



ISSUE 14 · MAY 13, 2021

INDIA IN TORONTO

Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Toronto

Canada supports India in battle against COVID-19

In an act of solidarity, Canada sent essential medical supplies in an effort to support India's COVID-19 response. Canadian Armed Forces Operations flights left Canada carrying 350 ventilators and 25,000 vials of Remdesivir & the \$10M in support pledged through the Red Cross.

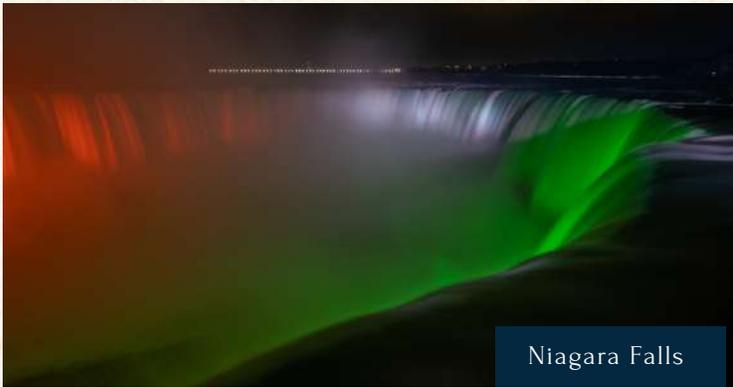
Assistance by Ontario Province

Ontario province also dispatched 3,000 locally made ventilators to New Delhi. Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Economic Development Victor Fedeli and Consul General Apoorva Srivastava flagged off the shipment to India. The Ontario government will also help coordinate the transportation of approved medical equipment that is being put together for the Indian Red Cross by the Indian diaspora and friends of India in Ontario.



Niagara Falls lights up in Tri-Color

In a display of solidarity and hope for India, Niagara Falls was illuminated with the Indian Tri-Color on 28 April 2021. We are thankful to Niagara Parks for this gesture.



Brampton and Halifax Light up in Tri-Color

In a display of solidarity, Halifax City Hall and Brampton City Hall were illuminated with the Indian tri-color on 30 April 2021 and 6th May 2021 respectively.

We are thankful to Mayor Mike Savage and Halifax Regional Municipality and Mayor Patrick Brown and City of Brampton for this gesture. We deeply appreciate your support and solidarity.



Relaxation regarding renewal of OCI cards

Renewal of OCI card is now not required every time on renewal of passport. Renewal maybe done only once when a new passport is issued after completing 20 years of age. On other occasions of renewal of passport, copy of the new passport containing the photo of the passport holder and a latest photo may be uploaded on the online system under OCI Miscellaneous Services.

The existing requirement to re-issue an OCI Card each time a new passport is issued to an OCI cardholder up to 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age has been dispensed with. An OCI cardholder should get the OCI card re-issued once when a new passport is issued after completing 20 years of age [For example, when new passport is obtained at the age of 25, then OCI Card can be renewed only at that time and not immediately after attending the age of 20 years.] For more details click [here](#).

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.

Webinar - SBI Canada Bank

SBI Canada Bank, organized a virtual presentation for Consulate staff on the range of banking services available in Canada on 16 April 2021 and a demo of the SBI YONO Canada Mobile application, to facilitating managing SBI accounts in India and Canada. For more information on banking services offered, click [here](#).



Consulate General of India Toronto

MAACA
MADRAS ARTS & CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

சிறுவர் தமிழ் விழா
(SIRUVAR TAMIZH VIZHA)
in association with
Consulate General of India

Awards ceremony on April 18th, 2021

MACA is delighted to welcome you to attend the Winners Recognition Ceremony of the Siruvar Tamizh Vizha contests that will be held on the 17th in association with Consulate General of India

Tamil மாதृbhasha competitions

Madras Arts and Cultural Association in association with the Consulate organized "Siruvar Tamil Vizha" on 17th April with various competitions for children in Tamil. Over 100 children participated and winners were awarded prizes and certificates. Congratulations to all the winners. Consul General Apoorva Srivastava congratulated the participants and winners.

Rongal Bihu

Asom Sangha Canada celebrated Rongali Bihu virtually on 17th April 2021. Consul General greeted the community and wished them on the occasion. The full program may be viewed [here](#).



Earth Day

On occasion of Earth Day, Panorama India along with the Consulate organized a live "The Art of Recycling" workshop to craft an ethnic Indian photo frame using waste material on 18 April, 2021. Thirty two children and seniors participated in the workshop.

