

India and Australia once a year or as the parties may otherwise mutually determine, to review the implementation of this MoU.

### Article 3

The Parties will encourage, as appropriate, the development of cooperation between the education institutions of the two countries based on their respective academic and educational needs. This may include any or all of the following activities:

- I. Consideration of expansion of Australia India Education Council membership from time to time to ensure appropriate representation from academia, policy makers and industry as required and agreed;
- II. Strengthening policy dialogue and exchange in areas of mutual benefit, including qualification and quality frameworks and standards for education, research and training;
- III. Supporting the mobility of students and faculty members through formal exchange programs, internships and other modalities;
- IV. Improving credit transfer arrangements and work towards qualifications recognition between Australia and India;
- V. Supporting and organising professional development programmes for subject experts, educational administrators, faculty members and teachers;
- VI. Encouraging twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning and the organisation of joint research programmes and publications;
- VII. Encouraging research collaboration between institutions of higher learning to enlarge the scope for joint research, joint Ph. D. programmes and joint degrees;
- VIII. Sharing best practice education materials including research materials, publications, and educational literature;
- IX. Supporting skills development through joint conferences, seminars, policy dialogue and technical cooperation in national standards development;
- X. Strengthening communication for exchange of information on new policy initiatives and opportunities for development of education, training and research activities of both countries;
- XI. Further develop bilateral programmes between institutions of educational excellence in technical, vocational, schools and higher education, subject to availability of funds; and
- XII. Any other activity as mutually determined by the Parties, within the scope of this MoU.

### Article 4

The substance, scope and implementation of activities or cooperation within the terms of this MoU may be the subject of more specific arrangements concluded between selected institutions of the two countries on the basis of and within the provision of this MoU.

### Article 5

Nothing shall diminish the full autonomy of either party, nor will any constraints or financial obligations be imposed by either party upon the other, in carrying out this MoU.

#### Article 6

The costs of the co-operative activities under this MoU will be funded on terms to be mutually determined and will be subject to the availability of funds.

#### Article 7



Either Party may request in writing for a revision of or amendment of the MoU. Any revision or amendment mutually consented to by both parties will be received in writing and will form part of the MoU. Such revision or Amendment will come into effect on such date as may be determined by both Parties.

#### Article 8

The MoU will become operational on the date of signing by the Parties and will remain in force for a period of five years. Each party reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or health, to suspend temporarily or terminate either in whole or in part the implementation of this MoU after giving at least six months advance notice of its intention to suspend or terminate. Unless one of the Parties request changes, alterations or cancellation of the MoU six months prior to the expiry of the MoU, this MoU will be automatically renewed for a further period of five years at a time

Signed at New Delhi on 24 August 2015 in two original copies in English and Hindi language, both texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in Interpretation the English text shall prevail.

In witness whereof the duly authorised representation of the Parties have signed this MoU.

<p>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA</p>  <p>MR CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, AND TRAINING</p>	<p>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA</p>  <p>MRS SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT</p>
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## **Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation**

### **JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

#### **Between the Department of Education and Training of the Government of Australia and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India**

**24 August 2015  
New Delhi, India**

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Education and Training, Government of Australia, and the Hon Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, participated in the annual Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation in New Delhi, India, on 24 August 2015.

The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made by Prime Ministers Modi and Abbott in 2014 to strengthen the education, training and research relationship. Both Ministers reflected on the interests and values shared by their respective nations; acknowledged education, training and research as central to the broader strategic partnership; and committed to strengthening and expanding collaboration in the future. The Ministers also acknowledged the critical importance of education and training and a skilled workforce to economic growth.

The Ministers were delighted to reaffirm this commitment through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the fields of Education, Training and Research. This new understanding renews the historic agreements between Australia and India and refreshes the commitment to the Australia India Strategic Partnership.

The Ministers agreed that support for the recognition of educational qualifications was fundamental to enhance the student and professional mobility and to directly support national productivity, international competitiveness and innovation. To support mutual understanding and resolution of this critical issue, the Ministers agreed to the vigorous pursuit of progress towards mutual understanding and cooperation in this area.

The Ministers emphasized that the Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN), launched by the Government of India, would enable academic interaction to mutual benefit. It

would enable eminent Australian academicians to come to India, to academic institutions and Universities and enable an exchange of knowledge and teaching skills. This would help in developing a fruitful relationship between academic communities on both sides for augmenting research capabilities.

The Ministers co-chaired the **Australia India Education Council (AIEC)** meeting on 24 August and reaffirmed their commitment to the AIEC as the principal body for guiding the strategic direction of the knowledge partnership. The Ministers acknowledged that the AIEC has a fundamental and overarching role in strengthening the Australia-India bilateral education, training and research relationship.

Both Ministers commended the members of the AIEC and the working groups on significant progress across the key areas of skills, higher education and research, student mobility and welfare, quality assurance and qualifications recognition, and welcomed the extension of collaborative activity to include engagement in the schools sector. They noted that the AIEC's distinctive structure, with expert membership from academia, industry and government has provided further impetus to a supportive education policy environment.

The Ministers reaffirmed their continued support for the Council with total joint financial commitments of up to \$ 1.0 million AUD.

### **Student mobility and welfare**

They applauded the initiatives of the AIEC's Student Mobility and Welfare Working Group, including the September 2014 workshop in Mumbai, India, which also launched the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan in India. They commended the development of the credit transfer database, hosted on the Australia India education links website ([www.australiaindiaeducation.com](http://www.australiaindiaeducation.com)), as a practical way to encourage student mobility between Indian and Australian universities.

Minister Pyne also announced a feasibility study to establish an Australia India Consortium for 'In-Country' India Studies, based on the model used by Australian universities in Indonesia.



## Higher education and research

The significant enrichment to the knowledge partnership provided by the AIEC's Higher Education and Research Working Group was applauded by both Ministers. The Ministers discussed the Learning and Teaching Collaboration Project, the Australia India Education Leaders' Exchange, the awarding of four AIEC Endeavour Research Fellowships across 2014 and 2015, and the highly successful 2015 Eminent Researcher Lecturer Series as significant contributions to expanding the knowledge partnership.

It was agreed to continue support for enhancing the activities of the Working Group, with a forward work programme of projects to provide proposals for government's consideration on:

- Continuing cooperation on teaching and learning, including development of a teaching resource with contributions from Australian and Indian experts; and a teaching & learning centre of excellence;
- Expanding the pilot of the Eminent Researcher Lecture Programme to include mobility of more eminent researchers in both directions; and
- A pilot project to support mobility of early career researchers, including engagement with counterpart researchers and industry.

It was also agreed to undertake further research to understand the opportunities for sustained collaboration between Australia and India with the aim of increasing the number of research partnerships.

## Skills

The Ministers welcomed extension of the already significant activity under the AIEC Skills Working Group, including support for two additional phases of the Australia India Vocational Education Leadership Training programme; and plans for the fourth Australia India Skills Mission and annual skills conference in India in late 2015.

The Ministers also welcomed the high level of collaboration under the AIEC's Skills Working Group, which included highly successful skills missions and conferences in India in both 2013 and 2014; the Australia India Vocational Education Leaders' Training (VELT)

programme; piloting of the International Training and Assessment Courses and collaborative projects to benchmark qualifications across a number of key industry sectors.

They announced the expansion of the VELT programme for two more rounds in 2015-16, which will reach an expanded number of Indian community college leaders.

### **Quality Assurance and Qualifications Recognition**

The Ministers also acknowledged the sectoral cooperation on targeted issues demonstrated by the AIEC's Quality Assurance and Qualifications Recognition Working Group. It was agreed this policy work was paramount to encouraging a highly skilled and mobile workforce.

They announced that a workshop will be held for senior officials in Australia, to address the ongoing bilateral recognition issues between the two countries and to share expertise on quality assurance mechanisms.

### **Schools**

To support schools engagement, Minister Pyne announced a research project to support a forward work programme under the proposed schools working group. This will complement the establishment of the Australia India Building Regional Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement (BRIDGE) school partnerships project, launched by Minister Pyne at Delhi Public School on 24<sup>th</sup> August. The BRIDGE programme will connect eight Australian and eight Indian schools and focus on building teacher capability across key learning areas, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information and communication technologies, intercultural understanding, values and inclusive education.

### **Institutional collaboration**

The Ministers jointly welcomed the signing of a number of memoranda of understanding and communiqués between key Australian and Indian stakeholders throughout the Mission. They also welcomed the commitment from the Group of Eight universities to send a Vice-Chancellor level delegation to India next year, in order to deepen research linkages between the Group of Eight members and Indian counterparts. This commitment is in addition to the

communique signed between the Group of Eight and a number of Indian schools to pursue extended engagement.

Finally, Minister Pyne announced Adam Gilchrist as the inaugural Australia-India Education Ambassador, who will profile the quality of Australian education and strengthen the bilateral education, training and research relationship, including highlighting the Australia's Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships programme.

The Ministers agreed that the high quality, innovative and sustainable education, skills and research partnerships enriched the Australia India knowledge partnership, supporting mutual efforts towards greater economic and social progress, and increased government, institutional and people-to-people links.

The Ministers looked forward to the next Australia India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation and Australia India Education Council meetings in Australia in 2016.



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training



सत्यमेव जयते

## Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation

### JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

#### Between the Department Education and Training of the Government of Australia and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India

29 June 2018

Adelaide, Australia

1. The Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister of Education and Training, Government of Australia, and the Hon Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Human Resource Development held the Australia-India Education Council meeting in Adelaide, Australia on 29 June 2018.
2. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment made by Hon Prime Ministers Modi and Turnbull in April 2017 to strengthen the education, training and research relationship.
3. The Ministers agreed and laid stress on the importance of education and skills training as a critical mechanism to address the challenges of economic growth.
4. The Ministers commended the contribution of Australia India Education Council, with its government and industry representatives, for significant progress across the key areas of skills, higher education and research, student mobility and welfare, quality assurance, qualifications recognition and schools improving collaboration across borders and developing new networks.
5. The Ministers witnessed the confirmation of **institutional partnerships** that will strengthen collaboration between our students, academics and universities. The Ministers noted that the Government of India has provided greater autonomy to many higher education institutions and welcomed the opportunity for Australian institution to forge joint research partnerships and other academic programs with those institutions, in the areas like Joint Research Projects, Joint supervision of PhDs, student / faculty mobility and award of Joint Degrees / PhDs.



6. The Ministers committed to increasing Australia–India academic mobility in Higher Education including increasing Australian participation in the successful Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) conducted by the Government of India.
7. The Ministers agreed to further strengthen the partnership of Australia and India in the area of research collaboration to allow greater mobility of researchers, academics and scholars to support our mutual interest in high quality research outputs.
8. The Ministers welcomed the forthcoming publication of the Australia-India Education Council project of a co-authored book “The Future of Higher Education Learning & Teaching” on higher education learning and teaching which included a project developing joint curriculum for India’s Teaching and Learning Centres.
9. On student mobility, the Ministers noted the increasing numbers of Australian students studying in India under the New Colombo Plan and the Endeavour Scholarships program and Indian students studying in Australia.
10. The Ministers underlined the importance of basic education. Australia and India will **collaborate in schools policy** through a partnership for reviewing school curriculum, teaching and learning. This will be progressed through a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Human Resources Development, the Department of Education and Training and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority as Australia undertakes refinement and enhancement of its curriculum.
11. The Ministers noted the increasing interest in cross border education and exchange of students, academics and researchers. India extended its welcome and assured joint support to the forthcoming India-Australia Conclave on International Education to be held in India in 2019.
12. Ministers acknowledged the sectoral cooperation on targeted issues demonstrated by the AIEC’s Quality Assurance and Qualifications Recognition (QAQR) Working Group. It was agreed this policy work was paramount to encouraging a highly skilled and mobile workforce. The Ministers recognised the need for greater co-ordination of quality assurance in education as well as the potential for shared curricula and quality frameworks.
13. The Ministers reaffirmed the key role played by professional and twenty-first century skills to ensure graduates of our education systems are industry-ready. Australia and India will

identify opportunities to engage in policy discussion on entrepreneurship education and are committed to strengthen the curricula at all levels of education for entrepreneurship and skill development.

