

29th January 2021, Workshop Report

Description

To commemorate India's 72nd Republic day a workshop was organised jointly by Bharat Centre of Canada a policy think tank and University Canada West, in association with the Consulate General of India in Toronto. On 29th January 2020, from 11:30 am – 01.30PM (EST) on “Complementarities Driving India-Canada Relations”. The topic of discussion was on “Collaborative Innovation and Entrepreneurship”. Such initiatives not only enhances the credibility of all the shareholders but also leads to a stronger research and policy outputs and capacity building. The distinguished speakers, eminent guests, presenters, panellists were academics, practitioners, policy makers, diplomats, technocrats and scientists.

Workshop Organized Jointly by

Bharat Centre of Canada (BCC) and University Canada West (UCW) in association with the Consulate General of India in Toronto.

Mr. Pulkit Mehra was Technical Host of the workshop.

Workshop Panellists were

Ms. Apoorva Srivastava, The Consul General of India in Toronto

Mr. Brock Dykeman, UCW President and Vice-Chancellor and an advisor to BCC

Dr. Nivedita Das Kundu, President, Bharat Centre of Canada

Mr. Sandeep Goel, CEO & President ICICI Bank, and an advisor to the BCC

Mr. Dave Keighron, UCW's Head of Innovation

Mr. Gaurav Sharma, Adjunct Faculty with BCC

Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma, Research Fellow with BCC

Mr. Prashant Srivastava, Honorary Director, BCC

Dr. Nivedita Das Kundu, President, Bharat Centre of Canada, gave the introductory remarks of the workshop. Dr Kundu, in her inaugural address has highlighted that the objective of this workshop is to bring together ideas and identify opportunities for India and Canada to work together in any challenging circumstances, even amidst the pandemic.

Mr. Brock Dykeman, President and Vice Chancellor University Canada West and advisor BCC, welcomed all the participants for making the workshop success by investing their time for the same. Mr. Dykeman also covered all the aspects of BCC-UCW partnership and mentioned about the Canada-India centre for innovation and entrepreneurship at UCW and about the planned joint activities with BCC in the coming months.

Republic Day Remarks was given by Ms. Apoorva Srivastava, Consul General of India in Toronto gave. Ms Apoorva Srivastava in her special remarks explained the long journey that went into making of India's constitution. Ms Srivastava gave the overview of new India which is a 7th largest country by land with 3.3 million sq.km of area and having 1.3 billion population. There are 22 official languages and more than 19,500 spoken languages. She also mentioned, apart from major religions such as Hinduism, Sikhism Buddhism and Jainism, the Jews and Christians marked their presence in India since 200 B.C and 52 A.D respectively. In her presentations, Ms Apoorva explained that how India is incredible as it is home to Himalayas, Great Indian Dessert-Thar, unique backwaters of Kerala, lush tropical Konkan to lavish Ladakh including abundant natural resources. India being located at a peculiar geographical location enjoys all the four weathers. Discussing the ancient India and comparing it to the new digital India a lot of issues were touched upon by Ms Srivastava, starting from pioneers of India in the field of Mathematics, Medical Advancements, Ayurveda, Astronomy, and the Yoga which is a gift to the world. Ms Apoorva briefed that, India's ranking on Global Indexes 2019 has improved being 9th in climate change performance index; 34th in Travel and Tourism competitive Index; 44th in Digital Competitive Index; 48th Global Innovation Index and 63rd in Ease of Doing Business in India. Ms Apoorva further explained how India is working towards, \$5 trillion economy considering financial inclusion a right step in that direction, focussing more on education, decimating gender differences and making a self- reliant India.

Key note lecture and presentation was given by Mr. Sandeep Goel, President & CEO ICICI Bank Canada and an advisor to BCC. Mr. Sandeep Goel started his presentation explaining about the marketing communications implying that when one thinks of communications, one thinks of India, as India has excelled in the area of innovation and communication. Mr Goel, has given a detailed presentation covering the history of innovation and technological discoveries in India since the ancient times. He shared the innovation scenario in India and the similarities between India and Canada and the trade ties between the two democratic countries. He also highlighted about the financial role of ICICI Bank group around the world. He mentioned some significant points about India, like India is home to world's first corrosion resistant iron pillar made in 375-413 AD highlighting the advancement in metal refining in ancient India. Mr Go further stated that in India one can find prosperity in diversity and as a community and as a country India has been fairly successful. He also mentioned that, if anyone wants to know about India then on the internet, one can find multiple mentions of India starting from discovery of zero, concept of fibre optics in 1780s, use of daily shampoo which originated from word *champu* dating back to 1762. He also mentioned that later in 1895, Indian scientists demonstrated microwave transmission. Also, Mr. Goel shared that how different inventions in the area of microbiology helped the entire world along with practice of yoga. Speaking about the India-Canada Student partnership, Mr. Goel explained how Indian students are contributing in economic growth of Canada. Mr. Goel further suggested there is a need to strengthen immigrant and student ecosystem so that they can contribute to India and Canada in more productive manner. Mr. Goel also replied to few queries stating that two businesses that have excelled in Indo-Canadian economic corridor are McCain foods which is one of the largest food manufacturer in India and other company is Tata Consultancy Services as Tata Group is present in all forms of vertical businesses in Canada including TCS and Tata minerals.

