PRESS RELEASE

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, CANBERRA

State Visit of President of India to Australia (November 21-24, 2018)

November 19, 2018

President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at the invitation of Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, will pay a State Visit to Australia, India’s strategic partner, from November 21-24, 2018. He will be accompanied by Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, two Members of Parliament Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit and other officials.

In Australia, Rashtrapatiji will be visiting Sydney and Melbourne. There will be a ceremonial welcome for Rashtrapatiji in Sydney. It will be followed by talks with Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, who will also host a banquet in the honour of Rashtrapatiji. Prime Minister Scott Morrison will also have a meeting with Rashtrapatiji.

Australia has a vibrant and large Indian diaspora. In Sydney, President will address the Indian community. As part of the ongoing 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, President Kovind along with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison will unveil the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Paramatta in New South Wales.

Economic relations between the two countries are growing. The bilateral trade stands at US$ 19.7 billion and there are many sectors in which the two countries can intensify their economic cooperation. As part of his economic engagement, President will address the Australian Financial Review Business
Event on India-Australia economic engagement and will also grace the Annual Dinner of the Australia-India Business Council (AIBC).

In Melbourne, President will be meeting Governor of Victoria Ms. Linda Dessau, who will be hosting a banquet lunch in honour of President and will also address the students at University of Melbourne. Australia has a large Indian student population of 70,000.

This would be first ever visit of the President of India to Australia.