

# Go8news

APRIL 2017 | EDITION 14



## Welcome to this special edition of the Go8 newsletter



Vicki Thomson Go8 CE, and Education Minister Simon Birmingham

**Welcome to this special edition of the Go8 newsletter. It is a window on our positive and growing relationship with India, where our commitment to excellence is shared by that country's leading higher education institutions.**

The Go8 has just returned from India, having taken a delegation of 27, including five of our eight Vice Chancellors. This delegation was part of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's first official visit to India.

It was also in keeping with a promise the Go8 made to the Indian Government during our visit there in 2016. We said we would bring back a larger contingent of Vice Chancellors

early in 2017, and we had a clear direction of what we could continue to achieve, as Australia's leading research intensive universities, that would benefit both countries.

The PM was accompanied in India by Education Minister Simon Birmingham and both politicians used their time there to place higher education front and centre of a strengthening relationship between Australia and India. Exactly the message we wanted to hear!

It was important for the Go8, when asked by the Government to join the official visit, to use the time in India to, as we had promised, further develop our existing relationships and to introduce new elements that would lead to greater research collaboration and also, importantly, increased bi-lateral movement of PhD students.

That is core to us as the eight universities who award half of all research doctorates in Australia, and as a group of universities that has some 99 per cent of its research ranked at world class or above.

This newsletter enables you to see India with a Go8 focus. Such visits for us are always a whirlwind of engagements, and an equal level of enthusiasm for what we can do together. Of course it must always be remembered that results with India do not come overnight. The Go8 has not just "discovered" India. We have been working quietly and seriously there for many years.

India, like China, sets great store in relationship building and trust between the two parties. We have been growing that trust, those deep relationships. We come offering the quality results that India craves as it sets its economic development course under Prime Minister Modi. As PM he is open about his desires for his people, and economic growth driven by education of its population is paramount.

This visit we met with politicians, senior education officials, industry and some of India's leading academics and researchers. Our delegation included a number of the Go8's leading researchers and it was the ideal place and time to have

### Go8 – India Research

#### Between 2012 and 2016:

The Go8 and India co-published 2,742 articles and reviews and received a total of 61,213 citations, with an average citation per publication rate of 22.32

The Category Normalised Citation Impact (CNCI) was 3.99 (four times the average world citation rate)

They included 193 highly cited papers (ranked in the top one per cent by citations for field and year)

The largest subject categories were physics (545 publications) and Clinical Medicine (525 publications)

Over the five years 2011 – 2016, Go8 universities led joint programs with India funded by the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund to the value of \$14.5m, representing 63 per cent of all AISRF funding for projects led by universities

***Of course it must always be remembered that results with India do not come overnight. The Go8 has not just "discovered" India. We have been working quietly and seriously there for many years.***

Minister Simon Birmingham “kick off” our agenda in Delhi with the official launch of “Excellence in India”.

“Excellence in India” (see pages 3–4) is a Go8 publication that displays the impact of some of our research collaboration – the profound changes this research has made in India, and often also in Australia. It is far from trite to describe many of the examples as heart-warming; not only because of the advances that have helped the lives of so many, but because the publication is the perfect example of what can happen when research collaboration knows no borders and has the required funding to deliver.

Minister Birmingham also announced a Go8 joint taskforce – one with very ambitious deadlines. Its task, within six months, is to recommend how best we can ensure more quality PhD students from India can study at a Go8 university. More on the taskforce on page 8. It is to be chaired by Go8 Chair Professor Peter Høj who is Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Queensland, and Professor Devang Khakhar Director of India’s prestigious IIT-B in Mumbai. Professor Khakhar already has a strong relationship with the Go8 through its highly successful Monash university campus located in Mumbai that offers joint degrees.

Our time in Delhi also included Australia’s first collaborative

PhD forum hosted by the Australian High Commission. (see page 7) Senior Indian and Australian government officials, industry chiefs, academics and university heads came together with the Go8 to address the key challenge both countries have – how to boost PhD education between the Go8 and India in such a way that industry and students benefit. As Australia’s outgoing Trade Commissioner Tom Calder noted, it was one of the ‘more impressive Indian groups’ he had seen come together.

