India – Canada Relations Post-Cold War Perspective – Part 1

Ananda Majumdar
Researcher/Student, Antarctic Institute of Canada, University of Alberta, Canada, Harvard Graduate School of Education (Professional Education), USA

Abstract
From the perspective of this great relation, the purpose of this essay is to explore a dynamic amalgamation between two great democracies on the basis of education, culture, economy, defence, social phenomena, it is a broad-based story since India’s independence to at present through which a relation between India and Canada has been settled on a true nature through various ways of cooperation, contribution, support, aid and many more. I am in Canada and as a student and researcher I would like to approach this relation more fruitful and cordial by its nature. I would like to pursue my study in International Development and topic like this will be helpful for me to explore ideas, presentation, proposal writing, and developments between countries which is useful for the development of human being. This topic is my academic thesis during my master’s program in International Relations at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

Key Words:
Focus India, Team Canada, Colombo Plan, CIRUS Nuclear Reactor, Partners for the 21st Century, CIDA

Introduction
India and Canada have enjoyed a wide ranging and broad-based relationship ever since 1947, when India gained independence. The commonalities between the democratic structures of the two countries and the values interests shared by them provided the basis for this comprehensive relationship. The partnership between the two countries was enriched through common participation in peacekeeping missions since the very early days. Bilateral visits between the two countries contributed to the strengthening of this relationship and assisted the two countries in gaining a true measure of the respective economies. Spurred by commonalities of perceptions, India and Canada have cooperated on international platforms like the United Nations and the Commonwealth. Driven by its desire to participate actively in the vigorous development process underway in India, Canada became a significant aid contributor to India in 1951. Aid volumes peaked to about $100 million annually in the period 1969-78. As India’s economy matured and its industrial base became strong, the India-Canada relationship underwent metamorphosis from one based on aid to one based on trade and partnership. Close study of the current Indian situation has convinced Canada that the size of India’s economy, its impressive growth rate, advancing industrial profile and the tremendous buy power of the sizable middle class in India (estimated at between 250 to 300 million) represent great opportunity for Canada. It is in the context of this understanding that Canada launched (June 1995) a Focus India trade strategy, which culminated in the visit to India in January 1996 by a Team Canada led by then Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Seventy-eight commercial deals worth $3.29 billion were concluded between Indian and Canadian companies during the visits, strongly reinforcing for participation of inherent complementarity between the Indian and Canadian economies. This high-water mark has been established against the backdrop of quickly ascending graphs in the bilateral trade sphere and in
the area of Canadian investments in India. Exports from India to Canada have traditionally covered garments, textile products, cotton, carpets, rugs, leather articles, jute, jewellery, handicrafts, spices, coffee, tea, fruits, nuts, organic chemicals and software. Canadian exports to India comprise paper, pulp board, wood pulp, iron, steel, machinery equipment, electric, electronic goods, ships, resin, plastics, asbestos, vegetables, oil, lime and sulphur. The deepening commercial and economic relationship between India and Canada stands embodied in the joint business council, India - Canada business alliance platform operated by the federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(CIC), on the Indian end, and Canada-India Business Council, on the Canadian side. The confederation of Indian industry has also established a partnership with Canada. These forums coupled with the resolve of Prime Minister Chretien to double trade with India in the next two years and to quadruple it within the next five and backed by a clear recognition in Indian and Canadian commercial quarters of the vibrant symbiotic alliance between the two countries forebodes and even stronger relationship between the two countries. The visits of Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, then External Affairs Minister of India, to Canada in September-October, 1996 and that Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, Canada’s Foreign Minister, to India in January 1997 have consolidated the progress made in recent times and provided the basis for enlarging the scope and width of bilateral links. There are about 310,000, 3.80% of the Canadian population (est. 2015) of Indian origin in Canada. The earliest among them came to the west coast in the firm few years of the twentieth century. They were joined in the 1960’s and 1970’s by a large number of Indian professionals, who have, over the years, significantly contributed to Canadian society and there by acquired senior and respectable positions in the society. By virtue of the manner in which they are settled, persons of Indian origin today enjoy leverage in nearly 10% of Parliamentary ridings in the determination of electoral results. The contribution of this segment of Canadian society to India-Canada relations is well recognised and forms part of the joint declaration that was issued by the two Prime Minister upon the conclusion (January 4, 1996) of the visit of Prime Minister Chretien to India. The Indian official representation in Canada is in the form of a High Commission in Ottawa and consulates Generals of Toronto and Vancouver. Together these offices strive to serve the cause of strengthening India-Canada relations and the Indian Community. Air India has its offices in Toronto, and Montreal, the State bank of India (India’s largest bank) has branches in Toronto and Vancouver and the department of tourism, an office in Toronto. There are various community organizations who have been succeed to amalgamate Canadians and Indian, India Canada Association(ICA) is a not- for profit, volunteer based organization and as served the community in the national capital region for over 50 years whose mission is to contribute significantly to the preservation, awareness and the promotion of Indo-Canadian cultural heritage in the Ottawa-Gatineau area founded on June 28, 2012. Indian Students Association at the University of Alberta founded on January1, 1962 to create and extend support for cultural awareness, provide a platform for the participation of campus activities, contact with Indian communities and promote international understanding and fellowship. Bhartiya Cultural Society of Alberta is another community organizations founded in August 1988 to explore to the community about India’s religious tradition such as Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Mughal Islamic tradition etc. Thus India-Canada relations are headed for even greater heights in the coming years through then Prime Minister Stephen Harper and current Prime Minster Justin Trudeau.

