

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

Sayantana Dasgupta, a participant in the summer 2000 pilot programme for students from India in Canada, writes in *Shastri News*, "The lectures, tours and the experience of spending a month in Canada have not only helped us appreciate cultural and development issues and problems relevant to Canada, but have also given us a better understanding of the Canadian way of life. ...All of us agree that our Summer Programme in Canada was a huge success...." So, too, has been the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute's goal of promoting understanding between India and Canada by facilitating academic activities. Founded in 1968 with a grant from the Indian government, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is named after Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Prime Minister of India from 1964-66. In its early stages,

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the Institute promoted teaching and research on India. In the 1980s, Canadian and development studies in India were added.

Current Institute activities are: 1) the India Studies Programme, funded by the Government of India, of benefit to Canadian scholars; 2) the Canadian Studies Programme, funded by the Government of Canada, to benefit Indian scholars; 3) the CIDA-SICI project that focuses on development studies, including a summer programme to familiarize Canadian students with India's development challenges, and 4) the Canadian government's International Youth Internship Programme, which offers young Canadians a first-time international development work experience.



Kirsten Baillie (far left) on a CIDA Youth Internship in Kanpur, India, with Indian team members of the Shastri project Managing Environmental Risks, August 2000. Photo courtesy of Shastri Institute



Establishing future relations: Canada World Youth exchange participants at the Canadian High Commission in Colombo, conferring on a quiz question during presentations about their work, at the end of their stay in Sri Lanka. Canadian High Commission Colombo: Lise Nadeau