

**High Commission of India
Canberra

INDIA - AUSTRALIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

Overview: The historical ties between India and Australia started immediately following European settlement in Australia from 1788. All trade to and fro from the penal colony of New South Wales was controlled by the British East India Company through Kolkata. India and Australia established diplomatic relations in the pre-Independence period, with the establishment of India Trade Office in Sydney in 1941.

India-Australia Strategic Relationship: Australia and India upgraded bilateral relationship from ‘**Strategic Partnership**’ in 2009 to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** in 2020. The two nations have much in common, underpinned by shared values of a pluralistic, Westminster-style democracies, Commonwealth traditions, expanding economic engagement and increasing high level interaction. The long-standing people-to-people ties, Indian students coming to Australia for higher education, tourism and sporting links have played a significant role in further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

High-Level Exchanges

First Ever President Visit to Australia: India’s relations with Australia reached a new high with the first ever visit of the President of India H.E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Australia on 21-24 November 2018. President’s visit to Australia was preceded by the visit of then Governor General of Australia H.E. Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret’d), to India, in March 2018, to attend the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance.

Prime Ministerial Visits/ Summits: Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited India on 4-5 September 2014. PM Modi visited Australia for G20 Leaders’ Summit at Brisbane in November 2014, followed by a bilateral visit from 16-18 November 2014. PM Modi held wide-ranging talks with PM Abbott and addressed a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, the first by an Indian PM.

PM Modi and Australia’s PM Scott Morrison had a virtual meeting on 4 June 2020 where the Strategic Partnership was elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Scott Morrison, former Prime Minister of Australia had virtual meeting on 21 March 2022, where it was decided to hold Annual Summits.

PM Modi met Australia’s PM Anthony Albanese on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders’ Summit in Tokyo on 24 May 2022. Subsequently, both leaders met on the sidelines of funeral of former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on 27 September 2022 and on the sidelines of G20 Leaders’ Summit in Bali on 16 November 2022

PM Albanese paid a 3-day state visit to India from 8-11 March 2023. PM Modi and PM Albanese held the **1st India-Australia Annual Summit** in New Delhi on 10 March 2023. The outcomes of the Annual Summit, inter alia, include Audio-visual Co-production Agreement; Terms of Reference for India-Australia Solar Taskforce and Letter of Intent between Atal

Innovation Mission and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for furthering cooperation in Innovation.

PM Modi met PM Albanese at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on 20 May 2023.

PM Modi visited Sydney on 22-24 May 2023. During the visit, both PMs held the bilateral meeting on 24 May, exactly 1 year after their first meeting in Tokyo in 2022 on the sidelines of Quad Leaders' Summit. This was the 6th meeting at the level of PMs since PM Albanese assumed office in May 2022 and came just 2 months after the State visit of PM Albanese to India in March 2023. The outcomes of the meeting included signing/exchange of Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA) and Terms of Reference of Taskforce on Green Hydrogen, announcement to open a new Consulate General of India in Brisbane and opening of Australian Consulate General in Bengaluru. PM Albanese also attended and addressed the vibrant Indian-Australian community at the Qudos Bank Arena. He announced establishment of Centre for Australia-India Relations in Parramatta, Sydney. Both PMs laid the Foundation Stone of Little India Gateway to be established in Harris Park, Parramatta. Nelson Avenue in Perth was renamed as Sailani Avenue to honor the sacrifice of Private Nain Singh Sailani during World War I. Sydney Opera House and Harbor Bridge were illuminated with colour of *Tiranga*. During the visit, PM also met with Governor General and Leader of Opposition, addressed a Business Roundtable, in addition to meeting with select CEOs and key personalities in diverse fields.

PM Albanese MP visited India from 8-10 September 2023 to participate in the G20 Summit in New Delhi. He also had a pull-aside meeting with PM Modi.

PM Albanese MP participated at the virtual G20 Summit on 22 November 2023.

PM Albanese held a telephonic conversation on 6 June 2024 and congratulated PM Modi on the historic 3rd term. Subsequently, PM Albanese wrote a congratulatory letter to PM.

PM met PM Albanese on the sidelines of ASEAN Summit in Laos on 10 October 2024.

PM and PM Albanese held the **2nd India-Australia Annual Summit** on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 19 November 2024. They welcomed the launch of the **India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP)**.

PM Albanese had a telecon with PM on 23 April 2025 expressing condolences and condemning Pahalgam terror attack.

