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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It gives me immense pleasure to send greetings to all of you from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. It was about three months ago, on June 19 of this year, that I assumed the responsibility of the President of the Institute. During the last three months, the Institute has been abuzz with excitement and enthusiasm for several reasons. I would like to begin by sharing some good news and welcoming the **University of Winnipeg** as the latest member of our 92-member strong Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. There are many other recent worthy developments deserving mention. The following is just a snapshot of some of the most significant:

Following on the heels of the **Canada-India Education Summit** in Ottawa, SICI organized visits by Vice-Chancellors and Executive Heads of Indian Universities to attend four of our member Institutions in Canada from June 20-24, 2011. These visits led to several very promising MOUs between our member institutions from the two countries.

As the Official Partner with the Indian High Commission for the **Year of India in Canada 2011**, the Shastri Institute was delighted to provide our Canadian members in Ontario, Atlantic Canada, Western Canada, and the Prairies opportunities to host internationally acknowledged cultural groups from India. Many of our member institutions have expressed sincere appreciation for this opportunity to promote the best of Indian Culture in their local communities.

We are also delighted to sponsor a delegation of eminent contemporary writers and poets from India who will be visiting Canada during October. The delegation is being led by Mr. Sunil Gangopadhyay, President of Sahitya Academy, the premiere organization charged with the responsibility of promoting literary activities in India. Four of our member institutions from Ontario and British Columbia will be participating in this event. We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Sahitya Academy and the Indian High Commission for their support and help.

We are particularly happy to announce that on September 9, 2011, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, in collaboration with the Canadian High Commission in India, launched the exciting **Engaging Canada in India 2011-2012** program. We will be organizing regional events on the theme of Engaging Canada in India 2011-2012 in different parts of India. This timely initiative is part of our overall strategy to engage Academia, Industry, Government and NGOs in dialogue to promote Canada-India Cultural, Educational, and Economic cooperation and collaborations.

During the first week of September in India, I met and had extremely fruitful discussions with our funders and stakeholders including the Canadian High Commissioner, His Excellency Steward Beck, the Minister of State of Higher Education, the Hon. Mrs. Purundeswari Devi, the Government of India Secretary of Higher Education, Mrs. Vibha Puri Das, and the Chair of the Indian University Grants Commission. Our Vice President/President Elect, Dr. Ranbir Singh, and Secretary Treasurer, Dr. Shanthi Johnson, joined me in these consultations. I was pleased to note strong good will and great appreciation for Shastri's excellent work in promoting Canada-India Education Cooperation and Collaborations.

Our advertised programs have been well subscribed and adjudicated with the highest level of professional integrity and rigor. Our new **Membership Development** program has received tremendous positive response. I am particularly delighted to share with you our enthusiasm for having signed an MOU with the Swaminathan Foundation for our new program on **Youth Against Hunger**. Our new program, **Institutional Research Collaboration Development Grant** is generating strong interest among our members.

I thank you all for all your help and support to the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, which celebrates 43 years of promoting excellence in Canada-India educational cooperation and collaboration. We look forward to your continued involvement and guidance.

With kindest regards to you all,

Braj Sinha



Left to To Right: Dr. Ved Prakash - Chair of University Grants Commission, Dr. R. Chidambaram - Principal Science Advisor to the Government of India, His Excellency Stewart Beck - Canadian High Commissioner to India, Dr. Ranbir Singh - Shastri Vice President, Dr. Braj Sinha - Shastri President

ENGAGING CANADA IN INDIA LAUNCH

On September 9th, 2011 the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, in collaboration with the Canadian High Commission to India, launched **Engaging Canada in India 2011-2012**. The inaugural **Engaging Canada** event took place at the India International Centre Annexe in New Delhi. The theme of this highly successful event was "Harnessing Social Capital for Economic Gains". The meeting brought together representatives from multiple sectors of society focused on maximizing mutual benefits from India-Canada collaborations.

His Excellency Stewart Beck (High Commissioner of Canada to India) delivered the keynote address after Dr. Braj Sinha (President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute) inaugurated the event and welcomed the distinguished speakers and guests. Mr. Beck highlighted the importance of strategic collaboration between Canada and India, and possibilities in the areas of energy and food security as well as intellectual property. Mr. Beck also remarked on Canada's economic stability during the recession, pointing out the perseverance and continuation of financial institutions during this time.

The event was co-chaired by Prof. Shanthi Johnson (Secretary- Treasurer, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute). Other eminent speakers at the Engaging Canada event included Dr. R. Chidambaram (Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India), Dr. Ved Prakash (Chairman, UGC), Mr. Simon Cridland (Head- Advocacy, Canadian High Commission), Dr. Vijaya Katti (Professor, IIFT), and Dr. Subhabrata Basu (Chair, Mumbai Regional Council, ICBC). The event was concluded by Dr. Ranbir Singh (Vice President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute).

