

# CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION



## CIF E-Newsletter



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### Chair's Message



### Outreach to Build Deeper Ties within Community & Beyond for Better Canada

Hello friends,

There is a lot happening here and around the world. For those of us who are keenly invested in Canada as well India, there might be reason to be concerned at certain developments in the international arena. We have also more pressing concerns where our attention is required. Canada India Foundation is, first and last, an organization dedicated to building a strong bilateral space. We are also equally devoted to the welfare of the two million strong Indo Canadian community here. While we are deeply concerned and worry about any developments that impair the advancing of our bilateral relationship, we also realize that differences of opinion can and will arise between sovereign nations who may be otherwise aligned in their goals. They do not mark the end of the road.

The issues get sorted out without harming the core interests of either side. This is the level of optimism that I would personally bring to the issues currently facing Canada and India.

Why focus on the negative when we have so much positive going for us when we work together? And that is no longer vague or undefined. Beginning with geopolitics to immigration to climate change, opportunities are plenty for Canada and India to join forces and work towards a more peaceable and prosperous world.

One of the first initiatives I had the privilege of launching was a mass outreach to the political leadership of Canada. We wrote to each and everyone of our honorable MPs, Senators, MPPs across the country introducing ourselves and inviting them to engage with us on understanding the work that we do at Canada India Foundation. We approached everyone irrespective of their party identity or geopolitical beliefs. Openness, relevant space, due respect and continuous understanding all viewpoints is the cornerstone of any vibrant democracy. And this is where we are failing as certain groups and individuals seem to have the ownership of narrative and their unwillingness to accord space to alternate voices is not helping Canada move forward on issues very important to national interests. We are also taking steps to reach out to the numerous community groups and organizations that can help and even guide us to set future direction and priorities. I am glad to report to you that we are thrilled at the response. But that also puts us in a position of far greater responsibility to work harder for both countries and diaspora as everyone is looking up to us for the impact and positive results. It will be a collective effort though. So, I appeal to all like-minded individuals to come forward and join forces for a better Canada.

We heard back from those who were keen to know more about our work, and keen to go deeper in understanding the current state of the Canada India relationship. Even more interestingly, we are encouraged to see the positive tone expressed by many who see a golden opportunity for their Province or Community consequent to a strong Canada India trade agreement. ([Read more](#))

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*Democracies Working Together*

# Season's Greetings

Wishing you all a season  
filled with love, peace,  
and all the happiness  
that the holidays bring

[www.CanadaIndiaFoundation.com](http://www.CanadaIndiaFoundation.com)



## Events

### **CIF Chair, Ritesh Malik and High Commissioner Mackay Discuss Bilateral Relationship**

New Delhi: 17 Dec 2023: CIF Chair,  
Ritesh Malik, met with H.E.  
Cameron Mackay, Canada's High





Commissioner in India for an exchange of current and future prospects facing the Canada India engagement. The importance of the relationship was stressed by both against the background of the Indo-Pacific region's significance and how Canada and India can together help contribute positively to peaceful development.

## CIF and FICCI to Explore Joint Initiatives



Ritesh Malik, Chair, CIF met with the executive team of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to explore ways and means on how the two organizations can work together to advance the economic agenda between Canada and India. Strengthening

business and commercial ties can not only promote economic growth in both countries, but also enhance people to people exchange and help build better understanding.

## AVANI President Interacts with CIF



Oakville , Dec. 18, 2023: Ms. Anuradha Bhosale, President, AVANI, a nonprofit based in India, interacted with the CIF executive team during



a recent visit. Ms. Sunita Vyas, National Convener CIF briefed her about the CIF's philanthropic activities. Mr. Girish Kekre, Director, CIF introduced the guest to the audience.

AVANI has been serving destitute and marginalized communities since 1994. It runs various projects, including homes for girls and children, mobile classes, online education, and a library on wheels for children from waste-picker families. AVANI played a crucial role in bringing relief to the people during the COVID-19 pandemic and floods in July 2021 that hit the state of Maharashtra in India. AVANI distributed food grains and hygiene kits to the most vulnerable in society. Over the last 28 years of its existence, AVANI has successfully integrated 55,000 children into the education system.

## **CIF Welcomes Brampton's Effort to Improve International Student Experience**



Canada India Foundation recently endorsed the document outlining the guiding principles to improve the International Student Experience at an event attended by Mr. Satish Thakkar, Immediate Past Chair, CIF, Sheridan College President Janet Morrison and the Mayor of Brampton, Patrick Brown. The signing ceremony was held at the Sheridan College on December 18, 2023, attended by several luminaries from the community.

