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SHASTRI INSTITUTE
NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition

2016

Message from the President



Dear Shastri friends,
Greetings!

These three months were full of excitement as they were filled with various activities and events organized in India and Canada, which will have their impact on SICI in the coming years. The key activities in this period were SICI's Canadian Members Council on 7th May in Ottawa and Indian Members Council meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting in Delhi on 27th May 2016. As in earlier years, we held SICI annual conferences in India and Canada around the dates of the above meeting to maximize the participation and benefits to all the members, The conferences got overwhelming response from members and were well attended by dignitaries and renowned scholars. Here, I list all activities in this period and share extra details of some activities of importance to SICI's strategic direction in the future.

(1) "Shastri Evening at Parliament Hill" on 5th May 2016: This key outreach activity was held in Ottawa in close collaboration with Honorable Joël Lightbound, the Member of Parliament from Louis Hébert Riding of Québec City. Invited speakers addressed this well-attended meeting. The distinguished speakers shared their reflections and perspectives on the activities of SICI and their views on how Canada-India relationships can become a strong bridge between the two countries. I had the privilege to provide a brief summary of Shastri Institute's current activities and future plans. We were delighted to hear the opinions and comments from four honorable members of the Parliament representing the Governing and main-opposition parties from Quebec to Calgary, namely our co-host Mr. Joel Lightbound (Quebec), Mr. Raj Saini (Kitchener Center/Waterloo), Mr. Chandra Arya (Napean/Ottawa) and Mr. Deepak Obhroi (Calgary Forest Lawn). All MPs discussed the challenges and achievements of SICI in the past and urged us to move forward to tackle newer challenges in strengthening the bonds between Canada and India on the educational front. In the same meeting, His Excellency Vishnu Prakash, the High Commissioner of India in Canada described the importance of collaboration between India and Canada on multiple fronts including education. He also briefed us on the current favorable position of the Indian Government towards the upcoming renewal of the five year MoU with SICI-India. In attendance at the meeting were the Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, and Counsellor M. Parag Jain. The audience greatly appreciated the non-partisan support from each of the speakers to further the causes of SICI.

(2) Two conferences on 6th and 7th May 2016 at University of Ottawa: We arranged two conferences with the generous and gracious support of University of Ottawa through their representatives François Carrier (Director of International Research Office) and Prof. Shantanu Dutta of Telfer School of Management.

(2.A) The Conference on "Canada and India Research and Educational Collaboration: Opportunities and Lessons Learnt" held on 6th May was organized by our EC colleagues Prof. Walton-Roberts and Prof. Mathieu Boisvert. It was able to showcase the success stories of SICI grantees coming from different disciplines. Each speaker highlighted how the seed grant from SICI allowed them to leverage their project to a much higher scale and thanked SICI for its consistent support to the Canadian Community. During this meeting, the newly arrived Deputy High Commissioner of India Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu gave an overview of Government of India's position vis-à-vis Canada and specifically confirmed the steady progress made in signing the MoU between Govt. of India and SICI India for the next five years.

(2.B) The Telfer School of Management of University of Ottawa generously hosted a Breakfast Session on 7th May on "Canada-India Business and Educational interactions". A panel of distinguished speakers from diverse backgrounds provided their learned opinion and guidance on the subject of the conference at this meeting attended by CMC members, local invitees as well as a representative of Global Affairs Canada and the Counsellor Mr. Rajesh Agarwal from the High Commission of India. The speakers were Prof. Wojtek Michalowski, the Vice Dean of Research, Mr. Peter McArthur, Director General of South and South East Asia and Oceania Bureau of the Global Affairs Canada and Sukhwant Nannan, the President of Indo-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber. Our Vice-President Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay summarized SICI's activities in India and Canada and indicated how we are moving on with our plans in the coming year.

