

## **PSM's Speaking Note for the Dinner Talk on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2019**

**Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**At the outset, let me welcome Her Excellency Harinder Sidhu, Australia's High Commissioner to India for gracing this occasion. I also welcome all our friends and well-wishers who are with us this evening.**

**Today, High Commissioner Sidhu will deliver her thoughts on "Australia-India Relationship and the India Economic Strategy 2035".**

**As many of you know, Australia and India have a very strong bilateral relation, which has been developed over the last several decades. They encompass areas such as trade and investment, agriculture, education, health, skills development etc. One can talk about a number of successful examples of Australia-India partnership and let me articulate one of them, which may resonate better with today's audience.**

**Many of you would agree that cricket is almost like a religion in India. Also, Australia is a formidable power among the cricket playing nations. It is so formidable that it took us more than seven decades to defeat them in a test series earlier this month on the Australian soil. It was primarily because of the performance of our fast bowlers. And guess, what is the most important factor behind the recent success of our fast bowlers?**

**It is their foundation which is being built at the MRF Pace Foundation in Chennai. It was founded in 1987 with the help of former Australian great Dennis Lillee. Another great Australian fast bowler – Glenn McGrath – is now one of the principal advisers to this body.**

**To me it is a successful example of our partnership. In this context – i.e partnership building – let me underline two important points: a) it takes time to build a partnership and b) partnership is a positive-sum game where both parties should feel happy.**

**Now, coming to today’s topic, Australia and India are collaborating on a number of areas, as I said before. This includes a partnership at the sub-national level between the state of Rajasthan and that of South Australia. Given many challenges that our state is facing – be it in making our agriculture more resource efficient, particularly in enhancing its water use efficiency or in developing better healthcare facilities or in enhancing the skills of our youth – I am sure that this partnership is bearing fruits.**

**At the national level, while trade and investment relationship between Australia and India is growing at a fast pace, the long-term vision as articulated in Australia’s “India Economic Strategy 2035” clearly outlines a roadmap for turning our relationship into a partnership. After all, we are two largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific region.**

**While we are looking forward to hear from High Commissioner Sidhu on some key elements of this vision document, let me underline that both the identified flagship sectors, which is education and the lead sectors: agri-business, natural resources and tourism, are extremely important to the long-term growth and development of our country.**

**Other than these four sectors, the document has identified six promising sectors, which are: energy, health, financial services, infrastructure, sports, and science & innovation. In all these sectors, India is making significant**

**progress and we are looking forward to further that with the help of Australia and other like-minded countries in this region.**

**With that, let me conclude by once again welcoming High Commissioner Sidhu to this Dinner Talk. We look forward to hear her thoughts on today's topic.**

**I thank you for your attention.**