

Brief on India-Canada Bilateral Relations

(April, 2026)

India-Canada bilateral ties are underlined by shared democratic values, a steadfast commitment to the rule of law, and vibrant people-to-people ties.

Recent bilateral exchanges:

2. At the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, accompanied by a high-level delegation that included senior ministers, provincial leaders and leading CEOs, paid an official visit to India from February 27-March 2, 2026. This was PM Carney's first visit to India after taking over as the PM of Canada and was the first bilateral visit to India by a Canadian Prime Minister since 2018. During the visit, the leaders agreed to adopt the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future" as the overarching guiding framework for the renewed India-Canada Strategic Partnership. They also underscored the alignment between India's vision of Viksit Bharat and Canada's Build Canada Strong agenda.

3. During the visit, the leaders welcomed the conclusion of a CAD \$2.6 billion commercial agreement between Cameco and the Department of Atomic Energy for the long-term supply of uranium as well as the signing of the Terms of Reference of India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Canadian Minister of International Trade. Other MoUs signed during the visit included - MoU between All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Mitacs, Canada for Globalink Research Internships; MoU on Critical Minerals Cooperation; MoU on promoting the use of Renewable Energy and MoU on Cultural Cooperation. Announcements made during the visit included Canada's intention to join Global Biofuels Alliance and International Solar Alliance; establishment of an India-Canada Defence Dialogue; establishment of India-Canada Parliament Friendship Group and launch of a new Canada-India Joint Talent and Innovation Strategy by Universities Canada. India welcomed Canada's interest in joining the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) as a Dialogue Partner. PM Carney also extended an invitation to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to visit Canada.

4. Hon'ble PM of India and PM Mark Carney had met on the sidelines of the G-20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg on 23 November, 2025 to review progress in the India-Canada partnership. The two leaders welcomed the adoption of Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership on 22 November, 2025. The leaders discussed expanding cooperation across trade and investment, defence, education, space, science and technology, and energy. PM Carney supported India's plan to host the AI Summit in February 2026. The leaders agreed to launch negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to double bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030. They reaffirmed civil nuclear cooperation including potential long-term uranium supply arrangements.

5. Hon'ble PM of India visited Calgary from 16-17 June, 2025 and took part in the session for outreach countries on 'Energy Security : diversification, technology and infrastructure to ensure access and affordability in a changing world' at the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis on 17 June, 2025. On the sidelines of the G7 Summit, Hon'ble PM held a bilateral meeting with PM Mark Carney. This was the first in-person interaction between the two leaders since Prime Minister Mark Carney assumed office following Canada's federal elections in April 2025.

6. During their interaction, both sides agreed to take calibrated and constructive steps to restore stability in the relationship, beginning with the early return of High Commissioners to each other's capitals (completed in September, 2025). The two leaders also underscored the importance of restarting senior ministerial and working level engagements to rebuild trust and bring momentum to the relationship and discussed opportunities for future collaboration in areas such as digital transformation, artificial intelligence, LNG, food security, critical minerals, higher education, mobility, and supply chain resilience etc. They also discussed the importance of restarting the stalled negotiations on the Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA), with a view to paving the way for a CEPA. They also underlined the deep people-to-people connections between the two countries and agreed to leverage this living bridge to the benefit of both countries.

7. On 6 June, 2025, PM Mark Carney called Hon'ble PM of India. Hon'ble PM congratulated PM Mark Carney on his recent election victory and thanked him for the invitation to the G7 Summit in Kananaskis in June, 2025.

8. On 29 April, 2025, Hon'ble PM of India posted congratulations to Mr. Mark Carney on his election as Prime Minister of Canada. On 13 May, 2025, Hon'ble EAM congratulated Ms. Anita Anand on her appointment as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

9. Other high-level exchanges since April 2025 are at **Annexure**.

Parliamentary Exchanges

10. Honourable Speaker of House of Commons of Canada Francis Scarpaleggia visited India to attend the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Offices of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) hosted by Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha in New Delhi from 14-16 January, 2026. On the sidelines of the 28th CSPOC, the Hon'ble Speakers of India and Canada met on 14th January, 2026. Discussions focused on strengthening parliamentary democracy through capacity building, adoption of new technologies and innovation, enhanced public participation and transparent and accountable governance.

Bilateral Mechanisms

11. Both sides have official-level dialogue mechanisms such as Ministerial level- Strategic, Trade and Energy dialogues; Foreign Office Consultations; Joint Committee Meeting on Environment and other sector specific joint working groups (JWGs).

