



ISSUE 13 · APRIL 16, 2021

INDIA IN TORONTO

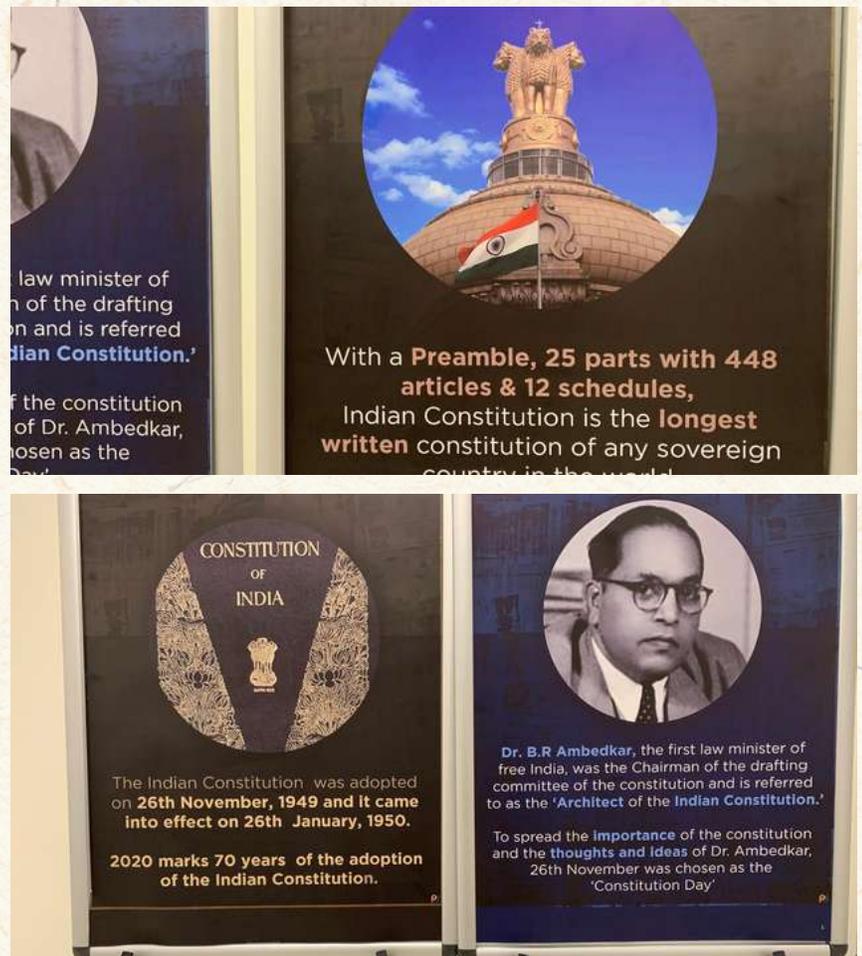
Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Toronto



Bronze Bust in York University, Toronto

130th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R Ambedkar

On occasion of the 130th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R Ambedkar the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and founding father of the Republic of India, Consulate General of India, Toronto organized an online quiz on the social media handles of the Consulate. A photo exhibition was also displayed at the Consulate.



कवि सम्मेलन

होली के शुभ अवसर पर भारतीय कोंसलावास व सहयोगी संस्थाओं के साहचर्य में अखिल विश्व हिन्दी समिति, टोरोंटो, कनाडा द्वारा एक भव्य ई-कवि सम्मेलन का आयोजन हुआ। इस सम्मेलन में भारत तथा कनाडा के वरिष्ठ लेखक, कवि एवं हिन्दी प्रेमी शामिल हुए।



Holi Hungama Nite

Consul General Apoorva Srivastava attended Holi Celebrations by Toronto Netralaya Lions Club on 26th March 2021. She delivered Holi Greetings to the community on the occasion.



Launch of Gujarati News Paper - Purna Windsor Essex County

Consul General Apoorva Srivastava attended the virtual launch of Gujarati News Paper, 'Purna' in Windsor-Essex County. CG congratulated the Editorial and management team on this occasion. The event was also attended by Mayor of Windsor, His Worship Drew Dilken who also gave his remarks during the event.

Inauguration of New Centre of BLS International

Consul General Apoorva Srivastava was delighted to inaugurate the new centre of BLS International Services at Brampton along with MPP Amarjot Sandhu and Regional Head, BLS International, Anirban Bose on 5th April. The improved and three times larger facility will help provide superior and seamless service.



230 flights of Vande Bharat Mission

230 special flights as on 16 April, 2021 under Vande Bharat Mission from Toronto to different destinations in India have facilitated the return of more than 53,000 passengers.



Reduction of fee for Consular Services

Please note that fee for various Consular services has been reduced. Applicants may visit our website at www.cgitoronto.gov.in to refer fees for different services.

Announcement - SPAM CALLS

It has been brought to the notice of the Consulate that some fraudsters are spoofing Consulate General of India's telephone lines to make calls aimed at cheating people, impersonating officials of the Consulate General of India. This is to confirm that no officials from the Consulate make any telephone calls seeking personal information from any Indian or foreign nationals. The Consulate General of India hereby advises members of the public not to entertain such suspicious telephone calls made in the name of Consulate General of India. They are also advised not to reveal any personal information or transfer any money in response to such calls. Click [here](#) to Read more.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

ART & ESSAY COMPETITION
EDITION 2 - SIKH HERITAGE MONTH 2021

THEMES
Life and Teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
Five Sins to be Conquered (*Panj Chor*)
Three Golden Principles (*Naam Japo, Vandd Chhako, Kirat Karo*)

CATEGORIES

ART	ESSAY
Group A: Ages 4 to 10	Group A: Ages 7 to 11
Group B: Ages 11 to 16	Group B: Ages 12 to 17
Group C: Ages 17 to 24	Group C: Ages 18 to 24
Group D: Ages 25 & above	Group D: Ages 25 & above

SPECIFICATIONS

ART	ESSAY
Medium: Any	1200 Words
Size: Min. 8" by 10"	English, Hindi or Punjabi

Last date to receive entries is April 30th 2021
Entries should be uploaded online on www.cgitoronto.gov.in

For further questions write to culture.toronto@mea.gov.in

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

Art and Essay Competition

On occasion of Sikh Heritage month in Canada and on occasion of the 400th Birth Anniversary Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, the second edition of the Art and Essay competition will be held between April 1st and April 30th 2021.

