



**AIYD**  
2016  
REPORT





**AIYD**

Australia India  
Youth Dialogue

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### **Date**

This report is dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

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# WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR



Friends of the Australia India Youth Dialogue,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you our report of the fifth conference of the Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) held in Delhi, Mohali and Bengaluru, India from 27 to 30 January 2016 (AIYD 2016).

In the past year, the Australia-India relationship has grown from strength to strength. Both nations have taken extraordinary steps to strengthen bilateral ties. Since November 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a state visit to Australia, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in almost three decades, the governments of both countries have been working closely together to finalise a free trade agreement to facilitate even closer economic relations between our nations.

In this broader context of a prosperous Australia-India bilateral relationship, the AIYD has become the most eminent platform for young leaders in both countries to interact, share ideas and collaborate.

Since its inception, the AIYD continues to lead efforts to develop and nurture a sustainable, long-term relationship between Australia and India, based on greater mutual understanding, engagement, trust and friendship, initiated at youth level.

At AIYD 2016, 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.

For the first time this year, over the four-day program, the AIYD connected delegates into smaller groups, which 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 2016 highlighted the cohesive nature of the AIYD and in particular, how much young leaders from both countries can achieve in a short space of time while working together.

The AIYD now boasts an alumni of almost 150 of the most promising young leaders from Australia and India. By bringing these young leaders together in a unique and dynamic forum, the 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.

The AIYD Alumni Grants Program continues to demonstrate yet another innovative initiative undertaken by the AIYD to develop and strengthen the Australia-India relationship beyond each conference. The program continues to facilitate the sharing of new ideas and the development of activities driven by young leaders in Australia and India in the shape of four concrete projects, detailed further in the report.

The AIYD Steering Committee has already commenced the groundwork for the next conference of the AIYD scheduled to be hosted in Australia in early 2017. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners, supporters and other stakeholders as the AIYD and its community of alumni grow from strength to strength.

The AIYD, and in particular AIYD 2016, 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 the AIYD to make the 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Star'.

**Shaun Star**

Chair, Australia India Youth Dialogue



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

*Australia India Youth Dialogue 2016*

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Good relations between countries are ultimately founded upon good personal relationships. The Australia India Youth Dialogue recognises this, and for many years has been at the forefront of fostering friendship, contacts and networks between young people from both countries.

By bringing the next generation together—to meet, talk, and discuss issues of common importance—the Australia-India relationship is greatly enhanced. Our countries have much in common, in particular we share a vision for a dynamic and prosperous future based on understanding, goodwill and a determination to work together to deliver outcomes of mutual benefit.

As Patron, I have every confidence that the bonds of friendship and respect forged by the AIYD will continue to contribute to the strength and value of this most important bilateral relationship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Cosgrove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

# OUR PARTNERS

## Distinguished Partners

The AIYD is extremely grateful for the support and advice of our Distinguished Partners and Founding Academic Partner. Their tremendous support has assisted our team and delegates to achieve greater networks between both countries and establish the platform for future cooperation and initiatives. The Distinguished Partners and Founding Academic Partner of AIYD 2016 include:

### DISTINGUISHED PARTNERS



### FOUNDING ACADEMIC PARTNER



**MACQUARIE**  
University

We are also extremely grateful for the support and guidance of the following Partners.

### DIALOGUE PARTNERS



### ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



### STRATEGIC PARTNERS





# CONFERENCE

**DAY 1: Delhi – Wednesday, 27 January 2016**

Session	Agenda	Topic and confirmed speakers
1:00pm	AIYD 2016 formally begins - Welcome activities and lunch	
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Group Challenge Work Session	
4:30pm - 6:30pm	<i>Free Time</i>	
6:30pm	<b>Panel discussion:</b> Australia-India Bilateral Ties: A Strengthening Partnership	<b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Chris Elstoft</b>, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador (Retd) Amit Dasgupta</b>, Former Indian Consul-General in Sydney</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Amitabh Mattoo</b>, Honorary Director, Australia India Institute, New Delhi</li> </ul>
7:30pm	<b>Welcome Gala Dinner - Mamta Mahal, Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi</b>	

**DAY 2: Mohali – Thursday, 28 January 2016**  
**THEME: Cultural identity**

Session	Agenda	Topic and confirmed speakers
8:00am	Depart to Delhi airport	
9:50am	Fly to Chandigarh	
12:00pm	Arrive Indian School of Business, Mohali	
1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
2:00pm	<b>Panel discussion:</b> Exploring Indian Culture	<b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Sumant Batra</b>, Founder, Kumaon Literary Festival</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Venu Vasudevan</b>, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Sports and former Director General, National Museum, Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Olivier Lafont</b>, Actor, Author and Screenplay Writer</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Ruchika Khanna</b>, Special Correspondent, The Tribune</li> </ul>
3:30pm	Afternoon tea	

Session	Agenda	Topic and confirmed speakers
4:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>Group Challenge Work Session</b>	
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<i>Free Time</i>	
6:30pm	<b>MP/MLA panel session</b> Next Gen Political Leaders  Sponsor: UTS:INSEARCH	<b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dushyant Chautala</b>, Member of Parliament from Hisar Lok Sabha Constituency</li> <li>• <b>Harsh Sanghavi</b>, MLA, Gujarat</li> <li>• <b>Tim Watts</b>, Member of Parliament, from Gellibrand, Victoria</li> <li>• <b>Lauren Moss</b>, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Housing, Northern Territory Legislative Assembly</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jyoti Kamal</b>, Editor, CNN IBN</li> </ul>
7:30pm	<b>Indian School of Business Welcome Dinner</b> Sponsor: The Indian School of Business	

**DAY 3:** Mohali – Friday, 29 January 2016  
**THEME:** Sustainability

Session	Agenda	Topic and confirmed speakers
9:30pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Sustainability and Resource Management  Sponsor: UNSW	<b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Michele Akeroyd</b>, Director, Goyder Institute of Water Research</li> <li>• <b>Ms. P Bineesha</b>, Executive Director, International Institute of Waste Management.</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Rustam Sengupta</b>, Founder and CEO, Boond and AIYD Alumnus</li> </ul>
11:00am	Morning Tea	
11:30am	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Sustainable Development  Sponsor: Macquarie University	<b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Shreekant Gupta</b>, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics</li> <li>• <b>Mr. A S Harinath</b>, Senior Environmental Specialist, The World Bank</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Philomena Leung</b>, Associate Dean - International and Corporate Engagement, Macquarie University</li> </ul>
1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
2:30pm	Depart for Chandigarh Airport	
4:30pm	Fly to Bengaluru	
9:00pm	<b>Arrive at Vivanta by Taj, Bengaluru</b> - Informal Dinner	

**DAY 4:** Bengaluru – Saturday, 30 January 2016  
**THEME:** Innovation

Session	Agenda	Topic and confirmed speakers
9:30am	<p><b>Panel Discussion:</b>            Next Generation Leadership:            Creating a Culture            of Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Sponsor: Victorian Government</p>	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Sundeep Sahni</b>, Vice President, New Initiatives, Ola Cabs</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mukund Narayamurti</b>, CEO, Asialink Business</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ray Nicol</b>, Executive Director - India, State Government of Victoria, Australia</li> </ul>
11:00am	<i>Morning Tea</i>	
11:30am	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b>            Next Generation Leadership:            Social Entrepreneurship</p>	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Hardika Shah</b>, Founder and CEO, Kinara Capital</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Suhit Anantula</b>, Strategy Designer, Business Models Inc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Achyutha Sharma</b>, Founder, Collaborative Community and AIYD Alumnus</li> </ul>
1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
2:00pm	<p><b>Group Challenge Work Session</b>            Preparation for presentations</p>	
3:00pm	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
3:30pm - 5:00pm	<p><b>Group Challenge Presentations</b>            Three Minute Pitch to            Judging Panel on            opportunities for engagement            between Australia and India            in AIYD 2016 Theme area</p>	<p><b>Judging panel:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jon Bonnar</b>, Australian Deputy Consul-General for South India</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ray Nicol</b>, Executive Director, India, Victorian Government of Economic Development</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Belinda Howell</b>, General Manager Market Development, UTS: INSEARCH</li> <li>• <b>Professor Philomena Leung</b>, Associate Dean - International and Corporate Engagement, Macquarie University</li> </ul>
5:00pm - 7:30pm	<i>Free Time</i>	
7:30pm	<p><b>Closing Gala Dinner at Vivanta by Taj, MG Road, Bengaluru</b>            Sponsor: The Jain Group of Institutes</p>	

# CONFERENCE SUMMARY

## Overview

AIYD 2016 was the fifth iteration of the AIYD, returning to India from 27 – 30 January 2016 and building yet again on the outstanding success of the previous conferences of the AIYD. AIYD 2016 took a bolder logistical path – breaking the traditional mould of a two city conference, by hosting the conference across three cities: New Delhi, Mohali and Bengaluru.

## Delegates

AIYD 2016 brought together 30 young Australians and Indians, with strong and emerging profiles in a diverse range of professional backgrounds and social engagement. Delegates of AIYD 2016 came from all walks of life, and included Members of Parliament, CEOs, leading journalists, public policy specialists, elite athletes, venture capitalists and not-for-profit leaders.

The selection process for the delegates of the conference was two-pronged:

- at least five delegates from each country were selected through a rigorous application and selection process; and
- the remaining delegates were head-hunted by the AIYD Steering Committee using carefully chosen criteria and taking into account recommendations from both governments and other stakeholders.

While some delegates had previous experience in the Australia-India space, a significant number of delegates on both sides had no prior experience of engagement with the other country. As with previous years, this meant the AIYD was again able to create fresh linkages and networks between these young leaders. This process was further stimulated by pairing delegates from both sides and housing them in shared accommodation for the duration of the conference and grouping delegates from both sides to undertake a group challenge as part of the program.



## Outcomes

The AIYD is aimed at developing new avenues for collaboration and partnership between India and Australia through the power and vision of the youth in both countries. With almost two-thirds of India's population under the age of 30, India is one of Australia's largest sources of permanent migrants and the second-largest source of international students.

The bilateral relationship between India and Australia continues to flourish in the wake of recent changes of government, building on the two-way Prime Ministerial visits held in 2014.

As the primary youth organisation in the Australia-India relationship, the AIYD has made significant inroads in the following areas:

1. **Experience:** Facilitating people-to-people links.
2. **Engagement:** Encouraging cross-cultural experiences and interactions to illustrate how soft power and public diplomacy can be a catalyst in promoting Australia-India relations among young leaders.
3. **Empowerment:** Promoting and facilitating collaboration among young leaders from Australia and India.
4. **Advocacy:** Advocacy and engagement on issues and opportunities in the Australia-India relationship.

A summary of the activities undertaken in these areas in the lead up to, and at AIYD 2016 is set out below.





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## Experience

AIYD 2016 took place from 27–30 January 2016 in New Delhi, Mohali and Bengaluru.

On the first day the delegates visited the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, where they were introduced to each other and the program for AIYD 2016.

Following this, the young politicians on the delegation participated in a panel discussion on the Indian television news channel, NewsX, to discuss how the Australian and Indian Governments can better engage with young entrepreneurs.

Thereafter, the AIYD hosted the AIYD 2016 Gala Opening Dinner, where the delegation enjoyed the privilege of an entertaining address by Mr Salman Khurshid, India's former Minister for External Affairs, and had the opportunity to engage with many other AIYD alumni and distinguished guests.

The following morning, the delegation travelled to Mohali in the State of Punjab, the agricultural hub of India, where delegates were hosted by the Indian School of Business (ISB). Following a day of engaging sessions at ISB's magnificent campus, the delegation enjoyed a traditional *Punjabi* dinner hosted by ISB, an awe-inspiring demonstration of *Gatka*, a traditional Sikh form of combat-training and impromptu *Punjabi Bhangra* dance lessons.

Following a day of stimulating sessions on the third day, the delegation enjoyed a tour of a local *Gurudwara*, a Sikh temple, before an evening flight to India's home of technology and start-ups, Bengaluru.

AIYD 2016 closed with the AIYD's signature Gala Closing Dinner in Bengaluru, co-hosted by Jain University.

The formal conference program for AIYD 2016 focused on the following themes over the course of the conference in the context of the Australia-India relationship:

- Cultural identity
- Sustainability
- Innovation and entrepreneurship

The program comprised panels led by distinguished experts from relevant fields, each providing delegates with their perspectives on the designated topic. Speakers and delegates discussed critical issues in the Australia-India relationship and key challenges and opportunities facing the two countries within the context of these three themes.

## Group Challenge

A successful new addition to the AIYD 2016 program was the 'Group Challenge', held across several sessions throughout the program.

Delegates were divided into 6 groups and each group was allocated across the three themes of AIYD 2016. The groups were tasked with identifying an issue or problem within the particular theme, working together to find a viable solution and defining and shaping a proposal to implement the solution in such a manner to enhance cross-border engagement or create a new business proposition.

Each group 'pitched' their proposal to an esteemed panel of judges comprising representatives of AIYD 2016's Distinguished Partners, Founding Academic Partner and alumni of the AIYD, all of whom are deeply engaged in the relationship between the two countries. The winning group received an AIYD Alumni Grant to assist with funding the winning proposal, which was announced at the Gala Closing Dinner in Bengaluru.





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

**AIYD Alumni Platform:** The winning group pitched a proposal to create an online platform for AIYD alumni. The proposal is that the platform will have several functions, including providing a database to keep track of career progression, a mechanism for logging requests for assistance and tools to facilitate reunions and other informal interaction between alumni. The platform will aggregate the alumni network of the AIYD in a secure environment and enhance the ability of alumni to strengthen and leverage the networks they created during the formal conferences long after the conclusion of the dialogue.