Happy

EARTH DAY

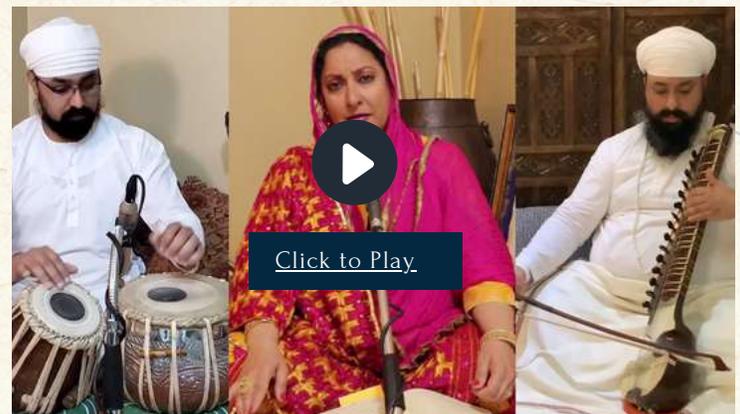
Glimpses of our **THE ART OF RECYCLING** workshop



Shabad-Gurbani Concert

A special Shabad-Gurbani concert was premiered on occasion of Sikh Heritage Month on Sunday April 25, 2021 at 6pm ET. The concert features, Ramneek Singh on Vocal, Gurinder Singh on Tabla and Kirpal Singh Panesar on Esraj.

Click [here](#) for the full concert.



COVID 19 Seniors Wellness Webinar

Consul General Apoorva Srivastava joined the COVID 19 Seniors wellness webinar organized by V Serve Canada with the support of the Consulate on 27 April 2021. Guest Speakers included Dr. Tripti Subramaniam (Medical Specialist, Rheumatology), Ms. Nimmi Papneja (Founder Member, AIM for Seva) and Mr. Pramod Israni (Yoga Therapist). Seniors from the Hindu Heritage Centre Seniors club participated in the session, moderated by Anu Srivastava (CEO, Arra Arts).



Mother's Day Celebrations

Consul General Apoorva Srivastava joined Mother's Day Celebrations by Panorama India on May 9th 2021. The celebrations had local community artistes paying tribute to mothers. Seniors and children paid homage through virtual performances.

Interactive Virtual Meet - Exploring Tea

On 22 April 2021, Consul General addressed a virtual tea promotion meeting organized by India Tea Association and Tea and Herbal Association of Canada (THAC) for "Exploring Tea Business Opportunities with Canada". She said that India is one of the top tea sourcing countries of Canada and has been consistently meeting 30-35% of Canadian demand for black tea and 5-8% of green tea. She advised the two associations to remain engaged and undertake collaborative programmes for promotion of Indian tea to stimulate business opportunities and strengthen India Canada partnership in this sector. The meeting was also addressed by experts from both sides, who provided detailed insights on overall tea consumption trends of Canada and the capabilities of India to meet the Canadian demand. Indian Tea Association also made a presentation on tea export scenario and capabilities of India to cater to Canadian demand.

Panel Discussion - India & COVID 19

On 30th April 2021, Consul General participated in a panel discussion on "India and Covid-19's second wave" organized by Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce. In her remarks she reiterated the efforts of government of India to mobilize medical supplies and necessary equipments to fight the unprecedented crisis and thanked the eminent members of Indo-Canadian community for extending the necessary support at this critical juncture.



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.

Canada India Healthcare Summit 2021

Canada India Healthcare Summit 2021 (CHIS 2021) is a collaborative initiative of Canada India Foundation, with Toronto Rehab Foundation– University Health Network (UHN), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Consulate General of India in Toronto. CIHS2021 will bring together the best that Canada and India have to offer in the healthcare sector, with particular emphasis on the global impact of COVID-19 on the world.

CIHS 2021 will take place on May 20 & 21 with over 50 eminent speakers with educative sessions on Healthcare post COVID19. Register [here](#) to join.



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

Group A: Ages 4 to 10
Group B: Ages 11 to 16
Group C: Ages 17 to 24
Group D: Ages 25 & above

ESSAY

Group A: Ages 7 to 11
Group B: Ages 12 to 17
Group C: Ages 18 to 24
Group D: Ages 25 & above

SPECIFICATIONS

ART

Medium: Any
Size: Min. 8" by 10"

ESSAY

1200 Words
English, Hindi or Punjabi

Last date to receive entries is May 30th 2021

Entries should be uploaded online on www.cgitoronto.gov.in

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

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 May 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 May 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.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Anvesana - Dance Performance

Sampradaya Dance Creations presents Anvesana featuring four exceptional artists, four intriguing themes, and four dance forms - Bijayini Satpathy performing Odissi, Methil Devika performing Mohiniyattam, Rama Vaidyanathan performing Bharatanatyam, and Aditi Mangaldas performing Kathak. Join in for the classical Bharatanatyam performance by Rama Vaidyathan & Kathak performance by Aditi Mangaldas on 15th and 16th May 2021. Click [here](#) for more details.

