



AIYD

Australia India Youth Dialogue

AIYD REPORT 2018

Disclaimer

20 January 2018

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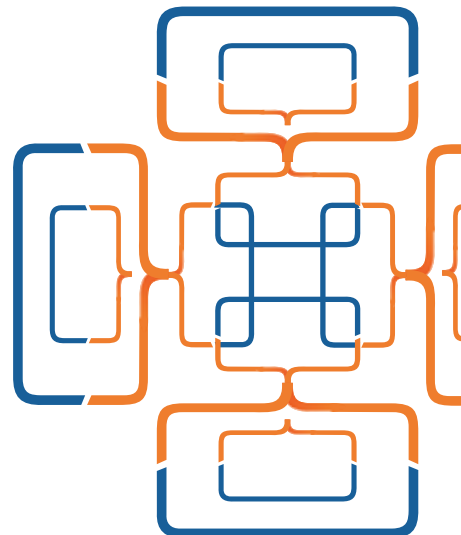
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WELCOME FROM AIYD CHAIR



Friends of the Australia India Youth Dialogue

It gives me great pleasure to share with you our report from the seventh conference of the Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) held in Delhi and Mumbai, India from 21 to 24 January 2018 (AIYD 2018).

Over the past six years, AIYD has grown from strength to strength, cultivating cross-cultural appreciation and engagement, stronger people-to-people ties and a series of impressive outcomes driven by our illustrious alumni group.

At AIYD 2018, this was again reflected strongly in the diversity of the delegates' backgrounds, experiences, accomplishments and perspectives. It was also reflected in the depth of discussions and engagement that were facilitated, and the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding and respect that were forged and enhanced over the four-day program.

This year's theme – digital disruption – was particularly significant. It was selected for two reasons: firstly, it is high on the agenda of both Prime Ministers Modi and Turnbull and secondly, also represents an area of important focus that senior leaders of government and business look to young leaders to provide guidance on. Delegates were engaged in thought provoking panel discussions and break-out sessions, and used the learnings to shape their group challenge ideas.

The group challenge, conducted for the third time this year, saw the delegates break into smaller groups, who worked closely together to identify and discuss critical issues affecting both countries and arrive at viable solutions to those issues. The presentations by the groups to an esteemed panel of judges at the conclusion of AIYD 2018 highlighted the cohesive nature of AIYD and, in particular, how much young leaders from both countries can achieve in a short space of time while working together.

AIYD now boasts an alumni of more than 200 of the most promising young leaders from Australia and India. By bringing these young leaders together in a unique and dynamic forum, AIYD has continued to ensure, in its own way, that the future of Australia-India relations will be rooted in solid and deep foundations of mutual understanding, respect and friendship.

AIYD 2018, would not have been possible without the support of our partners and the hard work of the AIYD Steering Committee and the Board of Advisors.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the dedicated team of young professionals who manage to balance work, family and their commitment to AIYD to make AIYD the tremendous success that it is.

Finally, on behalf of the AIYD Steering Committee, I would like to thank our partners, delegates, speakers and other stakeholders. I look forward to your greater engagement in enhancing the AIYD and welcome your feedback and ideas.

Yours sincerely,



KARAN ANAND
CHAIR, AIYD



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

AUSTRALIA INDIA YOUTH DIALOGUE 2018

I warmly welcome all delegates to this year's Australia India Youth Dialogue.

Australia and India are firm and longstanding friends, bound together by strong historical ties and a commitment to democratic values. Our bilateral relationship is going from strength to strength as we deepen our economic, strategic and regional cooperation.

But at the heart of our relationship lies our strong people-to-people links. Close to 500,000 Australians are of Indian origin and more than 200,000 Indians visit Australia each year.

I am committed to ensuring young Australians learn more about India and the links between our two countries.

In that context, I welcome the Annual Australia India Youth Dialogue as an important forum to inspire new thinking about and new enthusiasm for the Australia-India relationship.

I encourage you to be expansive in your discussions. Consider bold ideas. I look forward to hearing the outcomes of this important gathering and wish you all every success.



The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia

19 January 2018

OUR PARTNERS

Distinguished Partners

The AIYD would not be possible without the generous support of all of our sponsors. Each sponsor brings unique value to the Dialogue and on behalf of all our delegates and the Steering Committee, we would like to thank them for their support.



Associate Partners



AIYD PROGRAMME

Programme Overview - Australia India Youth Dialogue 2018

21st - 24th January 2018, New Delhi and Mumbai, India

DAY 0 - New Delhi, India

Sunday, 21st January

Time	Activity	Location
12:00 - 13:15	AIYD Welcome & Speed Networking	Villa Medici @ Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road, New Delhi.
13:15 - 14:15	<p>Introduction “Australia India Relations”</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harinder Sidhu, Australia High Commissioner to India @AusHCIndia • Amit Dasgupta, Inaugural India Country Director at UNSW @amit_adg <p>Moderator: Danielle Rajendram (AIYD 2014 alumnus) @DRajendram</p> <p>Supported by @UNSW</p>	
14:15 - 15:00	Lunch	
15:00 - 15:30	Address by Professor Jane den Hollander AO - Vice Chancellor at Deakin University @vcdeakin	
15:30 - 17:00	<p>Cultural Intelligence Workshop</p> <p>Dr Tom Verghese @cltrlsynergist</p> <p>Introduction: Belinda Howell, Chief Market Development Officer, UTS Insearch</p> <p>Supported by @UTS_INSEARCH</p>	
18:30 - 19:30	<p>AIYD Alumni Mixer</p> <p>hosted by Shaun Star (Former AIYD Chair) @ShaunJStar</p>	Rick’s @ Taj Mahal Hotel,
19:30	<p>Opening Gala Dinner -</p> <p>Hosted by Mitali Mukherjee (AIYD 2017 Alumnus) @MitaliLive</p> <p>Keynote: Alphons Joseph Kannanthanam, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture and Tourism</p>	Long Champ @ Taj Mahal Hotel.

DAY 1 - New Delhi, India

Monday, 22nd January

Time	Activity	Location
07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast	Taj Mahal Hotel
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Day 1	Ganga @ Shangri-La Hotel New Delhi, 19, Ashoka Road, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
09:30 - 10:30	Panel “Digital Democracy & Civic Engagement” Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Watts MP (AIYD 2016 Alumnus) @TimWattsMP • Jay Panda MP @PandaJay • Meenakshi Lekhi MP @M_Lekhi Moderator: Neha Khanna (AIYD 2013 Alumnus) @nehakhanna_07	
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea	
11:00 - 11:45	Delegate Discussion	
11:45 - 12:45	AIYD Group Challenge Introduction	
12:45 - 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 - 14:30	Session “Digital Disruption in Action” Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perna Mukharya, Outline India (AIYD 2016 Alumnus) • Krishna Kumar, Cropin @Krishna2581 • Avani Parekh, Sheroes Moderator: Richard Bolt, Secretary @DEDJTR, Victorian Government Supported by @VicGovAu	
14:30 - 17:00	Group Challenge Working Session	
19:30	Evening Reception In honour of the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, to celebrate the Australia India Leadership Dialogue 2018. Hosted by H.E. Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner to India	Australian High Commission, 1/50 G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

DAY 2 - Mumbai, India

Tuesday, 23rd January

Time	Activity	Location
6:00 - 7:00	Depart for airport	Air Vistara Flight UK 963
08:45 - 11:10	Group Flight from New Delhi to Mumbai	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	Waterstones Club, Off International Airport Approach Road, Sahar, Andheri East, Navpada, Marol, Andheri East, Mumbai.
14:00 - 15:00	<p>Panel “Future of Information”</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Selby, Macquarie University (AIYD2016 Alumnus) @JohnSelby6 • Vadi Muthya, Deloitte @vadirajmuthya • Akash Gaurav, Auxesis Group <p>Moderator: Chris Higgins (AIYD 2017 Alumnus) @chrismhiggins</p> <p>Supported by @Macquarie_Uni</p>	
15:00 - 15:45	Delegate Discussion	
15:45 - 18:00	Group Challenge Working Session	
19:30	<p>Great AIYD Debate & Dinner</p> <p>“Who is better placed to contribute to - and benefit from - innovation in the globalised economy - India or Australia?”</p>	

DAY 3 - Mumbai, India

Wednesday, 24th January

Time	Activity	Location
07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast	ITC Maratha
09:30	Address by Australian Consul General Mumbai, Tony Huber @AusCG_Mumbai	Waterstones Club, Off International Airport Approach Road, Sahar, Andheri East, Navpada, Marol, Andheri East, Mumbai.
9:45 - 10:45	Panel “Future of AI and Non Human Workers” Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneh Vaswani - CEO, Emotix • Dr. Saptarishi Das • Manish Singhal - Pi Ventures Moderator: Mosiqi Acharya (AIYD 2015 Alumnus) @mosiqi Supported by @TCS	
10:45 - 11:30	Delegate Discussions	
11:30 - 11:45	Morning Tea	
11:45 - 14:00	Group Challenge Working Session (incl lunch)	
14:00 - 15:00	Group Challenge Presentations	
15:00 - 16:00	Afternoon Tea	
16:00 - 17:30	Bollywood Dance Class	
19:00	AIYD Closing Dinner Hosted by Hayley Bolding (AIYD 2012 Alumnus) @hayleybolding Keynotes: K Ananth Krishnan, Executive Vice President & Global CTO, Tata Consultancy Services & Jayakumar Jitendrasinh Rawal - Cabinet Minister for Tourism, Government of Maharashtra	ITC Maratha Hotel

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) held its seventh bilateral dialogue bringing together 30 young leaders and influencers from Australia and India from 21 to 24 January 2018 (AIYD 2018). The four-day dialogue was held in India in Delhi and Mumbai where delegates discussed, debated and came up with new ideas to collaborate on the theme of digital disruption.

AIYD selected delegates from the fields of politics, sports, arts, health, consultancy, education, media and the social sector to enable a rich exchange of ideas and to inject new impetus into the bilateral relationship.

AIYD's recently published trends report suggests that Australia and India's bilateral relationship has leapt forward in the last 12 months, however, there is still many unrealised opportunities in our engagement, particularly in the exciting area of digital disruption.

Under AIYD 2018's theme of digital disruption, the delegates discussed the future of democracy, covering governance and youth civic engagement in a digital age; the future of information, focusing on blockchain and cyber security in a digital age; and the future of work, encompassing the impact of exponential technologies and the advent of the sharing economy on labour markets.

This year, the conference included an interactive workshop on cultural intelligence, a vibrant debate on the innovation environment in both countries and a Bollywood dance class that brought all the delegates closer together.

Throughout the dialogue, delegates engaged with HE Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner to India; Amit Dasgupta, Inaugural India Country Director for UNSW; Jane den Hollander, Vice Chancellor of Deakin University; the Honorable KJ Alphons MP, Minister of State for IT and Tourism in India; Tim Watts MP, Federal Member for Gellibrand in Australia; Jay Panda MP, Member of the Lok Sabha for Kendrapara in India; Meenakshi Lekhi MP, Member of the Lok Sabha for New Delhi in India; Richard Bolt, Secretary of the Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources in Australia; Tony Huber, Australian Consul General to Mumbai; K Ananth Krishnan, Global CTO TCS; and Jaykumar Jitendrasingh Rawal Cabinet Minister for Tourism for the Government of Maharashtra, India.



Group Challenge

The group challenge was by far one of the most exciting elements of AIYD 2018. It allowed delegates to explore, in depth, opportunities for Australia and India to collaborate and address issues in relation to the AIYD 2018 theme: digital disruption.

We split delegates into six groups and asked them to identify what they considered to be an issue in relation to digital disruption and how Australia and India could collaborate to respond to it. The idea of what is a challenge is left open to encourage creativity and fresh ideas from the groups. It could be something specific to Australia and India or it could be a more universal issue to which Australia and India could make a unique contribution. The essential part is that it involved collaboration.

