



GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

Vol 24 | Fol 10

A Publication of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)

OCTOBER 20, 2024

GOPIO INTERNATIONAL CHAIRPERSON THOMAS ABRAHAM MEETS FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Thomas Abraham, Chairperson of GOPIO International, had the honour of meeting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at Columbia University. During this significant event, Minister Sitharaman delivered a compelling talk on the current state of the Indian economy, addressing various aspects and challenges the nation faces.

In a gesture of goodwill and collaboration, Abraham presented Minister Sitharaman with a copy of the GOPIO International Booklet. This booklet highlights the organisation's initiatives and contributions to the Indian diaspora and

CONTD. ON PGS 3





GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

A Publication of the
Global Organization of People
of Indian Origin (GOPIO)
Published Monthly

President

Lal Motwani

Editor-in-Chief

Umesh Chandra OAM

Senior Editorial Advisor

Thomas Abraham

Editorial Assistant

Nami Kaur

GOPIO News Bulletin is a monthly newsletter published in English. No material, including advertisements designed by GOPIO News Bulletin, may be reproduced in part or who without the written consent of the manager. Opinions carried in GOPIO News Bulletin are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by GOPIO News Bulletin. GOPIO News Bulletin will not be held liable for any advertising / editorial content - Advertisers supply / approve content therefore should any content be deemed inappropriate it is the advertisers / correspondents responsibility. While every effort has been made to capture the true likeness to colour printing is an art and therefore we cannot guarantee an exact matching of product to image. Refund / Credit is not given as a result of the previous mentioned.

From the Editor:

If you would like us to publish your letters, feedback, comments on any of our stories or suggest ideas columns or features, please send your submissions to:
ceo@chantex.com.au



GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

20 NOV 2024

**SUBMISSION
DEADLINES**
15 NOV 2024

Email:
ceo@chantex.com.au

Editor's Note



Dear Readers,
As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to wish everyone the best during Diwali: A Mainstream Celebration.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, has transcended its traditional roots to become a mainstream celebration embraced by diverse communities worldwide. Initially a significant festival in Hindu culture, Diwali symbolises the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Over the years, it has evolved into a vibrant celebration that resonates with people from various backgrounds, fostering unity and joy.

In urban centres across the globe, Diwali festivities are now marked by dazzling displays of lights, colourful decorations, and lively gatherings. Public spaces, shopping districts, and homes are adorned with intricate rangoli designs and glowing diyas, creating a festive atmosphere that invites participation from everyone.

Cultural events, community fairs, and performances celebrating Indian music and dance have become commonplace, allowing people of all cultures to engage with and appreciate the rich traditions associated with Diwali. This inclusivity reflects the growing recognition of Diwali as a celebration of harmony, hope, and new beginnings.

Businesses have also embraced Diwali, offering special promotions and themed products that cater to the growing interest in this festival. From traditional sweets and snacks to decorative items and gifts, the commercial aspect of Diwali has further solidified its status as a mainstream celebration.

I want to express my gratitude to all contributors for their submissions. Your efforts and dedication help us bring our community the latest news and updates. Please ensure that articles are submitted in a timely manner. We prefer articles in Word document format. Kindly attach photos separately in JPEG format.

I want to emphasise that late submissions can delay everyone's publication of the news bulletin, so your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

We have mentioned the upcoming Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) but are still awaiting the official announcement. I will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

The election committee will soon announce the GOPIO International elections. The exciting news is that the GOPIO International EC has voted for the next convention to be held in Brisbane, Australia, most probably in Late March 2025. We will keep you updated on the progress.

Wishing you all the best, and I look forward to seeing everyone for the next bulletin!

Warm regards,
—Umesh Chandra OAM
Executive Vice President
GOPIO International

Editor in Chief, GOPIO International News Bulletin

GOPIO INTERNATIONAL AND NEW YORK AREA CHAPTERS WELCOMED PRIME MINISTER MODI



On Sunday, September 22nd, Indian American community organisations united to host a rousing reception for Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Nassau County Coliseum. Over 13,000 community members

participated, eager to show their support and enthusiasm.

