

## Finland – Karnataka relationship

### Snapshot | Karnataka – Finland relationship

Finland and Karnataka have shared a strong partnership as well. Several Finnish companies, including Nokia and Kone, have their research centres located in Bengaluru, where they

Focus sub-sectors	1. Startups 2. Artificial Intelligence 3. 5G
Focus cities	Helsinki

are not only conducting cutting edge research on the latest technologies, but also mentoring Indian startups.

The Karnataka – Finland Innovation Corridor MoU was renewed (for 5 years) between Department of IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka, and Embassy of Finland in December 2018 (during BTS) with the focus areas on Innovation, Science and Research, Skilling, Trade Promotion and Startups. MoU Steering Committee meetings are conducted once every six months to understand the progress of the MoU and to chart next steps.

### Karnataka – Finland relations | Detailed

1. Under the banner of the MoU, several programs have been undertaken.
  - a) **November 2017** – Ms. Anne Berner, Finland Minister of Transport and Communications, led a trade delegation to BTS 2017.
  - b) **February 2018** – MoU Steering Group Meeting led by, Shri Priyank Kharge, the then Hon'ble Minister for IT BT and H.E. Ms. Nina Vaskunlahti, Ambassador of Finland to India.
  - c) **March 2018** – Four Karnataka start-ups selected for mentoring by Nokia under i-Samarth.
  - d) **August 2018** – GoK delegation visit to Finland, led by Shri K.J. George, the then Hon'ble Minister for IT BT.
  - e) **September 2018** - MoU Steering Group Meeting was conducted to discuss renewal and extended scope.
  - f) **November 2018** - Ms. Anne-Mari Virolainen, Finland Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Government of Finland led a trade delegation to BTS 2018.
  - g) **April 2019** - Her Excellency Mrs. Nina Vaskunlahti, Ambassador to India from Finland visited Bengaluru to discuss the Talent Boost program. 'Fit for Finland' networking event: An event promoting the Talent Boost program in Renaissance hotel, Bengaluru
  - h) **May 2019** – MoU Steering Group meeting was held on 21 May 2019. Discussions were conducted on:
    - Finnish companies mentoring the students from NAIN colleges.

- Talent Boost Program.
  - Finnish Companies expanding to cities such as such as Mangalore, Mysuru, Belagavi – Hubli
- i) **October 2019 – Finland Day**
- Finland Day was organized as a precursor event to BTS 2019 on 24 October 2019.
  - It was a platform for start-ups and large organizations from both Finland and Karnataka to interact with each other and share best practices.
- j) **December 2019 - MoU Steering Group Meeting – following points were discussed**
- Mentoring and training for start-ups under the guidance of NAIN
  - GIA Market Access Program
  - Karnataka Unit for International Cooperation October 2020
  - Talent Boost program update
  - University to University cooperation – student exchange program
  - Finland Smart Energy Forum
  - Regional outreach (tier two and tier three cities)
- k) **November 2020: CoE – GIA collaboration**
- Institution level collaboration in a common area of technology
  - Data Science and AI identified as the common area of interest between
  - Business Finland has been selected as the GIA anchor institution
  - MoU was signed during BTS 2020
- l) **December 2021: Nokia Innovation day with the theme: Sustainable technologies that help the world**
- This was a joint event conducted by GoK and Nokia.
  - At the inaugural we saw participation from Govt of Karnataka’s start-ups address the audience as a Keynote speaker and participate during the panel discussion.
  - On the second day a curated 5G workshop (i-Samarth Program) was conducted for 15 handpicked start-ups from Karnataka Start-up cell.

## **Participation in Bengaluru Tech Summit**

Finland has always participated in a large way during Bengaluru Tech Summit. Delegations have always been led by a Minister since the 2017 edition of the Summit.

1. **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017:** Ms. Anne Berner, Finland Minister of Transport and Communications, led a trade delegation to BTS 2017.
2. **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2018:**
  - a. Ms. Anne-Mari Virolainen, Finland Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Government of Finland led a trade delegation to BTS 2018.

### 3. Bengaluru Tech Summit 2019:

- a. Mr. Timo Harakka, Minister of Employment, Finland attended BTS 2019. He was a distinguished guest at the valedictorian ceremony.
- b. Finland conducted a session on “Taking industry competitiveness and cybersecurity to next level” on 18 November 2019.

### 4. Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020:

- a. Panel Discussion on Artificial Intelligence
- b. Address by Ms. Ritva Koukku Ronde, Ambassador, Embassy of Finland in India
- c. Mr. Timo Harakka, Minister of Employment, Finland attended BTS 2020. He was a distinguished guest at the valedictorian ceremony.

### 5. Bengaluru Tech Summit 2021:

- a. Finland Conducted a session on Digital Health in Finland: Developing AI and VR tools to support the growth of health technology businesses
- b. Mr. Timo Harakka, Minister of Transport and Communications gave the valedictory remarks.



Figure 1: Finland MoU Steering committee meeting - December 2021



Figure 2: Finland GIA Session – Opening Remarks by Mrs. Päivi Sillanaukee, Ambassador for Health and Well-being, Ministry for Foreign affairs, Finland – BTS 2021

Figure 3: Finland GIA session- Panel Discussion – BTS 2021