India - Canada Bilateral Relations

India-Canada share a strategic partnership underpinned by shared values of democracy and pluralism. At the political level, the relations in recent years have been marked by regular high level interactions. Over the years an array of institutional mechanisms have been put in place to promote bilateral cooperation.

PM Modi's historic bilateral visit to Canada on April 14-16, 2015 elevated the bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership. He visited Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver and held extensive discussions with Canada's political, business and academic leaders and also addressed some 10,000 PIOs & friends of India, at Toronto on 15th April. Documents signed during the visit include: MoU between ISRO and the Canadian Space Agency concerning Cooperation in the field of Space; MoU between the Ministry of Railways and Department of Transport of Canada on Technical Cooperation in Rail Transportation; MoU between Ministry of Civil Aviation and Department of Transport of Canada on Deepening Cooperation in Civil Aviation; Letter of intent Between Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Grand Challenges Canada for the implementation of Collaboration in disease elimination and Saving Brain Initiative. An Agreement between the Indian Department of Atomic Energy and Cameco of Canada for long-term supply of uranium to India was also concluded.

PM Justin Trudeau paid a state visit to India on February 17-24, 2018, where apart from New Delhi, he visited Agra, Gujarat, Mumbai, Chandigarh. He was accompanied by Mr. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development; Mr. Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence; Ms. Bardish Chagger, Minister of Small Business and Tourism; Mr. Amarjit Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, etc. During the visit, both sides signed the following agreements:

(i) Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development of Canada on Cooperation in the Field of Information, Communications, Technology and Electronics;
(ii) Terms of Reference for the India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India and the Department of Natural Resources of Canada;
(iii) MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Department of Canadian Heritage on Cooperation in Sport;
(iv) MoU between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office concerning Cooperation on Intellectual Property Rights;
(v) MoU on Cooperation in Higher Education;
(vi) MoU between the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Natural Resources of Canada concerning Cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation.
(vii) Memorandum of Understanding between Invest India and the Investment and Innovation Bureau, Global Affairs Canada on Investment Promotion and Facilitation.

Recent High-level Visits from India to Canada:

- Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MOS for Commerce & Industry to attend the 3rd Annual Trade Ministers’ Dialogue on 28 -30th September, 2016;
- Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister for Financial Dialogue in Toronto on October 2 -5, 2016;
• Dr. Arvind Gupta, Deputy NSA and Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat for the 3rd India-Canada Security Dialogue in Ottawa on 24-27 January, 2017;
• Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, accompanied with Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, JS, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change visited Montreal on September 14-16 to attend the Climate Change Conference.
• Chief Justice of India, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra led a judicial delegation from India comprising Mr. Justice Kurian Joseph, Mr. Justice R.K. Agrawal, and Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Mr. P.S. Narasimha, Additional Solicitor General and Mr. Ravindra Maithani, Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India to participate at the Sixth Indo-Canadian Legal Forum Meeting on October 15-18, 2017.
• Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis visited Montreal, Quebec from June 10-13, 2018 to attend the International Economic Forum of the Americas "Conference De Montreal".
• Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon’ble Minister for HRD visited Vancouver to attend the World Sanskrit Conference 2018, on July 8-13, 2018.

Recent High-level Visits from Canada to India:
• Minister for Infrastructure and Communities Aarjit Sohi led the Vibrant Gujarat delegation on January 5-12, 2017;
• Mr. Ian Shugart, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs - 27 Feb till 1st March, 2017
• Ms. Bardish Chagger, Government House Leader in the House of Commons, and Minister of Small Business and Tourism from March 23 to 31, 2017
• Mr. Harjit Singh Sajjan, Defence Minister from April 17 to 23, 2017
• Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Mr. Navdeep Bains Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau and Minister of International Trade Mr. Francois Philippe Champagne visited India for the India-Canada Technology Summit on November 13-17, 2017.
• FM Chrystia Freeland spoke to EAM on telephone on April 18, 2018 and 13 August 2018.
• Visit of Mr. Jason Kenney, Leader of Opposition in Alberta from 17-23 September 2018.
• Visit of Mr. Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Conservative Party from 6-14 October 2018.
• Mr. Scott Ryan Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan visited India (Delhi and Mumbai) from 24-30 November 2018.
• Mr. Stephen Harper, former Prime Minister of Canada visited India from 5-13 January 2019 to participate in Raisina Dialogue 2019 and held bilateral meetings including with PM and EAM.

Cooperation in Security and Defence: India and Canada collaborate closely in international fora, particularly through the UN, Commonwealth and G-20. Defence ties have been expanding with mutual ship visits. There is robust cooperation on counter terrorism issues particularly through the framework of the JWG on Counter Terrorism. The 16th meeting of the Joint Working group on Counter- Terrorism and 2nd meeting of its Expert sub-group between India and Canada was held in Ottawa from 26th -27th March, 2019. The meetings concluded with agreement on a Joint Action Plan outlining activities to further strengthen counter-terrorism collaboration including through joint
capacity building and information and technology sharing. India-Canada Strategic Dialogue was held on 22 February 2018 in New Delhi and co-chaired by EAM and her Canadian counterpart Chrystia Freeland. The first NSA-level Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 14 February 2018.

