

CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION



CIF E-Newsletter



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Chair's Message



A Breakthrough in Canada India Trade Negotiations

Hello friends. You must've heard, by now, of the breakthrough in the long-stalled trade negotiations between Canada and India. It is nothing short of a miracle because so many of us who have rooted for this for the past decade and a half were beginning to lose hope.

To recap, it was back in 2010 that Canada and India first started negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Several rounds of negotiations were held till 2017 when the last full round of negotiations was held. The momentum gained in the earlier years were lost and there were only a few stocktaking meetings that took place since then.

Obviously, without going too deep into the reasons on lack of progress, CIF and others who have always nurtured a big dream on behalf of

Canada and India, though disappointed, never gave up on the idea itself.

There are few other examples of two nations that share so much and have the potential to transform their ties into one of the world's most productive trade relationships. CIF continued pushing for closer ties, and each movement in this direction, was welcomed by friends of Canada and India.

Against this backdrop of uncertainty, the latest announcement on the resumption of negotiations couldn't have come sooner. The breakthrough came at the fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) between Canada's Minister of International Trade, **Hon. Mary Ng** and India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Hon. Piyush Goyal** held in New Delhi on March 11, 2022. ([Read more](#))

Past Events

Stakeholders Applaud CIF's Outreach to Ontario Municipalities



Canada India Foundation's ambitious new initiative to connect Ontario's smaller municipalities with India, got off to a rousing start at a webinar that brought the Mayor of Barrie, Jeff Lehman, and many important stakeholders from Ontario and India together on the CIF platform on March 11, 2022.

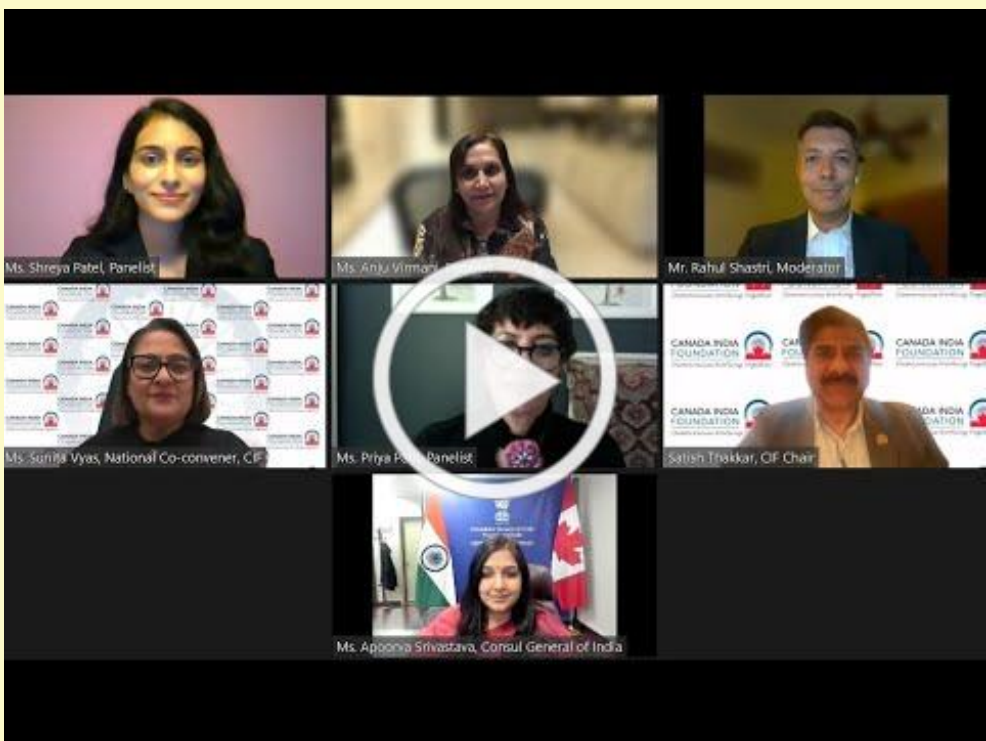
Speaking about the initiative, **Satish Thakkar**, Chair, CIF, stated, "Today is a special day for us at CIF. We have spent many weeks and months, strategizing and planning for this initiative to become a reality.