14. The Ministers committed to make effective use of ICT infrastructure to facilitate learning and share its e-learning platforms in higher education, schools and skills. Ministers committed to greater collaboration through online delivery of education, including India's SWAYAM platform which is open to all Australian education providers.
15. Ministers also acknowledged the valuable partnership between both nations on **skills development and vocational education and training**. Ministers shared their ambitions for vocational training in schools and agreed to explore opportunities for further collaboration. Ministers noted the delivery of vocational training by Australian providers in India, as well as the International Skills Training Courses which is increasing the capacity of vocational trainers and assessors in India.
16. The Ministers agreed the Australia-India Education Council has effectively displayed an overarching role in strengthening the Australia-India bilateral education, training and research relationship in both policy and program engagement.
17. Ministers proposed that the next meeting will be in India in September 2019.

Adopted on 29 June 2018

## INDIA MISSION – SEPTEMBER 2019

## BRIEFING NOTE

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>TOUR OF SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	Sunday, 1 September 2019
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	5.25pm-7.45pm
<b>TRAVEL TIME:</b>	Approx. 30-45min drive from hotel
<b>VENUE:</b>	Akshardham Complex, New Delhi
<b>TO BE MET BY:</b>	2.2(a)(ii), mobile number +2.2(a)(ii)
<b>ROLE:</b>	Participant. *Note the Chief Minister will be invited to partake in the <i>Abishek</i> ceremony, which is to slowly pour water from a small container over a metallic statue of Lord Swaminarayan for peace.
<b>MEETING PROTOCOL:</b>	The Chief Minister as Leader of the Delegation may be given a garland of flowers as part of the official welcome. The members of the delegation will be asked to remove their shoes when visiting the temple parts of the Complex.
<b>PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES:</b>	<u>Swaminarayan Akshardham Complex</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.2(a)(ii) tour guide</li> </ul> <u>ACT Government</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Minister</li> <li>• Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta MLA</li> <li>• Ms Kaarin Dynon</li> <li>• Mr Brendan Smyth</li> <li>• Mr Ash Balaretnaraja</li> </ul> <u>University Delegation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Lawrence Pratchett, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Ms Tamara Lions, University of New South Wales</li> </ul>
<b>ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Chief Minister and delegation will be met at <b>Gate 1</b> and then taken through security (similar to airport security).</li> <li>- Meet with the Hindu Swamis/Sadhus (Monks)</li> <li>- Delegation will be officially welcomed to the Akshardham Complex</li> <li>- Tour to take place of various parts of the Akshardham Complex with opportunities for Q&amp;A time.</li> <li>- Official photographs for the Chief Minister and the Delegation.</li> <li>- Upon completion of the tour, the delegation will be taken for dinner at the Complex.</li> </ul>
<b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY</b>	Nil

**Overview**

The BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Complex (the Complex) was opened on 5 November 2005. The Complex has been visited by many international dignitaries since its opening, including in April

2017, the Prime Minister of India the Hon Narendra Modi took the then Australian Prime Minister the Hon Malcolm Turnbull to Akshardham as part of the Australian PM's Official visit to India.

### Meeting objectives

- To be immerse in the local culture and history.
- To build the people-to-people connection through cultural experiences.

### Key messages

- Nil

### Key questions

- Nil

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Please note that electronic items (including mobiles) are *not* permitted inside the complex.
- Please see below for more date on the Complex:
  - Constructed by Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)
  - Inspired by HH Yogiji Maharaj (1892-1971 CE)
  - Created by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj
  - More than 300,000,000 volunteer hours went into making the complex
  - Over 8,000 volunteers from across the world participated in building it
  - Mandir built from intricately carved sandstone and marble
  - Exhibitions on Hinduism, including Bhagwan Swaminarayan's life and teachings such as prayer, compassion, and non-violence.
  - Open gardens, water bodies and step-well styled courtyard

### Attachments

- [Attachment A](#) – Visit Confirmation Sheet
- [Attachment B](#) - Brochure





Honorable Andrew Barr,  
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Confirm No. **20190901\_CCFCDM**

Dear Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT),

Reference: Gnanmuni Swami (GM SWAMI)

Pranam and Jai Swaminarayan.

Please Print & Bring this Confirmation

We look forward to your visit to Swaminarayan Akshardham and meeting you.

To facilitate your visit, please find below necessary information and instructions.

### Visit to Swaminarayan Akshardham Culture Complex

<b>Guest Name</b>	Honorable Andrew Barr, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
<b>Number of Visitors</b>	6 People
<b>Date(s) of Visit</b>	1 Sep. 2019

<b>Checking – in</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry - Gate 1: VIP entry. Disembark in the parking lot. Escort will guide.</li> <li>• Security Check in: Separate security channels for the delegation (security restricted items will apply for all).</li> </ul>
<b>Vehicle Parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VIP parking lot nearest the entry/exit gates</li> </ul>
<b>Security Note:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Due to heightened security, items which are <u>not</u> allowed inside the complex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ include <i>all electronic items</i> (mobiles, hands-free devices, cameras, etc.),</li> <li>▪ <i>all types of bags &amp; luggage</i></li> <li>▪ <i>hanging/shoulder-strap purses</i></li> <li>▪ <i>weapons &amp; arms, all tobacco products, alcohol</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>– Items Allowed inside include: Money Wallets, Hand-Held purses, waist belts, shoes, passports and jewelry</li> <li>– You may leave belongings in either your vehicle or at the provided cloakroom</li> <li>– Separate security checks for males and females</li> </ul>

### SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Duration	Notes
5:25 pm	Enter & Escort to Reception Centre	2 min.	Enter At Gate 1
5:27 – 5:30 pm	Welcome & Reception	3 min.	Reception Center - Mayur Dwar
5:30 – 5:50 pm	Akshardham Mandir + Abhishek	20 min.	View of the Temple Architecture (inside & outside) Jal Abhishek – Traditional Pouring of Water for Peace
5:50 – 6:05 pm	Exhibition 3: Cultural Voyage	15 min.	Boat ride sail through 10,000 years of India history
6:05 – 6:40 pm	Exhibition 2: Large Format Film	40 min.	I-Max size presentation of India's beauty
6:40 – 6:45 pm	Photo session with Akshardham	5 min.	Picture Session with Akshardham
6:45 – 7:15 pm	Dinner	30 min.	At Food Court – VIP Dinning
7:15 – 7:40 pm	Water Show	25 min.	"Sahaj Anand" ("Spontaneous Joy") presents an ancient Upanishad story using fountains, projections, lasers & more
7:40 – 7:45 pm	Gifts & Mementos	5 min.	At Reception Centre

For Contact: 2.2(a)(ii)

Yours Sincerely,

2.2(a)(ii)

admin@akshardham.com



## Akshardham Experience

<b>Planning Your Visit</b>	Allow a minimum of <i>3-4 hours</i> for a complete experience <b>(Closed Every Monday)</b>		
<b>Important Timings</b>	9:30 am – 6:30 pm	Entry to Complex	(Gate 1)
	10:00 am & 6:00 pm	Akshardham Arti	(Akshardham Mandir)
	6:30 pm	Nilkanth Varni Arti	(Abhishek Mandapam)
	7:15 pm	Maha Arti & Water Show	(Yagnapurush Kund)
	9:30 am – 8:00 pm	Mandir Darshan & Nilkanth Varni Abhishek	(Akshardham Mandir & Abhishek Mandir)

### EXPERIENCE

<b>Akshardham Mandir</b>	A traditional mandir (temple), reflecting the beauty and spirituality of India's art, culture and architecture		
<b>Nilkanth Varni Abhishek</b>	With water from India's 151 holy rivers and lakes, offer sentiments of peace for oneself, family, friends and the world		
<b>Cultural &amp; Educational Exhibitions</b>	<b>Hall of Values</b>	<b>(45 min)</b>	Robotic shows depicting universal values nonviolence, peace & family harmony
	<b>Large-Format Film</b>	<b>(45 min)</b>	Discover India's culture, art & architecture and inspiring customs & festivals
	<b>Cultural Voyage</b>	<b>(15 min)</b>	Sail through 10,000 years of India's history and contribution on a boat ride
<b>Cultural Garden</b>	Thematic garden that honors India's great men, women, children and patriots		
<b>Water Show</b>	An evening show, "Sahaj Anand"(spontaneous joy), that presents an ancient Upanishad story using modern fountains, projections, lasers and pyrotechnics		
<b>Lotus Garden</b>	A lotus-shaped garden conveying messages of spirituality by the world's historic philosophers & leaders		
<b>Premvati Food Court</b>	In the ambient Ajanta Caves, Premvati serves more than 75 traditional & trans-Indian and continental dishes		
<b>Books &amp; Gifts Centre</b>	Akshardham gifts, publication (audio, video & print), herbal medicines and other souvenirs		

### FEES

	Adults	Senior Citizens (65 yrs & above)	Children (4 to 12 yrs) <i>All fees waived for Children Under 4yrs</i>
<b>Entrance &amp; Darshan (No Ticket Needed)</b>	Free	Free	Free
<b>Cultural &amp; Educational Exhibitions</b>	Rs. 220	Rs. 170	Rs. 120
<b>Water Show (Evening)</b>	Rs. 80	Rs. 80	Rs. 50

### AKSHARDHAM PHOTO MEMORY

	Adults
<b>Basic</b>	Rs. 130
<b>Photo with Frame</b>	Rs. 180
<b>Photo with Deluxe Frame</b>	Rs. 200



### TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

<b>Metro</b>	Akshardham Metro Station provides easy commute to and from the complex	
<b>Taxi</b>	Keep a copy of the driver's phone number <i>on paper</i> (separate from your mobile) to help you locate the driver in an emergency	
<b>Parking</b>	Nominal fee for parking :	
	<b>Vehicle Type</b>	
	<b>Fare</b>	
	2-wheelers	Rs. 10
	3-wheelers and 4-wheelers	Rs. 30
	4-wheeler Buses	Rs. 60
	Buses and Coaches	Rs. 125

\*Note: parking fee is for 6 hours of parking; the fee is doubled if you exceed 6 hours



Return to Sunday

ENGLISH

## GENERAL INFORMATION

TIMINGS FROM TUESDAY TO SUNDAY  
(CLOSED EVERY MONDAY)

**First Entry:** 9.30 a.m.

**Last Entry:** 6.30 p.m.

The following services will be available daily: **Murti Darshan** (Free), **Exhibitions** (Fees apply), **Musical Fountain Show** (Fees apply), **Premvati Food Court** (Fees apply), **Parking** (Fees apply).

### STRICTLY PROHIBITED

- Photography, Videography ■ Mobile phones, cameras, radios and other electronic items ■ Food and drink from outside
- Bags and other luggage ■ Smoking, alcohol, tobacco and addictive substances
- Improper, disrespectful dress
- Abusive language ■ Pets

**We apologize for any inconvenience**

### HUMBLE REQUEST

Your visit to Swaminarayan Akshardham is a pilgrimage to a sacred centre of India's cultural traditions and values. We request your support to maintain the peace, dignity and divinity of the complex.

