

Canada India Insight

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“India’s government is driving economic reforms at a pace never seen before”

By : **Vipul Jani**

Annie Dube is Canada’s Consul General in Mumbai. A career Diplomat since 2003, she has served the country in different capacities and in different countries (Canada, India, South Korea, Switzerland)

Canada India Insight Editor Vipul Jani caught up with her for this exclusive interview.

You have worked as Vice Consul and Trade Commissioner in Mumbai (2005-2007) and now as Consul General since 2018. In between you served in Switzerland, South Korea and Ottawa. Tell us what change you see in Mumbai and India of 2007 and 2020 ?

There are things that don’t change in Mumbai: the street food, dynamism of the city – it never sleeps, Bollywood and the warmth of Mumbaikars. But what surprised me most was how Mumbai got a facelift. The city exploded with high rise buildings and other major infrastructure projects over the decade I was away. So, returning to Mumbai was for me very exciting, especially because my background is as a Trade Commissioner. So the economic development, the ambition and the openness of the city, and by extension the country, was definitely a major attraction in that choice to return. But returning

to Mumbai was also a very personal choice. My husband and I met in Mumbai, and it is important for our children to get to know their culture



Annie Dube
Canada’s Consul General
in Mumbai

and see where they are from.

*** India is very bullish on it’s Defence Sector and Make in India initiative, opening up the sector for more foreign investment and collaborations. You were a Director- Aerospace, Automotive and Defence at Global Affairs Canada. What kind of opportunities you see for Canada in India’s Defence Sector?**

It is always great to see more opportunities for Canadian companies in India. And India’s government is driving economic reforms at a pace never seen before. India has very recently issued a new version of Defence Acquisition Policy and Defence Procurement Manual 2020 which puts

emphasis on a self-reliant India by encouraging domestic firms to produce defence related equipment.

When it comes to Canadian Defence firms, they are well positioned to partner with Indian MSMEs to provide them technological support to cater to Indian OEMs pitching for defence business. Canada’s defence and security sector has over 660 firms and is largely dependent on international trade, investment, research and development. But I believe the opportunities go way beyond the current and more traditional sectors where both countries have collaborated until now. We have seen exponential growth and collaboration in sectors such as technology, water and sanitation, infrastructure, smart cities mission, and energy. We believe that India can take advantage of Canada’s strengths in important sectors like: Aerospace, Agriculture & Agri-Food, Automotive & Auto Components, Cleantech, Education, and Emerging Technologies like AI, Energy, Forestry, ICT

One of the success stories is that of Canadian companies investing in India. For instance:

- Brookfield and Fairfax Holdings - two companies which

alone have invested over \$25 billion in India.

- We have witnessed several other Canadian institutional investors set up offices in India and their collective investment now is estimated to exceed \$45 billion.
- And last week, it was reported that Brookfield Asset Management bought an Indian developers commercial properties (RMZ corporation) for \$2 billion.
- The same week, it was reported that the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Brookfield were eyeing the purchase of almost 600 megawatts of solar assets from Mahindra group’s renewable energy business.

Many more Canadian corporates are doing business in India, For example:

- Canada is contributing to India’s infrastructure boom. Roughly, 8 per cent of the steel manufactured in India over the last year was made using Canadian natural resources.
- Canadian firms are providing the design and engineering for many of India’s top Smart Cities.
- Indian mobile carriers like Airtel and Jio use Canadian software that allows millions

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New Punjab, Pyara Punjab

Impact Media & Events Corporation (IMEC), a Brampton (Ontario) based Media and Events Company since 2002 (and the parent company of this Publication) is hosting New Punjab, Pyara Punjab – a Celebration of Punjab and the Punjabi Community. The 15 month long celebration



will take place in several

cities in Canada and India and will include Punjabi CEOs Roundtable, Delegation to Punjab and a visit to the Golden Temple, Virtual Punjab-Ontario and Punjab-B.C. Conferences, an Online Coffee Table Book, Webinars, Food Festivals, Profiles, Interviews, Guest Columns, Political

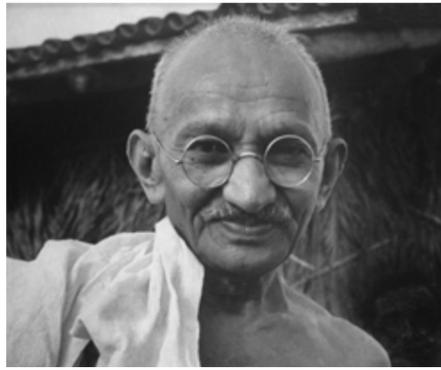
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Happenings

- India's Parliament has approved a new legislation – Farmers Produce Trade & Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill to reform agricultural produce trade in India. The new regulation creates an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy the freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agro produce under the vision of One India, One Agri market. At a recent two-day seminar on India-Canada AgriTech Co-operation, where the Indian and Canadian Agricultural Ministers shared the stage, the Canadian Minister highlighted the fact that both countries had a vibrant trading relationship in Agriculture and Agri Food valued at over \$ 1.5 billion.

