



CIF E-Newsletter



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Chair's Message



Traditional Medicine (Ayurveda) - A Major Milestone

Hello friends. The big news this month is the inauguration of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in Jamnagar, Gujarat on April 19, 2022. The first of its kind anywhere in the world, the Jamnagar facility will identify and verify the best aspects of traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda and help with its assimilation into modern medicine practice.

The international impact of this historic event is being acknowledged by the level of media interest in the project. The launch of GCTM took place in the presence of not only Prime Minister Modi, but also of the Director General of WHO, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth, to put their seal of approval on this unique enterprise.

The GCTM shall focus on four main strategic areas: evidence and learning; data and analytics; sustainability and equity; and innovation and technology to optimize the contribution of traditional medicine to global health.

But the good news does not end there for us. On April 20, 2022, in the presence of Prime Minister Modi, the University Health Network, Toronto and India's premier research organization in traditional medicine, All India Institute of Ayurveda, signed an MoU to facilitate joint research and development to explore holistic medicine. Together, UHN and AIIA will evaluate, through careful clinical research, Ayurvedic interventions to health, such as plant-based diets, yoga and meditation, and other promising approaches.

CIF is especially gratified to see this dream become a reality. It has been a passion project for us, having hosted a series of Ayurveda lectures on our platform from world-renowned experts in our efforts to disseminate the inherent strengths of Ayurveda in Canada. ([Read more](#))

Past Events

Alberta's Infrastructure Minister, Prasad Panda, Meets with CIF



Canada India Foundation hosted a reception for the visiting Minister of Infrastructure, Alberta, **Prasad Panda**, in Mississauga on April 14, 2022. Welcoming Minister Prasad Panda to the forum, **Satish Thakkar**, Chair, CIF, said that Alberta is a key priority area for CIF members. Minister Panda is a uniquely qualified individual in politics today as he has spent decades in top managerial positions in large private and public corporations before he decided to move into public service.

Replying to the sentiments expressed by members, Panda listed the number of initiatives that Alberta has taken in recent years to not only overcome the Covid related slow down, but to come out of it in a

manner that has surprised many experts here in Canada. “We have managed to balance our budget this year while our national debt has grown to \$1.2trillion. Now we are working on how to pay back the debt,” he said. [\(Read more\)](#)

Top Liver Specialist Shares Latest Insights on Liver, Disease and Transplants



Toronto, March April 2, 2022: **Dr. Mamatha Bhat**, Hepatologist & Clinician-Scientist, Ajmera Transplant Program, UHN, joined the CIF Zoom platform to present key factors regarding liver disease. Titled The Liver in Health, Disease & Transplant, Dr. Bhat gave an overview of the various essential functions of the liver, liver diseases and treatments, and the role of liver transplantation for end-stage liver disease and liver cancer.

Welcoming Dr. Bhat to the platform, **Satish Thakkar**, Chair, CIF, noted that liver diseases are on the rise world-wide, and it has become “an issue of great concern for Canadians, specially for Indo Canadians.” [\(Read more\)](#)

Canada’s Trade Minister, Mary Ng, Briefs CIF on Mission to India



Markham, March 25, 2022: Canada's Minister for Small Business, Export Promotion & International Trade, Hon. Mary Ng, recently back from India, addressed the members of Canada India Foundation (CIF), detailing the progress made during her mission.

Welcoming her to the meeting, Satish Thakkar, Chair, CIF, said, "All of us are here to congratulate our Minister for International Trade, Hon. Mary Ng, for her recent initiative that led to a breakthrough in the trade negotiations between our two countries. Thank you, Minister, it is truly an honour to host you this afternoon. We are confident that when negotiations are held in good faith, the vision for a deeper engagement shared by Minister Ng and others will become a reality soon." [\(Read more\)](#) For more photos [click here](#)

HEADLINES

Foundation stone for WHO traditional medicine centre laid in Jamnagar



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar in

Canada Pension Fund Plans Increased Investment in India

Encouraged by the prospects of India's long-term growth and an aggressive sustainability goal, Canada Pension Fund is actively exploring ways to boost investment in India's start-up ecosystem and infra sector.

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



India Elected to Four Key UN Bodies



India gets elected to four UN ECOSOC Bodies: Commission for Social Development, Committee on NGOs, Commission on Science & Technology for Development and Ambassador Preeti Saran, who once served as India's Consul General in Toronto, gets re-elected to Committee for Economic, Social and

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

Modi's Offer to the World to Strengthen Food Security

As the war in Ukraine continues to drag on with no immediate resolution in sight, several parts of the world that depended on Ukraine-Russian exports of food grains face a grim future. India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, recently offered to make up for the shortages. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Open Door Policy for Foreign Universities

Foreign Universities may soon be able to set up campuses in India according to recommendations made under the New Education Policy. Similarly, India's



premier educational institutions will be encouraged to open campuses abroad. [\(Read more.\)](#)

India, Australia Sign Historic Trade Deal

India and Australia signed a historic trade deal, much to the surprise of many international observers. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement will make 90% of all trade between the two nations tariff free.