**DoGooder.com:** The AIYD16 Social Entrepreneurship group proposed a social entrepreneurship aggregator online platform which will bring together budding social entrepreneurs (who often require professional advice and guidance but are unsure of where to seek such advice and guidance), young professionals (lawyers, accountants, financial advisers, other technical experts) who would like to offer their professional services more in the not-for-profit space and experienced and successful social entrepreneurs. The proposal is that the platform will provide a database of participants, their relevant experiences and offerings, sales boards for requests for and offers of help, articles and blogs on recent experiences within the social enterprise space, all of which will enable each of its participants to be able to leverage off the others, and engage and communicate within the platform to facilitate more cohesive, constructive and productive social enterprise.

**Platform for connecting Australian and Indian entrepreneurs:** Innovation and Entrepreneurship group #2 pitched a platform that will connect entrepreneurs in India with entrepreneurs in Australia. Highlighting opportunities derived through an imbalance in skills due to industry specialisations and areas of focus, the group suggested that there were opportunities for entrepreneurs to learn, team and ultimately leverage disparate skillsets across two large markets in Australia and India to produce greater disruptive innovation across a number of new industries.

**Australia-India collaboration for the sustainable conservation of heritage architecture:** The AIYD16 group on Sustainability 1 identified the shared built heritage of Australia and India to propose a collaborative sustainable conservation project in this area. The team highlighted Australia's need for ways to conserve and restore heritage architecture in ways that activate and engage the wider community, and also emphasised India's need for resources to undertake the sustainable conservation of its heritage buildings. The team proposed a grassroots approach by starting with Abbotsford, a heritage home in Uttarakhand in India, as a community hub to engage the local community and facilitate the exchange of skills and education through expert visits and other activities in the area of sustainable conservation.

**Culture Konnect; Ghunguroo Kangaroo:** This group represented the fields of culture and politics so it was fitting that its had the theme Culture as its project focus. The idea was to have a portal named Ghunguroo Kangaroo which would be a culture connect portal of artistes from both countries. The portal would have a database of artistes from both countries along with a section on Q and A for creative people across the board. The portal would list a best practices for venues, vendors, technicians, ideas and so on-thereby being a true tool for soft power diplomacy.



## Engagement

Beyond AIYD 2016, the AIYD has been taking a greater role in formally and informally connecting alumni.

A key focus for the AIYD in 2016 and beyond will be formalising its alumni network and relationships. The AIYD Steering Committee is excited about the inroads being made in this area by the development of the AIYD Alumni Platform and a revamp of the AIYD website.

In the last year, the AIYD has organised alumni events in Bengaluru, New Delhi, Sydney and Melbourne, and created online networks through social media platforms through which alumni continue to engage. Separately, the informal engagement (dinner and drinks catch-ups) continues both in Australia and India, and is driven not by the AIYD Steering Committee but rather by various alumni - at the AIYD we consider this to be a mark of great success in the model created by the AIYD.

The AIYD Alumni Grants Program continues in 2016, with four grant projects in progress. Further details are set out below.

The AIYD has also continued to actively engage with a wide range of audiences on Twitter (@AIYouthDialogue).

The AIYD's activities during and around AIYD 2016 received impressive media coverage.

Details of media coverage of AIYD 2016 are set out in the "AIYD in the Media" section of this Report.



## Empowerment

In addition to supporting projects and collaborations between delegates of the AIYD during and after AIYD 2016, the AIYD formally promotes ongoing engagement between Australian and Indian leaders through its Alumni Grants Program. This program was established at AIYD 2014.

The AIYD Alumni Grants Program facilitates the exchange of new ideas and the development of activities spearheaded by AIYD alumni in Australia and India.

### Completed projects under the Alumni Grants Program are as follows:

- The funding of a fellowship enabling a young Indian to accept an internship with Pollinate Energy, an Australian NGO working in the renewable energy space in India, co-founded by AIYD 2014 alumnus Monique Alfris.
- The funding of a fellowship enabling a young Australian to participate in a teacher training program in a rural village in India with the Australian NGO, Tara.Ed, run by AIYD 212 alumnus Jennifer Star.
- The funding of a collaborative and comparative research project on community radio in Australia and India spearheaded by Pinky Chandan, AIYD 2012 alumnus. This project completed in 2015 and a report on the project was released at the Gala Closing Dinner of AIYD 2016 in Bengaluru.

## Current and ongoing projects under the Alumni Grants Program are as follows:

- Providing funding for the development of the AIYD Alumni Platform (a direct outcome of AIYD 2016).
- Providing funding for the Australia-India Energy Dialogue Sustainability Challenges and Opportunities project, led by AIYD 2012 alumnus, Shrey Goyal, which aims to help stakeholders understand the complex sustainability challenges affecting the trade of energy commodities between the two nations. This project is in progress.
- Providing funding for the Exchange of Entrepreneurs and Ideas project, led by AIYD 2013 alumnus, Amoghavarsha JS and 2014 alumnus, Nigel Hembrow, which aims to provide a platform for young entrepreneurs to compare their respective startup ecosystems, in particular to facilitate a program which allows young entrepreneurs in Australia to discover and share their findings about the business culture and opportunities that exist in India, and vice versa. This project is in progress.
- Providing funding for the India Humanitarian Design Summit project, led by 2014 alumnus, Julian O'Shea, which aims to connect Australian university students with Indian student, designers and community members through a two week learning process including undertaking a human-centred design project. This project is in progress.
- Providing funding for the InterTWIN: Australia India Writers' Juggle Bandi project, led by 2015 alumnus, Amit Ranjan, which aims to bring out a book/journal about shared cultures, histories, literature, travel experiences to facilitate a meaning cultural dialogue between Australia and India. This project is in progress.
- Providing funding for The Newer Haven: Indians and Enterprise in Australia project, led by 2015 alumnus, Hindol Sengupta, which aims to document the contemporary experiences of Indian migrants in Australia through a book of extensive interviews. This project is in progress.

## Advocacy

As the premier youth body in the Australia-India bilateral relationship, the AIYD endeavours to represent the views of young people in Australia and India to our stakeholders. As mentioned above, young politicians who participated in AIYD 2016 were interviewed on a panel session on NewsX.

Our Chair, Shaun Star was interviewed for a project entitled 'Business Diasporas in Australia: Maximising people to people links in Asia'. This project forms part of the Securing Australia's Future (SAF) program, which is led by the Office of the Chief Scientist and managed by the Australian Council of Learned Academies. His views were sought on behalf of the AIYD. In addition, the AIYD regularly collaborates and participates in activities with the Australian High Commission in New Delhi.





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# SESSION SUMMARIES

Wednesday, 27 January 2016, New Delhi

## **Australia-India Bilateral Ties: A Strengthening Partnership**

The first session of AIYD 2016 was a short panel session which provided delegates with context on the current state of the bilateral relationship between Australia and India. Ambassador (Retd) Amit Dasgupta, former Indian Consul-General in Sydney, and Mr Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner to India, provided perspectives from both sides of the relationship. Shaun Star, Chair of the AIYD, moderated the session. Both speakers covered the breadth of current collaboration and emphasised how much the bilateral relationship has grown in the past decade.

The delegates were eager to hear about the opportunities for partnerships to address environmental challenges, the role of the growing Indian diaspora in Australia, the conclusion of negotiations on civil nuclear cooperation and the opportunities under the proposed Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

The speakers were optimistic about the benefits such agreements will bring to both countries, and agreed that the bilateral relationship will be strengthened through the diversification of engagement between the two countries.

Thursday, 28 January 2016, Mohali

## Understanding Indian Culture

The Mohali-leg of AIYD 2016 formally commenced with a panel discussion and Q&A session on Indian culture. Moderated by Ruchika Khanna, Special Correspondent at the Tribune, Sumant Batra, Founder of the Kumaon Literary Festival, commenced the discussion by highlighting the major social changes in India over the last few decades. Olivier Lafont, Actor, Author and Screenplay Writer, shared his personal insights around his mixed French-Indian heritage, and why he had moved back to Mumbai to be a part of the dynamic arts scene in India today.

The panel and the delegates discussed how India's rapid economic growth and aspirations are shaping contemporary cultural expression in India. The panel highlighted how, at the same time, India is balancing its global engagement with its own strong sense of identity.

The panel also discussed at length the immense cultural and linguistic diversity across India and some of the ways in which India is able to reconcile this.

While the discussions only scratched the surface of India's rich culture, the session emphasised how important cultural understanding is to a closer relationship between Australia and India.

## MLA/MP Panel Session: Next Gen Political Leaders

The session brought together four up-and-coming politicians from India and Australia in discussion with Jyoti Kamal, Editor at CNN IBN.

Harsh Sanghavi MLA, Gujarat, and Hanuman Ram Farroda, President, Sarpanch Union Nagaur, Rajasthan, discussed their experiences from the Indian perspective. Tim Watts MP, Member for Gellibrand, Victoria, and Lauren Moss, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Housing, Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, provided insights from the Australian perspective.

Each speaker shared their stories about their journeys to political office, some by chance and others by design, but each with a shared desire to bring about change in their electorates.

In response to questions from the delegates, the panel members spoke with candour about the political realities in each country and the constraints within which they operate.

A key message that came through from all panellists was that while senior politicians have valuable experience that only time can bring, young leaders bring with them the advantage of fresh ideas and new energy to the political landscape in both countries.





Friday, 29 January 2016, Mohali

## **Sustainability and Resource Management**

The third day of AIYD 2016 centred on the theme of sustainability, and began with a session on Sustainability and Resource Management.

Moderated by AIYD alumnus, Rustom Sengupta, Founder and CEO of Boond, the panel comprised Dr Michele Akeroyd, Director of the Goyder Institute of Water Research and P Bineesha, Executive Director at the International Institute of Waste Management.

The panellists discussed the importance of treating sustainability as an enduring principle that is integral to productivity, rather than a fad. The complexities of sustainable resource management were drawn out; waste management was discussed as a cross-cutting issue that intersects with gender, youth, and a number of other factors.

Delegates engaged with the panellists on a diverse range of issues, including the impact of spirituality on water management, the impact of corporate social responsibility laws in India (especially in light of recent regulatory reforms), and behavioural change brought about by water restrictions in Australia.

The management of transboundary water resources was identified as a crucial area for cooperation between Australia and India.

## **Sustainable Development**

Within the context of sustainability, the next panel discussion focused on sustainable development.

Moderated by Professor Philomena Leung, Associate Dean of International and Corporate Engagement at Macquarie University, the panel comprised Professor Shreekant Gupta, Delhi School of Economics and Mr A S Harinath, Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank.

The panellists provided an overview of the many challenges India is facing in managing its current and future growth. They particularly emphasised the need for forward planning and investments for the future.

Delegates engaged in a lively discussion on the role of government, media and civil society in supporting sustainable development. Delegates agreed that it was necessary for all parties to contribute to a healthy and constructive debate on this important issue.

The panellists and delegates also engaged in a discussion on examples of successful international partnerships that have helped deliver sustainable development outcomes, such as a World Bank development project along the Ganges River that the Victorian Government and Australian companies contributed to.

Looking ahead, the panellists were excited by the role that the AIYD is playing by providing a platform for young Australians and Indians to come together to discuss and, hopefully, kick-start joint sustainable development initiatives.

Saturday, 30 January 2016, Bengaluru

## **Next Generation Leadership: Creating a Culture of Entrepreneurship**

The final day of AIYD 2016 focused on next generation leaders in entrepreneurship, and commenced with a panel discussion on creating a culture of entrepreneurship.

Moderated by Ray Nicol, Executive Director – India, State Government of Victoria, the panel comprised Sundeeep Sahni, Vice President for New Initiatives at Ola Cabs and Mukund Narayanamurti, CEO of Asialink Business.

There was unanimous agreement from the panel and delegates that this is an area in which Australia and India have much to learn from each other.

The panellists discussed the need for innovation in Australia to assist with addressing productivity issues and highlighted the unprecedented manner in which technology is connecting people in India.

The panel considered examples of how the challenges that India can present should not be seen as barriers, instead they should be identified as factors that can help drive innovation.

The delegates concluded that with the appropriate support from the private sector, universities and government, there is significant opportunity and activity in Australia and India that both countries can build upon to help create a rich culture of entrepreneurship.

## **Next Generation Leadership: Social Entrepreneurship**

In the final session of AIYD 2016, delegates participated in a panel discussion on social entrepreneurship in India and Australia.

Moderated by Achyutha Sharma, Founder of Collaborative Community and an AIYD alumnus, the panel comprised Hardika Shah, Founder and CEO of Kinara Capital and Suhit Anantula, Strategy Designer at Business Models Inc., who all shared their wealth of experience working with social enterprises in Australia and India.

The delegates considered that while both Australia and India have a growing commitment to social entrepreneurship, the ecosystem in Australia is fairly small.

The delegates keenly discussed models for creating sustainable social organisations that have been successful in both countries, including the success of Pollinate Energy, co-founded by AIYD Alumnus, Monique Alfris.

Delegates discussed the complementarity of the vastly different social entrepreneurship ecosystems in Australia and India, and whether greater collaboration could be effective in addressing the gaps.

The importance of collaboratively exploring creative solutions in both Australia and India were common themes across both next generation leadership sessions.



# AIYD 2016

# INDIAN DELEGATES



## **Nehha Bhatnagar**

**Founder-President, SARVAM Foundation**

Nehha Bhatnagar is the Founder-President of Sarvam Foundation, a not-for-profit Arts Trust and has curated and conceptualised some of the most unique arts festivals in India. She also trains many underprivileged girls in Delhi in Yoga and Bharatanatyam through the Sarvam Foundation.

