

# Canada India Insight

Website : [www.imec.biz](http://www.imec.biz)Call - 416-827-5189 / (e-mail) [Vipul@imec.biz](mailto:Vipul@imec.biz)

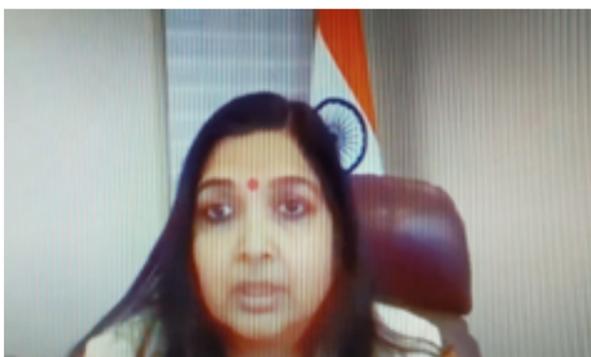
## “ There is a dire need to depoliticize pipelines ”



US President Joe Biden cancelled the keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office. The 8-billion-dollar project from TC Energy (Calgary) had a 1947 km long pipeline from Hardisty, Alberta to Steele City, Nebraska USA And from there to the refineries in Texas Gulf Coast.

Continued on **Page # 2**

## Consul General's Roundtable



Canada India USA Development Forum (CIUDF), in association with Impact

Media and Events Corporation (IMEC) hosted a Consul General's Roundtable on Friday, January 15. Rana Sarkar, Canada's Consul General to San Francisco, Apoorva Srivastava, India's Consul General to Toronto and M. Rangaswami, Founder, Indiaspora (Washington DC) participated and spoke at the event. Vipul Jani, Editor of Canada India Insight e-paper was the host and moderator. Here are the excerpts from this interesting webinar :

Continued on **Page # 4**

## Happenings



• Indian scientists have developed two made in India vaccines. Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) granted approval to vaccines of serum institute's Covishield of India and Bharat biotech's Covaxin.

• India has joined the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) again last month. It will sit in the 15 nation UNSC for the 2021-22 term as a non permanent member for the eighth time.



• Trudeau government's new gun legislation would allow municipalities to ban handguns through bylaws, however two days after saying he will act tough on gun crimes, he has abolished mandatory minimum sentences, even for repeat offenders and the serious offences committed with a gun, leaving most people scratching their heads.

Continued on **Page # 6**

## Punjab Ontario Virtual Conference



Impact Media & Events Corporation (IMEC), in association with Canada India USA Development Forum (CIUDF), hosted the first ever Punjab Ontario Virtual Conference on Friday, February 05. Hon. Preet Kaur, MP for Patiala (and Ex Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt of India), Apoorva Srivastava (India's Consul General to Toronto), Avneet Kaur (Joint CEO, Invest Punjab), Deepak Anand (MPP, Mississauga Malton), Nina Tangri (MPP, Mississauga Streetsville) participated in the online conference. Invest Punjab team and John Thomas from Invest Ontario made fantastic presentations, while Hon. Vic Fedeli, Ontario's Minister for Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade delivered a video message on the occasion. Here are the excerpts of the event :

**CG Apoorva Srivastava :** Vipulji, your New Punjab, Pyara Punjab Project is a wonderful initiative which enables us to showcase a wide range of opportunities that

Continued on **Page # 7**

## Role of Indo-Canadian Political Leaders

Canada India USA development Forum (CIUDF), in Association with Impact media and events Corporation (IMEC) hosted a special webinar on the role of Indo Canadian Political leaders in Canada India relations on Saturday, February 20th. Hon. Prasad Panda, Minister of Infrastructure, Govt of Alberta, Bob Saroya, MP for Markham Unionville , Deepak Anand, MPP, Mississauga Malton, Nina Tangri, MPP, Mississauga Streetsville, Amarjot Sandhu, MPP, Brampton West, Devinder Shory, former MP for Calgary northeast (2008-2015), Azad Kaushik, President of National Alliance of Indo Canadians participated as speakers. Shuvaloy Majumdar moderated the session while Vipul Jani, Editor of Canada India insight E paper was the host. Here are the excerpts from this interesting webinar :



**MP Bob Saroya :** we are leaders of Indian descent and we must work hand in hand with Canada and India. Canada welcomed me with open arms in 1973-74. India has equally given a ton to Canada, law-

