

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**Institute for  
Australia India  
Engagement**







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## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



***Dr. Ashutosh Misra***

**I**t is an absolute honour and privilege to write the CEO's note for the Annual Report 2020 of the Institute for Australia India Engagement. It gives me great satisfaction to say that IAIE has come a long way since its launch in September 2018 by the Indian High Commissioner Dr A.M. Gondane. The Institute has not looked back ever since and continued to promote greater mutual country understanding and complement the objectives of the Australia India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through policy research, policy dialogues and multi-disciplinary engagements.

The publicity and profiling of the Institute has been ever expanding through the regularly updated IAIE website [www.iaie.org.au](http://www.iaie.org.au) which has recorded over 41,000 hits so far, at an average of 1500 per month. We secured the Google Grants for not-for-profit institutions which provided us email services (with domain name) and public campaign tools for our events and publications, and there by directed greater traffic to our website internationally. Over the years, an increasing number of scholars, diplomats, policymakers, business groups, community associations and media houses in Australia, India and internationally have engaged with us regularly at various levels. This testifies the Institute's growing leadership as the first

independent policy think-tank in Australia focused on Australia-India bilateral relations. We have continued to bolster mutual understanding in sync with our vision — the deeper we understand each other the better we engage.

I must categorically highlight that in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak, while countless institutions shut shop, IAIE has been very fortunate to have not only survived but thrived. In 2020, IAIE moved to a more endowed, well-resourced and primarily located premises at Wickham Terrace, owing to the generosity of Dr Ram Mohan, former president of the Federation of the Indian Communities of Queensland and Chairman and Publisher, India News Australia. This transition also led to the IAIE and India News Memorandum of Understanding which has proven highly productive for both entities. However, for IAIE's success in 2020 in seeing such a challenging year through, on behalf of the Executive Committee I extend my sincere gratitude towards our highly accomplished Board members and international panel of advisors, for their stellar support and wisdom. In 2020 we sadly bid goodbye to our two Board members — Dr Michael Clarke and Professor Ian Hall, who due to their professional commitments could not continue their association with us anymore — and on behalf of the Executive Committee I thank them for their invaluable support to IAIE since its inception. At the same time, we were privileged to welcome Dr Sarah Kelly based at the University of Queensland, as the new Board member, with whom we have undertaken a number meaningful initiatives ever since in the field of sport law and management.

I must also extend greetings to our new Adjunct Fellows Ms Audrey Courty, who has recently also joined as Online Learning Advisor at QUT Online and Dr Raspal Khosa for their association with IAIE and bringing new insights and perspectives in their areas of expertise. I also welcome Mr Kartik Pratap Singh as the new Media Coordinator and Institute Secretary. I also congratulate Dr Amol Wagholikar who has been appointed as the Program Director, Sports and Wellness initiative at IAIE.

This also given me immense pride to share that 2020 also witnessed our Executive Committee and Board members scale greater heights in their professional domains. Mr Matthew Hayden AM was invited to join the Board of the Australia India Council in



the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and congratulated by the Foreign Minister Hon'ble Marise Payne, who made a note of his association with IAIE in her press release, which is very encouraging for us as an institution. Dr Sarah Kelly was inducted to lead the Minerva Network which supports professional women in sports, and Dr Amy Illidge, member of the Executive Committee was profiled in a leading newspaper for her outstanding role as a practising doctor, mother of five and a champion supporter of Fight4Balance charity which helps and mentors children with mild and medium disability effectively deal with bullying. Similarly, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Dr Ram Mohan, Mr Shaun Star and I were appointed members of the Executive Committee of the Australia India Business Council (Queensland), which will enable IAIE to play a more meaningful role in promoting business and trade engagements between the two countries.

As Covid ruled out the possibility of holding physical or in-person events, the year 2020 saw the launch of the virtual Triveni Dialogue series, a collaborative initiative between IAIE, AIBC and the Centre for India Australia Studies at the O.P. Jindal Global University, India. Three dialogues have already been organised on sports, foreign policy and business and trade matters involving diplomats, policymakers, business leaders, strategic analysts, sportspersons and community leader. IAIE was quick off-the-block in organising the first dialogue by any institution on the Modi-Morrison Virtual Summit, just a day after the two prime ministers held the historic virtual summit. This speaks volume of our ability to sense and tap a strategic opportunity and demonstrates the effectiveness of our robust resource network and capabilities in putting a successful dialogue at a short notice. For details, please see the section on Policy Dialogue of this report.

As the pandemic's impact began to dissipate towards the latter half of 2020, IAIE organised a number of community events in Brisbane with the support of the Indian High Commission, community associations and local philanthropic bodies (detailed in the section on Community Engagements). We also proudly participated in several national events such as the Mental Health Symposium and walk to create awareness about this condition. IAIE was also represented on a global stage by Dr Amol Waghlikar in a Global Speaker Series at the Digital Health

Symposium 2020".

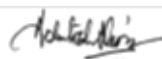
On the publication front, IAIE's partnership with India News has turned out to be a mutually beneficial collaboration. While several IAIE members have contributed articles in the newspaper, I as the Editor-in-Chief have utilised the editorial space to create greater awareness about India in Australia and vice versa. India News YouTube TV channel headed by Mr Kartik Singh, has enabled us to conduct virtual and in-person interviews with politicians, academics, businessmen, artists, community leaders and sportspersons in Australia and India on issues of mutual interests. IAIE members have prolifically published not only in India News but also in international journals, books, magazines, newspapers and online portals which has helped profile IAIE's expertise far and wide.

I am very fortunate to have received an outstanding support of the Board members who continue to guide our strategic plan and engagements as we look forward to breaking new grounds in 2021. With the same token, a special note of thanks goes to our International Panel of Advisors who remain our constant source of fresh insights, research ideas and professional networking in Australia, India, Canada and the United States. Without their kind support IAIE would not have been able to achieve what it has in a short span of time. Also, our accounting team led by Mr Matt Connor remains the backbone of IAIE's record keeping, accounting and auditing processes and keeps us up-to-date with ASIC's compliance requirements.

As things show a promising trend in 2021 we are looking forward to working closely with the Australian, Indian and international partners and stakeholders, in making Australia India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, one of the most vibrant of partnerships in the international system, especially Indo-Pacific. We believe the time for AICSP has arrived and as an institution we remain steadfast as ever in our resolve to enrich and complement it to the best of our capabilities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



(Ashutosh Misra)

Brisbane, 15 February 2021



## OVERVIEW, VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES



### *Overview*

The idea of IAIE germinated in 2017 after several rounds of discussion with academics, policy practitioners, business leaders and strategic experts in Australia and India who shared a strong yearning for establishing an institution which enriched our mutual understanding and appreciation of the underlying interests, opportunities and challenges in the Australia-India Strategic Partnership (AISP). AISP provides the policy framework for furthering bilateral engagements in field of defence, policing, security, business, energy, education and sports among others, which forms the nucleus of self-sustaining intellectual churning at IAIE. We seek to harness this churning through policy-relevant research, multi-track dialogues, academic and practitioner's exchanges, research collaborations, capacity building programmes, public lectures and international events.

IAIE constitution would also enshrine the provision for establishing nodes or chapters in other states and territories in Australia and India to achieve greater institutional outreach, ideational synergy, community involvement, stakeholder interactions

and policy impact.

IAIE represents a vibrant conglomeration of academic experts, research analysts, policy-practitioners, corporate professionals, and sport leaders in Australia and India, who have left an indelible mark in their respective fields with their writings, performances and achievements over the years. They are the leading lights who share a common and strong yearning for deeper mutual understanding and engagements between Australia and India and complement the objectives of AISP. IAIE's uniqueness rests in the rich perspectives of its members, shaped over the years through lived experiences in both countries, and first-hand knowledge of socio-political culture, language, history, bureaucratic processes and government functioning. This uniqueness inspires our vision: the deeper we understand each other, better we engage.



### *Vision*

The deeper we understand each other the better we engage.

### *Mission*

To strengthen Australia-India Strategic Partnership through evidence-based research, exchange of new knowledge, targeted policy dialogues and innovative business solutions for the government, corporate and community stakeholders.

### *Objectives*

1. Build policy-relevant project collaboration with government, academic and business stakeholders in Australia and India in the field of security, policing, defence, business, energy, education, sports and culture.
2. Prioritise delivering capacity development and business solutions in partnership with government, corporate and community stakeholders in both countries.



3. Produce high-impact research publications to shape strategic thinking in Australia and India.
4. Generate new ideas to inform public policy, shape strategic discourse and stimulate intellectual churning on current affairs through distinguished person's oration, public lectures and seminars.
5. Organise multiple-track dialogues involving policy makers, strategic experts, academics and business leaders to complement the objectives of Australia-India Strategic Partnership.
6. Strengthen the multicultural ethos of Australia through dialogues, public events and inter-community engagements.
7. Develop and synergise a transnational network of area and subject experts, retired policy-makers and diplomats, business leaders and community members, particularly those possessing cultural, language and lived understanding of India, to facilitate a more meaningful policy formulation, engagement strategies and research outcomes.
8. Provide policy advice and institutional support to government, academic and business stakeholders in Australia and India in forging bilateral engagements, exploring opportunities and organising public events.

### ***Guiding Principles***

#### ***• Amalgamate national and institutional visions***

Consciously endeavour to sync IAIE's institutional objectives with the priorities of the Australia India Strategic Partnership to help Australia-India bilateral ties grow rapidly and meaningfully.

#### ***• Build policymaker-academic bridge***

A successful syncing of the national and institutional visions will build a mutually complementary policy-maker-academic bridge wherein research knowledge and business solutions will not only contribute to informed policy-making but also be shaped by policy imperatives.

#### ***• Shape strategic thinking***

IAIE's research agenda, critical thinking and policy dialogues are expected to shape strategic thinking in Australia and India generating new ideas, alternative discourses and fresh policy paradigms.

#### ***• Encourage empirical understanding and first-hand experiences***

IAIE is a foci of country/area experts possessing

a rich repository of language skills, cultural competencies and socio-political understanding gained over the decades through lived experiences in Australia and India.

#### ***• Foster collaborations and networks***

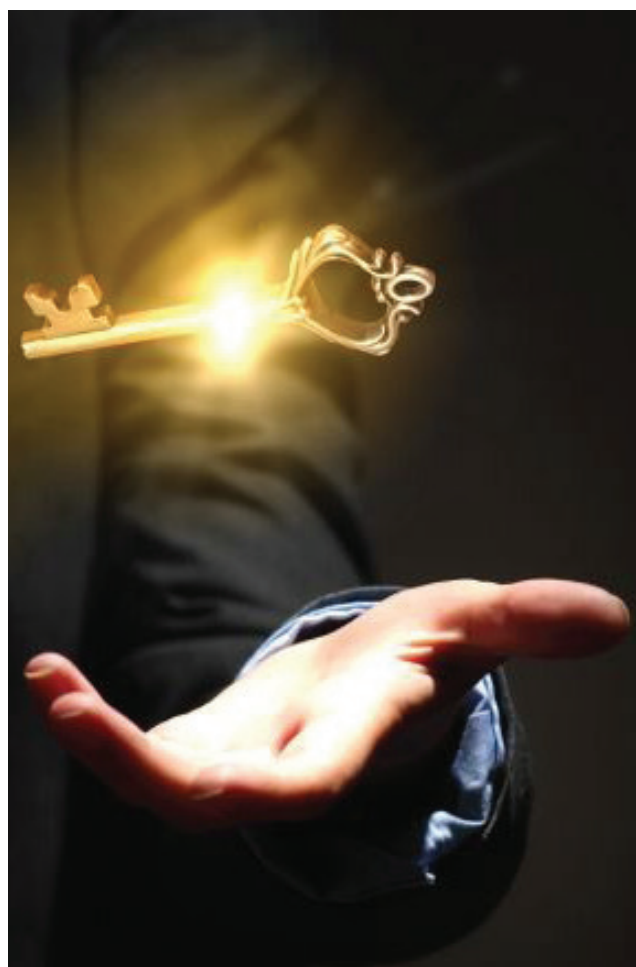
IAIE will not only forge research and policy-driven collaborations with the government, corporate, academic and civil-society stakeholders but also foster a network of the Indian diaspora in Australia to draw upon their knowledge, experiences and needs in shaping the our engagement agenda.