12. Then Canadian National Security & Intelligence Advisor (NSIA) Ms. Nathalie Drouin met NSA Shri Ajit Doval, KC in New Delhi on 18 September, 2025. Subsequently, NSA visited Canada from 6-

8 February, 2026 and met the then Canadian NSIA Ms. Nathalie Drouin on 07 February 2026. The visit was part of regular bilateral security dialogue between the two sides.

13. India-Canada Foreign Office Consultations were last held in Ottawa on April 11, 2023. On 19 September 2025, on the sidelines of the visit of then Canadian NSIA to New Delhi, India and Canada held pre-Foreign Office Consultations(FOC) in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (East), while the Canadian side was led by then Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. David Morrison. Mr. Morrison also separately met with Foreign Secretary.

Security Cooperation

14. There is engagement on counter terrorism issues particularly through the framework of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism set up in 1997. The security cooperation was further enhanced with the Framework for Cooperation between India and Canada on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism signed in February, 2018.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

15. During PM Carney's visit to India in March 2026, India and Canada concluded a CAD 2.6 billion commercial agreement between M/s Cameco and the Department of Atomic Energy for the long-term supply of uranium, contributing to India's civil nuclear energy generation, clean energy transition objectives, and long-term energy security.

Energy Cooperation

16. In January 2026, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Canada Mr. Tim Hodgson, visited India to participate in India Energy Week 2026 held in Goa, India. On the margins of the conference, Minister Hodgson held a bilateral meeting with Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, where they launched the renewed India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue.

17. During PM Carney's meeting with Hon'ble PM of India in New Delhi in March 2026, the leaders underscored facilitating the expansion of bilateral energy trade across key sectors, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), crude oil, refined petroleum products, potash, and uranium supply offtakes. The leaders acknowledged the significant potential to expand bilateral energy trade, including increased imports of oil and LNG by India from Canada and the supply of refined petroleum products from India to Canada.

18. In March 2026, India and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Clean Energy Cooperation, establishing a comprehensive institutional framework to advance bilateral collaboration across solar, wind, bioenergy, small hydro, energy storage, and capacity-building. The MoU aims to foster a mutually beneficial clean energy partnership.

19. In March 2026, India welcomed Canada's intention to pursue membership in the International Solar Alliance (ISA), noting that Canada's participation would enhance international cooperation in solar deployment, innovation, and capacity-building, particularly in developing and climate-vulnerable

regions. India also welcomed Canada's signing of the foundational documents to upgrade its participation in the Global Biofuels Alliance as a Full Member.

Critical Minerals Cooperation

20. During PM Carney's visit to India in March 2026, India and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Critical Minerals Cooperation, reflecting a shared commitment to building resilient, secure, and diversified critical minerals supply chains. India also endorsed the G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan, which promotes diversified and responsible production and supply of critical minerals and encourages investment and innovation across value chains essential for clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and technology. Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation on critical minerals and energy transition pathways.

Space

21. During PM Carney's visit to India in March 2026, the two sides discussed the urgency and mutual benefits of strengthening a strategic partnership in space cooperation between their respective space agencies and private sectors. This collaboration is to be guided by an ambitious Implementation Arrangement under the existing MoU, aimed at operationalizing joint projects and facilitating technical cooperation in new and emerging domains.

Economic Relations

22. The trade and investment linkages between India and Canada form an integral component of the multi-faceted partnership between the two countries. India's exports to Canada in 2025 were worth CAD 9.68 billion and imports from Canada were CAD 3.87 billion. Total bilateral trade in goods between India and Canada was worth CAD 13.55 billion in 2025.

23. In 2025, India's bilateral services trade with Canada stood at CAD 19.62 billion, with India's exports worth CAD 4.45 billion and India's imports worth CAD 15.17 billion.

24. Portfolio investments from Canada into India are estimated at more than CAD 100 billion, underscoring the interest in India as a favourable investment destination. More than 600 Canadian companies have a presence in India, and more than 1,000 companies are actively pursuing business in the Indian market.

25. Major items of India's exports to Canada include pharmaceutical products, machinery parts & mechanical appliances, iron & steel articles, electronic goods, organic chemicals, jewelry, gems & precious stones, clothing & textile articles, seafood, engineering goods and auto parts. India's major imports from Canada include pulses, fertilizers (potash), mineral fuels, wood pulp, gems & precious stones (diamonds), aircraft parts, machinery parts, paper & paperboard and iron & aluminum scrap.

Environment

26. In June, 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and the Department of Environment of Climate Change Canada for cooperation in the field of climate change and environment. The 2nd Joint Committee Meeting on Environment was held in New Delhi in January, 2026.

