

CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION



CIF E-Newsletter



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Chair's Message



From Cautious Optimism to Constructive Engagement

Hello friends,

After the G7 Summit held in Kananaskis, Alberta in June where India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, attended at the invitation of our Prime Minister, Mark Carney, there's been a notable sense of optimism—perhaps still cautious—around the future of Canada–India relations. Carney and Modi had a meaningful exchange, supported by renewed dialogue between their respective foreign ministers. This led to concrete outcomes – the reinstatement of full diplomatic ties, agreement to resume trade negotiations, and deeper cooperation on security issues. These are vital steps in the right direction.

Full credit must go to Prime Minister Mark Carney for setting a clear tone and vision for where he wants this bilateral relationship to go. I would love to drop the word “cautious” from cautious optimism, but that depends on how this vision is translated into consistent, thoughtful action—and how both nations respond to each other’s genuine concerns.

Encouragingly, there is a growing recognition—especially in Canada—that it’s time to move away from rhetoric that undermines this strategic relationship. We must begin to look at India through the lens of Canada’s long-term interests, rather than through diaspora politics or ideological lenses that have taken hold in certain policy and political circles. Prime Minister Carney’s success will ultimately depend on whether this pivot is sustained, and whether we pursue a foreign policy that is rooted in national interest, not shaped by loud voices or protests on the streets. That is neither sustainable nor reflective of Canadian values.

A notable example of the positive momentum can be seen in the space collaboration between the two countries. In July, India launched the groundbreaking NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, with data that will support global climate science and benefit Canadian researchers as well. Simultaneously, Canada is moving forward with its own ambitious lunar agenda—through the Canadian Space Agency and MDA-led design studies for a Lunar Utility Vehicle. Canadian universities are also deeply involved in scientific collaborations with India, such as the International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) in Uttarakhand. These efforts speak to a relationship rooted in shared innovation, mutual respect, and global impact. ([Read more](#))

CIF New Board



Ritesh Malik
Chair



Pankaj Dave
National Convener



Sanjay Makkar
Co-Convener



Sandeep Goel
Treasurer



Chetan Handa
Secretary



Ramnik Khurana
Director



Shivani Gupta
Director

The Annual General Meeting of Canada India Foundation was held on 25th June 2025.

The new CIF Executive Team members are **Ritesh Malik**, Chair, **Pankaj Dave**, National Convener and **Sanjay Makkar**, National Co-convener.

Pankaj Dave has decades of experience as an entrepreneur in the trading of steel and metal products internationally. Sanjay Makkar, an insurance industry veteran, has become the new National Co-convener.

Sandeep Goel, a leader in banking sector becomes the new Treasurer and **Chetan Handa**, is a successful entrepreneur with presence in multiple sectors will assume the role of Secretary of CIF.

Additionally, **Ramnik Khurana**, an entrepreneur and **Shivani Gupta**, Director of Crown Group of Hotels will be on board as Independent Directors.

[\(Click here for Details\)](#)

Upcoming Events

10th Charity **GOLF** TOURNAMENT



MONDAY

August 18, 2025

RATTLESNAKE POINT GOLF CLUB

5407 Regional Rd 25, Milton, ON

288 Golfers

10:00 AM

Shot Gun

**Fundraiser for Fallen
Soldiers/ Frontline Workers**

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HEADLINES

NASA - ISRO Satellite Lifts Off



Carrying an advanced radar system that will produce a dynamic, three-dimensional view of Earth in unprecedented detail, the NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite has launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Jointly developed by NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and a critical part of the United States – India civil-space cooperation highlighted by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi earlier this year, the satellite can detect the movement of land and ice surfaces down to the centimeter. The mission will help protect communities by providing unique, actionable information to decision-makers in a diverse range of areas, including disaster response, infrastructure monitoring, and agricultural management. ([Read More](#))

India, UK Sign Historic Trade Deal



Billed as the biggest deal that the UK has entered into since Brexit, the India-

UK Free Trade Agreement is drawing a lot of attention from the geopolitical circles. Under the deal, 99% of the Indian exports to UK will attract no duty while scotch whiskey, a favourite beverage of Indians, will attract half the current import duty in India. The 'historic' trade deal is expected to boost bilateral trade by \$34 billion annually. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Shukla's Mission A Precursor to India's First Human Flight

The historic flight of Sudhanshu Shukla, only the third Indian to go to space is expected to transfer huge benefits to India's won human space flight expected in early 2027. Shukla carried out seven India-led experiments during his 14-day stay on board the International Space Station on seeds, algae and human psychology in microgravity. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Indian Railways to Expand Network by A Thousand More Trains



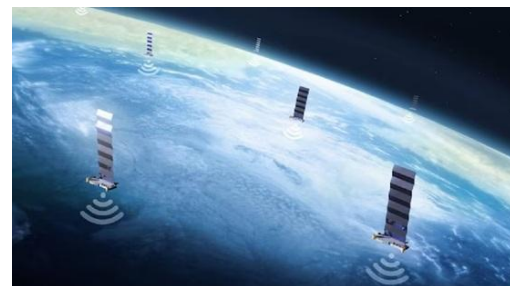
Indian Railways, already the largest in terms of passenger capacity is setting even more ambitious plans that would turn railway as the backbone of future freight and people movement.