PM had a telecon with PM Albanese on 06 May 2025 and congratulated him for historic win in Federal election on 03 May 2025

PM met PM Albanese on the sidelines of G7 Summit at Kananskis, Canada on 17 June 2025.

2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue: First 2+2 Ministerial meeting was held on 11 September 2021 in New Delhi by Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Minister for Defence Peter Dutton and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.

Second 2+2 Dialogue was held on 20 November 2023 in New Delhi by Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Defence Richard Marles and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.

Inter-sessional 2+2 Foreign and Defence Secretaries Consultations was held on 14 October 2024 in New Delhi.

Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue (FMFD): FMFD the central mechanism for advancing the bilateral agenda, is held annually, alternatively in India and Australia. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Penny Wong held the 13th FMFD in Canberra on 10 October 2022. 14th FMFD was held on 21 November 2023 during the visit of FM Wong to India for the 2+2 Dialogue. The 15th FMFD was held on 5 November 2024 during the visit of External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar to Australia.

Foreign Minister's visits/interactions: EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar congratulated FM Penny Wong on election victory in a telecon on 21 May 2022. EAM met FM Penny Wong in Tokyo on 23 May 2022 on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit. EAM held bilateral talks with FM Wong in Phnom Penh on 4 August 2022 on the sidelines of the ASEAN Ministers' Meeting. EAM and FM Wong met in New York on the sidelines of High-Level week of UNGA for 2nd India-Australia-France Trilateral Dialogue and 1st India-Australia-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on 23 September 2022.

EAM visited Australia on 9-12 October 2022 and met FM Wong for 13th FMFD. EAM visited Sydney on 18 February 2023 and met Australia's PM Albanese, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles and FM Wong. EAM delivered keynote address at inaugural *Raisina@Sydney*. FM Wong visited New Delhi from 28 February-3 March 2023 and participated at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. EAM met FM Wong in Sydney on 24 May, on the margins of the visit of PM Modi. EAM, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ms. Retno Marsudi and FM Wong held 2nd India-Australia-Indonesia trilateral meeting in Indonesia at the sidelines of East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting and ASEAN Regional Forum meeting on 12 July 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Both Foreign Ministers met for Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting during UNGA High level week on 22 September 2023. EAM held a meeting with FM Wong on the margins of UNGA in New York on 23 September 2023. EAM had a telecon with FM Wong on 11 January 2024.

EAM visited Australia and participated at the Indian Ocean Conference in Perth on 9-10 February 2024. EAM held a bilateral meeting with FM Wong on its sidelines.

FM Wong held a telephonic conversation with EAM on 7 June 2024 and congratulated PM for historic 3rd term victory in elections.

EAM and FM Wong met in Tokyo on the sidelines of Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 29 July 2024.

EAM Visited Australia from 3-7 November 2024. He called on Prime Minister Hon. Anthony Albanese and held meetings with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Hon. Richard Marles, and Leader of Opposition Hon. Peter Dutton. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar also had interactions with members of the Parliamentary Friends of India in Canberra. In Brisbane,

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurated the Consulate General of India. EAM also delivered the Keynote Address at the inaugural session of the 2nd Raisina Downunder in Canberra.

EAM and FM Wong met in Washington DC on 20 January 2025.

EAM FM Wong and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot at the India-Australia-France trilateral meeting in Johannesburg on 21 February 2025.

EAM had a telecon with FM Wong on 11 May 2025 and congratulated her for re-appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

EAM met FM Wong on the sidelines of Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Washington DC on 2 July 2025.

Recent Ministerial/VVIP visits: Since May 2022 when the Albanese government assumed office, there have been nineteen Ministerial level visits from India, including:

- Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines (3-8 July 2022)
- Shri R.K Singh, Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy (12-13 July 2022)
- Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture (7-9 August 2022)
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (21-24 August 2022)
- Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Ministry of Home Affairs (19-20 September 2022)
- Shri Gajendra Shekhawat, Minister for Jal Shakti (4-8 October 2022)
- Dr. S. Jaishankar External Affairs Minister (9-12 October 2022, 18-19 February 2023 and 9-10 February 2024)
- Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways (20-22 October 2022)
- Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha (3-7 January 2023)
- Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture (February 2023)
- Shri G.C Murmu, Comptroller & Auditor General (17-22 April 2023)
- Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve, Minister of State of Railways, Coal and Mines (31 October-02 November 2023)
- Shri Sanjay Seth, Minister of State of Defence (10-14 September 2024)
- Shri Piyush Goyal, CIM (23-25 September 2024)
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education (22-26 October 2024)
- EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar (3-7 November 2024)