GOPIO International and its chapters played a significant role as welcome partners for this momentous occasion in New York. Their efforts created an inviting

atmosphere for attendees, ensuring that the event was memorable and impactful. The collaboration among various organisations highlighted the strength and unity of the Indian American community in the region.

GOPIO INTERNATIONAL CHAIRPERSON THOMAS ABRAHAM MEETS FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

CONTD. FROM PG 1

its ongoing efforts to foster dialogue and cooperation between India and the global community.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for

attendees to engage with Minister Sitharaman's insights on economic policies and reforms, and it underscored the importance of such discussions in understanding India's economic landscape.

The event at Columbia

University showcased GOPIO International's commitment to promoting economic dialogue and emphasised the significance of connecting with influential leaders and policymakers to further the interests of the Indian community worldwide.



सत्यमेव जयते
Consulate General of India
New York



PARSIPPANY PUBLIC LIBRARY



**WE CORDIALLY INVITING YOU TO THE
LAUNCH OF INDIA COLLECTION OF BOOKS
AT PARSIPPANY LIBRARY
In Association With**



**PARSIPPANY
ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT-7475**



GUEST OF HONOR

Hon. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan
Consul General of India (NY)

Hon. Jamie Barberio
Mayor, Parsippany

Council Members
Parsippanny

Dr. Thomas Abraham
Chairman, GOPIO International

Ponnala Lakshmaiah
Former Minister- India &
Resident of Parsippany

Venue

On September 29th, 2024
449 Halsey Rd,
Parsippany-Troy Hills,
NJ - 07054



Date & Time

**1.45 - 2 pm: Networking
with Coffee/Tea;
2.00 pm: Launch Ceremony**

RSVP

Bharat Rana - 1 (201) 638-3156 | Rajendar Dichpally - 973-906-0768
Balaji Jilla - +1 (917) 328-8888 | Santosh Peddi - 1 (973) 462-7945
Vijaya Nadella - 610-504-4504 | Manju Bhargava - 973 715-8944
Parvathi 'Bobbi' Patham - 973-580-7426 | Lavanya - 848-219-0418
Mahesh Wani - 732-754-9830

To register for the event : <https://tinyurl.com/LaunchINDIABooksParsippany>

GOPIO-MANHATTAN VOLUNTEERS SERVE LUNCH TO THE NEEDY



On Friday, October 18th, a dedicated group of volunteers from the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)-Manhattan, led by Mr. Mukund Mehta, came together to positively impact their community. They organized a vegetarian lunch for those in need at Tonkin's Square Park in Manhattan, New York City, providing nourishment and warmth to approximately 65 individuals.

The event was a testament to the spirit of community service and compassion, as volunteers worked diligently to prepare and serve a delightful spread of vegetarian

dishes. The initiative highlights the importance of giving back and supporting those facing difficult circumstances, especially in a bustling metropolis like New York City.

This generous lunch was made possible through the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of North Shore, Long Island, New York. A few members of the Rotary Club were present at the event, actively participating in the service and engaging with attendees. Their involvement added to the effort and reinforced the collaborative spirit that such charitable events aim to foster.

Serving vegetarian food reflects a commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that individuals from various dietary backgrounds can enjoy a nourishing meal. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and camaraderie as the volunteers interacted with guests, sharing stories and smiles.

Events like these provide immediate relief to those in need and strengthen community bonds, reminding us of the importance of compassion and solidarity. The GOPIO-Manhattan volunteers and the Rotary Club of North Shore exemplify

CONTD. ON PGS 6

CONTD. FROM PG 5

this spirit, showcasing how collective efforts can make a significant difference.

As the day ended, the smiles on the attendees' faces and the volunteers' satisfaction were a powerful reminder of the impact of kindness and the importance of community support. Such initiatives are vital in fostering a culture of giving and solidarity, encouraging others to join in and contribute to the well-being of their neighbours.

