

INDIA IN TORONTO

Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Toronto
January 2025

Consular Activities:

Consulate continued to provide increased number of Consular applications. A total of 18,626 applications were provided at the Consulate in the month of January 2025 spanning across Passport, OCI, Visa, PCC etc.

Welfare Activities:

Welfare of Indian nationals in our consular jurisdiction remains our top priority. In the month of January 2025, Consulate transported 3 mortal remains of Indian citizens to the state of Punjab at Government of India cost.

In addition, one legal aid was also provided at Government of India cost. Consulate also helped 3 Indian families in tracing their missing loved ones in Canada.



Consulate provided assistance to three distressed women cases and two Indian nationals in detention.

Advisory on Scam and Fraud Calls

It has come to notice that some Indian nationals in Canada have been receiving spoofing calls about their Canadian visa/PR/immigration status, job offers, etc. from unscrupulous elements and sometime the callers have claimed to be an official from the Consulate General of India in Toronto. Please note that this Consulate does not deal with these matters.

The Consulate hereby advises Indian nationals not to entertain such suspicious telephone calls made in the name of Consulate General of India, Toronto. They are also advised not to reveal any personal information or transfer any money in response to such calls.



In case anyone has already received such scam calls, the matter should immediately be reported to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (1-888-495-8501) and the nearest police station with all details.

Cultural Activities:

Celebrating the 76th Republic Day



A flag unfurling ceremony was held at the Consulate premises to mark the 76th Republic Day.

Panorama India, a not-for-profit organization also marked India's 76th Republic Day in Canada at Pearson Convention Centre with grandeur, celebrating and promoting the nation's rich culture and heritage.

PM Modi flags off Pravasi Bharatiya Express train



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the first journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express -a special tourist train for the Indian diaspora as a part of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Indian diaspora from 27 different countries participated in this journey including three participants from the jurisdiction of Consulate General of India, Toronto.



The youngest Canadian to ever earn the title of International Master

Acting Consul General Shri Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh honors Mr. Aaron Reeve Mendes, Canada's Youngest International Master celebrating another remarkable achievement of the Indo-Canadian Community. At the age of 12, this young chess talent, has broken records as Canada's youngest International Master.

Aaron Mendes' rapid ascent in the world of chess is a testament to his exceptional talent, dedication, and the strong support system that surrounds him.

Vishwa Hindi Diwas celebrations in Toronto



The first event, held in collaboration with Akhil Vishwa Hindi Samiti on January 11th, 2024, focused on promoting Hindi poetry and literature on a global scale. The event was attended by over 50 Hindi writers/poets.

Apart from this, renowned writer Mr. Gopal Baghel 'Madhu' also launched his book, Mann Mrudang, during the event.

Another event was organized in collaboration with the Hindi Writers Guild on January 12th, 2024. The poem recitation competition, which attracted over 200 attendees.

Know India (Bharat ko Janiye) Quiz

Government of India had organized the 5th Edition of the Bharat Ko Janiye (Know India) Quiz 2024-25 from 11 November to 10 December 2024.

Top 15 winners in each category (total 30) to visit India on a 2-week long BKJ Yatra, starting with their participation in Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) celebrations,

Ms. Prachi Kori got selected amongst top 30 to visit India on a 2-week long BKJ Yatra



Ms. Prachi Kori

Meetup with Dawoodi Bohra Community

Acting Consul General Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh recently met with the management committee of the Dawoodi Bohra congregation in the GTA.

During the meeting, he extended his greetings for the new year and engaged in discussions about strengthening community ties & cultural initiatives.



Watch Out Column Bharat Telecom 2025

Under the ambit of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) is set up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Communications, Government of India for promotion of exports of Telecom Equipment and Services.

Interested participants may reach out at tepc@telecomepc.in for participation.



India International Jewellery Show

IIJS INDIA INTERNATIONAL JEWELLERY SHOW TRITIYA 2025
21st - 24th March, 2025
BIEC, Bengaluru
3rd Edition - Triple the Business

Concurrent Show
IGJME INDIA GEM & JEWELLERY MACHINERY EXPO TRITIYA Bengaluru 2025

INTRODUCING
The Select Club
EXCLUSIVE HIGH-END COUTURE JEWELLERY.
AT IIJS TRITIYA 2025 - HALL 3, BIEC, BENGALURU

GJEPC INDIA
Sponsored by Ministry of Commerce & Industry

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, is delighted to invite you to the 03rd Edition of IIJS Tritiya 2025, scheduled from 21st to 24th March at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bangalore. This prestigious event will run concurrently with the IGJME Tritiya 2025 (India Gem & Jewellery Machinery Expo). Interested participants can register [here](#).

