

# CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION



## CIF E-Newsletter



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### Chair's Message



### Thank You for Your Friendship, Commitment and Support

Hello friends,

It's been only a few weeks since we held a highly successful CIF Global Indian Award Gala 2023. And we have not stopped receiving congratulatory messages from people and organizations not just within Canada but internationally. This year, as most of you know, we had an undisputed superstar, not from Bollywood, as our recipient - Ms. Sudha Murty, the founder of the Infosys Foundation that is transforming countless lives in India especially in the area of women empowerment and children's education.

Through her articles, books, and public and social media engagements, Murty has become a darling of the crowds wherever she goes. And that was very evident during her brief stay here in Toronto. We thank her for her presence, her inspiring words, and her good natured and patient attitude when dealing with fans and admirers. You made it a very special evening for us at Canada India Foundation.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous support we received from so many of you who came on board as sponsors, as attendees and volunteers. We are grateful to each one of you for your continued participation and being a part of the gala event that helps enhance the image of the whole Indo Canadian community.

What was also a bit of a surprise was the positive notes expressed during the gala held at a time when the headlines were all about a challenging situation in the Canada India bilateral relationship. Despite the challenges and seriousness of the issues, every speaker and guest, including India's High Commissioner to Canada, was more optimistic about the relationship overcoming the bumps to eventually gain greater traction in the future.

Canada India relationship and its many ups and downs are what we at Canada India Foundation, have kept a watch on for the past decade and a half. Wherever possible we play a role strictly keeping in mind the benefits that our two democratic nations and our people can share when a close and mutually respectful bilateral framework is put in place. This optimism is what is driving us now and will in the future. ([Read more](#))

## Past Events

### **CIF Holds an Interactive discussion with Mr. Vikas Swarup**



Toronto (22 October 2023) - Canada India Foundation (CIF) had a very interactive and enlightening discussion with Vikas Swarup, former High Commissioner of India to Canada currently completing his 6 weeks of

residency as Global Thought Leader at the University of Guelph (UofG), at a lunch reception held in his honour at the Holiday Inn in Toronto. The Global Thought Leader in Residence was a joint initiative of CIF and UofG, with the objective to create a better understanding of a new India, help various stakeholders in both countries to forge alliances, build partnerships, share ideas with each other for mutual gain and greater common good.

[Click here for more photos](#)

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## Annual Global Indian Award Gala 2023



Toronto, September 29, 2023: Canada India Foundation hosted its latest Global Indian Award Gala in the presence of a thousand-plus audience consisting of the finest from the Indo Canadian community as well as avid supporters of Canada India friendship from the mainstream at the Universal EventSpace, Vaughan on September 29, 2023.

What made the evening even more of a celebration was the presence of the latest awardee who has already garnered a rock star like following in India – **Ms. Sudha Murty**, one of India's most admired women. An engineer, technologist, entrepreneur, author, educator, social activist, and for the past quarter of a century a philanthropist extraordinaire Ms. Murty has transformed the lives of millions of the poorest of poor in India.

The reception she received at the Award gala is indicative of the impact she has had on the community with lines of admirers queueing up for photographs they will treasure for years to come. Ms. Sudha Murty, despite her fame and fortune, and a touch of jetlag, demonstrated once again that she walks the talk, by going out of her way to oblige everyone. [\(Read More\)](#)

[Click here for VIP reception photos](#)

[Click here for Gala Photos](#)

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## Business groups warn of trade and hiring impact as dispute with India continues



Companies operating in Canada and India are taking a hit as the diplomatic dispute between the two countries stretches into its second month, according to business groups. "It's a very big shock and setback for the business community because this kind of episode creates a lot of uncertainty about what's going to happen next," said Satish Thakkar, chair of the Canada India Foundation. [\(Read more\)](#)

## India restarting some visa services for Canadians

After a month-long freeze, Indian officials say the High Commission in Ottawa and consulates-general in Toronto and Vancouver will resume processing some types of visas starting Thursday. According to the release, officials will resume services for entry visas, business visas, medical visas and conference visas. "Emergency situations will continue to be addressed by the High Commission and the Consulates General as it is being done currently," the announcement says. [\(Read more\)](#)



