



CIF E-Newsletter

Volume 14

Issue # 1

Jan-Feb 2020

Removing Article 370 immensely benefits Kashmir

Dr. Virender Bharti



The decision of the Indian Parliament to remove temporary provisions of the Constitution – Article 370 and Article 35 A – is a true game-changer. The removal is a giant leap for Jammu & Kashmir to integrate fully into India, and is the beginning of a larger process of nation-building that will benefit all of J & K.

J & K has faced the brunt of cross-border terrorism for more than three decades. It was therefore logical that the Indian government would take steps to maintain public safety when taking a momentous step like removing Articles 370 and 35A. That was back in August 2019. In January 2020, diplomats from the US and over a dozen other countries visited J & K to see the situation for themselves. They have not reported any problems.

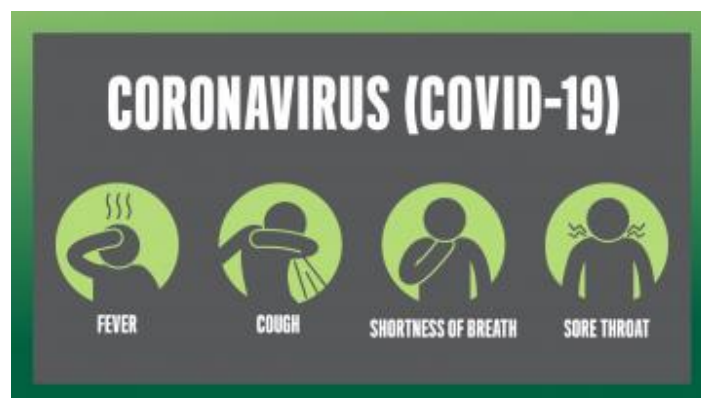
The national integration brought on by scrapping Articles 370 and 35 A completes the idea of one-nation-one-citizenship. Emotional attachments aside, there are a number of material benefits to J & K as well:

1. *Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India are now – for the first time ever – applicable across J & K. Residents of the territory will now benefit from, among others, the Right to Education.*
2. *The judgments of the Supreme Court of India are also now applicable to J & K. This is very relevant to the LGBTQ community of the region which continued to face stigma and legal obstacles even though homosexuality was decriminalized by the Supreme Court.*
3. *The decision also unlocks land as an economic resource. Restrictions on purchasing land had stifled investment. Now that landowners in J & K are free to sell their land, many poor landowners and farmers will benefit from the rise in the value of their land.*

With outdated rules out of the way, the true potential of the fields of education, healthcare, and tourism will be realized. J & K has suffered from utter lack of investment in these fields even while they have taken off in the rest of India. The people of J & K will be able to unleash their entrepreneurial spirits and benefit from an increase in employment due to investments.

Kashmir is an integral part of India and any threat to the integrity of the country will be met with a swift and commensurate response. As friends and strategic partners, India and Canada have immense interest in not only their growing bilateral relations but also in each other's success as united and strong nations. India has always stood for a united and strong Canada, a feeling, which we believe should be mutual.

COVID - 19 Pandemic



Humanity is facing the biggest health crisis of the century. The sudden rise of patients suffering from COVID - 19 across the globe is alarming because it is unprecedented.

- Be safe from Coronavirus infection

- Educate & be cautious about COVID -19
- Be kind & supportive to everyone

Canada India Foundation wishes everyone a good health.

Recent CIF Activities

Reception in Honor of Shri Om Birla, Speaker Lok Sabha

In January, the Consulate-General of India in Toronto gave CIF the privilege of organizing an exclusive round table with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, and Deputy Chair of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh. The roundtable was a gathering of some of the highest-achieving Indo-Canadians in the Toronto area, including former Senator Asha Seth, Order of Canada recipient Aditya Jha, and other luminaries.



Click [here](#) for more pictures of the event.

Meeting with Minister Ahmed Hussen

CIF also met with the Hon. Ahmed Hussen, federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. The Minister discussed the federal government's initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing, namely the \$13.75 billion Rental Construction Financing initiative that provides low-cost loans encouraging construction of rental housing across Canada. CIF members gave their inputs on various ways the strategy could be improved.



CIF Supports CAA

On 26th January 2020, several CIF members and prominent Indo-Canadians rallied in support of India and its government in front of the Consulate in Toronto. The rally was to show support for India given the recent spate of negative coverage in the media. The demonstration made it clear that the media did not represent most of the views on India and the actions of its democratically elected government.



CIF meets Acting High Commissioner in Ottawa



CIF executive and members met with the Acting High Commissioner of India to Canada, Mr. Anshuman Gaur. In a wide-ranging discussion Mr. Gaur praised the Canada India Foundation for its excellent work and reiterated an interest in working with CIF in the future. He outlined the various ways that Canadian companies could contribute to the Indian growth story and participate in India's journey to becoming a US\$ 5 trillion economy.

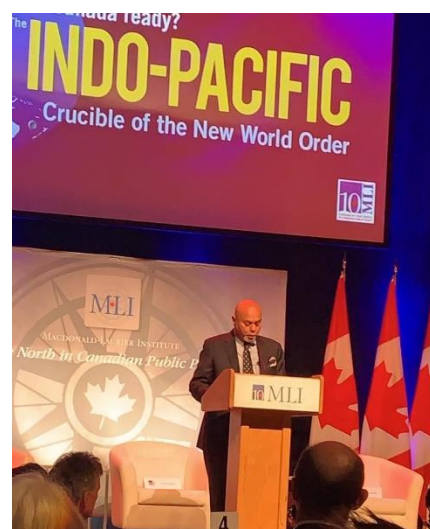
CIF Meets MPs in Ottawa

CIF met with several MPs at a meeting arranged by MP Ramesh Sangha. Members discussed the work that CIF has done so far and discussed upcoming initiatives and events. CIF met with, in addition to MP Ramesh Sangha, MP Jasraj Hallan, and MP Gagan Sikand.



CIF starts Fellows Program With MLI

On the 19th of February 2020, CIF attended the Macdonald Laurier Institute's annual dinner. CIF Chair Mr. Anil Shah announced the establishment of the Canada India Foundation Fellows Program at the Institute. The program will help the development of the next generation of thought on Canada-India relations, and help take relations between the two countries to the next level. You can watch the [**remarks here**](#)



CIF hosts reception in honor of Premier Doug Ford

CIF continued its advocacy and public policy efforts by hosting a reception at the Ontario PC Party Policy Convention in Niagara Falls on Saturday, February 22. CIF members and executive team met with the Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Doug Ford, to underscore the vast untapped potential of the Ontario-India relationship. Various Ministers including the Minister of Education Hon. Stephen Lecce, and Minister of Transportation Hon. Caroline Mulroney, also attended.



India Canada Biz Digest



संघ शासन
Department of Commerce
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India



IPHEx
INDIA 2020
8th-9th May, IICML, Greater Kailash



pharmexcil
Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India
(Set up by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

Issue #126

The exhibition brings together the drugs, pharmaceutical and health-care industries – all under one roof. It is one of the largest showcases of Indian pharmaceutical products and technologies to a global audience with over 700 overseas buyers from focus areas that are being invited to participate in the event.



India Canada Biz Digest
Delivering news impacting Indo-Canadian economic relations
Issued by the High Commission of India, Ottawa
Week of 26th February - 3rd March 2020

<p>Foreign Portfolio Investments remain bullish in India</p> <p>As of 25th February 2020, the investment made by overseas investors in Indian market stood at Rs USD 3.31 billion, driven by positive sentiment around the budget and RBI's (Reserve Bank of India) decision to maintain an accommodative stance in the latest monetary policy. Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) invested a net sum of USD 1.54 billion into equities and USD 1.77 billion into the debt segment, taking the total net investment to USD 3.31 billion between February 3 – 20, 2020. "Fixed income markets have witnessed positive flows largely on the back of RBI's decision to maintain an accommodative monetary policy stance," Himanshu Srivastava, Senior Analyst Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Adviser India said. The FPIs growth is also on the back of the removal of DDT in the Union Budget along with the government's proposal to increase the FPI limit in corporate bonds from 9 to 15 per cent.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>India, an attractive investment destination for retail sector</p> <p>The foreign investments in India increased to USD 443 million in the financial year 2019 from USD 224 million in financial year 2018. Poised to be the third largest consumer retail destination in the world, India is now an attractive investment destination for retail. Pitching for increased foreign direct investment (FDI) in multi-brand retail sector, global management consulting firm Deloitte has said that the move would expand the share of organized retail in the country, thus contributing towards consumption-led growth of the economy. According to the publication, Retail FDI in India, Deloitte has highlighted the growing relevance of FDI-led expansion of retail would not only boost consumption but would also provide the country's mom-and-pop stores access to latest technologies that would form key to further growth of the sector.</p> <p>Read More</p>
<p>Canada's Calgary city invites Indian investment</p> <p>The City of Calgary in Canada invited Indian business to invest in Canada's third largest municipality, which has a substantial population of South Asians, towards contributing to the growing volume of bilateral trade between India and Canada. The call to Indian business to invest in Calgary was made by the city's Indian-origin Mayor Naheed Nenshi at a round-table recently organized by industry chamber CII (Confederation of Indian Industry). Nenshi is on a visit to India as the head of a Canadian business delegation. Pointing out Calgary's strengths that include energy, financial technology (fintech) and "creative industry" sectors, the Mayor said that his mission is to help Indian companies look at Calgary, which has the expertise to help Indian firms grow their business. A CII statement also added that India-Canada trade has been steadily increasing over the last two decades.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>AIIB set to invest USD 200 million in India's NIIF</p> <p>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is likely to invest around USD 200 million in India's first sovereign wealth fund NIIF (National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited), AIIB President Jin Liqun said. Beijing-based AIIB, which started functioning in 2016, has committed over USD 1 billion in five infrastructure projects in India and proposes to take up 12 more, envisaging assistance of USD 3.5 billion. Jin said the bank will focus on funding infrastructure projects in road, energy and transport sectors. "We are working on some other projects also. For instance, the Indian government attaches importance to NIIF, the initial fund might be USD 1 billion, we may be chipping in USD 200 million," he added. The Indian government had set up the NIIF worth USD 5.4 million in December 2016 as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable greenfield, brownfield and stalled projects.</p> <p>Read More</p>

[Please click here for full article](#)

CIF members in news

CIF wants to take this occasion to appreciate one of its prominent members, Dr. "Lucky" Lakshmanan. Dr. Lakshmanan gave a public lecture under the theme "The Smart Village Initiative for Rural Development" at the Botswana

International University of Science and Technology (BIUST). [click here for article in PDF](#)

BIUST HOLDS PUBLIC LECTURE ON THE SMART VILLAGE INITIATIVE



A technology/artificial-intelligence-enabled Smart Village can convert Botswana's traditional skills in agriculture, mining, tourism, energy, water, healthcare, education, services and other sectors into a sustainable ecosystem, bringing prosperity to rural communities.

The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) last Wednesday held a Public Lecture under the theme "The Smart Village Initiative for Rural Development."

The Public Lecture attracted an impressive audience that included Palapye's Village leadership, members of the health and education sectors, the business community, and research and innovation institutions across the country.

Key presentations were made by Dr. Arun Chockalingam of the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and Dr. V. I. Lakshmanan of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. The Canadian guests were accompanied by Mr. Jacques Ndoutoumbe, Vice President of the Canada Africa Chamber of Business and CEO of the Sub-Saharan Africa Healthcare Initiative.

The event was organized to sensitize key stakeholders on the Smart Village Initiative as a tool for the revitalization of Botswana's rural communities.

According to BIUST's Smart Village Committee Chairperson, Professor Patricia Makepe, a Smart Village will enable the institution's researchers and students to work alongside community members to identify pressing societal problems that can be solved through research. Makepe said that as a Science and Technology University, BIUST wants to use the knowledge, technologies and innovations generated from its research for the development of local communities.

In his welcome remarks, BIUST's Vice Chancellor, Professor Ottogetse Totolo said that the intention behind the event's theme was to emphasize the dilemma BIUST and other universities are facing as tertiary educational institutions, which is to ensure that their research findings, products and services transform urban and rural livelihoods in positive ways.

Totolo said that BIUST was alive to the fact that its research must be relevant, empathetic and responsive to challenges faced by communities across Botswana, especially those of rural communities.

"It is only when we begin to respond to challenges faced by our rural communities, that we will become more aware of the socio-economic conditions under which many live. Together using science, technology and innovation we can turn these challenges into opportunities, and find workable and marketable solutions to address them," he added. Ac-

cording to the Vice Chancellor, knowledge institutions like BIUST must take bold and concrete steps to influence Botswana's developmental and policy agendas for the good of the country. He said that the Smart Village is one such initiative where institutions like BIUST, University of Botswana (UB), Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BIUAN), Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI), Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) as well as the international partners like the University of Toronto, Canada can take research and innovation to rural communities.