It was a further welcome indication to the Go8 of how serious India’s politicians and India’s most senior business figures are about using quality Indian PhDs from the Go8 to advance the Indian economy. It was exactly what the Go8 program of work in India this visit had been dedicated to, and it was definitely a coup for Australia and the Go8 to be able to host such a gathering, and importantly, one so committed to delivering results.

Please enjoy the read as much as we enjoyed our time in India. In this edition you will see some data on India and the Go8. Numbers in India can be daunting. The Go8 is therefore very targeted in its approach. We know what we are best at. We know what we can deliver for both countries and I look forward to updating you on the Taskforce when we return to India in September.

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Go8 Chair, Professor Peter Høj greets Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and India’s Prime Minister Modi

# Go8 celebrates research collaboration with India with launch of "Excellence in India"

**The Group of Eight (Go8) publication "Excellence in India" has been launched in Delhi by Australia's Education Minister Simon Birmingham.**

The publication is a celebration of the research collaboration that Go8 researchers and their Indian counterparts have been involved with over the past two decades.

The Go8 has been increasingly active in research collaboration with India. The two nations share many of the same economic

excellence and this is obvious by what has been, and is being, achieved in India with the collaborative research teams."

Minister Birmingham told the more than 60 invited Australian and Indian guests at the "Excellence in India" launch event that, "Australia and India already have a strong research relationship through the Australian Indian Strategic Research Program in which the Go8 has been a major player. I'm pleased to see the Go8 evidencing this with "Excellence



***The two nations share many of the same economic research priorities including arid farming and pest control, tropical diseases, remote power supply, water purification and flood mitigation.***

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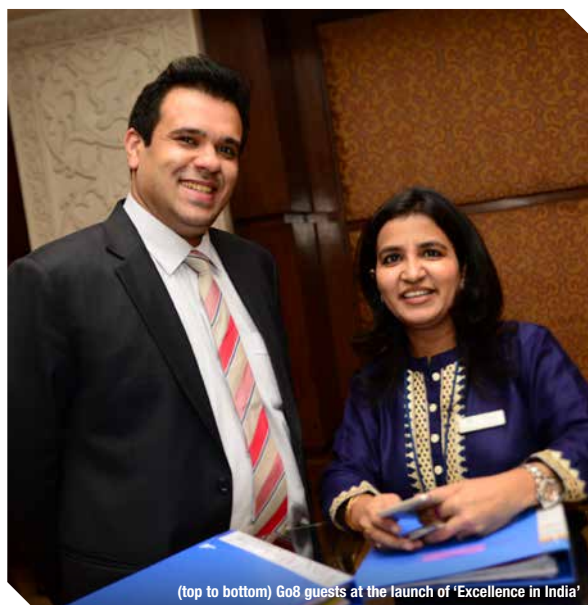
There has also been strong collaboration on waste management technologies, diabetes and stroke management to name but a few of the priority research areas.

Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson says "the Go8 is extremely proud to record such positive research impact that is of value to both nations. The Go8 has a long and exceptional commitment to research

in India" which shows the translation and impact of joint Go8 – Indian research in the everyday lives of people in India and Australia".

The Australian Government has a strong commitment to collaborative research with India, with Minister Birmingham having described the nation as "an ideal partner, one that shares the same goals of undertaking high quality research".

The publication, "Excellence in India" can be viewed and downloaded here: [www.go8.edu.au](http://www.go8.edu.au)



(top to bottom) Go8 guests at the launch of 'Excellence in India'



Go8 Chair, Professor Peter Hoj, welcomes the guests

### India observed

Go8 members have been undertaking collaborative research in India for the past two decades

India is on track to see its economy draw level in size with the US by about 2050

India currently is home to some 1.2 billion residents

India is Australia's fifth largest export market

Trade with India has doubled to more than \$20 billion in the past 10 years

It is Australia's largest source of skilled migrants

It is Australia's second largest source of International students after China

India's Modi Government is looking for highly-ranked Universities, such as Go8 members, to educate some of the 400 million people it wants to train by 2022



Go8 Vice Chancellors at "Excellence in India" launch with Director of IIT-B, Mumbai, Professor Devang Khakhar

# India: an old civilisation with a young population in a hurry

Peter Varghese



**India already sits in the front rank of Australia's foreign relationships. It will only become more important as our economic and strategic interests pull us closer together and our shared liberal democratic values and institutions make us more comfortable in each other's company.**

We now have an opportunity to create a distinctive relationship, anchored in interests, strengthened by Australia's fastest growing diaspora and animated by a sense of partnership.

