



HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA  
CANBERRA

### **High Commissioner assures support to Indian Students in Australia**

The High Commissioner (HC) Gopal Baglay and the concerned officials from the High Commission of India attended an interaction event with the Indian International students in Canberra, ACT on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. The event was organised by Federation of Indian Associations of ACT (FINACT) in association with the High Commission of India and the students associations from University of Canberra and Australian National University.

In a lively interaction with the students, HC assured the students of all possible assistance and encouraged them to stay connected with the High Commission of India. HC conveyed to the students that their well being was accorded the utmost priority. HC informed the participants that easing the mobility of students, academicians and researchers and forging institutional partnerships has remained the priority of discussions in bilateral education cooperation between India and Australia. Acknowledging the spirit of the students for their endeavors and decisions to choose Australia for higher studies, HC encouraged them to gain the most from the opportunity and wished them well for their future.

FINACT Inc's President, Dr Harjinder Singh Dhindsa and the Executive Committee, along with representatives from its member organisations that represent various Indian states, languages, and cultures, also attended this meet and greet with the Indian international students in Canberra. The community leaders spoke in one voice to emphasise their unwavering support for the students. Subjects like mental and physical well being and health, avenues for support, guidance on personal and professional matters, avenues for engagement with the community outfits and events and mechanisms of support in crisis were discussed in detail by the community leaders.

Addressing the queries from the students, High Commission officials informed them of the key initiatives undertaken by Govt of India and Australia to ease and enhance the students two way mobility, recognition of prior learning and devising additional flexible pathways for migration of early professionals and fresh graduates to Australia. The participants were informed about the pilot initiative of Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early Professionals Scheme (MATES) that provides for flexible work visa migration pathway for 3000 young Indian graduates and professionals to apply for Australian jobs, each year without the prerequisites of employer sponsorship and years of work experience. The officials also discussed the landmark agreement on the Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications between India and Australia that enhance the students mobility for higher education. The avenues for Internship with the High Commission were also discussed during the event.