

INDIA CONNECT

Bringing together Communities and Nations

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News Round - up

India's to get back Maa Annapurna's idol from Canada after 100 years



On 29th November Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that a statue of Hindu Goddess Annapurna that left India more than a century ago is expected to return from Canada before long. Addressing the nation through the ever-popular Mann Ki Baat broadcast, the Prime Minister said, "Every Indian will be happy to know that the statue of Goddess Annapurna is coming back from Canada, [read more](#)

Two Indo-Canadians in the announcement of Order of Canada by the Governor General of Canada



The High Commission congratulates Ms. Menka Nagrani, artist from Montréal and Professor Jagmohan Humar, from Carleton University Ottawa, on their appointment as members to the Order of Canada for their outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Mr. Humar has been awarded for his contribution to structural engineering, for his commitment to education, and for his long-standing service as a community leader. While Ms. Nagrani got the award for her efforts to include people with disabilities into the performing arts, blending dance, theatre and music.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kevadia Tourism Circuit in Gujarat



On 30th October Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 17 tourism projects around the Statue of Unity (SoU), now called the 'Kevadia Tourism Circuit', on his two-day visit to Gujarat, the first since the pandemic struck. Nestled between the Satpura and Vindhya mountain ranges in Kevadia of Narmada district, the 182-metre-high statue dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, built at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore, is said to be the tallest in the world, [read more](#)

India offers vibrant opportunities in sectors like agriculture, technology and human resource development.

On 5th November Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired Virtual Global Investor Roundtable. He said that investors are moving towards companies which have a high Environmental, Social and Governance, ESG score. He said, India already has systems and companies which rank high on this count. He said, India believes in following the path of growth with equal focus on ESG. He added, India's quest to become AatmaNirbhar is not just a vision but a well-planned economic strategy. The Prime Minister said, it is a strategy that aims to use the capabilities of our businesses and skills of our workers to make India into a global manufacturing powerhouse. [Read more.](#)



India showed resilience in fighting virus



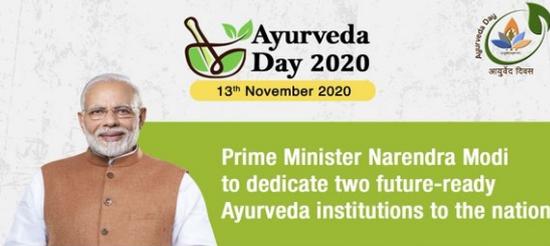
On 5th November Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable said that through this year, as India bravely fought the global pandemic, the world saw India's national character. The world also saw India's true strengths. It has successfully brought out traits that Indians are known for: A sense of responsibility, a spirit of compassion, national unity, the spark of innovation. India has shown remarkable resilience in this pandemic, be it fighting the virus or ensuring economic stability." "This resilience is driven by the strength of our systems, support of our people and stabilities of our policies, [read more](#)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation with H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO),

On 11th November Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation with the World Health Organisation Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. They discussed the ongoing global collaboration for combating COVID-19 pandemic, and also agreed on the need for integrating traditional medicine solutions into modern medical practice through holistic protocol, [read more](#)



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicate, 2 future-ready Ayurveda institutions to the nation



Ayurveda Day 2020
13th November 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to dedicate two future-ready Ayurveda institutions to the nation.



National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur:
An Ayurveda Institution for Teaching and Research with country-wide repute, NIA gets a shot in the arm with Deemed to be University (De novo Category) status.



Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar:
Created through an Act of Parliament, ITRA becomes the first Institute in Ayush Sector with the status of Institution of National Importance (INI).

With the increased operational and academic autonomy, ITRA and NIA will help Ayurveda take giant strides into the mainstream of public health.



