

CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION



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Chair's Message



Hindu Heritage Month Being Celebrated Across Canada

Hello friends, Hope you are enjoying the fall weather before the really chilly days arrive. November is one of our best months. No, I am not referring to the weather or the colourful landscape. That of course is a huge plus. Yes, I am talking about November being celebrated as the Hindu Heritage Month in all of Canada.

The Hindu community has had a very long and rewarding relationship with Canada, going back to over a hundred years when the first members of the Hindu community arrived on the shores of British Columbia. Over the century, the community has grown and put its root down firmly in the welcoming soil of Canada to become the third largest religious group in the country.

The Indian community in Canada is as diverse as it is back home in

India. They come from different parts of the world, and from diverse cultural, linguistic and regional backgrounds. For example, Canada is home to a large number of devout Hindus who are the descendants of the migrants who left India to work on the islands as far away as Fiji to the Caribbean, in most cases, never to return again. ([Read more](#))

Past Events

CIF Hosts Welcome Reception for India's High Commissioner to Canada



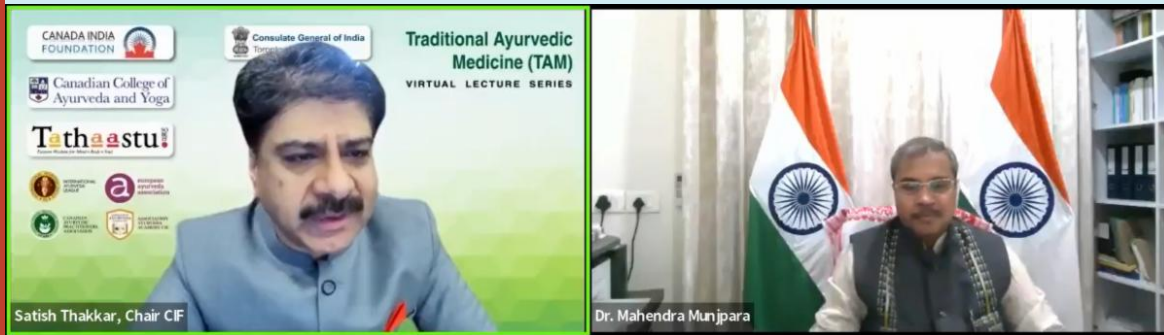
Canada India Foundation hosted a dinner reception in Toronto for the incoming High Commissioner of India in Canada, H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma on November 9, 2022. Verma took office in early November and has been on a whirlwind tour of the country to get acquainted with the various organizations and community groups active in Canada.

Welcoming HC Verma, Satish Thakkar, Chair, CIF, stated: “We really appreciate you making the time to meet with us and share and exchange thoughts on the current state of the Canada India bilateral relationship.”

Thakkar listed many of CIF initiatives aimed at strengthening the bilateral like the scholarship programs for the children of fallen soldiers, extending relief to the community during Covid, the bilateral forums that focus on industry sectors to encourage collaboration and of course, the latest and a first for the community in Canada – a mega musical fireworks held on Toronto’s waterfront to celebrate Diwali. ([Read more](#))

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS](#)

CIF Celebrates World Ayurveda Day 2022



Canada India Foundation along with Consulate General of India marked the World Ayurveda Day on October 30, 2022, by holding a virtual event that featured prominent members who are keenly invested in promoting Ayurveda in Canada and across the world.

Opening the session, Satish Thakkar, Chair, CIF, said: "Ayurveda is the overarching framework that we have inherited from ancient India, and we need to look at how we can incorporate its findings and benefits into the modern practice of medicine. Healthcare has always been a key priority area for us at CIF. During our most recent Healthcare Summit held in 2021, we had announced a partnership with UHN to help support research in holistic medicine that combine traditional systems like Ayurveda in the treatment of chronic diseases." ([Read More](#))

Canadian Hindu Heritage Month Celebrated



Under the aegis of Canada India Foundation, several community organisations came together to celebrate the Hindu Heritage Month at JJR McLeod Auditorium at University of Toronto on November 12, 2022. The auditorium resounded with the chanting of shlokas from the Gita by students of the Vedanta Vidya Mandir. The finest aspects of Indian culture were at display during the program with classical dances by Sampradaya Dance Academy (Ms. Lata Pada, CM), Violin/Veena

Ensemble by students of Sruti Laya Fine Arts Academy (Artistic Director - Thanathevy Mithradeva), Dances by youth members of Greater Toronto Temples choreographed by Dr. Alakananda Nath, SVBF Canada and songs from Bollywood by renowned Indo Canadian artists Mohua Pariyal and Jay Ashar.

His Worship John Tory, Mayor City of Toronto, was the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, he applauded the Hindu community's contribution to the Canadian society. He specifically mentioned how proud he was of the Hindu community for raising their children as law abiding and productive citizens.

Dr V. I Lakshmanan, OC and Dr. B Doobay in their remarks touched upon the rich heritage of the Hindu religion and its tremendous wisdom relevant for the contemporary world.

Mr. Satish Thakkar, Chair CIF, Dr. Kumar Murty, Professor University of Toronto, Dr. Ramesh Chotai from Vraj Canada were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.



[For more photos click here](#)

Canada-India Air Transport Agreement to allow unlimited flights between both countries



The Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, today announced the recent conclusion of an expanded air transport agreement between Canada and India. The expanded agreement allows designated airlines to operate an unlimited number of flights between the two countries. The previous agreement limited each country to 35 flights per week.

