



## CIF E-Newsletter



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### Chair's Message



#### **Bringing Ontario's Smaller Municipalities into the Canada India Dialogue**

Hello friends. Hope is in the air. At least that is the sense we are getting on the pandemic front. More countries and regions are relaxing the strict Covid-19 protocols put in place at the height of the pandemic. Now that the latest variant, Omicron, while highly transmissible, does not pack the lethality of earlier versions of the virus.

According to many experts, we will soon be settling into a situation when the virus becomes endemic. Which means that it will never leave us alone completely, rearing its ugly heads here and there, catching us by surprise. But the good thing is that after two years of its destructive grip on us, we might be ready to live our lives more normally. A word of caution: It is not yet time to celebrate. In the meanwhile, let us continue to be careful and observe public health advice from experts.

This month I want to share with you details on an initiative that CIF is actively working on. A while ago, after consultations with several people, we had concluded that one way we can extend and deepen engagement between Canada and India is by identifying opportunities in our smaller municipalities. We at CIF believe that this is a critical area of cooperation that can turn very productive in the near future. ([Read more](#))

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## A Tribute to Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar



**(1929-2022)**

On February 6, 2022, India lost its most beloved voice in the person of Lata Mangeshkar who died at age 92. In an incredible musical journey that spanned eight decades, this ‘nightingale of India’ broke several world records in the number of songs she helmed, the diversity of languages that she lent her melodious voice to and the fan base that matched the world’s most popular singers, stretching across the world.

Canada India Foundation condoles the death of this legendary figure who inspired and entertained countless Indians over multiple generations. “We will miss her presence deeply and we extend our condolences to her family and fans all over the world. Lata Mangeshkar was not just a great singer and entertainment personality; her voice brought a whole nation together in celebration or even in tragedy.” said **Satish Thakkar**, Chair CIF.

In the immediate aftermath of the India China border war in 1962, she sang the famous [Aye mere watan ke logo](#) that energized and inspired a stunned nation and according to reports of the day, brought tears to the eyes of India’s first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Lata Mangeshkar was awarded India’s highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna, in 2001, in acknowledgement of decades long contributions to the entertainment world as well for enhancing India’s soft power in the rest of the world.

Lata Mangeshkar performed at the most prestigious concert venues in every major city during her career, including Toronto where she made her special connection to Canada. During a United Way fundraiser in 1985, Lata, at the request of Canadian legend Anne Murray, sang [You Needed Me](#) in English to the great surprise of the audience. “Even

though we have so many talented singers in India today, Latagi's contributions will remain unmatched, and her voice will continue to ring through even more generations to come," added **Ritesh Malik**, National Convener, CIF.

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## HEADLINES

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### Ottawa dropping pre-arrival PCR test for fully vaccinated travellers as of Feb. 28



Fully vaccinated travellers entering Canada will no longer have to take a pre-arrival molecular test — such as a PCR — as of Feb. 28, Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos announced Tuesday. Travellers will still be required to take a pre-arrival test, but they can instead opt for an authorized clinic-administered rapid antigen test taken no more than one day before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border.

[\(Read more\)](#)

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### Ontario to Drop Vaccine Passports Soon

Premier Doug Ford indicated that proof of vaccination requirement and capacity limits in indoor settings will be dropped if cases and hospitalization continues to drop.

[\(Read more.\)](#)



### Expert Predicts Return of Brick and mortal Retail Trade

In spite of the pandemic related widespread shutdown of retail-oriented businesses, chief executive of RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust says rent collections and occupancy levels have



been healthy. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## **\$40 billion Added to Canada's Economy Since Cannabis Legalization**

The controversial move by the Trudeau government to legalize the production and distribution of marijuana in Canada is paying rich dividends to the economy. [\(Read more.\)](#)



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## **'The deal is done': India signs 'pathbreaking' India-UAE CEPA**



Union minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal today said both India and UAE are entering a golden era of economic and trade cooperation with the signing of the India-UAE CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement). [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## **Investigations Into Migrant Tragedy on Canada US Border**