Agriculture

27. The Joint Working Group meeting on agricultural cooperation was held in February 2026. Both sides discussed potential areas of cooperation in climate-resilient agriculture, food processing, agricultural research, and the outcomes of the Plant Health Technical Working Group meeting.

28. During PM Carney's visit to India in March 2026, India and Canada agreed to collaborate on establishing a Canada-India Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence at NIFTEM Kundli. The initiative will leverage the complementary strengths of Saskatchewan as a global leader in pulse production & innovation and India as the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses. It will advance pulse protein processing and fortified food development and improve access to affordable and high-quality nutrition.

Science and Technology

29. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India led a delegation to Ottawa for the 7th India-Canada Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC), which he co- chaired with Deputy Minister of International Trade at Global Affairs Canada in May 2022. On the sidelines of the JSTCC, an MoU on Cooperation in industrial research, Development & Innovation, between DST and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) was signed.

30. Department of Earth Science, Government of India and Polar Canada started a programme for exchange of knowledge and scientific research on Cold Climate (Arctic) Studies. A Memorandum of Cooperation between NCPOR and POLAR Canada was signed in February 2020.

31. Following the meeting of the AI Ministers of the three countries on the margins of the AI Summit in New Delhi in February 2026, India, Canada, and Australia signed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Technology and Innovation. The three countries also agreed to develop a joint work plan to advance practical trilateral cooperation in artificial intelligence and digital technologies, focusing on areas including digital infrastructure, semiconductor and electronics manufacturing, high-performance computing, Internet-of-Things (IoT), cybersecurity and startup ecosystems, among others.

32. During PM Carney's visit to India in March 2026, India and Canada agreed to explore joint initiatives to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into space and aerospace technologies, including the co-development of AI tools for space applications and earth observation, while also collaborating on AI-assisted tools to strengthen the diagnostic capabilities of distance medicine for delivering reliable healthcare in remote regions. Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation on resilient electric grid systems, including knowledge-sharing on AI algorithms to predict energy surges and manage battery storage across diverse climatic conditions, supporting reliable, efficient, and climate-resilient power systems.

Education

33. Education forms a vital pillar of India-Canada relations, significantly strengthening people-to-people ties. Both countries have long recognized the strategic significance of higher education and research in fostering innovation, sustainable development, and mutual understanding. Over time, this engagement has evolved into a multifaceted relationship encompassing institutional linkages, joint research programs, and academic mobility initiatives.

34. Indian students represent the largest group of international students in Canada, with an estimated 3,92,810 Indian students are studying in Canada as on 31st December, 2024. Bilateral cooperation in education is supported through various mechanisms such as Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), academic exchanges, and institutional partnerships. The MoU on Higher Education (2010) with Canada was renewed in February 2018. Under this MoU, there is a Joint Working Group that oversees the implementation of the MoU.

35. During Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to India (February 27–March 2, 2026), both sides agreed to deepen partnerships between universities through joint and dual-degree programs, industry-aligned skills training, the establishment of offshore campuses in India, enhanced research collaboration in emerging technologies, and the revitalization of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Higher Education. In addition, the Canada–India Talent and Innovation Strategy was launched to support academic mobility, innovation, and research collaboration. The visit also included the announcements of new scholarships and the signing of several MoUs and agreements among universities and institutions.

Consular Matters

36. Both sides agreed to address consular issues of mutual concern through discussion during the then Canadian Prime Minister's visit to India in 2018. The India-Canada Consular Dialogue has been instituted under this (last meeting in November 2022).

37. The two countries have signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in 1994 (operationalised in 1998) and an Extradition Treaty in 1987.

People-to-People and Cultural Relations

38. With more than 1.8 million Indo-Canadians and estimated 1 million non-resident Indians, Canada hosts one of the largest Indian Diaspora abroad. The diaspora has contributed significantly to the Canadian economy & society.

39. During PM Carney's visit to India (February 27–March 2, 2026), Ministry of Culture of India and Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage signed an MoU to deepen people-to-people ties through expanded collaboration in the arts, heritage, audiovisual media, music and creative industries. India and Canada have also signed Audiovisual Co-Production Agreement. and English.

40. ICCR chairs have been established at the following Universities :- McGill, Alberta, SFU, Calgary and Guelph.

41. This High Commission and Consulates General of India in Toronto and Vancouver organize a wide range of cultural events throughout Canada including festivals, exhibitions, film screenings, Yoga workshops, and academic seminars showcasing the depth and diversity of India's heritage.

Other high-level exchanges since April 2025

- i. Hon'ble EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand have met 8 times since Sept 2025.

