



**AUSTRALIA
INDIA
INSTITUTE**

Towards a peaceful and
prosperous Indo-Pacific

**A N N U A L
R E P O R T
2 0 2 5**

THE AUSTRALIA INDIA INSTITUTE

WHO WE ARE

The Australia India Institute is Australia's leading research and policy centre dedicated to promoting support for and understanding of the Australia-India relationship and its cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Established in 2008, the Institute aims to elevate 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.

The Institute's activities across the academic, political, business and community sectors have shaped engagement with India among Australian decision makers, changed perceptions about Australia in India, promoted trade and investment and activated bilateral networks.

In this mission, the Institute is guided by the principles of *bharosa* (trust), *gyan* (knowledge), *maryada* (respect), and *kalyan* (welfare).

MISSION

The Institute's mission is to inform and mobilise Australian and Indian leaders and institutions to forge a stronger and more enduring relationship between our two countries.

VISION

The Institute's vision is to be Australia's leading voice on the Australia-India relationship and the principal convener of strategic dialogue between Australia and India.



TO BECOME AUSTRALIA'S LEADING AUTHORITY ON INDIA AND THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BY COMMISSIONING WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON OUR KEY THEMES.



TO SHAPE POLICY AND PUBLIC DEBATE ON AUSTRALIA-INDIA RELATIONS BY INFORMING POLICY DIALOGUE AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ACROSS OUR KEY THEME.



TO DELIVER AN INFLUENTIAL PROGRAM OF DIALOGUES AND EVENTS ACROSS BOTH AUSTRALIA AND INDIA THAT BUILDS CRITICAL BALLAST AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS.



CEO REPORT



Amidst the challenges of global uncertainty, the Australia India partnership has demonstrated remarkable durability throughout 2025. As Australia's leading research and policy centre dedicated to enhancing the Australia-India relationship and its cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, I am pleased to showcase our efforts that have helped transform shared challenges into opportunities for innovation and enduring impact.

Expanding our research and policy work across the Indo-Pacific region has been a highlight of 2025, building resilience for island states through the Fiji Dialogue and maritime security through the Australia-India-Indonesia dialogue exploring untapped areas of collaboration. Our seabed security and digital connectivity work continues to gain momentum under our Seabed Program, while the launch of our capstone report on opportunities for the next decade of the Australia India Defence Relationship by Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles MP was a major milestone for our Defence Program.

The Institute's Annual Oration in India continues to attract eminent speakers. Delivered by Climate Change and Energy Minister the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, the event highlighted the opportunities available for both nations during the clean energy transition and future collaboration in sustainability, climate change and renewable energy infrastructure.

The Institute's participation in the annual Australia India Education and Skills Council meeting in New Delhi enabled both countries' education ministers the Hon. Jason Clare MP and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan to launch our landmark Australia India Research Collaboration Framework report, a five-year roadmap that will drive the next phase of Australia-India research collaboration. Our Education and Skills pillar expanded into dual sector higher education research, with workshops held in both countries, while our focus on closing the gender gap continued through our Women in STEM exchange program, which fostered meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange.

I was delighted to lead our Institute into a stronger focus on sports diplomacy and collaboration. Our research exploring pathways for Victoria and India to work together in helping India build its high-performance sporting ecosystem was launched by Victorian Minister for Sport the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP, and an industry roundtable partnering with Sports Tech World Series, were highlights.

I thank our partners and funders for working with us throughout the year and for their ongoing commitment to our Institute. I acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our hard working team, fellows and Advisory Board, whose efforts all help shape the strengthening of the Australia India narrative. Together, we look forward to building on this momentum in 2026 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Singh'.

The Hon. Lisa Singh
Chief Executive Officer
Australia India Institute

CHAIR'S REPORT



A quarter into the new century, we are living in a rapidly changing world. How we understand and navigate these changes will define how successfully we prosper into the future. As familiar contours shift, how do we best shape new lines to chart? A world of increasing questions.

Two key threads are evidently weaving themselves together around the world. Threads that will take much imagination, diligence and work to help weave the fabric of the future. The first, to stitch in greater resilience to our national fabric, in so many dimensions: from national security to economic welfare to climate health to social cohesion and beyond. To stand stronger, if not taller. The second, to sow more bindingly national relationships that deliver mutual advantage. Together to stand stronger, and taller.

The Australia India partnership is one such relationship. From what we have to offer one another across security, economy, energy, people and purpose, each is increasingly contributing to the other's national resilience.

I was struck by this being part of the Australia India Institute's Annual Oration and associated bilateral meetings where Minister the Hon. Chris Bowen MP underscored Australian technologies and know-how supporting India's remarkable clean energy transition and security, and Indian technologies, know-how and investment supporting a similar energy revolution in Australia. On a more personal note, we were all inspired and I – at least – was moved by meeting women from Gujarat upskilling in a joint Australian-Indian initiative to become technicians for that State's renewable energy roll-out. They spoke with such passion, pride and confidence in building skills, networks and knowledge to take them, their families, their community and country to a better future, in ways one of the women said she had never dreamed.

From what Australia and India are also increasingly doing together we are inexorably sewing that mutual advantage; to stand stronger together. Converging geo-strategic and security interests, complementary economies and the continued strengthening of people-to-people ties are binding us ever closer. The image for me of Australia's long hot summer was seeing a group of Indian kids learning to surf at Bondi; so much fun, so many smiles, such goodwill from everyone around: such life.

As Lisa has so ably led, and her team delivered, throughout the year and outlined in this report, the Australia India Institute continues to make a meaningful contribution to that understanding and to the navigation required in our changing world across all the key dimensions of this ever-strengthening relationship. A last vignette from me, the amazing connections, energy and outcomes of the Institute's initiative bringing together Australian and Indian women working on STEM, of which our just announced Australian of the year - astronaut Katherine Bennell-Pegg - would be proud.

If I could close with heartfelt thank you to Lisa and her team for another stellar year, to the myriad of supporters of the Institute including financially and not least the University of Melbourne, and to my colleagues on the Advisory board for their ever-wise and caring counsel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Suckling'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick Suckling
Chair
Australia India Institute

THE INSTITUTE IN NUMBERS

SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2025 the Institute's social media presence grew significantly



11
Newsletters



114,075
Emails sent



42
Events



X



FACEBOOK



LINKEDIN



INSTAGRAM



7.9k+
Followers



10.3k+
Followers



13.2k+
Followers



585
New followers



+147.6K
Impressions
over the year



+111.2k
Views



+2854
New followers



+137.9k
Views



+1.1K
Likes



+7.5K
Profile visits



+441,070
Organic impressions



+4K
Profile visits



WEBSITE



34k+
Users



+78k
Page views



+12k
Clicks on home page



CORE PROGRAM PILLARS

SECURITY AND GEOPOLITICS

The Security and Geopolitics program explores key issues in security, defence, foreign policy, and strategic affairs that shape both Australia and India, as well as broader geopolitical developments in the Indo-Pacific. Under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) both nations actively strengthen security and defence cooperation—bilaterally and within multilateral institutions—to promote a stable, peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive region.

Through engagement with policy-makers, experts, analysts, and researchers, the program fosters shared understandings of regional security dynamics and the Australia-India security and defence relationship. It focuses on defence capabilities, maritime security, intelligence-sharing, counter-terrorism, and the enhancement of regional security institutions and partnerships. Additionally, it addresses security challenges such as transnational threats, climate change and environmental security, critical infrastructure, and emerging technologies.