Continued on **Page # 8**

**Tired of buying or selling everything Made in China ?**

**Want more options ? Want to buy / sell products Made in Canada, India, USA ?**

**Want to reduce our dependence on a single source, while helping and supporting our friends and neighbours ?**

**Visit [www.NotfromChina.in](http://www.NotfromChina.in) and let us be Vocal for Local.**

# “There is a dire need to depoliticize pipelines”

**Continued from page #1**

The project was going to ship 830,000 barrels per day & create 17-18,000 jobs in Canada & about 42,000 in US. President Obama vetoed this project in 2015, President Trump okayed it again in 2016 and now President Biden has cancelled it again in 2021. What are the impacts of such massive flip flops for today, what can be the consequences of it tomorrow? Gov. of Alberta just invested 1.5 billion dollars in equity investment in this project plus provided a \$ 6 billion loan guarantee. All that money is now up in the air. Keystone would have connected world's third largest oil reserves to the world's largest refining market. there were six comprehensive scientific reviews done by the US state Department. US has 2.5 million miles of pipelines, enough to circle the earth 100 times and they're complaining about the Canadian pipeline. To discuss this, Impact Media and Events Corporation (IMEC), in association with Canada India USA Development Forum (CIUDF) organized a special webinar inviting Hon. Prasad Panda, Alberta's Infrastructure Minister and Dr. Trevin Stratton, Chief Economist and Sr. VP, Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Vipul Jani, Editor of this publication and Tejas Aivalli, member of CIUDF, moderated the session. **Here are the excerpts :**

**Minister Prasad Panda :**



Alberta is extremely disappointed, to say the least. Apart from the taxes and revenue this project would have provided to all levels of Govt, keystone also provided spinoff benefits for communities surrounding the project. You may have seen Premier Jason Kenney's letter to PM Trudeau, saying the federal Govt. must do more than just expressing disappointment, just as your Govt. stood up for Canadian aluminum and steel workers when faced with an unfair US tariff in 2018. This pipeline is the most studied project in American history through multiple state and federal reviews, mostly during the

Obama administration. TC Energy committed to net zero emissions across the keystone project if it came into service in 2023. It would also be the first pipeline to be fully powered by renewable energy by no later than 2030. This is not an issue of science, environment, or sustainability, but a decision of political nature. We are now looking at ways to recover our investment if the project does not get back online. We are doing everything in our power to make sure this decision doesn't pave the way for retroactive cancellations for other projects such as trans mountain expansion, Enbridge line three and line 5 replacement projects and the coastal gas link pipeline that will take Canadian LNG to Asian markets.

**Dr. Trevin Stratton :**



Energy security is the cornerstone of effective climate action. This pipeline is providing energy products at a very high environment standard, is subjected to a progressive carbon tax, have set aggressive targets for net zero. Canceling this project might be displaced by oil from producers that may not adhere to same high standards. This will be contradictory to US administration's commitment to climate action. It also continues to politicize pipelines in North America, which are the safest and cheapest way of transporting oil and gas products. it is very disappointing that at the start of a new administration, there are signals that they may be willing to sacrifice energy security and prosperity of both US and Canadian citizens. we are at a troubling situation where we may not only have issues building new projects to expand capacity but also to defend existing infrastructure that is key to Canada and North America's energy security. for example, There is a dire need to depoliticize pipelines and recognize them as necessary component of a low emission resilient and secure energy distribution system.

**Vipul :** after Keystone there is now a real risk of Enbridge line 5 also getting cancelled. Michigan governor has asked Enbridge to shut down this 1038 kilometer long pipeline

established in 1953 by May 2021. what impact will this have on Alberta's economy, jobs and its relations within Canada and with US ?

**Minister Panda :** Premier Kenney has been proactively advocating to identify the risks of canceling projects like line 5 or stalling permit for line 3. It will impact Alberta, Ontario and Québec. Canadians have to pay attention to the dangers of obstructing development projects which are essential to carry on with our daily lives.

**Trevin Stratton :** this is not an Alberta issue or Quebec, Ontario or Michigan issue. this is a national issue for Canada. 60% of Quebec's crude oil imports comes through line 9 via Line 5. it will also put a much greater strain on the transportation system, creating more risks and emissions.

**Vipul :** last year when Premier Jason Kenney went to the US, the Governor of Michigan did not even meet with him, right ?

**Minister Panda :** yes we asked for a meeting but it was declined. however we have very good support in both houses of Michigan legislature and we won't give up.



**Tejas :** what are your views on the carbon tax and what role you see it play in canada's recovery from the pandemic ? Should Canada suspend levying the tax until we recover to 2019 levels ?

**Trevin Stratton :** we have been in support of carbon pricing but it needs to be done in the right way. the challenge in Canada is that we layer the carbon pricing with regulations. a regulatory system is not very competitive if you look at international rankings.

Canadian chamber a couple of years ago had a report titled Death by a 130,000 cuts. there are 130,000 regulations in Canada that put an enormous

burden on businesses. that is just at the federal level. At the provincial level, there are others as well. there is also a need to reduce the interprovincial trade barriers in Canada.

