

Canada India Insight

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Adrienne Batra

Editor in Chief of the Toronto Sun.



- Journalists are an essential service.
- As media outlets across Canada are shuttered, the time to act is now.

Read more in Adrienne's Column on Page 2

Goldy Hyder

President & CEO of Ottawa based Business Council of Canada



- We have learned the hard way that it's dangerous to rely on a handful of countries for PPE and other essential goods & services.

• India has an opportunity to become a favoured source of these essential goods and the launch of Make in India in 2014 was a key turning point.

Read more in Goldy Hyder's Column on Page 6

Shuchita Sonalika

Director & Head – North America, for Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)



- CII is grateful to both High Commissioners of India & Canada for extensively engaging with industry.
- We need a shock absorbing strategy that will protect both nations, while not reversing any of the trade related gains made over the past few years.

Read more in Shuchita's Column on Page 2

Vishnu Prakash

Former High Commissioner of India to Canada



- Corona Virus has enhanced India Canada collaboration and could be the catalyst for turning a new leaf in the relationship.

• America's loss is Canada's gain as a number of US, European and Indian tech firms are establishing a presence in Canada.

Read more in Vishnu Prakash's Column on Page 7

Peter Mackay

Ex Foreign, Defence, Justice Minister and Candidate for leader of the Conservative Party

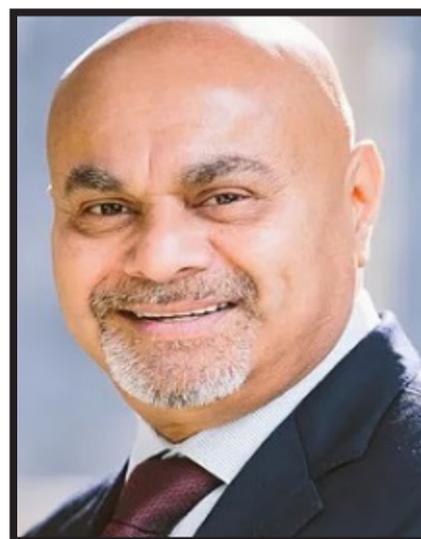


- A free trade deal with India will be a major benefit to both and a priority for my govt.
- We must put a moratorium on Chinese investments.

Read more in Peter Mackay's interview on Page 4

Anil Shah

Chair of Canada India Foundation (CIF)



- By early June, we would have distributed over 10,000 fresh vegetarian meals to front line workers.

• Indo Canadian population is galvanising itself into a socio political and economic force.

Read more in Anil Shah's Column on Page 8

Erin O'Toole

MP and a Candidate for leader of the Conservative Party



- Relationship between Canada and India is much larger than the antics of any one leader.

• Canada & India both confront similar threats including extremism and global hegemonic ambitions of the Chinese regime.

Read more in Mr. O'Toole's Column on Page 5

Nadira Hamid

CEO of New Delhi based Indo Canadian Business Chamber (ICBC)



- Conversations around CEPA have started again.
- A larger digital presence and use of virtual platforms is a new normal.

Read more in Nadira Hamid's Column on Page 9

As media outlets across Canada are shuttered, the time to act is now

By : **Adrienne Batra**

Rarely has there been a time when the media is so necessary, yet at the same time the industry is facing a crisis never seen before.

Covering the COVID-19 global pandemic has become one of the longest, ongoing and constantly evolving breaking news stories. It has shut down the world, economies have crumbled, too many people have died, the global superpower China misled the world on the severity of the virus, there's no known cure...the list goes on for the endless story possibilities to fill newspapers and feed the 24/7 news cycle.

Globally, citizens are consuming more media because they need to know the decisions politicians are making and how it affects their lives. I would argue we should always be paying attention - global pandemic or not - but tuning in these days could mean a matter of life and death. When the Mayor, Premier and Prime Minister have their daily press briefings it has become must watch TV.

When can we get back to work? When can we go outside? Is public transit safe? What government programs are available to pay for the rent

because of wage losses? Can I get a haircut? Are the kids going back to school? These are the very real issues we are confronting today.

It is our job in the media



Adrienne Batra

to share credible information and make sense of it for citizens.

All the while ensuring "fake news" and virus conspiracy theories don't take root.

Journalists are in every sense of the term, an essential service. Putting it plainly, the coronavirus is the only news story that matters right now.

So how is it with increased need and demand for the news, can there be massive layoffs in the industry?

One word - advertising.

Put another way, the near absence of ad dollars to fill the pages of the papers, journalists

can't get paid. Sure, there have been taxpayer-funded media ad buys to inform the public about the virus, but it isn't even close to making up for the losses.

There is even a federal government fund for media companies to access. Again, it's not enough to cover the losses. And taking taxpayers' money as a bailout can be a debatable philosophical point, but it is important to note, the media has been facing this ad dollar struggle for years, but it has been exasperated and newsroom shutdowns accelerated by COVID-19.

So what is the solution? If we all agree on the general principle the media is essential, how does the industry survive without taking a government handout?

For part of the answer we need to look at what our counterparts around the world are doing - taking Google and Facebook to task. France and Australia are forcing the tech giants to pay for the content they put on their platforms. Media outlets create the content, however, aren't compensated for it to be displayed on these platforms.