- As part of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi on October 02, India launched a new initiative, titled Vaibhav



(Global Indian Scientist). It aims to bring Indian Origin luminaries in Academic Institutions and Research Organizations across the world and resident counterparts on a single platform to debate upon collaboration to strengthen academic and science and technology (S & T) base in India for Global Development. Scientists and Researchers of Indian Heritage from all across the world, including 72 from Canada participated.

- Canada's Brookfield, State Bank of India (SBI) and

Brookfield

finance firm HDFC are joining hands to come up with a mega asset

reconstruction company (ARC) according to sources (unconfirmed) To tap the opportunities arising from increasing bad loans and stress among companies, the consortium is expected to invest upto US\$ one billion as initial equity.

- Canada-India trade in billions over the last few years : \$ 8.26 billion (2015), \$ 8.02 billion (2016), \$ 8.43 billion (2017), \$ 9.42 billion (2018), \$ 10.23 billion (2019)

- High Commission of Canada in India is interested in developing a market study on the Indian start-up, innovation and accelerator / incubator ecosystem. The objective is to develop a market study that indicates market trends, economic shifts and provides insights into local opportunities of potential interest to Canadian companies related to the Innovation / Acceleration ecosystem. Indian research companies interested in exploring this opportunity can send a note to : prashanth.nair@international.gc.ca for more details.

(Source : LinkedIn Posting)

- Green Party of Canada has now chosen a new leader after 13 years. Annamie Paul replaces Elizabeth May as their new leader. She has a Master of Public Affairs from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Law from University of Ottawa. She worked as an Advisor to the international



Criminal Court in the Hague and as a political officer in Canada's mission to the EU. She speaks four languages and is the first black person and jewish woman to be elected as leader of a major party in Canada. In the 2019 federal election, she ran unsuccessfully against the former liberal Finance Minister Bill Morneau. She lost in the by election again in October 2020.

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of subscribers to manage their accounts every day. Canadian software is helping Indian taxpayers e-file their income taxes.



- There have been several high-level interactions, conferences and webinars in the last six months between Canada and India, including the Canada India Insight Virtual Conference on Sept. 30, hosted by us. What is going on with such a flurry of activities ?

Virtual reality of this pandemic means that a lot of the usual activities that would be "in person" ended up online, and so it becomes more accessible and open to more people.

Mumbai – and the rest of India - usually sees a lot of visitors from Canada, from C executives to

senior government officials at all levels of municipal, provincial and federal government. And usually, this time of the year would be our "high season" of visitors where businesses converge towards India to continue building relationships and seek new opportunities in the market.

As far as our governments are concerned:

- our foreign and trade Ministers have spoken often on various platforms
- Our Agriculture ministers collaborated at an event in late September and Prime Minister Modi offered welcome remarks to an Invest in India event organized this October by the Canada India Business Council.

- Our Prime Ministers have also spoken recently and maintain a good working relationship.

- China is the elephant in the room now. Both Canada and India have their own challenges with China. Is there an effort to tackle this together and would Canada be

willing to consider something like a Quad with India and others ?

The Government of Canada will continue to stand up for Canadian values and interests. Canada recognizes the need to increase our cooperation with India and other partners to defend the rules-based international order. Canada shares a commitment with India to the rules-based international order and multilateralism in the Indo-Pacific and globally.

- You run a Podcast, something not many Diplomats do. Tell us a little bit about that.

Diplomacy and podcasting aren't usually used in the same sentence. But we are innovating. Statistics aren't enough to make you feel the excitement and dynamism of that relationship. In the podcast, we cover anything from trade & investment, to human rights, arts & culture, and foreign policy. Just look for the Canada in India show.

- To end on a personal note, you have spent several years in

Aamchi Mumbai now. Has the Cricket, Hindi Films and Spicy Food finally caught up with you ?

