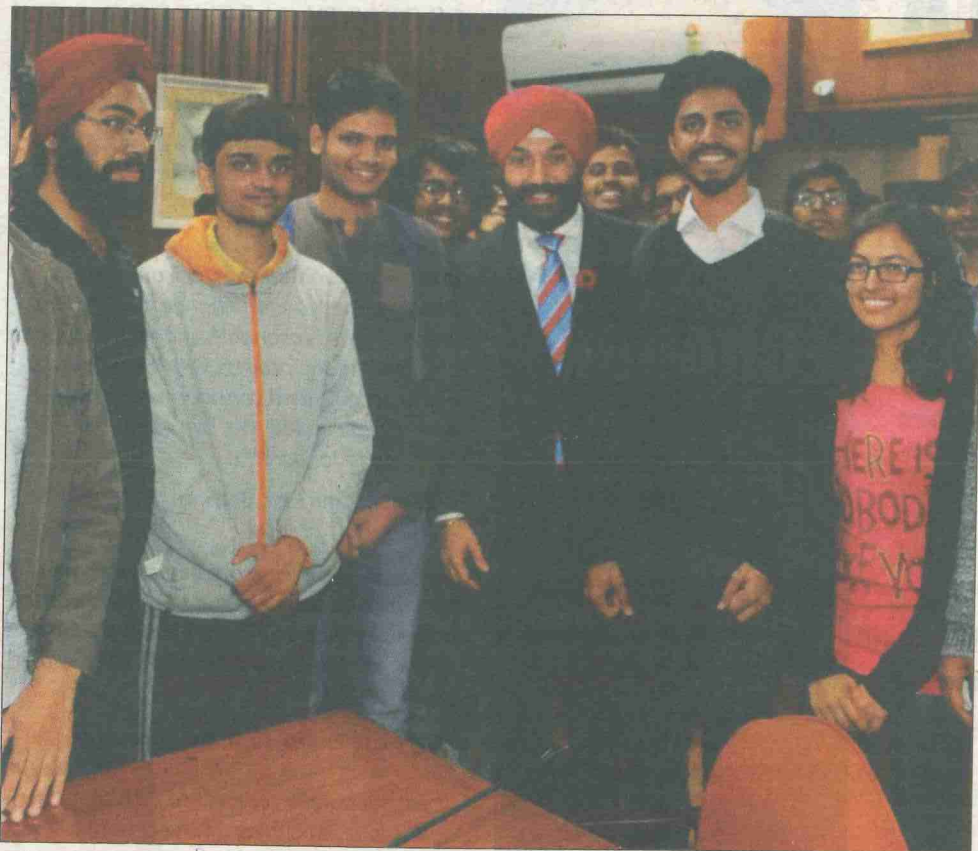


# Peel's 'secret sauce' attractive to Indian investment: MP



Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains (centre), who is the Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Malton, was recently in India on a trade mission.

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A "secret sauce" peculiar to Mississauga and Brampton is one of three reasons Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains recently gave as why Canada has a strong trading relationship with India.

Days after his return from his Nov. 6 to 10 trade mission to the South Asian country, Bains held a conference call with reporters during which he gave two other primary reasons Canada is attractive to Indian investment -- an information and communications technologies (ICT) corridor that competes with Silicon Valley and Delhi's poor air quality.

"The number one goal of the trip was to strengthen government to government relationship at a state level," said Bains, who visited Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai. "One of the messages we tried to convey is that Canada is open for business. We want to be a global hub for investments."

Canada-India trade was valued at over \$8 billion in 2015.

Bains said that Canada is a natural fit for Indian investment for several reasons. First of all, there are over one million people of Indian origin living here. Also, Canada has a long history with India. In addition, the two countries share the common language of English.

Bains said that Mississauga and Brampton hold particular appeal for Indian businesses.

"Mississauga and Brampton have a vibrant and strong Indian diaspora which really creates an opportunity for markets to succeed," he said. "This is the secret sauce that differentiates us."

Bains is also the Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Malton.

He reminded reporters that Canada's recent Fall Economic Statement announced changes to the Investment Canada Act to provoke more overseas investment. Specifically, in 2017 the threshold triggering a review of foreign investments will jump to \$1 billion from \$600 million.

Bains met with politicians from the technology field, including minister for law and justice, electronics and information technology Ravi Shankar Prasad; and minister for science and technology Harsh Vardan. He also spent some time at the Bombay Stock Exchange with Chairman Ashishkumar Chauhan. Mississauga's impressive aerospace industry prompted a meeting with Kiran Kumar, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization.

In addition, Bains met with private sector executives from Tata, a global enterprise based in India, as well as Carl Rodrigues, chairman of Mississauga-based mobile security and device management company SOTI.