The Brampton Charter for Improving the International Student Experience presents a concrete action plan that will make a positive difference in the lives of international students who choose to study and stay in Brampton. The Charter includes shared principles, recommended actions and mechanisms for accountability.

It will inspire other jurisdictions to adopt similar community charters of their own, creating a national network of organizations that choose to

hold themselves and one another accountable to provide a seamless and successful international student experience.



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## HEADLINES

### Proposed Changes May Restrict Indian Students Flow into Canada





Thanks to a number of reasons, chief among them the welfare of the international students in Canada, Canadian government has announced plans to bring in changes to its visa policy regarding international students. The proposed changes are likely to impact the movement of students from India, currently the largest segment of international students. [\(See more.\)](#)

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## Samir Shah Appointed as Head of BBC



Samir Shah, a television entrepreneur and media expert, is the new head of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Born in 1952 at Aurangabad, India, to Amrit Shah and Uma Bakaya, the family moved to England in 1960. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## A Vegetarian Diet Can Save the Planet

The findings are out. And clear. If you want to save the planet, then you need to go vegetarian before switching to electric cars. A recent study has confirmed that a plant-based diet will help reduce harmful emissions that impact climate by 75%. Additionally, it helps reduce water pollution and soil degradation. [\(Read more.\)](#)



## New Zealand Cracks Down on Extremists



Three Khalistani extremists have been sentenced for the attempted murder of a popular Auckland-based radio host Harneek Singh, who has been vocal against the ideology of Khalistan. During the hearing, Judge Mark Woolford emphasised the need for community protection and a strong deterrence against religious fanaticism. [\(Read more.\)](#)

## Garba Listed in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Garba, a vivid dance form and cultural practice, popular in India, originating in Gujarat, has been recognized by UNESCO in its list of cultural heritage. A ritualistic and devotional dance, Garba is particularly celebrated for nine days during the festival of Navaratri. The festival is dedicated to the worship of the feminine energy or Shakti. [\(Read more.\)](#)



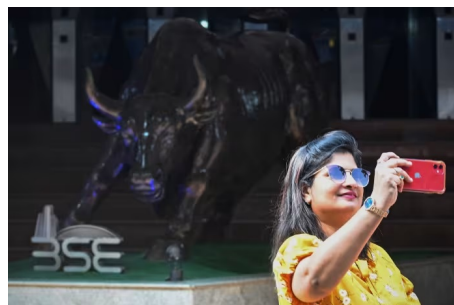
## Indian Stock Market Continues to Break Records



Indian stocks are on one of its biggest bull runs. Experts predict that this is the real thing, driven by genuine factors like fundamental strengths in the economy, enlightened economic leadership and favourable international response. [\(Read more.\)](#)

## India's Stock Market Capitalization Touches \$4 Trillion

In recent weeks, India's total market capitalization has seen a dramatic rise to reach the tantalizing \$4 trillion mark, overtaking Hongkong. Experts predict that Indian stocks are on track to continue the growth and reach even higher peaks. [\(Read more.\)](#)





## US Issues Record Number of Student Visas to Indians



While other jurisdictions like Canada and Australia are planning to restrict the inflow of international students, the US is going in the opposite direction. In the latest stats available, US issued a record 140,000 visas to Indian students last year. Most of them,

however, are enrolled in universities enriching higher education in the US. ([Read more.](#))

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## Gautam Adani Regains Lost Billions

After a year of uncertainty, Gautam Adani, has retrieved billions lost in market cap after a short seller report last year, to become once again, one of the world's biggest billionaires. The decision of the US government to ignore the short seller's report as 'irrelevant' while extending Adani a loan of \$550 million has boosted investor confidence in the ports to power conglomerate. ([Read more.](#))



## CIF Urges Community Members to Donate Blood

Canada India Foundation continued its efforts to help create awareness in the community to donate to the Canadian Blood Services. Blood is always a critical element in healthcare with the power to save lives. CIF is encouraging members of the Indo Canadian community to be proactive and help in this crucial program.

[Click here to join today](#)

# Make a meaningful impact on the lives of patients in your community and across Canada.

Join us and book your lifesaving blood and/or plasma donation today.

## To join the team:

- 1** Sign in or create an account at [blood.ca/PFL](https://blood.ca/PFL) or use the **GiveBlood app**
- 2** Select 'Partners' from the menu, then 'Join an existing team'
- 3** Search for: **Canada India Foundation**
- 4** For help booking or for more information, contact [info@canadaindiafoundation.com](mailto:info@canadaindiafoundation.com)



Use the camera app on your phone and scan the QR code to book your appointment.

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