Nehha is also a trained classical dancer. A senior disciple of Padma Bhushan Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan and Guru Rama Vaidyanathan, she has performed widely in India and abroad as a soloist and group artist of Ganesa Natyalaya. She is an empanelled artist of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and former Scholarship holder for Bharatanatyam by the Delhi Government.

Nehha is also a curator and licensee of TEDxTughlaqRd. The TEDx platform brings together fantastic speakers at her TEDx events in Delhi. She was also voted as 'one of the top ten people to meet' at the prestigious TED Conference in USA 2013.

Nehha has also spoken, through dance, at TEDx platforms; she is a cultural diplomacy aficionado, writer on cultural affairs and a global citizen. She performs regularly at workshop demonstrations under the auspices of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY).

Nehha holds a Masters in International Relations and has interned under Congressman Shashi Tharoor between 2009 and 2012. Nehha is also among the youngest Rotarians in Delhi.



### **Hanuman Ram Farroda** **President, Sarpanch Union Nagaur, Rajasthan**

Hanuman is Sarpanch (Head of village) of Pharrod village and president, Sarpanch Union Nagaur, Rajasthan. Pharrod village, in Nagaur District, is where Jawaharlal Nehru started panchayati raj in 1959.

Hanuman graduated high secondary school from Losal, Sikar, and went on to do his Diploma in tourism and hotel management from Singapore. He obtained a Bachelor in Business from Australia, and managed a small business and a resort in the Gold Coast in Australia.

In 2015, the people of his village asked him to come back and contest Panchayat elections. Leaving behind a lucrative career in Australia to contest the election in his village, Hanuman received massive support and won the elections to become the first young NRI Sarpanch.

Recently, he was unanimously elected President, Sarpanch Union Nagaur. Hanuman also runs an NGO called NRI Sewa and is President of the Nagaur Sports Club Rajasthan.

**Twitter: @hanumansarpanch**



### **Harsh Sanghavi** **Youngest MLA (Gujarat), Youth BJP National Gen Sec**

Harsh is the youngest General Secretary of State for the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP). He was elected as the youngest Member of the Legislative Assembly from Surat City (Majura). He won the Majura seat by a record-breaking margin and was the 4th highest winner in the Gujarat Assembly.

In 2013, Harsh was re-appointed as BJP's Youth State Vice President. He was also appointed as the National General Secretary of the National BJYM.

Harsh has a keen interest in youth empowerment skill development, tribal development and youth policies.

**Twitter: @sanghaviharsh**





## **Sharath M Gayakwad** Paralympian, Gamatics India Pvt Ltd

Paralympian and multiple Asian Games medallist Sharath Gayakwad is among India's best para-swimmers.

One of the biggest achievements of Sharath's career came when he qualified to represent India at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Prior to the Games, Sharath received high-performance training under renowned Australian swimming coaches Mel Tantrum and Julie Hardt. He spent 3 months training in Australia leading up to London 2012. His hard work in Australia was reflected in his performances at the Paralympic Games in London when he clocked his personal best timings in all four events he participated in.

2014 was a monumental year in Sharath's career. Representing India at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, he finished 4th in the 200m Individual Medley swimming event. Subsequently, he went on to a six medal haul at the 2014 Asian Para Games in Incheon. By doing so he broke P.T Usha's record (5 medals) of the most number of medals won by an Indian in any international multidiscipline sporting event.

Sharath returned from the 2015 IDM Berlin Swimming Championships with a silver and a bronze medal.

Sharath recently received the Arjuna Award from the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, on 29 August 2015, India's National Sports Day.

**Twitter:** [@shazy\\_thorpedo](#)



## **Rishabh Gulati** News Editor and Anchor, NewsX

Rishabh is the News Editor and a prime time Anchor at NewsX, a national English language news channel in India.

His primary responsibilities range from helping to take editorial decisions, overseeing minute-by-minute news coverage and managing the newsroom and news flow, especially during breaking news situations. A student of journalism from the University of Delhi and later International Relations from the University of Manchester, he specialises in the study of the political history of not only his native country, but also the world.

Rishabh has also founded and manages forums and organisations targeted to build capacity, leadership qualities and skills development in key social policy areas. He was the founding President of Leaders for Tomorrow, a youth organisation targeting skills development. He currently chairs Global Youth, a forum to encourage young people in India to partake in the formulation of strategic and foreign policy, as well as The Aethos Initiative which looks to promote youth participation in social policy. He is also a stage actor and director, and a published poet.



## **Raheel Khursheed**

### **Head of News, Politics and Government, Twitter India**

Raheel leads @TwitterIndia partnerships with news, politics and government in India.

He leads strategies that scale up Twitter's reach and impact with news, government and political users of Twitter. He manages, tracks and expands Twitter's relationships with journalists/editors and government officials or politicians with a view to increasing the active usage of Twitter significantly among them.

Raheel also develops best practices and new story formats, and drives adoption by news, government and political users. He also provides front-line technical support to news, government and political users of Twitter.

Raheel previously worked as the Director of Communications, India at Change.org, the world's largest petition platform where he was responsible for formulation and execution of communication strategy around India-based, India-relevant global campaigns on Change.org and the overall buildup of the Change.org brand in India.

Raheel has also worked as a Strategic Communications Consultant advising brands like TATA and the UNDP. He has over six years of experience as a cross platform journalist and storyteller, working in and writing for outlets like CNN-IBN, BBC-PRI, The Atlantic Monthly, ProPublica and a host of other publications across the world.

Raheel previously worked as a development practitioner with Mercy Corps International, executing a highly successful participatory planning youth leadership projects in Kashmir, including Kashmir's first ever Youth Leadership Summit - One Young Kashmir. Through his long association with Women in Security, Conflict Management Peace (WISCOMP), he has conducted several trainings for its beneficiaries in Delhi and Srinagar.

Raheel has trained participants in the use of technology and social media for effecting social change and has spoken about the issue passionately across the subcontinent, including at the July 2012 second Indo Pak Social Media Summit in Karachi and at the Feb 2013 US State Department Mumbai Tech Camp.

He is passionate about the intersection of technology and social change. He is also a regular commentator on issues relevant to new media on national and international media outlets, including the BBC, Time, NDTV and the AFP.

**Twitter: @raheelk**



**Kailas Karthikeyan**  
**Regulatory & Public Policy Manager, Microsoft**

Kailas is an attorney at Microsoft India with a specialisation in competition law, intellectual property law and public policy.

He has been closely involved in ensuring favourable legal outcomes for Microsoft before the Competition Appellate Tribunal and the Delhi Courts in online intermediary cases.

He graduated from the National Law School of India, Bangalore in 2003.

Kailas commenced his legal career with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, working for four years on a unique and first of its kind multi-stakeholder project, "Strategies and Preparedness for Trade and Globalization in India".

He then completed his Master of Business Administration from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad in 2008, majoring in strategy and finance.

Prior to joining Microsoft in 2011, he worked with DLF, India's largest real estate development company for three years in multiple projects.



**Bhavna Mathur**  
**Country Director, IDEX Accelerator**

Bhavna Mathur is currently the Country Director for IDEX Accelerator – a global fellowship in social enterprise and is responsible for the success, outreach and sustainability of the IDEX intervention in India.

Prior to IDEX, Bhavna worked with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), managing technology development programs for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in emerging markets. In sync with the industrial development strategy of the ministry of commerce and industry, she spearheaded several interventions for the development of green manufacturing technologies, intellectual property rights and technology upgrades in SMEs.

Bhavna holds a Master of Science degree in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics, UK, a Masters in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India and a Bachelors in Economics from Delhi University.

Her passion for economics and development has always driven her to develop solutions that integrate the two and work for development that is inclusive and sustainable.

Keeping her passion for the subject alive, Bhavna often mentors students across schools, universities and business schools in economics. She also recently delivered a TEDx talk to share her thoughts on intrapreneurs within organisations.



## **Prerna Mukharya**

### **Founder, Outline India**

Prerna is the founder of Outline India, an organisation about social impact through data.

In three years of operations, focusing on the development sector, Outline India has worked across 17 states and reached out to over 15,000 people (12,000 of whom are from rural and remote parts of India) on the ground one-on-one and generated over 3000 days of employment for individuals with little or no college education.

Prerna believes that by working with academics, think tanks, universities and by extension, the Government, and via our connect with people, Outline India can catalyse the process of social change. Outline India engages in providing on-ground intelligence such as data collection, monitoring and evaluation, piloting interventions, analytics and generating qualitative and quantitative insights.

The work of Outline India feeds into policy analysis, fund disbursement of donor agencies, philanthropists looking to invest, CSR agencies, academics designing interventions, among other things.

Prerna holds a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Boston University. Her prior research includes work at the Centre for Policy Research, Harvard, and MIT.

**Twitter: @outlineindia1**



## **Sylvia Mishra**

### **Researcher, US Policy in Asia Pacific**

Sylvia Mishra is a researcher with ORF's Strategic Studies Initiative working on U.S. Policy in Asia-Pacific and foreign and defence policies.

Prior to ORF, she worked at the ICRIER-Wadhvani Chair in India-US Policy Studies and has been associated with several New Delhi and London based think-tanks.

Sylvia was a member of an expedition to Central Asia to promote track-II diplomacy supported by the Ministry of External Affairs and India Central Asia Foundation.

She has presented papers at several national and international conferences and also participated in international forums like 'Building an East Asian Regional Community', hosted by John Hopkins Nanjing University.

She is a regular columnist for the Huffington Post and has written for the East West Centre, the Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, the Diplomat, Hindustan Times and several other publications. She holds a Master of International Relations degree from London School of Economics and has written her Master's thesis on 'Foreign Relations of the United States and Iran During the Nixon Presidency (1969-1972)'.

**Twitter: @MishraSylvia**



## **Janhavi Prasada** Founder, Youth 4 Gandhi Foundation

Janhavi began her journalism career in 1998 with the Pioneer, a leading newspaper daily in India. Janhavi has produced and anchored TV programmes aired in India for Doordarshan and abroad for UK Sony TV and US Channel 57. She produced and anchored news and current affairs programmes in both TV and radio formats during her 16 years in the field of television and of being involved with a number of media houses like ANI (Reuters), B.A.G Films in India to HTV, Wales and BBC World Service, London.

In 2002, after working for many years on the creative and production side, on and off screen, she decided to give birth to a company called Srijan Media (SMPL). SMPL today has inched its way to producing quality digital content and ideation of 360 degrees integrated media campaigns. Janhavi is also a keen photographer and contributes in writing as well as photography for various magazines, including India Perspectives and Terrascope.

She is also the founder of an NGO, 'Youth 4 Gandhi Foundation' in New Delhi, India. The NGO has the credit of running the first of its kind online multimedia campaign on 'Gandhi & Sport' for school children and Janhavi has published a book on their works. It is one of the most extensive artwork archive on Gandhi in the 21st century in all formats (print, audio, digital) under one platform. Her wide-ranging experience led her to launch her NGO that uses media and technology tools to promote awareness about Gandhi and other issues such as health, education, environment, social justice - all inspired by Gandhian values of peace.

At present, Janhavi is in the process of writing a graphic novel on Mahatma Gandhi based on his autobiography, 'The Story of My Experiments With Truth', to be published later this year by Harper Collins. She will be illustrating parts of the book as well.

Janhavi is a mountain buff and nurtures her 145-year-old ancestral hill house as a boutique countryside homestay – Abbotsford. She is developing this space as a literary, art, culture and music conservation hub where top of the line content can be generated through debates, dialogue, action in social, economic and political fields, not only of Kumaon region where Abbotsford is located, but pan-India and internationally as well. It is here that she gets most of her inspiration that is reflected in her works.

Her schooling was at Mayo College, Ajmer. She is an alumna of St Stephen's College, New Delhi and Cardiff School of Journalism, Wales, United Kingdom.

[www.youth4gandhi.org](http://www.youth4gandhi.org)

[www.srijanmedia.co.in](http://www.srijanmedia.co.in)

[www.abbotsford.in](http://www.abbotsford.in)

**Twitter: @jprasada**

**Instagram: Jprasada**



## **Lairenjam Niranjana Singh**

### **CEO, JCRE Skill Solutions**

Niranjana Singh has more than 15 years of fashion retail experience in the markets of the UK, Middle East and India with prestigious international brands like House of Fraser, Paper Chase, Marks & Spencer, Calvin Klein Jeans and French Connection.

Niranjana holds a Master of Business Administration from École des Ponts ParisTech in Paris and a post graduate diploma in management, with a specialisation in retail management from the University of Surrey, UK. He also has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Kolkata and a gold medal in 'Principles in Retail Management' from City & Guilds, London.

Niranjana has expertise in scientific mall management and consultancy and has worked with some of the well-known malls internationally.

Niranjana has also been involved in teaching retail management at a number of educational institutes and has conducted retail training for various companies in India.

Currently, he serves as the Director of JCRE Skill Solutions, an initiative by Big Concepts Foundation Pvt. Ltd., driving job-linked skill development training in North-East India. He is also the founder of the Imphal Business Incubation Centre (IBIC) in Imphal, Manipur.

Niranjana has a keen interest in working on projects which have a positive impact on society.



## **Yashveer Singh**

### **Head Youth Venture, Ashoka Innovators for the Public**

Yashveer is currently leading the Youth Venture program at Ashoka South Asia.

The Youth Venture program aims to engage young people in social innovation and changemaking, and building support ecosystems for young social innovators.

Yashveer has previously worked with international development organisations in leadership roles and has been instrumental in launching new projects and starting up entrepreneurial ventures.

Yashveer holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, where he was the only MBA student to receive the prestigious, Vice-Chancellor Social Impact Award 2014 for his initiatives as Co-Chair Social Impact, Oxford Business Network (OBN).

