



CANADA-INDIA DEFENCE CO-OPERATION:

From Freeze to Forward Motion



ASIA PACIFIC
FOUNDATION
OF CANADA

FONDATION
ASIE PACIFIQUE
DU CANADA



COUNCIL FOR STRATEGIC
AND DEFENSE RESEARCH

AGENDA

MARCH 5,
2026

8:45 A.M. –
9:00 A.M.

Assemble

Welcome Remarks



Vina Nadjibulla, Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



Lieutenant General D S Hooda (Rtd.), Co-founder, Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR)

9:00 A.M. –
9:45 A.M.

Inaugural Address:



Lieutenant General Derek A. Macaulay, CMM (OMM), MSM, CD, Representative of the Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff



K. Nagaraj Naidu, Additional Secretary (AS), Americas, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



The Honourable Premier Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan

SESSION 1

9:45 A.M. –
11:00 A.M.

Strategic Framing and Political-Security Context

Session focus: This session will examine the broader strategic and political context shaping India–Canada defence co-operation.

Key themes include:

- India–Canada relations within the evolving Indo-Pacific and global strategic landscape, including expanded views on the western Indian Ocean and Arctic domains.
- Strategic convergence and alignment of priorities, addressing divergent threat assessments and building trust through dedicated defence attachés.
- Political, institutional, and policy frameworks necessary for sustained defence and security co-operation, such as annual ministerial meetings and information security agreements.

DISCUSSANTS:



Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Christopher Coates, CMM, MSM, CD,
Director of the Foreign Policy, Macdonald-Laurier Institute



Professor Rohinton Medhora, Professor of Practice, McGill University



Professor C Raja Mohan, Distinguished Fellow, CSDR



Lieutenant General (Rtd.) D S Hooda, Co-founder, CSDR

SESSION
CHAIR:



Vina Nadjibulla, Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific
Foundation of Canada

COFFEE /
NETWORKING
BREAK

11:00 A.M. –
11:15 A.M.

SESSION 2

11:15 A.M. –
12:30 P.M.

Practical Pathways: Defence-Industrial Partnerships and Sectoral Opportunities

Session Focus: This session will focus on identifying practical, sector- and domain-based avenues for collaboration.

Areas of exploration will include:

- Defence-industrial collaboration and innovation partnerships, emphasizing subsystem integration, TRL-based co-development, and lighthouse projects such as patrol vessels.
- Emerging domains, including uncrewed systems, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, with a focus on counter-UAS, data fusion, and secure communications models.
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) co-operation integrated with UN peacekeeping reforms, CBRN response, and African capacity-building programs.
- Potential co-operation in space technologies and resilient supply chains, including critical minerals processing, Arctic infrastructure, and geological exploration partnerships.

DISCUSSANTS:



Pierre Sein Pyun, Vice President for Government Affairs, Bombardier



Michael Petric, Founder, PerceptX Inc.



Manveer Singh, Regional Head-International Business-Tata Advanced Systems Ltd.



Colonel Rajinder Singh Bhatia (Rtd.), Chairman, Defence Business, Kalyani Group

SESSION
CHAIR:



Dr. Ann Fitz-Gerald, Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs

SESSION 3

12:30 P.M. –
1:15 P.M.

Wrap-Up Session: Way Forward and Closing Remarks

Session focus:

- Consolidation of key insights and discussion outcomes.
- Identification of priority areas for follow-on Track 1.5 engagement(s).
- Preliminary reflections to inform future India–Canada defence co-operation.

DISCUSSANTS:



Dr. Karthik Nachiappan, Research Fellow, National University of Singapore; Senior Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation fo Canada



Ambassador Ajay Bisaria, Advisor, India-Canada Research Initiative (ICRI), CSDR



Vikas Khitha, Vice President and Head of the Corporate Office Delhi & International Relations, Larsen and Toubro

SESSION
CHAIR:



Kasi Rao, Managing Director, Fairfax Consulting Services India Limited

BREAK

1:15 P.M. –
1:30 P.M.

1:30 P.M. –
2:30 P.M.

