

India, Canada to strengthen cooperation against terrorism

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

OTTAWA, SEPT. 21. Canada has said that the visit of the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, is a very clear signal of the commitment to promoting the broadest possible mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries. "I am very enthusiastic about the prospect for strengthening and expanding Canada's bilateral relationship with India", the Foreign Minister, Bill Graham, has said in a press release here.

According to the Canadian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Graham and Mr. Sinha conducted indepth discussions on a number of global and regional issues and agreed to expand existing cooperation on counter-terrorism to include a dialogue on global and regional security matters. The Ministers also discussed ways of developing stronger political, economic and social dialogue between India and Canada and have agreed that senior officials of the two countries would be meeting on an annual basis. Mr. Graham and Mr. Sinha have also agreed to jointly explore the promotion of the economic relations "especially the extraordinarily commercial opportunities for collaboration in Information Technology and other emerging technologies".

The Ministers have also supported the idea of the development of social and cultural relations

through exchanges involving academics, artists, performers and writers; and praised the dynamic role of the Indian-Canadian community in promoting these links.

"One in thirty Canadians is of Indian origin and their contribution to Canada and to India-Canada relations is remarkable", Mr. Graham said. The Canadian Foreign Minister has accepted an invitation to visit India to "maintain the momentum generated" by his counterpart's visit. One of the high points of Mr. Sinha's visit to Ottawa was a meeting with the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chretien. What was originally scheduled for 15 minutes lasted 35 minutes and in the residence of the Canadian leader.

Mr. Sinha and Mr. Chretien exchanged views on a number of bilateral, regional and global issues. "We're trying to restart where we left and intensify the relationship once again", Mr. Sinha told the Canadian Prime Minister.

Prior to leaving Ottawa for Boston en route to New Delhi, Mr. Sinha met the Speaker of the Senate, Dan Hays and the Minister of Natural Resources, Herb Dhaliwal, both of whom will be visiting India later this fall.

Mr. Sinha also met a number of Indian-Canadian leaders at a lunch hosted by India's High Commissioner-designate, Shashi Tripathi and had interaction with the Canadian media as well.

22 SEP 2002

THE HINDU

HO-12
14/9

India-Canada direct air connectivity likely

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13. India and Canada will look into the possibility of a direct air connectivity between them during a meeting between the Civil Aviation Minister, Shahnawaz Hussain, and the Canadian Minister of Transport, David M. Collenette, on September 18 in Canada. Mr. Hussain begins his week-long tour of Canada today.

Sources said, with the acquisition of new aircraft on lease for its winter schedule, Air India would work out an arrangement of tying up with Air Canada, through some points in Europe — Frankfurt or Paris — for seamless travel to Canada. It is likely that the tie-up would be a block-seat arrangement. Air Canada had pulled out of India last year because it does not

change airlines at London, New York or Chicago — heavy traffic sectors — for destinations in Canada. The favourite destinations for Indians are Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Mr. Hussain, who will be accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry and Air India, will also meet the president of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Assad Kortaite, and its Secretary-General, R.C. Costa Pereira, on safety, security and international cooperation in civil aviation. India has a high presence on the ICAO through its aviation experts.

The ICAO had set in place an effective safety management system and universal audit programme to which India is a signatory. While India's safety systems have been appreciated by the ICAO, a new security pro-

for international has been adopted by the ICAO as its Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS).

The Union Minister will be apprised of the special facilities at the Vancouver and Toronto International Airports through special discussions with the Vancouver Airport Services and the Toronto Development Corporation on specialised customer services and privatisation.

Mr. Hussain will meet the Vancouver-based CHC Helicopter International Incorporate which has recently signed an agreement with India's Pawan Hans Helicopter Service. The MoU allows for CHC to offer contracts to Pawan Hans for operation throughout the world. It also provides for assistance in setting up world-class mainte-

1 2 3 2002

THE HINDU

Canada trying to sell 'new image'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

OTTAWA, MARCH 21. Given the common values and traditions, why are India and Canada not doing more business, trade or investment? This is the theme that will dominate the discussions when Canada's Minister for International Trade, Pierre Pettigrew, and his business delegation visit India next month.

Senior officials who will be part of the delegation are making no bones about the fact that while there is much to be achieved in deepening the economic relations between the two countries, a lot of homework remains to be done. "We are under-achieving the potential of our relationship. We are leaving a lot of money on the table," Rocco Delvecchio, Executive Director, Investment Partnerships of Canada, told *The Hindu* here.

Mr. Delvecchio, who will be

part of the delegation, stressed that as far as Canada was concerned, the process of furthering economic ties was a two-way street. The argument one frequently hears here is that Canada is not merely looking for opportunities in India; rather under the changed global and regional circumstances, it is one of Canada also trying to put across to Indian entrepreneurs what was "available" with it and through it in the North American region. "If India is interested in Nafta (North American Free Trade Agreement), Canada offers a number of advantages," is the refrain.