Each group had three working sessions together before they presented their work on the final day of the dialogue. We allocated delegations based on their skills and experience, as well as in a way that ensures geographic and gender balance within each team. Each group also had an AIYD Steering Committee member to mentor them.

By bringing together delegates with different experience and perspectives, the group challenge helped us identify emerging challenges and new ways to collaborate that could strengthen and progress the Australia-India relationship. Working together over the three days of the dialogue, the group challenge allowed the delegates to form even closer working relationships that will endure beyond the dialogue.

On the final day of the dialogue, each group made a three minute presentation to our judging panel. With the aid of some impressive role play, the groups presented some very impressive ideas making it a tough decision for the judges. Ultimately, the winning group was Group 5, with its proposal to establish AusIndArt.org to promote, celebrate and conserve the rich cultures of Australian and Indian Indigenous art.

A short synopsis of each of the group challenge pitches is included below:

- **Group 1 - Enhancing lives through Education**

The group consisted of young and dynamic politicians, executives and public policy professionals from Australia and India. The idea was to engage Australian skills especially in linguistics for the benefit of Indian school students (primary and secondary level). Bhakti Sharma one of the grassroot leaders offered a primary school from her constituency for the pilot. From the Australian side, Matt Keogh, a federal parliamentarian from Western Australia offered tutorials in English language which could be gradually expanded to include subjects like critical thinking skills. For a better government-to-government relationship, it is imperative to have a better people-to-people relationship. This idea has the power and potential to develop a more sensitive and sensitized students having a better grip over the bilateral relationship and could go on to be an ambassadors of the relationship.

- **Group 2 - Critical Thinking Skills:**

Group 2 pitched a pilot program that would see high school students in India and Australia collaborate on problem solving tasks after going through a self-contained unit on critical thinking. Critical thinking skills were identified as crucial to success in the digital present and future, however their articulate use was potentially lacking within the youth of today. This proposal would bring together key university partners to develop a framework for critical thinking skills that could be taught to high school students. To facilitate an immersive understanding of critical thinking and also introduce cultural intelligence aspects, schools in one of the two countries would partner with a school in the other to conduct various problem solving exercises together, through the medium of an experiential application.

- **Group 3 - A platform to help Indian students to connect and relate to Australian culture**

Our third group identified that many Indian students who enter Australian universities struggle with the differences in the local culture. From academic expectations, to which groups to join on campus, and even understanding the Australian festivals and food. This can impact both the experience of spending time in Australia and the educational performance of the student. This initiative proposes using a chatbot, digital courses and direct connections, to help Indian students understand and relate to Australian culture. The content could be sponsored by universities, travel companies and other organisations looking for the opportunity to connect with Indian students.

- **Group 4 - Desimate: An online app which provides ‘culturally intelligent’ experiences in Melbourne and Mumbai for tourists from Australia and India**

The Masala Meter on the App would provide the user with options of “India” related theme experiences in Australia (like masala chai, Indian food options, cultural events and sports events) and “Australia” related theme experiences in India (art, theatre, food, literature, music, heritage and sports) in India. This App would have the scope to be expanded to other cities like Delhi/Sydney, Ahmedabad/Adelaide, Brisbane/Goa. With tourism ranking high on the agenda of both governments, the app could have tie-ups and collaborations with government-initiatives like Incredible India and Tourism Australia.

- **Group 5 - AusIndArt.org: to promote, celebrate and conserve the rich cultures of Australian and India Indigenous art**

The winning group identified that Indigenous artists in both Australia and India are often unable to make a living due to lack of access to buyers and the prevalence of low-value imitations in the market. In response, they proposed to set up a not-for-profit organisation operating a digital platform for artists to showcase and sell their art forms globally using a blockchain register to help preserve copyright and authenticity. AusIndArt.org would authenticate and price pieces of Indigenous Australian and Indian art using blockchain technology, and would more effectively connect artists with interested buyers.

- **Group 6 - TRAIID: Connecting startups from both countries for collaboration and innovation**

Group 6 identified that there are large markets in both countries which are not being served by local solutions. Examples include dating platforms for differently abled people or gourmet cheese by local farmers. The challenge is that Australian and Indian companies solving local problems do not look to corresponding markets when going abroad. There is a lack of access to talent, funding and market intelligence. Leveraging AIYD and its alumni network as the first point of access for start-ups looking to go abroad from both countries. The group proposed that TRAIID would create a digital platform aligned to existing AIYD where Alumni can support interested organisations from both countries on talent, funding and market intelligence. The first step is to work with Inclov (an Indian delegate’s startup interested in Australian market) to pilot how this would work and test the design of the platform for repeat opportunities between both countries.



SESSION SUMMARIES

Sunday, 21 January 2018, New Delhi

Introduction “Australia India Relations”

The first session of AIYD 2018 was an interesting discussion about where the Australia India relationship stands. Delegates got an overview of the current state of the bilateral relationship between Australia and India from former Ambassador (Retd) Amit Dasgupta, former Indian Consul-General in Sydney who is currently the inaugural India Director for UNSW and Ms Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner to India.

Danielle Rajendran, Steering Committee member moderated the session.

Both the speakers agreed that people to people links had immense potential to grow.

The discussion also focused on opportunities in education, tourism, innovation and art & culture.

The speakers emphasised the scope of the relationship would benefit tremendously with strategic people to people connections between the two countries.

Cultural Intelligence Workshop - Dr. Tom Verghese

The session opened with the delegates divided into groups and sharing pertinent questions on cultural intelligence. This session looked at understanding the relevance of cultural intelligence in the context of the dialogue, its application in our work and in our leadership journey. Dr Tom Verghese engaged with the participants around how we connect success at work with self-awareness and cultural quotient (CQ) to measure their leadership growth. He covered fundamental attribution error and understanding cultural behavior through four steps of behaviour - CQ Drive, CQ Knowledge, CQ strategy and CQ Action. Dr Verghese led the participants through the four steps with insights and examples. This was followed up with short group exercises and some critical questions were shared to be reflected upon during the dialogue relevant to the cultural intelligence and capacity approach for the bilateral relationship between Australia & India.

Monday, 22 January 2018, New Delhi

Panel “Digital Democracy & Civic Engagement”

A high-quality discussion on the impact of social media on democracy, with valuable insights from members of parliament, journalists and the change makers utilising social media among our delegates, kicked off an exciting second day. We were joined by Meenakshi Lekhi, Member of Parliament for New Delhi and National Spokesperson for the BJP, Baijayant Panda, Member of Parliament for Kendrapara in India, and Tim Watts, Member of Parliament for Gellibrand in Australia (AIYD 2016 Alumni) on the panel. Neha Khanna of NewsX (AIYD Alumni 2013) moderated the session.

The discussion focused on how social media has broken down barriers to political engagement and allowed everyone who has access to the internet to have a voice without it being mediated through editors of traditional media outlets. At the same time, social media has also provided a platform for extreme views with negative impacts to be voiced more openly and has shifted the way that political debates are carried out, often with more vitriol than if a debate were face-to-face. The panel emphasised the impact that social media can have on single issues but that governments often need to consider an issue in the context of issues.

As with all media, the panel discussed the need for users to exercise critical thinking and that the way to encourage productive debate is to get more information from a range of sources out into the public domain rather than trying to censor debates. The panel concluded that the challenge of social media and democracy remains in finding the balance between not allowing decisions to be controlled by the elite but also not leaving decision entirely to the wisdom of a crowd.



Tuesday, 23 January 2018, Mumbai

Panel “Future of Information”

This session began with a discussion of the impact of artificial intelligence and blockchain. Panellists reflected that digital disruption will affect every industry, even traditional industries like agriculture. The internet has lowered transaction costs, with both positive and negative effects. Blockchain creates a system where operations can occur in a trust free system, and as such operational costs will be brought down.

Panellists cautioned that many problems can be solved with technology other than blockchain, and encouraged delegates to think critically beyond the hype. Delegates also had a lively discussion focused on the tension between privacy as an economic and human right, and the effect digital technology has on individual privacy.

Great AIYD Debate & Dinner

The inaugural Great AIYD Debate framed an evening of frank and fantastic discussion about whether Australia or India is best suited to tackle the exciting developments and challenges of digital disruption. The debate pitted a team of alumni against delegates from the current 2018 Dialogue. Each side did a great job of humorously used personal anecdotes to argue for their position.

While our adjudication panel of Darren Rudd (Distinguished Sponsor, TCS) and Julian Knowles (Distinguished Partner, Macquarie University) were very balanced in their judgements, our audience of 2018 delegates clearly favoured their peers over the alumni team. But even though the delegate team arguing India’s case were officially deemed the winner, the real winner of the night was the conversation and camaraderie displayed between both alumni and delegates.



Wednesday, 24 January 2018, Mumbai

Panel “Future of AI and Non Human Workers”

Panellists began the session with a discussion about the significant investments made in healthcare by AI enterprises. AI enables us to replicate human perception, and more efficiently derive patterns out of data. In India, there is a huge mismatch in healthcare demand and supply that currently cannot be bridged by training additional doctors. AI can help to accelerate diagnostics, which can then accelerate healthcare. There have also been interesting developments in social robotics, including technology that encourages all round development in children by interacting with them and recognising areas of interest to initiate conversations.

Panellists also discussed the future of work in a broader sense, with one panellist arguing that “the future of work is more work”. They argued that technological revolutions will always create more work, but that the future of work tomorrow is different to the jobs of today. Panellists encouraged delegates to embrace the change, adapt quickly, and be fast in reselling. Both Australia and India need to ensure that they are future ready.



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

In 2016, we launched an AIYD Alumni Portal on our website to help our 180 alumni community members to connect and collaborate with each other more effectively. The portal creates a seamless experience for alumni to explore and reach out to the community. In addition to this, in 2017 we held our first launch events for the AIYD - the launch events held in Delhi and Melbourne allowed us to introduce the themes, dates and venues for AIYD18 and most importantly, another means of connecting our alumni.

In general, AIYD alumni continue to pursue opportunities to develop tangible collaboration in the Australia-India space. Some examples from 2017/18 are as follows:

- AIYD founders and former Steering Committee members Ruchir Punjabi, Sanushka Seomangal, Rishi Suri, Vidyananda Sagaram, Monika Barthwal Datta and Manu Sundaram launched the School of Policy & Governance
- AIYD 2018 delegates Shaili Chopra (Founder, shethepeople.tv) and Damian Thompson (Community Relations, The Conversation) collaborated immediately following the dialogue and now SheThePeople is carrying the Conversation's content in India
- AIYD 2017 alumnus Guru Prakash organised for 2017 alumnus Erin Watson Lynn to speak on "Emerging Issues and Contemporary Challenges in Australian Foreign Policy" at an event held by his organisation, the India Foundation
- AIYD 2018 alumni Ihitashri Shandilya and Shaili Chopra collaborated across two of their ventures, with Shaili's organisation SheThePeople coming on board as a content partner to TAES 2018, an Arts & Entrepreneurship summit organised by Ihitashri
- AIYD 2018 Delegate Nikhil Sharma, COO of Ginger Hotels became the official hospitality partner for 2018 delegate Vaibhav Chauhan's organisation Sahapedia's "India Heritage Walk Festival" - a collaboration that happened on day 2 of AIYD 2018!

AIYD 2018 DELEGATES



AUSTRALIA DELEGATES 2018



Wesa Chau Director, Cultural Intelligence

Wesa Chau is Director of Cultural Intelligence, a specialist consulting company that helps other organisations harness the power of cultural diversity and co-founder of Poliversity, a partisan independent body that promotes culturally diverse leadership, representation and recognition.

She was a participant in the inaugural Pathways to Politics program for women at the University of Melbourne and ran as a federal candidate for the seat of Higgins in 2013. Her efforts and contributions are recognised and was named 2010 Young Victorian of the Year, the Victorian Honour Roll of Women 2012 and finalist Agenda Setter of the Year in 2016. She is a current PhD candidate exploring the topic of political skills in politics. In 2016, she was awarded the inaugural Swinburne-Scanlon Intercultural Fellowship, travelling to India and Malaysia to understand intercultural relations in both of these countries.