For example, France's

competition bureau recently gave Google a small window to work with the French media outlets to create a revenue sharing plan.

Australia did the same thing successfully illustrating Facebook and Google were not paying the media for the content they created. And it would appear Ireland is next to demand the tech giants pay their fair share. The Canadian government can make the same demands, but thus far have done nothing.

Canada alone has a near \$6 billion digital ad market. However, most of the money has gone to Facebook and Google. And for the ads they sell, they don't charge GST or HST giving them a significant tax advantage.

As media outlets across Canada are shuttered, the time to act is now. If there are fewer journalists reporting on what is going on in this country, there is no telling what governments will get away with.

As the Washington Post's slogan says, "Democracy dies in darkness."

(Adrienne Batra is the Editor in Chief of the Toronto Sun)

India-Canada: Stronger in Recovery

By : **Shuchita Sonalika**

CII has enhanced its engagement in Canada, especially through the last few months, supporting our member companies and the High Commission in their COVID-19 response and recovery outlooks. It is critical that India and Canada revive and retain the strong pre-pandemic momentum of our economic and strategic relationship.

Even while bearing the brunt of the pandemic, Indian companies in North America are making efforts to ramp up short-term production, innovation,

and research to address the needs risen from the public health crisis. Our India Business Forum Members have retooled their manufacturing operations to align with essentials required at this time. They have launched e-learning platforms for educators and students, donated pharmaceutical products and personal protective equipment (PPE), made available vehicles for the distribution of medical supplies to hospitals and even initiated discussions towards collaborative clinical trials for drugs.



Shuchita Sonalika

We ourselves have had to adapt to the new order, having to transfer all of our programming online. We are grateful to the

High Commissioner of India, Shri Ajay Bisaria and the Canadian High Commissioner to India, HE Nadir Patel for extensively engaging with industry to address concerns and challenges going forth, as we look at immediate issues as well as medium-to-long-term solutions to boost policy and business resiliency.

As the India-Canada corridor reopens for business, we must consider the shape of pending economic recovery. Countries across the world are **Continued on page 3**



Editorial

- Vipul Jani



It is the end of May and “ May ” is what we hear everywhere. Offices may reopen soon, life may become more normal soon, the Virus may abate soon, people may be able to go out and move out more freely soon. I hope all this “may ” ends with May and we get some more certainty in our life and work. It’s high time.

Countries and provinces have started reopening again, even though the cases have also started going up again. It’s a risk we have to take, because not doing so will endanger a lot more lives and businesses. People need to treat this as if they are recovering from a serious illness. Yes, they have survived and now want to run again, but first they need to start walking slowly, recover fully before they can run again.

Another good thing is that media have finally realised there is life beyond Corona and have started talking about a few other things which is a very welcome change. If there is no second wave, rest assured airwaves and newspaper pages will soon be filled with US election and Conservative Party leadership race.

We have got both the front runners in the Conservative leadership race, Peter Mackay and Erin O’Toole sharing their views on Canada India relations and other issues in this edition of Canada India Insight. Both are very critical of China and if we take them on their word, a Conservative Govt “may ” behave very differently with China

than the Trudeau Liberals. I mean, our Foreign Minister Mr. Champagne avoiding to even say the word Taiwan ? Even when they are helping us out ? Give me a break... This is the reason why China feels emboldened to do what it did in Hong Kong last week and how arrogantly it is insulting other countries that dare to speak up.

Cornered on Corona, it seems China is now opening up multiple distraction points to divert the world’s attention. Hong Kong is one example, Nepal objecting to India’s Link road construction for Kailash



Mansarovar at Lipulekh Pass another, Chinese troops fighting with Indian soldiers in Ladakh and Sikkim another example. If there are some other flare ups with North Korea, Pakistan or elsewhere, no one should be surprised. TV Channels are especially very easy to distract, give them a new disaster or a new breaking story and they will drop the old one in no time. Same goes for most people’s memory. Let us hope the world does not get distracted and stay the course in finding answers to what really happened.

Recent US action of putting a few Chinese companies on the blacklist, banning investment in China, blocking

chip making technologies for Huawei and selling off Torpedoes to Taiwan is only the beginning in what could be a long battle for one-upmanship between the top two economic and military powers in the world. It will sure be a tightrope walk for Canada because it can not afford to offend either of them.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Health Minister of India, has now become the Executive Board Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO), at a time when countries had started saying WHO who ? It will be interesting to see what real powers he has to bring about any change at WHO to make it a bit more credible again ? Getting rid of Mr. Tedros will be a good way to start. Although he still has two more years left in his term as Director General of WHO. He has lost all credibility and need to go. I guess most Canadians have also lost confidence in Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer. It will be a good idea to get someone wiser in that position as well.

In my conversations with the Business Organizations and decision makers at the highest levels in Govt, I have heard encouraging news that Canada India relations seem to be slowly getting back on track, with talks on CEPA and FIPPA also doing rounds. As Erin O’Toole said, Canada India relations are much larger than the antics of any one leader. Without naming anyone, we certainly hope that is the

case and antics are replaced by pragmatism and reality. At the same time, it is disheartening to note that our efforts to reach out to several cabinet ministers in the Trudeau Govt for this publication have not been successful, except one (Bardish Chagger) sending out confusing signals of this government’s vision.

