



**BUILD BACK BETTER:
A POST-COVID19 RECOVERY STRATEGY**

FOREWORD



HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

1 September 2020

Message

India and Australia have long been natural partners and friends. Our two nations are bound by what I like to term the 'Four Ds': Democracy, Defence, Diaspora and Dosti.

I am pleased to see the Australia India Youth Dialogue playing an important role facilitating young networks and ideas across all areas of the bilateral relationship.

Fundamentally, however, the AIYD is about Dosti: the lifelong friendships formed by young leaders today shaping the bilateral relationship tomorrow.

I have always believed it is these relationships among young and emerging leaders that will drive the Australia and India relationship in the years and decades ahead.

That is why I welcome the AIYD's contribution to advancing the bilateral relationship. I congratulate the alumni for their ideas to grow the ties between emerging leaders in our two countries.

The Australia-India relationship is at a historic high point following the Virtual Leaders' Summit in June. Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) reflects a strong commitment to practical global cooperation and underscores our shared vision for an open, free, rules-based Indo-Pacific region.

I am glad to see the CSP is the foundation for much of the AIYD alumni's agenda. It is incumbent on our governments, businesses, universities, civil society and researchers to pick up the pace of our cooperation building on the momentum of our Prime Ministers' Virtual Summit.

I extend my best wishes to all alumni and future delegates of the AIYD. I encourage all of you to continue to build stronger ties between Australia and India.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Barry O'Farrell".

The Hon Barry O'Farrell AO

High Commissioner

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HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
3, Moonah Place, Yarralumla
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

21 August 2020

Message

I am happy to note that Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) since its establishment in 2012 has been actively engaged in encouraging young leaders of India and Australia to come together for creating conversations, building collaborations, relationships and fostering understanding between the two countries.

2. India-Australia enjoy a natural partnership, based on shared values and interests. This has been recently at the Virtual Summit between our Prime Ministers elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). It is a relationship underpinned by our democratic ethos and respect for diversity. The role of the youth in both countries is particularly important for adding intensity to this relationship.

3. The CSP requires us to work for broadening the scope of bilateral cooperation across the entire spectrum of our engagement, including, R&D collaboration, economic cooperation, Maritime cooperation, defence cooperation, education cooperation, regional and multilateral cooperation, governance, counter terrorism, people to people ties etc.

4. There is a need to identify mutually beneficial trade and economic opportunities. Covid-19 has brought out the need for establishing and diversifying supply chains. The youth could focus on this aspect of our ties. Young people from India and Australia can, through their joint activity, increase knowledge with regard to opportunities for collaboration. With the youth taking the lead, the future of India-Australia partnership would be in safe hands.

5. Education is another important sector. The New Education Policy (NEP) announced by India also creates the framework for building linkages between our academic institutions. Indian students in Australian educational institutions also can help bring us together.

6. With return to normalcy, tourism and cultural exchanges could be pursued. Both countries have amazing landscapes and architectural marvels. Use of media and digital techniques can be used in the meantime.

7. Finally, sports is an area of great interest. Apart from cricket, exchanges in other sports and activities like yoga, meditation and Ayurveda will help promote a healthy lifestyle.

8. I have great pleasure in conveying my best wishes to the Australia-India Youth Dialogue.



(A. Gitesh Sarma)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



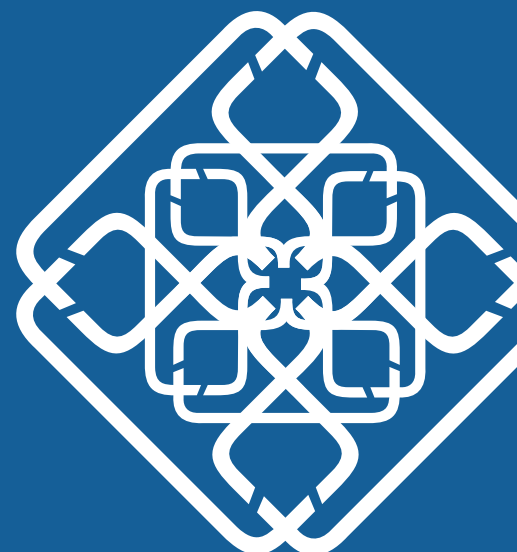
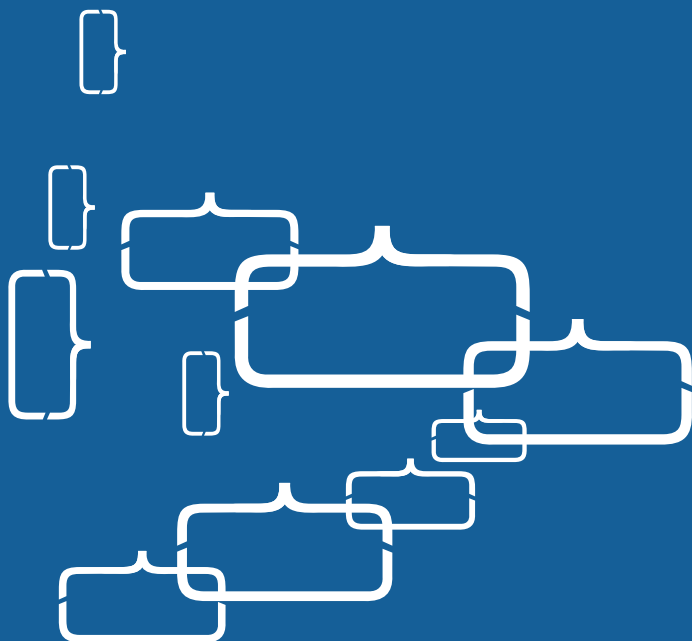
The COVID19 pandemic has allowed us to reassess ourselves and re-evaluate priorities. Countries have been forced to deal with challenges rising simultaneously in the form of health crisis, economic contraction and humanitarian challenges. In the new global order, there shall be a definite space for renewed bilateral dialogue and international cooperation. Though it is now understood that young people are disproportionately affected by the present crisis, we believe

that the post-pandemic world will offer new opportunities to those who are willing and well-positioned to take them.

It is in this context that the Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) undertook an exercise to activate its alumni networks in order to rebuild bilateral ties. At the heart of the Australia India Youth Dialogue is the unshakable belief that young people must continue to play a meaningful role in shaping the bilateral architecture. Over the last three months, we have held consultations and facilitated conversations to chart a Post COVID19 Recovery Strategy, which, we hope, will serve as a re-engagement roadmap for the two countries as they emerge out of the COVID19 crisis

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

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram
Chair, Steering Committee
AIYD



ABOUT THE AUSTRALIA INDIA YOUTH DIALOGUE

AIYD is the pre-eminent Track II young and emerging leaders' dialogue between Australia and India. Held in India and Australia during alternate years, the AIYD hosts 15 of the best and brightest young leaders under the age of 40 from each country at an annual conference.

The AIYD was established ten years ago during one of the low points of the bilateral relationship between Australia and India - the student crisis, which threatened decades of positive work that had been put into building the relationship. Ever since, AIYD has been part of the accelerated growth in the bilateral relationship.

From the outset, AIYD has sought to create an effective mechanism for young leaders to come together and discuss issues facing the relationship and chart out a shared future where we could engage with each other, experience each others' cultures and meaningfully advocate for the future of the relationship. By doing so, AIYD has made good progress towards fulfilling its founding purpose - cultivating a significant number of relationships, activating collaboration and supporting the future shared prosperity of both countries.

The AIYD enables a rich exchange of ideas between emerging leaders to think creatively about how the Australia-India relationship may be strengthened through their own work and efforts.

Today, the AIYD includes a 280 strong alumni network. The eminence of our alumni network includes 25% alumni who have the title of CEO/Founder/Chair; 10 elected MPs; 5 news anchors more than a dozen journalists including 2 who have won Walkley awards, 3 olympic golds and 240 one day internationals and more than 1.8 million twitter followers.



INTRODUCTION

The Australia-India Leaders' Virtual Summit in June between Prime Ministers Scott Morrison and Narendra Modi was a high point in the Australia-India relationship. The event resulted in an agreement of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). The CSP affirmed the bilateral commitment to strengthening ties over the long term through a variety of strategic, economic and cultural sectors. Importantly, both governments are investing the resources to turn sentiments into outcomes.

