

Historical ties between the two countries go back to late 19th century when Indians began migrating in small numbers to British Columbia, Canada. Canada has over 1.2 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), comprising more than 3% of Canada's population. Over the years an array of institutional mechanisms have been put in place to promote bilateral cooperation. India and Canada are also members of multilateral forums such as G-20, ARF, CHOGM, etc.

## **BILATERAL RELATIONS**

### **POLITICAL:**

Prime Minister Modi paid a bilateral visit to Canada from 14-16 April, 2015, after a gap of 42 years, covering Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver and held extensive discussions with Canada's political, business and academic leaders and also addressed some 10,000 PIOs & friends of India at Toronto and Vancouver. Documents signed during the visit include: MoU between ISRO and the Canadian Space Agency concerning Cooperation in the field of Space; MoU between the Ministry of Railways and Department of Transport of Canada on Technical Cooperation in Rail Transportation; MoU between Ministry of Civil Aviation and Department of Transport of Canada on Deepening Cooperation in Civil Aviation; Letter of intent between Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Grand Challenges Canada for the implementation of Collaboration in Disease elimination and Saving Brain Initiative. An Agreement between the Indian Department of Atomic Energy and Cameco of Canada for long-term supply of uranium to India was also concluded, and the first consignment from Canada to India has arrived in December 2015. To further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties, both sides are actively negotiating CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) and BIPPA (Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement).

Consequent to the election of Mr. Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister of Canada, both PMs met on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on April 1, 2016. EAM Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, also sent a congratulatory letter to Mr. Stephane Dion on his appointment as the new Foreign Affairs Minister of Canada. Canadian Parliament has constituted a new Canada - India parliamentary Friendship Group (CIPEG), with over 80 MPs from both Houses of Parliament cutting across party lines signed for its membership, making it the largest ever CIPEG. Also a six-member (MPs/Senators) " Canadian Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) delegated visited India on September 10 -14, 2016.

### **Ministerial Visits from Canada:**

Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne led a 8-day trade mission to India on 27 January, 2016, covering Delhi, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Agra.

Mr. Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa led a large trade mission to India on 17 -22 April, 2016. He was accompanied by 35 delegates. During the visit Agreements/MOUs and partnerships worth an estimated C\$ 80 million were signed. He visited Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. He also called on PM Modi.

Mr. Chris Forbes, Associate Deputy Minister for Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada led a delegation to India. The delegation visited Mumbai Port dock areas and

thereafter discussed about Cargo-operations of the Mumbai Port Trust Board room and importance of trade between Canada and India. The delegation also discussed many issues related to trading of pulses between Canada and India. Associate Deputy Minister Forbes met Agriculture Secretary in New Delhi on 6th October, 2016.

Mr. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development of Canada visited India on November 5, 10, 2016. During his official visit, Minister Bains met with Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and Minister of Science & Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

Mr. John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Citizenship and Refugees visited India on November 4 -11, 2016. Minister McCallum called on MOS for External Affairs General V.K. Singh.

The Third India - Canada Energy Dialogue was held in New Delhi, India on September 8, 2016. The Canadian side was led by Mr. Jim Carr, Minister for Natural Resources and the Indian side was led by the Minister of Petroleum Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. A joint statement on Enhancing the India - Canada Energy Dialogue was also issued.

### **Visits from India**

Shri Muneo Mahawar, Joint Secretary(AMS), Ministry of External Affairs visited Ottawa for the **Foreign Office Consultations** between India and Canada on March 9 -10, 2016.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MOS for Commerce and Industry, visited Toronto to attend the **third India-Canada Annual Ministerial Dialogue** held on September 29. From the Canadian side, Ms. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade attended the Dialogue. The issues covered were trade and investment among other things also focused on expanding bilateral trade, having more B 2 B interface with constitution of CEO Forum by Canada and regular interaction between the CEOs on both sides and also expediting the free trade and investment negotiations which are underway. Both the sides expressed their strong commitment for taking forward the negotiations in CEPA and FIPA and expressed the desire for early conclusion.

Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister of India visited Toronto on November 2-5, 2016 and held discussions with the FM of Canada and prominent business leaders.

