



**CONSULATE GENERAL
OF
INDIA
TORONTO, CANADA**

सत्यमेव जयते

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UPDATE



Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia paying tribute to beloved former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, who left for heavenly abode on 16 August while inaugurating the India Day Parade 2018 by observing 1 minute silence in memory of the departed leader



Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia's address at the Independence Day Celebrations



Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia and Mrs. Seema Bhatia with the team of Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario at the Independence Day Reception

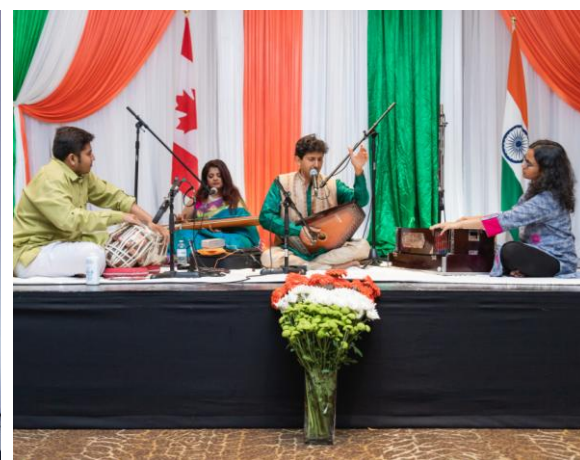
Updates from Consulate General of India, Toronto

Independence Day Celebrations at the Consulate General of India, Toronto



The 72nd Independence Day was celebrated by the Consulate General of India, Toronto on 15 August 2018 at the Consulate premises with traditional gaiety and fervor. The unfurling of the Indian flag by the Consul General, Shri Dinesh Bhatia, was followed by the National Anthem with large gathering of Indians, Persons of Indian origin and Friends of India. The event was also attended by the Members of Provincial Parliament of Ontario province and a large number of Indian Ex-Servicemen. Welcoming the audience on the occasion, the Consul General read out Hon'ble President of India's address to the nation delivered on the occasion of Independence Day. The President's address, *inter-alia*, made a mention of the fact that no matter if one is living in India or abroad, the Independence Day is sacred. Consul General even quoted Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj who has repeatedly said that Indian Embassy is a home away from home. He informed everyone about the success of the Open House that was initiated by him in April 2016 on every Friday; nearly 3200 people took advantage of this initiative. Consul General spoke about the various Independence Day celebrations taking place all across Canada including the tricolor illumination of the iconic Niagara Falls, which would culminate in the grand India Day Parade and Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto on 19 August. He concluded by conveying greetings and congratulations to all Indians, Indo-Canadians and friends of India. The students of Guru Tegh Bahadur International School, Brampton presented a Shabad followed by the recital of Vande Mataram by students of Sathya Sai School.

Independence Day Reception hosted by Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia and Mrs. Seema Bhatia



Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia and Mrs. Seema Bhatia hosted a Reception on the occasion of Independence Day. The Reception was attended by over 500 people which included Diplomats, Senators, MPs and Ontario Ministers & MPPs as well as prominent Indians & Indo-Canadians. Classical singing by Hemang Mehta and Vande Mataram dance by Lata Pada's troupe enthralled everyone. Consul General addressed the gathering and touched upon many facets of India's Independence which we celebrate. While this list is understandably too long given that India is most diverse country in the world, he specifically mentioned some of them, epitomized in the form of alphabets C-D-E-F-G. The 'C' stands for India's Culture and Civilization. The 'D' stands for the Indian diaspora of which most of you are members. The 'E' is Indian economy which we are proud of. The 'F' is Indian Films and Fashion. Last, but not the least, is Indian 'G' that means Indian Gastronomy. He concluded by saying that Toronto is uniquely placed to have presence of all the above facets and, that too, in more than ample amount. These collectively project an image of India that is nourishing, flourishing and magnificent; India i.e. Bharat.

India Day Festival and Grand Parade 2018





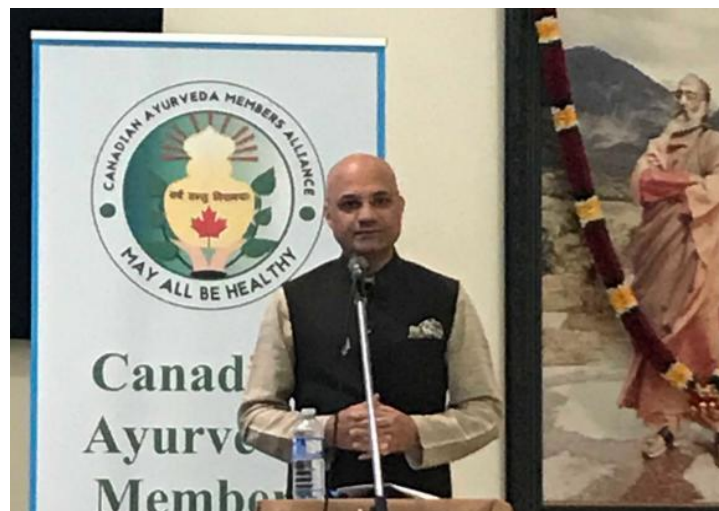
Grand India Day Parade took place on Sunday, 19 August 2018 at Nathan Phillips Square in Downtown Toronto. The parade, organised by Panorama India and supported by the Consulate witnessed an unprecedented participation of over 75,000 people surpassing the last year's record of 60,000 people attending the grand event. The Parade had over 400 entertainers on the main stage, including Bollywood Star Jimmy Shergill, "King of Bhangra" Malkit Singh and Indo-Canadian singer Geeta Zaildar and Parichay. The event also had dozens of information, retail and food booths and 17 colourful flatbed floats travelling through the city's downtown. Consul General addressed the gathering and began by dedicating the event to our beloved former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, who left for heavenly abode on 16 August 2018. He inaugurated the Parade by paying tributes & observing 1 minute of silence in memory of the departed leader. He explained the relevance and purpose of organising the India Day Parade while stressing on the strong India Canada bilateral relations.

The event had representation from the Federal Government of Canada, Official Opposition, Government of Ontario and Mayor's Office. Some the key leaders included Hon. Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science; Hon. Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition; Hon. Michael Tibollo, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Ontario and Mayor of Toronto John Tory.



Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia paid a heartfelt tribute to the former Prime Minister, respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, at a Shraddhanjali Sabha organised at Bharat Mata Mandir, Brampton by Canada India Global Forum. He addressed the gathering and talked about how India has lost a great son and this loss is irreparable.

International Conference on Ayurveda



Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia inaugurated the International Conference on Ayurveda in Toronto organised by Canadian Ayurvedic Members Alliance with the theme of “Ancient Wisdom in Modern Times”. He explained initiatives taken by Ministry of AYUSH in India and stressed on ways to promote Ayurveda in Canada.

News Updates

Statement by Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada on India’s Independence Day

<https://pm.gc.ca/eng#>

“Today, we join the people of India and members of the Indo-Canadian community to celebrate India’s 72nd Independence Day. “On this day, in 1947, India achieved independence, and is now the largest democracy in the world. “Canada and India share much in common, from the similar institutions and forms of government that underpin our democracies, to the tremendous people-to-people connections at the heart of our two countries’ longstanding friendship.

‘Our country is in our heart’: India Day Festival enlivens downtown Toronto

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/india-day-festival-1.4791119>

Downtown Toronto was awash in vibrant colours, music and waving flags Sunday afternoon as thousands of people celebrated India’s Independence Day, culture and heritage at the India Day Festival and Grand Parade. People come from all over for the festival and parade, said Consul General of India in Toronto Dinesh Bhatia. While speaking to the crowd, he lead a minute of silence for former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who died on Thursday.

Canadians fear for relatives trapped by flooding in India as death toll surpasses 300

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4396462/canadians-relatives-trapped-flooding-india/>

In the wake of deadly flooding in the Indian state of Kerala, Canadians with ties to the region fear for friends and relatives left stranded by the disaster that’s been called the worst in the country’s history.