The **Engaging Canada** series is a new initiative of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to bring together representatives and stakeholders from multiple sectors of society. The explicit purpose of these events is to explore means by which to capitalize on intellectual, scientific, and economic resources of India and Canada to promote mutually beneficial bi-national educational and trade relationships. In partnership with the Canadian High Commission in India, the Shastri Institute will be organizing series of regional **Engaging Canada** events across India with the aim of further creating and strengthening linkages among the academic, government, and business sectors as well as NGOs of the two countries.

ALBERTA-MAHARASHTRA ROUNDTABLE

Alberta Advanced Education & Technology (AET) has identified India, and in particular, the **State of Maharashtra**, as one of its strategic partners with regards to post-secondary education, research & innovation, and industry collaborations. As part of Alberta's ongoing efforts to engage and collaborate with India, AET and the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute are organizing the **Alberta-Maharashtra Roundtable** in Mumbai on November 17 and 18, 2011.

An intimate group of senior representatives from post-secondary and research institutions will be participating in this important discussion. The Roundtable will provide the opportunity for collaboration between Alberta and Maharashtra through government, post-secondary and industry links in **Health, Energy and the Environment**.

The Roundtable objectives include:

1. Engage government, industry and the research and innovation community in India and Alberta in ongoing conversations surrounding collaboration across common interests
2. Provide increased awareness of:
 - Post-Secondary Capabilities and Strengths
 - Alberta/ Maharashtra Industry
 - Common Industry Problems
 - Joint Research, Development, Commercialization Opportunities

The proposed themes for discussion are **Water: Health and Environmental Perspectives and Energy Security**.

For inquiries please contact Mariam Elghahuagi, Communications Officer at: melghahu@ucalgary.ca.



Mumbai, Maharashtra

**ENGAGING INDIA SERIES
CONTINUES:
FRENCH CANADA REGIONAL
SYMPOSIUM**

Following the successful **Engaging India Multidisciplinary Conference** that took place in June of 2011 at Carleton University in Ottawa, we are pleased to announce as part of the Engaging India series, the **French Canada Regional Symposium**.

This highly anticipated bi-lingual symposium will be part of the celebrated **Year of India in Canada 2011** as it comes to a successful conclusion.

This event is coordinated in partnership by a consortium of Shastri member Universities as well as other institutions from the French Canada region.

The contribution of French Canadian Institutions of Higher education to Indo-Canadian relations will be discussed, as well as opportunities and solutions to challenges faced in the India/Quebec collaboration process. Other proposed topics are as follows:

- French Language in India
- Student Mobility in India: Conditions for Success
- Engagement of the Next Generations: The pursuit of collaborations between India and Quebec
- Research Avenues: Opportunities for the Next Generations
- Avenues for Action: Strengths to build on in French Universities

The symposium will be comprised of keynote addresses, student and faculty research presentations, and open discussions and exchange sessions. Tentative dates and venue for the symposium are Thursday and Friday December 8 and 9, 2011 at the Université de Montréal.

For inquiries about this symposium please contact melghahu@ucalgary.ca.



Montreal, Quebec



Left to Right: Dr. Stephen Inglis - Adjunct Research Professor of Art History Carleton University, Shri. Cyriac Joseph - Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, C. V. Ananda Bose Vice Chancellor NMI

STRENGTHENING INDIA'S BILATERAL CULTURAL TIES WITH CANADA: NMI AND SHASTRI INSTITUTE PRESENT LECTURE SERIES ON INDIGENOUS ART OF CANADA

A four-day special lecture series on Indigenous Art of Canada was organized in partnership by the **National Museum Institute (NMI)** in New Delhi and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, delivered by renowned anthropologist and art historians **Dr. Stephen Inglis** from September 5 to 8, 2011.

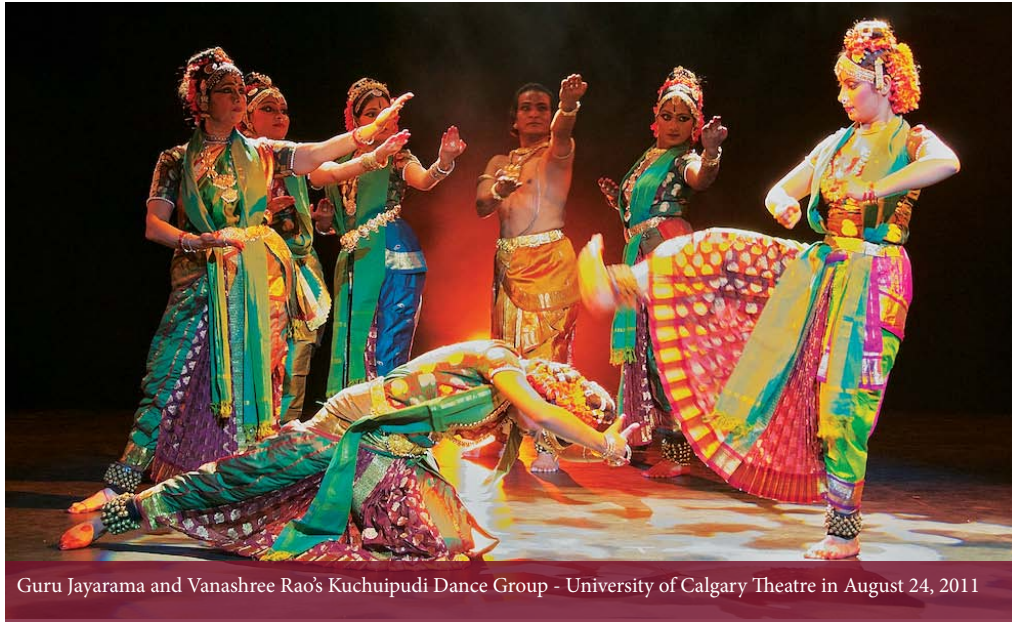
Dr. Inglis is a Canadian anthropologist and art historian who specialises in the artistic traditions of the indigenous people of North America. He was a curator and Director-General of Research and Collections at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canada's national museum of history and ethnology, for over 25 years. He is currently Adjunct Research Professor of Art History at Carleton University in Ottawa and Executive Director of the Cree Cultural Institute in Northern Quebec, a First Nations Museum.