On 13th November Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated 2 future -ready Ayurveda Institutions Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar & National Institutions of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur to the nation. These institutions will play global leadership roles in the growth & development of Ayurveda in 21st Century. Prime Minister said that the Ayurveda is not just an alternative today but is one of the key basis of the country's health policy. PM while dedicating these institutions to the nation on the 5th Ayurveda Day stressed the need to bring the Ayurveda knowledge out of books, scriptures and home remedies and develop this ancient knowledge as per modern needs, [read more](#)

PM Modi Holds Meet To Review India's Covid Vaccination Strategy



On 20th November Shri Narendra Modi held a virtual meeting with top officials including those from the centre's think-tank NITI Aayog on India's strategy for developing a COVID-19 vaccine and making it accessible to the masses, [read more](#)

PM chairs high level meeting with CMs to review status and preparedness of COVID-19 response and management

On 24th November Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed various aspects relating to the COVID-19 situation, including further ramping up of health infrastructure and ensuring vaccination to Indian citizens, during the interaction with Chief Ministers, [read more](#)



HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

On 30th October High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria appeared on Desi Ottawa for a video interview with Shefali Adhikari, "SIMPLY SHEFALI". They chatted about various topics such as Vande Bharat Mission, Indian Students etc. Watch the full interview [here](#)



On 9th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria attended the launch of food donation by Food For Thought and Chateau Laurier. This is a joint programme to provide meals to vulnerable Ottawa households in second wave of the pandemic and was also attended by Honourable Minister Mona Fortier.



CENTRE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
Presents
A webinar on
COVID 19 STRATEGY AND EXPERIENCE OF INDIA AND CANADA.
CHIEF GUEST

Shri AJAY BISARIA, IFS
INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA
Prof. SUMAN KUMAR
DIRECTOR, POLICY ANALYSIS
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION OF DELHI
Prof. P.C. JOSHI
VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA
CENTRE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
DATE - 9 NOVEMBER 2020
TIME - 6:30 PM
VENUE - ZOOM
In Association with MBA(BE) | Department of Finance and Business Economics

On 9th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria joined webinar -COVID Strategy and Experience- by Centre for Canadian Studies of his alma mater, Delhi University. Similar policy instincts regarding pandemic have been displayed by India and Canada as the two democracies joined forces in search for solutions, vaccines. Webinar was followed by a Q&A session featuring very interesting questions from the 140 students who joined.

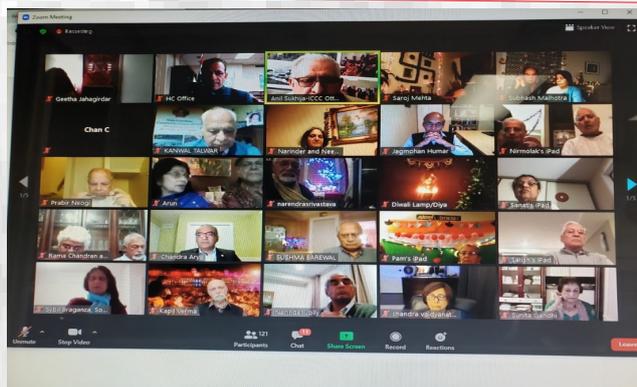
On the occasion of Remembrance Day on 11th November, High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria in a video message spoke about the significance of the remembrance poppy as he paid homage to Indian and Canadian braves who died in World War I.





To celebrate World Ayurveda Day on 13th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria had a virtual meeting with Ayurveda practitioners. The Event was organised by Canadian Ayurveda Member Alliance with support of High Commission of India, Ottawa. High Commissioner remarked, “Ayurveda has deep acceptance among people of Canada, it needs a more welcoming regulatory regime”.

On 12th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria attended virtual Diwali Celebration events. The first event on Parliament Hill was organised by Todd Doherty, Member of Parliament, continuing a tradition started by Late Member of Parliament Deepak Obhrai. The second event was hosted on Parliament Hill by Members of Parliament Honourable Anita Anand, Gary Anandasangaree and Raj Saini.