Economic Landscape in India

India ranks third globally in operational Metro network length in world.

Metro systems have transformed travel in India. Covering over 1,000 km across 11 states and 23 cities, millions of people rely on them for quick, easy and affordable travel. With this growth, India has become home to the third-largest metro network in the world. Metros are not just a way to get around—they are changing how we live and move in cities. On January 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a giant leap in enhancing India's metro network, making it more powerful and advanced. He laid the foundation for multiple development projects. These projects represent a major milestone in transportation, as metro systems now cover greater distances and serve over 10 million passengers daily. With this growth, India has surpassed Japan in Metro Rail Projects in 2022. Currently, India ranks third globally in operational Metro network length and is on track to become the 2nd largest Metro network in the world. India's metro systems have come a long way, from the first steps in Kolkata to the advanced technological features seen today. With projects expanding across cities and innovations like driverless trains and under-river tunnels, the metro network is not just reshaping travel, but also contributing to sustainable urban development. As the network continues to grow, it sets new standards for urban mobility and paves the way for a more connected future. Read the full article [here](#).



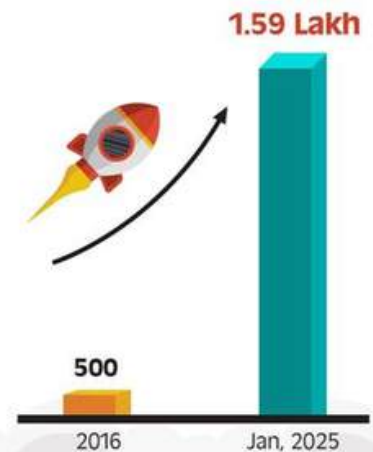
With 1.59 lakh startups, India is now world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem

Nine Years of Startup India

- 1.59 Lakh**
Startups Recognised
(As of January 15, 2025)
- 16.67 Lakh**
Employment Generated
(As of October 31, 2024)
- 73,151**
Startups with at least one woman director
(As of October 31, 2024)



DPIIT-Recognised Startups Growth



On January 16, 2025, India marked nine years of Startup India, a transformative journey that began in 2016. Designated as National Startup Day, this occasion celebrates the nation's strides in fostering a robust and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem. Launched as a flagship initiative of the Government of India, Startup India aimed to nurture innovation and catalyse the growth of startups across the country. With more than 1.59 lakh startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as of January 15, 2025, India has firmly established itself as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world. This vibrant ecosystem, driven by over 100 unicorns, continues to redefine innovation and entrepreneurship on the global stage. Read the full article [here](#).

Cabinet Approves 'National Critical Mineral Mission' to build a resilient Value Chain for critical mineral resources vital to Green Technologies.

The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), a landmark initiative of the Government of India, aims at ensuring country's long-term mineral security and shaping the future of global sustainable industries by strengthening domestic exploration, international sourcing, and industrial value chains through establishing meaningful global partnerships. For resource-rich countries, the Mission presents significant opportunities in the form of foreign investments (FDIs), joint ventures, technology exchange, and market access. Key reforms of NCMM prioritize recycling, import duty exemptions, and tariff adjustments to enhance resource security amongst others. With a total estimated allocation of \$2 billion, nearly \$670 million is focused on securing critical mineral assets abroad, recycling and sustainability initiatives receive \$180 million, \$60 million is earmarked for strategic mineral stockpiling, ensuring resilience, approx. \$480 million in risk coverage for foreign mineral sourcing and \$192 million for overseas exploration, ensuring diversified supply chains. It further outlines a zero-import duty structure on critical minerals, facilitating cost-effective imports for strategic industries. The expected outcomes from these reforms include increased private sector participation, enhanced mineral stockpiling, and strengthened domestic value chains. Key targets by 2030-31 include recycling 400 kt of critical materials, establishing four mineral processing parks, and securing five stockpiles of essential minerals. These initiatives position India as a self-reliant and globally competitive player in the critical minerals sector, ensuring long-term sustainability and economic resilience. Read the full article [here](#).

