



2014

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, 5 Bhai Vir Singh Marg, Near Gole Dakhana, New Delhi- 110001, India

# Shastri Institute Newsletter

Spring/Summer Edition

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

## Message from the President

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Dear Shastri Members and Friends, The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is a unique bi-national organization, governed by its Indian and Canadian member institutions and funded by the two national governments. The mandate that has been set for the Shastri Institute is 'to improve the quality of life of the peoples of India and Canada by building and strengthening intellectual and cultural linkages through research dialogue and exchange'.



Over the past few months the Executive Council of the Institute has been planning out our programmes for the year and also preparing for a series of events that the Shastri Institute will be organizing this year. We will also be participating in a number of events being organized by our partner institutions. This newsletter provides information regarding programmes already announced and some upcoming events.

During the year we will continue to focus our activities on areas that are considered priority areas by the governments of India and Canada in their bi-lateral relationship. The support provided by the two national governments has been critical to the success of our programmes. We are also increasing our engagement with various provincial governments in Canada and we hope to launch a number of programmes this year with support from provincial governments.

My thanks to staff of the India Office and the Canada Office for preparing this newsletter. I hope you find the information provided useful. The strength of the Shastri Institute is the active engagement and support of its member institutions.

We look forward to working with you and also to your active participation in our programmes this year. If you wish to contact me you can reach me by email at [president@sici.org.in](mailto:president@sici.org.in) and by phone at +91-33-2467 8302.

Biju Paul Abraham

President

## Message from the Vice President

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Dear Shastri Members and Friends, it is a great pleasure and with even greater humility that I have assumed the role of Vice-President/President-Elect. As you are all aware, the work done by the Shastri Institute has been foundational to the India-Canada relationship for more than 45 years. Whether it is through our grants, our partnerships, our mobility initiatives, or our support for cultural exchanges and initiatives, the Institute has been about ensuring the cultures of our two countries are explored in ways that facilitate greater understanding and cooperation.



It is important to note that no other organization in Canada or India has a history as rich and deep as that of the Shastri-Institute. Our unique bi-national character, coupled with the extensive network of institutional members, positions the Institute very positively in the current relationship building between India and Canada. While our history positions us very positively, it is our willingness to engage in positive outreach to organizations and in diversifying our programming which will ensure the Institute's future and profile as "the" voice that reaches authentically across the Canada-India corridor. In the coming months, you will see even more outreach to partners in India and Canada in an effort to both present the Institute's continued relevance to the India-Canada dialogue and its ability to connect peoples across a wide spectrum of activities and initiatives.

I look forward to working with you to enhance the work of the Institute in meeting your needs and in identifying future members as well as future partners in this important bi-national institution. Should you wish to reach me, I can be contacted by email at [rbyrne@mta.ca](mailto:rbyrne@mta.ca) or by calling 506-364-2254.

Thank you and I know you will enjoy the details outlined in this newsletter. Much thanks goes to the staff of the India and Canada offices for their hard work in preparing and presenting this newsletter for your information and review.

Ron Bryne

Vice -President & President elect

## Shastri Activities

### - Programmes Announced

SICI Canada Office recently completed adjudications of its following programs, funded by Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD).

➤ **Shastri Research Grant (SRG) 2014-15:** <http://www.sici.org/programmes/details/Shastri-Research-Grant/>

SRG is a bi-national collaborative research, aims to support research studies entailing academic mobility and capacity building between Indian and Canadian institutions. Only faculty members and scholars of SICI's Canadian and Indian member institutions are eligible to receive this grant.