#### ***• Facts and evidence driven approach***

IAIE's research outcomes and business solutions for stakeholders will be based on facts and evidence, in order to impact policy-making more effectively and build its standing as a leading policy institution on Australia-India relations in the region.

#### ***• Maintain policy continuum***

Institutional adhocism leads to premature termination of initiatives and engagements, generating despair and frustration among the stakeholders, which IAIE will address by maintaining medium and long-term engagement continuum.





## Governance & Leadership



**Dr Ashutosh Misra,**  
CEO and Executive Director



**Mr Matthew Hayden AM,**  
Former Australian Cricketer  
IAIE's Goodwill Ambassador for India

## Institute Board



**Dr Ashutosh Misra,**  
CEO and Executive Director  
(Chair)



**Mr Matthew Hayden AM,**  
Former Australian Cricketer  
(ex-officio)



**Dr Sarah Kelly,**  
Associate Professor, The  
University of Queensland (ex-  
officio)



**Dr Jacqueline Drew,**  
Senior Lecturer, School of  
Criminology and Criminal  
Justice, Griffith University (ex-  
officio)



**Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy,**  
Director, Raj Business  
Consultants (ex-officio)

## International Panel of Advisors



**Professor C. Raj Kumar,**  
Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal  
Global University, Sonapat, India



**Ambassador (retd.) Virendra  
Gupta,**  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
Government of India



**Professor Nikos Passas,**  
Criminology and Criminal  
Justice, Northwestern University,  
United States

## International Panel of Advisors



**Mr Dale Sheehan,**  
Former Interpol official, Director,  
Capacity Building and Education,  
International Centre for Sports  
Security, Qatar



**Professor To-Hai Liou,**  
National Chengchi University,  
Taiwan, R.O.C.



**Professor Priyankar Upadhyaya,**  
Coordinator, UNESCO Chair,  
Banaras Hindu University, India



**Professor Srikanth Kondapalli,**  
School of International Studies,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New  
Delhi, India



**Dr Uttam Kumar Sinha,**  
Research Fellow, Manohar  
Parrikar Institute for Defence  
Studies and Analyses, India



**Dr Rajiv Nayan,**  
Senior Research Officer,  
Manohar Parrikar Institute for  
Defence Studies and Analyses,  
India



**Dr Jack Anderson,**  
Director, Sports Law Studies,  
University of Melbourne,  
Australia

## Principal Program Director, Sports and Wellness



**Dr Amol Wagholikar,**  
PhD, MInfoTech, B.E.



## Adjunct Fellows



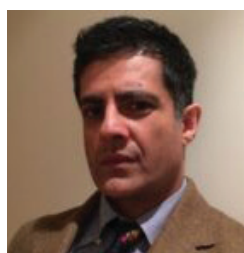
**Dr Nand Kumar Janardhanan,**  
Institute for Global  
Environmental Strategies, Japan



**Dr Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedi,**  
Rajaratnam School of  
International Studies, Nanyang  
technical University, Singapore

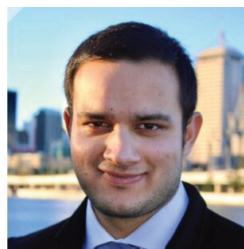


**Ms Audrey Courty,**  
PhD Candidate (Griffith  
University) and Online Learning  
Advisor/Unit Coordinator,  
Queensland University of  
Technology



**Mr Raspal Khosa,**  
Independent Defence and  
Strategic Policy Analyst

## Media Coordinator & Institute Secretary



**Mr Karthik Pratap Singh,**  
India News YouTube TV Director

## Mr Raspal Khosa Joins IAIE as Adjunct Fellow



Raspal Khosa is an independent defence and strategic policy analyst with a longstanding interest in South Asia. He consults to Australian Government agencies and the Australian Defence Force with respect to strategy, operations and conflict analysis. His recent

work focused heavily on ADF operations in the Middle East Region and Afghanistan. He visited Afghanistan as an opinion leader on five occasions with the ADF, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Headquarters, and as a guest of the United States Armed Forces.

Raspal was previously employed as a Research Fellow with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), where he managed the Institute's Outreach Program. His role at ASPI included research and analysis, policy advice and media comment on the Afghanistan conflict and South Asian security. His publications on the Afghanistan insurgency were read at the highest levels of government. He lectured on the counter-insurgency campaign in Afghanistan at the Australian War College, Canberra. Australia's major international allies, private sector corporations and local and global news media frequently sought his analysis of this complex intervention.

Whilst at ASPI, Raspal participated in three successive rounds of the Australia-India Security Roundtable. This 1.5 track strategic dialogue was supported by the Australia-India Council, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It provided a platform to exchange views on a range of regional and global issues of common concern to Australia and India, and to identify areas with a potential to enhance the bilateral security relationship.

Raspal has also conducted post-graduate research into the Kashmir Insurgency with the University of New South Wales, which afforded him an appreciation of the history, politics, culture and strategic posture of key South Asian states. During this period, he cultivated an extensive range of contacts within the South Asia security studies community on the Indian Sub-continent, and in Europe and North America.

Raspal holds a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) from the Australian National University and an Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History from the University of Adelaide.

## Ms Audrey Courty Joins IAIE as Adjunct Fellow



Audrey Courty is a PhD candidate and researcher in the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. Her doctoral thesis investigates the role of social media in the mediation of right-wing populism in liberal democracies. The core analytical framework centres on political communication

and digital media theories, while also intersecting with political science and international relations research.

Audrey has published in academic journals and books, and frequently writes op-eds for news media on digital media and extremism. She previously lectured in Islam, Media and Conflict (2611LHS), and Rethinking Journalism and Media (3025LHS) at Griffith University. She also delivered guest lectures for the Islam-West Relations program on Islamist terrorism, media coverage of terrorism, Islamophobia and right-wing extremism.

Audrey holds a Bachelor of Journalism with First-Class Honours from Griffith University where she specialised in Islamic Studies and Cultural Sociology. Her Honours thesis entitled 'Blood and ink: The relationship between Islamic State propaganda and Western media' critically examines how news media can unintentionally aid terrorists' cause by reproducing Islamist narratives and allowing bellicose rhetoric to supersede fact-based reporting.

Audrey is currently a member of the Griffith Cultural and Social Research Centre (GCSRC) and the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia (JERAA). She was on the JERAA executive board between 2018-2019.

Audrey spent her formative years in France, Turkey, Indonesia, China, and Canada. As a result of her mobile upbringing, Audrey's work always brings a cross-cultural perspective and is sensitive to the particularities of various socio-political contexts.



## PARTNERSHIP

### Memorandum of Understanding between IAIE and India News



(Dr Ashutosh Misra and Dr Ram Mohan signing the MoU)



On 16 June 2020, CEO Dr Ashutosh Misra signed an MoU with Dr Ram Mohan, Chairman and Publisher of India News Australia which ever since has enabled the Institute's scholars and members to publish their writings in the fortnightly edition of India News. This cooperation has also been instrumental in enriching the coverage, outreach and quality of India News. Dr Misra was also appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of India News on the occasion.

## POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

### India's Defence Minister Sri Rajnath Singh

IAIE CEO Dr Ashutosh Misra met with the Hon'ble Defence Minister of India Sri Rajnath Singh ji in New Delhi at his residence on 31 December 2019 to present the Annual Report 2019 and profile the activities of the Institute for Australia India Engagement. Hon'ble Minister was very pleased to know of our Institute's progress and assured of all necessary assistance and cooperation. Both discussed the possibility of holding a bilateral defence and security dialogue in 2020 in Brisbane, but due the pandemic it could not be materialised.



(Dr Misra with Shri Rajnath Singh)

IAIE CEO Dr Ashutosh Misra met with Professor Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair, Banaras Hindu University at his residence in Varanasi on 14 December 2019 to present him the Annual Report 2019 and also update him on the IAIE's activities in 2019. Professor Upadhyaya is on the panel of IAIE's international advisors and remains a key resource person in the field of peacebuilding, multiculturalism and religious tolerance.



(Dr Misra with Professor Upadhyaya)

### Attending the Adani Mining (Bravus) Ten Years Celebrations

Dr Ashutosh Misra was invited to attend the ten years celebrations of the Adani Mining in Australia. An event in which a large number of business leaders and entrepreneurs participated, shared a snapshot of the extraordinary decade long saga of trails and tribulations of Adani Mining in Australia. It is an amazing story of perseverance, self-belief and teamwork in seeing the project through.



(Mr Samir Vora, Mrs Deepa Vora, Dr Misra, Mr Matthew Hayden, Mr Rajesh Gupta and Mr Nik Senapati)



(Dr Ashutosh Misra and Dr Ram Mohan with India's Honorary Consul Mrs Archana Singh at the event.)



(Some of the delegates at the Adani event)

## India House Discussion with Lord Mayor, 11 November

Dr Ashutosh Misra met with Lord Mayor of Brisbane Adrian Schrinner and Mr Jim Varghese National Chair, Australia India Business Council at an event where the master plan for INDIA HOUSE to be built in Brisbane was unveiled. IAIE was pleased note of such a path-breaking project.



(Dr Misra, Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Mr Jim Varghese)

## Interview with Jim Varghese, 16 July



(Dr Misra interviewing Mr Jim Varghese)

Dr Ashutosh Misra undertook an exclusive interview with Mr Jim Varghese, National Chair, Australia India Business Council on a range of India-Australia bilateral issues inter alia, business and trade, Free Trade Agreement, virtual summit, Covid-19 impact, evolution of the Indian community in Australia and linkages with the Indigenous Australians and the relevance of Gandhian values and Vedanta philosophy of Vivekananda in the contemporary world.





## ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE

### New Media Coordinator and Institute Secretary

Mr Kartik Pratap Singh joined as the Media Coordinator with an additional role as the Institute's Secretary. Kartik Singh is a professional freelance journalist who has a passion to inform people on complex stories political and current affairs. Currently, working as the news director of India News TV, Kartik has covered various critical stories such as the impact of abrogation of Article 370 from Kashmir; China's apprehensions with growing ties between India and Taiwan, the Harris Park brawl in Sydney, etc. He began his career as the assisting editor at Indian News Queensland (INQ). He graduated with a Mass Communications degree from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and has been a volunteer for many community organisations such as the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland (FICQ), Gandhi Salt March Limited (GSML).