The illustrated lectures looked into how indigenous art is represented in Canadian Museums while introducing the arts of various First Nations. The lectures also discussed issues in the study of museology. It is expected that these presentations will contribute to the development of a course at NMI on the Arts of the Inuit from National Gallery of Canada (NGC).

The first lecture of the series took place at the Conference Hall at NMI, and was presided over by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court the Honourable Cyriac Joseph. The topics of the lectures delivered were as follows:

- **Aanischaukamikw Cree Culture Institute: Culture and Heritage in the Canadian Subarctic**
- **The Unbroken Line: Art and Culture of the West Coast**
- **Inuit Art: Crafting an Economy, A First Peoples Hall in a History Museum**
- **A First Peoples Hall in a History Museum**

Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Vice Chancellor of National Museum Institute and Administrator of National Museum said, "We at NMI have always tried to arrange lecture sessions from which people in India can learn about art and cultures of other countries and enrich their knowledge. Canada is a fine example of how indigenous art can be preserved". For more information about NMI please visit: www.nmi.gov.in.



Guru Jayarama and Vanashree Rao's Kuchipudi Dance Group - University of Calgary Theatre in August 24, 2011

CLASSICAL INDIAN DANCE GURUS TOUR CANADA

Shastri Institute and its members continue to be actively involved in the ongoing Year of India in Canada cultural celebrations. Following the contemporary dance performances by the Tanusree Shankar Dance Company, which took place in April of this year, were performances by two equally stunning classical Indian dance groups; Gurus Jayarama and Vanashree Rao's Kuchipudi Dance Group, and Kumudini Lakhia's Kadamb Kathak Group. Both these dance groups are of exceptionally high caliber, and mesmerized audiences throughout Canada as performances in several cities across the provinces took place in the month of August. Shastri member institutions and affiliates had the pleasure of hosting some of these performances in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kingston, Fredericton, Winnipeg, Regina, Swift Current, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary and Victoria.

INDIAN FILM FESTIVALS

Throughout the months of August, September October Shastri Members and affiliates also participated in the Canada wide Year of India in Canada Film Festival. A group of critically acclaimed Indian films from a wide range of genres were made available by the Indian High Commission to organizers and admission to the film screenings was free and open to the public. Film festivals were organized in Montreal, Ottawa, Saskatoon, Lethbridge, Calgary and Waterloo. Screening in Montreal will continue to take place until mid-October and in Saskatoon until the last week of November. For details on the Saskatoon film festival please follow link below.

Saskatoon Indian Film Festival

INDIAN WRITER FESTIVAL

Two major literary events featuring a group of eminent Indian authors, fellows of the **Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters**, will take place at the end of this month in Ottawa (Oct 24 & 25) and Vancouver (Oct 26-29) hosted in partnership by several Shastri member institutions.

The representatives from the Sahitya Akademi and the authors participating in these events are as follows:

Mr. Sunil Gangopadhyay, Eminent Bengali Poet and President, Sahitya Akademi

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Eminent Hindi Poet and Critic and Vice President, Sahitya Akademi

Mr. A Krishna Murthy, Eminent Kannada Poet and Secretary, Sahitya Akademi

Shri Kruthiventi Sreenivasarao, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi & Coordinator

Dr. Surjit Patar (Distinguished Punjabi poet)

Dr. Shashi Deshpande (Eminent English writer)

Mr. Sethu Madhavan (Malayalam Short Story writer)

Dr. Prabodh Parikh (Gujarati poet and Critic)

Dr. Farida Akhtar Tarannum (Urdu poet)

Mr. Robin S Ngangom (English poet from North-East)

Ms. Sebanti Ghosh (Bengali poet)

Shri Govind Misra, (Hindi Writer)

Shri Shiv Kishan (Urdu Poet)

