

5. India-Canada Ceps – International Relation

1. Why in News

1. India and Canada successfully concluded second round of negotiations for proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in New Delhi
2. Aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation
3. Target: Boost bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030
4. Recent talks covering goods and services trade, intellectual property, rules of origin, technical standards
5. Both countries rebuilding relations through high-level engagements after political tensions
6. G7 and G20 Summits 2025: Agreed to restore diplomatic stability, resume official engagements

2. India-Canada Cooperation Areas

Bilateral Mechanisms

1. Official-level dialogue mechanisms: Ministerial-level Strategic, Trade and Energy dialogues; Foreign Office Consultations; Joint Committee Meeting on Environment; sector-specific Joint Working Groups (JWGs)

Security Cooperation

1. Engagement on counter-terrorism through Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (established 1997)
2. Framework for Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism signed February 2018
3. Intelligence sharing and security coordination

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

1. Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) signed June 2010, came into force September 2013
2. 2015: Department of Atomic Energy agreement with M/s Cameco Inc., Canada for Uranium Ore Concentrate supply (2015-2020 period)
3. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Energy Cooperation

1. Ministerial-level Energy Dialogue began 2016
2. Expanded 2018 to include electricity, energy efficiency, renewable energy cooperation during Canadian Prime Minister's India visit
3. Clean energy transition collaboration

Space Cooperation

1. ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) MoUs: October 1996, March 2003 on outer space exploration and utilization
2. Implementing Arrangements: Satellite tracking, space astronomy
3. 2015: MoU on Space Cooperation signed in Ottawa
4. ANTRIX (ISRO's commercial arm) launched several Canadian nanosatellites
5. January 2018: ISRO's 100th PSLV mission launched Canadian first LEO satellite

Economic Cooperation

2025 (January–September) Bilateral Trade:

1. Goods trade: CAD 9.96 billion
2. Services trade: CAD 14.15 billion (India exports: CAD 3.31 billion; imports: CAD 10.84 billion)

Portfolio investments from Canada into India: Over CAD 100 billion

India's exports to Canada: Pharmaceuticals, electronics, jewellery, gems, seafood, engineering goods

India's imports from Canada: Minerals, pulses, potash, wood pulp, scrap metals, gemstones

Science and Technology

1. Joint research in industrial R&D, Arctic and cold-climate studies
2. Biotechnology applications: Health, agriculture, waste management
3. Sustainable biofuels under Mission Innovation

4. Technology transfer and innovation partnerships

Education

1. Key pillar of bilateral relations
2. Indian students form largest international student group in Canada
3. 2018 Higher Education MoU signed
4. Joint Working Group overseeing implementation
5. Academic cooperation, research partnerships, institutional exchanges

People-to-People and Cultural Relations

1. Large Indian diaspora: Approximately 1.8 million Indo-Canadians, 1 million non-resident Indians
2. Concentrated in major cities (Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary)
3. Contributing significantly to Canadian society and economy
4. Cultural ties strengthened through: Diaspora organizations, film co-production, commemorative stamps, academic chairs in Canadian universities, cultural events, festivals, Yoga celebrations

3. Challenges

Political Tensions

1. Allegations of Canadian tolerance towards Khalistan extremism deeply strained ties
2. Diplomatic incidents creating mistrust
3. Polarized domestic politics in both countries

Sovereignty Concerns

1. India views Canadian domestic politics as interfering in internal affairs
2. Extradition and legal jurisdiction disputes
3. Diplomatic protocol violations

Security Issues

1. Terrorism concerns remain pressing threat
2. Misinformation campaigns affecting bilateral perception
3. Extremist elements exploiting democratic freedoms
4. Intelligence cooperation gaps

Trust Deficit

1. Diplomatic ruptures created long bureaucratic memories
2. Slowing reconciliation efforts
3. Institutional hesitancy in deeper engagement
4. Public opinion challenges in both countries

4. Latest Developments

High-level Engagements

1. India-Canada relations being rebuilt through recent diplomatic initiatives
2. Aimed at strengthening cooperation: Trade, defence, energy, education, space, technology

G7 and G20 Summits 2025 Outcomes

1. Both sides agreed to restore diplomatic stability
2. Resume official engagements across sectors
3. Begin CEPA negotiations targeting USD 50 billion bilateral trade by 2030

CEPA Negotiations Progress

1. Recent talks constructive covering:
 1. Goods and services trade liberalization
 2. Intellectual property rights protection
 3. Rules of origin determination
 4. Technical standards harmonization
2. Both countries reaffirmed commitment to balanced, mutually beneficial agreement
3. Agreed to continue negotiations in cooperative spirit

5. Way Forward

Structured Dialogue Mechanisms

1. Establish regular ministerial-level consultations preventing disruptions
2. Institutionalize crisis management protocols
3. Enhanced communication channels

Deepen Security Cooperation

1. Counter-terrorism and intelligence sharing expansion
2. Joint operations against extremism
3. Cybersecurity collaboration

Advance CEPA Trade Negotiations

1. Expedite agreement finalization
2. Address sensitive sectors pragmatically
3. Ensure balanced market access
4. Regulatory harmonization

Expand Education and Cultural Ties

1. Scholarships and research partnerships expansion
2. Faculty exchanges and joint degrees
3. Cultural festivals and heritage preservation
4. Youth engagement programs

Enhance Indo-Pacific Cooperation

1. Strengthen supply chains resilience
2. Regional stability initiatives
3. Multilateral forum collaboration (Quad, IPEF)
4. Maritime security cooperation

Build Mutual Trust

1. Transparent communication on sensitive issues
2. Respect for sovereignty and domestic concerns
3. Track-two diplomacy and civil society engagement
4. Media and public diplomacy initiatives

6. Conclusion

India-Canada relations economically strong but politically sensitive. Future progress depends on mutual respect, trust, and stronger institutional cooperation. Structured dialogue mechanisms preventing disruptions, deepened counter-terrorism cooperation, advanced CEPA negotiations targeting USD 50 billion trade by 2030, expanded education-cultural ties through scholarships and research partnerships, and enhanced Indo-Pacific cooperation for supply chain strengthening and regional stability essential for comprehensive bilateral relationship overcoming challenges and realizing full potential.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2259188®=3&lang=1>