In 2025, the Institute delivered the Fiji Dialogue, a continuation of the Institute's Island Dialogue Series (Kolkata Dialogue 2023), Trilateral Maritime Security Dialogue, and the first Australia India Defence Conclave at Parliament House Canberra. With support from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Institute's Seabed Program saw the delivery of the track 1.5, Australia-India Cables Dialogue 2025 in Perth led by Dr Samuel Bashfield. The Institute's Defence Special Visitors Program continued across Sydney, Canberra and Perth delivering thought leadership in the Australia India Defence space.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

The Sustainable Economies program focuses on sustainability in bilateral trade and investment, with a view to deepen economic ties between both countries. As the world strives to reduce global emissions, Australia and India hold a unique opportunity to lead on the clean energy transition and become renewable energy superpowers.

In 2025, the Institute hosted several key dialogues and events to progress collaboration in the clean energy sector. The Institute hosted the Victoria-India Clean Energy Roundtable in partnership with the Victorian Government, Consulate General of India (Melbourne) and the Smart Energy Council, bringing leaders from government, academia and the private sector together to explore the opportunities created by Australia and India's net zero targets. Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon. Chris Bowen MP delivered the 2025 Australia India Institute Annual Oration in Delhi – noting the shared ambition between Australia and India to drive global climate action and describing the bilateral energy partnership as amongst Australia's most important.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The Education and Skills program focuses on strengthening the cooperative relationship for talent mobility, research, and innovation between Australia and India. The Institute gratefully acknowledges funding from the Australian Government Department of Education which enables us to play a critical role in expanding and deepening knowledge sharing, skilling, and research partnerships between Australia and India on issues of mutual priority. The program promotes mutual understanding of each country's education sector through research, analysis, and commentary on opportunities for meaningful collaboration in education, research and talent development. The education pillar draws its agenda from the policy directions outlined by the Australia-India Education and Skills Council, Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Australia's India Economic Strategy to 2035, India's Australia Economic Strategy and the New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India.

The Institute has led efforts to build strong and resilient partnerships between education institutions in both nations. The Australian Researcher Cooperation Hub-India (ARCH-India) platform, the Australia India Research Students Fellowships, Australia India 'Unnatī' Research Collaboration Grants and the Australia India Women Researchers' Exchange Program are successful examples of how the Institute builds links, support exchanges, champion gender equality in research, and facilitates collaborations between emerging researchers of both countries.

The Institute's education research reports, analysis, and knowledge-sharing activities shape engagement across the sector. This includes the Institute's landmark report 'Shared Pathways to Research Futures: Australia-India Research Collaboration Framework 2026-30' and 'New Frontiers for Australian Dual-Sector Education in India', which are leading examples of the education pillars effort to provide comprehensive analysis and information, by providing a coordinated approach for deepening collaboration and translating research into impactful outcomes for achieving national, regional, and global priorities.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

The Cultural Diplomacy pillar recognises that both Australia and India seek to project their power and influence through people, society and culture. This is largely through people-to-people links and the Indian diaspora, Australia's fastest-growing diaspora in the last decade.

The cultural diplomacy program aims to make an important contribution to public debate and policy development in Australia and India through continuously engaging in discourse with policymakers, leading experts, analysts and researchers to develop a shared consensus on the value of soft power assets as diplomatic tools in the Australia-India relationship. This includes cooperation in governance, tourism, education, student mobility, research collaboration, sports diplomacy, gender equality, youth and innovation, arts and culture, and diaspora engagement.

The Institute continued to deliver on this vision in 2025, driving innovation in Sports Diplomacy. The Institute launched research on 'Advancing High-Performance Sports: Victoria-India Opportunities' at the Melbourne Global Centre - Delhi, exploring pathways for Victoria and India to collaborate on building India's high-performance sporting ecosystem. Following the successful launch, the Institute hosted the 'Victoria-India Sports Innovation Industry Roundtable' in Melbourne in partnership with Global Victoria and Sports Tech World Series, fostering collaboration and strengthening ties between Victoria and India.

SECURITY AND GEOPOLITICS



Image: (From L-R) Australian High Commissioner to Fiji and Special Envoy for the Pacific and Regional Affairs His Excellency Mr Ewen McDonald, Minister for Defence and Veteran's Affairs, Fiji The Hon. Pio Tikoduadua, AII CEO, The Hon. Lisa Singh and Vice Chancellor and President of USP, Prof Pal Ahluwalia at the Fiji Dialogue 2025 at the University of the South Pacific in Suva.

2025 FIJI DIALOGUE

**Supported by the Australian Government
Department of Defence. Delivered in partnership
with the University of the South Pacific.**

The Institute delivered the Fiji Dialogue in Suva in February at the University of the South Pacific. The Dialogue brought together leading experts and government officials from across the region including Maldives, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Australia and India to unpack pressing security challenges, and featured a keynote address by Fiji's Minister for Defence the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua as well as senior government officials from Australian and Indian governments.

With a focus on the prevalent security challenges facing the region including maritime safety, illegal fishing, disinformation, infrastructure management, climate change and regional governance, the Dialogue tackled how Australia and India can work with small island states in the Indo-Pacific to ensure stability, security and prosperity.



Image: (L-R) Building a Resilient Australia India Defence Relationship co-author Gaurav Saini, AII CEO Lisa Singh, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles MP and Report co-author Kim Heriot-Darragh at the launch of the Institute's Capstone report.

BUILDING A RESILIENT AUSTRALIA INDIA DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP: OPTIONS FOR THE NEXT DECADE

**Supported by the Australian Government
Department of Defence.**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hon. Richard Marles MP launched the Institute's capstone defence report, 'Building a Resilient Australia India Defence Relationship: Options for the Next Decade', at Australian Parliament House in March. As part of the Australia India Institute's Defence Program, this Report provides a 10-year roadmap for what the next chapter of the strategic partnership between Australia and India could be like, amidst the backdrop of living in a contested region.

Written by defence experts Mr Kim Heriot-Darragh and Dr Gaurav Saini, the report examines key areas where the defence relationship can be strengthened, calling for further flexibility between the two countries; elevating ground-up ideas; and strengthening defence footprints.



Image: (L-R) All CEO Lisa Singh, Assistant Minister for Defence the Hon. Peter Khalil MP, AII Research Fellow and Director of Security and Geopolitics Dr Samuel Bashfield and Indian High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Mr Gopal Baglay at the Trilateral Maritime Security Dialogue 2025: Australia, India and Indonesia in Canberra.

TRILATERAL MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE 2025: AUSTRALIA, INDIA AND INDONESIA

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Defence.

The Institute hosted a trilateral maritime security dialogue in Canberra in June, bringing together delegates from Australia, India and Indonesia to discuss joint initiatives and coordinated responses to maritime threats, seabed infrastructure protection, and climate change mitigation. The 1.5 track dialogue heard from eminent speakers including the High Commissioner of India to Australia, H.E. Mr Gopal Baglay, Tim Watts MP, Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs, Ms Edna Caroline, co-founder of Indonesian Defence Studies and Vice Admiral Anil Chawla, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Strategic Defense Research in India.

The Hon. Peter Khalil MP, Assistant Minister for Defence, delivered the keynote address, emphasising the importance of the trilateral in addressing shared maritime security challenges.