(3) The CMC meeting in University of Ottawa on 7th May: This annual meeting of Canadian Members Council conducted the usual business activities of the Institute, such as the reports from the President and Vice-President outlining many activities and grant programs conducted during the year despite challenging circumstances for SICI in both Canada and India. The overview of the programs run by two SICI offices were provided by the newly appointed SICI India office director Prachi Kaul from Indian side and by the program officer Mahmuda Aldeen from the Canadian side. I specifically highlighted and thanked the financial sacrifices made by the Canadian Staff members Mahmuda

Aldeen and Sabu Alexander while continuing to give their best to our Institution. All CMC members present at the meeting endorsed and echoed this sentiment. The Secretary/Treasurer Prof. Mathieu Boisvert with input from Prachi Kaul and Finance officer Sabu Alexander gave an overview of the financial positions of the past year and scenarios for the coming years. All members were assured that SICI Canada will run a basic level of grant programs from its reserve funds and will scale up the award of grants as soon as new funding becomes available. Members were informed that SICI India will be running its full slate of collaborative grant activities this year, which will provide additional opportunities for CMC members. Thus, EC and staff outlined the approaches and activities that would put SICI back to a sound footing for its Golden Jubilee in 2017-18.

The elections were held for the post of Secretary/Treasurer because Prof. Mathieu Boisvert requested to be excused from the second year of his post due to pressing engagement at work. Prof. Anil Mehrotra of University of Calgary was nominated by the Nominations Committee for the post and was elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer. The CMC members decided to nominate me to the post of Vice-President (2016-17)/President-Elect (2017-18) and Prof. Margaret Walton-Roberts, as Member at large (2016-18). Thus, we will have a stable EC from the Canadian side for the next two years, which reflected the discussion at the CMC about changing the constitution of SICI in future to allow more continuity in key EC posts. This would allow SICI to maximize the benefits from the volunteer EC members after they have acquired the training and right expertise to give their best back to SICI.

Prof. Prithviraj Balkrishnan of Dalhousie University from Halifax, Nova Scotia proposed to host the next year's Annual CMC meeting, AGM and Conference to showcase the activities of our members from Eastern Canada. He was strongly supported by Prof. Rohini Banerjee from St. Mary's University. She suggested that these events could be jointly hosted by these two universities. These members were advised to explore the options and propose a plan of action. Meanwhile, Prof. Ambrish Chandra of the École de Technologie Supérieure of Montreal suggested that his institute could act as host for 2017 or later.

- (4) The IMC meeting, conference and AGM in Delhi from 27-28 May. Details about these meetings will be presented in subsequent reports and newsletters by the incoming President Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay. I would just summarize by saying that during the AGM, Prof. Chattopadhyay took over from me as our President and I welcome her. Meanwhile, Prof. Hariharan Balgovindan

will continue his term as a member-at-large. Prof. K. Gayithri stepped down after completing her 2-year term as member-at-large. The IMC unanimously elected Prof. Faizan Mustafa from NALSAR as a new member-at-large. In addition, Prof. Malavika Deo from Pondicherry University was elected as the Chair of Canadian Studies Committee for a two year-term. I would like to thank the outgoing EC members Mathieu Boisvert and Gayithri for their invaluable services to SICI during their tenure. I also thank Gayithri and Hariharan for organizing the Conference and for putting in a lot of effort to bring out a dedicated volume based on this conference. Finally, since I resumed my position in the EC for two more years, both IMC and CMC made a special request to Prof. Biju Paul Abraham to continue in his role as advisor to the EC in his capacity as the past-president. He has graciously accepted this proposal at the AGM, and SICI will continue to benefit from his wisdom and experience in the coming years.

- (5) Some of the other key meetings and events by EC and members are briefly described below.

5.1) Ottawa 4-5 February: Two of the key activities in the month of February not reported in the earlier Newsletter is now provided here. While Mathieu, Mahmuda and I were in Ottawa to meet and discuss SICI matters with the High Commissioner of India on 4th Feb and with Global Affairs Canada on 5th Feb, we also met on Dr. Francois Carrier and Shantanu Dutta on the 4th to chalk out the program of CMC and conference events for May 2016. In the same evening, we attended a partly SICI-sponsored event for launch of "A-list of Indo-Canadians and Friends of India" by Ajit Jain of the Indian Diaspora at our newly re-joined member Carleton University. This year SICI was named in this list as an organization that has contributed significantly to India-Canada relationship in terms of educational collaborations. Moreover, our Secretary/Treasurer Prof. Mathieu Boisvert was also honored in this list.

5.2) Montreal, 18th March meeting with two of the three ministers of the Global Affairs Canada. I met Foreign Affairs Ministers Stéphane Dion and Culture/Heritage Minister Melanie Joly in Montreal at a private reception to update them on SICI activities in India and Canada and sought meetings for their guidance in shaping the direction of SICI's future.

