

AUSTRALIA INDIA WATER CENTER (AIWC) Launched

The water issues and challenges of India and Australia share many common elements, including natural extremes of floods and droughts, increasing competition for water between urban, peri-urban and rural sectors and increased threats to water security from climate change. There are also pressures due to the over-exploitation and water quality degradation of surface and groundwater resources. The recent joint declaration at the virtual summit of the Prime Ministers of Australia and India, in June 2020 stated that “**Water security is a critical challenge for both countries, and it was jointly decided to deepen policy and technical cooperation on mutually agreed activities to improve water management and sustainable economic development.**” With this in view, a number of universities, research organisations and business partners from Australia and India have committed to establish the Australia India Water Centre (AIWC).

The scope of the AIWC include develop longer-term collaboration in water research, capacity building and knowledge and technology transfer, particularly focusing on water and food security, safe drinking water supplies, river health, water-energy-food nexus, water for liveable cities and other related aspects of mutual benefits to Australia and India. The AIWC will in particular focus on the following aspects:

The development of tools and techniques to tackle future water and food security challenges including improved management of groundwater, rivers, springs, stormwater and coastal reservoirs;

- Establishment of a joint Masters level program in transdisciplinary water resources management;
- Capacity building/training programs for government department staff, policy makers, NGOs and industry personnel; and
- Promotion of transdisciplinary research and training approach in research and training/educational program; and
- Promotion of water expertise of the Centre partners which expands engagement and networking internationally.

In view of the pandemic situation, **virtual launch of AIWC was done on November 6, 2020 (Friday) during 10:00 – 12:00 hrs by**

Honourable Minister Dan Tehan, Minister for Education, Government of Australia, Hon Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Central Water Minister, Government of India, The Honourable Sri B.C. Patil, Minister of Agriculture for the Government of Karnataka, His Excellency The Hon Shri A. Gitesh Sarma, Indian High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency The Hon Barry O’Farrell AO, Australian High Commissioner to India, Prof Basant Maheshwari, Lead Institute Coordinator from Australia and Prof T G Sitharam, Lead Institute Coordinator from India, Directors, Vice Chancellors, Deans of all the institutions and many other dignitaries virtually present on this MOU signing and AIWC launching occasion.

G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology was represented by **Dr Tej Partap, Vice Chancellor, Dr Alaknanda Ashok, Dean, College of Technology, Dr H J Shiva Prasad, Dr Jyothi Prasad, Professors of Civil Engineering, Dr Ravi Saxena, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and many others.**

MOU Institutions from Australia and India include

AUSTRALIA

1. **Western Sydney University (lead);** www.westernsydney.edu.au
2. Deakin University; <https://www.deakin.edu.au>
3. Flinders University; www.flinders.edu.au
4. Queensland University of Technology; <https://www.qut.edu.au/>
5. The University of Melbourne; <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/>
6. University of New South Wales; <https://www.unsw.edu.au/>
7. The University of Western Australia; <https://www.uwa.edu.au/>
8. University of Wollongong; <https://www.uow.edu.au/>
9. Department of Environment and Water, Government of South Australia; <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

INDIA

1. **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (Lead);** <http://www.iitg.ac.in/>
2. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; <http://www.bhu.ac.in/>
3. **G B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar;** <http://www.gbpuat.ac.in/>
4. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; <https://www.iisc.ac.in/>
5. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; <http://www.iitkgp.ac.in/>
6. India Institute of Technology, Roorkee; www.iitr.ac.in
7. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad; <https://jntuh.ac.in/>
8. Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur; <https://www.mpuat.ac.in/>
9. National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee; <http://nihroorkee.gov.in/>
10. National Institute of Technology, Surathkal; <https://www.nitk.ac.in/>
11. SV National Institute of Technology, Surat; <http://www.svnit.ac.in/>
12. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore; <https://www.uasbangalore.edu.in/>
13. Institute of Rural Management Anand; <https://www.irma.ac.in/>
14. Indian Institute of Information Technology, Dharwad; <https://iiitdwd.ac.in/>
15. JSS Science and Technology University, Mysuru, <https://jssstuniv.in/>

More details about AIWC are at <http://iitg.ac.in/aiwc/home>



**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Australian and Indian Partners in the Australia India Water Centre**

 WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY	 DEAKIN UNIVERSITY	 Flinders UNIVERSITY	 QUT
 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE	 UNSW SYDNEY	 THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA	 UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA
 Government of South Australia Department for Environment and Water			
 Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar	 काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY	 जवाहर एज्युकेशन सोसायटी इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ एग्रीकल्चरल साइंसेस	 INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
 जवाहर एज्युकेशन सोसायटी इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलॉजी	 जवाहर एज्युकेशन सोसायटी इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलॉजी	 जवाहर एज्युकेशन सोसायटी इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलॉजी HYDERABAD	 जवाहर एज्युकेशन सोसायटी इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नॉलॉजी
 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HYDROLOGY जल संसाधन विकास विभाग आयो हिंटा नवोभुक्त	 UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY	 SVNIT SURAT	 UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BANGALORE
 IRMA INSTITUTE OF RURAL MANAGEMENT ANAND	 Dharwad शानेन विकास	 JSS Educate Elevate Enlighten SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY MYSURU	



Dr Alaknanda Ashok, Dean, College of Technology



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Central Water Minister, Government of India

10:03

4G LTE

Recording



Professor Barney Glover AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
Western Sydney University



Professor Deborah Sweeney
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President
(Research, Enterprise and International)