#### List of SRG Awardee

#	Name, Institution and contact info of Lead Applicant	Name, Institution and contact info of Co-Applicant	Proposed Topic	SICI Approved Grant (CAD\$)
1	<b>Dr. Pratima Arun Tatke</b> SNDT Women's University, Juhu Campus, Juhu Road, Santacruz West, Mumbai 400049, India	<b>Dr. Peter Roy</b> University of Toronto, The Donnelly Centre, Room 1202, 160, College Street, Toronto, ON	<b>Evaluation of Abelmoschus Esculentus (lady finger) for Antidiabetic Activity</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
2	<b>Prof. Rene C. Gaudreault</b> Laval University CRCHUQ, Hôpital Saint-François d'Assise 10, rue de l'Espinay, Québec (Qc) G1L 3L5	<b>Prof. Supriya Mahajan</b> SNDT Women's University, Juhu Road, Santacruz (W), Mumbai 400049, India	<b>Evaluation of Vivo Efficacy of Novel families of Anti Cancer Compounds on Human Tumors Grafted to Chick Embryos</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
3	<b>Dr. Eric Vaz</b> Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada	<b>Prof. Kotha Mahender</b> University of Goa, Faculty of Earth Sciences, University of Goa, India	<b>The Goan Land: A Spatial Interpretation of the Past, Present and Future</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
4	<b>Dr. Kalyani Premkumar</b> University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, SK S7N 5E5, Canada	<b>Dr. Solomon Satishkumar</b> University of Madras, Christian Medical College, Thorapadi P.O., Vellore, Tamil Nadu 632002, India	<b>A Comparison and Self Directed Learning Readiness of Indian and Canadian Medical Students: A Mixed Method Study</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
5	<b>Dr. Raju J. Das</b> York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada	<b>Dr. Deepak Mishra</b> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi- 110067, India	<b>Geographically Uneven Development in an Under-Developed State of India: A study of Odisha</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
6	<b>Dr. Elumalai Kannan</b> Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre, Dr. VKRV Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore, Karnataka 560 072, India	<b>Prof. Richard S. Gray</b> University of Saskatchewan, Department of Bioresource policy, Business and Economics, University of Saskatchewan, SK, Canada	<b>India-Canada Pulses Trade: Prospects and Challenges</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

- **Shastri Partnership Seed Grant (SPSG) 2014-15:** <http://www.sici.org/programmes/details/shastri-partnership-seed-grant-spsg-2014-15/>  
SPSG offers seed grants to faculty members of Canadian and Indian universities to initiate small scale bi-national projects leading to institutional agreements and long term partnerships.

**List of SPSG Awardees**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name, Institution and contact info of Lead Applicant</b>	<b>Name, Institution and contact info of Co-Applicant</b>	<b>Proposed Topic</b>	<b>SICI Contribution</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Dr. Ayesha Kidwai</b> Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre for Linguistics, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067 India	<b>Dr. Thomas A. Perry</b> Simon Fraser University Linguistics Department, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6	<b>Indigenous Languages in India and Canada: Structure, Documentation and Vitality.</b>	CAD\$ 5,000
<b>2</b>	<b>Dr. Adrian Shubert</b> York University Department of History, Toronto, ON, Canada, M3J1P3	<b>Dr. Suranjan Das</b> University of Calcutta Office of the Vice Chancellor, 87/1, College Street, Kolkata, West Bengal 700073, India	<b>Nation Building in India: Historical Contexts and Contemporary Trajectories.</b>	CAD\$ 5,000
<b>3</b>	<b>Dr. Punam Pahwa</b> University of Saskatchewan; 104 Clinic Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 2Z4	<b>Dr. Pratibha Gupta</b> Sharda University 32-34 Knowledge Park, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India	<b>An International Research Initiative to Reduce Indoor Biomass Fuel Exposure and Enhance Respiratory Health in Rural India.</b>	CAD\$ 5,000
<b>4</b>	<b>Dr. Martin Bitzan, MD</b> McGill University, Montreal Children's Hospital, 2300 Rue Tupper, Room E 222, Montreal, H3H 1P3, Canada	<b>Dr. Manohar Bairy MD</b> Katsuba Medical College, Manipal university, Karnataka 567104, India	<b>Access, Adherence and Outcomes of Renal Replacement Treatments at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Coastal Karnataka, India: Implications of Gender and Sex Analysis for Preventing End Stage Renal Disease and Providing Better Health Care.</b>	CAD\$ 5,000
<b>5</b>	<b>Dr. Govind Gopakumar</b> Concordia University, 1455 De Maisonneuve W. EV2.251 Montreal, QC H3H 1G7	<b>Dr. Deepak Srinivasan</b> Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, CA Site No 16, Yelahanka New Town, Doddaballapur Road, Bengaluru 560106, India	<b>Designing a Manifesto for Inclusive Public Transport Buses in Bengaluru, India</b>	CAD\$ 4,800

- **Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant (SSTSG) 2014-15:** <http://www.sici.org/programmes/details/shastri-scholar-travel-subsidy-grant-sstsg-2014-15/>  
SSTSG is a travel subsidy grant provided to faculty members and graduate students of Canadian and Indian universities. This small grant is very effective with regard to promoting scholars mobility between India and Canada including knowledge exchange and partnerships leading to education cooperation between the two countries.