When my husband and I got married (in Delhi), my mother-in-law showed me how to make halva. But I think the traditional butter chicken and palak paneer are some easy go to for me. I don't think spices always agree with me, but I still enjoy Indian food very much.

Because I met her in the context of the podcast, and I read her book – Close to the bone – I am a big fan of Lisa Ray. And being in Mumbai, Bollywood, there are so many good movies out there. But I do appreciate a lot the documentaries that allow me to see some aspect of the realities in some communities that would not be available otherwise. this window into the real life in India allow me to appreciate more the differences and challenges people face, and hopefully gain a better understanding and appreciation.

(Watch the entire Interview at www.imec.biz)

Editorial

- Vipul Jani



• So, the dreaded Canadian winter is around the corner, which means it's time to go indoors, something we have been told to avoid for the last seven months. How this plays out in the current pandemic environment, remains to be seen. Corona has really destroyed lives and livelihoods for millions of people in Canada and the recent ban on Indoor dining and other facilities in Ontario will kill many more businesses who somehow survived the first shutdown.

Frankly speaking, I fail to understand why a Restaurant with 10-15 customers eating at distant tables is more dangerous than a big grocery store where thousands of people go every day, with zero social distancing. Does the govt have any data that prove restaurant eating resulted in x number of cases? If not, then it must lift this inhuman and, in my opinion, completely unjustified, unnecessary shutdown on restaurants and Coffee shops. For many small business owners, so many of their "business meetings" take place in Tim Hortons, Starbucks and Restaurants. Where will they meet and do any business when all their meeting places are shut down and then the same Govt comes around and ask people to get back to work. Seriously? How?

• While every other country is trying to learn lessons from this life-changing pandemic, one country that refuses to learn anything and whose behaviour is going from bad to insane is China. Here is an example. The Chinese Ambassador to Canada, Cong Peiwa, in a Video Conference from his Ottawa embassy said this last week :

" We strongly urge the Canadian side not to grant so-called political asylum to those violent criminals in Hong Kong because it is interference in

China's domestic affairs and certainly it will embolden those violent criminals. So, if the Canadian side really cares about the stability and prosperity in Hong Kong and really cares about the good health and safety of those 300,000 Canadian passport holders in Hong Kong and the large number of Canadian companies operating in Hong Kong, you should support those efforts to fight violent crimes. "

Really? Diplomacy, not so long ago, meant using nice, unoffensive language even while conveying strong disagreements but China it seems, is replacing diplomatic niceties with veiled threats and intimidation. If you



are telling other countries not to interfere in your domestic affairs, which by the way, is happening because you broke an international agreement, then why are you poking your fingers in India's domestic affairs i.e. Article 370 in Jammu-Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and else.

Mr. Cong should not try to become King Kong and all these bullying will do China no good. It needs to realize that it does not own the rest of the world and remember what happened to Japan, Germany, British Empire and others who tried to bully others around. India has so far resisted going for tit for tat, but imagine what China will do if India were to recognize Taiwan and Tibet as Independent, Sovereign Nations and open High

Commissions / Embassies there? It will start a global chain reaction with severe and irreversible damage to China's regional as well as global ambitions. India's much restrained response to Chinese military and diplomatic aggression is both praiseworthy and a bit difficult to explain.

• The Conservative motion to create an anti corruption



committee, to probe the WE scandal was turned into an unnecessary confidence motion by Trudeau liberals and was eventually passed with NDP and Green support, thus killing any effort to ensure transparency and to find answers to what actually happened. Prime Minister Trudeau continues to behave as if he is the King of Canada, answerable to nobody, doing as he pleases and destroying any shreds of morality, ethics or even shame. It's a pity Canadian Politics has come to this and if the opinion polls are indicating yet another Liberal Govt if polls are held today, then who should we blame? Trudeau or ourselves? What does the NDP stand for today? Why should it even exist anymore if it can not offer anything new both Provincially and Federally?

• The third and last debate between Trump and Biden was way better and much more civilized than the first one.

Trump certainly was much more restrained and kept hammering home the point that Biden has been in politics for 47 years and

was the VP for 8 years. If he didn't do much all these years, what to expect of him now? It's like the BJP asking Congress what did you do for 50 years and what right do you have to now promise anything to India? Canada should particularly pay attention to Biden's comments on Oil & Gas Industry as he talked about ending the subsidies and



moving away from Oil and Gas to renewable energy. While this maybe music to Trudeau's ears, is it good for Canada? What will happen to the pipeline projects that Obama stalled and Trump cleared? and as he is 78 already, he will most likely be a one-term President anyway, so where is the continuity in policy? Can Canada-US relations afford to swing from one end to the other every four years?