Among the highlights are:

35.7 million to support cooperation on research, production and commercialization of clean technologies, critical minerals and energy; \$25.2 million to deepen space cooperation with India and \$28.1 million to launch a Centre for Australia-India Relations. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Farm Laws Had Majority Support



An expert committee report, sanctioned by India's Supreme Court, found that 85.7% of stakeholders were in favour of India's farm laws. The report that was not made public by the Court was released to the media by a farmers' union recently. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Private Companies to Enter India's Rocket Program

Adani Enterprises and L&T are among the first to show interest in India's plans to invite private players to build rockets and enter the satellite business. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Delhi - Varanasi Bullet Train

By 2029, if the Indian Railways plans are on schedule, passengers



between New Delhi and Varanasi will be covering the 800km journey in slightly over three hours. ([Read more.](#))

World Earth Day

World Earth Day, that falls on April 22, was celebrated around the world in keeping with local traditions and group activities involving different age groups, stressing the need for protecting Mother Earth. ([Read more.](#))



CIF Welcomes New Members

Andy (Arjun) Jasuja **Founder & Chairman, Sigma Group**

Arjun (Andy) Jasuja is the founder and Chairman of the Sigma Group, a global conglomerate of companies spanning across Technology, Real Estate Development, Hospitality, Finance and Healthcare.

As a serial entrepreneur, Andy has founded, acquired and successfully exited numerous companies with investments from world's leading Venture Capital and Private Equity firms including Kleiner Perkins, Morgan Stanley, Cisco, and Birch Hill Equity Partners.



Spotlight

Indian-origin chef Aakash Dhall wins Food Network Canada's reality show Fire Masters



From Olympics and beauty pageants to international culinary competitions, Indians are proving their mettle and making the country proud in every field. Such was the feat achieved by Indian-origin chef Aakash Dhall who won the Food Network Canada's popular cooking show, Fire Masters and was named the Fire Master Champion 2022. He also took home the grand prize of 10,000 Canadian dollars.

Originally from New Delhi, Aakash moved to Toronto to study Culinary Management at George Brown College. Having cooked over a fire for most of his life, Aakash participated in the competition with great gusto and was confident in his ability to tame the flame. He loves incorporating Indian spices into his meals. [\(Read more\)](#)

Indian American Falguni Shah wins Grammy



Indian-American singer Falguni Shah, who uses the stage name “Falu”,

has won the Best Children's Music Album Grammy for 'A Colourful World' on Sunday, April 3, 2022.

Sharing the update, Falguni took to Instagram and wrote, "I have no words to describe today's magic. What an honor to perform for the opening number of the GRAMMY Premier Ceremony, and then take home a statue on behalf of all the incredible people who worked on A Colorful World. We are humbled and thank the Recording Academy for this tremendous recognition. THANK YOU."

Falguni moved to the U.S. in 2000, toured with her Boston-based husband Gaurav Shah on the fusion band Karyshma (Hindi for Miracle), and released a self-titled solo album in the U.S. in 2007, blending elements of folk from across the South-east Asia with Western music. She has even performed and collaborated with music maestro AR Rahman. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Upcoming Events



CANADA INDIA
FOUNDATION

Democracies Working Together



FRUITSY

&



PRESENTS

7th Annual Golf Tournament 2022 Aug 11 (Thursday)

Woodington Lake Golf Club
7110 4th Line, Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0



Proceeds going to Families of Fallen Soldiers in Canada & India

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MANOJ PUNDIT
BORDEN LADNER GERRAIS LLP

GOLF BALLS



REGISTRATION - 9:30am onwards

Shot Gun Start 11:00am

Breakfast & Lunch on the Course

Dinner Served 6:00pm onwards

Host Bar - Drinks Available throughout the day

**For booking your Foursome, Hole Sponsorship
please contact:**

sudha@canadaindiafoundation.com

silvana@ni-met.com

[Click here for detailed Brochure](#)

Summer Jobs

Administrative Assistant - 01

Event Co-ordinator - 01

Special Event Co-ordinator - 01

Send your resume to info@canadaindiafoudnation.com



We sincerely appreciate any comments, feedback and suggestions from our readers and supporters. Please write to us at info@canadaindiafoundation.com

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