**Literature Review**

India and Canada have cordial relations since 1947 and it is due to regular bi-lateral dialogue between officials and the Prime Ministers of both countries. Canada is 150 years old great
democracy since her independence and a great civilization, India is the world largest democracy and both have same structure of administration, therefore it is easier to understand each policies, rules and regulation, both are commonwealth countries and enjoying their rights by respecting her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd. Canada helped India a lot for the development of India’s road railway infrastructure, electricity, nuclear energy by providing CIRUS nuclear reactor and many more. India is grateful to Canada for the contribution of India’s development as a welfare state. Relations deteriorated in the wake of India’s peaceful nuclear explosion of may 1974 by then Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. The Canadian government was stung by allegations that the fissile material used to construct India’s firm nuclear device has been obtained from the Canadian supplied CIRUS nuclear reactor, as a result cooperation in the nuclear field between India and Canada which had flourished in 1960’s, came to a halt after the explosion of nuclear bomb. This explosion by India led to relations being frozen for over twenty years with Canada alleging that India has violated the terms of the agreement under which Canada had supplied a CIRUS nuclear reactor in 1956 under Colombo Plan. Activities of Canada based Sikh terrorist’s groups in planning and carrying out acts of violence in India during 1980’s introduced an additional element of strain. India’s nuclear explosion in May, 1998 made this relations on hold by Canada, by recalling its High Commissioner, imposed restrictions on India and called off several plan visits. The arrival of a new Foreign Minister John Manley in November 2000 paved the way for a new beginning in India-Canada relations with his decision to re-engage India. So, there are several ups and downs we have seen in Indo-Canada relations because of India’s stand on nuclear issue and Canada’s stand on world peace as itself a peaceful country. Canada finally understood India’s regional circumstances and the requirements of minimum nuclear deterrent for national security and regional balance for peace and stability and the stability of democracy. Canada finally recognized India’s nuclear doctrine and signed on a civil nuclear energy agreement in 2010 which was joyful for India’s then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and his counterpart Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada. India and Canada are two major players in the world, for the peace of present world and its stability both need to work together for the solution of climatic change, educational development, cultural awareness among societies, immigration and refugee’s problems and terrorism. India is a fully democratic country which is its strength and Canada needs to understand India and make a friendship just like all-weather friend. Impossible can be possible by trustworthiness.

Methodology
I was a master’s student in International Relations at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. During my final year as a part of my syllabus I choose to write on India and Canadian relations, a thesis paper. I first contacted with the Professor of North American Studies and I found Dr. Tridip Chakroborty as my supervisor for the writing guidance. I then went to our library and collected regular newspaper, internet search, articles etc. Collecting Indo-Canadian news was troublesome for me because of less information in Indian newspaper or in any academic journal, but few people such as librarian, Dr. Tridip Chakroborty helped me lot during papers collection. I then collected information about history, economy, cultural, studies, educational exchanges etc. and wrote a draft, my supervisor saw my efforts three times and advised for corrections. I finally made my final draft and submitted to my supervisor. It was wonderfully accepted by the department as a successful thesis paper for which I received a certificate as recognition on North American studies by the head of the department of International Relations, Dr. Sumita Sen.
Acknowledgement

The thesis paper is to acknowledge the significant help and support from various people, without which the completion of this paper would not have been possible. In this regard, I would convey my special gratitude towards my Supervisor Prof. Dr. Tridip Chakroborty for his guidance. I would also convey my gratitude to Ms. Kankana Das, in-charge of the Taraknath Das hall, for helping me. Without that guidance and help I could have never completed this paper. I am also grateful to Mr. Amal, Librarian of the departmental library of International Relations, Jadavpur University. I am grateful to all my friends and family for encouragement.