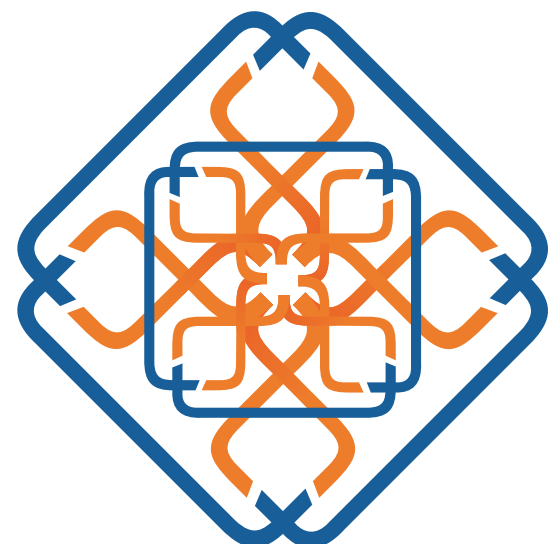
The seed for this report came from the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which stated a shared and strong commitment to practical global cooperation to address major challenges like COVID-19.

This report has also taken its inspiration from the India Economic Strategy to 2035 (IES), authored by Peter Varghese. It focuses on five areas of greatest opportunity for young Australians and Indian to cooperate in the recovery period from COVID-19: Education, Arts and Media, Diplomacy, Health, and Technology and Innovation. Each topic includes several practical actions that governments, industries and communities can take to augment the energy, ideas and ambition of young people.

The AIYD over the last 10 years has played a prominent role in championing young voices in the bilateral relationship. This report draws on that wealth of experience across the entire AIYD alumni network: spanning business, government, non-profits, culture, academia and even agriculture. These recommendations are born from the depth of knowledge, networks and experience held by young leaders invested in the success of the Australia-India partnership.

While these ideas are grounded in the present, they also anticipate the enormous changes the world faces as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. Much has been written about how the pandemic impacts young people. Less has been said about how young people are adapting to the new normal. These recommendations are actions governments and industries can take to harness the energy and ambition of young people in a post-pandemic world. This cooperation between young people and governments will build the trust essential for a strong recovery.

We call on senior Australian and Indian leaders to consider these recommendations as Governments implement the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and drive post-pandemic recoveries. We look forward to these ideas opening a dialogue between young people and the Australian and Indian Governments to ensure future and emerging leaders are at the heart of bilateral efforts to build back better.



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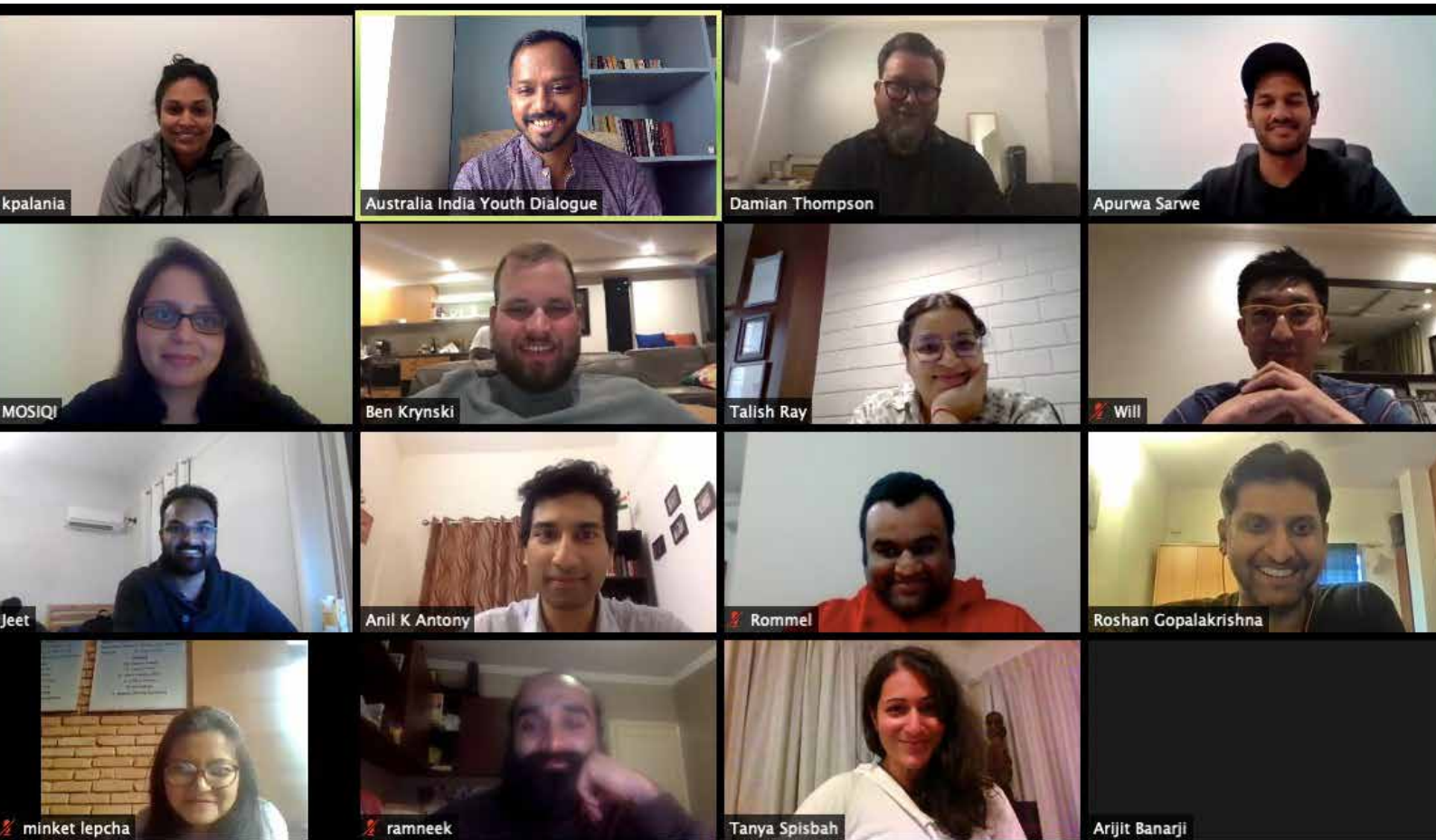
Consultations approach

We consulted over 40 AIYD alumni, partners and sponsors, key stakeholders and New Colombo Plan alumni between India and Australia to map out the opportunities in key sectors across the bilateral over the course of four months from May to August 2020.

The consultation approach was complemented by the AIYD Leadership Spotlight Series which discussed matters of importance to both countries with senior leaders in the bilateral across health, technology, diplomacy and leadership, and business.

Complete list of those consulted can be found in the Appendix.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recommendations and opportunities identified in this report can be summarised across five key sectors and have been phased to provide a view of the immediate opportunity as well as the longer term structural opportunities for young people in the Australia India bilateral relationship through the COVID-19 recovery period. These have been summarised below:

Next 12 months

3-5 years



EDUCATION

- Stocktake current collaborations across Australia and India to identify sector needs and new opportunities to inform development of sector blueprint
- Establish portal that details research and education collaboration opportunities
- Widen existing research funding to support stronger STEM-HASS collaboration

- Establish an education hub that can lead on implementing the blueprint for stronger collaboration and provide guidance across the sector
- Capitalise on renewed flexibility provided by India's National Education Policy 2020 to establish new joint PhD and post-graduate programs and pathways, and more diverse undergraduate engagement programs and courses
- Establish university-industry partnerships that can support research and education opportunities



ARTS & MEDIA

- Hold a conference for experts in the Arts & Media sector on how to rebuild
- Advocate for grant programs to support new innovative ideas to help mobilise and commercialise the performing arts into a virtual context
- Explore online platforms for training opportunities and support for emerging artists.