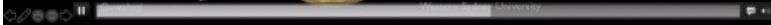
Professor Arup Sarma
Coordinator, AWC, India



Professor T. G. Sitharam
Director, Indian Institute of Technology



Professor James Arvanitakis
Pro-Vice Chancellor



Michael Cuthbertson's screen





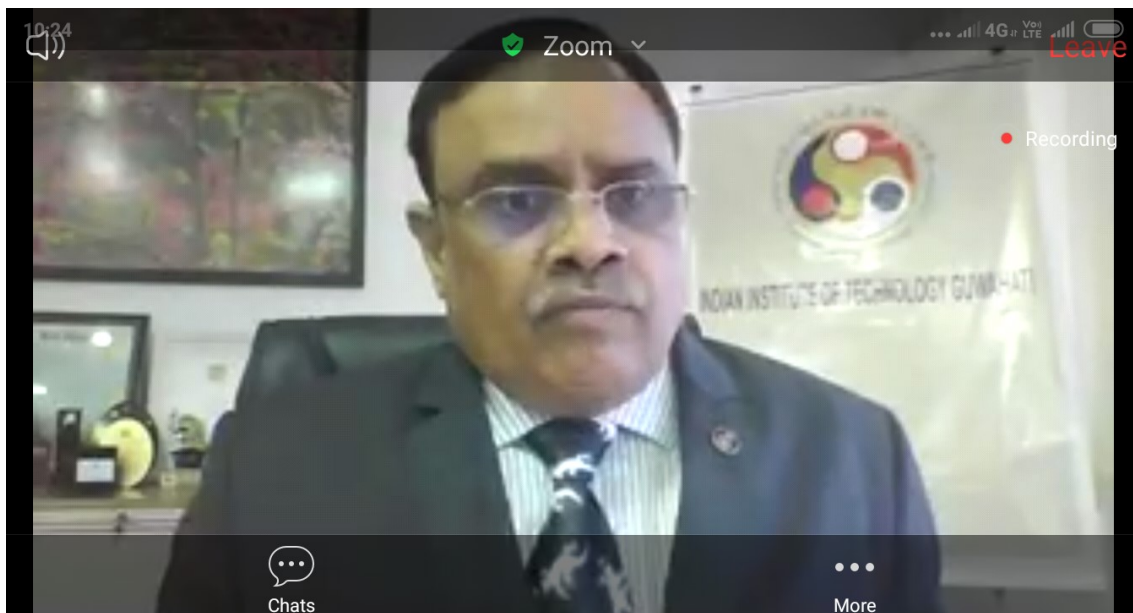
**Professor Barney Glover AO, Vice-Chancellor and President
Western Sydney University**



Honourable Minister Dan Tehan, Minister for Education, Government of Australia



Prof Basant Maheshwari, Western Sydney University and Lead Institute Coordinator from Australia



Prof T G Sitharam, Director, IIT, Guwahati and Lead Institute Coordinator from India



His Excellency The Hon Barry O'Farrell AO

The Hon Barry O'Farrell AO, Australian High Commissioner to India

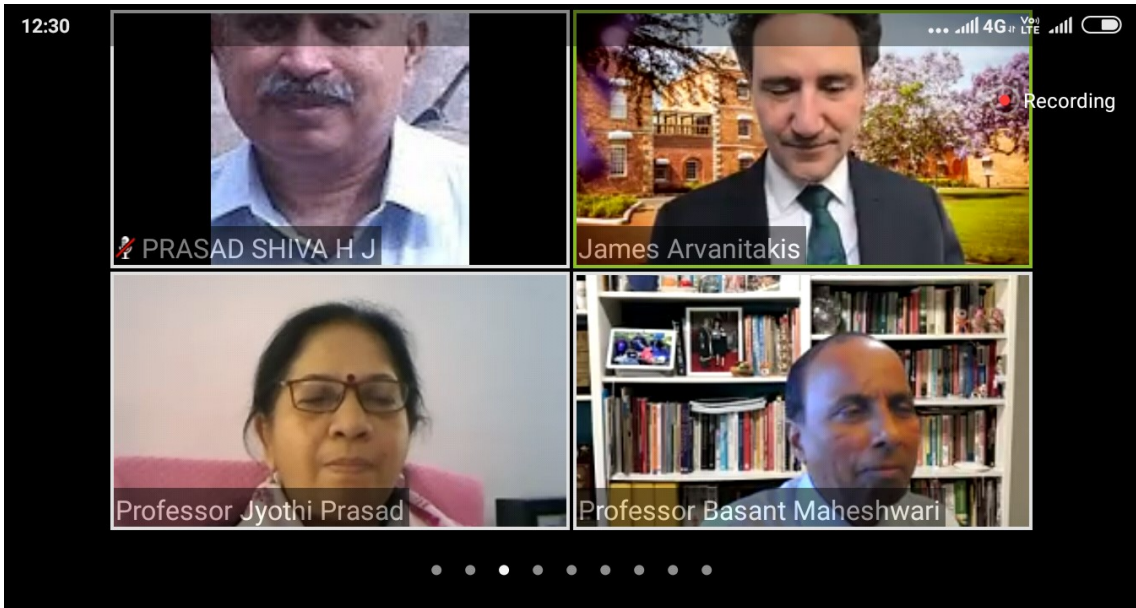


His Excellency The Hon Shri A. Gitesh Sarma

Hon Shri A. Gitesh Sarma, Indian High Commissioner to Australia



Sri B.C. Patil, Minister of Agriculture for the Government of Karnataka



Experts participating in the programme



Dr Tej Partap, Vice Chancellor, GBPUA&T and other experts