Result and Discussion

In the 55 years since India achieved her independence, Canada's bilateral relations have been characterized by distinct warmer and cooler periods. Bilateral relations have grown significantly in many spheres for periods of years, but also went through periods of decline because of disagreements between the Canadian and Indian governments over substantive issues. Yet Canada and India shares fundamental values (secular, democratic governments and multicultural societies), similar institutions (parliament, court, civil service) and a commitment to international place and security (through UN system) which has served to sustain the bilateral relationship over the decades. Along with these communalities, there exists a strong socio-cultural bond between the two countries emanating from an estimated 800,000 Canadians of Indian origin. In the 1950’s and 60’s Canada - India relations were enhanced because of the personal ties which developed between Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru and two Canadian Prime Minister who served for the country during those years: Louis St. Laurent and Lester B. Pearson. At the United Nations and in the Commonwealth, on issues as diverse as the Korean war armistice and Suez crisis, there was a convergence of interest and commitment between India and Canada. Canada’s program to India began in 1951 and grew substantially under Colombo Plan. Canada provided food aid, project financing, and technical assistance in the past five decades to India as one of the largest recipients of Canadian bilateral aid, amounting to over $3.8 billion. Indo - Canadian relations deteriorated in the wake of India’s peaceful nuclear explosion of May, 1974. The Canadian government was stung by allegations that the fissionable material used to construct India’s firm nuclear device has been obtained from the Canadian supplied CIRUS nuclear research sector. Canada severed bilateral nuclear cooperation with India in 1976. Thereafter Canada resolved to engage in nuclear cooperation with countries who signed the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons(NPT) and the comprehensive test ban treaty(CTBT) and which instituted full – scope safeguards on their nuclear energy programs under supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency(IAEA). Although Indo – Canadian cooperation in the nuclear field, which had flourished in the 60’s, came to a halt after the explosion of nuclear device in 1974, the bilateral relations grew in various fields. With the growing of bilateral relations India and Canada signed Extradition Treaty in 1987. In 1988, then Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi visited Vancouver, Canada for Commonwealth Prime Minister conference. India and Canada enjoyed a close and cooperative relationship through the early years of India’s independence, despite the fact that Canada is a member of NATO and India firmly nonaligned. Canada remained an important development partner for India during 50’a and 60’s. India’s peaceful nuclear explosion of 1974 led to relations being frozen for over twenty years with Canadian blaming that India had violated the terms of the agreement under which Canada supplied a CIRUS nuclear reactor in 1956 under the Colombo
Plan, Activities of Canada based Sikh terrorist groups in planning and carrying out acts of violence in India during the 1980’s introduced an additional element of strain. Relations again started to pick up in the mid 90’s with the visits of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in 1996 with Team Canada delegation and that of Governor General Romeo Le Blanc in March 1998. Unfortunately, Canada again chose to put relations with India on hold following the nuclear test of May – 1998, recalled high commissioner, imposed restrictions and called off several planned visits. A year down the line, then Secretary of the state for Asia Pacific, Raymand Chan came to India (May, 1999) on a visit meant to try and restore a degree of normalcy. Trade and economic cooperation was put back on the agenda thereafter and ministerial visits resumed. The arrival of a new foreign minister John Manley in November 2000 paved the way for a new beginning in Indo – Canadian relations with his decision to re-engage India. Canada decided to resume normal ties with India an announcement by foreign minister Manley on March 20, 2001 that Canada would pursue the broadest possible political and economic relationship with India which had been welcomed by India. As a part of the decision high level visits both at the political and senior officials level were restored. The period of 2001-2002 saw a marked turn around in that sense in bilateral relations. Visits during this period included those of the Canadian Minister of Immigration and Citizenship, Eleanor Caplan (March, 2001); Deputy Minister of International Trade, Robert Wright (March, 2001); Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gaetan Lavertu to India (April 30- May 1, 2001); Indian Minister of Power to Canada (June 4-9, 2001); Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs to resume the foreign office consultations kept in abeyance since Pokhran nuclear explosion by India (June 12, 2001); a delegation led by JS(peers), MEA (Ministry of External affairs) for the fourth meeting of the India – Canada JWG (Joint Working Group) on counter-terrorism (August 27-28, 2001); Finance Minister of India (November 2001) in connection with the G-20 meeting in Ottawa; Canadian Fisheries and Ocean Development Minister Herb Dhaliwal (January 7, 2002); Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, John Manley (January 21-22, 2002); Canadian Minister for International Trade Pierre Pettigrew (April 20-26, 2002) and Minister for Inter-Governmental Affairs in Canada, Stephane Dian (April 2-27, 2002). In September 2002, External Affairs Minister of India, Jaswant Sinha paid an official visit to Ottawa, during which he met the top leadership and held talks with his Canadian counterpart Bill Graham. The visits gave further impetus to bilateral relations in all areas, and re-affirmed the desire the both sides to intensify political, economic, and cultural integration. The two Foreign Ministers discussed a number of global and regional issues, and agreed to expand the existing cooperation on counter-terrorism to include a dialogue on global and regional security matters. They also decided to jointly explore promoting the economic relationship between the two countries, especially commercial collaboration in information technology and other emergence technologies. They agreed to intensify social and cultural interaction through exchanges involving academics, artists, performers, and writer, and noted the dynamic role played by the Indo – Canadian community in promoting these links. Bill Graham highlighted the fact that one in thirds Canadians is of Indian origin, and their contribution to Canada and to India – Canada relations is remarkable. That was followed by the visit of a Canadian parliamentary delegation to India, led by the speaker of the Senate, Daniel Hays, he called on Prime Minister, speaker of the Lok Sabha, External affairs Minister and other dignitaries during the visit (November 17-23, 2002). The India – Canada Joint Working Group (JWG) on counter-terrorism met in New Delhi and the two sides agreed to deepen and broaden cooperation in a number of areas including exchange of intelligence, cyber security, and capacity building in forensic science, terrorist finance, and border management etc. Two visits to India in quick succession by Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham and the Prime Minister Jean Chretien in
October 2003 improved the outlook further for the bilateral relationship. A joint statement entitled partners for the 21st century was released after Mr. Chretien’s talks with Prime Minister on 24th October. It outlined the vision of the two Prime Minister’s to strengthen government, commercial and civil society linkages between Canada and India. The statement committed the two countries to deepen their engagement, strengthen international, regional peace and security; prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons; enhance their strategic dialogue; upgrade Canadian representation in India; promote cooperation in counter terrorism; formalize and annual dialogue on global issues; and hold annual high-level trade policy consultations. During the visit, Prime Minister Chretien inaugurated the Canadian Consulate in Chandigarh and announced upgradation of the Canadian Consulate in Mumbai. Earlier Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham held talks with External affairs Minister of India on 11th October and signed an agreement for promotion cooperation between the foreign service institutes of the two countries. This was the second meeting of foreign minister’s level as they were also met on the margins of the ASEAN meeting Phnom penh, Cambodia in June 2003. This two visits marked Canada’s full engagement with India after the period of strain in bilateral relations in the aftermath of India’s nuclear tests in 1998. Canadian Minister of Industry Allan Rock visited to India from October 15 to 19, 2003 during which he met Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Ministers of the state of Maharashtra. A delegation comprising six members of Canadian Parliament’s standing committee on Foreign Affairs and National Human Rights Commission. Premier of British Columbia Gordon Campbell visited to New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chandigarh for urban development and poverty alleviation while he had meetings with the Premier of Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra. Canadian Minister of Agriculture Lyle Vanclief also paid a visit to India from December 4 to 10 during which he had a meeting with the Union Agriculture Minister. Premier of Alberta Ralph Klein visited to India from January 11 to 16, 2004 and had a meeting with the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas besides speaking engagements in Delhi and Mumbai, interactions with media etc. Even while having a nuclear umbrella for its own security, Canada has always taken the moral high ground on nonproliferation issues. Canada is a strong supporter of NPT and has been closely associate with the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since her inception, providing strong support to the agencies efforts on nuclear safeguards. Canada’s nonproliferation policy has two objectives, promoting a more effective and comprehensive international non-proliferation regime and ensuring that Canadian nuclear exports are not utilized for nuclear explosive purpose. It is in the context of the second factor that Indo-Canadian cooperation in the nuclear field, which had flourished in 1960’s, came to a halt after the peaceful nuclear explosion in 1974 by India. Canada supported the indefinite and unconditional extension of NPT in 1995 as also universal adherence to it and the broadening and deepening of export controls and full scope safeguards as a condition of supply of nuclear related material and technology. Canada has periodically called for India to sign the NPT and the CTBT and also made demarches against India’s missile program in general and deployment of Pritvi and tests of Agni missile in particular. Since July 1999 Canada has evinced interest in bilateral security dialogue with India. India’s position has been that any dialogue could be meaningful if it was predicted on acceptance of Indian having a credible nuclear deterrent. In September 2002 meeting between the External affairs meeting, both sides agreed to disagree on the nuclear and missile related issues and in October 2003 meeting it had been decided to expand the current focus of the security dialogue from nuclear nonproliferation to other areas of common concern such as small arms, child soldiers, cooperation in the CD etc. It was also agreed that the exchange should be forward looking rather than a reiteration of known positions. This understanding was reiterated at ministerial levels.