- Establish an independent joint institution delivering training programs and joint initiatives combatting disinformation and building democratic resilience in the bilateral and regionally



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

- Create pathways for representation of young leaders in government-to-government discussions and decision making
- Scale existing forums for young Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies at the State level
- Create pathways for startups developing solutions to government departments (incl. Defence and corporate processes)

- Institutionalise whole-of-government support for business in Australia to capitalise on Indian Government initiatives such as Skill India and Make in India
- Establish short to medium term working-holiday visa systems allowing young Australians to travel and work in India, and strengthen opportunities and support for young Indians to access this visa type in the Australian system

Next 12 months

3-5 years



HEALTH

- Investment in community, workplace and school-based education on mental health (learning from existing programs in Australia)
- Secure funding for frontline mental health service providers (both virtual and telehealth)
- Support immediate research on effects of C-19 on young people’s mental wellbeing
- Facilitate stronger collaboration across Australian and Indian state health sectors

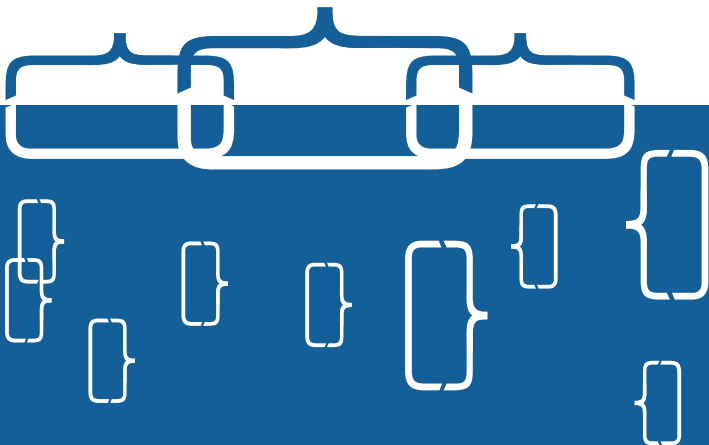
- Invest in collaborations between Australian and Indian mental health providers to upskill frontline providers in Indian communities, schools and workplaces
- Invest in innovative and sustainable technologies to support telehealth and virtual support platforms in both Australia and India
- Support peak bodies and leading experts to host a public policy dialogue on mental health to identify collaborative initiatives, increase awareness and shift perceptions



TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

- Map the technology landscape in both Australia and India for solutions to shared challenges
- Invest in new and innovative pilot initiatives across education, supply chain resilience and climate change.
- Facilitate hackathons targeted at bilateral interest in cyber security, agriculture, defense, and health

- Establish an innovation portal or service to support bespoke cross-border talent acquisition into new and emerging high growth startup companies.
- Establish funding pipeline for tech startups to access seed capital that can help pilot solutions to longer term shared challenges in the bilateral.



A WAY FORWARD - RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

In every crisis there is opportunity.

We are now at an exciting intersection, where young people will be at the forefront of designing and implementing the new world. Despite the distance imposed by health restrictions, young people are more connected than at any other time in history. We question, discuss, innovate and implement at an unprecedented scale.

This report is the result of those connections. The recommendations included here showcase just some of the ideas we believe will drive the post-pandemic recovery and cooperation between Australia and India.

Importantly, this is not exhaustive and we know that there are further opportunities, including in the tourism sector for example, that are not covered in detail here. Rather, this strategy is just the starting point that we hope will prompt efforts toward stronger multi-sector engagement and collaboration.

The report takes as its foundation the recently agreed Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which sets out an ambitious program for cooperation between the two countries. The report also takes inspiration from the India Economic Strategy to 2035, authored by former Secretary of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Varghese AO, as one such effort to transform intent into action. The IES report prompted former Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu to commission Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, to prepare a reciprocal report on how India can grow trade and investment with Australia. The Wadhwa strategy is eagerly awaited by business and industry.

These reports show both Governments have an appetite for ideas and partners that can catalyse outcomes for Australian and Indian citizens, businesses, and communities.

It is in this spirit, and keeping in mind the challenges arising out of COVID19, that the AIYD presents its own recommendations in this report. These recommendations are practical actions to enable young Australians and Indians to realise their potential and that of the broader bilateral relationship.

There already is significant political will and policy infrastructure on both sides. What is needed is investments by Governments to enable young people to drive recovery in both Australia and India.

This report shares young leaders insights on the pandemic's impact on key sectors in both India and Australia and puts forward a series of recommendations that are by and for young and emerging leaders to capitalise on the opportunities in the bilateral and realise the potential of the CSP.



The post-pandemic recovery will require significant investment in sustainable, human-centered, and multi-sector responses.

To do this, there needs to be stronger two-way exchanges between young people and decision makers to ensure that the policies and practices reflect the perspectives of those that will ultimately inherit them in the years to come.

We ask both Governments to

- Consider these recommendations put forward by the Australia India Youth Dialogue Alumni
- Institute formal consultation with young leaders from AIYD on issues that will directly impact them
- Help catalyse the AIYD, alumni and other youth groups to realise the full potential of youth led initiatives

In return, we commit to

- Act as an entry point for Government and business leaders for formal youth consultation for bilateral government initiatives
- Use our convening power to provide access to influential young stakeholders invested in the bilateral
- Provide innovative and informed solutions into the complex challenges faced by young people in the bilateral
- Build literacy among young leaders on the potential within the bilateral relationship
- Support youth-led initiatives that advance the bilateral relationship



SECTOR ONE - EDUCATION

Context

The education sector will play a pivotal role in the recovery of both Australia and India and in the re-energised bilateral relationship. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership highlighted respective commitments to build on, and strengthen collaboration in the sector, with opportunities for growth further enhanced with the launch of the National Education Policy 2020. While the Australian higher education sector has been hard-hit by travel restrictions for incoming international students and recent policy shifts in Federal Government funding priorities, the Indian Government has moved to create a policy platform to make India a 'knowledge superpower' in the region.

Despite the different circumstances in each country, the pandemic has pushed primary, secondary and tertiary education providers to shift course delivery almost entirely online, which has exacerbated existing geographical and socioeconomic inequalities. This 'digital divide' will be one of the core challenges for the sector to overcome. In addition, the higher education sector is now at a point that it needs to move beyond the focus on student mobility in terms of the relationship with India. As the entire social fabric of the world shifts and changes, research needs to be reprioritised to understand the human experience of the pandemic and ground science and tech solutions within this.

Enabling Factors

As a flagship sector in both countries, there needs to be a far stronger coordinated Government approach to diversifying international education and research markets toward India. The existing political will and policy drivers in India will need to be matched by significant public and private investment to mobilise institutional and grass-roots opportunities, and access to pre-competitive advice on opportunities that extend beyond student mobility. Investment in diversified sustainable, scalable pathways for education and industry partnerships and research and development models will be important to strengthen this sector.

The Next 12 months

Research:

- Highlight current collaboration opportunities to establish pathways for greater collaboration between both Institutions and industry.
- In an effort to facilitate deeper research ties, establish a portal that can increase knowledge of research and development opportunities, particularly among early career researchers. The portal would be a platform to also promote research grants, staff exchange and development opportunities between Australian and Indian Universities, and a space for individuals and institutions to post specific collaboration opportunities.
- Allocate specific funding for research into topics that transcend STEM-HASS boundaries and can have direct impact on issues such as social cohesion, inter-cultural competency, and community development following the pandemic, including within programs such as the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund.

Student engagement and mobility:

- Support the establishment of virtual mobility programs that can continue to connect young people from India and Australia during the period of restricted travel, including through the New Colombo Plan, and for non-traditional degrees.
- Encourage and facilitate engagement between universities and Indian community diaspora networks (including international students in Australia) to complement proposed virtual mobility programs by actively involving them in program design and delivery.

Institutional engagement:

- Map existing programs to identify best practice, gaps and opportunities to inform a blueprint for education providers across the sector.

The next one to three years

Research

- Capitalise on renewed policy flexibility in India's National Education Policy 2020 to establish joint PhD and post-graduate programs between traditionally STEM-focused Universities and leading Arts Faculties.

Student mobility/engagement

- Establish University-Industry partnerships to provide direct employment pathways for students in both India and Australia

Institutional engagement:

- Establish an education hub that can lead the development of, and implement a blueprint for industry partnerships and programs that promotes formal and informal knowledge sharing opportunities between education institutions on online pedagogy, course delivery, student engagement and research and development.



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What is already happening?



Ed-Tech - Practera: An ed-tech platform that provided tailored learning solutions for experiential learning programs, Practera has had to quickly pivot to help students access continuity in their education during global travel restrictions. Director of Programs, Hayley Bolding is an AIYD alum and a former Steering Committee member. The pandemic has meant that many students had to delay indefinitely or cancel international study programs or internships. Delivered in partnership with Global Victoria, Practera launched the **Global Victoria Intellect Program**. GVIP is a Global Victoria initiative in which teams of Victorian University students undertake 2-week international market research projects for Victorian Exporters. Exporters receive insights into international export markets of interest, and students gain invaluable real world learning. In July 2020, over 150 students participated in the program over two weeks for 25 export businesses.