India has been identified as a critical market in Asia, and the question before senior Canadian leaders and officials is how to go about translating this beyond words. And the recognition of the importance of the Indian market is not just

pegged to an increase in two-way trade; two-way investments are being pursued as well. It is argued that the earlier notion of commercial relations leading to more investments may not be valid any longer; rather the reverse may be true — that more investments have beneficial fallouts on the trade front.

And the point put across here is that Canada has a very attractive climate for investments, one that has already been taken advantage of by some Indian software companies. The bottom line from a Canadian perspective has been the challenge to get the message across that the country has to be seen beyond its tourism potential. The focus is on pushing the image of a new Canada — as an education destination, a place to do business and a country with an urban culture.

"Canada is a new and changing place and a willing partner of India. The opportunities of synergies are growing," a senior official said, making the point that one of the biggest challenges was to make Canadians and their businesses aware of what India was all about.

"India is not monolithic, but diverse. There are various opportunities in India. Let us be more creative," the official said.

Even as Canada tries to sell its "new image", it is carefully watching what it would like to explore in India. There are various sectors it is interested in — infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, transportation, engineering and construction, metals and minerals, financial services, environmental technologies and management of the environment.

THE HINDU

22 MAR 2002

HD-12
M/B

Canada keen on 'doing business' with India *India-Canada ✓*

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

OTTAWA, MARCH 20. "Let's get down to business", is the message, the Canadian Minister of International Trade, Pierre Pettigrew, will bring when he visits India between April 22 and 26.

Canada has no illusions about the political problems of South Asia, but a high premium is being placed on economic cooperation with the region, India in particular. Mr. Pettigrew, whose visit to India was postponed last year in the wake of September 11 attacks, will be accompanied by a big trade delegation. The emphasis is on small and medium enterprises and in many ways the visit will add more depth and focus to a highly successful trip to India by Canada's Deputy Prime Minister, John Manley, in January last.

"With a growing share of the world population and income, the countries of South Asia now command a real presence on the world stage. The dramatic rise in the standard of living and the surge in economic growth are evidence that this region will become an increasingly significant market for Canada in the 21st century,"

Mr. Pettigrew recently said in Toronto while launching the South Asia Trade Action Plan.

Getting away from the hang-ups of the 1998 nuclear tests and the sanctions regime has not been easy, but the Canadian Government is keen on putting the past behind, having realised that the punitive measures and the downturn in relations with India have not exactly served its interests. Canada is, undoubtedly, looking at India's economic opportunities even as it evinces a keen interest in South Asia and beyond.

"Our long-term outlook for peaceful relations and influencing gradual change in South Asia is anchored in regional economic, technical and development cooperation. India has a natural leadership role to play. As the preponderant country in South Asia, India must show the way," says Mr. Pettigrew.

"It is in our mutual interest to pursue a broader relationship with South Asia," the Minister said making the point that the one million-plus South Asian community in Canada served as the catalyst to this major undertaking.

Officials here say that build-

ing and expanding on the two-way trade with South Asia is only one part of the exercise. Canada, for instance, is keen on participating in a big way in energy production, information and environmental technologies. Add to this the prospect of two-way investment opportunities and Ottawa sees the completion of the larger picture.

"Domestic markets have opened to international trade and the standard of living in parts of the region has risen dramatically. A growing middle class with disposable income and a thirst for new goods and services presents a growing market for selected Canadian consumer goods. Not only have new markets opened up for Canadian goods and commodities, but there is a growing demand for a range of services," the South Asia Trade Action Plan says in its Regional Overview. Regionally and in terms of the two-way trade was a modest Canadian \$2.6 billion for the year 2000 with a Canadian deficit of over C\$ 1 billion. India accounted for about 67 per cent of this two-way trade, with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka making up for the rest.

THE HINDU

21 MAR 2002

Canada cannot provide military support to India

Our Mumbai Bureau
MUMBAI 23 JANUARY

CANADA'S DEPUTY prime minister John Manley on Wednesday ruled out a possibility of any military support to India, even though "sanctions have been lifted," but exhorted both India and Pakistan to reduce tensions in the south Asian region.

"Our law does not permit us to provide any aid to India for defence purposes," he said while addressing the media. When asked to comment on Tuesday's attack on the USIS centre at Kolkata he observed: Certain things do indicate the attackers have support from Pak-

istan, but it does not mean that the Pakistan government is supporting them. But Mr Manley did not mince words when condemning the attacks on the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly as well as the December 13 attack on Parliament. He also said that Canada had banned some of the terrorist outfits blamed for the attacks on India — such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Toiba. And, he also declared unequivocally, that terrorists cannot be termed as "freedom fighters" by any stretch of imagination.

Mr Manley is on a whirlwind tour of India and is seen as a key member of the global alliance against terrorism. The 52-year-old Mr Manley, who till recently was

Canada's foreign minister, has been promoted to the post of deputy prime minister. He is also credited with normalising Canada's economic and political relations with a paranoid, post 9-11 USA. Washington had serious reservations about its border with Canada post 9-11 — the Bush administration felt Canada's "lax" immigration policies, and the easy border relations between the two neighbours, might have been exploited by potential terrorists.