during their October 2003 meeting. Canada has traditionally supported resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir issue through sustain bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan protecting the interests of the Kashmiri people, often offering to facilitate such dialogue and at times even suggesting mediation. Present Canadian position, however, continues to support resolution through Indo-Pak negotiations while protecting, the interests of the Kashmiri people, in tandem with the US position on the matter. Canada also follows an even-handed approach vis-à-vis India and Pakistan refraining from acknowledging in unequivocal terms the fact of Pakistan’s sponsorship of terrorism in J &K. Canada had remained a regular participant in UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan). It also subscribes to the notion of Jammu and Kashmir being a potential flashpoint for nuclear conflagration in the region. Canada made no public statement pm then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s visit to Lahore, Pakistan for peace dialogue in February 1999 or during the Kargil conflict subsequently, maintaining that Canada’s view was reflected in the G8 statement on the issue. The G8 countries had expressed deep concern on the military confrontation following the infiltration of armed intruders which violated LOC Line of Control between India and Pakistan border; the statement had called military action to change status quo as irresponsible, urged the restoration and full respect for the LOC and resumption of the Indo-Pak dialogue in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. Following massacre of the Sikhs at Chhattisigpora during the US president to India in March 2000, Canada more or less adopted the US stand and issued a statement saying that a lasting solution on the Kashmir issue could best be achieved through sustained bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. Canada called for respect for the LOC, did not mention the interests of the Kashmiri people but expressed deep concern at the increasing level of violence. The statement itself was issued under pressure from the Sikh lobby in Canada, but it did signal a shift in Canada’s stand on Jammu & Kashmir towards the line adopted by the United States of America. While Canada did not issue any public statement of condemnation post October 1 attack on Jammu & Kashmir assembly or post December 13th on the Indian Parliament, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien telephoned then Prime Minister of India Vajpayee on 5th October, 2001 to expressed sympathies and support on the Srinagar terrorist attack. He also wrote to the Prime Minister on December 14 to expressed shock and condemnation of the attack on Indian Parliament and called for the perpetrators of the act to be brought to justice. Then Foreign Minister of Canada John Manley also telephoned External Affairs Minister of India on both occasion. During his visit to India in January 2002, Canadian Deputy Prime Minister John Manley told his Indian interlocutors that the central message he had conveyed to President Musharrof of Pakistan was that terrorism could be defended on any ground and it was no longer acceptable to say that one man’s terrorist was another man’s freedom fighter. He also said that he has urged Pakistan to take some action on India’s list of 20 terrorists. However, he urged India give some signal to facilitate a move towards de-escalation, saying that Musarraf had taken great political risk by joining the fight against terrorism. In a statement issued on January 6, 2004 regarding the meeting between Indian Prime Minister and Pakistani President Parvej Musarraf on January 5, 2004 on the margins on the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad, Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham said he welcomed the positive development in relations between India and Pakistan as an important step toward finding a peaceful solution to their outstanding issues. Canada has strongly encouraged a dialogue between the two countries, and Mr. Graham urged both countries to build on the momentum generated by the successful SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit. In the recent-part there has been only a slight shift of nuance in the Canadian position on Jammu & Kashmir. Canada retains its traditional emphasis on Kashmir
being a potential nuclear flash point and supports resumption of dialogue with Pakistan. Apart from the fall-out of the 1974 peaceful nuclear explosion and the 1998 nuclear tests, the problem of Sikh terrorism originating in Canada has been an important issue in India-Canada relations. Talwinder Singh Parmer of Babbar Khalsa arrived in Canada in 1979 and began to conduct extremist activities. Lakhbir Singh Brar, a relative of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who joined with Parmar in Canada in 1985, formed the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) which came to control nearly 75% of the Gurdwaras in Canada by 1988. Canadian based Sikh extremists bombed Air India aircraft- Kanishka in June 1985 and a bomb planted on another Air India aircraft exploded at Narita Airport, Tokyo, Japan. India has maintained pressure on Canada to keep a check over extremist activities originating in that country, control the outflow of funds from Canada which directly or indirectly finance extremist operations in India, take legal steps against virulent propaganda carried in the Punjabi language press and electronic media programs, and scrutinized the activities of Sikhs, who, on the false pretext to persecution, have found Canada a haven for seeking political asylum. India and Canada concluded an extradition treaty in 1987. Institutional arrangements have been established between concerned organizations in India and Canada leading to significant exchange of information aimed at thwarting terrorism. In October 1994, the two countries also concluded a Mutual Legal Assistant Treaty. A joint Working Group on counter-terrorism was also established and five meetings of the group have been held so far in New Delhi in 1997, in Ottawa, November 1998, in New Delhi February 2000, in Ottawa, August 2001, and in New Delhi December 2002. On the post September 11 context Canada has introduced new measures to combat terrorism, aimed at suppressing the financing of terrorism in Canada and freezing the assets of listed organizations, including Harkat U-1 – Mujahidin and Jaish-e-Mohammad. Canada began extending economic assistance to India in 1951 through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). India was at one time the largest recipient of aid from Canada. Aid figures have progressively gone down over the years, as the India-Canada relationship has metamorphosed into one based on trade, rather than aid. The net total value of committed CIDA assistance in 1994-95 was C$63.5 million. In 1995-96 this figure was C$63.5 million, and by 1997 it had reached a level of about C$75 million. When several projects were stopped, differed in May 1998, Canada had over 35 projects in India for varying periods totally about C$45 million. For the last several years the annual CIDA assistance to India had been averaging between C$ 22-25 million. As a result of India’s economic reform program and in consonance with its own revised philosophy, CIDA abandoned its past practice of financing capital intensive projects like dams and the supply of commodities in favor of assistance in areas of transfer of technology, industrial collaboration and fostering between Indian and Canadian private sectors. But following the imposition of sanctions in 1998 the focus of CIDA projects shifted to the so called humanitarian areas such as human rights, environment, NGO partnership etc. Canada suspended aids to new projects under CIDA but ongoing projects continued to receive assistance. Under an expended definition of humanitarian assistance, some 80-85% of CIDA funding was restored. In the last few years, CIDA programs sought to promote Canada’s national interests and foreign policy objective. CIDA funds used for sponsoring visits to Canada of individuals who are at or have the potential to occupy – decision making levels in key organizations in sectors which hold promise for Canadian exports and investment, economic, geographical, environmental protection, power generation, telecommunications, mining etc., it was used for financial assistance to Canadian companies interested in exporting to India or to invest in India, supporting NGO’s and individuals (academics, public figures etc.) who are in the with Canada’s point of view on issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, the fund was used for financing studies and research projects.