This newest initiative we have launched fits perfectly into our goals. In Ontario, Greater Toronto Area is a huge magnet for investment and immigration. That is definitely good for all concerned. A while ago, some of us started wondering if we are missing the smaller towns and cities in this calculation. Though not as glamorous or dominant like the GTA, each of these municipalities must have their own unique strengths and offer special opportunities.

Thakkar added, “Barrie is the beginning. There are dozens more Ontario municipalities with as yet undiscovered opportunities. We at CIF would like to be a bridgebuilder between them and interested companies and institutions in India to facilitate the exchange of goods, services and top professionals needed to maximize their potential. Increasing market access, building sister city arrangements and information sharing will all be key elements of our partnership with Ontario’s smaller municipalities.”

While congratulating CIF and the City of Barrie on the initiative, India’s Consul General in Toronto, Ms. **Apoorva Srivastava**, said, “I have interacted with both small and larger companies all across the seven provinces during my time in Toronto. All of them have expressed great enthusiasm for India. [\(Read more\)](#)

CIF Marks International Women’s Day



Toronto, March 10, 2022: Canada India Foundation hosted a special event to mark the International Women’s Day with an esteemed panel of highly accomplished women from the Indo Canadian community. The theme chosen was ‘break the bias.’

Satish Thakkar, Chair, while asserting CIF’s support to all initiatives to bring about gender equality, pointed to the ancient Indian tradition

that held women in high regard, “If you go back to the values of ancient Indian civilization, it is perfectly clear that it held womanhood in the highest esteem, lifting it to the level of divinity. Wealth, wisdom and power are traditionally represented in India by three goddesses – Lakshmi, Saraswati and Durga.” [\(Read more\)](#)

CIF Seeks Premier Ford’s Support to Boost Ontario-India Trade



Toronto, March 3, 2022: Canada India Foundation held a breakfast meeting with Ontario Premier Doug Ford to share some of the initiatives taken by the organization that have a direct bearing on the province.

Reflecting the sentiments of the members present, **Satish Thakkar**, Chair, CIF thanked the Premier for “being a strong and down to earth leader”. He added, “Times were tough, but you kept the province moving. Your straight from the heart approach is much appreciated by all.”

Special invitees present on the occasion were Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, Ms. **Nina Tangri**, **Deepak Anand** MPP, & **Stephen Crawford** MPP. [\(Read more\)](#)



HEADLINES

Trade minister announces latest move toward

Canada-India interim trade agreement



Following her trade promotion trip to India, Israel, the West Bank and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development Mary Ng said Canada and India have relaunched their negotiations for a Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that would give Canadian businesses greater access to India's fast-growing market of 1.4 billion consumers. [\(Read More\)](#)

India, Canada plan key visits to boost relations

The visit of Canada's international trade minister Mary Ng to India earlier this month could be the first in a series of ministerial-level bilateral meetings between the two countries in the months ahead, people familiar with the matter said. [\(Read more\)](#)



Major Companies Commit \$20 Billion to India's Semi Conductor Push

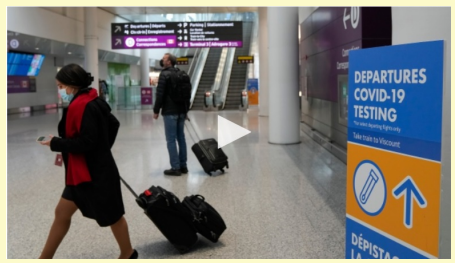


Following India's announcement of a \$10 billion development fund to establish a home-grown semi conductor ecosystem, five major players have submitted proposals worth a total investment commitment of US\$20.5 billion. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Canada to Drop Proof of Negative Covid Test

Beginning April 1, travellers to Canada will not be required to produce proof of negative Covid test results. But they will still have to use arriveCAN app and fill in their vaccination data.

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



India to Resume Issuing Electronic Visas



Following improved situation on the Covid front worldwide, India has opened its eTourist visa valid for five years to citizens of 156 countries. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Films Planned on Trafficked Indian Family

The tragedy of an Indian family brought to the US on work visa and exploited like slave labour will now be made into a film. Harold D'souza from Mangalore, India, who is a campaigner against human trafficking, is the 'hero' of two films under production currently. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Chalo India, Says Tim Hortons



Canada's iconic coffee chain is all set to open its first shop in New Delhi by end of the year with more than 300 planned across India in the next ten years. [\(Read more.\)](#)

WHO's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India

Following up on the WHO announcement in 2020 to set up a Traditional Medicine Centre in India, Minister of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal reiterated that India is well-placed to become a leader in yoga and traditional

