



## CIF E-Newsletter



Volume 18

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February 2024

### Chair's Message

## A Space for a Great Dialogue

Hello friends,

I am happy to report to you that I am writing this message from New Delhi where I have been fortunate enough to become a part of perhaps the most important group of leaders and policy makers who have gathered under the umbrella of **Raisina Dialogue**. This is an initiative launched under the aegis of the Government of India, held every year by the Observer Research Foundation. Since its inception, Raisina Dialogue has grown in strength and prestige among the global community involved in finding solutions to the world's problems, especially conflicts.



Experts and stakeholders from across the world have gathered here (Feb.21-23) for an open and in-depth exchange of views on issues that matter to the welfare of humanity. As in the past, RD 2024 has seen participation by over a hundred speakers including the Prime Minister of India, Hon. Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Greece, Hon. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who was the Chief Guest.

I am glad to note that Canada too is well-represented here. Among the dignitaries present are former Prime Minister of Canada, Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper and Hon. Scot Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan. The atmosphere here is positive and inspiring. The theme of Raisina Dialogue this year is *Conflict, Contest, Cooperate and Create*. The message is clear: Every issue is resolvable when given the space for dialogues to flourish.

This is a perfect context to talk to you about one of the newer initiatives that Canada India Foundation would be looking at to help achieve our goals and initiate great dialogues. As far as our core objective is concerned, it remains rock steady – contribute to building the closest possible bilateral relationship between our homeland that we left behind and this wonderful and welcoming home that today we call Canada.

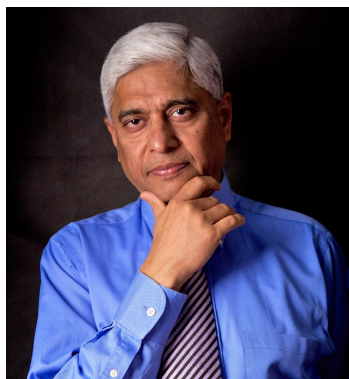
While studying the current state of the relationship, we have come across a major gap between good intentions and reality. There is an acute awareness among many of our community leaders who have expressed their desire to have an active community outreach when faced with challenges. There is an urgent need to come together under an overarching umbrella. In other words, we aim to build a platform that will be the largest meeting ground for not only the Indo Canadian community, but everyone else who are convinced that Canada and India working together will bring dividends for Canada and all Canadians.

We are only at the beginning of giving final shape to the venture from CIF. We may call it **#WeForCanadaIndia**. This is not supposed to supplant any of the current platforms run so efficiently by community groups and individuals. We want to take their efforts to even greater heights by providing a broader platform that will be inclusive and effective. The organizations that have nourished our business, spiritual and social needs have created their niche presence in Canada. And we believe that they will continue to serve the community with even more zeal in the future. ([Read more](#))

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## G20 bringing India and Canada Together

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**Amb. Vikas Swarup (IFS Retd)**

Former High Commissioner of India to Canada

India and Canada are two large, vibrant, multicultural democracies which share similar values and beliefs. They are united by their shared membership of several international organizations, in particular, the UN, the Commonwealth and the G20.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's recent visit to India for the G20 Summit underscored the tremendous potential of the two countries to work together on a whole host of issues on the agenda of this important organization.

India's presidency of the G20 was unique in many aspects. It was easily the most ambitious in the history of the G20, with over 220 meetings in 60 cities across every state and union territory of India. The summit on September 9-10 was the culmination of this process, resulting in a record 112 outcomes and presidency documents, more than tripling the substantive work from previous presidencies. [\(Read More\)](#)

*(Originally published in the CIF Gala Magazine, October 2023)*

## Upcoming Event

### Join Us for CIF's Women's Day Conference 2024!

Are you eager to seize opportunities, advance your career, and expand your professional network? Look no further! CIF proudly presents the International Women's Day Conference 2024.

A full-day program will be offered with various activities designed specifically for women aged 18-30, including students, Young professionals, and Job seekers.

#### **Event Highlights:**

- Career Coaching Workshop
- Panelist Discussion with Industry Leaders
- Networking Session
- Complimentary Food and Drinks

#### **Program:**

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2024

Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm

Venue: Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport,

Address: 970 Dixon Rd, Toronto, ON M9W 1J9

# CIF WOMEN'S DAY CONFERENCE 2024

REGISTER BY FEB 25TH

A WOMEN'S DAY  
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VICE PRESIDENT,  
TECH-ENABLED EXPERIENCES,  
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PRIVACY LAWYER,  
NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT



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Don't miss out on this transformative opportunity! Sign up to secure your spot at this exclusive event. Together, let's empower women to thrive in their careers and beyond.  
Join us in celebrating International Women's Day with an event that promises to inspire, educate, and empower!

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**Past Event**

**CIF Celebrates India's 75th Republic Day**





Toronto, January 26, 2024: Canada India Foundation together with the prestigious Albany Club in Toronto marked the 75th Republic Day of India in the presence of the Consul General of India, Siddharth Nath, Nina Tangri, Associate Ontario Minister of Small Business, Deepak Anand MPP. Ritesh Malik, Chair, CIF, in his opening remarks, stated: “It is a very special Republic Day celebration this year, as it is coming only four days after the historic inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on Jan 22nd. While the Ram Mandir consecration was remarkable in its Hindu civilizational aspects, it also has far-reaching implications for the people of Bharat – no matter what religious background they come from. Resurgence of Bharat means resurgence of an old value system which has existed for thousands of years.” ([Read more](#))

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Products and services are subject to change depending on flight duration and aircraft.

