



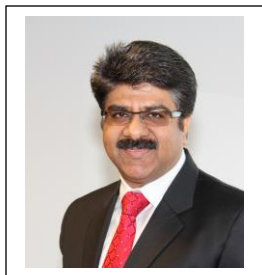
## Welcome to the New Team at Canada India Foundation

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Canada India Foundation (CIF) held August 16, 2018, a new team was unanimously nominated to lead CIF.



- **Anil Shah**, Chair

Anil has been the National Convener for the last two years will be the Chair. A Chemical Engineer by profession & a metal trader at heart, he is the President of Ni-Met Metals Inc. Ni-Met was incorporated in Toronto (year 1990) to trade in metals and allied industrial raw materials. Ni-Met's highly diversified activities have given it a unique market position largely due to the business acumen, entrepreneurial vision and unending energy of its founder and head, Anil. He is involved with many charitable causes and organizations.



- **Satish Thakkar**, National Convener

Satish is a Canadian entrepreneur, a renowned professional, a committed and passionate community leader, with several accomplishments to his credit in a short span of time. He is the President of Excelsior Financial Group, a boutique group that focuses on corporate finance, land development, construction and investment. He is a CA from India and a FCGA and FCPA from Ontario. He has been the President of Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Chair of International Yoga Day Canada. Satish, a yoga and wellness enthusiast, recently spearheaded the drive to raise \$1 million for William Osler Foundation.



- **Pankaj Dave**, Co-Convener

Pankaj founded Manas International Inc with rich experience of over 20 years in steel industry. He has worked and lived in three continents and has dealt with wide range of steel products like Pig Iron, Scrap, Ferro Alloys. Semi finished steel products like Billets, Slabs etc. Pankaj is also actively involved with community affairs.

## Welcome to New Members



- **Pathik Baxi** is a Partner with Simmons Da Silva LLP where he is a key member of the firm's Civil and Commercial Litigation Practice Group. As a litigator for more than a decade, Pathik is experienced in managing all phases of litigation through to trial and has acted as counsel before Canadian trial courts and various alternative dispute resolution forums. Dedicated to his community, Pathik is an active volunteer, currently serving as legal advisor for several charitable institutions, not-for-profit organizations, media outlets and other community-based support groups. He was the Vice President and Corporate Secretary of Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.



- **Sunita Vyas** is a serial entrepreneur with a drive for growth and a passion to build great companies. Over the last two decades she has forayed successfully into the Education, Entertainment and Marketing Sector. As the CEO of Academy of Learning College, Mississauga and as a Board member of National Association of Career Colleges, Sunita brings a wealth of experience and knowledge specific to the Canadian Education Sector. She currently serves on multiple committees in MBOT (Mississauga board of Trade) & ICCC (Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce). She also volunteers her time as the Vice president of RANA (a cultural not for profit organization) and 'Women That Give' (NGO).

## Contact Us

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## Disclaimer

This monthly e-newsletter is produced by the Canada India Foundation (CIF), a registered not for profit organisation with an aim to provide meaningful communication between its own board of governors and with a larger audience of policy makers and industry leaders. Views expressed by writers are their own and the CIF does not necessarily agree with them. We do not claim to provide any advice on any subject. Similarly, we are not liable for any misrepresentation or misleading claims made by an advertiser. Content provided in this newsletter is for general information purposes only.

## CIF's New office premises



At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Canada India Foundation (CIF) held August 16, 2018, the 2nd floor at 2939 Portland Drive Oakville was approved as the new offices of CIF

CIF has already utilised the space for several programs. These include:

Roundtable meeting with PHDCCI delegation in July 2018

AGM in August 2018

Speaker Series – Dr. Anil Gupta ‘Getting to the Heart of the Matter’

### Event space – for rent

The office space is a perfect venue for meetings, seminars, roundtables, lecture series and any corporate or community programs.

The space has a kitchenette to serve precooked food and beverages.

It seats 100 guests and has a riser, a podium and a ready-to-use audio-visual system.

If you'd like to rent the space or if know of any organisation that needs such space to hold events, please have them write to [info@canadaindiafoundation.com](mailto:info@canadaindiafoundation.com) or call 289-291-1101.

The charges for renting the space will be nominal



## News Snippets

**Indian High Commission takes up refusal of entry to AAP MLAs with Canada:** India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has told Punjab Assembly Speaker Rana K P Singh that the Indian High Commission in Ottawa has taken up "denying" of entry to two AAP MLAs into Canada last month with the Canadian government. Two AAP legislators Kultar Singh Sandhwan and Amarjit Singh Sandoa were not given entry into Canada when they landed at the Ottawa airport on July 21.

**Canadian billionaire takes over Force India:** Force India will remain in Formula One as a renamed team under new ownership following a successful consortium takeover by Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll. F1's governing body, FIA, confirmed late August that the team can continue to compete as the Racing Point Force India team. The name change is because the team had to apply as an entirely new outfit.

**Now, an app for international students:** Indo-Canadian's startup makes international students feel welcome on arrival. The app has 30 Canadian institutions on board. iCent offers information on the entire process such students undergo, from "uploading their study permits, providing a pre-departure checklist, airport arrival assistance, providing a registration checklist, and collecting emergency contact information". iCent is trying to simplify the lives of the students as they look to acclimatise themselves to the new environment.

### Religion at the forefront of Canadian politics

*By Ajit Someshwar*

Recently, Andrew Scheer, the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, announced an official visit to India in October 2018 to undo the damage that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's trip earlier this year caused. Primarily, the trouble was caused by the presence of extremist elements in the prime ministerial entourage. These elements fervently espouse the cause of religious fundamentalism, which is at variance with the stated principles of the Canadian state.