At the invitation of Hon'ble EAM, FM Anita Anand, undertook an official visit to India from 12-14 Oct 2025. During the visit, an India-Canada Joint Statement: Renewing momentum towards a stronger partnership was released on 13 Oct, 2025 announcing the New Roadmap for bilateral engagement. FM Anand also met Hon'ble PM Modi during the visit. Thereafter, at the invitation of Canadian FM Anita Anand, Hon'ble EAM visited Niagara Region, Canada from 11-12 Nov 2025 and participated in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Outreach Partners. Hon'ble EAM and FM Anita Anand also met on 1 Mar, 2026 on the sidelines of PM Carney's visit to India. On 2 Mar, 2026, Hon'ble EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar called on Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney during his visit to New Delhi.

Besides above meetings and two telephonic conversations on 25 May, 2025 and 20 Mar, 2026, the two Ministers also met on the sidelines of multilateral meetings/events including the UNGA in New York (Sept 2025), G20 in Johannesburg (Nov, 2025), Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington (Feb 2026), Munich Security Conference in Germany (Feb 2026) and G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in France (Mar 2026).

- ii. The then Canadian National Security & Intelligence Advisor (NSIA) Nathalie Drouin met NSA Shri Ajit Doval, KC in New Delhi on 18 Sept, 2025. Thereafter, NSA visited Canada from 6-8 Feb, 2026 and met then Canadian NSIA on 7 Feb 2026. The visits were part of regular bilateral security dialogue between the two sides.
- iii. Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu visited Montreal to attend the 42nd Annual ICAO Assembly from 24-25 Sept 2025.
- iv. On October 11, 2025 Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry (CIM) Shri Piyush Goyal had a telephonic conversation with Canadian Minister for Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development Maninder Sidhu. Thereafter, at the invitation of Hon'ble CIM, Minister Sidhu undertook an official visit to India from 11-15 Nov, 2025. Hon'ble CIM and Minister Sidhu had two virtual meetings on 3 Dec, 2025 and on 24 Feb, 2026 to discuss CEPA negotiations and opportunities for further collaboration in various sectors.

On 1 Mar 2026, Hon'ble CIM met Minister Sidhu in New Delhi on the sidelines of Canadian PM Carney's visit to India. On 2 Mar 2026, the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the India-Canada CEPA were signed by Hon'ble CIM Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister Sidhu and were exchanged in the presence of the Prime Ministers of India and Canada in New Delhi.

Subsequently, on 27 Mar 2026, the two Ministers met on the sidelines of the WTO 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) at Yaoundé, Cameroon.

- v. Ontario Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Minister Victor Fedeli led a trade and investment mission to New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru from 23-28 Nov 2025. Minister Fedeli also visited India from 16-21 Feb, 2026 to participate in the AI Impact Summit.
- vi. Premier of British Columbia, David Eby, accompanied by Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth Ravi Kahlon, led a trade and investment mission to India from 12-17 Jan 2026.
- vii. Honourable Speaker of House of Commons of Canada Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia visited India to attend the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Offices of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in New Delhi from 14-16 Jan, 2026.
- viii. Canadian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Timothy Hodgson visited India from 27-30 Jan, 2026 while Alberta Minister of Indigenous Relations Ms. Rajan Sawhney and Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development, Legislative Assembly of Alberta Mr. Shane Getson visited India from 19 Jan-5 Feb, 2026. During their visits, the three dignitaries participated at the Indian Energy Week 2026 held at Goa.
- ix. At the invitation of Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Canadian Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation Mr. Evan Solomon visited India to attend the AI Impact Summit, held in New Delhi on 19–20 Feb 2026. On the sidelines of the Summit, AI Ministers of India, Canada and Australia met on 19 Feb, 2026 and reiterated their commitment to continuing trilateral collaboration on AI, following the announcement of the ACITI Partnership at the G20 in Nov 2025.
- x. On 1 March 2026, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman met with Canadian Minister of Finance Mr. François-Philippe Champagne.
- xi. Premier of Saskatchewan Mr. Scott Moe and Premier of New Brunswick Ms. Susan Holt accompanied Canadian PM Carney on his official visit to India while leading parallel trade missions from their provinces from 28 Feb-6 Mar 2026 and 26 Feb-1 Mar 2026 respectively. On 1 March, 2026, Hon'ble CM of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis met Canadian Finance Minister Champagne, Saskatchewan Premier and New Brunswick Premier on the sidelines of the 'Maharashtra-Canada: Building the next phase of Investment & Innovation' event in Mumbai.
