

GIA partner Australia

Snapshot | Karnataka – Australia relationship

Australia is one of the key GIA partner countries for Karnataka. State specific relations with Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have emerged over the past few years.

Bi-lateral high-level delegation visits between Karnataka and Australia have paved way for a deep technology and innovation enabled connection. The Premier of Victoria, Hon. Daniel Andrews visit to Bangalore during

January 2018, Victorian healthcare delegation headed by Mr. Terry Symonds, Deputy Secretary, Health and Wellbeing Division, Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria during July 2018, interaction between Victorian Governor and the Chief Minister of Karnataka during September 2018, virtual participation of Prime Minister of Australia during BTS 2020 and BTS 2021 are just a few highlights of the growing relationship between Karnataka and Australia.

Focus sub sectors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthcare 2. Biotech / Medtech 3. Startups 4. Cybersecurity 5. AVGC
Focus regions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victoria 2. Queensland 3. New South Wales

Karnataka – Australia relations | Detailed

- **January 2018** - Digital Health Workshop organized by Government of Victoria in BBC during January 2018. The workshop was attended by **Victorian Premier, Mr. Daniel Andrews**.
- **September 2018** – Victorian Governor had a brief interaction with Chief Minister of Karnataka to discuss potential collaboration opportunities between the two States.
- **September 2019** - Australia's Medtech Actuator and Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC) launched the medtech start-up competition, **Medtech's got talent**
 - The two-day bootcamp of the program was conducted in BBC in October 2019
 - Four startups from Karnataka were selected for the final pitching session which was held in Melbourne.
- **November 2019 - Victoria India Government Exchange Program (VIGEP)** - program for senior level bureaucrats of both the State Governments for policy interactions
 - Six Victorian Secretaries were in Bengaluru from 19 November to 22 November 2019 and they conducted one-on-one discussions with the Secretaries of GoK
 - There were few key areas of common interest identified by each department and the GoK Departments and Victorian Departments had decided to work together on common areas of interest
 - Program is currently halted in light of Covid. Plans are to resume it in 2022.

- **January 2020 - Qpod was set up**
 - MoU signed between Department and Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) for two years for facilitating startup and R&D collaborations between Queensland and Karnataka
 - Skilling and knowledge exchange webinars have been conducted by Australian tech and innovation experts for the benefit of Karnataka startups and students.
- **March 2020:** Meeting conducted between Additional Chief Secretary, Deptt of E IT Bt and S&T, GoK and **Dr Christian Hirst, A/g Deputy High Commissioner**. Startups and Cybersecurity were outlined as sectors of focus for the relationship.
- **March 2020:** Amidst the **COVID-19 pandemic**, even though major activities were halted, constant interactions were conducted between Department and Consulate of Australia regarding partnerships to ease the negative impact of COVID.
- **December 2020:** India and Australia agreed to work **on Cyber and Cyber Enabled Critical Technologies Cooperation** to enhance the bilateral cooperation on cyber and critical technology issues
 - As a first step, Karnataka startups applied for the Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP) grant program launched during December 2020.
- **April 2021** - Collaboration between Karnataka and Victoria during **April 2021** for a knowledge session titled - ***Advancing Women in Technology and Entrepreneurship - opportunities for Victoria and Karnataka***

Participation in Bengaluru Tech Summit

- **BTS 2018**
 - Delegation was led by Ms. Kate Jones, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Development, Government of Queensland in Bengaluru Tech Summit held during November 2018.
 - Global Victoria, the trade and investment agency of Government of Victoria, set up a booth at BTS 2018, exhibiting latest technologies and trends.
- **BTS 2019**
 - Ms. Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner to India led the delegation
 - The roundtable multi-department discussion of Victoria India Government Exchange Program (VIGEP) was held during the summit
- **BTS 2020**
 - The delegation was led by **Hon'ble Prime Minister of Australia – Mr. Scott Morrison**.
 - Australia had the largest delegation participation at the Summit (100+ delegates).

