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**INDIA DAY 2020**



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***Congratulations to The Council of India Societies of Edmonton  
on another successful event!***

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 <p>Archana Tiwari Bhartiya Cultural Society of AB (780) 468-2106</p>	 <p>Tom Eapen Canadian Kerala Cultural Assoc. 780-232-3025</p>	 <p>Debangshu Bhaumick Edmonton Bengali Association ebaedm@gmail.com</p>
 <p>Sheetal Naik Edmonton Kannada Association kcaexecutive@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Rajiv Ranjan Edmonton Senior Sports Assoc. 780-722-7015</p>	 <p>Bhargav Patel Garvi Gujrat Assoc. of Canada 587-778-2027</p>
 <p>Renu Narang Hindu Society of Alberta 780-239-2582</p>	 <p>Kaustubh Sinha Indian Students Assoc. (UofA) 780-975-8190</p>	 <p>Kapil Sharma Manoranjan Club 780-469-2677</p>
 <p>Boota Singh Lalli Nizamdipur Community Development Foundation 780-434-0727</p>	 <p>Rajiv Ranjan Shantiniketan Soc. for Seniors 780-722-7015</p>	 <p>Varsha Makarla Telugu Cultural Assoc. of EDM 587-987-8746</p>



# COUNCIL OF INDIA SOCIETIES OF EDMONTON

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Website: [ciseedmonton.com](http://ciseedmonton.com)

## Executives 2019-2020

### President

Mrinal Mandal

### VP – 1 (Admin.)

Amar Bhasin

### VP – 2 (Program)

Gunjan Sharma

### General Secretary

Bindu Kannan

### Joint Secretary

Ashok Sharma

### Treasurer

Dhiru Ladwa

### Assistant Treasurer

Rama Airi

### Past President

Chander Seikhar

### Auditors

Rajiv Ranjan  
Madan Prasad

March 1, 2020

On behalf of the Council of India Societies of Edmonton and its 19 affiliated associations, I extend my warmest greeting to each and every one of you, who are here to join us to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of India's Republic Day.

January 26, 1950 was the day when India's Constitution was proclaimed and India became a truly sovereign country. This special occasion commemorates India's epic struggle to regain independence and also to remember thousands of Martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the freedom that all of us enjoy today.

The theme for this year's celebration is TOLERANCE, HARMONY AND PEACE Culture connects people through heritage and shared experiences and that is what India Day Represents. It is one of India's most significant events and is based on the principles of tolerance, harmony and peace.

This event presents an excellent opportunity for the community to acknowledge and encourage our youth and volunteers for their outstanding accomplishments in academic excellence, sports and artistic endeavors. I congratulate all of those who will be recognized today. They are the future leaders of our community and our country.

I feel very proud to mention that the India Center has become a hub of various activities. It is being used by organizations affiliated with the Council of India as well as by public at large.

My heartfelt thanks to all the delegates and members of all affiliated associations. A special thanks to all volunteers who were instrumental in making all the CISE events a huge success. Financial support for all the council's events comes from many organizations and sponsors. We thank them all.

Have a memorable and enjoyable Republic day.

Jai Hind.

Mrinal Mandal  
President  
Council of India Societies of Edmonton





# Happy Republic Day

Wishes to Every One



**Sitting: Bindu Kannan, Mrinal Mandal, Gunjan Sharma**

**Standing: Chander Mittal, Rama Airi, Dhirubhai Ladwa, Amar Bhasin**  
(Board member Ashok Sharma is missing in the photo)

**2019-2020**  
**CISE Executive Committee**



# MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to India Day 2020.

Alberta's diversity is perhaps nowhere better appreciated than in the proud, joyful cultural celebrations that take place in our communities every day. These events are an opportunity to nurture and explore heritage. They are also a chance to learn more about the traditions of our friends and neighbours, fostering the tolerance, harmony and peace that are the theme for today's festivities.

I hope everyone enjoys the warmth and fellowship of community as you gather for India Day. And as you take time to recognize the achievements of exceptional young people and volunteers, I hope you will also feel a sense of pride as you reflect on the contributions Indo-Canadians have made to our province and country. Alberta would not be what it is without you.

Thank you to the Council of India Societies of Edmonton for your efforts on behalf of Indo-Canadians in Alberta, and for making this event possible.

I appreciate your commitment to multiculturalism.

Congratulations to the award winners, and best wishes for a wonderful event!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Kenney".

**Hon Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta**





# MESSAGE FROM HON. TIM S. UPPAL, P.C., M.P. FOR EDMONTON MILL WOODS

On behalf of our Conservative caucus, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to India Day 2020.

Canada's diversity is the result of our strength, and our strength is and always has been our freedom. Today's celebration provides a remarkable opportunity to reflect on that freedom, and to explore the traditions of our friends and neighbours. It also provides an opportunity for us to strengthen our relationships through tolerance, harmony, and peace – the theme for today's festivities.

I'd like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Council of India Societies of Edmonton for your commitment to making this event possible, and for showcasing the contributions of Indo-Canadians in Edmonton – your efforts are greatly appreciated.

I hope that everyone in attendance enjoys the joyous celebrations that our culture brings – our country would not be the remarkable nation that it is without your contributions.

Best wishes for a wonderful event,

---

Hon. Tim S. Uppal, P.C., M.P.







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**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA**  
201 - 325 HOWE STREET  
VANCOUVER, B.C. CANADA V6C 1Z7

20 February 2020

### Message

I have great pleasure to learn that the Council of India Societies of Edmonton, as in past, is celebrating its annual cultural event - India Day - on Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Cultural festivals are a tool to bring harmony and togetherness in the society and bring the members of the society closer to each other. Celebrating cultural festivals is also an instrument to teach cultural ethos to the younger generations and a mechanism to preserve the ethnicity and distinct cultural identity. India Day celebration is a pursuit in that direction to promote fraternity and fostering social cohesion.

Tolerance is the most important ingredient for the people in a society to co-exist peacefully in harmony with each other and **'Tolerance, Harmony and Peace'** chosen by the CISE is the most relevant theme for this year's celebrations when we are celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi - the epitome of these virtues.

I congratulate CISE for their continued efforts to work towards spreading solidarity amongst the members of the diaspora and wish India Day celebrations a grand success.

(Abhilasha Joshi)



## **Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson**



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to India Day 2020.

Each year, the Council of India Societies of Edmonton organizes this wonderful celebration of Indian culture and the Indian-Canadian community. One of our city's greatest strengths is our people and the diversity of our backgrounds. Edmontonians have traveled here from all over the world, enriching our city by sharing their traditions and cultures. Today's festivities give us an opportunity to recognize the immense contributions and accomplishments of our Indian-Canadian youth and the community as a whole.

My thanks to the many organizers, volunteers, sponsors and performers who are helping to bring this year's theme of tolerance, harmony and peace to life. Celebrations like this strengthen the social fabric of our city and help make Edmonton a more uplifting and welcoming place.

Best wishes for fun and entertaining event!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Iveson". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Don Iveson  
Mayor

# CHRISTINA GRAY

MLA, EDMONTON-MILL WOODS

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF ALBERTA

Dear Friends,

It is an honour and a privilege to be with you on this special day. On behalf of the Alberta's New Democrat Caucus, I would like to wish the Council of India Societies of Edmonton (CISE) all the very best on India's Republic Day.

Since it attained independence, India has grown into one of the world's economic superpowers and a country of vibrant multiculturalism. One of Alberta's greatest strengths is its diversity; my home community of Mill Woods is wonderful example of our province's ability to have people from a multitude of backgrounds living and working together, in peace and happiness. Albertans have a history of coming together to get things done, thanks to our shared value of devotion to our communities. Albertans of Indian heritage have had tremendous impact on increasing the well-being of our communities, right across Alberta.

Our province is made so much stronger by the many contributions of the over 150,000 Indo-Canadians who live, study and work in our province. Alberta's future continues to be shaped by young people who are linked by a collective spirit and purpose to be catalysts of positive change in everything you do. The Official Opposition recognizes that supporting events which celebrate cultural diversity helps to promote mutual understanding and is key to a strong society. The contributions made by Indo-Canadians to our society, economy, culture and arts can be seen daily and are celebrated through the excellent work of organizations like the Council of India Societies of Edmonton.

Thank you to the executive and all the volunteers for putting on such a wonderful celebration, time and time again!

Please accept my warmest wishes for success at today's event.

Sincerely,

Christina Gray, MLA  
Edmonton-Mill Woods



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## COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS – INDIA DAY 2020



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	RECEPTION COMMITTEE	PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Dr. Mrinal Mandal - Chair	Mr. Amar Bhasin – Chair	Ms. Gunjan Sharma – Chair
Mr. Amar Bhasin	Mr. Chander Sheikhar – Co-Chair	Mr. Puneet Manchanda
Ms. Gunjan Sharma	Mr. Dhuru Ladwa	Mr. Rohit Sati
Ms. Bindu Kannan	Mr. Preetam Sharma	Ms. Rajammal Ram
Mr. Dhuru Ladwa	Dr. Rajeshwar Singh	Ms. Mala Kalra
Mr. Ashok Sharma	Mr. Mohit Narang	Ms. Chandrika Ladwa
Mr. Rama Airi	Mr. Madan Prasad	Ms. Alaknanda Rai
Mr. Chander Sheikhar	Mr. Prakash Mullick	Ms. Hansa Thaleshvar
	Ms. Renu Narang	Mr. Shiv Sarswat

AWARD COMMITTEE	FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	SOUVENIR COMMITTEE
Mr. Ashok Sharma - Chair	Mr. Dhuru Ladwa - Chair	Dr. Mrinal Mandal - Chair
Ms. Bindu Kannan – Co-Chair	Mr. Rama Airi – Co-Chair	Mr. Jignesh Shah
Dr. Ashok Singh	Mr. Rajiv Ranjan	Mr. Rama Airi
Dr. Rajeshwar Singh	Mr. Chander Sheikhar	Mr. Dhuru Ladwa
Ms. Archana Tiwari	Dr. Mrinal Mandal	
Mr. Krishan Chawla		
Mr. Jitendra Patel		
Ms. Savita Patel		

The CISE **thinks** the following **volunteers** for their services on various CISE events (our sincere apology if any name is missing here):

Kartik Arora, Rajeev Arora, Rupam Arora, Suresh Avasthi, Jit Bhardwaj, Monica Bhasin, Aradhna Chawla, George Cherian, Sudershan Devgan, Amit Joshi, Dinesh Joshi, Somesh Joshi, Radhika Kalra, Udayan Kalra, Sohan Kumar, Chitra Omkar, Dhaval Patel, Naivedhya Rai, Jai Roy, Manisha Saraswat, Ganesh Saraswat, Shiv Saraswat, Mananas Saxena, Mahima Saxena, Saurabh Saxena, Shivain Saxena, Sohni Sharma, Rahul Srivastav, , Arti Wossaree.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** CISE hereby sincerely acknowledges and thanks the support received from our advertisement and award sponsors, various media and local business establishments for their contributions in promoting and conducting India Day 2020 successfully.

**DISCLAIMER:** The souvenir has been published under the direction of the Council of India Societies of Edmonton (CISE) for general information purposes only. Errors and omissions are expected. Opinions expressed are those of the authors only and are not intended to be directed at any individual or an identifiable group. CISE authors, advertisers and others associated in the publication of this souvenir assume no liability or consequential liability for the use or otherwise quoting of the information in this souvenir.



# PROGRAM SCHEDULE



(Sunday, March 1, 2020, 2 - 5 PM)

