

**Sparsh Shah is honoured with CIF Global Indian Award 2018**

Canada India Foundation honoured Sparsh Shah, the 14-year-old prodigy, with the Global Indian Award on Friday, 6 July 2018 at Pearson Convention Centre, Brampton. Canada's Prime Minister Hon. Justin Trudeau congratulated Sparsh for getting the award. In a video message, recorded by Hon. Gagan Sikand, Liberal MP from Mississauga-Streetsville, the Prime Minister lauded Sparsh's talent and spirit, and encouraged him to continue his special journey of discovery through his music. Hon. Nina Tangri, the newly elected MPP from Mississauga-Streetsville, read a message from the new Ontario Premier Hon. Doug Ford in which he congratulated CIF. Sparsh, better known as 'Purhythm', the rapper, was born with brittle bone disorder, which causes perennial fractures of limbs. He has had more than 130 fractures and multiple rod surgeries so far in 14 years of his life. Despite such debilitating conditions, Sparsh's musical talent has built a massive fan following on social media of over 70 million followers. He is also a motivational speaker. The award carries \$50,000 cash to be donated to the winner's charity. Sparsh will utilise the award amount to fund his own online education in music. He has trained for over eight years in Indian music.

## Canada India Higher Education Forum



*CIF Members and Higher Education Forum panelists along with Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey*

Canada India Foundation organised the Higher Education Forum 5 and 6 July 2018 in Brampton to explore all the dimensions of the linkages between Canada and India. The Forum's objective was to enable a dialogue between Canadian and Indian sector specialists and it connected Canadian and Indian governments, educational institutions, and students with employers. Canada has emerged as the fourth most popular destination for Indian students seeking higher education abroad. This has resulted in over 150,000 international students from India coming to Canada in 2018 for higher education. The programming of the Forum comprised five panel discussions on:

- Higher Education Opportunities in Canada
- The Business of Education
- Unlocking Corporate Engagement in Education
- Integration of Technology to Education
- Challenges and experiences of international students

The Forum witnessed participation of students and over 30 academics, corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, university administrators and diversity leaders. Fleming College got a busload of students to participate in the Forum from Peterborough.

### Contact Us

#### **Chair** **Ajit Someshwar**

E-mail: [chair@canadaindiafoundation.com](mailto:chair@canadaindiafoundation.com)

Phone: 416-364-6376

#### **Address**

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

#### **National Convener**

**Anil Shah**

E-mail: [nc@canadaindiafoundation.com](mailto:nc@canadaindiafoundation.com)

Phone: 289-291-1101

#### **Website:**

[www.canadaindiafoundation.com](http://www.canadaindiafoundation.com)

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## CIF urges Canada to accept Sikhs & Hindus from Afghanistan & Pakistan as refugees

Toronto July 4, 2018: Canada India Foundation (CIF) has condemned the killings of 19 Sikhs and Hindus in Jalalabad, Afghanistan on 1 July 2018, and urged members of the Sikh and Hindu minority community from Afghanistan and Pakistan be allowed as refugees into Canada.

In a statement released in Toronto, Ajit Someshwar, Chair, CIF, said, "This dastardly act is yet another manifestation of the continuing victimisation of the religious minorities in Afghanistan and Pakistan by fundamentalist Islamist forces."



*Sikhs carrying body of victim killed in suicide bomb attack to perform last rites*

"Just as Canada took the lead in accepting Syrian refugees, the Canadian government should also allow the members of the minority communities such as Sikhs and Hindus from Afghanistan and Pakistan to immigrate to Canada," Mr. Someshwar said.

The Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility of the attack on July 1 that killed 19 members of the Sikh and Hindu community in Jalalabad, the town that borders Pakistan. The Islamic State's statement said, "A suicide bomber detonated his vest at a gathering of Afghan troops and Hindus and Sikhs, who were on their way to meet the Afghan President." The statement added that the group was targeted, as it comprised "polytheists."

Anil Shah, the National Convener of Canada India Foundation, said, "The Canadian government should proactively work with the persecuted religious minorities in Afghanistan and Pakistan to prevent any further mass killings of people merely because they have a different belief system."

## Upcoming events

A poster for the 3rd Golf Tournament. It features a silhouette of a golfer in mid-swing against a yellow and green background. The text on the poster includes: "Canada India Foundation 2018", "3RD GOLF TOURNAMENT", "August 8, 2018", "Royal Ontario Golf Club", "Hornby, Ontario", "Tel: +1(877) 769-2518", "Canada India Foundation", "Address: 2939 Portland Drive, Suite # 300, Oakville, Ontario, L6H-5S4", "www.canadaindiafoundation.com", "For Tickets & Sponsorship Opportunities - Please contact", "E-mail: sudha@canadaindiafoundation.com", and "Proceeds Going to Families of Fallen Soldiers in Canada & India".