Image: Australia India Cables Dialogue 2025 in Perth.

AUSTRALIA-INDIA CABLES DIALOGUE 2025

Supported by DFAT's Australia India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership and the Forrest Research Foundation. Delivered in partnership with the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore.

The Institute hosted the Australia India Cables Dialogue in Perth, convening policymakers, industry leaders and academics to advance cooperation on submarine cable resilience and security. The track 1.5 Dialogue focused on connectivity, resilience and supply chain integrity, recognising the central role of cable infrastructure in enabling global data flows. Discussions examined physical and cyber threats facing cable networks amid intensifying strategic competition and considered practical options to strengthen bilateral cooperation and industry coordination.

The Dialogue reinforced the Institute's focus on critical technology and infrastructure as a core regional security priority.



Image: The first Australia India Defence Conclave held at Australian Parliament House.

AUSTRALIA INDIA DEFENCE CONCLAVE 2025: FROM CONCEPTS TO CAPABILITIES

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Defence. Hosted at Australian Parliament House during the visit of Indian Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.

The Institute hosted the Australia India Defence Conclave at Australian Parliament House in October, delivered during the two-day bilateral visit of Indian Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh. This one-day, first of its kind Conclave was a compass check - five years into the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Australia and India have moved fast, including in their defence relationship. But with finite capacity on both sides, the next five years must prioritise cooperation that compounds their combined impact in the Indo-Pacific.

The Conclave brought together 25 defence experts from Australia and India with a focus on turning a shared vision for the Indo-Pacific into tangible defence capabilities, building on work contained in the Institute's capstone report 'Building a Resilient Australia India Defence Relationship'. Experts tested ideas against regional concerns and real-world contingencies to develop policy recommendations, with the program featuring a keynote address by Australian Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon. Peter Khalil MP and a lunch co-hosted by Australian Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs Tim Watts MP and Australian Special Envoy for Defence, Veteran's Affairs and Northern Australia Luke Gosling OAM MP.



Image: Defence Special Visitors Delegation 2025 with Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Hon. Matthew Thistlethwaite MP and CEO Lisa Singh.

DEFENCE SPECIAL VISITORS PROGRAM 2025

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Defence.

The Australia India Institute Defence Special Visitors Program aims to foster dialogue and build connections on issues of strategic importance between India and Australia.

This year, four Indian Ocean and South Asia security experts from India spent two weeks engaging in a range of site visits, meetings, roundtables and networking opportunities across Canberra, Sydney and Perth - deepening the understanding of the Australia and India security architecture and the possibilities for future collaboration in the Indian Ocean. The delegation of experts conducted research, met with senior Australian and Indian government officials and Ministers, and presented their work at events across the country.

As part of the program, the Institute co-hosted several roundtables including 'Collaborative Conversations on Australia-India Cooperation in the Indian Ocean' with the United States Study Centre and 'Policy Implications: Indian Ocean Security and South Asia' with the Australian Institute of International Affairs. The delegation gave presentations on their respective areas of expertise, spanning from defence innovation ties, renewable energy corridors, partnership in the Indian Ocean and connections with the Maldives, stimulating greater dialogue on the security challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

VICTORIA-INDIA CLEAN ENERGY ROUNDTABLE

In partnership with the Victorian Government, Consulate General of India (Melbourne) and Smart Energy Council.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, Consulate General of India (Melbourne) and Smart Energy Council the Institute facilitated a roundtable discussion in Melbourne in partnership with the Victorian Government, Consulate General of India (Melbourne) and Smart Energy Council.

The roundtable brought together leaders from government, academia, and the private sector in Victoria to explore the diverse opportunities created by both countries' net-zero targets – with a particular focus on battery storage, energy transition, wind and solar energy.

The Victoria-India Clean Energy Roundtable leveraged the strategic partnership between Victoria and India in accelerating the clean energy transition. Building on the Australia-India Renewables Dialogue (AIRD) held in July 2024, this roundtable focused on collaborative opportunities in renewable energy, innovation, manufacturing, and trade, with a specific emphasis on Victoria's unique capabilities and India's massive market potential.



Image: The Victoria India Clean Energy Roundtable.



CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



Image: CEO Lisa Singh with Deputy Director at the Sports Authority of India Abhinav Sharma, COO of JSW Inspire Institute of Sports, Tathagata Mukherjee and Director Strategic Projects at Victorian Government Vidyanand Sagaram.

PANEL DISCUSSION: VICTORIA-INDIA OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT PREVIEW

Supported by the Victorian Government.

The Institute hosted a panel discussion and preview report launch for 'Advancing High-Performance Sports: Victoria-India Opportunities' at the Melbourne Global Centre - Delhi. CEO the Hon. Lisa Singh joined Deputy Director, Sports Authority of India, Abhinav Sharma, and the Chief Operating Officer at JSW Inspire Institute of Sport, Tathagata Mukherjee, to discuss the crucial role that high-performance sport brings to the Victoria-India relationship.

Discussion focused on the evolution of India's high performance sporting landscape, the government's vision for the future of high performance sports, and the opportunities available for both Australia and India across government policy, private investment, infrastructure and sports science and technology.



Image: All staff with Victorian Government Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Steve Dimopoulos MP at the Melbourne Global Centre - Delhi.

ADVANCING HIGH-PERFORMANCE SPORTS: VICTORIA-INDIA OPPORTUNITIES LAUNCH

Supported by the Victorian Government.

Victorian Government Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP launched the Institute's 'Advancing High-Performance Sport: Victoria-India Opportunities' report at the Melbourne Global Centre in Delhi in August. The Report examines how Victorian and Indian elite sporting organisations can learn from each other, building on the Victorian Government's 'Victoria India Strategy: Our Shared Future 2025-30' which identified sport as a key growth sector in advancing Victoria's relationship with India.



Image: Victoria-India Sports Innovation Industry Roundtable at Investment Centre Victoria.

VICTORIA-INDIA SPORTS INNOVATION INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE

In partnership with the Victorian Government and Sports Tech World Series.

Building on work contained in the Institute's 'Advancing High-Performance Sports: Victoria-India Opportunities', the Victoria-India Sports Innovation Industry Roundtable brought together Indian organisations visiting Melbourne for the Sports Tech World Series (STWS) Sports Tech Conference with Victorian organisations that are actively supporting, or well positioned to support the opportunities to provide solutions in sports science, research and technology.

Participants discussed how the Victoria India bilateral sports relationship can be strengthened, particularly through the lens of innovation and the support required for India to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, and its bid for the 2036 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. This roundtable was facilitated in partnership with Global Victoria and Sports Technology World Series (STWS) as part of Australia Sports Innovation Week.

"The Australia India Sports Innovation Roundtable was immensely valuable as a forward-thinking dialogue between key people with the experience through action and passion to enhance the sports ecosystem between Australia and India to unforeseen levels. The positive intent to collaborate and partner on initiatives that will jointly advance solutions for athlete and team performance, content, technology, sports science and research is an untapped superpower between us from now."

- Andrew Walton
Managing Director
Sports Technology World Series (STWS)

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

AUSTRALIA INDIA RESEARCH COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Education.

The Australia-India Research Collaboration (AIRC) Framework was launched in Delhi at the Australia-India Education and Skills Council meeting by the Australian Minister for Education, The Hon. Jason Clare MP and Indian Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. This Report sets out a forward-looking roadmap to strengthen interdisciplinary research partnerships between Australia and India. The Report was informed through four workshops on sustaining health communities, energy transitions and climate change resilience, advanced manufacturing technologies, and cybersecurity and digital governance, drawing together more than 260 participants and 45 speakers from research, industry, and government.

“A key pillar of Australia’s Education Strategy for India is stronger research collaboration. This Framework will make it easier for world-class researchers in both countries to work together and make an impact.”

- The Hon. Jason Clare MP

Australia’s Education Minister



Image: (L-R) Australian Minister for Education the Hon. Jason Clare MP, AIIC CEO Lisa Singh and Indian Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.



Image: CEO Lisa Singh with Australian Minister for Skills and Training the Hon. Andrew Giles MP.

NEW FRONTIERS FOR AUSTRALIAN DUAL-SECTOR EDUCATION IN INDIA

Supported by Victorian Institute of Technology.

'New Frontiers for Australian Dual-Sector Education In India', supported by the Victorian Institute of Technology, highlights new opportunities for Australian dual-sector education providers to engage with Indian state governments as they seek to build a globally competitive workforce through pathways between skills development and higher education. This research focuses on the Indian states of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Goa, outlining their approaches for expanding workforce capacity by linking skills training and higher education in priority growth areas. The Institute hosted a roundtable to mark the release of a snapshot before the Report was officially launched on the sidelines of the Australia India Education and Skills Council meeting in Delhi by Australian Minister for Skills and Training the Hon. Andrew Giles MP.



Image: AIWE Fellows Dr. Blessy Babukutty (third left) and Dr. Anshida Mayeen (far right) with Australia India Institute researchers and CEO Lisa Singh.

AUSTRALIA INDIA WOMEN RESEARCHERS' EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Education.

The Australia India Women Researchers' Exchange (Women in STEM) Program is an initiative aimed at strengthening collaboration between Australia and India while addressing gender equity in STEM research. In 2024, the Women in STEM Program awarded 10 fellowships – 5 to Indian researchers from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, and 5 to Australian researchers from regional university campuses. These fellowships were undertaken in 2025, fostering meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange. The women in STEM fellows spent 6-8 weeks in each other's countries.

The Australian Researcher Cooperation Hub India (ARCH-India) supports researcher engagement between Australia and India. Its primary aim is to strengthen and increase bilateral research collaboration and showcase the research excellence of both countries.

Researchers are encouraged to register and explore the platform's key features, including information on multiple research themes, a database of researcher profiles, funding opportunities, and the latest news and events.

Since its launch in 2021, ARCH-India has attracted hundreds of researchers from India and Australia interested in collaboration and mobility opportunities. The digital platform also connects early-career researchers with academic and industry mentors through its Mentorship Program, helping them build their careers.

ARCH-INDIA IN NUMBERS



800

Registered researchers



+431,570

Views



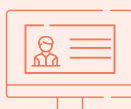
User Locations

68% India, 29% Australia,
3% other



46

Newsletters



33

Researcher Spotlight profiles



61

Research Mentors



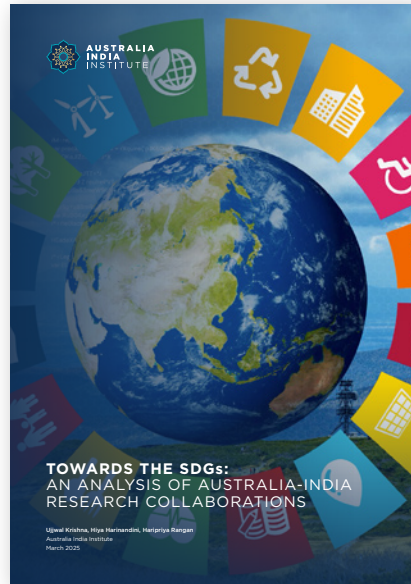
FEATURED PUBLICATIONS



Building a Resilient Australia India Defence Relationship: Options for the Next Decade

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hon. Richard Marles MP launched the Institute's capstone defence report, 'Building a Resilient Australia India Defence Relationship: Options for the Next Decade', at Australian Parliament House in March. As part of the Australia India Institute's Defence Program, supported by the Australian Government's Department of Defence, this Report provides a 10-year roadmap for what the next chapter of the strategic partnership between Australia and India could be like, amidst the backdrop of living in a contested region.

Written by defence experts Mr Kim Heriot-Darragh and Dr Gaurav Saini, the report examines key areas where the defence relationship can be strengthened, calling for further flexibility between the two countries; elevating ground-up ideas; and strengthening defence footprints.



Towards the SDGs: An Analysis of Australia-India Research Collaboration

'Towards the SDGs: An Analysis of Australia-India Research Collaboration' uses the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a lens to examine past and ongoing research collaborations between Australian university researchers and their counterparts in India. This Report explores the intersection of SDGs with collaborative research activities between Australian and Indian higher education institutions.

The findings in this Report reflect the commitments made by both Australia and India to achieve SDG targets, and the strong role of collaborative research in strengthening developmental outcomes in both countries. By analysing joint research publications from 2015 onwards, the report highlights key areas of collaboration, identifies emerging priorities, and uncovers gaps where alignment with SDG targets can be strengthened.



Advancing High Performance Sports: Victoria-India Opportunities

As the Victorian Government identified sport as a growth sector for bilateral trade and investment with India, The Institute delivered research on, 'Advancing High Performance Sports: Victoria-India Opportunities'. By analysing India's sporting ecosystem development across five states (Delhi & National Capital Region, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana) and considering Victoria's sporting institutions, administrative bodies, academia and community-based organisations in the sporting ecosystem, this Report highlights key areas for emerging collaboration, funding mechanisms and the role of sports technology that can benefit Victorian and Indian stakeholders at a participant, community, business and institutional level.



Indian Ocean Security: Australia and India Enhancing Cooperation with South Asia Nations

The Institute's Defence Special Visitors Program aims to foster dialogue and build connections on issues of strategic importance between India and Australia. Each year, the Institute invites a delegation from India to spend two weeks engaging in a range of site visits, meetings and networking opportunities in Sydney, Canberra and Perth.

The overarching theme of the 2025 Defence Special Visitors Program was the ways in which Australia and India are working with other South Asian Countries to support Indian Ocean Security. The 2025 Delegation included a publication evaluating the role of India and Australia in advancing a safe and prosperous Indo-Pacific region by partnering with South Asian countries, authored by experts Mr Rahul Bhatia, Ms. Sinu Kunjumon, Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik and Mr. Aditya Gowdara Shivamurthy.



Securing Indo-Pacific Submarine Cable Networks: Options for Australia-India Cooperation

Australia and India are key Indo-Pacific states with significant equities in submarine cable networks and global connectivity. This report, 'Security Indo-Pacific Submarine Cable Networks: Options for Australia-India Cooperation', is intended to inform policymakers and industry leaders in both nations and to guide Australia's and India's approach to submarine cable security. It drew on insights from the Australia India Cables Dialogue held in Perth on 31 July and set out practical policy choices for governments and industry in both countries.

The research examined opportunities for bilateral and multilateral collaboration across submarine cable infrastructure, with a focus on connectivity, resilience, and supply chain integrity. Securing Indo-Pacific Submarine Cable Networks is supported by a grant from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under its Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership program and formed part of the Institute's Seabed program.