## HEADLINES

**Saskatchewan Premier on India Mission**





As its third largest export market India is critical to the Province's economy according to Premier Scot Moe who took a business mission there in February. The Premier's mission will focus on the province's leadership in natural resources, agri-value, and sustainability. ([Read more](#))

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## **Ontario Strengthening International Partnerships With Business Mission to India**



TORONTO — The Ontario government has concluded a successful business mission to India to build on the longstanding economic partnership between both jurisdictions. The mission, led by Vic Fedeli, Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, focused on attracting new investments and strengthening ties in key sectors like technology, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing.

“Our global presence keeps Ontario top of mind for business leaders and investors in key markets like India,” said Minister Fedeli. “During this business mission, our message to the companies we met with was clear: with a world-class workforce, state-of-the-art research and development facilities and competitive business environment, the opportunities for growth in Ontario are endless.” [\(Read More\)](#)

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## India Launches Next Gen Weather Satellite

India’s space agency ISRO continues its successful track with yet another unique achievement. It’s latest launch of GSLV-F14 satellite will dramatically improve weather forecast in the Indian subcontinent by using next generation technology. [\(Read More\)](#)



## Ottawa Launches Portal for International Students to Verify their Acceptance Letters



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has announced it plans to launch a web-based portal to help international students from falling victims to unscrupulous agents. Through this portal foreign students can verify their acceptance letters from designated learning institutions in Canada. [\(Read](#)

[more.\)](#)

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## 88 Pictures to Expand Operations in North America

88 Pictures, an Indian company specializing in animation, VFX, gaming and VR with a global footprint is expanding its presence in Toronto. Following the business mission led by Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Hon. Vic Fedeli, to India the company announced its plans to further strengthen its international office in Toronto to serve the large North American market. [\(Read more.\)](#)



## Abu Dhabi’s Magnificent Hindu Temple to Become a Major Tourist Draw





India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the first Hindu temple built in Abu Dhabi by the BAPS organization that runs spiritual centres across the world. The magnificent structure has been built on a 27-acre land parcel donated by the ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al

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

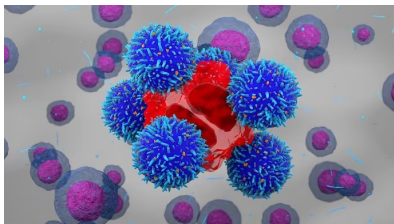
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## Dubai's Bharat Mart a Huge Boost to Indian Exporters

Small and medium Indian businesses keen on developing export markets have been given a huge leg up by the launching of a huge commercial complex in Dubai, called Bharat Mart. Dubai based developer DP World, is calling it Your storefront to the world. The company claims that Bharat Mart will open doors to a three and a half billion strong market in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. [\(Read more.\)](#)



## Exciting New Cancer Treatment Approved in India



A cancer patient has been cured using India's CAR-T cell therapy, an indigenous cancer treatment, recently approved by India's drug regulator. This new treatment is also reported to cost only one tenth of similar therapeutic options available in the

West. The breakthrough followed research conducted at IIT Mumbai. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## Surat Airport Upgraded to International Status

The Government of India has declared Gujarat's Surat Airport as an 'International Airport'. The notification follows a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new terminal building of Surat Airport that can handle 1,200 domestic passengers and 600 international passengers during peak hours. [\(Read more.\)](#)



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## Tamil Nadu to Become \$2.6 Trillion Economy



Tamil Nadu's GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) is projected to reach USD 2.6 trillion by 2047-48, requiring a capital expenditure of USD 111 billion. The state is the second-largest economy in India, contributing 8.8% to the nation's GDP. In recent years, the state has recorded an annual growth rate of over 10%. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## Moody's Upgrades Adani Enterprises

Gautam Adani is back where he was – at the top of India's billionaires list. After losing nearly \$150 billion in market cap following a short seller report the Adani empire seems to have moved past the setback to regain some of the lost prestige.

International rating agency Moody's recently upgraded four of his largest companies to 'stable'. [\(Read more.\)](#)



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## Canada to Cap Number of Foreign Students for Two Years



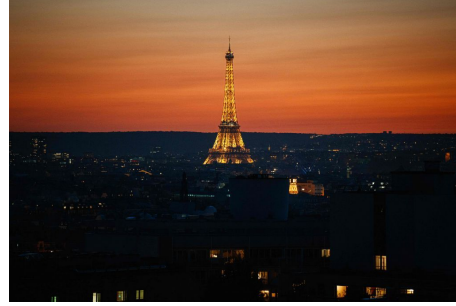
As part of major changes being proposed to curtail international student visas, the government will also no longer as of September 2024 grant work permits for students graduating from colleges that operate under a public-private partnership model, which is most commonly found in the province of Ontario. [\(Read more.\)](#)

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## India's UPI Goes Global

France has become the first country in the European Union to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI). This collaboration marks the beginning of UPI's availability, starting with the Eiffel Tower, where

Indian tourists rank as the second largest group of international visitors. Besides France, seven other countries including UAE and Singapore have joined the increasing reach of UPI's global footprint. [\(Read more.\)](#)



## CIF Member in News

### Norton Kothari honoured with King Clancy Award



**Mr. Norton Kothari**, President and CEO of Kothari Group, and Member CIF Board of Governor conferred with 2024 King Clancy Award by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) at their 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Valentine Gala on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Award was presented annually in recognition of outstanding personal achievement and important contributions in support of Canadians who live with disability. Founded in 1984, the goal of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) is to consistently seek to put the emphasis on a person's abilities — rather than disabilities — and to recognize and celebrate their achievements and contributions to society.

## 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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