**Minister Panda :** we are very vocal opposing the carbon tax for a reason. we repealed the carbon tax imposed by the previous government because it was creating economic pain without environmental gain. the federal government thought they had the jurisdiction. Govt of Alberta joined with the Govt of Ontario, Saskatchewan and others to challenge it. We already won in an Alberta court and we will take it all the way to the Supreme Court.

**Prashant Srivastava (Seneca College) :**

what now ? Is there any outreach as Team Canada to the US ?

**Minister Panda :** Team Canada, that is very good. all the premiers along with Jason Kenney asked the Prime Minister to stand up for Canadian interests. cancelling projects retroactively doesn't offer comfort two potential investors in any sector of our economy. it does not make any economic

sense, any environmental sense and it won't stop here if we don't get our act together, speaking in one voice as Team Canada. We have to export our energy products into new markets in a safe way. Keep politics out of it. Prime Minister Trudeau can pet himself on the back saying Canada is back, we are not. He has to listen to premiers of Canada and we have to be reasonable and practical.

(see the entire webinar on Canada India insight YouTube channel or at [www.imec.biz](http://www.imec.biz) or [www.CanadaIndiaUSADevelopmentForum.com](http://www.CanadaIndiaUSADevelopmentForum.com))

# Editorial

- Vipul Jani



• Welcome to the first edition of Canada India Insight in 2021. Good news is, winter is now done in 5 weeks and from April, we can at least walk outside, for some semblance of normalcy, as the Pandemic and resulting lockdowns have all of us under a virtual house arrest for almost a year. While most countries have done much better, including US, Australia and India (where live Conferences are back, Cinema Halls are open and thousands of people attend live cricket matches in stadiums), Canada is still stuck in lockdowns. The recent extension of lockdowns in Toronto and Peel will create more losses, closures and bankruptcies in the days to come. People are indeed getting sick and tired of these lockdowns, it's high time they are lifted and people given a chance to put their broken businesses and lives back on track. Most people are sensible enough to use masks and avoid unnecessary gatherings. Treat adults as adults again, before they start throwing tantrums like kids.

• US President Joe Biden has cancelled Keystone XL Pipeline on his first day in office, making



a mockery of six reviews done by his own State Dept, mostly when he was the VP, killing thousands of Jobs on both sides of the border and now Michigan's Gover-

nor is threatening to kill Enbridge Line 5 in May, a pipeline that has been safely operating since 1955. If this also goes, it will create chaos not just in Alberta, but also in Ontario, Quebec and several US states. When US has 2.5 million



miles of pipelines, enough to circle the world over 100 times, how can it justify killing Canadian pipelines on flimsy grounds? Oil will now be transported by Rail and Road, causing delays, generating more pollution and creating more risks of accidents, so what purpose do these pipeline bans serve exactly? and if this continues, who will invest in such major projects costing billions of dollars. Will Prime Minister Trudeau speak up like he did for Aluminium and Steel sectors during the Trump regime? Highly unlikely, but a team Canada approach will be much more effective, instead of leaving Alberta on its own.

• China has finally withdrawn thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks from the Pangong Lake area in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control. This, after a 10 month-long tense standoff with India, who reacted



aggressively and strategically to Chinese aggression. Discussions are now going on between China and India, to push China to withdraw from the other friction points along the LAC. It will be in China's interest to do so, as it has offended enough countries with



it's bullying tactics and a serious military confrontation with India at this time will do it no good. India must remain vigilant and on high alert, because China is not exactly known to keep its words and commitments. Many are now asking what was the point, why did China do this in the first place? Was it in retaliation of India's moves in Jammu and Kashmir (abolition of article 370 and 35-A) or was it to pre-empt any perceived Indian moves in the future for reclaiming land it lost to China in and since 1962, only time will tell.

• Another positive news coming out of the Indian Subcontinent is that India and Saudi Arabia will soon be conducting the first ever joint army exercises in



Saudi Arabia. This follows a historic, first ever visit by a sitting Indian Army Chief's visit to that country in December last year. (General MM Naravane)



Certainly welcome development in warming up of ties between the two nations.

• Back in Canada again, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month, primarily to request India to give some vaccines to Canada. As India has generously donated



millions of doses to tens of countries, all over the world. Modi assured Trudeau that India will send Canada the vaccines. Trudeau Govt should now understand that India is indeed Canada's friend and he should refrain from meddling in India's



internal affairs, creating unnecessary strains at regular intervals. China is not exactly anybody's friend, US is now killing your pipelines, destroying thousands of jobs, and if you spoil relations with India too, who will you do business with? As simple as that.

Canada India Insight is supported by:

SkyLink  
Capital Corp.