5.3) 5th April Celebration of the award of SICI matching grant to Laval University Business School students going to India on 5th April: The Rector Prof. Denis Brier and International Office Director Prof. Richard Poulin and I conferred on various issues about India and Laval University with the High Commissioner of India, during

his official visit to the University. These dignitaries and others later attended the ceremony in which I presented the certificate of matching grant award worth 37,000\$ to the team of 15 students from the business school to cement collaboration with their Indian business school partners in Mumbai and to promote the interests of 15 different Canadian businesses in India. This was one of the shining models for SICI's matching grant program at 1:2 ratio (i.e., for 1 \$ of our grant, the applicants need to spend their 2\$ through SICI-accounts for approved activity). We invite all members to use this matching grant program in future as an excellent tool to expand their India-centric activities which are otherwise supported by independent sources.

5.4) 26th April Outreach activities at University of Manitoba, Winnipeg: During my scientific work-related visit to Winnipeg, Sabu and I met the officials, our CMC representative Prof. Derek Johnson and many other professors from the University of Manitoba who have activities and interest in collaborating with India. We discussed various grant programs of SICI, learnt about their activities in relation to India. In turn, they have promised full support to SICI in all its upcoming activities.

5.5) May 2016 Canadian outreach program by Indian members of the EC and SICI India Director: After the CMC meeting in Ottawa, the Incoming President Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay, the Director of India Office Dr. Prachi Kaul and EC member-at large Prof. B. Hariharan met the officials at Global Affairs Canada to discuss the Indian SICI's current position and urged their support for SICI operations in Canada. Dr. Chattopadhyay and Dr. Kaul then met representatives of the University of Toronto and York University in Toronto, and University of Calgary in Calgary. They shared with the participants in these meetings organized by the member institutions about activities of SICI in India and brainstormed various ideas for future collaborative activities with each of these members.

5.6) In India there were many activities and events in the last three months. Dr. Kaul, Director, India office met Prof. Anil K. Mehrotra, Director, Centre for Environmental Engineering Research & Education (CEERE) Department of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary on March 14, 2016. High Commission officials -Ms. Nadia Stuewer, Trade Commissioner (Education), Mr. Robert McCubbing, Counsellor-Commercial and Mr. Anuj Bhasin, Trade Commissioner visited Shastri India office and met Dr. Kaul and Ms. Anju Taneja on April 7, 2016 for an overview of the Institute and future collaboration on vocational and skill based education.

On 27th May 2016 the India Office organized the IMC and AGM meetings as well as other allied events. There was a reception dinner in the evening on the same day that was attended by Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi- Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Shri Alok Mishra- Director, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. On 28th May 2016 a conference was organized on the theme "Engaging India and Canada: Landmarks and Roadmaps for Global Educational Collaboration between Canada and India". Earlier on the same day, an early morning meeting with Mr. Nadir Patel, High Commissioner of Canada to India, was attended by three EC members: Profs. Shah, Chattopadhyay and Hariharan as well as the Director Dr. Prachi Kaul along with a representative from HCC's office.

Friends, I am happy that at the end of my first tenure as the President of SICI (2015-16), we have made our best efforts to move our Institute in the desired direction, and if there are deficiencies in our efforts, I take the full responsibility for it. I wish all the best to our incoming President Prof. Chattopadhyay and assure her my full support in my new position as the Vice-President (2016-17)/President-elect (2017-18). All signs indicate to me that SICI will grow its network in future and will rise to the highest attainable echelon by increasing its visibility to the maximum by its good work. I appreciate the hard work done by both the offices to make meetings, events and conferences successful with their hard work. I also thank all of our members and specifically many of my seniors (Profs. Braj Sinha, Gary van Loon, Biju Paul Abraham and Balbir Sahni) who guided me during the learning phase to put me on a path to serve the best interest of our Institute.

Sincerely,



Dr. Girish M. Shah
President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute
Professor, Faculty of Medicine
Laval University

Shastri Activities

I. Canadian Members' Council (CMC) Annual Meeting 2016



CMC members posing for a group picture during the council meeting in Canada

SICI Canadian Members Council's (CMC) annual meeting was held to discuss SICI progress, programs and strategic issues and directions. In CMC meeting the current situation of SICI was discussed with the member representatives present. All three positions on the Canadian EC were becoming vacant. Prof. Girish Shah from Laval University, the outgoing President of SICI will be coming in for another two year term as Vice President/President Elect and Professor Margaret Walton Roberts of Wilfrid Laurier University will continue for two more years as Member at Large. Professor Anil Mehrotra from University of Calgary was elected the new Secretary Treasurer for a period of two years.