• Lastly, Impact Media and Events Corporation (IMEC), the parent company of this publication, has just launched a 15-month long celebration of Punjab and the Punjabi community. The New Punjab, Pyara Punjab Project includes Virtual and in-person Conferences, Delegations, Webinars, Coffee Table Book, Interviews, Articles, Food Fests, Roundtables and much more. Details are available at www.imec.biz

Sponsorship opportunities are now open. Email us for more information : Vipul@imec.biz

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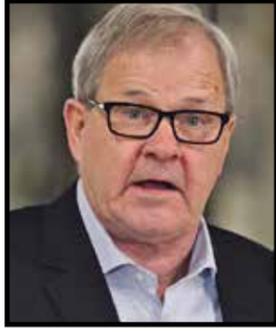
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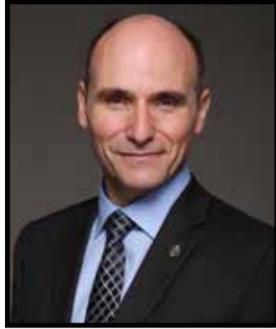
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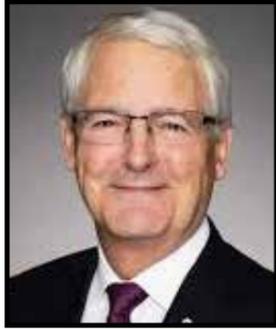
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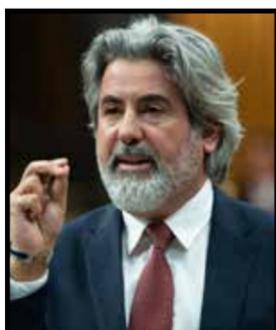
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Did you know...?

- India is # 1 in the world for Global Fintech Adopter, Smartphone Data Consumer, # 2 in the world for Internet users, global pharma and biotech workforce and startup ecosystem and # 3 largest consumer of Oil, consumer market and economy by PPP.

- India is World's 2nd largest steel producer with 140 + MT capacity, 3rd largest



- Domestic Aviation market, 6th largest producer of Chemicals in the world. 5th largest installed capacity of renewable energy in the world and 6th largest Food & Grocery market in the world.

- While Global FDI fell by 1 % last year, FDI into India rose by 16 %

- Over the last 7 years, India has jumped 79 places in the Ease of Doing Business Index (# 132 in 2012, # 63 in 2019)

- With 5.8 million km, India has the second largest road network in the world, carrying

- 65 % goods cargo in India.

- India's imports from Canada in 2019-20 was \$ 3.8 billion

- Canada's rank in FDI in India is # 20 (\$ 1.9 billion)

- Key Canadian companies in India and their FDI in India in



- US\$ is as follows :

- (1) Brookfield - \$ 10 billion,

- (2) Canada Pension Plan

- Investment Board - \$ 8 billion,

- (3) Caisse de depot et placement

- du Quebec - \$ 2 billion, (4)

- Fairfax - \$ 1.2 billion, (5) Sun

- Life Financial - \$ 295 million,

- (6) McCain Foods - \$ 77 million,

- (6) Ontario Teachers Pension

- Plan - \$ 23 million.

- Gujarat has received most investment queries from

- Canada (5 %), followed by

- Punjab (4 %) and Maharashtra

- (4 %). Top sectors of interest

- are Energy (9 %), IT & BPM (8

- %), Food Processing (7 %) and

- Construction (5 %)

- Ontario has 38 % of

- Canada's Population and 42 % of

- GDP.



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Canada India Insight Virtual Conference – a brief Summary

Impact Media & Events Corporation (IMEC), a Media & Events company since 2002 (and the parent company of this Publication) in association with Canada India USA Development Forum (CIUDF), a Canadian Not for Profit Organization, jointly organized Canada India Insight Virtual Conference on September 30, 2020.

This year's theme was : Canada India Relations : Realities of Today & Vision for Tomorrow.

The 3-hour long Conference (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) had a stellar line up of Speakers, including Hon. Mr. Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, Hon. Erin O'toole, Leader of the PC Party and Leader of Opposition, Canada. Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade, Govt. of Ontario, Hon. Ranj Pillai, Deputy Premier of Yukon, His Excellency Mr. Ajay Bisaria, High Commissioner of India to Canada, Mr. David Agnew, President of Seneca College and Mr. Sandeep Goel, President & CEO of ICICI Bank Canada. There was a special 30 minute long presentation by Mr. Vivek Abraham, Vice President & Co-Head, Global Investor Outreach, Invest India. The Consul General of India to Toronto Mrs. Apoorva Srivastava also participated at the Conference, moderated by Vipul Jani, Editor of Canada India Insight.