<i>Introduction of MCs</i>	Ms. Gunjan Sharma, Vice-President (Program), CISE
<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	Ms. Radhika Kalra and Ms. Sohni Sharma
<i>National Anthems Jana Gana Mana/ O' Canada &amp; Patriotic Song</i>	Chahat Dhatwalia, Adaa Dhatwalia, Jaiteg Singh, Samara, Gursidak Kalsi, Khush Bhardwaj, Rehwa Mital, Baljit Kalsi on keyboard, Anita Mittal on sitar; CISE Executives and Volunteers
<i>Welcome Address</i>	Dr. Mrinal Mandal, President - CISE
<i>Bharat Ko Ek Salam (Canadian Kerala Association)</i>	Dana George, Kesia Baiju, Chhaya Sirdhar, Nasrine Sajai, Judia Gejo, Anjali Pillai, Lisa Kuruvilla, Riyana Mathew, Fiona Debi, Sreya Saju, Angelina Joseph, Angelia Wilson, Aileen Renju, Femiya Mathew, Kaylah Joy, Shreya Joseph, Maria Puthussari, Diya Benoy, Alvina Renju, Ashanah Thomas, Julia Gejo, Isabella Kuruvilla, Riya Sisel, Aleena John, Eva Mathew, Esha Joseph, Alona Joyees, Joshua Joy, Isaiah Joy, Riju Saju, Preethi Binoy, Ambili Saju, Manju Samson, Renju Sisel, Sherin Puthussari, Deepa Benoy. <i>Choreographed by: Mrs. Rajammal Ram</i>
<i>Introduction of Chief Guest</i>	Mr. Amar Bhasin, Vice-President (Administration), CISE
<i>Greetings by Chief Guest</i>	Mr. Manjish Grover, Consul Head of Chancery, Commerce & Culture, Indian Consulate, Vancouver
<i>Awards Presentation:</i>	CISE Citizenship Award, Distinctive Achievement Awards Presenter: Mr. Manjish Grover Facilitated by Ashok Sharma and Bindu Kannan, CISE Award Committee Co-Chairs
<i>Tarana- North India Classical Dance Tamasha- Maharashtra Lavani (Edmonton Senior Sports Assoc.)</i>	Yoghita Sethumadhavan, Astha Shah, Alison Azhikannockal, Ananya Patel, Bhaveesha Jani, Maheesha Jani, Gia Jamdar, Muskaan Gupta, Aswarya Burad, Muskaan Gupta, Priyanka Natarajan, Rashmi Sharma, Dharti Desai, Harpriya Sohanpal <i>Choreographed by: Mrs. Usha Gupta</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	Mr. Dhiru Ladwa, Treasurer, CISE
<i>Greetings by</i>	Hon. Kelly McCauley, MP for Edmonton West
<i>Awards Presentation:</i>	Junior High and Senior High - Academic Excellence Awards Presenter: Hon. Kelly McCauley Sponsor and Co Presenter: Mr. Atul Omkar
<i>Blessings Folk Dance (Alberta Hindi Parishad)</i>	Siya Sharma, Moumita Upadhyay, Satwinder Khasria, Megha Dureja, Aashna Mahajan, Utpala Acharya, Jyoti Joshi, Alka Arora, Nandita Bansal, Ritu Airi, Meenakshi Utpal, Sonia Khanna <i>Choreographed by: Ms. Jyoti Joshi</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	Chander Mittal, Past President, CISE
<i>Greetings By</i>	Hon. Kaycee Madu, Minister of Municipal Affairs



# PROGRAM SCHEDULE



**(Sunday, March 1, 2020, 2 - 5 PM)**

<b>Awards Presentation:</b>	Academic Honors Awards – Grade 10 to 12
	Presenter: Mr. Kaycee Madu
	Sponsor and Co Presenter: Mr. Vivek Ahuja
<b>Mandya Folk Dance Village Belles Of Karnataka (Edmonton Kannada Association)</b>	Mahika Vydy, Daksha Rao, Prachi Prayag, Ashmita Acharya, Esha Manjunath, Sanaathini Raghu, Padmini Bindiganavi, Sanchi Manjunath
	Choreographed by: Sushma Seshadri & Roopa Harsha
<b>Introduction</b>	Mr. Ashok Sharma, Joint Secretary, CISE
<b>Greetings by</b>	Hon. Sarah Hoffman, MLA and Deputy Leader of Opposition
<b>Awards Presentation:</b>	Academic Honors Award – Grade 7 to 9
	Presenter: Ms. Sarah Hoffman, MLA and Deputy Leader of Opposition
	Co-Presenter: Mr. Amarjeet Sohi
<b>Semi-classical Kathak Dance (Hindu Society of Alberta)</b>	Rashmi Sinha, Namratha Sambhi, Aditi Swaroop, Riyanka Mishra, Sujata Bhatnagar, Malika Patnaik, Vandna Agrawal, Renu Tyagi, Smriti Patnaik
	Choreographed by: Ms. Rashmi Sinha
<b>INTERMISSION (20 minutes)</b>	
<b>Raas-Garba Dance (Alberta Gujarati Association)</b>	Ayush Solanki, Dhvani Patel, Sanvi Shah, Mannat Choudhary, Jeel Patel, Aarna Patel, Tanish Solanki, Tirth Shah, Prem Vyas, Jainika Trivedi
	Choreographed by: Ms. Kundanika Solanki
<b>Introduction</b>	Ms. Bindu Kannan, General Secretary, CISE
<b>Greetings By</b>	Ms. Christina Gray, MLA for Edmonton-Millwoods Mr. Moe Banga, City Councilor, City of Edmonton
<b>Awards Presentation:</b>	Academic Honors Awards: Grade 4 to 6
	Presenter: Ms. Christina Gray
	Co-Presenter: Moe Banga
<b>Telugu States - Fusion Dance (Telugu Cultural Association of Edmonton)</b>	Ananya Nandiraju, Aasrija Puchakarla, Nithya Durupala, Shreya Mulpuri, Shwetha Mulpuri, Sowmya Challa, Taruni Nandyala, Reshma Chadalavada, Sridevi Ramanatham, Jyothi Padartha, Suma Killi, Shruthi Reddy, Shreya Nandiraju, Deepa Kovvada, Kavitha Nandiraju, Deepa Koorapaty
	Choreographed by: Ms. Kavitha Nandiraju
<b>Introduction</b>	Mr. Rama Airi, Assistant Treasurer, CISE
<b>Greetings By</b>	Mr. Mark Smith, MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon
<b>Awards Presentation:</b>	Academic Honors Awards – Grade 1 to 3
	Presenter: Mr. Mark Smith
	Co-Presenter: Ms. Narmin Hassam-Clark
<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	Ms. Gunjan Sharma, Vice-President (Program), CISE
<b>Bhangra (Asian Youth Club)</b>	Presented by Punjabi Folk Dance Academy Choreographed by: Gursevak Singh Sidhu