The National Critical Mineral Mission comprises several key components designed to ensure a sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant critical minerals value chain in India. These components are structured to address short, medium and long-term goals, aligning with the broader vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat. The Mission components will be implemented in a manner that addresses immediate needs, while laying the groundwork for long-term sustainability.



Critical and Strategic Minerals specified in Part D of First Schedule of the MMDR Act [24 minerals]
1. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals.
2. Cadmium bearing minerals.
3. Cobalt bearing minerals.
4. Gallium bearing minerals.
5. Glauconite.
6. Graphite.
7. Indium bearing minerals.
8. Lithium bearing minerals.
9. Molybdenum bearing minerals.
10. Nickel bearing minerals.
11. Niobium bearing minerals.
12. Phosphate (without uranium).
13. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals.
14. Potash.
15. Minerals of the "rare earths" group not containing Uranium and Thorium.
16. Rhenium bearing minerals.
17. Selenium bearing minerals.
18. Tantalum bearing minerals.
19. Tellurium bearing minerals.
20. Tin bearing minerals.
21. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucokene).
22. Tungsten bearing minerals.
23. Vanadium bearing minerals.
24. Zirconium-bearing minerals and ores including zircon.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal sets a target of 10000 GI tags by 2030.



अतुल्य भारत की अमूल्य निधि

Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal set a target of reaching 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by 2030. This target will be achieved through a whole of government approach, and the government will constitute a committee to oversee this, added the Minister. The number of GI tags issued by the department till date stands at 605. He further highlighted the efforts of the government under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to give a thrust to the Intellectual Property Ecosystem (IPR) ecosystem. The number of authorized users for GI tags increased from 365 to 29000 and the number of patents granted increased from 6000 to 100000, in the last 10 years. Stressing on the idea of 'Vikas bhi aur Virasat bhi' given by the Prime Minister, Shri Goyal highlighted the constant efforts of the Prime Minister including mentioning of various products in his 'Mann ki Baat' radio programme.

Read the full article [here](#).

India's GDP is expected to grow between 6.3 and 6.8 % in Financial Year 2026.

As the Survey underscores, looking ahead, India's economic prospects for FY26 are balanced. Headwinds to growth include elevated geopolitical and trade uncertainties and possible commodity price shocks. Rural demand backed by a rebound in agricultural production, an anticipated easing of food inflation and a stable macro-economic environment provides an upside to near-term growth. Overall, India will need to improve its global competitiveness through grassroots-level structural reforms and deregulation to reinforce its medium-term growth potential.

Read the full article [here](#).



Ontario Teachers' Makes Investment in Omega Healthcare and Joins Private Equity at Goldman Sachs Alternatives as Co-Lead Investor



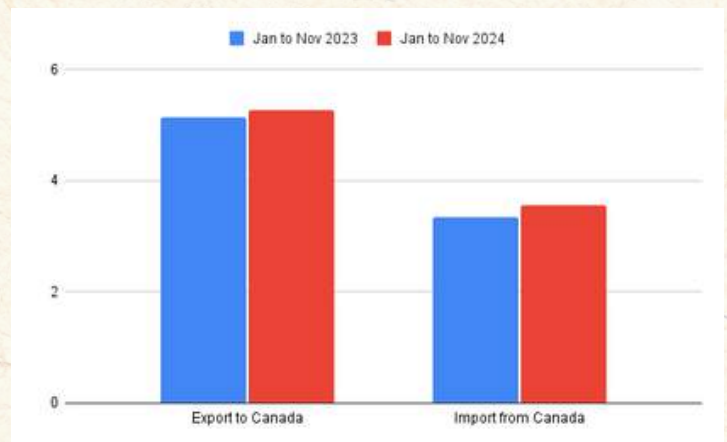
Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan ("Ontario Teachers") makes investment in Omega Healthcare Management Services ("Omega" or "the Company") and joins Private Equity at Goldman Sachs Alternatives as Co-Lead investors. Omega is a leading technology-enabled healthcare management solutions provider. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Omega Healthcare works with healthcare institutions to empower them to deliver exceptional care while enhancing financial performance. Omega aims to help its clients increase revenues, decrease costs, and improve the overall patient experience through their comprehensive portfolio of technology-enabled and clinically-led solutions. Founded in 2003, Omega Healthcare has approximately 35,000 employees across 14 delivery centers in the United States, India, Colombia, and the Philippines. Read the full article [here](#).

