the judging panel and members of the advisory board are not eligible to nominate for an award, unless they are part of a non-contested category.
9. IABCA Youth Ambassador program participants can nominate for IABCA as they are not privy to sensitive information.
10. IABCA panel has the right to and will automatically disregard entries of businesses and individuals that have gone bankrupt or have provided incorrect information.
11. Entries should be nominated in the most appropriate category, as seen fit. However, the judges reserve the right to move entries into a category other than what was entered if it is considered more appropriate. Multiple entries are accepted however each category must complete a separate online nomination.
12. Judging will be undertaken by an independent panel of experts from across the nation and can be viewed at <https://www.iabca.com.au/>
13. The judge's assessment of each nomination will be in accordance with the judging criteria. The judging panel will assess each nomination according to the criteria and select finalists and winners for each category.
14. Gandhi Creations Pty Ltd are administrators of the awards and not part of the judging process.



- 15.** The judging panel reserves the right to present two awards in one category or may also decide not to present an award in a category where entries are not considered to merit an award. While these are awards for individuals and organisations, the panel reserves the right to present an award to a group in certain circumstances. If you are entering across a few categories, please ensure you create a new category submission for each entry, so you are not overwriting any of your old entries.
- 16.** The decision of the judging panel is final, and all nominees acknowledge and accept this as a final decision under all circumstances.
- 17.** By registering your details, you agree to the collection, storage, and use of your information by Gandhi Creations in accordance with the Australian Privacy Policy.
- 18.** During normal business, Gandhi Creations Pty Ltd collects and stores personal information, such as that on the IABC nomination form, to carry out its due diligence and other responsibilities.
- 19.** Nominations must be completed online. Hard copy nominations and additional materials mailed to us will not be accepted.
- 20.** Finalists and winners will be provided with logos that can be used on marketing collateral going forward. The use of these logos will be monitored, however there will be no charge associated with the correct logo use for branding and marketing purposes.
- 21.** Information on the finalists will be published on the official IABC website, www.iabca.com.au. Finalists will be announced in March 2026 and Winners will be revealed during the awards ceremony, part of the IABC Immersion Week in Australia in August.
- 22.** Nominees agree for IABC to use all collateral submitted as part of the submission.
- 23.** In accepting these terms and conditions, you accept that you may be filmed and photographed in relation to the IABC, and that those images may appear in all forms of media, including print, online, television and other media.
- 24.** By submitting the nomination form, companies/individuals accept and abide by all the above terms and conditions.
- 25.** IABC Finalists will be admitted into the IABC Alumni network. By submitting your entry, you confirm that you are open to receiving additional opportunities via email if you are shortlisted as a finalist.

Australia India Impact Award – Individual

IABC Australia India Impact award recognises the contributions of an individual, (living or working across our two nations) OR an organisation or project that adds value to the bilateral relationship. The category celebrates projects and organisations that have expanded from Australia to India or India to Australia.

Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria extent to which the nominee has demonstrated excellence in their field.
2. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the project/nominee has demonstrated innovation through novel strategies, business ideas, or initiatives
3. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the nominee has generated an impact in their new nation through their project or made an impact within the organisation.
4. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the project/nominee has inspired others to travel to Australia or India to pursue a career or business venture.
5. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the project/nominee has enhanced bilateral relations between India and Australia

Australia India Impact Award – Organisation

IABC Australia India Impact award recognises the contributions of an individual, (living or working across our two nations) OR an organisation or project that adds value to the bilateral relationship. The category celebrates projects and organisations that have expanded from Australia to India or India to Australia.

Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the nominee has demonstrated excellence in their field.



2. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the project/nominee has demonstrated innovation through novel strategies, business ideas, or initiatives
3. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the nominee has generated an impact in their new nation through their project or made an impact within the organisation.
4. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the project/nominee has inspired others to travel to Australia or India to pursue a career or business venture.
5. Please address the award criteria Extent to which the project/nominee has enhanced bilateral relations between India and Australia.

Australia India Science, Research & Development Award

Central to the purpose of this award is the recognition and support of outstanding contributions to the advancement of science, technology and research made by an organisation or an individual. Entry is open – but not limited to – academics, researchers, doctors, scientists, institutions, and universities.

Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria Demonstrated need for research and/or innovation.
2. Please address the award criteria Evidence of innovation and research.
3. Please address the award criteria Key lessons learned from successfully overcoming challenges.
4. Please address the award criteria Impact and reach generated from the research.
5. Please address the award criteria Evidence of appraisal from in-field professionals and/or peers.

Businesswoman of the Year

This award recognises outstanding achievements of a female leader who has built a successful business or career over time. Nominations will be assessed on the below five criteria, each of which are given equal weighting.

Award eligibility check box



Applicant runs her business full-time.

Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria Delivered real business impact and applied innovative thinking to push boundaries and do things differently.
2. Please address the award criteria Tackled business problems and obstacles with determination and creativity.
3. Please address the award criteria Consistently demonstrated exceptional and progressive leadership.
4. Please address the award criteria Mentored and inspired others striving for success.
5. Please address the award criteria Used self-belief to rise above adversity and reach their goals.

Business Leader of the Year

This award recognises outstanding achievements of a CEO, managing director and or business leader, in senior management who has built a successful career and is over 40 years of age. Nominations will be assessed on the below five criteria, each of which are given equal weighting.

Award eligibility check box

Applicant is 40 Years or Older

Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria Leadership and vision.
2. Please address the award criteria Outstanding performance and strategic direction.
3. Please address the award criteria Ongoing professional development.
4. Please address the award criteria Positive impact on the organisation.
5. Please address the award criteria Ability to overcome challenges.



Excellence in Creative and Sporting Economy

This award recognises outstanding achievement by an individual, organisation, or project that has advanced the Creative Industries as a vital economic and cultural driver within the Australia–India relationship.

It celebrates initiatives that blend creativity with commerce — showcasing innovation, collaboration, and measurable impact across sectors such as fashion, design, media, film, music, visual arts, performing arts, sport and sports-related industries, and digital content.

IABC values the Creative Industries as a cornerstone of economic growth, job creation, and cultural diplomacy, recognising the powerful role that creative and sporting ecosystems play in strengthening people-to-people ties, global visibility, and cross-border markets.

Award Criteria:

1. Creative Excellence and Innovation: Demonstrated originality, innovation, or creative leadership in the project, product, or initiative.
2. Cross-Cultural Impact: Contribution to strengthening Australia–India ties through creative collaboration, storytelling, or exchange.
3. Industry and Community Engagement: Evidence of meaningful engagement with audiences, communities, and partners that fosters inclusion and participation.
4. Implementation and Delivery: Effective planning and execution of the creative initiative with clear, measurable outcomes.
5. Sustained Positive Impact: Demonstrated long-term contribution to the creative economy, community, or cultural landscape.

Emerging Leader of the Year Award

This award recognises the exceptional achievements of an emerging leader who is making a significant impact in their field. The category is open to professionals who are in middle or senior management roles and have demonstrated leadership potential, innovation, and a commitment to personal and professional growth. Nominations will be assessed on the below five criteria, each of which are given equal weighting.

Award eligibility check box

For Applicant is under 40 years of age.



Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria Leadership and Vision: Demonstrated ability to lead with clarity, inspire teams, and drive change or innovation within their organisation or industry.
2. Please address the award criteria Strategic Impact: Proven track record of making strategic decisions that contribute to the growth and success of their organisation or project.
3. Please address the award criteria Commitment to Growth: Evidence of ongoing personal and professional development, including acquiring new skills, education, or training that enhances leadership capabilities.
4. Please address the award criteria Positive Influence: Demonstrated positive impact on their team, organisation, or industry through collaboration, mentorship, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.
5. Please address the award criteria Adaptability and Resilience: Ability to navigate and overcome challenges, showing resilience and creative problem-solving in the face of obstacles.

Excellence in Trade, Investment, and Partnerships

This award celebrates the achievements of organisations, projects, or partnerships that have successfully driven trade and investment opportunities between India and Australia. It highlights the role of partnerships in fostering shared value, ownership, risk management, and mutual benefit, while strengthening the bilateral relationship between the two nations. Eligible applicants may include organisations engaged in importing or exporting goods and services, or joint ventures that have resulted in sustained and increased trade and investment between India and Australia.

Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria Exceptional Delivery and Innovation: Address the delivery of an exceptional product, service offering, or project that has successfully generated trade or investment opportunities across India and Australia, or through partnerships that strengthened these bilateral relations.
2. Please address the award criteria of a Demonstrated Need and Purpose: Highlight the demonstrated need for the product, service offering, or partnership across India and/or Australia, and



explain how the partnership or project addressed a clear market or bilateral gap.

3. Please address the award criteria of Successful Engagement and Entry Strategy: Detail the entry and engagement strategy that helped successfully expand operations, projects, or partnerships across both nations. Include examples of how shared governance, resource pooling, and challenges were managed in innovative ways.
4. Please address the award criteria across Impact and Scalability: Explain how the organisation or partnership has demonstrated success, and provide evidence of its long-term impacts, scalability, and contributions to strengthening trade and investment relations between India and Australia.
5. Please address the award criteria across Observable Long-Term Success: Highlight the observable long-term success or outcomes that have resulted from the project, trade strategy, or partnership, and its ability to continue creating shared growth and prosperity for both nations.

Excellence in Innovation

This award recognizes a start-up or business that has exercised innovation in contriving a new and unique business model. This category is open to established businesses who have shown innovation by introducing a novel product or service, or by executing an innovative policy or strategy to generate a competitive advantage.

Award Criteria:

1. Please address the award criteria Demonstrates original and creative thinking.
2. Please address the award criteria Addresses a current need or issue in the market.
3. Please address the award criteria Effective use of technology and/or tools to execute the innovative concept.
4. Please address the award criteria Proven results of the innovative idea / startup.
5. Please address the award criteria Has the innovation disrupted the norm and provide evidence of sustainable competitive advantage.



Large Business of the Year

This award recognises a large business, defined as part of an economic group with a combined turnover between the two nations of greater than \$250 million, and that has demonstrated exceptional leadership in enhancing trade and investment between India and Australia. The award highlights businesses that have leveraged their scale, innovation, and partnerships to drive sustained economic growth, foster bilateral relationships, and deliver mutual benefits between the two nations. Eligible applicants include large enterprises involved in significant importing/exporting activities or collaborative ventures resulting in measurable and sustainable trade and investment success.

Award Criteria:

1. Please address awards criteria of Outstanding Business Performance and Innovation: Showcase the business's exceptional delivery of products, services, or projects that have significantly contributed to enhancing trade and investment between India and Australia, with an emphasis on innovative practices and large-scale impact.
2. Please address awards criteria of Strategic Market Leadership and Addressing Key Needs:
Highlight how the business has strategically addressed key market demands or gaps in trade and investment between India and Australia, through its products, services, or partnership initiatives.
3. Please address awards criteria of Effective Market Engagement and Partnership Success:
Provide examples of the business's successful market entry, engagement, and expansion strategies, demonstrating how partnerships, shared governance, and resource management contributed to achieving significant results across both nations.
4. Please address awards criteria of Long-Term Growth and Economic Impact:
Detail how the business's operations or partnerships have driven long-term trade and investment growth between India and Australia, providing evidence of ongoing scalability and sustained economic impact.
5. Please address awards criteria of Tangible Bilateral Benefits and Outcomes:
Demonstrate the measurable benefits the business has brought to both countries, such as job creation, increased trade volumes, economic development, or strengthened bilateral relations, with clear evidence of lasting positive effects.

SME of the Year

Small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) are defined as economic groups, with small businesses employing fewer than 20 people and medium businesses employing between 20 and 199 people. In line with Australian Taxation Office (ATO) guidelines, small businesses are also recognised as those with an annual turnover of less than \$10 million. This award acknowledges outstanding achievement and contribution by an SME.

Award eligibility check box

The business is employing fewer than 20 people and medium businesses employing between 20 and 199 people.

Questions

1. Please address the award criteria Business values and product offering.
2. Please address the award criteria Company's growth over time. This may include factors such as staff numbers, annual turnover, number and/or range of products.
3. Please address the award criteria Key lessons learned from successfully overcoming challenges.
4. Please address the award criteria Firms most successful marketing and sales strategy.
5. Please address the award criteria Efficient management of financial and staffing resources, good governance practices, transparency and accountability, and corporate social responsibility.