



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

ENGAGING WITH  
**INDIA**

2020-2024

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Hannah Raisin is an alumna of the Victoria College of the Arts. Her performance, video and photographic practice playfully subverts accepted social and behavioural norms. It engages in a feminist dialogue through key exhibitions such as *Unfinished Business: perspectives on art and feminism* and *Backflip: Feminism and humour in contemporary art*. Raisin was a previous Asialink Arts resident in Bangalore, an experience cementing the artist’s professional creative relationships with an extensive network of contemporary Indian practitioners.

*The front cover is Raisin’s work Untitled 1, undertaken during her residency in India.*

# FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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**The University of Melbourne is committed to developing partnerships with India to build capacity across both our societies and meet the challenges of our shared future.**

**The Australia-India relationship is one of the most strategically important international relationships for the University of Melbourne, with significant opportunities for mutually valuable collaboration and cooperation. This has been highlighted by the release of recent Australian strategies at both Federal and State government levels, focused on increasing engagement with India and identifying education as one of the key cornerstones of the relationship. Research collaborations, teaching programs and building bridges between the peoples of Australia and India, through a deeper understanding of one another, are fundamental components to this engagement. The Indian Government has acknowledged the importance of the bilateral relationship between Australia and India, calling for the two nations to become knowledge partners.**

India is critical to the future of the University of Melbourne. With a population of over 1.3 billion people, 242 million of whom are aged between 10 and 24, India stands as the world's largest democracy, its sixth-largest economy, and predicted to become the most populous country. It is a nation with a rich cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity and has an increasingly mobile population.

The vast majority of Indian citizens emphasise the importance of acquiring formal education. Government policies and private sector developments increasingly focus on research and development in high-tech industries, innovative approaches to complex problems, and entrepreneurship. The Indian Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Science are flagship education and research hubs undertaking world-leading research.

The University of Melbourne has established mature and confident partnerships with leading educational institutes in India and developed meaningful programs offering shared benefits with institutions in regional centres. Across various fields of study, our academics are working in partnership with colleagues in

India, curating research relationships, developing grants, co-authoring publications and executing significant research projects. To assist in these endeavours, the University has developed a range of formal programs to support student and research training engagement in and with India.

The University is home to an engaged and growing cohort of Indian students. Now representing our second largest cohort of international students, they are a dynamic and significant proportion of our vibrant student community. It is a multi-lingual, culturally agile community and the Indian perspective is fundamental for all students and their understanding of the world and the region. The international portfolio at the University includes two national centres facilitating engagement with India – the **Australia India Institute** and **Asialink** (whose broader remit is to develop relationships between Australia and Asia, including India).

The University is committed to developing partnerships with India to build capacity across both our societies and meet the challenges of our shared future. This plan marks the University's intention over the next five years to expand and deepen our relationships and activities with Indian partners. It articulates the value of our partnerships – of learning from and with our Indian colleagues and the harmonised, whole-of-University approach which sits alongside the ongoing work of individual researchers. These activities are the result of sustained discussion and development with Indian partners.

The University's commitment to engagement with India is long term. This plan articulates these relationships and commits us to boost cooperation towards building our shared future.

# BUILDING A SHARED FUTURE

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The University of Melbourne is committed to developing strong partnerships in India to deliver a shared future benefiting the Australian and Indian communities. We will strengthen our research relationships and collaborations to address key global challenges. The University will develop innovative collaborative models for teaching and learning programs, building capacity and articulating global leadership in this area. The University will foster support for people-to-people linkages with India – our students, our alumni and the diaspora community.

Capability building is required on both sides to better understand how to work together and strengthen disciplinary areas, allowing us to tackle the complex problems that face both our societies. The partnership is centred around five themes focusing on internal funding, high-level engagement, and whole-of-University relationships. They build on existing relationships and projects, calling for renewed investment and focus in these partnerships, alongside new initiatives in arts, social sciences and humanities.

## OUR PARTNERSHIP ASPIRATIONS

- Strengthen collaborations of mutual interest across core themes to create value in research and develop innovative and collaborative teaching and learning programs
- Develop the quality and impact of our research with Indian partners as well as our India-focused research
- Develop graduates with the capabilities and experience to engage meaningfully with Indian counterparts across academia, government, businesses and civil society
- Strengthen our India expertise, with an impact on policy and decision making
- Create opportunities for our Indian partners to share their expertise among the wider Australian community.

## OVER THE COMING YEARS, WE WILL EXPECT TO SEE

- Establishment of new, strong mutually beneficial relationships with selected Indian academic and non-academic institutions
- Strengthening of existing relationships with academic institutions for the betterment of shared learning experiences across core themes
- Expansion of contemporary India studies in the University's core undergraduate programs
- Increase in joint publications sharing complementary expertise
- Increase in funding for joint research projects from external sources, including industry, philanthropy and government grants
- Raising the University's reputation for expertise on India including through Asialink, Australia India Institute and Melbourne Disability Institute.

## **BUILDING A SHARED FUTURE TOWARDS SOCIETIES THAT ARE:**

### **HEALTHY**

- Co-develop allied health programs with partner institutions in India
- Further develop the partnership with CHAI (Catholic Health Association of India) and establish the Sister Mary Glowrey Health Leadership Program
- Expand opportunities in digital health research for chronic disease management.

