



Looking Ahead



By **Satish Thakkar**

An institution that has been around for a decade has already proven its worth. Canada India Foundation has contributed tangibly to the rapidly improving relations between Canada and India by ensuring that both the democracies continue to work together. While its achievements have been commendable, it is always relevant to refocus on its priorities to achieve its objectives.

With a new leadership team having taken charge at CIF, the focus is now going to be on gaining efficacy as a public policy advocacy platform to raise awareness about all significant issues pertaining to Canadians of Indian origin and improving bilateral relations between Canada and India. New initiatives will also be launched to reach out to new constituents such as youth, women and seniors. Among the programs that are being envisaged include a health and wellness management series that will integrate Western and Vedic sciences to explore prevention and cure of health challenges experienced by South Asians in Canada.

CIF realises that there is need for calibration in its approach to achieve its mandate because the ground realities have transformed. For instance, the quality of the Indo-Canadians has transformed significantly in the last decade. More Indo-Canadians are creating making a mark in public sphere. CIF is planning an extensive outreach program that will enable the Foundation to invigorate its presence amongst its constituents, and introduce the Foundation to the new, vibrant community that is constantly been transmogrified.

The new Indo-Canadians are adept, resilient and believe in seizing every opportunity in every sphere to succeed. CIF will create programs that provide avenues for Indo-Canadians to shine in the spotlight. We have advocated for a better engagement of qualified Indo-Canadians into the Canadian mainstream. To this effect, CIF will renew its effort to focus on youth engagement in the public policy arena.

Since its inception, CIF has advocated for continuously improvement in bilateral trade relations. The Foundation has consistently advocated for the criticality of India to Canada's future and equally consistently engaged Indian establishment to expand its understanding of Canada as a partner. When CIF was launched, Canada – India trade was negligible. It isn't all that spectacular at present, but it's certainly on the right trajectory. CIF will continue its focus on sectors of significance in trade and commerce. It will continue taking lead in developing sectoral knowledge through its forums.

Over the last decade, the Foundation has organized discussion Forums in sectors of significance for Canada – India economic relations. These Forums have produced literature on these sectors that is seminal and path-breaking and has reinforced CIF's reputation as a thought leader in the Canada – India corridor.

An important element of this new thrust and new direction is the opening of CIF's membership to different levels. We are also looking for long-term partners who would like to align with us in meeting common objectives. The coming months promise excitement and action. Stay tuned for scintillating events that will enrich and enlighten you. We are open to your suggestions, write to us at info@canadaindiafoundation.com

- *Satish is National Convener, Canada India Foundation & President, Excelsior Financial Group*

Upcoming Events

CANADA INDIA
FOUNDATION



CIF Speaker Series
The Role of Statistics in Economy
Anil Arora, Chief Statistician of Canada



Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Date: 09 October 2018
Venue: CIF Offices
Address: 2939 Portland Drive 2nd Floor
Oakville ON L6H 5S4

Register now on Eventbrite
or email to
info@canadaindiafoundation.com

Refreshments will be served

Canada India Foundation & Indiaspora

INDIASPORA

Exclusive Networking
& Dinner Reception with
Indiaspora delegation from
the United States of America

Indiaspora (<http://www.indiaspora.org/>)
is a not-for-profit US-India bilateral
relation promotion organization based in
Washington DC. It acts as a catalyst to
transform the success of Indian Americans
into meaningful impact in India and on the
global stage.

This is an invitation-only event

Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada SETTING THE AGENDA

Hon. Andrew Scheer will address a select group of invitees at Canada India Foundation's exclusive luncheon engagement at the prestigious University Club in downtown Toronto. Hon. Mr. Scheer will present the Conservative Party of Canada's position on enhancing bilateral relations with India.