Civil Aviation Minister, Puspendra Ashok Gajapathi Raju attended the 39th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, from September 27 to October 7. Climate change was a key topic at the assembly, which included discussions on the Global Market Based Measure to offset greenhouse gas emissions arising from international aviation and sustainable global air transport.

## **COMMERCIAL**

### **Bilateral Trade**

The bilateral trade is steadily growing but much below its potential. The two-way bilateral trade has increased from C\$ 4.2 billion in 2010 to C\$ 6.4 billion in 2014

and again by 29% up to C\$ 8.2 billion in 2015. India accounts for only 0.7% of Canada's global trade. Major items of India's exports to Canada include nuclear reactors boilers, machinery & mechanical appliances, mineral fuels & oils, bituminous substances, pearls, precious stones, jewellery, organic chemicals, woven clothing, apparel, pharmaceutical products, articles of iron and steel, textile articles & worn clothing, knitted or crocheted clothing, electrical or electronic machinery and equipment. India's import from Canada include edible vegetables, pearls, precious stones, metals, jewellery, fertilizers, ores, paper, paperboard, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery & mechanical appliances, mineral fuels & oils, bituminous substances, aircrafts & spacecrafts, pulp of wood, waste and scrap of paper, electrical or electronic machinery and equipment.

Cumulative two-way investment figures as under:

|                         | [In million Canadian Dollars] |       |       |       |       |                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|
|                         | 2010                          | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015<br>Preliminary |
| Canadian FDI in India** | 676                           | 515   | 623   | 1,001 | 682   | 934                 |
| Indian FDI in Canada    | 4,364                         | 3,737 | 4,179 | 3,544 | 3,317 | 3100                |

[Source: Statistics Canada]

\*\* Please see para 11 below

Indian investments in Canada have been in the information technology, software, steel, fiber, mining, petroleum, banking and natural resources sectors. Canadian investors are present in the Indian banking; insurance and financial services sectors, as also in engineering and consultancy services. India is ranked 16th largest investor in Canada and the latter at the 33rd place in India.

## **CULTURAL & COMMUNITY:**

### **International Yoga Day**

The High Commission of India, celebrated the International Yoga Day (IDY), in partnership with scores of Indian community organisations on 26th June, 2016 at the Centurion Exhibition and Event Center, Ottawa. More than 500 Canadians representing diverse cultural backgrounds in Yoga shirts attended the Event. An hour long *Yoga-on-the-mat session* was conducted by well established Yoga instructors and displayed simultaneously on three large screens, for the benefit of the practitioners. Mayor of Ottawa Mr. Jim Watson delivered the closing remarks.

### **Constitution Day**

High Commission of India, Ottawa in partnership with the Canada- India Centre for Excellence (CICE) , Carleton University, Ottawa organized a seminar at the Carleton University on the occasion of the **Constitution Day of India**. The Seminar was themed "**India's Constitution and Parliamentary Democracies**". The Seminar featured two speakers (i) Dr. Stephen Azzi, Associate Professor, Carleton University and (ii) Dr. ChinnaiahJangam, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Carleton

University. Mr. Harry Sharma, Manager, CICE welcomed the guests. Acting High Commissioner Arun Kumar Sahu made the opening remarks.

**ODYSSEY THREATRE** : Mission organized the Amar Singh Rathor Puppet Show in Ottawa, Montreal and Kingston; on August 10 in the St. Joseph's Parish and Sancutry

### **Diaspora:**

#### **Diaspora interaction with Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay Secretary (CPV & OIA), in Ottawa**

On 15 November, 2016, High Commission of India, Ottawa organized an interactive session with Mr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs for the leaders and representatives of prominent Indian associations based in Ottawa and Montreal.

Acting High Commissioner Arun Kumar Sahu introduced Secretary Mulay to the participants, which was followed by a comprehensive and fruitful discussion on India's outreach programmes involving the diaspora, including the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI).

#### **141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:**

High Commission of India in Ottawa, in collaboration with the Canada – India Centre for Excellence and community leaders in Ottawa celebrated the 141<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at the Carleton University, Ottawa today. On this occasion, Acting High Commissioner Arun Kumar Sahu delivered the inaugural remarks and highlighted Sardar Patel's contribution to the foundation of modern India, Indianness and "political democracy". He underlined PM Modi's views that it is because of one man Sardar Patel, who united all states of India, when we travel from Kashmir to Kanyakumari do not need any visa or permit and we do not pay any tax when we pass through all the states of India.

