

ATN UNIVERSITIES WELCOME CLOSER TIES WITH INDIA

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The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) welcomes the closer ties the Albanese Government is building with India, including the creation of the high-profile Centre for Australia-India Relations.

The current visit to Australia of India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi illustrates the deepening ties growing between the two countries. ATN Executive Director, Luke Sheehy, said education plays a key role in that partnership.

"There is a clear, ongoing commitment by both prime ministers to strengthen connection between our two countries, including via the new Centre for Australia-India Relations. Growing our capability in people-to-people links is important for Australia and significant for the university sector because education is at the centre of this great relationship," Mr Sheehy said.

"Both prime ministers fundamentally understand the transformative power of education, how it plays a leading role diplomatically, as well as economically. Education is as vital to our bilateral strength as other key areas like renewable energy, defence and security."

ATN universities have long been the number one destination for Indian students. In 2023, Indian students have represented the biggest number of new starters across ATN universities and constitute almost one in five of all Indian students in Australia.

ATN universities have also been at the forefront of pivotal partnerships recently announced with our Indian partners; including Deakin University receiving approval to become the first foreign Higher Education institution to open a campus in India, a first-of-its-kind agreement between RMIT and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, and UniSA also building on the success of The Innovation Academy with Accenture by offering a co-developed and co-delivered Bachelor of Digital Business.

"ATN universities have been closely aligned with India for decades and we will continue to lead this area of Higher Ed well into the future," Mr Sheehy said.

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The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) was established in 1999 and brings together Australia's six real world universities focused on enterprise, impact and finding solutions to issues facing our rapidly changing economy and society. Our member universities are Curtin University, Deakin University, RMIT University, The University of Newcastle, University of South Australia, and University of Technology Sydney. Our universities produce Australia's most job-ready graduates and undertake world-class research with real-world impact. Through our innovation we are proud disruptors challenging the status quo. ATN universities provide world-class education to almost 310,000 students and teach 20 per cent of domestic higher education students and 19 per cent of international students. We are the fastest-growing university grouping in terms of domestic students. Together, we are proud of who we include, not exclude, with a strong commitment to equity, excellence, and social justice. ATN is one of Australia's leading university peak bodies with a track record of advocating and shaping positive policy outcomes with all levels of government.

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