



INDIA IN TORONTO

Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Toronto

March 2025

Consular Activities:

In March 2025, the Consulate processed 20,689 encompassing a variety of consular services, such as Passport renewals & issuance, OCI, Visa processing, PCC, and other related services. This highlights the Consulate's continued commitment to efficiently meeting the needs of the community while maintaining a high standard of service delivery.

Welfare Activities:

The welfare of Indian nationals within our consular jurisdiction continues to be a top priority for the Consulate.

In March 2025, the Consulate facilitated the repatriation of four mortal remains of Indian citizens. Assistance was also extended to three distressed Indian women facing marital challenges. Additionally, the Consulate supported three cases involving missing persons and conducted a well-being check to ensure the safety of an Indian national.



Picture taken during Open House at the Consulate premises

Extension to apply for International Yoga Awards-2025



Government of India has instituted 'International Yoga Awards' for outstanding contribution towards developing and promoting Yoga at international level.

The International Yoga Award is given to individuals and organisations (Indian or foreign origin) for their significant contribution in promoting yoga abroad. Applicant can submit completed applications directly or through nomination of a prominent yoga organization at MyGov portal only.

Last date for submission of application was 15th April, 2025. For submission of application and more information, visit <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/pm-yoga-awards-2025/>

Cultural Activities:

Consulate celebrated International Women's Day



On March 08th 2025, The Consulate celebrated International Women's Day with a special event bringing together Indian students and recent immigrants. The celebration was organized in collaboration with the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women, under the leadership of Executive Director Ms. Sunder Singh and Chair Mr. Chand Kapoor . The event featured insightful sessions on community well being and safety, delivered by officers from Peel Police, who were specially recognized for their contributions.

Consulate also organized a yoga session focused on nurturing a healthy mind, body, and soul. The event aligned with this year's theme, "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment." held in collaboration with the Brahma Kumaris.

Consulate Celebrates Holi with Indian Community Across Multiple Events



The Consulate celebrated the vibrant festival of Holi with the diverse Indian community, participating in various events across the region. Consul Arun Kumar attended the Rangpanchami celebration hosted by the Durham Intercultural Volunteers Youth Association (DIVYA), which brought together people of all ages to celebrate the festival of colors.

Meanwhile, Consul Mukesh Puri joined the festivities organized by the Bihar & Jharkhand Association of Canada (BAJCA), marking the occasion with the local community.

Tribute paid to Martyrs on Martyrs' Day



On the occasion of Martyrs' Day, Acting Consul General Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh paid heartfelt tribute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev — the valiant heroes who laid down their lives for India's independence.

ACG Joins Holi Celebrations



Acting Consul General Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh participated in the joyful Holi celebrations at Brampton Triveni Mandir & Community Centre. The event saw an enthusiastic turnout from the vibrant Indian diaspora.

Masala Concert by Sinfonia Ancaster Showcases Cultural Harmony

The Masala Concert, presented by Sinfonia Ancaster, captivated audiences with a vibrant orchestral performance that celebrated the rich heritage of Hindustani classical music, beautifully intertwined with Western musical traditions. This remarkable event highlighted a timeless fusion of cultures, thoughtfully reimagined for contemporary audiences. Acting Consul General Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh delivered the opening remarks, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening of cross-cultural harmony.



Indian Consulate Engages Future Policy Leaders at University of Toronto



The Consulate General of India in Toronto hosted an interactive session for students from the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto, offering a deep dive into diplomacy and India's global engagement strategies.

Acting Consul General Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh led the session, sharing valuable insights on diplomacy as a career, the workings of the Indian Foreign Service, and India's key foreign policy priorities.

The discussion also highlighted the Consulate's ongoing welfare initiatives and the support systems in place for the Indian diaspora in Canada.

Economic Landscape in India

India has firmly established itself as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world,

India has firmly established itself as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, with over 1.57 lakh certificates issued by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) for recognition of startups as of December 31, 2024. The nation's entrepreneurial landscape, fuelled by more than 100 unicorns, is redefining innovation and creating new opportunities across sectors. Major hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR have been at the forefront of this transformation, while smaller cities are increasingly contributing to the momentum with over 51% of the startups emerging from Tier II/ III cities. Through initiatives like Startup India, the government has played a pivotal role in nurturing this growth and empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs. Read the full article [here](#).



As of December 2024, 16,730.01 million transactions were held through UPI.



India's digital economy contributed 11.74% to GDP in 2022-23 (₹31.64 lakh crore- approx USD 364.50 billion) and employed 14.67 million workers. Growth is driven by AI, cloud services, and digital platforms, with India hosting 55% of the world's Global Capability Centers. As per ACI Worldwide Report 2024, in 2023 around 49% of the global real-time payment transactions is happening in India. As of 2023, more than 40% of all payments done in India are digital, with UPI having a lion's share..UPI now seamlessly facilitates live transactions in 7 countries, including key markets such as UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius.India has seen the fastest rollout of 5G services in the world with 4,62,084 BTS deployed across 779 districts, as of December 2024.The Median mobile broadband speed has increased from 1.30 Mbps in March 2014 to 95.67 Mbps in December 2024.As of December 2024, the number of 4G Base Transceiver Station (BTS) have reached 24,96,644, spread across 783 districts.Read the full article [here](#).