### List of SSTSG Awardees

#	Name of Applicant & Affiliations	To which Institution	Topic of Presentation/Training	Value of Grant (CAD\$)
1	<b>Nigel Caulkett,</b> University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada	KVASU, Pookode, Lakkidi, Wayanad, Kerala	<b>Identifying Priority Areas in Wildlife Conservation in Wayanad and the role of KVASU</b>	\$1,250
2	<b>Sukhinder Cheema,</b> Memorial University, NL, Canada	Punjab University, Chandigarh	<b>Targeting malnutrition to improve the health of the next generation</b>	\$1,250
3	<b>George Turlakis,</b> York University, Toronto, ON, Canada	Amity University Campus, New Delhi	<b>Toward the Implementation of a Multilayer Collaboration Between York and Amity Universities in the Areas of Joint Programming and Joint Research</b>	\$1,000
4	<b>David Valliere,</b> Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada	IIT Madras, Chennai, TamilNadu	<b>Social Drivers of Entrepreneurial Intent</b>	\$1,000
5	<b>Jaswant Guzder,</b> McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada	TISS, Mumbai	<b>Child Trauma/ Family Therapy Training</b>	\$1,000
6	<b>Anand Yethiraj,</b> Memorial University, NL, Canada	TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad	<b>Experimental Studies of Hydrodynamics in Colloids and Emulsions</b>	\$1,000
7	<b>Bernard Fleet,</b> Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada	Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal	<b>History, Science and Socio- Economics of Climate Change</b>	\$1,000
8	<b>Zubin Jacob,</b> University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada	IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai	<b>Nanoscale Radiative Heat Transfer for Thermal Energy Conversion</b>	\$1,000
9	<b>Sunil Bisnath,</b> York University, Toronto, ON, Canada	New Delhi Campus of Amity University, New Delhi	<b>Overview of the York University geometrics program and future directions. Latest developments in satellite based precise positioning</b>	\$1,000
10	<b>Asim Biswas,</b> McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada	University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India	<b>Quantifying Soil Spatial Variability for Sustainable Resource Management</b>	\$1,000
11	<b>Vijaya Krishnan,</b> University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada	University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	<b>Composite Index Construction</b>	\$1,000
12	<b>Naveen Babu Gnanamoorthi,</b> Shiv Nadar University,	University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB	<b>Analysis of Fast Wave Mode in Tape Helix</b>	\$1,000

Greater Noida, India		Structures for use in Antenna Radiation	
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➤ **SICI-Canada Office Program Currently Open for Applications:**

Currently, SICI Canada Office is accepting application for **Shastri Membership Development Fund (SMDF) 2014-15** program. SMDF is a modest grant provided to SICI's Canadian members to organize events in their institution or community to support the promotion and expansion of India studies and related activities. Activities, such as: lecture series, workshops, conferences, film shows, festivals, students' competition and important day celebration are encouraged under this grant. The Application deadline for SMDF will be open until **28 February 2015**. SMDF program details could be found at: <http://www.sici.org/programmes/details/canadian-membership-development-fund-2014-15/>

- **Meetings and Events Held in India and Canada**

a) **Engaging Canada May 2014 event**

On May 30, 2014, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute organized second Engaging Canada Conference titled “Engaging Canada: Emerging Priorities for Sustainable Partnerships” with support from MHRD, Government of India at India International Centre, New Delhi. The conference was organised with the objective of presenting collaborative research that had been completed, or was being undertaken, by Indian and Canadian universities/research institutions in five areas: Energy & Environment, Public Health, Food Security & Sustainable Development, Bi-lateral Trade and Investment and Vocational Education. The Conference provided a platform for 55 researchers from 35 institutions of India and Canada to present their work and discuss further academic and institutional collaborations between Indian and Canadian universities and research institutes. The scholars included both faculty at universities/research institutes and also doctoral students. H.E. Mr. Jim Nickel, Deputy High Commissioner of Canada delivered the inaugural address and Dr. Anindya Chatterjee, Regional Director, Asia; International Development Research Centre (IDRC) gave the Keynote Address.