II. Indian Members' Council Meeting & Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2016

SICI Indian Members Council's (IMC) annual meeting was held on 27th May 2016 to discuss SICI progress, programming segment, strategic issues and its future directions.



Left to right: Prof. Gayithri Karnam, Prof. B. Hariharan, Marie-Josée Charbonneau- Advocacy Head, Canadian High Commission of Canada, Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Prof. Girish Shah, Shri Alok Mishra- Director (International Cooperation) at Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and Dr. Prachi Kaul

At the IMC meeting the current situation of SICI was discussed with the member representatives present. This year, the AGM took place in India on the same day. Two

vacant positions in the EC were filled. There was only one nomination for each seat so no election was held this year. Professor Faizan Mustafa, NALSAR got elected to the post of Member-at-Large, for a two year term and Professor Malavika Deo, Pondicherry University as Chair Canadian Studies Committee (two year term).

III. A Shastri Evening at Parliament Hill

On May 5, 2016 in the evening Shastri Institute organized an event at Parliament Hill, Ottawa. This event was very well attended and a number of important guests contributed to the discussion on the future of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in Canada. It was well coordinated by the President Professor Girish M. Shah.



Deputy High Commissioner- Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, Profs. B. Hariharan and Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Honourable MP Mr. Deepak Obhrai, The High Commissioner of India, His Excellency Vishnu Prakash, Honourable MP Joel Lightbound, Counsellor-Mr. Parag Jain

The event was attended by His Excellency Vishnu Prakash, the High Commissioner of India in Canada, Mr. Arun Sahu, the Deputy High Commissioner of India in Canada, Mr. Parag Jain, Counsellor, and three members of the newly formed Parliament, Mr. Joel Lightbound, Mr. Raj Saini, Mr. Chandra Arya and Mr. Deepak Obhroi, a member of the Opposition. The event was followed by a cocktail reception.

IV. Education Conference: Canada and India Research and Educational Collaboration: Opportunities & Lessons learnt



Prof. Mathieu Boisvert and Prof. Margaret Walton-Roberts while coordinating the conference session

On May 6, 2016, University of Ottawa hosted the SICI conference on “Canada and India Research and Educational Collaboration: Opportunities and Lessons Learnt” in Senate room 083 at Pavillon Tabaret Hall, where a number of rewarding experiences were shared by SICI grant recipients on the Canadian side and a number of interesting and enriching discussions were held about new ways of moving forward as well. The two sessions were ably coordinated by the Secretary Treasurer Professor Mathieu Boisvert and the Member at Large on the Canadian side, Professor Margaret Walton Roberts.

V. Breakfast Meeting: Canada and India Collaboration on Education and Business

On May 7, 2016, the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa organized a Breakfast Meeting titled “Canada and India Business and Education Collaboration. The presenters were Dr. Wojtek Michalowski, Vice Dean for Research, Telfer School of Management, Mr. Peter MacArthur, Director General, South and Southeast Asia and Oceania Bureau, Global Affairs Canada, Mr. Sukhwant Nannan, President, Indo Canada Ottawa Business Chamber and Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Vice President, Shastri Indo Canadian Institute. The presentations and discussions were enriching and provided new directions which would facilitate future diversifications for SICI.

VI. Launch of ‘A-list’ 2016

The launch of 2016 ‘A-list’ in India was organized at Canada house, the official residence of the High Commissioner of Canada in New Delhi on 18th April 2016.



Dr. Prachi Kaul receiving A-list and the Mayor of Ottawa, Mr. Jim Watson holding copy of A-list in presence of Mr. Ajit Jain and Mr. Nadir Patel- H.E. High Commissioner for Canada to India

On behalf of the Shastri Institute, Dr. Kaul received a copy of ‘A- list’ from H.E. Mr. Patel and Mr. Ajit Jain, Editor of ‘A-list’. The A-List contains the details of fifty prominent Indo-

Canadians and Institutions who were recognized in Ottawa for promoting and fostering India-Canada relations.

