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Modi is very happy with Canada: Obhrai

Indo-Canadian Deepak Obhrai, along with a 19-member Canadian delegation, recently met Modi in New Delhi

By Ajit Jain
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Deepak Obhrai meets PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi (photo: Canadian Government)

Toronto: Deepak Obhrai, the Indo-Canadian Parliamentary Secretary to Foreign Affairs Minister, was part of a 19-member official delegation that just concluded its visit to India.

The delegation comprised of Minister for Foreign Affairs John Baird and International Trade Minister Ed Fast.

Besides two ministers, Canada's High Commissioner-designate Nadir Patel was also with them during their meeting with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on Oct 11.

Obhrai and Patel spoke to Modi in Gujarati language. "There was, of course, no discussion on substantive issues in Gujarati. It was just greetings, etc. but it was interesting for us," Obhrai told The Indian Diaspora.

"Modi is very happy with Canada and he mentioned that when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Canada helped him. He was very thankful for that."

They also met India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. "My impression is there is level of excitement in India. Our official meetings with Modi and Sushama Swaraj were very productive."

When asked whether they also discussed the issue of security with the Indian leaders, besides trade and investments, Obhrai said, "You have to understand the issue of security on a larger scale. As Prime Minister Stephen Harper has stated, what's happening in Iraq is a major problem that we have to deal with. Canada and India should be working together to deal with the threat. This is in our mutual interest."

When asked if there was any discussion about the Indian subcontinent, Obhrai said, "We discussed global terrorism as terrorism has no boundary. We discussed how we all can cooperate to face this threat."

On being asked how the new Canadian High Commissioner Nadir Patel was received by Modi and other political

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leaders in India, Obhrai said, "Nadir Patel is very accomplished diplomat with a very good record. I am confident he will be an asset for us and Indians. He is the first person born in India who's now our High Commissioner in Delhi."

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