While the entire 3-hour long Video and all speeches are available at both our websites (www.imec.biz / www.canadaindiausadevelopmentforum.com) here are brief excerpts from those speeches :

Hon. Minister Som Parkash (Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt of India) :

We are encouraging Canadian companies to look at India as a dependable supplier for Global Value Chains, as a destination for Manufacturing and as a Profitable Investment



Destination. We will be very happy to guide and support Canadian businesses as they explore the possibilities in India. The biggest lesson we have learned from Covid-19 is how inter connected we are and how we must co-operate to ensure not only continued prosperity but our very survival also.

The Pandemic has demonstrated that global supply chains rely heavily on a single supplier. India is an attractive alternative to diversify your supply



chain. As our Prime Minister recently said, there is a global optimism about India. It is again seen as a land of opportunities. FDI inflow in India in 2019-20 was \$ 74 billion and even during the pandemic (April-July), India has attracted investments worth \$ 30 billion. In the last 5 years, Canadian investments in India has grown from 5 to 50 billion US\$. India and Canada will have to co-operate not only in the health and medical aspects of the pandemic, but in a subsequent economic recovery and a post-covid mechanism. We look forward to a close co-operation between our two governments and Canada being a dependable ally.

(Vipul) : Can you tell us a

bit about the conversations you are having with your Canadian Counterpart and when things become normal again, would you like to visit Canada again ?

(Minister Som Parkash)

: We are always ready to visit and discuss our relationships and investments. From my constituency (Hoshiarpur in Punjab), lots of people have come to Canada.

(Vipul) : The first

thing that comes up in bilateral discussions is the progress on CEPA and FIPA.

(Minister Som Parkash) : we are open for talks and to discuss these with an open mind.

(MPP Deepak Anand) :

We want to build relationships. It also motivates the diaspora when they see ministers from Punjab come here and support them.

David Agnew (President, Seneca College) : The

Government of India is superbly represented in this country, as we work very closely with both the HC and CG.

(High Commissioner

Ajay Bisaria) : Thank you Vipul for convincing the Minister to be a part of this conversation. This emphasizes the special connection Punjab has with Canada. They are the drivers of this new Canada. They are in Politics, Business,



Academia and it's a wonderful relationship, which we should nurture. Also thank you for bringing the leaders from both Canada and India and for all the Conferences and work you are doing on the bilateral front. Invest Punjab is a dynamic entity that works with professionals to get investment into Punjab and Vipulji, your Pyara Punjab Project is excellent because when you connect hearts, the business follows.

This is the new Punjab which people in Canada must understand, it's very different from Punjab you saw 10-20 years ago. Canada & India are both G-20 countries, \$ 2 trillion for Canada and \$ 3 trillion for India. There is a lot going on in terms of Investment, Trade, Technology Exchanges etc. The Diaspora adds a special X factor in the relationships. India of today is not just the Pharmacy of the world, it is also the Vaccine Producer of the world. It doesn't matter where the vaccine is discovered, the eventual production and scaling up will be done in India. Minister Piyush Goyal has been in touch with Minister Mary Ng atleast 5-6 times during the pandemic and we have even proposed an early harvest agreement which is a limited agreement, as we have been in discussion for the last 10 years on an ambitious CEPA. So, we are saying let us first get the low hanging fruit and that's where the conversation is happening regularly these days. For FIPA also, we only have 3 to 4 areas of disagreement.

Vivek Abraham (VP & Co-Head, Global Investor Outreach, Invest India) :

Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India. We have very actively and aggressively started monetizing stable, existing operational assets. The Canadian Pension Funds and Investors are the largest foreign owners of Indian roads as of today. We have set a disinvestment target of \$ 27.6 billion for FY 2020-21 and the 10 strategic disinvestments include

Continued on page 7

Shipping Corporation of India, Bharat Petroleum and Air India. Over 5 years, benchmark indices NSE Nifty delivered 26 % return and BSE Sensex delivered 29 % return. It took India 63 years to reach one trillion \$ (1947-2010), 7 years to reach \$ 2 trillion (2010-2017) and 3 years to reach \$ 3 trillion (2017-2020) Vivek also made a fantastic presentation on important stats, trade reforms, global FDI flow, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, states competing to be the best investment destination etc.