dealing with human rights, good governance, democracy, regional dipartites, religious–caste conflicts etc. Canada’s aid program has been coming down over the years and its global aid constitutes only 0.27% of its GDP. CIDA’s aid program in India last year was worth about C$25 million. Canadian studies have shown that as much as 70% of Canadian aid funds found their way back to Canada. In 2003 the Government of India took a decision to decline bilateral aid from several countries including Canada. As per this decision bilateral assistance including aid would not be accepted by the Government of India and its subordinate and attached agencies where Government has substantial control. However, ongoing programs and projects will continue until their completion. The new guidelines also lay down areas where bilateral assistance would be welcome, including universities, NGO’s, autonomous bodies etc. Economic and commercial engagement between India and Canada strengthened primarily after the end of the cold war, with the realization that Canada should expand its economic presence in markets other than in the south of its border and given the opportunities offered by India’s economic reforms. This trend accentuated in the late 1990’s following the financial crisis on East Asian economies. In February 1995, Canada recognized South Asia as the largest market in the region with enormous scope for commercial cooperation. Then International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren released a document in June 1995 titled Focus India. This sought to match Indian requirements with Canadian capabilities and exhorted Canadian industry to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the Indian market. During this period, Canada also strengthened its trade commissioner in its High Commission in New Delhi and its consulate Mumbai and Bengaluru. In 1997 Canadian commercial representation expanded to Chandigarh. Commercial work was also undertaken by the two honorary consulates in Chennai and Kolkata. This initiative was given an especial dimension by the visit of the then Prime Minister Jean Chretien to India in January 1996 together with a team Canada delegation comprising seven provincial premiers, two federal ministers and over 300 businessmen, the visit, coming as it did after over 25 years, was described by Chretien as a new renaissance in India–Canada relations and marked the high point of efforts initiated since 1994 to promote interaction between India and Canada. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) took the initiative to observe January 10 as Canada Day each year following Chretien visit of 1996. Prior to this the Canada-India Business Council (CIBC), set up in 1983, was a signatory to a joint cooperation protocol with FICCI and Assocham. CII had a cooperation agreement since 1982 with the Canadian actions taken in the wake of Pokhran-2. In 1999 CIBC led a business delegation to India and in 2000 sent a multi-disciplinary trade mission to India. In recent years CII has organized visits of business delegations with participation of government official in sectors such as oil and gas, environment, mining etc. Indian Government delegations have also been participating in multilateral business meeting in Canada. Canada has shown considerable interest in inviting Indian ministers responsible for power, telecommunications, mines etc. The minister of power visited Canada in June 2001 followed by a visit of Minister of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises a forth night later. In-November Canadian Minister of Natural Resources Herb Dhaliwal led a business development to India in November 11-19, 2002. During which he signed MOUS (Memorandum of Understanding) on cooperation’s in geospatial information technology - with the department of science and technology and the state of Andhra Pradesh. Canadian Deputy Ministry of International Trade Leonard Edwards visited to India in February 2003, Minister of Industry and Trade Alan Rock visited to India in October 2003. Mr. Stephen Van Houten, President of the Canadian Manufactures Association (CMA) visited to India and predicted that liberalization will improve bi-lateral trade relations. According to him CMA is directly involved in promoting India in Canada. Canadian Officials have identified several sectors for technology
transfer to India, among them are power generation, transmission, energy efficiency equipment, airport development, telecommunications, surface transport, environmental monitoring and control of equipment, gas equipment and industrial machine instrumentation etc. Ms. Susan Brown of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) said after her ten days visit to New Delhi that India is the best place for chances of success and commercial benefit. The reform program in India is real and enjoys the commitment of the Indian Government. Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs Ed-Philip, a relentless promoter of India in Canada’s largest province expressed his deep interest on the relations between Ontario and India and encouraged more opportunities in cooperative arrangements of India and Ontario’s business community. According to Susan Cartwright, former Trade Commissioner in Mumbai, with economic liberalization India has now unleashed it’s already dynamic private sector on the road to globalization, may make India the next success story of Asia after China. The recent purchase of Quebec’s steel plant, Sid-Bec-Diso by Kolkata based Ispat Steel is a shot in the arm for India. They paid 240 million Canadian Dollar for this company which has five plants, with a present manufacturing capacity of 1.3 million tons per annum. Ispat Chief Mr. Mittal said during his visit to Toronto in November that they would spend $100 million in capital investments and increase their production capacity to 1.8 million tones, that would bring total manufacturing capacity of Ispat to 6.3 million tones. According to him Canada and India have a long-standing relationship with a country having channeled more of business relationship, on an equal footing. A multi-sectoral trade mission to India on its return here, emphasized the need to strength links between Indian and Canadian private sectors companies. The mission was sponsored jointly by the Canadian Government and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce. Mr. Hemant Shah, Coordinator of the Canadian Mission told that they are trying private sector to private sectors linkage. According to Shah’s report India has potential to become an or even large, more modern market place for Canadian pulses and should not be ignore by Canada as a whole. Xcan is already exporting pulps and green peas to India, Mr. Millar claimed. Ten-member trade mission from Manitoba and other Western Canadian provinces visited to India for ten days. An Indian business delegation headed by Mr. N.N. Prasad, Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Industrial Development that was in Toronto, was very optimistic of increasing exports to Canada. A seminar that was sponsored for the Indian mission jointly by the Indian Consulate, State Bank of India and Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce was attended by 110-businessman. Following their visit, Indian authorities have received several inquiries from NRIS and mainstream Canadian businessman in various sectors. According to Mr. Shah, that was the time to look at India. The Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce has done the ground work and the government should back us up. According to statistics India’s export to Canada increased by 44.5% during January compared to the corresponding period last year. India’s export to Canada during January 1994 was worth $29.81 million during January 1993. Canada’s export to India have on the other hand declined from @24.411 million during January last year to $21.403 million during January this year. The missions visit to India has resulted in memorandum of understanding (MOU) between architectural-group, a Winnipeg based firm, specializing in the power sector and Finolex software of Pune to develop software. System monitors has also signed on MOU, for energy-control equipment. Hir International Limited a marketing consultant of Monitoba signed on MOU with PPH Holdings of Mumbai for financing, leasing and consultation. Indo- Canadian joint venture for developing and exporting packaged software in high-tech for developing areas has already launched India into the next century with the successful execution of two contracts for another $4 million virtually in its bag. The Rs. Fifteen crore ventures located in the software technology part of Bengaluru has been promoted by the
VMC project technologies Limited Baroda and software management service an Ontario based company having offices at Denver in the United States and Abu-Dhabi. According to Mr. Paul Hewitt, President of Soft-tech Management Service which has also a 50% stake in the joint venture, the success achieved in the development of packaged software will make ICES a dynamic unit of the Indian information technology industry since Indian software industry is looking up at an export level of $1 billion by 1997, ICES is now well poised to make significant contributions towards the objective. According to Mr. Narayan Vaisnav and B.K. Achuta, chairman and vice chairman of the company, it was proposed to develop cost system software modules as additions, ICES, in which immense business prospects were opening up globally. The Firm is computer aided design services which helps to store map, drawing and layout. The process involves digitization of drawings using plotters. The process involves digitization of drawings using plotters. The service is highly labor intensive and a labor component in high, the service can be provided at lower rated in India. The second is plant design software involving a technique will help first is securing to photo industrial plant by using a 3-D camera, which is then fed into a computer form -scanning. The scanner assists in replicating the entire plant on the computer screen with all the attributes both physician and material. The packaged software is capable of producing detailed drawings with regard to civil, mechanical, electrical aspects besides instrumentation. The software will enable to identify the trouble spots in the plant quickly for the purpose of maintenance repairs. The instant identification of trouble spots will mean very low down time for maintenance. Globally manufacturing units are now required to plant manuals with both basic and detailed engineering under the occupational safety and environmental safety and environmental law regulations, the advanced software called plant design software(PDS) will enable the preparation of such advanced software is anticipated. If the Americans have the India strong to promote Indian reforms among US multinationals, borrowing an idea from their cousin, the Canadians had unveiled focus India, a coordinated business development strategy to