



Indo Canadian Sun

India Centre: One Year Later

▼ Anupam Sharma and Dr. Manish Pandey



India Centre
Academic, Business and Community Excellence
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/india-centre>

Established on November 6, 2013, India Centre for Academic, Business and Community Excellence is an outcome of partnership between the University of Winnipeg and the India Association of Manitoba. The Centre promotes the academic, business, community and public education contributions of the Indo-Canadian community, and by extension, the relationship and understandings between our two countries, Canada and India.

The establishment of the India Centre is about undertaking of initiatives in a more coordinated, formalized and institutional setting. The Centre serves to raise awareness among the peoples of Canada and India about the common outlooks and values that promote liberal democratic and culturally diverse societies. In other words, the Centre can be an effective means by which the community and academy work together to unlock and harness opportunities between our two countries and peoples.

An economy that is global and borderless has once again brought to the forefront the importance of trust and relationship as a necessary condition for international trade – especially where different cultures and outlooks are involved. Furthermore, the ease and ability to “connect” allows for consideration any and all possible business ideas – dots are connected and explorations take place. One interesting pilot-project was an attempt to manufacture aboriginal-oriented products in India. It was all about individuals meeting, connecting the dots and trying it out. Though unsuccessful, this example still serves well to speak to possibilities....

Over the years, Manitoba has progressively reached out to harness opportunities arising from demands of the Indian economy. In addition to various trade and educational related visits, Manitoba Premiers have led two trade-missions to India in 2006 and 2013, respectively. The University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba are now highly active in India. There is awareness that the province can be competitive in meeting the Indian resource needs –both natural and intellectual. We would offer that the Government of Manitoba, in a systematic manner, needs to consider how the energies of the Indo-Canadian and other communities can be better harnessed to facilitate such opportunities. India Centre can be an effective means for precisely such initiatives.

Over the past year, the Centre has been active in each of the three areas –academic, business and community.

Academic: the Centre hosted Dr. Anil Gupta/Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad who spoke about “Inclusive and Innovative Growth” with a primary focus on community-driven initiatives. It convened a major Public Forum on “Science within Spirituality”, fascinating exploration of perspectives from First Nations, Christian, Hindu and Islamic world-views.

Business: India Centre has developed a strong relationship with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the largest national business organization in India, which has a membership of

approximately 250,000 companies. We were privileged to host two high level trade delegations from India focusing on small businesses and higher education. We anticipate more such delegations will visit Manitoba in the coming years.

Community: The Centre, strongly supported by the India Association of Manitoba, hosted “Swaranjali” - a musical group from India consisting. The group, consisting of

three highly innovative musicians, explores possibilities arising from the fusion of classical and contemporary music of India.

The India Centre is based at the University of Winnipeg in the Faculty of Business and Economics. It consists of a committed and dedicated Board of Directors: Dr. Sylvie Albert/Chair, Anupam Sharma/Vice Chair, Robert Daniels, Terry Duguid, Sachit Mehra, Dr. Manish Pandey, Hardev Sandhu and Dr. Pawan Singal. Administrative and logistical support is provided by Lynn Bailey, Cassandra Friesen and Dallas Hull.

This is just a glimpse....stay tuned for more!



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