### **SUSTAINABLE**

- Develop collaborations for integrated water management
- Nurture cooperation between University of Melbourne researchers and Indian Ministry of Power on smart grid policy and planning
- Prioritise collaborative partnerships with select agricultural universities and industry networks and explore potential for a joint institute of agriculture.

### **INNOVATIVE AND TECHNOLOGICALLY SOPHISTICATED**

- Expand the breadth and depth of the Melbourne-India Postgraduate Academy (MIPA)
- Expand and lead Blended Teaching and Learning programs in partnership with academic institutions in India
- Formalise the University's relationship with existing industry partners and look to build new industry connections.

### **EQUAL, INCLUSIVE AND WELL-GOVERNED**

- Establish the Indian Equality Law Program
- Work in partnership with the Indian Department of Empowerment of People with Disabilities and disability service providers to increase inclusion and improve the lives of people with disability, their families and carers
- Explore opportunities for educational mobility.

### **SHARING AN APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER'S PLACE IN THE WORLD**

- Establish a University of Melbourne portfolio of teaching and learning opportunities about India, including an Indian language offering, to enhance capabilities
- Leverage the University of Melbourne's expertise in visual and performing arts, music and literature to support cultural learning partnerships and exchanges.

# KEY ENABLERS

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## APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT DVC INTERNATIONAL (INDIA)

Professor Muthupandian Ashokkumar is a Professor of Chemistry with longstanding links to institutional partners in India. As Assistant Deputy Vice-Chancellor International (India), Professor Ashokkumar has responsibility for the University's strategy and relationships with India, including representation in India. Drawing on his considerable experience and insight, Professor Ashokkumar will help facilitate strong, sustainable relationships and convene a working group from all academic divisions and India-engaged institutes.

## INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENT COMMUNITIES

The University will create an expanded program of engagement with our Indian student community on campus, and with our broader alumni community based both in India and in Australia. By supporting our Indian students to maintain close connections to the University and highlighting their stories and graduate outcomes, they will continue to be vocal advocates for the University and Australia.

## SCHOLARS EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Increasing opportunities for the exchange of scholars will promote Melbourne's educational reputation, research capacity and training opportunities. The University will pursue opportunities to sponsor a small number of Distinguished Indian Visiting Scholars to visit Melbourne each year and encourage outbound scholars to take up Indian Government initiatives such as the Global Initiatives for Academic Network (GIAN), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), and Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) programs.

## DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The University will develop a framework for broader engagement with the Indian diaspora based in Melbourne. Opportunities to bring the community on to campus for the Diwali festival, will assist in developing the University's engagement with the Indian diaspora. Increased partnership with the Australia India Institute will assist the growth of interactions with members of the Indian community.

## MELBOURNE'S INDIA-ENGAGED INSTITUTES

**The University of Melbourne is home to two national Asia-focused institutes, providing thought leadership regarding Asia and India-specific engagement for Australians.**

Since 2008, the Australia India Institute (Aii), has enhanced understanding and cooperation between Australia and India. The Institute brings together scholars with shared research interests in India, creating potential for inter-disciplinary work and partnerships. It also acts as a vehicle for the University to demonstrate the breadth and depth of its expertise to partners in India and Australia. Its Senior Research Advisors promote the University's India activities to government, business and the community with a focus on education, health, infrastructure and governance. The Indian New Generation Network brings together postdoctoral scholars researching key challenges facing India and Australia.

Asialink is a leading centre for building Asia capability, public understanding of Asia and an appreciation of Australia's role in the region. Since 1990, Asialink has built strong relationships and programming in India across business, diplomacy, education and the arts. Asialink Business is working with industry to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties. Through its Asia Education Foundation BRIDGE program, Asialink has been working with school principals and school leaders to build partnerships between Australian and Indian schools. The creative arts programs the Institute maintains – including the highly successful artists in residence to India – have created numerous opportunities for emerging Australian artistic talents.

Individually and collectively, these Institutes harness their expertise and reach to create meaningful impact with Indian partners. They play an important role in actively building relationships and profile for the University in India, as well as meeting their national remit. More recently, policy-specific institutes, such as the University's Melbourne Disability Institute, have led substantive partnerships with Indian counterparts to increase inclusion and improve the lives of people with disability in both countries. They are joined by a strong cohort of Interdisciplinary Research Institutes engaging with India, including Melbourne Energy Institute, Melbourne Social Equity Institute and Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute.



*University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Professor Duncan Maskell and the President of India, His Excellency Mr Ram Nath Kovind, at a visit at the University of Melbourne in November 2018, facilitated by the Australia India Institute.*

# ‘A NATION OF NATIONS’ STRATEGIC STATE ENGAGEMENT

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India is sufficiently large, both geographically and in population terms, that it would be a challenging task to build strong partnerships and presence across all 29 states. As identified in the Federal Government's *India Economic Strategy to 2035*, “India is best seen not as a single economy but as an aggregation of very different state economies, each growing at different rates, driven by different strengths, led in different ways and likely to continue to be uneven in their progress.”

The scale and scope of the University of Melbourne's engagement with India will concentrate in regions and areas to leverage existing connections and expertise, developing a targeted approach to research relationships, student recruitment and community engagement.

The Federal and Victorian Governments have identified strategic regions for focused Australian engagement with India which builds on existing relationships, physical presences, and opportunities to develop further connections in identified sectors. These priority regions align with those of the University, in terms of institutional partnerships and student recruitment, and as the locations where the University's India-based alumni are located.