In conclusion, the recent effort by GOPIO-Manhattan and the Rotary Club of North Shore

is an inspiring example of how local organisations can come together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those less fortunate. It is a call to action for all to engage in acts of kindness, reinforcing the belief that we can create a more compassionate society.

You can sponsor in the name of a loved one who passed away or for someone's birthday. The food is prepared by volunteers of Interfaith Services in a nearby kitchen. Sponsors are welcome to come and serve the food, but it is not necessary. The sponsorship fee is only \$300. If interested in sponsoring,

call the program chair and the chapter Vice President, Dr. Vimal Goyle, at 316-371-7098 or write to info@gopiomanhattan.org.

The GOPIO-Manhattan chapter started this program in December 2020. If anyone wants to sponsor, please visit the link below and make the payment.

www.gopiomanhattan.org
<https://www.facebook.com/105268841082397/posts/473536844255593/?d=n>

PayPal: <https://Paypal.me/gopiomanhattan>

Zelle: donation@gopiomanhattan.org



GOPIO CANBERRA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL AGM AT LABOR CLUB BELCONNEN



G OPIO Canberra hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on, October 13, 2024, at the Labor Club in Belconnen. The event brought together members of the organisation, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among attendees.

The meeting concluded with the election of a new committee, which was voted in unopposed. Nishi Puri was elected President, with Anil Gupta serving as Vice President. Ashok Jain took on the role of treasurer, while Rakesh Jain

was appointed secretary.

Vijay Koul served as the returning officer for the elections, and the organisation extends its gratitude for his time and efforts in ensuring a smooth electoral process. Harsh Puri recorded the meeting minutes, contributing to the effective documentation of the proceedings.

The AGM provided an excellent opportunity for members to reflect on past achievements and discuss future initiatives. The newly elected committee expressed

their enthusiasm for upcoming events and projects, emphasising the importance of community support and involvement.

GOPIO Canberra looks forward to its members and the community's continued engagement as it embarks on new endeavours in the coming year. The organisation promotes cultural understanding and community cohesion and encourages everyone to participate in future events.

GOPIO CANBERRA DIWALI CELEBRATION: A MEMORABLE GATHERING

On September 29, 2024, GOPIO Canberra and the Multicultural Association of Canberra (MAC) celebrated an early Diwali at the Canberra Clubhouse in Narrabundah. The presence of our chief guest graced the event, Andrew Barr, the Chief Minister of Canberra, along with esteemed guests including Mr Yoginder Singh from the High Commission of India, MLA Rebecca Vassaroti from the Greens, MLA Dr Marisa Patterson, and MLA Nicole Lawder from the Liberal Party, who also serves as a patron for MAC. Additional notable attendees included Deepak Raj Gupta, Shiji Titus, Ravi Krish Velmani, Shahji, and budding candidates from the



diaspora community, such as Mallika Raj, a Labor candidate, and Amardeep Singh, a Liberal candidate, along with Jacob from the Liberal Party.

We expressed our gratitude to our sponsors: the ACT government, Akhilesh and Meenu Arora, Raj Sahu, and our patrons Ravi and Hema Nayar,



Vineet and Dibya, Monica and Surender Nagar, and Niranjana Aggarwal for their unwavering support and guidance.

Diwali, a celebration representing the victory of light over darkness, is one of the most significant festivals for the Indian community. The festivities began with the Chief Minister lighting the lamp, followed by speeches that conveyed the true essence of Diwali and a series of cultural performances by our talented artists.

Our heartfelt thanks went to the Kottikurre women for their traditional performance and the young children from Toral's group who showcased vibrant Gujarati Garba. Gana entertained us with his flute while Saravan played the mridangam. Bushra, Naz, and Nick performed in Bengali, Hindi, and English, and our Desi girls captivated the audience with Bollywood dance numbers. Neha, guided by Sahiti Pendyala, delivered a beautiful Vinayaka Keertana, and Shahji surprised everyone with his exceptional singing skills. The ladies also brought energy to the event with their Bhangra performance set to Bollywood beats.