b) **SICI National Conference held at Carleton University**

A National Conference on: “Engaging Canada and India in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities in Multilevel Trends and Sustainable Partnerships” was organized by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) on 9th May 2014 at the Carleton University. The conference was attended by academicians and researchers from various Canadian universities, as well as delegates from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), the Canada-India Business Council (CIBC), the Asia Pacific Foundation (APF), and the Conference Board of Canada (CoBC). Also present were distinguished guests and speakers, Deputy High Commissioner of India, Mr. Tsewang Namgyal, and Senator Asha Seth.

**c) FICCI Vice Chancellors' Delegation to Toronto and Vancouver  
June 17-20, 2014**

**FICCI Toronto-** Shastri Indo-Canadian institute facilitated a meeting between FICCI delegation of Indian University Vice-chancellors and directors led by Dr. Shobha Mishra Ghosh, Sr. Director, FICCI with University of Toronto and University of British Columbia on June 17, 2014 and June 20, 2014 respectively. Shastri's former President, Dr. Shanthi Johnson chaired the meetings.

The discussions were focused on student engagement and ways to improve teaching process through technology in classroom setup, higher degree of student engagement in blended hybrid learning, teaching excellence in higher education, ideas about best practice pedagogy and encouragement of flexible thinking. The idea of starting a summer institute program between Canada and India was discussed as a means towards faculty enhancement, improve the quality of instruction in higher education with an emphasis on research and its integration into curriculum.



**FICCI Vancouver** -- The focus of FICCI Vice Chancellors' delegation to Vancouver was on educational pedagogy. Prof. Johnson gave welcome speech and introduced the delegation theme. Mr. Tom Sork (Senior Associate Dean -Faculty of Education) spoke about the various educational pedagogy supports available at UBC. He elaborated how it relates and promotes innovation in teaching and learning and how it fits with the broader issues in the teaching/learning areas. He spoke of teaching/ learning being an institutional priority, teaching awards, centre for teaching/ learning/ tech, and flexible learning environments. Mr. John Hepburn welcomed the delegation and spoke briefly about the event and University.

This was followed by focus group. In focus group there was a lot more cross-talking than in Toronto delegation. Many of the good themes emerged for possible Summer/Winter Institutes like 1) assessment and evaluation -- there was a lot of concerns about lack of standardized approach and so on. There wasn't even similar

approach among medical colleges for example etc was mentioned. There was an appetite for standardization and cross-learning from different approaches. 2) Faculty Development Opportunities – The discussion was to have different ones for new faculty vs. seasoned faculty (even issues such as use of technology etc. 3) Curriculum and Content - The discussion was how faculty can access good quality information for their teaching . There was interest expressed for something on medical information.

#### d) MITACS Student Event in Calgary University

On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014, SICI Canada Office organized a networking event for MITACS Summer interns enrolled at the University of Calgary. The event was attended by MITACS students, representatives from U of Calgary, SICI Canada office staff, MITACS staff and local community people. The event enabled the summer interns to network with peers, faculty members and community people. Dr. Susan Samuel, Pediatric Nephrologist and researcher from Alberta Children's Hospital was the key speaker.



#### e) Indian Member Council & Annual General Meetings 2014



The annual *Indian Member Council Meeting (IMC)* of the Institute was held on May 31 2014 and the *Annual General Meeting* on June 1, 2014 at India Habitat Centre. These annual Shastri meetings had a good attendance of Indian member Institutions. The Indian Member Council reviewed the programmes that Institute had undertaken in the year 2013-14 and also gave valuable suggestions regarding the programme priorities for the year 2014-15. IMC also discussed the strategic directions for the Institute and about members' engagement.