DPIIT- Paytm join hands to drive innovation & scale India's manufacturing & fintech startup ecosystem

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Paytm (One97 Communications Limited) to foster innovation and accelerate the growth of manufacturing and fintech startups in India.As part of this collaboration, Paytm will provide mentorship, infrastructure support, market access, and funding opportunities to startups, helping them scale and innovate. This initiative aims to equip entrepreneurs with essential resources, enhancing their ability to develop cutting-edge payment and financial technology solutions.According to DPIIT, the partnership aims to support fintech hardware startups through mentorship and innovation guidance, helping them develop and scale payment and financial technology solutions. Read the full article [here](#).

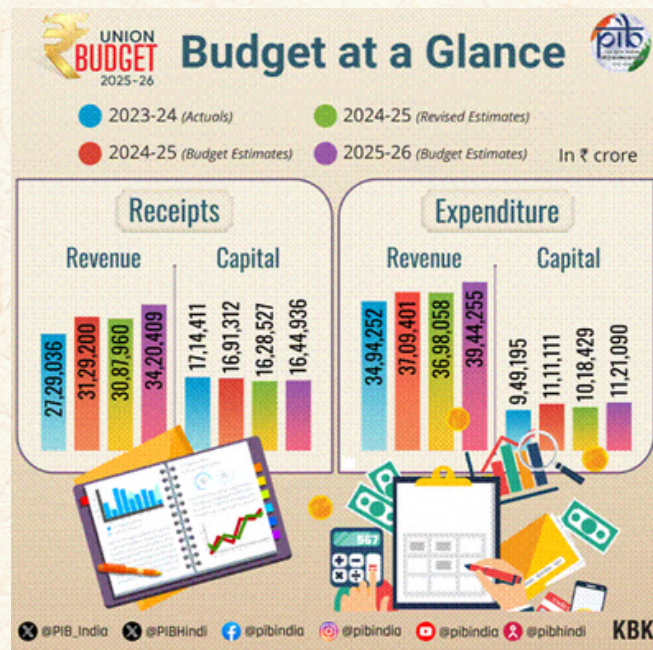


India's World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ranking improved by 6 places from 44 to 38 out of 139 countries in 2023.



The total infrastructure investment in India has significantly increased, with public and private sector contributions shaping the growth trajectory. India's total infrastructure spending has grown exponentially, with budget allocations rising to USD 115.5 bn in 2023-24. Government of India has undertaken several initiatives to enhance and strengthen the National Highways network through flagship programmes such as the Bharatmala Pariyojana which includes the subsumed National Highway Development Project (NHDP), the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North-East Region (SARDP-NE), and many more ongoing projects. India's National Highway (NH) network expanded from 65,569 km in 2004 to 91,287 km in 2014 and 1,46,145 km in 2024. NH stretches with four or more lanes grew 2.6 times from 18,371 km in 2014 to 48,422 km in 2024. Operational High-Speed Corridors increased from 93 km in 2014 to 2,138 km in 2024. NH construction pace rose 2.8 times from 12.1 km/day in 2014-15 to 33.8 km/day in 2023-24. Read the full article [here](#)

Highlights of Union Budget 2025-26



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2025-26 on 1 February 2025. The highlights of the budget can be read [here](#)

India Canada economic Corridor

McCain Foods India Achieves Global GAP Certification, Pioneering Sustainability in the French Fries Industry

India's market leading brand in frozen French Fries and a leading name in the foods industry, has achieved a significant milestone by securing the prestigious Global GAP certification. This achievement underscores McCain's commitment to food safety, sustainability, and strengthening grower partnerships, reinforcing its leadership in responsible farming practices. Global GAP certification sets internationally recognized standards for safe, sustainable farming, covering critical areas such as food safety, environmental sustainability, and worker welfare. By securing this certification, McCain Foods fortified its commitment to responsible sourcing aligned with its ambitious goal of achieving 100% regenerative agriculture practices by 2030. Read the full article [here](#).

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Piyush Goyal held a productive meeting with McCain Foods Ltd.

It was attended by with Mr. Max Koeune, President & CEO, and Mr. Peter Dawe, Chief Operations & Growth Officer at McCain Foods Ltd. In India. The meeting elaborated on McCain's ambitious expansion plans in India, emphasising strategic investments, boosting local partnerships, and scaling up manufacturing. It also deliberated on strengthening supply & cold chain infrastructure, fostering farm prosperity, and driving sustainable, community-led growth.

Read the full article [here](#)



India Canada Trade Corridor

Merchandise Trade

	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan to Dec 2024
Export to Canada	4.08	4.34
Import from Canada	3.87	3.92
Total Merchandise Trade (Amt in USD billion)	7.95	8.26

(Source: Statistics Canada)



The trade data between India and Canada for the periods January to December 2023 and 2024 shows a steady increase in bilateral trade. Exports from India to Canada rose from USD 4.08 bn to USD 4.34 bn indicating growth in Indian shipments. Similarly, Indian imports from Canada experienced a slight increase from USD 3.87 bn to USD 3.92 bn. As a result, the total merchandise trade between the two countries expanded from USD 7.95 bn to USD 8.26 bn. This overall growth suggests strengthening trade relations and a positive trend in economic exchanges.

India Canada Service Trade

The service trade data between India and Canada from 2020 to 2024 shows a steady increase in service exports to Canada and a sharp rise in service imports as well. Service exports to Canada grew modestly from \$1.8B in 2020 to \$2.55B in 2024, while service imports surged from \$3.8B to \$11.03B in the same period.

(Source: Statistics Canada)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Service Exports to Canada	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.55
Service Imports from Canada	3.8	4.6	6.9	10.4	11.03
Total (Amt in USD billion)	5.6	6.8	9.4	12.7	13.58

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).