Pavt Binning

One Place

Seneca

Tangentia

## Contact Us

Editor & Publisher : Vipul Jani

11 Crown Victoria Drive, Brampton, Ontario L7A 3A2, Canada  
(Phone) 416-827-5189 (E-mail) Vipul@imec.biz (Website) www.imec.biz

### Disclaimer :

Canada India Insight is a monthly e-publication, soon to be printed on a quarterly basis. Articles, Guest Columns and Interviews published are for general information purpose only and we do not claim to provide any advice on any subject. Readers are advised to do their due diligence with regards to claims and offers made in the Articles or Advertisements. The sole purpose of this publication is to share information and knowledge vis-à-vis Canada India Trade and Overall Bilateral relations. Canada India Insight is supported by Canada India USA Development Forum (CIUDF), a Canadian Not for Profit Organization, working to promote bilateral and trilateral relations between Canada, India and USA.

# Consul General's Roundtable

Continued from page #1

**CG Rana Sarkar :** I think we are all on the same page. We have deep connection points, largely through people. There is a lot of work that we can do to deepen relations between Canada, India and US. Unlike many trade-based or tripartite relationships, these are really the relationships of governments and of people for generations now.

The Indian Diaspora and its connect accelerated through technology and will grow exponentially in the decades to come. What we often do as Diplomats, tracking trade and Investment statistics, they neither appropriately capture the depth of the connection, nor the real importance of a future connection. In Canada India relations, a lot of attention is paid to the trade numbers and I say it's a deceptive number because it doesn't really capture the full depth of the service trade.

Canada being a destination for Indian students, these are very successful and long term investments. Covid has given us an indication that public health and viruses have a resetting capacity and also a capacity to underline trends that have already been there. One of them being advancement of technology. Canada's greatest asset is our people and our ability to fashion weapons of mass traction – our ability to attract the next generation of talent. India, of course, is the great exporter of talent, so that relationship will continue to grow and foster. The capacity of the US Companies to participate in this global movement of technology is going to be an important part of the next decade. Canada also plays a very important role here, not just because we are neighbours but also because we are a very fast growing technology hub, service hub.



**CG Apoorva Srivastava :** This is a wonderful initiative. I have never attended a trilateral event in Canada. For Canada and India, there is so much more that unites us than divide us – we are both vibrant democracies, rule of law, similar Parliamentary Model and we see eye to eye on most

geopolitical issues. The 1.6 million strong Indo Canadian Diaspora is about 4 % of Canada's population. During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Canada in 2015, we established a strategic partnership, underpinned by a strong economic partnership. Trade & Commerce, not counting services, is \$ 10 billion and although it's just like 4 days of trade between US and Canada, there are so many other factors that nourish this relationship.

The Canadian investment in India has increased substantially. In the last 5 years, it has increased from \$ 5 billion (cdn) to \$ 55 billion (cdn). Brookfield is one of the top investors in India globally. There are now 600 Canadian companies present in India and more than 1000 Canadian companies are actively pursuing interest in the Indian market. Many Indian companies are active in Canada, especially in Pharma, Steel, Healthcare and Natural Resources, employing close to 20,000 people here. Canadian Uranium from Cameco is powering our nuclear plants, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of Indian students in Canada (230,000) being the largest source of foreign students for Canada, paying about \$ 7 billion in tuition fees. Our scientists and researchers are working on several projects together. Air India and Air Canada are providing direct flights 5 times a week now, double the pre-pandemic times.

The expertise of Canadian technology companies in design and engineering support services, software development and clean tech is of great importance to India as we build our smart cities. India's growing middle class and the strong start-up ecosystem provides enormous opportunities for Canadian hi-tech companies to scale up their innovations in India. I see a tremendous scope for cooperation in A.I., Defence, Healthcare, Financial Technology and Life Sciences.

India's new Education Policy 2020 creates great opportunities for Canadian Universities to set up shop in India. India is also the largest source of migrants to Canada.

**M. Rangaswami (Indiaspora) :**

The first big event Indiaspora did in our Global connect program was to go to Canada in 2018. It



was a wonderful trip with a reception on Parliament Hill, PM Trudeau introduced us to four of his ministers and showed how the diaspora can be connected. With Rana as Canada's Consul General in San Francisco and Nadir Patel as Canada's High Commissioner in India, it shows the power of the diaspora in all facets of society.

When Obama and Trump went to India, we took a delegation with them. Just to say how the trilateral works, we took a tech delegation to Israel when PM Modi went there in 2017. A year later, when PM Netanyahu visited India, we again took a delegation to India and had trilateral discussions on the tech sector between US, India and Israel. It was an amazing experience and can be done for Canada, India and USA. We can start with tech and then go to other sectors.

**Vipul :** A lot of tech talent from the US has come to Canada in the last 2-3 years. India is the IT backbone of the world. So, where do you see the Silicon Valley, GTA and India's IT talent in the years to come and how will it impact each country ?