Working Lunch

Focused on Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership

A working lunch highlighting the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership, with brief exchanges on:

- Exploring areas of interoperability and technology partnerships across the Indo-Pacific through co-ordination on the defence-innovation agenda.
- Advancing the responsible adoption of AI, including dual-use and defence-relevant innovation; deepening ACITI co-ordination through collaborative R&D and emerging-tech governance.

DISCUSSANTS:



Christopher Cooter, High Commissioner for Canada in the Republic of India



Hamish Cameron, Director, India Political Desk, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia



Mahaveer Singhvi, Additional Secretary (AS), NEST [New, Emerging & Strategic Technologies] Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



K. Nagaraj Naidu, Additional Secretary, Americas, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Vina Nadjibulla, Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

SESSION
CHAIR:

SPEAKERS



Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Christopher Coates

CMM, MSM, CD, Director of the Foreign Policy, National Defence and National Security Program, Macdonald-Laurier Institute



His Excellency Christopher Cooter

High Commissioner for Canada to the Republic of India



Dr. Ann Fitzgerald

Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs



Lieutenant General Derek A. Macaulay

CMM (OMM), MSM, CD, Representative of the Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff



Professor Rohinton Medhora

Distinguished Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation; Professor of Practice, McGill University



The Hon. Scott Moe

Premier of Saskatchewan



Dr. Karthik Nachiappan

Research Fellow, National University of Singapore; Senior Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



Vina Nadjibulla

Vice President, Research and Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



Michael Petric

Founder and Managing Director, PerceptX Inc..



Pierre Sein Pyun

Vice President for Government Affairs at Bombardier



Kasi Rao

Managing Director, Fairfax Consulting Services India Limited

CANADA



**Colonel
Rajinder Singh
Bhatia (Rtd.)**

Chairman, Defence
Business, Kalyani
Group



Ajay Bisaria

Advisor ICRI, CSDR



**Lieutenant
General (Rtd.)
D.S. Hooda**

Co-Founder, Council
for Strategic and
Defense Research



Vikas Khitha

Vice President
and Head of the
Corporate Office
Delhi & International
Relations, Larsen and
Toubro



**K. Nagaraj
Naidu**

Additional Secretary
(AS), Americas,
Ministry of External
Affairs



C Raja Mohan

Distinguished Fellow,
CSDR



**Dinesh K.
Patnaik**

High Commissioner of
India to Canada



Manveer Singh

Regional Head-
International Business-
Tata Advanced Systems
Ltd.



**Mahaveer
Singhvi**

Additional Secretary (AS),
NEST [New, Emerging &
Strategic Technologies]
Division, Ministry
of External Affairs,
Government of India

INDIA

SPECIAL GUEST



**Hamish
Cameron**

Director, India Political
Desk, Department of
Foreign Affairs and
Trade, Government of
Australia

AUSTRALIA

PARTICIPANTS

Ashley Anderson

Deputy Chief of Staff –
Issues Management &
External Relations

Vice Admiral (Rtd.) Adhir Arora

Former Chief
Hydrographer to the
Government of India

Jodi Banks

Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Trade and
Export Development,
Government of
Saskatchewan

Jasdeep Bevli

Director of BD &
Supply Chain-India
Operations, Magellan
Aerospace

Daniel Buckley

Australian High
Commission, Delhi

Sanjay Chadha

Former Additional
Secretary of the
Department of
Commerce, Director
Public Policy India &
South Asia, Uber

Vice Admiral (Rtd.) Anil Chopra

Distinguished Fellow,
Delhi Policy Group

Mike Crabtree

President and CEO,
Saskatchewan Research
Council

Jared Dunlop

Chief of Staff to the
Premier

Nadira Hamid

CEO of the Indo-
Canadian Business
Chamber

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South Asia, Asia Pacific
Foundation of Canada

Captain Amol Merwade

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Scott Matthies

Managing Director
Saskatchewan India
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Thevi Pather

Associate Vice
President,
International at
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Polytechnic

Commodore Mani Puri (Rtd.)

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Dr. Larry Rosia

President,
Saskatchewan
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Senior General
Manager-Marketing,
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Ltd.

Victor Thomas

President and CEO,
Canada-India Business
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