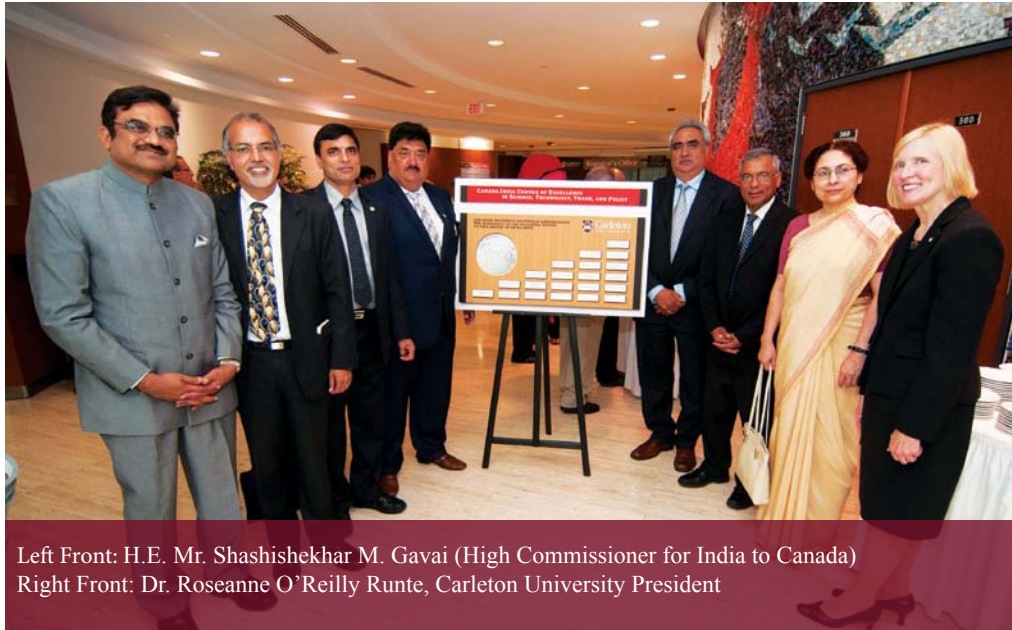
Shri Chandrasekhar Kambar (Kannada Writer)

Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam, (Urdu Poet)

For complete bios of all the participants and more information on the Year of India in Canada events please visit :

www.hciottawa.ca





Left Front: H.E. Mr. Shashishekhar M. Gavai (High Commissioner for India to Canada)
 Right Front: Dr. Roseanne O'Reilly Runte, Carleton University President

CARLETON CELEBRATES SIGNIFICANT CANADA-INDIA CENTRE DONATIONS

Canada and India share a strong commitment to education, the environment, health and science. Both view technology as a means to solve problems and to advance economic development. Celebrating these common goals and the mutual desire to build trade partnerships and scientific and cultural links, Carleton University has established, in collaboration with the India High Commission and community members, the **Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy**.

On August 15, 2011 Carleton University celebrated several significant donations to the Canada-India Centre for Excellence. The celebration took place on India's Independence Day. Along with its partners in the Indo-Canadian community and the city of Ottawa, Carleton recognized the philanthropic support for the centre, while acknowledging the important relationship between Canada and India.

The centre has received national support, with funding coming from areas as far as Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Major donations from 10 Vancouver families, many of whom were present during the celebration, formed a cornerstone of the centre's financial backbone.

"Today is not about bricks and mortar. It's about people. It's about the research that will happen for future generations. And it's about vision." said Carleton President Roseann O'Reilly Runte. "A heartfelt thanks to all the donors and the community as all true innovation starts with the people who have great vision and a shared humanitarian spirit."

Several major supporters of the centre from across Canada were present. Shastri president Dr. Braj Sinha was in attendance.

Unveiling of Gandhi Statue and Jayanti Celebration

On Sunday October 2, 2011 the unveiling of the Gandhi Statue took place followed by a keynote lecture and Jayanti Celebration at the Kailash Mital Theatre at Carleton University. Among the guest speakers was H.E. Mr. Shashishekhar M. Gavai (High Commissioner for India to Canada) and Dr. Roseanne O'Reilly Runte.

For more information on the Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy please visit www.carleton.ca/india.

NEW ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

Kwantlen Polytechnic University has launched its new **Asian Studies**. The **Bachelor of Arts, Major in Asian Studies** focuses on the diverse cultures of Asia, our country and our communities. This degree allows students to develop the knowledge, core competencies, and skills characteristic of a traditional BA program while preparing them to respond creatively to a range of challenges in our community and the world. In this four-year interdisciplinary Asian Studies program students will acquire a number of practical skills that they can employ in their communities locally, in addition to developing the intellectual and cultural skills needed to operate successfully in a rapidly changing world where the leading countries of East and South Asia are increasingly influential.

Kwantlen has also created a Minor in Asian Studies that will allow students in other programs such as Nursing and Business to complement their main field of study with courses from the Asian Studies curriculum. The main focus of the Minor in Asian Studies is to produce graduates who combine expertise in their chosen career field with a high level of understanding of Asian cultural norms.