From Australia, there have been 33 high level visits, including:

- Hon. MP Richard Marles Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister (20-23 June 2022)
- Hon. Mr. Roger Cook, Deputy Premier of Western Australia (12-19 July, 2022)
- Hon. Mr. Dominic Perrottet, Premier of New South Wales (27-29 July, 2022)
- Hon. MP Tim Watts, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (15-19 November 2022)
- Hon. Dr. Jim Chalmers, Treasurer (23-25 February 2023)

- Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs (28 February- 3 March 2023)
- Hon. MP Jason Clare, Minister for Education (28 February-4 March 2023)
- Senator Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism (8-12 March 2023)
- Hon. MP Madeleine King, Minister for Resources (8-12 March 2023)
- Hon. MP Tim Watts, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (17-18 May 2023)
- Hon. MP Pat Conroy, Minister for Defence Industry, International Development and the Pacific (10-12 June 2023)
- Senator Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Emergency Management (2-5 July)
- Hon Jim Chalmers, Treasurer of Australia (16-18 July)
- Hon Brendan O'Connor, Minister for skills and training (20 July)
- Hon Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy (20-23 July) & (27-29 July)
- Hon. Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care (17-23 August 2023)
- Hon Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for Trade and Manufacturing Senator (24-27 August 2023)
- Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker and Senator the Hon. Sue Lines, President of the Australian Senate (07-14 October 2023)
- Hon Nicole Manison, Deputy Chief Minister of Northern Territory (7-14 October 2023)
- Hon Jason Clare, Minister for Education (6-7 November 2023)
- Hon MP Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister and Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs (19-21 November 2023)
- Hon. Matthew Keogh MP, Minister for Defence Personnel and Minister for Veterans' Affairs (20-24 February 2024)
- Hon. Jacinta Allan, Premier of Victoria (15-19 September 2024)
- Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite, Assistant Minister for Immigration (13-16 October 2024)
- Hon. Joseph Szakacs MP, Minister for Trade, Local Government, and Veterans Affairs, South Australia (25 January to 1 February 2025).
- Hon. Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Hon Rosslyn Bates MP, Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training of Queensland (21-28 February 2025).
- Hon. Peter Malinauskas, Premier of South Australia (23-28 March 2025)
- Hon. Richard Marles Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister (3-4 June 2025)
- Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia (23-26 June 2025)

This is in addition to various Ministerial-level interactions on sidelines of multilateral forums.

Dialogue Mechanisms: Various institutional dialogue mechanisms include Annual Summits of Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue, Joint Trade & Commerce Ministerial Commission, India-Australia '2+2' Foreign Ministerial Dialogue, Defence Policy Talks, Australia-India Education Council, Defence Services Staff Talks, Energy Dialogue, India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue, India-Australia-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue, India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue, India-Australia Bilateral Dialogue on Global Cyber Issues, India-Australia Maritime Dialogue, India-Australia Economic Policy Dialogue, India-Australia Dialogue on Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Export Control as well as Joint Working Groups on Tourism, Counter-Terrorism, Water Resources, Agriculture, Skill Development etc.

Bilateral Economic and Trade Relationship: The India-Australia economic relationship has grown significantly in recent years. The India Economic Strategy to 2035, commissioned by Australia, was released in July 2018 and an Update was released in April 2022. CIM Shri Piyush Goyal released the CII Australia Economic Strategy Report in December 2020. The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement ("IndAUS ECTA") which was signed on 2 April by CIM Shri Piyush Goyal and former Australian Trade and Tourism Minister Dan Tehan in a virtual ceremony, in the presence of PM Modi and former PM Scott Morrison came into force from 29 December 2022. Legislation on DTAA, alongside ECTA passed in Australian Parliament and came into effect with the Entry into Force of ECTA. The Indian IT companies will not be double taxed with effect from the financial year 2023-24. Eleven rounds of negotiations on India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) have been held till date.

The 19th JMC meeting was held in Adelaide on 25 August 2024 during the visit of CIM Shri Piyush Goyal. The meeting was co-chaired by CIM Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon. Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell.