She is also a regular commentator on television and radio and has published a range of articles and opinion pieces on international education, cultural diversity and Asian Diaspora. Additionally Wesa serves on the Board of Carers Victoria and the Ministerial Council on Women's Equality. Wesa holds a Masters in Business Management; Graduate Diploma of Law; Bachelor of Engineering and Commerce, and is a qualified teacher.

 www.linkedin.com/in/wesachau/

 [@wesachau](https://twitter.com/wesachau)



Peter Corbett

Partner, Monitor Deloitte

Peter is a Partner in Deloitte's Strategy Consulting Practice - Monitor Deloitte. He is a Chartered Accountant and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has over 10 years experience working at the links between strategy, operations, technology, service design and innovation in Australia and globally.

Peter is an expert in the Telecommunications, Media and Technology (TMT) industry. He is a recognised TMT industry thought leader and has published over 50 articles on the strategies shaping the TMT industry.

He is the editor of Deloitte Australia's Strategy blog, contributor to Deloitte's TMT Predictions and the co-host of 'Two Tribes' - a podcast that uncovers the real stories of entrepreneurship and investment in Australia.

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Esha Oberoi

CEO, Afea Care Services

Esha Oberoi is the Founder and CEO of Afea Care Services, a home care service that she started at the age of 24.

Whilst overcoming a personal challenge and fighting depression, she fell into a role as a carer in a local nursing home, inspiring her towards an opportunity to redefine the experiences of our ageing community. Since Afea's inception, Esha has enhanced Afea's service offerings to meet the growing demands of the aged care and disability population and continues to hold a strong passion towards being of service to vulnerable communities.

She strives for excellence in her business, being at the forefront of healthcare innovation and recently co-launched Inebura, a business enabler and technology platform that helps home care providers in driving efficiency and transparency in their operations. Esha is guided by providing authentic experiences, purposeful, responsible and understanding home care, as well being committed to Afea's Vision, to be the most Trusted Care Provider and the Mission, to Empower People.

She is a member of the Entrepreneur's Organisation, Sydney Chapter and The Australian Institute of Company Directors.

 www.linkedin.com/in/esha-oberoi-7b13781b/



Scott Farlow

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Leader of the House) in the Legislative Council, Member of the NSW Legislative Council, NSW Government

Scott Farlow was elected to the NSW Legislative Council in March 2015 and appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Leader of the House in the Legislative Council in February 2017. Born and bred in Sydney's Inner West, an area with a very significant Indian community, Scott became the first person from his family to attend university, he holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney, and a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice.

With a strong commitment to Liberal policies and beliefs, Scott was the longest-serving President of the NSW Young Liberal movement and served as an Urban Representative on the NSW Liberal Party's State Executive. Scott stood and was elected to Strathfield Council at the age of 20. He later became the youngest Mayor in the nation at the age of 23.

In business, Scott worked across a range of companies in the private sector in the communications, public affairs, finance, legal and accounting professions. In this work he has provided advice to CEOs and executives of some of Australia's largest companies and well-known global multinationals. Within the political arena, prior to his election as a Member, Scott also has served as a political adviser to a State Liberal leader, frontbenchers and Federal Members of Parliament.

Scott is married to Penny with two young children, Christian and Colette.

 www.linkedin.com/in/the-hon-scott-farlow-mlc-7b798525

 [@scottfarlow](https://twitter.com/scottfarlow)



Matt Keogh

Federal Member for Burt, Australian Parliament

Matt Keogh was elected as the first member for the new electorate of Burt at the 2016 Federal election.

After graduating law school at the University of Notre Dame Australia, Matt practiced as a lawyer at Travers & Keogh in Kelmscott. Matt became chairperson of Starick Services, an organisation running refuges for victims of family and domestic. Matt later joined the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, becoming a Principal Federal Prosecutor focusing on insider trading, market manipulation and breaches of directors' duties.

Matt was elected to the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia and became the Convenor of its Young Lawyers Committee, was awarded the Law Council of Australia's Australian Young Lawyer of the Year Award in 2009, became chair of the Australian Young Lawyers Committee and was the 2015 President of the Law Society as well as a Director of the Law Council of Australia. Before entering Federal politics Matt was working with leading international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills in Perth, focused on corporate crime and investigations work, including contentious regulatory work, anti-bribery and corruption.

Matt is deeply concerned with ensuring people are able to find work in the post-mining boom economy through transitioning the Australian economy into developing our science and technology, using renewable energy sources. Matt was the inaugural chairperson and is still a director of Law Access, Western Australia's pro bono law clearing house service.

 www.linkedin.com/in/mattkeogh/

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Sachin Kumar

Head of Strategy and Scheduling, Cricket Australia

As the Head of Strategy & Scheduling at Cricket Australia, Sachin has been at the forefront of developing Australian Cricket's approach to challenges facing the sport in Australia and globally. These have included the development of three national strategies, a new funding model for State Associations, a new performance based model for national players and the restructuring of international and domestic cricket schedules. Sachin has also conducted multilateral negotiations with other cricketing nations about the commencement of new competitions for men's international cricket and lead the formation of format strategy for Australian Cricket.

Sachin is a strong advocate for the role of the Indian (and broader South-Asian) community in cricket in Australia, and firmly believes this community will be a critical part of the success of the sport in Australia and around the world. Furthermore, Sachin believes that the burgeoning size of the diaspora in Australia represents a wonderful opportunity to further develop, facilitate and nurture bilateral relations between India and Australia across every sphere. Sachin is also a business representative on the Victorian Government's Taskforce for the first ever Indian precinct in Victoria, in Dandenong in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs. Born in Sydney, Sachin previously worked as a management consultant for Bain & Company, and he is a qualified lawyer.

 www.linkedin.com/in/sachinkumarau



Jessie Meaney-Davis

Senior Contract Management Coordinator, Oxfam Australia

Jessie is a young professional working in international development and advocacy at Oxfam Australia. Since 2013 she has worked with Oxfam in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to support program design, monitoring, reporting and evaluation; business development; communications; and implementation of aid policies related to child protection, disability inclusion and gender mainstreaming in development projects.

Jessie first travelled to India in 2007. Since then she has studied South Asian Studies and Hindi at the Australian National University; studied Hindi at Delhi University for one year; conducted research with a human rights organisation based in Delhi; and written extensively on social policies in India and South Asia through a Master of Social Policy at the University of Melbourne.

She has a particular interest in women's rights, women's movements and government policies' effects on women, in both Australia and South Asia. She has researched and written about these topics with Indian Non-Government Organisations, Australian Non-Government Organisations, and former Member of Parliament Mr Robert Oakeshott.

 www.linkedin.com/in/jessie-meaney-davis-a62b4665/



Karensa Menzies

Agri-Food Development Specialist

Karensa is an agri-food development specialist committed to delivering impact for dairy and agricultural communities through a value chain approach both in Australia and globally.

With a PhD in dairy science, Karensa has over 15 years professional experience working across the realms of science, education, research & development (R&D), the public and private sectors, policy advisory, investment and international market place development to foster progressive and sustainable agricultural supply chains, businesses and industries. Prior senior positions include the Industry Development Specialist for the Australian dairy industry, Innovation Manager of an R&D program spanning the dairy supply chain, Lactation Research Fellow, as well as regional and international roles in research and education for dairy and broader agricultural sectors.

Karensa has led many strategic initiatives for the Australian dairy industry and continues to work with industry bodies, government, dairy companies, education providers while also an active contributor to Australia's first agri-tech start-up community. Current interests include fostering responsible resource stewardship and openness to market needs; integration of digital technology, transparency, traceability, food safety, environmental and social accountability; developing people and capability through innovative learning frameworks. In recent years, Karensa has spent periods in India understanding the local dairy industry and advising new dairy operations.

Karensa has sat on number of key agricultural councils and advisory committees, and continues to serve on education industry reference committees. She is a member of multiple Australian dairy industry national R,D&E Steering Committees, and the (University of Melbourne) Food Industry & Value Chain Transformation Research Hub Industry Advisory Board.

 www.linkedin.com/in/karensamenzies



Nikita Nagesh

Product Manager, BlueChilli

Nikita Nagesh is a product manager at BlueChilli where she works with startup founders, UX designers and developers to turn startup ideas into tech products. Nikita is passionate about creating technology which has a positive social impact in the world and she is working with the Refugee Yoga Project to create a mobile app to teach refugees yoga to help them to heal from depression and PTSD.

Nikita is the co-founder of the Leading Women video series (in partnership with UNSW), where young women interview women who are directors of ASX200 boards. The goal is to bring attention to the importance of gender equality on boards and to inspire young women to aim for leadership positions in the business world.

Nikita studied Commerce/Law at UNSW, and before working with startups she was a management consultant at EY and had various roles in the legal industry. Nikita was born in Bengaluru, India and has a strong connection to India. She visits India every year to spend time with her grandmother and she loves yoga and Indian dancing.

 www.linkedin.com/in/nikitanagesh/

 [@Nikita_Nagesh](https://twitter.com/Nikita_Nagesh)



Luckbir Singh

Director, McDonnells Law

Luckbir Singh is a Director and Owner of MacDonnells Law, a 100-person Queensland based law firm. Luckbir became a partner of MacDonnells Law in 2007 and was the youngest modern-day partner appointment in the firm's 135 year history. He has been recognised for his legal skills and client outcomes by Lawyer's Weekly as a finalist in the 2016 Australian Partner of the Year Awards and was awarded the Queensland Law Society's Outstanding Achievement by a Young Lawyer award in 2008.

Luckbir is a corporate legal adviser to CEOs, Directors and Entrepreneurs who are seeking strategic legal advice to successfully navigate stakeholder groups and solve complex problems to achieve long term success.

Luckbir holds a growing Director portfolio. Luckbir is the Deputy Chair of the Cairns and Hinterland Health and Hospital Service (\$900M budget), Councillor Australian Institute of Company Directors Queensland Council, Director North Queensland Primary Health Network Limited, Director of Cairns COUCH Limited and Chair of the FNQ Regional Policy Council Chamber of Industry and Commerce Queensland.

Luckbir was born and raised in Far North Queensland, with his family having lived in the region since the 1890s.

 www.linkedin.com/in/luckbir-singh-7524b218/



Damian Thompson

Director of Foundation Relations, The Conversation Media Group

Damian is Director of Foundation Relations at The Conversation, a platform for knowledge-based journalism sourced from the world's universities, where he leads relationships with philanthropic foundations and works on global strategy. Joining The Conversation in 2011, he has played a key role in the organisation's growth in Australia, UK, US, Africa, France, Canada and Indonesia.

Prior to joining The Conversation, Damian worked for the Victorian Government on programs to deliver services to the agriculture sector and rural communities. He also worked as a policy adviser to the Victorian Minister for Agriculture.

Damian's first experience in India was as an AIESEC trainee in 2003, when he worked at an orphanage near Chennai. Since then he has maintained many connections with India.

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Daniel Thompson

Senior Associate, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Dan is a technology and telecommunications lawyer at Corrs Chambers Westgarth. Dan has significant experience advising large enterprise on technology procurement, and frequently negotiates high value IT deals with Indian technology companies. Dan has worked closely with business start-ups and disruptive technology, including in the fields of blockchain and cryptocurrency, and has been instrumental in developing his firm's engagement strategy with the Australian start-up community. Dan also advises clients on cyber security, including in respect of the roles of management and legal in ensuring best practice cyber resilience for large enterprise and government, and has given numerous presentations on the topic. Dan has held a long standing interest in India having lived in the country for approximately 8 months in 2008, where he worked for an NGO in New Delhi.