— Hayley Bolding, 2015 alumni

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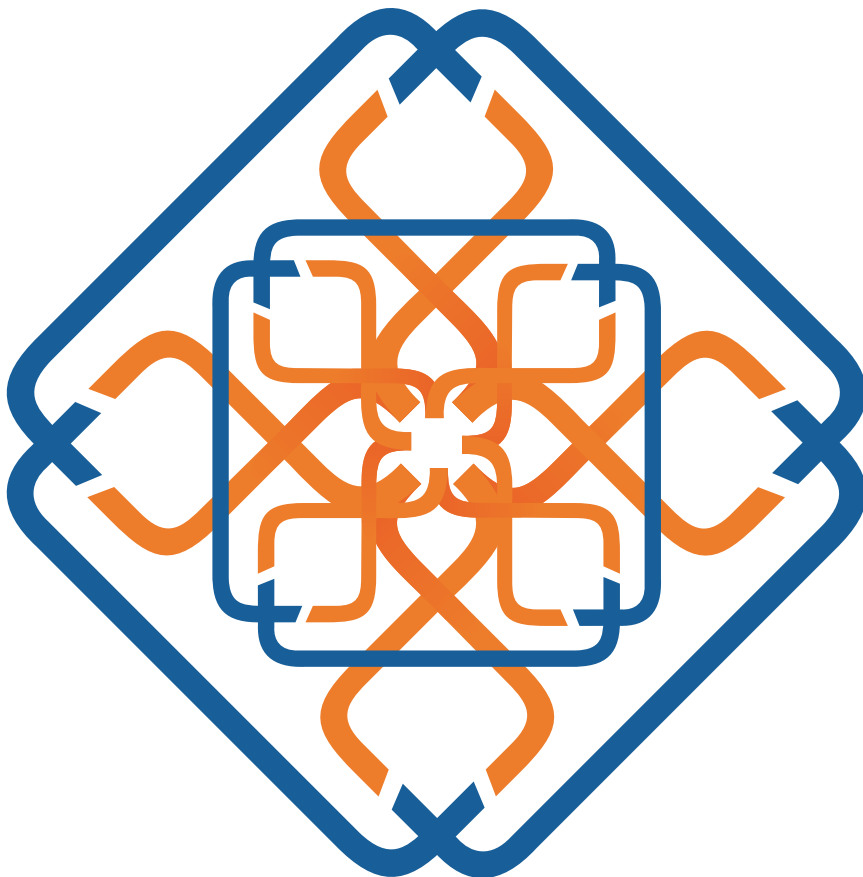


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The two way exchange of students is really important for the future, because if we have enough students going over from different disciplines then that will spill over into all the micro relationships that Australia needs to develop with India. If Australian science students study with Indian science students, they will develop research ties that assist with future problems both countries face, such as water scarcity. If Australian law students study with Indian law students, these connections will assist Australian clients enter Indian markets and visa-versa. Education is the best way to form those wide-spread connects we need, on a more personal level... Education is where we can start building the relationships and joint Masters or similar programs will help that

- New Colombo Plan Scholar, Nick McConville

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WHAT DO EMERGING LEADERS NEED TO STAY ENGAGED IN THE BILATERAL?

We undertook consultations with current and former New Colombo Plan scholars to better understand what emerging leaders need to continue their engagement in the Australia-India bilateral relationship. The insights offered include:

- Develop platforms and programs that can facilitate new and diverse ways to produce knowledge on issues that matter to students and young people in Australia and India, strengthen cultural exchanges, and support their development into a bilaterally-literate workforce that can drive sustainable engagement between our Governments and business.
- Increase awareness of, and access to more diverse education opportunities in India, including opportunities for students to engage across a range of specialist and interdisciplinary programs and virtual platforms.
- Build in opportunities for students to ensure that the relationships formed during short-term programs can continue and evolve into professional networks. University partnerships need to develop a suite of avenues for students to sustain ties with India and Australia and maintain their enthusiasm and interest.



SECTOR TWO: ARTS AND MEDIA

Context

The Arts and Media sector is currently experiencing two extremes of the COVID-19 global pandemic. On one hand, there is an increased demand for entertainment content and trustworthy news, while at the same time, independent artists, journalists and allied professionals have found themselves without jobs. Small to medium arts, screen and cultural organisations as well as large, prominent newsrooms have been reduced in size or worse, completely shut down due to the pandemic.

While both sectors are distinct and facing their own significant challenges, there are similarities in the the rapid increase demand for content, facts and entertainment

Journalists are working to an increasingly tense 24/7 news cycle with the public health situation changing rapidly around the world, while at the same time, navigating and responding to the impact of misinformation and fake news being peddled freely online. The advertising revenues have been hit particularly hard for news organisations. It has resulted in job losses, layoffs and furloughs in large numbers. In our discussions, we found this is not a problem unique to any one stream – newspapers, TV News channels and digital platforms have all suffered albeit in varying degrees.

In our discussions, we have clearly identified two outcomes in the ‘post COVID’ era. First, news organisations will be forced to re-examine traditional revenue models where a bulk of their revenue comes from advertising and second, the debate around fake news or misinformation takes centre stage as we all know how false information truly has the potential to harm and endanger lives.

The arts and cultural sector has also been hit incredibly hard, with performers, artists and instructors forced to shift their craft to online platforms. While in some cases, this has provided an opportunity to scale and expand their business internationally, at the same time it has impacted their price point and access to an income in an increasingly competitive market.

Globally, people are moving online for everything. While this has helped people connect virtually, it has also meant that people are spending significantly more time in front of screens. The mental and physical health impacts are yet to be seen and need to be better understood.

Enabling Factors

For the performing and allied arts sector, innovation is going to be important to establish new models that can help commercialise and sustain businesses beyond the pandemic. However, immediate funding will make a significant contribution to these efforts.

Similarly, as news and media companies struggle to retain staff, financial support will be key in the short-term to ensure that the public can access up to date, trusted news about the current global situation and responses.

The Next 12 months

- An online conference for experts in the Arts & Media sector that will focus on rebuilding in the post-COVID era and provide direct recommendations on how Industry and Government can collaborate.
- Work with peak arts and education institutions to establish an online platform to develop training opportunities, innovation workshops and to aggregate diverse funding pipelines for emerging artists.
- As part of this, develop a grant program to support immediate innovation in the arts and media, including platforms to commercialise virtual delivery of the performing arts in particular.

The next one to three years

- Build on work with peak industry bodies and education institutes to establish an independent joint institution that will deliver regular training programs and joint initiatives that can combat disinformation and build democratic resilience in the bilateral and regional space.



There are risks on the horizon regarding the India-Australia relationship, and it is crucial that mechanisms for having difficult discussions are created and normalised at all levels of the relationship... AIYD has the ability to focus on creating a culture and mechanisms through which these difficult discussions can occur in an honest and forthright way, based and backed-up by mutual understanding and affinity.

- Macquarie University



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Online virtual performing arts - Dance Masala:



Dance Masala is one of Australia's leading Bollywood Dance Companies, offering classes, workshops, bespoke event choreography and performances across Queensland. Launched in 2012, Dance Masala's Director, Andrea Lam, was a delegate at the 2020 Australia-India Youth Dialogue. When the lockdown came in across Australia, the team was forced to shift their classes online. With no live performances possible and tours cancelled, the impact on the group was huge. Since then, they have had to completely pivot to an online environment and compete in a new international market.

Luckily, growing the brand (and her own) on social media and focusing on creating content for the digital space over the past two years helped Dance Masala smoothly transition to online. The school did extensive market research and focused on trying to replicate their unique, friendly and detailed teaching approach in the online space through live classes and workshops via zoom. Empathy discounts were introduced if any student could not meet the fee requirements due to their work being affected by COVID-19. The team also started pre-recording tutorials to create a tutorial site with a price point to compete with the international market. Workshops and choreography clients were negotiated to be delivered online. While the business has moved through peaks and troughs in the last few months, Dance Masala was recently successful in the Queensland Government's Digital Adaptation grant program, which will help the creation and delivery of high-quality virtual programs through the pandemic and beyond.

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Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts



The Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts, and SaPa in Schools, based out of Bangalore, India. Led by Bindu Subramaniam, the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts focuses on creating the next generation of musicians, and works with children as young as two, teaching classical music with specially developed, child centric methodology. SaPa in Schools is building the ecosystem for music education in schools and has impacted over 100,000 students.

Traditionally, programs have focused on teaching in person, but with the pandemic, teachers were forced to close the 10 music centres, and move all elementary, middle and high school programs online as well as cancelling all live concerts for the foreseeable future. To do this, teachers were supported to deliver skills online and the entire curriculum was shifted to suit online delivery. Beyond this, the School has expanded the focus of classes to help with social and emotional learning and issues that children are dealing with as a result of the pandemic, such as isolation and digital addiction. Following this, our arts education classes have seen an increase in enrolments. To complement the expanding education offerings, the school has also increased participation in audio and video collaboration performed via online streaming platforms.

