

speech, debate and discussion flourish in India's academic circles. Young Indian students, 18 to 21 years of age, are entering the system and actively participating in politics. They vote for local, state, and national assembly representatives, as well as for student union leaders.

When you arrive in India, the faculty will treat you with warmth and respect. Your Indian counterpart will likely extend all possible help and cooperation to you. Your partner's primary interest will be to help you assimilate the relevant elements of the Indian situation which tie in with your project. Your Indian partner will be keen to learn about Canadian life and academic society. Once you have established your credentials and assurances of good faith, you are likely to receive your Indian colleagues' cooperation and assistance whenever required.

Suggested approach

Before leaving Canada, do some preliminary planning regarding your choice of university or research organization. Once you arrive in India, speak slowly and clearly in order to be understood since pronunciation and intonation differ between Canada and India. Communicate your purpose and objectives as clearly as possible and establish your credentials. As a visitor, it is important that you seek to understand the ethos of your selected institution. You will discover diverse regional cultures and traditions. Keeping an open mind and heart will help make your stay a richly rewarding experience.

Participating in meetings with experts and professionals in your chosen field will help you develop good contacts. Your personal and professional ties will lead to enduring partnerships that will bridge institutions, cultures and state boundaries.

Non-Governmental Organizations ♦ ♦ ♦

Context

The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) sector has a long history in India. There are no exact estimates of the number of NGOs although there are directories of NGOs published by various interest groups in such fields as health, environment and rural

development. One estimate puts the number of voluntary organizations at about 300,000.

NGOs are normally registered under the Registration of Societies Act. However, there are cooperatives and