**CG Rana Sarkar :** Relationship



between Canada and the Silicon Valley is not an either or but a circulatory relationship. Many of the top start-ups in the bay area have Indian Origin or Canadian Origin or Canadian of Indian Origin. I am really excited about the next generation of start-ups that are behind companies like Shopify.

**CG Apoorva Srivastava :** In 2020, during the pandemic, India added 1600 to its start-up ecosystem, with 12 of them reaching Unicorn status in just one year. We export talent to both US and Canada and the research and the kind of Universities that are here, if we can bring that together, through a Tech Trilateral, that would be wonderful.

**M. Rangaswami :** In the US, 10% of the IT workforce is Indian. A growing number of venture capitalists are of Indian origin as well. a lot of CIO's and CTOs of these companies are also Indian origin. if we can connect Canada India and US like this, now with the pandemic and remote working and all, it can be a win win win situation for all three countries.

**Vipul :** CG Sarkar, you have worked extensively on the Canada India file earlier and now doing the same on Canada US file. so in terms of trilateral relations where do you see the synergies and challenges ?

**CG Rana Sarkar :** on the Canada India file, we are moving at state to state level and there is great energy there. the real Genesis of this file over the next decade is going to be through energizing those informal networks that have gathered momentum over the last decade and a half. we have gone from episodic to strategic. By having anchors provided by the civil society focuses the agenda in a much more concrete way. we need to create structured engagements and there is real intelligence in making these things trilateral with tech being the driver.

**Vipul :** Apoorva ji, Canada India



relations are going through a topsy turvy ride in the last few years to put it mildly. people to people ties, education sector and the business community are all very bullish, while the political leadership in Canada seem to be pushing it into another direction from time to time. So, in your view, where are we today and where are we headed?

**CG Apoorva Srivastava :** the indo Canadian diaspora is driving this relationship, the investments have gone up, so, I see Canada India partnership in a very positive space. if we can fructify the CEPA negotiations, that would be wonderful, but yes, a lot of things can be done more positively and we're working towards it.

(see the entire webinar on Canada India insight YouTube channel or at [www.imec.biz](http://www.imec.biz) or [www.CanadaIndiaUSADevelopmentForum.com](http://www.CanadaIndiaUSADevelopmentForum.com) )



## Showcase your made-in-Ontario products and services to the world.

Reaching new markets is an important way to grow your business. Successful exporting is about making the right connections. Whether it's online networking or virtual trade shows and meetings, knowing who to talk to is still key. Ontario's new digital tools and resources can help you get that crucial first introduction.

Visit [ontario.ca/exportON](https://ontario.ca/exportON)

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 

# Happenings

Continued from page #1

• Department for promotion of industry and internal trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry India organized “Prarambh : start up India International Summit” last month. More than 25 countries participated in the summit with 200 global speakers.

• Iain Rankin became the new leader of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party on the second ballot at the party’s convention earlier this month. He will now become the 29th Premier of Nova Scotia on Tuesday February 23rd.

• High Commission of India in Ottawa organized Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) 2021 virtually in collaboration with



प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस  
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

Consulate General of India in

Toronto and Vancouver. the event recognized eminent and successful indo Canadians from different sectors.

• Ontario has extended strict



lockdowns in Toronto and peel region until at least March 8. these cities are now facing perhaps the strictest and longest lockdowns in North America, crippling social life and business activity. several medical experts have warned against the illeffects of such lockdowns resulting in mental health issues, drug over-doses, depression and several other social ills. however the 1st wave, 2nd wave and now the

potential third wave are cited by the chief medical officers to keep extending these lockdowns, often referred to as house arrest by the critics.

• India is not only producing COVID-19 vaccines at a break-neck speed, it is also assisting other countries with it. it has already delivered more than 10 million vaccine doses to several countries including Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Brazil, Maldives and Morocco. India has also informed the UN Security Council that it will supply vaccines to the COVAX facility of the World Health Organization. important to note that while India is offering the vaccines to COVAX, Canada is taking vaccines from it, created largely to support poor and underprivileged nations.

• The Canada US border will continue to be closed for nonessential travel. Public safety minister of Canada Bill Blair announced last week that the border closure has been extended to March 21. it has been one year now since the US Canada border was closed. it was unthinkable pre pandemic to even consider such a move but that has now been a reality for a year. while the flights are still on, traffic by road is pretty much nonexistent, except for essential goods and services, causing hundreds of billions of dollars in lost revenue on both sides of the border.

• The cabinet of India has approved procurement of 83 light combat fighter aircraft (LCA) Tejas MK-1 and Tejas MK-1 A from Hindustan Aeronautics limited (HAL) at a cost of 45,696 crore rupees. The decision will give a much needed boost to the Make in India initiative and will enhance the fighting capabilities of the Indian Air Force manifold.

• Brookfield asset management (Canada) and Blackstone Group (USA) have crossed \$20 billion each in investments in India. Brookfield has invested more than \$7 billion out of the 20 billion in India’s real estate sector.