The Kwantlen Asian Studies program is unique in its focus on both Asia and Canada. With campuses in both Richmond and Surrey, Kwantlen is well established in two of British Columbia's largest East and South Asian communities, placing it in a perfect position to promote the study of immigration issues, multiculturalism, and the evolving multifaceted relationship between Canada and Asia. In support of the new BA in Asian Studies Kwantlen offers courses on the histories, cultures, religions, philosophies, politics, and languages of East and South Asia. In addition, the program offers students opportunities to participate in exchanges and field schools in Asia.

For further information on the Kwantlen Asian Studies program please visit www.kwantlen.ca/socialsciences/asianstudies.html.



IVEY AND ISB HONOUR WINNERS OF INDIA-WIDE CASE-WRITING COMPETITION

In October 2009, University of Western Ontario Richard Ivey School of Business leaders signed a partnership with the Indian School of Business (ISB) for a Case Development and Teaching Center an ambitious program which aims to transform the educational environment in India. In the past two years Ivey has collaborated with ISB to host an annual nationwide Case Writing Competition for Indian faculty. Top 12 cases from 2010 and Top 10 cases from 2011 competition will be published by Ivey as Co-branded Cases. Ivey's goal is to publish 500 new cases about Indian companies in the next 5 years.

Ivey and (ISB) honoured winners of the ISB-Ivey Case Competition 2011 on August 27 during the 23rd AIMS Convention 2011 in Bhubaneswar, India, with the top three champions taking home cash prizes of Rs 100,000 (CAD \$2,127) and Rs 75,000 (CAD \$1,595) (tie for second place). Faculty from IIM Bangalore took first place and second prize went to faculty from three institutions, Vishwa Vishwani Institute of Systems and Management, XLRI, Jamshedpur and K. J. Somaiya Institute of Management.

The top 10 cases from the competition, which was organized by ISB's Center for Teaching, Learning and Case Development (CTL) in association with Ivey and AIMS, will also later be published as ISB-Ivey cases. These new cases will expand Ivey's India-based collection, which stood at 116 cases as of August 2011. The purpose of the case-writing competition is to increase the number of India-focused business cases offering insight on major Indian companies and provide a platform for mentorship of Indian case writers by Ivey and ISB faculty.

"Ivey is committed to changing the landscape of management education in India," said Ariff Kachra, Assistant Professor of Strategy and Managing Director of India Development, Richard Ivey School of Business. "This competition allows Ivey to work with Indian faculty so they can share India's rich business experience with the world at large. India has a lot to teach the world about what business will look like in the next decade and Ivey wants to help Indian authors tell that story."

For information on the results of the 2011 Case Writing Competition please visit:
www.isb.edu/casecompetition/TopRankingCases.html or www.ivey.ca.



Week-long Intensive Postgraduate Course - "The bigger the problem the greater the opportunity: A speculative design workshop."

EXPERIENCING INDIA THROUGH DESIGN: "A CULTURAL SHIFT" BY OCAD UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBER

OCAD University Faculty of Design Associate Professor Dr. Lewis Nicholson had the opportunity to spend several months traveling in India during his year-long sabbatical from OCAD. In his article titled "A Cultural Shift", Dr. Nicholson describes his enlightening experiences as he was submerged in the Indian culture. Dr. Nicholson states in his article, "In reality, India far exceeded my most optimistic expectations.... It is, indeed, a country of richly layered and colourful traditions, cultures and crafts, brutally stark contradictions and contrasts. I have never experienced an environment as stimulating or inspiring, and my time there was one of the happiest, most productive and experientially rewarding periods of my life thus far."

During his stay in India Dr. Nicholson had been invited to teach a course at The National Institute of Design (NID) in Bangalore. Dr. Nicholson described NID as, "one of India's most respected design schools.... In 2007, OCAD U and NID drafted an Understanding of Agreement to promote opportunities for exchange between the two institutions for both faculty and students. Dr. Soumyajit Goshal, Director of NID, Bangalore, was our guest in 2010 in Toronto. I would be the first OCAD U faculty to practice at NID."

The week-long intensive postgraduate course Dr. Nicholson conducted was entitled "The bigger the problem the greater the opportunity: A speculative design workshop." Dr. Nicholson explains that, "The object of the course was to identify persistent problems within Indian society and explore the channels that might be employed to communicate and promote a cultural shift, both in attitude and behaviour, to help engineer more positive and sustainable outcomes for as many people as

possible."

The final presentations resulting from the course raised numerous concerns and proposed unique design initiatives with which to approach the issues. Examples of the issues brought up were water management, e-waste, plastic disposal and recycling, sexual equality and female infanticide, littering, wasteful packaging, promoting sustainable doctrines and practices, and equipping poorly funded schools. A few examples of the initiatives proposed were as follows:

- The utilization of milk plastic packaging as a medium for the promotion of awareness on proper garbage disposal, curbing domestic violence, discouraging infanticide, etc. "The bag itself could also be given value and considered as currency (10 packs = 1 free bag of milk or, as one student ironically suggested, half a litre of gas)".
- The redistribution of old technology from the highly toxic and wasteful e-waste processes to India's impoverished rural schools, for example. The dismantling and recycling of e-waste from the developed world largely takes place in India and China.
- The stigmatization of persistent litterers by encouraging the public to photograph offenders with their mobile phone cameras, and the images are to be posted online or on billboards at the site of the offense.