Ms. Pauline Rankin, Associate Vice President, Research and International Affairs, Carleton University, addressed the gathering at the event. She said, though it was Sardar Patel's 141<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary, still his teachings bear resonance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mr. Umesh Kumar, President of the India – Canada Association, Mr. Kashyap Desai, President of Gujarati Association, Mr. BalaMadaparthi, President of Festival of India, Dr. VirendraBharti, Patanjali Yoga and Mr. Deepak Menon, President, Malayali Association also spoke on the occasion.

#### **HINDI Diwas 2016:**

The High Commission of India in Ottawa, in collaboration with Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Carleton University, Ottawa celebrated the Hindi Diwas today, 14th September, 2016. The event was attended by prominent academics, visitors and students who are studying India, including Hindi and Sanskrit languages. On this occasion, a Hindi Poetry Reading Pakhwada was also organized where Prof. JagmohanHumar, Prof. H. Masud Taj, Prof. Vinod Kumar, Prof. Rashmi Rekha Gupta and Mr. Kamesh Mishra recited their Hindi poems.

### **MAKE IN INDIA/INDIA INVESTMENT RELATED EVENTS:**

Since May 2016, the High Commission has organized the following business events to promote "Make in India" and investment and trade opportunities in India.

### **"Know India" event in collaboration with Export Development Canada (EDC)**

The High Commission of India in Ottawa, in collaboration with Export Development Canada (EDC) organised a "Know India" event at Slater Street, Ottawa, on 22 June, 2016. The event showcased India's cultural diversity, tourism and yoga along with trade and investment opportunities including flagship programmes including 'Make in India', 'Clean India', 'Digital India', 'Smart Cities', etc. A 90 minute long cultural programme of Indian music and dance along with Yoga was presented to the visitors. Indian snacks were also served to around 500 visitors. The 'Incredible India' office in Toronto and 'Patanjali Yoga' collaborated to make the event a success.

EDC, Canada's export credit agency and a State-owned enterprise wholly owned by the Government of Canada, is mandated to support and develop trade between Canada and other countries and provide products and services including insurance, financing, bonding solutions as well as information on opportunities in international markets for Canadian companies and for their foreign customers. The crown corporation, which has a large presence in India (Mumbai and Delhi), has chosen India as the first profile country for 2016.

President and CEO of EDC Mr. Benoit Daignault, and Senior Vice President (Business Development) Ms. Mairead Lavery, along with High Commissioner of India Shri Vishnu Prakash, graced the event. In her remarks EDC Senior Vice President (Human Resource), Ms Stephanie Butt Thibodeau commented that the Government of Canada and EDC view India as a priority market and are working closely with partners, trade associations and Canadian exporters to capitalize on the business opportunities available in India. Some of the areas that they are looking at for business opportunities are agriculture, automotive and heavy truck, construction and infrastructure, environmental infrastructure, waste water, oil and gas and telecom. She also highlighted that India has its strength rooted in its diversity of faith, language and culture and her democratic institutions and Canadian investors and businesses must understand and adopt to the social and business environment in India for future growth. She expressed her gratitude to the High Commission of India in Ottawa for partnering with them in putting up the "Know India" event. She also handed over a Certificate of Appreciation to the High Commissioner.

### **Make in India Seminar-CICE, Carleton University**

Canada-India Centre for Excellence, Carleton University, Ottawa in collaboration with HCI, Ottawa, organized a Make in India seminar on August 26, 2016. DHC Arun Kumar Sahu, addressed a select gathering of potential Canadian investors. In his speech, DHC Arun Kumar Sahu elaborated comprehensively Hon'ble PM's Initiative Make in India highlighting core sectors of the Indian economy, smart cities, digital India, start-ups to make India a manufacturing hub. DHC also received questions and answered investment related queries from investors, particularly in sectors like defence, telecom and infrastructure. He encouraged investors for investment in India, and assured them of all assistance of the High Commission on investment issues. Apart from investors, senior academicians, prominent business community members also attended the Seminar.