• International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected 11.5% growth rate for India in 2021, making it the only major economy in the world to register a double digit growth this year despite the ongoing pandemic.

• Jagmohan Humar, a distinguished research professor in engineering at Carleton University has been



conferred with Order of Canada, one of the highest recognitions in Canada for outstanding contributions at the local or regional level or in a specific field.

• China has finally disengaged and withdrawn it’s tanks and troops from the pangong Lake area in eastern ladakh along the line of actual control. India and China have been engaged in 10 rounds of talks to ease tensions after China entered the Indian side of the LAC. India responded aggressively with a massive pileup of troops and heavy artillery. India is now pushing China to withdraw from the other areas along the LAC and return to pre April 2020 levels.

• India and Saudi Arabia will undertake joint bilateral exercises for the first time in history. India will send its armed forces to Saudi Arabia to participate in this historic bilateral exercise. This follows chief of Indian army General MM Naravane’s visit to the Kingdom Last December, the first visit by an Indian army chief to that country.

• US President Joe Biden has nominated at least 20 Indian Americans, including 13 women, to key positions in his administration. the current US Vice President Kamala Harris is the first woman and the first US VP of Indian origin.

• India toy fair 2021 is taking place virtually from February 27 to March 2. the first ever digitally accessible exhibition &



platform with a punchline “Indian toys, Global playground” will have 1149 exhibitors, 50 key speakers and 60 toy clusters. register for the event at : [www.theIndiatoyfair.in](http://www.theIndiatoyfair.in)

## Seneca

TORONTO + CANADA

# Open to the World.

Choose from more than 170 programs. Each one designed with input from business and industry leaders and will prepare you for success.

- 4-year bachelor’s degrees
- 2- and 3- year workplace-ready diplomas
- 1-year career focused post-graduate certificates\*



**APPLY TODAY.**

[senecacollege.ca/international](http://senecacollege.ca/international)

Seneca is a government approved and recognized Designated Learning Institution (DLI).

\*Also known as graduate certificates.



# Punjab Ontario Virtual Conference

**Continued from page #1**

Punjab offers to the world and it's complementarities with Canada. Punjab and Ontario have deep economic, cultural and people-to-people ties. Brampton is rightly called mini Punjab, a vast majority of the 230,000 Indian students studying in Canadian Colleges and Universities are from Punjab.

Ontario-Punjab relations got a major boost in 2016 when the Premier of Ontario visited Punjab and the two provinces signed MOUs for cooperation in Urban Infrastructure, ICT, Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture and Education sectors. It is important now that these MOUs are implemented. Ontario has been proactive in enhancing it's relationship with India. Punjab is a bread basket of India and the innovative solutions of Ontario based Agritech companies can increase production of non-food based cash crops and improve the cropping patterns in Punjab.

As a hub of textile based industries, Punjab can be a top sourcing destination for meeting Ontario's textile and apparel demand. Both states have a well established Automotive and Auto Component Ecosystem. New Education Policy also brings opportunities for establishing prominent Universities in India.

**Hon. Preet Kaur :** I went



to Canada for the first time 15-20 years ago for the Komagata Maru 100th year and I remember a Dinner in Vancouver and the then Mayor who was in a wheelchair gave his address in Punjabi. He said to be a Mayor of this town, you have to know Chinese and Punjabi. That tells the story of the connection and

the roots between Punjabi diaspora and Canada.

Canada has been a land of golden opportunities for most of us in Punjab. They have acted as wonderful ambassadors of our country and Canada has given them their rightful place. Even the 2nd and 3rd generation of Punjabis there have not lost touch with their motherland. I believe Education is one of the key areas. Punjab Govt has set up 273 smart schools in all the 217 educationally backward blocks.

We have started "connect with your roots" programme for NRIs who want to know more about their roots and culture. We have also started a program called friends of Punjab to seek the participation of NRIs of Punjabi origin in the development and growth of Punjab. The initiative that Vipul Jani has taken - New Punjab, Pyara Punjab, is fantastic. Punjabi songs, music and movies receive a great reception by the Punjabi Diaspora in Canada, giving our Artists a bigger exposure.

**MPP Nina Tangri :** Just 2



months ago, we led our first virtual trade mission to India, building on our in-person mission there in 2019. A delegation of 13 Ontario tech companies had over 100 meetings with industry leaders, while attending India Mobile Congress, the largest Digital and Technology Forum in South Asia. We were able to secure packaging and auto parts manufacturing investments worth a combined \$ 10 million for Ontario.

In 2019, 2-way trade between Ontario and India was valued at \$ 3.4 billion. Currently, over 60 Indian companies operate in Ontario and more than 100 Ontario companies have a presence in India. Ontario's Punjabi community is one of the largest in the world. Our

province has two trade and investment offices in India (Mumbai and New Delhi) which can help Indian companies do business in Ontario and provide information to Ontario businesses about opportunities in India. I also go to India 2-3 times a year.

