Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi leading over 50,000 people in dawn Yoga exercises

Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia addressing the audience at an Interactive Session with Indo-Canadian Community & Media

Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia leading the International Day of Yoga Celebrations at Queen’s Park, Toronto
4th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the temple of democracy - Queen's Park - Provincial Parliament of Ontario. Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia and Mrs. Seema Bhatia along with other senior officials of the Consulate General of India performed Yoga Asanas and led 100s of Yoga enthusiasts at Queen’s Park along with visiting Justices from India.

International Day of Yoga, is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015. An international day for yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly. Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice originated in India. Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi in his UN address suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world. Since then, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated on 21st June across the globe.
Students and disciples of Yoga Centre Toronto, that follows BKS Iyengar Yoga and Guru-Shishya tradition, held special Yoga session to mark the 4th International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2018. Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia & Mrs. Seema Bhatia also participated in the session and performed Yoga Asanas with the students and disciples.

International Day of Yoga Celebrations with celebrity yoga trainer Niharika

Mr. Hoti Lal, Consul and Mr. Hari Dayal attended and participated in the International Day of Yoga Celebrations with celebrity yoga trainer Niharika, organized by France Canada Chamber of Commerce in association with Consulate General of India, Toronto and Consulate General of France in Toronto on June 23, 2018. Mr. Hoti Lal addressed the audience about the benefits of Yoga and how it can take an individual towards complete wellness of mind, body and spirit.

Lifestyle wellness awareness lecture on “the Fourfold Yoga” on the occasion of International Day of Yoga

Mr. Hoti Lal, Consul attended a Lifestyle wellness awareness lecture on “the Fourfold Yoga” by Shri Rangarajan, organized by The Vedanta Cultural Foundation Canada in association with Consulate General of India, Toronto. Shri Rangarajan talked about the meaning of Yoga which is ‘reunion’. The way to seek and discover your real Being, transcending your body, mind and intellect is yoga. Mr. Hoti Lal also addressed the audience and talked about the life changing impact of Yoga on an individual.
Consul General Mr. Dinesh Bhatia and Mrs. Seema Bhatia remembered 329 innocent lives lost to one of most heinous terrorist attacks in the history, on the 33rd anniversary of the bombing of Air India flight AI 182 on 23 June. Mrs. & Mr. Bhatia joined families of victims at the memorial service with His Worship Mayor John Tory, organised by organized by AIVFA (Air India 182 Victims Families Association). Sen. Ratna Omidvar, Independent Senator of Ontario, MP James Maloney, Federal Member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, MP Kamal Khera, Member of Parliament (Brampton West) & Parliamentary Secretary (National Revenue), MP Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Brampton South, MP Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North and Bob Rae, Lawyer-OKT, Prof, University of Toronto along with 100s of people joined the memorial service. Mr. Bhatia addressed the gathering and said that it is imperative that United Nations formalises the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, proposed by India, to effectively deal with the scourge of terrorism. He also said that this gathering is a symbol of peace, togetherness and unity in diversity. There is nothing more important than standing together against such acts of violence.

Mr. D P Singh, Consul (Press, Information & Community Welfare) attended the morning memorial service on the 33rd anniversary of the bombing of Air India flight AI 182 on 23 June organised by AIVFA (Air India 182 Victims Families Association). The service took place at memorial on the south lawns of Queens’ Park.

Seneca College hosted over 51 Government of India Officer Trainees from various Audit, Accounts and Finance Services for short-term training in Canada on contemporary areas of Financial Management as part of their partnership with National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad under the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India. Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia welcomed these officers at Seneca College and gave them an overview about the Canadian Economy.
Consulate General of India hosted an interactive session with members of Indian and Indo-Canadian Community Organizations on 19 June 2018 (Tuesday), in Etobicoke. Developing and sustaining a strong link with varied associations and ethnic media groups through such engagement platforms was very well received with an overwhelming attendance of over 270 members. Registrations poured in from 102 associations representing different regions of India as well as seniors clubs. Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia addressed the audience and highlighted the India-Canada relations, particularly the working of the Consulate and the improvements in services carried out by the Consulate, including the consular services, consular camps, Open House initiated on every Friday, anniversary events in honour of Indian leaders – Babasaheb Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Constitution Day, Hindi Diwas, etc. and also various programmes sponsored by GOI, familiarization events organized for new students coming to Canada. He also highlighted programmes by MEA for PIOs including Bharat Ko Janiye quiz, Know India Programme, etc.