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SECTOR THREE: DIPLOMACY

Context

Two things have pushed Australia and India closer than ever.

The first is strategic convergence. Australia and India now see the world in remarkably similar ways. For both, the bilateral relationship sits within a strategic vision of an inclusive Indo-Pacific based on rules and norms. This strategic scaffolding enables governments to build practical cooperation in security, economics and development.

The second is growing people-to-people ties. Australia and India now share a more sophisticated understanding of one another thanks to the individuals and communities that span both countries. These include students and alumni, cultural figures, and of course the large Indian diaspora in Australia. As perceived differences fade, opportunities for collaboration emerge.

The Australia-India Leaders' Virtual Summit between Prime Ministers Modi and Morrison accelerated this natural convergence by agreeing on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The challenge for Governments is now to ensure government cooperation delivers meaningful results across the community.

Enabling Factors

The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is a significant step in advancing bilateral cooperation. The AIYD applauds this agreement by Governments. Now, our respective Governments need to invest in young and emerging leaders to translate ambition into action. Bilateral consultation and cooperation mechanisms are crucial to facilitate organic, sustainable and long-term collaboration between all levels of government, business, education, and civil society and community organisations.

The Next 12 months

- Institute formal consultation mechanisms with young people in bilateral discussions and decision making processes associated with recovery efforts.
- Scale existing forums and exchanges for young Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies at the State level, in both countries, to drive collaboration at the sub-national level.
- Harness government procurement processes to provide a platform for Australian-Indian start-ups to scale technological solutions, including in corporate processes, service delivery and digitisation.

The next one to three years

- Develop quality whole-of-government support mechanisms for businesses in Australia to capitalise on Indian government initiatives such as Skill India and Make in India.
- Establish reciprocal working-holiday visa arrangements to allow young Australians to travel and work in India, and strengthen opportunities and support for young Indians to access this visa type in Australia.
- Establish a joint fund to support collaborative projects by Australian and Indian think tanks focused on innovative and practical public policy ideas.



Governments in both India and Australia talk about the importance of young people, but they are underrepresented in our parliaments and whilst consulted in varying degrees they often lack direct input into the actual decisions made by our governments. If the governments are serious about integrating young people into the decision-making process, then they will need to consciously build this activity into the process itself. If we leave it to chance then those voices that are heard will be those that have the capital in order to be heard and decision making will continue to be based on too narrow a spectrum of voices, life experiences and values. I would encourage the bilateral to use alumni of the AIYD and other organisations and their networks to propose how this could be done in an effective and culturally relevant way.

- Tania Rhodes-Taylor, The University of Sydney



Building networks, delivering outcomes: Ten years of AIYD alumni action for the Australia-India bilateral

The AIYD was established ten years ago at one of the low points of the bilateral: The Indian student crisis, and the future of the relationship looked uncertain. Aided by governments, businesses and institutions invested in the bilateral relationship, the AIYD has created a mechanism for young leaders from Australia and India to come together and discuss issues of mutual significance. As these young leaders have grown in their respective fields, their AIYD relationships have become a ballast within Australia-India ties.

The AIYD has since built durable networks amongst key stakeholders, and served as an independent outlet for ideas across all sectors in the relationship. Several AIYD delegates and alumni have gone on to collaborate and deliver significant outcomes together. Every dialogue has produced reports advancing key discussions and ideas from the conference.

In 2017, for example, the winning team chose to bring the best in Australian water safety and lifesaving skills to reduce the approximately 100,000 preventable drowning in India every year. In 2020, the winning team saw an opportunity to draw on Australia's sophisticated mulching practices, which also significantly reduce irrigation demands. The group saw how a simple solution could improve water security and is now working to deliver a pilot to public parks in Chennai.

In 2018 the AIYD refreshed its strategy to ensure it remains proactive in shaping the bilateral relationship, activating alumni collaboration, and influenced the agenda of all levels of government and industry involved in the relationship. AIYD's contribution to the bilateral has been recognised by the India Economic Strategy for its contribution to developing people-to-people links.





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Governments are only part of [the] process. It's our people who will help to make the difference to India and Australia's relationship in the years and decades ahead.

- Prime Minister Scott Morrison,
Message to the 2020 AIYD delegates, 15 Jan 2020

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SECTOR FOUR: HEALTH

Context

Beyond the immediate public health implications of the COVID-19 virus, the resulting unemployment, economic hardships, alcohol abuse, domestic violence and trauma and loss has had a significant impact on mental health globally. It is estimated that 15 percent of the population are experiencing some form of mental health issue globally, and following the lockdown, reports of mental health issues increased by 20 per cent in India, and in Australia, mental health issues were twice as prevalent than in non-pandemic times. It has been recognised that young people, front-line service providers, casual and informal workers are thought to be most at risk.

The impact of the pandemic on the health system has been recognised by both the Australian and Indian Governments', and in August Prime Minister Modi announced the launch of the National Digital Health Mission to revolutionise the health sector more broadly. As part of this however, both Governments and mental health authorities will need to determine the extent of the issue at the community level, and establish the appropriate structures in existing support systems that can incorporate both outreach and effective response. Then, as both countries emerge from the public health crisis and look to their recovery, efforts to capture best-practice in responses will be vital in developing health-system and pandemic preparedness.

Enabling Factors

The perceptions of, and existing support systems for mental health are vastly different between Australia and India, however at the core of the current context in both countries is recognition of the issue and immediate action to support those suffering. Awareness raising efforts are going to require matched funding to help mobilise and expand existing services at the community level.

The Next 12 months

- Support research into the impact of the COVID-19 lock-downs and associated economic contraction on people's mental well-being.
 - Facilitate stronger collaboration across Australian and Indian state health sectors to learn from respective responses.
 - Identify and invest in existing practices, initiatives and methods for community education on mental health already being implemented in Australia that could be customised for India.
 - Immediately increase funding to support front-line service providers and associated services, including (but not limited to) the provision of PPE, and access to telehealth services.
 - Provide funding support to community organisations, workplaces and schools to implement awareness raising initiatives about how to identify mental health issues, how to support friends, family and colleagues and about existing services for those experiencing mental health issues.
-

The next one to three years

- Invest in collaboration between Australian and Indian health providers to upskill front-line providers in Indian communities, schools and workplaces and ensure Australian approaches can account for diaspora needs in Australia, including how to improve technology behind telehealth and virtual support.
- Engage and support peak bodies and leading experts to host a public policy dialogue on mental health to identify collaborative initiatives that draw on both Australia and Indian expertise to increase awareness, shift perceptions and provide support for those experiencing mental health issues.

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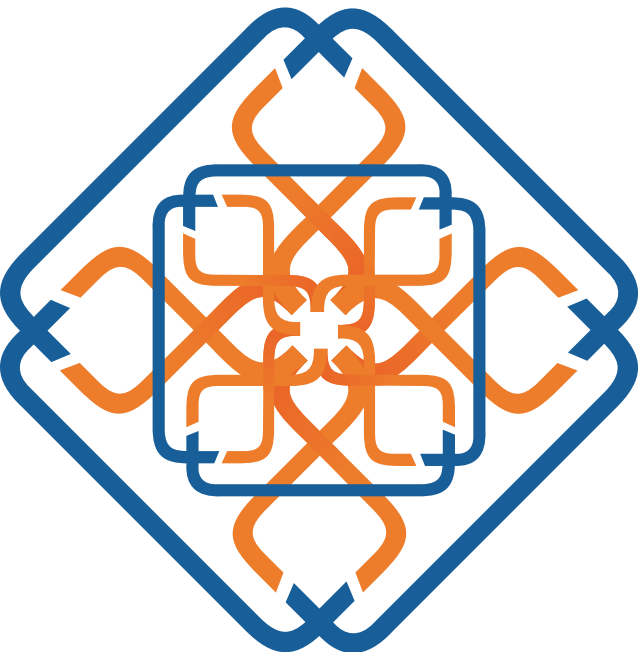
Mental Health - Mental Gym



Mohit Bhargava, delegate from 2020, has been working on an online Mental Skills Program that will offer unprecedented access to the tools and frameworks utilized by the World's best performers. A first of its kind Mental Skills Program, the mental gym will help participants develop a greater understanding of what it takes to perform at their best, and provide them with ways to practice their inner game so they can feel more confident, perform under pressure and unlock their potential, no matter the circumstances. Developed in collaboration with Australian Mental Skills Coach David Reid, the program shares his teachings and experiences coaching professional athletes & sporting teams in Australia, India, and around the globe, master their mental game. In 20 Video sessions, accessible digitally, the Mental Gym covers a series of interventions and the specific mental training activities that carefully explains the research behind each topic and its importance to peak performance, offers practical tasks to complete, and thinking reflection tools that can be re-used daily. Further, he introduces a series of fun, practical Mental Gym Challenges used by the world's best to improve as they push the boundaries of their potential.