**Delhi** will remain a significant entry point for the University's engagement with India. In addition to being the country's capital, Delhi houses India's central government, businesses, international agencies, and High Commission. The Australia India Institute's Delhi office gives the University of Melbourne a physical presence in India, also housing our offshore recruitment team. It is the home of key university partnerships with the research intensive universities Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Delhi (also a member of the U21 alliance). The region is also home to our largest presence of University alumni in India.

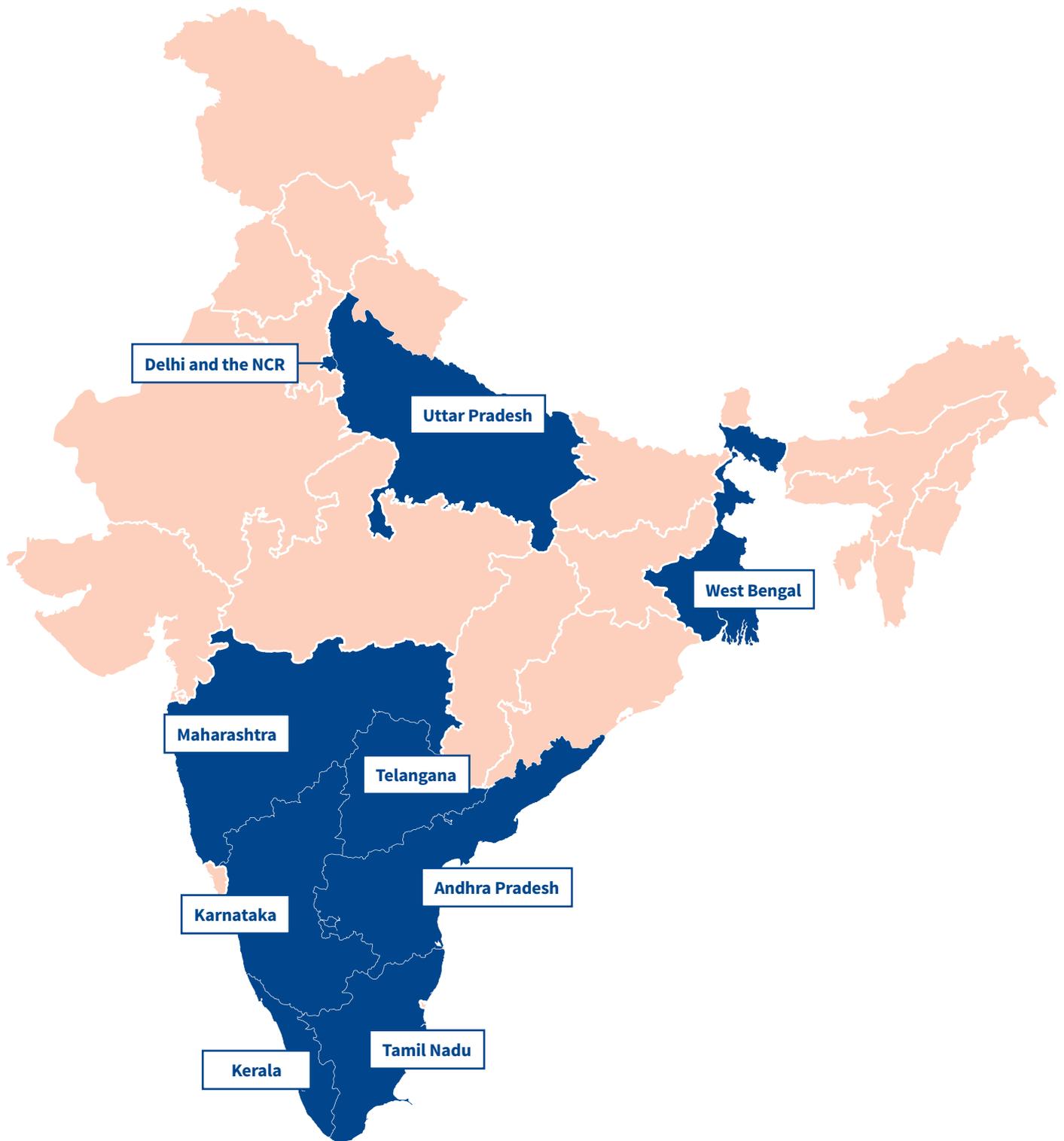
**Maharashtra** is India's largest state economy and the business centre of India and a top destination for UoM alumni. The University partners with Savitribai Phule Pune University to deliver blended undergraduate programs. Mumbai, Maharashtra's capital, is home to India's leading corporations and the location of a Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office.

In **Karnataka**, the University maintains a bilateral partnership with Manipal Academy of Higher Education – formerly known as Manipal University – and, through the MIPP program, with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; the highest ranked academic institution in India. Bengaluru is a renowned information technology and innovation hub and the world's second-fastest growing start-up ecosystem. The Victorian Government has a long-established presence in Bangalore with its Trade and Investment Office established in 2005 and the India Economic Strategy includes a recommendation for a Consulate-General in Bengaluru to focus on economic diplomacy in technology and innovation.

The University has also established long-term, meaningful partnerships with institutions in **Tamil Nadu**, with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, a key partner in the MIPP and MIPA programs along with relationships in **Uttar Pradesh**, with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and in **West Bengal** with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

The University is building relationships in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Kerala** through the Blended Bachelor of Science and research partnership with IISER Tirupati, IISER Thiruvananthapuram and Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala, as well as in **Telangana** through its association with the Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM).