Time: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm | Thursday October 18, 2018
Venue: The University Club, Toronto
Address: 380 University Ave, Toronto, ON M5G 1R6

This is an invitation-only event



Past Events: Canadian Armed Forces

Hari Panday, Honorary Colonel 32 Service Battalion, 4th Canadian Division, Canadian Armed Forces invited CIF Members to participate in a presentation by Lt. Col. Paul Anderson of Canadian Armed Forces on Sustainment at the Operational Level of War: A Case Study of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve.

Lt. Col. Anderson belongs to the G4/J4 – 4th Canadian Division Headquarters/Joint Task Force (Central). He highlighted the Lessons Learned from his deployment in 2017 as the CJ4 Sustainment Operations Division Chief within Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve in the Middle East.



CIF's Girish Kekre exchanging notes with Ross Smith an officer of the Canadian Armed Forces



CIF's Girish Kekre with CIF Supporter Hari Panday



Ajit Someshwar, Co-Founder and Former Chair of CIF was the master of ceremonies at the Ekal Foundation's Awareness Gala held in Brampton on September 15.

Curren Hola ably assisted him to make the evening memorable and fun-filled.

Ekal Foundation raises resources globally to educated children in India who don't have easy access to schools.



Ekal Vidyalaya aims to impart basic education to children of remote areas and inculcate human values in them. The purpose is to turn these children into 'change leaders' in their families and communities by spreading the importance of education, removal of social evils like alcoholism, encouraging environment conservation by tree plantations, inculcate sensitivity towards maintaining the village surroundings clean and hygienic. Its achievements are impressive – more than 70,000 schools and about 2 million students across India, and a dedicated army of teachers and 70,000 + volunteers. Its administration and operational costs are no more than 8% because nearly everyone involved with the effort devote their time voluntarily.

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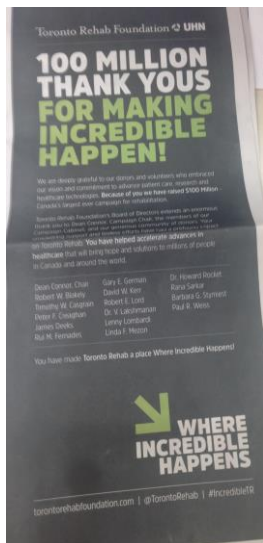
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Anil Shah, Chair, Canada India Foundation, with Canada's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, David McKinnon during a business visit.

Philanthropy

Dr. V. I. Lakshmanan is an important donor to the Toronto Rehab Foundation's campaign



Toronto Rehab Foundation's *Where Incredible Happens* Campaign achieved its \$100-million goal - a new fundraising landmark for rehabilitation in Canada – while helping shine a light on Toronto Rehab. An amazing contingent of donors, volunteers and staff celebrated this achievement at Toronto Rehab's University Centre on September 26, 2018.

“With 1,000 Canadians turning 65 every day, Toronto Rehab has an important place in the continuum of care through prevention and rehab programs as well as the research behind it,” says Cindy Yelle, President and CEO of Toronto Rehab Foundation.

CIF's Higher Education Forum in India 16 & 17 January 2019

Canada India Foundation's Higher Education Forum held in July 2018 succeeded in focusing on emerging issues in the higher education sector in Canada.

Among the key takeaways of the forum were the need for more integrated approach to international recruitment to ensure that students who come to Canada for higher education can not only acquire the desired qualification but are also able to find jobs and integrate themselves into the Canadian economy.

CIF published a comprehensive whitepaper on the forum's proceedings recently. You may download a pdf version of the whitepaper by clicking upon the image below.



To build upon the success of the forum and to understand the sector from an Indian perspective, Canada India Foundation is planning to organise a similar forum in India in January 2019.

The CIF Higher Education Forum – India will be held in Gandhinagar-Ahmedabad on 16 & 17 January 2019. Several Canadian and Indian educational institutions have already evinced interest in the Indian edition of the Forum.

While the modalities of the Forum including alliances with institutions will be worked out in October 2018, CIF has been assured of continued support by several institutions that were a part of the Canadian Higher Education Forum in July.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Forum, please write to info@canadaindiafoundation.com