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Laurie Pearcey

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), UNSW Sydney

Laurie Pearcey is currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) at UNSW Sydney. Laurie is responsible for developing the transformative global partnerships portfolio that underpins the global impact pillar of UNSW's 2025 Strategy.

Prior to his appointment, Laurie led the development of UNSW's China and India Priority Country Strategies which resulted in a range of major outcomes including the establishment of the \$100 million Torch Innovation Precinct at UNSW as part of a groundbreaking partnership with Chinese industry. Laurie has also served as the Executive Director of the International Office and the Director of the Confucius Institute at UNSW.

Before joining UNSW, Laurie was the Chief Executive Officer of the Australia China Business Council where he led the Council's strategic engagement with the Chinese and Australian Governments and represented the collective interests of major industry stakeholders in the Sino-Australian trade and investment relationship.

Laurie was described by the China Daily as 'at the forefront of almost all business, personal and political relations between Australia and China' and is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading China experts. He is a respected commentator on the Chinese political economy, Australia's relationship with China and higher education issues contributing regularly to major media organisations including the ABC, Channel NewsAsia, Fairfax, Xinhua News and the People's Daily.

Laurie is a proud UNSW alumnus and a Scholar of the Order of Australia Association Foundation and was a Visiting Fellow in Pacific and Asian History at the Australian National University

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[@LauriePearcey1](https://twitter.com/LauriePearcey1)



Alexander Polson

Manager - Government and Industry Affairs, Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Alexander Polson is a Manager of Government and Industry Affairs at one of Australia's largest companies, Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Alexander is responsible for developing corporate affairs strategies and frameworks to build and sustain the bank's reputation as a global financial services leader.

Alexander has an extensive political background, working across multiple campaigns in Australia and internationally. He previously worked for the Federal Minister for Education and Training advising on Higher Education, Research and International Education policy programs.

Alexander holds a Master of International Trade and Development from the University of Adelaide and qualifications in finance, law and economics. Alexander is fluent in Russian and uses his spare time volunteering for community based non-profit groups and is currently training for a triathlon.

 www.linkedin.com/in/alexanderpolson

 [@polsonaus](https://twitter.com/polsonaus)



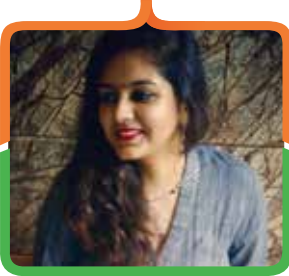
Tanya Spisbah

Former Diplomat, Australian High Commission, New Delhi

Tanya Spisbah was recently appointed Head, Strategic International Engagement, University of New South Wales. From 2014-2017, Ms Spisbah was a diplomat at the Australian High Commission, New Delhi, specialising in technology diplomacy for inclusive, sustainable growth. She led the bilateral health agenda resulting in Prime Ministers Turnbull and Modi exchanging an MoU for Health and Medicine, paving the way for cooperation in digital health. Other areas of policy leadership included smart cities and infrastructure, fintech and investment. In previous roles in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ms Spisbah has served in Russia and Iraq. Ms Spisbah has negotiated free trade agreements with a number of Asian partners, led Australia's education agenda in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and represented Australia at the World Trade Organization on intellectual property and environment. Ms Spisbah was formerly a lawyer with Minter Ellison, specialising in IP and technology. Ms Spisbah is passionate about the Australia-India relationship. She holds degrees in law, philosophy and economics and a Masters of Laws specialising in intellectual property, international trade and development.

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INDIAN DELEGATES 2018



Chaarvi Amit Badani

Associate - Development, Villgro Innovations Foundation

Chaarvi is passionate about social entrepreneurship, innovation and impact. Her experience spans from cofounding a skills training start-up to working as an investor and mentor to young start-ups in India and Vietnam.

She has worked with Villgro Innovations Foundation, a social enterprise incubator, for over two years. Her engagement at Villgro has been on multiple programs including the Technical Assistance Programs, Strategy and change management within the organization as well as working with Villgro Vietnam. She is currently working on development and partnerships.

Chaarvi has a PGDM in Liberal Arts and Leadership from the Young India Fellowship, Ashoka University. As a Young India Fellow, she co-founded a social enterprise that aimed to provide market-access and vocational skills training to cobblers to provide them with sustainable livelihoods. She obtained her B. A in Economics (Honors) from Christ University, Bangalore.

Chaarvi envisions working with top non-governmental bodies to bring aid and development to the underserved communities all over the world. In her free time, Chaarvi likes to read, write and review books.

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Mallika Bajaj

Founder/CEO, Little Yellow Beetle

Global media entrepreneur, and sportscaster, Mallika Bajaj did not grow up knowing she would become a media professional. However, she was brought up to believe that whatever she did would make a difference. She is a celebrated name when it comes to inspiring women or empowering the youth through digital media. Mallika completed her BA in Media and Communications at the University of Melbourne and went on to successfully pursue a Masters in Media and Communications, from Goldsmiths, University of London, where she acquired knowledge, skills, and the confidence to establish her own company at 23. Her desire to empower women, and talented young professionals, using digital media as her tool, led her to conceive the idea of Little Yellow Beetle Media Pvt Ltd (LYB), which of functions on the dual focus of 'Digitizing India' and connecting India to the 'Digital Globe', one leap at a time, offering young professionals the opportunity to explore their creative best.

A digital native, she is responsible for launching India's first 360-degree media solutions digital studio, and lending a similar structure to Doha, Qatar all under the age of 25. She was also the name behind launching the Video information segment to Hindustan Times, Live Mint (Murdoch Group) at the age of 17; in their New Delhi, India headquarter office. Mallika is the world's youngest host for the BNP Davis Cup Tennis tournaments across Asia/Oceania. She starting hosting the events at 16 and went on to doing so up until 2014. Women Entrepreneur of the Year (2015), a National Youth Parliament Ambassador (2015), Global Scholar and Young Leader (2011) and headed for more.

Lately, she was last seen inspiring audiences at the IBC Amsterdam, and at the W.I.N, in Rome, and lends her time to empowering and helping students at prestigious universities in India.

 www.linkedin.com/in/mallika-bajaj-6a17476/

 @mbajaj20



Arijit Banarji

Co-founder FootTheBall

Arijit is a former Editor of Sydney-based freemium Indian diaspora news publication, 'The Indian Telegraph'. He also ran a start up Down Under in design and prints. Arijit became the name and face of his publication and brought an offline product into digital media, mainly by use of social media. He was also awarded the 'Young Journalist Award' in 2015 from the New South Wales Govt, Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

In late 2014, Arijit answered the call of the motherland and landed a spot in the digital world of News World India (formerly Focus News).

In 2016, he was part of the founding team of Buffalo Soldiers Media & Strategists, where he brings in his experiences and skills as his start-up keeps growing, mainly focusing on creating the first medium for global football fans to connect and interact called 'FootTheBall' which made in the top 15 start ups by UberPitch India, 2016 and is in top 30 start ups by leAD Sports Accelerator (Berlin) 2017.

 www.linkedin.com/in/arijitbanarji/

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Vaibhav Chauhan

Founding Secretary, Sahapedia

A founder member of Sahapedia (www.sahapedia.org), Vaibhav is its secretary and is responsible for resource development and operations. A heritage management and CSR professional, he has been involved in the conservation of both tangible and intangible heritage, and worked with international and national organizations like UNESCO New Delhi, the British Library, National Mission for Manuscripts and Sangeet Natak Akademi. He has received training in sustainable tourism, digital marketing, IPR, CSR and management. His passion is to leverage culture as a driver of development, and he has launched India's first mobile app on museums.

 www.linkedin.com/in/vvaibhav/



Shaili Chopra

Founder, SheThePeople.TV

Shaili Chopra is the founder of SheThePeople.TV, India's no.1 digital media platform for women, dedicated to passionately championing and promoting their stories, to Empower, Engage and Elevate their efforts. It has reached over 15 million women through its online and offline network. She received the Vital Voices Fellowship for 2017. Entrepreneur India called her the Entrepreneur of the Year 2017. Beyond Diversity Foundation also felicitated her with the Woman of Influence Award 2017 for her work with SheThePeople. In March 2016 Shaili was announced one of India's Top 50 Most Influential Women in Media, Marketing and Advertising by IMPACT Magazine. As a report she holds the most prestigious award in journalism, Ramnath Goenka Award.

 www.linkedin.com/in/shailichopra

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Tasneem Fatima

Founder & President,
Delhi State Wheelchair Basketball Association

Tasneem is the Founder & the President of a not-for-profit organisation, Delhi State Wheelchair Basketball Association, working for the benefit of people with disabilities through the means of sports. Two years ago, she had an accident due to which she lost her ability to walk again. Inspired by the spirit of sportsmen on wheelchairs she met while in hospital, she decided to motivate others in similar circumstances. Just four months after her injury Tasneem started playing wheelchair basketball, and less than six months later attained a silver medal. She formed a State Association of Wheelchair Basketball to encourage positivity amongst people with disabilities and is working to bring inclusiveness to Indian society through sports.

 [@TF_DSWBA23](https://twitter.com/TF_DSWBA23)



Preethi Herman

Executive Director, Change.org Foundation India

Preethi Herman established Change.org as a people's platform in India - growing it from a userbase of 2 lakhs to a current 75 lakh active citizens taking action on various social change issues across the country. She is one of the rare women leaders at the forefront of the 'technology for social change' space.

In her career spanning hundreds of campaigns, Preethi has led teams that have worked on incredible campaigns proving that regular citizens can create transformative change using technology and building communities of support. This lies at the heart of Preethi's core vision; the power for people coming together to create change and leveraging technology in a decentralised structure of civil leadership.

 www.linkedin.com/in/preethi-herman-4b666333/

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Astik Sinha

Head - Policy & Special Projects Parliamentarian Mr Anurag Thakur of the ruling BJP government.

In this role he monitors and advises on matters relating to Information Communication Technology, Public Health and issues affecting mountainous regions. He has devised state and national level socio-political programs for the BJP's Youth Wing. He has managed election campaigns in Himachal Pradesh (2012 & 2017) and the Parliamentary Elections (2014). He has also worked with the BCCI as a Consultant and led its Cricket Coaching App project. Previously he worked with a New Delhi based think tank and spent a year in news media.

Mr Sinha is a Steering Committee Member of the Sustainable Development Goals Young Leaders Caucus, Fmr. Fellow Asia Internet Coalition, Fmr. Fellow Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians and Founding Member of the India - Israel Young Leaders Forum. He has spoken on issues concerning the youth, election campaign management, social media advocacy and political communication around the world.

Mr Sinha holds a Bachelors Degree in Journalism from the University of Delhi, a Masters in Peace & Conflict Analysis from the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace at Jamia Millia University, New Delhi and pursued the Media Studies program at St. Stephens College.



Kalyani Khona

CEO, Inclov

Kalyani is the co-founder of Inclov, the world's first inclusive matchmaking app for people with disability and health disorders to find love. Inclov is accessible to people with visual impairment and cerebral palsy amongst others. The online solution is complemented with an offline platform, which we call Social Spaces. Social Spaces brings people with or without disability together to meet in person. These meetups are organised at curated inclusive locations across India.

The app matches people on the basis of cure availability, medical condition, level of independence and lifestyle choices. Today, Inclov is a community of 20,000 people with physical impairment and intellectual disability with 6000 matches and counting

 www.linkedin.com/in/kalyanikhona/

 @KhonaKalyani



Bindu Subramaniam

Director, Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts

Bindu Subramaniam is a singer/songwriter, author and music educator. She started the contemporary world music band SubraMania, with her brother Ambi, and their first release "Days in the Sun" had over a million views on Facebook. As a songwriter, she has won Honourable Mentions at the Billboard World Song Contest. She is also a recipient of a Global Indian Music Award and was named one of 12 Gen Next Achievers by Verve Magazine. Bindu heads of the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts, and started the SaPa in Schools part of school curriculum. She has co-written the SaPa Baby series of books (with her father Dr. L. Subramaniam) to teach music to young children and teaches on the SaPa Show, a weekly television program. She is also closely involved with the philanthropic activities of the Subramaniam Foundation. Bindu has a master's degree in law from London University, a master's certificate in songwriting and music business from Berklee Music, a Montessori diploma, an MPhil, and is currently working on a PhD in Music Education.