Hon. Ranj Pillai (Deputy Premier, Yukon) :

I am happy to discuss new ways to expand relationship between India and Canada, Yukon



in particular. In 2019, we had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 3.6 %. Real GDP grew by 2.6 % in 2018 and 3.3 % in 2019. Our population has increased for the last 16 years and is at 42,000 now. We have one regional area where we can do resource development. It's a protected area with minimal population but is the size of Scotland. We have some of the world's biggest mining companies here. Our Northern Climate is changing 3 times faster than Canada.

Our govt understands this is a big challenge. So we have just released Yukon's 10-year strategy for addressing climate change, energy and a green economy. We, along with the Govt of Canada will invest \$ 500 million in renewable energy, zero emission vehicles and helping Yukon businesses to develop new skills for a green economy. Indigenous groups in Yukon since 2015 have built over 100 renewable projects. There is tremendous opportunity in Solar and Wind. The amount of money

we have to spend over the next 10 years in the resource sector and in improving our highways and airports and the energy generation offer a significant opportunity for partnerships and investment. India accounts for 16 % of successful Yukon Nominee Program applicants. Yukon University has about 100 students from India. Every year when I go to Toronto to attend the world's largest Mining Show, I get an opportunity to meet with a delegation from India. I have also met with the Deputy High Commissioner of India and the Consul General of India in Vancouver.

(Vipul) : Tourism is a big factor for Yukon and the Pandemic has made a big dent in it. How and when do you expect Yukon to recover from this ?

(Deputy Premier Pillai) : Tourism is about 5 % of our GDP. We covered the entire fixed cost of any business in crisis for 4 months and have now extended it upto March in order to sustain these tourism businesses. We need to create bubbles, so we can still have tourism. We had only 15 cases of Covid and all of them have recovered.

Sandeep Goel (President & CEO, ICICI Bank Canada) :

ICICI Bank has been present in Canada for 17 years now and we are very active on the Canada India Corridor. We have seen tremendous growth in trade, in people movement both for economic reasons and education.



We have also innovated in terms of which products are best suited for this Corridor. We have a market capitalization of close to \$ 40 billion, Asset base close to \$ 200 billion, 50 million customer accounts, 60 countries where we

are present thru correspondence banking and trade relationships and a physical presence in 15 countries. We are working with several Canadian companies active in India. ICICI Bank Canada has 6.5 billion \$ in assets. Canadian companies look at India not only as a big, young market but also as a back office for their operations in Canada. We want to bring India to smaller funds like City Funds and University Funds. Big funds have the ability and feet on ground in India, but smaller funds don't have that. Also, we are talking to large funds to bring that expertise of management to Indian Pension Funds, which I have discussed with Mr. Bisaria also. When students come to Canada, they need a lot of assistance in India like Student Loans, Advisory etc. So, we are re-examining our whole student ecosystem strategy. We are shortly going to announce our collaboration with Seneca College, which is in the works.

Hon. Erin O'Toole (Leader of PC Party / Leader of Opposition, Canada) :

India is a critical partner for Canada and the Indo Pacific is part



of our future as a country both from a trade, security and a diplomatic perspective. In fact, in my first speech as leader of opposition, I will be talking about the importance of a relationship with India in the House of Commons later today. I also spoke to a group of Indo Canadian Business leaders, who are optimistic about not just doubling, but tripling our bilateral trade with the world's largest democracy. Canada needs to have a serious Indo Pacific Plan and treat the relationship with respect. Under Prime Minister Trudeau, there is a chill in relations (with India), it has gone down. We need to restart the great work PM Harper had done, growing trade with

India. We need to have long term strategic partnerships in key areas like nuclear energy, leveraging innovation from Canadian farmers to establish more agriculture partnerships to ensure food security for both Canada and India. We need bold initiatives in technology, telemedicine, infrastructure, strategic partnerships between Canadian and Indian companies. As you know, Canada has been going through a very turbulent time in relationship with China. We need to do more partnerships, working with like-minded countries like India and others in the Indo Pacific to enhance trade, to build up alternate markets for our goods that could be disrupted in the larger trade entanglement with China and help India who has seen trade and security challenges with China firsthand in the last few months. Rather than fawning over trade potential with China, Canada must be resolute in our commitment to freer trade with freer countries, countries that value liberty and democracy, like Canada and India. As India's pre-eminence grows, the partnership with Canada should grow with it. A strong and united

India is home to unprecedented economic potential for it's people and there is no excuse for Canada to not ambitiously pursue greater and deeper partnerships with Indian companies. If we are able to form a government in the next year, a strategic enhancement of the relationship with India will be a centre piece of my govt. The partnership between Canada and India is just about to enter a renaissance and I want to work with you to make sure that it translates into exports, job opportunities and investments.

