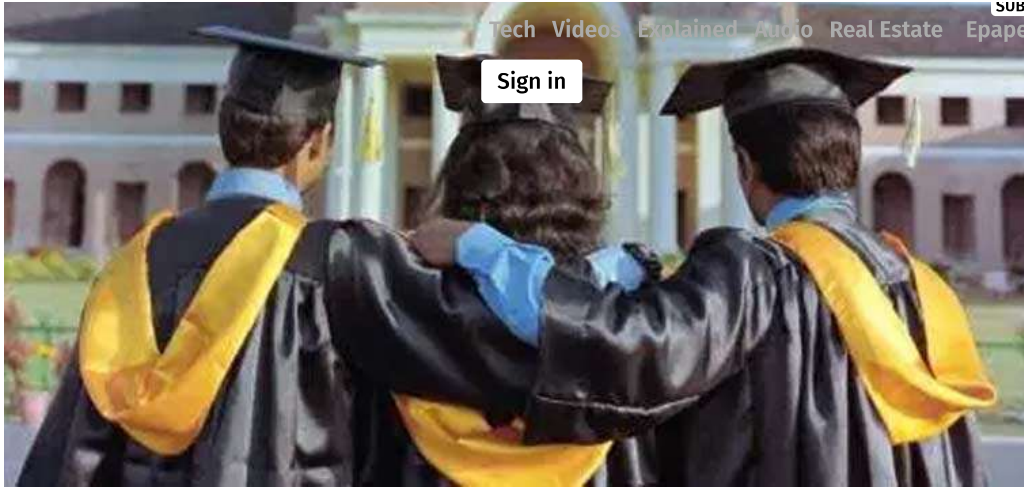


[Home](#) / [Opinion](#) / A partnership in education

# A partnership in education

Student mobility between the two countries and research partnerships can be strong engines for powering friendship between India and Canada



In the field of education, India and Canada share a close and longstanding relationship.

Canada celebrates its National Day on July 1. I extend my warmest greetings to the people and the government of Canada on this occasion. I also take this as an opportunity to look at the immense possibility of cooperation and collaboration between India and Canada, especially in the area of education, a sector that is closest to my heart.

India and Canada are two major democracies that share deep bonds. Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) has referred to the relationship between the two countries as a “natural partnership of shared values... nurtured by the emotional bonds of a vibrant Indian community”. The relationship has got stronger in recent years, with meaningful cooperation in a wide range of areas including economy, energy, science and technology, space, information technology, and education.

In the field of education, India and Canada share a close and longstanding relationship. As is natural for two countries that have so many diplomatic and cultural affinities, areas such as student mobility, research partnerships, and educational exchanges of several kinds are areas of ever-increasing cooperation.

Research partnerships form an important area of activity in educational collaboration between the two countries. **Sign in** About 300 institutional MOUs have been signed between the Canadian and Indian Higher Education Institutions for collaborative research and exchange programmes. Ninety-eight reputed Canadian faculty members have, so far, arrived under the Government of India's (Global Initiative of Academic Network) programme for short-term teaching assignments in Indian institutions. Canada is one of the 28 countries covered under SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration), an MHRD initiative aiming at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between the country's institutions and the best institutions in the world to solve problems of national and international relevance. Nineteen joint research proposals have so far been accepted from institutions in Canada.

A lot of student mobility and joint research collaboration in multiple disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas is being facilitated under the programme conducted by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) — the completely bi-national, 52-year-old flagship institution of India-Canada cooperation. Some of the SICI-sponsored projects combine technological and managerial orientations to produce innovative start-ups, while others provide innovative insights into social and cultural issues of crucial significance to the two countries. Urban studies, environmental studies, gender studies, and many more such areas have benefited from the cutting-edge research conducted under the programme. On the 50th anniversary of SICI, the prime ministers of India and Canada pledged their support to the institution.

I am told that in 2019, the Government of Canada introduced a multi-departmental international education strategy, Building on Success. One of its major goals is to promote student travel to countries such as India, so that Canadian students can return with competencies and skills that will deepen international relationships. Student mobility and research partnerships can be very strong engines for powering the friendship between India and Canada.

another area of collaboration between **Sign in** countries. I sincerely believe that the India-Canada relationship in education and research will continue to grow, diversify, and bring immense benefits to both countries.