



INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

...forging close ties among Canadians with an interest in India

announces its lecture event

on Sunday, 27 Sep 2015, 3:00 - 5:00 PM (Registration from 2:45 pm)

Reflections on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's April 2015 Visit to Canada

High Commissioner of India to Canada, Vishnu Prakash



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three day visit to Canada in April took the country by storm with Prime Minister Harper spending 55 hours with him. Was this a result of his personality or was it to do with the country he leads? Similarities between the two countries are striking and yet there are many striking differences. The changes, both in India and Canada over the last few years, which enabled the two nations to gradually gravitate towards each other will be discussed along with how India is different now than it was ten years ago. The future relationship between the two countries will be examined with to see if the two countries could drift part again or if the relationship is on autopilot.

About the Speaker: High Commissioner Vishnu Prakash, a Gold Medalist in Law joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1981. After postings in Moscow, New Delhi and New York, he was appointed Consul General of India in Vladivostok in 1992, becoming the first head of Post in the world to set shop in the hitherto closed port city of far-eastern Russia.

Between 1994 and 1997, he served as Director in the *Ministry of External Affairs* looking after Nepal and Bhutan. During this period he also did a three-month sabbatical with the *Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies* in Hawaii. His fascination for East Asia took him to Tokyo in 1997 and he returned to the region in 2006 as Consul General of India in Shanghai, after completing an assignment as Counsellor in Islamabad and another as Minister in Cairo.

Vishnu moved back to New Delhi in 2008, to serve as the Official Spokesperson of the *Ministry of External Affairs*, and travelled with India's Prime Minister on all overseas visits as well as being responsible for media related aspects of high-level incoming visits.

He returned to East Asia the third time in 2012 as the Ambassador of India to Seoul, Korea and in August 2013 received an honorary Doctoral Degree in Business Administration from the Tongmyong University in Busan. Another honour followed in January 2015 when he became the *Ambassador of the Year, 2014* award from the Asia Society Korea Center.

Mr. Prakash assumed the office of High Commissioner of India in Ottawa on 8 March 2015 and is married with two children. His wife, Neelam Prakash, has a Master's degree in Economics and is a keen practitioner of Yoga and loves golf. His son, Abhimanyu Prakash, is in the financial sector in New York and his daughter, Katya Prakash, is a medical doctor in San Diego, California.

**Location: Palki Cuisine, 1060 Ogilvie Road, Ottawa
(east of St. Laurent Blvd and just east of Cyrville Road)**

About India Canada Friendship Circle

India Canada Friendship Circle (ICFC), a non-profit Canadian organization, operating in Ottawa since 2004 and conducting lectures by prominent speakers, encourages dialogue on India in a non-religious, non-partisan and harmonious environment. The words "friendship" and "circle" in its name, convey an explicit desire to forge and maintain close ties among Canadians with an interest in India.

ICFC's mission is to promote an intercultural relationship between India and Canada in the areas of philosophy, history, literature, the arts and sciences through prominent speakers.

For further details and online registration, please visit our website:

<http://icfc.ws>