SAMPRADAYA DANCE CREATIONS presents **anvesana** REFLECTIONS IN SOLITUDE

Sampradaya Dance Creations dedicates a portion of the proceeds from the festival towards supporting Covid-19 relief efforts in India.

Festival Pass and Live Streaming on **shaale**

All performances will be premiered globally at 7:30 PM EST and will be available online till 29th May 2021

Consil des Arts du Canada Canada Council for the Arts ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL CONSEIL DES ARTS DU CANADA MISSISSAUGA

Chair Yoga and Guided Meditation

INVITING ALL SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES!
Bringing Families Together To Participate Virtually

CHAIR YOGA & GUIDED MINDFUL MEDITATION

Chair Yoga is a great way to experience the wonderful benefits of Yoga. It's a great exercise to relax and stimulate the mind and soul, rejuvenate and manage stress, and become more aware of our own thoughts and body.

**Sunday May 30th, 2021
11:00AM EST**

Conducted by Reema Sarin
Certified Yoga Teacher

Register by Thursday, May 20th

Panorama India with the support of the Consulate will organize a special "Chair Yoga and Guided Mindful Mediation Session" on Sunday, May 30, 2021, at 11:00 AM (EST), featuring - Reema Sarin, Yoga Instructor. To register write to panoramaindia@gmail.com by 20 May, 2021.

Yoga For Wellness

The 6th session of Yoga for wellness launched in November will be held on Sunday 23 May at 9am. The monthly sessions are aimed at promoting health and wellness through Yoga. Join in on 23 May for a live Sri Sri Yoga session by Ashutosh Sanghvi.

The event will be live on <https://www.facebook.com/cgindiatoronto>

Consulate General of India Toronto

SRI SRI YOGA THE ART OF LIVING

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

SESSION 6 - MAY

YOGA FOR WELLNESS

Join Ashutosh Sanghvi for a **Sri Sri Yoga session**

9am to 10am ET, Sunday 23 May
Live on CGI Toronto Facebook Page



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces India-US clean energy initiative, pitches 'back to basics' philosophy

Addressing the Leaders' Summit on Climate on 22 April 2021, he noted that climate change is a lived reality for millions around the world. He pitched for concrete action at a "high speed" and on a large scale to combat climate change, and asserted that India was doing its part to deal with the challenge. He also said sustainable lifestyles and guiding philosophy of "back to basics" must be important pillars of the economic strategy for the post-COVID era. Click [here](#) to read his address.



India's Organic food products exports rise by more than 50 percent despite COVID-19

India's export of Organic food products rose by 51% in terms of value (USD Million), to USD 1040 million (Rs 7078 crores) during financial year 2020-21 compared to the previous fiscal (2019-20). In terms of quantity, the exports of organic food products grew by 39% to 888,179 metric tonne (MT) during FY 2020-21 compared to 638,998 MT shipped in 2019-20. The growth in organic products has been achieved despite logistical and operational challenges posed by the COVID19 pandemic. Oil cake meal has been a major commodity of the organic product exports from the country followed by oil seeds, fruit pulps and purees, cereals & millets, spices & condiments, tea, medicinal plant products, dry fruits, sugar, pulses, coffee, essential Oil etc. India's organic products have been exported to 58 countries including USA, European Union, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Switzerland, Israel, South Korea. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Centre undertakes multiple initiatives to enhance Oxygen availability, distribution and storage

In order to address the sudden surge in oxygen demand, the Central Government has taken several key measures to increase the availability, streamline the distribution and strengthen the oxygen storage infrastructure in the country. These include efforts for increasing oxygen production, enhancing tanker availability, optimizing logistics, improving oxygen storage at the last mile and easing norms for procurement. Oxygen availability has been improved by increasing production capacity, setting up of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Plants, and procurement of oxygen concentrators. For improving oxygen storage, number and capacity of cryogenic tankers at hospitals is being enhanced and medical oxygen is being procured. Similarly, General Financial Rules have been relaxed to enable faster procurement of critical supplies. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Early trend of decline in daily new Covid-19 cases, deaths

An early trend of decline in daily new Covid-19 cases and deaths has been noted in the country, the Union Health Ministry said on 12th May 2021, indicating that the devastating second wave of the pandemic is on the wane. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Chhattisgarh were among 18 states and union territories showing continued plateauing or decrease in daily new Covid-19 cases. Click [here](#) to read the article.