Our chef, Arun, and his team displayed their culinary expertise, receiving praise from all guests for the sumptuous lunch at the venue. Our good friend Udaya once again captured the essence of the event with his remarkable photography, while Pankaj handled the decorations and Owen managed the sound.

The presence of dear friends



and community members made the occasion truly memorable. The Chief Minister took the time to visit each table, greeting attendees and adding a personal touch to the festivities, which made our day all the more special.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and supported us, as your presence meant a great deal to us. Special appreciation goes to our committee members and volunteers for their invaluable assistance. Lastly, we thank our superb MC, Surender Nagar, for

meticulously editing the script and conducting an excellent program.

01 Guests at GOPIO Canberra Diwali function

02 Delightful cultural performance at GOPIO Canberra function

04 ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr with GOPIO Canberra President Nishi Puri and children at GOPIO Canberra Diwali Function

05 ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr lighting the ceremonial Diwali lamp with President of Gopio and MAC Nishi Puri

GOPIO CANBERRA COMMEMORATES THE 155TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI



CANBERRA, the 155th birthday anniversary of the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, was celebrated at Glebe Park, organised by the High Commission of India, and continued today at the ACT Legislative Assembly by the Gandhi Society. The events received strong support from GOPIO and the Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC).

Both gatherings featured thoughtful discussions and insights about Mahatma Gandhi, emphasising the qualities that established him as a historical figure of global

significance. Attendees enjoyed hearing inspiring stories from esteemed leaders highlighting Gandhi's teachings on peace, truth, and non-violence. His profound quote, "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind," resonated powerfully in today's troubled, war-torn world. It served as a timely reminder of the need to embrace Gandhi's principles to foster harmony and understanding.

In a moment of honour, closing remarks were made, expressing gratitude for the event's success. Special thanks were extended to Mr Aggarwal

for his excellent organisation, MLA Nicole Lawder for securing the venue, and Bharat Int for providing delicious food.

Nishi Puri, President of GOPIO Canberra and MAC, reflected on Gandhi's visionary approach to women's empowerment, underscoring his commitment to equality and justice. The celebrations commemorated Gandhi's legacy and inspired attendees to reflect on his teachings and strive toward making the world a more beautiful place through compassion and understanding.



GOPIO-CT WELCOMES UCONN BUSINESS SCHOOL INDIAN STUDENTS WITH A NETWORKING EVENT



On October 4th 2024, the Connecticut (CT) Chapter of the Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) hosted a program to welcome new students of Indian origin at the University of Connecticut (UConn). This event provided students with the opportunity to network with successful business executives, leaders, and GOPIO members working in fields related to their studies, as well as with the broader community. Students from across India who have come to UConn for further education attended the meet-and-greet and left with valuable insights on how to seize opportunities and leverage networking, social media, and technical and soft skills to enhance

their educational and career prospects.

GOPIO-CT has been organizing a welcome networking dinner for the new students at UConn Business School from its Stamford and Hartford campuses since 2018. One of the objectives has been to connect the students with our community. The chapter also organized a panel on how to market oneself and succeed in America. It was chaired and moderated by GOPIO-CT Board Member Manish Maheshwari, CFA, Portfolio Manager, Victory Capital. Panelists included Akshay Chand, CTO and Partner MKP Capital; Gitika Jain, VP Shipping and Digital Experience Pitney Bowes; Hitesh Mittal, Founder CEO, BestEx Research; Joe Simon,

Advisor, Activate Consulting; Ravi Tulsyan, CFA, ex CFO XPO Logistics; and Vinod Addidam, Managing Director, Hedge Fund.

The seven panelists at the program have had decades of experience working at prominent financial tech, hedge fund and technology companies. They all shared invaluable advice with the students, gleaned from their professional experiences. Moderator Maheshwari, asked the panelists about networking and career paths which lead to specific questions from students in the audience. The panel session was followed by a dinner, giving students further opportunities to interact with the panelists and expand



their connections. Upon interviewing the students, the salient takeaways from the program were:

Don't be a generalist, try to be a specialist – an expert at what you do; Networking is key to kickstarting and advancing a career; Networking is more about giving than taking; Coach yourself to network, it is a lifelong career skill; Make sure to experiment and be open to failing fast; Seek mentors in your career; Communication is important in today's world and so is the ability to collaborate; and Give your best to every

GOPIO-CT has been organizing a welcome networking dinner for the new students at UConn Business School from its Stamford and Hartford campuses since 2018. One of the objectives has been to connect the students with our community.

opportunity – big or small.

The program started with a welcome by GOPIO-CT Chapter President Dr. Jaya Daptardar and was sponsored by BestEx Research. A highly successful program by GOPIO-

CT as a service to the student community.

GOPIO-CT is one of the most active chapters of GOPIO International and has been serving the Connecticut Indian community since 2006.



UMESH CHANDRA OAM PARTICIPATES IN MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS ROUNDTABLE 2024



Umesh Chandra OAM, Executive Vice President of GOPIO International, attended the Multicultural Community Leaders Roundtable 2024, organised by Home Affairs, to foster dialogue and collaboration among community leaders. The Hon. Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, graced the forum, which provided valuable insights into the government's initiatives for promoting multiculturalism in Australia.

In his remarks, Umesh expressed his absolute honour and pleasure at being part of this significant gathering. He commended the Australian Department of Home Affairs for organising such a vital initiative, which brings

In his remarks, Umesh expressed his absolute honour and pleasure at being part of this significant gathering. He commended the Australian Department of Home Affairs for organising such a vital initiative, which brings together diverse voices from various cultural backgrounds to discuss important issues impacting multicultural communities.

together diverse voices from various cultural backgrounds to discuss important issues impacting multicultural communities.

Umesh extended heartfelt thanks to his fellow multicultural community leaders for their participation and constructive contributions during the roundtable

discussions. The exchange of ideas and experiences during the forum highlighted the collective commitment to enhancing the multicultural fabric of Australian society.

The discussions focused on various topics, including integration, social cohesion, and multicultural communities' challenges.



Umesh emphasised the importance of collaboration among community leaders and government representatives to create effective strategies that address these challenges and promote inclusivity.

This year's roundtable served as a platform for sharing valuable insights and reinforced the significance of

unity and cooperation among multicultural communities. Umesh Chandra's involvement exemplifies GOPIO International's dedication to advocating for the rights and needs of diverse communities and ensuring that their voices are heard in the broader societal discourse.

As the event concluded,

participants left inspired and motivated to continue fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society that reflects the true spirit of multiculturalism in Australia. Umesh's participation in the roundtable underscores GOPIO International's ongoing commitment to championing multiculturalism and community engagement.



GANDHI JAYANTI HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Guests arriving at Gandhi Statue in Brisbane for Gandhi Jayanti.

BRISBANE On a beautiful morning on the second of October, the Brisbane Indian community gathered for Gandhi Jayanti, organised by GOPIO Queensland, with Gandhi Bhajans playing in the background.

Umesh Chandra OAM conducted a sound test, assuring that all was set for the day ahead. As the Master of Ceremonies, he welcomed attendees and acknowledged the presence of Indigenous elders—a moment that resonated deeply with everyone present.

In his welcome speech, Umesh Chandra said, “Today, we gather to honour the legacy of a remarkable leader, visionary, and champion of peace—Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi, born October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, India, dedicated



Preethi Suraj, President of FICQ at Gandhi Jayanti

his life to nonviolence, truth, and social justice.

Gandhi’s philosophy of *Satyagraha*, or the force of truth, inspired millions to engage in peaceful resistance

against oppression. His leadership during India’s struggle for independence from British rule was marked by his unwavering commitment to nonviolent



Consul General Neetu Bhagotia Ji addresses the gathering at Gandhi Jayanti.

protest, which transformed the landscape of political activism worldwide.