## Poillievre says Trudeau soured India relations

Conservative Leader Pierre Poillievre is blaming Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for a diplomatic chill with India, saying Ottawa needs a "professional relationship"



with the government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Meanwhile, Modi's government says it is upset with the federal Liberals and not Canada as a whole. [\(Read more\)](#)

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## Military Ties Between Canada and India Continue

Despite the recent downturn in the Canada India bilateral, there are signs of continued engagement between the two countries, especially in military ties. Canada has pledged in its Indo Pacific strategy paper to raise its profile in the region including closer ties with India. [\(Read more.\)](#)



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## World's Second Biggest Hindu Temple in New Jersey



The BAPS organization has built what is being billed as the world's second biggest Hindu temple, next only to the famed Angkor Wat, on a 185-acre parcel of land in New Jersey. Visitors have called it a stunning piece of architecture that is bound to enhance the image of the Indian Americans in

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

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## Indian Participation Vital for Start-up System in Canada

Indian innovators and entrepreneurs interested in setting up start-up businesses in Canada will be at a disadvantage if the current diplomatic standoff continues, say experts. They might be forced to look for other near-shore destinations to service Canada, US and other markets. [\(Read more.\)](#)



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## Yukon's Premier Seeks Engagement with India



Yukon Premier, Ranj Pillai, a Canadian with Indian roots, led a business delegation to India recently, visiting the state of Kerala and New Delhi exploring opportunities to bring trained professionals to his Province as well as mining engagements in critical minerals like gold and silver. The Premier would later describe the path forward, given the current situation, as 'murky'. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## India's Record Tally at the Asian Games

The Indian contingent at the Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, broke all previous records by winning a total of 107 medals. This impressive performance gives Indian athletes including some of their boxers a clear invitation to participate in the Paris Olympics 2024. [\(Read more.\)](#)



## Cricket to Make its Debut at the 2028 LA Olympics



After years of waiting, one of the world's most popular games, cricket (T20 version), has been included in the Olympics list of approved games. An official attached to the Los Angeles Olympic committee, said, "We

are thrilled to welcome the world's second-most popular sport with an estimated 2.5 billion fans worldwide." [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## India on Track to Meet Climate Goals

According to a recent report, India along with the UK, Switzerland and Indonesia are the only four major economies well on their way to meet the climate goals set in Paris by 2030. India's greenhouse emissions rate



dropped by 33 per cent in 14 years due to a rise in renewable energy generation and forest cover. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## Leaders Pay Homage to Dr. Swaminathan, Father of India's Green Revolution



Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the visionary scientist who is credited with setting India and its billion people on the path to full food security, died in Chennai recently at age 98. A recipient of India's highest honours, he was popularly known as the Father of the Green

Revolution that transformed India's agricultural landscape in the 1960's. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## Spotlight

### Surjit Babra gets Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award

First Chair of Canada India Foundation Mr. Surjit Babra, Chairman Skylink Group & Founder Skylink Charity got Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award presented by Afroglobal Television.

Babra's charity has supported Right to Play, Trillium Hospital, Sick Kids Hospital, the Crossover Mentorship Program for youth, schools, Drip Irrigation Farming in India, the Uganda COVID-19 Oxygen Relief, and ambulance programs. In 2019, he donated 230,500 cans of beans weighing 271,000 lbs in London, Waterloo, Burlington, Hamilton and Toronto. He received the Mother Teresa Humanitarian Award, B'nai Brith Award, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Transformation Institute's Enterprise Award, the World Travel Mart Award, UK and more. He receives the prestigious 2023 Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award from the Afroglobal Television Excellence Awards program.



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### Contact Us

**Satish Thakkar,**  
FCPA, FCGA  
Chair  
[satish@efgcanada.ca](mailto:satish@efgcanada.ca)

**Ritesh Malik**  
National Convener  
[ritesh@riteshmalik.com](mailto:ritesh@riteshmalik.com)

**Sunita Vyas**  
National Co-convener  
[sunita@aolmississauga.com](mailto:sunita@aolmississauga.com)



## **Canada India Foundation**

2939 Portland Drive, Suite #300  
Oakville ON L6H 5S4, Ph: 289-291-0277  
E-mail: [info@canadaindiafoundation.com](mailto:info@canadaindiafoundation.com)  
[www.canadaindiafoundation.com](http://www.canadaindiafoundation.com)

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