It has been widely noted that a looming crisis post pandemic is going to be about how people find their optimal mental state. The Mental Gym aims to serve individuals seeking to overcome the odds and take their performance to the next level. Recognizing present times where every day people are being asked to perform under unconventional settings, this unique program offers never before seen access to insights & methodologies traditionally reserved for high performing athletes and how they train to excel under high pressure circumstances, overcoming volatility, ambiguity, & uncertainty.

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Public health response in India - National COVID19 action and response group

The unprecedented pandemic required public champions across the country to come together to overcome the deadly virus and work towards lifting the public spirit. Founded by Samajwadi Party Spokesperson Ghanshyam Tiwari, with AIYD 2020 alumni, Anil K. Antony and Rajat Sethi as the co-founding National Coordinators, PI India (www.piindia.org) is one such group brings together some of India's most capable and credible organizations alongside some of the leading public and health policy experts.

The national COVID-19 action and response group brought together over a dozen MPs from across the political spectrum, alongside organizations and institutions including IIM-Indore, Population Foundation of India, Center for Policy Research, Omnicurus, Sequoia Capital and LightSpeed Ventures, all of whom were invested in identifying innovation solutions to the pandemic.

The group has since been successful in setting up several low cost innovative technological solutions, including the setting up of India's first smart temperature screening gate in Kannur International Airport in Kerala. Their most successful work so far is a project that involves the setting up of vacant buildings and spaces into fully equipped low cost plug and run COVID-19 temporary hospitals and recovery centers for mild and moderate patients. In collaboration with Anant National University, Ahmedabad, the group has also successfully executed this project in four different states of Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat and Delhi, creating seven centers and almost 800 Beds. The aim of the group was to implement a frugal innovative model that would boost India's stretched healthcare capacity.

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SECTOR FIVE: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Context

The role of, and need for technology and innovation has underpinned conversations about recovery efforts across all sectors. Entrepreneurs and innovators have been at the forefront of the humanitarian response in all sectors in India. Similarly, Australian businesses, education and health providers, artists and many more, have turned to technology for solutions to the challenges presented by the pandemic.

In the Australia-India bilateral, both governments have leveraged the power of technology and emphasised the need for quick innovation to restart the economy, create jobs and deliver much needed services across the country, and around the world. Beyond the pandemic however, the pivot toward technological solutions has unlocked a series of significant growth and collaboration opportunities, including in education, financial and agricultural technologies and space exploration and services.

Enabling Factors

Technology and innovation will underpin the majority of recovery efforts across sectors. Access to the required technologies will need to be strengthened through cross sector collaboration and co-design. There will need to be investment in security infrastructure to support G2G and B2B engagement and collaboration and both institutional and Government reform to open up key growth markets for smaller private entities. Large organisations need support from respective governments to institute programs that can attract talent required to address specific programs.

The Next 12 months

- Immediate funding injections to expand existing technological responses and support for innovative pilot initiatives that will address the major issues resulting from the pandemic, including for access to education, supply chain resilience and sustainability, defence cooperation and communication, sustainable agriculture and climate change.
- Map existing technology startups in both India and Australia that have the capabilities to address gaps in existing strategic communications, defence technologies, AI, cybersecurity, agriculture needs and either directly invest or divert funding to pilot and scale as needed.
- Facilitate hackathons targeted at bilateral interest areas such as cyber security, financial and regulatory technology, agriculture innovation, and telehealth or virtual support services.

The next one to three years

- Establish an innovation portal or service to support cross-border talent acquisition into new and emerging high growth startups companies. For example an Indian AgTech startup employing an Australian university graduate in bio-chemical engineering.
- Establish sustainable funding pipeline for tech startups to access seed money that can help pilot solutions to longer-term impacts of the pandemic, namely, financial and telehealth services, inclusive and accessible ed-tech, ag-tech

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Ag-Tech

In 2019, the first cross-border AgTech exchange was held between Australia and India. The Graft Aus-India AgTech Challenge (graftchallenge.com) was sponsored by key Australian grain industry bodies and the world's 5th largest agri-input company UPL in India. The market-entry program focused on targeting 12 high calibre AgTech startups from both nations to solve specific shared challenges to improve climate resilience including solutions such as decentralised real-time soil testing capability, crop monitoring and analytics, and precision agriculture. The program for both Australia and India was undertaken focusing on deep industry business model localisation, problem-solution validation, trial design and demo's.

— William Taing, 2019 alumni

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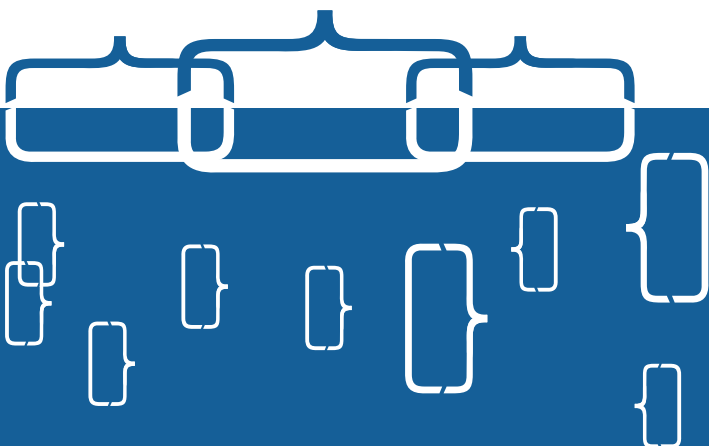


Space Innovations

Until recently, space exploration was largely limited to high-income countries that could invest in the technology. Over the last decade however, innovation and advancements in space exploration have opened up the market and prompted significant private and public sector investment. In 2019, India launched the Chandrayaan 2 expedition to the south-pole of the moon and aims to send humans to space by 2022. Australia has also set ambitious targets to strengthen its space capabilities, and launched the Australian Civil Space Strategy 2019 - 2028 in 2019.

The strategy maps out the Government's 'plan to transform and grow our space industry over 10 years'. High Earth Orbit Robotics (HEOR) Co-Founder and AIYD 2020 delegate, William Crowe, has capitalised on the Government's efforts and has been working to increase engagement between the Australian and Indian space sector. HEOR is an Australian start-up based out of Sydney that provides on-demand, optical observation of objects in space, from space. Currently, space exploration and related activities are undertaken by the Indian Government, however there is significant energy among young people interested in the space for collaboration with more mature markets, like Australia. HEO Robotics is pursuing partnerships with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRP) and Antrix. While COVID-19 has slowed key markets in the bilateral, the space sector, and particularly on-orbit inspection and services, presents a significant opportunity for engagement between Australian and Indian start-ups and Government agencies. There will however, need to be an opening up of the sector in India and seed funding to catalyse an already vibrant start-up sector.

— William Crowe, 2020 alumni



THE HUMAN IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Underpinning the issues and challenges detailed in the sections above is the human cost of the pandemic. This section draws out some of the key issues raised during consultations that we will have to address collectively in a post-pandemic era.

We have a responsibility to ensure that all our recovery efforts, ideas and initiatives have the impact to human lives and livelihoods front and center. Both India and Australia are signatories to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which underlines the universal right to, among others, the ‘highest attainable standard of physical and mental health’. Under this however, are 31 other inalienable rights that protect the social, cultural and economic human rights. As Government’s struggle to suppress the virus, a balance must be struck to ensure that the response to the public health crisis does not exacerbate existing social issues.

In the wake of the lockdown, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and frontline service providers in India and Australia reported increased incidents of domestic and family violence. Commentators in India warned that once the lockdown lifts, millions of migrant workers will be desperate for work and more likely to accept highly exploitative conditions. Similar concerns were raised in relation to temporary migrant workers and international students in Australia, who, without work were unable to support themselves. In both countries, young people are increasingly unable to find employment, are at risk of becoming homeless, the restrictions on mobility and movement around communities have meant that millions do not have access to education, healthcare and in many cases their friends, family and broader support networks.

The pandemic has exposed a raft of existing inequalities in society globally. It has impacted the most vulnerable in society and in many ways reinforced the barriers to education, healthcare and housing. In the years to come, these inequalities will be further entrenched without a genuinely multi-sector approach to the recovery efforts that are built from the ground up.