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE PRIORITY STATES



# **BUILDING A SHARED FUTURE TOWARDS SOCIETIES THAT ARE:**

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# HEALTHY

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Meaningful engagement with international partners is critical to the University of Melbourne's aspiration to improve the health and wellbeing of people across the world.

Despite the large projected growth in the Indian health sector, including that of medical infrastructure, the demand for healthcare in India will continue to dwarf domestic supply. The Indian Government has advocated initiatives and committed significant resources to improve national healthcare infrastructure, including improved delivery of healthcare in rural parts of the country, a stated commitment to universal health coverage and establishment of a National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR).

Health and health-service collaborations are at the forefront of the University's engagement with India. Many of the University's strengths complement India's needs and the objectives of India's National Health Mission.

The University works with a range of national partners in India to ensure that strategies to address health and development challenges are locally owned and appropriate. For example, an MoU with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) covers several collaborative projects including training in public health policy and leadership, improving the impact of disability programs, and applying lessons from Australia in tobacco plain packaging policies.

## ALLIED HEALTH

### Co-develop allied health programs with partner institutions in India

The University of Melbourne has established allied health collaborations with several highly regarded institutions in southern India, including the Christian Medical College, Vellore, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, and Medical Research Foundation, Chennai. The University will explore opportunities to further build shared learning collaborations that include increasing inbound and outbound student mobility and clinical placements offerings, co-developing courses and learning modules of mutual benefit, initiating new collaborative research projects and establishing mentorship programs and joint workshops.

With longstanding partnerships in southern India, there is scope to build new allied health programs that encompass research and teaching and learning activities across several disciplines. The University will also develop new programs in medical technology and leadership training by engaging with the non-government health sector.

## CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (CHAI)

### Further develop the partnership with CHAI and establish the Sister Mary Glowrey Health Leadership Program

The University of Melbourne partners with the largest non-government provider of healthcare in India, the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), to develop its healthcare workforce, enhance health systems and benefit the 30 million people CHAI provides care to annually. The partnership has grown from a shared connection with Doctor Sister Mary Glowrey – one of the first women to graduate from the University of Melbourne's Medical School and founder of CHAI. In her memory, the University established the Sister Mary Glowrey Scholars Program in partnership with CHAI and St Vincent's Health Australia to promote and enhance education and research collaboration activities. The program supports visiting fellows from India to engage in clinical training research and leadership courses to improve healthcare, mental health and disability support services in India.

This program, building on the success of the Scholars program, will create extensive collaborations throughout India and develop distinct projects between future health leaders in India and at the University.

## 'SMART' TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED HEALTH

### Expand opportunities in digital health research for chronic disease management

The Excellence in NonCommunicable disease REsearch (ENCORE) program advances research, collaborations and exchanges between the University of Melbourne and top Indian public health and medical research institutions. The program has identified digital health interventions to improve chronic disease management as an area for future research to benefit both India and Australia. The University will continue to engage with researchers, health providers, technology firms and policy makers to discuss the key attributes of 'smart' technology-enabled health care systems in India and Australia.

# SUSTAINABLE

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The issues surrounding the world's climate system and impacts of climate change are of immediate concern to both India and Australia. Like Australia, India sits at the frontline of climate change, highly vulnerable to the physical impacts of global warming and bearing the brunt of significant flood, drought and energy crises. As a result, the Indian Government is focused on undertaking significant changes in the way it utilises its resources in terms of water, energy and agriculture.

The *Research at Melbourne* strategy highlights sustainability and resilience as a grand research challenge. As a result of geographic environmental realities, the University has built up considerable expertise, particularly in water management, for the mutual benefit with partners in India.

In the *India Economic Strategy to 2035*, former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Peter Varghese AC, noted that “[Australia] should be seen as a trusted partner to India’s agriculture reforms and land and water management priorities and be the lead partner for these issues in key states.”

In terms of overarching sustainability, the University of Melbourne will focus on water, energy and agriculture as areas of growing importance to both countries.

## WATER

### Develop collaborations for integrated water management

The mismatch between increasing water demand and the decline in quality water is a most critical resource issue worldwide including in Australia and India, where water scarcity is particularly acute. India has approximately 18 per cent of the world's population but only 4 per cent of the world's water resources. Without a radical transformation in water supply management, India is likely to face a water scarcity crisis before 2030, by which time demand is projected to outstrip supply.

The University of Melbourne has significant expertise in water resource management. The Water, Environment and Agriculture Program works with industry to drive innovation in water systems through applied research and training and working with farmers, river and catchment managers, and water utilities researchers to develop practical solutions to water challenges. The program's interdisciplinary team of researchers tackles complex problems in four research themes: agricultural technology, river basins, environmental water and urban water infrastructure.

In collaboration with IIT Kharagpur and industry partners such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the University will work collaboratively to develop integrated urban water management space solutions.

### Integrated urban water management

Integrated water management offers significant opportunities to reduce resource reliance and waste generation, improving liveability in the face of climate change and population growth. But it also poses a huge challenge for water managers to efficiently manage such complex systems and ensure that the actual cost of water is recovered, and water is not significantly subsidised. University of Melbourne researchers are leading a multidisciplinary team to develop an integrated and flexible services system to achieve the most productive use of water with minimal resource input and waste generation. These integrated systems will provide water supply, sanitation and stormwater capture to urban centres, slum areas and regional communities with minimum fresh water import and waste generation.