Canada India Foundation 2018  
**3RD GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
August 8, 2018  
Royal Ontario Golf Club  
Hornby, Ontario  
Tel: +1(877) 769-2518  
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Proceeds Going to Families of Fallen Soldiers in Canada & India

### Event Details:

9:30 am Registration  
11:00 am Shotgun  
1:00 pm Lunch on the course  
6:00 pm Reception & Dinner / Prize Distribution

PARTICIPATION/SPONSORSHIP DETAILS:  
Lead Sponsor \$ 15,000 | Gold Sponsor \$ 10,000  
Cart Sponsor \$ 5,000  
Beverage Cart Sponsor \$ 5,000  
Food Sponsor \$5,000 | Trophy Sponsor \$ 5,000  
Hole Sponsor:  
Hole 1 & 10 \$ 2,500 (with a foursome)  
Holes 2 – 9, 11 – 18 \$ 2,000 (with a foursome)  
Foursome \$ 1,500  
Individual \$ 400

### CONTESTS

Closest to the Pin Longest Drive  
Putting Green Hole(s) in One  
CONTACT

2939 Portland Drive, suite #300, Oakville, Ontario. L6H 5S4.

Sudha Sharma : 416 602 4613

sudha@canadaindiafoundation.com



## **As I see it**

**Ajit Someshwar, *Chair, Canada India Foundation***

### **Trump: Believe it or not**

It is perhaps not an opportune time to say anything favourable about President Donald Trump. As a Canadian, a sense of nationalism and patriotism prevails in me and I condemn the intemperate language that he has used to describe our Prime Minister. “Dishonest”, “weak”, “mild”, “meek” are not epithets that anyone should use to describe another person, leave alone the Prime Minister of a neighbouring country. However, let’s leave that kerfuffle aside, and focus on what I consider to be his less discussed but stupendous all round achievements.

Let us examine President Trump’s foreign and economic policies.

#### **Historic handshake in Singapore**

Before leaving the White House, President Barrack Obama had declared North Korea to be single biggest threat to global peace in general and to the United States in particular. In early June, President Trump created history by meeting the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and initiating a dialog that will lead to better relations with North Korea and ensure peace in the Korean peninsula.

Peace in the Far East and especially in the Korean peninsula will create an impetus for a combined Korea to focus on economic collaboration rather than military competition. It will also benefit the region, with Taiwan and Japan also growing because of a reduction in the regional tensions. Undoubtedly, China, which played a critical role in getting North Korea to the negotiating table, will reap in economic and political benefits, too, from the ensuing peace.

However, peace in the region will also remove the advantage it has enjoyed in controlling the unpredictable Kim Jong-un. The unacknowledged bonus of the Trump-Kim handshake is the reduced importance of China as an arbiter and balancer. Known for his belligerence against China’s monopolistic economic policies that steamroll all opposition, President Trump has imposed tall tariff barriers on China and while China has retaliated in equal measure, the trade balance between the two is lopsided in China’s favour.

#### **Calling Iran’s bluff**

In the Middle East, too, President Trump’s policies have created a new beginning. By calling Iran’s bluff and walking out of the Iran deal that the previous administration had reached, he may have left Iran unsupervised in the pursuit of its nuclear ambitions, but it has certainly exposed Iran’s duplicitousness, so dexterously exposed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a media conference. While the implications of the abrogation of the agreement have yet to manifest themselves, it is clear that economic sanctions will be re-imposed on Iran, leaving the unpopular regime facing irate citizens unwilling to be burdened again by economic sanctions.

In this context, it must be emphasized that the European Union is supporting Iran’s stand. However, President Trump has tightened the screws with new tariff measures on the entire EU. The European Union realises that the US market is far too big and lucrative to be ignored, and wouldn’t risk President Trump’s ire to please a patently undemocratic regime in Iran better known for its gross human rights violations.

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## **Where is the Islamic State?**

The most significant and visible achievement of the Trump administration has been its singular victory over the Islamic State. From the time, not too long ago when it seemed that the Islamic State would turn into wasteland everything in its way, we have reached a stage where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find any tangible presence of the jihadi mercenaries of the Islamic State in the Middle East. By working together with all the major players in the region, President Trump has succeeded in reversing the rising tide of Islamic State's terror. This has led to sporadic attacks in western cities by the supporters of the Islamic State but with decreasing marginal utility. And, of course, the massacre of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan last week.

President Trump will have work towards a political solution in Syria as well as in other trouble spots in the region such as Afghanistan and Yemen. By working with Russia, which has helped him settle Iraq and Syria, he has shown sagacity for which he has seldom been credited. In Iraq, especially, there has been a significant reduction in the perennial tensions between the Shias and the Sunnis, and this has evidently paved the way for congenial relations based on acceptance and tolerance between the Shias and the Sunnis across the Middle East.

## **Exposing Pakistan's lies**

From India's perspective, President Trump's single biggest contribution to peace and stability in the region has been to expose Pakistan for what it is – a liar that has made a career running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. The President of the United States has built a special relationship with the Indian Prime Minister and while there is some quibble on the Indian invasion of the Silicon Valley, overall the two countries have steadily forged trade linkages that involves defense, too.

## **Economic achievements**

Now, let us briefly look at President Trump's economic performance. His strategy of cutting taxes and raising tariffs has begun to pay off rich dividends. The stock market has not stopped booming ever since he took charge. It is up by 40 percent. The tax cuts and increasing tariffs have led to an investment boom in the US, and higher investments have led to better employment rates, with unemployment levels being the lowest in recent times. And despite the propaganda by the fake news peddlers, the employment rates amongst the minorities have never been better; the same is true even for home affordability.

President Trump evidently runs his administration as he would run his business. As anyone who has run a successful business knows; quick decision-making is the key to success. Therefore, from a traditional perspective, his revolving door, hiring and firing approach may be a bit disconcerting; it is based on getting the results that he wants. Moreover, so far, his team of professionals that includes luminaries such as Larry Kudlow and Wilbur Ross has delivered results. When they stop, President Trump has no qualms sacking them.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that in spite of the opposition from the traditional as well as the social media, President Trump has managed to stick to his agenda and deliver results.