increase Canadian business profile in India. The differences, however, was that unlike the American Express(AMEX), which had been promoted by the India Interest Group, purely an industry effort, this time it is the Canadian Government which is spear heading the program through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. A first step in this direction was the 35 members high profile business delegation which had come with the Canadian Minister of International Trade and Invest. Opportunity when fully implemented, the program would result in a coordinated approach by the federal and provincial government in conjunction with Canadian industry to develop a strategic long-term plan to increase Canadian business interest in India. This initiative coupled with the appointment to two additional trade-commissioner in Delhi and Mumbai was expected to offer Canadian business a planned approach to the full range of economic opportunities offered by India. Focus India recognizes that country is now at a crucial juncture in its development and it was important for Canadian industry to be well positioned in the market. The priority sectors identified under the program includes power generation on equipment and services, oil, and gas, tele-communications and environmental products and services. Among other areas, Canada viewed environmental technology products and services as the future growth area with the present C$500 million market expected to grow at an annual rate of 20 to 25 percent to reach $2 to 4 billion by the year 2000. The Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and the Canadian Industrial Development Industry (CIDA) had signed a memorandum of understanding for an environmental management project. Notwithstanding the encouraging response to the reforms from the Canadian firms, businessman still had reservation on the future course of action. According to Mr. J.C. Bourgeoif, President and CEO of Teleglobe
Cable System at CII’s luncheon meeting with Mr. McLaren that their company seeks greater transparency in government procedures and less insularity in government business relations. The somewhat lackadaisical FDI response from Canada could be attributed to this of a total of 17000 investment intentions, amounting to over $100 billion received by the government since the reform process began three years ago. Canada accounted for joint 1.5% in terms of number of proposals, while 40% of the total proposals had either materialized or would materialize within the twelve-month. Canada accounted for a mere 0.6% of these investments, industries secretary, Mr. M.C. Gupta disclosed, according to him, looking at the quality of investments and their potential something, more should have come from Canada, while focus India seems to be gearing up to do what the Indian Government apparently failed to do, the mood in Canadian business on Indian was upbeat. Several company CEO’s and senior executive discussions. We have to India to do business- Mr. McLaren stated, assuring that Indians could be certain the delegation should return to Canada reinforced in conviction that thanks to the challenging economic reforms cooperation between the two countries had entered a yet more promising and rewarding era. Mr. McLaren, Canadian Minister for International Trade and Investment offered India a base for trade with the western hemisphere and North America in particular, could be pursued profitably from Canada. This could be done either through wholly owned Indian ventures or through joint ventures. The Canada-India link program and the Canadian Broad Ottawa, organized a three-round table workshop between October, 12-19, 1994 at Toronto, brought together businessmen, industrialists, senior government officials from India and Canada, who exchanged views and examined the possibilities of Canadian Indian cooperation. The emphasis was on management of change and innovation and possibilities of economic cooperation. This meeting the first of many such to be held during the current year, was a follow-up on the recent visit to India Mr. Roy McLaren to promote India-Canada joint ventures. Recognizing that India is one of the most promising markets in the Asia-Pacific region for Canadian business, the Canadian government had promised its business and industrial community to promote closer ties and the trade ministers visit testified to this commitment. After detailed discussion, the talks zeroed in on the chambers team study about measures required for successful business tie-ups between the two countries. Dr. C.H. Krishnamorthy Rao and Dr. G Thyagarajan, Chairman of Chambers Team Group, other members of Indian delegation included Mr. Marhew, J. Manimala, Mr. K.J. Devendar, Mr. S. Bijlani were Indian side with Canadian delegation for the development of Indo-Canadian business tie-up. India is ideally positioned to cater to Asian and West Asian markets. An immediate result of economic liberalization was that all multinational who had quit India during the 70's decades, were the first to return to Indian operations with both equity and technology transfer agreements. Relaxation FERA regulations and the freedom to set up any industry with equity of $10 millions without approval joint ventures abroad. Offering foreign institutional and corporate investors in core sector projects like telecom and transport, besides power were encouraging steps. Canadian company like BATA was already operating in the country for a long time. Canadian experts were available in all the core sector of India which had been thrown open to foreign investors already the Indian business partners in dealing with hi-tech valve added products. Canadian businessmen were very bullish on India and its economic development and they were great potential for direct investment as well as joint ventures in various goods and service sectors. BCNI (Business Council of National Issues) in 1976, the business council was considered to be the voice of Canadian business on public policy issues in Canada and in excess of $1 trillion in assets with a yearly turnover of approximately $450 billion and employ close to one and half million Canadians. Mr. d'Aquino had been the president of BCNI since 1981, which had played an influential role in
shaping fiscal, trade, energy, environment, competitive policies in Canada. In the international arena, Mr. d’Aquino had established the council’s presence as a significant actor with a progressive global issue. He visited to India and it was soon expected to be followed up by exchange visits from high level delegations between the two countries. Earlier there was some concern among the business community about whether India would continue with her economic reform? But general feeling was that, the genie is out of the bottle and the economic reforms here are real and irreversible. With the growth of cordial trade relations between India and Canada, Canada had identified power sector in India as the major area for investment and negotiations was going on between the two countries for setting up power projects with a total capacity of 10,000 MW. Canadian High Commissioner in India, Mr. Stanley Gooch said, Canada had identified energy telecommunication, environmental products and services as the major areas for Canadian investment in India underlining the possibility of special cooperation between India and Canada in hydel power sector, then High Commissioner of Canada in India, Mr. Stanley Gooch said that India has the potential to producing 60,000 MW of electricity through hydel projects and Canadian assistance could be the big help to producing cheaper power in this country. Canadian Dollar would help establishment of joint ventures between the two countries at relatively low cost. The analysis of the Canada-India environment according to the Focus India showed that India would become an increasingly important market for Canadian business. Thus, India and Canada agreed to form a semi-formal mechanism. Although economic ties with India was a major aspect of its diplomatic relations, Canada could not underestimate the interest it had a security issues as it relates to India. Former BJP-led coalition government signed its first agreement with a foreign government when memorandum of understanding(MOU) in the field of telecommunication was signed with Canada. MOU’s signed by the Finance Minister of India Mr. Yashwant Sinha and Canadian Minister of National Revenue Herb Dhaliwal. The MOU’s were signed in the presence of then Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Canadian Governor General Romeo Le Blanc. Rupee 320 million agreements were a great assistance from Canadian International Development Agency(CIDA) to provide technical assistance and training to the department of telecom and telecom regulatory authority of India in relevant areas. The object of the operations project was to demonstrate ways improve especially in the rural areas of the country. The air of the frame work project was to support the creation of an environment in the telecom sector which would be conductive to private sector investment. The agreements were indicative of the growing cooperation between India and Canada in high-tech areas such as telecommunication. Vancouver based Canasia Power Corporation built two power plants of 400 MW each at Jawaharpur in Uttar Pradesh about 120 km from Agra. According to Ashok Dhillon, (Chairman and CEO of the Indo-Canadian owned power company), the final step in the long journey which started in 1993. The final estimated capital cost had yet to be approved by New Delhi. The initial cost estimate was given when the first application was field in 1995 upon permission by Uttar Pradesh Government. According to Mr. Ashok Dhillon, the plant to start producing 800 MW by 2005. It takes a minimum of seven to eleven years to get clearance for power project in Canada’s British Columbia province. Canasia signed a turnkey contract with the Hyndai Heavy Industry of South Korea for Jawaharpur. Canasia would bring in big power for Jawaharpur companies to take 30 percent state and 40 percent would be retained by Canasia. The standard 70-30 ratio translates into USD 700 million in debt and USD 300 million equity. Entire cost of the project was estimated more than $1billion according to Mr. Dhillion. The Jawaharpur Power Plant with two units of 400 MW was producing 800 MW of the electricity by 2005. Agra wheeled through this project and relieved the current acute shortage that had resulted in the use of 86,000 diesel generators in the city, creating
hell for the Tajmahal. Not only Canada, India herself was interested to invest in Canada. In a bid to