President ICICI Bank, and an advisor to BCC. Mr. Sandeep Goel started his presentation explaining about the marketing communications, that is when one thinks of the communications, one think for India, as today's India has excelled in the area of innovation and communication. Mr Goel, has given a detailed presentation covering the

history of innovation and technological discoveries in India since the ancient times, he shared the innovation scenario in India and the similarities between India and Canada and their trade ties. He also highlighted about the financial role of ICICI Bank group around the world. He mentioned some significant point about India, like India is home to world's first iron pillar made in 375-413 AD and is corrosion resistant. Mr Sandeep further stated that in India one can find prosperity in diversity and as a community and as a country India have been fairly successful. He also mentioned that, if anyone wants to know about India then in the internet, one can find multiple mentions of India starting from discovery of zero, concept of fibre optics in 1780s till using daily shampoo which has originated from word *champu* which dates back to 1762. He also mentioned that later in 1895, Indian scientists demonstrated microwave transmission. Also, Mr. Goel shared that how different inventions in the area of microbiology has helped the entire world along with yoga, which all medical practioners thinks are now physical, mental and spiritual practice to heal oneself. Speaking about the India-Canada Student partnership, Mr. Goel explained how Indian students are contributing in economic growth of Canada. Mr. Sandeep further suggested there is a need to strengthen immigrant and student ecosystem so that they can contribute in much productive manner. Mr. Sandeep also replied to few queries stating that two businesses that have excelled in Indo-Canadian tie-ups are McCain foods which is one of the largest food manufacturer in India and other company is Tata Consultancy as Tata is present in all forms of leadership, TCS ,Tata capital and Tata minerals .

Mr. Dave Keighron, UCW's, Head of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre, was the third speaker and presenter of the workshop. He explained the basic concept of collaboration and innovation. Mr. Dave explained the importance of teamwork in bringing ideas into actions which in turn supports the growth and help scale up to the first step in the journey of collaboration. Mr. Dave further defined what is innovation and during the process Mr. Dave came across the number of different types of innovation where turning an idea into a solution that adds value for customers is called innovation. He said innovation includes new customer needs and wants as the fundamental way the company brings constant value to the customers business or life. It is also to put things together such as to connect people, connect ideas, connect education, connect thought creativity, bringing it all together and in order work together in collaboration, a lot of

institutions, universities, governments, businesses and individuals have to open the business in order to create that opportunity, innovation and creating that opportunity means to create openness because sometimes one operates in very tight boxes and tend to have a successful product outside the box. Mr. Dave also stressed on the need to facilitate dialogues, to open the doors of business by government institutions and to bring that collaboration together which will not happen in one stroke, it happens over time. For instance, he mentioned Samsung is a huge organization which is successful as it developed connections and creativity. Mr. Dave answered the questions, naming three must have traits in a collaboration is about taking risks, thinking outside the box and trying something new and not be afraid of failure.

Mr. Gaurav Sharma an Adjunct Faculty BCC, was the fourth speaker and presenter of the workshop. He made the key points that the time to make change, adopt and transform is reducing in the digital age. He mentioned that overall, the current circumstances suit two democracies like India and Canada to work closely in areas like health and medicine, IT, smart infrastructure, banking, climate change, food security and in science and technology sectors, to not only improve the lives of their own citizens but also the world at large. Mr Gaurav Sharma gave an insight on India's advancement in Information and Communication Technology, as time to change/adapt/transform is reducing because of digital transformation and disruptions. Evolution of media from televisions, radio and Internet and their development over the period of time since 1960 was depicted very well by Mr. Gaurav. He said India is among the top two countries globally on many key dimensions, also every 6th person with whom we interact would be Indian because of large demographic dividend in coming days. He said, promising an evolution is already underway by 2023, number of active citizen developers at India will surpass US in numbers of software developers. He summarized, that there are huge opportunities in IT domain as numerous scholarships are available to explore India.

Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma, Research Fellow with the BCC, he was discussant of the workshop and he gave a brief overview on each presentation.

Mr. Prashant Srivastava, Honorary Director BCC, concluded the workshop with formal thank you note on behalf of the Organisers.

Report Prepared by Research team Bharat Centre of Canada

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