**The Management reserves all rights to entry.**



**SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM**

Akshardham Setu, N.H. 24

New Delhi - 110092

Tel: (011) 4344 2344

Fax: (011) 4344 2323

[www.akshardham.com](http://www.akshardham.com)

[www.baps.org](http://www.baps.org)

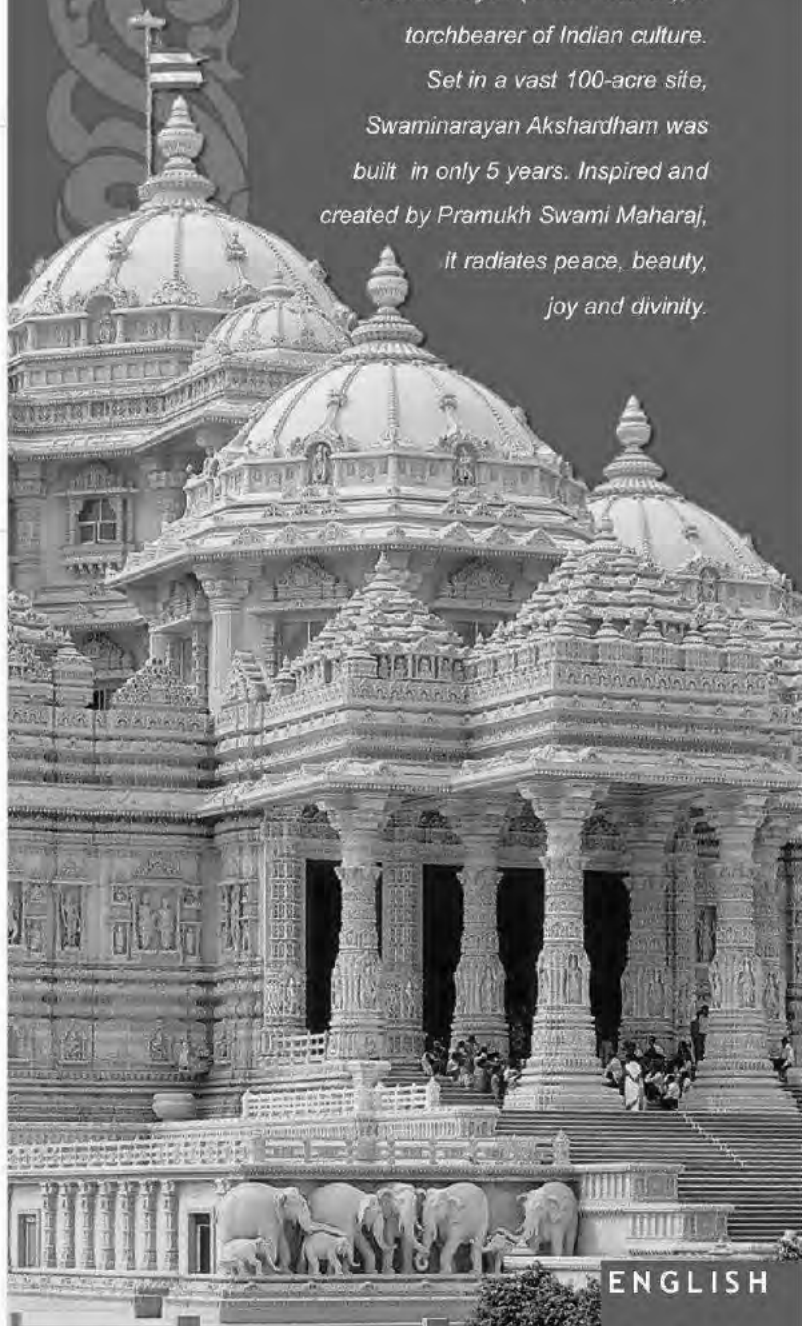


Rs. 5/-

ENGLISH

# G U I D E SWAMINARAYAN Akshardham

*Welcome to Swaminarayan Akshardham, a unique complex of Indian culture in India's capital, New Delhi. It beautifully showcases Indian art, wisdom, heritage and values as a tribute to Bhagwan Swaminarayan (1781-1830 CE), a torchbearer of Indian culture. Set in a vast 100-acre site, Swaminarayan Akshardham was built in only 5 years. Inspired and created by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, it radiates peace, beauty, joy and divinity.*



Designed & Printed by: © Swaminarayan Akshardham, Ahmedabad - 380 004, INDIA. A716

ENGLISH



## E N T R A N C E



1



2

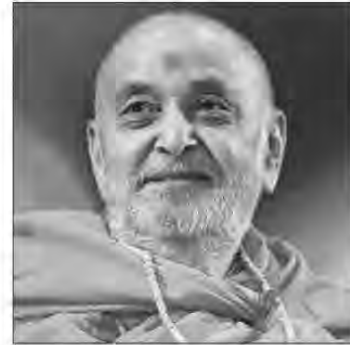


3



4

## INSPIRER &amp; CREATOR

**PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ**

In 1968, HDH Yogiji Maharaj blessed, "On the banks of the Yamuna a grand mandir will be built."

Swaminarayan Akshardham is the fulfillment of his vision by his successor, HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, who inaugurated it on 6 November 2005. Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the fifth guru in Bhagwan Swaminarayan's succession of God-realized Sadhus, is a world-renowned spiritual leader. Regardless of caste, creed or status, he selflessly serves society for the moral, cultural and spiritual uplift of mankind. He is the guiding force behind the vast range of BAPS socio-spiritual activities.

In his presence doubts dissolve, confusions clear, hurts heal and the mind finds peace. His striking humility, simplicity and realization of God is the essence of his success and divine lustre.

**ORGANIZER:****BAPS SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHA**

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha is the organizer of Swaminarayan Akshardham. It is a worldwide socio-spiritual NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations with over 3,700 centres and 15,700 Satsang assemblies, 850 sadhus, 55,000 youth volunteers and 1 million devotees. Established in 1907, it serves society through a variety of social, educational, health, environmental, cultural, spiritual and other philanthropic activities.



## A T T R A C T I O N S

19

19 **BHARAT UPVAN****CULTURAL GARDEN**

Opposite the Mandir lies Bharat Upvan. It comprises 22 acres of beautifully cultivated and artistically designed lawns, trees, plants and shrubs. The garden displays 65 bronze statues of India's great men, women and children, whose lives inspire all to nobler heights. The view of the Akshardham Mandir from here is majestic.

• Refreshments at entry

**DON'T MISS**

- The Sun Chariot ■ The Moon Chariot with its 16 deers ■ Child Heroes of India ■ Patriots of India
- Great Men of India ■ Great Women of India

1 **TEN GATES**

Representing the ten principal directions described in Indian culture, the Ten Gates reflect the Vedic sentiment of inviting goodness from everywhere to all visitors.

2 **BHAKTI DWAR**

The Gate of Devotion celebrates the Vedic tradition of dual worship. Offering devotion to God and his choicest Devotee is the genuine form of worship. Honouring this custom, 208 sculpted dual forms of God and His devotee decorate this splendid gate.

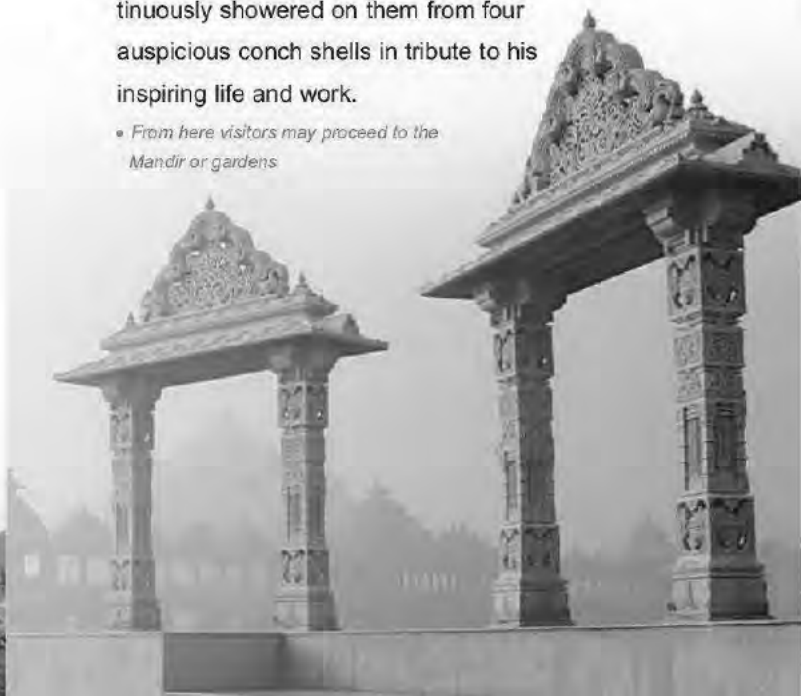
3 **MAYUR DWAR**

The peacock is a symbol of beauty and purity. It is also the national bird of India. The two Mayur Dwar (Peacock Gates) pay tribute to the joy and colour peacocks add to life. A total of 869 sculpted peacocks adorn each of the beautiful gates.

4 **FOOTPRINTS**

Between the two Mayur Dwar are the holy footprints of Bhagwan Swaminarayan in memory of his incarnation on earth. They are carved out of white marble and bear the 16 sacred signs of God. Water is continuously showered on them from four auspicious conch shells in tribute to his inspiring life and work.

• From here visitors may proceed to the Mandir or gardens



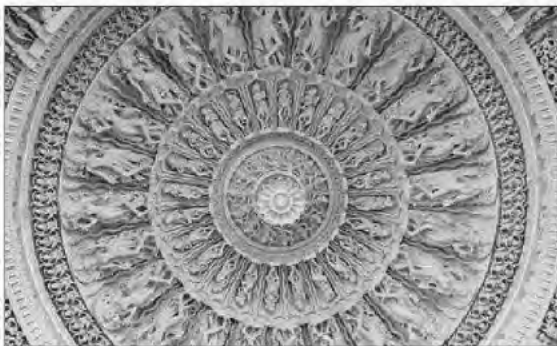
M A N D I R



5



6



**YOGIHRIDAY KAMAL  
LOTUS GARDEN**

Like a lotus flower, untouched by the waters of the material world, the heart of Yogiji Maharaj was pure and gentle. His prayer: "O Lord! Do good of all," carried the essence of faith:

**FAITH IN GOD AND FAITH IN MAN**

which can elevate our life, our existence, our civilization. It is echoed in the words and wisdom of the great people of our world, displayed in each petal of the garden below:

**16 YOGIHRIDAY KAMAL**

Situated amid beautifully manicured lawns, this 8-petal lotus-shaped creation inspires Faith in God and Faith in Man through the wisdom of the scriptures, sages and other great thinkers of the world.

**17 PREMVATI FOOD COURT**

Designed to give the relaxing and pleasant feel of Ajanta, the spacious Premvati restaurant serves fresh, pure vegetarian food, snacks and drinks.

• Washrooms outside

**18 AKSHARDHAM SOUVENIR SHOP**

Available here are enlightening and informative books, audio and video publications, viewcards, mementoes, gift items, worship items, Amrut Herbal Care medicines and other products.



## A T T R A C T I O N S

16



17



18



## 5 AKSHARDHAM MANDIR

The focal point of the entire complex is the grand Akshardham Mandir, built of pink stone and white marble. Measuring 141 ft high, 316 ft wide and 356 ft long it features 234 intricately carved pillars, 9 magnificent domes, 20 pinnacles and over 20,000 superbly sculpted figures. Built without using steel, it revives India's ancient architectural tradition.

## 6 MURTI

Seated in the centre of the Mandir is the serene, 11 ft-high, gold-plated *murti* of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Also consecrated are the elegant *murtis* of Shri Radha-Krishna, Shri Sita-Ram, Shri Lakshmi-Narayan and Shri Parvati-Shiv.

DON'T MISS

Inside the Mandir

- 24 Keshav forms of the Divine, based on the Panchratra scriptures.
- Sculpted *murtis* of sadhus and devotees
- *Murtis* of 500 *paramhansas* on the pillar tops.
- Breathtaking carvings of the 65 ft high Lila Mandapam, Bhakta Mandapam, Smruti Mandapam and Paramhansa Mandapam.
- Superb marble sculptures of incidents from the life of Bhagwan Swaminarayan in Ghanshyam Mandapam, Neelkanth Mandapam, Sahajanand Mandapam, Swaminarayan Mandapam.
- Domes and 20 quadrangle pinnacles (*samvarans*) – examples of ancient India's engineering technology.





## M A N D I R



7



8



## 12 YAGNAPURUSH KUND & SAHAJ ANAND WATER SHOW

Time: 25 minutes

The large lotus-shaped Yagnapurush Kund is a replica of a traditional *yagna kund*. Every evening it is transformed into the spectacular 'Sahaj Anand Water Show', which creatively blends lasers, lights, fire, fountains, projections and live acting to portray an enthralling spiritual message from the Upanishads. Adjacent to the *kund* is the inspiring 27 ft high metallic *murti* of Neelkanth Varni, the teenage-yogi form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

• Water Show: Every Evening. (Fees Apply)

## 13 NARAYAN SAROVAR

Narayan Sarovar surrounds the Akshardham Monument on three sides. The holy waters of 151 rivers, lakes and stepwells of India, visited by Bhagwan Swaminarayan, have been ritually added to Narayan Sarovar. Water flows into the Narayan Sarovar through 108 *gaumukhs* on the side and back walls of the Mandir.

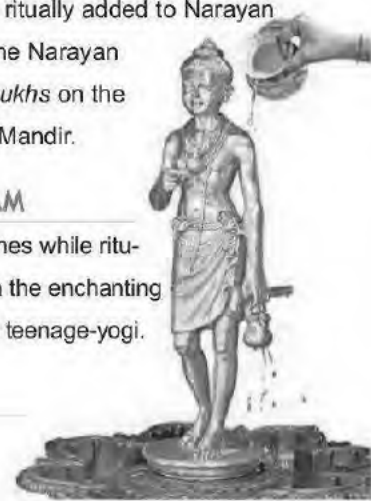
## 14 ABHISHEK MANDAPAM

Offer prayers and make wishes while ritually pouring Ganga water on the enchanting *murti* of Neelkanth Varni – a teenage-yogi.

## 15 PARIKRAMA

### COLONNADE

An impressive two-tier colonnade in red stone encircles the Mandir. Each tier is 3,000 ft long with 1,152 pillars and 145 viewing windows.





## A T T R A C T I O N S



12



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13



14

15



## 7 MANDOVAR

The ornate external wall (Mandovar) of the Mandir is 611 ft long and 25 ft high. It comprises 4,287 carved stones and includes 48 *murtis* of Ganeshji, and 200 sculpted figures of India's great rishis, sadhus, devotees, acharyas and divine incarnations.

## 8 GAJENDRA PEETH

The Akshardham Mandir rests on the unique 1,070 ft long Gajendra Peeth, which comprises 148 sculpted stone elephants, and dozens of other sculptures of people, animals and birds weighing in excess of 3,000 tons. It pays tribute to the glory of elephants and nature in Indian culture.

DON'T MISS

## Outside the Mandir

- 200 sculpted *murtis* of the great avatars, sadhus, devotees and acharyas of Indian culture.
- Intricate carvings on the entrance pillars.
- Excellent sculptures of Sarasvati, Lakshmi, Parvati, other goddesses and avatars.
- 180 ft of beautiful metallic reliefs on Bhagwan Swaminarayan's divine life.

## Gajendra Peeth

- The different life-like postures and expressions of each elephant.
- Observe the intricate and fine detailed finishing of each sculpture
- Savour the stories of 'Elephants and Nature', 'Elephants and Man', and 'Elephants and the Divine'.



## EXHIBITIONS

SWAMINARAYAN  
Akshardham

9

## 9 HALL-1: SAHAJANAND DARSHAN

HALL OF VALUES

Time: 50 minutes

Universal values for mankind, such as, ahimsa, courage, endeavour, honesty, faith, etc. are presented from the life of Bhagwan Swaminarayan through films, light and sound shows with robotic figures.

• Refreshments & Washrooms at entry and exit



10

## 10 HALL-2: NEELKANTH DARSHAN

GIANT SCREEN THEATRE

Time: 40 minutes

A large format film vividly portrays the true story of an 11-year-old child-yogi, Neelkanth Varni. Projected on an 85 ft x 65 ft screen, the film was shot in 108 locations in India and features a cast of over 45,000 people. The film takes the viewers on an exciting pilgrimage through the majestic Himalayas and India's sacred places, festivals, traditions and values.

• Refreshments & Washrooms at entry and exit



11

## 11 HALL-3: SANSKRUTI VIHAR

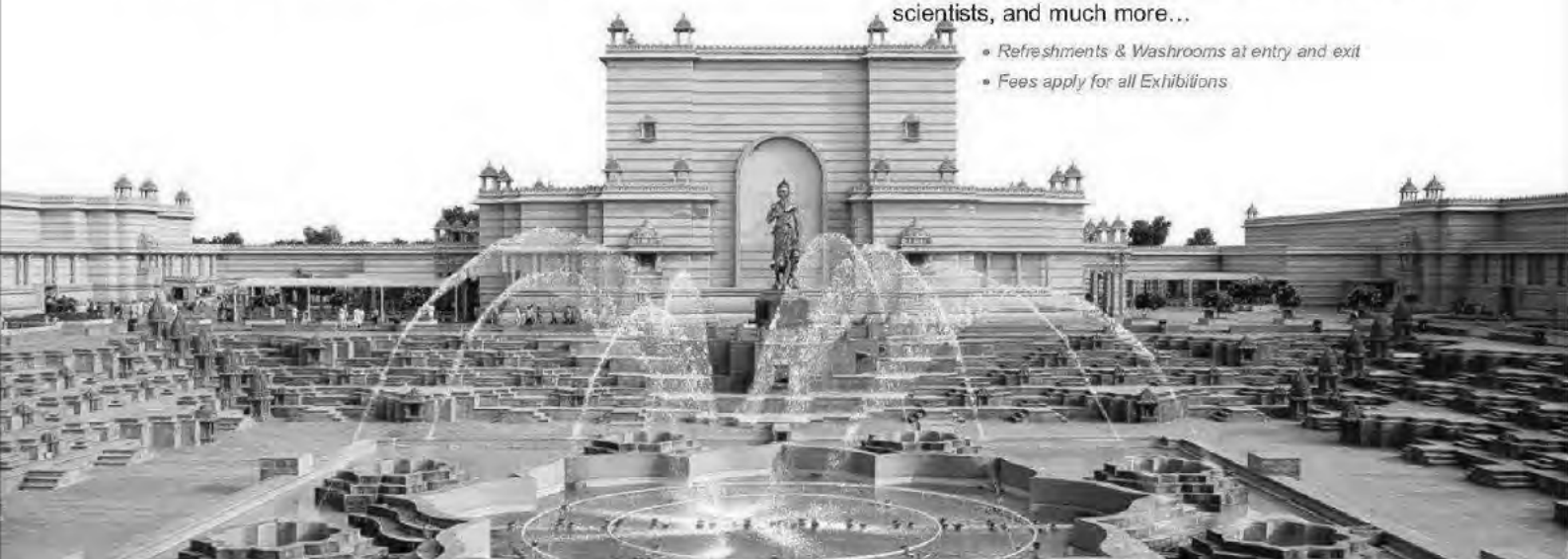
BOAT RIDE

Time: 15 minutes

A spectacular 14-minute boat ride through 10,000 years of Indian culture, which flourished on the banks of river Sarasvati. Based on authentic research, 800 statues bring India's glorious heritage to life. See the world's oldest Vedic village and bazaar. Sail through Takshashila – the world's first university. Learn about the discoveries and inventions of India's ancient rishi-scientists, and much more...

• Refreshments & Washrooms at entry and exit

• Fees apply for all Exhibitions



## INDIA MISSION – SEPTEMBER 2019

## BRIEFING NOTE

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Meeting with Australian High Commissioner</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 2 September 2019
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	<b>8.00am-9.00am</b>
<b>TRAVEL TIME:</b>	
<b>VENUE:</b>	Gate 5, Australian High Commission 1/50 G, Shantipath Chanakyapuri
<b>TO BE MET BY:</b>	
<b>ROLE:</b>	Participant
<b>MEETING PROTOCOL:</b>	
<b>PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES:</b>	<u>Australian High Commission</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her Excellency Ms Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner</li> <li>• Tara Cavanagh, Minister-Counsellor, Home Affairs, Australian High Commission, New Delhi</li> <li>• Timothy Kendall, Counsellor (Economic), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian High Commission, New Delhi</li> <li>• Lyndal Corbett, Counsellor A/g, Education and Research, Australian High Commission New Delhi</li> </ul> <u>ACT Government</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Minister</li> <li>• Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta MLA</li> <li>• Ms Kaarin Dynon</li> <li>• Mr Brendan Smyth</li> <li>• Mr Ash Balaretnaraja</li> </ul>
<b>ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:</b>	N/a
<b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY</b>	N/a

**Overview**

A meeting with the Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Harinder Sidhu (biography at [Attachment A](#)) to gain a better understanding of how the current state of Australian-Indian relations impacts the tourism and tertiary education markets.

**Meeting objectives.**

- To gain a better understanding of the state of Australian-Indian relations;
- To learn whether the Australian government has a view on the Indian government's education reforms, or how it might position Canberra to benefit from India's desire to build international links for education;

- To better understand the role played by the Australia India Education Council (AIEC) in setting the policy environment for tertiary education; and
- To develop Canberra's profile in the India tourism market.

## Key messages

### Tourism

- Canberra's potential as a global aviation hub is growing. 14 international air services land in Canberra each week via Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airways.
- As a result, Canberra is currently seeing record international visitation and spend. Visitation is being driven by people coming to the capital to holiday, visit their friends and relatives, and for education purposes.
- With significant growth in international visitation and ongoing investment in new tourism infrastructure, the ACT Government is looking for continued growth from the international airlines that connect with Canberra.
- Aviation partnerships are key to reaching identified international markets.
- International co-operative marketing campaigns have been delivered in partnership with Singapore Airlines in Singapore, Malaysia, India, Hong Kong, China and UK.
- Partnership with Tourism Australia allows VisitCanberra to amplify key messages through their programs and in-market teams.
- Spend by international visitors in Canberra increased to \$603 million for year ending March 2019.
- India is developing into one of the most important international markets for Canberra.
- It is now the fourth largest market by volume behind China, UK and USA. The Indian market provides 6.5 per cent of total international visitors to Canberra.
- Visitation from India grew by 41 percent for the year ending March 2019. The market is performing strongly across leisure, visiting friends and relatives and education.
- VisitCanberra has appointed a full time staff member that is based in Tourism Australia's Singapore office. The resource is dedicated to building and managing key relationships and promoting Canberra to Singapore, Malaysia and India

### Tertiary Education

- The last two meetings of the AIEC resulted in affirming the need for institutional partnerships to strengthen collaboration between students, academics and universities.
- The Memorandum of Understanding currently in force between the Australian and Indian governments commits to encouraging the development of such cooperation, to include twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning and research organisations.
- The MoU currently in force also commits to sharing of information on best practices for education, skills development, and standards development.
- The above goals appear consistent with leveraging Australia-based institutions to support the Indian government as it embarks on the New Education Policy and EQUIP reforms.
  - The EQUIP reforms in particular emphasize the need to improve Indian universities' curricula up to international standards of learning and quality assurance.

## Key questions

- How has the Australian Government progressed in meeting the initial recommendations of "An India Economic Strategy to 2035"?
- Did the Indian Government have any response to "An India Economic Strategy to 2035"?