Investigations are on in three countries over the deaths of four migrants including two children from Gujarat trying to cross into the US. [\(Read more.\)](#)



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## **UK, Australia, Italy, UAE and Singapore Among Top Destinations for Indian Investors**



Encouraged by a spirit of enterprise and a desire to spread their wings internationally, Indian entrepreneurs are looking outside India for opportunities. [\(Read more.\)](#)



## GTA Hindu Temples Report Multiple Break-ins

Police are asking public's help to identify the culprits who have stolen money from Hindu Temples donation boxes to the tune of \$25,000. [\(Read More\)](#)



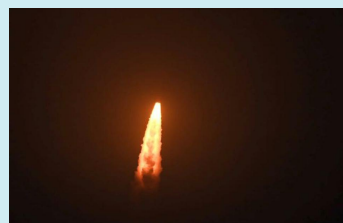
## Top Indian Virologist Says Covid Entering Endemic Stage



According to Dr. Gagandeep Kang, India will soon enter a stage when Covid will become endemic, allowing for most pandemic related restrictions to be lifted. [\(Read More\)](#)

## ISRO's First Launch of 2022 Puts Three Satellites into Orbit

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) successful launch of a PSLV heavy rocket in the new year augurs well for the Agency that had suffered a couple of setbacks recently. [\(Read more.\)](#)



## CIF Mourns the loss of Menaka Thakkar

### Menaka Thakkar (1942 – 2022)

CIF mourns the loss of one of the pioneers of the Indian community in Greater Toronto, Menaka Thakkar, who passed away earlier this month. Menaka di, as she was fondly known, founded Nrtyakala, the first dance Bharatanatyam dance company in Canada, in the early '70s. Anyone who has ever experienced the beauty of Indian dance in Canada owes their gratitude to this phenomenal individual, who dedicated her life to dance and was honoured with the Governor General's award for Lifetime Achievement in Performing Arts (Dance) in 2013. She will be missed.



## CIF Welcomes New Advisory Board Members



### **Mr. Stewart Beck**

Canada-Asia Foreign and Trade Policy Expert, Vancouver.

As a diplomat, a trade commissioner, and a policy expert, Stewart Beck spent the last 40 years as one of the foremost advocates of Canada's interests in Asia. From 2014 to 2021, he was the President and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Canada's leading research institution on Asia. Before joining APF Canada, he had a distinguished 30+ year career with Canada's diplomatic corps. With postings in the U.S. and Asia, culminating with an assignment as Canada's High Commissioner to India, he gained the knowledge and experience to be one of Canada's recognized experts on Asia and innovation policy.

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### **Mr. Gary Comerford**

Board Member at Novelis, Toronto

International management and financial specialist Gary Comerford is the Chair of Brock University's Board of Trustees. Currently the CEO of Comerford Management Consultants, his career has included appointments as Vice-President of Marketing for Canada Permanent Trust, and Senior Vice-President (International) for Sun Life of Canada. He served as Sun Life's general manager for India and is past president of the Canada India Business Council. He is also a past chair of the Shaw Festival Board.



## CIF Welcomes New Members



### **Dr. Lalita Malhotra, C.M., S.O.M.** Member of the Order of Canada

Lalita Malhotra is an obstetrician and family physician who treats her patients with both passion and compassion. Since settling in Prince Albert, she has delivered thousands of babies, helped to found a wellness clinic for women and advocated for skills-upgrading opportunities. Her involvement in the community is not restricted to her medical practice. She counsels teenagers at the Ranch Ehrlo Society treatment centre, volunteers with the YWCA's Family Futures Program and has raised funds for disaster relief in South East Asia. Affectionately referred to as the "Angel of the North", she is known

as a great humanitarian.

## **Mr. John Jickling**

President & CEO, EPCM Services Ltd

Mr. John Jickling is leading a global engineering organization as President and CEO of EPCM Services Ltd. An experienced professional with a demonstrated history of working in the mining & metals industry. Skilled in Process Engineering, Engineering, Strategic Planning, Contract Negotiation, and Contract Management. The EPCM Group is a global engineering, procurement, and construction management firm. Established in 1980, they deliver comprehensive solutions through EPCM Engineering, EPCM Automation, EPCM Service & Supply and Technologies COBRA.