The first meeting of the revitalized CEOs Forum took place on 9 March 2023 in Mumbai, on the sidelines of the State Visit of PM Albanese to India. Subsequently, five Joint Working Groups were constituted under the India – Australia CEOs Forum and the JWGs have met and submitted their policy papers. The co-Chairs of the India-Australia CEOs Forum, Ms Shemara Wikramanayake and Dr Anish Shah met in Mumbai in May 2024. A virtual meeting of the CEOs Forum was held on 28 October 2024 in the presence of CIM Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister Hon. Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism.

Australia participated as Partner Country in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit on 10-12 January 2024 with over 70-member delegation.

Australia launched "A New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India" on 26 February 2025 to bolster economic ties between the two countries.

Bilateral Trade: India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner. Bilateral trade in goods and services was A\$ 48.9 billion (equivalent to US\$ 32.6 billion). India exported goods and services worth A\$ 13.7 billion (equivalent to US\$ 9.1 billion- goods USD 6 billion; services USD 3.1 billion) and imported goods and services worth A\$ 35.2 billion (equivalent to US\$ 23.5 billion- goods USD 16.8 billion; services USD 6.65 billion). The bilateral trade in goods and services has witnessed growth of 0.59% over CY 2022

India's main exports to Australia are refined petroleum, medicaments (incl. veterinary), pearls & gems, jewellery, made-up textile articles, while India's major imports are coal, confidential items of trade, copper ores & concentrates, natural gas, non-ferrous waste & scrap, ferrous waste & scrap and education related services.

Defence Cooperation: During PM Modi's visit to Australia in November 2014, both sides agreed to hold regular meetings at the level of the Defence Minister, conduct regular maritime exercises and convene regular service-to-service talks. Implementing Arrangement for Cross-deployment of maritime patrol aircraft was concluded during the virtual meeting in March 2022. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held a telephonic conversation with Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Hon Richard Marles MP on 04 July

2024. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh met Minister for Defence Industry & Capability Delivery Hon Pat Conroy MP on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus at Vientiane, Lao PDR on 21 November 2024.

The Bilateral Maritime Exercise, AUSINDEX – the Navy exercise witnessed the largest ever participation of Australian Navy in 2019 and the latest one was in Sydney on 21-22 August 2023. India-Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2023 was held from 22 November to 6 December 2023 in Western Australia in November 2023, in which for the first time all three services took part. Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2024 was conducted from 8-21 November 2024 in Pune.

Australia participated in Exercise Milan in 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Indian ships participated in Kakadu, the biennial Exercise of the Australian Navy in 2018, 2022, 2024. Indian Air force participated in Exercise PITCHBLACK in 2018, 2022 and 2024. India participated in the French-led naval exercises La Perouse in April 2021 in Bay of Bengal along with Australia, USA and Japan. India participated in the 2021 and 2023 edition of EX TALISMAN SABRE as Observers. India participated in Exercise MALABAR conducted in Sydney on 10-22 August 2023 with two Indian Naval Ships and P8I maritime aircraft and Australia participated in the Exercise Malabar 2024. There have been multiple visits of P8 maritime aircraft between both sides. Indian Air Force participated in Exercise Southern Discovery to support operations in Antarctica in February 2024. India participated as Observer at the exercise Southern Jackaroo held in June 2024. Australia's combat aircraft participated in the Exercises Tarang Shakti for the first time in September 2024.

Defence Policy Talks and Service to Service Staff talks are also held regularly. The 8th round of Defence Policy Talks were held in Canberra on 24-25 July 2023. Naval Talks were held on 14 May 2024 in New Delhi. The Army-to-Army Staff Talks was held 22-24 October 2024. The 11th Indian Air Force (IAF) -Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Air Staff Talks was conducted from 19-20 November 2024 in New Delhi. India participated at Sea Power Conference 2022, Air & Space Power Conference 2022 and Army Chief Symposium. Chief of Naval Staff visited Australia in September 2022. Chief of Army Staff visited Australia on 3-7 April 2023. Chief of Australian Navy visited India on 2-6 April 2024. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan visited Australia from 4-7 March 2025. During the visit, he engaged with senior officials from Australian Department of Defence and Military leadership, including Australia's Chief of Defence Force General Admiral David Johnston, and discussed shared commitment towards strengthening defence cooperation, military training, education and defence diplomacy. The 2nd edition of India – Australia – Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop was held on 15 – 17 May 2024 at Kochi.

