

# CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION



## CIF E-Newsletter



Volume 17

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July 2023

### Chair's Message



### Moon and Mega Opportunities!

Friends!

It was with mixed emotions that we recently bid farewell to the Consul General of India in Toronto, Ms. Apoorva Srivastava. She has been a huge supporter of the work that we do at Canada India Foundation. She often referred to us as 'family.' It is true that she was like a family member. In the three plus years, she was also effective and focused on the many fronts that Canada and India continue to engage with each other. We wish her all the best in her new post as India's ambassador to Slovakia.

I take this opportunity to warmly welcome the new Consul General of India in Toronto, Mr. Siddhartha Nath. I can say that, after our very first meeting, we are reassured that we have another representative of

India who has a brilliant track record in diplomacy and who will be equally sensitive to the community's needs. He is full of energy and may bring fresh ideas to invigorate the Canada India relationship.

I believe it is appropriate here to give a brief bio of Mr. Nath as we introduce him to the community. Siddhartha Nath is a career diplomat who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2003. He has been posted in the Embassy of India in Beijing (2005-2009) and the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (2013-16). Prior to his appointment as Consul General of India in Toronto, he served as India's Deputy High Commissioner in Singapore (2020-June 2023). He has studied Economics at the Delhi School of Economics in India and Northwestern University in the US.

While on the Canada India front, our Finance Minister, Hon. Chrystia Freeland was in Gandhinagar, India (July 16-18) to attend the G-20 finance ministers meeting. Freeland and Hon. Nirmala Sitharaman met with each other during the summit. Media reports quote both leaders being positive on the Canada India economic engagement. This is encouraging, especially at a time when certain national and international challenges seem to crop up just when things are going well. But I am glad to see that the momentum continues and both our democracies continue to work closely together.

One of the priority areas discussed seems to be Canada's participation in the booming Indian infra expansion. Minister Freeland is said to have conveyed to her counterpart that Canadian pension funds would be keen to explore investing in infrastructure funds in India as the country offers a stable investment climate.

According to the World Economic Forum, India needs \$1.7 trillion investment in infrastructure to sustain its current economic trajectory. And it will take both domestic and foreign financial institutions to fill this huge demand for capital. According to Bloomberg, CPP Investments, the company that invests the assets of the Canada Pension Plan, ended fiscal 2023 with net assets worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore or C\$22 billion in India. It is an 11% increase in its net India assets over fiscal 2022, according to its statements. The C\$22 billion translates to about 3.8% of its global investments of C\$570 billion and 15% of its roughly C\$149-billion investments in the Asia Pacific region. ([Read more](#))

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**Satish Thakkar** FCPA, FCGA  
Chair, CIF

**Ritesh Malik**  
National Convenor, CIF

**Anil Shah**  
Chair, CIF Golf Committee

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## Past Events

**CIF Welcomes India's New Consul General in  
Toronto**



Toronto, July 27, 2023: Canada India Foundation hosted an intimate and warm welcome event for the incoming Consul General of India, Mr. Siddhartha Nath, on Thursday July 27, 2023, at the premises of one of India's most respected and largest banks, ICICI Bank Canada. Prominent CIF members, India watchers, Supporters, the top executive team of ICICI Bank Canada and well-wishers of the Canada India engagement turned up in strength to meet with the new Consul General on his very first public engagement.

Satish Thakkar, welcoming Mr. Nath, noted: "We are very privileged that you are barely one week into your new role, and you have chosen to meet with the members of the CIF team in your very first public engagement in Canada." [\(Read More\)](#)

[Click here for reception photos](#)

## **CIF members met His Holiness Acharya Lokesh Muni Ji,**



CIF members met His Holiness Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji in Mississauga on 25 July 2023. The program was organized by CIF board of Governors member Mr. Anshul Ruhil.

Acharya Ji bestowed upon everyone his invaluable blessings, enveloping us in a wave of spiritual enlightenment and tranquility. His words of



wisdom touched our hearts and sowed seeds of kindness, tolerance, and humility in all of us.

CIF Chair Mr. Satish Thakkar briefed Acharya Ji, regarding the different activities of the foundation and how it is making a difference in the Canadian society with its continuous work to strengthen Canada India Bilateral ties.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji applauded the CIF work and said that humanity across the world needs more cooperation, collaboration, and mutual respect, with collective efforts and shared values, to empower all sections of society.

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## **CIF meets With Oakville Mayor Rob Burton**



Oakville 17 July 2023: CIF Members met with Mayor of Oakville, Rob Burton, to discuss issues of relating to the community and possible initiatives that would help connect Oakville with India. Satish Thakkar, Chair, proposed working on exploring a sister city relationship with an Indian city. Mayor Burton welcomed the suggestion. He said that the city is very interested in new housing opportunities to cater to the increased immigration into Oakville. “I would welcome new investors from India in various sectors Oakville is championing,” he noted. “We are also looking forward to welcoming more immigrants from India as our population ages. Our plans are to double the city population in the next fifty to seventy-five years.”