tackle the vast potential of Indian companies, the Canadian Consulate had embarked on an

invest in Canada mission. Having already targeted and made presentation to heavy weight like the

TATA’s and Essar, a comprehensive list of the top 25 industrial houses had already been drawn

up. There were six distinct fields for Indian investment – software, petrochemicals, paper, wood

based product, metals, pharmaceutical and auto artillerys. Canadian of Indian origins had also

looked at India as a partner in trade and consulate law, this as a big opportunity since a sizeable

proportion of Canada’s population was of Indian origin. The Aditya Birla Group which had

invested close to $7 million in a pulp and paper factory in New Brunswick or the State bank of

India which had already four branches and planned 5 to 6 branches in the future. Jet Airways set

up office, Amul was planning a packaging facility in Canada. In the field of joint cooperation,

Canada would press for India’s entry into APEC through the establishment of membership

criteria. How to make the organization more effective through Indian participation was uppermost

in Canada’s mind. As host of the APEC process year of Asia-Pacific-Canada would feature India at

the Canada business conference in Toronto and in the Asia-Pacific week in Atlantic Canada.

Canada offered high technology as India expanded its infrastructure, particularly its telecom,

information technology, power and energy equipment and services, besides engineering and

financial services. On the other hand, Indian companies through investment in Canada, got free

market access to the Unites States of America, Mexico, Chile and Israel through free trade

agreement. Agreement –s had been signed for cooperation and developing in private sector,

energy infrastructure and improving tax administration for which Canada would provide assistance

funding of CAD 30 million. According to the Lloyd-Axworthy, then Canadian Minister of

Foreign Affairs, India and Canada must continue to cooperate, be it in the Asian Regional

Forum(ARF) in the UN or elsewhere to forge new tools to made our multi-lateral institutions and

international diplomacy more effective. Then Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd-Axworthy

announced the creation of a Canada-India Joint Ministerial Committee and signing of three

Canadian international development agency agreements to assist India in energy, private sector

development and tax reform. The Foreign Affairs Minister, Minister for International Cooperation

and the Minister responsible for La Francophone also announced two projects to promote human

rights education and children’s rights in India. Bilateral trade between India and Canada increased

from USD848.73 million in 1997-98 to USD 1256.91million in 2002-03, registering a 48.09%

increase within a period of five years. India’s exports increased by 35% and imports by 26% during

this period. The balance of trade remained in India’s favor for last five years. During April –

