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FROM
THE DESK
OF THE
PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you all on behalf of ninety-two members of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, its staff and affiliates. Since our last newsletter many important developments have taken place that we can all be proud of. I will highlight some of the key developments and events that have supported and enriched the intellectual and cultural experiences at our member institutions and their collaborators. The prestigious **Shastri Lester Pearson Memorial Lecture** was delivered on January 19 at the S.P. Jain Centre of Delhi University by **Dr. David Malone, President of the International Development Research Council of Canada**. Dr. Malone is distinguished diplomat and celebrated Canadian intellectual who has published widely on many important contemporary issues including Indian Foreign Policy.

The Shastri **French Canada Engaging India Conference** held at the University of Montreal on December 8-9, 2012 was the first event of its kind, bringing together the representatives of the Quebec Universities, the Quebec government, faculty and students to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities of engaging youth from the French-Canadian universities in Canada-India education collaborations.

Engaging Canada in India 2011-2012, a new Shastri program in partnership with the Canadian High Commission to India has become an important platform on which universities, business, and NGOs come together under the Shastri mandate of the promotion of Canada-India bilateral relations and cooperation. The Engaging Canada events held at the Pondicherry University on December 1, 2011 and at Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta on Dec 2-3, 2011, co-organized with support of Jadavpur University and Calcutta University respectively, were very well attended. Scholarly presentations at these events have been of high academic calibre and will have a long term impact on our Indian colleagues' contributions to research and scholarly collaborations, as well as policy directions in Canada and India.

Shastri also organized the **Alberta-Maharashtra Roundtable** in Mumbai on November 17-18, 2011. This event was a grand success involving significant collaborative work with government agencies, academic institutions, business, and NGOs. The MOU signed by the governments of Alberta and Maharashtra is a milestone that articulates the parameters of important future collaborations at the provincial level, building on the Education and Cultural cooperation MOUs signed by the Governments of Canada and India. Shastri is proud to have facilitated this important Alberta initiative.

Our Institute is proud and delighted to have supported **The Year of India in Canada 2011**. From September to November of last year we helped organize events involving a delegation of eminent contemporary Indian Writers visiting our member institutions in Ontario and British Columbia, Film Festivals held at many member institutions across the country, and a culminating grand event featuring vibrant and spectacular performances by one of India's biggest folk singers and performers today, **Ila Arun** and her troupe of 39 performers.

The Shastri President along with our bi-national team of Executive Council Members continues to engage in advocacy and outreach for Shastri's unique niche in the Canada-India Education corridor. In India, our dialogues with the Ministry of Human Resources, the Canadian High Commission, University Grants Commission, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries, and Vice Chancellors, faculty and students of several of our Indian Member Institutions has been very fruitful and mutually beneficial. On the Canada side, we continue our dialogue with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Provincial governments, as well as the Presidents, members of senior administration, faculty, and students of our Member Institutions.

These and many other outreach activities undertaken by your bi-national team have been possible through the active strong support of our members, friends and advocates. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the invaluable counsel, help and support we have received from many of you, as it has always been, and will continue to be, our source of inspiration, creativity and strength.

IDRC PRESIDENT DELIVERS SHASTRI LESTER PEARSON MEMORIAL LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

The lecture entitled “**Indian Foreign Policy: An outsider perspective (with reference to Canada)**” was this year’s **Shastri Lester Pearson Memorial Lecture**, which Shastri was honoured to have delivered by **Dr. David Malone, President of the International Development Research Center (IDRC)**. The lecture took place at the S.P. Jain Centre at University of Delhi on January 19th.

In his lecture, Dr. Malone gave an overview of the evolution of India’s domestic politics and foreign policy and discussed various domestic, regional and global security challenges relevant to India today. Dr. Malone spoke about India’s journey from the British Raj period to the present day, describing India’s transition to its current position as a key player in the global “high table of influence”. Dr. Malone provided an example of bi-lateral collaborative work in the field of foreign policy between Canada and India, where in the finance ministries of both countries “worked closely on two of the most technical papers that have driven G-20 work.” Dr. Malone traced throughout his lecture changing relationship between Canada and India focusing on “history, geography, and capability” as the three elements that shape a country’s foreign policy. He discussed the different areas of opportunity for investment and collaboration between Canada and India, higher education being one of them, and some of the challenges and misconceptions that have somewhat hindered growth in these areas. The lecture was well attended by over 120 people. Dr. Malone expressed his happiness to see so many students in the audience and welcomed their questions and comments.