**Cooperation in Nuclear Energy:** A Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) with Canada was signed in June 2010 and came into force in September 2013. On 15th April 2015, the Department of Atomic Energy signed a $350 million contract with Cameco, a Saskatoon-based company, to purchase 7 million pounds of uranium concentrate over the next 5 years. The first three shipments arrived in India in December 2015, December 2016 and December 2017. The 6th meeting of the Joint Committee on Civil Nuclear Cooperation held in Ottawa from 6-7 June 2019.

**Education Sector:** Over 172,600 Indian students currently study in Canada. Education is a key area of collaboration between the two countries. The MOU on Cooperation in Higher Education was signed in June 2010, which covers student and faculty exchanges, research and curriculum development, organization of workshops and seminars, twining between institutions of higher learning, facilitate mutual recognition of educational qualifications, policy dialogue in areas of mutual interest, among others. The MoU has recently been renewed during PMTJ's state visit to India in February 2018. The 2nd Meeting of JWG on Higher Education took place in Ottawa from 26-28 February 2019.

**Canada - India Parliamentary Friendship Group:** The Canadian Parliament has constituted a Canada- India Parliamentary Friendship Group (CIPEG) with over 80 MPs from both Houses of Parliament cutting across party lines.

**Trade and Economy:** Bilateral trade between India and Canada was worth USD 6.36 billion in 2018-19. India’s exports to Canada during this period were USD 2.85 billion and imports from Canada were USD 3.51 billion. Canadian Pension Funds have invested approx. USD 22 billion in India till now and are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for investments. More than 400 Canadian companies have a presence in India, and more than 1,000 companies are actively pursuing business in the Indian market. Indian companies in Canada are active in sectors such as Information technology, steel, natural resources and banking. Notable Indian companies which have invested in Canada include ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Mahindra Tractors, Tata Steel Minerals Canada, Tata Consultancy Services, Jaguar Land Rover, Tata Communications, Zee Group, Aditya Birla Group, Jubilant Life Sciences, Infosys Technologies Limited, Tech Mahindra, ESSAR Steel Algoma Inc., IFFCO Canada Enterprise Ltd., Abellon Energy Inc., Wipro Technologies,Prime Focus World and Polaris Financial Technologies.

**Major Items of Indian Exports to Canada and Indian Imports from Canada:** Major items of India’s exports to Canada include Motor Vehicles, Trailers, Bicycles, Motorcycles, Articles of Iron or Steel, Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances, Pharmaceutical Products, Pearls, Precious Stones or Metals, Coins and Jewellery, Organic Chemicals, Woven Clothing, etc. India’s imports from Canada include Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils, Bituminous Substances and Mineral
Waxes, Fertilizers, Wood Pulp, Paper, Paperboard, Ores, Slag and Ash, Edible Vegetables and Certain Roots and Tubers, Aircrafts and Spacecrafts, etc.

**CEPA & BIPPA:** India and Canada are discussing Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Partnership Agreement (BIPPA/FIPA). The last round of CEPA negotiation was held in Ottawa on February 7-8, 2018, while the last round of BIPPA negotiation was held in New Delhi in November 2017.

**Cultural Exchanges:** Given that people-to-people ties form the bedrock of the India-Canada relationship, cultural exchanges remain vital. Canada was the Country of Focus at the 48th International Film Festival of India held in Goa in November 2017. Eight (08) Canadian films were screened at the Festival. There is also an India - Canada Co-production Agreement in films. For the first time, Canada Post and India Post joined hands to issue a commemorative stamp on Diwali in 2017. Two Kathak Dance groups sponsored by ICCR visited Canada during Aug 2018 and performed at Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Saskatchewan besides in the Capital city of Ottawa at the Great India Festival.

**Indian community:** Canada hosts one of the largest Indian diasporas in the world, numbering 1.6 million (PIOs and NRIs) which account for more than 3% of its total population. The diaspora, whose main concentration are in the Greater Toronto area, the Greater Vancouver area, Montreal (Quebec), Calgary (Alberta), Ottawa (Ontario) and Winnipeg (Manitoba) has done commendably well in every sector in Canada. In the field of politics, in particular, the present House of Commons (total strength of 338) has 20 Members of Parliament of Indian-origin. This includes Four (04) Ministers in the Cabinet, including Minister of Defence Mr. Harjit S. Sajjan; Mr. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development; Mr. Amarjit Sohi, Minister of Natural Resources and Ms. Bardish Chagger, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. Prominent Indo-Canadian organizations include Canada India Business Council (CIBC), Canada India Foundation (CIF), Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (I-CCC) and other local chambers and associations.

**Useful Resources:**

Mission website: https://www.hciottawa.gov.in  
Facebook: India in Canada (High Commission of India, Ottawa) @hciottawa  
Twitter: @HCI_Ottawa  

*September 2019*