# CISE Photos - India Day 2019



# CISE Event Photos 2019



Canada Day



Heritage Day



Canada Day



India Day



Independence Day



India Day



Independence Day



Independence Day



# CISE Event Photos 2019



Independence Day



India Day



Heritage Day



Heritage Day



Canada Day



Independence Day



Heritage Day

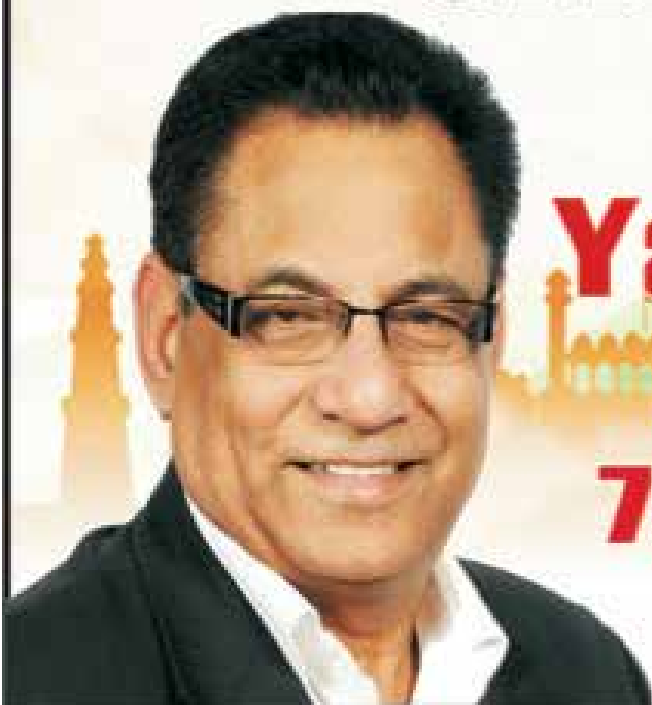


# Asian Tribune



Happy

# 70th Republic Day of India



## Yash Sharma

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Swami Vivekanand once said, "If a child cannot go to school, school must go to the child." Ekal is working on this unique concept since 1986. It is holistic development in the remote villages and tribal areas of India and Nepal by providing well-designed education supporting literacy, healthcare, economic development and empowerment.

Ekal Vidyalayas operates with one teacher and no school building. At present, there are more than 100,000 Ekal schools with enrollment of 2.8 million children. One school runs with the donation of \$500.00 for one year. Ekal is also trying to provide basic digital literacy to these areas through mobile labs.

There are other programs to improve the life of villagers by teaching them various life skills to have sustainable income. A sister organization of Ekal organizes health camps and gives free services and medicines. Ekal movement is a volunteer based organization and the administrative cost is only 10%.



### **Ekal needs your help – Donate and/or Volunteer**

*(Donations are tax deductible; charitable # 85342 1162 RR0001)*

For more information: [www.ekal.org](http://www.ekal.org) OR [www.ekal.ca](http://www.ekal.ca)

Canada head office address: 5448 Elgar Court, Mississauga, Ontario L5M 5C9

Contact in Edmonton: Dr. Desh Mittra; Ph. 587-974-6922; email: [ekaledmonton@gmail.com](mailto:ekaledmonton@gmail.com)

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WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY INDIA DAY 2020

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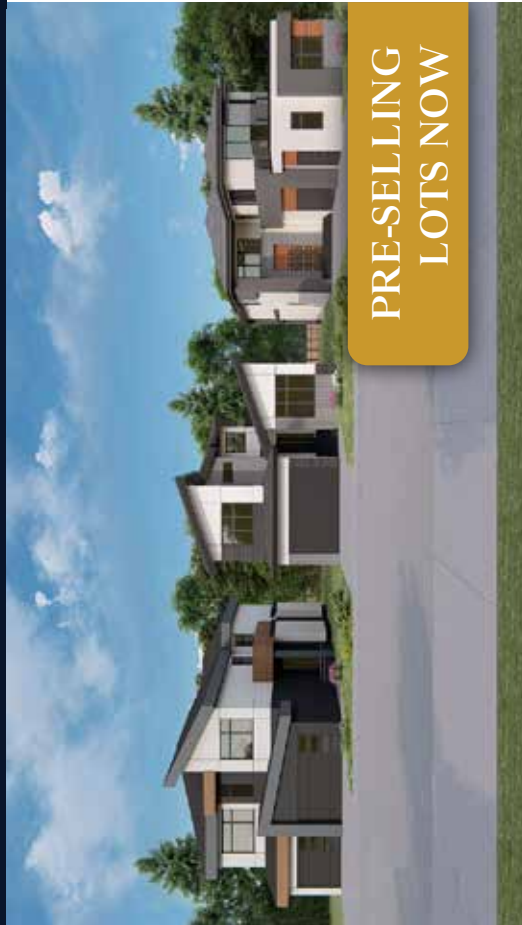
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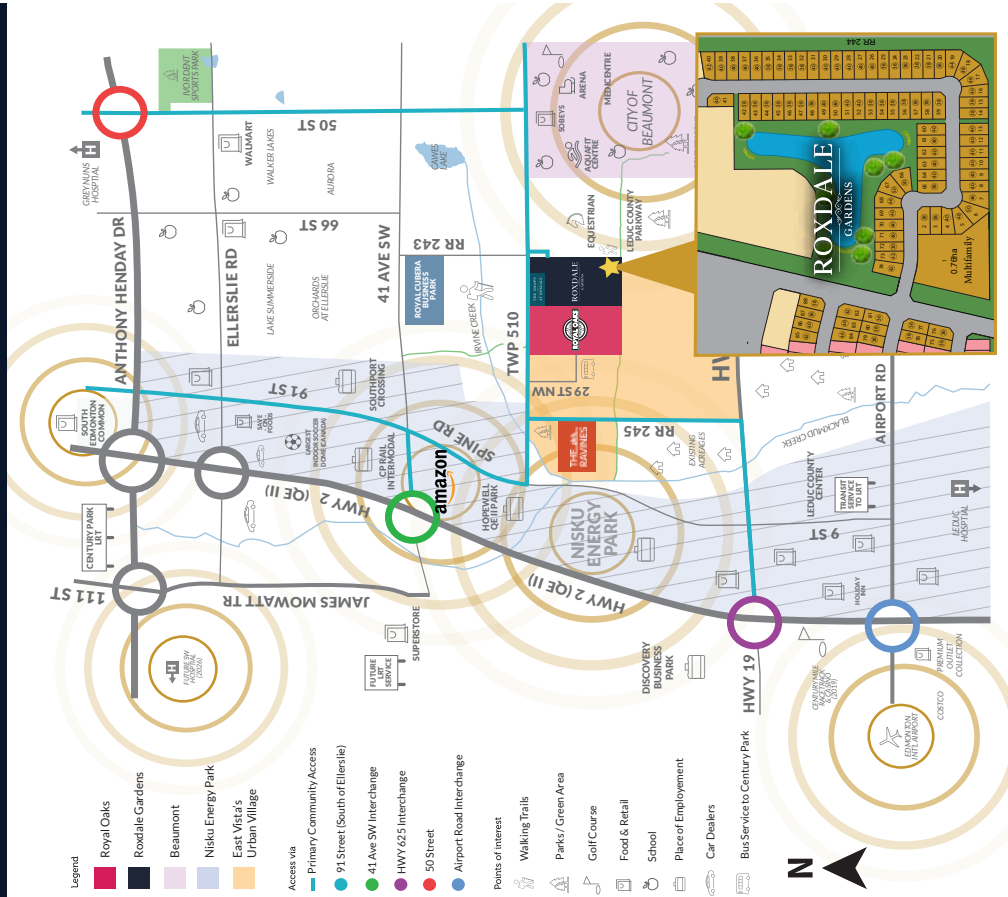
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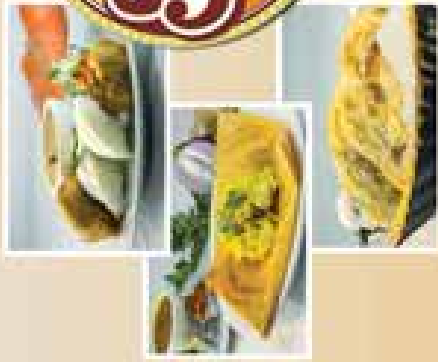
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Priyanka Maripuri