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## **Appointment**

### **CIF appoints Kalyan Sundram as Senior Fellow**



CIF is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Kalyan Sundaram as a Senior Fellow, effective February 1, 2022.

Kalyan Sundaram is no stranger to CIF. He served as CIF's Executive Director from 2009 to 2016 and played an active role in all of CIF's initiatives during those years, including the Global Indian Award program, Canada India thematic Summits, the Annual galas and more. He has continued to be involved in

CIF's initiatives, most recently the Canada India Healthcare Summit, held in 2021.

An aerospace engineer by training and a telecommunications executive by profession, he also has a keen eye for public policy and Canada India engagement. He recently co-edited a reference book on Smart Villages, published by Springer. He will be advising CIF on a number of projects.

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## **CIF Partner with Panorama India to Celebrate Republic Day 2022**

# republic day

**New Date** **Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Join us...

**HYBRID**  
Event

All performances streaming  
**LIVE** Straight from  
**THE LIVING ARTS CENTER**  
to your digital screens.

Watch Live  
**SAFE**  
from your Home

LIVE Stream on

facebook  
LIVE

You Tube Live

30+ TV Channels

## PROGRAM AGENDA

SBI Canada Bank  
presents

13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**PANORAMA  
IDOL** **LIVE**  
**GRAND FINALE**

HSBC Bank Presents  
**Panorama  
India**  
**Folk Dance** **LIVE**  
Competition

**LIVE**  
**Seniors  
Spotlight**

**LIVE**  
**Cultural  
Performances**

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Chambre de Commerce  
**Indo-Canada**  
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Consulate General of India  
Vancouver



**TPC** Trade Promotion  
Council of India



WEBINAR ON

# TRADE & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN INDIA & WEST CANADA

FOCUS SECTOR: FOOD & BEVERAGES



## FEB 22, 2022

08:30 PM IST

07:00 AM VANCOUVER TIME



**Mr Manish**  
Consul General of India,  
Vancouver



**Mr Tony Singh**  
CEO & President  
Fruiticana



**Mr Abhishek Poddar**  
Vice Chairman  
TPCI F&B Sectoral Committee



**Mr Suresh Makhijani**  
Joint Director General  
Trade Promotion Council of India



**Ashok Sethi**  
Director  
Trade Promotion Council of India

Moderated by **Virat Bahri**, Deputy Director-Media & Corporate Communications, Trade Promotion Council of India



**ONTARIO KONKANI ASSOCIATION  
(OKA)**



in collaboration with

**CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION (CIF),  
NORTH AMERICAN KONKANI ASSOCIATION (NAKA),  
INDUS COMMUNITY SERVICES,  
CHITRAPUR HERITAGE FOUNDATION (CHF), U.S.A.,  
SARASWAT FOUNDATION, U.S.A. AND  
KONKANI ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA U.S.A. (KAOCA)**

presents

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(IN CONVERSATION WITH HON. HAROLD D'SOUZA)

**HOST: SADANAND MANKIKAR**

**On Sunday, March 13, 2022. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (EST)**



Hon. Harold D'Souza, a survivor of labor trafficking and an inspirational survivor advocate of international reputation is the Founder and President of Eyes Open International. He was appointed to the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking first by President Barak Obama and then by President Donald Trump. Native of Bajpe, Mangalore, Harold is now settled in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This interview will trace Harold's journey from Bajpe, Mangalore to Cincinnati, Ohio. In doing so, it will make an effort to highlight the Human Trafficking issues, the difficulties faced by the victims and what one can do about it.

**Questions, in advance may be sent to [sadanand.mankikar@gmail.com](mailto:sadanand.mankikar@gmail.com)**

**To join the session please use the following link:**



**EYES OPEN INTERNATIONAL**







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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)

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