March, 2002-03 the balance of trade had been in favor of India at USD131.98 million. In the

corresponding period of the previous year it was USD55.38 million. India’s position in recent

years oscillated between Canada’s 23rd and 24th largest trading partner. India ranks 5th, immediately

behind China, in DFAIT”s list of priority markets for purposes of allocating trade developing

funding. The Canadian Export Development Corporation(EDC) had identified India amongst its

three premium markets and is actively seeking more business. Canadian presence increased in

Indian banking, insurance and financial services sectors as also in engineering and consultancy

services. Canadian Minister for International Trade Pierre Pettigrew emphasized during his April

2002 visit that, Indian companies could use Canada as the gateway of North America while Canada

could see India as the gateway of South and South-East Asia. In the October 2003 talks between

External Affairs Minister and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, both sides agreed

that the annual bilateral trade turn over did not credit to the economies of the two countries. It was

felt that business-to-business ties, greater cooperation between the private sectors in the two
countries, co-production of films, India’s strength in software and as a major emerging center for off-shore services were potential areas for focus. As follow up, on December 5th, 2003 India and Canada signed a Letter of Intent to conclude an agreement on co-production of films.

Trends in India-Canada Trade: -
(In USD Million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Growth (%)</th>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Growth (%)</th>
<th>Trade Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>427.82</td>
<td></td>
<td>420.91</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>473.01</td>
<td>10.56</td>
<td>385.57</td>
<td>(-)8.40</td>
<td>87.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>578.27</td>
<td>22.25</td>
<td>380.51</td>
<td>(-)1.31</td>
<td>197.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>656.47</td>
<td>13.52</td>
<td>397.07</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>259.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>584.42</td>
<td>(-)10.97</td>
<td>529.43</td>
<td>33.28</td>
<td>55.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>698.27</td>
<td>19.40</td>
<td>566.29</td>
<td>6.96</td>
<td>131.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: DGC I and S, Kolkata)
India’s exports to Canada includes RMG cotton, accessories, cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups etc. drugs, pharmaceuticals, and the fine chemical’s, manufacture of metal, RMG manmade, fibers, gems and jewelry, leather, manufactures, electronic, computer software, carpets, rice basmati, silk fabrics, handicrafts, cashew and spices. India’s major items of imports from Canada includes pulses, electronic goods, newsprint, ferrous ores, metal scrap, pulp and waste paper, rubber paper, miscellaneous wood product, leather fertilizer, artificial resins, plastic materials, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals project goods and electrical mercenary. On the investment front, India is the 33rd largest source of direct investment in Canada. There was a 100% increase in Indian investment in Canada between 1986 to 1997. More than half of this investment was in the sector of pulp and paper. In recent times, there had been rapid increase in FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in Canada by Indian software companies, with the intent to establishes includes TATA Consultancy Services(TCS), BFL Software, Penta four, Wipro, and Infosys Technologies. Indian companies in life sciences and financial services were also finding Canada a profitable base of operation to serve the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement between the USA, Canada, Mexico) market. Areas of Indian investment thus also includes pharmaceuticals, metals, petrochemicals, auto ancillaries etc. Canada has modest presence in India in terms of movement. Canada accounts for about 1.28%(USD 0.82 billion) of the total investment approvals (USD 0.67 billion) of the cumulative inflow (USD 32.41 billion). Top sectors attracting FDI from Canada are telecommunications (61.69%), Fermentation industry (9.56%), Services sector (financial and non-financial 7.95%), Transportation industry (6.19%) and Food Processing industry (3.51%). Canada had been granted 103 technical collaboration (1.38% of the total i.e. 7,464) since 1991. Top five sectors attracted technology from Canada were the Metallurgical industry (17 in no.), Telecommunication (11 in no.), Chemicals other than fertilizers (9 in no), and Industrial machinery (8 in no.). Major companies invested in India includes M/s Bell Canada International Inc., M/s Seagram Company Ltd., M/s ALTA Telecom International Ltd., M/s Lassen Dibben(Pacific) Ltd., M/s NC Cain Food Ltd., etc.

Conclusion: Since 1947 Canada was India's true friend. Canada has extensive friendly contribution for India's development and thus a decades long friendship has built between Canada and India which is really prepossessing at present. It is a true relation between North and South, based on trade, economic, cultural, social, academic, sustainable exchanges which makes globalization a real concept. I can give my example as an institutional global citizen and I have Global Citizenship award as well from the University of Alberta, it is an exchange that we can study worldwide and Canada is the real destination, Canadian Universities are true institutions. I think a base of a relation can be made by the people which is clearly visible exchanges between India and Canada. Today’s liberal world deeply depends on economic ties which is the pillar of countries structure and processing. India and Canada are more matured then before and the base of their trade and economic relations are very strong at present. India offered significant opportunities for Canadian trade and investment in areas of demonstrated Canadian expertise such as information and communications technologies, power, infrastructure, aerospace, and environmental technologies. Canada also has prioritized India as its top three premium markets for direct investment. Thus, a deal, a mutual understanding has been built between this great country. Both are democracy, has liberal think-tank, therefore it is not that hard to approach each other in the various fields of innovation through which both can gain advantage. India and Canada have various differences, thoughts, different sites of philosophical view but yet they gain success to come out from those immature steps which could harm their bilateral relations. This is the winning point of both India
and Canada. The question is how come a developed country Canada and a developing country India can build an equal status based trade relations on faith, understanding and dealings? It is quite understandable that Canada has more advantage because of its technological advancement therefore it has trade deficit as well but India had trade deficit over Canada for couple of years yet a technologically weaker country. I can explain my thought here that is, India is not actually a weaker developing country, it is the fastest growing economy in the world at present and has extensive areas of developmental process, India possess top five position in software industry, pharmaceutical industry, food industry, raw materials industry etc. and thus India can compete with any developed country and can achieved trade deficit as well. If Canada and India can maintain their fruitful relations, it is not far that next century will be guided by India and Canada and their warm relations will be the lesson for rest of the countries.

References: