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L'INSTITUT SHASTRI INDO-CANADIAN INSTITUTE



SHASTRI INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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**SHASTRI INDO-CANADIAN INSTITUTE 5 BHAI VIR SINGH MARG,
NEW DELHI-110007**



Message from President

Dear CMC and IMC Members,
Greetings!

We start with excellent news that the Ministry of Human Resource & Development (MHRD), Government of India has released the first installment of operational funds for SICI for the year 2015-16. Therefore, SICI India office could use the programme-related part of this funding envelope to announce the results of the grant competition which was announced in October 2015. The following categories of programmes were funded in this competition viz Shastri Institutional Collaborative Research Grant (SICRG), Shastri Mobility Programme (SMP), and Shastri Research Student Fellowship (SRSF). In summary, India office awarded 12 grants in different categories to institutions across India and Canada, such as Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Technology -Bombay, Institute of Technology- Kanpur, Institute of Technology- Roorkee, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, National Law School of India, University-Nagarabhavi, University of Agricultural Sciences- Dharwad, Jamia Milia Islamia Univeristy-Delhi, University of Delhi, Pondicherry Central University, and Jadavpur University, as well as University of Ottawa, University of British Columbia, University of Manitoba and McGill University. The domain of studies covered under this grant also reflected the growing trend of all-round support that SICI provides to different disciplines in our member institutions, such Biotechnology, Law, Bio-resource Engineering, Psychology, Management, Child Education, English Literature, Mass Communication, Agricultural Engineering, Biological Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Medical Science & Technology. Four bi-national adjudication committees composed of experts in different disciplines did excellent work in impartial assessment of all applications to recommend the merit list of all applications, which formed the basis of the grants declared by India office. There have been comments from some of our members that in future, SICI programs need to take into account the differences in the presentation and evaluation criteria in different disciplines and hence a care must be taken to equitable and merit-based awarding of grants in all disciplines

from social sciences to STEM subjects. These suggestions are under active consideration by the current EC would be subject of discussion at both the CMC meeting in Ottawa and IMC/AGM meetings in Delhi in the month of May 2016.

Meetings & Networking

I, along with Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts had a teleconference with the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency, David Johnston on January 14, 2016. The topics of discussion ranged from the role of Shastri in Canada-India Higher Education Corridor – past, present and future, SICI's golden jubilee year in 2017-18 and SICI's plans to announce a special student scholarship award program (suggested name: Shastri-Laurier Golden Jubilee award") to commemorate the occasion, role played by Shastri Institute in the implementation of GIAN program of MHRD, funding challenges from the Canadian side and the new MOU to be signed by both the governments. I am pleased to inform you that the discussion with the GG was on a very positive note and GG appreciated the role played by Shastri Institute and extended his moral support on the funding initiatives with the Government of Canada.

I am also happy to report that on 4th February 2016, an event held at the Carleton University-Ottawa to celebrate the release of the 2016 edition of "A-list of Indo-Canadians and Friends of India" published by the India Diaspora editor Mr. Ajit Jain, SICI was recognized and honoured in the list and in person as an organization that has played a major role in the development of Educational Collaboration between Canada and India for last half a century. It was a well-attended event and SICI's Secretary/Treasurer Professor Mathieu Boisvert was also named in this list for his contribution to the bilateral educational causes. SICI was a co-sponsor of this event along with Carleton University.

I along with Prof. Mathieu Boisvert and Ms. Mahmuda Aldeen also used this opportunity to meet with Andreas R. Weichert, Julia Drew Watt, Aline Brault, and Ivy Learner-Frank from Global Affairs Canada (GAC),

formerly known as DFATD to discuss about SICI and its ongoing work as well as the upcoming funding application of SICI-Canada to Government of Canada for the next five years. We invited the GAC team to attend the upcoming CMC meetings and conferences in May in Ottawa and updated them on the support extended by Government of India to SICI, as well as the renewal of the existing MOU on educational collaboration that was recently approved by both Governments of Canada and India. We discussed and presented a draft of SICI Canada's Five Year Funding Proposal to GAC team for their input. In general, I perceived a sense of change in policies of the new Canadian Government that could be more open and strongly supportive of the type of activities that SICI has been fostering since last five years in a very nimble, flexible and cost-efficient manner over last nearly five decades. The GAC team reflected that SICI is going in the right direction in terms of bringing more awareness about its activities to the stakeholders. On the same note, they recommended to liaise closely with the Canadian High Commissioner in India along with three ministers of Government of Canada who run different parts of Global Affairs Canada, namely Honorable ministers Stéphane Dion (Quebec) - Foreign Affairs; Chrystia Freeland (Ontario) - International Trade; and Marie-Claude Bibeau (Quebec) - International Development and La francophonie.

Strategic endeavor

As a part of our strategy of engagement, I met the Indian High Commissioner and updated him on the current activities of SICI and sought his guidance and advise to move forward to secure funding for SICI from the Government of Canada. A copy of five year draft Funding Proposal (2016-2021) was shared with His

Excellency during our meeting on February 04, 2016 along with a copy of the chapter entitled "Scripting a New Future in Education" that highlights role of SICI in fostering educational collaboration between Canada and India written by three members of the current EC (Shah, Chattopadhyay and Boisvert) in the book "Modi and the World: The Ring View Inside Out" edited by Yamini Chowdhury and Ansuya Diya Chowdhury published by Bloomsbury India and released on 26th February 2016.

I end this letter with confidence that SICI's growing visibility would eventually help it to not only regain its ground in near future but grow stronger over the coming years. I would like to thank EC members and staff in two offices for putting enormous efforts for day-to-day operations and for delivery of programs and activities that benefit our members in both the countries.

The Annual meeting of CMC will occur this year on 6-7th May in Ottawa, whereas IMC /AGM will be held on 27-28th May in Delhi. The preparations are underway and you will soon receive messages from two offices with details. I urge you to mark those dates in your agenda and make a point to attend them because your presence is required to set the agenda for our activities in future and also to exchange the news and views with all the SICI members in person. As is our normal practice, education-related conferences will take place along with the CMC/IMC meetings in Canada and India, and we strongly urge all CMC and IMC members as well as other representatives from their institutions to participate in these conferences.

Sincerely,



Dr. Girish M. Shah
President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute
Professor, Faculty of Medicine
Laval University

Shastri Activities

-Awards & Grants

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, India Office announced its programme for the year 2015-16 in the month of October and the results were announced in December 2015. The programmes offered were **Shastri Research Student Fellowship (SRSF)**, **Shastri Mobility Programme (SMP)**, and **Shastri Institutional Collaborative Research Grant (SICRG)**.

Shastri Research Student Fellowship (SRSF) 2015-16

S.No.	Name of the Applicant & Institutional Address	Topic of the Project	Title of PhD.	Discipline	Partnering Institution
1	Mr. Vineet Kumar Centre of Studies in Resources Engineering, IIT Bombay	Characterization of Crops using Full and Compact Polarimetric Synthetic Aperture RADAR (SAR) Remote Sensing Data	Full and Compact Polarimetric SAR Data analysis for Various Land Features	Agricultural Engineering	Scott Mitchell Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University Heather McNairn Research Scientist Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
2	Mr. Akrit Pran Jaswal Dept. of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur	Understanding the Role of BMP Signaling in the Development of Osteoarthritis	Understanding the Role of BMP Signaling in the Development of Osteoarthritis	Biological Sciences	Frank Beier Chair, Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Western Ontario
3	Mr. Ratul Sarkar Dept. of Pharmaceutical Technology, Jadavpur University	Chemo Profiling of Indian Traditional Medicine a Focus on Secondary Metabolites Displaying Anti-biofilm Properties	Pharmacological Studies on Two Species of Kalanchoe	Pharmaceutical Sciences	John Sorensen Dept. of Chemistry, University of Manitoba, Philip Hultin Deptt. of Chemistry, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
4	Niladri Garai Dept. of Electrical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur	Computed Super Resolution Optical Coherence Tomography Imaging for Breaking the Optical Diffraction Limit	Learning of Tissue-Photon Interaction for Super-Resolution Optical Coherence Tomography Imaging	Medical Science & Technology	Mirza Faisal Beg School of Engineering Science, Simon Fraser University
5	Anandana Kapur Dept. of Mass Communication, Jamia Milia Islamia	Exploring 'Inclusive' Modes of Interactive Documentary Practice	Mobility in Urban Spaces: Conversations, Rituals and Experiences of Women in Delhi through Interactive Documentary	Mass Communication	Brenda Longfellow Dept. of Media and Performance Design, York University D. David Skinner Dept. of Communication Studies, York University

Shastri Mobility Programme (SMP) 2015-16

S.No.	Name of the Applicant	Institution	Affiliated Institute	Area of interest
1	Usha Lenka Associate Professor	Dept. of Management Studies, IIT Roorkee	University of Manitoba	Strategic Management and Human Resource Management, Learning Organization, Talent Management and Development, Creativity and Innovation
2	Charru Sharma Associate Professor	Dept. of Education & Child Development, University of Delhi	University of British Columbia	Education and Child Development, Arts Education
3	Kalpana H. Associate Professor	Dept. of English Literature, Pondicherry Central University	University of Western Ontario	Canadian Studies, Canadian Literature, Gender Studies and Cultural Studies

Shastri Institutional Collaborative Research Grant(SICRG) 2015-16

S.No.	Lead Applicant & Institution	Co-Applciant & Institution	Topic of Proposal
1	Ajoy Basak Adjunct Professor Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences (ISHS), Faculty of Health Science, University of Ottawa	Amit Kumar Das Associate Professor Dept. of Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	A Rapid Malaria Diagnostic Test Based on External Body Fluids
2	Michelle Stack Associate Professor Dept. of Educational Studies, University of British Columbia	Anuradha Sovani Professor Dept. of Psychology, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai	Knowledge Mobilization: Expanding Cross-Cultural Conversations about Mental Health and Illness
3	Sarasu Esther Thomas Associate Professor Dept. of Law, National Law School of India University, Nagarabhavi	Karen Busby Professor Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba	Sex Work Laws in India and Canada: A Comparative Analysis
4	Rajendra Poddar Professor University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	Shiv Prashar Professor Dept. of Bioresource Engineering, McGill University	Socio-Economic Strategies for Operationalization of Participatory Irrigation Management through Soil, Water and Crop Technological Intervention in Upper Krishna Project Command Area.

Release of “The A-List 2016” sponsored by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

The release ceremony for the book “The A-List 2016” sponsored by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute was hosted by Carleton University’s Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and policy on February 4, 2016. Fifty prominent Indo-Canadians were recognized in Ottawa for promoting and fostering India-Canada relations. Please click below link for more details: <http://www.sici.org.in/uploads/book%20release%20new.pdf>

Member Activities

➤ English and Foreign Languages University

Professor Sunaina Singh, Vice Chancellor-The English and Foreign Languages University Hyderabad – Lucknow – Shillong, who is also **Former President**, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and Former Head, department of English- Osmania University, Hyderabad received many awards in recent past. She received many national and international awards like **Chanakya Award** for Excellence in Good Governance, **‘Woman of the Year’** award conferred by Citizens Council of Andhra Pradesh (Last Award before bifurcation of State), **‘Outstanding Contribution to Education’** conferred by World Education Congress, **Education Leadership Award** as Vice Chancellor for ‘The English and Foreign Languages University’ , and prestigious **Rashtriya Gaurav Award** for outstanding services, achievements and contributions in the field of Higher Education, conferred by IIFS. She was also honoured by India-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), Canada for her ‘Leadership in strengthening bi-lateral ties & collaborations in Higher Education’.



➤ Polytechnique Montréal

1) Signature of a Collaboration Agreement with IIT-Bombay

Polytechnique Montréal has signed Collaboration Agreement with IIT-Bombay in 2015. The agreement defines the general conditions related to scientific, technical and academic collaboration, including student exchange and research internships.

2) Video of POLY-MTL student in exchange at IIT-DELHI

Frédéric Rochon-Salvas, a student of **POLY-MTL** who spent one year in exchange at IIT-Delhi last year has prepared a video. The video is very informative about the challenges faced during the exchange but with the use of a great sense of humour and respect. This video will be a source of motivation for students who have been nine (9) this year to apply for an exchange in India in 2016-2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQWMhr4m3HE>

Upcoming Events: India & Canada

– SICI Meetings

- **Canadian Council Members (CMC)** - The annual meeting of CMC will occur this year on 7-8th May 2016 in Ottawa. The venue and other details will be shared soon once finalized.
- **Indian Member Council Meeting (IMC), Annual General Meeting (AGM)** - IMC /AGM will be held on 27-28th May 2016 in Delhi.

– Conferences & Seminars

- 1) **SICI Annual Conference-** The as is our normal practice, education-related conferences will take place along with the CMC/IMC meetings. Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, India Office is organizing conference on the theme **Engaging India and Canada: Landmarks and Roadmaps for Global Educational Collaboration between Canada and India** at the India Habitat Centre on May 28, 2016. The **focus areas of the conference are** Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Media, Education, Management, Law, Physical and Natural Science, Engineering & Applied Science, and Health Sciences. The length of the Abstracts of the proposed paper should be about 300 words. The last date to receive the abstracts is **31-03-2016**. For more queries please write to Ms. Anju Taneja at anjut@sici.org.in

2) Call for articles – Canada and the great war

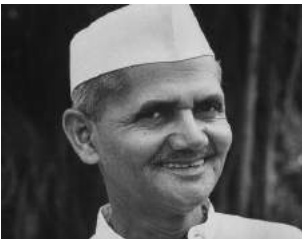
The editors of Revue Études Canadiennes/Canadian Studies are currently seeking papers (in French or in English) that explore the ways in which WWI might have transformed Canada and Canadians, at home and in the Empire, or how Canadians' participation in the Great War was represented in literature and the arts. They are specifically interested in examining how the war is remembered and commemorated today, particularly around the upcoming Vimy Ridge Remembrance day in April 1917. Proposals must be submitted by **February 15, 2016** and full articles are due on **May 15, 2016**. Proposal can be submitted to: revueetudescanadiennes@gmail.com and cc to: francoise.le-jeune@univ-nantes.fr. [For more Information Click here](#)

3) The chair in German-Canadian studies and the Spletzer family foundation Inc. announces the German-Canadian Studies Fellowship Competition for 2016

The German-Canadian Studies program, affiliated with the History department at the University of Winnipeg is reaching out to organizations, societies, and departments that might be interested in their fellowship competition for 2016. More information, including a full list of their fellowships, is available on their website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/german-canadian/fellowships.html>. The application deadline is **April 15, 2016**. [For more information click here.](#)

– Other Events

50th death anniversary of Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri



Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute paid homage to Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India, who succeeded Jawaharlal Nehru in June 1964, died in Tashkent soon after signing an agreement with President Ayub Khan of Pakistan, with Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin playing a mediatory role.

January 11, 2016 marks the 50th death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose demise still remains shrouded in mystery. Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute commemorated the day by notifying the 50th death anniversary on its website. During the 1965 war, Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' (Hail the soldier Hail the farmer). He was an outstanding leader who was born in the year 1904 in Varansi to Smt. Ramdulari Devi and Sharada Prasad Shrivastava. Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the first Indian to receive Bharat Ratna Award posthumously in 1966, which is the highest civilian award.

For more queries please contact:

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