

Canada Watch

PRACTICAL AND AUTHORITATIVE ANALYSIS OF KEY NATIONAL ISSUES

Director's introduction

The Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies is proud to introduce this issue of *Canada Watch*, which builds on a special collaboration between Canadian and Indian researchers. The Robarts Centre's mandate emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative research to deepen our understanding of Canada and its place in the world. The current issue of *Canada Watch*, and the underlying collabor-

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ation with the York Centre for Asian Research—another organized research unit of York University—from which it

emerges, embody well the spirit through which the Robarts Centre came into existence.

This issue of *Canada Watch* builds on a keen interest within the Robarts Centre's community for knowledge and research-based reflections on Indo-Canadian relations; our 2012 issue on India focused also on topics linking Canadian Studies to India. Through the

Director's introduction, page 16

CO-EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Facing the future together: Exploring new pathways for Canada-India collaborations

Canada and India have long-standing bilateral relationships built on shared traditions of democracy, pluralism, strong interpersonal connections. The two countries have embarked on a process aimed at improving and expanding their bilateral ties. This issue of *Canada Watch* is part of the research conducted by the Canada-India Project for Research and Innovation (CIPRI).

LONG-STANDING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS

CIPRI aims to promote awareness between two major democracies, Canada and India. Its objective is to promote understanding about multicultural, multi-ethnic, and multilingual societies. CIPRI seeks to improve and expand synergies through academic activities and assist with networking. It promotes

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unconventional and multifaceted thinking by examining challenges and bringing forth new visions and innovative ideas. The academics, scholars, and policy-makers from India and Canada who contributed to this issue of *Canada Watch* provide interdisciplinary approaches and comparative perspectives. Their writings help us understand how to enhance the scope of cooperation and engagement between the two nations. Our aim is to highlight existing

research and collaboration between Canada and India and to articulate the factors underpinning success, as well as to identify bottlenecks and challenges. This publication also recognizes future possibilities and emerging opportunities between Canada and India. Our objective is to bring together ideas to identify partnership opportunities and to develop the appropriate and relevant policies to changing and challenging circumstances.

Facing the future together, page 3

The contents of this issue are listed in the Features box on page 2.




India-Canada space collaboration continued from page 15

At the global level, activities in space are increasing. The problem of debris is also becoming more acute. Mechanisms for debris tracking and providing advanced notice for the conduct of space launches are in development. These mechanisms provide space situational awareness (SSA). There is a strong need to develop global networks for this purpose. Such networks require a range of support systems including

satellites, radars, telescopes, and other ground support equipment.


India and Canada are well placed to work together to develop such a global mechanism and to join with other countries in developing SSA technology. These partnerships could enhance our knowledge of space meteorology—knowledge that is essential to various activities in space, particularly interplanetary missions. There is also scope for

both countries to coordinate at the policy level. India shares a significant cultural and social affinity with Canada, including the legacy of the large Indian diaspora in Canada. The time has come to take the India-Canada relationship to a next level. Collaboration in outer space offers multiple options in that direction. 

Director's introduction continued from page 1

great work of our guest editors, Dr. Nivedita Das Kundu and Prof. Maria João Dodman, the contributions found here highlight key connections between the two countries as well as significant developments in India and South Asia that are important for Canadians to learn about, engage with, and integrate into their worldview and practice.

Special thanks are due to the issue's guest editors for their commitment to sustaining such fruitful collaborations, to the Robarts Centre coordinator Laura Taman, and to all the contributors to this issue of *Canada Watch*. I salute their dedication not only in maintaining research and partnerships between Canada and India, but also in sharing

their work in a way that makes it accessible to a wider audience, and that serves as a great pedagogical tool to our community. 

York Centre for Asian Research

<https://ycar.apps01.yorku.ca/>

YCAR is a community of York University researchers who are committed to analyzing the changing historical and contemporary dynamics of societies in Asia, understanding Asia's place in the world, and studying the experiences of Asian communities in Canada and around the globe. Our interdisciplinary membership includes faculty, students, and other research associates from across the social sciences, humanities, health, education, creative/performing arts, law, and business.