## **High Commission of India partners for 7th Annual Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival (KMAF) on 11th September, 2016**

High Commission of India in Ottawa partnered with Kingston Immigration Partnership, Kingston Community Health Centre, Kingston Economic Development Cooperation to celebrate KMAF 2016 on 11th September, 2016 at Confederation Park, Kingston. This is for the first time a foreign embassy partnered for such an event in Kingston.

The festival showcased diversity of Canada and propagated the ethos of co-existence of Canadians of diverse nationalities in Kingston. It was also an unique opportunity to convey the message of India's unity in diversity and the prospects that the new India offers to potential Canadian businesses, tourists and investors to visit, trade and invest. It was also an opportunity to showcase India to people of other nations since IMAF 2016 has pavilions from 17 countries/region.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by dignitaries representing Kingston City Office, the local MPP Sophie Kiwala and the local MP Mark Gerretsen. Addressing the gathering, Acting High Commissioner Arun Kumar Sahu drew the attention of the gathering to the rapidly changing India as a destination for tourism, trade, investment and collaboration in education and innovation. AHC Sahu specially emphasized on Prime Minister's flagship programme **Make in India**.

The day-long festival is one of the biggest annual gatherings of its kind in Kingston attended by visitors, travelers, business houses, academics and senior government officials.

### **Canada-India innovation Conference**

**23 September 2016**

**Canada-India Centre of Excellence, Carleton University, Ottawa**

The High Commission of India in Ottawa, in collaboration with the Canada-India Centre for Excellence and Indo-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber (ICOBC), organized Canada-India Innovation Conference on September 23, 2016 at Carleton University. The aim of the conference was to highlight and discuss emerging opportunities in Canada and in India in the areas of (a) Innovation: Innovation Agenda, Make in India and (b) Infrastructure and Investment: Energy, Digital Infrastructure, Smart Cities initiative. The conference brought together experts from academia, private sector and government to identify policy, technology, and business collaboration opportunities between India and Canada and explored the possibilities for Canadians to build long-term relationships with their Indian counterparts. Issues of collaboration around funding, resources, technology, knowledge, innovative processes, and human resource development were discussed. Participants and panelists were encouraged to provide "out of the box" solutions to overcome challenges and seize the opportunities emerging in India.

Addressing the conference, the Canadian Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development, H.E. Navdeep Bains expressed his happiness that through this conference, the new India is meeting the new Canada. Recalling his Indian heritage, he lauded the opportunity that Canada provided to new comers from all over the globe. He underlined that innovation was more than simple creation of wealth, it was to be part the global value system of innovation and both India and Canada would be benefiting from

this spirit, which was core to the Canadian 'innovation agenda'. He emphasized that Canada needed more people and talent and attracting more talents did not take away jobs. It was also important to retain talent as well, he highlighted. He said that young India with a booming middle class was Canada's best is the best partner. He suggested three key areas that both countries should explore for cooperation, viz. clean technology, digital financial technology and cyber security.

Earlier, speaking at the event, Mr. David Lametti, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of International Trade underlined that in the age of building roads and buildings, the conference was an excellent opportunity to talk about building bridges for business, trade and innovation at a time when some talked about trade protection and building walls. President and Vice-Chancellor, Carleton University Professor Roseann Runte talked of cross cultural interaction and reverse thinking to boost innovation. High Commissioner of India Mr. Vishnu Prakash, touched upon the reforms that the government of India had done to attract foreign investment in almost all sectors in India. He thanked Carleton University and other partners for being part of this conference.

Other Dignitaries and experts who spoke, moderated and participated in the day long conference included Mr. Brad Loiselle, President, BetterU; Mr. David Watters, President, Global Advantage Consulting Group, Prof. V. V. Krishna, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Mr. Raj Narula, Founder and CEO, InCa Synergies; Dr. Pauline Rankin, Associate Vice-President, Research and International, Carleton University; Ms. Julie Sunday, DG, Natural Resources Canada; Dr. NimalRajapakse, Vice-President Research and International, Carleton University; Mr. Sacha Gera, Senior Vice-President, GENBAND; Mr. AngsumanRudra, CEO, D-TA Systems Inc.; Dr. SukhwantNannar, Chair, Indo-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber and KrishSuthanthiran, President Kitsault Energy. Many of them shared their experience in doing business in India, both challenges and opportunities.