#### f) Canadian Members Council Meeting

The annual Canadian Members Council meeting (CMC) was held at Carleton University, Canada on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The CMC was attended by a good number of faculty members from SICI's Canadian member institutions located in all the provinces of Canada. In addition to review the programs and activities of the SICI offices (Canada and India), the meeting also engaged the members in discussing the future strategic directions of the SICI.





## New Executive Council



**i. Dr. Girish M. Shah, Ph.D.**  
(Secretary- Treasurer)

**Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Dept. Molec Biol. Med Biochem & Pathology Université Laval, Québec (QC) Canada & Senior Researcher, CR-CHU-Q; Research Centres of CHU-Q Hospital (CHUL campus and Neuroscience Axis) Chief of Laboratory for Skin Cancer Research, CR-CHU-Q (CHUL campus), Québec (QC)**

Dr. Girish Shah is a Full Professor of the Faculty of Medicine at Université Laval in Québec City (QC) Canada. He is also a senior researcher of the CHU-Q Research Centre of the Quebec Hospitals and Chief of the Laboratory for Skin Cancer Research at the CHUL campus of CHU-Q Research Centre. Professor Shah has been a representative of Université Laval in the Canadian Member's Council of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) since 2011, and is currently serving as executive council member and secretary-Treasurer of SICI since June 2014. He is also on the board of directors of the Carcinoid NeuroEndocrine Tumor Society of Canada (CNETS Canada) and is also serving as President of the Scientific and Medical Advisory Board of CNETS Canada since 2014.

Dr. Shah's research is focused on cellular and molecular biological aspects of responses of mammalian cells to DNA damage in terms of DNA repair and cell death, and their influence on the formation of cancerous cells or in therapy of cancers. Dr. Shah has received an award for the "Outstanding Achievement in Carcinoid/Neuroendocrine Tumor Research" in 2006 from the Carcinoid Cancer Foundation Inc. USA. Dr. Shah has also been a recipient of the Junior and Senior Research Scholar awards from the Quebec Health Research Fund (FRSQ).

**ii. Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts (Member-at-Large),**

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Wilfrid Laurier University. & Associate director of the International Migration Research Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University



Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts is an associate professor and associate director of the International Migration Research Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University and is an affiliate of the Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo Canada. She is a human geographer with research interests in gender and migration, transnational networks, and immigrant settlement. Her current research focuses on gender and the international migration of health care professionals in the context of India. She has been awarded several external grants for her research, and has published over 18 book

chapters, and more than 20 journal articles. Her latest co-edited book *Slippery Citizenship* will be published by University of Pennsylvania Press.

**iii. Dr. K. Gayithri (Member-at-large)**

Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore



Dr. Gayithri Karnam is on the Faculty of Economics of the Center for Economic Studies and Policy at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. She specializes in the area of Public Economics, Industrial Economics and Public policy studies. She conducts research, teaches and guides PhD students.

She has conducted a number of research projects, published extensively. She has served as an advisor on a number of state government committees and as consultant to international donor agencies like USAID and DFID in state level fiscal studies. She has been a recipient of Shastri Indo Canadian faculty research fellowship twice to undertake comparative fiscal studies at the Carleton University Canada. She has undergone training at the Duke Center for International development, Duke University on aspects relating to public budgeting and financial management.

## Members Activities

### - Article/ Book published/Award winners

#### a) Prof. Rama Singh, Department of Biology, McMaster University & Past-chair of Gandhi Peace Festival



Hamilton has come a long way in combating racism-but more needs to be done  
By Rama Singh and Sri Gopal Mohanty

The recent racial attack on two engineering graduates students from McMaster University in downtown Hamilton shows once again that racism and gang mentality is more lethal force than either is alone... [Read More](#)

#### b) SAARC award to Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor, NALSAR, Hyderabad

Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, has been awarded the “SAARC”s Best Law Teacher Award” for this year, the only Indian and the youngest awardee to get this prestigious award.