No where are the prospects of partnership brighter than in

education. If a complementarity of interests is the touchstone of our future relationship with India its loudest echo can be found in the potential of our education connection.

If India is to take advantage of perhaps its greatest asset, a young demographic larger than any in the world, it can only be off the back of a skilled workforce. That is why India has set itself the extraordinary objective of upskilling 400 million people within five years.

The great bulk of that task will fall to vocational education. But the university sector must also play a large role.

This was very evident from the Prime Minister's recent visit to India, the education talks led by Simon Birmingham as part of that visit and the large delegation of Australian vice chancellors who accompanied the minister.

So far the education relationship with India has been dominated by migration objectives. That is entirely legitimate. But now we must broaden this relationship into an education partnership and the Group of Eight universities has taken an important step in that direction. Its delegation to India, led by the current Go8 chair, UQ Vice Chancellor Peter Hoj,

signalled a clear commitment to an expanded India strategy. The details of that strategy are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

By focussing on a PhD research partnership, the Go8 is rightly looking to the long term and pitching its strategy to areas which blend India's needs, Australia's research strengths and the fundamental importance of building research collaboration between Australian and Indian universities.

Over time this partnership will also shift perceptions in India about the quality of Australian universities. The pull of history and the brand recognition of Ivy

***If a complementarity of interests is the touchstone of our future relationship with India its loudest echo can be found in the potential of our education connection.***

League and Oxbridge has meant that Australia always has to work hard at the quality message, despite having six Australian universities consistently in the top 100 rankings of global universities. We still have some way to go before Indian students see Australia as a quality destination of the first order for university studies

Australia's policy strategy for India will need to chart its own course. This is not a relationship which can be built on a template or which will necessarily follow the trajectory of our other big relationships in Asia.

The Prime Minister has asked me to lead work on an economic strategy for India out to 2035. That is an exciting opportunity to think long term about where India is heading and what it means for Australia.

The strategy will recognise that India's economic path will look quite different to the East Asian model. It is anchored in domestic consumption. Its closest historical parallel is probably the US in its industrialising phase, except that US capital markets then were deeper.

Australia and India have an opportunity to forge a strategic partnership which embraces strong economic complementarities and broadly aligned strategic interests. Its trajectory will be distinctive but it will also have some parallels with Australia's relationship with Japan: anchored in a substantial resources trade, evolving over time into other sectors, especially services, and underpinned by a mutual willingness to enhance security ties short of an alliance.

India is an old civilisation with a young population in a hurry. It is a nation of contrasts and contradictions which punishes the impatient. An India strategy for universities, as for Australia more broadly, must take all this into account. It should look to the long term, be realistic about the challenges and always focus on the points of mutual interest. This is the partnership we must now build in education and elsewhere.

*Peter Varghese AO is the chancellor of the University of Queensland and a former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and former High Commissioner to India.*

## Indian Go8 Student Statistics

The Go8 enrolls quality students from India

In 2015 the majority of Indian Go8 students were postgraduate

There were 3,008 Indian students enrolled in Go8 universities, nine per cent of the sector total

Of Go8 Indian students 22 per cent were enrolled in higher degrees by research (HDR)

61 per cent were enrolled in coursework postgraduate courses

Only 17 per cent were enrolled in undergraduate courses

The proportion of onshore Indian students who are studying at HDR level at Go8 universities is 10 times that for the rest of the sector

46 per cent of all Indian HDR students in Australia study at a Go8 university

Management and Engineering are the largest fields of education overall, and by level the largest fields are:

- HDR: Engineering and Science
  - » Other postgraduate: Management, Engineering and IT
  - » Undergraduate: Management and Engineering

# Australia's first collaborative PhD forum focuses totally on outcomes delivery



Delegates at Australia's first collaborative PhD forum in Delhi, India



Mr Jang Bahadur Singh Sangha, Managing Director of India's Sangha Group of Companies

**The Australian High Commission hosted Australia's first collaborative PhD forum with India. It was attended by senior Indian and Australian Government officials, industry chiefs, university heads and academics.**

It had one focus, assisted by the joint taskforce announced earlier in the Go8 visit – how the Go8 can work more closely with India to increase the two-way mobility of PhD students, with a concentration of welcoming more Indian PhD students to Go8 universities in Australia.