Dr. Nicholson concludes his article by saying, "I would welcome the opportunity to return to India to teach as soon and as often as possible."

For the Dr. Nicholson complete article please visit www.ocad.ca/about_ocad/articles/stories/20110805_a_cultural_shift.htm.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL ORGANISES INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

RETHINKING EQUITY IN INDIA AND QUEBEC: TOWARDS INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

University of Montreal extends an invitation to an international seminar titled *Rethinking Equity in India and Quebec: Towards Inclusive Societies*, which is being jointly organized by the Centre d'études ethniques des universités montréalaises (CEETUM), the Pôle de Recherche sur l'Inde et l'Asie du Sud at the University of Montreal and the Center for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies (CCUSLAS) at Jawaharlal Nehru University. It will bring together approximately fifty participants from Quebec, Canada and India, both from the academic and policy communities. The event will take place at the **Hotel Gouverneur Place Dupuis from November 7 to 9, 2011.**

This event is organised in the framework of a current cooperation between the CEETUM and the CCUSLAS to foster research and exchanges in the area of multiculturalism, nationalism diversity and equity that culminated in 2008 by the signing of an official Agreement of Cooperation (AOC). Although the dynamics of ethnic relations is much more complex in India than in Canada, and the pluralism in India originated not mainly from immigration but largely through layers and layers of historical processes, the construction of a pluralist but yet inclusive society constitutes a major challenge for both societies. At very different scales, India also has experienced in the last ten years largely similar controversies on the place of religion in societies both favouring a model of open secularism, as well as the limits of traditional approaches to radically decrease intergroup inequalities. The seminar aims at three main objectives:

1. To allow selected Indian researchers and a group of Québec researchers and decision makers to get better acquainted with their respective context of ethnic relations, with a special focus on inclusion and equity
2. To foster the identification of common research interests or policy concerns, both at the theoretical, empirical and practical level
3. To serve as the basis for the definition of further collaborative ventures such as common articles or research projects

This seminar clearly aims at maximizing exchanges between key academics, policy makers and stakeholders from the civil society. During the seminar sessions, papers (distributed among the participants before the seminar) will not be presented by their authors but will be synthesized by a discussant who will focus on their common elements and divergences before opening the floor. Thus all contributions would be very valuable.

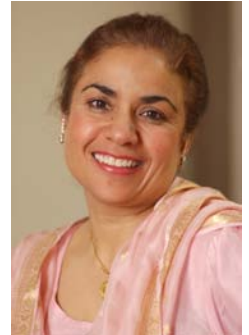
For more information or to register for this seminar please contact Juliette Gosselin at 514 343 7244 or gosselin@umontreal.ca by **October 17**. Spaces are limited, lunch is complementary, but unregistered participants will not be admitted. Kindly follow the below link of the seminar program.

International Seminar Program



THE SIKH STUDIES SPEAKER SERIES AT MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

On Monday October 3 the Department of Humanities at Mount Royal University organised, as part of their Sikh Studies Speaker Series, a lecture by **Professor Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh** (right). Dr. Singh is Chair and Crawford Family Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, and is internationally recognized for her extensive work in Sikhism. She has widely published in the areas of women in Sikhism, translation of Sikh scripture, feminine imagery in Sikh theology, and twentieth-century Punjabi poetry. More recently, her scholarly interests have turned to the area of Sikh art.



From its very origins, the Sikh religion created a window of opportunity for women to achieve liberty and equality. Its scripture resonates with symbols and images that are empowering for women, and its ever-accumulating history is replete with women who have played a dynamic role. Dr. Singh's talk focused on the interpretation of Sikh sa-cred text from a feminist perspective. Questions such as:

What is the understanding of the Divine?

How can we retrieve its full force?

What implications does feminist theology have in the everyday life of the community?

Dr. Singh also discussed secular interpretations from 20th century from artists Amrita Pritam and Amrita Sher-Gil and how these women disclose Sikh values in the language of poetry and colors.

This event has been funded by the Arts Scholarly Events Committee and the Office of the Vice-President (Academic). For more information on this event and the Sikh Studies Speakers Series at Mount Royal University, please contact Dr. Michael Hawley at mhawley@mtroyal.ca.

CURRENTLY OPEN COMPETITIONS

Currently Open Competition	Application Submission Deadline
Canadian Membership Development Fund 2011-2012	Ongoing
Understanding Canada: Doctoral Research Fellowship 2012-2013	Deadline October 20, 2011
Understanding Canada: Faculty Enrichment Fellowship 2012-2013	Deadline October 20, 2011
Understanding Canada: Faculty Research Fellowship 2012-2013	Deadline October 20, 2011
Collaborative Research Projects 2011-2013	Deadline November 1, 2011
Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant (STSG)	Deadline 1 st November 2011 and 1 st March 2012
University of Ottawa Overseas India Summer Course 2012: Focus on Jainism	Deadline December 15, 2011

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

Name of Grant	Application Submission Deadline
Lal Bahadur Shastri Student Prize	15 th January 2012

For more information about Shastri Grants please visit our website www.sici.org/grants.
For inquiries please contact us at sici@ucalgary.ca.