 @bindusub



Ihitashri Shandilya

Founder and CEO, MITHILAsmita Art & Craft, New Delhi

Ihitashri is a Social Entrepreneur and a Sustainability Champion, who believes in the power of entrepreneurship to tackle the social challenges of rural livelihood and cultural preservation.

After 7 years of stint with the Corporate world (in the areas of Supply chain management and Enterprise Resource Planning), Ihitashri started her brainchild Social Enterprise 'MITHILAsmita' to promote the heritage Madhubani Paintings of India.

The enterprise aims at using the power of marketing, technology and strategic partnerships to bring sustainability in the rural artisan sector, with a focus on women artisans.

In the course of her Social entrepreneurship journey, Ihitashri has developed expertise in the areas of Social Business Development, Partnerships, Thought Leadership, Digital Marketing and Academic Collaborations and is actively working on initiatives to use culture as a tool for empowerment and development.

 www.linkedin.com/in/ihitashri/

 [@ihitashri](https://twitter.com/ihitashri)



Bhakti Sharma

Sarpanch

Bhakti Sharma is a local elected Panchayat leader. She completed a Masters in Political Science and is currently pursuing law. By working hard and effectively at the village level, she received a Presidential Award. She has spoken at TedX for her innovative works in the field of rural empowerment, education, health, digitisation and has been felicitated both at state and national levels.

 [@SarpanchBhakti](https://twitter.com/SarpanchBhakti)



Nikhil Sharma

Chief Operating Officer, Ginger Hotels, A TATA Enterprise

Nikhil is Chief Operating Officer at Ginger hotels, A TATA Enterprise and was a founding member at the Lemon Tree Hotel Company, Nikhil is an active marathon runner, he is also a pro engager which is the TATA group's skill based volunteering program.

 www.linkedin.com/in/nikhilsharma999

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Madhavkrishna Singhania

Special Executive, JK Cement

Madhav Singhania is an Electrical and Computer Engineer from Carnegie Mellon University, USA. He joined J.K. Cement Ltd. in early 2010 and is currently heading the new projects division and is also responsible for technology integration and the digital transformation of the Company. He has spearheaded new capacity expansion projects and is instrumental in setting up of the split grinding unit at Jharli, Haryana and played a key role in the brownfield expansion at Mangrol, Rajasthan. He has also been closely involved in the setting up of the Company's maiden overseas plant at Fujairah, UAE.

In addition, he is also the Co-Chair of Young Indians, Delhi (Youth Wing of Confederation of Indian Industry), which is focused on nation building, youth leadership and thought leadership.

He is currently serving on the Board of Governors for National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM).

 www.linkedin.com/in/madhav-singhania-80837825/

AIYD PROGRAMME SPEAKERS

Day 0 : 1pm - Sunday, 21st January

Session 1 : India Australia relations

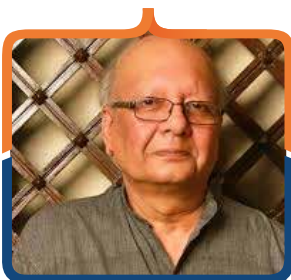


Harinder Sidhu

Australia High Commissioner to India

Ms Sidhu is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, most recently serving as First Assistant Secretary of the Multilateral Policy Division. She has previously served overseas in Moscow and Damascus. Ms Sidhu's previous roles included First Assistant Secretary in the Department of Climate Change, Assistant Director-General in the Office of National Assessments and Senior Adviser in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Sydney.

 [@AusHCIndia](https://twitter.com/AusHCIndia)



Amit Dasgupta

Inaugural India Country Director at UNSW

Amit Dasgupta was a diplomat for 34 years and is a published author; most recent book 'The House and other stories'. Mr Dasgupta has published extensively on foreign and security policy and on development and management related themes. He was inaugural head of Mumbai campus of the SP Jain School of Global Management for 14 months and on July 4th, 2016 joined as the inaugural India country director of the internationally ranked University of New South Wales UNSW, Sydney.

Mr Dasgupta was appointed Distinguished Fellow of the Australia India Institute [2016]; is also Fellow of the Society of Policy Studies, India.

 [@amit_adg](https://twitter.com/amit_adg)

Session 1 : 1pm - Sunday, 21st January

India Australia relations

MODERATOR



Danielle Rajendram

Danielle Rajendram is a Management Consultant with the Nous Group. Danielle was previously a policy Officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. Previously, Danielle worked as a Research Associate in the International Security Program at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, where her work focused on Indian foreign and domestic policy, China-India relations and broader Asian strategic issues.

Danielle holds a Master of International Law from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of International Studies from the University of New South Wales, with a major in Asian Studies. During her undergraduate degree she spent a year studying international relations and Japanese language at Keio University in Tokyo.

Danielle participated as a delegate in the 2014 Australia India Youth Dialogue in Hyderabad and New Delhi.

 [@drajendram](https://twitter.com/drajendram)

Session 2 : 3pm - Sunday 21st January

Address by the Vice Chancellor of Deakin University



Professor Jane den Hollander AO

Vice Chancellor of Deakin University

Professor Jane den Hollander AO has been Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University since July 2010. At Deakin, Professor den Hollander introduced LIVE the future, an aspiration for the University to drive the digital frontier in higher education, harnessing the power, opportunity and reach of new and emerging technologies in all that it does. Professor den Hollander holds a BSc (Honours) First Class in Zoology and a Master of Science degree from Wits University, Johannesburg.

Her PhD is from the University of Wales, Cardiff. Professor den Hollander is a Board member of Education Australia Limited and UniSuper Limited. She is Trustee and Deputy Chair of the Geelong Performing Arts Council, Chair of Skilling the Bay (a Victorian Government initiative), a member of the Kardinia Park Trust and a member of the VERNet Board (Victorian Education and Research Network).

Prior to taking up her appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, Professor den Hollander was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Curtin University in Western Australia. Professor den Hollander received an Order of Australia for her distinguished service to tertiary education in the 2017 Australia Day Honours awards.

 [@vcdeakin](https://twitter.com/vcdeakin)

Session 3 : 3:30pm - Sunday 21st January

Cultural Intelligence & Leadership



Belinda Howell

Chief Market Development Officer - UTS Insearch

Ms Howell joined UTS Insearch in November 2011. She has extensive experience in senior marketing and corporate affairs positions within a diverse range of services industries – financial services, professional services, travel and tourism, and higher education – in respected organisations such as British Airways, Macquarie Bank, Rabobank and KPMG.

Through her leadership of sales, marketing, product development, market intelligence and corporate communications, Ms Howell is responsible for attracting international and Australian students to UTS Insearch, and for the institution's reputation and profile.

Ms Howell has a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in French, a Graduate Diploma in Management and a Master of Business Administration. She has been awarded the Company Directors Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has also completed the Advanced Management program at INSEAD in France.

Ms Howell has served on several not-for-profit boards and is currently on the board of Dunmore Lang College at Macquarie University. She also runs a small property in the Southern Tablelands devoted to beef cattle and horticulture. Her other interests include mental health, and she is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Counselling.



Dr Tom Verghese

Principal Consultant - Cultural Synergies

Dr Tom Verghese is a renowned author, speaker, executive coach and the founding principal consultant of Cultural Synergies. He has 25 years of global consulting expertise. Tom is a dynamic, experienced and passionate presenter. His wisdom and distinctive candour allow him to stimulate thought-provoking discussions and dialogues that people can relate to and interact with ease. During his consulting career, Tom has had extensive involvement working with a diverse range of multinational, national and local organisations. He has strategized and worked as a trusted adviser with numerous senior global leaders. Tom's integrity, creativity and agility in the moment have received strong praise from leaders and teams alike around the globe. Tom's international and national client list includes: Royal Dutch Shell, Toyota, Disney, Honda, Autoliv, University of Melbourne, Hewlett Packard, ANZ Bank, Sara Lee, Monash University, Cadbury Schweppes, Microsoft, BP, Infosys, Museum Victoria and WorkSafe Victoria. In the not-for-profit sector, he has been engaged by ICARN (Inter-country Adopted Parents Resource Network) and the Pyrenees Shire Council. Dr Verghese is the author of 'The Invisible Elephant – Exploring Cultural Awareness' – 25 Years On and co-author of 'The Pillars of Growth - The Keys to Getting Exponential Growth in Your Business Today.'

 [@cltrlsynergist](https://twitter.com/cltrlsynergist)

Opening dinner - 7:30pm - Sunday 21st January

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Alphons Joseph Kannanthanam,

Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture and Tourism

Alphons Joseph Kannanthanam is currently serving as the Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture, and Tourism, in office since 3 September 2017 under the B.J.P. Government of Narendra Modi. He is the second BJP Central Minister from Kerala after O. Rajagopal. He was in Time Magazine's list of 100 Young Global Leaders. He pioneered the literacy movement in India by making Kottayam the first 100% literate town of India in 1989. He served as Commissioner of the Delhi Development Authority (D.D.A).

Opening dinner : 7:30pm - Sunday 21st January

keynote speakers

MODERATOR



Mitali Mukherjee

Founder at the MoneyMile and AIYD 2017 Alumnus

Mitali Mukherjee is one of the most well known faces in the world of business journalism. With over 15 years experience in the television industry, she has handled a wide range of roles-from political, global & local economic reportage, to live conferences .

She is the co-founder and editor of The Money Mile, India's first multi-platform personal finance offering. A key focus area for her is spreading awareness amongst women on the need & importance of investing.

As Markets & News Editor at CNBC TV18, one of India's premier business channels, She has anchored flagship equity market shows like Baazar on CNBC TV18 for a decade. She has also anchored several popular feature programs like Wealth Creators, Classroom & Informed Investor.

Over the last decade and a half, She has worked with the TV18 Network, The TV Today group, Doordarshan (India's National Broadcaster) & BBC World. She was also the face that launched Headlines Today, TV Today's English News Channel in 2003.

A gold medallist in Television Journalism from IIMC, Delhi and a gold medallist in Political Science, Mitali brings a unique perspective to her interaction with expert panels and connects instantly with live audiences & viewers alike.

She has also been committed to the cause of children's education - Mitali works with children with learning disabilities like dyslexia , dyscalculia & dysgraphia. She has an A+ postgraduate degree from SNDT University, Mumbai.

 [@MitaliLive](https://twitter.com/MitaliLive)

Day 1: 9:30am - Monday 22nd January

Session 1 - "Digital Democracy & Civic Engagement"



Tim Watts MP

Federal Member for Gellibrand (AIYD 2017 Alumni)

Tim Watts is the Federal Labor Member for Gellibrand. Tim has worked in the IT and telecommunications sector for the better part of a decade, as a Senior Manager at Telstra and a Solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques. He has a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from Bond University, Master of Public Policy from Monash University and Master of Politics and Communication from the London School of Economics.

While Tim's ancestors arrived in Australia in the 1840s, his wife arrived in Australia from Hong Kong in the 1980s. In this way, Tim's children are at once both second and sixth generation Australians. As a result, Tim is passionate about protecting the harmonious multicultural society in which we live and understands the specific needs of our multicultural communities. Tim lives in Footscray with his wife and two children.

 [@TimWattsMP](https://twitter.com/TimWattsMP)



Jay Panda MP

Baijayant 'Jay' Panda is currently serving his second term as a Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament. Previously, he has also served two terms in Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament. In 2008, he was given an award for best parliamentary practices by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. He has served as a member of parliamentary standing committees on Home Affairs, Finance, Energy and Urban Development and also chairs the India-USA Forum of Parliamentarians.

