

Khel Connect Program: Australia-India Sports Education & Innovation Pathways

The Australia India Institute is convening a landmark program to build the partnerships, knowledge, and capacity that will define the next decade of Australia-India sporting collaboration. Through a premier symposium and competitive seeding grants, Khel Connect creates practical pathways for bilateral collaboration in sports education and innovation to support India's sporting ambitions.

PROGRAM AIMS



Strengthen bilateral collaboration across sports education and innovation



Support scalable, high-impact pilot projects that advance India's sporting ambitions



Build sustainable pathways and multi-stakeholder linkages across India and Australia

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

COMPONENT ONE

Khel Connect Symposium
Building Australia-India SportsEd Excellence

A two-day hybrid symposium bringing together leading voices from Australian and Indian tertiary education providers, sporting organisations, and government bodies to identify opportunities for collaboration and forge lasting partnerships.

- Day 1: Keynote plenary on Australia-India sporting collaboration, panel discussions and sports facility visit
- Day 2: Organisation pitches, facilitated discussions, dedicated partnership development time, tour of IIT Madras

 12 & 13 October 2026
Chennai, India

COMPONENT TWO

Khel Connect Seeding Grants
Seeding Australia-India SportsEd Excellence

A competitive grant program funding Australian-Indian consortia to deliver high-impact, scalable capacity-building projects.

- AUD \$150,000 total grant pool across the three sports specialisations
- Projects in areas such as the co-design of curricula in sports science, high-performance coaching, sports management, and design of integrated athlete support systems
- Six-month funded project period with sustainability and scaling built in from the outset

 Applications open 15 September 2026

 The Symposium will catalyse connections and consortium building, generating the ideas and partnerships that the seeding grants will fund and accelerate.

ABOUT US

Australia India Institute

The Australia India Institute is Australia's leading centre dedicated to promoting support for and understanding of the Australia-India relationship and its cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Institute has established a reputation for high-quality research and analysis. We have built an influential network across business, government, think tanks and academia that has helped shape engagement with decision-makers in both countries.

With the support of our funding partners and donors, 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.

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

Education Pillar

The Institute's education program focuses on strengthening the cooperative relationship for talent development, research, and innovation between Australia and India. Our education research reports, analyses, and knowledge-sharing activities promote understanding of each country's education sector and open opportunities for bilateral collaboration. The Institute is supported by the Australian Government Department of Education, enabling us to play a critical role in advancing learning, skilling, and research engagement between our two countries.

Steering Committee

Khel Connect is guided by a Steering Committee bringing together representatives from Australian and Indian sporting organisations, higher education institutions, government, and industry. The Institute gratefully acknowledges the time and expertise of all members in supporting this initiative.

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Australian Government
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