VII. SICI grant presented to Laval University student delegation visiting India in May 20, 2016



Left to right: Prof. Girish Shah, Honorable MP Joel Lightbound, Recipients Marie Simard-Dufour and Prof. Genevieve Marcourt, HCI Mr. Vishnu Prakash, Rector of U Laval-Prof. Denis Brier and recipient Anthony Genest

Shastri Institute grant was presented to Laval University student delegation on 5th April 2016 in the presence of following dignitaries, SICI President Girish M. Shah, Honorable MP Joel Lightbound, Federal member of Parliament Louis Hebert Riding, Director of Commercial Mission program, Professor Geneviève Marcott, High Commissioner of India in Ottawa, His Excellency Vishnu Prakash, Rector of Université Laval, and Professor Denis Brier as well as 15 Canadian companies that have sponsored these students to India to explore collaboration with Indian companies. These students are visiting India in May 2016.

VIII. Meeting with officials at Global Affairs

On May 5, 2016, Professor B. Hariharan, Dr. Prachi Kaul and Professor Suchoirta Chattopadhyay met the officials at Global Affairs Canada. Ms. Julia Drew-Watt, Deputy Director, Policy partnerships and Mobility, International Education Department and Ms. Michele Tomlinson-Wells, Senior Advisor, Bilateral Policy, International Education, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada interacted with the SICI India office bearers. They were apprised about the developments on the MoU with government of India and discussed future collaboration with government of Canada.

IX. SICI’s Outreach Programme

Dr. Prachi Kaul, Director, India Office and Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay-Vice President, SICI along with Ms. Mahmuda Aldeen and Mr. Sabu Alexander of the

Calgary Office of SICI, embarked upon a very rewarding albeit strenuous series of outreach programmes. Over a period of six days, key Institutions in Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Vancouver were covered.

Institutions covered during outreach programme include:-

- i. OCAD University, the Ontario College of Art ,
- ii. University of Toronto,
- iii. York University,
- iv. McEwan University
- v. University of Calgary
- vi. University of Lethbridge
- vii. University of British Columbia



Mr. Sabu Alexander, Dr. Parchi Kaul and Prof. Suchorita during Outreach Programme with Profs. Janaka Ruwanpura and Anil K Mehrotra and other associates of University of Calgary

As a part of the outreach programme, the SICI team also met Mr. Barry Tonge, Director, Innovation and Advanced Education, Alberta Government and Mr. Dino Roppo, Manager, Innovation and Advanced Education. They discussed at length their priority areas and also apprised us of several grants facilitating academic exchanges and research innovations that Alberta Government offers to their faculty members as well as to the students.

X. Conference: Engaging India and Canada: Landmarks and Roadmaps for Global Educational Collaboration between Canada and India

SICI organized a Conference coinciding with the Annual India Member Council Meeting in May 2016 on the theme “Landmarks and Roadmaps for Global Educational Collaboration between Canada and India” at the India Habitat Centre on May 28, 2016. The thrust areas of the Conference were broad based to feature disciplines and areas of research that has contributed to the shaping of Educational Collaboration between Canada and India.

The focus Areas of the Conference were Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Media, Education, Management, Law, Physical and Natural Science, Engineering & Applied Science, and Health Sciences.



Mr. Nadir Patel –H.E. High Commissioner for Canada to India speaking to Shri Sunil Shastri during the conference organized by SICI

The conference was well attended by stakeholders, well-wishers, Scholars and Shastri Friends. The papers presented were diverse in content and treatment. The keynote was delivered by Shri. Vinay Sheel Oberoi- Secretary, MHRD, Government of India. Other notable personalities who graced the occasion with their presence were High Commissioner of Canada to India, Mr. Nadir Patel, Shri Alok Mishra- Director (International Cooperation) at Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and Shri Sunil Shastri,



Left to right: Prof. Gayithri Karnam, Prof. B. Hariharan, Mr. Nadir Patel –H.E. High Commissioner of Canada to India, Prof. Girish Shah, Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Shri Sunil Shastri- General Secretary, BJP and Dr. Prachi Kaul

New Committees in SICI

Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay- President



Professor, Department of comparative literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

Professor Suchorita is the founder and coordinator of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Jadavpur University. She is also a member of the Indian Members' Council, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute since 2005. She has organized 12 national and international seminars and conferences on Canadian Studies and has edited 5 volumes on Canadian Studies. Professor Suchorita also teaches regularly at the Centre for Translations of Indian Literatures at Jadavpur University and also serves on their Academic /Advisory Committee. Professor Suchorita is also an Executive Committee member of the Comparative Literature Association of India.