- How strongly does the Australian government view growing links between the Australian and Indian tertiary education systems as a priority? What are its main priorities for leveraging India's modernisation?
- What are the primary channels the Australian and Indian governments use to coordinate AIEC activities? Who currently sits on the AIEC?
- How much involvement does the Australian High Commission have with the AIEC?
- What barriers exist, or previously existed, in establishing partnerships between Australian and Indian tertiary education institutions that are addressed by the MoU between the two governments?
- Have other Australian States and Territories been successful in using the MoU to deepen ties to the Indian tertiary education sector?
- Has the Australian government offered any kind of assistance to the Indian government in its pursuit of tertiary education reforms? Is there even a mechanism for providing such assistance, if the Indian government so requested?

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- The AIEC has almost no appreciable engagement with Australian State and Territory governments. While its website indicates some limited promotion of particular Australian-Indian study programs at the State and Territory level, there has been effectively no new information posted since 2017.

#### **Attachments**

- [Attachment A](#) – Biography for Australian High Commissioner
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the fields of Education, Training and Research (August 2015)
- Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation Joint Communique (June 2018)



## Harinder Sidhu



Harinder Sidhu has held the post of Australia's High Commissioner to India since February 2016. She also holds non-resident accreditation to the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Ms Sidhu brings over 30 years' experience in government. She began her career as a diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Before her appointment to India, she served as head of the Department's Multilateral Policy Division with responsibility for Australia's relationships with the UN and UN agencies, the UN Security Council and the Commonwealth.

Between 2008 and 2013, Ms Sidhu held the post of First Assistant Secretary in the Department of Climate Change. Prior to that, she served in several senior roles in government, particularly on defence and national security matters in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Office of National Assessments.

Ms Sidhu has served overseas at Australian Embassies in Damascus and Moscow, and was also posted to Cairo where she studied the Arabic language. She holds degrees in Economics and Law from the University of Sydney.

## INDIA MISSION – SEPTEMBER 2019

## BRIEFING NOTE

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Meeting with Chief Minister of Delhi - National Capital Region, Mr Arvind Kejriwal</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 2 September 2019
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	<b>11.00am-12.00pm</b>
<b>TRAVEL TIME:</b>	TBC
<b>VENUE:</b>	Office of Chief Minister Govt. of NCT of Delhi 3rd Floor, A-Wing Delhi Secretariat New Delhi-110002
<b>TO BE MET BY:</b>	TBC
<b>ROLE:</b>	Participant
<b>MEETING PROTOCOL:</b>	N/a
<b>PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES:</b>	<u>NCR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of Delhi</li> <li>• Mr Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi</li> <li>• Mr Shri Satyendat Jain, Minister</li> </ul> <u>ACT Government</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Minister</li> <li>• Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta MLA</li> <li>• Ms Kaarin Dyonon</li> <li>• Mr Brendan Smyth</li> <li>• Mr Ash Balaretnaraja</li> </ul>
<b>ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:</b>	N/a
<b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY</b>	N/a

**Overview**

The *International Engagement Strategy* details India as one of our ten priority countries. Delhi, as the national capital of India, is situated in the National Capital Region.

Your meeting with the Chief Minister of Delhi, Mr Arvind Kejriwal (biography at [Attachment A](#)) is to discuss opportunities of mutual interest and benefit for both cities.

**Meeting objectives.**

- A courtesy call on the Chief Minister of Delhi, NCR to discuss opportunities of mutual interest and benefit for both cities.
- To acquaint the Chief Minister of Delhi – National Capital Region with the attributes of Canberra
- To discuss areas of interest and opportunity which may include
  - Education, training and skills development
  - Research Partnerships
  - ICT and IT-enabled services

- Water management
- Renewables
- Agriculture and
- Sport and fitness
- To establish a relationship between the two cities

### Key messages

- Canberra is ideally placed to work with Delhi - NCR Government, its businesses and service providers to address the growing needs of Delhi and the NCR's population.
- Canberra is the education and research capital of Australia
- Canberra leads Australia in the use of renewable energy
- Canberra has a significant ICT sector
- Canberra has a significant Agri-Tech sector
- Canberra has significant experience in promoting sport and improving wellbeing

### Key questions

- Did the Delhi - NCR Government have any response to "*An India Economic Strategy to 2035*"?
- How is the Government of Delhi – NCR progressing the use of renewable energy in the region?

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Despite their relative sizes Canberra and Delhi have much in common including
  - Both are self-governing jurisdictions, home to their National Government
  - Both represent approximately 1.5% of the population of their respective countries
  - Delhi – NCR is 1483 square kilometres or 0.04 of 1% of India's landmass
  - Canberra is 2,358 square kilometres or 0.03 of 1% of Australia's landmass
  - Per capita income is significantly above national average for both
  - The economies of both are largely services based, and
  - Both are home to their countries leading education and research institutions
- The State Snapshot on Delhi, National Capital Region from *India Economic Strategy to 2035* is at [Attachment B](#).

### Attachments

- [Attachment A](#) – Biography of the Chief Minister of Delhi – NCR, Mr Arvind Kejriwal
- [Attachment B](#) – State Snapshot of Delhi, National Capital Region



**Chief Minister**

Mr Arvind Kejriwal was sworn in the Chief Minister of Delhi for the second time on February 14 at the age of 46 years. Earlier, he became the youngest Chief Minister of Delhi when he was sworn for the first time on 28 December 2013.

An almuhi of IIT Kharagpur, Mr Kejriwal completed his B. Tech in mechanical engineering in 1989. He was selected for the Indian Revenue Service in 1993 and was awarded the Ramon Magasaysay award for Emergent Leadership in 2006.

A social activist, political reformer and a former Joint Commissioner in the Income Tax department, Mr Kejriwal is known for his commitment towards the Right to Information and struggle for the anti-corruption Lokpal.

Born on 16 August 1968 at village Siwani in Hisar district of Haryana, Mr Kejriwal is married to an IRS officer and has two children. Mr Kejriwal's parents live with him.

Long before Mr Kejriwal entered politics, he had formed an NGO Parivartan to address citizens's grievances related to Public Distribution System (PDS), public works, social welfare schemes, income tax and electricity. He resigned from the income tax department in 2006 and in the same year, he donated his Magsaysay award money as a corpus fund to set-up the Public Cause Research Foundation.



## **Manish Sisodia**

### **Deputy Chief Minister, Delhi**

#### **Portfolios :**

Education, Higher Education, Training & Technical Education, Finance, Planning, Tourism, Women & Child Development, Art, Culture & Languages and other key departments

#### **Profession :**

Political Activist working for clean politics, corruption free governance system and humane education system

#### **Education :**

Diploma in Journalism

#### **Professional Background :**

Manish Sisodia is well known activist who came to prominence during the Jan Lokpal Movement. He was a prominent journalist and was associated with Zee News and All India Radio for a long time. He quit journalism to participate in the movement for Right to Information.

He was elected to the Delhi Legislative Assembly from the Patparganj Assembly Constituency twice. He is the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Education in the Govt. of NCT of Delhi since 2015.

Manish Sisodia has been passionately working for revolutionary changes in education system. He feels that education is the ultimate paradigm on which we can stand for a just and fair society.

The Government Schools in Delhi have seen major improvement in infrastructure and quality education due to his efforts.

The budget for education has been doubled because of his belief that it is an ***"Investment into the well-being of coming generations"***.



## **PROFILE**

Shri Satyendar Jain was born in Village Kirthal, District Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh. He did his schooling from Ramjas School, No.2, Delhi and Graduation in Architecture from Indian Institute of Architects.

He joined CPWD and later on quit his job to set up an Architectural Consultancy firm. He has been closely associated with various social service causes and groups. He became deeply involved in Anna Hazare's movement against corruption and quit his career to pursue the same earnestly. He is a founder member of Aam Aadmi Party.

He served as Health and Industries Minister in the first AAP Government from 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 to 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2014. He was re-elected from Shakur Basti Assembly Constituency in the last Assembly election and is presently serving as Minister of Home, Power, PWD, Urban Development, Health & FW, Industries and Flood & Irrigation, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

\*NOTE – Information sourced from *An India Economic Strategy to 2035, Appendix 1, Delhi – National Capital Region*

## DELHI – NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Delhi NCR is a planning region consisting the seat of Central Government in New Delhi and the surrounding districts of three north Indian states – Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The NCR ranks as one of the world's largest urban agglomerations stretching over 58,000 square km with over 46 million people. It accounts for 8 per cent of India's GDP, over a fifth of India's FDI inflows and attracts a vast number of workers from across India. The region has multiple special economic zones and industrial clusters, including Noida and Gurugram, known for their IT services sectors, Faridabad, an industrial centre, Meerut, an education hub, as well as Ghaziabad, Alwar and Sonapat. The consumer base in the region is sophisticated; New Delhi's per capita income is almost three times the national average. Despite improvements in physical infrastructure and India's most extensive road network, congestion, air pollution, water and power shortages remain major concerns. The region's poor record on violence against women continues to generate national debate. The NCR is a common base for Australian business in India.

Note the table below relates to the National Capital Territory of Delhi, not the wider National Capital Region.

Rankings	Rank	
Business Reforms Action Plan 2016	19	
State Investment Potential Index 2017	2	
Public Affairs Index 2017	22	
Gender Vulnerability Index 2017	28	
Key statistics	Delhi	India
Area (square km)	1 483	
Real GSDP 2016–17 (AUD billion)	99	1 972
Population (million)	20 (≈Romania)	1 300
Urbanisation rate (%)	97.5	31.2
Income and growth		
Per capita income	6 025	2 052
NSVA by sector 2015–16 (%)		

\*NOTE – Information sourced from *An India Economic Strategy to 2035, Appendix 1, Delhi – National Capital Region*

Rankings		Rank
Agriculture	1	17
Industry	17	31
Services	82	52
<hr/>		
Average GSDP growth 2015–17 (%)	8.5	6.9
<hr/>		
State contribution to GDP (%)	4.1	
<hr/>		
Infrastructure		
Power deficit 2016–17 (%)	–0.1	–0.7
<hr/>		
Road density 2014–15 (km/100 km <sup>2</sup> )	2 166.7	139.1
<hr/>		
Rail density 2014–15 (km/1,000 km <sup>2</sup> )	123.6	20.1
<hr/>		
Human development		
Literacy rate (%)	80.8	73
<hr/>		
Gender literacy gap (pp)	10.1	16.7
<hr/>		
Public finances 2016–17		
Proportion of fiscal deficit to GSDP	0.5	2.9
<hr/>		
Debt to GSDP ratio (%)	5.9	23.9
<hr/>		
Health spend (% of total spend)	11*	5.6
<hr/>		
Education spend (% of total spend)	25*	9.7
<hr/>		
Investment		
Share of FDI inflows 2000–2017 (%)	20	

\*New Delhi is an outlier in its expenditure on education and health as most of its police and rural development are funded by the Central Government.

## Economic fundamentals

The NCR derives the greatest share of its GDP from New Delhi, followed by the Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan sub-regions in that order. There is wide variation in economic conditions across these sub-regions. While New Delhi has an urbanisation rate of 97.5 per cent, the Rajasthan sub-region is as low as 18 per cent. As a whole, the NCR's urbanisation rate is twice the national average, at 62.5 per cent, and each sub-region is expected to continue to rapidly urbanise in the future.

\*NOTE – Information sourced from *An India Economic Strategy to 2035, Appendix 1, Delhi – National Capital Region*

At the centre of NCR's economy is New Delhi's services sectors, including communications, transport, construction, real estate, financial services, insurance and tourism. Many firms in the IT-enabled services, e-commerce, business process outsourcing, and design fields are concentrated in the cities of Gurugram and Noida.

The NCR is also a hub of automotive manufacturing, including major Japanese manufacturers in Gurugram and Alwar. New Delhi has a presence of garment and furniture manufacturers, as well as electrical machinery production and repair services. Faridabad is a manufacturing centre for small-scale mechanical and engineering units. The NCR's economy also includes agriculture (predominantly in the Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh sub-regions).

Governance of the NCR is complicated by the fact that it is split between the Central Government, four sub-national governments (that of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) as well as an array of urban bodies. The NCR Planning Body, formed in 1985, is the institution charged with formulating long term strategy to promote growth and balanced development of the region.