 [@PandaJay](https://twitter.com/PandaJay)



Meenakshi Lekhi MP

Meenakshi Lekhi is an Indian Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from New Delhi constituency.[1] She is the national spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party and a Supreme Court of India lawyer. Meenakshi Lekhi won the high-profile New Delhi parliamentary constituency with over 4.5 lakh votes as a BJP candidate in the 2014 elections. Besides numerous articles in journals, periodicals and newspapers on social issues, she participates in various television shows on matters on national and international importance. Lekhi writes "Forthwrite", a fortnightly column in The Week magazine.

 [@M_Lekhi](https://twitter.com/M_Lekhi)

Day 1: 9:30am - Monday 22nd January

Session 1 - "Digital Democracy & Civic Engagement"

MODERATOR



Neha Khanna

Neha Khanna is a Journalist and News Anchor with NewsX.

Neha majored in Political Science at Hindu College, Delhi University. She was the President of the Debating Society and the Literary Minister at the college. She pursued a postgraduate program in Broadcast Journalism at the Indian Institute of Mass Communications in Delhi where she secured the second rank at the all India level. Subsequently, she was chosen for the prestigious Hansard Research Scholars program in Democracy and Public Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science. While at LSE, Neha worked with the BBC's Parliamentary programs Team at Westminster, and worked on some of the most popular shows of their flagship channel, including BBC Radio 4 and BBC Parliament.

Neha has covered a wide array of stories on social, legal, political, gender and human rights issues. Her forte is legal reportage and she has reported on some of the most high profile court cases and landmark judgements in different parts of the country over the years. Neha is passionate about legal and political journalism. She closely tracks the workings of the judiciary and is a keen observer of national politics. She's covered several elections and interviewed some of the biggest newsmakers in recent years, including Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the apex court. Her areas of interest also include foreign affairs. Neha was recently presented with the Young Achiever's Award by the Hindu College Alumni Society.

Neha is also an AIYD alumna. She's a movie buff, a music lover, driven by wanderlust and enjoys reading.

[@nehakhanna_07](#)



Session 2 : 1:30pm - Monday 22nd January

Pitch Session “Digital Disruption in Action”



Richard Bolt

Secretary Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) State Government of Victoria (Moderator)

Richard Bolt is currently the Secretary (head of DEDJTR), where he leads more than 3,000 staff based in metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria and internationally. Richard supports and advises eight government ministers across four portfolio groups – transport; economic development, employment and innovation; agriculture and resources; and creative Victoria. Prior to joining DEDJTR, Richard was Secretary of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) (2011-14), and Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) (2006-11). Richard is a member of the Victorian Government’s Secretaries Board. He is Victoria’s representative on the Commonwealth-State Transport Infrastructure Senior Officials Committee (TISOC), and a director on the board of Cenitex, the Victorian Government’s IT shared services provider. Richard has previously served on national committees advising ministerial councils on education and energy, including the Advisory Board to the Australian Centre for Renewable Energy. He was Deputy Chair of the state-territory National Emissions Trading Taskforce and has served as a Director of Schools Connect Australia. Richard holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the South Australian Institute of Technology (now the University of South Australia), a master's degree in public policy and management from Monash University, and a Graduate Diploma in Company Directorship.



Prerna Mukharya

Outline India (AIYD 2016 Alumni)

Prerna is the Founder of Outline India- a firm focusing on data in the development sector. They engage in primary research, surveys, and evaluations to catalyse the process of social change, by working alongside think tanks, academics, not for profits and the government.

Outline India in 5 years, as a self-funded, profitable enterprise have covered 23 states, over 3500 villages and interviewed over 3 million stakeholders. Prerna is currently focussing on developing TYM - the 'Track your metrics' platform – a concurrent assessment tool for gathering datasets, targeted towards tracking impact for very small NGOs and funders.

She is a 2018 Chevening fellow at Oxford University, a 2017 Raisina Fellow (awarded by the Ministry of External Affairs together with ORF) and a 2016 Australia India Youth Dialogue Fellow. She was recently included in the prestigious 40 under 40 list released by Fortune magazine in 2017 for Outline India's disruptive work with data.

 [@OutlineIndia](#)



Avani Parekh

Director of Empathy at SHEROES

Avani is a trained counselor with 9 years of experience working with women and relationship issues ranging from abuse and sexual assault to healthy relationship paradigms and self love. In 2008, she started Kiran, a South Asian Domestic Violence Agency in the US, where she worked closely with the community to raise awareness about domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. In 2014 she started LoveDoctor, a platform for young people to get confidential advice about sexual health and relationships, serving people via chat, whatsapp, snapchat and Facebook. In 2016, LoveDoctor merged with SHEROES, making it a women-only space for sex and relationship advice. She now serves as Director of Empathy at SHEROES, overseeing the SHEROES helpline, empathy in the SHEROES online platform, and strategic partnerships.

 [@OutlineIndia](#)



Krishna Kumar

Founder CropIn

Mr. Krishna Kumar, Founder & CEO at CropIn Technology Solutions has a strong technical background and has worked extensively with technology all through his illustrious career in the corporate world. This tech whiz had an epiphany when he saw the plight farmers have been facing due to lack of information and changing climatic conditions. This led him to cut short his remarkable corporate career at GE and embark on a startup journey of his own.

At CropIn, Mr. Krishna Kumar has made it possible to interconnect all the stakeholders at different levels of the agriculture ecosystem. Providing sustainable solutions for food, feed and fiber is his mainstay principle in life.

 [@Krishna2581](https://twitter.com/Krishna2581)

Day 2: 2pm - Tuesday 23rd January

Session 1 - Future of Information



John Selby

Lecturer, Macquarie University (AIYD 2015 Alumni)

Dr John Selby researches the spill-over effects of regulation of and on the Internet onto business at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. In his PhD dissertation awarded by the University of New South Wales (UNSW), John applied the interdisciplinary New Institutional Economics theory to interpret the history of the regulation of the domain name system in Australia. He was a University medallist, received first-class honours in Law and a degree in International Business from Griffith University.

Since 2011, John has been appointed as an assessor for Discovery Grants for the Australian Research Council (ARC). He was an investigator on two ARC grants awarded in 2010. John has presented on his research in many international forums, including at the United Nations Internet Governance Forum in 2013 (where he was appointed as an ISOC-AU Ambassador) and in 2014, where he spoke about the challenges posed by the intersection of the institutions that regulate international trade and internet governance.

In 2009, John was a Postel Center Fellow at the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute. In 2006, he was recognised as one of Australia's "Young Voices in Technology and International Relations" by the Lowy Institute. Previously, he worked as a commercial lawyer for Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) in Sydney and for TMI Associates in Tokyo, Japan.



Vadi Muthya

Director, Deloitte Digital

Vadiraj is a Director with over 21 years of experience consulting global clients in Digital Strategy, Transformation and Technology advisory. Brings in Global experience of serving 100+ clients across US, Europe & Asia. Primary area of expertise in User Experience, Technology Architecture & implementation of large scale data initiatives as part of Digital Program.

 @vadirajmuthya

Day 2: 2pm - Tuesday 23rd January

Session 1 - Future of Information



Akash Gaurav

CEO, Auxesis Group

Akash is a blockchain entrepreneur. He founded India's first blockchain company, Auxesis Group during his undergraduate studies at IIT Bombay. Auxesis today is counted among The Top 100 Most Influential Blockchain Company in the World. Akash also founded Blockchain Lab, India and Auxledger Foundation. He is in advisory board of hot Blockchain startup Cashaa, a zero fee money remittance company and VEDA, an enterprise decentralised apps network. He is also a mentor to Entrepreneurship Club of MISB Bocconi.

Day 2: 2pm - Tuesday 23rd January

Session 1 - Future of Information

MODERATOR



Chris Higgins

Ideate Labs (AIYD 2017 Alumni & Steering Committee Member)

Chris Higgins is a Business Head at Ideate Labs, one of India's most established digital marketing agencies. He oversees digital strategy and advertising for companies across India and the Middle East from the telecom, manufacturing, industrial, real estate, education, fashion, and retail industries. Previously, Chris was the President of AISFM, a filmmaking, animation and liberal arts college in Hyderabad India. He was a member of the founding team for the school, and helped to develop some of India's first university qualifications in film production. He was also a member of the founding team at Whistling Woods International, a Mumbai film school where he headed admissions and international affiliations. Chris was also the Indian National Head of Business Development for UK media sales agency SpaceandPeople.

 @chrishiggins

Day 3: 9:30am - Wednesday, 24th January

Future of work

OPENING REMARKS



Tony Huber, **Consul General of Australia to Mumbai**

Mr Huber is an experienced career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Before coming to Mumbai, he has served overseas as Australia's Deputy High Commissioner, Ottawa and First Secretary, New Delhi. Mr Huber was earlier seconded from DFAT as a policy adviser to the US Congress Committee on Ways and Means staff, Washington DC.

In Canberra, Mr Huber has served in a range of positions, including as Director of India Economic and Indian Ocean Rim Association Section; Director, Pacific Bilateral Section; Director, Regional Trade Policy Section; and Director Consular Information and Crisis Management Section.

Mr Huber holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Canberra and a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade from the Australian National University.

 [@AusCG_Mumbai](https://twitter.com/AusCG_Mumbai)

Session 1: 9:45am - Wednesday 24th January

Future of non-human workers



Sneh Vaswani, **CEO, Emotix**

Sneh is the Co-Founder and CEO at emotix; a cognitive robotics startup based out of Mumbai. He is leading a global team of engineers, psychologists, artists and mathematicians who have launched India's first companion robot, Miko. Before emotix, he was responsible for path-breaking innovations in Next Generation DNA Sequencing at Siemens. He is an alumni of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay where he did his B.Tech and M.Tech from Metallurgical Engineering and Material Science Department. In the past, he has led multiple strong interdisciplinary teams that have represented and embossed the name of his alma matter and India on several national and international robotic competitions with winning performances.

Dr. Saptarishi Das, **Scientist - Shell**

Saptarshi Das (PhD) is a business leader and know for his capability in developing and deploying data driven products. He has helped companies like Morgan Stanley, Siemens and Shell in their foray of developing capabilities and products related to data science. Saptarshi actively helps and advises start ups working towards social causes like parenting, education and waste management.

Dr. Das is a master's in Applied Statistics and Informatics from IIT Bombay, India; and PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Vienna. His core technical skills are in Machine Learning, Optimization and product design. Saptarshi is the inventor of 4 granted patents and 15 pending patents and regularly publishes his works in international conferences and journals.



Manish Singhal

Partner, Pi Ventures

Manish is a keen technology, people and business leader. He brings in over 23 years of operating and advisory experience across different sectors. He is the Founding Partner of pi Ventures, a venture fund focussed on Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and IoT based out of India.

He has been actively involved in the startup eco-system in India for the last few years. He co-founded LetsVenture.com and led it to become the leading marketplace for startups & early stage investors in India (enabled 15 startups raising their rounds) within a very short span of time. He is a keen mentor of startups and loves working with them as an advisor and an angel investor. Recently he was rated as one of the top angel investors in India by VC Circle. He is on the boards of several startups.

Before LetsVenture, he was the India country manager for Sling Media Inc, a silicon valley based consumer electronic startup. He built the R&D and product team in India from scratch and took it to a successful acquisition. He is a keen sports enthusiast and a published wild life photographer.

Session 1: 9:45am - Wednesday 24th January

Future of non-human workers

MODERATOR



Mosiqi Acharya

(AIYD Alumni 2014 and Steering Committee Member)

Mosiqi Acharya is a Journalist with over 13 years' experience. She worked with India's top national broadcasters CNN IBN and India Today where she has extensively covered the rise of Narendra Modi from being a Chief Minister of Gujarat to the Prime Minister of India, reported on terror attacks in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, covered state and general elections and has interviewed numerous politicians, personalities and newsmakers.

Mosiqi moved to Australia in 2014 and since then has written several Op-eds on Indian politics and Adani industries for Australian publications as well as has been a speaker at various forums where Indian politics, business and economy has been discussed.