3rd India-Australia JWG meeting on Research, Industry and Materiel Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 18 August 2023. A composite delegation of Indian Defence Shipyards led by Chairman & MD of GRSE, Kolkata & comprising senior officials of HSL, GSL, MDL visited Australia from 8-12 April 2024 to explore potential opportunities for industrial cooperation for Indian shipyards in Australia, including through visits to Osborne Naval Shipyard in Adelaide and Henderson Shipyard in Perth. Indian defence PSUs also hosted a Pavilion at Indian Ocean Defence & Security 2024 Conference in Perth on 24-26 July, 2024. Indian delegation, led by Shri Sanjay Seth, Minister of State of Defence participated for the first time at Land Forces, premier Defence Exposition in Melbourne on 11-13 September 2024. Australian

delegation participated in Indian Airshow Aero India 2025 from 14-17 February 2025. Indian delegation participated in Australia's Defence Expo- Avalon 2025 from 25-28 March 2025.

Establishment of General Rawat India-Australia Young Defence Officers' Exchange Programme was announced during Leaders' virtual Meeting in March 2022 under which 15 Australian Defence Force officers joined 15 Indian Defence Force personnel for the first iteration of the program in March 2023 in India. Australia hosted second iteration in July 2024.

Agriculture, Science and Technology: Cooperation in Agriculture has been ongoing since 2012 and JWG's are held. 6th JWG on cooperation in Agriculture was held in Canberra on 28 February 2025. Australia has given market access for export of pomegranate fruits (8 September 2020) and pomegranate arils in July, 2022. During the 1st Annual Summit on 10 March 2023, both PMs welcomed the finalisation of market access for Australian Hass avocados to India and Indian okra to Australia.

Since 2005, India-Australia S&T relationship is being formally implemented under the India-Australia Strategic Research Fund (AISRF). Call for applications for Round 16 of the AISRF will be closed by April 2025. MoU on Technical Cooperation for Australia-India Water Security Initiative (AIWASI) was approved by Union Cabinet in June 2022. The 6th India-Australia Joint Working Group Meeting on Water Cooperation between Ministry of Jal Shakti and Australia's Department of Climate Change, Energy and Water was held on 8 November, 2023.

In 2012, the India-Australia MoU on Cooperation in Civil Space Science, Technology and Education was signed. In June 2021, ASA conducted site survey (on behalf of ISRO) at Cocos island; and in January 2022, ISRO and ASA signed the Implementing Arrangement to formalise this cooperation. Australian side announced A\$18 million (INR ₹ 98 crore) to fund three collaborative space projects on 30 April 2024, as part of the International Space Investment India (ISI) Projects program Space Grants. An Implementing Arrangement (IA) for cooperation on crew and crew module recovery for Gaganyaan Missions between India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Australian Space Agency (ASA) was signed on 20 November 2024. Australia's Space Machines Company and India's NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) signed an agreement on 27 June 2024 which will see Space Machines Company's second Optimus spacecraft, a 450 kg Orbital Servicing Vehicle, launched on NSIL's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle in 2026. Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation) was also announced, which involves several Australian and Indian partner companies collaborating in space research. Delegation led by Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), Department of Space (DOS) participated in the 17th Australian Space Forum at Adelaide from 24-25 July, 2024. Indian space industries, led by Satcom Industry Association- India, participated in the Indo-Pacific Space and Earth Conference (IPSEC) 2024 in Perth held from 26-28 November 2024. Western Australia-based LatConnect 60 announced their joint project with Indian launch service, Skyroot Aerospace, for launching their first satellite in December 2026. Australia was Innovation Country partner of the Space Expo 2024.

AIM (Atal Innovation Mission), NITI Ayog in association with CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) launched the I-ACE hackathon on 16 October 2020 virtually. Letter of Intent between AIM and CSIRO for Furthering Cooperation in Innovation was signed during the 1st India-Australia Annual Summit on 10 March 2023. AIM

and CSIRO jointly launched India-Australia Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) Accelerator virtually on 22 November 2023, aimed to support Australian and Indian startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) in India and Australia working on circular economy technologies and solutions. 14 startups have been selected in Round 1 (7 each from India and Australia). Cohort for Round 2 of the Australia-India Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) Accelerator was announced.

