



CIF E-Newsletter

Volume 12

Issue # 5

Sep-Oct 2019

Fall comes, but once a year

Fall greetings to you, friends and supporters of CIF. The past two months have been a busy time for us at the Foundation. In the continued pursuit of our agenda to increase ties between Canada and India, we met and interacted with policymakers, foreign representatives, and trade delegations. Two meetings are worth noting: one with the Premier of Ontario, and the second with the new Consul-General of India in Toronto. CIF has long standing relations with both offices due to the hard work by current and past executives and members.

Fall began on a high note with our Annual General Meeting. CIF members and executives took stock of the work done so far by the foundation and deliberated on steps to take achieve our goal of better ties between Canada and India.

CIF met with Premier Doug Ford and several MPPs to discuss trade between Ontario and India, and to promote India as an attractive destination for Ontario based businesses.

CIF members presented ideas on various opportunities available in India and identified Ontario's strengths that could help foster trade

and relationships between them.



Soon after, CIF hosted a roundtable with a visiting delegation from the Federation of Indian Exporting Organisations (FIEO). It was an engaging afternoon between the visitors and CIF members, all of whom walked away with more contacts than they came in with.

CIF executives had a chance to sit down and meet with the new Consul-General of India (CGI) in Toronto, Ms. Apoorva Srivastava. CIF – represented by its Chair Anil Shah, National Convener Satish Thakkar, and Co-Convener Pankaj Dave – gave an overview of the activities and achievements of the foundation. CIF and the CGI discussed ways to promote ties between Canada and India.



Our Speaker Series lecture in October featured Otolaryngologist Dr. Manish Shah. The talk, on the rising rates



of head and neck cancer, was very well received.

As many of you may know, the Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade government is leading a business mission to India in November, focusing on infrastructure and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). To help the Minister get the most of the visit, CIF Advisory Board member Dr. Vandana Kumar has penned a thoughtful piece on how the two countries can leverage their strengths in both sectors.

As always, your feedback is most welcome. Please see the bottom of this email for contact information.

Thank you,
Canada India Foundation

Recent Events

Pictures from CIF meeting with Premier Doug Ford





Roundtable with visiting delegation from Federation of Indian Exporting Organizations (FIEO)





Speaker Series with Dr. Manish Shah



Dr. Manish D. Shah, MD, MPhil, FRCS(C) (ENT – Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery), is an accomplished head and neck surgeon.

He is an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Toronto, and



practices at North York General Hospital, University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Dr. Shah's talk titled "Human Papilloma Virus associated Head & Neck Cancer: A Growing Epidemic", focused on understanding the epidemiology and diagnostic challenges of this disease. Over the course of his lecture, he also reviewed the shifting treatment paradigm for head & neck cancer.



Ontario Mission to India: Collaboration in infrastructure and information technology

In light of Ontario's upcoming mission to India, CIF Advisory Board member Dr. Vandana Kumar offers some suggestions on how Canada and India can leverage their strengths in infrastructure and information technology.

The partnership between India and Canada has long been recognized for its potential given the shared values and the many complementarities powered by the strong people-to-people ties. During the second term of the Modi and Trudeau governments, among the many areas of immense potential collaboration, the low hanging fruits perhaps lie in the areas of infrastructure and information technology.

India has set itself the ambitious goal of becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy within the next five years. Among the many interventions needed to reach this goal, making investments in infrastructure has received focused attention. India would require investment of over a trillion dollars during this time to have sustainable development.

Development of highways is taking place at an unprecedented pace as 50,000 km are expected to be added in 2019 alone. Yet, **only 24 percent of India's highways are four-lanes and present a huge opportunity for investment.**

With an increasing awareness of the importance of logistics, deep investments are being made in the sector which is growing at about 10.5 percent annually. Indian railways are among the largest rail networks in the world. Investments in the sector are set to rise from about \$59 Billion between 2013-17 to \$124 Billion in 2018-2022. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy has also been liberalized to improve infrastructure in freight and high-speed rail. There are 102 airports in the country, work on 22 metro rail projects is underway as is the modernization of railway stations. **By 2030, about 600 million people are likely to live in India's cities. Therefore, urban development and smart cities mission promise to provide massive opportunities for growth.**

Canada's efforts in infrastructure began generations ago with the Trans-Canada Highway, and the St. Lawrence Seaway which changed the face of the country and propelled it into a new era of prosperity. Canada plans to invest \$180 Billion in infrastructure till 2028 wherein public transit, green, social, trade and transportation infrastructure and rural and indigenous communities' infrastructure would be the five investment streams. Considering Canada's strength in this sector, there is immense potential for collaboration in urban and transportation infrastructure through a variety of ways including financing, equipment, technology and engineering services. Vital lessons can be learnt from Bombardier's success story.

India's information technology sector is an engine of growth with revenue of about \$180 Billion, growing at 11-12 percent domestically and 7-9 percent for exports. With a vast talent pool and increasing strides in entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness, India has established itself as an important innovation and investment destination. Canada too had revenue of about \$193 Billion in 2018, posing strong growth of 3.7 percent as against the economic growth of 2.2 percent. Growth of the Canadian ICT sector has been driven largely by the software and computer services sub-sector. Cybersecurity, big data, and analytics are also growing. Artificial intelligence, which is the new electricity, is benefiting from significant investments. Global tech giants like Samsung, Google, and Uber have opened research labs in Canada. Canada's three AI centers in Edmonton, Montreal and Toronto, focus on developments in areas like speech recognition, self-driving cars and revolutionary applications in health. India too recognizes that to enhance industry's competitiveness, it will have to embrace Industry 4.0. India's massive healthcare needs could be elegantly supported by AI. India and Canada could collaborate in this sunrise technology area to unleash a revolution across diverse sectors - healthcare, customer service, retail, transportation, and human resource development.

Trade and investment between India and Canada can be expected to grow organically given India's market size and strong people to people connect between the two countries. Yet, to realize the potential at a faster pace, synergized efforts are needed with more feet on the ground and by including the rank and file. **Industry chambers on both sides must strengthen their exchanges to connect businesses to new opportunities and potential partners. Policy think tanks must inform of the changing policy regime and enabling measures being taken by both countries.** The governments today provide robust mechanisms to facilitate businesses. The award-winning national investment promotion agency **Invest India is not only helping investors mine new opportunities but is also assisting them with various clearances required at the state level.** There are several mechanisms for facilitation in states also. The central government is continually working on breaking barriers to trade and investment, efforts towards which have been recognized by many international organizations. **With its intimate knowledge of the two countries, the Indo-Canadian community in Canada continues to play a crucial part in deepening mutual understanding and building bridges.**

Let's get social!

The Canada India Foundation believes in keeping up with the times. So, in addition to its website – www.canadaindiafoundation.com – it is also on social media channels. If you are not already following us on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook....well, get in touch!

Twitter: [@cif_official1](https://twitter.com/cif_official1)

Facebook: [CanadaIndiaFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/CanadaIndiaFoundation)

Instagram: [@cif_official1](https://www.instagram.com/cif_official1)

LinkedIn: [cif](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cif)

Contact Us

Chair, **Anil Shah** (anil@ni-met.com)

Convener, **Satish Thakkar** (satish@efgcanada.ca)

Co-Convener, **Pankaj Dave** (pankaj@manasintl.com)

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

Website: www.canadaindiafoundation.com

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.

Canada India Foundation
289-291-0277
info@canadaindiafoundation.com

Canada India Foundation | 2939 Portland Drive, Suite # 300, Oakville, Ontario L6H 5S4 Canada

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by info@canadaindiafoundation.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!