

Promising Prospects and Takeaways from the Australia-India Leadership Dialogue 2022



Image from the Australia India Institute

About The Dialogue

The fifth annual Australia India Leadership Dialogue (AIDL), held on 06 September 2022, focused majorly on industry-led initiatives, diverse opportunities, and the crucial convergence of technology across the sectors of both India and Australia. The dialogue is a premier forum that brings together 50 leaders and multi-stakeholders from academia, government, and industries to promote bilateral ties. The track 1.5 dialogue comes at an essential juncture as India surpassed the UK to become the fifth-largest economy in the world and is celebrating her 75th year of independence.

The meeting was also virtually addressed by India's External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar, and Australia's Foreign Minister, Penny Wong. The G20 Sherpas of India and Australia, Amitabh Kant and Simon Duggan, concluded the dialogue with their addresses.

Takeaways from the Dialogue

The active involvement of leaders and the focus on technology and investments. Prominent politicians, influential industrialists, and billionaires were at the center stage of discussion at the one-day dialogue. The discussions ranged from the evolving security architecture of the region, the clean tech revolution, global talent recruitment & skills mobility, and revolutionizing service delivery in a post-pandemic world. The forum also emphasized the emerging technologies and the essentiality of securitizing and de-securitizing the ideas of AI, Cyber, IoT (Internet of Things), and emerging technologies in the region and beyond.

Deeper collaborations and more robust connections across the seas. A consensus was achieved during the dialogue on strengthening the bilateral ties between the two countries through deeper collaboration and discussions on energy, maritime, space, trade reliability, resilient supply chains, and cyber security, which are dominant issues between India and Australia. In addition, discussions on more joint research projects, enhancement of cybersecurity and workforce skills, climate finance, emerging technologies, and the challenges to education were also debated.

Prospects for the Way Ahead

Jaishankar mentioned, “This leadership dialogue is taking place as India-Australia relations have shifted gears and moved into a higher orbit.”

This indicated that the leadership under Hon. Lisa Singh, CEO Australia-India Institute (AII), and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General of CII, have reinvigorated the initiative between the two countries. Singh has been pivotal in bringing together investors, academicians, journalists, and experts on the AIDL. Along with Mike Cannon Brookes, Singh has curated the platform to help delegates from either side to work towards finding solutions to issues at hand to build deeper connectivity between the two countries.

The Multi-sector investments with a spotlight on the Indo-Pacific. With China rapidly expanding in the Indo-Pacific, Australia looking forward to alternative markets, and India becoming the fastest-growing R&D site globally, multi-sectoral investments have become more incentivized.

The signing of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) has also set in motion to expand the current assets of USD 25 billion and the two-way trade to more than USD 20 billion. An essential shift to green hydrogen energy and the shared goal of becoming global green energy superpowers were at the forefront of the discussion.



Image from the Australia India Institute

Reported by Ashwin Dhanabalan, Senior Research Affiliate at CEAS and an Observer at the dialogue.