This event served as a perfect platform to address queries and concerns of community organisations. Consul General invited suggestions from associations to further improve the working of the Consulate and to have better coordination between Consulate and the Community. Discussions also took place on connecting the younger Indian-origin generation with their roots back in India, through culture and language.

The Consul General also unveiled the forthcoming India Day Parade to be held on 19 August 2018 to commemorate India’s Independence Day. The Parade will be organised by Panorama India. The last year 2017 India Day Parade was attended by over 60,000 people in which the Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty participated as the Parade Marshal.
Updates from Consulate General of India, Toronto

Multicultural Day Programs, organized by Seniors Social Services Group

Mr. D P Singh, Consul (Press, Information & Community Welfare) attended the Multicultural Day Programs, organized by Seniors Social Services Group on June 23. Famous Punjabi writer Balbir Singh Momi was honoured during the event. The event also included distribution of Greetings from Governor General of Canada.

Press Conference to preview the Apparel Textile Sourcing Canada 2018 Show in Toronto

Mr. N S Siwach, Vice Consul (Commerce), represented the ‘Indian Exporters’ at a Press Conference to preview the Apparel Textile Sourcing Canada 2018 Show (ATS-Canada) to be held from August 20th-22nd this year in Toronto. ATS-Canada is the local gateway to the world of apparel and textiles, welcoming manufacturers from China, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Mexico, El Salvador, USA, Canada and more. Mr. Siwach talked about the bilateral trade between Indian and Canada in the textile sector and emphasized on the fact that India still stands at the 6th position among Canada’s top 10 preferred countries for apparel & textile imports and contributes only 4.32% of the total imports of Canada in this category, which can be improved significantly.

Updates from India

International Day of Yoga Celebration led by Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi

Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi performed dawn exercises with as many as 50,000 people on Thursday as he led celebrations to mark the fourth International Day of Yoga. Mr. Modi led exercises in the town of Dehradun in the foothills of the Himalayas. He urged Indians to be proud of their culture and history. "The gems of India’s unique heritage, such as yoga, will be respected by the world at large only when we ourselves respect our culture and traditions," he said. "From Tokyo to Toronto, from Stockholm to Sao Paulo, yoga has become a positive influence in the lives of millions," Mr Modi told participants on the lush green lawns. “In a world where non-communicable diseases, stress and lifestyle related ailments are rising, yoga can play a central role in mitigating these diseases to create a healthy mind and body.” The date of 21th June was suggested by The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares special significance in many parts of the world.
**Updates from India**

**Know Your India Programme**

The **Know India Programme** (KIP) of the Ministry of External Affairs is a three-week orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication & information Technology, culture. KIP has now announced its 47th - 52nd editions with the partnering states of Tamil Nadu, Manipur & Mizoram, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar & Jharkhand and Daman & Diu and Maharashtra. Participants of 49th to 52th KIP will also have the opportunity to participate in PBD Convention, 2019, Kumbh Snan (The Holy Ganges Bath) and the Republic Day Parade in January 2019. Participants of 49th to 52th KIP will also have the opportunity to participate in PBD Convention, 2019, Kumbh Snan (The Holy Ganges Bath) and the Republic Day Parade in January 2019.

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**News Updates**

- **Indian industry body joins US, Canada, Japan in Brexit plea**
- **Canada speeds up student visa process for Indians**
- **Latest Indian tariff hike should not affect Canada**
- **Victims of Air India bombing remembered at Stanley Park memorial**