Professor Girish Shah- Vice President/President Elect



Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Department, Molec Biol. Med Biochem & Pathology Université Laval, Québec (QC)

Dr. Girish Shah is a Full Professor of the Faculty of Medicine at Université Laval in Québec City (QC) Canada. He is also a senior researcher of the CHU-Q Research Centre of the Quebec Hospitals and Chief of the Laboratory for Skin Cancer Research at the CHUL campus of CHU-Q Research Centre.

Professor Margaret Walton Roberts –Member-at-Large



Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies; Associate Dean, School of International Policy and Governance; Associate Director, Wilfrid Laurier University

Professor Margaret Walton-Roberts is a human geographer trained in the UK and Canada who focuses on international migration. She is currently an Associate Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University and Associate Dean of the School of International Policy and Governance at the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA), Waterloo Canada. Her research interests are in gender and migration, transnational networks, and immigrant settlement. Her current research focuses on gender and the international migration of health care Professionals in the context of India, and international student migration.

Professor Anil Mehrotra- Secretary Treasurer



Professor, Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering & Director, CEERE (Centre for Environmental Engineering Research & Education); Director, Sustainable Energy

Development (SEDEV) Program, Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary

Dr. Mehrotra is Professor in department of chemical and Petroleum Engineering. He is also director for CEERE and SEDEV, Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary. His interests and research expertise includes (i) transport and thermophysical properties of crude oils and bitumens, (ii) kinetics and mechanism of solids deposition and fouling, and (iii) remediation of contaminated soils and methane oxidation by biofiltration.

Professor Faizan Mustafa- Member-at-Large



Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

Professor Faizan Mustafa is the Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. He was the founder Vice-Chancellor of National Law University,

Orissa. He has also served as Dean, Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University and Registrar of AMU. He is the founder Director of KIIT Law School. He is the Advisor to National Law School & Judicial Academy, Assam. He is known for his institution building abilities and democratic leadership. He is also visiting faculty to several reputed institutions in India and abroad.

Professor B. Hariharan (Member -at -Large)



Professor, Institute of English, and Director of the UGC Area Study Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Kerala

Professor B. Hariharan is a Professor at the Institute of English, and Director of the UGC Area Study Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram. Completed a Major Research Project funded by the UGC. As member of the editorial team prepared introductory course material on Canadian Studies hosted at www.canadastukeralauniv.edu.in. Published book length study on the novels of Robert Kroetsch; co-edited books apart from translating from Malayalam. Area of interest

includes theatre, diasporas, translation, Canadian novel. SICI Graduate Fellowship Recipient in 1992-93.

Professor Malavika Deo, Chair Canadian Studies Committee



Professor & H.O.D, Department of Commerce, School of Management, Pondicherry University

Professor Malavika Deo is a Professor and HoD in Department of Commerce, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry. She has numerous publications to her credit. Her research interests include Business Statistics, Financial Management, Portfolio Management, International Finance, Operation Research and Derivative Management. Investment Management, Financial Management, International Finance, Derivatives and Risk Management, Accounting Portfolio Analysis, Statistical Analysis, Operations Research, Behavioral Finance, and Research Methodology.

Appointment of New Director at SICI India Office, Delhi

Dr. Prachi Kaul, Director India Office

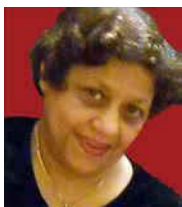


Dr. Prachi Kaul is alumna of IIT Delhi and has been associated with Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute as a Programme Officer for more than 12 years. She also served as acting director of SICI India office for more than one Year. She has overtaken

the charge of India office on 8th April 2016.

Members Activities

1) Mumbai University



Launch and Panel Discussion of the Book "What Children Really Want" at Mumbai & Seminar by Prof. Coomi Vevaina at UBC

Shastri scholar Dr. Coomi S. Vevaina authored a book titled "What Children Really Want" which was launched on 7th May 2016 at Nehru Centre, Mumbai & there was a Panel Discussion also. Professor Vevaina organized a seminar on 3rd June 2016 at University of British Columbia. The title of the conference was "Balancing the Yang and the Yin through Source-fully Intelligent Education".