## Into the Emerald Blues...

### ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS



*Ross Island*

Among the well-known pristine collection of beaches, beautiful underwater corals, and breathtaking sunsets are the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These Islands are gently scattered along the western Andaman sea. This archipelago has more than 500 islands of which only a very few of them can be accessed by tourists. Some of these islands are home to the native tribes, who are believed to be the descendants of the first human population that emerged from Africa and have shunned us and our advances with fierceness (and bows and arrows!) Though most of the Nicobar Islands are restricted to the public to protect the tribes, Andaman attracts a wide range of tourists. Islands are interconnected by ferries which makes it convenient to cover them in a short span.

**Havelock Beaches for SUN, SAND, and SEA:** Havelock is one of the popular islands of A&N. It offers water sports such as Snorkeling, scuba diving, Kayaking, etc. It can be reached via ferries. Radhanagar Beach, Elephant Beach and Kala Pathar Beach are some of the other famous beaches. Radhanagar beach: also known as the Beach Number 7 has been named "Best Beach in Asia" by Times in 2004. Though it's a public beach you don't have to share its rugged background and white sand with other tourists as much! Ross and Smith Island are connected by a white sand bar that reveals itself during high tide. How amazing!



*Sunrise at Kala Pathar Beach*

A&N is the scuba diving capital of India with beautiful coral reefs. Octopuses, Gorgonian soft corals, stingrays, whitetip sharks, Bengal snappers are some of the most eccentric underwater creatures you can discover among those electric blue waters. There are many scuba diving companies that can take you into the depths of these unexplored waters.

Since independence, A&N has become a home for diverse multicultural communities from every corner of India. You can take your palate on a roller coaster ride with fresh seafood and exotic spices. Oh, don't forget to try their Red Snapper! A visit to cellular jail (black water jail) during its light and sound show will take you back to the freedom movement of the British era. This National memorial also houses freedom fighter's photos and exhibition galleries.

You can choose to stay in some of the exotic resorts like Taj and Jalakara among others cabin themed resorts that will connect you with nature. Auto rickshaws (Tuk-Tuks) and private taxis are the most common means of public transport. Opt for renting a bicycle for just around ₹200/- a day or a two-wheeler for around ₹500/- a day! The natives are quite fluent in Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Bengali and yes, English! Andaman and Nicobar Islands receive minimum fluctuations temperature-wise and is mostly pleasant. The best time to visit Andaman is from December to January or Mid-March to May. Monsoons are however recommended to be avoided due to their high tidal waves, incessant rains, and strong winds. Since many islands must be reached by ferries. So, plan accordingly!

Resources: <https://www.vogue.com/article/indias-andaman-islands-beach-getaway-to-know>  
<https://www.wtravellmagazine.com/andaman-and-nicobar-islands-perfectly-secluded-for-the-essential-island-escape/>  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/photo-essays/2018-09-19/andaman-islands-travel-guide-where-to-stay-what-to-eat>



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## Tourism in West Bengal

West Bengal is fertile and densely populated land running from the tea-draped Himalayan hills (Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and 140-year-old Darjeeling Himalayan Railway) to the unique mangroves of Sunderbans (sanctuary of Royal Bengal Tiger) on Bay of Bengal, this state presents a remarkable range of destinations and experiences within its boundaries. Bishnupur's ornate terracotta Hindu temples and the cultured, arty vibes of Shantiniketan – an Ashram and seat of learning (Visva Bharati University) founded by Rabindranath Tagore. Upstream from the deltas of the Hooghly River (a branch of the Ganges) you will reach old European trading towns and three former Bengali capitals at Murshidabad, Gaur and Pandua. The Himalayas offer some great hiking and the Bay of Bengal offers a few of the finest beaches.



Toy Train in Darjeeling

Welcome to Kolkata (Calcutta), the state capital and the City of Joy in true sense. India's third-largest city is a daily festival of human existence, simultaneously noble and squalid, cultured and desperate, decidedly futuristic while splendid in decay. This 330-year-old metropolis is vibrant with many heritage buildings and temples. Dakshineswar Kali Temple where the great Rama Krishna Paramhansa was the priest and Rama Krishna Mission at Belur Math founded by Swami Vivekananda, are both in this famous city. Locally, Kolkata is regarded as India's intellectual, artistic and cultural capital. From 1772 to 1911, Calcutta was the capital of British India, there is much to show for its years as the showpiece capital of colonized India with its eye-catching Victorian architecture which stand tall as testimonials to its past.



Dakshineswar Kali Temple

West Bengal has about 15 wildlife sanctuaries and 5 national parks — Sundarbans National Park, Buxa Tiger Reserve, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley National Park, Singalila National Park, and Jaldapara National Park. West Bengal also has wildlife sanctuaries and bird sanctuaries like Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary and Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary. The Sundarbans National Park, the largest estuarine mangrove forest in the world is a National Park, Tiger Reserve, UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve. It is integral to the world's largest delta of 80,000 sq. km formed from sediments deposited by the three great rivers, the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna, which confluence in the Bengal Basin. The entire basin is traversed by a complex network of interconnecting waterways. Tidal waves as high 75 m are a regular feature here.