This is the 4th edition of Canada India Insight and we have so far reached out to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, High Commissioners, Provincial & Federal Ministers and Opposition Leaders, Business Council of Canada, CII, CIF, ICBC and several other stakeholders in bilateral relations, in an effort to hear and learn from everyone’s knowledge and expertise. We urge the Business Leaders to support this Publication so we can develop this into a more useful platform and a place for healthy dialogue and exchange of ideas. We will be happy to reciprocate thru this Publication, our You Tube Channel (coming up in June) and our Conferences and Events. As Adrienne Batra said, Media is an essential service. We agree, but for Media to do it’s job well, it is also essential to have adequate support from the industry.

E-mail us at :

Vipul@imec.biz and let’s talk.

Contact Us

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looking inward and evaluating the security of their supply chains. To continue moving forward, we need a shock-absorbing strategy that will protect both nations while not reversing any of the trade-

related gains India and Canada have made over the past few years.

CII is optimistic that India and Canada, already strategic partners, will continue to upgrade their engagement in the long-term. Even now, India

and Canada can work together to help achieve normalcy by strengthening the institutions, systems, and processes needed to adjust to the global paradigm shift we are all facing. We, on our part, will continue to support industry and government

to protect both lives and livelihoods.

(Shuchita Sonalika is a Director and Head – North America for Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), based in Arlington, VA)

A free trade deal with India will be of a major benefit to both and as Prime Minister, I will prioritize it

By : Vipul Jani

Peter Mackay was Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Defence, Justice as well as Attorney General in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Cabinet. A former leader of the PC Party and an MP for 18 years, Peter played a key role in uniting the Conservative movement in 2003. He is now a candidate to be the leader of the Conservative Party and if he wins, will be a strong contender to be the future Prime Minister of Canada.

Canada India Insight Editor Vipul Jani reached out to Peter to know his views on Canada India relations, on China, on issues like same-sex marriage, climate change and else. Excerpts from an exclusive e-mail interview :

• Canada India relations are in a deep freezer for the last 5 years. How will you revive them and will a free trade agreement with India be a priority item for Mackay government?

Relations between Canada and India will be a priority when I am Prime Minister. We need to work with countries that respect democracy and the rule of law, like India, and make a trade deal a priority. Justin Trudeau embarrassed Canada on the world stage when he went to India. He allowed a convicted terrorist, Jaspal Atwal, to accompany him on the trip which put a chill on Canada-India relations. A free trade deal with India will be a major benefit to both countries and it is one that I will prioritize.

• Is the Roxham Road open again for refugees, while legal citizens and business owners from Canada and USA are barred from visiting each other's countries? This is also at a time when millions of Canadians have lost jobs and can't afford to pay their own bills. Why is

the PC party not speaking against it as this is not just immoral but also extremely dangerous health-wise?

We must have a compassionate policy on immigration and refugees which is also orderly. We must be in control of our own borders. Conservatives have been talking about it for the last few years and it took four years and a



Interview

Peter Mackay

pandemic for the Liberals to finally stop the illegal border crossing at Roxham Road. We need to welcome newcomers to Canada with open-arms, while ensuring that those who come arrive through the front door, following proper process.

• How will the Conservatives under your leadership win the GTA back?

Canadians are looking for bold, new ideas and I intend to keep talking about my positive vision for our party and for the country. We will attract strong candidates to run for us in the GTA and present a plan that will appeal to Canadians living in all parts of the country.

• Will the party, under your leadership, be a bit more flexible and accommodating on issues like same-sex marriage and climate change to

attract more people in the conservative tent?

I've publicly stated that I am pro-choice and believe in equal marriage. These issues are long settled and under my leadership will remain settled. But we also have to recognize that there are people in our Party who have deeply held beliefs on these matters, and we must respect that. Climate change is real and we must address it with a solid environmental plan. The current Liberal plan of a Carbon Tax doesn't do anything to lower greenhouse gas emissions as it does nothing to punish large emitters. We need a made-in-Canada solution that actually lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

• What will you do to reduce Canada's dependence on China, to diversify our incoming supplies for essential things and everything else, and while the Trudeau Govt is often criticized for being soft and weak kneed on China, what visible steps will you take to show that Canada is now ready and able to stand up to China ?

We must immediately put a moratorium on Chinese investments and takeovers of flagship Canadian companies and strategic assets, including infrastructure and natural resources. We must also apply Magnitsky sanctions to any Chinese officials or individuals who may have suppressed information related to Covid-19. We need to focus on trade with other like-minded countries who respect democracy and the rule of law. We should prioritize seeking a free trade deal with India, the world's largest democracy.

• Do you believe the time has come to refresh and reboot international organizations such as WHO

and UNSC to reflect today's world and realities? Five countries with veto powers today seems to be totally unfair, undemocratic and absolutely unrealistic.

We need to prioritize working closely with our like-minded allies in NATO, the G7, and the Five Eyes. This pandemic has proven that we need to take a look at the influence that countries like China have over the WHO and how we might rebalance that influence.

• Elizabeth May recently said Oil is dead and it's time to move beyond oil, towards renewable and sustainable energy. There is also a widespread discrepancy in numbers, whether Oil & Gas sector is 5.6 percent of Canada's GDP or 10 percent, whether it employs 500,000 people or 170,000 people. Your thoughts on this and what does Canada look like to you 20-30 years from now in terms of the natural resources sector?

