



Australian Institute of International Affairs

Australia India Dialogue

Outcomes Report

The Australian Institute of International Affairs along with the Australia India Institute hosted a roundtable dialogue with a visiting delegation from the Indian Council of World Affairs. The roundtable was held in Melbourne at the Australia India Institute on 18 March 2014.

Highlights included:

- The involvement of a select group of participants from both the Australian and Indian governments, prominent universities, academic centres and policy institutes and the media
- Valuable discussion and dialogue between representatives of both countries which offered diverse perspectives on the Australia-India relationship
- Positive feedback from both delegations that strongly supports the continuation of the dialogue in the future



The Roundtable at the Australia India Institute



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Objectives

Australia and India will be key drivers and beneficiaries of a stronger Indo-Pacific region. The dialogue therefore aimed to promote greater understanding and cooperation between Australia and India by bringing together delegations made up of academics, policymakers, media and practitioners to develop new frameworks to enhance cooperation and collaboration on various forums.

The key objectives of the Australia India Dialogue were as follows:

- To create greater awareness of the political and economic challenges facing India and Australia
- To promote better understanding of the current regional and global challenges facing India and Australia and the potential for cooperation in various forums
- To review the current bilateral relationship and explore new avenues for collaboration

Outcomes included:

- High quality roundtable discussion
- Welcome reception to introduce the delegation to the wider community
- Involvement of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade representatives, including a separate meeting with the visiting delegation
- Rapporteur's report summarising the main discussion points
- Interview with head of delegation prepared and posted to the AIIA's YouTube channel



From left to right: Dr Christopher Kremmer, Dr Pankaj Jha, Ms Aakriti Bachhawat and Mr John Richardson



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Participants

Indian Council of World Affairs:

Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs

Ambassador Sheel Kant Sharma, Former Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Professor Darvesh Gopal, Director, School of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

R ADM (Retd) Vijai S. Chaudhari, Former Indian Defence Advisor to Australia and Additional Director, Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, New Delhi

Dr Pankaj Jha, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs

Australian Institute of International Affairs:

Ms Zara Kimpton, National Vice-President, Australian Institute of International Affairs

Ms Melissa Conley-Tyler, National Executive Director, Australian Institute of International Affairs

Professor Nick Bisley, Editor-in-Chief, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*

Ms Aakriti Bachhawat, Book Review Editor, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*

Mr Giridharan Ramasubramanian, Youth Representative, Australian Institute of International Affairs

Ms Ashleigh Sharp, Youth Representative, Australian Institute of International Affairs

Government:

His Excellency Biren Nanda, High Commissioner of India to Australia

Ms Manika Jain, Consul General of India, Consulate General of India Melbourne

Mr John Richardson, Victoria State Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr Brendan Hodgson, Victoria State Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Academia and Media:

Ms Sushi Das, Opinion Editor, *The Age* and author of *Deranged Marriage*

Dr Christopher Kremmer, Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne, former India correspondent and author of *Inhaling the Mahatma*

Dr Meg Gurry, Academic Researcher at Australia India Institute and author of *India: Australia's Neglected Neighbour?*

Dr Swati Parashar, Lecturer in Politics and International Relations and Member of Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTreC), Monash University

Dr Sally Percival Wood, Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University



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- The Australia India Institute and in particular Professor Amitabh Mattoo
- His Excellency Biren Nanda, Ms Manika Jain, Mr John Richardson and Mr Brendan Hodgson
- All the participants of the roundtable discussion
- Ashleigh Sharp and Giridharan Ramasubramanian from AIIA National Office



The Indian Council of World Affairs, Australian Institute of International Affairs and Australia India Institute Delegates with the High Commissioner of India to Australia