

IN BRIEF

Arya Samaj celebrates Vedic Center's 10th year

■ **MARKHAM:** Arya Samaj in Toronto and Markham celebrated the 10th anniversary of the founding of Vedic Culture Centre and 60th anniversary of India's Independence on August 20. Celebrations were preceded by a week long Maha Gayatri yajna to seek divine blessings for world peace. Tulsi Ram Sharma, an internationally recognized Vedic Scholar was the chief priest during the yajna ceremonies.

Canadian and Indian flags were hoisted by Greg Sorbara, Ontario Minister of Finance and Satish Mehta, Consul General of India respectively. Sorbara, in his speech, commended India's economic development and lauded the overall contribution of Indian Canadians in Ontario. India's Consul General also highlighted India's economic development in the post-independence era and the strong relationship between India and Canada.

This was followed by a cultural program where several artists presented patriotic songs and dances to demonstrate their love for India. The performance was given by a Rajasthani troupe that entertained and enthralled the audience.

Harbourfront Center hosts Kalanidhi Dance Festival

■ **TORONTO:** Harbourfront Center will host the 8th 'Kalanidhi International Dance Festival and Conference: A Century of In-

dian Dance Part II' from September 22 to October 1. The 10-day event will have performances, workshops, talks and discussions on Indian dance.

As the founder of the first and oldest festival to celebrate East Indian dance in Canada, Kalanidhi Festival artistic director Sudha Khandwani believes classical dance is the best way to celebrate India's rich culture.

"So much of Indian culture is tied to classical dance," says Khandwani, "and it is through our dance forms that we remember our ancient stories and keep our culture alive around the world."

The event will focus on the classical dance styles of Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Chauu and other contemporary expressions that will combine Bharatanatyam with Ballet, Modern and Zulu dance.

For more information, log on to www.kalanidhifinearts.org or call Karen Dempster at 905-764-7028, ext. 22.

Globalom Media launches Indo Canada Outlook

■ **TORONTO:** North America's *South Asian Outlook*, an independent e-monthly launched in 2001 completed its five years this year. "To complete its 'trio' of internet and new media productions Globalom Media has now launched *Indo Canada Outlook*," announced Suresh Jaura, president (North America), Globalom Media, a transatlantic venture based in Canada and Germany.

"Since the inception of *South Asian Outlook* in 2001, Canada's engagement with

South Asia has become increasingly important to our prosperity, security and global governance interests. The South Asian community living in Canada has played a leading role in shaping our understanding of the region and enhancing our people-to-people links. As our ties with South Asia deepen, publications such as *South Asian Outlook* will play an increasingly important role in disseminating key information and identifying opportunities for enhanced collaborative partnerships," said Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Fourth Spinning Wheel Film Festival from Sept 29

■ **TORONTO:** The fourth annual Spinning Wheel Film Festival will be held at the Isabel Bader Theatre here from September 29 to October 1.

The festival, held in various cities across North America, is about films 'of Sikhs, by Sikhs and for Sikhs' and was started in 2003 with the support of Toronto's Birinder Singh Ahluwalia.

This year, more than two dozen films, ranging from bold documentaries, dramatic features and hilarious shorts from around the world, are scheduled to be shown at the festival, said the organizers.

The grand show starts with an 'Open Night Gala Reception' featuring 'world-class' entertainment, fine Indian cuisine and a film on September 29. "The festival will continue on September 30 and October 1, starting off with a seminar and continuing with three clusters of films each day. The seminars will provide

young artists and aspiring filmmakers with an opportunity to network and seek guidance from this year's participating filmmakers. Each cluster of films will be followed by a question and answer session with the filmmakers," the organizers said.

There are very "insightful and inciting" Canadian entries this year. Among them is *Harmony* which shows how first-generation Canadians face the challenge of maintaining their heritage in a different cultural environment. *Home Matters* by Jaspreet Sandhu uses lyrical techniques to explore issues related to domestic violence and children.

Among the more famous entries is the award-winning film *The Widow Colony* which captures the agony of the widows of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The film shows how these widows are still fighting for justice and struggling to survive after all these years. *The Gold Bracelet* by Kavi Raz, tells the story of a successful family of Sikh immigrants living in America whose dreams are interrupted by the harsh realities of the post-9/11 climate.

United Way organizes 'Chalo Dil Walo'

■ **TORONTO:** Chalo Dil Walo, the annual P&G Walk for United Way will be held on September 10. United Way of Greater Toronto celebrates its 50 years of helping people in neighborhoods across Toronto. The event will present entertainment and international food pavilions at Queen's Park. For information, log onto <http://www.unitedway-toronto.com/walkforunitedway>.