**MPP Deepak Anand :** Anytime we need any help for the Punjabi Community, CG Apoorva ji is always there to help, even on evenings and weekends. We all want to go back and give back to Punjab but Vipul ji, I must commend you for taking the lead, even though you are not from Punjab. I was born in Patiala and my father had an opportunity to work with Capt. Amarinder Singh's father.

We have over 900,000 people of Indian origin here in Ontario. We have people from 150 nations, speaking 202 languages. We are excited to hear from Invest Punjab and we are coming up with a new organization called Invest Ontario.

**Minister Vic Fedeli :** We will



come together soon to celebrate the strong relationship between Ontario and Punjab. Today the global economy faces many challenges from the Pandemic. It is important now, more than ever, to work together for our citizens and economies to explore new partnerships and opportunities to increase trade and investments that leverage our strengths. Events like today's play an important part in reinforcing connections that can help our economies recover.

We have a long history of working together. This relationship is expanding, generating trade and jobs for both regions. MPP Nina Tangri and Deepak Anand will share the in-depth look at the relationship between Ontario and Punjab, the importance of this relationship to Ontario and the investment opportunities this province has

to offer. To all the companies in Punjab, look no further than Ontario as your ideal destination for Investment.

**About Punjab :** (shared in a presentation by Avneet Kaur, Joint CEO, Invest Punjab)

- Punjab is the food bowl of India with 25 % Rice and 35 % Wheat share in Central Grain Pool.
- Punjab accounts for 29 % of India's total Tractor production.
- Biggest Hosiery-Woolen manufacturing state in India (65 %)
- Leading state in Bicycle (75 %) and Bicycle components manufacturing (92 %)
- With 1.5 % of India's land area, contributes 3 % to India's GDP
- Accounts for 26 % of India's exports in the Engineering Sector
- 89 Engineering Colleges, 209 Polytechnics, 24 Universities and 344 ITIs
- 2 International and 4 Domestic Airports
- 1st in India in number of internet subscribers / 100 population

**About Ontario :** (Shared in a presentation by John Thomas from Invest Ontario / Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade)

- 14 million people and over 200 languages spoken
- 7th largest subnational economy in North America by GDP
- 39 % of Canada's population and GDP
- 46 % of Canada's goods produced in Ontario
- Free Trade deals with 51 countries
- Daily 2-way trade between Ontario and US was over one billion Canadian Dollars (2018)
- 30 % of Ontarians have a mother tongue other than English, with 14.7 % people speaking Hindi, 1.92 % Gujarati, 2.95 % Tamil, 3.82 % Urdu and 4.94 % Punjabi
- Through the Global Talent Stream, employers receive labour market impact assessments and work permits in 10 business days.

**(A detailed You Tube Video of the entire Conference including Q & A session is available on Canada India Insight You Tube Channel as well as on both our websites [www.imec.biz](http://www.imec.biz) / [www.canadaindiausadevelopmentforum.com](http://www.canadaindiausadevelopmentforum.com))**

## Canada India Insight

The only Publication dedicated to the Canada India Corridor. News, Guest Columns, Interviews and more.

Also available on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and 2 Websites  
To Advertise, e-mail : [Vipul@imec.biz](mailto:Vipul@imec.biz) (or)  
Call : 416-827-5189



## Canada India USA Development Forum (CIUDF)

is a Canadian Not for Profit Organization working on bilateral and trilateral issues between Canada, India and the USA. CIUDF is now accepting new memberships. To know more about what we do and how to join, please visit [www.canadaindiausadevelopmentforum.com](http://www.canadaindiausadevelopmentforum.com)

# Role of Indian Origin Political Leaders in Canada-India Relations

**Continued from page #1**

yers, doctors, business owners and more.

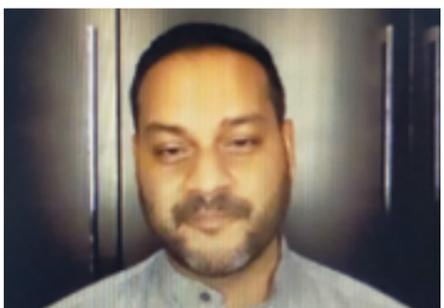
**Ex-MP Devinder Shory :** I was on the international trade



committee for six years and visited India numerous times. if we can positively promote relationship between Canada and India, it is a tremendous opportunity. it will be a win win situation. the problem is Canada's reputation. India is a very strong and sensitive country. we need them more than they need us. That is the reality. There are certain issues that hurt this relationship. Everybody knows Khalistan is a major issue. There is a small population which give out a very bad impression about Canada and they become a hurdle in developing this relationship. we have to brainstorm how to isolate that small portion. A vast majority of Indo Canadians would love to have a positive relationship. I have met Mr Modi 11 to 12 times one to one.