He is SICI’s Library Programme Advisory Committee (LPAC) - Chair India... [Read More](#)

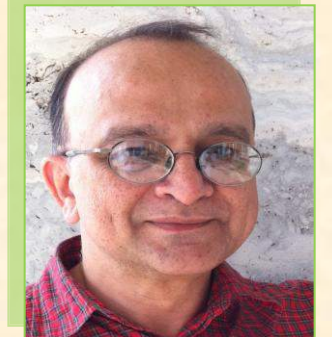


### - Update from IIT Bombay



Prof. Malhar Kulkarni from IIT Bombay had invited Professor Brandan Gillon, McGill University, Montreal, Canada as Visiting Professor during Jan.-April 2014. Professor Gillon participated in teaching as well as collaborative research activity and delivered a number of lectures at the department of Humanities and Social Science as well as Computer Science & Engineering department.

Prof. Urjit Yajnik, from Department of Physics, notes that a Quebec-Maharashtra joint theoretical physics research project he had applied for has been approved. Approx. CAD 10k would be disbursed over 2014-16 mainly for travel support to IIT Bombay and Univ. de Montreal, with whom they also have an MoU.



– **Vistas of SSIP interns on Shastri Student Internship Project (India and Canada)**

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute announced **SSIP (Shastri Student Internship Project)** in 2013-14 for Indian and Canadian Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctoral Students to further their study-research in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Social Sciences and Business studies stream subjects/areas and prepare them for a career in related fields. The main objectives are to enhance student mobility between Indian and Canadian Institutions; to promote knowledge sharing, networking and exposure of students; and to enhance first hand research capacities of student researchers.

a) Elavarasan Subramani, SSIP Awardee

The SSIP 2013-14 programme has provided me an opportunity both, to broaden my engagement with research and to specialize in my own area of interest. This programme has arranged a career advancement opportunity in the form of awards and training in a different international laboratory. This is one of the most rewarding aspects in a research scholar's career to conduct advanced research with international research team. This programme has shown me the new dimension to my research plans. As in, three months of stay in McGill University has encouraged me to contribute to human's well-being. Further, it has led me to learn and write research proposals to get insights of mechanism associated with diseases. Thereby, this will lead to take the scientific findings to the next level. In particular, my three months stay in this laboratory has helped me grow as a person with considerable scientific knowledge and analytical skills. Moreover, this exchange programme also leads to the setting up of an International collaborative research activity between the two laboratories in IIT Kharagpur and McGill University.

b) Priti Tripathi, SSIP Awardee

This internship is of great value as far as my career objectives as well as personal objectives are concerned. It provided me an international platform and helped me to communicate with a variety of people in my field of research as well outside. It helped me to collect a lot of resources and gave direction to my doctoral study by also improving my understanding of several concepts and theories in consultation with professors.

This internship will certainly add value to my academic career as an international exposure in a country with which my research is associated. In addition to this, I look forward to many more associations like this. For my project, it is important for me to be in this country to be able to execute the work well and it was not possible without the scholarship. It was also the appropriate time with respect to my research and I hope Shastri Institute proposes more opportunities during the course of my PhD in future. It also helped me to build up more self confidence and gave a new dimension at way of looking at things as I did everything independently in a foreign country. I shall be returning with a heavy academic and cultural baggage after my stay in a multicultural country like Canada. It has encouraged me to contribute to this exchange of ideas and culture through literature in the long run.

c) Pawan Kumar Mandali, SSIP Awardee

This internship gave me huge confidence to work in different environment and work culture. I could able to enrich my knowledge towards subject both practically and theoretically. I could able to make use of all facilities in the university without any difficulty by the guidance of my superiors. This internship was very useful in terms of knowledge enhancement by meeting and working with persons having a good practical background in the subject. I have learned much in terms of handling various techniques and applying them productively to the project assigned. In terms of exposure, I had a chance to work on various instruments that are not easily accessible in India and gained technical knowledge. Sharing and discussing various research issues with my supervisor and lab colleagues in Canada came out fruitful and made me to think and understand the subject in various directions.