### IAIE's Second Foundation Anniversary Celebrations, 4 September 2020

**Institute for  
Australia India  
Engagement**

**2nd Anniversary**

**Foundation Day Dinner**

*On behalf of the Executive Committee it is our profound pleasure to invite you to the Foundation Day dinner of IAIE to celebrate its two years of journey.*

**Venue:** Mehfil restaurant, 4 Morrow St, Taringa QLD 4068

**Date:** Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Time:** 6.30 pm onwards

In association with our Institutional Partner

**INDIA NEWS**  
KEEPING YOU AHEAD

IAIE celebrated its second anniversary on 4 September 2020 under the shadow of Covid-19 restrictions. Due to restrictions on public gathering a small number of members and guests gathered at a local restaurant to raise a toast for the milestone. In addition to Dr Misra, Board members Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Dr Jacqueline Drew; Dr Amol Waghlikar, Dr Ram Mohan and Mrs Shaun Star among other guests were present on the occasion. In their personal remarks Dr Misra and Dr Waghlikar noted the achievements of the Institute under a challenging period and thanked the members for their support. On the occasion along with Mr Matthew Hayden, several members of the International Advisory panel including Professor C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, India; Mr Dale Sheehan, Former Interpol official, Director, Capacity Building and Education, International Centre for Sports Security, Qatar, Professor Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India; Dr Uttam Kumar Sinha, Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, India, Dr Rajiv Nayan, Senior Research Officer, MP-Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India, Dr Jack Anderson, Head Sport Law, University of Melbourne, and Dr Ram Mohan and Mr Jim Varghese, National Chair, AIBC sent their video messages to commemorate the milestone.



(Anniversary cake. Courtesy: Dr Amol Waghlikar)



(Guests at the dinner)



(Cake cutting)



(Dr Jacqueline Drew, Dr Misra and Mr Jason Saunders)



(Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Mr Shaun Star, Ms Ananya Dhyani, Associate Editor India News, Mr Devang, Dr Jacqueline Drew, Mr Jason Saunders, Mrs Sweta Misra, Mr Shaun Star, Dr Ashutosh Misra and Dr Ram Mohan)



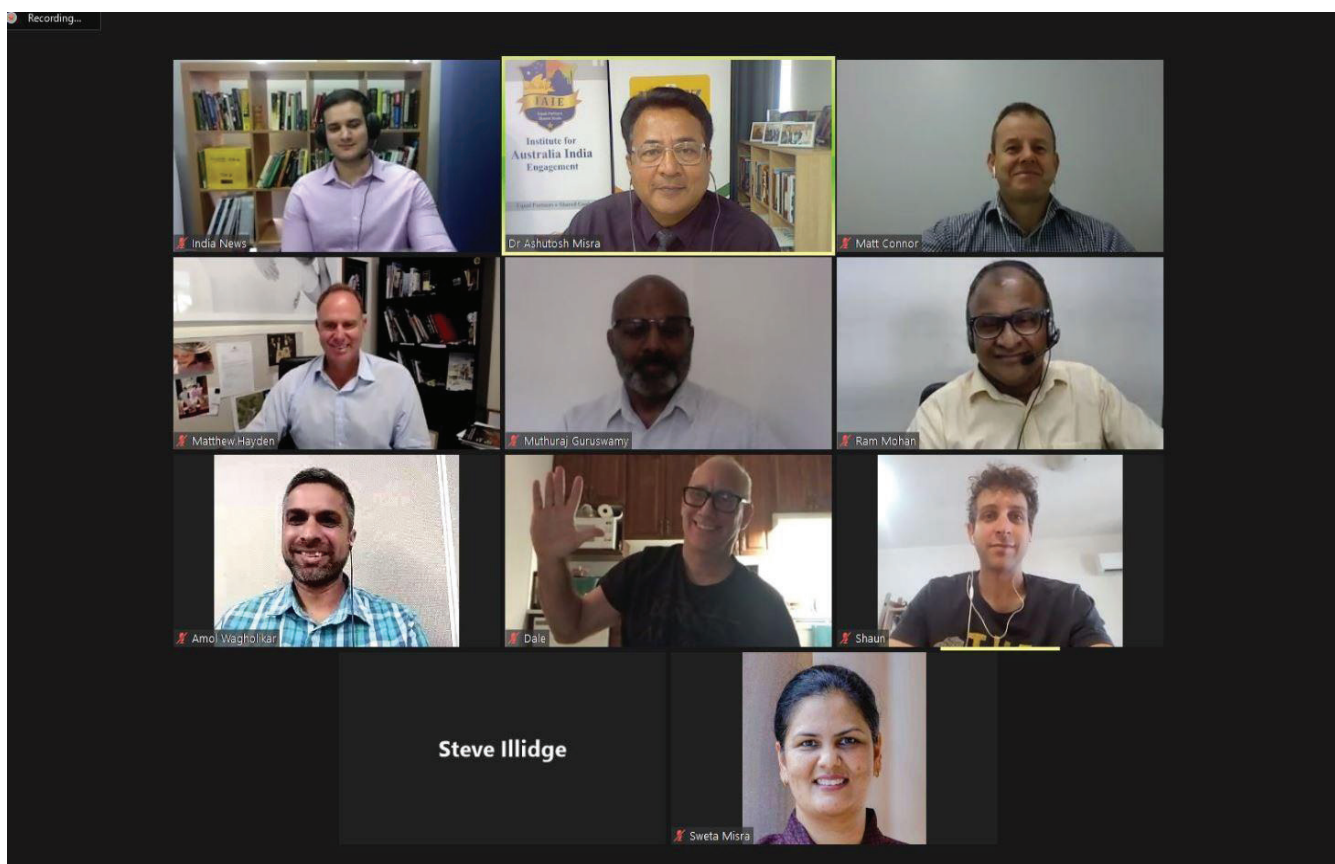
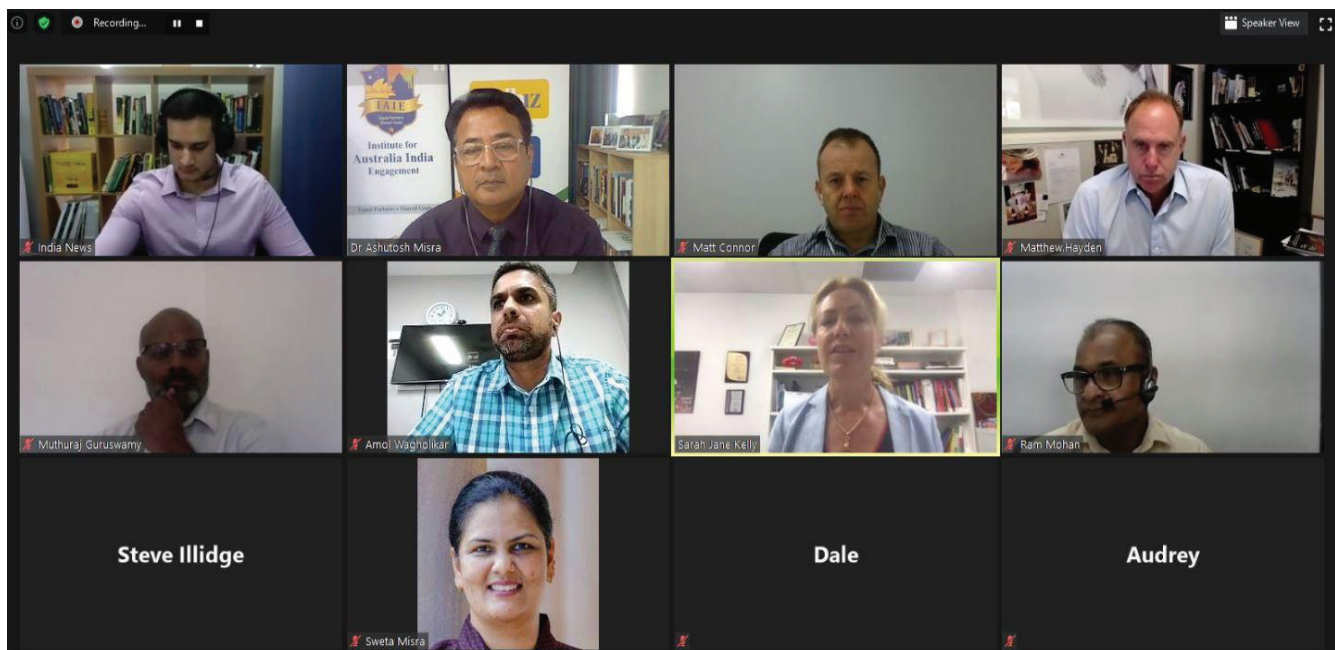
(Dr Ram Mohan, Mr Shaun Star, Mrs Sweta Misra, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Dr Jacqueline Drew, Mr Jason Saunders and Dr Ashutosh Misra)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17 NOVEMBER 2020

The Institute for Australia India Engagement's second AGM of 2020 was held online on 17 November 2020 to recap what has been a very productive and successful year in very testing times. IAIE stood firm and braved the adversities with the help of its Executive Committee, Board members, International Advisors, Fellows and patrons. Mr Matthew



Hayden, Dr Sarah Kelly, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Dr Jacqueline Drew, Dr Amol Wagholikar, Mr Matt Connor, Dr Amy Illidge, Mrs Sweta Misra and our international advisors including Mr Shaun Star, Mr Dale Sheehan, Dr Ram Mohan, Mr Kartik Pratap Singh (Media Coordinator) were present in the meeting. The meeting also thanked Ms Audrey Courty and Mr Raspal Khosa who joined IAIE as Adjunct Fellows.



## BOARD MEETINGS

### First Board Meeting

10 March 2020

The first Board meeting of 2020 was held on 10 July, on the auspicious day of the Indian festival of Holi. The meeting was chaired by Dr Ashutosh Misra and attended by Mr Matthew Hayden, Dr Jacqueline Drew, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Mr Stephen Illidge (proxy for Dr Amy Illidge), Mr Matt Connor, Dr Amol Wagholikar, Mrs Sweta Misra, Dr Sarah Jane Kelly (through teleconferencing) and Dr Michael Clarke (through teleconferencing). This meeting was especially significant because it welcomed its new Board member Dr Sarah Kelly based at the University of Queensland, in place of Professor Ian Hall, who had resigned from the Board due to personal commitments. The Board thanked Dr Hall for his support and contribution since the launch of the Institute in 2018. Then, Dr Misra welcomed Dr Amol Wagholikar to the Board meeting as an observer, who had joined IAIE as an Adjunct Fellow, to share his ideas on how to strengthen the Institute's activities, especially in the field of sports and wellness. Then Dr Misra called Dr Michael Clarke at ANU, Canberra, who despite his teaching and organisational responsibilities and tight schedule spoke to the Board over the phone. He extended his support to IAIE's ongoing activities and was also requested by Dr Misra to explore joint events in the future in the defence and security spheres with National Security College. Dr Misra provided a detailed update on IAIE's and his personal engagements in Australia and India with stakeholders and members of advisory panel. Dr Misra also shared how the Institute was being recognised far and wide in Australia and India due to the profile of its leaders, events, publications and professional engagements.



