



## CIF E-Newsletter



Volume 26

Issue #13

March 2021

### Chair's Message



#### Let's Stay Together and Strong

Friends. The month of February has brought good news for many of us. That too from our home country of India. No, I am not referring to the half a million doses of Covid19 vaccines that arrived in Canada from India. That of course is a reason to celebrate, especially for those of us who want to see our bilateral ties grow from strength to strength. There is another news that not only brings a level of relief, but also holds the promise of a great future for South Asia.

In the past few weeks, two major developments have been reported on India's Eastern and Western borders. First came the surprise news of disengagement by the armies of India and China from the friction points along the Line of Actual Control. In what could've turned out to be a long and intractable situation has now the potential for a rapprochement with its vast economic benefits for both countries.

Even more surprising was the news from India's Western border where both India and Pakistan have engaged in a hot and cold war for decades. A recent joint declaration at the military level has promised an end to all ceasefire violations along the India Pakistan border. Hopefully, there will be further de-escalation and CBMs in the future. Or as it has happened in the history of the region, this just might be a temporary truce. For the moment, the guns have fallen silent, and that's good news. ([Read more](#))

# Made in India vaccines arrive in Canada



A consignment of half-a-million doses of the India-made Covishield vaccines arrived in Toronto today, fulfilling an assurance given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his Canadian counterpart Prime Minister Trudeau in February. The AstraZeneca vaccines were airlifted to Canada from India on a commercial cargo flight. These vaccines are the first tranche of 2 million vaccines that are to be supplied by May as part of a commercial agreement, facilitated by the two governments, between the Serum Institute of India and Verity Pharmaceuticals of Canada.

Please [click here](#) for more details

## CIF Speaker Series

### Benjamin Tal, MD. CIBC World Markets on Economy and the Virus



Benjamin Tal, Managing Director and Deputy Chief Economist, CIBC, was the Guest Speaker at the CIF Speaker Series, held virtually on March 11, 2021. During his presentation, titled Economy and the Virus, Tal took up three important questions to analyse and offer possible answers. First, how bad is the virus? We know there is a second wave. And we are starting to talk about a third wave. Second, how strong will the second half of this year will be? Third, the most important question of all, will there be 'scarring' or what

economists refer to as 'condition'? Scarring refers to long-term damages due to Covid19. [\(READ MORE\)](#)

[Click here](#) to see recording of webinar

## CIF Health Forum Webinar Series - 2

### Pandemic: Responses and Initiatives



The second health webinar in the run up to the Canada India Foundation Health Forum in May 2021, was held on March 10 with a galaxy of experts weighing in on the many aspects of Covid-19: Responses and Initiatives.

Opening the session, Dr. Arun Chockalingam, pointed to the immensity of the challenges posed by the pandemic, that has affected 120 million to date and has taken the lives of two and a half million people. “This particular webinar is focusing on the Initiatives and Responses,” he said. [\(Read More\)](#)

To see the program recording [Click here](#)

## Ayurveda Speaker Series Session - 13

### Multidimensional Approach Needed to Control Diabetes – Vaidya Pallavi Patankar



The 13th installment of the Ayurveda Speaker Series, hosted by Canada and India Foundation, in alliance with the Consul General of India Toronto, Vedic Spiritual Heritage Foundation, and Canadian Ayurvedic Practitioners Association, got off to a great start with Vaidya Pallavi Patankar speaking on Concepts and Management of Diabetes in Ayurveda. Vaidya Patankar, a practicing Ayurveda doctor in Mumbai, is a world leading authority on alternate approaches to managing obesity. [\(Read more\)](#)



To see the video [click here](#).

## CIF Health Forum Webinar Series - 1

### The Role of Modern Technology in the Fight Against Covid-19



The first of the three webinars planned before the run up to the Canada India Healthcare Summit (CIHS), in May, held on February 24, 2021, focused attention on the role of biotechnology in the world's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Expertly moderated by Dr. Arun Chockalingam, Professor of Medicine and Global Health, University of Toronto, the speakers from various backgrounds, addressed the audience and presented some key findings and developments in managing Covid-19. [\(Read more\)](#)

To see the program recording [Click here](#)

## CIF Celebrates International Women's Day



Canada India Foundation marked the International Women's Day by hosting a webinar with the theme *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* in keeping with the basic UN theme - *Choose to Challenge*. The virtual event held on March 4, drew a large audience, many of them new to the platform. **Sunita Vyas**, National Co-Convenor along with other members of the CIF Women's Committee, **Hema Bhatt**, **Vase Sarmah**, and **Dr. Indira Khurana** led the initiative by assembling a panel of highly accomplished women to speak on the current state of gender parity in Canada.