Personally, I had a chance to expose and adopt myself to people from different culture, community and language. This gave me the confidence that I will be able to tune myself to different cultures in future research and most importantly learned management of time, which is very necessary for a researcher. Last but not least, I got an exposure to foreign languages which gave me an inspiration to travel more and understand people from different nationalities.

d) Anand Joshua Sookrah, SSIP Awardee

The Shastri Student Internship Project award was a personal and professional dream comes true. I always wanted to travel to India, conduct my own research and field work and meet people, network and discuss important issues over chai. The SSIP allowed me to do all that and more. My research project was on Hindu nationalism; to understand the political discourse of cultural and religious nationalism as related to Hinduism throughout Indian history; to navigate the Sanskrit language; and to network with locals to understand how people felt on the ground about "Hindutva," or '*hinduness*.' At Delhi University, I had excellent access to faculty at the Political Science, History and Sanskrit Department to use as a base to conduct research and

gain a network. I am now continuing this work at Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto directly because of my experience with the SSIP. Pursuing research in a foreign land presents its natural challenges, and allowed for immense personal growth over the course of the internship that has left me with a deeper sense of purpose, a desire to have a positive impact on communities and a stronger work ethic and academic rigour. Overall, the opportunity afforded to me by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute has made me sure of pursuing a career as an academic and scholar in the future and I am tremendously grateful.

## Upcoming Events in India and Canada

### a. 10<sup>th</sup> FICCI Higher Education Summit 2014

#### **13-14 November 2014, FICCI, Federation House, New Delhi**

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) is organizing the 10th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2014, a two day Global Conference, on November 13 & 14 at FICCI, Federation House, New Delhi. This year the theme of the Conference would focus on internationalization of higher education and implementation framework for Vision 2030 for higher education in India released by FICCI during the 9th FICCI Higher Education Summit last year... [Read More](#)

### b. CII Knowledge Expo 2014 - 4th Global University-Industry Congress & Higher Education Summit 21-22 November 2014: India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, Delhi, NCR

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India's premier business association which works to create an environment conducive to the growth of industry in India by facilitating partnerships with government through advisory and consultative processes, is this year launching the country's first-ever and biggest Global Knowledge Partnership Platform, called KNOWLEDGEXPO 2014... [Read More](#)

### c. **Semaine Inde (India Week) in Montreal** **October 6-10, 2014**

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) is actively involved in organizing the India Week in Montreal from October 6-10, 2014. The key objective of this event is to promote greater understanding of the country and people of India in addressing key topics such as the place of India in the world today, the politics and culture, the environmental challenges, the trade relations with Canada and with Quebec as well, including artistic and cinematographic activities.

The India week will also contribute in stimulating interest in Indian studies and to increase study projects from Canadian students in India. This event will attract students, academics, researchers, members of the business community, public servants and general public from Canada as well as India and Europe. Finally, this event is rooted in an active participation from the Indian communities of Montreal and across Canada. The important involvement of SICI, with many of its members in India-Canada Education sector panels, ensures the expansion of Education cooperation between India and Canada.

Two CMC members, Professor Mathieu Boisvert (UdeM and CERIAS) and Dr. Rajesh Tyagi (HEC Montreal) are in the organization Committee of this event. Several SICI members will participate as speakers and as chairs:

- Inde-Montréal : Éducation and services sociaux: EC member Professor Girish Shah (Université Laval), Professor Mathieu Boisvert (UdeM et CERIAS) and Professor Bilkis Vissandjee (UdeM);
- Inde-Economie, politique et culture: Dr. Rajesh Tyagi (HEC, Montréal) and Professor Mathieu Boisvert (UdeM and CERIAS);
- Relations diplomatiques Canada-Inde: Deborah Chatsis, Director, South Asia Relations, DFATD.
- PhD students networking: All Montreal PhD students – from any discipline – working on South Asia or its diaspora are invited to a special activity in order to informally share and discuss with their peers. Activity organized by SICI and CERIAS

#### **d. Asia Pacific Foundation Conference in Calgary**

##### **Canada's Asia Challenge: Building Skills and Knowledge for the Next Generation**

October 15-17, 2014 in Calgary

The conference will focus on the need for a concerted national effort to improve the knowledge and skills required for Canadians to succeed in a world where the centre of gravity is shifting towards Asia. The conference will bring together Canadian educators, policy-makers and business leaders from across the country to discuss what is being done, and what initiatives are still needed to ensure that Canadians can effectively navigate the many emerging opportunities arising out of the Asia Pacific region. More information about the conference, including a conference website, is forthcoming. For more information, please contact William Erin at: [erin.williams@asiapacific.ca](mailto:erin.williams@asiapacific.ca)

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