Totolo is of the view that successfully piloting a Smart Village project, coupled with its translation to other villages, has tremendous opportunities for rural development in Botswana across all sectors, and in the process it can create vast opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. This will in turn reduce the rural to urban migration patterns we are currently witnessing across the country.

Presenting on the Smart Village: Vision to Realization, Dr. Lakshmanan emphasized that the Smart Village is an enabler to minimize socio-economic differences between urban and rural areas. He said in countries like India and Canada where they have been successfully piloted, Smart Villages have led to a reduction in urban to rural migration and provided beneficent and export benefits.

Dr. Lakshmanan described how smart rural communities can achieve security from grain and energy storage. He took the audience through the process of wealth creation that can arise from tannery and value-added leather products derived from Botswana's abundant raw cattle hides. Dr. Lakshmanan also examined the capital and operating costs of a Smart Village.

Dr. Arun Chockalingam presented on Health and Healthcare in a Smart Village in the Context of Botswana. He said that primary health care is an important element for any village to be "smart" and self-sufficient. He advocated for the establishment of a primary healthcare centre managed by a trained Public Health nurse and supported by digital technologies in the form of telemedicine and electronic health records. Dr. Chockalingam said that this system would empower village populations and create an efficient healthcare system with the proper utilisation of precious human resources.

In closing, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Development and Innovation at BIUST, Professor Joseph Chuma promised to utilize BIUST's research efforts to transform Palapye and its surrounding areas. He said the institution's first Smart Village project will be piloted in Piliwile Village. BIUST community partners on this new initiative, Kgosi Gasebalwe Seretse and elders from Piliwile Village, were present at the event.

1. BIUST Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ottogetse Totolo, gave the welcome address.
2. BIUST's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ottogetse Totolo, speaking at the event.
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Upcoming Events

CIF Speaker Series - Dr. Rob Spalding, Brigadier General USAF (Retd)

Dr. Robert Spalding will give a talk on the contemporary overview of the Security challenges. He is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute. His work focuses on U.S.-China relations, economic and national security, and the Asia-Pacific military balance.



Spalding has written extensively on national security matters. He is currently working on a book concerning national competition in the 21st Century. His work has been published in The Washington Post, The Washington Times, Foreign Affairs, The American Interest, War on the Rocks, and others.

Spalding holds a doctorate in economics and mathematics from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He is fluent in Chinese Mandarin.

Stay connected for further details.

Save the Date: CIF Annual Global Indian Award Gala – Friday 10 July 2020

Time: 6:30 pm onward | Date: Friday, 10 July 2020 | Venue: Pearson Convention Centre |
Address: 2638 Steeles Ave E, Brampton, ON L6T 4L7

CIF Global Indian Award is presented annually to an outstanding person who has demonstrated global leadership, vision, and personal excellence. Previous recipients include Sam Pitroda (2008), Tulsi Tanti (2009), Ratan Tata (2010), Deepak Chopra (2012), NR Narayana Murthy (2014), Subhash Chandra (2016), Swami Ramdev (2017), Sparsh Shah (2018) & Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper (2019).



Regular Table for 10: \$3,000

Corporate Table for 10: \$5,000

Individual ticket: \$500

Contact: CIF Office
(289)-291-0277

CANADA INDIA
FOUNDATION



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2020

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[Click here for CIF Golf 2020 Brochure](#)

Art & Essay Competition
Based on the Teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
by CGI Toronto



Consulate General of India
Toronto

Win
exciting
prizes!

ART & ESSAY COMPETITION

Based on the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

THEMES

Life and Teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
There is One God
Universal Brotherhood
Mother Nature/Environment & Pollution

CATEGORIES

ART

Group A: Ages 4 to 10
Group B: Ages 11 to 16
Group C: Ages 17 to 24
Group D: Ages 25 & above

ESSAY

Group A: Ages 7 to 11
Group B: Ages 12 to 17
Group C: Ages 18 to 24
Group D: Ages 25 & above

SPECIFICATIONS

ART

Medium: Any
Size: Min. 8" by 10"

ESSAY

1200 Words
PDF format only

Last date to receive entries is March 31st, 2020

Entries can be uploaded online or dropped off at designated centres.

More information on www.cgitoronto.gov.in
For further questions write to culture.toronto@mea.gov.in



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 reception in Honor of Premier Doug Ford



CIF Members at Indian Republic Day Celebrations



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!

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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

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Canada India Foundation

289-291-0277

info@canadaindiafoundation.com