Deputy High Commissioner of India MrArunSahu summed up the conference and delivered the concluding remarks. He highlighted the possibilities of connecting the minds of both India and Canada to benefit from the global innovation opportunities.

The conference ended with a short cultural function showcasing the cultural richness, diversity and the potential that India offers for cooperation in the area of culture industry.

### **India-Canada Business Round Table**

Parliament Hills, Ottawa  
26 September 2016

Ahead of the next round of India-Canada Trade Minister's meeting in Canada, the High Commission of India in Ottawa, in partnership with Indo Canada Ottawa Business Chamber (ICOBC) and Canada - India Business Council (C-IBC) organized a business round table at the Parliament Hills on 26 September, 2016. The objective of the Conference was to bring together key stakeholders of India Canada trade and allow the voice of industry to be heard on matters relating to barriers to bilateral trade and investment.

The round table was attended by representatives from the Business Council of Canada, local companies (such as EION, D-TA Systems, TaraSpan - ICT Working Group participants, SNC, Bombardier, MDS Aero, CAE, ), representatives from the Federal

and Provincial government, (MP and MPPs), the government of Canada's senior executives from Global Affairs Canada and Indian Trade Association representing Indian companies.

Addressing the round table, the Canadian High Commissioner to India, H.E. Nadir Patel briefed the gathering about the rapid change that Indian economy is undergoing and the immense opportunities that it has opened for Canadian trade and investment. Throwing light on the current state of bilateral relations, he hoped that the Canadian businesses would seize the opportunities to increase their presence in India.

Addressing the round table, Deputy High Commissioner of India, ArunSahu articulated the vision of PM Modi to propel India to a new trajectory of development and welcomed the Canadian partners to be an integral part of this growth story. He welcomed the suggestions of the round table.

The Round table also discussed the current impediments in growing Indo-Canadian Trade in the context of the ongoing Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. The round table acted as a "facilitator" to ensure that suggestion and recommendations were effectively recorded. A summary of the proceedings will be provided to all participants and is likely to serve as a reference point for government trade policy officials and negotiators as the bilateral trade engagement evolves.

The day-long round table was concluded by the remarks of the Canadian Hon'ble BardishChagger, Minister for Small Business and Tourism and the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

### **Make in India: Opportunities and Challenges event in Montreal**

**24 November, 2016**

Alliance Indo Canadian de Montreal (AICDM) in association with the High Commission of India Ottawa organized the **Make in India: Opportunities and Challenges** event in Montreal at the Hampton Inn & Suites today, 24 November, 2016. Mr. Kishore, President of AICDM started the conference by welcoming participants and invited Mr. Mahinder Kumar Khurana, Counsellor from the High Commission to speak. In his brief address, Counsellor Khurana talked about the Make in India initiative of Prime Minister Modi and the opportunities India offers outlining the potential sectors incentives being given to investors, smart cities, digital India and spoke about GST introduced recently by India. Mr Etienne Vezina from Quebec Ministry of Economy, Science and Innovation, in his brief address said that they have an office in Mumbai and would be participating in Start-up Expo in India next year. He talked about Indian investments in Quebec vis-a-vis Quebec's investments in India. Deputy Mayor of Montreal in her address expressed happiness at being present at the function. She assured the investors full assistance. About 30 -40 businessmen attended the event.

#### **Indian Community:**

In its population of about 35 million, Canada has about 1.2 million people of Indian origin.

Indo-Canadians have been successful in integrating into the local milieu. Many hold key positions in political, industrial and business enterprises. They are also doing well in

professions such as teaching, consultancy, medicine and financial services with nineteen MPs and four Cabinet Ministers, they are also doing well in professions such as teaching, consultancy, medicine and financial services. Indian students do well in Canadian universities and especially in faculties like computer, engineering, medicine and other applied sciences. As per the Canadian Bureau of International Education, there were 31,665 Indians studying as International students in Canada in 2013.

**Useful Resources:**

High Commission of India, Ottawa  
Website: <http://www.hciottawa.ca>

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