## ENERGY

### **Nurture cooperation between University of Melbourne researchers and Indian Ministry of Power on smart grid policy and planning**

The Indian Government has highlighted alternatives to traditional sources of energy supply, such as coal, by setting ambitious solar electricity targets – 175 gigawatts by 2022. As solar technology and storage become more cost effective, the potential for solar power in India is immense. Both Australia and India have much to learn about meeting their energy requirements and need to engage and foster deeper bilateral knowledge partnerships.

The University has strong existing collaborations with Indian partners in the area of energy policy. Together, we are researching advanced technology trends in the low-carbon energy transition taking place in developing countries with specific applications to India and South Asia, alongside work to leapfrog technology and social and gender equity gaps. Renewable energy technologies are increasingly seen as potentially ‘disruptive technologies’ that can transform how energy is produced, distributed and consumed. Research into smart grid technologies is increasing opportunities for inclusive development. University researchers have been working closely with the Indian Ministry of Power, completing a research study that includes a renewable energy audit of the Ministry’s programs and designing a socio-technical model for energy service delivery to be tested in India.

Building on existing collaborations, the University will utilise the synergies in energy research between the two countries.

## AGRICULTURE

### **Prioritise collaborative partnerships with select agricultural universities and industry networks and explore the potential to develop a joint institute of agriculture**

India’s large agrarian sector has a strong history in adapting to the challenges of climate change and food security. Its state-based agricultural universities, such as Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, were home to the Green Revolution in the 1960s, leading to enormous increases in food grain production and reducing the threat of wide-spread famine. Today, agriculture remains a fundamental chapter in both Australia and India’s shared story. The Indian Government is committed to transforming agriculture, boosting productivity to ensure food security, providing equitable access to food, raising livelihoods, and ensuring economic stability at a national level. It is calling for a ‘second agriculture revolution’, in order to change the conventional and traditional way of farming, making it more modern and scientific.

University of Melbourne researchers have been involved in key projects with Indian partners. The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in India, funded by the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund, aims to produce plants that control pests (biotic constraints) themselves, without the need for pesticides.

# INNOVATIVE AND TECHNOLOGICALLY SOPHISTICATED

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Both India and Australia are committed to creating societies that are more technologically sophisticated, innovative and entrepreneurial. Each nation is investing in education in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to ensure a future workforce which can work at the cutting edge of scientific and technological endeavours. There is also a need in both India and Australia to increase the capacity of aspiring business leaders, critical thinkers, innovators and entrepreneurs with HASS (humanities and social science) capacities. Meeting the demand for a more innovative and technologically sophisticated society and economy in both countries will require increased development in both STEM and HASS skills.

The University of Melbourne is deeply engaged with the Indian research system, in particular with the top Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science, which are among the most selective institutions in the world and recognised as global research powerhouses. These institutions are critical partnerships for the University.

The Indian Government has articulated a desire to develop its human capital and the University of Melbourne is a significant partner in this endeavour. Through development of the Blended Bachelor of Science program, the University has been working to build capabilities in regions of India. The University is also strongly committed to working with universities that have a greater reach in terms of building capability within some of India's developing regions.

Significant opportunities exist to engage with business leaders, develop relationships with industry partners and develop online curricula – critical for delivery of innovative education programs to a growing population in India.



**“A shared approach to cutting-edge technology and research is critical to successful relationships between Melbourne and Indian academic institutions. We believe these innovative partnerships will support the goals shaping India’s National Education Policy: Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability.”**

**Professor Muthupandian Ashokkumar**



## MELBOURNE-INDIA POSTGRADUATE ACADEMY (MIPA)

### Expand the breadth and depth of the Melbourne-India Postgraduate Academy

Commencing in 2014, the University's Melbourne India Postgraduate Program (MIPP), has been a flagship for our commitment and interest in deepening links with and in India. The program is a joint initiative of the University of Melbourne and a select group of India's finest research universities – the Indian Institutes of Technology Madras (IITM), Kanpur (IITK), Kharagpur (IITKgp) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). It provides graduate researchers with the opportunity to be jointly supervised by academics from both the University and one of the program's Indian partners.

MIPP provides students with access to research facilities and expertise in both Australia and India, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the development of educational, cultural and industry links between the two countries. Participating students receive mentoring from staff as well as access to a wide network of the IIT Alumni, which promotes professional networking with business, academia and government in Australia.

The success of the program has led to the development of the Melbourne-India Postgraduate Academy which seeks to increase engagement and researcher-to-researcher links. The MIPP/MIPA programs have significantly increased research collaborations in participating faculties, and are now ready to expand to other faculties.

Established in partnership with the Indian Institutes of Technology in Kanpur, Madras and Kharagpur, the MIPA program enables joint PhD placements. Students enrolled in MIPA will work on a project developed by supervisors and mentored by a joint advisory committee, consisting of academics from the University of Melbourne and one of the partner IITs. The joint structure will lead to more active research collaborations between academics and provide students with exclusive opportunities to work in both continents during their candidature, earning a dual degree accredited both in India and Australia.