Participants may choose one of the following themes for their entry.

- Life and Teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
- Five Sins to be conquered (*Panj Chor*)
- Three Golden Principles (*Naam Japo, Vandd Chhako, Kirat Karo*)

The last date for receiving entries is 30 April 2021. Entries received after the last date will not be accepted.

- Click [here](#) to Submit Art Competition entries.
- Click [here](#) to Submit Essay Competition entries.

Shabad-Gurbani Concert

A special Shabad-Gurbani concert will be premiered on occasion of Sikh Heritage Month on Sunday April 25, 2021 at 6pm ET.

The concert will feature:

Ramneek Singh on Vocal
Gurinder Singh on Tabla
Kirpal Singh Panesar on Esraj

Tune on facebook and Youtube Channels of CGI, Toronto for the concert.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

SIKH HERITAGE MONTH

Special Shabad - Gurbani Concert

VOCAL: RAMNEEK SINGH
TABLA: GURINDER SINGH
ESRAJ: KIRPAL SINGH PANESAR

April 25, 2021 . 6PM ET
Premier on YouTube and Facebook

[YouTube](#) [Facebook](#)

Buyer Seller Meet to promote Handloom exports of India to Canada

The Consulate helped Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) in organizing buyer-seller meetings for Indian exporters with selected importers, wholesalers, retail chains, distributors of home-textiles and clothing accessories in Canada during the Indian Hand-woven & Home Textiles Sourcing - Virtual Buyer Seller Meet (VBSM) from 23-25 March, 2021.

Panel Discussion on Artificial Intelligence & its Contributions to overcome COVID-19

Consul General participated in an interactive session on “Artificial Intelligence & its Contributions to Overcome COVID-19” organized in association with Canada India Foundation in the run up to the Canada India Healthcare Summit scheduled to be held in May 2021.



Book Launch: COVID 19 - Impact on Education & Beyond

On 31 March 2021, Consul General participated in an exclusive Book launch session - “COVID 19- Impact on Education & Beyond” organised by Bharat Centre of Canada- as part of an effort to bring innovative framework towards building sustainable global education systems in overcoming the pandemic.



Trade and Investment Table

On 13 April 2021, Consul General participated in Trade and Investment table held by Mr. Victor Fedeli, Hon'ble Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario along with other Consuls General. She highlighted India's unique journey and best practices on economic recovery and response to pandemic in reference with vaccine rollout and impact on trade and investment.



PM lauds the completion of Arch closure of the Chenab Bridge, World's highest Railway Bridge

Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project set an important construction milestone with completion of the steel arch of the iconic Chenab Bridge. This was one of the most difficult part of the bridge over Chenab. This achievement is a major leap towards the completion of the 111 k.m. long winding stretch from Katra to Banihal. It is arguably the biggest civil-engineering challenge faced by any railway project in India in recent history. Click [here](#) to read the article.



Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry, White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights)

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry with an outlay of Rs. 10900 crore. Taking another important step towards the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Union Cabinet also approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights) with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 6,238 crore. The prime objective of the PLI scheme is to make manufacturing in India globally competitive by removing sectoral disabilities, creating economies of scale and ensuring efficiencies. It is designed to create complete component ecosystem in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains. The scheme is expected to attract global investments, generate large scale employment opportunities and enhance exports substantially.

First Time Ever in a Month, Indian Exports crossed US\$ 34 Billion in March 2021

India's merchandise exports in March 2021 were USD 34.0 billion as compared to USD 21.49 billion in March 2020, an increase of 58.23%. Exports during April-March 2020-21 were USD 290.18 billion as compared to USD 313.36 billion during the same period of last year, exhibiting a negative growth of 7.40%. India's merchandise imports in March 2021 were USD 48.12 billion as compared to USD 31.47 billion in March 2020, an increase of 52.89%. Merchandise imports during April-March 2020-21 were USD 388.92 billion as compared to USD 474.71 billion during the same period of last year exhibiting a negative growth of 18.07%. Click [here](#) to read the article.

New Canada brand store and e-commerce model helps Canadians sell in India

Over the past three years, India has experienced rapid growth in e-commerce retail activity and according to a 2020 Bain & Company report, India is expected to have more than 1 billion internet users by 2030. The increase in online shoppers is also due to India's growing economy and 4G mobile infrastructure. There are opportunities for Canadian brands in a variety of product categories including electronics, toys, beauty, health and wellness. One category in particular that's been experiencing growth is online groceries and agri-food. While online groceries remain a miniscule portion of overall e-commerce sales in India, it has grown significantly in recent years. Canada has a strong international brand and is known globally for high quality products, services and agri-foods. Over the past year, Canada's Trade Commissioner Service in India has been working with Canadian companies and Amazon to create a Canada store on the e-commerce marketplace and help Canadian brands enter this growing market more effectively. Currently featuring more than 10 Canadian brands, the dedicated online store will provide a one-stop-shop for Canadian products on one of the biggest e-commerce marketplaces in India. Click [here](#) to access the online store.