Prior to this, Yashveer founded a youth non-profit organisation to address talent inequity in the development sector and influence youth culture in India by inspiring, educating, and supporting university students to pursue social innovation and entrepreneurship. Yashveer was awarded the prestigious Youth Action Net 2012 Fellowship – as one of the 20 young social entrepreneurs representing 16 different countries by the International Youth Foundation. He was also recognised as a Global Shaper 2011 by the World Economic Forum.

Yashveer was also a Starting Bloc Boston 2011 Fellow and was awarded the BITSAA 30 under 30 awards in the year 2012 for his contribution to the field of social entrepreneurship and community building.

During his time as the President of the Student's Union BITS Pilani in 2006 and 2007, Yashveer co-founded the University VISION 2020 Plan.

**Twitter: @yashveer887**

AIYD 2016

# AUSTRALIAN DELEGATES



## **Lauren Moss**

**Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Housing,  
Government of Northern Territory**

Lauren Moss is the Member for Casuarina in the Northern Territory (NT) of Australia, and the youngest member of the Northern Territory Parliament, having been elected at the age of 27. Lauren and her family migrated to Australia from the United Kingdom in 1999 and they soon called Darwin home.

Lauren has a proven commitment to community services both personally and professionally, having worked in diverse roles such as coordinating the NT Early Intervention Pilot Program and co-establishing the Anglicare NT program 'YChange?' improving outcomes for young Territorians.

As a passionate advocate for young Territorians and improvement of mental health services, Lauren has volunteered for national and local mental health organisations. She has been recognised as a young leader in the Northern Territory and nationally as a finalist in the Australian Women's Weekly Women of the Future scholarship program. She is the Shadow Minister for Children and Families, Child Protection, Public and Affordable Housing, Mental Health and Disability Services, Multicultural Affairs, Young Territorians, Senior Territorians and Corporate and Information Services. She continues to speak up for the residents in her electorate of Casuarina.

**Twitter: @Moss4Cas**





## **Alistair Baxter**

### **Associate, Cox Richardson**

Al played Rugby Union for the Wallabies and Waratahs from 1999 to 2011. At the time of his retirement was Australia's most capped test prop after having played in two World Cups (Australia 2003 and France 2007) and two Super Rugby grand finals in 2005 and 2008.

Before beginning his career as a rugby player, Al completed degrees in both Architecture and Science at the University of Sydney and while playing rugby, worked part-time with the national architecture firm, Cox Architecture. During this time, Al also sat on the board of the Rugby Union Players Association and was a Principal of the sustainability engagement firm, Sustainable Forward.

Since retiring from rugby at the end of 2011, Al has continued his work as an architect in Sydney focusing on sustainability, long span and sports projects and has taken on roles as a Director on the board of Waratahs Rugby, as a Trustee on the Sydney Living Museums Trust and Director on the Historic Houses Trust Foundation Board.

Al recently accepted a position at the international sports architecture firm, Populous and lives in Sydney with his wife and three young boys where, when not working as an architect, attempts to coach his three sons' junior rugby teams!

**Twitter: @AlastairBaxter3**



## **Natalie Cope**

### **Partnerships and Development Manager, Asialink Business**

Natalie Cope is Manager, Partnerships and Development at Asialink Business. In this role, Natalie is supporting the delivery of the organisation's Australian Federal Government mandate to create an Asia capable workforce through the delivery of world class capability programs, applied research and advocacy focused on Australia's engagement with Asia.

Natalie was recently named Australia's Top Emerging Leader receiving the 2015 Emerging Leaders MBA Scholarship by the University of Sydney Business School and The Australian Financial Review's BOSS Magazine.

Natalie is Ambassador to the Westpac Bi-Centennial Foundation Asian Exchange Program and is a founding member and non-executive director of the Australia-China Youth Dialogue.

Prior to her time with Asialink Business, Natalie practised as a litigation lawyer with DLA Piper, before which she worked in Beijing as a trainee lawyer with one of China's premier law firms. Natalie holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degree (with honours).

Natalie has lived, travelled and worked in China and the region, and is a strong supporter of the benefits of exchange, herself having participated in study programs in China, HK, Malaysia, Italy, Mexico and the US.

In her spare time you'll find Natalie surfing her local breaks on Sydney's northern beaches, swimming with dolphins and trying to maintain her Chinese and Spanish language skills.

**Twitter: @NatalieCope1**



## **Ruth Barker**

### **Senior Manager for International Engagement, Creative Victoria**

Ruth Barker is the Senior Manager for International Engagement at Creative Victoria. She provides advice on, and develops opportunities for, Victoria's creative sector to work and deliver projects internationally. As part of this role, she developed and delivered Australia's first creative industries overseas delegation, accompanying the Minister for Creative Industries, and Directors and CEOs of Victoria's major creative and cultural institutions to China to develop new institutional and commercial relationships.

In a previous position as a Senior Advisor on international relations at the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Victoria), Ruth planned and delivered international travel programs for four Premiers as well as advised on country and regional strategies, trade mission programs and free trade agreements.

Ruth has also held roles within the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the former Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development advising on economic policy, trade and industry policy and international engagement. Prior to joining the Victorian Government, she held roles at Transurban in government and corporate relations.

Ruth holds degrees in economics and international relations, with a specialisation in South East Asian studies.

Ruth has a deep love of all things Indian and loves the drama, excitement and infectious nature of Bollywood films. Ruth has spent years living in, and travelling around Asia.



## **Michael Koss**

### **CEO, Global Patient Portal**

Michael is the Founder and CEO of Global Patient Portal, a free web based electronic health record system that has been designed to optimise preventative care in developing countries. His focus has been India for the past 2 years where he spends extensive periods working with healthcare providers, NGOs, technology companies and government agencies. He frequently speaks at technology and healthcare conferences in India.

He is passionate about seizing the opportunity to empower vulnerable populations through technology and has done extensive research with the help of world-class educational institutions to better craft ethical solutions and utilise big data.

Prior to founding Global Patient Portal, Michael worked as a commercial lawyer in Melbourne. He holds a Bachelor of Arts / Laws and a Master of Laws degrees from Monash University. He has also worked as a mediator in commercial disputes. He has worked at companies including BHP, Telstra and Boeing running process improvement projects and providing advice on developing operation efficiency.

**Twitter: @MGKoss**



**Shalailah Medhora**  
**Political Reporter, Guardian Australia**

Shalailah is a cross-platform journalist with experience in online, television and radio.

Before joining the young and vibrant team at Guardian Australia in October 2014, she worked as a TV reporter and producer for SBS.

Since 2011, Shalailah has been based in the capital, Canberra, mainly covering federal politics.

Shalailah enjoys covering stories of relevance to ethnically-diverse communities, as well as the important and often overlooked stories on domestic violence.

Shalailah was Australia's representative for the World Press Institute fellowship in the United States in 2014, and worked with journalists in Bangladesh in 2015 as part of a democracy-building workshop run by the International Republican Institute.

**Twitter: @shalailah**



**Avi Naidu**  
**Founder & Managing Director, Taronga Group**

Avi is a Founder and Managing Director of the Taronga Group of companies.

Prior to founding Taronga, Avi founded and was Managing Director of Aura Funds Management – a wholesale fund manager specialising in funds for high net worth and institutional investors in real estate, venture capital and private equity.

Prior to Aura Funds Management, Avi was an investment banker with a leading independent corporate advisory firm, where he worked across sectors including industrials, telecommunications, media & technology, resources, and financial services, advising both public and private companies on a range of M&A transactions and general corporate advisory work.

Prior to this Avi was a solicitor at leading regional law firm, Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) based in the Sydney office. At Mallesons, Avi practiced in the Corporate Group specialising in M&A, funds management, equity capital markets, public takeovers, private treaty acquisitions / disposals, and general corporate advisory work. Avi also practiced in the Real Estate and Projects Group where he focused on real estate development projects and financing.

Avi is currently a Non-Executive director of an ASX listed technology company, where he sits on both the remuneration and audit committees.

Avi holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance and Economics) degree from the University of Sydney, a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales and is admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia.



## **Tim Watts**

### **Member of Gellibrand, Australian Parliament**

Tim Watts is a Federal Member of Parliament representing the seat of Gellibrand. Since being elected in 2013, he has served in a variety of positions in the Parliament including as the Deputy Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, and Secretary to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party. He also co-authored the book, 'Two Futures: Australia at a Critical Moment' (Text Publishing) with fellow Labor MP, Clare O'Neil.

Prior to being elected in September 2013, Tim was a senior Manager at Telstra. He was also a corporate lawyer at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Senior Advisor to former Victorian Premier John Brumby and Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Stephen Conroy.

Tim holds a Masters of Science (Hons) (Politics and Communications) degree from the London School of Economics, a Masters of Public Policy and Management degree from Monash University and a Bachelor of Laws degree (with honours) from Bond University.

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 a passionate advocate for Australia's harmonious multicultural society and particularly our people-to-people relationships with Asia.

**Twitter:** [@timwattsm](https://twitter.com/timwattsm)



## **Rebecca Allen**

### **Executive Producer, Force Majeure**

Bec is the Executive Producer of Force Majeure (a dance theatre company based at Carriageworks in Sydney). A graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), she has over 15 years' experience working within the performing arts sector as a stage manager, company manager, programmer and producer.

Prior to Force Majeure, Bec was the inaugural Creative Producer at the Darwin Festival (2009-10) and Company Stage Manager with Bangarra Dance Theatre (2007-09). Career highlights include touring to over 50 towns and cities across Australia and to France, UK, America and Canada.

Bec was a 2011 Asialink Arts Management resident in Hong Kong, has a Masters in Management degree (Arts and Culture, University of South Australia) and is a graduate of the Emerging Leaders Development Program with the Australia Council for the Arts.

She is a peer assessor for ArtsNSW, Australia Council and Asialink. She is also a Director of Powerhouse Youth Theatre (Fairfield, Western Sydney) and is a regular contributor to community radio station 2SER 107.3

In 2016, Bec will relocate to the United States and take up a Masters in International Cultural Diplomacy at the University of Westminster.



## **Dorjee Sun**

### **Director, HOME Group**

Dorjee is a founder and director of the Home Group which owns equity in companies that work in the areas of conservation, agriculture, philanthropy and technology.

Dorjee is also a founder and director of Carbon Conservation which owns equity in large scale sustainability and carbon conservation projects globally and was also the subject of an award winning documentary, 'The Burning Season', narrated by Hugh Jackman, which explained how orang-utan conservation and avoided deforestation could be tied in to generate alternative monetary incentives.

The African Rainforest Conservancy honored Dorjee with an Earth Day Award by naming a newly discovered blue spotted species of chameleon from the Tanzania rainforest – the 'Kinyongia dorjeesuni'.

Dorjee has also been named one of TIME Magazine's Heroes of the Environment, a World Economic Forum Global Leaders of Tomorrow, CPA Top 20 Business Leaders, one of Esquire Magazine's 5 Gentlemen of Philanthropy, and one of the Young Leaders by The Australian newspaper. He has won the Asialink Leaders Program Alumni Award, was named an Asia Society 21 Fellow, a World Cities Summit Future Leader, is the Chairman Nexus Youth Philanthropy Singapore Conference and is on the board for the Nexus Youth Philanthropy Australia Conference.

Dorjee's work has been covered in Wall Street Journal, Fortune, TIME, Esquire, ABC, PBS, BBC, Discovery, CNBC, Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian and other media outlets.

**Twitter: @dorjeesun**



## **James Edwards**

### **Policy Advisor, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Victoria)**

James is a Policy Adviser in the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet (Australia) focusing on Victoria's engagement with India. He and his team provide the Premier (Chief Minister) with advice and analysis on international trends and issues, and support the coordination of Victoria's whole-of-government international engagement including across the areas of trade, investment, education, health and sustainability.

James is also the Founding India Editor of Asia Options, an online platform established to encourage and support young Australians to engage with India through study, work or leaderships opportunities. He provides strategic direction and coordinates a team of correspondents to share Australians' experiences in India and to provide up-to-date advice on how others can take up similar opportunities.

James has been to India many times for study, travel and family – including an intensive course at the University of Delhi in 2013 – and is doing his best to learn Hindi.

Since 2012, James has also been involved in the organisation of the local Ganesh Chaturthi community event held each year in Darebin City Council in Melbourne.

As part of his Master of International Relations at the University of Melbourne, James wrote his minor thesis on the negotiations for an Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

**Twitter: @jimledwards**



### **Auskar Surbakti**

#### **Anchor and Journalist, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)**

Auskar Surbakti is an award-winning journalist and anchor with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

He is a reporter and presenter for the nightly international news and current affairs program, The World, which is broadcast nationally on ABC News 24 and overseas on the ABC's international service, Australia Plus.

Before joining the ABC, Auskar worked for the SBS network where he was a foreign correspondent, reporting across Asia and Europe. His reports have also appeared on CNN.

Auskar is also a consultant with the World Bank, hosting discussions on development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Twitter: @AuskarSurbakti**

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### **Sam Freeman**

#### **VP Business Development, Australian Retail College**

Sam graduated Griffith University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Business degree, majoring in marketing.

He has a strong business development background, gained through his experience working in IT, Education and Fitness, in addition to his work consulting to those industries.

Currently, Sam is working in India building sustainable business models for skill development at an international standard.

Sam has been an active participant in the Indian Skill Development Industry since 2012, and moved to Hyderabad in India full-time in January 2014.

He was chosen as one of five Training Partner representatives on the ILO/NSDC Industry Advisory Group for the creation of five National Occupational Standards Qualification Packs for Trainers and Assessors in India.