SHASTRI GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Shastri Institute would like to thank all applicants to our grant programs and we would like to congratulate all the successful recipients of grants for the past quarter. Shastri is proud to have awarded the below grants as follows:

SCHOLAR TRAVEL SUBSIDY GRANT (STSG)

Name of Scholar	Home Institution	Presentation Topic	Host Institution
Prof. Anand Yethiraj	Department of Physics and Phys. oceanography, Memorial University of Newfoundland	Fluid flow in porous media	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
Prof. Sukhinder Cheema	Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland	Increasing risk of obesity, diabetes and heart disease in India: Approaches and Preventive Strategies.	MS Baroda
Prof. Sarita Gupta	Department of Biochemistry, M.S University of Baroda	Cardioprotectant and islet neogenic potential of novel phyto-chemicals	Manitoba, Laval, Winnipeg
Dr. Majumdar Basanti	Department of Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University	Nurses Experiences of Preceptoring International Nursing Students	Manipal College of Nursing, Karnataka

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND (MDF)

3 MDF grants have been given to the following Canadian members:

Name of Scholar	Member Institution	Topic
Mr. Ron Byrne	Mount Allison University	Diversity from a Women's Entrepreneur Perspective: A discussion of Gender roles
Prof. Bhagwan Dua	Lethbridge University	Indian film festival - YEAR OF INDIA IN CANADA 2011
Prof. Shamen Hatley	Concordia University	Festival of Indian Cinema

SHASTRI GRANT RECIPIENTS CONT...

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEED GRANT (PDSG)

In the past quarter the Institute has awarded PDSG grants to the following projects:

Name of Scholar	Institution/University	Project Title
Dr. Jacob C. Thundathil	University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Partnership between University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Kerala Veterinary & Animal Sciences University to promote education, research, and knowledge transfer"
Dr. Regina Lee	York University	Environmental Monitoring on Nanosatellite Platform"
Dr. Jaswant Guzder	Jewish General Hospital, Montreal, Quebec	Collaborative Development of Mental Health Training Program"
Dr. Paul D. Hodgson	University of Saskatchewan	Optimizing vaccine formulation and delivery to improve animal and human health"
Dr. Rama S. Singh	Department of Biology, McMaster	Engaging Women and Youths in Promoting Education and Reducing Hunger "

SHASTRI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (SIYIP)

The Institute has awarded 3 months long internship to the following 8 Canadian youths recently. 5 of these youth interns are already in India and 3 are planning to take their internships in early next year.

Name and Institution of Interns	Gender	Area of Study	Host Organization in India
Abigail Speller, U of Totonto	F	International Development, Health Studies, Anthropology	Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
Raza Ahmed, UBC	M	Major in Life Science, Minor in Economics	ISEC
Ramandeep Ahuja, UFV	F	Bachelor of Arts, Minor in Geography and Major in English	Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID)
Ishrat Gadhok, UBC	F	Major in Life Sciences, Minor in Food and Resources Economics	ISEC
Hardeep Kaur Sidhu, UFV	F	Geography Major (International Development)	CRRID
Katherine Nickelchok, UFV	F	Undergraduate Student - BGS Culture, Religion and Development, Indo-Canadian and Indigenous focus	National Council for Rural Institutes (NCRI)
Natasha Cornea, U of Regina	F	MA Social Development - BA Honors International Studies, Development and Economics.	CRRID
Laura Rose George, U of Western Ontario	M	Currently Completing Masters in Library and Information Sciences	NCRI

SHASTRI ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT (ARPG)

The Institute has offered 3 research grants to the following Action Research projects:

Name of Scholar	Institution/University	Project Title
Dr. Indira Ramarao	University of Mysore and Jayanand H. Derekar, Foundation for Culture and Biodiversity Conservation, Research and Development	Governance Engendered: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Performance
Dr. Divya Sharma	M. S. University of Baroda and Dr. Jayant Sastry, ARPAN	Empowering mothers of disabled children in the community context
Dr. I. L. Guthrie	McGill University and Dr. Ramani Sankaranarayanan, Gram Vikas-CTx GreEn Biodiesel Project	Clean cooking fuel: Cook stoves fuelled by Ethanol produced from waste cashew fruit

CALL FOR PAPERS - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CANADIAN STUDIES, FEBRUARY 2012



The Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata invites paper proposals for the **International Conference on Canadian Studies – Demystifying the Urban: Borderlands of Canada and India** to take place on February 1st-3rd, 2012.

This conference is supported by the **Shastri Understanding Canada – Program Development Grant**. The title and a brief abstract (200-300 words) of the proposed paper may be sent to canadacentreju@gmail.com by **31st October, 2011**.

For full details of this call please follow this link [Canadian Studies International Conference Call for Papers](#).