Shared Pathways to Research Futures: Australia-India Research Collaboration Framework 2026-30

The Australia-India Research Collaboration (AIRC) Framework was launched in Delhi at the Australia India Education and Skills Council Meeting by the Australian Minister for Education, The Hon. Jason Clare MP and Indian Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

This report sets out a five-year forward-looking roadmap to strengthen interdisciplinary research partnerships between Australia and India. It recognises the strength and diversity of the research ecosystems of both countries and provides a coordinated approach for deepening collaboration and translating research into impactful outcomes for achieving national, regional, and global priorities. The Framework is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the International Education Innovation Fund.



New Frontiers for Australian Dual-Sector Education in India

'New Frontiers for Australian Dual-Sector Education in India' examines opportunities for engagement with Indian state governments aiming to build a globally competitive workforce by integrating pathways between skill development and higher education. The research is supported by the Victorian Institute of Technology.

This report highlights how transnational opportunities can be pursued in Indian states that are seeking to promote increased integration of higher education, advanced skills training and professional capabilities in their priority economic growth sectors. It focuses on the Indian states of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Goa, outlining their approaches for expanding workforce capacity by linking skills training and higher education in priority growth areas. The report offers six action points for Australian public and private dual-sector institutions to establish competitive advantage in this newly developing education frontier in India.



Women in STEM: Research Exchange

The Institute published a snapshot on its Australia India Women Researchers' Exchange (AIWE) Program, an initiative aimed at strengthening collaboration between Australia and India while addressing gender equity in STEM research. Through short-term research fellowships, the program has supported the professional development of early-career women researchers, enabling them to collaborate on shared research priorities and gain valuable insights into the academic and research environments of both countries. The AIWE Program is administered by the Australia India Institute and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education.

In 2024, the AIWE Program awarded 10 fellowships – 5 to Indian researchers from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, and 5 to Australian researchers from regional university campuses. These fellowships were undertaken in 2025, fostering meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange.

ANNUAL ORATION

Supported by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

The Institute hosted Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, for the Australia India Institute's 2025 Annual Oration at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi on Wednesday, 15 October.

Minister Bowen's address came at a pivotal time in the clean energy transition, following the launch of the elevated India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership in November 2024 – a milestone moment in bilateral climate and energy cooperation.

Minister Bowen emphasised that Australia and India both understood the need to work together on tackling the climate change crisis, with both nations ready to seize the energy transformation opportunity before us.

Australian High Commissioner to India, His Excellency Mr Philip Green OAM, delivered the Oration's closing remarks, and Melbourne Global Centre Delhi General Manager Aalia Khan was the evening's Master of Ceremonies. The Annual Oration continues to provide a platform for contemporary and agenda-setting debate on issues of mutual significance – from trade and sustainable development to international education, climate change, and security – while deepening understanding and collaboration between Australia and India.



Image: Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy the Hon. Chris Bowen MP lights the lamp of knowledge at the 2025 Annual Oration.

ANNUAL ORATION

MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY
THE HON. CHRIS BOWEN MP



Image: CEO Lisa Singh in conversation with Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon. Chris Bowen MP after delivering the Institute's Annual Oration for 2025 at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi.

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

INSIGHT SERIES

The Insight Series is an event held by the Australia India Institute in Melbourne, as part of the Institute's continuing commitment to deepening understanding across the Indo-Pacific. This series brings together scholars and thought leaders from across the region to share their ideas and perspectives on a wide range of focus areas that enrich the work and policy ideas of the Institute and its audiences.

Insight Series: 'In Stormy Seas: Maritime Security, Climate Change and the Quad'

Dr. Robert Mizo, a visiting Japan Foundation Fellow from the University of Delhi, discussed the critical intersection of maritime security and climate change. The lecture explored how climate-related challenges are reshaping security paradigms in the Indo-Pacific region. Attendees also had the opportunity to listen to the new Consul General of Japan in Melbourne, Tokuro Furuya on the importance of the Quad in the region.

Insight Series: 'Goeconomics: How is India Responding to the Contemporary Geopolitical Situation?'

Dr. Teesta Prakash unpacked 'Goeconomics: How is India Responding to the Contemporary Geopolitical Situation?' for the July Insight Series. Dr Prakash spoke on the opportunities and challenges shaping Australia-India cooperation amid a rapidly evolving goeconomic landscape. Dr Prakash also explored ideas to enable a full Australia-India Free Trade Agreement.



Image: (L-R) Visiting Japan Foundation Fellow Dr Robert Mizo, Consul General of Japan in Melbourne Tokuro Furuya and CEO Lisa Singh at the Australia India Institute.

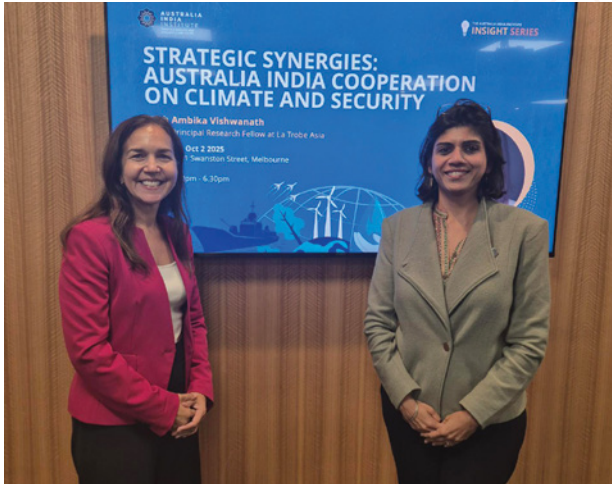


Image: CEO Lisa Singh with Maitri Principal Research Fellow at LaTrobe Asia, Ambika Vishwanath.

Insight Series: Strategic Synergies: Australia India Cooperation on Climate and Security

Ambika Vishwanath, Maitri Principal Research Fellow at La Trobe Asia unpacked ‘Strategic Synergies: Australia India Cooperation on Climate and Security’ for the October Insight Series. From food and water insecurity, to shifting defence dynamics, this Seminar examined how both nations can navigate shared challenges and shape a resilient, strategic presence in the region.



Image: (L-R) Principal consultant Government Projects Dr Haripriya Rangan, CAIR Maitri Fellow Dr. Preeti Mudliar and CEO Lisa Singh.

Insight Series: Linking Citizenship to India's Digital Age

Dr Preeti Mudliar, CAIR Maitri Fellow at the Australia India Institute, explored how citizens accomplish citizenship and welfare inclusion in a digital state for the November edition of the Insight Series. Dr Mudliar discussed how citizens accomplish citizenship and welfare inclusion in a digital state. Built on the promise of inclusion, transparency, efficiency, and ease, Dr Mudliar unpacked how digital public infrastructures like India's Aadhaar are modeling new imaginations and practices of digital governance.



Image: CEO Lisa Singh with Australian Deputy Consul General Bengaluru Steven Connolly, CNSS Director Maj Gen JV Prasad (Retd.), CNSS advisor Pavithran Rajan and students of law and policy at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences.



Image: (L-R) Chairman of the Centre for Public Policy Research Dr D Dhanuraj, CEO Lisa Singh and Australian Deputy Consul General Chennai Mr David Eggleston.

