

PHOTO SPECTRUM



SOUTH ASIA'S GOT TALENT WINNERS: Hundreds of people gathered under the scorching sun at Gerrard India Bazaar last weekend to witness Toronto's very first TD South Asia's Got Talent (SAGT) show as McMaster School of Bhangra became the first ever recipients of the Legacy Trophy. *Photo submitted*



PROGRAM FOR SENIORS: Panorama India organized its annual event for seniors at the SVBF Auditorium, comprising a Kavi Sammelan, music and dance, and multipurpose entertainment. The next big event is the India Day parade to be held Saturday, Aug 13, at Yonge Dundas Sq; for details visit www.panoramaindia.org *Photo by Bashir Nasir*



INDIRA FETED: Liberal nominee for Milton India Naidoo-Harris being feted by National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada President Thomas Saras. *Photo submitted*

Parents, stay supportive

Special to Focus

GUEST COLUMN



RAJNESH SHARMA

Yes, we have all heard it a million times: parents always know what is best for their children. But when it comes to careers, do Indian parents really understand what is best?

Imagine you are standing with your parents at a fork in the road, trying to decide which path to take. You notice that one is a familiar path that has been laid out by many members of your community and is thus safe to travel. However, your curiosity and desire attracts you to the other, unknown, more challenging route. But before you can even voice your opinion, your parents hastily and confidently make the decision for you. They claim it is best that you commit to the familiar route because it will lead to a successful end. This will make them happy and proud.

Now if you are an obedient child who simply follows orders from your parents despite your own personal desires, you will most likely choose the path they suggest. After all, they will be very encouraging and supportive if you decide to do what they think is best. But what happens when you decide to journey along the unfamiliar route, against your parents' wishes and in favour of your dreams? Well, if you guessed your parents will be upset, frustrated, and unsupportive, you hit the jackpot.

Unfortunately nowadays, one of the greatest challenges for many Indian youths is finding the support from their parents to pursue careers which do not meet up to expectations. Let's face it — most Indian parents want their children to study medicine, engineering, law, or busi-

ness. According to them, if their children succeed in such careers, they will be highly respected, wealthy, and happy as a result.

Yes, it is true that doctors, engineers, lawyers, or business people, are definitely ambitious and noble professions. But do such careers always lead to happy, fulfilled lives for everyone? Not necessarily. When children are denied the freedom to explore their own dreams and instead forced to pursue their parents' dreams, it will lead them to live unhappy lives. Parents need to understand that their children's happiness may be very different from their idea of happiness when it comes to career choices.

Most Indian parents continuously compete with their relatives and friends to boast about the educational and financial successes of their children. This in turn puts pressure on the children to pursue careers that are more highly regarded in Indian society. Indians parents need to change this narrow-minded attitude and be more accepting of other career choices. It is time to stop competing with others, and focus on what will really make your children happy. Listen to their dreams and try to appreciate that they are unique. Be a parent, be supportive.

In Canada, young minds have ample opportunities to explore and pursue various professions. So, don't hold your children back. Give them the freedom to choose their own path in life. And who knows, with your support they may become more successful and happy than you ever imagined.

— *Rajnesh Sharma is a writer/photographer and frequently travels to gain insight into cultural issues; contact rajneshsharma2011@gmail.com*

India stock returns to stay strong: BMO

By GURMUKH SINGH
IANS News Service

Even as critics talk about an Indian economic slowdown and policy paralysis, a top Canadian bank is urging investors to enter the Indian market to benefit from the world's second fastest growing economy.

India's economic march is unstoppable and Canada should be a key partner in its growth, said speakers at the roundtable organized by the Bank of Montreal (BMO).

"We believe that the ongoing impressive expansion of the Indian economy will mean continued strong returns for those seeking to invest in its markets," said Serge Pepin, head of investments at BMO Investments Inc, at the Canada-India Trade and Investment Media Roundtable.

"India offers long-term returns on stocks that are as good, if not better, than China's. India is still quite under-invested. It has the potential for growth that China has already had. There are opportunities for Canadian investors to participate in and benefit from that growth," he said.

Stressing the importance of ongoing talks between the two countries to sign a free trade agreement, Canada-India Business Council president Rana Sarkar said India and Canada should continue the momentum to reach the deal.

"Eighty per cent of the India of 2030 is not yet built. Something very profound is happening, with growth taking off over the next decade. This is the chance for Canadian investors and businesses to get access to the opportunities this brings," Sarkar said.

"We need to pursue the completion of the comprehensive economic partnership agreement between the two countries by 2013," he said.

Highlighting the huge economic contribution of the Indo-Canadian community, Srinii Iyengar, director of multicultural markets at BMO Financial Group, said more and more members of the community in Canada are becoming entrepreneurs.

"A good percentage of high income earners are individuals who run their own businesses. They all bring very high energy and a desire to succeed that's very contagious," he said.

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