(Matthew Hayden sharing his thoughts)



(Dr Misra, Mr Hayden and Dr Drew)





(Mrs Sweta Misra, Mr Matt Connor, Dr Amol Waghlikar, Dr Drew, Dr Misra, Mr Guruswamy, Mr Hayden and Mr Stephen Illidge)



(Dr Misra, Mr Matt Connor, Mr Guruswamy, Dr Amol Waghlikar, Dr Drew, Mr Hayden, Mr Stephen Illidge and Mrs Sweta Misra)

## Second Board Meeting

16 July 2020

The second Board meeting of 2020 was held on 16 July 2020 in person and attended by Dr Ashutosh Misra, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Dr Sarah Kelly, Dr Jacqueline Drew and Dr Amol Waghlikar; by Mr Matthew Hayden and Ms Sweta Misra (telephonically); and special invitees Dr Ram Mohan and Mr Shaun Star in person. In the end Dr Ram Mohan on behalf of India News group and Dr Ashutosh Misra on behalf of IAIE signed the Memorandum of Understanding to forge institutional collaboration between IAIE and India News. Dr Misra also shared that he has also been appointed the Editor in Chief of the India News, a fortnightly publication, which would profile IAIE's activities and also benefit from IAIE's expertise, stakeholder linkages and human resources (please see section on Partnerships for details).





(Dr Sarah Kelly - The University of Queensland; Mr Shaun Star – Director, Centre for India Australia Studies OP Jindal Global University, India; Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy; Dr Jacqueline Drew, Griffith University; Dr Ashutosh Misra, Dr Ram Mohan – Chairman, India News and Dr Amol Wagholikar)





## PUBLICATIONS, LECTURES & INTERVIEWS

### Books

- Nandkumar Janardhanan and V. Chaturvedi, 'Renewable Energy Transition in Asia: Policies, Markets and Emerging Issues, Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan (Upcoming, 2021)
- Priyanka Upadhyaya (Co-authored), Promoting Peace, Human Rights and Dialogue among Civilizations, Geneva: UN University of Peace Press (2020).
- Priyanka Upadhyaya, 'Building Peace through Education and Culture: Evolving UN Perspectives', Strategic Analysis, London: Routledge (2020).
- Uttam Kumar Sinha, Indus Basin Uninterrupted: A History of Territory and Power from Alexander to Nehru, New Delhi: Penguin Random House (2020).

### Book Chapters

- Ashutosh Misra, 'The Rann of Kutch Arbitration', in M. Kocsis (eds), Global Encyclopedia of Territorial Rights. Cham: Springer. (2020).
- Halim Rane and Audrey Courty, 'The caliphate wants you! Conflating Islam and Islamist ideology in ISIS recruitment propaganda and Western media reporting', in B. Maartens and T. Bivins (eds), Propaganda and Public Relations in Military Recruitment: Promoting Military Service in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries. London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429319624> (2020).
- J.M. Drew, 'Interview with the Queensland Police Commissioner', in B. Baker & D. Das (eds.). Trends in Policing: Interviews with Police Leaders Across the Globe, Boca Raton: CRC Press (2020).
- Nandkumar Janardhanan, P. N. Bao, K. Hibino & J. Akagi. Japan's low-carbon technology collaboration with Southeast Asia: Co-innovation and Co-benefits in H. Farzaneh, E. Zusman & Y. Chae (eds). Aligning climate change and sustainable development policies in Asia. Tokyo: Springer (Upcoming, 2021).
- Nandkumar Janardhanan, R. Mandhyan, A. Rawat & E. Ikeda, 'The COVID-19 Impacts on India's Low Carbon Infrastructure in A. Ramanathan, et al. (eds.) Environmental Resilience and Transformation in times of COVID-19, Singapore: Springer (Upcoming, 2021).
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- Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, 'People-to-People Relations: An Instrument for Enhancing Regional Integration', Afghan Diplomats Training Programme on the Role of Cooperation in Regional Economic Development and Connectivity, Apeejay School of Management, New Delhi (21-26 December 2020).



## MEDIA OUTREACH (INDIA NEWS)

### YouTube TV Interviews



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- ‘M.S. Dhoni’s Cricketing Legacy’. Interview with Matthew Hayden. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbVOjtxfFL8&t=320s> (1 September 2020).
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- ‘Australia-India Business and Trade Ties Under the Shadow of Covid’. Interview with Jim Varghese, National Chair, AIBC, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqQh2ZdSp2Q&t=403s> (15 August 2020).

### Ms. Audrey Courty, International Relations Expert, French Islamophobia (10 November)

India News YouTube TV Director Mr Kartik Pratap Singh spoke with Ms Audrey Courty, an international relations expert, PhD candidate at Griffith University and a French resident about the drivers of recent radical attacks in France and Emmanuel Macron’s response and perceptions amongst public and youth towards such events.



### Mr James Varghese, AM National Chair, Australia India Business Council (15 August)

Dr Misra spoke with Jim Varghese on a range of issues inter alia, business and trade, Free Trade Agreement, virtual summit, Covid-19 impact, evolution of the Indian community and linkages with Indigenous Australians and also the relevance of Gandhian values and Vedanta philosophy of Vivekananda.



### Mr Matthew Hayden on M.S. Dhoni’s Legacy (1 September)

India News team comprising Dr Ashutosh Misra, Mr Kartik Paratp Singh and Mr Agastya Yeturi organised a probing discussion with the Australian cricketing legend Matthew Hayden to gather his thoughts on former Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni’s legacy. Mr Hayden spoke from various stand points: as an opponent, fellow Chennai Super Kings teammate and as a commentator.



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More on Page 12

## R-Day celebrations: India displays military might, diversity

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANIS) India's military might, cultural diversity, social and economic progress were displayed during the 75th Republic Day celebrations at the Rajpath in New Delhi on Thursday. Representing India's strides in indigenous defence technology, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased this year consisted of two tableaux depicting among others Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) that off from INS Vikramaditya.

Continued on Page 5

## PM Scott Morrison delivers Australia Day message

Canberra, Jan 26 (IANIS) As Australians, our lives have always been bound together. During this past year, we have been reminded once again of our shared fortunes. How much we depend on each other. In a year where much of the world has struggled under the strain of

the global pandemic, Australians, together, have prevailed, in our own Australian way. Australians patiently doing the right thing. Health workers collecting samples and tracing the virus. Nurses, aged and disability care

Continued on Page 5

## Australia has beaten 3rd wave pandemic: PM

Canberra, Jan 21 (IANIS) Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Friday declared that the country has successfully beaten a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic. His declaration came after a meeting of the National Cabinet, which consists of the Prime Minister and state and territory leaders, to discuss Australia's ongoing response to the pandemic, reports Sishu news agency.

Following the meeting he told reporters that "we have beaten the third wave" that began with an infection cluster in Sydney. Despite the good news, he said that the cap on international arrivals to Australia would not be lifted until February 15. Arrivals to New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland were halted earlier in January in response to the threat of the most recent Covid-19 strain.

Continued on Page 5

## WHO chief thanks Modi for 'continued support' to Covid-19 response

Geneva, Jan 23 (IANIS) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), on Saturday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "continued support" to the global Covid-19 response. India's "Vaccine Master Initiative" is providing vaccines to its neighbouring countries. "Thank you India and Prime Minister @narendramodi for your continued support to the global COVID-19 response. Only if we RACT together, including sharing of knowledge, can we stop this virus and save lives and livelihoods." The WHO chief said in a tweet.

Brazilian President Jair M. Bolsonaro also thanked Modi for dispatching two million doses of India-made coronavirus vaccine to Brazil. India dispatched two million doses of Covishield vaccine to Brazil on Friday. Covishield has been developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and is being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII).

Continued on Page 5

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- Audrey Courty, 'Wild West': Who Regulates Social Media and What's Parler?', The Sydney Morning Herald (13 January 2021).



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## POLICY DIALOGUES

### TRIVENI DIALOGUE SERIES

#### India and Australia Economic Strategies—What's Next (1 February, 2021)

*Report by Deepika Banerji*



The inaugural webinar of the Triveni dialogue this year which was conducted as a joint initiative of Australia India Business Council (AIBC), Institute for Australia India Engagement (IAIE) and Centre for India Australia Studies (CIAS), Jindal Global University on 1 February focused on kick-starting the mutual intellectual, academic and policy journey of Australia and India continuing on from last year.

Dr Ashutosh Misra, CEO, IAIE, hailing the webinar as a highly stimulating, policy relevant and timely dialogue, welcomed the panel of speakers comprising Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Former Secretary (East), Government of India; Peter Varghese AO, Chancellor, UQ, Former Secretary DFAT; Barry O' Farrell, Australian High Commissioner, New Delhi; and Gitesh A. Sarma, Indian High Commissioner, Canberra. Ms Sanushka Seomangal, National Vice Chair, AIBC acted as the moderator giving an insight into the contributions of the keynote speakers.

Ambassador Wadhwa who authored the Australia Economy Strategy on behalf of the Confederation of Indian Industry and KPMG and was launched on 18 November 2020 emphasised that the need of the hour for Australia was to get more closely involved in the Indian economy. Hailing Australia as the ideal strategic partner for India which is currently looking towards a transformative and inclusive growth, he asserted that with both India and Australia facing belligerence from China, there is a huge potential for greater business and trade initiatives, especially for Australia which is on the look-out for a potential alternative foreign market for its exports. Having identified 12 key sectors for strategic alliances between both the countries, Wadhwa further said that there is vast scope for Indian businesses to fortify ties with Australia in the areas of mining of resources, agribusiness, health care, cancer research and trials, education, renewable energy, tourism and digital technology. There is especially scope for collaborative projects in infrastructural development, joint manufacturing in space and research, cloud computing and financial and cyber technology.

He also opined that the traditional Indian exports of pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, automotive spare parts, railway equipments, refined petroleum and textiles along with Indian traditional medicine which has off-late gained popularity in the Australian market should be ramped up. Emphasising the need for Indian companies to invest more in Australia, he remarked the figures for India's goods and services exports which was predicted to be 5 billion dollars in 2015, is slated to surge to 35 billion by 2035.

He further talked about the crucial role that Australia's critical minerals sector can play in supplying the



essential minerals to India even as the latter aspires to strengthen its industrial production and robust infrastructural development. Moreover, he said that with India permitting 100 % Foreign Direct Investment in the renewable energy sector, Australian energy sector should capitalize on this opportunity. He also delineated the pivotal contribution that Australian vocational institutes could play in not only imparting valuable skills to Indian students but also equipping the trainers with the requisite expertise in making the learning process more effective. As far as the implementation of his recommendations are concerned, Ambassador Wadhwa strongly feels that a special working group comprising officials from the Trade and Foreign Ministry of both the countries along with other experts in the area, should be formed and concrete policies should be put in place to ensure that the suggestions are channelized practically. Progress also needs to be done in removing trade and investment barriers by both the governments to streamline the process of bringing India and Australia closer together in trade and business, a process which was set in motion since the successful culmination of the virtual summit between both the countries on 4th June, 2020 in which the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Australia came into fruition. Last but not the least, he also recommended the commencement of direct flights between the two countries.

Peter Varghese, Former Secretary DEAT who wrote the report *An India Economic Strategy to 2035* in 2018 seconded Ambassador Wadhwa's opinion about the time being ripe for India and Australia to strengthen their business and trade discourse. He commented that although the Covid-19 pandemic had a drastic effect on the Indian economy resulting in the slowing down of its economic growth, it will still continue to grow at a fast pace as it begins to emerge from the debilitating effects, in the post-Covid era. Thus, it is all the more significant that no momentum should be lost in the implementation of the recommendations in both his and Wadhwa's reports. Recognising the significance of the burgeoning Indian diaspora in Australia, he commented that despite Indian migration particularly that of Indian students to Australia slowing down and picking up no sooner than the end of 2021, the people-to-people ties between the two countries shall continue to be a valuable asset in the long run. Remarking on the pivotal role of the tourism sector in increasing revenue for both the countries, he said that while there will be an inevitable delay in the materialization of the prospects offered by the tourism sector, the eventual outcome will indeed be propitious.

