



6th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment

For Prelims: 6th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI), [Clean technologies](#), [Parliamentary structure](#), [Information Technology](#), [Biofuels](#), [ANTRIX](#).

For Mains: Areas of Cooperation Between India and Canada.

Why in News?

Recently, the **6th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI)** was held in **Ottawa, Canada**.

What are the Major Outcomes of the MDTI?

- **Support for India as G20 Chair:**
 - The Canadian Minister expressed her support for India as the [G20 Chair](#) and its priorities in the **G20 Trade and Investment Working Group**.
 - She expressed her intention to participate in **the upcoming G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial meeting in India** scheduled for August 2023.
- **Enhanced Cooperation:**
 - The Ministers highlighted the importance of cooperation in sectors such as [clean technologies](#) for infrastructure development, [critical minerals](#), [electric vehicles](#) and [batteries](#), renewable energy/hydrogen, and [artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#).
- **Critical Mineral Supply Chain Resiliency:**
 - The Ministers emphasised the importance of **government-to-government coordination** to promote critical mineral supply chain resiliency.
 - They committed to an annual dialogue at the official level during the **Prospectors and Developers Association Conference (PDAC)** in Toronto to discuss mutual interests.
- **Canada-India CEO Forum:**
 - The Ministers agreed to **rework and relaunch the Canada-India CEO Forum** with renewed focus and priorities.
 - The CEO Forum would serve as a **platform to enhance business-to-business engagement** and could be announced at an agreed-upon early date.
- **Trade Mission and Delegation:**
 - The Canadian Minister announced her leadership of a **Team Canada trade mission to India in October 2023**.
 - This mission aims to strengthen trade and investment ties, with a significant business delegation.



What are the Areas of Cooperation Between India and Canada?

▪ About:

- India established **diplomatic relations with Canada in 1947**. India and Canada have a long-standing bilateral relationship based on shared democratic values, the **multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi religious nature of two societies** and strong people-to-people contacts.

▪ Political:

- India and Canada share **commonalities in [Parliamentary structure and procedures](#)**.
- In India, Canada is represented by the **High Commission of Canada** in New Delhi.
 - Canada also has **Consulates General in Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Mumbai**, as well as trade offices in **Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata**.

▪ Commerce:

- India-Canada bilateral trade in goods reached approximately **USD 8.2 billion in 2022**, showing a **25% growth compared to 2021**.
 - The services sector was emphasised as a significant contributor to the bilateral relationship, with bilateral services trade valued at around **USD 6.6 billion in 2022**.
- **Canadian Pension Funds** have cumulatively invested around **USD 55 billion in India** and are increasingly viewing India as a favourable destination for investments.
- More than **600 Canadian companies have a presence in India and more than 1,000 companies are actively pursuing business in the Indian market**.
 - Indian companies in Canada are active in the field such as [Information Technology](#), **software, steel, natural resources and banking sectors**.
- The [India-Canada Free Trade Agreement](#) is also under negotiation.
 - An **Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)** is expected to be signed in **2023 between India and Canada**.
 - The agreement will cover a wide range of areas **including goods, services, investment, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and dispute settlement**.

▪ Science and Technology:

- India's **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** signed an Arrangement with the **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)** on September 16, 2015 to exchange experiences in **nuclear safety and regulatory issues**.
- Indo-Canadian S&T cooperation has been primarily focussed on promoting Industrial R&D which has potential for application through development of **new IP, processes, prototypes or products**.
 - Canada was a **partner country for the Technology Summit** held in New Delhi in November 2017.
- The **Department of Earth Science and Polar Canada** have started a programme for exchange of knowledge and scientific research on **Cold Climate ([Arctic](#)) Studies**.

- Under the “Mission Innovation” program, India is collaborating with Canada in various activities in the **areas of [Sustainable Biofuels \(IC4\)](#)**.
- **[ANTRIX](#), the Commercial arm of ISRO**, has launched several nanosatellites from Canada.
 - ISRO in its 100th Satellite PSLV launched on January 12, 2018, also **flew Canadian first [LEO satellite](#)**, from Indian spaceport **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Education and Culture:**
 - The **Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI)** is a unique bi-national organisation fostering, since 1968, **education and cultural cooperation and collaboration between India and Canada**.
 - Canada was the **Country of Focus at the 48th [International Film Festival](#) of India held in Goa in November 2017**.
 - **Canada Post and India Post joined hands to issue a commemorative stamp on Diwali in 2017**.
 - Canada Post issued Diwali Stamps again in 2020 and 2021.
 - In October 2020, **Canada announced the voluntary repatriation of the ancient Annapurna statue** which was illegally acquired by a Canadian collector and had been kept at **University of Regina**.
 - The statue has since been handed over to India and has been placed inside [Kashi Vishwanath temple](#) in Varanasi in November 2021.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)

- (a)** Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b)** Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c)** Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d)** Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

Ans: (a)

[Source: PIB](#)

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