- Ministers who participated at the Summit - **Ms. Karen Andrews**, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Australia, **Mr. Martin Pakula**, Minister for Trade and Business Precincts, State of Victoria, Australia, **Mr. Victor Dominello MP**, New South Wales Government, Australia and **Mr. Stuart Ayres**, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism & Western Sydney, Australia
- A GIA session was conducted on the topic “*From Cyberspace to Outer Space: Innovating with Australia in a post-COVID world*”
- **BTS 2021**
 - **Virtual remarks at the inaugural were provided by Mr. Scott Morrison, Hon’ble Prime Minister of Australia – this was his second appearance at BTS**
 - Hon’ble Stuart Ayers, New South Wales Minister, Department of Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney provided remarks at the Summit
 - A mutual virtual participation with Karnataka for Sydney Dialogue Summit where both countries showcased their national capabilities – this was a first of its kind joint collaboration in Karnataka on mega events between two Countries / States.
 - Australia conducted a GIA Session titled: Deepening India - Australia ties in 'tech & innovation



Figure 1: Launch of Q-Pod in NASSCOM ; Figure 2: Victoria Health Delegation at BBC



Figure 3: Pictures captured as part of Victoria India Government Exchange Program (VIGEP) | BTS 2019

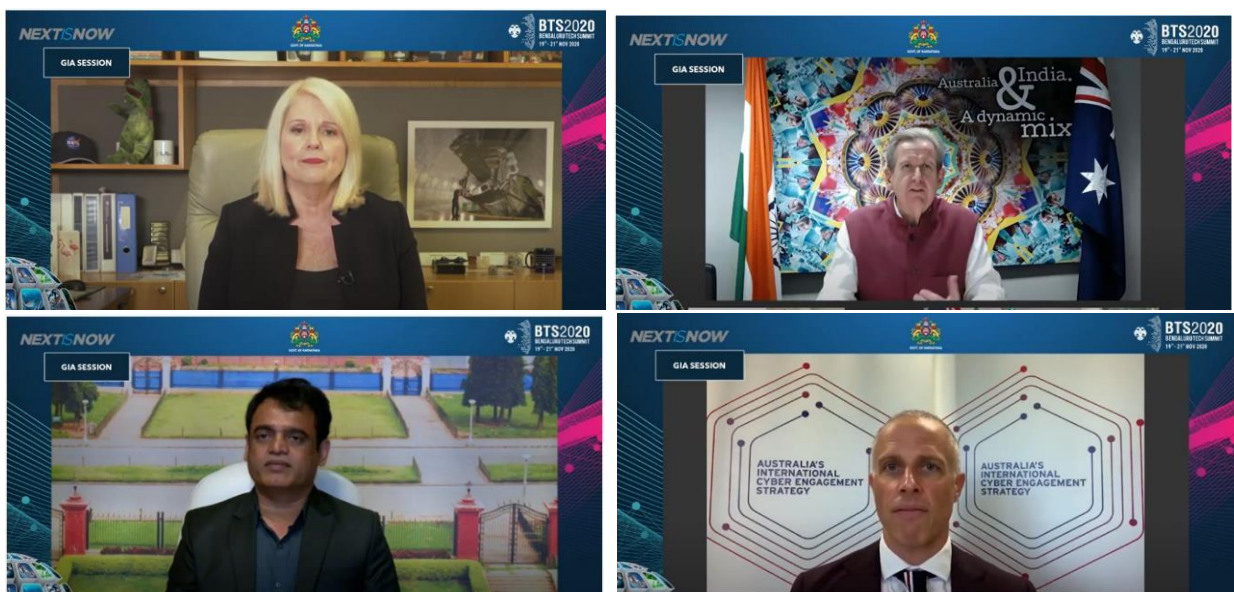


Figure 4: Screenshots of the Australia GIA session at BTS 2020

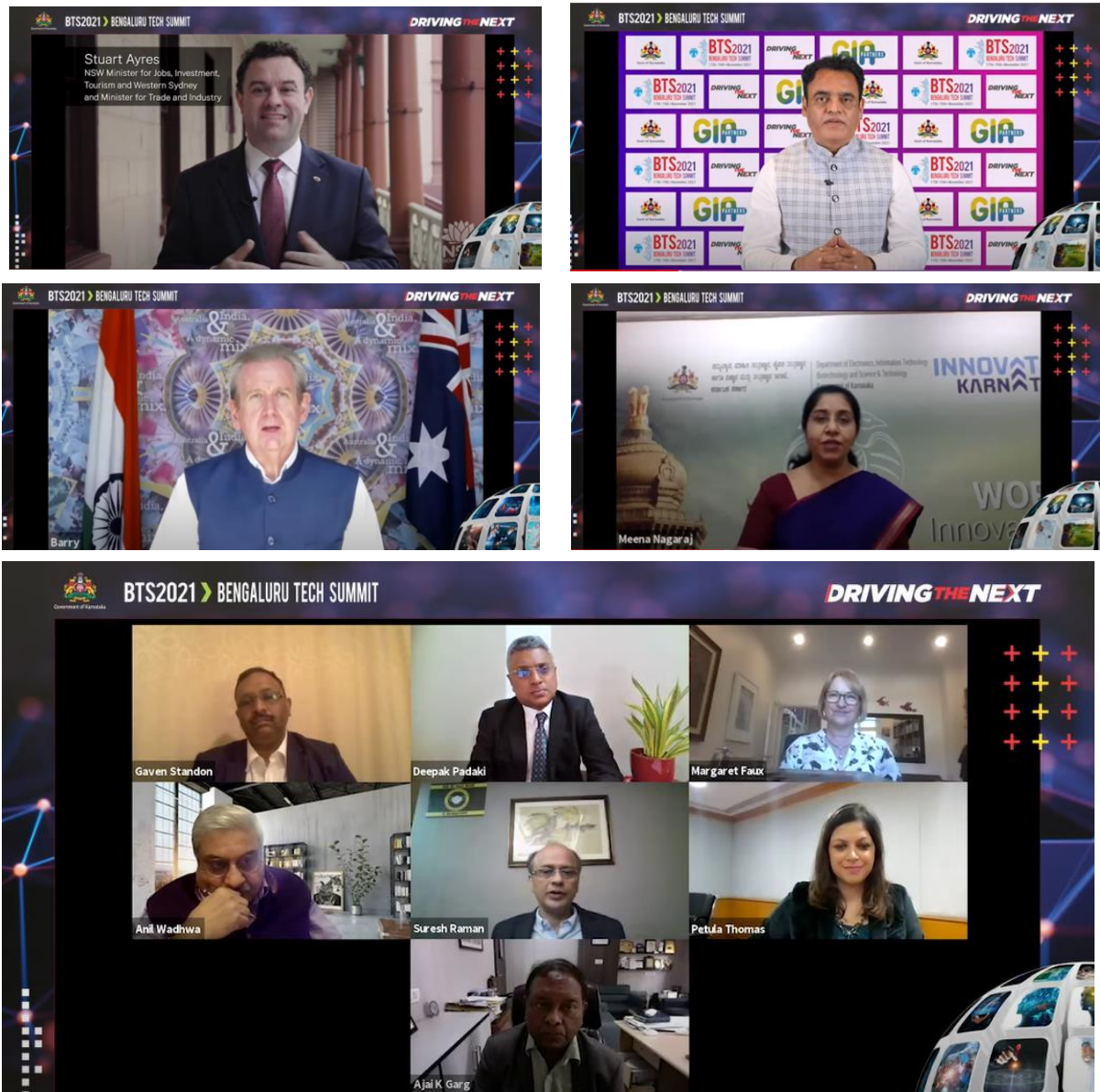


Figure 5: GIA Session of Australia conducted during BTS 2021