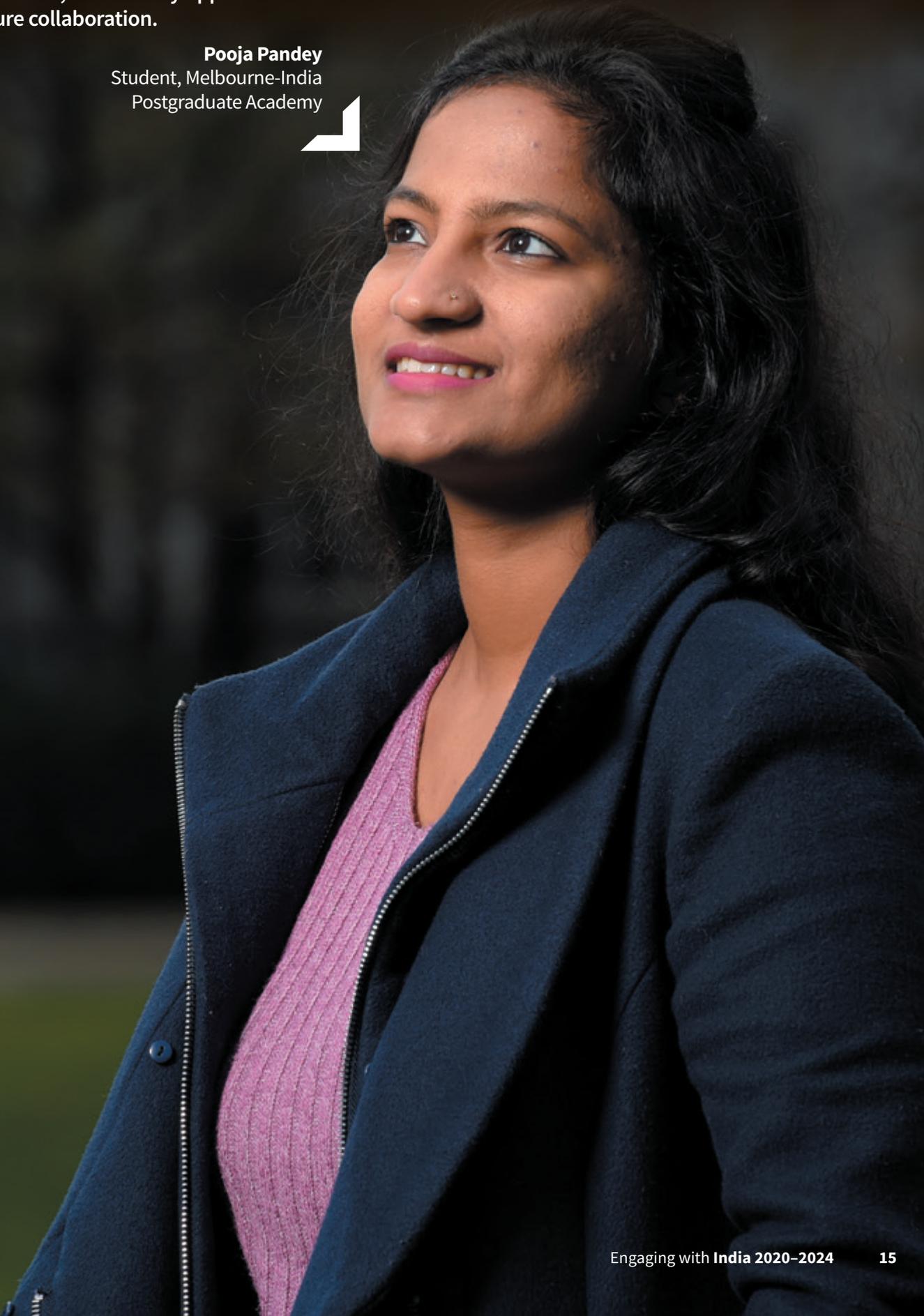
There is a groundswell of interest in MIPA from many research partners in India who view the program as a strong model to facilitate research collaborations beyond PhD projects.

To expand the breadth and depth of the programs, the University will consider opportunities to develop a MIPP/MIPA Research Academy that incorporates staff exchange, student exchange and collaborative research. Work will also be undertaken with academic divisions beyond Science and Engineering to determine if there is appetite for further participation. The annual MIPP conference, which allows the cohort to come together for communication and sharing of research will continue, encouraging further networking and development of projects. The program will look to further develop engagement with industry partners to increase the number of students funded by industry to work on solving relevant problems.



I greatly appreciate the valuable feedback that I have received from the researchers in India and Melbourne...I can learn from their experiences, build a network of professionals, and identify opportunities for future collaboration.

**Pooja Pandey**  
Student, Melbourne-India  
Postgraduate Academy



## **BLENDED TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAMS**

### **Expand and lead Blended Teaching and Learning programs in partnership with academic institutions in India**

The University of Melbourne's partnership with Indian institutions for the provision of blended programs is an example of exemplary curriculum development. The University currently partners with Savitribai Phule Pune University and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) to develop and support a Bachelor of Science (Blended) – a three-year program designed to prepare graduates for further study in postgraduate science and related areas, delivered both online and on campus.

The program illustrates the University's leadership in developing innovative programs and future-scaled developments, such as a potential Blended Academy, will lay the foundation for future research collaborations. The University will consider mechanisms to embed its blended programming to expand to partnerships in diverse areas of India for those who are currently isolated from such opportunities.

## **INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT**

### **Formalise the University's relationship with existing industry partners and look to build new industry connections**

The University of Melbourne will continue to strengthen its industry engagement with Indian companies. Maintaining strategic partnerships with leading industry partners, such as Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys, facilitates greater connections and knowledge exchange, extending the University's links to leading corporate technology.