(Vipul) : Under your leadership, in what way the Canada India relationship will be different than it is today ?

Continued on page 8

(Erin O'Toole) : The two areas where we can have an immediate partnership are Agriculture and Agro Food and in Energy and Infrastructure. With Candu Nuclear Technology and Uranium, there has been a long relationship between the two countries. Canada is known for our Agricultural exports, from Lentils to Soybeans to Grain and Oilseeds like Canola. As China uses trade to push other countries around, we need to grow alternate markets and the potential in India is too good to pass up.

(HC Ajay Bisaria) : I was in Saskatchewan last week and I had a meeting with Cameco, the agreement that was initiated 5 years ago for the supply of Uranium to India has gone on very smoothly and we are hoping to extend it by another five years. In India, we are going thru the 1991 moment in Agriculture, to get into Agriculture Revolution and we will need Canadian help and technologies. Indo Canadians are already 1.6 million and over 80,000 more coming in every year and now in leadership positions almost everywhere – in Politics, Science & Technology and Business and yes, China will be the story for the next 20 years. You will have two rising Asian Powers, one of which believes in Democracy, Rule of Law, Peaceful Engagement, Globalization and Fair Multilateralism, while the other is not. It is already showing

it's belligerence this year and it's impatience to get to the top. So, we are natural partners and have a great future ahead.

(David Agnew, Seneca College) : Minister Vic Fedeli and I went to India together. We are old India hands. I appreciate your understanding of the importance of Immigration to Canada and of International Students to Canada. This can't just be about dollars and cents and trade, it has to be about people.

(Erin O'Toole) : When I was in the Harper Govt, my first job was on the trade file, building those education ties, both in terms of students at the College and University levels. Canadians need to know how education is one of our main GDP drivers and one of our major diplomatic forays, because even if they (students) don't stay here, they go back as champions of our country.

Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade, Govt of Ontario :

This is my third Webinar with you in the last two months and (laughs) don't tell the other countries, because we haven't done this with anyone else. India has such a close and personal feeling for all of us. India is a major economic force, the 5th largest in the world. 2-way trade between Canada and India grew at a rate of 12 % since 2014. In 2019, 2-way trade between

Ontario and India was \$ 3.4 billion (Canadian) \$ 400 million from it was from Ontario to India and \$ 3

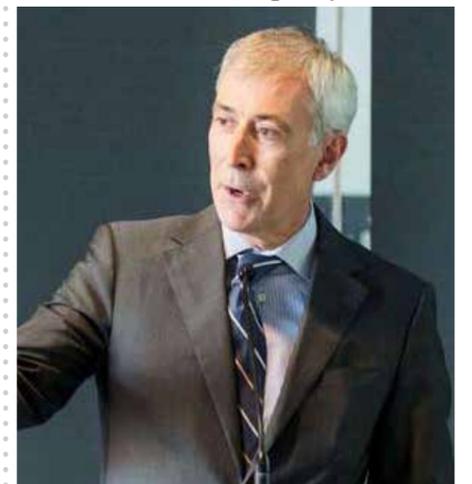


billion was the other way round. In a country of 1.3 billion people, we only ship you goods and services worth \$ 400 million. So, we want to increase both these numbers. Less than 1 % of India's total imports come from Canada and only 12 % of Canadian exports to India are from Ontario. We have identified India as a priority market and led several successful business missions there and we would have been there again in October (this month). Even in this Covid climate, so much has happened between India and Ontario. We now have a new Investment attraction agency called Invest Ontario. We are supporting our SMEs with market access and intelligence through our Ontario Trade and Investment Offices in New Delhi and Mumbai. We are directly connecting businesses in

India and Ontario to create new deals through targeted trade and investment missions. I just can not wait to come back to India.

David Agnew, President, Seneca College :

Like Minister Fedeli, I can not wait to get back to India as well. To borrow a word from Joe Biden, this is indeed about building back better. The value of Indian students coming to Canada outstrips any single goods or service that is traded between our two countries. We are privileged to have several great partnerships in India. We still have close to 1,500 nursing students from India, many of whom will be seeking a career in Canada, helping our healthcare system. India now has a new education policy, that's



an area where we can develop new and richer partnerships.