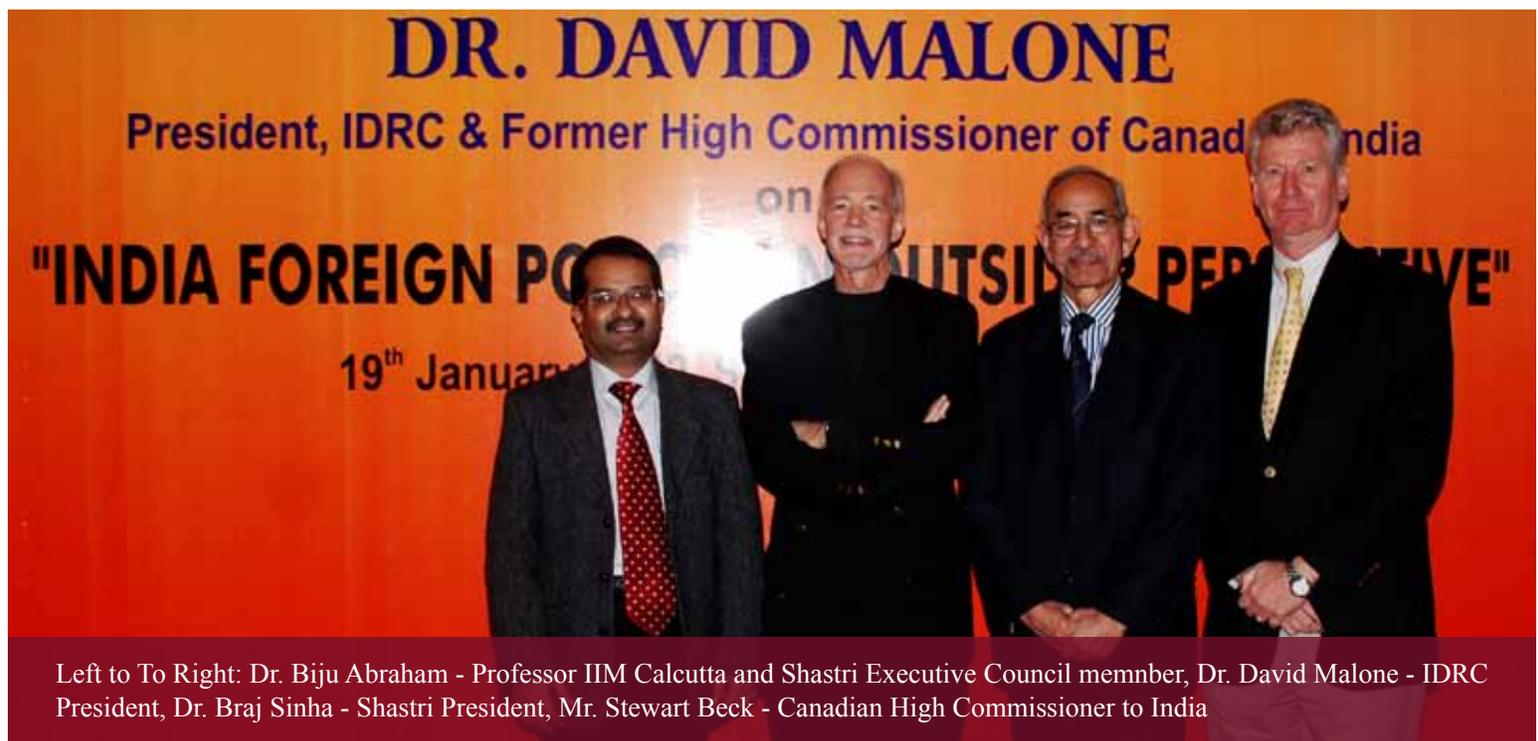
His Excellency Mr. Stewart Beck, Canada’s High Commissioner to India was present and further emphasized the need for the transformation of diplomacy to focus on economic development and the building of commercial relations as the key to prosperity in any bi-lateral relationship. Mr. Beck also described

the Shastri-Indo Canadian Institute as “a fundamental pillar in the bi-lateral relationship between our countries”. Dr. Braj Sinha, Shastri President, in his welcoming address articulated the importance of the education and culture as the twin principles of “soft power” in diplomacy that must be seen as integral to “hard power” of economy and security governing diplomatic relationships between countries. He outlined the role played by the Shastri Institute in fostering and nurturing the Canada-India relationship.

The Shastri Lester Pearson Memorial Lecture was launched in 2006 in Delhi. For the past five years the Shastri Lester Pearson Memorial Lectures have taken place in Canada. It was a great honour for the Institute to have this year’s lecture delivered in India by one of the most distinguished Canadian academics and diplomats of our time.

Mr. David Malone joined the Department of External Affairs in 1975 and served in increasingly senior positions in Ottawa, Cairo, Amman and New York. He was also Canada’s High Commissioner to India and non-resident Ambassador to Bhutan and Nepal from 2006-2008. From 1998 to 2004, he was President of the International Peace Academy in New York, an independent non-profit research organization. He has taught at a number of universities in Canada, France and the United States and has published numerous books and articles on international relations. His latest book on contemporary Indian foreign policy [Does the Elephant Dance? Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy](#), has been recently released by the Oxford Press.

[Watch full lecture](#)



Left to To Right: Dr. Biju Abraham - Professor IIM Calcutta and Shastri Executive Council member, Dr. David Malone - IDRC President, Dr. Braj Sinha - Shastri President, Mr. Stewart Beck - Canadian High Commissioner to India

SHASTRI FACILITATES CLOSER TIES FOR ALBERTA AND MAHARASHTRA



Left to Right: Dr. Braj Sinha - Shastri President, Mr. Mel Wong - Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Technology Industries Division, Advanced Education and Technology; Delegation Chair, Mr. Dattarya Savant - Minister of State, State of Maharashtra and Dr. Ranbir Singh, Shastri Vice-president

It was Shastri's great privilege and pleasure to co-organize and facilitate the highly successful Alberta-Maharashtra Roundtable held on November 17th and 18th in Mumbai under the guidance of the Alberta Government's Advanced Education & Technology Department (AET). The highlight of the Roundtable was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Alberta Advanced Education & Technology and the Government of Maharashtra.

This roundtable brought together government delegates as well as representatives of higher education and industry from the province of Alberta and state of Maharashtra who met to identify mutual areas of interest and co-operation. The Alberta Delegation, led by Assistant Deputy Minister Mel Wong, was comprised of 14 delegates. The Roundtable took place over the course of two days, the first of which witnessed presentations from both governments, as well as Clean Water and Alternative Energy experts.

Shastri President, Dr. Braj Sinha inaugurated the Roundtable with a welcome speech and introduced the dignitaries. In his welcome address, Dr. Sinha hailed the roundtable and MoU signing as a significant milestone in the Canada-India collaborative relationship. He extolled the Alberta and Maharashtra Governments for pursuing the vision and commitment of the Canada-India Education MoU announced last year by the Prime Ministers Stephen Harper and Manmohan Singh.

Shastri Vice-President, Dr. Ranbir Singh, facilitated the expert presentation and plenary sessions. On the second day of the Roundtable delegates were hosted at institutions of Higher Education as well as economic and business organizations.

The MoU was formalized by Assistant Deputy Minister for Alberta Advanced Education & Technology, Mr. Mel Wong and the Honorable Dattarya Savant, Minister of State for Medical Education, Higher and Technical Education, Non-Conventional Energy and Special Assistance Programme. The MoU marks the beginning of a closer working relationship between Alberta and Maharashtra in the fields of higher and post-secondary education, research and commercialization.

For more information on the details of the Roundtable program and its attendees please see:

[Alberta-Maharashtra Roundtable Program](#)

MEMORIAL NOTE FOR FORMER SHASTRI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MR. RICK BUTLER

It is with heavy heart and a sense of immense grief that we acknowledge the untimely death of Mr. Rick Butler, the immediate past Executive Director of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. On December 26th Mr. Butler had a skiing accident and passed away after succumbing to his injuries on Tuesday December 27th.