Canada's oil and gas sector is critical to our economy and to the families that rely on those jobs. Revenues from the energy sector represent millions of dollars to fund our social programs like health care. Becoming less reliant on foreign oil and using more Canadian oil will reduce emissions worldwide.

• Prime Minister Trudeau is giving away millions of dollars almost every day, running billions of dollars in deficit every year since 2015. Canada's debt is now almost \$ 800 billion (\$20,000 for each and every Canadian) and growing further rapidly. The next government will bear the brunt of this and dare I say people's anger when it will be forced to take some harsh, corrective
Continued on page 5

Building a Stronger Canada-India Relationship

By : Erin O'Toole

The relationship between Canada and India is, thankfully, so much larger than the peculiar antics of any one leader. It comes into even greater focus today, in the Coronavirus Age, where the Indian opportunity is crucial for the success of Canada, and where both countries face serious threats.

What we are talking about here are powerful bonds of common political heritage, of nations that are united and determined to achieve economic self-reliance and partnerships of trust, and of successful democracies with legions of shared interests. I view the historic relationship that Prime Minister Stephen Harper forged with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the opportunity to build from, one which I would energetically pursue as Prime Minister.

My approach to building a stronger Canada-India relationship would include several important areas of cooperation.

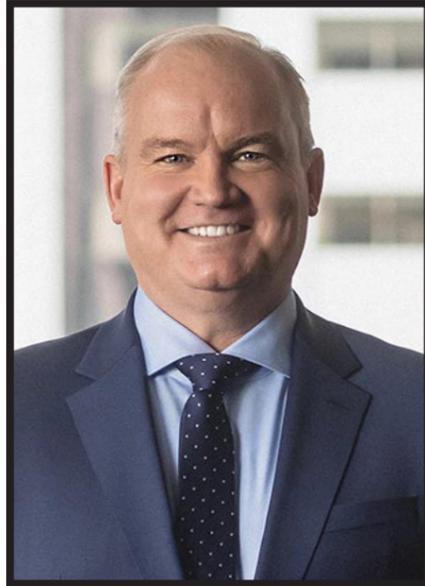
A trade agreement is clearly a key priority. India is already an important market for Canadian exports, and Canadian companies are looking to deepen their already strong ties to India as we look to reduce our reliance on China.

Our focus on trade should not restrain our ability to be ambitious and to accomplish other meaningful objectives, of which I see several.

First, nuclear cooperation should be elevated into a long-term strategic nuclear energy

partnership fuelling India's development, one which would power the emergence of many Torontos and Vancouvers across the country.

Next, I see a massive opportunity to establish



Erin O'Toole

agricultural partnerships that can help establish strong food supply for Indians. Leveraging the innovation of Canadian farmers and innovators, we can provide solutions for the storage and transportation of food that help farming communities in both countries.

Bold initiatives across technology, medical, energy and infrastructure can strengthen security and scale innovation, generating jobs, investment and strategic partnerships. These initiatives should not be limited to Canada and India alone, but serve as the basis for a partnership that engages the vast Indo-Pacific region, a geography underpinning much of the global growth story in the decades to come.

Canada and India both

government. They then racked up billions more in debt before the Covid-19 pandemic even hit. A government must work to pay down the debt during good times so that there is flexibility when we are hit with crisis like this one. In the 2008/2009, our Conservative government spent billions in stimulus, but we had a plan to get back to balance.

confront similar threats including extremism, the global hegemonic ambitions of the Chinese regime, and the potential breakdown of the international order. Our resolve to succeed will be tested, but I am confident that we can meet that test if we are sufficiently ambitious in building a strong alliance. This can take the form of, for example, joint exercises from the Himalayas to the Rocky Mountains, from the Indian coast to the Port of Vancouver, from the skies over the South China Sea to the Taiwan Strait. We should also be looking at cooperation at the frontiers of cyber and space.

The only thing limiting a successful partnership is our imagination. I would enlist Canadians into the cause of ensuring the success of this vital relationship, the most important

one for Canada's status as a Pacific nation.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has begun a process of vast economic transformation and diplomatic realignment. It is a once in a generation moment which Canada cannot miss by failing to seize the strategic advantage we have had, thanks to Prime Minister Harper. I will not rest until we realize the full potential of what the idea of Canada and India means, as friends, partners and allies, to the benefit of both our countries. I will not fail to grasp the historic opportunity we have together in shaping the peace and prosperity of the coming age.

(Erin O'Toole is the Member of Parliament for Durham and candidate for Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada)

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Peter Mackay

*Continued from page 4
measures to get our
finances in shape. What
will you do to balance the
budget and reduce the debt
while maintaining essential
services?*

The current Liberal government inherited a surplus from our Conservative

“Launch of Make in India in 2014 was a key turning point”

By : Goldy Hyder



Business Council
of Canada

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed serious weaknesses in Canada's international supply chains. Like many other nations, we have learned the hard way that it is dangerous to rely on a handful of countries for critical medical supplies, personal protective equipment and other essential goods and services.

