



**Centre for Canadian Studies
Himachal Pradesh University
Summer Hill, Shimla, 171005**

We have the honour to inform you that the **Centre for Canadian Studies** Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla is organizing a Two Day International Seminar on “India-Canada Relations: The Contemporary Dynamics” on March 20 & 21 2020. The seminar is being organized in collaboration with **Indian Council of Social Science Research**, North Western Regional Centre, Chandigarh.

Latest Seminar Update:

International Seminar on "India-Canada Relations: The Contemporary Dynamics" scheduled to be held on March 20-21, 2020 has been postponed indefinitely in view of COVID-19 under the advisory issued by Department of Health & Family Welfare and UGC vide D.O. No,F.1-14/20120.

Next dates will be conveyed later.

Last Date for Submission of Papers is extended upto April 15, 2020

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India-Canada Relations: The Contemporary Dynamics

India and Canada are two great democracies of the world and share a common history of British colonialism. Today they are members of the Commonwealth of Nations and several international organizations making them active partners and collaborators. Both the countries have a long record of cordial bilateral relations built upon shared traditions of democracy, pluralism, multiculturalism and strong interpersonal connections. Today Indians have been contributing greatly to the state of Canada in different sectors as Canada homes around 1.2 million Indian diaspora. Indo-Canadian relations are the longstanding bilateral ties built upon a "mutual commitment to democracy" "pluralism" and "people-to-people links", according to the government of Canada.

While Canada and Australia received Dominion Status from the British in 1901 Indian struggle for the same ended with full independence in 1947. However, the first Indian prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru had close association with the two Canadian Prime Ministers Louis St. Laurent and Lester Pearson who served during his time. Over different international issues like the Korean crisis, Suez Canal dispute, and the Hungary crisis the two states had shared common viewpoint, although in case of Hungary crisis India had voted against the UN Resolution. In the process of state-building of India Canada contributed significantly under Combo Plan to India since 1951. In the past five decades India has been one of the largest recipients of Canadian bilateral aid, amounting to over \$3.8 billion Canadian dollars. It also contributed liberally towards several projects ad plans.

However, in the light of India's nuclear test of 1974 the bilateral ties between the two declined. The Pokhran-I damaged the relations between India and Canada and it took years to repair and rebuild them. Even the Pokhran II was unwelcome for the latter but under the changed global scenario and post-cold war dynamics Canada chose to overlook the event and strengthen ties with India. India's consistent stand against signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the current shape and the pressures from the U.S. and Canada have exhausted now and the two have realized the significance of a stronger India and preferred not to break their ties with India.

After the 1992 economic reforms in India Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien paid a diplomatic mission to India in January 1996 with two cabinet ministers and 300 business figures. India's Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral also paid an official visit to Canada in September 1996. Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy reciprocated with a visit to India in January 1997 during which at Chandigarh he inaugurated the Office of the Canadian High Commissioner. Against terrorism a Counter-Terrorism Working Group of Canada-India was also established in 1997, bringing together on an annual basis several departments and agencies of the Canadian and Indian governments. Former Romeo LeBlanc, the former Canadian Governor General undertook a state visit to India in March 1998. Prime Minister Stephen Harper took an official visit to India in November 2009. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Canada in June 2010 for the G20 Summit in Toronto.

Commercially a significant event took place in 2011 when the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce co-hosted with the government of India the regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas. The conference represented the Indian diaspora and was also christened as the "Year of India in Canada," The conference was attended by about 1000 delegates from different sectors like business, science, medical, commerce and social work. It was accompanied a grand cultural programme including International Indian Film Academy Awards.

The current BJP government has witnessed a furthering of multilateral ties with Canada. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada on April 14, 2015 was significant on account of interaction with businessmen, academicians and leaders. While touring around Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver Prime Minister Modi held wide-ranging dialogue with them and also addressed more than 10,000 PIO's and friends of India at Toronto on 15th April 2015.

During the visit the two sides entered into several agreements and MOUs. MOUs were signed between ISRO and the Canadian Space Agency concerning Cooperation in the field of Space; the Ministry of Railways India and Department of Transport of Canada on Technical Cooperation in Rail Transportation; Ministry of Civil Aviation and Department of Transport of Canada on Deepening Cooperation in Civil Aviation. A Letter of intent was signed 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. However, the most significant achievement was the signing of an agreement between the Indian Department of Atomic Energy and Cameco of Canada for long-term supply of uranium to India, an issue foiled in the past by Indian nuclear tests.