This significant move will allow airlines of Canada and India to better respond to the needs of the Canada-India air transport market. Going forward, officials of both countries will remain in contact to discuss further expansion of the agreement. ([Read more.](#))

Canada Finalizing a New Indo Pacific Strategy



Canada is finalizing an Indo Pacific strategy that reportedly moves away from China in an attempt to diversify and build new and reliable relationships with other nations from the region. [\(Read more.\)](#)

India Assumes G20 Presidency

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled India's logo, theme and website for its presidency of the G20, which reflects the country's message and overarching priorities to the world. The G20 logo, created with the four colours of India's national flag, comprises of earth sitting atop a lotus. The earth reflects India's approach to be inclusive of the entire world - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future. [\(Read more.\)](#)



India's First Privately developed Rocket Ready for Launch



India's first privately developed rocket is ready for launch into a suborbital position. The successful launch will usher in an era of private industry in the aerospace sector that is expected to see huge growth in the coming years. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Five Indian Americans Win in US Elections

A record five Indian Americans have been elected to the US House of Representatives in the recently concluded elections, all from the Democratic Party. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Ayurved for the World in 25 Years



Dr Mohan Bhagwat, head of RSS, has made a strong plea to establish Ayurveda, the traditional Indian medicine system firmly on the world stage as widely accepted alternate healthcare system in twenty-five years.

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

Karthik Nachiappan: Helping India rise would be a shrewd geopolitical move for Canada

Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly and India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar had a busy week at this year's UN General Assembly. That the two chief diplomats did not meet — bilaterally or at multilateral or trilateral conversation — might not be a surprise given the tepid state of Canada-India relations.



It is surprising, stupefying even, that no meaningful steps are being taken to revive ties between the countries. Both are working separately through the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (known as the Quad) to tackle such challenges, making their partnering a natural and necessary extension. [\(Read more\)](#)

World @ 8 Billion | For India, it is about rising median age

The world's population crossed eight billion on November 15. About 17.8



percent, nearly one sixth of these people live in India. That's a very high number, even though India's annual population growth has been declining, and is now growing at less than 1 percent. Over the last three decades or so, India's young demographics has been a well-

documented global story. With better spending ability they will decide on products — style, utility, need and affordability. This is where the market has been, and will be. ([Read more](#))

Spotlight

McGill University appoints H. Deep Saini as new Principal and Vice-Chancellor



The Board of Governors of McGill University is pleased to announce the appointment of Prof. H. Deep Saini as the University's 18th Principal and Vice-Chancellor. He will begin his five-year, renewable term on April 1, 2023.

Prof. Saini was chosen by a unanimous vote of the Board of Governors, following a recommendation of an Advisory Committee formed to lead an extensive, international search.

Prof Saini grew up in India, where he completed his Master of Science (Honours) in Botany from Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana. He then moved to Australia to earn a PhD in Plant Physiology from the University of Adelaide. Currently President and Vice-Chancellor of Dalhousie University, he also served as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canberra in Australia. ([Read more](#))

Dr. Steve Gupta appointed to the 2021 order of Ontario: the province's highest civilian honour

Lieutenant Governor of Ontario **appointed Dr. Steve Gupta to the Order of Ontario.** The Order of Ontario is the province's highest civilian honour. This is awarded to an Ontarian who has shown the highest level of excellence and achievement in any field, and whose impact has left a lasting legacy in our province, in our country, and

around the world.

Dr. Gupta, Executive Chairman of **The Gupta Group**, immigrated to Ontario from India in 1971 with just \$108 in his pocket and he is now recognized as a leader in the hospitality and condominium industries. Over the last 40 years, Dr. Gupta invested in and developed communities across Ontario for millions of citizens. He started by purchasing a single highway car and truck stop in Port Hope in 1978.



Since then, he has built The Gupta Group, an award-winning organization with 25 hotels and counting across Ontario and Quebec, two high-rise residential and one commercial properties, and five more high-rise residential projects under development. [\(Read more\)](#)

Indian Origin Divya Mehra is the winner of the 2022 Sobey Art Award

Divya Mehra is the winner of the 2022 Sobey Art Award, a \$100,000 prize considered to be one of the most prestigious accolades in Canadian contemporary art.



Mehra, who was born and raised in Winnipeg, represents the Prairies and North region, and she was previously nominated for the Sobey Art Award in 2017 when the prize was restricted to Canadian artists under 40, an age requirement that was eliminated last year. [\(Read more\)](#)

CIF Member in News

Event Marks Uganda Expulsion of Indians in 1972

The Indian Exodus Day was recently marked in Toronto to remember and reflect the events of 1972 when the entire population of Indian origin was expelled from Uganda. Thousands of them were granted refugee status in welcoming countries. Canada was one of the countries that accepted a

large number of them. A grateful community celebrated the 50th anniversary of that event on October 12, 2022, in Toronto.

The community has thrived in Canada since then, having grown deep roots and contributing positively to every aspect of Canada. Seen here is **Ramesh Chotai** with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who attended the event on October 11, 2022, in Toronto. Ramesh Chotai is one of the founding members of CIF who came into the country as a refugee from Uganda and carved out a special place in Canada's business world thanks to his hard work and entrepreneurial spirit.



IITAC honors Dr. Lakshmanan



IIT Alumni Canada honoured Dr. V. I . Lakshmanan, OC with the IITAC Distinguished Indo Canadian Award for his services to Community at their Annual Gala held on 19 November 2022 at Natraj Banquet Hall, Mississauga.



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