Domestic and family violence under lockdown:

The pandemic has laid bare a reality that we have been working with since 2012— that the home or the ‘private’ is not, in fact, any safer than the ‘public’ sphere for women in India. The major impediment being seen on-ground is that of access to essential services, limiting options for women. Registering complaints with law enforcement, and accessing medical services and protection orders has been difficult, given the concerns around mobility at this time. For women who have already left violent home situations, they are also dealing with issues ranging from everyday finances to digital access for education and upskilling.

The Woman of the Elements Trust is a New Delhi-based organisation dedicated to providing women and child survivors of domestic violence options, and choices. It is our mission to give them the courage to ask for what is theirs by right — a violence-free home. In partnership with her mother, 2020 AIYD delegate, Sonakshi Chaudhry, fights cases for free for women who are below the earning capacity of INR 5,000 a month. We also provide free legal counselling across income capacities. Our response as an organisation has been to try and facilitate access to resources. Our lawyer is providing legal counselling over the phone, and we are in the process of setting up a helpline for women to dial in to. We have also started a collection drive for items that can improve digital access for our clients and their children. Additionally, we have initiated our first scholarship programme for the education of children of women beneficiaries of the trust.

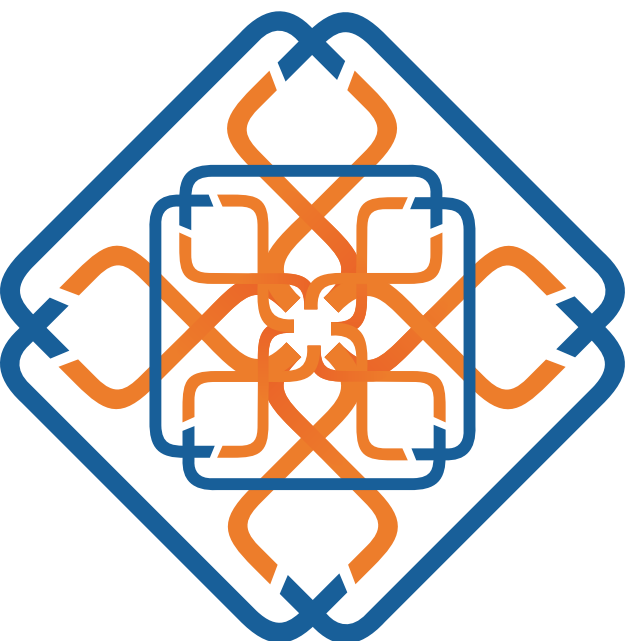




Supporting workers in bilateral supply chains:

Leading activists, business and human rights organisations, NGOs and UN agencies have all raised concerns and shared information and guidance on the risks that COVID-19 presents to those most vulnerable to exploitation. The stories of how this pandemic has impacted those most vulnerable to exploitation continue to grow; without access to wages and limited (if any) access to social welfare, those employed at the end of international supply chains are more at risk of falling into exploitative working conditions, including debt bondage, forced labour or being trafficked. When the lockdown was announced, millions of migrant workers globally found themselves without work and their level of insecurity exacerbated by the destabilisation of economies and wide-ranging food shortages in urban centres. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that around “400 million workers in the informal economy are at risk of falling deeper into poverty during the crisis”, and many more will face long-term unemployment.

Both India and Australia are facing their own challenges in responding to the human impact of COVID-19, and neither are exempt from the way in which the responses to the pandemic make particular groups in society more vulnerable to severe exploitation. The protection of workers across the value chain needs to be mainstreamed among discussions as Australia and India work to strengthen trade and investment ties. Strengthening existing legal and social protections will be fundamental for workers in both countries to return to worksites shutdown in response to the public health crisis, however more will need to be done to ensure that the demand associated with re-starting international supply chains does not exacerbate the vulnerabilities that many migrant workers in both Australia and India face. The alternative is that both countries risk the economic and geopolitical benefits associated with stronger trade and investment ties being undermined by the significant human cost.






CONCLUSION - VISION OF YOUNG LEADERS

This strategy is underlined by a vision for the role of young leaders in strengthening the Australia-India bilateral relationship, and supporting the recovery of both countries.

We believe that the recommendations detailed in this report have significant potential for long-term impact. It was clear from the consultations that success will manifest over time in different ways across key sectors in the bilateral.

What does success look like?

	12 MONTHS	3 – 5 YEARS
 <p>EDUCATION</p>	<p>Education institutes in Australia and India will have collectively contributed to the development of a blueprint that capitalises on the commitments made in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the New Education Policy 2020 and lays out best practice in engagement for student mobility, education delivery and interdisciplinary research.</p>	<p>The Government has committed to supporting an Education hub to the central source of knowledge and advice on collaboration, facilitation and advice to students and researchers working to engage in the Australia-India relationship.</p>
 <p>HEALTH</p>	<p>Community, workplace and school-based awareness raising initiatives about identifying mental health issues, how to support friends, family and colleagues and existing services for those that may be experiencing mental health issues have been mobilised across both countries.</p>	<p>There are clear and measurable collaborations between frontline service providers to address the mental health impacts of the pandemic and significant investment in making telehealth options more widely accessible across both Australia and India.</p>
 <p>ARTS AND MEDIA</p>	<p>Experts from peak bodies and leading educational institutes have convened a conference that informed an extensive suite of recommendations on how to support the performing and allied arts, how to combat disinformation and have a measurable plan on how to support a full recovery of the sector in a post-pandemic world.</p>	<p>An independent institution has been developed to deliver regular training programs and joint initiatives that can combat disinformation and build democratic resilience in the bilateral and regionally.</p>

12 MONTHS

3 – 5 YEARS



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Commitments and infrastructure are established to institutionalise genuine consultation with young people as they work to redesign the post-pandemic world.

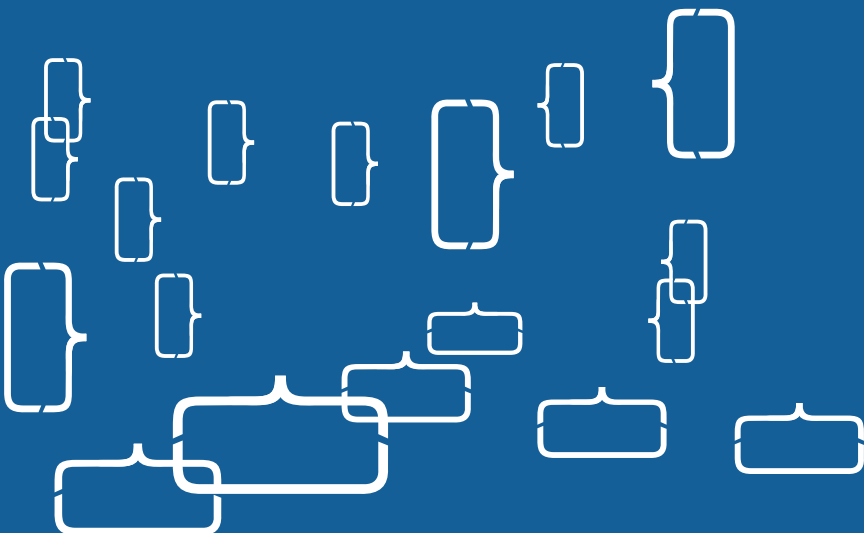
There is a whole of government mechanism for businesses in Australia to capitalise on Indian government initiatives, including exposing young people to the market through strong reciprocal visa arrangements.



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Both Governments have actively supported entry of start-ups in both India and Australian into new public procurement processes to address needs for Government departments and commercial businesses.

Australian and Indian Start-ups are playing an important role in developing solutions to the long-term impacts of the pandemic.





The following alumni, partners and key stakeholders were interviewed as part of the consultation.