Furthermore, according to his observation, the involvement of Australia's corporate sector in India has still not reached the level that it should have because of the former's reservations against the

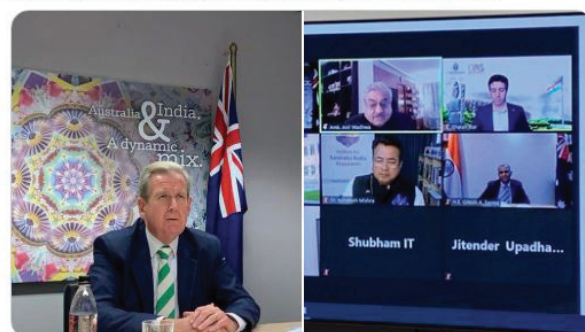
latter in the backdrop of a growing environment of protectionism and self-sufficiency in many countries across the globe. He also stressed upon the need for the materialization of a mutual Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Australia which would play an instrumental role in removing the roadblocks on the path to greater business and trade engagements between the two countries. Commenting on the Indian National Education Policy, he also said that the question of potential internationalization of Indian education must also be taken into account and also that the opening of branches of Australian universities in India might see the light of day once the authorities concerned have satisfactorily inspected the legislative and other framework.

The webinar concluded with Australian High Commissioner Barry O' Farrell and his Indian counterpart Gitesh A. Sarma averring the need for conducive economic reforms in both the countries for an enduring partnership, and business literacy across the corporate sector in both the countries so that both comprehend the changed economic scenario following the Covid-19 pandemic where diversification and resilience of supply chains has become paramount. Mr. Star, Director, CIAS, O.P. Jindal Global University delivered the Vote of Thanks to the event organisers as well as the participants and asserted the significance of the webinar as a timely and illuminating discourse in paving the way for strengthening the economic, political and social ties between India and Australia.



Barry O'Farrell AO @AusHCIndia · 1h

The #AustraliaEconomicStrategy by @anilwad & @FollowCII identifies a range of opportunities to deepen economic ties. It complements the India Economic Strategy & our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Thanks @ShaunStar, @ashutoshmisra70, @AIBC\_Ltd for the discussion.



## Impact of Covid-19 on Sport Sector: Strategizing Recovery (12 June)



**Institute for Australia India Engagement**  
Presents

**Distinguished Panel Discussion**  
**Impact of Covid-19 on Sport Sector: Strategizing Recovery**  
Friday, 12 June 2020, 11.30 am AEST.

<b>Introductory Remarks</b>	<b>Distinguished Speaker</b>	<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Distinguished Speaker</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Vote of Thanks</b>
				
<b>Mr Matthew Hayden, AM</b> International Cricketer IAIE's Goodwill Ambassador to India	<b>Prof. Sarah Jane Kelly</b> UQ Business School The University of Queensland Deputy Chair, Brisbane Lions	<b>Mr Dale Sheehan</b> Director Training, International Centre for Sports Security, Qatar Former Director, Police Training, Interpol	<b>Prof. Jack Anderson</b> Director, Sports Law University of Melbourne	<b>Dr Ashutosh Misra</b> CEO, IAIE

Limited seats. To join please send name, affiliation and code **Sport** to WhatsApp no. +61413709258 or through email to [director@iaie.org.au](mailto:director@iaie.org.au) before 10 June 2020.

The second Triveni dialogue was organised on 12 June by the Institute for Australia India Engagement (IAIE); Australia India Business Council (AIBC) and Centre for India Australia Studies (CIAS), O.P. Jindal Global University focused on recovery strategy for sports sector under the Covid-19 shadow. The expert panel consisting of sports stars, business leaders, trainers and league officials.

Among the panellists were Dr Ashutosh Misra, CEO, IAIE, who read the welcome note, Matthew Hayden, AM, International cricketer and IAIE's Goodwill Ambassador to India who gave the opening remarks, Shaun Star, Director, CIAS, O.P. Jindal Global University, who acted as the moderator, Dr Nik Senapati, President, AIBC Queensland who concluded the virtual discussion with his remarks and vote of thanks; and distinguished speakers, Dr Sarah Jane Kelly, University of Queensland Business School and Deputy Chair, Brisbane Lands; Dale Sheehan, Director Training, International Centre for Sports Security, Qatar and Dr Jack Anderson, Director, Sports Law, University of Melbourne.

### Significance of Sports Sector as Revenue Generator

At the outset, Dr Misra highlighted the global significance of the sports sector in generating revenue and commented specifically on the importance accorded to this sector in Australia and India as both rely substantially on it for generation of employment and revenue. So, the impairment of this sector in the wake of the current pandemic has impacted the stakeholders from the business sector as well. Shaun Star echoed Dr Misra about the primary role of the sports sector and the significance of the discussion with the panel members to seek a way forward.

In his opening remark, Matthew Hayden, celebrated in the cricket world for his exploits on the field, shared his views on the prevailing crisis calling it as a situation of counting one's blessings which has helped everyone to sharpen their focus and provided boundless opportunities to communicate on cost-saving forums. He also accepted the reality of sports organizations struggling to stay afloat and the inevitability of cutting down on the enormous entourage of managers accompanying sports teams in the future. Acknowledging the amicable bonds between India and Australia, he asserted the importance of cricket in this regard and the necessity to combine forces by anchoring ties to surge ahead towards recovery.

### Optimism Related to Sports Sector

Taking the discussion forward, Dr Kelly exhibited optimism in the recovery of the sports sector in India and Australia if both are pragmatic in tapping into their potential innovation capabilities. Citing examples of sporting leagues such as NBA and Formula One Racing which have been immensely agile in adopting simulated sports technology such as augmented sports and hologram applications as well as contactless stadiums to keep the fans and sponsors virtually engaged, she recommended both Australia and India to take a page out of their book and focus on upgradation of sports infrastructure.

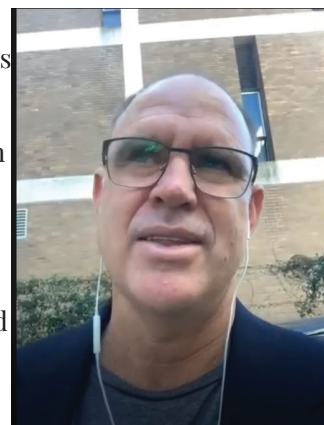


### Emerging Legal Issues and the Way Forward

Dr Jack Anderson elaborated the emerging legal issues due to renegotiating of contracts by television partners and sponsors even as sports organizations and leagues stare at losses due to the stalling or delaying of sports seasons while Dale Sheehan shared his concerns over the possibility of rise in cases of match-fixing and other corrupt activities such as betting on e-sports and ghost matches online. Following the trend of the inaugural Triveni dialogue, the panellists participating in this discussion also answered some of the queries of the attendees; an interesting and crucial one being on the kind of recourse available to clubs and athletes who are signatories to contracts which are sans the force majeure clause. This was answered by sports law expert Dr Jack Anderson who suggested

renegotiation being the only way out even as clubs have recently begun to realise that sports fields are like workplaces which are not exempt when it comes to revising their policies when it concerns the well-being of players

The discussion concluded with the vote of thanks speech from Dr Nik Senapati who laid stress on the importance of community sports at the grassroots level which binds people and epitomizes sports ethics.



## Modi-Morrison Virtual Summit — Harbinger of a New Age Diplomacy (5 June)

Report by Ananya Sharma

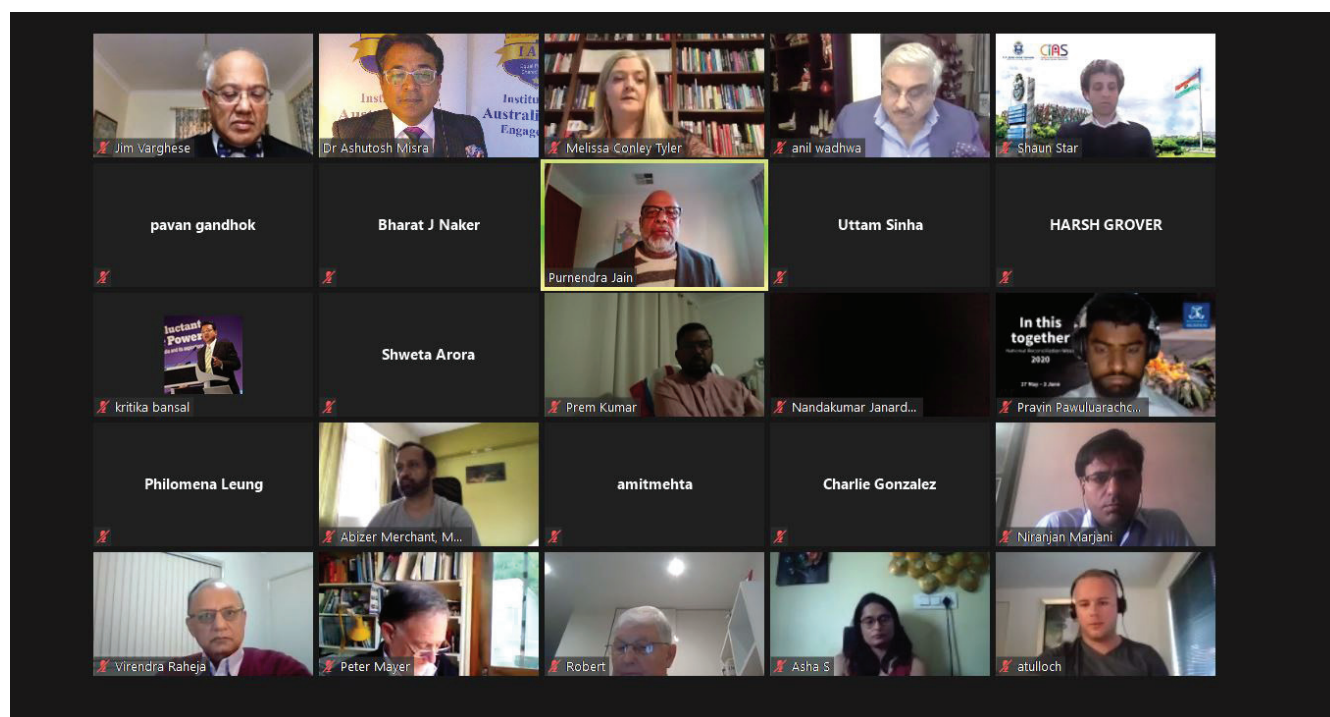


The first international dialogue after the historic virtual summit was organised by The Institute for Australia India Engagement (IAIE), Australia India Business Council (AIBC) and Centre for Australia India Studies (CAIS) at the O.P. Jindal Global University, India on 5 June. The panel consisting of Australian and Indian diplomats, academic and business experts, conducted an in-depth analysis of the June 4 virtual summit between Prime Minister Morrison and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, as the first of the Triveni dialogues on emerging strategic issues, a collaborative initiative by IAIE, AIBC and CIAS. The word “Triveni” in Hindi means “the juncture where three rivers meet” — taken after the holy confluence of three rivers, the Ganges, the Jamuna and the Saraswati in Prayagraj, India— symbolising the collaboration of the three institutional partners.