Governments and industry across Canada are now ramping up domestic production to address the most serious gaps in our healthcare supply chains. Over the longer term, however, we will need to enhance the resiliency of those supply chains by diversifying our trade. Consider a ventilator. Even if we wanted to assemble our own, the fact remains that a typical ventilator requires as many as 1,400 parts, some of which would have to be imported.

India has an opportunity to become a favoured source of these essential goods, but only if it can rise above other potential suppliers across the Indo-Pacific.

India has several inherent advantages over its peers in the region. By protecting, promoting and honouring its strong democratic institutions and the rule of law, India can stand out as a partner for like-minded countries such as Canada. In business, few things count for more than political, economic and social stability.

Without question,



Goldy Hyder

India has improved its performance in rankings of global competitiveness. A key turning point was the launch in 2014 of the “Make in India” initiative, a comprehensive program of reforms aimed at transforming India into a global design and manufacturing hub. Since its implementation, India has moved from 143rd place to

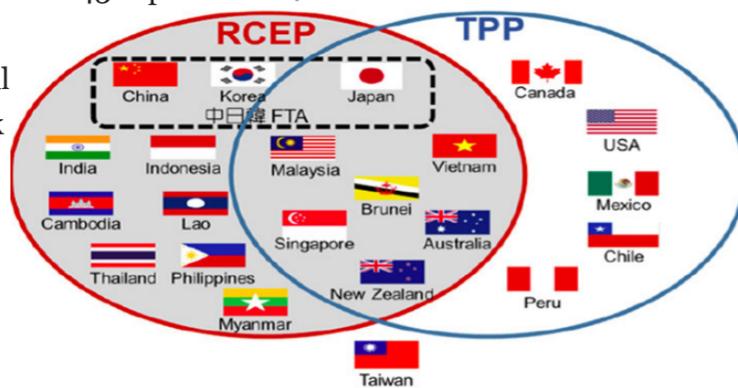
63rd place in an annual World Bank study that measures the efficiency of business regulation.

In the latest such report, India was one of 10 countries singled out for having made the greatest amount of progress.

Having said that, India still faces formidable competition. As an emerging market it is in roughly the same league as Vietnam and several other countries in Southeast Asia – countries that are party to important multilateral trade

agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). India, by contrast, has negotiated few high-quality trade agreements, and recently walked away from the RCEP. To close its market access gap, India will have to show pragmatism and a willingness to compromise, including by opening several protected sectors.

For their part, Canada's business leaders remain supportive of the proposed Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the Canada-India Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. With a sincere effort from



India, our two countries could quickly resume negotiations. Agreements such as these would provide critical assurance to Canadian companies that are considering whether to enter the India market or expand existing operations. India's participation in other regional and bilateral trade agreements would similarly stoke investor interest and

help facilitate the country's rise as a manufacturing power.

In addition to securing preferential market access, India needs to become a much nimbler economy. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, India's pace of improvement in recent years has lagged that of many other Indo-Pacific competitors, and its lead in South Asia is shrinking. To avoid falling behind, India should hasten efforts to eliminate red tape within and among states. (And yes, the irony is not lost on me: Canada must do the same.)

A more competitive India will enable more Indian businesses to go global. Equally important, it will attract more international investors who are seeking stable manufacturing bases.

As many others have said during this challenging time, one should never let a crisis go to waste. India should seize this opportunity to capture a greater share of global manufacturing. With serious effort, India could become a critical and reliable partner in the international supply chains of Canada and many other countries.

(Goldy Hyder is President and CEO of the Business Council of Canada, which represents the chief executives of more than 150 leading Canadian Companies)

Happenings

• Webinar on ICT & telecom sectors in Ontario & India.

Ontario Government, in partnership with the Consulate General of India in Toronto, is organizing a free Webinar on June 17, 2020 outlining opportunities in the ICT and Telecom sectors in Ontario and India. The session will provide

a clear understanding of the business opportunities in each region.

The Webinar will also provide insights on the impact of Covid-19 on these industries and a possible approach in the new environment. Participants will learn about :

** Impact of Covid-19 on IT & Telecom sectors in India

and Ontario.

** Latest updates and developments in India's IT and Telecom sectors and advice on how Ontario companies selling technology, services and equipment may find success in the Indian market.

** Impact of 5 G evolution in both India and Ontario, including major telecom players,

regulations and device capability and

** the Status of technology implementation in both India and Ontario and potential future opportunities for companies on both sides. **Continued on page 7**

Corona Crisis boosts India Canada Cooperation

By : Vishnu Prakash

It is said that hardship draws people (and nations) closer. The deadly corona virus has undeniably enhanced India Canada collaboration in mitigating its fallout.

The 20th special flight took off from India on May 04, to ferry stranded Canadian nationals back home. A key supplier of pharmaceuticals, India rushed 5 million (50 lakhs) tablets of hydroxychloroquine to Canada. Meanwhile Canada (and Indo Canadians) took care of over 70,000 Indian students, who were in distress due to closure of educational institutions.

“Several temples, gurudwaras, NGOs and cultural organizations being run by people of Indian origin (PIO) are providing food, shelter, medicines etc to the Indian students and other Indians stranded here. Diaspora groups have set up helplines to provide free advice” says High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria, adding, “We, at the High Commission, have tried to facilitate connections”

Prime Minister Modi tweeted (28 April) – “Had a warm exchange with PM @ JustinTrudeau. Thanked him for looking after Indian citizens in Canada in these difficult times.” Canada now hosts 1.6 million PIOs (People of Indian Origin) and 700,000 Indian nationals, which is sizeable, given its small population of 37 million.

