

Canada was also in the Indian news when the former Canadian Agriculture and Food Minister, Lyle Vanclief, stated that “the unnecessary stringent SPS norms set by the WTO member countries should be questioned if they are impediments to trade. There is a need to strengthen the Codex mechanism and the norms set by Codex should ultimately refer in settling disputes and not any country standard.” Moreover, Indian papers reported as well Mr. Vanclief’s appeal to Indian authorities to lower India’s high tariff rates of 85 per cent on canola oil that is causing losses to Canadian growers. Allan Rock’s trip to India also made the headlines.

One editorialist of *The Times of India* accused major influential Western countries within the Commonwealth of being biassed against certain weaker nations like Zimbabwe: “So Pakistan does remain suspended from the Commonwealth – and it’s no thanks to the Great White Chief, Tony Blair. Or indeed, to his Great White Deputy Chief John Howard, prime minister of Australia or indeed Great White Deputy-Deputy, Jean Chrétien of Canada. The Commonwealth was never an equitable organisation, having been set up in part solely to massage the ego of a reluctantly-disengaging Raj.”

Indian papers highlighted the agreement made between India and Canada in October 2003 to formalize ministerial level talks on a yearly basis to discuss bilateral, regional, international and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The media also mentioned when the Indian High Commission and the Canadian Government signed in October 2003 a letter of intent on an Indo-Canadian co-production arrangement for feature films, animation and 3D movies in Hamilton, Canada. Canada was in the local news when General Motors Corp’s subsidiary in Canada decided to rename its Buick LaCrosse: “the name for the car is slang for masturbation in Quebec, and that embarrassed officials with the US automaker.” Infosys’s expansion to Canada was also in the papers.

Canada was somewhat criticized in the Indian press when Canada protested India’s selection to host the Commonwealth Games in 2010 although India was cleared of any wrongdoing in their bidding process. News of the Canadian Women’s Soccer Team was well covered during the recent Women’s World Soccer Cup in the US.

On the immigration front, the *Financial Express* presented the plight of two disillusioned Indian immigrants to Canada. One was Umesh Sinha, “a computer professional who had left the Gulf region for Canada. He had hoped to get a bigger job. But disappointment was in store. Mr. Sinha’s survival kit was his savings from the Gulf.” The other was Priyanka Kapoor who “had a good education degree and work experience of over three years. She found herself in Canada only to discover that her Indian degree wasn’t recognized. She had to enroll for another course. This was both time consuming and expensive. Before getting her teaching license, she was baby-sitting for two years. But cases like Mr. Sinha and Ms Kapoor haven’t dampened the new buzz over Canada. In fact, the sparsely populated US neighbour is the hot migratory destination of the season. Particularly, after the Yanks and the Brits have been cranking up their immigration rules.”¹⁵ Canada was also mentioned in the Indian papers on issues related to human trafficking, drug trafficking and foreign fugitives residing in Canada.

¹⁵Financial Express, November 15, 2003