According to a recent statement from India's Railway Minister, Ashwani Vaishnav, a thousand more trains will join the vast network in the next

five years. He also added that India's first bullet train will begin service in 2027. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Musk's Starlink Gets India's Regulatory Approval

Elon Musk's Starlink may become the first to get a foothold among the many global players eyeing India's vast satellite communications market. The company received initial approval to start operating in India recently. Starlink is expected to substantially improve satellite connectivity to the remote regions of Eastern India. [\(Read more.\)](#)



India's Improving Income Equality Index



India's 'unequal' growth has been a weapon in the hands of its critics, while the facts may be entirely different. A recent World Bank report has credited India among some of the more equal societies as far as income distribution is concerned. In the GINI Index on Income Equality, India has scored a favorable 25.5 behind Belarus. [\(Read more.\)](#)

India Building AI-ready Telecommunications Network

India is planning to build a AI enabled ultra-efficient telecommunications network with the participation of private companies. Tata Communications and Amazon Web Service are in talks to create a nation-wide AI-ready network that will modernize and transform key sectors like healthcare, finance and education. [\(Read more.\)](#)

TATA
COMMUNICATIONS

Indian Companies Set to Raise \$30 Billion in IPOs



Encouraged by growing economic activity and supportive political climate, businesses are betting big on India's growth story. Recent reports indicate that many private sector players are in the process of finalizing IPOs with companies poised to raise \$30 billion next year. [\(Read more.\)](#)

Gita Gopinath Rejoins Harvard Faculty

IMF Chief Economist, Gita Gopinath, is moving on after an illustrious career spanning seven eventful years. She will be going back to her alma mater, Harvard University, to take up a teaching position at Harvard University. As chief economist, Gopinath directed the IMF's research department and was responsible for its "World Economic Outlook" publication, which helps guide economic policy decisions across countries. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Private Island to Host Digital Entrepreneurs

A successful Indian American venture



capitalist, Balaji Srinivasan has just bought an island off Singapore to build his dream city, a “Network State” for technologists, founders and innovators. His concept, outlined in his book “The Network State,” revolves around building online communities united by shared values. [\(Read more.\)](#)

India Developing Version of Bunker Busters

Given the recent experiences from Operation Sindhoor and the US strikes on Iran, India is taking its missile technology further deep underground. Reports indicate that India’s defence scientists are working to enable its Agni 5 Intercontinental missiles to carry 7,500kg bombs to destroy targets buried deep underground. [\(Read more.\)](#)



Spotlight

CIF First Chair Mr. Babra bestowed with Honorary Doctorate from TMU



Dr. Surjit Singh Babra, the inaugural Chair of the Canada India Foundation, was bestowed with an honorary Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, at the third convocation ceremony of the Ted Rogers School of Management, Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). He has made significant contributions to the travel, aviation, and hospitality sectors, while also championing charitable causes. His life journey serves as a powerful example of how business leadership can embody purpose, innovation, and generosity. Additionally, Mr. Babra generously contributed \$1 million towards the establishment of a new School of Medicine in Brampton. Congratulations,

Norton Kothari Conferred with Distinguished Services Award



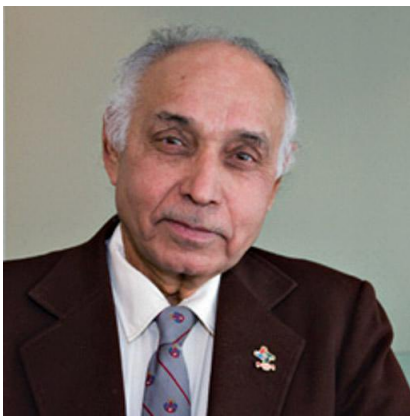
A member of the CIF Board of Governors, Norton Kothari, was conferred the Distinguished Services Award by BITS, Pilani. The Award was presented by former Chief Justice of India, D. Y. Chandrachud and Chancellor of BITS, Kumar Mangalam Birla. The Distinguished Services Award 2025 is awarded in honour of his lifelong commitment to service, philanthropy, and global Impact. [\(See Details\)](#)

Order of Canada

Officer of the Order of Canada
Saroj Saigal, O.C.
Hamilton, Ontario

Saroj Saigal has helped shape the field of neonatology. She is internationally renowned as the first researcher to examine the lives of extremely premature infants from a qualitative perspective and is praised for this humanistic approach. She has shifted attitudes towards preterm infants and increased our understanding of their long-term outcomes.





Member of the Order of Canada
Mahesh Chandra Sharma, C.M.
Montréal, Quebec

Mahesh Sharma is a civic-minded philanthropist and leader. A beloved professor and mentor at Concordia University, he established scholarships to honour the memory of his family who were victims of Air India Flight 182. He also actively champions social causes supporting vulnerable individuals and the wider

community.

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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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