Gandhi taught us that true strength lies not in violence but compassion and understanding. His vision extended beyond national boundaries, advocating for the rights of all humanity. He believed that everyone has the power to bring about change and that our collective actions, rooted in love and nonviolence, can dismantle injustice.

As we reflect on his teachings, let us remember that Gandhi's legacy is not just about the fight for independence but the ongoing struggle for peace, equality, and justice today. Let us strive to embody his principles, fostering tolerance and understanding in our communities.

In Gandhi's words, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." May we carry his message forward, working



GOPIO Queensland president Arpit Singh welcomes everyone to Gandhi Jayanti

together to create a more just and peaceful society."

The wreath-laying ceremony began promptly, coordinated by the MC. Dignitaries were introduced, starting with Neetu Bhagotia Ji and the CGI team, followed by the GOPIO, FICQ, and others. Each was given their moment to shine. Umesh Chandra OAM announced the presence of other dignitaries, building anticipation for the upcoming addresses.

Arpit Singh delivered the

President's welcome address, setting a warm tone for the event. This was followed by a keynote speech from Neetu Bhagotia Ji, who inspired the audience with her insights.

Namrata Data, president of AIBC, did the floor reflection and spoke on AIBC's activities and involvement with the Gandhi Statue; she shed light on the importance and relevance of Gandhi Jayanti.

The atmosphere was further enriched by a bhajan



Community leaders and politicians gather for Gandhi Jayanti.

performance by Hemant Naik, which was met with applause. Preethi Suraj delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and attendees.

The event continued with a tree-planting activity, symbolising growth and community commitment. , Jim Varghese AM led the Salt March, emphasising unity and resilience within the community.

Attendees enjoyed refreshments arranged by Irene, allowing for mingling and discussions. The event concluded with Usha Chandra, who thanked everyone for participating. A team group photo with the Consul General wrapped up the day, capturing the spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose that defined the occasion.

Overall, the event was a resounding success, celebrating community ties and honouring the contributions of its members.



Our delightful caterers with Umesh and Usha Chandra



Queensland Police Service and Australian Federal Police were both present at Gandhi Jayanti.



Aspiring politicians (candidates) with GOPIO Queensland president Arpit Singh and Vice president Mrs Usha Chandra

GOPIO QUEENSLAND VALEDICTORY DINNER 2024

GOPIO Queensland held its much-anticipated valedictory dinner this year, a heartfelt occasion dedicated to thanking all those who contributed to the success of the India Day Fair. After several years of absence due to various challenges, the committee came together to revive this cherished tradition, and the event took place at the vibrant Mastani Bar.

Queensland Senator Paul Scarr graced the occasion with his presence, underscoring the significance of community involvement and support. The evening celebrated gratitude, with volunteers receiving certificates recognising their hard work and dedication. The atmosphere was filled with joy as attendees savoured the delectable food offered by Mastani Bar, creating a warm and inviting setting.

Adding a touch of entertainment, Yousuf Alikhan, a trustee and founding member of GOPIO Queensland, captivated everyone with his melodious voice. His performance set the tone for an engaging evening, and soon, the attendees were invited to join in a spirited game of "Antakshri," a traditional Indian singing competition. This friendly contest showcased hidden talents among the participants and fostered a sense of camaraderie and fun.

The evening was a



Performers receive their certificate of appreciation from GOPIO Queensland founder and Trustee Umesh Chandra OAM.



Queensland senator Paul Scarr addressing the audience at GOPIO Valedictory dinner

resounding success, filled with laughter, music, and a shared appreciation for the hard work of organising community events like the India Day Fair. The GOPIO Queensland valedictory dinner served as

a reminder of the strength of community bonds and the joy of coming together to celebrate achievements and friendships.

As the night concluded, participants left with hearts full of gratitude and inspiration,



A delightful dance by Nesh of “Tapori Squad” at GOPIO Queensland Valedictory Dinner

looking forward to future gatherings that continue to strengthen the ties within the community. This successful event marked a hopeful return to tradition, highlighting the importance of unity and collaboration in making a difference.



Mrs Usha Chandra, GOPIO Queensland vice president, announces the volunteers and sponsors at the valedictory dinner.



Senator Paul Scarr receiving his token of association from GOPIO Queensland trustee Yousuf Alikhan



GOPIO Queensland president Arpit Singh presents a certificate of appreciation to Vijay Arora of the Sant Nirankari group for their valuable volunteer services



Attendees show their appreciation for GOPIO Queensland.

LAUNCH OF THE INDIA COLLECTION OF BOOKS AT PARSIPPANY LIBRARY



GOPIO-North Jersey, in collaboration with the Indian Consulate in New York, successfully launched the India Collection of Books at the ParsIPPany Library in New Jersey today. This remarkable event, co-sponsored by ParsIPPany Rotary International, Heart and Hand for Handicapped, and the Gandhian Society, received enthusiastic support from numerous local community organisations, resulting in a packed house with many attendees standing.

The launch was inaugurated by Pragma Singh, the Indian Consul for Visa and Community Affairs, who was joined by several distinguished guests,





including Library President Melisa Kuzma, Parsippany Mayor James Barberio, Former Andhra Pradesh Minister Ponnala Lakshmiah, New Jersey Commissioner Upendra Chivukula, and White House Policy Advisor on Energy Jai Vaingankar, along with various

community leaders. The Indian Consulate provided the Indian Collection with a rich assortment of books, while GOPIO supplemented the collection with books gathered from community members who were downsizing. This thoughtful initiative included

both new titles and classic works that are no longer readily available, highlighting India's cultural heritage and literary richness. During the event, attendees dressed in traditional attire presented several language-based classics, adding a





vibrant cultural touch to the proceedings. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and appreciation for India's diverse literary contributions.

The launch not only celebrated the introduction of a valuable resource for the local community but also showcased the collaborative efforts of various organisations

in promoting cultural awareness and education. The presence of dignitaries and community representatives underscored the significance of this initiative in fostering connections between cultures and enhancing the literary landscape of Parsippany.

In conclusion, the successful launch of the India Collection

of Books at Parsippany Library is a testament to the power of community collaboration and cultural pride. It serves as an invitation to all community members to explore and engage with India's rich literary heritage, ensuring that these stories and ideas continue to inspire and educate future generations.



18TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS TO BE HELD IN BHUBANESWAR



The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from January 8 to 10, 2025, following the approval of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The Odisha government and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) organise this prestigious event jointly.

The PBD will welcome notable attendees, including President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers, and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Prime Minister Modi is expected to participate prominently on the second

day of the convention, during which he will launch the Pravasi Bharatiya Teerth Express, a particular train service aimed at facilitating the travel of overseas Indians to significant cultural and spiritual sites.

More than 5,000 members of the Indian diaspora from various countries are anticipated to attend the three-day convention. This gathering of Overseas Indians, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), and other dignitaries will not only serve as a platform for networking and discussions. Still, it will also provide attendees with tours of various

locations across Odisha. These tours will showcase the state's rich cultural heritage, historical significance, and industrial potential, emphasising Odisha's vibrant identity.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated annually to recognise the contributions of the Indian diaspora in various fields and to strengthen the ties between India and its overseas citizens. This year's event promises an extraordinary opportunity for engagement, celebration, and collaboration among the global Indian community.

Official announcement will be made in November 2024

POST-DIWALI ZOOM GATHERING ON NOVEMBER 3RD – CONTINUING OUR ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN’S SAFETY PLANNED

By Molly Banerji
Chair, GOPIO International Women’s Council

As we approach a joyous Diwali celebration on October 31st, we hope you are all looking forward to the festivities!

Following the celebrations, we warmly invite you to a Zoom meeting on November 3rd at 3:00 PM Eastern Time. This gathering will allow us to reflect on our progress and continue our vital work advocating for women’s safety in India.