Resources & Energy Security: The India–Australia Energy Security Dialogue was established following the visit of then Australian Prime Minister Ms. Julia Gillard to India in October 2012. The Fourth India-Australia Energy Dialogue was held virtually on 15 February 2022. Both Ministers signed a Letter of Intent on New and Renewable Energy Technology wherein both sides committed to work together on reducing the cost of ultra low-cost solar and clean hydrogen. During the 1st India-Australia Annual Summit on 10 March 2023, the Terms of Reference for India-Australia Solar Taskforce were signed. A Renewable Energy Partnership was also announced. The Terms of Reference for India-Australia Green Hydrogen Task Force was signed on 23 May 2023 during the visit of PM Modi to Sydney. India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) was launched during 2nd India-Australia Annual Summit on 19 November 2024.

An MOU on Co-Investment in Australian Critical Minerals Projects for joint investment in critical mineral assets in Australia was signed between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), India and Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) Australia on 21 March 2022.

Australia is a member of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). During Leaders' virtual meeting in March 2022, matching funds of the amount of AUD 10 million for Pacific Island Countries under Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) and of AUD 10 million for Pacific Island Countries under International Solar Alliance (ISA) were announced by India.

Education, Sports, Art & Culture: The number of Indian students currently enrolled for studying in Australia is estimated at around 1,38,579 (November 2024), making Indian students the second largest cohort of foreign students in Australia. 1st AIESC meeting was held on 6-7 November 2023, co-chaired by Minister for Education and Skill Development, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Australia's Education Minister Jason and Skills & Training Minister Brendan O'Connor, during second visit of Education Minister Clare to India. 2nd AIESC meeting was held on 24 October 2024 in Sydney, Australia, co-chaired by Jason Clare, Minister for Education, and Andrew Giles, Minister for Skills and Training, Australia and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Government of India. Ministers agreed that the next meeting shall have a tripartite focus on schools, skills and higher education.

Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Educational Qualifications was signed on 2 March 2023 during the visit of Minister for Education Jason Clare to India. Ministry of Ayush announced setting up of Ayurveda Academic Chair at Western Sydney University's NICM Health Research Institute on 22 November 2022

Universities of Deakin and Wollongong have become first foreign universities to open their campuses in India (GIFT City). During the visit of Education Minister Clare to India on 6-7 November 2023, 5 MoUs between Australian and Indian HEIs have been exchanged including MoU on Innovative Research Universities (IRU) consortium campus wherein IRU

represents a coalition of 7 public universities across Australia (Flinders University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, Griffith University, University of Canberra, and Western Sydney University) and will work with Indian partners for a consortium approach to in-country delivery of degrees in India and expand in-country access to Australian higher education for Indian students. Western Sydney University has also signed an MOU with state government of UP to open a campus in the state.

Australian government has appointed Ms. Swati Dave as inaugural Chair and Tim Thomas as inaugural CEO for the Centre for Australia-India Relations, based in Parramatta, Sydney. FM Wong inaugurated the office of Centre for Australia-India Relations in Paramatta, Sydney on 20 May 2024. The Centre is working to intensify diaspora linkages, including through the Maitri Scholarships Program, the Maitri Grants and Fellowships Program and the Maitri Cultural Partnership. Centre for Australia-India Relations led the Festivalization of sports through “Summer of cricket” in Australia hosting India’s men and women cricket teams in 2024.

A MoU on Cooperation in Sports was signed during visit of former PM Turnbull to India in April 2017 and was renewed during the visit of PM Albanese to India in March 2023, along with signing of the India-Australia Audiovisual Co-production Agreement.

Repatriation of Indian Cultural Artefacts: A total of 40 artefacts have been repatriated since 2014, including 29 items which were repatriated in March 2022.

Consular Cooperation, People to People linkages: The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and the Extradition Treaty, signed in June 2008 entered into force on 20 January 2011. India and Australia signed a Social Security Agreement in November 2014, which came into force on 1 January 2016. Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA) was signed on 23 May 2023 and was exchanged in the presence of both PMs on 24 May 2023, during the visit of PM to Sydney.

Indian Community in Australia: The Indian community in Australia continues to grow in size and importance, with the population of about 9,76,000 (census 2021). India is one of the top sources of skilled immigrants to Australia. After England, India is the second largest migrant group in Australia (2021). To address the needs of the community and expand diplomatic footprint, a new Consulate General of India in Brisbane has commenced operations in May 2024. Dr. Navpreet Kaur is appointed as India’s first Honorary Consul in Hobart, Tasmania .

July 2025
