

December 12, 2019



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Australia India Leadership Dialogue 2019**

**8-9 December, Melbourne**

The Australia India Institute (Aii), established in 2008, is the premier Australian centre dedicated to the study of India and the bilateral relationship. Based at the University of Melbourne and with a chapter in Delhi, the Institute produces quality, high impact research on contemporary India specialising in the areas of equity, education, health, infrastructure, and governance. The Institute builds Australia's capacity for India-related research that addresses key social, political and environmental challenges guided by the principles of *bharosa* (trust), *maryada* (respect), and *kalyan* (welfare).

The Australia India Leadership Dialogue is the Aii's annual flagship event and the pre-eminent forum for government and non-government exchanges between influencers and decision-makers in both nations. Launched in 2015, the Dialogue is held in each country in alternate years and covers a range of themes of fundamental importance to India and Australia. Topics canvassed include governance, geopolitics, water security, trade, economics and business, education and health.

This year was the Institute's fourth Australia India Leadership Dialogue held in Melbourne from 8-9 December 2019.

The Dialogue was co-chaired by Mr Ross Fitzgerald, Director, Visy Industries and Professor Amitabh Mattoo, Founding Director, Australia India Institute.

We were joined by eminent personalities from both Australia and India including Steve Dimopoulos, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, Government of Victoria, Anumula Gitesh Sarma, High Commissioner of India to Australia, Consul General for Melbourne Raj Kumar, Tony Abbott, Former Prime Minister of Australia, Anil Wadhwa, Chair of the CII Task Force for the Indian Government's India Economic Strategy, Vice Chancellors Duncan Maskell (University of Melbourne), Dawn Freshwater (University of Western Australia), John Dewar (LaTrobe University) Barry O'Farrell and Ted Baillieu, Former Premiers of NSW and Victoria respectively and Senator Penny Wong.

The main purposes of our Dialogue is to discuss how the two complementary nations can work together even more closely to maximize our mutual economic opportunities, minimize our shared geostrategic and security risks and strengthen our people to people and cultural ties.

The Australia India Leadership Dialogue of 2019 concluded with in-depth discussions on four key areas:

- Bilateral Economic Strategies
- Increasing Australia India Economic Cooperation
- Evolving Security Architecture in the Region
- Domestic Politics and Bilateral Opportunities

We sincerely thank Australia India Institute @ Delhi, VISY, CII, University of Melbourne and PWC for their support.