In recent years Canada

has become a magnet for Indian students and highly skilled youngsters. There has been an unprecedented 700 percent increase in the numbers of Indian students from 31,975 in 2015 to over 225,000 in 2019-20. They constitute 35 percent of the entire international student body in Canada (642,000) and



Vishnu Prakash

contribute C\$ 10 billion annually to it's economy.

Canada is the only developed country that admits some 350,000 immigrants every year. Indians have been getting a lion's share due to their educational achievements and linguistic abilities. 80,685 Indians were cleared for immigration in 2019 as against 39,705 in 2016, marking a 200 percent jump.

This is in sharp contrast with the neighbouring USA which is progressively tightening employment-based immigrant visas (green cards). America's loss is Canada's gain. Consequently, a number of US, European and Indian tech firms

are establishing a presence in Canada, sharpening it's innovative edge.

During their telephonic conversation, Prime Minister Trudeau conveyed his appreciation to PM Modi for “India's ongoing help to repatriate Canadians seeking to return home.. and for India's commitment to the continued export of key pharmaceutical products.”

It is estimated that some 40,000 Canadians were in India on 25th March, of which 28,364 are registered with the federal government's Canadians Abroad Service. About 9000 Canadian permanent residents and citizens wanted to go back. With India's support, the Canadian Govt has already operated 20 special flights and more are in the pipeline. However, each passenger has to shell out C\$ 2,900 for an economy seat on the special flights. In normal times, a one-way ticket can be obtained for less than half that price.

India started evacuating its nationals stranded abroad on 'compelling grounds' in a phased manner, beginning 7th May. Our High Commission and Consulates in Canada have made imaginative use of social media to compile particulars of individuals who want to return, that runs into several thousands. An overwhelming majority are happy to stay on.

Turning to pharmaceuticals, Canada

imports around 70 percent of prescription drugs and 90 percent of ingredients for drugs manufactured indigenously. China and India produce 80 percent of the active ingredients of prescription drugs sold in North America. Notwithstanding supply chain disruptions, India made a special provision to rush 5 million hydroxychloroquine capsules to Toronto. The medication will be used for lupus, malaria or rheumatoid arthritis cases and not for clinical trials or to treat Covid-19.

Both countries are regularly comparing notes on dealing with the pandemic. We are sharing details of the India model and keeping abreast of the Canada model. PM Modi states “Collaboration and partnership between India and Canada is vital to fighting the pandemic including through medical research and supply chain management” (Tweet on 28 April)

Given the synergies and complementarities, robust multifaceted engagement would indeed yield rich dividends to both India and Canada. The recent experience could be the catalyst for turning a new leaf in the relationship.

(Mr. Vishnu Prakash is a former High Commissioner of India to Canada. The Article was originally published on May 06) (Courtesy - ANI)

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To Register for this free Webinar, visit : <https://www.ontario.ca/tradecalendar/webinar-ontario-india-ict-trade-and-investment-embracing-opportunities-post-covid-19-environment>

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Canada India Insight

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Ontario companies navigate the challenges in this new environment.

• Advice on how Ontario exporters of AI and IoT services can access the Indian market.

• Opportunities to match Indian buyers, with Ontario sellers, of AI and IoT solutions in a virtual trade mission setting from the comfort of one's own remote office.

Sector: Information and

communications technology

Market region: India

Online (8:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. EST), June 22, 2020.

To Register, visit : <https://www.ontario.ca/tradecalendar/exporton-ai-and-iot-virtual-trade-mission-india>

Determining destinies : Role of Indo-Canadians in shaping Canada-India ties

By : Anil Shah

The COVID-19 pandemic is a devastating scourge of our world. Canada India Foundation has taken the lead in reaching out to the community and providing much-needed help to the most vulnerable sections of the population across the Greater Toronto Area.

Our philanthropic outreach started in March 2020, when the pandemic was in its initial stages in Canada. We are collaborating with the Hindu Federation to supply groceries, medical supplies, food delivery, transportation, accommodation to all those who are in the most urgent need.

Additionally, we are supplying readymade meals to frontline healthcare personnel who, at a great sacrifice and personal risk, are fighting this pandemic. Our efforts are aimed at augmenting the excellent work that is already being done by all levels of the government and both public and private organisations.

By early June, we would have distributed over 10,000 fresh vegetarian meals to those who serve humanity by risking their lives. We have provided these meals to all the leading hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area, and our branch in Vancouver has been conducting a similar outreach. Additionally, we have also offered Indian vegetarian freshly cooked meals to our brothers and sisters in Toronto and Peel Police. Presence of chief of Police and solicitor general was another feather in our cap.

It is a small gesture on

**CANADA INDIA
FOUNDATION**



our part to show them that we are in this together, and that we care.

Donate

I want to appeal to the readers of this journal to



Anil Shah

support the endeavours of our Foundation by making a donation – big or small it's your choice, but do consider it actively.

I invite you to join



our mission of serving those who serve humanity. If you contribute \$100 or more, you get a charity receipt. Please e-transfer funds directly to cifcharity@cifcharitablefoundation.com. Your donation will be used in CIF's multiple initiatives to alleviate the adverse impact of Covid-19.

