



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

March 16, 2016

Press Release

on

Book Discussion

“Canada-India: Partners in Progress”

(An ICWA Publication)

authored by

Ambassador P. K. Budhwar

Sapru House, New Delhi
(15 March, 2016)

Equating India-Canada bilateral relations as a ‘roller coaster’ ride, Ambassador P. K. Budhwar, the author of the book **Canada-India: Partners in Progress**, said that now it has become a ‘genuine bilateral’ relationship. The author was making his observations at the Book Discussion event organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs at Sapru House, New Delhi, on March 15, 2016. The book *Canada-India: Partners in Progress* has been published by the ICWA and Vij Books India Private Limited. Ambassador Budhwar, who has served as India’s High Commissioner to Canada, said that there are no serious differences between India and Canada relations. He said that people in India and Canada are generally not aware of each other and many people tend to see Canada a country similar to that of the US, which is not correct. The Ambassador urged the media to play greater role in informing the people of the two countries about each other’s potential and success stories.



The discussants for the event were Prof. Abdul Nafey of Jawaharlal Nehru University; Ambassador R.L. Narayan; and Dr. Stuti Banerjee from the ICWA. Ambassador Narayan called Canada as a ‘mosaic’ where different cultures are encouraged. He said that India’s nuclear tests and the Kanishka bombing incident affected the ties between the two countries to an extent. Ambassador Narayan mentioned that Canada is a leader in technology, particularly in sustainable energy, such as tidal and geo-thermal energy.

Prof. Abdul Nafey talked about the nature of Canadian nation and called it a 'pioneer' in the concept of a multicultural society. He said that the present book is a 'contextualised treatment' to India-Canada relations. The Professor said that biotech, water resource management, energy, food processing and long distance transportation of food items can be the areas of cooperation between the two countries. He added that Canada has huge natural gas and oil deposits and the country can emerge as a future source of gas supply to India.

Dr. Stuti Banerjee underscored the open debate on different issues in Canada, including on autonomy of provinces in the country. She said that the Indian diaspora is politically and economically strong in Canada, however, a section of that diaspora has no favourable view towards India. It will be interesting to know how the Canadian government deals with it. She also suggested putting greater emphasis on India's soft power in Canada.

The remarks were followed by a Q&A session.

The Book Discussion event was chaired by Ambassador Rajiv Sikri, who said that there is scope for India-Canada cooperation in different areas, including defence. He added that Canada has technology and investment capital to offer to India.

The event was attended by members of diplomatic corps in Delhi, academia, media persons, scholars and researchers.