India Canada Trade Dashboard

Merchandise Trade

	Jan to Nov 2023	Jan to Nov 2024	% increase
Export to Canada	5.14	5.27	2.6
Import from Canada	3.35	3.55	6
Total Merchandise Trade	8.49	8.82	

(Source: Statistics Canada)



The trade data between January and November for 2023 and 2024 indicates a moderate increase in bilateral trade with Canada. Exports to Canada grew by 2.6%, rising from \$5.14 billion to \$5.27 billion, while imports from Canada saw a higher increase of 6%, moving from \$3.35 billion to \$3.55 billion. As a result, total merchandise trade expanded from \$8.49 billion to \$8.82 billion, reflecting an overall positive trade growth. The higher import growth rate suggests an increasing demand for Canadian goods, contributing to the trade expansion.

India Canada Service Trade

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Service Exports to Canada	2.06	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.3
Service Imports from Canada	3.9	3.8	4.6	6.9	10.4
Total	5.96	5.6	6.8	9.4	12.7

(Source: Statistics Canada)

India's bilateral services trade with Canada stood at US\$ 10.0 billion in 2023 with India's exports to Canada worth US\$ 2.5 billion and imports from Canada to India worth US\$ 7.5 billion. In Q2 2024, Total bilateral services trade between both countries stood at US \$ 3.04 billion. The bilateral services trade is broadly classified into 3 major components: Commercial Services, Travel Services, and Transport and Government Services. India's service exports to Canada are majorly in the form of Commercial Services driven by the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services offered by a large group of Indian IT companies operating in Canada while Canada's major service export to India is in the form of Travel Services.

Year to Date Trade Data of top 5 items of Trade

Top 5 items of export to Canada

		Jan-Oct 2023	Jan-Oct 2024	% Change
	Description	(Amt. in USD Million)		
1	300490 - Medicaments, nes, in dosage	376.06	404.54	7.57
2	711319 - Articles of jewellery & pts thereof, of o prec met, w/n plated/clad w precious met	132.24	173.17	30.95
3	851713 - Smartphones, for cellular networks or for other wireless networks	250.53	137.51	-45.11
4	030617 - O shrimps & prawns, frozen, o/t cold-water, shell/not, incl in shell ckd in water, etc	111.92	113.2	1.15
5	710239 - Diamonds, non-industrial, sorted, worked, not mounted or set diamonds, nes	111.85	96.89	-13.38

(Source: Statistics Canada)

Top 5 items of Imports from Canada

		Jan-Oct 2023	Jan-Oct 2024	% Change
	Description	(Amt. in USD Million)		
1	071310 - Peas dried, shelled, whether or not skinned or split	1.52	543.86	35558.22
2	270112 - Bituminous coal, whether or not pulverized but not agglomerated	584.19	411.86	-29.5
3	071340 - Lentils, dried, shelled, whether or not skinned or split	440.32	304.88	-30.76
4	310420 - Potassium chloride, in packages weighing more than 10 kg	388.24	272.89	-29.71
5	480100 - Newsprint, in rolls or sheets	183.76	181.45	-1.25



Canada FDI Equity Inflow in India

Canada is the 17th largest foreign investor in India with a cumulative investment of US\$ 3.95 billion from April 2000 to June 2024 which represents 0.57% of the total FDI inflows into India according to statistics provided by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Portfolio investments from Canada into India

Portfolio investments from Canada into India were US \$ 25.2 billion in 2023 according to the data from Statistics Canada. As per investors, portfolio investments from Canada into India stands at more than USD 75 billion in sectors such as Infrastructure, Highways, Airports, Clean Energy, Education, Logistics, Real Estate, Banking, Hospitality and Warehousing. The Canadian organizations are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for investments. Some of the major Canadian organizations investing in India are: Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec (CDPQ), Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP), Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSPIB), Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS), Brookfield Asset Management, Fairfax Financial Holdings, British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCIMC), and Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo).