



Interview of the Month

“Terminating Memberships would amount to a dictatorship”

.....By : Vipul Jani

Speaker of the Haryana Legislative Assembly Mr. Kanwar Pal and Deputy Speaker Santosh Yadav visited Canada earlier this month. While there were a



Speaker of Haryana Assembly Mr. Kanwar Pal and Deputy Speaker Santosh Yadav (right)

couple of receptions held in their honour, Vipul Jani, the Executive Director for Canada India Foundation, caught up with them as they were just getting ready to fly back to India. Here are the Excerpts from that Interview :

What is the purpose of your visit to Canada ?

There is an organization called CPA (Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association) with the Queen of England as it's head. We are here as part of that. We met with Ontario's Deputy Speaker, learned about the system here, how do committees work here etc. There are a few things we can benefit from and implement back home. We just came for this and did not go anywhere else.

How important is Canada and Canadians for Haryana ?

Canada is very important for us, especially because there is a very large population living in Canada that is originally from Punjab or Haryana. We are celebrating Pravasi Haryana Divas (PHD) on January 10 and 11 and we invite everyone to come visit us. We were way behind in terms of ease of doing business, but now we are at No. 4, will improve even further to be No. 1 or 2 soon. I have seen a lot of interest among people here to attend the PHD.

With rampant use of money and muscle power, is there hope for an ordinary citizen to run for office and effect any meaningful change ?

Yes, of course. I am just like you and I am in politics, so are many other people who do not have financial resources or muscle power. An impression has been created that only those with muscle power can survive in politics. Look at the Chief Minister of Haryana, he did not have either and still made it to the top. After the demonetization move, black money has been significantly reduced in politics and this will be very helpful.

When we see unruly scenes in Parliament and State Assemblies, people feel very upset and angry and wonder why can't this be stopped ? As a Speaker and Deputy Speaker, can't you terminate or suspend such members and say enough is enough ?

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CIF Speaker Series with CG Israel

Canada India Foundation now organizes a unique Speaker Series, where we invite prominent personalities from diverse sectors to come and speak on specific sectors and topics of relevance. Earlier this month (December 14)



CIF invited the Consul General of Israel, Ms. Galit Baram. The lecture, held at Sheridan College, Mississauga was very timely as India and Israel are entering into 25 years of Diplomatic Relations next year.

She talked about India-Israel, Canada-Israel relations as well as geopolitical issues in and around Israel with a terrific power point presentation. After the speech, she also participated in a Q & A session with the audience.



Ajit Someshwar (Chair) and Anil Shah (National Convenor, on the left) presented her with a token of appreciation from Canada India Foundation, a custom made crystal souvenir.

Time to Join CIF is NOW..

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Democracies Working Together

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Yes, you read it right. This is the time to join Canada India Foundation. Established in 2007, CIF is completing a decade of great work in a few weeks from now and the momentum has been building for much of 2016.

The CIF Global Indian Award Gala with Dr. Subhash Chandra was a thumping success, followed by the launch of CIF Charity Golf Tournament in August, several high profile meetings with the Provincial and Federal Government Leaders as well as Opposition Leaders, cutting across party lines.

The much awaited CIF Speaker Series is now on in full

swing, with the first two lectures (with Tim McMillan, President and CEO for CAPP and Galit Baram, Consul General of Israel winning all-round praises)

2017 promises to be an even better, much more action-packed year, with several high end events and activities being worked upon. Our Annual Sponsorship Packages are ready, grab the opportunity and experience the difference, for yourself, for your company and for the community at large.

Join us as a Member, as a Sponsor, as a Volunteer, or as all three. It will be time and money very well invested.

It is very unfortunate. People elect their representatives to raise their issues in the house, but sometimes members do this either to protect themselves or to prove something. Sometimes even the ruling parties also misuse it. Sometimes they do not want certain issues to be raised. So, both sides need to improve upon this. Ruling party should allow the opposition to speak and the opposition should also raise proper issues instead of just stalling the house. I do not agree with terminating their memberships because that would amount to a dictatorship. Ruling parties will start misusing that also. At the end of the day, I believe people need to be more aware and reject such leaders, whether in opposition or on the ruling benches. The other thing is, when there are good things going on, it's not shown. Media only shows how much noise we made. Media needs to highlight leaders who ask good questions and not highlight unruly behaviour.

(Deputy Speaker Santosh Yadav) we work according to the constitution and we have adopted some conventions from England. We also have a written constitution. Our rule of procedure and conduct of business has got rules for all of this. Speaker has the power to kick out a shouting member for 3 days, 5 days or even for a full session. If that is not sufficient, such member can be kicked out for the full term as well. Speaker has to run the house, and so has several privileges to do so. We have to follow the rules. Speaker has the authority to terminate the membership as well. Speaker's discretions can not be challenged in the high court, however it also depends upon the circumstances.

This is the reason why we meet through CPA, to discuss and learn from other democracies. This time the issue was violence against women. Which parliament has how many female members, who has got reservations and things like that are discussed (at such meetings).

India

It's got to be Demonetization of 500 and 1000 rupee notes, nothing even comes close to being a game changer. Narendra Modi's bold move stumped his friends and foes alike. The govt. says this unprecedented move has broken the back of terrorism (funded largely by counterfeit notes) and will help fight corruption (funded by black money) and the move has received almost unanimous public support, barring a few political parties.

USA

Donald Trump, the so-called outsider who funded many politicians across the aisle in his previous avatar as a real estate mogul, ran a bizarre, unimaginable and unpredictable campaign and proved everyone wrong. What is predictable now is this : his upset win over Hillary Clinton will change global equations, at least the way we know it so far.

Canada

It's the comeback for Carbon Pricing. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's surprise announcement 2 months ago, asking Canadian Provinces to adopt Carbon Pricing by 2018 or be ready for it to be imposed upon them by the Feds, could be the game changer whose effects will be felt much later. Are the ambitious goals (Carbon Pricing starting at \$10 per tonne in 2018 and going upto \$50 a tonne by 2022 and a 30 % reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030, as compared to 2005 levels) practical or achievable ? Only time will tell.

Canada India Foundation Annual Sponsorship Packages are now available.
For more Information, Email: Vipul@CanadaIndiaFoundation.com

Contact Us



Chair:
Ajit Someshwar
E-mail: Chair@CanadaIndiaFoundation.com
Phone: 416-364-6376

National Convenor:
Anil Shah
E-mail: nc@CanadaIndiaFoundation.com
Phone: 289-291-1101

Editor / Executive Director:
Vipul Jani
E-mail: Vipul@CanadaIndiaFoundation.com
Phone: 416-827-5189

Address:
2939 Portland Drive, Suite # 300
Oakville, Ontario L6H 5S4

Website:
www.CanadaIndiaFoundation.com

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- Editor

Happenings

- Journalists and media experts from Canada, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the Canadian High Commission's seventh annual media workshop in Delhi. Organized together with Women's Feature Service, the workshop brought together senior journalists and experts to discuss reporting on climate change. Deputy High Commissioner Jess Dutton highlighted Canada's commitment to tackle climate change through innovation. Communications Director at Canada's Petroleum Technology Research Centre, Norman Sacuta, shared the Canadian perspective on reporting on climate change. In addition to the media workshop, Mr. Sacuta also shared the Canadian perspective in a series of lectures in Delhi and Chandigarh, including at the India Today Media Institute, the School of Environmental Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indian Business School - Mohali, Vibrant Networking Forum, Punjab University and "Literati" – the Chandigarh Literature Festival. (Source : Connect. www.india.gc.ca)
- Indian and Canadian hockey teams participated in the Junior Hockey World Cup in Lucknow, from December 8 to 18, with India winning the tournament. Around the same period, Indian and Canadian athletes participated in the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) in Windsor, from December 6 to 11. (Source : Connect. www.india.gc.ca)
- Deputy High Commissioner Jess Dutton highlighted Canada's support for human rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, at this year's Delhi International Queer Theater and Film Festival, from December 10 to 11, organized by Harmless Hugs.



- Narendra Modi Government has cancelled the FCRA licenses of 20,000 NGOs in India (out of a total of 33,000 NGOs who were receiving foreign donations) These NGOs were allegedly violating provisions of FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act).

◀ Home Minister Rajnath Singh

What’s Next ?

CIF attending Pravasi Bharatiya Divas & Vibrant Gujarat Summits

Canada India Foundation will participate at the upcoming Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention in Bengaluru from January 7 to 9 as well as at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar from January 10 to 13, 2017. However, this time, it is not in the form of a formal, large delegation. Nevertheless the visit will help bring business leaders from both countries together and assist in future events planned by CIF. Stay tuned for more information.

CIF Healthcare Summit in New Delhi

Canada India Foundation Healthcare Summit will take place in New Delhi on March 30-31, 2017. Following a similar summit in Toronto in 2015, this time it’s going out of Canada, all the way to India. While the details are being worked upon and the speakers being finalized, it will be a great opportunity to connect with healthcare experts and leaders from that sector. You can still join us as a delegate or as a sponsor. Give us a call or send us an e-mail to find out more.

CIF 10th Anniversary Gala with Mr. Birla

Canada India Foundation will celebrate the 10th Anniversary in style with a glittering Gala on April 21. Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, will be the recipient for CIF Global Indian Award at the prestigious event, to be held at the International Conference Centre in Mississauga. Corporate Table Bookings will commence soon. Get in touch with us early to avoid missing out.

CIF Golf Tournament, Speaker Series and State of the Provinces Bilateral Conference

2017 will be a busy year for us and for you too, as we know you will find it very difficult to skip any of our wonderful events. Just to name a few, there will be a 2nd edition of CIF Charity Golf Tournament in the summer. If you did not attend August 2016 Golf Tournament, just ask around to find out what you missed. There will be lectures and Q & A sessions with prominent personalities as part of our Speaker Series and we are also working on a major, bilateral conference called State of the Provinces. Stay tuned for more information.

Your suggestions / Feedback is welcome

We have lots of ideas and we are working on several of them, however, we want to hear from you as well. Send us your feedback on any of our events, activities or this newsletter. All constructive feedback is welcome. E-mail : vipul@canadaindiafoundation.com

A Big Thank You from CIF



Canada India Foundation would like to thank all the Board of Governors, Sponsors, Volunteers and Well-wishers for supporting all our activities in 2016. We also welcome new members that joined CIF this year.

Congratulations to all CIF members who won various awards and recognitions for their valuable contributions to society, both in India and in Canada. CIF is proud of you.

We will continue to promote deserving Indo-Canadians in the political processes of Canada and to bring both these vibrant democracies together.

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous 2017



Business Snippets (India)

- Following Demonetization of Rs. 500 / 1,000 denominated old currency notes, to receive value at-par, by 27 November, People had exchanged and deposited about \$ 125 billion worth of scrapped bills at different banks. Banks also disbursed newly issued bills worth over \$ 30 billion, over the counter and via ATMs between November 10-27.
- Reserve Bank of India said there is no change to the legal tender value of existing Rs. 20 and Rs. 50 denominated bills. However, the Central Bank will issue these currency bills of Rs. 20 and Rs. 50 in new format, with numerals in ascending size in the number panels and without intaglio printing.
- India’s fiscal deficit ballooned in H1-FY17 on the account of elevated public spending and higher salary expense. However, revenue from divestment and other areas including telecom spectrum sale and illegal money scheme over the next few months will facilitate achievement of fiscal deficit target. The gap between Government expenditure and revenue touched 83.9 % of the budget target for FY17, significantly higher than the 68.1 % in H1-FY16. (Business Standard)
- One of the Government’s key agendas is Cashless Payments. A plan has been chalked out to promote tools such as Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and banking and digital wallet apps, as well as making



- government-owned touch points such as schools and post offices tech savvy for disbursement of digital payments. (Economic Times)
- Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is learnt to have classified more than 200 Pharmaceutical companies as high risk. CDSCO officials refused to divulge the names. Sources said the Indian authorities have taken a decision to follow the model of the US regulator (US Food and Drug Administration, of USFDA) in cracking down on Pharma companies violating compliance norms. (Business Standard)
- On the back of Tiago sales in November, Tata Motors took a small lead over Mahindra & Mahindra as the third largest passenger vehicle seller in India. According to sales data received from Industry sources, Tata Motors sold 12,736 units in November compared with 12,707 units by Mahindra & Mahindra in the same period. (The Economic Times)
- Tata Steel UK will sell its specialty steel business to Liberty House (for about GBA 100 mn) in the first major sign that the strategy laid out by former Chairman Cyrus Mistry for the



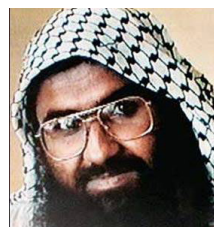
- steel business is being implemented without deviations. Liberty House was a frontrunner to buy the plant before Tata agreed to opt for a merger with Germany’s ThyssenKrupp. (The Economic Times)
- Private Equity Firm L Capital, which is backed by LVMH Group, a global luxury conglomerate, has sold its 16 % stake in FabIndia International Pte Ltd to Hasham Investment and Trading Co Pvt Ltd and two other individuals. Hasham Investment and Trading is a subsidiary of PremjiInvest, a private investment firm owned by Azim Premji.
- Aurobindo Pharma Ltd. is planning to raise around \$ 500 million. This could be a combination of foreign currency convertible bonds and private equity to the tune of \$ 300 and \$ 200 million respectively. Currently, the company is in talks for buying two companies in Europe—one in Spain and another headquartered in UK. The planned acquisitions will help the company increase its revenue to \$ 3 billion in two years, from the currently reported \$ 2.1 billion in fiscal 2016. Recently, Aurobindo Pharma submitted its bid for Teva’s UK and Irish portfolios.



(Business Snippets are provided by Panvest Capital Corporation, a Canadian Investment firm with superior knowledge, network and execution capability covering 2 way investment flows in the Canada-India Corridor. For more info: www.Panvest.ca)

News in Brief ...

• With barely a few months to go for assembly elections, there is major upheaval going on in the ruling Samajwadi Party in India's largest state Uttar Pradesh. Party Supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav has expelled his own son (and the present Chief Minister) Akhilesh Yadav from his own party for six years. Party General Secretary (and Mulayam's cousin brother) Ram Gopal Yadav has also been shown the door for six years. With the SP on the verge of a major split, political dynamics are changing very fast in UP. In a dramatic twist, both Akhilesh Yadav and Ram Gopal Yadav were re-inducted into the party the very next day after a massive show of strength.



• India's efforts to get Masood Azhar declared as a designated terrorist by the UN hit the Chinese wall again. While Masood's organization Jaish-e-Mohamad (JEM) has been proscribed by the UN, he is still evading the inevitable because of a "technical hold" exercised by China since October.

• Narendra Modi's fight against corruption seems to have had little effect on Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as it appointed scam-tainted Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Singh Chautala as Honorary Life Presidents earlier this week. Taking strong exception to this, the Sports Ministry of India, led by Minister Vijay Goel, has suspended the Indian Olympic Association until it reverses the controversial decision.



• Ontario's New Cap and Trade Program is coming into effect on January 01. Premier Kathleen Wynne and Environment Minister Glen Murray's plans to curb greenhouse gas emissions are going to cost Ontario taxpayers an estimated \$ 5 to \$ 7 a month in heating costs and an average of \$ 8 a month on Gasoline costs. (this is just for residential customers, costs for businesses are extra)

• Get ready for a year-long party as Canada celebrates 150 years of Confederation next year. With City, Province and Federal Governments planning major celebrations and a host of private events and celebrations also happening throughout the year, 2017 will be a fun-filled year for sure. Who can object to that, eh?



• The first day of 2017 will give United Nations a new Secretary General. The current Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (from South Korea) is leaving the post after spearheading this global organization for 10 years. New Secretary General Antonio Guterres is a former Prime Minister of Portugal.

• Start of a new year will also bring an end to political fundraisers in Ontario. According to a new law passed unanimously in Ontario Legislature, Corporate and Union Donations are now banned, while individual donation limits are also being lowered. The new law, coming into effect on January 01 prohibits MPPs, Party Leaders, Candidates and Contestants for Nomination or Leadership Races, Staff members from Premier or Party leader's offices and Chiefs of Staffs from personally attending political fundraisers. They can, however, continue to raise funds via phone calls, e-mails or mail. No wonder December was a very busy month for politicians, attending one fundraiser after another, before it's all over on January 01.