(HC Ajay Bisaria) : This has been 3 hours very well-spent. We are more used to 30-40 minute events and webinars, but this has been absolutely worth all the time we have spent.

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About Punjab & The Gurus

- The name Punjab is made of two words – Punj (Five) and Aab (Water) i.e. land of five rivers – Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum. Only Sutlej, Ravi and Beas rivers flow in today's Punjab. The other two rivers are now in Pakistan side of Punjab.

- Agriculture is the mainstay of Punjab's economy, other major industries include Manufacturing of Scientific Instruments, Electrical Goods, Financial Services, Machine Tools, Textiles, Sewing Machine Manufacturing, Hosiery and Textiles, Cycles, Sports Goods and Equipments etc.

- Punjab contributes nearly two thirds of the total production of food grains and a third of milk production in the country. It is also a leading producer of wheat.

- Punjab's per Capita income is twice the national average.

- Punjab is bounded on the west by Pakistan, on the north by Jammu & Kashmir, on the northeast by Himachal Pradesh and on the south by Haryana and Rajasthan.

- Punjabi is the tenth most widely spoken language in the world and the 4th most spoken language in Asia.

- Chandigarh is a Union Territory and serves as the Capital of the states of Punjab and Haryana.

- Sikh religion believes in one god and the way to this God is shown by Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the eternal Guru of the Sikhs. However, before the installation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib as the Guru, the ten masters, in human form had appeared and laid down the policies and principle of Sikhism. They are :

- **Guru Nanak Dev ji**, the Founder of Sikh Religion



He was born on April 14, 1469 at Rai-Bhoi-di Talwandi (now in Pakistan), known today as Nankana Sahib. He left for his heavenly abode (joti-jot samauna) on September 22, 1539 at the age of 70.

- **Guru Angad Dev ji**
Born on April 18, 1504 in Ferozepur



district in Punjab. He introduced the Gurmukhi Script for the benefit of common people.

- **Guru Amar Das ji**
Third Guru, Amar Das ji was born on May 23, 1479 in Amritsar. He



composed Gurbani, 907 verses of which are now a part of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

- **Guru Ram Das ji**
Bhai Jetha ji was named as Guru Ram Das ji when he became the fourth Guru. He laid the foundation stone of new city Amritsar and



wrote 679 hymns in 30 ragas, they all are a part of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

- **Guru Arjan Dev ji**
His works include the completion



of Sri Harmandir Sahib at Amritsar and the compilation of holy scripture, the Adi Granth. He got the foundation stone of Harmandir Sahib laid by a Muslim Saint Hazrat Mian Mir ji of Lahore in December 1588. He was subjected to extreme physical torture by Jahangir.

- **Guru Horgobind ji**
He was the son of Guru Arjan Dev ji and started training Sikhs in using arms. He wore two swords, one for spiritual power (Piri) and the other for military power (miri). Jahangir imprisoned him too, but had to



eventually release him. However, the Guru also called for releasing 52 other prisoners (Kings of small states), earning him praises as a "Bandi Chhor Guru"

- **Guru Har Rai ji**



The seventh Guru opened a hospital to provide medical assistance to the needy. He presided over an army of over 2000 people, however, there was no military conflict during his time with the then ruler Aurangzeb.

- **Guru Harkrishan ji**
The 8th Guru was only 5 years old when he assumed the spiritual



office. He served people suffering from small pox and plague with such devotion that he himself fell ill.

- **Guru Tegh Bahadur ji**
He earned the title Tegh Bahadur due to his skills in sword in the battle of Kartarpur. He resisted Aurangzeb's atrocities to convert Hindus, especially Kashmiri Brahmins to Islam and was beheaded in public at Chandni Chowk. His martyrdom is remembered as the Shaheedi Divas



of Guru Tegh Bahadur every year on 24 November.

- **Guru Gobind Singh ji**
He was the son of Guru Tegh Bahadur. He fought and won battles, created Khalsa and installation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib as his successor Guru for all times to come. The first five initiated by Khande-di-Pahul (Amrit Sanskar) are known as Panj Piare, the five beloved of the Guru.



They were all surnamed Singh and were required to wear the five Ks-five symbols of Khalsa

– Kesh, Kanga, Kara, Kirpan and Kachhehra. He declared that from now on, all Sikhs will accept Adi Granth (now known as Sri Guru Granth Sahib) as their eternal Guru.

(*** The New Punjab, Pyara Punjab Project is supported by SkyLink Capital Corp.)