In the following years the two Prime Ministers Modi and Trudeau have met several times and the relations have paced well. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spent a week in India on a state visit in February 2018. Most commentators called it a failure or a disaster because of Canadian tolerance for the Sikh separatists operating in Canada. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spent a week in India on a state visit in February 2018 and signed several agreements with India. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today said corporate India has committed USD 1 billion worth of investments in his country, which will create over 5,000 jobs.

India and Canada today invest handsomely under the new governments. The trade between the two states has doubled in six years from \$ 3.21bn in 2010 to \$6.05bn approximately in 2016. However, there is lots of scope in expanding the trade as India accounts for only 1.95% of Canada's global trade. Major items that India exports to Canada include gems, jewellery and precious stones, pharmaceutical products, readymade garments, textiles, organic chemicals, light engineering goods, iron & steel articles, etc. India's import from Canada include pulses, newsprint, wood pulp, asbestos, potash, iron scrap, copper, minerals and industrial chemicals, etc. (MEA 2018)

The Indian FDI, in Canada in 2016 was more than double of Canada standing at \$ 2093.53 million as against Canadian FDI of US\$ 901.16 million in India. Indian companies have invested especially in the IT, software, steel and natural resources sectors. India and Canada in a joint statement committed to pursue specific measures in this regard including early finalization of the Bilateral Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA). The two Prime Ministers again committed to the agreement on road map to expeditiously conclude a progressive, balanced and mutually beneficial CEPA. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was initiated by UPA government in 2010. The tenth round of CEPA was held in August 2017.

India and Canada have also established institutionalized mechanisms to promote bilateral economic ties including Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment; Trade Policy Consultations at the level of Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce; and the Economic and Financial Sector Policy. The IndiaCanada CEO Forum was constituted in 2013 to improve bilateral trade and investment flows. The inaugural meeting of the Forum was convened in November 2013 in New Delhi. The secretariat for the Forum is provided by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE). The Forum identified natural resources, infrastructure, education, information and communication technology and financial services as priority sectors (MEA).

Today, in the first quarter of the twenty first century India and Canada march ahead with much more vivid perspective of a future vision. Their cultural roots are deep and the development of trade and commerce related activities and cooperation in the field of science, technology and agriculture under various joint endeavours have brought the two more close. The two states being established democracies also share a strategic partnership founded on the shared values of historical struggle, governance and pluralism. Their diversities and multicultural models developed to cope with the situations have helped others understand the challenges of the diversity and the methodologies of meeting them. Now the frequent visits by state heads and responsible officials have led to an increased flow of engagements and interactions.

The current seminar proposes to discuss the prevalent inconsistencies, cultural and democratic values, science, education and environmental issues and future the prospects of bilateral ties between the two states keeping in view the increased investments and trade share of the two.

Sub-themes

- 1 India-Canada Relations, The Colonial Experience, Inconsistent Present and Bright Future
- 2 Indian Diaspora and its role in impacting the bilateralism of the two states
- 3 Culture, Society, Diversity, Democracy and Political Accommodation, Multiculturalism in India and Canada.
- 4 Environmental Issues and Climate Change.
- 5 Education, Science and Technology, Energy, Agriculture and Irrigation.
- 6 The Scope of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA), Finance, Trade and Commerce.
- 7 Terrorism, Counter-terrorism and the Issue of Nuclear Technology.

Seminar Schedule

Day One- (March 20, 2020)

Registration	9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Vice Chancellor's office, Committee Room) Regn. Fee. – Students- Rs. 700/, Teachers/scholars – Rs. 1000/
Inaugural Session , (Committee Room)	11.a.m. to 1 p.m.
Welcome Address	Director CCS, HP University
Chairman of the Session-	Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, HP University, Prof. Sikander Kumar
Chief Guest	Mia Yen, Consul General of Canada at Chandigarh
Guest of Honour	Prof. Nagesh Thakur
Keynote Speaker	Prof. A.S. Narang
Lunch	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
First Academic Session	2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Tea Break	3.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Second Academic Session 4.00 p.m. to 5.30 p. m.

Day Two (March 21, 2020)

Third Academic Session	10.30 a.m. to 12 pm.
Tea Break	12 p.m. to 12. 30 p.m.
Fourth Academic Session	12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Lunch	2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
Valedictory Session	3.00 p.m. to 5 p. m.
Chairman of the Session	Prof. A.K. Bhatt
Valedictory Address	Prof. Raashid Nihal, Dept. of English, Aligarh Muslim University
Vote of thanks	Assistant Director, CCS, HP University, Shimla 5