There was an enthusiastic Indian response to taking part in the forum and being able to hold such a well-attended forum

was a definite coup for both Australia and the Go8.

Go8 Chair Professor Peter Høj set the scene in his opening remarks establishing how deep the Go8 research relationship already was with India. "Last year Go8 universities co-published some 700 papers with India. When you look at the impact of these Australian co-published papers with India, we actually get more impact from co-publishing with India than does the US," he said. "We want to make that relationship even deeper and more enduring."

The forum also heard from Professor Høj that the Go8 was focussed on producing PhDs well-equipped for

employment in industry which is also very much India's focus. Dr Arabinda Mitra who is head of International Cooperation in India's Department of Science and Technology confirmed India's need for industry-ready PhDs. "Traditionally India has been every strong on basic research, now we are moving more and more out of the lab into the marketplace, looking at how research can meet the unmet needs of society," he said. "The Government is creating incentives for graduates to enter PhD programs, but we are going to need thousands more young researchers in the years to come."

Mr Jang Bahadur Singh Sangha, Managing Director of India's Sangha Group of Companies was one of the most interesting contributors at the forum, speaking from experience. He is affectionately referred to in India as "the spud sultan". His company is the largest

producer of seed and table potatoes in Asia – 55,000 tonnes a year of potatoes, and the largest producer of maize. The company's operations are based on high quality research undertaken at his innovation centre.

"The Sangha Group of Companies knows exactly what it needs to continue to progress," said Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson, and therefore it was exactly the 'working' example of how much our PhDs can assist, that the forum benefited from hearing about.

"Innovation in industry is an area that needs the back-up of academics," said Mr Jang Bahadur Singh Sangha. "In India we need to work much harder to make connections between industry and academia. The role of industry in PhD training should be as a 'check' on whether research is practicable."

***"Innovation in industry is an area that needs the back-up of academics"***



# Joint Go8-India PhD taskforce with ambitious delivery deadline announced

*“The learnings from existing relationships such as these will be critical in the work of the taskforce in setting the framework for scaling PhD training and mobility between India and the Go8.”*



(L-R) Professor Devang Khakhar, Minister for Education Simon Birmingham, Professor Peter Høj

**A joint taskforce to enable far greater movement of quality PhD students between India and the Go8 universities in Australia, was a key education announcement out of the Prime Minister and Minister for Education Simon Birmingham’s visit to India.**

The joint chairs of the taskforce are Go8 Chair Professor Peter Høj who is Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Queensland, and Professor Devang Khakhar, Director of India’s prestigious IIT-B in Mumbai.

The taskforce has committed to delivering its first “roadmap” within six months. The roadmap will set out a PhD strategy to increase the involvement of Go8 universities in the training of Indian PhD students and increase opportunities for the two way flow of students between India and Australia.

Go8 Chair, Professor Peter Høj said the Go8 was working off a sound base of collaboration with industry in India including with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research,

the Council of Scientific and Industry research, IIT Bangalore, IIT Bombay and the Universities of Delhi and Hyderabad.

“This taskforce will be the foundation for how the Go8 best ensures it can deliver a flow of PhD training for Indian students and promote opportunities in India for Australian PhD students.”

Professor Khakhar said there was “enormous value for both countries” in increasing mobility of PhD students through such joint PhD programs.

“Australia and India already have substantial relationships based on research, including my institution IIT Bombay where we currently have over 170 joint PhD students with Monash University.

“The learnings from existing relationships such as these will be critical in the work of the taskforce in setting the framework for scaling PhD training and mobility between India and the Go8.”