The University's industry partnerships will also play a significant role in the development of innovation and enterprise through the Melbourne Connect precinct – moving innovation forward and creating real-world impact. Industry, researchers, government and the community will co-locate within the new precinct and collaborate to develop innovative solutions to major societal challenges.



Newly appointed Assistant DVC international (India) Professor Muthupandian Ashokkumar also established the University's first blended learning program in India.

# EQUAL, INCLUSIVE AND WELL-GOVERNED

As the world's largest democracy, India's pluralist citizenship enjoys many synergies with Australia. Both countries have a rich democratic tradition and deal with the complexities of elections and developing government policy in countries which are multi-cultural, multi-religious, include urban and agricultural populations, and have a constitutional commitment to federalism.

Both India and Australia share a commitment to equality. The Indian Constitution expressly protects and promotes equality of all citizens. The Australian parliament has introduced a series of laws to increase equality and provide access to legal remedies for those who face discrimination. And both societies struggle with forms of entrenched discrimination. In neither country are women equal to men in terms of pay, seniority in businesses, or representation in democratic institutions. Across both nations, certain minority groups (religious or ethnic minorities, scheduled castes, Indigenous people) face worse outcomes across a range of indicators, such as imprisonment and education. Both countries remain committed to better outcomes for all citizens, but complex historical, economic, cultural and other factors make shifting towards a more equal society difficult to achieve.

Under its current government, India has made concerted efforts to improve governance and accountability across political and commercial areas. There are many challenges that stand in the way of achieving these ends, including corruption which has been a perennial problem for India and remains a live issue for Australia as well.

As a result of its unique history and experience, Indian expertise in issues of equality are rich: with respect to the right to self-determination, gender inequality, low socio-economic groups, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, examining equality of access to education, justice, government services and employment. Australia's history and experience has shaped the University's awareness and commitment to development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, set out in the University's Reconciliation Action Plan.

## EQUALITY

### Establish the Indian Equality Law Program

The University of Melbourne is a centre of excellent social science research on equality and governance in India. University scholars are renowned for their work on youth politics, caste and social change, public health, law and justice, gender relations and the governance and politics of education, and have used their research to inform public policy in Australia and India. Through the Faculty of Arts subject, Development and Inequality, taught each year with the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, students explore the relationship between development and inequality, taking India as a central example. The planned development of Indian Studies will support and further augment this expertise at the University.

The shared common law tradition of India and Australia has brought opportunities for both countries to share information and practice. The University of Melbourne is collaborating with colleagues from the Centre on the Death Penalty at the National Law University Delhi to exchange ideas between faculty members, lawyers, judges, researchers and students. The University also participates in international symposia hosted by the Jindal Global Law School to discuss the importance and critical issues of comparative public law. The subject Law and Legal Practice in Asia includes pre-departure teaching, supervision of a research project and legal experience in a workplace setting in India. The Asian Law Centre houses world-class expertise on religious freedom.

The Indian Equality Law Program was established in 2018 and is funded by the Letten Prize. The program encourages capacity building to support early career academics with an interest in Indian equality, anti-discrimination and comparative law. Through its Visiting Fellow program and PhD scholarships, the program is building a cohort of early career scholars whose expertise lies in Indian equality and anti-discrimination law.

### Election Watch

The University of Melbourne is working with partners in India to provide non-partisan and fact-based publications, events and expert analysis of policy issues that will shape the future of India and the region. Through projects such as Election Watch, the University will seek ongoing opportunities to engage the broader Australian and Indian public, strengthening our political and cultural understanding of each other.

## **DISABILITY POLICY**

### **Work in partnership with the Indian Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and disability service providers to increase inclusion and improve the lives of people with disability, their families and carers**

Both India and Australia are placing disability at the heart of health and social policy development. Following the launch of the Melbourne Disability Institute in 2018, the University of Melbourne has been instrumental in developing a bilateral relationship with the Australian Government and Indian Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to identify opportunities to learn from one another's response to disability. Areas of collaboration include research on disability, development of disability leadership training and community-based training courses, an economic modelling project and engagement with the Government of India's National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation.

## **EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY**

### **Exploring opportunities for educational mobility**

The University of Melbourne is committed to creating opportunities for students to succeed in their educational careers, wherever they may be based. Educational mobility is a key issue in India, and India is a centre for remarkable efforts to address educational inequalities. We will explore opportunities to build lasting partnerships with Indian schools in the area of student mobility.

The University will undertake a scoping project to determine how best to identify schools in India whose mission is to engage students who are unrepresented in educational success. This could range from assistance with the development of curriculum to engagement on specific projects relevant to research. It will be important to utilise expertise across a range of disciplines at the University to make the greatest impact. The focus will be on reducing some of the factors that impact on social mobility for under-represented and minority groups in India, such as women, rural students and scheduled castes.



A research collaboration between the University of Melbourne's Nossal Institute for Global Health, Graduate School of Education, the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of the Government of India, is developing new training and recruitment practices, driving a new approach to community disability inclusion.

# SHARING AN APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

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For Australia to maintain a meaningful partnership with India, we must increase our understanding of each other's position and place in the world. As former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Peter Varghese outlines, "[i]f our partnership is to reach its full potential we must modernise our perceptions of each other. It is in our interests to do away with misconceived notions of what the other stands for." We do not, as yet, have a critical mass of Australians with the capability to engage in a sophisticated way with India and the Indian diaspora in Australia can be better utilised. There is also much work to be done to ensure that Indians better understand Australia.