Sunderban National Park

For more information on West Bengal, contact Directors of EBA (contact info given above). For more information, send email to [ebaedm@gmail.com](mailto:ebaedm@gmail.com).

## One State, Many Worlds – Karnataka Edmonton Kannada Association

Karnataka is a home for thousands of tourist attractions, it's a land of colours, cultures, flavours, landscapes and spectacular beauty. It takes years together to learn fantastic things that this state brings to the country and the world. In short, we have chosen to write about Mysuru Palace and Pattadakal (a UNESCO world Heritage).



Mysuru Palace

Mysuru is the second biggest city in the state of Karnataka. It lies 140 kms from the capital city, Bangalore. It is the erstwhile capital of the Mysuru Maharajas, who ruled Mysuru State from this royal city, for several centuries. Thanks to royal patronage, artists, writers and craftsmen have flourished in Mysuru, making it the cultural epicentre of Karnataka. The city's proximity to famous wildlife sanctuaries and its very own zoo make it a popular destination for wildlife enthusiasts from across the world.

Designed by the English Architect, Henry Irwin, the Mysuru Palace dominates the skyline of Mysuru. A three storied structure in the Indo-Saracenic style built between 1897-1912, the palace has beautifully designed square towers at cardinal points, covered with domes. The Durbar Hall with its ornate ceiling and sculpted pillars and the Kalyanamantapa with its glazed tiled flooring and stained glass, domed ceiling are worth noting. Intricately carved doors, the golden howdah (elephant seat), paintings as well as the fabulous, jewel encrusted golden throne (displayed during Dasara) are amongst the palace's other treasures. The palace is illuminated on Sundays, Public Holidays as well as during the Dasara Celebrations when 97,000 electric bulbs are used to illuminate it.



Virupaksha Temple

Pattadakal, in Karnataka, represents the high point of an eclectic art which, in the 7th and 8th centuries under the Chalukya dynasty, achieved a harmonious blend of architectural forms from northern and southern India. An impressive series of nine Hindu temples, as well as a Jain sanctuary, can be seen there. One masterpiece from the group stands out – the Temple of Virupaksha, built c. 740 by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate her husband's victory over the kings from the South.



# CANADIAN KERALA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

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## Tourism in God's Own Country - Kerala

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the COUNCIL OF INDIA SOCIETIES OF EDMONTON who are celebrating India's 70th Republic Day. It has always been a privilege to be a part of these celebrations. Over the years, the leadership and guidance of the Council has given to so many member organizations; helping to nourish India's cultural diversity.

The Canadian Kerala Cultural Association of Alberta (CKCA) has enjoyed taking part as a vital member organization since the India Council's inception. I would like to thank President, Mr. Mrinal Mandal, for giving us this opportunity to have input in your publication during this auspicious occasion. As we all know, the State of Kerala is a place where tourists are welcome to enjoy its natural beauty and its back waters.



Kerala Backwaters

During the festival season, the pride and joy of Kerala, is optimized by the ferocious beats of the drums emanating across the land. Decorated elephants march through the towns; and the rivers surge with over 100 foot long snake boats in a display that can only be seen in a State renowned as "God's Own Country". The entire State celebrates together as the land is covered in a plethora of lights and merriment irrespective of various religious beliefs and practices.

Our festivals celebrate the traditions passed down by our ancestors. Be it Onam, Eid or Christmas, all of Kerala rejoices with one spirit to bring the entire coastal State to life. From seeing mystical figures during Theyyam performances to strolling through various churches and mosques where the lights and displays are at their best during different festivals and memorials, every nook and corner of our State has something to offer each and every visitor.

Onam is the State festival which is celebrated by every household across the land. According to mythology, Mahabali was an Asura (demon) king who brought peace and prosperity to the land. He makes his yearly rounds to check on his loyal subjects during the harvest festival of Onam. Malayali's invite him into their houses with aplomb to celebrate his homecoming and show him that the prosperity and contentment of his reign continues even to this day. Onasadhya (vegetarian feasts), with up to 60 separate dishes served, are a highlight of this festival.



Onam Festival

From religious occasions to festivals for specific deities, Kerala is home to a great heritage of festivals. The festivals of Kerala personify the very spirit and essence of the land and these experiences will stay in our hearts forever.

Tom Eapen  
President, CKCA



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## Tourism in India: Maharashtra By Ayushi Omkar

India is known as a country rich with culture. Every piece of architecture represents a millennium of India's colorful history, from ancient rock scriptures to gorgeous palaces and temples. Due to this, there are no shortages of tourist spots, and there is a great variety which caters to nearly everyone. An excellent example of this is found in the state of Maharashtra, located on India's western coast. This state is home to a few of the most popular metropolitan cities, religious landmarks, historical and culturally significant architecture, and leisurely opportunities.

The capital city of Maharashtra is Mumbai, formerly called Bombay. Despite New Delhi being the capital of India, Mumbai is considered the business capital of the country. Tourists frequent here, and it is the main hub of the Bollywood industry, which is beloved worldwide. Together with cities Pune and Nagpur, one of the main metropolitan areas of the country is created. Those looking to focus on India's religious aspects should visit the Shri Siddhivinayak Mandir, a Hindu temple located in Mumbai and regarded as one of the richest temples in all of India. This site is believed to be quite sacred. Another great spot is Shirdi, a small town which was believed to have once been the home of Sai Baba. Maharashtra is also a wonderful place to travel for leisure. The scenic town of Lonavala is the site of the Kune waterfalls and many lush green valleys.



*Lonavala, India*

On the other hand, anyone with a keen interest in culture and history should consider a trip to the Ellora and/or Ajanta caves. These official UNESCO Heritage sites are very popular. The Ajanta caves are a series of caves dedicated to Buddhist culture. Monuments there can be dated as far back as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BCE (BC). The Ellora caves are a series of very complex tunnel networks and art pieces, all chiselled into a mountain between 600-1000 CE (AD). The caves pay tribute to the Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain gods and goddesses through several monuments, wall art, and epics. The caves are considered a marvel, as the sheer difficulty to create such a structure in today's day and age is a remarkable feat, let alone thousands of years ago. The cave network also contains a rock structure taller than the Greek Pantheon. Over the years, Indian history dictates that many have unsuccessfully tried to destroy the caves due to their cultural significance. There are



*The Ellora Caves, India*

conspiracy theories that the caves show a tie to extra-terrestrial (alien) life, as many researchers believe that it would have been impossible to create such an extraordinary structure using solely chisels.