**MPP Amarjot Sandhu :** India is Canada's ninth largest export market and 10th largest trading partner. India is the second largest source of international students in Canada and one of the largest source of immigrants. I also came here as an international student 10 years ago and honoured to be the first international student to ever have been elected to the Ontario legislature. Ontario has led 2 trade missions to India in the last two years with Minister Todd Smith and Minister Vic Fedeli.

**Shuvaloy Majumdar :** what has changed in the last 10-15



years in public life for the Indo Canadian community ?

**MP Bob Saroya :** when we came to Canada, people did not know much about turbans etc. the immigrant community has done very well, working from bottom to the top. I was paid \$2.00 an hour and I'm now very proud of the Indian diaspora for what they have achieved.

**Devinder Shory :** I never faced any Hindu Sikh issues back home. Back in 91-92, my father also had eggs thrown at him but as Vipul ji said, we have to move forward and look ahead. we also have to call a Spade a Spade and cannot ignore that part of our community who damage any effort to promote relations between India and Canada.

**Vipul :** India is made up of 29 states and Canada has got 10. so



people need to remember that rather than focusing on one particular issue or one particular state.

**MPP Amarjot Sandhu :** we consider ourselves very lucky



that we came here in 2008. people who came here in 70s and 80s had to struggle a lot, face racism. with so many MPs and MPPs, people now know who Indo Canadians are.

**Minister Prasad Panda :** the community has been shining even



during the pandemic with a lot of doctors, essential and frontline workers, truckers etc keeping the services going. Even our religious places offering help. that is our culture and we should be proud of it. we should embrace the personal values of Sewa and should not bring our personal baggage and agendas here.

Being in a legislature comes with responsibilities, so we should work with honesty and integrity. I was born in India, spent 16 years in Mumbai, by domicile I am a Maharashtrian, born South Indian, by profession I am a Gujarati, half my family have Bengali names and most of people from Bihar and UP think Prasad is my last name. so I know the true Bharat. India has a huge human capital, while Canada has huge natural resources. we can bridge that gap. India has always stepped up when the world is in crisis, whether it was during Y2K crisis in 2000 or now during this pandemic.

As elected officials, let us not at least harm or hurt the relationship. we are disproportionately representing Canadians in legislatures and will lose that privilege if we don't work in (a responsible way) in my caucus, we have five people with Indian connections and two in opposition. so out of 87, 7 have ties to India and 20 odd MPs in Canadian parliament. So, it is our responsibility to Unite people not divide them.

**Azad Kaushik :** we talk about divisions in India but we are creating divisions here within Canada. Our politicians are using Tamil Canadians, Bengali Canadians, Gujarati Canadians etc. a divisive politics is being played in our system. it doesn't help Canada or the Canada India relations. also, not a single Indo Canadian leader federally or provincially condemn the hate crimes happening in Canada lately or condemn the violence at red Fort like they did on Capitol Hill.

**MPP Deepak Anand :** we need to understand as elected officials



what is our job ? my job is to make sure I get most for my people who gave me this job as an MPP. I believe the problem with us is that we mix everything. Let us focus on one thing - how to mend

relationship between India and Canada and enjoy the benefits of peace and progress. Do not look at the noise, look at the positivity and opportunities, that is exactly what Vipul Jani is doing.

**MPP Nina Tangri :** I enjoy going back to India at least once



every year. I have been to India on trade mission with Minister Vic Fedeli and visited several cities and built several relationships. we don't agree on everything and we never will and that is OK. we can agree to disagree, however, what has been happening of late is very concerning. I am far from qualified to comment on who is right and who is wrong or to make a comment on it. I don't want to see our Prime Minister and the Indian Prime Minister disagree significantly on things because it hurts the relationship as a whole. I was listening to captain Amarinder Singh a few days ago and he was saying that because of what is happening with the farmers protest, people are not willing to invest in Punjab and it is hurting them. We work to build Ontario India relations and do not want it to go astray because of what we see in the media today.

**MPP Deepak Anand :** it is the survival of the fittest. If people from Brampton and Mississauga (Ontario) have an objection working with India, Saskatchewan will go ahead and do business with India. they're already doing a wonderful job of it. India is not relying only on Brampton and Mississauga, not even Ontario. It will be a lost opportunity for us if we can't seize it. Minister Panda will build that relationship and get benefits from it (for Alberta)

*(watch the entire 2 hour session including Q & A on Canada India insight YouTube channel and on both our websites [www.imec.biz](http://www.imec.biz) / [www.canadaindiausadevelopmentforum.com](http://www.canadaindiausadevelopmentforum.com))*