Jain, University of Adelaide; and Shaun Star, Director, CIAS, O.P. Jindal Global University. The other attendees were from India, Australia, US, UK, Singapore, Japan and Canada.

### Strengthening India-Australia Ties

Welcoming the panellists, Dr Misra commented on the steadily strengthening bilateral relations between India and Australia in the fields of technology, education, sports; the support that both countries have shown for each other and the New Colombo Plan under which young ambassadors from Australia are going to India to study and undertake internships. Ambassador Wadhwa who has formerly served as a prominent diplomat representing India in different nations provided a comprehensive outline of the contents of the joint declaration by India and Australia highlighting the significance of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations. He lauded the materializing of the much-awaited Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) that Australia signed with India giving both nations the mutual benefit of access to each other’s military bases needed to maintain stability in the Indo-Pacific region. He further stated that India stands to gain a lot from the Memorandum of Understanding on vocational education, cyber security, public administration and mining and processing of critical minerals as Australia has a lot to offer in all these fields. He concluded by saying that Australia must capitalize on India being a potential market for their growing manufacturing sector and resources, technology, services and



Among the panellists were Dr Ashutosh Misra, CEO, IAIE; Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, former Indian Diplomat; Melissa Conley Tyler, Director, AsiaLink Diplomacy, University of Melbourne; Jim Varghese, AM, National Chair, AIBC; Professor Purnendra

research and innovation are the drivers which would serve to accelerate convergence between the two countries.

Tyler, who has led many delegations bringing together academics and government officials and



was the erstwhile National Executive Director of the Australia India Institute of International Affairs, remarked that the genuine personal camaraderie exhibited by the two statesmen undeniably symbolized the trust and friendship that their respective nations have forged. She also showed her confidence in the significance of the evolving relationship between Australia and India in its own right rather than viewing it from the prism of the current troubled scenario between China and Australia with the latter looking for a substitute in the wake of China's tariff impositions.

### Australia can Help India Raise Health Care Expenditure

Jim Varghese, possessing a wealth of experience in leading various government agencies in Victoria and Queensland as well as helming multi-faceted businesses and being honoured with the Order of Australia in 2009 for services to public sector reform, expressed his optimism regarding Australia playing a key role in helping India raise its expenditure on health care from 1% of GDP to at least 2% in the near future. Emphasizing the significance of both countries joining hands to resuscitate their respective economies, the need of the hour is to focus on recovery of the education and tourism sector which have been the hardest hit.

Professor Purnendra Jain, an academic expert on India-Australia as well as Australia-Japan relationships who has recently been awarded the Japanese Emperor's Order of the Rising Sun, opined that India and Australia have considerably filled the gap in their mutual understanding over the past few years with both countries attaining a central position in each other's diplomatic maps. However, he raised a vital question as to what the actual roadmap would look like for the implementation of the promises

made between the two sides and felt that the involvement of local governments in both countries would be instrumental in this regard.

All the panellists also answered the queries made by the various attendees. Mr Shaun Star delivered the vote of thanks and also highlighted growing educational linkages between JGU and Australian institutions and the impact of NCP fellows and Australia India Youth Dialogue initiative.

### CHALLENGES FOR INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN POST-COVID WORLD ORDER (12 MAY)

Australia India Engagement (IAIE) and Australia India Business Council (AIBC) hosted the Zoominar on Challenges for Australia's Foreign Policy in post COVID order on May 29. The speakers' presentations were sharp, insightful and thought provoking.

Dr Ashutosh Misra, CEO, IAIE, Ambassador Virendra Gupta and Ambassador Panchuk Stobdan and Dr Nick Senapati, President AIBC Queensland, Mr Matthew Hayden, IAIE's Goodwill Ambassador to India, Dr Amol Wagho-likar from IAIE, Mr Saurav Ray, Mr Priyabrata Priyo, Dr Mahesh Ranjan Debata from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Professor Purnendra Jain, University of Adelaide among others joined the discussion.



## AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

### Appointment of Australia-India Council Board Members: Matthew Hayden Joins the Board



#### Statement of Australian Foreign Minister Hon'ble Marise Payne, 31 August 2020

I am pleased to announce four appointments to the Board of the Australia-India Council. Mr Ashok Jacob has been reappointed as Chair, and will be joined by three new Board Members: the Hon Lisa Singh, who will serve as Deputy Chair, the Hon Ted Baillieu AO and Mr Matthew Hayden AM.

The Council plays an important role in advancing Australia's foreign and economic policy interests with India, including through supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the India Economic Strategy.

Mr Jacob has served with distinction as Chair of the Council since 2014, and is the Executive Chairman of Ellerston Capital, with more than 33 years of investment experience, including with India.

Ms Singh represented Tasmania in the Federal Senate from 2010 to 2019. In 2014, the President of India conferred on her the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award for exceptional and meritorious public service as a person of Indian heritage in fostering friendly relations between India and Australia.

Mr Baillieu was Premier of Victoria from 2010 to 2013 and a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly from 1999 to 2014. Mr Baillieu is the recipient of the 2013 Ashoka Medal from the Australia India Business Council Victoria in recognition of his contribution to Australia-India relations.

Mr Hayden is a former international cricketer who played 103 Tests for Australia and scored 30 centuries. Mr Hayden was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to cricket in 2010. He has been a Board Member of the Institute for Australia India Engagement since 2018.

More information about the Australia-India Council

can be found at [www.dfat.gov.au/aic](http://www.dfat.gov.au/aic)

### Dr Amol Waghlikar Represents IAIE at the Global Stage.



IAIE's Principal Program Director – Sports and Wellness, Dr Amol Waghlikar delivered a successful talk in the Global Speaker Showcase at the Digital Health Institute Summit 2020. The global speaker showcase featured more than 130 speakers including national as well as international experts in various areas of healthcare. Due to Covid-19, the showcase was conducted online.

The summit was kindly hosted by the Australasian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH). The Australasian Institute of Digital Health is the peak body for digital health representing a united and influential single voice for health informatics and digital health leaders and practitioners. The vision of the Institute is "healthier lives, digitally enabled".

The inaugural Digital Health Institute summit supported the digital health movement in 2020 which was healthcare sector's most challenging years. The summit brought together clinical leaders, researchers, innovators and forward thinkers to present the latest thinking, innovation, and ideas, practical case studies, life experiences, cutting edge technology and the best research and evidence for the advancement of healthcare through digital health.

The topic of Dr Amol Waghlikar's talk was "Rise and Smile – an innovative self-care and wellness approach in a post pandemic world".

The global Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our wellbeing and lives on many fronts. The pandemic has re-emphasized the need for improved self-care interventions. The pandemic has proved that simple and practical measures such as hand washing can save lives.

On the theme of simple self-care measures and inspired by ancient Indian tradition of waking up early in the morning, Dr Amol Waghlikar a.k.a "Dr Sunrise" has developed a digital technology



enabled wellness initiative “Rise and Smile”. Dr Amol Waghholikar discussed challenges in self-care and how waking up early can address motivational barriers and thus improve well-being. The talk was well received by the global experts and audience at the Digital Health Institute Summit.

### Matthew Hayden Joins Channel 7 Cricket Commentary Team

IAIE congratulates Matthew Hayden, former Australian cricketer and ‘the Boy from Kingaroy’ for being inducted into the Channel 7 cricket commentary team for the Border-Gavaskar cricket series and the Big Bash League.



### IAIE Board Member Dr Sarah Kelly Selected to Lead Minerva Network in Queensland



Brisbane Lions Deputy Chairman and leading sports law and marketing academic, Associate Professor Sarah Kelly, become the Queensland Chapter Lead of the Minerva Network after the departure of award-winning executive Cecile Wake from the role. Ms Kelly leads the Queensland Chapter as the State continues to grow as the nation's sporting hub throughout COVID-19. Ms Kelly has immense experience providing strategic mentorship to sports technology start-up companies and is known globally for her research and advocacy in the sports field. She joins a fantastic team of passionate and inspiring State Chapter Leads throughout the country, including Ann Sherry AO (NSW), Christina Matthews (WA), Peggy O'Neal AO (VIC) and Kate Palmer AM (VIC).

“We are delighted to welcome Sarah into the Minerva Network family and have great confidence that the Queensland Chapter will thrive under her leadership. Her extensive background in sports management and research will go a long way to benefiting the chapter and our Minerva Stars,” Minerva Network Chair and Co-founder, Christine McLoughlin said. Ms Kelly is working with the Chapter's Minerva Mentors to deliver an innovative program which will inspire and support the network's talented women athletes to continue to develop into great leaders on and off the field. “Female sportswomen play such a huge role in our community, in showcasing high performance, leadership and strength. The Minerva Network provides the scaffolding of empowerment for these women to fully realise their potential both during and post sporting career, and I'm very excited about the opportunity to get to lead the growth and measurable outcomes for the Network in Queensland alongside the national leaders of this ground-breaking program,” says Dr Kelly.

The Minerva Network provides support to elite women athletes through mentoring, networking and workshops. Its mission is to support women athletes to flourish as role models and to achieve their own successes on and off the field.

### Dr Amy Illidge, IAIE Executive Committee Member Recognised for Her Work

As a practicing doctor, a mother of five and founding member of Fight4Balance Charity that helps children with mild and moderate disability Dr Illidge's work has been profiled by the Courier Mail. She remains a huge inspiration to thousands of mothers and women who have to balance their professional and personal challenges and continue with their work on a daily basis and all with enormous good cheer! IAIE congratulates Dr Illidge on her stupendous achievements and inspirational story.



(Dr Amy Illidge in the Courier Mail report)



## Australia India Business Council (Queensland Chapter) Elects New Managing Committee for 2021-23: Dr Ashutosh Misra, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Dr Ram Mohan and Mr Shaun Star Share the Honours

The new Management Committee members of the Australia India Business Council's Queensland Chapter were elected on 3 December. A large number of highly qualified candidates with rich experience and bilateral engagements in business, media, health, education and accountancy had applied, according to the AIBC National Chair Jim Varghese. National Chair Jim Varghese and Queensland's President Dr Nik Senapati were excited at the election of new members who bring varied and rich expertise and experience to the AIBC's workings. Dr Nik Senapati was re-elected the President and Tony Denholder the Vice President and Amritha Zachariah the treasurer by the new members. Sanushka Seomangal (National Vice-Chair) and Wendy Farrell, National Secretariat through Skype and

Kritika Bansal, Event Manager Queensland Secretariat also participated at the inaugural meeting. The New Committee met on 7th December to finalise the composition of the Management Committee 2021-2023. After a long process of nomination and election the final list of the Queensland's AIBC Management Committee are as follows: Dr Nik Senapati – President, Tony Denholder – Vice President, Amritha Zachariah – Treasurer, Dr Ashutosh Misra – Member, Dr Ram Mohan – Member, Dr Tanya Unni – Member, Mr Shaun Star – Member, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy – Member and Mr Sorabh Kataria – Member.