**Twitter: @Sam\_Might\_Say**



## **Tess Maunder**

**Independent curator and writer, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane**

Tess Maunder is a contemporary art curator and writer based in Brisbane. She currently works as Public Programs and Publications Officer at the Institute of Modern Art. In this role, she has worked with internationally renowned contemporary theorists, curators and artists in the delivery of exhibitions, public programs and publications for the institution.

In 2012, Tess started her own publication called The Maximilian, with peer Laura Brown and has since used the publication as leverage to begin a publishing partnership called Approximating with other editors from Indonesia, the Philippines and India.

In 2012, she was awarded the Art and Australia writers program, and was mentored by Rachel Kent, Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia.

In 2013, Tess participated in the 5th Gwangju Biennale International Curator Course in South Korea. Also in 2013, she was selected to represent Australia at the Independent Curators International Course held at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo.

In 2014, the Queensland State Government honoured Tess for her contributions to the arts.

She has an independent curatorial practice and regularly writes art criticism and contributes to publications. Tess is interested in thinking about contemporary art as an avenue for broadening social awareness and cultural understanding.



## **Samantha Gash**

**Endurance Athlete, World Vision Ambassador**

From a background as a corporate lawyer, Samantha is now an endurance athlete, keynote presenter, author and social entrepreneur.

Her thirst for adventure, experience and thrill for life have allowed her to discover what she cares about the most - achieving social change through the vehicle of adventure and running.

Samantha has run through some of the most extreme and inhospitable locations on the planet. She has run 379kms non stop across the Simpson Desert for a domestic program with Save the Children.

Her most recent adventure had her running 1,968kms across South Africa in 32 days, examining access and the connection between feminine hygiene products and education.

In August 2016, Samantha is running close to 4,000kms across India to explore the barriers to quality education.

**Twitter: @samanthagash**

# AIYD PROGRAM SPEAKERS

**Wednesday, 27 January 2016 (Delhi)**  
**6:30pm - 7:30 pm**

## **Australia-India Bilateral Ties: A Strengthening Partnership**

The Australia-India bilateral relationship has strengthened considerably in recent years. What have been the major milestones in the bilateral relationship, and what are the challenges preventing closer engagement?

This session is intended to provide delegates with a broad understanding of the contemporary relationship between Australia and India, and challenges and opportunities for closer engagement.



### **Mr. Chris Elstoft**

Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi

Chris Elstoft is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He has been the Deputy Head of Mission in New Delhi since June 2015.

Chris has previously served overseas as Counsellor Jakarta (2008-2010), Deputy Head Of Mission Baghdad (2007), Political Adviser Honiara RAMSI (2003-2004) and First Secretary Port Moresby (2000-2002).

In Canberra, Chris has held a range of positions in DFAT and the former AusAID, and was most recently the Assistant Secretary, South Asia Regional and Indian Ocean Branch.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne and a Masters of Economics (Development) from the Australian National University.

**Twitter: @AusDHCIndia**





## **Mr. Amit Dasgupta**

Diplomat, Author and now Head of a Business School

Amit joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1979 and superannuated from the Philippines in October 2013 as Ambassador. He then took to full-time writing, while living in Visakhapatnam where his wife is posted, which resulted in the publication of *Lessons from Ruslana: In Search of Transformative Thinking* by Harper Collins in March 2015. End-March, he moved to Mumbai to join the internationally ranked S P Jain School of Global Management, which has campuses in Dubai, Singapore and Sydney ([www.spjain.org](http://www.spjain.org)) as the head of the recently launched Mumbai Campus.

He has a B.Com degree from St. Xavier's College Kolkata (Calcutta University), an MA and an M Phil in Sociology from the Jawaharlal Nehru University and a two-year attachment with the Department of Sociology at the University of McGill in Canada. He was the recipient of the National Merit Scholarship (1976-79) and the Commonwealth Fellowship (1980-82) and has attended an EDP at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad.

During his diplomatic career, Amit served, inter alia, as Director Finance, Deputy Director General Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Joint Secretary Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of External Affairs. He was First Secretary Political at the Embassy in Brussels, Director Economic and Head of the Office of the SAARC Secretary General in Kathmandu, Deputy Ambassador in Berlin, Consul General in Sydney, and Ambassador in the Philippines with concurrent accreditation to the Republics of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Micronesia.

The Community Relations Commission of the New South Wales government in Australia awarded him its highest award for the role he played in promoting communal harmony during the attacks on the Indian community. A published author, Amit is presently working on a book of long short stories set in Calcutta and a non-fiction manuscript with the working title 'Why we hate to fail (and what we can do about it)'. He regularly writes and speaks on foreign and security policy, as also on management related issues. Amit is a member of the Advisory Board of the New Delhi-based think-tank, Society for Policy Studies, which specialises in international relations.

An avid amateur photographer, he loves cooking and recently joined painting classes. His wife was with the Indian Revenue Service. They have one daughter.

**Twitter: @amit\_adg**

# MODERATOR



## **Professor Amitabh Mattoo**

Honorary Director, Australia India Institute Delhi

Professor Amitabh Mattoo is the Honorary Director of the Australia India Institute in Delhi (All@Delhi).

He concurrently serves as Honorary Professor of International Relations at the University of Melbourne and Professor at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Professor Mattoo was the CEO and Inaugural Director of the All (2011-2015), a Member of the National Knowledge Commission, a high-level advisory group to the Prime Minister of India and the National Security Council's Advisory Board. He was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu from 2002-2008.

He received his Doctorate from the University of Oxford and has been a visiting Professor at Stanford University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Illinois, and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris. He has published extensively including eight books and more than a hundred articles. Professor Mattoo was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards, for his contribution to education and public life.

**Twitter: @amattoo**

Thursday, 28 January 2016 (Mohali)  
2:00pm - 3:30pm

### Session: Exploring Indian Culture

Cultural cooperation and soft power diplomacy represent important areas to build people-to-people links, and enhance the understanding of Australia in India, and India in Australia. This session is intended to provide delegates an understanding of Indian culture and avenues for existing and potential cooperation in this field.



#### **Mr. Olivier Lafont** Actor, Author, and Screenplay Writer

Olivier Lafont is a French actor, author, and screenplay writer living in Mumbai, India. He has acted in Hindi feature films such as blockbuster hit '3 Idiots' and the critically-acclaimed 'Guzaarish' and Hollywood films like 'Bollywood Hero' and 'Baby Sellers', as well as over 80 television commercials for top Indian and international brands. He has written the screenplay for the multiple award-winning feature film 'Hari Om'. Lafont graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Colgate University, USA, obtaining BAs in English Literature and Theatre.

Lafont's novel 'Warrior' was published by Penguin and shortlisted for the Tibor Jones South Asia Prize.

**Twitter: @OliLafont**



#### **Mr. Sumant Batra** Founder, Kumaon Literary Festival

Sumant is a corporate and policy lawyer of global eminence, writer and columnist. He has authored various papers, and contributes articles to a number of publications including newspapers. His other initiatives include setting up of creative enterprises which include The Taj Colloquium, Kumaon Literary Festival, a boutique hotel and a museum.

He is senior international consultant to IMF, World Bank Group and OECD, has worked extensively on policy matters in Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East and South Asia. Rated as India's No. 1 insolvency lawyer by Legal 500, his contributions to reforms in Indian insolvency system are well-recognised.

Sumant has held leadership positions in prestigious multi-lateral, global and national organisations. He is a frequent speaker at various international and domestic conferences. He is an avid collector of retro-curios. He has founded a number of initiatives to preserve and promote Indian heritage in the field of art through a not for profit body, NHP Centre founded by him.

More about him can be found on [www.sumantbatra.com](http://www.sumantbatra.com).

**Twitter: @SumantBatra**



### **Dr. Venu Vasudevan**

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Sports and former Director General, National Museum, Delhi

A native of Kerala and a medical doctor by training, Dr. Venu Vasudevan joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1990.

He has served the Tourism and Culture sectors in a variety of capacities. It was during his tenure as Director, Kerala Tourism, and later as Secretary, Department of Tourism, that Kerala transformed its market positioning and built up a strong private-public partnership, culminating in Kerala being recognized by the National Geographic Traveler as one of the 50 'must-see' destinations of the world. Kerala Travel Mart, the biggest international travel mart in India, is his brainchild. He served the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, and played a pivotal role in formulating the 'Incredible India' campaign.

While working in the tourism sector, a key interest area was the interface between cultural heritage and tourism, that led him to invest personal time in exploring spaces for genuine interaction between the visitor and the cultural legacy of Kerala.

Two projects designed by him have won international awards instituted by Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). 'Utsavam', a project to revive the traditional art forms of Kerala and provide income streams to artistes, won the PATA Gold Award 2008. 'A Day with the Masters', a guided tour of Kerala Kalamandalam, a school for performing arts, won 'honourable mention' in 2005. During his tenure as Secretary, Cultural Affairs, he was instrumental in setting up a new museum, 'Keralam'. He played a key role in the improvement and upgradation of the museums and archives of Kerala.

He spent 8 years in the Culture sector, serving the Central and State governments in various capacities. He was Director General of National Museum from January 2013 to May 2015. Vice Chancellor, National Museum Institute; Joint Secretary in charge of Akademis, Libraries, Archives and Museums.

Actively pursuing his passion for theatre, he is an actor in the theatre group 'Abhinaya Theatre Research Centre'. With parts in four recent productions, Venu has been touring with the group within the country.

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## MODERATOR



### **Ms. Ruchika Khanna**

Economic Editor, The Tribune

Ruchika M. Khanna is a Special Correspondent with The Tribune newspaper. She has over 16 years of experience and has earlier worked in The Indian Express, before she joined The Tribune. She is now covering various issues and sectors in the state of Punjab. She has a varied experience of covering politics, finance and economics, health and development issues. Ruchika is a Chevening scholar (2013), National Press Foundation fellow (2011) and a Thompson Reuters fellow (2005).

**Friday, 29 January 2016 (Mohali)**  
**6:30pm - 7:30pm**

**MP/MLA panel session**

Next Gen Political Leaders

In an age where an increasing interest is shown by the youth of India and Australia in national politics and foreign policy, it is extremely important that we hear from some of the brightest young political minds in Australia and India. The session will discuss the involvement and attitudes of young people in politics and also the perspective of young people on major issues such as unemployment, gender discrimination, women's security, corruption and the effectiveness of the political and judicial system.

Sponsor:



**Dushyant Chautala**  
Member of Parliament from  
Hisar Lok Sabha Constituency



**Harsh Sanghavi**  
MLA, Gujarat



**Tim Watts**  
Member of Parliament,  
from Gellibrand, Victoria



**Lauren Moss**  
Shadow Minister for  
Multicultural Affairs and Housing,  
Northern Territory Legislative Assembly

# MODERATOR



## **Jyoti Kamal**

Editor, CNN IBN

Jyoti Kamal, a Senior Editor with CNN IBN, heads news gathering operations in North-Western India. As part of TV18 Broadcast - one of India's largest media networks that counts CNBC TV18, CNBC Awaaz, IBN7 and IBN Lokmat as its constituent channels he caters to continuing television news coverage for the network elements.

During the last ten years since CNN IBN's launch and earlier with The Indian Express, The Times of India and The Economic Times - whose launch he led in the region, he has reported on social, political, and cultural issues with special emphasis on governance, crime against women and children, drug trafficking, conflict analysis and faith and its complications. As a faculty intern at the Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad (MICA) he specialised in rural communication. He has earned his Masters in Communication from Panjab University, Chandigarh. He has been a UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chevening Fellow at the University of Westminster London.

**Twitter: @jyotik**

**Friday, 29 January 2016 (Mohali)**  
**9:30am - 11:00am**

### **Session: Sustainability and Resource Management**

The sustainable management of natural resources and energy is a challenge that will intensify for both Australia and India in the coming years. Although there is some cooperation between Australia and India in areas such as sustainable water management, there is significant potential for this to deepen and expand to other areas, particularly as India's natural resource and energy needs grow.

This session is intended to provide delegates an overview of the challenges and opportunities for cooperation between Australia and India in the field of sustainable resource management.

Sponsor:



#### **Dr. Michele Akeroyd**

Director, Goyder Institute for Water Research

Dr Akeroyd is the Director of the Goyder Institute for Water Research based in Adelaide. The Goyder Institute is a research collaboration that brings together South Australia's leading water expertise to tackle the complex water management issues facing South Australia. Under Michele's leadership the Institute has received numerous awards, most noteworthy being the 2015 Australian Water Association Research Innovation Award and the 2015 Minister's Award for Excellence in Water Sustainability.

Before joining the Goyder Institute in 2012, Michele held executive level roles in the government and not-for-profit sectors managing transboundary natural resource programs, communicating scientific outcomes for policy makers, implementing large scale water research programs and facilitating multi-stakeholder collaborations. She has a BSc specialising in Environmental Science from the Flinders University of South Australia, a PhD from the University of Melbourne, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Dr Akeroyd is the 2014 winner of the South Australian Women in Innovation, Environment and Primary Industries Award and is the Chair of the Goyder Institute Research Advisory Committee.



### **Ms. P Bineesha**

Executive Director, International Institute of Waste Management

P. Bineesha is the Executive Director of International Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) and is also working as the Senior Advisor, GIZ, a German Government Undertaking, in Bangalore.

Ms. Bineesha is an Environmental Scientist with 19 years broad-based experience in the field of Environmental Management. Her Specialisation includes Urban and Rural Environment Management. She has been a field scientist, conceptualizing and piloting several environmental projects and then successfully monitoring its replication. She has executed more than 90 projects related to Waste Management (Hazardous Waste, Bio-Medical Waste, E-Waste and Domestic Solid Waste), Environment Impact Assessment, Due Diligence studies, Watershed Management, Social Assessment, Effluent Treatment, Air Pollution Mitigation, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Logistics Management and Environment Audits.