### Current strengths

- Proximity to the seat of Central Government and policy-making.
- Strong connectivity – Delhi international airport is among the busiest airports in Asia; the NCR has an excellent network of railways, roadways, and metro rail, including good connections between New Delhi and its satellite cities; the density of state and national highways is almost double the national average.
- The NCR is India's retail capital, with the largest number of shopping malls and luxury retailers.
- The NCR is home to leading education, research and scientific institutions.

### Sectoral opportunities for Australia

- Roads, urban infrastructure, energy, architecture and design, green building technology.
- Water management.
- Education, training and skill development.
- Hospitals, including consultancy and fit-outs.
- Research partnerships with industry and educational institutions.
- ICT and IT-enabled services consulting.
- Agriculture, horticulture and dairy.
- Sport.



\*NOTE – Information sourced from *An India Economic Strategy to 2035, Appendix 1, Delhi – National Capital Region*

## Potentially transformative factors

- The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor is designed to facilitate large-scale industrial activity in the region and is anticipated to generate substantial employment and growth opportunities.

## INDIA MISSION – SEPTEMBER 2019

## BRIEFING NOTE

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Meeting With Ministry of Human Resource Development</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 2 September 2019
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	TBC (with post)
<b>TRAVEL TIME:</b>	TBC
<b>VENUE:</b>	Ministry of Human Resource Development, Delhi
<b>TO BE MET BY:</b>	TBC with post
<b>ROLE:</b>	Participant
<b>MEETING PROTOCOL:</b>	N/a
<b>PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES:</b>	<u>Ministry of Human Resource Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul> <u>ACT Government</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Minister</li> <li>• Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta MLA</li> <li>• Ms Kaarin Dynon</li> <li>• Mr Brendan Smyth</li> <li>• Mr Ash Balaretnaraja</li> </ul> <u>University Delegation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Lawrence Pratchett, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Mr Aditya Vaddiparthi, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Ms Tamara Lions, University of New South Wales</li> </ul>
<b>ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:</b>	N/a
<b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY</b>	N/a

**Overview**

This is a meeting with the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which carries the Indian Government's higher education portfolio. The main purpose of this meeting is to gain a better understanding of the nature of the Indian tertiary education sector, the Indian Government's proposed reforms, and the opportunities therein for Canberra, and our tertiary education institutions.

**Meeting objectives.**

- To learn more about the Indian Government's draft New Education Policy (NEP).
- To learn more about the state of the Indian government's Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) and its desired outcomes.
- To advocate for Canberra as a place best-suited to meet the objectives of the Australian-Indian MoU for improving connections between the nations' tertiary education sectors.
- To understand opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

- To understand what, if any commercial opportunities exist for Canberra, our Higher Education or Vocational Education institutions within the significant Indian national reforms.

### Key messages

- The Australian and Indian governments are committed at the highest levels to strengthen connections between their nations' respective tertiary education systems in order improve learning and research opportunities and to share best practices in education. Key to the success of our national connections are city-to city connections.
- Canberra is home to:
  - Australia's top-ranked university, the Australian National University, which is also a global top-25;
  - The University of Canberra which is one of the world's top-50 young universities, the University of Canberra;
  - The University of New South Wales, which is looking to expand its campus, and is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Australia is also in the world top 50 universities
  - Campuses of the Australian Catholic University, Charles Sturt University, Queensland University of Technology.
  - Over 100 vocational education providers, the flagship provider, the Canberra Institute of Technology, provided over 5.4 million hours of training last year.
  - The Australian Government's flagship research agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).
- The concentration of tertiary education and research entities in Canberra has resulted in a thriving education and research sector in the ACT. The ACT Government and our institutions have key partnerships across agricultural technology, allied health, information and communications technology, renewable energy, and space industries.
- The high quality of Canberra's tertiary education institutions, our public administration infrastructure and our position as the National Capital, uniquely places Canberra to assist the Indian government to further its tertiary education ambitions through partnership arrangements.

### Key questions

- How effective has the 2015 MoU between the Australian and Indian governments been in building the right type of relationships between Australian and Indian tertiary education and research institutions?
- What are the major barriers for student and research exchanges between India and Australia?
- How do Indians perceive studying in Australia? In Canberra? Are there any issues to address?
- What are going to be the major barriers to implementing the NEP?
- What are likely to be the major recommendations coming from the EQUIP review?
- Are there any opportunities for Australian institutions to provide assistance to Indian institutions in their efforts to achieve global rankings?

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Indian government has tried for many years to make meaningful progress towards tertiary education reform. The NEP promises to overhaul school and higher education policy

for the first time since 1992. The draft NEP is a 484 page report resulting from five years of consultations and two committees. In a system of 800 universities, 40,000 colleges and over 1.5 million schools, the NEP emphasises the need to increase flexibility, improve the quality of teachers, integrate 21st century skills and improve quality.

- In the higher education sector, the draft NEP promises to create world-class, multi-disciplinary universities and institutions across the country, recognising that the current system has too many small, specialised institutions and only five who have achieved global ranking. The report calls for increasing merit based appointments for educators and also cites inadequate regulation has allowed "fake colleges to thrive while constraining excellent, innovative ones." Central to the policy is increasing autonomy to institutions to make locally relevant decisions in relation to finances, teaching, service, equipment and research.
- Further, the policy wants to overhaul the delivery of degrees in India, increasing the flexibility afforded to students, by streamlining the process for credit recognition and transfer with a new National Higher Education Qualifications Framework (NHEQF). This would allow more three year Bachelor degrees for some disciplines and allow more institutions to deliver one year Masters Degrees, as long as the prerequisite Bachelor qualification was four years.
- The policy also recognises the need for better quality online education, with a particular focus on online teacher education. All undergraduate education would be restructured and strengthened if the NHEQF were established, a framework only available in the skills sector to date.
- As part of the internationalisation push, the policy proposes formalising recognition of qualifications with priority countries in relation to twinning and articulation programs. These are where a student may study for one year in India before completing the qualification in another country. These students are awarded a qualification from each institution, where each is only recognised in the home country. Streamlining the process would provide greater assurance to students on the value of their study.
- EQUIP is a five-year action plan prepared by the Department of Higher Education, MHRD to bridge the gap between policy and implementation in the field of higher education and accessibility. The full report is not publicly available, as it is currently under consideration by the Indian Government.



## INDIA MISSION – SEPTEMBER 2019

**BRIEFING NOTE**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Welcome Reception</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 2 September 2019
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	<b>18:30-20:00</b>
<b>TRAVEL TIME:</b>	TBC
<b>VENUE:</b>	Gate 5, Australian High Commissioner's Residence, 1/50 G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
<b>TO BE MET BY:</b>	Her Excellency Ms Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner
<b>ROLE:</b>	Participant
<b>MEETING PROTOCOL:</b>	N/a
<b>PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES:</b>	<p><u>Australian High Commission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her Excellency Ms Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner</li> </ul> <p><u>ACT Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Minister</li> <li>• Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta MLA</li> <li>• Ms Kaarin Dynon</li> <li>• Mr Brendan Smyth</li> <li>• Mr Ash Balaretnaraja</li> </ul> <p><u>University Delegation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Lawrence Pratchett, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Mr Aditya Vaddiparthi, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Ms Tamara Lions, University of New South Wales</li> </ul>
<b>ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:</b>	TBC
<b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY</b>	N/a

**Overview**

A welcome reception at the Australian High Commissioner's Residence.

**Meeting objectives.**

- to be formally received in India;
- deliver the speech for the reception (Attachment A);
- to network with key figures who deal with Australian-Indian relations; and
- promote Canberra as a leading tourism, tertiary education and research destination for persons engaged with the Indian tourism and tertiary education system or in key capability areas.

## Key messages

### TOURISM

- Canberra's potential as a global aviation hub is growing. 14 international air services land in Canberra each week via Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airways.
- As a result, Canberra is currently seeing record international visitation and spend. Visitation is being driven by people coming to the capital to holiday, visit their friends and relatives, and for education purposes.
- With significant growth in international visitation and ongoing investment in new tourism infrastructure, the ACT Government is looking for continued growth from the international airlines that connect with Canberra.
- Aviation partnerships are key to reaching identified international markets.
- International co-operative marketing campaigns have been delivered in partnership with Singapore Airlines in Singapore, Malaysia, India, Hong Kong, China and UK.
- Partnership with Tourism Australia allows VisitCanberra to amplify key messages through their programs and in-market teams.
- Spend by international visitors in Canberra increased to \$603 million for year ending March 2019.
- India is developing into one of the most important international markets for Canberra.
- It is now the fourth largest market by volume behind China, UK and USA. The Indian market provides 6.5 per cent of total international visitors to Canberra.
- Visitation from India grew by 41 percent for the year ending March 2019. The market is performing strongly across leisure, visiting friends and relatives and education.
- VisitCanberra has appointed a full time staff member that is based in Tourism Australia's Singapore office. The resource is dedicated to building and managing key relationships and promoting Canberra to Singapore, Malaysia and India

### EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

- Canberra is home to several highly ranked universities amongst the world's top 100. Canberra is currently delivering high quality tertiary education qualifications across a range of study areas and has been doing so since the 1946.
- Tertiary education is a core foundation of Canberra's economy and our overall wellbeing, with one in six people in Canberra either working or studying at a tertiary institution and the highest proportion of tertiary educated adults, Canberra is truly Australia's knowledge capital.
- The Australian National University is Australia's number one university and is one of the world's top-25 universities, with the University of Canberra ranked as one of the top-50 global universities less than 50 years old.
- The delivery of tertiary qualifications is reinforced by our strong research credentials and world recognised research organisations. For example, Canberra is home to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Government's leading research body.
- Canberra is consistently named as one of the world's most liveable cities and is ranked in the top 25 Best Student Cities globally.
- Our city is multicultural, welcoming and safe, with students contributing greatly to our youthful community and vibrant culture.
- Canberra's tertiary education and research sector accounts for roughly 20 per cent of Canberra's overall economy.
- International education is Canberra's largest export, valued at over \$1 billion in the last financial year.

- Canberra's tertiary education system has resulted in thriving economic sectors for key industries:
  - Space:
    - Canberra is at the centre of Australia's space-based research and mission design. It is built on Canberra's highly technical and scientific workforce. Capabilities include communications technologies, satellite ground stations, Earth observation, and navigation and spatial technologies.
    - UNSW Canberra and ANU have significant and complementary space assets, including the Space Mission Concurrent Design Facility at UNSW Canberra and the ANU National Space Test Facilities.
    - In addition, there are local companies such as EOS Space Systems, Geoplex and Geospatial Intelligence, along with significant space research organisations such as GeoScience Australia, CSIRO, the Space Environment Research Centre and the Deep Space Communications Complex.
  - Agricultural technology:
    - There is an emerging agri-technology hub within the ANU/CSIRO Centre for Entrepreneurial Agri-Technology (CEAT). CEAT is an agri-technology hub designed to bring together the research and development capabilities within the ANU and the CSIRO and industry partners in order to translate research into commercial opportunities. Within its first year of operations, the hub has already attracted a number of innovative agri-tech companies, including international ones that have co-located at the Centre:
      - FluroSat, an award-winning agri-tech start-up company, uses artificial intelligence and satellite-based remote sensing to deliver early, accurate and actionable information on crop health and nutrition to farmers. FluroSat has grown from two to 20 employees over the last 18 months; and as part of this expansion, a development team of six staff moved into the CEAT Innovation Hub.
      - Scientific Instruments Australia (SIA) is an innovative company that designs and manufactures instrumentation and software for plant science, biotechnology and agriculture. It has offices and labs at La Trobe University's Research and Development Park in Melbourne and now at CEAT.
    - Goterra is a Canberra-based livestock feed production and waste management firm that delivers solutions for agriculture and provides regionally based, sustainable waste management solutions. The firm is leading innovation on livestock and aquaculture feed by using insects to convert waste. Goterra is actively seeking partnerships and would be a potential collaborator and supplier of fish feed to a major aquaculture farm.
    - automed is a developer of medication delivery solutions for livestock producers, including the automed device, which is an automatic, weight-based dosing system for livestock. Its capability includes data-recording capabilities, ensuring producers have lifetime treatment records for their livestock as well as medication inventory.
  - Information and communications technology:
    - Based in Canberra, National Computational Infrastructure (NCI) is Australia's leading high-performance data, storage and computing organisation, providing expert services to benefit all domains of science,

government and industry. NCI currently houses the fastest and most integrated supercomputing facility in Australia. The facility is a shared initiative of government and the university sector and supports open research for university, government and commercial clients. The NCI in Canberra has significant storage, computational, visualisation and analysis capabilities unique in Australia.

- Canberra is home to approximately 65 start-ups, SMEs and multinational corporations engaged in cyber activities employing over 4,000 people. Australia's national security agencies which are all located in Canberra, are significant players in Australia's cyber industry.
- Canberra is home to a pioneering collaboration in innovation between industry, government and the tertiary research and education sector known as the Canberra Innovation Network. This facility has all of Canberra's major universities as foundation partners along with PwC, Optus, Mallesons, CSIRO and the ACT Government.
- Renewable energy:
  - The ACT Government is committed and on target to achieve its 100 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 with a strong focus on supporting distributed energy storage.
  - The ACT Government's commitment has helped draw in over \$500 million investment in large-scale wind and solar renewable infrastructure over the next 20 years.
  - Canberra has the first Australian facility to test 100 per cent hydrogen on existing materials, equipment and work practises to prepare for potential application to the existing gas network. The facility is housed at the Canberra Institute of Technology.
  - The ANU has attracted \$16 million in funding to research hydrogen fuels.
  - Vtara Energy Group Pty Ltd is a Canberra-based technology company and a champion of a bio-based economy. VTARA has proprietary technologies related to biomass-based energy and bio-based refineries, for the production of advance fuels in a Bio-refinery system. Our major projects are located across two states in India; Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- Allied health:
  - The education and health sectors in the ACT together make up approximately one-fifth of the Territory's economy and are Canberra's largest economic sectors after public administration.
  - The ACT Government invests approximately \$20 million into health research each year, and another \$18 million per year in supporting health education and training.
  - The ACT Government's commitment to supporting health training and research was reinforced by its investment in the University of Canberra Public Hospital (UCPH), a research and training facility located at one of its flagship universities. The UCPH falls under the auspices of the ACT Government's Health Directorate.
  - Based on the most recent data, the number of overseas students studying health in the ACT has almost tripled over the last four years (from 160 to 426).



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Guests TBC

## **SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE:**

### **WELCOME RECEPTION INDIA**

**1800 – 1930 MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2019 - AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION (DELHI); AND**

**1800 – 1930 WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2019 – AUSTRALIAN TAJ HOTEL (MUMBAI)**

#### *Acknowledgements*

- Your Excellency
- [insert VIPs]
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

#### Key Points:

- Canberra is Australia's education capital – home to six high quality university campuses, with several among world top 100 rankings.
- International education is Canberra's largest export. Indian students are the second largest international cohort, and one of the fastest growing.
- We are a safe and welcoming community with a great student experience, Canberra has ranked among the top 25 world student cities since 2016.
- Whilst known as Australia's seat of government, Canberra has evolved into a vibrant and diverse city with a world class knowledge economy.
- Our economy is growing over 4%, we have Australia's highest incomes, lowest unemployment, and good job opportunities for graduates – in fact, 2 in 3 jobs are now outside of public administration.
- People of Indian background are not only welcome, but leaders in our community – such as Vice Chancellor Deep Saini of the University of Canberra, and Deepak Raj Gupta, a member of our Legislative Assembly.
- Canberra's institutions are also research intensive, we have a strong innovation ecosystem, and are growing the industries of the future.
- These include tourism, space, renewable energy, health, and agri-tech.

- As Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory, home to the city of Canberra, it gives me great pleasure to be here with you today.
- As you may know, Canberra is Australia's capital city. We are a young city, around 106 years old, established after the former British colony States joined together under federation to form the Commonwealth of Australia.
- Indigenous people have lived in the area for many thousands of years, and in modern times we have come from humble beginnings as farm land, to a vibrant modern city that was responsible for relaying the first images of the moon landing and gave rise to the invention of Wi-fi, to name a few accomplishments.
- Whilst awareness of Canberra hasn't traditionally been high overseas, that is now changing. It is an exciting time for the city, on many fronts.
- Our population is currently 424,000 in Canberra itself, and 750,000 including the surrounding region. Whilst modest by Indian standards, in Australia we are a mid-size city, and were one of the fastest growing through 2018. Over 130,000 Canberrans who were born overseas, more than 10,000 of whom were born in India – the third largest national cohort.
- Canberra is also, as we like to say, Australia's education capital. Education is a big part of what we do, alongside innovation, research, and growing the industries of the future.
- Canberra's tertiary education institutions focus on providing a high quality, world class education, which delivers highly employable individuals. Whilst the numbers of students we educate are relatively small by India's standards, our real strength is in the quality of education outcomes, the student experience and employability.

- As the national capital we are the seat of government and are involved in facilitating nationwide change. We are home to Australia's decision makers and we have strong expertise in economic management, social policies, science and research, and host Australia's national cultural institutions.
- We have many people of Indian backgrounds in leadership roles building connections and making a difference to our communities.
- The Vice Chancellor of University of Canberra, Professor H. Deep Saini, was the first Australian University Vice Chancellor of Indian background.
- I was pleased to recently welcome Mr Deepak Raj Gupta, who is here today, as a new local member of our legislative assembly and my Government team. Mr Gupta is the former President of the Australia India Business Council, and instrumental in founding the World Curry Festival, now a regular fixture on our calendar.
- By being a centre for government, tertiary education, research and industries at the forefront of an ever-changing global economy, Canberra is uniquely positioned for a city our size to do remarkable things on the world stage. Many people outside of Canberra were surprised when we were named one of the world's most liveable cities – and, now, the most liveable city in Australia – but it was no surprise to us.
- Another factor that sets us apart is the concentration of highly educated individuals across our city. Canberra has the highest education attainment of any state or territory in Australia, with over 50 per cent of working people having a Bachelors or higher degree. On top of this, Canberrans also have Australia's highest average incomes and lowest unemployment levels.



- Tertiary education and training accounts for almost 10 per cent of our labour force and economy, which we know is a great enabler of social and economic progress.
- In the decade since the GFC, we have been diversifying the economy by supporting key capability areas in future growth industries. In fact, 2 in 3 jobs are now outside of public administration, and our economic growth, ‘State Final Demand’, was up 4.2 per cent in early 2019.
- So, Canberra has evolved from just Australia’s seat of a government into a focused, vibrant and diverse city with a world class knowledge based economy. For example:
  - Next year in 2020, Canberra will be 100 per cent powered by renewable energy. This has spurred investment from multinationals in solar and wind technologies, and other innovative technologies like battery storage and energy trading. We have set a target of being carbon neutral, with net zero emissions, by 2045.
  - In the space industry, Canberra is home to 1 in 4 space jobs. Our major universities have the capability to test space equipment, track satellites and deep space missions, and probe the mysteries of the universe.
  - Last year, we opened a new hospital on the University of Canberra campus, where health students are getting experience treating real patients. Nearby is the Research Institute of Sport and Exercise, and the Australian Institute of Sport.
  - The Australian Government spends over \$6 billion per year on ICT services, and we are home to over 1000 companies including multinationals, the national super computer, and an active cyber security community.

- In agri-tech, we are home to the National Environmental and Agricultural Science Precinct, and Centre for Entrepreneurial Agri-Technology.
- On a per capita basis, Canberra has the highest innovation and entrepreneurship metrics in Australia, which has fueled a vibrant start-up culture with various incubation and mentoring programs through institutions such as Canberra Innovation Network, CSIRO (our national research body), Data 61 (in ICT), the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and Agricultural research bodies, and
- International education is Canberra's largest export at just over \$1 billion – up 220% from 2013 to 2018, or 17% annually.
- And focusing on our relationship with international students for a moment. Canberra's international students come from all corners of the world, but India is actually our second largest source country, and certainly one of the fastest growing.
- A big reason for this is quality. We are home to several highly ranked universities amongst the world's top 100 (including the number 1 university in Australia) as well as outstanding options for school and TAFE (vocational education and training). All of our universities, and our vocational or technical college, the Canberra Institute of Technology, rate strongly on teaching and graduate outcomes.
- So, no matter which institution you go to, you can count on Canberra for a world class education, and opportunities beyond.
- As well as reaching for excellence, we are the most active, healthy and one of the safest communities in the nation.

- We are welcoming and very multicultural, with 1 in 4 people born overseas and over 100 embassies our international communities are strong, contribute to Canberra's social fabric and are growing year by year.
- We have ranked among the world's top 25 student cities by QS for four years - ahead of cities like San Francisco, Washington DC, Ottawa or Amsterdam; and Canberra has been rated the best region to live in the world by the OECD – within two hours you can be on a beautiful beach, or at the snow, skiing in winter.
- This year we were rated Australia's most livable city by a popular polling company Ipsos, and we have the highest participation rates in sport and exercise – 70 per cent of our Territory is nature reserves, and the World Health Organisation has rated us in the top 3 cities for air quality.
- Last year, Lonely Planet ranked Canberra third best city in the world to visit, due to hosting Australia's premier national institutions, world class dining and access to some of the best natural settings Australia has to offer.
- And we are now better connected to the world than ever, with daily flights from Singapore and Qatar, and we are working on other cities too.
- Canberra's potential as a global destination has been significantly enhanced with the opening of Canberra Airport as an international aviation hub. 14 international air services land in Canberra each week via Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airways.
- Singapore Airlines flies daily between Singapore and Canberra creating easy connectivity for travellers from many ports across India.

- India is developing into one of the most important international markets for Canberra.
- It is now the fourth largest market by volume behind China, UK and USA. The Indian market provides 6.5 per cent of total international visitors to Canberra.
- For the year ending March 2019, Canberra welcomed a total of 16,880 visitors from India, an increase of 41.4% on the previous year. The market is performing strongly across leisure, visiting friends and relatives and education.
- Increases in international visitors is supporting new business investment. In recent years new city precincts have opened up, the local food scene is diverse and contemporary, and there is an active calendar of festivals and events in all four seasons.
- Our major institutions guarantee accommodation for international undergraduate students, and in most cases postgraduates – and we are building for the future with a large developments in the pipeline.
- In April this year, my Government was delighted to open the Canberra Metro light rail system, and already rider numbers have well exceeded expectations. At the same time we launched new rapid bus routes that go all over the city, and unlike many other Australian cities, ALL our tertiary students get concessional travel – including international students.
- Through the Study Canberra program, my Government is working with Universities, CIT, and ACT Government schools on a range of projects to promote the benefits of studying in Canberra to international, interstate and local students, and ensure they have a great high quality student experience.



- Our goal, is to build on Canberra's reputation as a center for high quality education, world class research collaboration, innovation, employment outcomes, livability and a great student experience.
- And we are proud of alumni such as Vivek Wadhwa, named in TIME Magazine's top 40 influential minds in tech, who studied at UC.
- Australia and India share more than just a love of cricket, common values of democracy, multiculturalism and intellectual endeavor.
- We have a deep and fruitful relationship on many fronts, but I'm sure we'd all agree there is room for growth with many areas of untapped potential.
- Education is front and center of Australia's future priorities with India, and I am here today because I share that vision. My government and the city of Canberra look forward to the exciting opportunities our shared future holds.
- Thank you.