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



Indo-Canadian community mourns 5 students killed in Ontario highway crash



Members of Canada's Indian community were in mourning on Monday after five students Harpreet Singh, Jaspinder Singh, Karanpal Singh, Mohit Chouhan and Pawan Kumar died in a collision between a van and a tractor-trailer on Ontario's

Highway 401 on the weekend. [\(Read more\)](#)

CIF Member in News

'Canada has given me a lot': Anil Shah



Anil Shah had a successful business in India helping other companies source metal products, but he wanted to grow his business to be the one trading the metals. He knew he would not be able to do that in India, so in 1990, he moved his family to Canada, settling in Mississauga and later moving to Oakville. He started Ni-Met Metals out of his basement. Within a year, he had three employees and was doing \$12 million dollars in business. Today, the company has 23 employees with offices around the world and does \$140-150 million of business annually.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Spotlight

Indian American Shefali Duggal Named US Ambassador to Netherlands

A long-time Democrat and fundraiser for the party, Shefali Razdan Duggal, has been nominated by President Joe Biden as the US Ambassador to the Netherlands. Born to Kashmiri parents in Haridwar, India, her family moved to the US when she was two. ([Read more.](#))



Indian American activist against human trafficking, Harold D'souza, talks about his struggle and recognition from the White House, Hollywood and Bollywood



Ontario Konkani Association (OKA) in collaboration with Canada India Foundation (CIF), Indus Community Services, North American Konkani Association (NAKA), Chitrapur Heritage Foundation, U.S.A. (CHF), Saraswat Foundation, U.S.A. and Konkani Association of California, U.S.A. (KAOCA) conducted a conversation with Hon. Harold D’Souza on Sunday, March 13, 2022. The interview was conducted by Sadanand Mankikar. ([Read more](#))



CIF Celebrates Republic Day 2022 with Panorama India



Upcoming Events



CANADA INDIA
FOUNDATION

Democracies Working Together



The Liver

in Health, Disease & Transplant

Saturday 02 April, 2022 10:00 – 11:00 am

Dr. Mamatha Bhat MD, MSc, PhD, FRCPC
Staff Hepatologist & Clinician-Scientist
Ajmera Transplant Program, University Health Network

Dr. Mamatha Bhat is a Hepatologist and Clinician-Scientist at UHN's Ajmera Transplant Centre, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is also a Scientist at Toronto General Hospital Research Institute. Dr. Bhat completed her medical school and residency training, including the Clinician Investigator Program, at McGill University. She then completed a Transplant Hepatology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, followed by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Fellowship for Health Professionals, through which she completed a PhD in Medical Biophysics (U of T).

The goal of Dr. Bhat's research program is to improve long-term outcomes of liver transplantation through a precision medicine approach. Her program is unique worldwide in using tools of Artificial Intelligence to personalize the care of liver transplant recipients based on an improved biological understanding of the liver and disease after transplant. Her interdisciplinary program and team have been supported by both national and international organizations such as the CIHR, Terry Fox Research Institute, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF), Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program (CDTRP) and American Society of Transplantation (AST). Dr. Bhat is on the Executive committee of the CDTRP; is the incoming Vice-Chair of the International Liver Transplant Society Basic and Translational Science Research committee; and is an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Transplantation.

Dr. Bhat has also been the recipient of recognitions such as the 2022 CIHR-INMD-CASL Early Career Researcher prize, the 2020 Polanyi Prize and the 2021 American Society of Transplantation Basic Science Career Development Award. With over 100 publications, she has an established track record of publishing in high-impact medical and scientific journals such as Lancet Digital Health, Hepatology, and JAMA Surgery.



Liver disease takes the lives of many thousands, both young and old. Dr. Mamatha Bhat will explain the many stages of liver disease, the role of liver transplantation and research to effect positive outcomes.



https://zoom.us/join/register/WN_gAR0crJSUqogukYZZySw



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

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Contact Us

Satish Thakkar,
FCPA, FCGA
Chair
satish@efgcanada.ca

Ritesh Malik
National Convener
ritesh@riteshmalik.com

Sunita Vyas
National Co-convener
sunita@aolmississauga.com



Canada India Foundation
2939 Portland Drive, Suite #300
Oakville ON L6H 5S4, Ph: 289-291-0277
E-mail: info@canadaindiafoundation.com
www.canadaindiafoundation.com

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