In fact, hours after the World Trade Center attacks, US security forces clamped down on the US-Canada border, leading to huge traffic pile-ups. Mr Manley, a former tax lawyer, was pressed into the job. He has since succeeded in convincing the US government that the Canadian government shares its anxiety over terrorism and would staunchly support all US anti-terrorism efforts. US is Canada's largest trading partner, with 87 per cent of Canadian exports travelling to the

USA. Earlier in the day, during a luncheon meeting with Mumbai businessmen, organised by Indo-Canadian business council and Indian Merchants' Chamber, Mr Manley advised both India and Pakistan to take some immediate steps to diffuse the tension along the border. "India sending its high commissioner back to Pakistan could be one of the measures," he observed.



MANLEY: VERY FRANKLY

The Economic Times

24 JAN 2002

NO FLAT REFUSAL BY MUSHARRAF: MANLEY

Give your list, we will act, Jaswant tells Pak.

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 21. India today said that it would quickly extradite any Pakistani fugitive in case it was asked, but asserted that Islamabad should not hold up handover of the terrorists named in New Delhi's list of 20.

"If any such (Pakistani) list were to come, I can assure you that the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs will work double time to send them promptly back to Pakistan," the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh, said at a joint press conference here with the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, John Manley.

Mr. Singh's remarks mark the first Indian reaction to the assertion by the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, that Islamabad has its own list of fugitives in India on which it wants New Delhi to act.

Mr. Manley, who had met the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, prior to his arrival here said that he had discussed with him India's list. Gen. Musharraf had pointed to the need for evidence from the Indian side to enable him to take action, but had reiterated that no Pakistani national on the list would be returned. "There was no flat refusal... so



The Canadian Deputy Prime Minister, John Manley, with the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, in New Delhi on Monday. Photo: S. Arneja

there is a door that is open." Mr. Manley said.

The Canadian leader, during the press conference, made two points. First, terrorism had to be condemned unequivocally. Specifically, he said, "the people who are responsible for the December 13 attack on Indian Parliament should be brought to justice. There is no question of any compromise on this issue." Terrorism,

Mr. Manley asserted, could not be justified on any ground. Dismissing the characterisation of terrorists as "freedom fighters", he stressed that "no one can make a distinction among terrorists".

Second, he hoped for a downturn in Indo-Pakistani tensions, possibly on the basis of the recent steps taken by Gen. Musharraf. In an obvious reference to the crack-down by Pakistan on terrorists, the Canadian leader hoped that some of the steps taken would help stabilise the situation that was prevailing between the two neighbours. He hoped that the current tensions would decline. "Everyday the conflict is not escalated is a step forward. Days and days have gone without further developments. That is a positive development."

Mr. Manley and Mr. Singh, during a 40-minute meeting ahead of the press meet, also discussed ways to restore the bilateral ties that had been hit by India's nuclear tests in May 1998. The Canadian Deputy Prime Minister also met the Home Minister, L.K. Advani, for half-an-hour and discussed the ways to counter terrorism.

PoK PM refuses to arrest Lashkar, Jaish men

MUZAFFARABAD, JAN. 21. The Prime Minister of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, today refused to arrest or seal the offices of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed despite a ban imposed by the Musharraf Government. He urged Islamabad not to hand over any of the "freedom fighters" to India.

"If members belonging to these groups live peacefully and don't indulge in criminal activities, we won't take any action against them. But those who indulge in terrorism would be handed over to the Pakistani authorities," Mr. Khan said.

"I will protest if Pakistan turns over Kashmiri Mujahedeen (holy warriors) to India," he said. "I'll discuss the issue with the President, Pervez Musharraf, and urge him not to hand over any Kashmiri to India."

"The U.N. recognises Kashmir as a disputed territory and Kashmiris are waging a legitimate struggle. We don't recognise the Line of Control and no one can block Kashmiris from crossing it." — AP

THE HINDU

21 JAN 2002

Manley wants India, Pak. to resume dialogue

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20. The Canadian Deputy Prime Minister, John Manley, arrived here today from Pakistan for discussions with Indian leaders during which he is likely to focus on the need for resumption of Indo-Pak. dialogue and also exchange views on the ongoing global campaign against terrorism.

Mr. Manley, who started his eight-day visit with a trip to the Golden Temple in Amritsar stated in Islamabad that India and Pakistan should resume dialogue to reduce tension and promote peace and security.

He said Canada was convinced that the issues could be resolved only through dialogue and not through war.

The Canadian leader will tomorrow call on the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and also have talks with the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh, on the situation in the region.

Mr. Manley will call on the President, K.R. Narayanan, and have meetings with the Home Minister, L.K. Advani, and leader of the Opposition, Sonia Gandhi.

He is expected to convey Canada's full support to strengthening regional cooperation ahead of the G-8 summit in June this year.

Mr. Manley will have an interaction with business community in Mumbai and also visit Chennai, Agra and Goa. — PTI

THE HINDU

21 JAN 2002