She has working knowledge of Indian Environmental Regulations, in addition to exposure to International regulations. She is conversant with Techno-Economic Analysis of projects. She has undertaken several evaluations of bilateral projects in India. She has worked on projects of World Bank, UNDP, NORAD, GTZ, WASTE Netherlands, DANIDA, USAID, UNEP, UNIDO, CIDA, SIDA, SECO, SDC etc.



# MODERATOR



## **Rustam Sengupta** CEO and Founder, Boond

Rustam Sengupta is a social entrepreneur and base of the pyramid (BoP) expert. He researches on sustainable social enterprise design and implements his work first-hand in the field.

Rustam is the founder and CEO of Boond ([www.boond.net](http://www.boond.net)), a social enterprise that promotes solar energy access in remote and rural parts of India. He is an expert in designing and data analysis for products and services for the BoP and has also been consulting to numerous universities and institutions on renewable energy, climate change and emerging market economics.

Boond has won a number of awards (Echoing Green Fellowship 2014, Economic Times Power of Ideas 2010, Nokia DLD Global Challenge, Australia India Youth Dialogue Fellow 2012, UN Women 2012 etc.) and more importantly has impacted the lives of over 100,000 people in remote villages of Rajasthan, UP, Haryana and Kashmir over the past five years. Boond also works with universities from across the world conducting research into renewable and solar energy access and a number of papers and case studies have been published on Boond. Rustam believes in sustainable models for development and social impact and other than putting everything he has in Boond, also spreads the message of sustainability by teaching courses on social responsibility and climate change in Indian universities and consulting with international development agencies.

He has written two books, one on the state of Indian rural healthcare enterprises with GIZ titled 'Sustainable & Inclusive Innovations in Healthcare Delivery – A Business Model perspective' published in 2013 and another on impact investing titled 'De-mystify Impact Investing – An Entrepreneurs' Guide' published in 2015. He also has numerous reports published independently and in association with the Endeava Institute (Berlin, Germany). Rustam also has been speaking regularly at TEDx and at different universities and public forums on social enterprise, climate change and renewable energy.

Rustam is an INSEAD MBA graduate and also holds an MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine. He has lived across three continents and worked in banking and consulting for companies like Standard Chartered (in Singapore), Syngenta (in Switzerland) and Deloitte Consulting (in the US). He loves theatre, acting and directing plays in his spare time and is also an avid traveler who has been to over 35 countries in all the inhabited continents of the world.

**Friday, 29 January 2016 (Mohali)**

**11:30am - 1:00pm**

### **Session: Sustainable Development**

As India's economy continues to grow, ensuring sustainable and inclusive development will become a significant concern for both governments and their constituents. In a changing global economic environment, Australia will also grapple with how to maintain sustainable economic growth after the resources boom.

This session is intended to provide delegates an overview of the challenges and opportunities for cooperation for Australia and India in the area of sustainable development.

Sponsor:



**MACQUARIE**  
University



### **Dr. Shreekant Gupta**

Professor, Delhi School of Economics

Dr. Shreekant Gupta is Professor at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi and Adjunct Professor at the LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He has taught at universities in the United States, Dubai, India, Singapore and Kazakhstan. His research interests are in applied economics and policy including environment and development and climate change.

During 2006-07, Shreekant was Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India. Here, he was involved in a range of activities in the urban sector including urban governance, planning, water and sanitation and transport. Earlier, he was Fellow, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi (1995-97) and headed the Environmental Policy Cell. He has also worked as an environmental economist at the World Bank in Washington DC (1993-95) focusing on macroeconomic policies and the environment in Sri Lanka, Ghana and Poland.

Shreekant received his PhD in economics from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1993 where his dissertation committee included the Nobel Laureate Thomas Schelling. He also has a Masters degree from the Delhi School of Economics and an undergraduate honours degree in economics from the University of Delhi. He was Fulbright Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2001-2002) and Shastri Fellow at Queens University, Canada (summer 2001).

**Twitter: @simply\_sg**



### **AS Harinath**

Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank

AS Harinath is a Development Professional with expertise in Environmental Engineering. In a career spanning over 20 years, he has been involved in identifying solutions for industrial pollution control and sustainable development of Urban and Infrastructure Projects, across South Asia. He has contributed significantly in the areas of remediation of water bodies, restoration of hazardous waste contaminated sites, management of municipal solid wastes and development of engineered landfills, design of water and wastewater systems, carrying out EIAs for number of industrial projects and development of Environmental Management Systems for transport and Urban Infrastructure Projects.

As a Senior Environmental Specialist at The World Bank, he is involved in implementation of Pollution Management and Environment Health Operations and also environmental management support to Ganga River Clean Up, Railway, Hydro Power and Urban Infrastructure Projects.

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## MODERATOR



### **Philomena Leung**

Associate Dean, International and Corporate Engagement and  
Professor of Accounting and Governance, Macquarie University

Philomena is Associate Dean – International and Corporate Engagement and Professor of Accounting and Governance in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Macquarie University. She has over 38 years of senior academic roles in tertiary education in Hong Kong and Australia, following her auditing career at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co in Hong Kong.

Philomena's research interests include auditing, ethics, corporate governance and accounting education. She was the accounting academic who pioneered ethics in accountancy as a compulsory course of study in accounting, led the IFAC study in ethics for over 160 countries, wrote about immigrant accountants, and played a leading role in studies in internal auditing for the Institute of Internal Auditors. Philomena holds a Professional Diploma in Accountancy [converted to a BA (Hons)] degree from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, a Master of Accounting and Finance from Glasgow University (UK), and a PhD in Accounting Ethics from RMIT University. She continues to research in a number of areas including carbon risk management, whistleblowing, ethics and governance, gender diversity and international education.

**Saturday, 30 January 2016 (Bengaluru)**

**9:30am - 11:00am**

**Session: Next Generation Leadership:  
Creating a Culture of Entrepreneurship**

A recent Harvard Business Review article stated that the new rules of competition needed leaders to 'be paranoid, disrupt [themselves] and go to war for talent'. What does creating a culture of entrepreneurship mean, and why is it important? And how does this culture differ between the Australian and Indian context?

This session is intended to provide delegates an overview of the challenges and opportunities for cooperation for Australia and India in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Sponsor:



**Mukund Narayanamurti**

Chief Executive Officer, Asialink Business

As the CEO of Asialink Business, Mukund is leading the organisation's mandate from the Australian Federal Government (Department of Industry, Innovation & Science), the Myer Foundation and the University of Melbourne, to create an Asia-capable workforce in Australia through the delivery of best in class capability development programs, applied research and advocacy focused on Australia's engagement with Asia.

He built his experience at KPMG facilitating investments between Australia and Asia in industries including energy and resources, banking, agribusiness, education and information technology. His countries of focus have included India, China, Singapore and South Korea. He also has a deep knowledge of working with government and has helped facilitate a range of engagement strategies and interactions with Asia for state and federal government departments in Australia.

Mukund received his MBA from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Sundeep Sahni**

Head of New Initiatives, Ola Cabs

Sundeep has over nine years' experience as an entrepreneur and leader. Before joining Ola as Head of New Initiatives, Sundeep was the Co-founder and Managing Director of Lazada Indonesia. His work has taken him around the world, ranging from New York and London to Egypt and countries in South East Asia. He is an alumnus of INSEAD and Boston College, USA. He is also a Certified Financial Analyst.

# MODERATOR



## **Mr. Ray Nicol**

Executive Director - India, State Government of Victoria, Australia

Ray Nicol is Executive Director, India at the Victorian Government Department of Economic Development. In this role he has a responsibility for trade, investment and whole of government activities between the State of Victoria and South Asia which includes overseeing the operations of the Victorian Government Business Offices located in Bangalore and Mumbai.

Victoria's international business offices network plays a vital role in the delivery of the Victorian Government's economic development agenda by supporting Victoria's engagement with global markets for trade in goods and services and for flows of capital and talent.

Prior to taking up this role early in 2015, Ray was an investment manager in the Department focusing on investments from India mainly in technology sectors, such as information technology and biotechnology. While India was the primary market he also worked with investors from from US, Europe, and Israel.

Ray joined the Victorian Government in 1988 as a consultant to its Government Online program working with a number of departments on strategies and the development of government services using online digital channels. In 2004, he moved to the investment development role.

Since 2005, Ray has visited India many times pursuing investment, and also leading trade missions of Victorian businesses seeking to export to India. He has also accompanied, and provided advice to many Victorian Government Ministers on their visits to India.

Prior to joining the Victorian Government, Ray worked in a number of consultancy roles for both public and private sector clients specialising in data capture technologies, such as electronic messaging, electronic data interchange, electronic funds transfer, intelligent character recognition and barcoding.

Mostly Ray's career has been in project management positions leading multi-discipline teams building enterprise-level, computer systems, for both private and government clients. He began his working life at one of Australia's earliest computer bureaus.

**Saturday, 30 January 2016 (Bengaluru)**

**11:30am - 1:00pm**

### **Session: Next Generation Leadership: Social Entrepreneurship**

The rise of social entrepreneurship in the past 10 years has been exponential and globally recognised. But what are the trends, myths and what are the key differences between social entrepreneurship and traditional entrepreneurship? How do the next generation of leaders in the sector need to equip themselves in order to be effective social entrepreneurs?

This session is intended to provide delegates an overview of the challenges and opportunities for cooperation for Australia and India in innovation and social entrepreneurship.



#### **Hardika Shah**

Founder and CEO, Kinara Capital

Hardika Shah brings approximately 20 years of industry experience coupled with over 7 years of social enterprise expertise, clearly demonstrating her ability to think strategically, deliver operationally, collaborate across disparate groups in an organisation and across geographies to drive results combined with her passion for social impact. Hardika earned her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Knox College, Illinois and her executive MBA from Haas School of Business, University of California-Berkeley, CA and Columbia Business School, Columbia University, NY



#### **Suhit Anantula**

Director, Business Models Inc.

Suhit is a Strategy Designer with Business Models Inc. He works at the intersection of entrepreneurship, design and social change. His focus is to solve adaptive social challenges and is a consultant and facilitator for innovation, business models and strategy. Suhit's experience spans innovation consulting, investment banking, social enterprises, tech startups, government, corporates and not-for-profits.

Previously he was the Director of Business Innovation at The Australian Centre for Social Innovation where he pioneered the approach of using business innovation for social good. Suhit works across sectors such as families, child protection, domestic violence, ageing, arts and cultural sector, educational challenges, indigenous issues, digital technology, environment, food and nutrition. He partners with individuals in governments, business, social enterprises and social sector organizations to amplify their work and create better outcomes for people.

Suhit has coached social entrepreneurs in ageing, disability, food, environment, farming, technology, mental illness, employment cafes, and products through projects like Government innovation challenges, China Australia Millennial Project and Young Social Pioneers Program of FYA. He works with NFPs, government, corporates and startups to create purpose-based businesses. He believes in Drucker's maxim that the best way to predict the future is to create it.

# MODERATOR



## **Achyutha Sharma**

Founder, Collaborative Community

Achyutha has a decade of experience in Brand, Communication & Marketing. He has worked with large companies to mid- and small scale businesses across retail sector. He currently runs Collaborative Community, a brand and design consulting firm that works with social sector and start-up ecosystems. The firm has worked with diverse non-profit and social enterprises across sectors such as education, livelihood, craft, energy, water and sanitation.

Achyutha also runs Sulochana Development Trust, a charitable trust that supports Creative Arts & Design for Social Impact. He spearheads social innovation in their work with emphasis on cultural contextualisation in India's modernisation process. He has been a speaker to 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.

# AIYD 2016

## OUR PEOPLE



### **Shaun Star, Chair**

Shaun Star is an Australian qualified lawyer and has worked at various top-tier law firms in India and Australia. Shaun graduated with distinction from Oxford University (UK) and was the top graduating law student from his cohort at Macquarie University (Australia). He has also studied at the National Law School of India University (India), giving him an in-depth understanding of the Australian and Indian legal systems.

Having lived and worked in India for more than 5 years, Shaun has a strong understanding of the Indian business and regulatory environments, represented large multinational companies on complex legal transactions, established a deep professional network in India and has led teams of Indian and Australian professionals on multiple projects.

Shaun is a co-founder and current Chair of the Australia India Youth Dialogue, a forum which has hosted four successful dialogues in Australia and India. Endorsed by both the Indian and Australian Governments, the AIYD hosts young politicians, entrepreneurs, policy-makers and diplomats and encourages collaboration between young leaders of both of our nations.

Shaun is passionate about promoting the Australia-India relationship and has published a book entitled "Australia and India: A Comparative Overview of the Law and Legal Practice", a volume which has received contributions from judges, leading barristers, academics and legal practitioners. The book has been launched by Former Australian High Court Judge, The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, Australia's Attorney General, Senator the Honourable George Brandis QC, Former Indian Attorney General and Mr Soli Sorabjee AM.

Running his own advisory practice, Australia India Advisory, Shaun assists Australians to better understand business opportunities in Asia, particularly in India. He currently advises numerous Australian organisations (from start-ups to listed companies), assisting them with their entry and expansion into India. Shaun has represented Australian companies across a variety of sectors, including education, energy and resources, professional services and technology.

**@ShaunJStar**





## Danielle Rajendram

Danielle Rajendram is 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**

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## Karan Anand

Karan Anand is a Management Consultant at Deloitte and part time entrepreneur and 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 leads 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 and Perth and a management team of >40 people.

Karan also serves as a Director for the Indian Sub-continent and Crisis Support Agency (ICSA).

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.



## Sanushka Seomangal

Sanushka Seomangal is a Special Counsel in HWL Ebsworth Lawyers' Sydney office where she specialises in corporate finance and corporate law. With particular expertise in public and private equity fundraising, initial public offerings (IPOs), and mergers and acquisitions involving both private and listed companies, Sanushka also advises her clients on general corporate matters. Amongst her professional achievements, Sanushka was a finalist at the Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards 2015.