India is a very populous and cultural country, and within it lie multiple tourist attractions. The state of Maharashtra is unique in that it has a small variety of every aspect that one may be interested in exploring. Those travelling to India should visit the fantastic sites this state has to offer, as India's resplendent glory extends far past simply the famous Taj Mahal!

**Sources:** <https://www.maharashtratourism.gov.in/>, <https://in.musafir.com/Blog/ellora-caves-mystery-was-it-built-by-aliens.aspx>

# Tourism in Punjab, India

By Hindu Society of Alberta

The state of Punjab is renowned for its cuisine, culture and history. Punjab has a vast public transportation and communication network. Punjab is bounded on the west by Pakistan, on the north by Jammu and Kashmir, on the northeast by Himachal Pradesh and on the south by Haryana and Rajasthan. Some of the main cities in Punjab are Amritsar, Jalandhar, Patiala, Pathankot, Ferozepur, Mohali and Ludhiana. Chandigarh is capital of Punjab and known as 'The city Beautiful'. Punjab also has a rich Sikh religious history. In this article we'll cover 4 major cities.

**Amritsar** is situated at border of India & Pakistan. Popular places to visit in Amritsar include the Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh, Wagah Border, Durgiana Temple and Gobindgarh Fort. Located in the heart of the city is the Golden Temple, the most visited tourist attraction of Amritsar. The locals love the street food in Amritsar, and the city is swarming with street-side vendors selling the freshest, hottest and richest versions of everything from a refreshing glass of lassi and sugary, sweet halwa, to buttery paranthas and spicy gravy. Diwali, Holi, Lohri & Vaisakhi are celebrated in full force. Baisakhi is the most important festival in Amritsar. And this festival is celebrated in the month of April. Baisakhi is celebrated with much enthusiasm, mostly among the Sikh community.



Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab

**Ludhiana** is centre city of Punjab. It is mostly known as business-men city & well known for hosiery production. This city attracts tourism for shopping since there are many shopping places in city. Major attractions of this city are Nehru Rose Garden, Lodhi Fort, Hardy's world amusement Park, Rural Museum in PAU & Shivala Sangliwala Temple. Ludhiana is famous for best marriages & marriage palaces. Ludhiana boasts of a kaleidoscopic culture where people from almost all the states of India have settled here. The people are very fun-loving and enthusiastic and love to dine, wine and celebrate. They are very fond of music and dance. You can find food from all culture & countries in Ludhiana.

**Patiala** is known for its historical forts. Patiala is famous for shopping Punjabi salwar suit, Phulkari & Patiala Jooti. Qilla Chownk & Choti Baradari are the oldest market for shopping. Some of attractions in Patiala are Moti Bagh Palace, The Qila Mubarak complex, Sheesh Mahal, Gurudwara Dukhniwaran Sahib, Shri Kali Devi Mandir. The numerous malls, supermarkets, and traditional old bazaars does emerge as one of the good options for fun things to do in Patiala. In fact, simply souvenir shopping in Patiala is alone a very popular activity.

**Chandigarh (Capital City of Punjab):** When a place is called "The City Beautiful" or "The Happiest City in India", then you know it's got that certain something. Chandigarh, independent India's first planned city, is the capital of the Punjab and Haryana states. The city is considered to be a Mecca of modern architecture and planning all over the world. What makes Chandigarh extraordinary is the fact that within four decades, a barren landscape has been transformed into a modern and model human habitation. As a prosperous city, accommodation in Chandigarh for international visitors tends to focus on upmarket luxury. With peaceful rural views, The Lalit Chandigarh is a sleek hotel with a design inspired by Le Corbusier. The Hotel Taj Chandigarh in the Capitol Complex District is perfect if you prefer being in the heart of the city. The major attractions of this city are the Capitol Complex, Secretariat, Assembly, High Court, Open Hand Monument, Piazza, Tower of Shadows, Geometric Hill, Martyr's Memorial, Sukhna Lake, Rock Garden, Leisure Valley, Rose Garden, Garden of Tranquility, Garden of Rare Plants, Garden of Annuals, Bougainvillea Garden, Botanical Garden, Garden of Aromatic Plants, Government Museum and Art Gallery, Museum of Evolution of Life, and International Dolls Museum, Mansa Devi temple. Chandigarh offers a rich variety of authentic Punjabi cuisine, and with eateries and restaurants at every street corner, Chandigarh boasts of a bustling food scene. The sparkling city of Chandigarh is brimming with options for food with some of the most popular and mouthwatering traditional Punjabi dishes as well as authentic and rich Continental cuisines. The town has a number of pubs as well as a microbrewery. Chandigarh is one of the most happening cities of India.



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PRISHA HOSUR  
SEEMEEN PENUKONDA  
YASH DARVEKAR



# **COUNCIL OF INDIA SOCIETIES OF EDMONTON**

## **INDIA DAY 2020 – AWARD RECIPIENTS**

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### **GRADE 5**

ABISHAI THOMSON  
ANJALI RAJ  
ARCHIT VERMA  
ASHLYN SANIL  
DIYA PATEL  
HIMANISH PENMETS  
OISHIKI DUTTA  
SAANVI SHAH

ACHAL PATEL  
ANNANYA MISHRA  
ARNI ROY  
BANAJ BHASIN  
FARHEEN SHAIKH  
JIGNESH CHADHA  
PRAJITHA JANARTHANAM  
SANCHI MANJUNATH

ANIDITA GUPTA  
ANVI KESHRI  
ARYAN BAGGA  
CHARMI PATEL  
HASITA BATHINA  
KRIJA SAHADEVAN  
RENISA GHOSH  
SHWETHA PRADEEP

### **GRADE 6**

ADITHYA SUDHARSHAN  
ANJELA BIBIN ELIZABETH  
DEEPIKA SIGIREDI  
DHWANI SHAH  
FEMIYA MATHEW  
HARI MALLAMPALLI  
JAYNE THAKUR  
MEGH MISTRY  
PIYA PATEL  
REBHA BADHAN  
SHERLYN SURATI  
SHREYA PRADEEP  
TISHITA KOVVADA

AKILEASH SARAVANAN  
ASTHA SHAH  
DEETYA KUMAR  
DIVYA PADARTHI  
FIONA DIBI  
HETARTH PATEL  
KAVYA KARIAMAL  
NEGHA KANAGAVARATHAN  
PREETHA RAJAN  
SARAS AGRAWAL  
SHIVANI LAMBA  
SHREYA SUDHARSHAN  
VIR SAHAY

AMAY KUMAR  
DEEPAK SIGIREDI  
DHRUTI RAMANARAYAN  
DIYA BENOY  
GIA JAMDAR  
HIMANSHU SURUKANTI  
MAHIKA SHARMA  
NIKITA KILLI  
RAM SAI  
SAMIKSHA NAIK  
SHIVEN AERY  
SUTHAN SENTHIL

## **JUNIOR HIGH ACADEMIC HONORS**

### **GRADE 7**

AANYA KHERA  
AKHALYA ARULMOZHI  
AVYU KTAJENA  
HARINI SELVARAJAN  
JANVI RAULJI  
NUSRAT SHAIKH  
PARAM VYAS  
PARTHIV PATEL  
SRISHTI BANERJEE  
ZIA KURUVILLA MARIA

ADHEESH PATNAIK  
ANAGHA REMESH  
AYUSHI MORE  
HARSEERAT JANGU  
JAYADARSHAN KAMALANATHAN  
OM AERY  
PAWNI VIJ  
REETU ARVIKAR  
VED SUTHAR

AJITHA GUPTA  
AVINASH SURESH  
CHARVI GUPTA  
HEEYA PATEL  
MALAY DESAI  
OM UPADHYAY  
PRANAV KARTHIKEYAN  
SHIRIN BHAT  
VRAJ SHAH





# **COUNCIL OF INDIA SOCIETIES OF EDMONTON**

## **INDIA DAY 2020 – AWARD RECIPIENTS**

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### **GRADE 8**

ABINASH SARAVANAN  
ANANDGOUDA DESAIGOUDAR  
ANAND VIKRAM  
BHAVYA SHAH  
GAURANG BHANA  
LEKSHMI SUBI MUKUNDAN  
NAVEENGOUDA DESAIGOUDAR  
PRAPTI PATEL  
RADHIKA SONI  
ROSHAN KHERA  
SAI MALLAMPALLI  
SHAAN SAHAY  
TIRATH SHAH

ACHYUTHA SURUKANTI  
ANJALI SARASWAT  
AYUSH BHARGAVA  
DHIYA SHAH  
GOPIKA KUMAR  
LISA KURUVILLA  
OM BHAGIA  
PRIYANSHI PANCHAL  
RASUKISHORE RAJAVEL  
RUDRA PATEL  
SANJEY SITHAM  
SHIVAIN SAXENA  
VEDANSHI SOLANKI

ALBERT KALAYIL  
ANUSHKA JADHAV  
AYUSH SOLANKI  
DHRUV PATEL  
KRISH PATEL  
MANYA BANSAL  
POOJA BARRI  
PUSTI SHAH  
RISHI PARIKH  
RUSHALI NAIK  
SATHVIK KILLI  
TANUSHRI KOORAPATY  
VIKRAM ANAND

### **GRADE 9**

AKHILAN ARULMOZHI  
MAANAS SAXENA  
RIYA SALIAN  
TEJ PATEL

ANSH ZODE  
NIKITA PANT  
SHARONE ABHILASH  
VYAS NIPUNKUMAR

JADEN JOY  
OM VYAS  
SHREYAS SONI

## **SENIOR HIGH ACADEMIC HONORS**

### **GRADE 10**

AAYUSH BANERJEE  
GRESHEL WADHAWAN  
MANAV JOSHI  
RAKSHAN SUNDARARAJAN  
RUCHALI AERY  
JANAN PANCHAL  
THANUSHA MONI

ANANYA NANDIRAJU  
INESH SINGH  
MARIA KARUVILATH  
RESHMA CHADALAVADA  
PARSHVA SHAH  
SHAIV PANDYA  
THARUNI NANDYALA

DHVANI PATEL  
KETA KHATRI  
RAAHKUL SURESH  
REYNA PARIKH  
SHVETHA JAYARAMAN  
SOWMYA CHALLA



# **COUNCIL OF INDIA SOCIETIES OF EDMONTON**

## **INDIA DAY 2020 – AWARD RECIPIENTS**

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### **GRADE 11**

ABISHEK REGHURAM  
GAURI PATHAK  
JUDIA GEJO  
MANSI MORE  
SHWETA SRINIVASAN

APRAJITA GUPTA  
JAI ROY  
KANISHKA RAVAL  
NEHA BARVE  
NIKITA PANT

AVIGNA JENA  
JOSHUA JOY  
KAVYAA KAMAL  
PRANAV MADALA

### **GRADE 12**

TRISHLA PATEL

### **JUNIOR HIGH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

AHAD FARUQUI  
ANGELA SANIL  
ARNAV GUPTA  
JAIME PATEL  
RAJ FICHADIYA

AKSHRA PURUSHOTHAMAN  
ANNAM PRATEEK  
EISHA ARVIKAR  
HARDI PATEL  
SRUTHI MAGESH

APOORVA MISHRA  
ANSH ZODE  
DIVYA PRASAD  
NAVDEEP BADHAN

### **SENIOR HIGH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

APARNA REMESH  
RUSHI PATEL  
VARALI KATYAGI

AYUSHI OMKAR  
SHRINITHI SUBRAMANIAN

JAYADEEP RAO  
TANMAY SHAH

### **DISTINCTIVE ACHIEVEMENT**

ADITHI RAMANAN  
OISHIKI DUTTA

ALISHA CHAUHAN  
ROSHAN KHERA

GAURI PATHAK  
ZENIA PEREIRA

### **CISE CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

JAI ROY

JAYANTI RANADE

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  - no credit history
- ◆ Switch/transfer mortgage from other banks/FI's
- ◆ Own a 2<sup>nd</sup> home with 5% down payment without the need of selling existing home\*
- ◆ Cash back mortgages\*
- ◆ Financing on residential lots\*
  - Interest only line of credit
- ◆ Builder and self-built mortgages(completion and progress draws)\*
- ◆ Purchase plus improvement program\*
  - Found a home that needs upgrading or landscaping/deck/basement development/adding secondary suite, etc? Add the cost of these improvements or basement development to the purchase price of the home and get a mortgage for up to 95% of the combined cost.\*
- ◆ 30-years amortization on rental properties\*
- ◆ Equity take out/ Refinance\*
  - Use equity in your home for investments in RRSP's, non- Registered investments, stocks or down payment for rental/ recreation property etc.
- ◆ Borrowed down payment option available\*
- ◆ Up to 10% down payment through Govt incentive available for eligible homebuyers\*

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