From Left: Dr Ram Mohan, Ms Amritha Zachariah, Dr Nik Senapati, Ms Kritika Bansal, Mr Tony Denholder, Mr Sorabh Kataria, Mr Shaun Star and Dr Ashutosh Misra



Some of the new Management Committee members in the inaugural meeting of the Chapter



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

### Mental Health Walk and Symposium

In November 2020, members of IAIE and India News participated in the National Mental Health Symposium and walk to create awareness about this condition which has been affecting a large number of people of all age groups in Australia and around the world. As a part of the initiative IAIE participated in the Mental Health walk and symposium at the Brisbane Convention Centre addressed by the Immigration Minister Hon'ble Peter Dutton. IAIE's good will Ambassador to India and Board member Matthew Hayden AM delivered a social message on the issue. Matthew Hayden said, "More men die from suicide than women and yet we are burdened with the saying that 'real men don't cry'. He invoked the teachings of the Sadguru and asked him 'how yoga could be of any help in dealing with mental issues during the challenging Covid times'.



(Mr Matthew Hayden, AM)

IAIE Board member Dr Jacqueline Drew, a criminologist based at Griffith University wrote an article for India News (16–31 July issue) discussing the impact of Covid on the mental health of the law enforcement officials entitled, "Impact of COVID-19 on police: What do we need to know now and in the future?"

In the same issue Dr Amol Wagholikar, Program Director of IAIE's Sports and Wellness initiative also wrote an article entitled, "Rise and smile: An ancient Indian practice inspiring technology enabled wellness innovation" discussing ways to keep the

#### Rise and smile: An ancient Indian practice inspiring technology enabled wellness innovation

"Early to bed, early to rise makes a person healthy, wealthy and wise". This saying communicates an important message of health and wellness. Waking up early can be an effective productivity method and wellness habit when it suits an individual's circadian rhythm and natural sleep pattern for their age. The early birds naturally tend to wake up early. The time of dawn before the sunrise is a peaceful time. The ancient Indian practice calls this time as "Brahma Muhurta". This period of time approximately four to five minutes before sunrise is considered an auspicious time for meditation, spiritual activities and all practices of yoga. The outdoor natural environment during the time of dawn and sunrise is calm and picturesque. The beautiful nature experienced outdoors during this time can provide motivation for mental as well as physical activities. Research has found that this early morning time can be used to address some of the challenges

caused by lack of physical activity in today's modern life. We are living in a modern world where the demands of our modern life have negatively impacted our wellness. Lack of physical activity is a global health concern. We are living more sedentary lifestyle and natural sleep pattern mostly indoors at home, work and commute. Our sedentary lifestyle and overuse of sedentary technology gadgets contributes to increased risks for lifestyle related health conditions. Physical activity such as outdoor physical activity such as walking, cycling has proven health benefits. However, one of the common causes reported by the individuals is lack of motivation for outdoor physical activity. Lack of time is also another common issue reported by the individuals. Early morning can be an effective time for outdoor physical activity. However lack of motivation and irregular late night sleeping pattern makes it difficult to realize the benefits of early morning outdoor exercise.

To solve this problem of motivation and deliver benefits of early morning outdoor exercise, technology can be used. In today's modern life, smartphones, smartphone cameras and content sharing via social media are very common. Smartphones are used by millions of users in Australia and India. A lifestyle and wellness intervention called "Rise and Smile" was developed to integrate smartphone technology with outdoor nature during the early morning for consistent physical exercise motivation. The innovative use of technology suggests sleeping early approximately 8 hours before the time of dawn and waking up early around the time of dawn or before sunrise as per individual's requirements for a quality sleep, after waking up go outdoors to nearby sunrise location with a smartphone and experience the sunrise. The outdoor location could be your balcony, terrace, nearby

hill or a location requiring some physical walking efforts. As a symbolic gesture of the sunrise experience, take a photo of the picturesque sunrise using smartphone camera. The photo can be simply shared on the smart phone or shared on social media with family and friends. Simply repeat this daily morning routine next day to establish a wellness habit. The experience of watching a sunrise is very uplifting and meditative. The "Rise and Smile" initiative identified proven health benefits associated with outdoor nature, early morning and consistent physical exercise motivation. The innovative use of technology presented at Health Informatics Society of Australia's premier Health Informatics Conference in Australia and American College of Sports Medicine Conference in USA. The encouraging findings show that combination of ancient practice with modern technology can deliver wellness benefits. Rise and Smile is an initiative for establishing a simple daily wellness habit of experiencing



Dr Amol Wagholikar

outdoor Sunrise. The experience of watching a sunrise is great way to practice daily mindfulness and connect with nature. It is very uplifting experience and certainly good for physical, emotional as well as mental health. This simple habit also suggests improved productivity and increased energy levels. It also improves quality of sleep as you automatically tend to sleep early at night to wake at the time of dawn. Watching morning sunrise is certainly a great way to start your day. Adopt this simple routine and make your life healthier, especially in the post-Covid-19 phase. Dr Amol Wagholikar is a "Rise and Smile" initiative and Principal Program Director, Sports and Wellness, Institute for Australia India Engagement, Brisbane.

## Impact of COVID-19 on police: What do we need to know now and in the future?

Dr Jacqueline Drew



While law enforcement officers experience a comparatively large number of critical incidents or traumatic events due to the nature of their work, the dangers of COVID-19 are new. The stress for officers is real, a fear of contracting COVID-19 themselves and the risk of transmission to family and friends - the pandemic impacts on every frontline officer, on every shift.

COVID-19 is a threat that should be viewed as a 'critical' incident, like that experienced when an officer is involved in a shooting

**Police agencies across India must invest in adequate support services to assist the mental health of police now and in the longer term**

or attends a fatal traffic accident. It is likely that COVID-19 will induce trauma responses. Given emerging statistics in the United States and some initial reports from India, the level of sickness and death amongst police will be high. News report from The Indian Express (3 July, 2020) reported that 64 police personnel have died so far of COVID-19. Worryingly, these figures are likely to exceed typical yearly rates of illness and death resulting from traditional trauma in policing.

When police are faced with circumstances that pose a risk to self, this is clearly linked to poor mental health outcomes. The stress and concern of officers that they may infect family and friends is likely to exacerbate psychological distress of police personnel. Further, the family unit is put under enormous pressure in circumstances where police are quarantined due to likely exposure or actual infection.

What we have learnt from events such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina is that mental health concerns, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are evident in the direct aftermath of a critical

incident. Importantly, we need to recognise that they also persist in the months and years following.

A healthy and productive workforce of police personnel is a key pillar in effective, fair and efficient policing. As such, there is likely to be a large toll from COVID-19 for the foreseeable future on police personnel and their families. Police agencies across India must invest in adequate support services to assist the mental health of police now and in the longer term. Methodologies need to be developed to identify 'at risk' officers and in turn, access to support not only for police but also for their families must be a priority for police agencies and their leaders.

In sum, COVID-19 is a large-scale, pervasive event that has changed the nature, content and experience of policing for both the community and police. What its long-term impact will be in terms of police-community relations and well-being remains a guessing game. However, the first step is to clearly acknowledge that COVID-19 has changed policing, at least for now. Looking forward, we must plan investment in ensuring that police and communities work together for the sake of a harmonious future. We must also ensure that the human face of police, the police officers themselves are supported. We need to recognise that police do not have the option of self-isolating to protect themselves, they by the very nature of their job put themselves in harm's way, perhaps now more regularly and in more unpredictable circumstances than ever before.

Dr Jacqueline Drew is Senior Lecturer and Program Director, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, Queensland

mental health in good conditions during testing pandemic restrictions.

Also, IAIE Board Member Dr Sarah Kelly also wrote on the impact of Covid, specially on sports. She wrote, "Can we survive months without live sport? Short answer is yes, we can. We'll survive and come out the other side and still be strong fans of the sports we follow, but sport – and life – will look very different post Covid-19. Sport has always been a gamechanger with the agility and speed to innovate and acclimate to new conditions, as demonstrated by enshrined traditions and long history. As a socio-cultural institution, it reflects our values and shared ideals. And right now, sport is very visible and visceral platform of social and economic change, moving the goal posts of how society will adapt to



the Covid-19 pandemic and prepare for future global events of this scale. The sports sector, like many other sectors, is being forced to evolve rapidly to a new economic structure on the other side of Covid-19. The new face of sport will include cost reductions in professional sports, possibly revised ownership and investment and rapid innovation to develop new growth opportunities and ensure contactless experiences. We know sport is the big unifier and leveller in society and plays an important economic, social and cultural role. With every major sporting league on the global schedule on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is limited live sport around the world to follow for the foreseeable future, which has created a massive vacuum in our lives. Many tragic sports fans (myself included) prior to the reinvention of some professional competitions, were resorting to debating “best of” highlights, team picks and grand finals online in an attempt to fill this huge void. The recent re-launch of some professional sports seasons and community sports to very limited or non-existent stadia crowds has been well received and signals a new need for sport to ensure pandemic friendly, virtual experiences and contactless stadia ticketing and catering are provided”.



(IAIE and India News team at the Botanical Garden to support the mental health walk)(IAIE team during



(Mental health walk)





(IAIE team during mental health walk)



(Dr Ashutosh Misra, Dr Ram Mohan and Mr Kartik Singh IAIE's Media coordinator and Institute Secretary with the Immigration Minister Hon'ble Peter Dutton at the Symposium)



## Diwali Dinner with Australia India Business Council Members, 22 November



Dr Misra attended the Australia India Business Council Diwali dinner with the community leaders and India's Honorary Consul Archana Singh, National Chair Jim Varghese, AIBC President Queensland Chapter Dr Nik Senapati, Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy, Mr Ankit Taneja, Dr Ram Mohan and others to celebrate an year which has been very challenging for every institution and individual.

## Building Bridges during the Border-Gavaskar Cricket Series 2020-21

Dr Ashutosh Misra, Dr Amol Wagholikar and Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy attended the Australia-India cricket series 2020-21 at the Gabba stadium in Brisbane, during which they built linkages with other Australian cricket tragnics. The match was played in a warm and cordial atmosphere as everyone welcomed and praised India for agreeing to come to Australia, in spite of the strict quarantine rules due the pandemic. It was very pleasing to see a large number of Australian supporters now speaking very fondly and high of India.



(Dr Misra with some Australian fans and a Queensland Police Service personnel at the Gabba)



(Dr Misra and Mr Muthuraj Guruswamy with Australian fans)



(Many Australians were sporting the India jersey to show their appreciation of the team)



(Dr Misra and Dr Wagholikar waving the Indian tricolor)





(Dr Misra and Dr Wagholikar are joined by some very enthusiastic Australian cricket fans)

## Sponsoring a Badminton Tournament, 1 November

On behalf of India News and the Institute for Australia India Engagement Dr Misra was invited to present the prizes and trophies to women's doubles and men's open doubles winners in the Sam's Badminton Association open tournament at Nundah in Brisbane. The tournament was supported by Dr Ram Mohan and Dr Ashutosh Misra as representatives of India News and IAIE.



(Women's doubles champions)



(Men's doubles champions)

## Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations, 2 October 2020

Under the shadow of Covid restrictions Gandhi Jayanti (birth anniversary) celebrations were organised by the Federation of the Indian Communities of Queensland on 2 October 2020 at the Roma St Parkland in Brisbane. IAIE was part of the celebrations and along with India News, the media partner facilitated its live streaming

to thousands of people in Australia and overseas. Several noted community leaders including Mr Jim Varghese, National Chair Australia India Business Council, Mr Nik Senapati, President AIBC Queensland Chapter, Mr Samir Vora, Mr Hemant Naik and Kalpana Naik, the leading force behind the installation of the Gandhi statue at the Parklands, Mrs Archana Singh Honorary Consul Queensland, Government of India, and Dr Ram Mohan, former president FICQ among others participated.