Additionally, in this context, I want to draw your

attention to a new phenomenon in our midst.

Our Foundation may have been the first, but it is not the only one in reaching out to help. There have been several Indo-Canadian organisations also doing this targeted philanthropy.

To me this represents the dawn of an important era in the history of our community. Today, our rising numbers have made us a crucial factor in Canadian public life. The emergence of Indo-Canadians in the Canadian mainstream will shape our bilateral relations.

Estimated to be between 1.6 and 1.9 million, the Indian diaspora in Canada is the eighth largest in the world, and it is economically well off. When you add the steadily rising international students'

population from India in Canada, the number becomes large, especially when seen within the perspective of overall Canadian population.

The Indo-Canadian population is galvanising itself into a sociopolitical and economic force with aspirations to shape their own political destinies in their adopted homeland.

This is indicated

by the number of elected representatives of Indian origin or descent in Canada's Parliament and in the provincial legislature. This number has steadily risen and will continue to rise in the coming years.

However, the rise of Indo-Canadians is noticeable not just in political sphere, but in all realms of society – economic, business, professional, culture and arts, academia, et al.

This provides a unique opportunity for Indo-Canadians to shape the future of their adopted homeland in a positive and constructive manner keeping India's centrality to Canada's future in focus. And I believe that this will result in a rapid enhancement in our bilateral ties.

We will be able to move ahead purposefully, determinedly and bring more meaning to our relationship. Canada India Foundation will as always be in the forefront of giving a platform for Indo-Canadians in shaping our shared destinies.

Since it was established in 2007, it has been in the forefront of promoting all aspects of bilateral relations between Canada and India. It does so by adopting a 360-degree approach that encompasses the entire spectrum of bilateral relations.

In this new era, Canada India Foundation will continue to lead in shaping our bilateral relations. It will continue to protect Canada's interests in India, and make the Canadian establishment realise the centrality of India to Canada's future.

(Anil Shah is the Chair of Canada India Foundation)

• Domestic passenger flight operations have resumed in India after a gap of two months. There is no word on resumption of

international flights yet.

• US Senate has passed a bill to delist Chinese companies from American stock exchanges. The

legislation requires companies to certify that they are not owned or controlled by a foreign government.



Business, as Usual

By : Nadira Hamid

It was 1995 onwards that Canada started giving indications of its growing interest in India as a strategic partner. Ottawa released a Focus India document that year followed by the then Prime Minister's visit to New Delhi with 300 delegates from 204 Canadian companies.

The Focus India document outlined and identified guidelines to help Canadian companies build trade and investment ties with India. This was a very clear message of Canada's keenness to understand the complex Indian market and engage in bi-lateral trade. 2005 witnessed the announcement of the International Policy Statement identifying India as an emerging economy with which Canada sought to broaden cooperation. A 2009 visit of the Canadian Prime Minister to India led to the possibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and initiated talks on a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPPA).

If the proposed CEPA is finalised, it is clear that this will only enhance the welfare of both these democracies. The High Commissioner of India to Canada recently hinted that conversations around CEPA have started again. In the absence of FIPPA, investments between the two countries are

restricted. CEPA and FIPPA will help set the ground rules and give a thrust to this growing trade relationship. A strategically strong partnership can then emerge by tapping into the huge bi-lateral trade potential.

The current scenario of the Covid-19 pandemic has not only adversely impacted



Nadira Hamid

world economy, but also led to contraction of international trade. Needless to say, it has significantly slowed down the Indo-Canadian economic corridor as well.

It is now, more than ever, that CEPA and FIPPA need to be propelled towards the finish line. In unprecedented times like these, the work of chambers grows tenfold. It falls upon organisations like the Indo-Canadian Business Chamber to ensure that the communication channels are kept open and the discussions of future collaborations are kept alive. ICBC has actively facilitated many strategic partnerships

between the two countries in the past.

The ICBC Media and Entertainment Committee, started in January 2014, is committed to facilitate exchange between Indian and Canadian artists in the field of films, music, art and digital media. The Committee Chairman has been actively involved in the signing of the Indo-Canadian AV (audio visual) Co-Production treaty and was also a member of the TOIFA (Times of India Film Association) which held the TOIFA awards in Toronto. The committee is at present in the process of putting together policy papers, to be presented to the Canadian Government by ICBC, that will facilitate student exchange between the universities of both countries. This is seen as a long-term process which aims at starting Indo-Canadian exchange on a student level which will aid professional collaboration from the grassroots level.

Last year, Seneca College from Toronto signed MOUs with National Institute of Financial Management (Ministry of Finance), and with the GD Goenka University at the ICBC Convention held on 19 November 2019. ICBC helped AXISCADES, India's leading niche Engineering Services company, to strengthen relationships with Canadian companies and develop business

relationships.

The most recent activity of the Indo-Canadian Business Chamber (ICBC) saw Canadian Provinces and companies travel to various Indian cities between January-March 2020, with the sole purpose of bringing both countries closer through investment and business opportunities. It was a unique roadshow to reach out to some major yet untapped parts of this country to form closer business and trade ties.

