



**AUSTRALIA
INDIA
INSTITUTE**

Cybersecurity and Digital Governance

Australia-India Research Collaboration Framework

AUGUST 27, 2025

Supported by



Australian Government
Department of Education

AUSTRALIA-INDIA RESEARCH COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK

Advancing Bilateral Research for Shared Impact

The **Australia-India Research Collaboration (AIRC) Framework** is a strategic initiative designed to support impactful research partnerships between Australia and India. It supports all stakeholders involved in research collaboration, including higher education, industry, government, and community sectors. The Framework revolves around three action areas:

- **Promote:** Encourage the development of new, interdisciplinary research collaborations.
- **Support:** Sustain and strengthen research partnerships over time, ensuring they remain impactful and mutually beneficial.
- **Translate:** Establish pathways to apply research into practical outcomes, with a focus on innovation, commercialisation, and early engagement with delivery partners.

The Framework is designed with a five-year outlook to guide, grow, and scale research collaboration with lasting impact across both countries. It focuses on four key thematic areas of shared importance to both countries:

- Energy Transitions and Climate Change Resilience
- Sustaining Healthy Communities
- Advanced Manufacturing Technologies
- Cybersecurity and Digital Governance

Online workshops on each theme will be hosted between August and September 2025. Each workshop is co-led by Australian and Indian experts and will gather practical insights and recommendations that will directly inform the Framework. The initiative is supported by the Australian Government Department of Education.

About the Australia India Institute

The **Australia India Institute** is Australia's leading centre dedicated to enhancing Australia-India relations. We aim to increase the policy and public importance of India as a crucial partner in Australia's future, and of Australia as a crucial partner in India's future. Our activities across the academic, political, business and community sectors have helped to shape engagement with India among Australian decision makers, change perceptions about Australia in India, promote trade and investment and activate bilateral networks.

CO-LEADS



Prof V. Sridhar is a Professor at the Centre for IT and Public Policy at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore. He edited a book titled Data-Centric Living: Algorithms, Digitization and Regulation was published by Routledge (2022). He is co-authoring a new title "5G and Beyond: Rewiring Telecom Regulation", which is under publication at the Oxford University Press. Dr. Sridhar has taught at many institutions in the USA, Finland, New Zealand and India. He has been a member of Government of India committees on Telecom and IT and has published many peer-reviewed articles in telecom and information systems journals.



Prof Chris Leckie is a Professor in the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Melbourne. Prof Leckie has a strong interest in developing AI and Machine Learning techniques for a variety of applications in telecommunications, such as cyber security, network management, fault diagnosis and the Internet-of-Things. He also has an interest in robust and scalable machine learning algorithms for problems such as clustering and anomaly detection, with a focus on adversarial machine learning and security analytics.



Prof Balaji Parthasarathy is a Professor at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, and a co-founder of the Institute's Center for Information Technology and Public Policy. His intellectual interests are rooted in economic geography and economic sociology, and explore the relationships between technological change and innovation, economic globalisation, and social transformation. Balaji's research has spanned the organisation of supply chains and production in the global software industry, to the political economy of e-governance, e-waste and social innovation.



Dr Serene Ho is a Senior Lecturer in Geomatics-Land Administration at the University of Melbourne. She is interested in the governance of land tenure and related data, especially with digital technologies changing the nature of land transactions between states and society. She works extensively with Global South communities, where the introduction of Western concepts of land and property rights, as well as land administration systems, often sits uneasily alongside existing informal or customary land tenures.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan serves as the Minister for IT & Digital Services in the Government of Tamil Nadu, India. Dr Rajan previously worked as an International Investment Banker for many years, in several trading, market sales, and management roles at Lehman Brothers (largely in New York), and Standard Chartered Bank (mostly based in Singapore) where he last served as Sr MD, Financial Markets, overseeing the sales of several fixed-income products globally.



The Hon. Lisa Singh is a former Australian Senator and was the first woman of South Asian heritage to be elected to the Australian Parliament. She is also a former Tasmanian Member of Parliament and Minister in the Tasmanian Government. She is currently the CEO of the Australia India Institute at the University of Melbourne, a leading research and policy thinktank advancing Australia-India relations at the government, business, diaspora and academic levels.



Liz Campbell-Dorning is Director of South Asia at the Department of Education. She has oversight of the Australian Government's education partnerships across South Asia, with a particular focus on transnational delivery, two-way mobility and research collaboration. As Counsellor (Education and Science) at the Australian Embassy Jakarta from 2017 to 2021, Liz had a focus on expanding market access and facilitating establishment of Australian university campuses in Indonesia.

SPEAKERS



Lokesh Balu leads the architectural security strategy for the Infrastructure Solutions Group at Dell Technologies, integrating proactive defence across the product development engineering ecosystem. His expertise spans the full system development lifecycle, where he serves as a trusted consultant on secure software development while evolving robust control frameworks for cloud and AI technologies.



Hilal Ahmad Lone is the Vice President – Information Security (CISO) of Liminal Custody where he spearheads security and privacy initiatives. With over 17 years' experience in cybersecurity, he has held various leadership roles at industry-leading companies such as Razorpay, Dream11 and Intuit.