Sanushka holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Natal, South Africa, a Master of Applied Law from the University of Queensland, Australia and a Master of Business Law from the University of Sydney, Australia.

Sanushka has a particular interest in India and is the former Chair of the Australia India Business Council NSW Young Professionals Chapter and a member of the Women in Business Chapter Committee of the Australia India Business Council NSW. Sanushka also sits on the NSW Government Ministerial Consultative Committee representing the Indian community in NSW. She is also a member of Philanthropy Australia's New Generation of Giving (New Gen).



## Monika Barthwal-Datta

Monika Barthwal-Datta is a Senior Lecturer in International Security in the School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW Australia.

Growing up, Monika lived and studied in a number of countries, including India, Japan, New Zealand, Uganda and the UK where she completed her postgraduate studies. She received her PhD in International Security from Royal Holloway College, University of London and holds an MScEcon in Security Studies from Aberystwyth University. She also has a Master's degree in International Journalism from Cardiff University, and has worked as a Broadcast Journalist for the BBC World Service Radio in London for several years.

Monika moved to Sydney in late 2010 to take up a two-year research fellowship on Food Security in Asia at the Centre for International Security Studies (CISS), University of Sydney. She joined UNSW Australia as a lecturer in mid-2012. Monika's research focuses on international security from 'non-traditional' perspectives that prioritise the needs and concerns of those who are least powerful and marginalised. Her research areas include critical security studies, non-traditional security issues including food security, regional security in South Asia and Indian foreign policy.

She is the author of 'Understanding Security Practices in South Asia: Securitization Theory and the Role of Non-State Actors' (Routledge 2012) and 'Food Security in Asia: Challenges, Policies and Implications' (IISS and Routledge, 2014), and has spoken at TEDx Orange (NSW, Australia) on the role of small family farms in global food security.

[@monika\\_bd](#)



## 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](http://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 30,000 beneficiaries. Atma has been internationally recognised for the Atma volunteer program and international chapters for Atma have been set up in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong and The Netherlands. Hayley successfully succeeded out of Atma in 2012, leaving a dynamic local team which continues to grow Atma's work.

Continuing her passion in promoting people-to-people exchange Hayley has worked across Asia, most recently leading international youth programs for the Australia India Institute. She is currently the Lead for the Asia focused work at the Foundation for Youth Australians. Working to engage and turbocharge young Australians connection to the Asia region.

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

[@hayleybolding](#)



## Nicholas Carney

Nicholas Carney is an infrastructure and finance senior associate in the Sydney office of global law firm Herbert Smith Freehills. He has extensive experience acting for government, banks, consortia, onshore and offshore funds and sponsors in major infrastructure projects, public private partnerships, complex financing transactions, turnarounds and restructures. He has also worked on several major loan portfolio sale transactions and government divestments, and has an interest in hospitals and the health sector. Nicholas regularly acts on cross-border transactions and has worked on the ground in India, Singapore and the Philippines.

He is currently a member of Herbert Smith Freehills' India Focus Group. Nicholas has undertaken secondments in the legal branch of the New South Wales Department of Premier & Cabinet and at Westpac Banking Corporation.

Nicholas is currently a member of the Council of the University of New South Wales, one of Australia's leading research and teaching universities, chair of its Risk Committee, as well as a member of the UNSW Faculty of Law Advisory Council. In 2012, Nicholas was awarded a National Volunteer Award (Education category) for the electorate of Sydney for establishing a scholarship and mentoring program between Herbert Smith Freehills and the Come-In Youth Resource Centre, Paddington. The program supports young people who have overcome significant disadvantage to undertake educational programs.

Prior to commencing work at Herbert Smith Freehills, Nicholas was Executive Officer of the Human Rights Act for Australia campaign.

[@ncarney80](#)



## Vidyananda Vijaya Sagaram

Vidyanand Sagaram is the Director of Strategic Projects at the Victorian Government Business Office (VGBO) in India. He completed his engineering degree from Bangalore University and holds a Masters in Telecommunication Engineering from Monash University, Australia.

Vidyanand started his career with the Australian telecommunication provider, Telstra and after two years, moved to Hobsons Australia, an innovative technology and integrated marketing solutions provider for universities in Australia. During his tenure at Hobsons, Vidyanand engaged across various levels with the universities in Australia to enable them to increase their market share from India.

Vidyanand returned to India in 2008 to manage La Trobe University's business development activities. Since 2009, Vidya has been working for the Victoria Government in India, initially managing their skilled and business migration portfolio for South and South East Asia market and now their corporate and government relations, which has a strong focus on working with the various chambers, associations and local governments. He also assists and coordinates trade missions travelling from Victoria to India.



## Rishi Suri

Rishi Suri is a Senior Editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper. Rishi belongs to the fourth generation of the family that owns and runs the Milap group. An internationally recognised journalist, he is known for his unapologetically strong opinions on global politics and diplomacy.

Rishi is also one of the select few Indian diplomatic correspondents certified by the country's Ministry of External Affairs. He has been a member of several international delegations, including the International Visitor Leadership Programme run by the State Department of the United States of America. He is also a Media Fellow of the Australia India Council and has been a Chevening Scholar since 2014.

**@rishi\_suri**

# AIYD 2016 BOARD OF ADVISORS



**Patrick Suckling**  
**Australian High Commissioner to India**

Mr Suckling has been High Commissioner to India since January 2013. Previous overseas assignments include Washington (2003-2007) and New Delhi (1997-1999). Between 2009-2011 he managed international issues for two Prime Ministers of Australia, encompassing foreign, economic and international aid policy. This included Australia's active participation in the establishment of the G20 as the world's premier global economic forum and expansion of the East Asia Summit to strengthen regional architecture. In 2007, Mr Suckling was an adviser to the Australian Foreign Minister.

Mr Suckling has combined foreign policy with trade and economic policy throughout his career, including serving as Australia's senior official to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in 2008 and as a senior official to the Paris Club for international debt negotiations in 2003. This extended to his oversight of the partial privatisation of Australia's export credit agency, the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), in 2000.

Between 2011-12, Mr Suckling was head of the Consular, Public Diplomacy and Parliamentary Affairs division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), including management of media for portfolio ministers and oversight of around 1600 Australian consular cases on any given day.

Mr Suckling joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1994. He holds a Master of International Relations from Monash University and honours degrees in Economics and English literature from the University of Sydney. He also holds a graduate diploma in Hindi from Sydney University. He is married with three children.



**Belinda Howell**  
**General Manager Market Development, UTS: INSEARCH**

Ms Howell joined UTS:INSEARCH in November 2011 and 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 Royal Doulton, 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 and has also completed the Advanced Management Programme at INSEAD in France. Ms Howell has served on several not-for-profit boards and runs a small beef cattle property. She has a particular interest in mental health and is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Counselling.



## **Navdeep Suri**

### **Indian High Commissioner to Australia**

Mr. Suri joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1983 and has served in India's diplomatic missions in Cairo, Damascus, Washington, Dar es Salaam and London and as India's Consul General in Johannesburg. He has also headed the West Africa and Public Diplomacy divisions at the Ministry of External Affairs. He was India's Ambassador to Egypt prior to his present assignment. His innovative use of social media in public diplomacy has received extensive recognition and two prestigious awards.

Mr. Suri has learnt Arabic and French, has a Masters degree in Economics and has written on India's Africa policy, on Public Diplomacy and on the IT outsourcing industry. His English translations of his grandfather Nanak Singh's classic Punjabi novels have been published by Penguin as 'The Watchmaker' and by Harper Collins as 'A Life Incomplete'.

Mr. Suri is accompanied by his wife Mani who has a degree in Economics and is now an accomplished graphic designer and potter. They have two daughters, a journalist and an avid environmentalist.



## **Ray Nicol**

### **Executive Director - India, State Government of Victoria, Australia**

Ray Nicol is Executive Director, India at the Victorian Government Department of Economic Development. In this role he has a responsibility for trade, investment and whole of government activities between the State of Victoria and South Asia which includes overseeing the operations of the Victorian Government Business Offices located in Bangalore and Mumbai.

Victoria's international business offices network plays a vital role in the delivery of the Victorian Government's economic development agenda by supporting Victoria's engagement with global markets for trade in goods and services and for flows of capital and talent.

Prior to taking up this role early in 2015, Ray was an investment manager in the Department focusing on investments from India mainly in technology sectors, such as information technology and biotechnology. While India was the primary market he also worked with investors from from US, Europe, and Israel.

Ray joined the Victorian Government in 1988 as a consultant to its Government Online program working with a number of departments on strategies and the development of government services using online digital channels. In 2004, he moved to the investment development role.

Since 2005, Ray has visited India many times pursuing investment, and also leading trade missions of Victorian businesses seeking to export to India. He has also accompanied, and provided advice to many Victorian Government Ministers on their visits to India. Prior to joining the Victorian Government, Ray worked in a number of consultancy roles for both public and private sector clients specialising in data capture technologies, such as electronic messaging, electronic data interchange, electronic funds transfer, intelligent character recognition and barcoding.

Mostly Ray's career has been in project management positions leading multi-discipline teams building enterprise-level, computer systems, for both private and government clients. He began his working life at one of Australia's earliest computer bureaus.



**Professor Mark Gabbott**  
**Executive Dean for the Faculty of Business and Economics,**  
**Macquarie University**

Professor Mark Gabbott graduated from the University of Essex with a BA(Hons) in Economics followed by an MSc in Technology Management from Imperial College, University of London. After working in government for six years in consumer policy and protection, he joined the University of Stirling as a Research Fellow and completed a Ph.D in Marketing. He was Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer at the University of Stirling researching and teaching in the areas of Electronic and Direct Marketing, Services Marketing, Consumer Behaviour and Consumer Policy.

Mark joined Monash University in 1997 as Professor of Marketing and was appointed Head of Department in 2000. He took up the position of Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at Monash in 2006. In 2008, Mark was appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Mark's current research interests are in services marketing, customer relationship management, internet marketing, consumer behaviour and customer value. Mark has published four books and over 50 book chapters and journal articles. His research has been published in a variety of international academic journals including the Journal of Business Research, Journal of Public Policy and Marketing, European Journal of Marketing and the Journal of Marketing Management. Mark currently sits on the editorial boards of three international marketing journals.

Mark is a member of the European Marketing Academy, The UK Academy of Marketing, is past Chair of the American Marketing Association Services Interest Group, and is a past President of the Australian New Zealand Marketing Academy.

# IN THE MEDIA

THE HINDU (PRINT),

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Headline - Reliving rugby memories

p4 METROPLUS BENGALURU  
THE HINDU • Monday, February 8, 2016

## Reliving rugby memories

Australian rugby star Alastair Baxter relives the last minute finish of the 2003 World Cup and talks about Jonah Lomu's impact on the sport

ASHWIN ACHAL

The 2003 Rugby World Cup final served as a thrilling introduction to the sport, not least for the many who do not normally follow the ways of burly men colliding with each other with evil intent. The reason - a grandstand extra-time finish, with English fly-half Jonny Wilkinson striking gold with a drop-goal in the dying seconds to seal the fate of the mega-event.

Videos of Wilkinson's marquee moment - dubbed as the 'Kick that was heard around the world' - received significant air-time even in countries like India, which had little or no interest in the contact sport. While Wilkinson and his English teammates were over the moon, their opponents, Australia, were distraught. Just seconds away from capturing the ultimate prize, they watched the dream slip away, all in front of their home fans at Sydney.

Former Wallabies star Alastair Baxter was at the receiving end of that kick. One of only two Australian props to earn 50 Test caps, he finds it painful to recall the events on the field. "Oh boy, you want to know about the Wilkinson play," Baxter says, in a chat with *Metroplus*.

"It was heartbreaking. To lose such a close match in front of your home fans was truly heartbreaking. I sup-

pose it was also bitter-sweet, because after the hurt subsided, we reflected on what was a wonderful run at the World Cup, before Wilkinson did what he did. But having said that, the last few seconds is still quite painful when I reflect on it," he says.

Baxter, who visited the city to participate in the Australia India Youth Dialogue - in which 30 young Australians and Indians in the fields of business, sports and other areas discuss opportunities - says he cannot get himself to watch the video clips. "I don't watch it because I know the end result," he says.

The 39-year-old turns his attention to a more recent event, which also rocked the world of rugby. New Zealand legend Jonah Lomu, who terrorised his rivals with speed and power, passed away in November last year, after suffering a heart attack linked to a kidney disease. He was only 40.

Lomu's death came as a shock, and Baxter - who began his career a short while before Lomu retired - terms the demise as a huge loss. "He was a powerful man, not just because he could run through people on the field. Off the field, he had such an amazing influence with all the work he did with kids. Even during the 2015 World Cup, just weeks before death, he was so generous with his time, interacting with children and so on."

The All-Black's prowess on



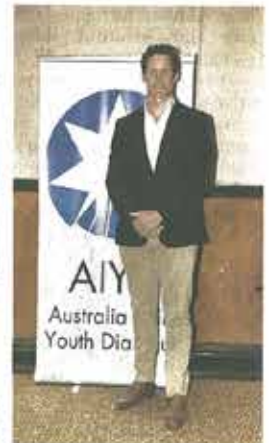
GOLDEN TIMES Lomu was the picture of perfection, says Baxter

the field, of course, has been well documented. Baxter explains that Lomu was the picture of perfection. "Lomu was perhaps the best winger in history. He was just unstoppable. He was one the main reasons why the New Zealand side was so successful. Lomu was so powerful, he just dom-

It was heartbreaking. To lose such a close match in front of your home fans was truly heartbreaking.

inated in every match. Lomu was similar to Donald Bradman and Shane Warne, in terms of the type of impact he had on raising the profile of a sport."