Mr. Butler had served the Institute with a tremendous sense of commitment and great dedication during his short stay with us from June to December 2010. Prior to that, Mr. Butler had been assistant deputy minister in the Yukon, and for eight years was executive director of the Calgary Regional Partnership. There he worked with urban and rural governments to craft the Calgary Metropolitan Plan, a 70-year regional blueprint that aimed to preserve farm land and watersheds amid development growth, and to link the towns with buses and commuter trains. He was elected the councillor of the Rocky View County in October 2010, and was elevated to the post of the Deputy Reeve (Mayor) of the Rocky View County.

Mr. Butler was a man of grace and compassion who provided the Institute with great leadership in developing its Strategic Direction Document and providing impetus for heralding in a new era of electronic governance and web presence. He was deeply respected and dearly loved by his co-workers. His cheerful demeanor and gracious presence were always comforting and inspiring.

Mr. Butler's funeral took place on January 4th in Calgary and Shastri family was present to pay their condolences to his loving family and friends. Mr. Rick Butler will forever be lovingly remembered by the Shastri family not only for his immense contribution to our institute, but also for having touch each and every one of our lives with his wisdom, passion and grace. He will indeed be immensely missed.



FRENCH CANADA: ENGAGING INDIA CONFERENCE - GETTING INVOLVED IN INDIA IN FRENCH WITH THE YOUTH!

“Getting involved in India in French with the Youth!” took place on December 8 & 9 at the University of Montreal as part of the Shastri Engaging India Series. The regional conference was a great success due to the enthusiasm and participation of all its attendees. The conference was both an enriching and gratifying event.

Many participants expressed that young Quebecers represent the future of Québec-India relations particularly with regards to the French language. French is not an obstacle to universalization, but an added value. Considering the wide use of the language in numerous countries around the world today, the knowledge of this language is more important than ever. Learning French is now on the agenda of various countries and has become a key necessity to economic and social success.

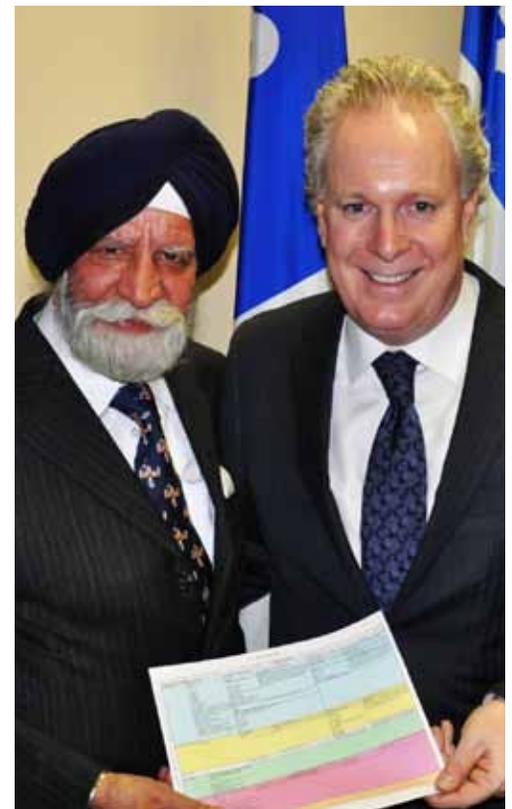
This reality is particularly significant for India as in the past decades it has become a significant player in the world economy. It is therefore essential to establish links and reinforce the bilateral partnerships between India and Québec.

The conference emphasized the importance of the work Shastri does serving as an intermediary between India and Québec. Shastri’s role is essential to the introduction and support of youth in the process of globalization, while emphasizing the importance of the French language in international affairs.



French Canada: Engaging India Conference
“Getting involved in India in French with the Youth!”

Collaborations between Quebec and India in higher education have without a doubt flourished over the past 5 years. A former member of the Shastri executive council and a great Shastri advocate, **Professor Emeritus Dr. Balbir Sahni from Concordia University** presented **Premier Jean Charest** with details of **49 memoranda of understanding (MoUs)** that took place between Québec and Indian universities since the premier’s first official delegation to India in 2006. This mission took place after a presentation delivered by Dr. Sahni in 2005 to all concerned ministries (represented by 45 civil servants) entitled **“Quebec-India Relations: In Pursuit of the ‘Tipping Point’”**. The purpose of this presentation was to provide the ministries with information with which to make sound recommendations for an effective approach to the Premier’s upcoming mission. Dr. Sahni had the opportunity to present Premier Charest with the exciting details of these MoUs on December 19, 2011 at a meeting intended to recognize the achievements of 11 Indo-Canadian community members who had been featured in India Abroad’s The Power List. Among these achievers were Shastri alumni and family members **Dr. Ratna Ghosh from McGill University** and **Dr. Rama Singh from McMaster University**. Premier Charest indicated that he is “very enthusiastic about the opportunities and about the relationship between India and Quebec, especially for our universities and learning institutions.”



Left to Right: Professor Emeritus Dr. Balbir Sahni from Concordia University presents Premier Jean Charest with details of 49 memoranda of understanding (MoUs)



Dr. Bilkis Vissandjee, Professor at the University of Montreal and head conference organizer

SHASTRI ENGAGES CANADA IN INDIA – EVENTS AT SHASTRI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS



Dr. Braj Sinha - Shastri President delivers keynote address at Engaging Canada event in Pondicherry

As part the **Engaging Canada** series being organized by Shastri in collaboration with the Canadian High Commission, New Delhi, the first of the two Engaging Canada events took place at **Pondicherry University on December 1st, 2011**. The event was geared towards student researchers and faculty members. The program was informative and very inspirational, provoking lively discussion and inquiry.

The program was inaugurated by Prof. T. S. Naidu, Director of Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at Pondicherry University, as he welcomed all dignitaries and participants in attendance. Prof. D. Sambanthan, Dean School of Social Sciences and International Studies at Pondicherry University, delivered the presidential address, in which he discussed the historical relationship between India and Canada both socially and politically. He encouraged the engagement of young researchers in India-Canada social development work.

Shastri President, Dr. Braj Sinha, delivered the keynote address. He also called out to the youth describing the importance of new research in the areas of humanities and social sciences in Canada. Ms. Subha Sundararajan, Trade Commissioner at the Consulate of Canada, discussed trade and commerce between India and Canada as well as the role of the Canadian Consulate.

Mr. Chanchal Sinha, Director of Shastri Indo Canadian Institute, New Delhi concluded the presentations by providing an overview of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and the grant programs and opportunities available to young researchers and faculty members.

The second Engaging Canada event was organized by Shastri in association with the **University of Calcutta, Jadavpur University and the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta**. This event was a two-day conference which took place on December 3rd and 4th, 2011 at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. The conference entitled **“Engaging Canada: A Multidisciplinary Conference”** brought together scholars from universities, business schools, social science and science & technology research institutions, as well as executives from firms and officials from trade organizations to discuss research work and linkages that have significance for India-Canada research collaborations.

The inaugural session was kicked off with a welcome speech by the head conference organizer Professor Biju Paul Abraham of IIM Calcutta, and Member-at-Large of the Shastri Executive Council. He expressed his hope that the conference would lead to more productive research partnerships between Indian and Canadian Institutions. In his inaugural address, Professor Sougata Ray, Acting Director of IIM Calcutta, stressed the need for institutions from the two countries to work collaboratively given the increasing trade and investment links. Shastri President, Dr. Braj Sinha, informed delegates in his presidential address that this has been a significant year for Shastri, in light of the ‘Engaging India’ and ‘Engaging Canada’ series taking place in Canada and India, and the Education Summit that took place in June 2011 and welcomed a delegation of 21 Indian Vice-Chancellors and the Chairman of the Indian University Grants Commission to Canada for discussions with their Canadian counterparts, which laid the foundations for greater faculty and student mobility between the two countries. He stressed the need for institutions in the two countries to create knowledge-partnerships for

production, presentation and creative dissemination of knowledge.

Among the speakers at the conference was Mr. Simon Cridland, Head of the Advocacy Programme at the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi. He discussed the increasing interest among universities and business schools in India and Canada for greater cooperation. He indicated that new India-studies centers had been set up in Canadian universities, and Canadian Universities and Business Schools were in the process of setting up campuses in India with Indian partners. He identified food security and energy as two areas where the two countries could collaborate. Indian universities could also collaborate in the development of skill-based training courses with Canadian Universities. Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Director of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, thanked the invitees and delegates for their participation in the Conference.

Papers were presented at six sessions of the Conference over two days. The sessions were on Energy & Environment, Multiculturalism & Literature, Multiculturalism & Governance, Environment and Indigenous Medicine, India-Canada Trade Relations, and on Diaspora Studies. A panel discussion on ‘India-Canada Trade’ was held on December 4th, 2011. On the evening on December 3rd, 2011 a Canadian Music group, **‘The Monsoon Trio’** comprising of band-members Jonathan Kay, Andrew Kay and Justin Grey, played Ancient Indian Raga music on modern western instruments, accompanied by the Tabla player Shri. Subhajyoti Guha. The three members of the Monsoon Trio band are Shastri grant recipients currently based in India and studying with their Indian Guru, Shri. Shantanu Bhattacharya.



Dr. Biju Abraham - Professor at IIM Calcutta and Shastri Executive Council Member delivers welcome address at the Engaging Canada Conference in Calcutta

YEAR OF INDIA IN CANADA 2011 WRAPS UP



ILA ARUN TAKES CANADA BY STORM

The magnificent **Year of India in Canada** celebrations came to a close not with a bang, but with a **storm**. “**A Musical Sandstorm**” that is; an overwhelming onslaught of movement, colour, and melody of folk music from the desert state of Rajasthan delivered by Indian performing folk diva **Ila Arun**, together with her daughter **Ishita Arun** and troupe of 39. Ila Arun is one of the biggest musical names in India and is also an actress, playwright, poet and lyricist. Ila who is from the Rajasthan district in northwest India, started off as a folk dancer and singer. Her first recording in 1986, *Banjaran*, was a huge success. More albums followed, but it was with the song *Morni* from the film *Lamhe* that made her a household name. Her performance style is described as mysterious, earthy, and vibrant. She likes to dramatize her songs to give her audience a sense of the different aspects of her country, its moods and seasons, fairs and festivals, monsoons, deserts, palace life and gypsy life.



The popular and renowned Bollywood singer lit up the stage and sang and danced her way right into the hearts of the audiences in Ottawa, Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg at performances hosted by Shastri member institutions such as Carleton University, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan and University of Manitoba in partnership with community associations and affiliates during the final days of the month of October. The high-energy performances in vibrant costumes included favourites such as *Nimbooda*, *Morni Baagha Ma*, *Assi Kali ka Lehnga*, *Bichuda*, *Resham ka Rumaal*, and *Resham ka hai Kurta*, as well as several Bollywood pop-culture hits including the iconic “*Choli ke Peeche*” and songs from *Luck by Chance*, *Dabangg* and *Patiala House*.

While in Canada Ila Arun was interviewed by *Masala Canada* on *Radio Canada International* where she expressed her enthusiasm and appreciation for the Canadian audience.

[Ila Arun Radio Interview October 29th, 2011](#)

INDIAN FILM FESTIVALS

The last of the Indian Film Festivals took place in Calgary and were organized by Shastri in partnership with University of Calgary, Mount Royal University and Hidden Gems Film Festival of Calgary. Screenings of five films took place in the months of September and November. Screenings were well attended and appreciated by members of the community.



It has been an immense pleasure for the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to have the opportunity to share the Year of India in Canada Celebrations with its membership and friends. For more information on the Year of India in Canada 2011 please visit website of the Indian High Commission to Canada at www.hciottawa.ca.

INDIAN WRITERS DELEGATION VISIT OTTAWA AND VANCOUVER

As part of the Year of India in Canada 2011 celebrations sponsored by the High Commission of India to Canada, a delegation of India writers from the Sahitya Akademi of Letter of India visited Ottawa and Vancouver to participate in several major literary events taking place at Shastri member institutions.

The authors were hosted in Ottawa by Carleton University on October 24th and 25th where they examined promoting regional languages literature and held a poetry reading session, as well as explored the challenges of a multilingual culture and discussed contemporary Indian literature written in languages such as Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi and Urdu.

On October 27th and 28th the writers were hosted in the Vancouver area in partnership with University of British Columbia, University of the Fraser Valley, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

Delegates participating in these events are as follows:

Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi (Hindi poet and critic)
Agrahara Krishna Murthy, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi (Kannada poet)
Sheen Kaaf Nizam (Urdu poet)
Chandrasekhar Kambar (Kannada writer)
Surjit Patar (Punjabi poet)
A. Sethumadhavan (Malayalam writer)
Prabodh Parikh (Gujarati poet and critic)
Tarannum Riyaz (Urdu poet)
Sebanti Ghosh (Bengali writer)
Robin S. Ngangom (English poet from North East)
Govind Mishra (Hindi writer)
Kruthiventi Sreenivasarao, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi

The delegates delivered literary workshops at the University of British Columbia on Thursday, October 27th. On Friday October 28th the delegation delivered talks and read from their works at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

For bio information about the writers and program details please see the [Indian Writers' Festival Complete Program](#).



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT) RAJASTHAN



Left to Right: Drs. Jin Jiang (Professor, Electrical Engineering, Western), George Nakhla (Professor, Civil and Chemical Engineering, Western), Tarlochan Sidhu (Department Chair, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Western), Mohan Mathur (Professor Emeritus and Special Advisor to the Vice-President Research & International Relations, Western), Prem Kalra (Director, IIT-Rajasthan), and Andrew Hrymak (Dean, Western Engineering).

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Rajasthan and The University of Western Ontario share common areas of interest in education and research. In the summer of 2010, Western signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with IIT Rajasthan for educational and scientific cooperation. Building on the momentum of the signed MoU, representatives from the **Faculty of Engineering** at Western travelled to India in February 2011 to participate in a partnership workshop of discovery.

“The visit and workshop was the next step in establishing a strong partnership with IIT Rajasthan,” says Mohan Mathur, professor emeritus and special advisor to the Vice President Research & International Relations at Western. “Our vision is to establish a mutually beneficial, in-depth partnership between Western and IIT Rajasthan to enrich the experience of students, researchers, and faculty members of the two institutions, through frequent exchanges.” **Western Engineering Dean Andrew Hrymak** led a team of engineering faculty members including Jin Jiang, George Nakhla, Tarlochan Sidhu and Mohan Mathur to India for the workshop. The group met with faculty members and industry supporters of IIT Rajasthan to discuss collaborative research and development through Centres of Excellence focusing on themes of energy, water and biomedical engineering. “The partnership workshop was a strategic planning session to set directions for activities and plans for the future development of IIT Rajasthan, and in return showcase our expectations, strengths, best practices and future plans for partnering with Western,” explains Mathur.

To help further support the partnership, Dean Hrymak in partnership with IIT Director Prem

Kalra received funding from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Partnership Development Seed Grant, valued at \$15,000, to support the research project, Building a partnership of excellence between The University of Western Ontario, Canada and the Indian Institute of Technology Rajasthan, India.

The strategic plans set in February, in collaboration with the funding from Shastri-Indo Canadian Institute, allowed Western Engineering the opportunity to host three students from IIT Rajasthan during the summer months, and a group of IIT Rajasthan faculty members in July 2011. “We were honoured to welcome back our friends from IIT Rajasthan this past summer,” says Mathur. “We toured areas with shared interest and expertise such as the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory and Wind Engineering (WindEEE) Dome, Control and Instrumentation Laboratory, Smart Grid Laboratory, Institute for Chemicals and Fuels from Alternative Resources and Canadian Surgical Technologies and Advanced Robotics.”

Mathur notes the visit was a significant second step in building the relationship between the two institutions. “There is a significant alignment in the vision of the two schools,” says Mathur. Next steps include advertising student internships through MITACS, and securing faculty exchanges for opportunities such as regular undergraduate teaching, special courses in the winter and summer terms, and research collaborations through co-supervision of students.

“This is an exciting and historic opportunity for Western Engineering,” says Hrymak. “We look forward to further developing this relationship with IIT.”

CARLETON SIGNS COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS WITH INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

Carleton signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with two Indian universities, marking the growing and progressive relationship between Canada and India. Kim Matheson, vice president (Research and International), was on hand in New Delhi to sign the document on Carleton’s behalf.

As part of the MoUs, Carleton will collaborate with the **Teri Energy and Resources University** and **Symbiosis International University** on fostering the exchange of undergraduate and graduate students. The agreements will also provide opportunities to combine expertise and real-world experience in the areas of technology management, alternative energy, economics, public policy and engineering.

“Canada and India can learn much from each other as we progress together in a globalized world,” said Dr. Roseann O’Reilly Runte, Carleton’s president and vice-chancellor. “Students in both countries stand to benefit as they gain research and study experiences.” The signature on the agreement was witnessed by **International Trade Minister The Honourable Ed Fast** during a seven-day federal trade mission to India which began on November 3rd, 2011.



Left to Right: Dr. Jacques Shore - Chair, The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, and Partner, Gowlings; Mr. Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway; Dr. Rajiv Seth, Registrar and Professor, Department of Policy Studies, TERI Energy and Resources University

19TH ANNUAL GANDHI PEACE FESTIVAL - MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

McMaster University, Centre for Peace Studies and India-Canada Society of Hamilton and Region celebrated Mahatma Gandhi's 142nd birthday on October 1st in Hamilton at the co-sponsored 19th Annual Gandhi Peace Festival. Around 350 people were in attendance to pay homage to Gandhi and raise their voices and banners for the festival theme "No to Fear; Yes to Peace", while enjoying several cultural activities in the Council Chambers of Hamilton City Hall. The Peace Festival was followed by two other events taking place on October 2nd; the unveiling of Gandhi's statue at McMaster University, and the Gandhi Lecture on Non-Violence by Prof. Richard Falk sponsored by the Centre for Peace Studies at McMaster University.

The peace festival was started in 1993, a year before the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Gandhi's birthday and it has been held annually on a weekend closest to Gandhi's October 2nd birthday.

The peace festival is supported by a large number of peace, human rights and cultural organizations from the local community. For more information on the details of the 19th annual festival and its purpose and outcome please see the festival report and booklet.

[19th Annual Gandhi Peace Festival Report Living Gandhi Today \(Booklet\)](#)

OTHER MCMASTER UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

Professor Swaminathan visited McMaster University in June 2011 and received an honorary degree from the Faculty of Science during the Millennium Goals Conference. The program booklet of this conference contains articles on world food problem, and Mahila Shanti Sena, the women's peace organization that we started in India. This publication is shared by Dr. Rama Singh, professor at McMaster University.

[Millennium Goals Conference Program Booklet](#)

OCAD UNIVERSITY ONLINE COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN, AHMEDABAD



Left to Right: Chinar Shah - Student, NID in Ahmedabad; Joanna Glezakos and Patricia Lawson - Students, OCAD University taking part in COLLECTIVE BODY 2011

OCAD University Professor Peter Sramek, Chair of Photography in the Faculty of Art, employs innovative social networking techniques to connect his students into international collaborations with other programs in contemporary fine art photography. The **International Art Collaborations initiative (INTAC)** has recently expanded its scope and joined up with the **National Institute of Design (NID)** in Ahmedabad and four other universities for a 6-week project called **Collective Body 2011**, which will result in nearly 20 art collaborations by over 80 students from 5 continents. At NID, the recently established **Masters in Photography Design** is headed-up by Dr. Deepak John Mathew.

OCAD University's participation in Collective Body 2011 stems from Sramek's invitation by Indo-Canadian photographer Sunil Gupta to attend a 2-day colloquium focused on Indian photography held in New York at the International Center for Photography.

Representatives of the Indian photography communities included Deepak Mathew from NID, Radhika Singh, long-time photography curator in New Delhi, and Mridul Batra, co-founder of Lucida, an emerging photography collective in New Delhi. Lucida sponsors exhibitions and publishes PIX, a quarterly journal of Indian photography. Their involvement with recording the history of photographic activity in India was highlighted along with the current boom in fine art photography, primarily centred in Delhi. Sunil Gupta spoke as a senior voice in the art community from his experience of emigrating from India as a

boy, growing up in Montreal, maturing as an artist in the United Kingdom and now returning to live in Delhi. Sramek discussed his work with students as a curator/facilitator in developing INTAC. Other artists and curators participated with presentations.

For the past 3 years, NID students have been part of an annual project called Collective Body which includes **Leeds Metropolitan University** and the **University of Creative Arts, Farnham** in the United Kingdom as well as the **Universidade Federal Minas Gerais** in Brazil. During the meetings in New York, INTAC was invited to join in and this year the students from OCAD University and **Tampere University of Applied Sciences** (Finland) are participating.

The process for participation is very student driven. They post profiles of images and interests, contact each other, form groups around a project idea, carry it out over a few weeks and post it online. In the end, each stage will be publicly viewable through the [Collective Body website](#). NID's participation over the past 3 years is already well documented here and once this year's project is complete, OCAD University's involvement will also be viewable.

A second outcome of the UK-Ahmedabad sponsored meetings in New York has been Peter Sramek's imminent travel to NID in January 2012 to teach photography and publication workshops during NID's annual Open Elective session this year with a focus on the theme of **A Sustainable India**. Sramek's participation builds on OCAD University's developing partnership with the National Institute of Design.

CELEBRATING MANITOBA-INDIA COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION - AN ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

The “Celebrating Manitoba-India Cooperation in Higher Education: Academic Symposium” which took place on October 29th, 2011 welcomed His Excellency Mr. Shashishekhar M. Gavai, High Commissioner of India to Canada. The day-long conference was held in the University of Manitoba’s Engineering, Information and Technology Complex. In his Keynote Address, Gavai spoke about the rapid and growing collaboration between the two countries, India and Canada, specifically highlighting the University of Manitoba’s agricultural collaborations.

November 9th, 2011 marked one year since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries of India (MoFPI) to train IICPT staff and students at the University of Manitoba, as well as to exchange faculty members between the two organizations for long-term research into better crop storage and processing systems in India. The event agenda also included four panel discussions on a variety of topics ranging from “key issues in Manitoba-India partnerships” to “best practices in partnerships in health sciences.”

“Our hope is that a year or two from now, we will look back on this forum and see that the outcomes of our discussions are being realized all around us,” says University of Manitoba’s Vice-President (Research and International), Dr. Digvir Jayas. The symposium presented the university with the opportunity to share, with its Indian partners, collaborative research in other areas that is currently being done in India by university faculty members.

The Centre for Global Public Health (CGPH) presented “Chowdike,” an eight minute video that tells the story of the traditional sex workers in Karnataka. These women, known in India as Devdasis, use music to share their message of safe sex practices to reduce the spread of the HIV virus. “For the Winnipeg audience, this video illustrates how one can use traditional talents to share a message and spreading the word of HIV/AIDS,” said Dr. Shiva S. Halli, professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, in the university’s Faculty of Medicine. “There are very powerful messages in some of the songs. It’s like peer education between Devdasis and it’s been found to be much more effective than us going out and talking to them. Coming from someone similar

to them, the message resonates.”

Halli has been instrumental in mobilizing the CGPH’s HIV/AIDS research in Karnataka, his birth land. The team at the CPGH, led by Drs. James Blanchard and Stephen Moses, were key in obtaining much needed funding from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to fight HIV/AIDS in the region. In addition to talks of research collaboration and exchanges between the university and its Indian partners, event organizers enlisted the talents of the university’s Indian Students’ Association (ISA).

A group of ten ISA members took part in a comedic skit that revolves around three students who have come from India, bringing to light some of the cultural and academic difficulties they are facing and how the university helps such students. The event, which wrapped on the eve of Halloween, was a great success. “This forum marks the coming together of the University of Manitoba and our partners in India, to discuss where we were, where we are and where we want to go,” says Jayas. “And that’s what I am most excited about, the future.”

As a kick-off event, the day before the conference, Ila Arun and her troupe of 39 performed for the first time in Winnipeg. Held at the McPhillips Street Station Casino, the audience was treated to over two hours of singing, dancing, and instrumentals. Ila Arun was joined on stage by her daughter Ishita Arun. Ila jokingly tells the crowd, “This is our first time performing together on stage...in a casino!”

Symposium Program
India Agreements with University of Manitoba



Members of Ila Arun’s troupe of 39 perform an exhilarating Bollywood dance number that has the audience dancing in their seats

A TALE OF TWO BANGALORES: COMPETING DISCOURSES OF GLOBALIZATION

As part of the Urban Studies Seminar Series coordinated by the, Department of Geography and School of Urban Planning at McGill University, Dr. Kalpana Gopalan, Indian Administrative Service, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management of Bangalore delivered a seminar entitled



Dr. Kalpana Gopalan - Doctoral Candidate at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; Indian Administrative Service at Government of Karnataka

A Tale of Two Bangalores: Competing Discourses of Globalization on November 18th, 2011.

Dr. Kalpana Gopalan is an officer in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), India’s permanent civil service. She is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Public Policy in the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and is a Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Visiting Fellow in the School of Urban Planning at McGill University. In delivering her seminar, Kalpana drew on her experience of over two decades as a policy-maker and as an officer of the Indian Administrative Service, in Urban Development, Local Self-Government, Land Management, Education and Power. For more information about this seminar and how to attend please contact Dr. Madhav Badami at madhav.badami@mcgill.ca.



COMPETITIONS CURRENTLY OPEN

| Currently Open Competition | Application Submission Deadline |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Canadian Membership Development Fund 2011-2012 | Ongoing |
| Canadian Studies Programme Development Grant | Deadline February 15, 2012 |
| Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant (STSG) | Deadline March 1, 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:

INDIA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS 2012-2013

In the past quarter the Institute has awarded India Studies Fellowships to the following recipients:

| Name | Category of Fellowships | Project Topic |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Anjali Patil | Arts | Training and Mentorship with Padmabhushan Guru Kumudini Lakhia |
| Rex Van Der Spuy | Arts | Sitar Study and Composition |
| Pamela Duns | Language Training | Training in Colloquial and Modern Tibetan Language |
| Karl Bouthillette | Graduate Student Degree | M.A. in Sanskrit Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, for July 2012 to June 2013 |
| Abdallah Elsayed | Doctoral Student Research | Development of Grain Refiners for Magnesium Alloys to Reduce Vehicle Weight in Automotive Applications |
| David Huxtable | Doctoral Student Research | Trade Unions within or alongside civil society? An Indian case study |
| Dereck Elliott | Doctoral Student Research | Torture and Revenue in Extraction in Company Administered India, c. 1800 - 1855 |
| Devika Wasson | Doctoral Student Research | Re-Interpreting the Women's Place and Acting Technique in Traditional Dance-Drama in Kerala |
| Harjeet Grewal | Doctoral Student Research | The Early Modern Devotional Text: A Comparative Analysis of the Chishtiya, Qadiriya and Sikh Traditions |
| Isaac Murchie | Doctoral Student Research | Citra Kavya in Sanskrit Literary Culture |
| Karine Gagne | Doctoral Student Research | When the Glaciers are Vanishing: Ecological Upheaval, Environmental Governance and Local Knowledge in the Indian Himalayas |
| Tejwant Chana | Post Doctoral Research | Exploring Understandings of Globalization in Indian Education |
| Ajay Rao | Faculty Research | Spectres of the Past, Voices of the Present: Cultural Memory and the Representation of Religious Conflict |
| Alan Guenther | Faculty Research | Indian Transformation of a Colonial Construct |
| Girish Shah | Faculty Research | The mechanism of anti-diabetic action of an Indian medicinal plant <i>Enicostemma littorale</i> |
| Ravindran Vaithespara | Faculty Research | Beyond Politics of Identity: Recovering the Intellectual History of the Anti-Colonial Left Movement in Tamil Nadu, 1920 - 1968 |
| Sandeep Agrawal | Faculty Research | High density Rural region in India |
| Sunera Thobani | Faculty Research | Engendering Nation: A Comparative Study of Popular and Art Indian Cinema |
| Gordon McQuat | Faculty Training | Translating and Exchanging Science and Technology Studies in modern post-colonial India, with a special emphasis on JBS Haldane |

SHASTRI GRANT RECIPIENTS CONT...

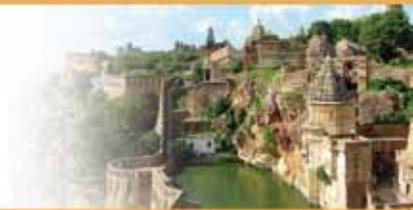
SCHOLAR TRAVEL SUBSIDY GRANT (STSG)

| Name of Scholar | Home Institution | Presentation Topic |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Dr. Suresh Balakrishnan | Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda | Introduction to tropical ecosystem in India |
| Dr. Mitali De | Wilfrid Laurier University | Leveraging Supply Chain Strategy for food security using statistical Methods |
| Prof. Daryn Lehoux | Queen's University | Expectations versus outcomes in ancient theories of generation |
| Dr. Mindy Levin | McGill University | Rehabilitation strategies to improve motor recovery after stroke |
| Dr. Srabani Maitra | York University | You need to recognize our initiatives: "Examining the Lived Experiences of Self-employed South Asian Immigrant Women within Ethnic Enclaves in Toronto" |
| Dr. Prabin Panigrahi | Indian Institute of Management Indore | A service Recovery Model in the Indian context |
| Prof. Hosahalli Ramaswamy | McGill University | Develop and deliver Thermal Processing Workshop (CFTRI, Mysore, Karunya, Coimbatore), present keynote paper at the international Conference on Fermented Foods (CFTRI) |
| Prof. Saba Safdar | Guelph University | Indian Immigrants in Canada: Concerns, Achievements, and Goals |
| Prof. Anand Sharan | Memorial University of Newfoundland | Determination of optimal electrical charge storage system in Off-grid solar illumination systems |
| Dr. Divya Sharma | M.S Baroda | Raising boys, not the same as raising girls: Parenting in the Indian Context |
| Mr. Nishant Upadhyay | Toronto University | Negotiating Urban Immigrant Relationships on Colonized Lands |
| Prof. Ravi Ravindran | Ryerson University | Casting Processes Aluminum and Magnesium Alloys 2) Light Metals Revolutionizing the Automotive Sector |