One would have thought that in a secular society religion should be a personal matter. However, that doesn't seem to be the case at all. In fact, if one looks at the electoral strategies of at least two of the three main political parties in Canada, it becomes obvious that both rely rather heavily on wooing voters based on their religion. This is nothing but vote bank politics, where identities based on religious dogma are exploited by political parties while wooing ethnic minorities.

Let us agree to the basic minimum here: While there is no denying that the right to clothing is a fundamental right, let us also understand that when a headgear, a veil covering the face, a cap, or any other form of clothing impairs the state's obligation to serve its citizens effectively it is unnecessary, and we as citizens of a country that believes in the separation of state and religion, should agree unanimously to eschew from public exhibition of our beliefs.

Without taking away the right of an individual to practice her religion, it needs to be emphasized that in a civilized society that is multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual, it is necessary for the state to develop a minimum standard of citizenship for all Canadians when interacting in public space – whether it is in workplace, in the supermarket, in educational institutions, while taking the oath of citizenship, in the Parliament, in the court of law.

Any form of clothing that distinguishes the wearer, distracts the state from discharging its duties impartially.

Last month, the issue was once again raised in the Quebec court. Rania El-Alloul, a Montreal woman who was asked to remove her hijab to have her case heard in court, was back in a courtroom, trying to get a clear ruling stating that a judge can't refuse to hear a case in Quebec based on someone's religious attire.

El-Alloul appeared before Quebec Court Judge Eliana Marengo in February 2015 on a routine matter, trying to get back a vehicle that had been seized by the Quebec Automobile Insurance Board. Marengo told El-Alloul she would not hear her case unless she removed her hijab.

In 2016, her legal team asked a Quebec Superior Court justice to issue a "declaratory judgment" – a ruling from the bench clearly stating that a judge can't refuse to hear the case of El-Alloul or any other woman because they wear a hijab.

In his decision, Justice Wilbrod Décarie stopped short of issuing the requested declaratory judgment, saying it was beyond his jurisdiction and largely unnecessary, given that the Supreme Court of Canada had already ruled on such matters.

In a deeply split verdict in 2012, where the seven-judge panel voted 4-2-1, the Supreme Court said that the judges should neither ban outright nor routinely allow the face-covering hijab, and that in all such matters, the particularities of the case should determine the necessity of wearing or removing the headcover.

It is the responsibility of citizens to ensure that Canada remains a country that respects the rights of all citizens and does not favour a group because of public exhibition of its religious identity. This can only happen when citizens ignore machinations of political parties that go all out to exploit insecurities of minorities by accentuating their difference instead of assuaging their unfounded fears by assimilative practices. But that would be difficult because then politics would be quintessentially based on economic and not on identity, and in such a scenario, those political parties that have turned vote bank politics into a fine art would stand to lose.

*Ajit Someshwar is the Former Chair and Co-Founder of CIF*



## Upcoming Events

### Higher Education Forum – India & Vibrant Gujarat - January 2019

Canada India Foundation will be holding the Higher Education Forum in India on 16 and 17 January 2019, and subsequently, will be participating in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Business Summit from 18 to 20 January 2019 in Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar.

Mayur Dave, Member of the Board of Governors, is in Gujarat, doing the spadework for CIF's participation in these events. Here are some photographs of his meetings:



With Gujarat's Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama



With ICBC team

## Past Events



### Getting to the Heart of the Matter

*Dr. Anil Gupta is Staff Cardiologist at the Trillium Health Partners*

Dr. Gupta spoke to CIF members and guests on August 21, 2018 on necessary precautionary measures that everyone, and especially Canadians of Indian origin, need to take to prevent heart disease. He said that the prevalence of heart disease amongst South Asians has been on the rise. The talk was followed by an hour-long Q&A

## Community News

**DIVERSITY INSTITUTE** | **Ryerson University** | **WESTLAND** an amazon company

present  
**APARNA JAIN**  
(Leadership coach, DEI advocate and author)

in conversation with  
**MARY WIENS**  
Reporter-Editor, Metro Morning - CBC Radio

**Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 8pm**

**TRSM Commons**  
Room TRS1-148, 7th Floor  
Ted Rogers School of Management  
55 Dundas Street West, Toronto

Opening remarks by  
**DR. WENDY CUKIER**  
Academic Director, Ryerson Diversity Institute

**STORIES OF INCREDIBLE WOMEN LIKE**  
Poorna Malavath | Bhanwari Devi | Teesta Setalvad

**51** stories of incredible Indian women

Achievers and doers, women who changed and are changing the country. Focusing on covering gender, caste, exploitation, disability, mental health and violence.

**LIKE A GIRL**  
Feminists ages 12-112 of all genders welcome

Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of Canada invites you to

**Ekal Awareness Gala**

**Saturday, September 15, 2018; 5:30 - 10:00 pm**

**Galaxy Grand Convention Center**  
200 Advance Blvd. Brampton ON, L6T4V5

Ekal Canada is a Canadian Registered Charity on a mission to bring basic education to every child across remote villages of India.

As we celebrate our 12th year in Canada, we invite you to join us for a Special Donor Appreciation evening filled with information, festivity and cultural performances.

This is a complimentary event by invitation only.

“If a poor child can not come to education, education must go to him”  
- Swami Vivekananda



### Agenda:

- 5:30 pm Welcome Reception, snacks with meet and greet
- 6:00 pm Ekal Presentation followed by special stage performances
- 8:30 pm Dinner

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Please RSVP at your earliest convenience via:  
email to [info@ekal.ca](mailto:info@ekal.ca) or  
online form link :  
<https://goo.gl/forms/DjdeyEJw7a1Jtn1>

