

**Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.  
Dated : 13/03/2024**

**India-Canada Bilateral Relations**

**A. Introduction**

1. India-Canada bilateral ties are underpinned by shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement and long-standing people-to-people ties.

2. With nearly 1.8 million diaspora and another 1 million Non Resident Indians, Canada hosts one of the largest Indian Diaspora abroad, which account for more than 3% of its total population. The diaspora, whose main concentration is in the Greater Toronto Area, the Greater Vancouver area, Montreal (Quebec), Calgary (Alberta), Ottawa (Ontario) and Winnipeg (Manitoba) have contributed significantly to the Canadian polity, economy & society. Education is a key area of mutual interest. India is the largest source country of foreign students with estimated 230,000 Indian students studying in Canada. There are numerous business and Diaspora organisations, supporting enhanced bilateral relations between the two countries.

**B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures**

3. As a trading country partner of India, and as per latest compiled and available statistics with DGCI&S, India’s exports to Canada during April’23-January’24 have been recorded at 3.14 billion US Dollar and India’s imports from Canada during the same reference period stands at 3.61 billion US Dollar with a resultant trade balance deficit for India of 0.47 billion US Dollar.

4. The trade and investment linkages between India and Canada form an integral component of the multi-faceted partnership between the two countries. Total bilateral trade in goods amounted to USD 8.28 billion in 2022-23 (India's exports: USD 4.11 billion and India's imports: USD 4.17 billion). The bilateral trade in services in 2022 was USD 8.74 billion. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 (April to January) is as under:

**Export-Import statistics as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :**

**Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

**(US Dollar Billion)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>
2019-20	6.73	3.88	2.85
2020-21	5.65	2.69	2.96
2021-22	6.89	3.13	3.76
2022-23	8.28	4.17	4.11
2023-24	6.75	3.61	3.14

5. Major items of India's exports to Canada include gems, jewellery and precious stones, pharmaceutical products, ready-made garments, mechanical appliances, organic chemicals, etc. India's major imports from Canada include pulses, newsprint, wood pulp, asbestos, potash, iron scrap, copper, minerals and industrial chemicals, etc.

6. 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. Canadian Pension Funds have cumulatively invested over US\$ 75 billion in India and are increasingly viewing India as a favourable destination for investments.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :**

➤ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attended the G-20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi from September 08-10, 2023. He met Hon'ble PM of India on the margins of the G20 Summit on September 10, 2023.

➤ India and Canada have signed multiple Agreements/MoUs covering areas such as Education, R&D, Tourism, Defence Production, Environment, Industrial research, Development & Innovation, Cooperation in Geology/Mining.

➤ ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) signed two MoUs in the field of exploration and utilisation of outer space under which two implementing Arrangements regarding satellite tracking and space astronomy were signed. ANTRIX, the Commercial arm of ISRO, has launched several nano satellites from Canada.

➤ India's Department of Science & Technology and Department of Biotechnology have also signed an MoUs with Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for cooperation in Science & Technology.

➤ Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under IC-IMPACTS program implements joint research projects in health care, agri-biotech and waste management. Under "Mission Innovation" program, India is collaborating with Canada in various activities in the areas of Sustainable Biofuels (IC4).

Source: [Prepared based on MEA's August, 2023 Report.](#)