ENDS

## INDIA MISSION – SEPTEMBER 2019

## BRIEFING NOTE

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Meeting With Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI)</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	Tuesday, 3 September 2019
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	10:00am-11:00am
<b>TRAVEL TIME:</b>	Nil
<b>VENUE:</b>	The Imperial - Business Centre, One Imperial Place
<b>TO BE MET BY:</b>	Ash Balaretnaraja
<b>ROLE:</b>	Participant
<b>MEETING PROTOCOL:</b>	N/a
<b>PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES:</b>	<p><b>AAERI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harinder (“Bubbly”) Johar, Vice President, AAERI</li> <li>• Nirmal Chawla, Regional Representative-Chandigarh, AAERI</li> <li>• Rupesh Duggal, Regional Representative-North West Region, AAERI</li> <li>• 2.2(a)(ii) Canam, Non-Executive Member</li> <li>• 2.2(a)(ii) The Chopras, Non-Executive Member</li> <li>• 2.2(a)(ii) Global Opportunities, Non-Executive Member</li> </ul> <p><b>ACT Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Minister</li> <li>• Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta MLA</li> <li>• Ms Kaarin Dynon</li> <li>• Mr Brendan Smyth</li> <li>• Mr Ash Balaretnaraja</li> </ul> <p><b>University Delegation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Lawrence Pratchett, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Mr Aditya Vaddiparthi, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Ms Tamara Lions, University of New South Wales</li> </ul>
<b>ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:</b>	N/a
<b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY</b>	N/a

**Overview**

Meeting with AAERI executives to better understand the challenges in attracting students to study in Australia, and to promote Canberra as a destination for high-performing students.

**Meeting objectives.**

- To better understand AAERI’s role in the offshore promotion of Australia as a study destination.
- To better understand perceptions and barriers to studying in Canberra, specifically.

- To understand how Canberra can be better marketed as a student focused, high quality study destination.
- To advocate and promote Canberra as a study destination for high-performing students.

### Key messages

#### Canberra's message for AAERI:

- The ACT Government is committed to working with education providers, agents and other stakeholders to *sustainably and responsibly* grow India as a student market.
- Canberra is focussed on quality education outcomes for our international students. We want to understand if there are any steps we can take to better ensure we are recruiting the right students into the right courses, for the right reasons.
- Canberra is one of the world's most liveable cities, in large part owing to its strong tertiary education system, and is welcoming of overseas students.
- Canberra's tertiary education providers have a reputation for attracting high-quality students, in keeping with their global rankings.

#### Canberra's message for the students AAERI represents:

- Canberra has high calibre institutions, expert teachers, vocational trainers and innovative researchers who have developed expertise in key capability areas such as renewable energy, defence and cyber security, ICT/e-Government, health and sports science, space and spatial sciences, and agricultural/environmental sciences, in collaboration with an increasing number of start-ups.
- Canberra has the most highly skilled workforce (by education attainment) and the greatest proportion of knowledge workers (with higher degrees or in research pursuits) of any region in Australia — at least one in six people are engaged with an education institution.
- Canberra is big enough to enjoy all of the services of a major city, but small enough to retain a sense of community without the drawbacks. Strong partnerships between the Government, business, our world-class education institutions and the region, and thriving and porous campuses, create opportunities for collaboration, commercialisation, and entrepreneurship.
- Canberra is a safe and welcoming city. Around 25 per cent of the population is born overseas, and we host more than 100 diplomatic missions<sup>10</sup> and their associated communities. The National Multicultural Festival draws 280,000 visitors over three days at the start of the academic year.
- Canberra ranks among the top 25 student cities in the world (22nd in 2018, ahead of cities like San Francisco, Beijing or Brussels). The median age of Canberra residents (34.7) is lower than in any state in Australia<sup>11</sup> — as a result, a dynamic, cosmopolitan culture with a diverse array of clubs, societies and activities across all four seasons has developed.

### Key questions

- What do you see as the main challenges in growing India as a student market in Australia?
- What, generally, are the perceptions of Indian students in seeking to study in Australia?
- What has been your experience with Canberra-based tertiary education providers?
- What are the barriers preventing Indian students from choosing Canberra as a study destination?
- What are some key themes that you might be able to share from the work to-date on the South Asia Education Strategy 2025?

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- AAERI was established by the Australian Education International (AEI) (now the International Engagement Group), a branch of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, but operates as an independent entity.
- AAERI is aiming to leverage off of the “India Economic Strategy to 2035” to pursue its own work: “South Asia Education Strategy 2025.”
  - AAERI commissioned persons associated with Deakin College, Navitas, and Global Study Partners to conduct this work.
  - Its main objective is to, “set a roadmap for how the international education sector can prepare for the changes that will come as South Asian economies transform and grow.”
  - The South Asia Education Strategy 2025 is intended be unveiled concurrently with the Australian International Education Conference in Perth, 15-18 October 2019.
- Mr Ravi Lochan Singh, President, AAERI was interviewed by ABC’s Four Corners as part of its “Cash Cows” segment on universities’ financial dependence on overseas students overriding basic admissions or visa entry requirements. He was quoted in the following segments:
  - *RAVI LOCHAN SINGH: Sometimes when you put in a visa application, you could get a visa granted within minutes, or within a very short period of time. That means there has not been a human interference in the visa process, the system by itself has granted a visa and it happens quite a bit.*
  - *ELISE WORTHINGTON, REPORTER: Is that a good system?*
  - *RAVI LOCHAN SINGH: I don't know because in the recent years, we've had students with very poor English landing up in Australia, which wouldn't have happened earlier had there been a human element in the visa process.*
  - *ELISE WORTHINGTON, REPORTER: How frequently are universities waiving English language requirements?*
  - *RAVI LOCHAN SINGH: I would say that it's not all universities, but there are definitely large numbers of universities still which waive English language requirements.*
  - *RAVI LOCHAN SINGH, AAERI: There are students onshore in Australia who have not managed to complete even the first semester of study and have managed to come here on a visa. Then after a semester, they're legally allowed to move. So in a way, I believe it's a shortcut into Australia.*
  - *ELISE WORTHINGTON, REPORTER: So it's an immigration work around?*
  - *RAVI LOCHAN SINGH: I think there's a loophole here, and that loophole is known to all parties. No university today can say that they're not aware of what's happening.*
  - *RAVI LOCHAN SINGH: There are students who won't be able to write an assignment on their own. There are students who would study into a program, wouldn't understand anything. I feel a little lost as to what they will get at the end of the year. What's going to happen? They will fail subjects, and what's going to happen in the end is they'll fail the program. They'll become non-complying.*
- AAERI subsequently released a bulletin declaring the following:
  - The program aired today identifies the problem at hand. Universities seem to be passing the buck to the Department of Home Affairs for the process in place while the Department has indicated that the providers have a greater responsibility. Instead of a blame game, what is required is the way forward. AAERI believes that there is a conflict of interest here. The core role of the Universities is to teach and



train students academically and over the last few years some may have done a better job with integrity checks, much still is to be desired as was seen in last one year with large numbers of students onshore who have not been able to complete even one semester of study with full study load. Inadequate recruitment practices by certain providers can affect student retention and encourage student touting and poaching by onshore influences primarily onshore migration agents. There is a need to review release policies and a need to monitor the onshore conduct of migration agents pertaining to their role with education sector. Many such students move on to low quality providers onshore using onshore migration agents. Offshore education agents thus lose out on remuneration too. The role of offshore education agents end with a successful enrolment and retention of students is a sole responsibility of the education provider.

- No ACT-based provider has been implicated in the allegations of reducing recruitment standards for overseas students. Some providers have expressed in-confidence to the ACT Government that some of the allegations made in both the report and AAERI's comments may not be completely accurate.

INDIA MISSION – SEPTEMBER 2019

**BRIEFING NOTE**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>MEETING WITH UNSW AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	Tuesday, 3 September 2019
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	<b>12:30pm-2:00pm</b>
<b>TRAVEL TIME:</b>	Nil
<b>VENUE:</b>	One Imperial Place, The Imperial New Delhi (TBC)
<b>TO BE MET BY:</b>	Mr Ash Balaretnaraja
<b>ROLE:</b>	Participant
<b>MEETING PROTOCOL:</b>	N/a
<b>PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES:</b>	<p><u>Australian High Commission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rodney Hilton, Australian Deputy High Commissioner</li> <li>• Lyndal Corbett, First Assistant Secretary, Australian High Commission</li> </ul> <p><u>ACT Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Andrew Barr, ACT Chief Minister</li> <li>• Mr Deepak-Taj Gupta MLA</li> <li>• Ms Kaarin Dynon</li> <li>• Mr Brendan Smyth, ACT Commissioner for International Engagement</li> <li>• Mr Ash Balaretnaraja, ACT Economic Development Directorate</li> </ul> <p><u>University Delegation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Amit Dasgupta, India Country Director, UNSW</li> <li>• Ms Tamara Lions, Senior Government Relations Adviser, UNSW</li> <li>• Mr Lawrence Pratchett, University of Canberra</li> <li>• Mr Aditya Vaddiparthi, University of Canberra</li> </ul> <p><u>Affiliated Universities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, Sustainable Habitat Division, The Energy and Resources Institute, Chief Executive Officer of GRIHA Council</li> <li>• Prof Vivekanand Jha, Executive Director, The George Institute for Global Health, India</li> <li>• Prof Anushka Patel, Vice Principal Director and Chief Scientist, The George Institute for Global Health</li> <li>• Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TBC)</li> </ul>
<b>ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS:</b>	<p>12.30pm: Arrival</p> <p>12.35pm: Introductions</p> <p>12.40pm: UNSW in India and Canberra– Amit Dasgupta, UNSW</p> <p>12.50pm: The ACT agenda – Andrew Barr MLA, ACT Chief Minister</p> <p>12.55pm: The George Institute – strategic priorities</p> <p>1.05pm: TERI – strategic priorities</p> <p>1.15pm: Discussion – research collaboration opportunities in Canberra</p> <p>1.45pm: Meeting concludes</p>

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Nil

**Overview**

A meeting with the University of New South Wales and its partner organisations, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the George Institute for Global Health (TGI).

**Meeting objectives:**

- to support UNSW and its existing relationships;
- to promote Canberra as a leader in agricultural technology and renewable energy research and development;
- to promote Canberra as a leader in allied health training; and
- identify further opportunities for UNSW to build on areas of shared interest and expertise, in particular around the ACT Government's key capability areas.

**Key messages**

- UNSW is already one of Canberra's leading organisations in Canberra's space and ICT sectors.
- Canberra is an Asia-Pacific leader in agricultural technology:

Centre for Entrepreneurial Agri-Technology

- Over the last 12 months a partnership between the ANU and CSIRO has seen the establishment of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Agri-Technology (CEAT).
- CEAT is an agri-tech hub bringing together the research and development capabilities within the ANU and the CSIRO to collaborate with industry to translate research and innovation into product development, facilitation of collaboration and in innovation.
- Within its first year of operations, the hub has already attracted a number of innovative agri-tech companies, including international partners that have co-located at the Centre.

Goterra

- Goterra is a Canberra-based livestock feed production and waste management firm that delivers solutions for agriculture and provides regionally based, sustainable waste management solutions. The firm is leading innovation on livestock and aquaculture feed by using insects to convert waste.
- Goterra is actively seeking partnerships and would be a potential collaborator and supplier of fish feed to a major aquaculture farm.

Automed

- Automed is a developer of medication delivery solutions for livestock producers, including the automed device, an automatic, weight-based dosing system for livestock. Its capability includes data-recording capabilities, ensuring producers have lifetime treatment records for their livestock as well as medication inventory.
- Canberra is an Asian-Pacific leader in renewable energy:
  - The ACT Government will achieve its 100 per cent renewable energy target in 2020.
    - The ACT pioneered "reverse auctioning" to attract wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources from across the National Electricity Market.