Along with students and alumni, the strongest people-to-people links for the University to India comes in the form of the large and growing community of the Indian diaspora, which makes up almost 3 per cent of Australia's population. Melbourne has become a hub for the Indian community in Australia and the active diaspora has consistently been cited as a significant pull factor in Indians deciding to further their studies in Melbourne.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### **Establish a University of Melbourne portfolio of teaching and learning opportunities about India, including a language offering to enhance capabilities**

The University of Melbourne is considering opportunities to increase its offering for students interested in building an understanding of India. This may include expansion of the Asian Studies program to include a specific lens on India or South Asia, as well as a breadth stream aimed at enhancing Asian literacy. The India Economic Strategy to 2035 emphasises the need for Australian universities to promote India literacy through the expansion of Indian studies, including language studies. The University of Melbourne is exploring opportunities for collaboration with industry partners including a cross-disciplinary subject taught in India and supported by the Aii@Delhi. An element of the teaching offering will be development of an undergraduate subject that includes an introduction to India and key Asian institutions to ensure students from every discipline have an opportunity to develop a basic understanding of Indian society.



*Following the success of the University of Melbourne's blended teaching and learning BSc program, the institution will increase its work in this area, developing diverse partnerships across India.*

## CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

### **Leverage the University of Melbourne's expertise in visual and performing arts, music and literature to support cultural learning partnerships and exchanges**

Opportunities to further enable cultural exchange between staff and students and Indian learning institutions, arts organisations and artists, will be encouraged and the University has much to offer in this area. It is home to a world-class arts precinct at Southbank, where students are physically and spiritually embedded alongside some of the nation's signature arts facilities. The Faculty of Fine Arts and Music currently funds a small number of overseas experiences for students to travel to Mumbai and Kolkata for studios in screenwriting, visual art and music therapy and believes these endeavours should be enhanced.

Through Asialink, the University is delivering highly successful creative exchanges, such as targeted dance exchange and commissions with partners in Kolkata. Support is also growing through programs to internationalise and develop market readiness for Australian start-up creatives, seeking to target Indian creative industry ecosystems.

The growing group of colleagues in the liberal arts with connections to India, provide unique vehicles to deliver collaboration. These resources are important tools in accelerating the momentum of the Federal Government's soft power review, and highlighting how the visual and performing arts are integral to building strong relationships between nations.

## Global Science Gallery Network

Science Gallery Melbourne, embedded in the University of Melbourne, is a dynamic new model for engaging the public with science. Through the Global Science Gallery Network, Science Gallery Melbourne will be joined by a new Science Gallery in Bengaluru, supported by the Government of Karnataka. The first space of its kind in Asia, Science Gallery Bengaluru is a dynamic new space for engaging young adults at the interface between science and the arts, drawing on the intellectual capital of three of India's leading research institutions, Indian Institute of Science, National Centre for Biological Science and Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology. It is hoped the possibility of building on collaborations between galleries in Melbourne and Bengaluru will create strong connections to involve, inspire and transform curious minds through arts and science across India and Australia.



**“India and Australia, located at two corners of Asia, share a belief in democracy, tolerance and openness. We share challenges – around youth unemployment, climate change, and the provision of skills, – and are increasingly interlinked via flows of people, materials, and ideas. The time is ripe to capitalise on these resemblances and connections. Universities on both sides can generate knowledge, improve understanding, and – most importantly – build the lasting ties that facilitate joint action.”**

**Craig Jeffrey**  
Director, Australia India Institute  
and Professor of Geography





# DIWALI

THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS  
@ FED SQUARE

*Celebrating Diwali at the University of Melbourne's Parkville campus.*

# TOWARDS A SHARED FUTURE

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## **A long-term commitment to engagement with India**

The University of Melbourne's five-year plan is built on a strong foundation of partnerships. It is an evolving journey, with many opportunities for building multi-layered partnerships and a shared future.

Through the exchange of trust, commitment, knowledge and ideas, the University aims to become a world centre for India-focused research. Alongside partners, the University is working to shape societies that are healthy, sustainable, innovative and technologically sophisticated, equal, inclusive and well-governed, and fundamentally share an appreciation and understanding of Australia and India's place in the world.

We will strengthen our connections with Indian institutions, not just with the leading education centres but, importantly, sharing curriculum, building capacity and outreach to smaller institutions in regional centres. And we will broaden our engagement with diverse states across India. We will build programs to encourage the exchange of scholars, working with partner institutions to share knowledge and expertise.

The University is continuing to create opportunities for students to incorporate Indian studies into their curricula, both in Australia and India. We will create dynamic programs, encouraging students to undertake significant mobility experiences, building up infrastructure and policy to support these programs. We will work to strengthen connections with the growing diaspora community in Melbourne. We will also ensure that Indian students who study in Melbourne are supported on their return to India. We will strengthen our alumni communities, mentoring programs and employment connections in India.

We will establish a significant University of Melbourne physical presence in India through the Melbourne Academy for Blended Teaching & Learning in association with partners in India. The Academy, in collaboration with partner institutions, will house engagement activities, short-term programs, online education and host cohorts of Australian and Indian students.

Our core business, as a university, to create and advance knowledge, is fundamental to our relationship with India. We cannot achieve this unless we work together, understanding one another and sharing our learnings to become strong knowledge partners.