To keep up business as usual, ICBC started hosting pertinent webinars with members and associates during the lockdown. As companies and organisations ventured into this whole new world, it became clearer that business meetings and conferences could be seamlessly conducted on a technology driven platform. The current scenario may have resulted in larger digital presence and use of more virtual platforms, but it is also proving to be more cost effective and a safer option with the coronavirus still lurking at large. It is a new normal and at ICBC, we have embraced it, and planned significant initiatives in the Indo-Canadian economic corridor over the next few months.

(Nadira Hamid is the Chief Executive Officer for Indo-Canadian Business Chamber and is based in New Delhi)

Happenings...

• Founded in 2006, desiFEST Music Festival is one of Canada's biggest celebrations of South Asian urban culture and beyond. For the first time in 14 years, this year's Desifest had to be cancelled due to Corona pandemic. However, Sathish Bala, the brain behind Desifest, decided to raise the bar higher and took the festival online. As a Canadian not for profit organization, Desifest music is now bringing Antara Nandy,

an Indian playback singer from Assam on Facebook live.

The live concert is on Saturday, May 30 from 10.00 pm and the \$ 15 ticket can be purchased on Eventbrite.

Here is the link to purchase and support this initiative :
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/antara-nandy-live-from-india-produced-by-desifest-tickets-105719808794>

• Applications are now

being accepted for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. Property owners will reduce rent by atleast 75 percent for the months of April and May (retroactively) and June for their small business tenants. CECRA will cover 50 percent of the rent, with the tenant paying upto 25 percent and the property owner forgiving atleast 25 percent. This program is for small business tenants that are paying less than

\$ 50,000 per month in gross rent, with annual consolidated revenues of less than \$ 2 million and that have experienced atleast a 70 percent drop in pre-covid revenues. It will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations. Applications will be accepted through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) website. (Source : pm.gc.ca)

Impact of COVID-19 on International students from India

Seneca

By : Prashant Srivastava

International Students in Canada

For last ten years Canada has witnessed a continuous increase in international students choosing to come and study in Canada. There are around 660,000 international students studying at all levels at Canadian institutions, with almost 50% in Ontario. Indian students represent almost 35% of International students in Canada (around 225,000) Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) reports an increase of 154 % in international students in Canada between 2010-2018. The growth of Indian students to Canada was just under 350% since 2014. The financial contribution of international students in Canadian economy is estimated to be around 22 billion dollars, supporting over 170,000 Canadian jobs. International students further meet the shortage of skilled workers in Canada, by working part time while studying and working full time after completing their studies in Canada. Many international students obtain permanent residence through various immigration pathways established by the Government of Canada. In 2019, the Canadian Experience Class, an immigration pathway designed for international students and foreign workers accounted for 34 % of new immigrants in Canada.

Impact of Pandemic:

COVID-19 on International Students

The virus has now spread to every continent except Antarctica since first identified in Wuhan, China, in December. More than 180+ countries have reported cases of COVID-19.



Prashant Srivastava

Ontario has ordered closure of all non-essential business, international students who were working in hospitality, tourism and retail sectors, lost their jobs and are in tremendous financial stress. International students, not used to social and physical distancing, also face social stress as they are already in a foreign land far away from their homeland. The main worries students seem to have are related to travel restrictions and to financial issues: a decrease of their (parents') available budget or the cost of studying abroad becoming more expensive.

"COVID-19 has made the world a much smaller place as we share the same concerns and sorrows over the impact of this pandemic across the globe. Our students have shown incredible

resilience and courage in the face of an unprecedented and rapidly changing situation. For our international students, in particular, not only have they had to persevere, but they've had to do so being far away from the comforts of home and family."

- **David Agnew, Seneca President**

Response by Educational Institutions and Government of Canada

Canadian Institutions are taking steps to meet the challenges created by COVID-19. Many of them have cancelled their May 2020 intake, and a number of them have moved the courses online. Canadian Colleges and Universities have announced COVID-19 Emergency funds to help international students. Consul General of India, Toronto in association with several Indian NGO's have helped supply of groceries and more to Indian students studying in Canada. Seneca, in association with Seneca Student Federation and the Government of Ontario committed more than \$2 million to students experiencing financial stress due to COVID-19 pandemic. Through Seneca COVID-19 relief fund more than 9,000 students have received the aid.

Recognising the contribution of International Students in Canada, Govt. of Canada has announced temporary policy changes. It has announced that online learning

due to pandemic wont impact post graduate work permit applications of International Students. This can benefit Indian students to begin their classes while in India and complete 50% of their program while living in India, if they can't travel to Canada sooner.

Future Study Abroad Aspirations of Indian students

Despite the pandemic, Indian students are still engaged, according to an article published by India Today, it reports 91 % of Indian students want to continue studying abroad even in COVID-19 lockdown. A survey conducted by leading Indian Education portal Shiksha.com highlight over 50 % of Indian students are interested to study in Canada and US and 72 % of respondents are planning to go in 2020.

Based on my own experience at Seneca, we are seeing temporary postponement of overseas study plans of Indian students due to a ban on international travel, however Indian students are not canceling their study abroad plans but deferring to the next subsequent intakes. Some of them are taking the benefit of Govt. of Canada's temporary policy change announcement due to COVID-19 and are enrolling into online courses from India.

(Prashant Srivastava is Director, South Asia for Seneca College)



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