She now works with SBS Radio's Hindi program as a Digital Content Producer at their Melbourne office. She is passionate about Australia India relations and wrote an extensively detailed White Paper on Australia India Bilateral Trade Relations commissioned by Australia India Institute and Australia India Business Council. This White Paper was presented to former Australian Prime Minister Hon. Tony Abbott just days before his historic visit to New Delhi in September 2014.

 [@Mosiqi](#)

Closing Dinner - 7:30pm - Sunday 21st January

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



K Ananth Krishnan

EVP and Global CTO, Tata Consultancy Services

K Ananth Krishnan, leads R&D and innovation at TCS and chairs the TCS Corporate Technology Board. A member of the TCS Corporate Think Tank since 1999, he has been a Principal Architect and Lead Consultant in TCS' Architecture and Technology Consulting Practice. He has been a member of several advisory boards of software companies, industry bodies and government committees. Ananth has also served on the organizing committees of several national and international conferences and has been named Computerworld's Premier 100 IT Leaders and Infoworld's Top 25 CTOs.



Jayakumar Jitendrasinh Rawal

Cabinet Minister for Tourism, Government of Maharashtra

Jayakumar Jitendrasinh Rawal is a member of the 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and the Minister for Tourism, Employment Guarantee Scheme in Devendra Fadnavis' government. Previously, Rawal was one of the general secretaries of the Bharatiya Janata Party Maharashtra State unit in 2013.

Jaykumar Rawal holds a degree in Bachelors of Commerce from Symbiosis University, Pune and degree in Business Management from Cardiff University, England.

Closing Dinner - 7:30pm - Sunday 21st January

MODERATOR



MC - Hayley Bolding

Steering Committee Member and AIYD 2012 Alumnus

Hayley Bolding has an extensive background in international development, education and volunteering in Australia and Asia. At the age of 23, Hayley founded a non-profit organisation in India called Atma (www.atma.org.in).

Under Hayley's leadership, Atma has moved from a start-up to a well respected non-profit organisation engaging multiple partner organisations which impact over 60,000 beneficiaries.

Continuing her passion in promoting people-to-people exchange Hayley has led international youth programs for the Australia India Institute and Foundation for Youth Australians. She currently works at intersective.com a education technology company connecting work and learning through technology.

Hayley was awarded Young Australian of the Year (Victoria) in 2013. She is a Board member of the Victorian Australia Day Committee, and was a participant in the Asialink Leaders Program in 2014.

Hayley was a delegate in the 2012 Australia India Youth Dialogue in Mumbai and New Delhi.

 [@hayleybolding](https://twitter.com/hayleybolding)

STEERING COMMITTEE



Karan Anand

Karan Anand is a Director at Monitor Deloitte and entrepreneur and was also the inaugural Chair of the Young Sikh Professionals Network (YSPN). At Deloitte, Karan consults on matters of strategy to executives of large publically listed companies focussed on the Financial Services and Consumer Business industries.

Karan also led YSPN, which was founded in 2012 with a mandate to create the conditions for young Sikh professionals to succeed and amplify their influence. YSPN has active chapters in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Auckland, serving over 2,000 young Sikh professionals around the country with a management team of 40 people.

Karan has a particular interest in the relationship between India and Australia from an innovation and entrepreneurship perspective.

Amongst his achievements, Karan was a delegate to the Brightest Young Minds forum in Sydney; a delegate to the National Student Leadership Forum in Canberra and part of an Australian delegation to The Hague International Model United Nations. In 2005, Karan was Darwin's Young Citizen of the Year.

Karan has Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Finance both from UNSW where he was the Goldman Sachs Postgraduate Award winner.

 [@karananand87](https://twitter.com/karananand87)



Achyutha Sharma

Achyutha has a decade of experience in Brand, Design, Retail and Marketing. He is a fashion graduate from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi. He currently runs Collaborative Community, a brand and design consulting firm that works with start-up businesses and the development sector. The brand firm has worked with start-ups and other businesses in the area of apparel, food & beverage, e-commerce, and retail brand across sectors. In the development sector, it has worked with diverse nonprofit and social enterprises across themes such as education, livelihood, craft, energy, water and sanitation.

He also runs Sulochana Development Trust, a charitable trust that supports Creative Arts & Design for Social Impact. He has been a speaker at Indian and international conferences, a fellow with AIYD 2014, Acumen Fund India fellow 2014 and has been nominated for the Young Creative Entrepreneur Awards 2012 by British Council India.

Achyutha's interest specifically in the Australian-Indian relationship is in the area of design, entrepreneurship, social sector, arts & culture. He is continuing the Samaanata dialogue on craft & culture that originated from an Australian project. Achyutha is passionate about building brands and articulates his insights under Designing Growth and Design Impact blogs.

 [@AchyuthaSharma](https://twitter.com/AchyuthaSharma)



Benjamin Heenan

Benjamin is a Teach for Australia Associate, currently placed at Portland Secondary School in South West Victoria. Having completed a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Law at UNSW Australia, and an internship at a top commercial law firm in Sydney, he is about to begin his second year of a two-year post as a Humanities teacher, while completing a Masters of Teaching at Deakin University. During his time at UNSW, Benjamin has been actively engaged in a variety of leadership roles. He was a member of the Council of UNSW, chaired the Board of Directors for Arc@UNSW (the University's student organisation) and served as President of the UNSW Law Society. Benjamin has also represented UNSW in the final rounds of international commercial mediation competitions in both Paris and Vienna. Benjamin is a former Vice Club Captain of Coogee Surf Life Saving Club and has recently obtained his Recreational Pilot's Licence. Benjamin's interest in the Australia-India relationship centres around innovation and education.



Chris Higgins

Chris Higgins is a Business Head at Ideate Labs, one of India's most established digital marketing agencies. He oversees digital strategy and advertising for companies across India and the Middle East from the real estate, education, fashion, and retail industries.

Previously, Chris was the President of Annapurna International School of Film and Media (AISFM), a filmmaking, animation and liberal arts college in Hyderabad, India. He was a member of the founding team for the school, and helped to develop some of India's first university qualifications in film production. He was also a member of the founding team at Whistling Woods International, a Mumbai film school where he headed admissions and international affiliations. Chris was also the Indian National Head of Business Development for UK media sales agency SpaceandPeople.

Chris has a Bachelors of Business from UTS and is completing a Masters in Advertising from Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU) in Hyderabad, India.

 [@chrismhiggins](#)



Danielle Rajendram

Danielle Rajendram is a Consultant at Nous Group. She previously worked as a Policy Officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra, and undertook a secondment to Army Headquarters in the Department of Defence. Earlier in her career Danielle worked as a Research Associate in the International Security program at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, where her work focused on Indian foreign and domestic policy, China-India relations and broader Asian strategic issues.

Danielle holds a Master of International Law from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of International Studies from the University of New South Wales, with a major in Asian Studies. During her undergraduate degree she spent a year studying international relations and Japanese language at Keio University in Tokyo.

Danielle participated as a delegate in the 2014 Australia India Youth Dialogue in Hyderabad and New Delhi.

 [@drajendram](#)



Hayley Bolding

Hayley Bolding has an extensive background in international development, education and volunteering in Australia and Asia. At the age of 23, Hayley founded a non-profit organisation in India called Atma (www.atma.org.in).

Under Hayley's leadership, Atma has moved from a start-up to a well respected non-profit organisation engaging multiple partner organisations which impact over 60,000 beneficiaries.

Continuing her passion in promoting people-to-people exchange Hayley has led international youth Programs for the Australia India Institute and Foundation for Youth Australians. She currently works at intersective.com a education technology company connecting work and learning through technology.

Hayley was awarded Young Australian of the Year (Victoria) in 2013. She is a Board member of the Victorian Australia Day Committee, and was a participant in the Asialink Leaders Program in 2014.

Hayley was a delegate in the 2012 Australia India Youth Dialogue in Mumbai and New Delhi.

 [@hayleybolding](https://twitter.com/hayleybolding)



James Edwards

After being a delegate in 2016, James joined the AIYD Committee in 2017. He works in the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet advising on trade, investment and international engagement policy. James is also the Founding India Editor at Asia Options. He started the India section at Asia Option to provide advice and resources that encourage and support young Australians to engage with India through study, work or leaderships opportunities. James has a particular interest in community engagement with the Indian diaspora in Australia, and has previously been involved in the Australia India Society of Victoria Committee and organising City of Darebin Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

 [@jimledwards](https://twitter.com/jimledwards)



Mosiqi Acharya

Mosiqi Acharya is a Journalist with over 13 years' experience. She worked with India's top national broadcasters CNN IBN and India Today where she has extensively covered the rise of Narendra Modi from being a Chief Minister of Gujarat to the Prime Minister of India, reported on terror attacks in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, covered state and general elections and has interviewed numerous politicians, personalities and newsmakers.

Mosiqi moved to Australia in 2014 and since then has written several OPEDs on Indian politics and Adani industries for Australian publications as well as has been a speaker at various forums where Indian politics, business and economy has been discussed.

She now works with SBS Radio's Hindi program as a Digital Content Producer at their Melbourne office. She is passionate about Australia India relations and wrote an extensively detailed White Paper on Australia India Bilateral Trade Relations commissioned by Australia India Institute and Australia India Business Council. This White Paper was presented to former Australian Prime Minister Hon. Tony Abbott just days before his historic visit to New Delhi in September 2014.

 [@Mosiqi](#)



Guru Prakash

After completing his Law from National Law Institute University, Bhopal and LL.M (Human Rights) from Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, Guru Prakash is presently pursuing his doctoral research on the topic of Article 370 of the Constitution of India from the University of Delhi. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow & Project Head at a New Delhi based Think Tank, India Foundation. He is also looking after the youth outreach Program of Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry(DICCI) as National President, DICCINextGen Program. He regularly contributes as a columnist for Huffpost, Press Information, Bureau, Govt. of India etc.

 [@guruprakash88](#)



Talish Ray

Talish Ray is the founding partner of TRS Law Offices and takes pride in the fact that she is a generalist in the world of specialists.

She has worked extensively with corporate houses, individual clients and not-for-profit organisations. She has appeared before the Supreme Court of India as well as the various High Courts and Tribunals around the country and has extensive experience in the area of practice involving corporate structuring, mergers and acquisition, court litigation and, policy work. She continues to serve as a senior counsel at the High Court of Delhi for the Union of India.

Outside of her law practice, Talish also serves as the Convener for the panel for gender sensitivity at the Executive Council of the Confederation of Indian Industries (Delhi State). She is also a member of the entrepreneurial education advisory board for Acropolis group of institutes in Indore.

Talish is also the project director for www.girlsgottaknow.in which is an early-stage gender Program for young girls and women launched in December 2016. In her spare time, she conducts 'by invitation only' heritage walks around the city of Delhi, currently in their fifth season. About 4,000 school students and 600 adults have joined her on her walks.

A state-level trap shooter in college, she is presently training for her Dan II blackbelt in Taekwondo. She enjoys cooking traditional Avadhi cuisine and also fancies herself as a singer but thankfully no one invites her to sing.

AIYD IN THE MEDIA

Featured on Indian News Channel, Aaj Tak on 25 January 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2GD6tyq>



Featured on Indian News Channel, NewsX, 'Digital democracy & disruption: Is it a boon or bane?' Panel constituted of Jay Panda, BJD MP; Meenakshi Lekhi, BJP MP & Tim Watts, Australian MP with our Senior Editor, Neha Khanna - <https://bit.ly/2GkM4Pm>



ABP Live, 'Monday Talk: 'Economic prosperity of western Australia is very much tied to India,' says Matt Keogh, MP, Australian Parliament', Published on 29 January 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2E4nuMv>

Monday Talk: 'Economic prosperity of western Australia is very much tied to India,' says Matt Keogh, MP, Australian Parliament

"I represent western Australia which has seen new migrant Indian population so for me it is very important to involve with Indian people to increase my understanding of India and background of people who are coming to Australia," said Matt Keogh.

