



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA  
VANCOUVER**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Varishth Yoddha 2022**

As part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Consulate General of India in Vancouver organized an event called “Varishth Yoddha” to honour and felicitate veterans of Indian Armed Forces on 23 September 2022 in Calgary. Alberta Province is home to hundreds of veterans who have served in Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. The objective of the event was to recognize the veterans over 75 years of age for, their service to India. The event was attended by over 300 guests, which included over 106 veterans.

The event was attended by Acting High Commissioner of India to Canada Shri Manish, Chief Guest for the event Hon. Mr. Prasad Panda, Minister of Transportation, Government of Alberta; and Guests of Honor Hon. Ms. Leela Sharon Aheer, Member of Legislative Assembly, Hon. Ms. Rajan Sawhney, Member of Legislative Assembly, Hon’ble Mr. Devinder Toor, Member of Legislative Assembly, Hon. Mrs. Jyoti Gondek, Mayor of Calgary. In addition, leaders of the Indian community associations, members of Ex-Servicemen Associations and representatives of ethnic media also attended the event with the latter also covering the event for the local media.

Acting High Commissioner in his opening remarks said, “ It is matter of pride for us to honour the veterans, who have served with dedication and distinction in the Indian Armed Forces and have made immense contribution in safeguarding India’s freedom and territorial integrity. As we celebrate 75th Anniversary of India’s Independence this year, it is befitting that we recognize their selfless service to the nation. We salute them for their patriotism.”

Chief Guest Hon’ble Mr. Prasad Panda speaking at the event said that , “I am extremely proud of the bravery and selfless commitment of these Indian Armed Forces veterans who have served India since Independence in 1947. These fine ex-servicemen have not only protected India’s borders during some serious conflicts and wars, they have also been dependable partners in peacekeeping missions around the world. I feel blessed that they have chosen to live here in Calgary and appreciate their contribution to our community.”

Guest of Honour, Hon. Ms. Jyoti Gondek, Mayor of Calgary addressed the audience on behalf of City of Calgary and remembered the sacrifice of ex-servicemen and their families in keeping India’s borders safe and now development of Canada.

A short cultural programme was also organized with the participation of local diaspora dance groups.

Consulate organized the first “Varishth Yoddha” event in Vancouver on 31 October, 2021, and felicitated the 27 Indian ex-servicemen. It may be mentioned that Indian Consulate in Toronto had also organized similar events in October 2021 and September 2022 to felicitate the veterans living in Greater Toronto Area.

**Vancouver  
23 September 2022**