

# Screaming fans greet Bollywood stars in Toronto

RENU MEHTA

Toronto

Screams and cheers greeted Bollywood favourites Shahid Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra as they arrived outside the Elgin and Winter Garden theatre in Toronto on June 22. Yonge Street was crowded with fans striving for a glimpse of the stars, who had come to launch their film Teri Meri Kahani (TMK) in Toronto.

People from all age groups, including a five year old boy from Afghanistan, waited patiently for hours outside and in Toronto's prestigious Theatre for a glimpse of their favourite Bollywood stars to arrive for the premiere of the movie TMK, produced by Vicki Bahri and directed by Kunal Kohli, was launched in the city amidst a rising crescendo of screaming fans who greeted the stars as they arrived and banged on the doors after they went inside the theatre.

Dressed in a simple green dress, Mumbai's heartthrob Chopra stood alongside Kapoor as she walked through the red carpet talking to the media. The two appeared to be in sync, displaying their off screen chemistry and laughed and smiled at the audience. Kapoor bowed over the audience with a short and sweet recital of shayari from the film, while Chopra signed autographs by the dozen.

"The couple did not show any signs of jet lag despite their very hectic schedule after a successful premiere of TMK first in Dubai and then in London. Shahid and Priyanka had arrived in Toronto for the last and final stop in their international circuit for the promotion of their new film TMK," says Nita Balani who was at the event.

Accompanied by director Kunal Kohli, the movie stars went on to attend an after party event on the west side of town in Brampton. Chopra wearing a bright blue dress along with Kapoor were greeted once again by a cheering audience.



Priyanka Chopra and Shahid Kapoor



Director Kunal Kapoor shakes hands with the fans



Fans throng to watch their Bollywood idols



Priyanka Chopra and Shahid Kapoor in Brampton

"They were warmly welcomed by large crowds outside the banquet hall along with dhol players and model dancers who added glamour to the occasion. Inside the crowded Grand Empire banquet hall, on stage, the stars with the producer and director shared their love of Toronto with the audience," says Balani adding that both stars had fond memories of their previous visits to Toronto.

While Chopra has visited To-

ronto first for her film What's Your Rashi showcased at the Toronto International Film Festival and then for the IIFA awards, Kapoor has been in Toronto for the shooting of the film Kismet Konnection.

"They left the hall after a rapid fire round of questions à la Koffee with Karan style and had the audience wanting for more especially after Shahid demonstrated his sexy moves on stage!" says Balani.

The two stars meet some of the guests > (All pics by Nita Balani)



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Academic relations and education linkages are the key to build bridges between Canada and India and an assortment of work is being done amidst the backdrop of long-standing cordial relations between the two countries.

**The Canada India Education Council (CIEC), an organization that facilitates institutions to position themselves advantageously in an international environment, is all set to devote significant efforts to strengthening academic links in this sector.**

"Since our creation in 2010, CIEC has evolved into a valuable bridge between Canada & India and is poised to soon become the "go to" education organization for Canada-India academic relations," says Hussein F. Neemuchwala, chief executive officer of CIEC.

The organization has announced several



Hussein F. Neemuchwala, CEO (CIEC)

landmark events over the next 12 months.

"Synergy in Education 2012 on Sept 20 and 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn near Toronto Airport will highlight educational activities

## Education to build bridges between Canada, India

besides providing abundant networking opportunities for those interested in operating in either or both countries. With a focus on key academic areas of co-operation & partnerships, Synergy 2012 will provide updates from India regarding the entry for foreign education providers (Bill 57) leading to the possible creation of 'Campus Canada' in India and other exciting initiatives," says Neemuchwala.

Other initiatives by the organization include the Webinar series on December 7 that will feature hundreds of key stakeholders from both countries. CIEC has also announced a Mission to India in January next year that will cover several cities including Mumbai, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

"The education landscape that exists between our countries is very rich and our mandate is to bring together education experts and thought leaders from academia, corporate Canada, key stakeholder organizations and associations through diverse initiatives."

## PANORAMA CELEBRATES SENIORS

STAFF REPORTER

Etobicoke

Senior's Day program, Yaadon ki Baarat, organized by Panorama India, was held on June 24 at the SVBF auditorium in Etobicoke. Poetry ruled the day with a number of poets reciting their favourite poems, some penned specially for the occasion. Topics ranged from love to life to land, and even, politics.

This was followed by the second segment that included the inaugural Seniors' Singing Idol Contest. "The senior singers have proven that age has had no ill effect on their singing ability but has enhanced it. The runner-up was 71 years of age," said a press release. "The singers were so motivated that they have already registered for the 2013 Idol contest!"

A cultural program was also provided by Jadoo Entertainment and Spandan Kala Vrund. "The month of June every year is celebrated as "Seniors Month" by the Ministry of Ontario. Panorama India would like to keep pace with the Ministry towards such a great cause."