2) Panjab University

HKU-USC-IPPA Conference on Public Policy



Hong Kong University organized a conference on June 10-June 11, 2016 on the theme **Coping with Policy Complexity in the Globalized World**. Professor B.S. Ghuman, Panjab University chaired one of the Panels titled, "Food

Security and Public Policy" during the conference. This Conference focused on understanding policy complexity and its many manifestations, assessing critically the challenges posed to policy actors in the public, business and social sectors. It aimed to investigate how policy actors in different societies have coped with complexity through institutional, instrumental, and managerial innovations. Professor Ghuman also presented two papers (co-authored) titled i) Food Security and Food Policy: Assessment of Public Distribution System in India and ii) Public Policies and Food Security in Developing World with Special Reference to India. Professor B. S. Ghuman was also invited to speak during the Inaugural Meeting of the Asia Pacific Public Policy Network (AP-PPN), organized at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, June 09, 2016.

3) Memorial University of Newfoundland

Memorial University of Newfoundland grants Rs 80 Lakh Scholarship to Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, India

Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) has granted approximately Rs. 80 lakh Scholarship to students of Lovely Professional University. Two final semester (VIII) students of B. Pharmacy program of LPU Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences, Arun Kumar & Gagandeep Kaur, have been selected for research endeavors and to continue their post graduate studies for M. Sc. Bio-Chemistry at MUN. [Read more](#)

Updates from Shastri Scholars 2015-16

i. Ratul Sarkar- SRSF Scholar:

Ratul expressed his sincere thanks to Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute for offering him a chance to avail the SRSF fellowship. His dream was to work in an advanced laboratory to learn the techniques for the isolation and

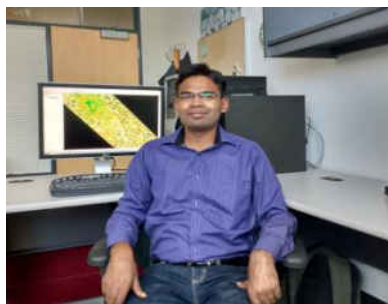


characterization of compounds from natural source. This dream got actualized when he received the award letter from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

He is working with Sorensen group in Department of Chemistry, University of Manitoba now as a part of his project in Canada. He has a strong feeling that this exposure will make him more vibrant in his professional as well as personal life. *"I want to thank my supervisor Dr. Tuhinadri Sen of Jadavpur University... Dr. John Sorensen and all the group members and University of Manitoba for providing me the opportunity to work with his group and making all the arrangements here in Canada".*

ii. Vineet Kumar, SRSF Scholar:

"I sincerely feel privileged and grateful to receive Shastri Research Student Fellowship (SRSF) 2015-16 from Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI), New Delhi". His doctoral



research is on "Synthetic aperture radar data analysis for land use-land cover aspects" at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India. Currently he is on a four months

visiting research at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa and Carleton University, Ottawa. He has enriched himself with experience acquired there. He is currently a part of a SMAPVEX-16 field campaign over the agriculture farm sites in the Canadian prairies. The field campaign consists of acquisition of Canadian and Indian radar satellite data acquisition synchronous with field measurements of vegetation and soil moisture.

Upcoming Events/Conferences in India and Canada

a) University of Ottawa announcing 2017 Canadian Literature Symposium

Understanding Robert Kroetsch's far-reaching influence on Canadian letters, the University of Ottawa's Department of English will be hosting a two-day conference on April 28-29, 2017. Proposals are invited for this major conference. All topics are welcome, including biographical, literary, and new methodologies of reading Robert Kroetsch's many writings. Please send a 300-word abstract and short autobiography by September 15th, 2016 to David Staines at dstaines@uOttawa.ca

b) CFP: Mikinaakominis / TransCanadas - Literature, Justice, Relation, An Interdisciplinary Canadian Literatures in English Conference, Uof T, May 2017

University of Toronto is organizing an Interdisciplinary Canadian Literatures in English Conference on Mikinaakominis / TransCanadas Literature, Justice, Relation on May 25-27, 2017. The Co-chairs are Smaro Kamboureli, University of Toronto Larissa Lai, University of Calgary. The deadline for all submissions is June 30, 2016. [More Details](#)

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