(Dr Nik Senapati, Mr Hemant Naik, Mrs Kalpana Naik, Dr Ashutosh Misra, Mr Jim Varghese, Mr Samir Vora and Dr Ram Mohan)



(A view of the proceedings)

## Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland Patron's Event, 28 July



Dr Misra was invited to speak at the FICQ Patron's



dinner and reflect on a range of community driven initiatives, including the plan to build the India House. Springfield Group Chairman Mr Maha Sinnathamby was the Guest of Honour and the event was chaired by Mr Jim Varghese.

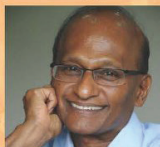
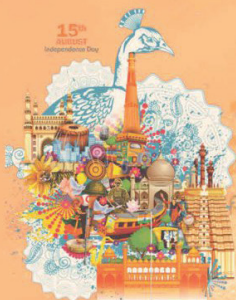
## Greetings on India's Independence Day 15 August, India News



INDIA NEWS

INDEPENDENCE DAY

### Greetings from prominent personalities



**Mr Maha Sinnathamby, Chairman Springfield City Group**  
It is my profound pleasure to wish everyone a very happy Independence Day. On this 74th anniversary of India's freedom, we must recall the values and principles that form the core of India's universal appeal and conduct. It is time to remember Mahatma Gandhi's resolve and unwavering faith in non-violence and peace and his fortitude to take on the mighty British Empire and with no money and no army change the course of human history. India's Independence Day is an occasion to take inspiration from Gandhi's philosophy and help shape a better world for all. Stay safe, dream big and never give up. Jai Hind.



**Mrs Archana Singh, Honorary Consul, Queensland**  
As India celebrates another anniversary of independence, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to one and all. India's independence is a cause for celebration not just for India but for the whole world. India's independence became a catalyst for many freedom struggles and civil rights movements all over the world. Mahatma Gandhi and his powerful message of Truth and Non-Violence are the lasting legacies of this great struggle which will continue to inspire humanity for all time to come. Jai Hind!



**Dr Ram Mohan, Director Star Promotions**  
I extend my warmest greetings to over 700,000 Indians in Australia and over 13 billion in India on the occasion of India's Independence Day. May India's global leadership reach greater heights and bilateral relations with Australia grow deeper and vibrant. We are deeply proud of the Indian community's role in building a prosperous and multicultural Australia.



**Mr Jim Varghese, National Chair, Australia India Business Council**  
Today we celebrate India's Independence Day. In the midst of Covid-19 India and Australia celebrate the signing of the landmark comprehensive strategic partnership agreement which embodies the economic determination and sovereignty of India 74 years after independence. Let us celebrate India's Independence Day by promoting and nurturing business to business activities at all levels to grow the economies and social capital of India and Australia.



**Mr Dipen Rughani, CEO, Newland Global Group**  
On the 15th of August 1947, India became completely independent from British rule. Today we celebrate 74th anniversary of India's independence. It is with a warm heart that I wish India and Indians across the world a very happy Independence Day. Also, in these unprecedented times, I urge you all to stay safe.



**Mr Mannu Kala, General Manager, Medlab Pathology**  
Regardless of where we live, India will always be our motherland. It has only taken 73 years since the independence for India to now be on the verge of becoming a global leader of the 21st century. Nothing makes me more proud to be of Indian heritage and a proud Australian. The bright future of the India/Australia socioeconomic relationship will be the key to Australia's economic prosperity. I celebrate with every Indian and global Indian diaspora our Independence Day.



**Mr Matthew Hayden, CEO, The Hayden's Way**  
I wish to congratulate India on celebrating the 74th Anniversary of Independence from the United Kingdom. Long may you individually and collectively strive for excellence aligning on shared values such as collaboration with Nations such as Australia, non-violence through the pursuit of happiness on point with purpose and growth of person and country through the notion of shared value. God bless and love.



**Mr Samir Vora, Executive Director, Adani Australia**  
I wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy 74th Indian Independence Day. As Australian citizens and residents, this joyous day is a time to proudly celebrate our Indian heritage, as well as the shared values of the two great democracies to which we belong.



**Mr Shyam Das, President, Federation of Indian Community of Queensland**  
As India celebrates 74th Independence Day on the 15th of August so does the Indian diaspora all over the world. In Australia the Indian diaspora will very proudly join the celebration and work together towards the development of bilateral relationship between Australia and India as both the countries share the common values. On behalf of FICQ and its member organisations I wish every Indian and Indian Diaspora a very happy India's Independence Day. Let us all follow the idealism of Mahatma Gandhi, the main architect of India's Independence through non-violence said quote "There is no path to peace, peace is the only path." On this great occasion I on behalf of FICQ congratulate India News and Dr Ram Mohan and his team as well as extend our sincere greetings.



**Dr Ashutosh Misra, CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement**  
Here's wishing an auspicious, healthy and joyous 74th Independence Day to all our Indian brothers and sisters. May India come out of the current crisis quickly and continue with its role of shaping a peaceful, prosperous and a just world for all. Let us work towards promoting greater mutual understanding to shape more effective engagements.



**Ms. Sonia Sadiq Gandhi, Director, Gandhi Creations Pty. Ltd & IABCA**  
Independence Day holds a significant place in every overseas Indian's life and the Indian diaspora from every corner of the globe celebrates this day with complete zeal and vigour. This 74th Indian Independence Day, let's celebrate the freedom of spirit & thoughts. I salute all our soldiers who fight every day to keep our country safe. As a very proud Indian Australian, it is wonderful to reflect on my birth homeland India as One Nation, One Vision, One Identity.



## International Yoga Day 2020

India's stellar leadership in yoga is now recognised globally, since the United Nations announced 21 June as the International Yoga day, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 27 September 2014 speech in the UN General Assembly. India's proposal received the support and co-sponsorship of 177 nations which is a record itself. Images of mass yoga events from Asia, Americas, Europe, Africa and Australia make headlines every year and Australia can benefit from India's excellence in yoga. In 2020 to illuminate the importance of yoga in promoting a healthy way life under the shadow of Covid-19 Institute for Australia India Engagement partnered with the Indian High Commission, Fight4Balance, Federation of the Indian Community of Queensland and the Art of Living to organise it in Brisbane on 21 June.

The session was conducted by Indian trainers Neha, Bhawna and Akshay associated with the Art of Living. Dr Misra said that yoga in the current time has become more important for people to deal with the stress and tension caused by Covid 19 and ensure a healthy mind and body. Mr Stephen Illidge, CEO of Fight4Balance that helps children with special need build mental and psychological resilience said Australians love India and yoga very much and both institutes can play an important role in creating greater awareness about yoga and bilateral friendship. Mr John Gautam also played a key role in organizing the event. Indian High Commissioner Mr Gitesh Sarma had sent his message on behalf of the Government of India for all the participants which was delivered by Dr Ram Mohan, Publisher and Chairman India News and IndBiz.



(Community members with the Art of Living Team at the Yeronga pool)



(F4B members practising yoga)



(Community members at the yoga session at Yeronga pool)



(Community members at the yoga session at Yeronga pool)



(Community members at Roma Street Parkland attending the Yoga Session)



(Event sponsors)

## Mr Matthew Hayden AM, IAIE's Goodwill Ambassador and Dr Amol Wagholikar, Program Director, Sports and Wellness Support the Bushfire Big Appeal Match, 10 February 2020

Reported By Dr Amol Wagholikar



Over a hundred bushfires in Australia, raging since November across Queensland, New South

Wales, Victoria and South Australia have cast an unprecedented devastation in Australia in

which over a billion animal species and 33 people including three firefighters perished. Over

2000 homes and 25 million acres of green cover, about the size of South Korea has also been

turned to ashes. Smoke from the bushfires travelled over a 1000 km to New Zealand which is a potent indicator of the size and intensity of the disaster.

The sway of the bushfires, largely fanned by a long-drawn drought season and extreme weather conditions was so over-whelming for Australia to tackle alone that firefighters and volunteers and law enforcement agencies were sent in from the US, Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu among others. The images of the raging infernos gradually drew global concern and support, as governments, artists, philanthropists, charity organisations, community groups and even individuals threw their support behind Australia in its hours of need.

One such effort was the Bushfire Appeal Charity match at Junction Oval in Melbourne organised by Ricky Ponting and Shane Warne along with others on 8 February (originally scheduled in Sydney). The match was played between Ricky Ponting XI which included:

Ricky Ponting (c), Brett Lee, Matthew Hayden, Brad Haddin (wk), Brian Lara, Justin

Langer, Wasim Akram, Daniel Christian, Alex Blackwell, Phoebe Litchfield, Luke Hodge (AFL) and Nathan Lyon; and Adam Gilchrist XI which included:

Adam Gilchrist (C & WK) Andrew Symonds, Yuvraj Singh, Shane Watson, Brad Hodge, Peter Siddle, Courtney Walsh, Fawad Ahmed, Elyse Villani, Nick

Riewoldt (AFL) and Cameron Smith (National Rugby League).

Indian maestro Sachin Tendulkar also flew in from India to support the endeavour and played

one over from the Australian woman pacer Ellyse Perry during the break which had enthralled the spectators at the Oval.

As an ardent fan of the sport and a player myself, I was deeply moved by the gesture of these

legends of cricket, Australian Footy league and National rugby League. On behalf of the Institute for Australia India Engagement (IAIE) it was an honor to travel to Sydney, and without any hesitation reschedule my ticket for Melbourne to support "The Big Appeal".

I was also deeply proud and motivated to know the Institute's Goodwill Ambassador to India Matthew Hayden AM and member of the IAIE Board made a significant contribution to the Appeal. It was a surreal experience to see legends of the sport from different codes, countries, and era come together to support such a noble cause. It was an amazing IAIE Supports Bushfire Big Appeal Match experience to witness the goodness of humanity being displayed in its most pristine form in the Big Appeal at the Junction Oval. One of the most powerful images of the experience was to see old rivals on the cricket field from India, Pakistan, Australia and West Indies wearing the green and gold in solidarity, for which Australia and Australians will always be in their debt.

The enthusiasm of the spectators for the cause was electric at the Oval and it will be fair to posit that the spirit of Australian community and their kind heartedness triumphed on the day. For us spectators it was nothing short of watching history in the



making. People from all walks of life, young and old supported this event. The community came together to Advance Australia Fair!

We stand by each other in times of stress and difficulty and never leave anyone behind. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government expressed solidarity and support for Australia in the Indian parliament, the Australian and Indian players and the Indian diaspora came together in a powerful display of friendship and understanding. As a former Indian, now a proud Australian and an IAIE Fellow I am deeply proud to have participated and supported



the Big Appeal which raised over A\$ 7.7 million for firefighting, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.



(Mr Hayden with the Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who flew in from India along with Yuvraj Singh to support the fundraiser)



## Dr Ashutosh Misra Attends GOPIO Gold Coast Event on Independence Day

Dr Ashutosh Misra attended the Indian Republic Day event organised by the Global Organisation of the People of Indian Origin in Gold Coast. He was honored to meet with the Indian High Commissioner H.E. Gitesh Sarma, Angie Bell MP, Prof Sarva Daman Singh OAM, Hon Consul Archana Singh and the event host Mr Pushpinder Oberoi, President GOPIO Gold Coast.



(Ms. Angie Bell MP, H.E. Gitesh Sarma and a High Commission official)



# Institute for Australia India Engagement

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