High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria participated in the another virtual Diwali celebration with Indo Canadian seniors on 12th November. A lively cultural program with song, dance and humour was put together by the Seniors team organised by the Indo Canadian Community Centre, Ottawa.

On 13th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria had a virtual meeting with Dr Santa Ono, President, University of British Columbia and his team. They discussed opportunities for collaboration including visiting professors, innovation and India Day at UBC. University of British Columbia is among top global universities and hosts growing numbers of Indian students.





On 18th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria had a virtual meeting with serial entrepreneur and innovator Raghwa Gopal, President and CEO of Innovate BC. They discussed about opportunities available for Indian IT companies trying to expand their footprint in Western Canada.

On 19th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria virtually joined the opening of the 10th South Asian Film Festival of Montreal by Kabir Centre, Montreal. South Asian Film Festival has gone virtual this year. A bouquet of exciting films was on show from 19-29 November.



On 20th Nov for the Festival of Lights this year, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa gifted hot Indian meals to the less fortunate of the city. In celebration of the festival of Diwali, the Indian High Commission joined 'Food for Thought Net Café' to distribute free hot meals to people living in temporary city shelters and those impacted by the current pandemic,

[read more](#)

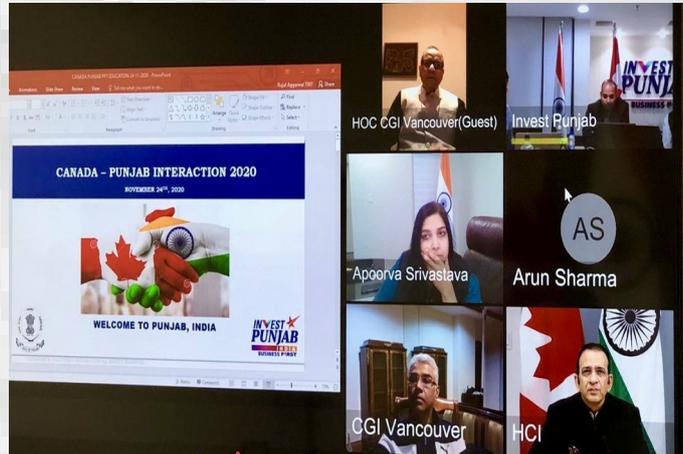
On 22nd November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria and speakers from India and Canada including Honourable Member of Parliament Lalonde joined webinar by India Canada Consortium. They discussed the challenges of democracy, Diversity, plurality, values in common between India and Canada, world's largest democracies, by population and by size.





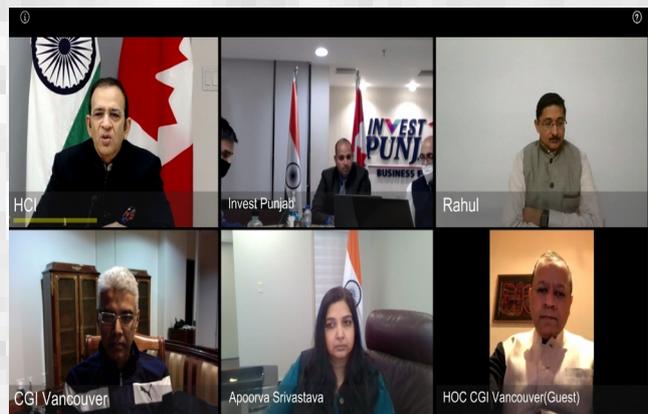
On 24th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria had a virtual conversation with Dr Harinder Ahluwalia , CEO of Info-Electronics Systems Inc., Montreal, who arrived in Canada from India 50 years ago. They Discussed oppurtunities for technology collaboration in electronics, remote sensing, water management, agriculture and more.

High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria along with Indian Consuls General in Vancouver and Toronto had a meeting on 24th November with the Team Punjab led by Invest Punjab. They discussed a roadmap of engagement with Canada. There is a special diaspora connection with the Punjab state and there exists huge opportunities for investment and collaboration in sectors like education, agritech, food processing, light industry.



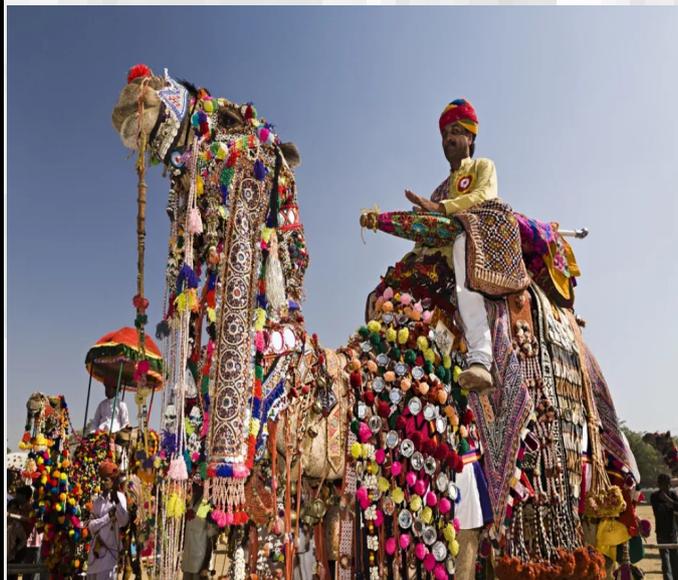
On 25th November High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria had a virtual meeting with Interim President & Vice Chancellor, University of Winnepeg and his team. The university hosts growing numbers of Indian students. They discussed various issues online education, visas, oppurtunities for new students , future collaborations including visiting professors and India Day at the University.

On 28th Nov High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria along with Indian Consuls General in Vancouver and Toronto had a virtual meeting with Mr. Rahul Bhandari, Secretary Higher Education, Government of Punjab and Mr. Sumeet Jarangal, Additional Chief Executive Officer and Education Secretary Invest Punjab. Discussions on collaboration in education, investment, trade were held with the Invest Punjab team.



Arts & Culture

Pushkar Camel Fair (November 22-30, 2020)



The Pushkar Fair (Pushkar Mela) is celebrated in the city of Pushkar, near Ajmer. Thousands of camels converge on the tiny desert town of Pushkar, in India's state of Rajasthan, for the annual Pushkar Fair. It's a fascinating and peculiar sight, and a popular opportunity to witness an old traditional-style Indian festival. The original intention behind the Pushkar Camel Fair was to attract local camel and cattle traders to do business during the holy Kartik Purnima festival, held in Pushkar around the full moon in the Hindu lunar month of Kartik. The fair has now also become a major tourist attraction, [read here](#)

Source: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/pushkar-camel-fair-festival-guide-1539294>

ADVISORIES

Additional flights under Vande Bharat Mission Phase VIII has been scheduled from Canada (Toronto & Vancouver) for the month of Nov 2020 & March 2021 . For schedule of flights, [click here](#). Bookings can be done directly at www.airindia.in . Registration with us- High Commission or the two Consulates, needs to be done through the respective websites. Travellers don't require any confirmation of registration.

Before planning any travel to India, please see the Latest **Advisory** from Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs **on Travel and Visa Restrictions Related to Covid-19** [click here](#)

Advisory for taking appointment for Walk-in Consular Services at High Commission. [Read more](#)

Before planning for travel to India, make sure you follow the latest Guidelines for International Arrivals from Ministry of Health & Welfare for a safe & stress-free experience. [Read more](#)

Latest Advisory for Travelers planning to visit India. [Read more](#)

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High Commission of India,
10, Springfield Road,
Ontario, Canada
K1M 1C9,
Ottawa.

Telephone Numbers: 613 744 3751,
613 744 3752, 613 744 3753

Compiled by the Press, Information and Culture Wing of the High Commission of India, Ottawa

For Subscription or to Unsubscribe, please email
inf.ottawa@mea.gov.in

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