

# RANA Hosts Reception For Jodhpur Maharaja



BRAMPTON: The Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA Canada) hosted a magnificent reception at Sagan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall on March 4, in honour of His

Highness Gaj Singh, the erstwhile Maharaja of Jodhpur. The Maharaja is visiting Toronto in connection with the display of the dazzling Royal Treasures of Jodhpur at the Royal

Ontario Museum, beginning this month and which continue until September. The event was attended by Mr. Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton, Deepak Anand (MPP);

Dinesh Bhatia (Consul General of India in Toronto); Mrs. Man-gat (former MPP), leaders of the Indo-Canadian community and RANA members. The organizers of the event

staged a befitting reception to the Royal Family members who belong to the Rathore Family that dates back to over one millennium. Report - Prof. Devendra Mishra

## Man Facing 100 Charges After Police Find Guns, Drugs

TORONTO: A 50-year-old Mississauga, Ont., man is facing 100 charges after police alleged they found multiple guns and several kilograms of drugs in his truck and home.

Toronto police street team started investigating in late 2018 and arrested Hewan Wilson on Feb. 24. Police found 16 guns, four kilograms of heroin and a small quantity of cocaine during the investigation.

"This is not a street-level dealer," a police spokesperson said. Officers seized seven handguns, three shotguns, six rifles and two over-capacity magazines, Matthews said.

Seven of the guns were loaded when they were found and four of the guns had their serial numbers removed. Police also allegedly found a "significant" amount of ammunition. Police suspect there is some link to organized crime, the spokesperson said.

## Menaka Thakkar In Encore! Dance Hall of Fame

TORONTO: Dance Collection Danse will be presenting the Encore! Dance Hall of Fame on March 24, an annual fundraising event unites the dance community from coast to coast to celebrate the honourees for their lifelong contributions to dance in Canada.

One of the personalities to be honoured is Menaka Thakkar, an internationally renowned dancer, choreographer, teacher and institution builder based in the GTA and who has been a leader in Indian dance in Canada for the past 42 years.

Thakkar has developed new generations of Indian dancers across Canada in the classical systems of Bharatanatyam and Odissi.

As a winner of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award (among many others) and a frequent speaker Thakkar is a herald for her culture and a gifted interpreter between Indian and Canadian traditions.

Her work often blends Indian and Western elements, creating a uniquely Canadian dance fusion.

The story of Thakkar's immigration and the heights she has achieved since arriving in Canada is an inspiration to others new to the country.

Not only has she adapted to her new home, she has thrived while keeping her traditions alive. In a time when the spectre of xenopho-



Menaka Thakkar  
bia and the "other" looms large, the example of people like Thakkar brings the story back to earth. DCD Co-founder/Director Miriam Adams,

C.M. says, "Menaka Thakkar has been instrumental in fusing Classical Indian dance with contemporary dance. Her vast knowledge and dedication to preserving and sharing Indian dance culture in Canada has had significant impact."

Last year's launch was a testament to the importance of recognizing Canada's remarkable dance artistry.

This year, the list of inductees is just as impressive – from Kathak and ballet to Indigenous and modern dance.

The inductees include Karen Kain, C.C.; Menaka Thakkar; Lois Brown; Len Gibson; Patricia Beatty, C.M.; David Earle, C.M.; Peter Randazzo; Françoise Sullivan, O.C., C.Q.; Louise Lecavalier, O.C.; Chief Kenneth Harris and Elder Margaret Harris; Community Builders Ivan Fecan and Sandra Faire and Michael Crabb who will be honoured with the William J.S. Boyle Dance Luminary award.

The induction ceremony will be hosted by singer/songwriter Micah Barnes and will feature live performances from today's dance makers.

Dance Collection Danse (dcd.ca) is the premiere guardian and champion of Canada's dance heritage. DCD's legacy collection has been a resource for educators, artists and the public for over 30 years.

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