• Kasi Rao is the New President and CEO for Canada India Business Council (C-IBC), effective January 01, 2017. He is also the Vice President for Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and Director of its Toronto Office and will continue in that role as well. The outgoing President and CEO for C-IBC, Mr. Gary Comerford will become Vice Chair of the Board of Governors at C-IBC.

• India is amending double tax avoidance agreement (DTAA) with one country after another. In May it was Mauritius, in September it was Cyprus and now on December 30, India has amended DTAA with Singapore. This will enable the Tax Department to now impose Capital Gains Tax on Investments routed through these nations, effectively curbing round tripping of funds into India via these routes. India has also signed a new agreement with Switzerland whereby the Swiss Govt. will share information on all investments or accounts in Swiss banks after 2018.



Member Profile



Pankaj Dave

Pankaj Dave is an Indo-Canadian, Founder/CEO of Manas International Inc, trading Steel and Metal products internationally. Having rich experience of over 20 years in metal industry, Mr. Dave has led Manas International to exemplary growth and success. Lived and worked in three continents, he has carefully nurtured truly global associations. He maintains Indian values that he has always been keen to blend in with a Western life style. According to Pankaj, "Life is a 100 meter dash"; and he is ever passionate to achieve excellence while fighting against time.

As a proud Canadian, he is equally indebted to his roots. Having Indian values and believing in the idea of 'Vasudaiv Kutumbkam' makes it easier for him to integrate his International Trading business and personal life in Canada meaningfully.

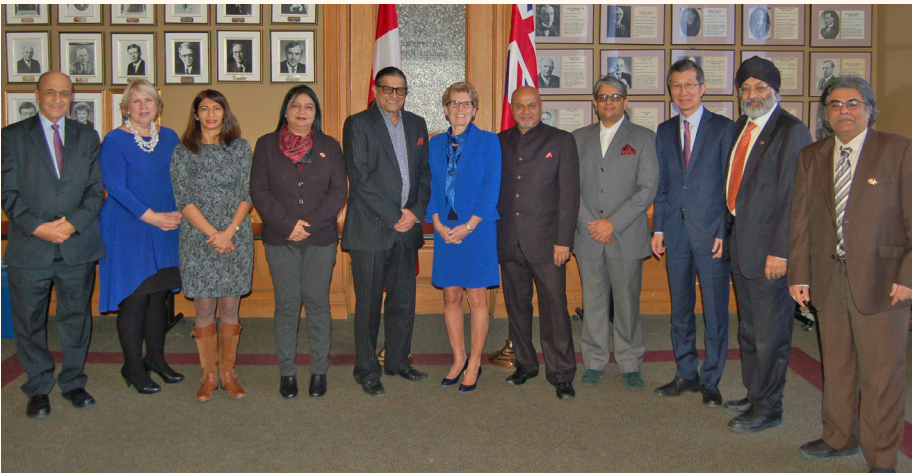
He has been contributing to Canada-India bilateral ties ever since he adopted Canada as his home, importing high value cargo and goods from India as well as from many other countries. Similarly exporting goods from leading steel producers to India and beyond. Pankaj has excellent business and personal relationships with a large spectrum of corporate world in Canada & India. Amiable and with a sincere desire to return all good to society, he is ever ready to help whenever needed. Pankaj is a Secretary to the Board and a long time member at Canada India Foundation.

An Avid reader, he is keenly interested in International affairs, Eastern philosophy and Yoga. A Mechanical Engineering Graduate with an MBA, Mr. Dave is well-travelled and speaks English, Hindi and Gujarati with equal ease.

A familiar face in the community circles, Pankaj headed fund raising committee for the Community event held in honor of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Toronto. He is blessed with a family of wife Kalpana and two loving sons (Harsh and Avi).

To know more about Pankaj or his work: www.manasintl.com

CIF Visits Queen's Park



Canada India Foundation was at Queen's Park recently. The December 14 meeting with Premier Kathleen Wynne, Deputy Premier Deb Matthews, Minister for International Trade Michael Chan, Minister for Seniors Affairs Dipika Damerla and senior bureaucrats gave an opportunity to CIF leaders to engage with the Province on a wide range of issues.

Canada India Foundation briefed the political leaders about the need to further strengthen Indo-Canadian representation on various boards and agencies, upcoming events and activities in 2017 where province can participate and more.

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