PRO-DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANT

The Institute has awarded 6 Pro-Development Initiative Grants to the following projects:

| Name of Lead Applicant | Name of Partner | Host Organization in India |
|--|---|--|
| Deborah Buszard Dalhousie University | Kartikya Sarabhai Centre for Environment Education | Empowering youth to take action for sustainable development and food security |
| Rama Singh McMaster University | Hiranmay Dhar V.V Giri Institute | Mahila Shanti Sena(2002-2012):impact assesment of peace and development work with rural women in India |
| Kanchan Sarker University of British Columbia | Sahrit Bhowmik Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai | Livelihood, Food Security and Urban Poverty in India |
| Ajay Agarwal Queen's University | Lalit Kishore Bhati Auroville Sustainability Institute | Developing Environment Friendly Urban Villages: Lessons from Auroville, India |
| Robert Linnen Western Ontario University | William K. Mohanty Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur | Faculty Team Visit to initiate collaboration with Indian on Mining Geology and Environment |
| Nat Kav University of Alberta | M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation | Alternative Reading Week in India |



February 18 & 19, 2012

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "DIPLOMACY, DEFENCE AND DEVELOPMENT: CANADIAN AND INDIAN PERSPECTIVES"

Berhampur University
Berhampur, Orissa

February 25 & 26, 2012

UNDERSTANDING MINORITIES IN INDIA AND CANADA

Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi

March 2, 2012

LET'S TALK ASIA

Four Seasons Hotel
Vancouver, British Columbia

March 8, 2012

THE 2012 TELFER INDIA FORUM - "ESTABLISHING YOUR PRESENCE IN INDIA - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW"

Telfer School of Management
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario

June 3 and 4, 2012

SHASTRI ENGAGING INDIA: SOCIAL AND HUMAN DIMENSION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Venue TBA
Calgary, Alberta

June 5, 2012

SHASTRI CANADIAN COUNCIL MEETING

Venue TBA
Calgary, Alberta

June 16, 2012

SHASTRI INDIAN COUNCIL MEETING

Venue TBA
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

June 17, 2012

SHASTRI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Venue TBA
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

CALL FOR PAPERS

4TH IDSASR INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
THE WATER ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY

Submission of Abstract: May 31, 2012

Submission of Full length paper: July 31, 2011

Event Date: 1st week of November, 2012

Guru Nanak Dev University

Amritsar



Coordinator:

Guru Arjan Dev Institute of Development Studies

Guru Arjan Dev Institute of Development Studies has recognized a clear need for new approaches which address the interconnections within the water, energy and food security nexus. In order to develop these integrated solutions, 4th IDSAsr annual seminar, organized under the auspices of Guru Arjan Dev Institute of Development Studies pursues three objectives:

- To develop policy recommendations based on multi-stakeholder consultations and taking a nexus perspective,
- To position the water, energy and food security nexus perspective as an important dimension within the Green Economy and Green Growth concepts, and
- To launch concrete initiatives to address the water, energy, food security nexus in a coherent and sustainable way.

4th IDSAsr Seminar will focus on the three action fields of sustainable development:

- The social dimension: Accelerating Access, integrating the bottom of the pyramid
- The economic dimension: Creating more with less
- The ecologic dimension: Investing to sustain ecosystem services

The conference will put a nexus lens on the three action fields while focusing on better understanding the inter-linkages between the three securities. Further, the discussions will focus on identifying enabling conditions which facilitate the transition to a greener economy.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS ON CANADA
THINK INDIA QUARTERLY

Think India Quarterly is the journal of ideas published by Vichar Nyas Foundation. From the outset it has received enthusiastic support and encouragement from leading intellectual, artistes, scientists and eminent personalities in public life. Commemorative and special issues of this journal have become collector's item. It has completed 12 stimulating years of regular publication and has carved a niche for itself among discerning readers at home and abroad.

To learn more about contributing to this journal please visit the [Think India website](#) or contact Dr. Rekha Saxena - Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi at rekhasaxenadu@gmail.com.

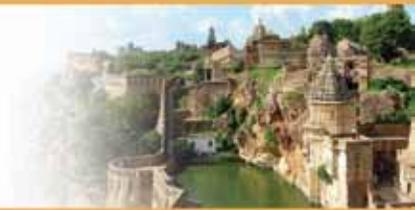


**THINK
INDIA
QUARTERLY**
FOUNDATION FOR IDEA

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CANADIAN STUDIES – OPPORTUNITIES, EVENTS AND PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL D'ÉTUDES CANADIENNES**

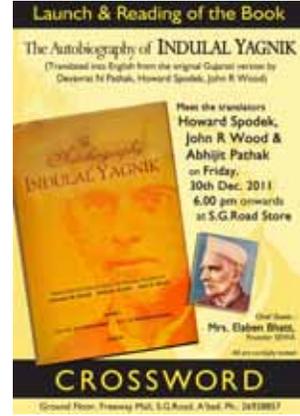


BOOK LAUNCH – THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY INDULAL YAGNIK TRANSLATED BY PROF. DEVARAT PATHAK

On December 30, 2011 in Ahmedabad a book launch took place for **The Autobiography of Indulal Yagnik**, an important book published this year by Manohar Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi. This volume has been translated into English by Prof. Devavrat Pathak (now deceased), formerly of Gujarat University, Vice Chancellor of Saurashtra University and at the end of his career, Director of the Peace Centre at the Gujarat Vidyapith in Ahmedabad; Professor Howard Spodek of the Dept of History at Temple University, Philadelphia; Dr. John Wood, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Political Science, UBC, Vancouver.

Indulal Yagnik was an extraordinary figure in Indian politics over an amazing span that predated Gandhi's arrival from South Africa and lasted until the 1970s. His Autobiography covers some sixty years of modern Indian history and provides trenchant criticism from a leftist perspective of all the top leaders and campaigns of the Indian National Congress.

It is a huge work, originally in six volumes that have now been reduced to three large ones without losing a single word of the original. Pathak, Spodek and Wood worked on the translation on and off for over nearly thirty years. It will be «must» reading for historians and political scientists focused on the drama of the Indian Nationalist Movement and the first decades of post-independence India.



INTRODUCING VISIBLE MINORITY LIBRARIANS OF CANADA NETWORK

For information on this network please contact the moderators Maha Kumaran and Heather Cai at maha.kumaran@usask.ca and heather.cai@mcgill.ca.

SICI NEWS

A Newsletter from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

Inquiries/Comments/Suggestions/Contributions please contact:

Mariam Elghahuagi

Communications Officer

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Please send submissions for April 2012 Newsletter by March 25, 2012 to melghahu@ucalgary.ca