AIYD STEERING COMMITTEE, 2020

Sandeep Chandra	Mitali Mukherjee	Kuppal Palaniappan
Bodean Hedwards	Tim Hall	Will Taing

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Rommel Varghese (Deputy Chief of Staff, NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services)	Anika Wells MP (Federal Member for Lilley)

ALUMNI CONSULTATIONS

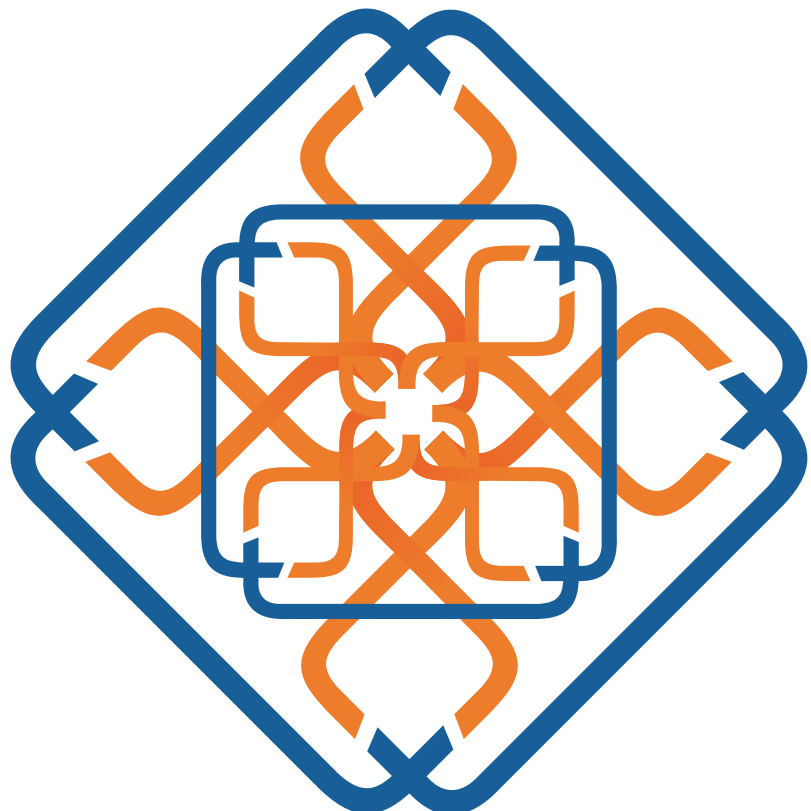
NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Abhijeet Kumar	Staff Researcher	University of Sydney
Anika Singh	Community Engagement Consultant.	WISE Employment
Anil Antony	Vice President , Convener - Digital Media, Managing Director	Navoothan Foundation, Indian National Congress, Pythia Data
Apurwa Sarve	Senior Strategy Manager	Swisse Wellness
Arijit Banarji	Co-Founder/Head of Projects	Buffalo Soldiers Media & Strategists
Asha Sundaramurthy	PhD Scholar	Indo-Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Bindu Subramaniam	Singer/songwriter	Subramaniam School of Performing Arts
Benjamin Krynski	Head of Training / Paramedic	Real First Aid
Dr. Mohit Dubey	CEO	Atal Incubation Centre - MIT-ADT University
Shaili Chopra	Founder & Managing Director	SheThePeople.TV
Damian Thompson	Director of Foundation Relations	The Conversation Media Group Ltd.
Andrea Lam	Director/Founder	Dance Masala

Tasneem Fatima	Founder and the President at DSWBA	Delhi State Wheelchair Basketball Association
Mohit Bhargava	GM- Marketing & Sales	BIG4 Holiday Parks
Jessie Meaney-Davis	Senior Contract Management Coordinator	Oxfam Australia
Kalyani Khona	CEO & Co-founder	Inclov
Karan Anand	Director	Monitor Deloitte
Kalyani Khona	CEO & Co-founder	Inclov
Karan Anand	Director	Monitor Deloitte
Karensa Menzies	Development Specialist	SproutX AgTech; Freelance
Kushan Mitra	Managing Editor	The Pioneer
Luckbir Singh	Partner	MacDonnells Law
Vaibhav Chauhan	Founding Secretary	Sahapedia
Wesa Chau	Director	Cultural Intelligence
Madhavkrishna Singhanian	CEO	JK Cement
Mosiqi Acharya	Senior Digital Content Producer/ Senior Journalist/Strategist	SBS Radio
Nigel Hembrow	CEO & Co-Founder	Astronaut
Lairenjam Niranjana Singh	Director	JCRE Skills Solutions
Nitesh Jangir	Co-founder and Director	Coeo Labs
Omkar Sathe	Head of Innovation & New product	UltraTech Cement Ltd (part of Aditya Birla Group)
Pinky Chandran	Co- founder Director	Radio Active CR 90.4 MHz-JGI
Priya Serrao	Policy adviser	Victorian government.
Priyanka Khandelwal	CEO	Abira Creations Private Limited
Raja Karthikeya Gundu	Political Affairs Officer	United Nations Secretariat
Rammohan Paranjape	Vice President	Surfing Federation of India
Ramneek Singh	Chair	Young Sikhs Professional Network
Rikki Mawad	Conflict Resolution, Facilitation and Strategic Communications Consultant	Tasmania Law Reform Institute
Rohini Rau	Medical Officer	Kauvery Hospital
Rommel Varghese	Senior Adviser	Office of the NSW Premier

Roshan Gopalakrishna	Chief Legal Counsel	The Law Offices of Nandan Kamath
Ruchir Punjabi	Co-founder & Chief Digital Officer	Distributed Energy
Sam Freeman	Managing Director	Atalian Global Services (ASIA)
Associate Professor Shaun Star	Associate Dean (International)	O.P Jindal Global University
Sonakshi Chaudhry	Trustee	Woman of the Elements Trust
Sonal Kapoor	Founder Director	Protsahan India
Talish Ray	Founding Partner	TRS Law Offices
Tanya Spisbah	Director	Australia India Institute
Vidyananda Sagaram	Director- Strategic Projects	Victorian Government

New Colombo Scholars and Alumni

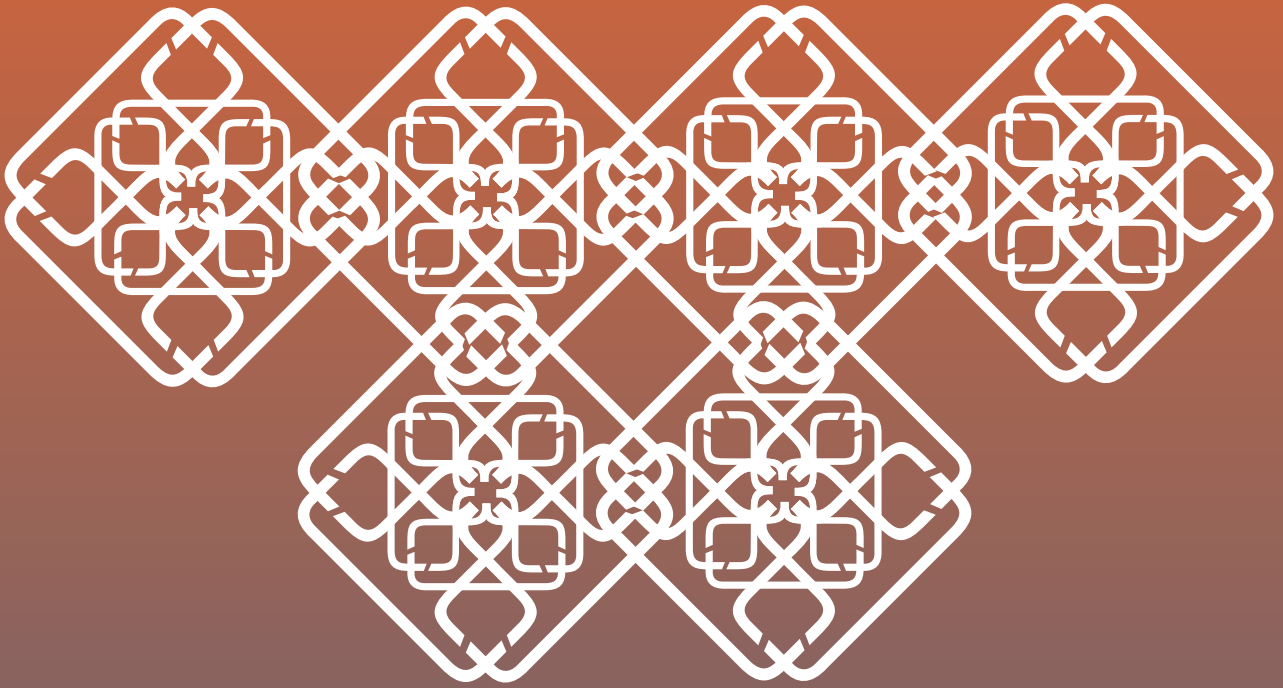
Daniel Italia-Prasad	Mursal Rahimi	Lucy Bandiera
Nick McConville	Surbhi Malik	Khushi Daga
Jocelyn Chan	Ashley Eadon	Ashley Tulloch



OUR PARTNERS

A special thank you to our partners for their ongoing support.





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