By: [Anurag Kumar](#) | Updated: 29 Jan 2018 08:42 AM



Image: Matt Keogh, Federal Member for Burt, Australian Parliament

New Delhi: The economic prosperity of western Australia was very much tied to Asia in general and India, in particular, said, Matt Keogh, Federal Member for Burt Australian Parliament.

"I represent western Australia which has seen new migrant Indian population so for me it is very important to involve with Indian people to increase my understanding of India and background of people who are coming to Australia," said Keogh who was recently in India.



SBS Hindi, 'Young Australians and Indians creat digital platform to sell Indigenous Art using blockchain',
 Published on 30 January 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2GgXjbe>



A new digital platform to sell Indigenous art from Australia and India using blockchain technology is in the offing.

This winning idea was among the many ideas pitched by young leaders from Australia and India at the recently concluded Australia India Youth Dialogue in India.

Sachin Kumar, Head of Strategy & Scheduling at Cricket Australia and 2018 delegate, said, "The group challenge was a great initiative - where teams had to pitch an idea that furthered the Australia/India relationship, used the theme of the dialogue (digital disruption) and was something new.

"Every group came up with compelling and practical ideas addressing a gap - I would be surprised if they were not all implemented after the dialogue."



Indian Link, ‘#PowerOfYouth: Looking back at Australia India Youth Dialogue’, Published on 6 February 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2GU3q2m>

#PowerOfYouth: Looking back at Australia India Youth Dialogue

As the Australia India Youth Dialogue concluded in India, Chairperson Karan Anand told us of the role the organisation can play in the bilateral relationship

By **MARSHAD PANDHARIPANDE** - February 6, 2018

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What is the Australia India Youth Dialogue? How did it originate?

AIYD is the leading Track II bilateral young leaders' dialogue between Australia and India. Each year we bring together 15 young Indians and 15 young Australians under the age of 40, all demonstrated leaders in their fields, to engage in a four-day dialogue about matters that affect the bilateral relations between the two countries with a focus on youth engagement. This year was the seventh dialogue.

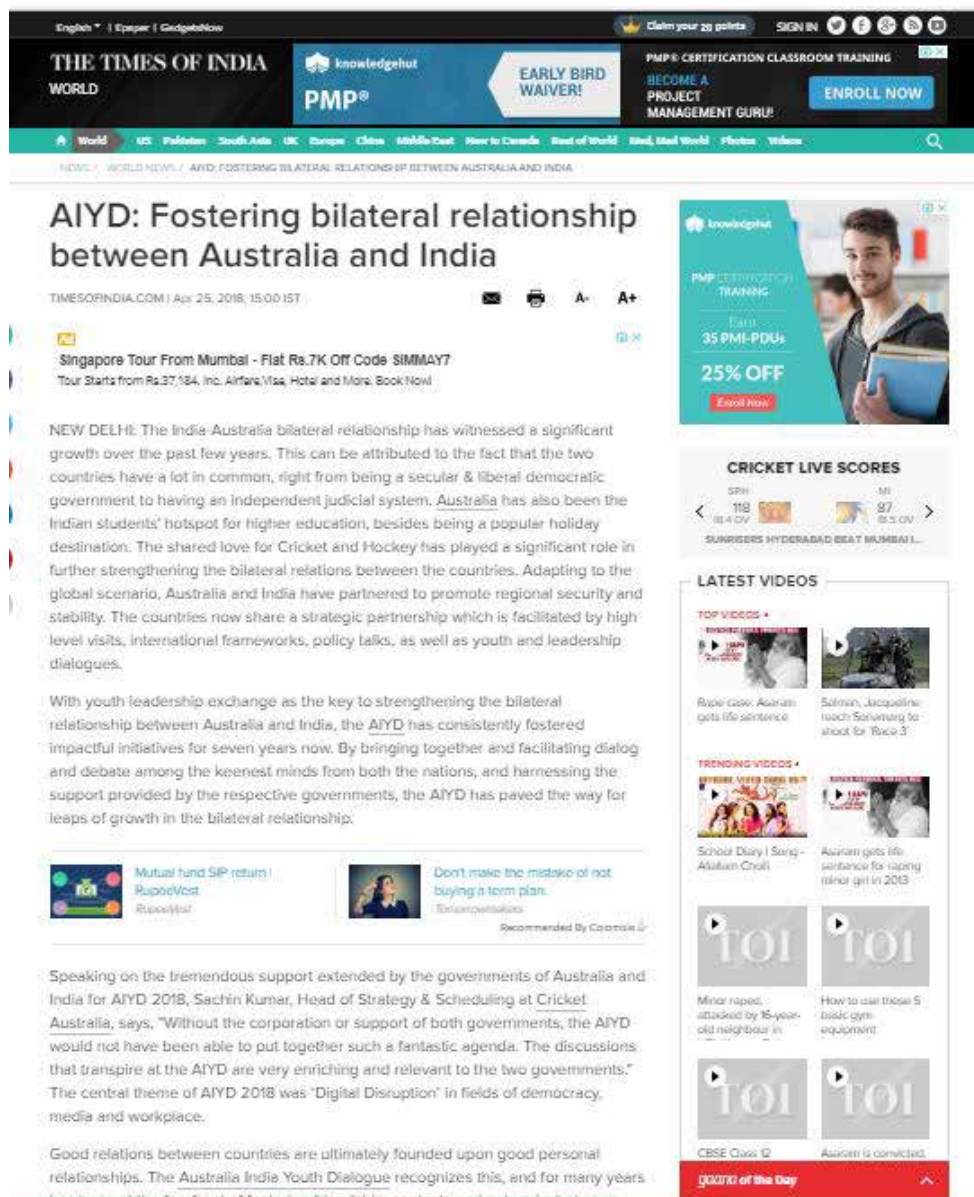


Who can apply to participate in the dialogue?

Anyone who is a citizen of India or Australia under the age of 40. Our selection criterion is quite rigorous. We are specifically looking for people who have demonstrated leadership in their field. We take a diverse set of delegates. This year, we had politicians, CEOs of for-profit and not-for-profit companies, bureaucrats, diplomats, corporate senior executives, a couple of people in the sports space, and many in the arts space. We keep a 50-50 male-female proportion and try to have balanced regional representation.



The Times of India, 'AIYD: Fostering bilateral relationship between Australia and India', Published on 25 April 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2rljvl3>



The screenshot shows a news article from The Times of India. The main headline is "AIYD: Fostering bilateral relationship between Australia and India". The article is dated April 25, 2018, at 15:00 IST. The text discusses the growth of the India-Australia bilateral relationship, highlighting the role of youth leadership exchange through AIYD. It mentions that AIYD has consistently fostered impactful initiatives for seven years, bringing together and facilitating dialog and debate among the keenest minds from both nations. The article also notes that the shared love for Cricket and Hockey has played a significant role in further strengthening the bilateral relations. A quote from Sachin Kumar, Head of Strategy & Scheduling at Cricket Australia, is included, stating that without the cooperation or support of both governments, AIYD would not have been able to put together such a fantastic agenda. The central theme of AIYD 2018 was "Digital Disruption" in fields of democracy, media and workplace. The article concludes by stating that good relations between countries are ultimately founded upon good personal relationships, and that the Australia India Youth Dialogue recognizes this.

On the right side of the page, there are several promotional banners and widgets. At the top right, there is a banner for "PMP® CERTIFICATION CLASSROOM TRAINING" with a "25% OFF" discount. Below that is a "CRICKET LIVE SCORES" widget showing Sunrisers Hyderabad leading by 18 runs. The "LATEST VIDEOS" section features several video thumbnails with titles such as "Rape case: Aarav gets life sentence", "School Diary | Song - Adaham Chahi", "Minor raped, attacked by 15-year-old neighbour in...", and "Aarav gets life sentence for raping minor girl in 2015".

Foreign Investors on India, 'Australian-Indian youth works on Bilateral relationship', Published on 03 May 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2KaErs7>

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Australian-Indian youth works on bilateral relationship

MAY 03, 2018 BY GURDIP SINGH IN BANKING & FINANCE

Youth exchange shapes attitudes of Leaders of Tomorrow



Karan Anand

By Karan Anand, Chair, Australia India Youth Dialogue

The India-Australia bilateral relationship has witnessed a significant growth over the past few years. This can be attributed to the fact that the two countries have a lot in common, right from being a secular & liberal democratic government to having an independent judicial system.

Australia has also been the Indian students' hotspot for higher education, besides being a popular holiday destination.

The shared love for Cricket and Hockey has played a significant role in further strengthening the bilateral relations between the countries.

Adapting to the global scenario, Australia and India have partnered to promote regional security and stability.

The countries now share a strategic partnership which is facilitated by high level visits, international frameworks, policy talks, as well as youth and leadership dialogues.

At this juncture, there is a need for young leaders to be at the heart of identifying and solving issues that do not feature on the government's priority list.

Even as the governments of India and Australia address critical issues in the bilateral relationship, there is a need for a highly contextual exchange between the young leaders of both the nations.

The AIYD has been organising various initiatives like the first ever Australia-India Business Dialogue...

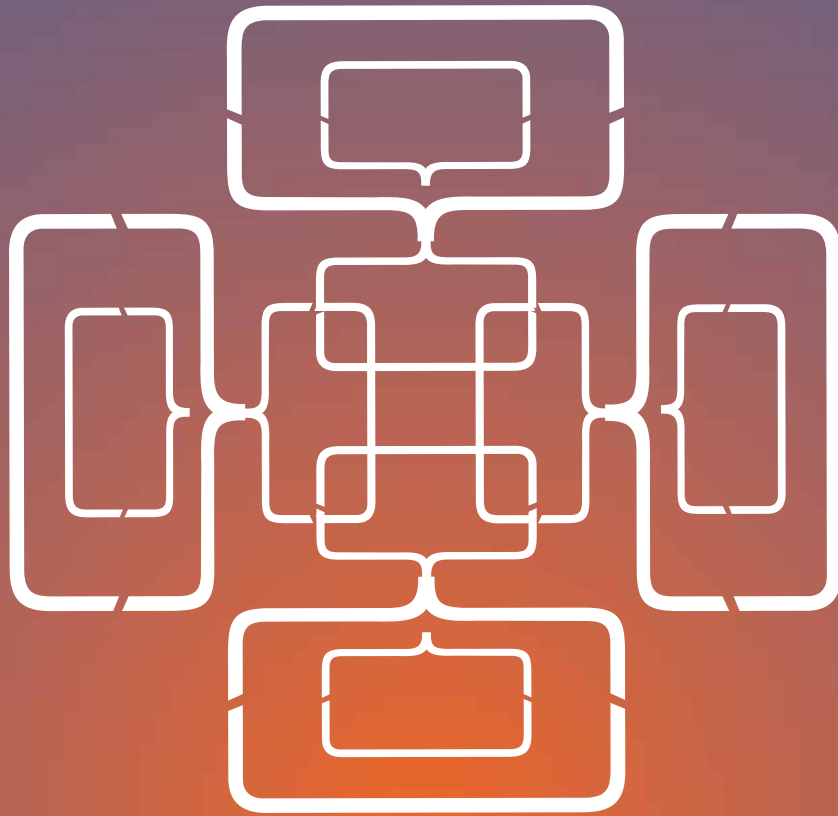






OTHER COVERAGE

- The Hindu, '*Australia India youth dialogue from Jan. 21*', Published on 11 January 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2layFpa>
- The Hindu, '*Needed a Platform to promote cultural diplomacy between Australia and India*', Published on 21 February 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2lexEg9>
- Business Standard, '*Young Indians, Australians discuss 'digital disruption'*', Published on 22 January 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2J5npf1>
- WebIndia123, '*Young Indians, Australians discuss 'digital disruption'*', Published on 22 January 2018 - <https://bit.ly/2pQ4U5t>



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