After his retirement in 2011, Baxter decided pursue a career in architecture, focussing primarily on designing sports infrastructure. He is content with his smart, academic office life, but back in the day, he was not averse to getting into the odd scuffle. A search on YouTube provides up evidence of this. Titled 'Nathan White unloads on Al Baxter', the clip shows Gallagher Chiefs player White throwing at least six hard punches flush on Baxter's face during a Super Rugby match. What is surprising is that Baxter, who was representing New South Wales Waratahs, did not retaliate. He just took the hits without



flinching.

Baxter chuckles when reminded of the incident. "Funny story. White was getting beaten in the scrum, and we knew that he planned to start a fight, so that I would get ejected from the game. I was under strict instructions from our coach not to retaliate. If I had hit him back, the coach would have absolutely torn me apart. However, in the next scrum, we packed in, and I walked all over the top of White. It was very satisfying." Strategy is all well and good, but where did he find the inner strength to refrain from unloading a few hooks of his own? "They weren't hard punches. It felt more like a few tickles. I was happy to take them."



**SAKSHI (PRINT),**  
FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Headline - Youth Dialogue Concludes



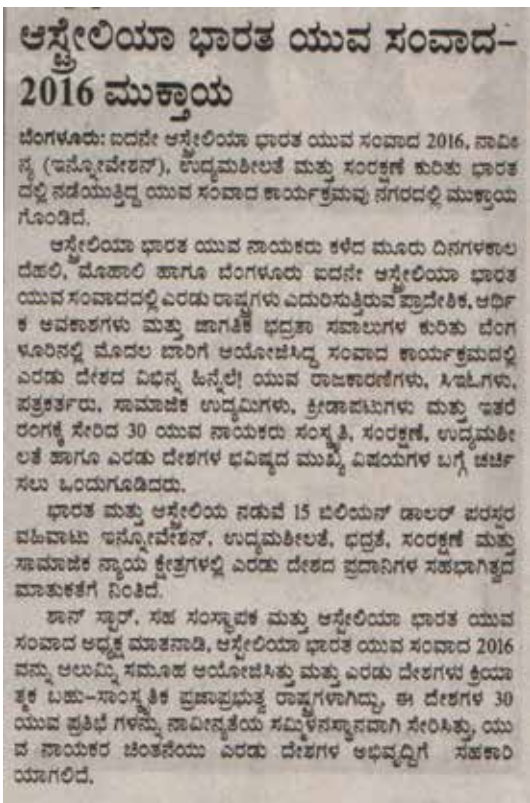
**EENADU (PRINT),**  
FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Headline - Call for strengthening ties between two countries



**SUVARNA TIMES OF KARNATAKA (PRINT),**  
FEBRUARY 17, 2016

Headline - Australia India Youth Dialogue concludes



**DECCAN HERALD (PRINT),**  
JANUARY 31, 2016

Headline - Australia-India Youth Dialogue concludes



# Sprinting across Indian cities

Australian marathon runner, Samantha Gash, will run from Jaisalmer to Shillong this year to raise funds for the education and well being of under privileged children

KALYAN ASHOK

Running for a cause has been the motto of Aussie Ultra Marathon runner, Samantha Gash. The runner is now all set to embark on a 4,000 km run across India in August.

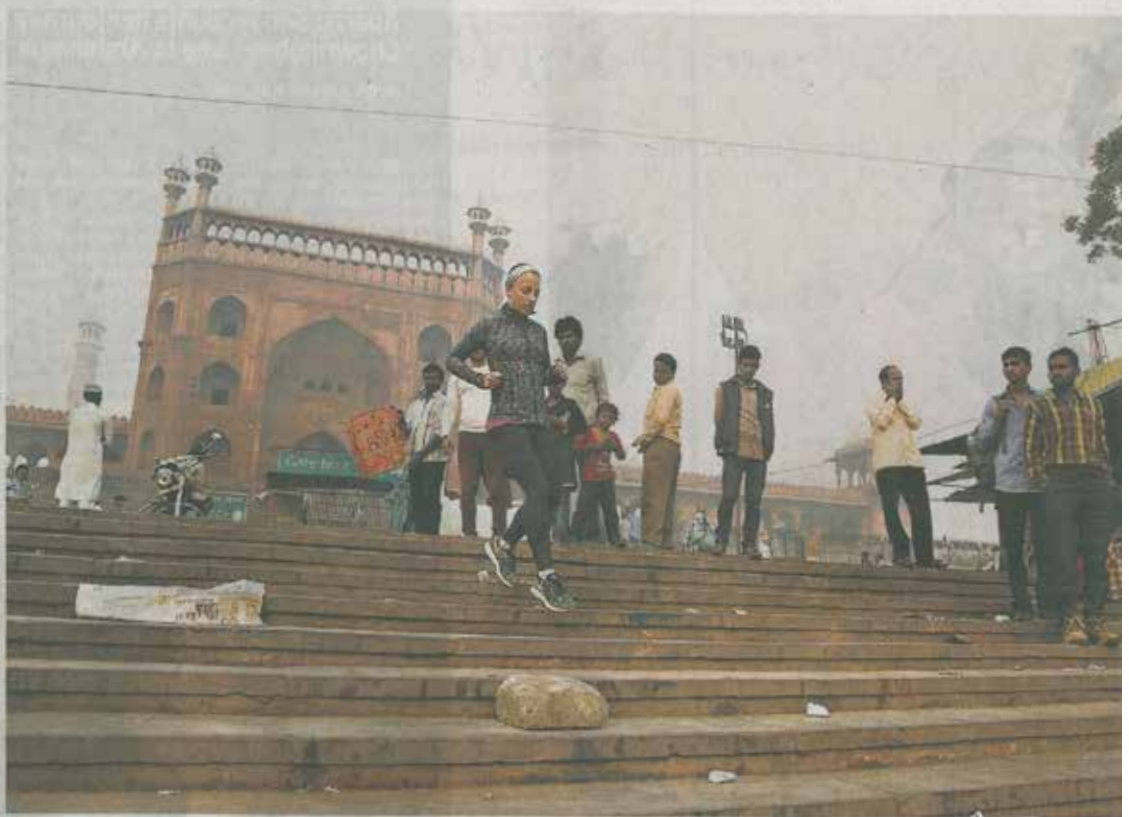
A multi-faceted personality, Samantha was a corporate lawyer, a keynote presenter, author and a social entrepreneur. The runner was in the city as a member of the Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD), which met in Bengaluru recently to promote socio-cultural interaction and foster economic and entrepreneurship opportunities between the two countries.

Samantha has run through some of the most extreme and inhospitable locations on the planet for a cause. She has run 379 km across the Simpson Desert for a domestic programme with "Save the Children". Her most recent adventure had her running 1,968 km across South Africa in 32 days.

"It is amazing to be in India and I am intrigued by the rich and diverse culture. We lack the intensity of culture you have here," says Samantha.

On her transition to an ultra marathon runner, Samantha says, "I took up running as a way to connect with nature. It provided me a break from my busy schedule as a corporate lawyer. I wanted to do something for social causes, especially providing access to quality education to underprivileged children around the world and I decided to run and raise awareness and funds for these causes.

She looks forward to the mega marathon run across India, which stretches from Jaisalmer in the West via Delhi, Varanasi, Puri, Darjeeling and finally to Shillong in the North East. "I am also an ambassador of World Vision Me and during this run, I will be visiting 18 centres en route, which are involved in developmental work for education, nutrition, hygiene and other issues. This run will take about 75 days I guess and I plan to do about 50 km a day. It is an immense challenge



**TOUGH IN MIND AND BODY** Samantha Gash

and a great learning experience," opines Samantha.

Samantha has been preparing for the Indian run for the past two years. "I need to constantly monitor food and liquid intake and avoid dehydration, and injuries that are a part of ultra marathon run."

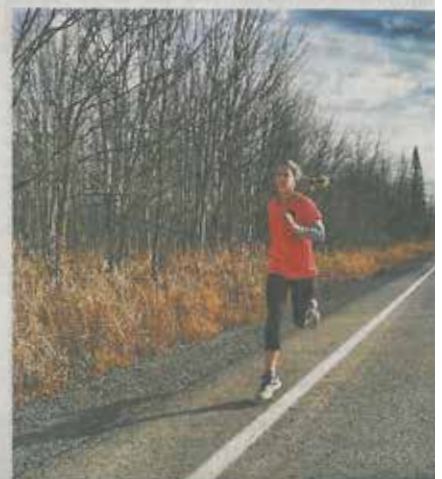
For the run, she will be accompanied by security, support staff and a TV crew to film her epic odyssey. Running is often a lonely business and Samantha has run through some of the world's most harsh terrains. "I like to test my limits and love being in middle of nowhere, where no one has ever been," adds Samantha. The nearly 2,000 km run in South Africa was a big test. "I had to climb mountains, run through game reserves, river crossings,

which made it tough, but exciting. The first couples of weeks were difficult, but later, it got easier as I was acclimatised to the conditions. The run was worth it as it was for raising funds for African children, who lacked proper schooling". She explains that she follows an integrated programme for her training as "you have to be physically and mentally strong. The mind is a great a determiner to achieve goals that you set for yourself."

Samantha, who is from Melbourne, says she hails from a non-sporty family and her father and sister are engineers while her mother is a nurse. "Initially they did not understand what I was doing. Now they are all on board and often accompany me on my expeditions," beams Saman-

tha, who is also writing a book about "Ultra marathon, why I chose to run and the challenges, goal settings in life and also some advice for the young audience who look for challenges."

**I like to test my limits and love being in the middle of nowhere, where no one has ever been**



WWW.NEWKERALA.COM (Online),

JANUARY 28, 2016

Headline - Australia India Youth Leader Address Top Regional Issues

Date: 28 January, 2016
Media: www.newkerala.com
Url: http://www.newkerala.com/news/2016/01/28/news-12862.html
Author: ANI

Australia, India youth leaders address top regional issues

New Delhi, Jan. 27 : Young leaders from Australia and India will come together to discuss regional economic opportunities and global security challenges facing the two nations at the fifth Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) today.

Fifteen young Australian leaders (under 40 years of age) will meet 15 of the best and brightest young Indian leaders at AIYD 2016, which will be hosted in three Indian cities: Delhi on January 27, Mohali on January 28-29 and Bangalore on January 30.

Australia's Acting High Commissioner to India, Chris Elstof, said he was delighted that the future leaders of both countries were already considering how to enrich the relationship as they foster strong bonds of friendship.

"I have been pleased to see the AIYD evolve into a meaningful platform for Australian and Indian youth to engage on contemporary issues of common interest, including sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship," Elstof said.

"Our countries have much to share and learn from each other. With almost two-thirds of India's population under the age of 30, young people have a unique perspective and can offer new ideas for collaboration to advance the bilateral relationship," he added.

Shaun Star, Co-Founder and Chair of AIYD, said the dialogue has proven to be an effective and dynamic platform to connect youth from two vibrant democracies.

"Empowered young people can play an important role in driving forward the multi-faceted Australia-India relationship. We have a 120-strong alumni, with another 30 being added this year. This community is a powerhouse of creative ideas, skills and experiences," he said.

AIYD 2016 speakers include Chris Elstof, Australia's Acting High Commissioner to India; Professor Amitabh Mattoo, Honorary Director of the Australia India Institute; Mukund Narayanamurti, CEO of Asialink Business; and Sumant Batra, Founder of the Kumaon Literary Festival.

AIYD 2016 delegates include Members of Parliament, CEOs, social entrepreneurs, world-class athletes, artisans, prominent journalists and foreign policy experts, among others.

Posted On: 28-01-2016 06:09:47

WWW. DECCANHERALD.COM (Online),

JANUARY 31, 2016

Headline - Australia-India Youth Dialogue 2016 Concludes

Date: 31 January, 2016
Media: Newspaper
Publication: Deccan Herald (DH)
Edition: Bangalore
Url: http://www.deccanherald.com/content/526148/australia-india-youth-dialogue-2016.html

Australia-India Youth Dialogue 2016 concludes
Bengaluru, Jan 31, 2016, DHNS:

The fifth Australia-India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) concluded in Bengaluru on Saturday after youth leaders from both countries came together to discuss issues around culture, sustainability and entrepreneurship.

The youth leaders have been meeting over the past three days in Delhi and Mohali. Bengaluru was the final stop for the dialogue.

Shaun Star, co-founder and Chair of AIYD, said young leaders came together in these three cities to discuss regional economic opportunities and global and security challenges facing the two nations. Over the course of four days, leaders from the countries from diverse backgrounds also discussed issues pertaining to culture, sustainability and entrepreneurship.

A total of 30 young politicians, CEOs, journalists, social entrepreneurs, athletes and young achievers also dwell on issues that are important to the future of both Australia and India. Trade between India and Australia currently stands at \$15 billion and with a free trade agreement in the works and both countries' prime ministers pledging greater co-operation, the young leaders also focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, security, sustainability and social justice.

Star said: "The Australia-India Youth Dialogue 2016 has concluded with a group of 30 new enthusiastic alumni who are now more aware. These young leaders from two dynamic, multi-cultural, democratic nations will add to our melting pot of talent and innovation. We know they will accept this beacon of the AIYD alumni and help the dialogue culminate into favourable outcomes."

AIYD has previously given out grants to their alumni Amoghavarsha and Pinki Chandran, both of whom have used their grants to help others in their respective communities.

ANDRA JYOTHI (PRINT),

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Headline - Youth Dialogue Concludes



SANJEEVANI (PRINT),

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Headline - 5th India Australia Youth Dialogue