Chair, **Satish Thakkar**, who opened the session posed a question,

“Today we have a situation where the laws of the land favour the growth and progress of women. But certain cultural norms and practices and entrenched attitudes may be holding women back from realizing their true potential. [\(Read more\)](#)

To see the recorded program [click here](#).

---

## HEADLINES

---

### India’s gesture of sending vaccine supplies to Canada suggests ‘long-range view’ of relations, despite irritants



India’s apparent acquiescence to strike a deal with Canada to send two million coronavirus vaccine doses amid heightened competition and demand for vaccine supplies could create an opening to broaden dialogue between the two nations, and may suggest India has a long view of the relationship, despite long-running irritants, say experts. [\(Read more\)](#)

---

### Top American Scientist Says India ‘Rescued the World’

Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) was quoted as saying that India’s vaccines, made in collaboration with universities across the world such as BCM and Oxford University, have “rescued the world”. [\(Read more.\)](#)



### Changes to Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Notified

Only a tiny minority of the current holders of OCI are said to be impacted by changes announced by Government of



India recently. The notification issued by the MHA said that OCI cardholders will have to take special permission from Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) ([Read more.](#))

---

## Giant Billboards Thanking Prime Minister Modi Go Up in GTA

An Indo-Canadian community organization put up huge billboards that featured the image of Prime Minister Modi, thanking him for the supply of vaccines to Canada. ([Read more.](#))



---

## Lancet Finds India's Indigenous Vaccine Safe



Premier British Medical journal, Lancet, reported that Covaxin, indigenously developed by Hyderabad-based, Bharat Biotech, is safe and has shown increased efficacy in Phase 2 trials. ([Read more.](#))

---

## Oxford-AstraZeneca: EU says 'no indication' vaccine linked to clots

Some European countries, including Norway, Denmark and Iceland recently halted use of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines citing safety concerns. The European Medicines Agency (EMA), however, stated that there is no need for concern and the safety of the vaccine is not an issue. ([Read more.](#))



---

## Obese and Overweight People Face Severe Covid19 Complications

According to a study published on March 8 by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a large majority of patients who end up with severe COVID cases have one thing in common, they are overweight or have been diagnosed with obesity. ([Read more.](#))

# How Canada is emerging top choice, over US, for Indian Immigrants



Divyansh Guglani from Delhi has been trying to move out of India. Most Indians, until a few years ago hoped to move to US when they wanted to migrate. However, it is no longer so. For Guglani, for example, Canada, not the US, is his first choice.

[\(Read more\)](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Virtual Ayurveda Speaker Series

CANADA INDIA  
FOUNDATION



Canadian Ayurvedic  
Practitioners Association



### Session - 15

## Fundamentals of Pharmaceuticals (Bahishejya Kalpana)

### Expert Speaker



**Vaidya J V Hebbar**

BAMS, MD (Ayurveda), PGDPSM

### Webinar Details

**Sunday 28 March, 2021**

**Time: 10:00 am EST**

**07:30 pm IST**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**



# Community Spotlight

## 2020 Community Hero: Aditi Sivakumar



CANADA'S  
WALK OF FAME



Scotiabank

# COMMUNITY HERO



The Canada's Walk of Fame Community Hero Program, presented by MLSE and Scotiabank, is an annual program that honours an extraordinary young Canadian (under 30) who is making a difference within their community, and whose work, project or volunteer efforts serve as a model for others to follow. Canada's Walk of Fame has selected Aditi Sivakumar as the 2020 Community Hero, and will provide her with the tools to spread her message and elevate her mission and career in a meaningful way. ([Read more](#))

We sincerely appreciate any comments, feedback and suggestions from our readers and supporters. Please write to us at [info@canadaindiafoundation.com](mailto:info@canadaindiafoundation.com)

### Contact Us

**Satish Thakkar**

*Chair*

[satish@efgcanada.ca](mailto:satish@efgcanada.ca)

**Ritesh Malik**

*National Convener*

[ritesh@riteshmalik.com](mailto:ritesh@riteshmalik.com)

**Sunita Vyas**

*National Co-convener*

[sunita@aolmississauga.com](mailto:sunita@aolmississauga.com)



### Canada India Foundation

2939 Portland Drive,

Suite #300 Oakville ON L6H 5S4

Ph: 289-291-0277

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

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