Mr Ramesh Narayanan is the Chief Technology Officer of the Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP). He is an entrepreneur with 25 years of experience in building software products and solutions, and is currently involved in building digital trust infrastructure and government stacks to help countries in their digital transformation journey.



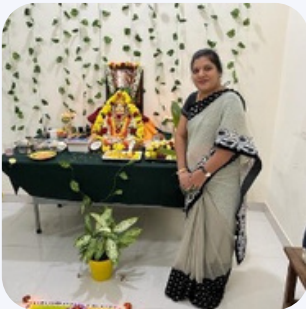
Mrs Sarita Narke is the State Director in the Revenue Department, Government of Maharashtra. She has extensive experience working at district and divisional levels as a civil servant across diverse areas, including Law and Order, Land Acquisition, Elections, NREGA, Housing, Food and Civil Supply, and Registration & Stamp Duty. She earned her Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University in Adelaide, Australia.



Dr. S. Rajagopalan is a Professor at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore. S. Rajagopalan received his Bachelor of Technology degree (Chemical Engineering) from IIT Delhi, Post Graduate Diploma in Management from IIM Bangalore and Ph.D. from IIT Kanpur. After spending three decades in leadership positions in the Government, in the non profit and in the startup ecosystems, Dr. Rajagopalan joined the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIITB) as a Professor in 2008.



Dr Harish Ramani is the Chief Executive & Technology Officer of Tevel Cyber Cops. He is an expert in security, networking, data communication and data centre. With extensive international experience in computer science, he has successfully solved numerous corporate, financial, and cybercrime cases.



Dr. Kumuda Rani M. is the Deputy Director of the State Forensic Science Laboratory, Government of Karnataka. She is a highly accomplished Forensic Scientist with over a decade of expertise across digital forensics, questioned document analysis, and biology. She has handled more than 2,600 forensic cases, including several high-profile investigations, and played a pivotal role in modernising forensic infrastructure, training police officers, and shaping forensic policies in Karnataka



Ben Vanzino was appointed as DTV Platform Tech Lead of the Digital Twin Victoria program on the 1st July 2022. Ben's experience is in people management, digital science and spatial system management, this complements the skills of the existing DTV technical team members that are concentrated on platform management and customer support. Ben was a director of Digital Science Platforms for Geoscience Australia from 2018 to 2022.



Professor Monica Whitty is a Maureen Brunt Fellow at Monash University, where she holds a Professorship in Human Factors in Cyber Security. Monica is an expert in understanding the psychological issues related to cyber security and cybercrime, and she has led large interdisciplinary projects supported by competitive grants, including projects on cyber scams, insider threats, online deception, cyber security practices, education and awareness raising, and detecting and preventing dis/misinformation.

AGENDA

09:30–09:35 IST 02:00–02:05 AEST	Welcome & Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof V. Sridhar, Professor, Centre for IT and Public Policy, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore• Prof Chris Leckie, Professor, School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne• Prof Balaji Parthasarathy, Professor and Co-Founder, Center for Information Technology and Public Policy, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore• Dr Serene Ho, Senior Lecturer in Geomatics-Land Administration, University of Melbourne
09:35–09:40 IST 02:05–02:10 AEST	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Hon. Lisa Singh, CEO, Australia India Institute• Ms Liz Campbell-Dorning, Director, South Asia, Australian Government Department of Education
09:40–09:45 IST 02:10–02:15 AEST	Overview of the AIRC Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Professor Haripriya Rangan, Principal Consultant Government Projects, Australia India Institute
09:45–09:55 IST 02:15–02:25 AEST	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for IT & Digital Services in the Government of Tamil Nadu, India
09:55–10:25 IST 02:25–02:55 AEST	Expert Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Monica Whitty, Maureen Brunt Fellow, Monash University• Hilal Ahmad Lone, Vice President – Information Security (CISO), Liminal Custody• Ben Vanzino, Platform Tech Lead, Digital Twin Victoria, Department of Transport and Planning
10:25–10:30 IST 02:55–03:00 AEST	Short Break

<p>10:30–11:50 IST 03:00–04:20 AEST</p>	<p>Open Discussion</p> <p>A whole-group conversation exploring the Cybersecurity and Digital Governance themes, inviting participants to share insights, pose questions, and contribute to shaping the Australia–India Research Collaboration Framework.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Sarita Narke, State Director, Revenue Department, Government of Maharashtra • Mr Lokesh Balu, Security Architect, Dell Technologies • Dr. Kumuda Rani M., Deputy Director, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Government of Karnataka • Mr Ramesh Narayanan, Chief Technology Officer, Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) • Dr Harish Ramani, Chief Executive & Technology Officer, Tevel Cyber Cops • Dr. S. Rajagopalan, Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore
<p>11:50–12:00 IST 04:20–04:30 AEST</p>	<p>Final Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof V. Sridhar, Professor, Centre for IT and Public Policy, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore • Prof Chris Leckie, Professor, School of Computing and Information Systems, University of Melbourne • Prof Balaji Parthasarathy, Professor and Co-Founder, Center for Information Technology and Public Policy, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore • Dr Serene Ho, Senior Lecturer in Geomatics-Land Administration, University of Melbourne
<p>12:00 IST 16:30 AEST</p>	<p>Close</p>

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