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## **CIF Hosts Reception for Outgoing Consul General, Ms. Apoorva Srivastava**



CIF members bid farewell to Mrs. Apoorva Srivastava, Consul General of India in Toronto at a reception held on July 5, 2023. Speaking at the occasion, Satish Thakkar, Chair, CIF, said that Ms. Srivastava was like family to CIF. “She has been a constant source of encouragement for us, supporting and giving her inputs regarding our programs. We are especially thankful to her for the strong support she extended to our efforts to make Ayurveda popular in Canada.”

Ritesh Malik, National Convener, CIF, added, “Over the past three plus years, some of us had the opportunity to work with her closely in our initiatives to advance the Canada India bilateral. She not only was always very positive in her approach and used to go out of her way to help take us in the right direction. The Indo Canadian community and all those who are active in the bilateral space will miss her.”

Ms. Srivastava leaves Toronto to take up her next assignment as India’s ambassador to Slovakia.

[Click here for reception photos](#)



**Dr. Tanuja Nesari, Top Ayurveda Scientist,**



## Optimistic about Canada Collaboration



Canada India Foundation had the unique honour of welcoming one of the world's top authorities in Ayurveda, Dr. Tanuja Nesari, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, to Canada on June 27-30, 2023. Dr. Nesari was in Toronto to attend the World Non-Communicable Diseases Congress. CIF has been a proud supporter of the NCD Congress over the years, and this year, it was gratifying to note that the Congress hosted a special session on the role of traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda in efforts to control NCD.

Dr. Nesari presented a paper that detailed some aspects of research going on in India to produce clinical data through modern scientific methods that would help convince even more people to adopt Ayurveda especially while dealing with diseases like diabetes and cardiac issues.

Her presence in Toronto also gave a fresh impetus to the MoU signed between University Health Network (UHN) and the All-India Institute of Ayurveda last year and the \$1 million fund set up by CIF and UHN to support research work to advance adoption of integrative medicine into modern practice.

Dr. Nesari had fruitful discussions with educational institutions like Sheridan, George Brown, and had a roundtable with members of the Ayurvedic practitioners to discuss the opportunities and challenges on the possibility of launching Ayurveda programs for the benefit of Canadian students.



At NCD Congress, Toronto



AT UHN, Toronto



At a roundtable with Ayurveda Practitioners of Canada

## HEADLINES

### Chandrayan 3 on Track to Moon



India's ambitious moon shot has entered deep space and is on its way to lunar orbit. ISRO scientists report all systems functioning normally and the landing is expected to be around Aug. 23, 2023. [\(Read more.\)](#)

### Foxconn to Invest Over \$1 Billion in its India Operation

Foxconn may have ended their tie up





with Vedanta, but they have not exited India. The Taiwan-based electronics giant that already manufactures iPhone 14 in India announced a billion-dollar new manufacturing base in Karnataka recently. ([Read more.](#))

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## Canada Post and India Post Sign Deal to Facilitate eCommerce

In a unique agreement to collaborate, two government entities of Canada and India, Canada Post and India Post recently signed an agreement to introduce International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) between the two countries. ([Read more.](#))



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## European Businesses Excited about EU-India FTA



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

As the Free Trade Agreement between European Union and India reach its advanced stages, a lot of European businesses are gearing up with plans to take advantage of the opportunities. Pune-based World Trade Centre reports as receiving ten or eleven enquiries from Europe each

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## IIT's First Foreign Campus will be in Tanzania

India's international celebrated IIT educational system is planning its first expansion into international arena. Reports say that Tanzania will be home to the first ever IIT to be opened outside of India. ([Read more.](#))



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## HDFC Merger Creates a \$173 Billion Financial Giant

Following the merger of HDFC Bank Ltd and Housing Development Finance Corp



in India, the combined entity will have a total market capitalization of \$173 billion, making it the world's fourth largest behind JP Morgan Chase & Co, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Bank of America. ([Read more.](#))

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## US to Train Indian Astronauts

In a show of trust and friendship, the US is planning to train Indian astronauts who would potentially be ready to join in US space missions. This announcement followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington earlier. ([Read more.](#))



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## Google, Amazon to Invest \$26 Billion in India



Following a meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Google CEO, Sundar Pichai announced that the tech giant will be investing \$10 billion in India's Digitization Fund. He also announced the opening of a global fintech centre in Gujarat's GIFT city. Amazon too committed to invest \$15 billion in its India operation. ([Read more.](#))

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## Spotlight

### Vijay Thomas Receives Non-Resident Business of the Year Award

Canada India Foundation congratulates Mr. Vijay Thomas, Member, Board of Governors CIF for winning the inaugural Non-Resident Business of the year award by Vibrant Goa. Mr. Thomas is President & CEO of Tangentia Inc.



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## Upcoming Events





## INTERNATIONAL AYURVEDA MEGA-CONFERENCE AYURVEDA BEYOND WELLNESS



**DR. ASMITA WELE**  
AYURVEDIC PHYSICIAN  
SHASMA EXPERT



**DR. ATUL VARSHNEY**  
MD (AYU KAYACHIKITA)  
AYURVEDA PHYSICIAN



**VD. BALENDU  
PRAKASH**  
AYURVEDIC SHASMA PHYSICIAN  
PAIN/CRANIOLOGY EXPERT



**PROF. DR. C.B. JHA**  
AYURVEDIC SHASMA PHYSICIAN  
SALA MEDICINE MAKER



**DR. DAVID  
FRAWLEY**  
SANSKRIT SCHOLAR  
AUTHOR, TEACHER



**DR. DAVID GALLO**  
TOP TED SPEAKER  
OCEANOGRAPHY



**DIVYA ALTER**  
AYURVEDIC CHEF  
AUTHOR



**DR. HARISH  
VERMA**  
AYURVEDA PHYSICIAN, AUTHOR  
CEO BEST AYURVEDA



**DR. ISMAT  
DHALA-NATHANI**  
YOGA PHYSICIAN  
AYURVEDA SCHOOL DIRECTOR



**PROF. KULDEEP  
K.R. PANDEY**  
AYURVEDA ANESTHESIA PHYSICIAN  
PAIN EXPERT



**DR. LAXMI NAIK**  
MD  
INTEGRATIVE PHYSICIAN



**DR. MADAN  
THANGAVELU**  
PHD, GENOME BIOLOGIST  
SANSKRIT EXPERT



**DR. MELINA  
SHAVORIAN-MISHRA**  
CEO SHAKA VANDYA AYURVEDA  
PHD, TRAUMA HEALER



**DR. P. NAMBI  
NAMBOODIRI**  
MD (AYU DRAVYAGUNA)  
AYURVEDA PHYSICIAN LINEAGE



**DR. NIDIA DIAZ**  
ACUPUNCTURIST  
LEACH THERAPY EXPERT



**DR. NITIN AGARWAL**  
AYURVEDIC PHYSICIAN  
CEO BLISS SPA INDIA



**DR. PARTAP CHAUHAN**  
AYURVEDIC PHYSICIAN  
AUTHOR, TELEVISION PIONEER



**DR. PRACHI GARODIA**  
MD, INTEGRATIVE PHYSICIAN  
AUTHOR, GARDENER



**DR. PRIYANKA  
INGLE-JADHAV**  
AYURVEDIC PHYSICIAN  
BIG PHARMA RESEARCH



**RAJIV VASUDEVAN**  
FOUNDER & CEO  
AYURVEDA HOSPITALS



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PARAMESH**  
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**RANJIT PURANIK**  
DIRECTOR SHODHAPAPESHWAR AYURVEDA  
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**ROHIT GANDHI**  
EMMY WINNING  
JOURNALIST & FILMMAKER



**DR. ROHIT SANE**  
FOUNDER & CEO  
NADHAYAGU CARDIAC CARE



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DIRECTOR SANDU  
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**DR. SHRI KRISHNA  
SHARMA KHADEL**  
AYURVEDIC PHYSICIAN  
SANSKRIT SCHOLAR



**DR. SIRI  
CHAND KHALSA**  
MD, INTEGRATIVE PHYSICIAN  
MD, PALLIATIVE CARE, CAP



**SMRITA M. CHOUBEY**  
CEO VEDA FARMS  
AYURVEDA ENTREPRENEUR



**DR. SUKUMAR  
SARDESHMUKH**  
AYURVEDIC PHYSICIAN LINEAGE  
CANCER CARE, MEDICINE MAKER



**DR. USHA PERI**  
MD, INTEGRATIVE NEPHROLOGIST  
TED SPEAKER, MEDITATION EXPERT

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We encourage you to also book your hotel stay and ensure ample time for arranging a pleasant stay.

Should you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to reach us at [ncam.usa2023@gmail.com](mailto:ncam.usa2023@gmail.com)

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**CANADA INDIA  
FOUNDATION**



**Save the Date**

**Annual Global Indian Award Gala**

**29 Sept 2023**



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**Stay Tuned for Details:**

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

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We cordially invite you to Join  
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6 to 8.30 PM on  
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CAUSES AND RISK FACTORS- PROF P K DALAL AND SUJIT KAR (LUCKNOW)  
APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION\_ PROF NILESH SHAH AND AMRESH SHRIVASTAVA (MUMBAI)  
SELF-DEVELOPMENT- PROF SHUBHANGI PARKAR (MUMBAI) AND KAUSHIK SINHA DEB (NEW  
DELHI)

DR SHIVENDRA DWIVEDI, AMRESH SHRIVASTAVA HEMAN DIXIT, MANISHAMKH SHRIVASTAVA

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