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - HAROLD COWARD INDIA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP: “RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN MODERN INDIA”

The University of Victoria in British Columbia invites applications from Indian scholars for a **visiting research fellowship in Victoria during the fall of 2012**. The successful candidate will hold joint appointments at the **Centre for Studies in Religion and Society (CSRS)** and the **Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI)**. This fellowship recognizes the academic contributions of **Professor Harold Coward**, a prominent Canadian scholar of Hinduism, fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and founding director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide the visiting scholar with a stimulating academic environment conducive to research and writing, and the opportunity to participate in the organization of a fall 2012 symposium that will explore comparative perspectives on the governance of religious diversity in India, China and Canada.



**University
of Victoria**

Deadline to apply is **November 30, 2011**. For full eligibility and application details please follow this link [Harold Coward India Research Fellowship](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS - SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION'S (SASA) SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

South Asian Studies Association of Claremont Graduate University in California invites individual papers and panels for presentation at its sixth annual conference to be held at the Claremont Graduate University, April 13-15, 2012.

The conference strives to advance the understanding of South Asia's history, cultures, societies, politics, issues and opportunities. Papers from all academic disciplines and all periods of time that address the rich tapestry that is South Asia's past, present and future are welcome. For full details about this call please follow this link [SASA Sixth Annual Conference](#). The deadline for submissions is **February 15, 2012**.

CALL FOR PAPERS - GANDHI IN A CANADIAN CONTEXT: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

In May of 2012, at the forthcoming **Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities**, the **Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR)** has generously sponsored a special conference on the interface of Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948) with Canada. Papers will ideally be no longer than 20 pages (5000 words) and presentations will be approximately 25 minutes long. Please submit 150-word abstract to Alex Damm adammm@wlu.ca at the University of Wilfrid Laurier in Waterloo. The deadline for submission of abstracts is December 1, 2011. For full details please follow this link [Gandhi in Canadian Context](#).

ANNOUNCEMENT - CARLETON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS KANTA MARWAH RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARD

On September 24, 2011 distinguished research professor and professor emeritus of economics **Dr. Kanta Marwah** was recognized at **Annual Gala of the Indo-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber (ICOBC)** and was given an “**Award of Recognition for Enhancing the Image of Indo-Canadians**.” Dr. Marwah's service as an academic has gone beyond the call of duty. She has generously set up numerous scholarships and awards at her own institution. Most recently, in 2010, she has pledged substantial support for the Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy. Dr. Marwah's philanthropic outlook however extends beyond her own institution. Among other generous contributions, she has also sponsored a lecture series with Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute for the next several years to take place annually and alternately in India and Canada.



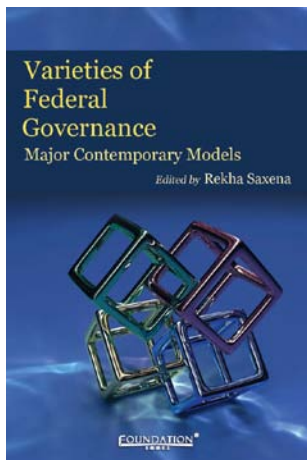
DIWALI PICTURE POSTAGE STAMP BY CANADA POST

On September 12th, Canada Post launched two Picture Postage™ Diwali stamps in preparation for next month's celebrations. These stamps will provide the perfect finishing touch when sending Diwali greetings to friends and family across Canada.

One stamp features three candles (or diyas), with Diwali written in Sanskrit. The second stamp features a lotus flower - a symbol of peace and creativity - and the words "Happy Diwali" in English and French. Canada Post worked with the **High Commission of India in Ottawa** to finalize the stamp designs.

These special stamps are available in a sheet of 21 self-adhesive stamps that also includes a larger image of the stamp as a souvenir. Price of each sheet is \$17.90 and each stamp is good for mailing anywhere in Canada.

For details on how where to purchase these stamps, or how to turn your own photos into Diwali stamps and postcards, visit www.canadapost.ca/diwali.



BOOK RELEASE VARIETIES OF FEDERAL GOVERNANCE: MAJOR CONTEMPORARY MODELS

Dr. Rekha Saxena, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi and a Shastri fellow, is the editor of the recently released book 'Varieties of Federal Governance: Major Contemporary Models' a festschrift to Prof M.P.Singh. The book was released on 22 September 2011 at the University Guest House, University of Delhi.

Dr. Saxena remarked that federalism is becoming a popular idea in the discourse on Government and Governance, next to the idea of Globalization and Democracy and this book attempts to highlight the major contemporary models in federal governance in the world today.

The program was organised by **NGO Respect India** and its President, Mr. Manish Kr. Chaudhury thanked the audience for their over-whelming presence. Academic discussions flowed on during the high-tea which followed post the release of the book.

FEATURED MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of Faser Valley, Abbotsford
CICS REPORT

SICI NEWS

A Newsletter from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

Inquiries/Comments/Suggestions/Contributions please contact:

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Please send submissions for **January 2012 Newsletter** by **December 19, 2011** to melghahu@ucalgary.ca