Everyone is welcome to participate, including men. We encourage all voices to contribute ideas and join the discussion in our efforts to strengthen this important cause.

The meeting will focus on several key topics:

1. ****Advocacy for Supreme Court Representation****: The GOPIO Women aims to secure a position on the Supreme Court Committee to effectively represent women’s issues. This initiative seeks to ensure that policies addressing gender-based violence reflect women’s perspectives at the highest judicial level in India.

2. ****Collaborations with Local**



NGOs**

: The GOPIO Women plans to partner with local NGOs in India to enhance grassroots efforts. These collaborations will focus on women’s empowerment and safety, providing resources and amplifying initiatives to create sustainable change.

3. ****Educational Seminars on Women’s Safety****: The GOPIO Women Education Council will organise seminars designed to empower women with knowledge regarding personal safety, legal rights, and self-defence. These educational efforts aim to boost confidence

and equip women with practical tools to navigate unsafe situations.

Please mark your calendars for this important event—we look forward to seeing you there and working together to make a meaningful impact. Your presence and support are greatly appreciated!

Warm regards,
GOPIO Women’s Council Meeting

Zoom details for Sunday, Nov. 3rd meeting at 3.00 pm (EST USA and Canada, New York Time)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7095368686?pwd=c3J5UUdncDJYOEExpR3ByTU14OXprZz09>
Meeting ID: 709 536 8686
Passcode: gopio



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP)



APPLICATIONS INVITED

from Indian Diaspora Youth Members

PREFERABLY JOURNALISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN (PIO/OCI)

for

**79th Edition of the
KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME**

Dates: 24th November - 13th December 2024

**To apply, kindly contact the Indian
Embassy/Consulate in your Jurisdiction**

Last Date to Apply: 21st October 2024



Diaspora India Connect



diaspora_india



knowindiaprogramme_mea

GOPIO TEAM 2023-'24

After the GOPIO election, which was completed in February/March 2023 with the new team sworn in on March 4th, 2023, the GOPIO Executive Council appointed the Secretary, Joint Secretaries and as well as Chair/Co-Chairs of various Committees. The Chairs and Co-Chairs of various GOPIO Councils are being appointed and confirmed now.



NAME	POSITION
Dr. Thomas Abraham	Chairman
Lal Motwani	President
Umesh Chandra OAM	Executive Vice President
Kewal Kanda	Vice President/Treasurer
Prakash Shah	Global Ambassador
Ram Gadhavi	Secretary
Dr. Asha Samant	Int'l Coordinator-at-large
J. (Nami) Kaur	Int'l Coordinator-at-large
Harmohan Singh Walia	Int'l Coordinator, Oceania
Ved Prakash Goojha	Int'l Coordinator, Europe
Dhiraj Ahuja	Int'l Coordinator, South Asia
Deo Gosine	Int'l Coordinator, Caribbean
Roger Laxman	Int'l Coordinator, Africa
Ashok Madan	Int'l Coordinator, North America
Kritilata Ram	Int'l Coordinator, Francophone
Jay Bhandari	Associate Secretary

NAME	POSITION
Chitranjan Sahai Belwariar	Associate Secretary
Mahavir Arya	Chair, Chapter Review Committee
Pramod Kamdar	Chair, Bylaws Committee
Dr. Neerja Arun Gupta	Chair, Academic Council
Dr. Vimal Goyle	Chair, Health & Wellness Council
Aparna Hande	Co- Chair, Health & Wellness Council
Dr. Parveen Chopra	Chair, Human Rights Council
Parsram Punj	Co-Chair, Human Rights Council
Rohit Vyas	Chair, Media Council
Ashok Motwani	Co-Chair, Media Council
Prof Prasad Yarlagadda	Chair, Science & Technology Council
Dr. Ramesh Pandey	Chair, Seniors Council
Molly Banerjei	Chair, Women Council
Soruba Rani Kuusto	Co-Chair, Women Council
Charu Shivakumar	Co-Chair, Women Council
Vasu Pawar	Chair, Youth Council