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Women In Foreign Policy Lecture

On International Women's Day, CEO Lisa Singh delivered a speech on 'Women in Foreign Policy' to students of law and social science at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences in Bengaluru. Lisa spoke to the current challenges women continue to face globally while engaging in foreign affairs and politics, and how the next generation have the chance to shape a more equitable future. This event was hosted by the Centre for National Security Studies and the Australian Consulate-General Bengaluru.

CPPR-AII Colloquium on Australia-India Deepening Maritime Cooperation for a Resilient Indo-Pacific

In partnership with the Centre for Public Policy Research India, the Institute delivered the 'AII-CPPR Colloquium: Australia-India Deepening Maritime Cooperation for a Resilient Indo-Pacific' in Kerala. Co-moderated by CEO Lisa Singh and CPPR Chairman Dr D Dhanuraj, the colloquium brought together experts in maritime security to discuss how both countries can strengthen joint naval exercises to enhance collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region. Experts also explored how Australia and India can develop more sustainable maritime practices in the face of climate change challenges.

Preview Launch: Building a Resilient Australia India Defence Relationship: Options for the Next Decade

The Institute launched a preview of its landmark report 'Building a Resilient Australia India Relationship: Options for the Next Decade' in partnership with the Council for Strategic and Defense Research at the University of Melbourne's Melbourne Global Centre – Delhi. Moderated by CEO Lisa Singh, authors Kim Heriot-Darragh and Dr Gaurav Saini spoke on a panel to the growth of the Australia India defence relationship and how strategic developments in the region will accelerate the untapped potential of the relationship. The full report was launched in Canberra by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hon. Richard Marles the following week.

Raisina Dialogue

CEO Lisa Singh represented the Australia India Institute at Kālachakra - the 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. Lisa moderated a panel on 'Secure Waters: ASEAN, Quad, and the Indo-Pacific'. The discussion examined the future of ASEAN and the Quad, their roles in regional security, and the challenges posed by shifting power dynamics. From concerns over maintaining strategic equilibrium to debates on the long-term impact of evolving partnerships and alliances, panelists reflected on how the Indo-Pacific can navigate an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.



Image: (L-R): All Distinguished Fellow Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Co-author's of 'Building a Resilient Australia India Relationship: Options for the Next Decade' Kim Heriot-Darragh and Dr Gaurav Saini, CEO Lisa Singh, Vice Admiral Chawla and Australian Deputy High Commissioner to India, Mr Nick McCaffrey at the Melbourne Global Centre Delhi.



Image: (L-R) Executive Officer (Leadership Support) Frances Jago, Participants Fatima Salman and Preetha Ravi and Communications and Events Coordinator Michaela Jansens at the United States Consul General's residency in Melbourne.

Girls Run the World Delegation

As part of the Institute's focus on gender equality, the Institute hosted a delegation of emerging young leaders through the Girls Run the World program in April. As a host organisation, the Institute's program aimed to expand participants perspectives on what it means to have a career that engages in diplomacy, leadership, and international relations. The Institute hosted Masters students Fatima Salman and Preetha Ravi, who toured the University of Melbourne, engaged with the Institute on future projects and met with key stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region.

Webinar: Democracy Decoded: Australia's Election and the Indo-Pacific

The Institute delivered 'Democracy Decoded: Australia's Election and the Indo Pacific', a high-level webinar examining how Australia's election context may shape regional partnerships and strategic settings. Moderated by CEO Lisa Singh, this webinar featured Mr Stephen Dzedzic, Foreign Affairs (Asia Pacific) Reporter for ABC Australia, Ms Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor of The Hindu, Prof Michael Wesley, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Culture and Engagement at the University of Melbourne) and Ms Ambika Vishwanath, Director of Kubernein Initiative. The conversation explored implications for Australia India relations, links to United States regional engagement, and Australia's wider positioning in the Indo Pacific.



Image: CEO Lisa Singh at the 2025 Yerevan Dialogue.

Yerevan Dialogue 2025

CEO Lisa Singh moderated a panel on ‘Plurilateral Pathways: Restoring Order in a Fraying Multilateral System’ at the second Yerevan Dialogue in Armenia, co-hosted by the Observer Research Foundation and the Government of Armenia. With multilateral institutions struggling to enforce norms and resolve conflicts, it explored how plurilateral arrangements can help deliver public goods, risk fragmenting global governance, and align with broader multilateral goals.

From Polls to Policy: What Australia’s Election Outcome Means for India

The Institute delivered an In Conversation at the Melbourne Global Centre - Delhi. CEO Lisa Singh and Founder of the Indian Futures Dr Manish Dabhade unpacked Australia’s electoral system, why Labor did so well and what the bilateral relationship might look like in the future. Discussion focused on the impacts of the election on security partnerships, trade deals, and people-to-people links with India.

Jakarta Future Forum

CEO Lisa Singh was a panelist at the Observer Research Foundation's Jakarta Future Forum 2025 discussing 'The Blue Symphony: Knitting a New Era of Partnerships'. The panel explored the future of the Quad and ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific and how coalition-based diplomacy is redefining global rulemaking; balancing efficiency with legitimacy. This discussion built off the Institute's track 1.5 Trilateral Maritime Security Dialogue which explored key areas of collaboration between Australia, India, and Indonesia, focusing on strengthening maritime domain awareness and addressing shared security concerns.

Webinar: Tariffs and Tensions: Assessing India's 'America' Dilemma

The Institute hosted 'Tariffs and Tensions: Assessing India's 'America' Dilemma', a webinar examining the implications of United States trade measures for India's diplomacy and the future direction of the relationship. Moderated by CEO Lisa Singh, the panel assessed how shifting United States domestic and external settings may shape India's strategic choices, and what this means for regional partnerships and Indo Pacific order. Panelists included Suhasini Haidar, John McCarthy AO, Teesta Prakash and Michael Green.

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific Forum, Kuala Lumpur

CEO Lisa Singh was a panelist at the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific Forum in Kuala Lumpur, hosted by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of Malaysia's ASEAN chair role for 2025.

Water Futures and Climate Resilience International Symposium

CEO Lisa Singh represented the Institute at the Australia India Water Centre (AIWC)'s Water Futures and Climate Resilience International Symposium, celebrating five years of Australia-India Collaboration for a water secure future. Lisa chaired the closing forum with water researchers and professionals, including 33 who travelled from India, reflecting on new ideas and future directions for the Centre. The Institute is proud to have worked alongside the AIWC over the past five years to deliver enriching and impactful initiatives to help create a more sustainable water future.

Webinar: Securing Indo-Pacific Submarine Cable Networks

The Institute launched its report, 'Securing Indo-Pacific Submarine Cable Networks: Options for Australia-India Cooperation', in December with a Webinar panel featuring co-authors Dr Samuel Bashfield, Prof Balaji Parthasarathy, and Dr V.Sridhar. Building on insights from the Australia-India Cables Dialogue held in Perth in July, the report highlights how Australia and India can leverage their complementary strengths to advance trusted, resilient, and diversified submarine cable networks across the Indo-Pacific. The research was supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership Program (AICCTP) and the Forrest Research Foundation.

Australia India Education and Skills Council meeting

The Australia India Institute was invited to join the delegation led by Australian Ministers Jason Clare MP and Andrew Giles MP and Assistant Minister Julian Hill MP for the third meeting of the Australia-India Education and Skills Council (AIESC) in New Delhi. The Institute's latest research, the Australia India Research Collaboration Framework, (AIRCF) was launched by Australian and Indian education Ministers, the Hon. Jason Clare MP and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan during this milestone meeting. Additionally, the Institute's report New Frontiers for Australian Dual Sector Education in India, supported by the Victorian Institute of Technology, was launched by The Hon. Andrew Giles MP on the sidelines of the meeting.



Image: CEO Lisa Singh and Abhay K. at the Nalanda event at the Melbourne Global Centre.

Nalanda: How it Changed the World

The Australia India Institute hosted an In Conversation with CEO Lisa Singh and Abhay K. on his new book 'Nalanda: How It Changed the World' at the Melbourne Global Centre - Delhi. This conversation reflected on the rise, brilliance, and enduring legacy of Nalanda Mahavihara - a global hub of knowledge from the 5th to the 12th century that welcomed thousands of students from across Asia. Abhay K.'s explored Nalanda's global intellectual reach, its place in India's history, and what modern institutions can learn from it today.



Image: Attendees at Australia-India Research Collaboration (AIRC) Framework Roundtable at the Australian Consulate-General Bengaluru.

Australia-India Research Collaboration (AIRC) Framework Roundtable

The Australian Consulate-General Bengaluru hosted the Institute for an exclusive roundtable to discuss and launch the Australia-India Research Collaboration (AIRC) Framework. The roundtable engaged with the report collaborators, education leaders and government officials to promote the report's findings in researcher mobility, early career opportunities, industry engagement, and joint funding initiatives - creating pathways for impactful collaborations addressing global challenges.



CHATS OVER CHAI

The Australia India Institute's podcast examines key questions facing the Australia-India relationship.

Bilateral Business Trends with India's Consul General in Sydney

In the first episode of 2025, CEO Lisa Singh was joined by India's Consul General in Sydney, Dr S Janakiraman, a career diplomat, who shared insights on the growing business ties between India and Australia. The pair analysed opportunities in clean energy, agribusiness and tech collaborations, exploring how India's growing startup ecosystem is set to play a key role in this evolving relationship.

New Heights: Australia India Space Cooperation with Raj Kulshrestha

In this episode of Chats Over Chai, Dr Samuel Bashfield, sat down with Rajat Kulshrestha, CEO of Space Machines Company, who has held various roles as an investor, advisor, founder, director and executive across technology-driven sectors and has trained as an aerospace engineer. The pair delve into the evolving space domain, the key opportunities and challenges faced by Australian space firms, collaborations with Indian players to alleviate these challenges, Space MATRI and the current projects of the company.



Image: CEO Lisa Singh with India's Consul General to Sydney, Dr S. Janakiraman.



Image: CEO Lisa Singh with chef and author of *The Food of Bharat* Helly Raichura.

The Role of Food Diplomacy with Chef Helly Raichura

Indian-born, Melbourne-based chef and author of *The Food of Bharat* Helly Raichura, sat down with CEO Lisa Singh to discuss Helly's passion for cooking authentic Indian regional cuisine with Australian produce; which led to her opening her restaurant, Enter via Laundry. In this episode Helly shared her migrant story from India to Australia, and how food diplomacy serves as a powerful bridge that transcends borders and builds understanding.

Exploring Sports Innovation and Technology: Strengthening Victoria-India Collaboration

In the lead-up to Australia Sports Innovation Week 2025 Andrew Walton, Managing Director of Sports Tech World Series, joined Head of Cultural Diplomacy Sudip Chakraborty to explore how technology is transforming the global sports landscape. Andrew shares insights on Victoria's vibrant sports ecosystem and discusses the exciting opportunities for collaboration between Victoria and India in sports technology and innovation.



Image: Managing Director of Sports Tech World Series, Andrew Walton with Head of Cultural Diplomacy, Sudip Chakraborty.

Tradition, Tech & Transcendence: Nuala Furtado and Vijay Thillaimuthu on Heritage and Creative Exchange

Ahead of the 10th edition of the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa, CEO Lisa Singh was joined by Melbourne based artists, Nuala Furtado, CEO of The Substation, and Vijay Thillaimuthu, a Tamil-Australian audio-visual and laser artist to discuss their practice.

In this episode, Lisa explores how their work is shaping global conversations on art and inclusivity. Together, they delve into what is needed to take Australia and India collaboration to the next level to ensure that marginalised voices are not lost in new narratives.

OUR PARTNERS



Australian Government
Department of Education



Australian Government
Department of Defence



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water



Australian High Commission
Fiji

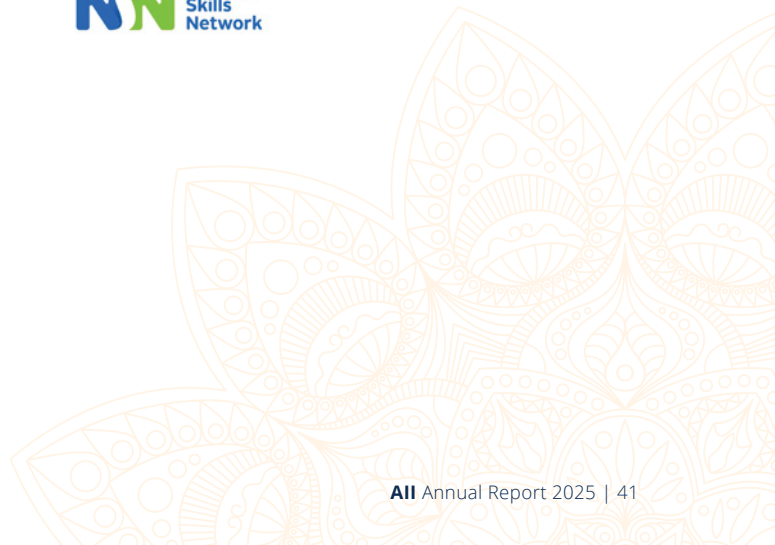


Australian High Commission
India



Australian Consulate-General
Bengaluru, India





APPOINTMENTS

The Institute appointed a number of fellows in 2025. As leaders with extensive knowledge and experience on Australia India relations, the Institute very much welcomes all fellows and look forward to working with them to create a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.



Dr Preeti Mudliar

Centre for Australia India Relations Maitri Fellow

Preeti Mudliar's research centres on the ethnography of digital infrastructures. She is currently a Maitri Fellow at the Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne. Her work is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and administered by the Centre for Australia-India Relations. She was also the inaugural 'Women in Tech' Fellow for 2024 awarded by the Australian Consulate-General Bengaluru and the Australia India Institute. She holds a PhD from The University of Texas, Austin.



Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar (Retd.)

Distinguished Fellow, Council for Strategic and Defence Research

Capt (Retd.) Sarabjeet S Parmar is a retired Indian Naval Officer whose main areas of research include national and maritime strategy and security in the Indo-Pacific, piracy, HADR, and international maritime law with a focus on lawfare. He has been a Research Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and worked in the Indian Navy's strategic apex level offices where, as Director Strategy, he was part of the core team that published the Indian Navy's 2015 unclassified maritime security strategy document titled 'Ensuring Secure Seas: Indian Maritime Security Strategy', carried out regional maritime assessments and completed the doctrine development plan. He was the Executive Director and Senior Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation and is a Distinguished Fellow with the Council for Strategic and Defence Research, New Delhi.



Rear Admiral Sudarshan Y. Shrikhande AVSM (Retd.) PhD

Former Defence Adviser at the Indian High Commission in Australia

RADM Shrikhande served in the Indian Navy from 1980 until 2016. As a flag officer from 2009 he headed Naval Intelligence and Foreign Cooperation as ACNS; was Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command and later in HQ Integrated Defence Staff looking after defence budgets & as Branch head in the Strategic Forces Command, before retiring as Flag Office Doctrines and Concepts. From 2005-2008 he was the Defence Adviser at the Indian High Commission in Canberra, Australia, with concurrent accreditation to Fiji, PNG, NZ and Tonga. He is a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, University of Wollongong, and completed a project there as the inaugural Maitri Fellow (DFAT-CAIR) from July 2024 to Jan 2025. He was awarded the Ati Vishista Seva Medal (AVSM) by the President of India in 2015.

OUR PEOPLE

PATRON

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC
Governor of Victoria

BOARD MEMBERS

Patrick Suckling
Chair, Australia India Institute

The Hon. Lisa Singh
CEO, Australia India Institute

Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Editor, The Hindu

Shinjini Kumar
Founder, Five Salts PVT Limited

John McCarthy AO
Distinguished Fellow, Australia India Institute

Rufus Pinto
Head of Enterprise Enablement & Innovation at BDO Unibank

Srimathi Shivashankar
Corporate Vice President and Global Business Head of Edtech Services at HCL Technologies

Vicki Thomson
Chief Executive and Director,
Group of Eight Universities Australia

Prof Michael Wesley
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global, Culture and Engagement,
University of Melbourne

Rajiv Dube
Independent Director, Tata International Limited

Sonia Sadiq Gandhi
Founder, Gandhi Creations

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

Prof Robin Batterham
Emeritus Kernot Professor of Engineering,
The University of Melbourne

Dr David Brewster
Senior Research Fellow with the National Security College,
Australian National University

The Hon. Alex Chernov AC KC
Australian Lawyer, Judge and Barrister

Mr Amit Dasgupta
Strategic Advisor, India Engagement, UNSW Sydney

Prof Gareth Evans AC QC
Honorary Professor, the Australian National University

Prof Chennupati Jagadish AC
Distinguished Professor and Head of Semiconductor
Optoelectronics and Nanotechnology Group,
Australian National University

Prof Craig Jeffrey
School of Geography, The University of Melbourne

Prof Amitabh Mattoo
Dean & Professor, School of International Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University

John McCarthy AO
Senior Adviser Asialink, University of Melbourne

The Hon. Maxine McKew
Hon Professorial Fellow,
Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Mr Allan Myers AC KC
Former Chancellor, University of Melbourne.

Prof Amrita Narlikar
President, German Institute for Global and Area Studies



The Hon. Barry O'Farrell

Former High Commissioner to India,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar (Retd.)

Distinguished Fellow, Council for Strategic and Defense Research

Rear Admiral Sudarshan Y. Shrikhande AVSM (Retd.) PhD

Former Defence Adviser at the Indian High Commission
in Australia

Prof Brian Stoddart

Professor Emeritus, La Trobe University

Mr Peter Varghese AO

Chancellor, The University of Queensland

Amb Anil Wadhwa

Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation

Prof Michael Wesley

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global, Culture and Engagement,
University of Melbourne

FELLOWS

Prof James Arvanitakis

Director, Forrest Research Foundation

Dr Samuel Bashfield

Research Fellow in Global Security, La Trobe University

Mr James Bowen

Senior Climate and Energy Policy Analyst, Climate Analytics

Ms Penny Burt

President, Southeast Asia

Mr Amit Dasgupta

Strategic Advisor, India Engagement, UNSW Sydney

Dr Andrew Deuchar

Senior Lecturer in Education Policy, Victoria University

Dr Surjeet Dogra Dhanji

Research Fellow, Asia Institute

Dr Raghu Dharmapuri Tirumala

Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and
Planning, The University of Melbourne

Dr Jane Dyson

Professor in Social Geography, Department of Geography,
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Dr Prakash Gopal

Lecturer, University of Wollongong

Prof Nathan Grills

Public Health Physician and Professor, Nossal Institute for
Global Health, University of Melbourne

Dr Ian Hall

Professor of International Relations, School of Government and
International Relations Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University

Prof Abid Khan

Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise, Australia
Catholic University

Dr Christopher Kremmer

Senior Lecturer in Literary & Narrative Journalism Practice,
The University of New South Wales

Dr Ujjwal Krishna

Policy Advisor, Australian Council for International Development

Prof David Lowe

Director, Centre for Contemporary Histories, Deakin University

Dr Michael Moignard

Former Senior Trade Commissioner for South Asia, Austrade
Australian High Commission, New Delhi

Dr Preeti Mudliar

Centre for Australia India Relations Maitri Fellow

Prof Balaji Parthasarthy

Co-founder, Institute's Centre for Information Technology and Public Policy

Dr Kadria Pethiyagoda

Foreign Affairs and International Law Expert

Mr Mark Pierce

Writer and former diplomat

Prof Bindu Puri

Professor, Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, JNU

Prof Fazal Rizvi

Emeritus Professor of Global Studies in Education at the University of Melbourne

Dr Ashok Sharma

Visiting Fellow at The Australian National University

Dr Jyoti Shukla

Senior Lecturer in Property at the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, the University of Melbourne

Prof Vineeta Sirohi

Professor in the Department of Educational Administration, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi

Prof Peter Stanley

Australian historian and research professor at the University of New South Wales

Dr Pradeep Taneja

Deputy Associate Dean – International (India) and Senior Lecturer in Asian Politics in the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne

Dr Piyush Tiwari

Professor of Property, University of Melbourne

Prof Mohan Yellishetty

Co-Founder, Critical Minerals Consortium & Australia-India Critical Minerals Research Hub, Monash University,

STAFF

The Hon. Lisa Singh

Chief Executive Officer

Dr Samuel Bashfield

Head of Security and Geopolitics, Research Fellow

Briena Barrett

Education Program Officer

Divyang Bhartia

Strategy, Partnerships and Program Officer

Sudip Chakraborty

Head of Cultural Diplomacy

Ramisa Chowdhury

Communications and Events Assistant

Grace Corcoran

Senior Policy and Projects Manager – Geopolitics and Security

Alice Garner

Research Fellow

Hiya Harinandini

Education Researcher

Kim Heriot-Darragh

Research Fellow

Laura Hooper

Communications Manager

Frances Jago

Executive Officer (Leadership Support)

Michaela Jansens

Communications and Events Coordinator

Tushar Joshi

Research and Policy Officer

Parul Nadar

Senior Research and Policy Officer

Parul Nain

Executive Officer

Deepu Narayan

Budget and Finance Manager

Darryl Mohr

Strategy and Partnerships Manager

Dr Teesta Prakash

Research Fellow

Haripriya Rangan

Principal Consultant Government Projects

Maisha Samiha

Research and Policy Officer

Ms Sarah Whyte

Head of Strategic Communications

Oscar Youten

Research and Policy Officer







AUSTRALIA INDIA INSTITUTE

Australia India Institute

Level 9, 501 Swanston St,
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

E: a ii-newsdesk@unimelb.edu.au

a ii.unimelb.edu.au

    /aiinstitute



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE