



GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

Vol 24 | Fol 02 A Publication of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)

February 20, 2024

GOPIO CONVENTION 2024 TO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIASPORA INDIANS IN INDIA'S BIG MANIFEST FUTURE

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) held a kick-off planning meeting to launch the GOPIO 2024 Global Convention of People of Indian Origin on Sunday, January 28th, at the Royal Albert Palace in New Jersey. It was attended by GOPIO International, chapter officials from the New York Metro area, and representatives of community and professional organisations. The convention is scheduled for April 26-28, 2024, at the Royal Albert Palace in New Jersey.

The convention will focus on India's Present and Future and what role the Diaspora Indians can play in helping to



GOPIO International officials at the Kick-off Planning Meeting, from l. to r. Secretary Ram Gadhavi, Global Ambassador Prakash Shah, President Lal Motwani and Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham

realise this desirable future. The convention theme is 'Opportunities for Diaspora

Indians in India's Big Manifest Future.' GOPIO Executive...

CONTD. ON PGS 3-6



GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

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of Indian Origin (GOPIO)
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GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

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Editor's Note



Welcome to the first edition of 2024; so much happened in the last month; I hope you all

had a wonderful holiday and got an opportunity to spend some quality time with your loved ones. I must begin by thanking everyone for the positive feedback on the December News Bulletin.

GOPIO International is forging ahead in leaps and bounds; it is so good to see our convention coming along quite well; the team has put in a lot of effort and has made good progress. I am personally looking forward to the conference and convention. Women's Council had a perfect meeting and have been given the heads up for International Women's Day and a special session at the convention.

GOPIO International held a very successful convention 2024 launch in New York; fifty-plus volunteers and supporters attended the event. As the convention convenor, Prakash Shah organised the lunch meeting with GOPIO International President Lal Motwani ji. GOPIO International chairperson Thomas Abraham was also in attendance.

As the editor-in-chief of the GOPIO International newsletter, I am pleased to report that the second edition of the bulletin was very well-received, and we are receiving more submissions from various chapters and life members. When the current GOPIO International committee was sworn in, some disgruntled members did not want to give up their positions even after the expiry of their terms and had lodged a case

against the GOPIO International Chairperson. The courts have dismissed the case, and we remain the legitimate officers of official GOPIO International.

February is the only month with fewer than 30 days! It's usually 28 days, though February is 29 days long in leap years such as 2024. But why 28 days? The Roman King Numa had originally made all months 29 days, as Romans believed even numbers were unlucky.

February is mainly recognised for Valentine's Day and flowers, and oddly enough, even though it's just another month, there's a lot of history behind this month of romance and love!

February fluctuates between 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every four years during leap years.

The length of February was finalised when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flower is a primrose. The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius, which is until February 19th, and Pisces, which is until February 20th.

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile, in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.

CONTD. ON PG 30

GOPIO CONVENTION 2024 TO DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIASPORA INDIANS IN INDIA'S BIG MANIFEST FUTURE

CONTD. FROM PG 1

...Council has appointed New Jersey businessman Prakash Shah as the Convention Convener.

At the launch ceremony, Shah said, "Lauding the positive, optimistic vision prevailing in India presents an opportunity to Invest in India, which provides the best and biggest opportunity in the World. The Bombay Stock Exchange has just crossed \$4 Trillion and has overtaken Hong Kong to become the third largest in the world. While India needs the 35 million Diaspora to invest, it is an incredible opportunity for the Diaspora to prosper."

GOPIO President Lal Motwani, who had earlier served as the Convener of the GOPIO convention in New York in 2016, said, "We are doing this major event in the USA after eight years, this time in New Jersey. This is a big opportunity for our vibrant community in the State Area and the USA to participate and help with this important event for the 35 million strong Indian Diaspora."

GOPIO Chairman Dr Thomas Abraham spoke about the history of GOPIO and its accomplishments since the formation of GOPIO in 1989 and the implementation of the resolutions passed by the First GOPIO Convention, which



GOPIO International and Chapter Officials with the Convention Team at the Lamp Lighting Ceremony to Kick-off the Convention 2024 Planning



GOPIO 2024 Convention Women's Group, from l. to r. GOPIO-CT Associate Secretary Ashvini Persaud, GOPIO-Edison President Pallavi Belwariar, Author Ritu Chopra, GOPIO-Manhattan Vice President Dr Vimal Goyle, GOPIO-New York President Beena Kothari and Kavitha Motwani

included Dual Nationality and Voting Rights for NRIs.

Dr Abraham said, "Govt. of India fulfilled halfway on Dual Nationality by issuing Overseas Indian Citizen (OCI) Card and voting rights for Indian citizens living outside

India if they register at their home constituency." Dr Abraham further said that the organisation was started 35 years ago to look after and campaign against the human rights violations of the Indian Diaspora worldwide and that

the Diaspora has now achieved success in becoming political mainstream in most countries.

GOPIO Vice President Ram Gadhavi, who served as the Co-Convener of the First Global Convention in 1989, urged younger GOPIO members to become actively engaged and consider leading the organisation into the future. Gadhavi highlighted the importance of GOPIO chapters and explained the organisation's intricate workings.

Five conference sessions are planned at the convention, Diaspora Youth and Young Achievers and the role they can play in India's Future and how GOPIO can facilitate their participation; Diaspora Women and their Growing Contributions in Various Sectors; Technologies and AI and other Innovations: Diaspora Indians Leading Research and Innovations; GOPIO Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Worldwide Networking of the Diaspora Businesses; and Medical and Health Issues and how Diaspora Indians can Participate in India's Frontline Role in Pharmaceuticals, Vaccines and Medical Tourism and Propagating YOGA and its Benefits.

A 50-member convention committee has been set up. Prakash Shah was convener, Dr. Asha Samant was co-convener, Chitranjan Belwariar was secretary, and Srinivas Akarapu was treasurer. Committee Chairs include the following: Awards - Lal Motwani, Finance/Fundraising - Siddarth Jain, Reception - Hemant Patel, Souvenir Brochure - Jigar Shah

with Dinesh Mittal and Lal Motwani as advisor, Volunteers - Bharat Rana, Publicity/PR - Rohit Vyas with Vijay Shah as Media Representative/Adviser, Registration - Dhananjay Desai, Banquet - Dr Rajeev Mehta, Additional Trips and Events - Shatrughan Dawani. Vasu Pawar chairs Conference Sessions for Youth, Dr Thomas Abraham for Diaspora Indians in Technologies and AI, Dr Asha Samant for Medical and Health and Prakash Shah for Networking Business through GOPIO Chamber of Commerce.

The nearest airport to the convention venue is Newark, New Jersey. GOPIO is making arrangements for pick-up at the Newark Airport if informed early. If one comes to New York City airports (John F. Kennedy Airport or LaGuardia Airport), one could take a shuttle to Newark Airport to be picked up. GOPIO Convention will also be a fun event, with some side trips (including optional trips to New York City, Atlantic City and Washington DC).

As part of the convention program, GOPIO is arranging a trip to Capitol Hill in Washington DC on Monday, April 29th, to campaign to the US Congressional Representatives on House HR 6542 "To amend the

Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes." Those interested in supporting and travelling to Washington, DC, may contact GOPIO.

Overseas delegates attending the convention must register first before an invitation letter for a visa is sent out. Those applying for a US visa may write to Prakash Shah at fristgrwth@aol.com or +1 908-267-5021 or Lal Motwani at + 516-581-3332.

GOPIO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, secular organisation with Individual Life Members and over 100 chapters in 35 countries. GOPIO's volunteers are committed to enhancing cooperation and communication between NRIs/PIOs and the local communities, building networks, bonds, friendships, alliances, and the camaraderie of citizens and colleagues alike. GOPIO volunteers believe that when they help network the global Indian community, they facilitate making tomorrow a better world for the Indian Diaspora and the countries they live in.

Overseas delegates attending the convention must register first before an invitation letter for a visa is sent out. Those applying for a US visa may write to Prakash Shah at fristgrwth@aol.com or +1 908-267-5021 or Lal Motwani at + 516-581-3332.

GOPIO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2024

Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) announces GOPIO-2024 Convention being scheduled for April 26-28, 2024 to be held at Royal Albert Palace, Fords, New Jersey, USA. This convention is extremely timely since it is the intention of the convention to focus on India's Present and the Future and what role the Diaspora Indians can play in helping to realize this desirable future.

Convention Theme:

'Opportunities for Diaspora Indians in India's Big Manifest Future.'

Five conference sessions on April 27th

1. Diaspora Youth and Young Achievers and the role they can play in India's Future and how GOPIO can facilitate their participation?

2. Diaspora Women and their Growing Contributions in Various Sectors. How GOPIO can further facilitate their Role and Participation?

3. Technologies and AI and other Innovations. How Diaspora Indians are Leading Research and Innovations?

4. GOPIO Chamber of Commerce and

Industry and the Worldwide Networking of the Diaspora Businesses and SMEs in India.

5. Medical and Health Issues and how Diaspora Indians can Participate in India's Frontline Role in Pharmaceuticals, Vaccines and Medical Tourism and in Propagating YOGA and its Benefits.

Program

Friday, April 26th - Welcome Reception/Inauguration/ Dinner at 6 pm

Saturday, April 27th - Conferences starting at 9.30 am followed by Gala Reception and Awards Banquet at 6 pm

Sunday, April 28th - GOPIO General Body Meeting at 9.30 am

2.30 pm - Visit to Akshardham Temple, Robbinsville, NJ and Atlantic City (Optional Trip)

Monday, April 29th - 8 am Trip to Washington DC (back by 10 pm) to visit Capitol Hill and other attractions including the Whitehouse, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Museum, Etc. (Optional Trip)

Registration

For the convention venue, the nearest airport is Newark, New Jersey. Overseas

delegates attending the convention have to register first for the Full Registration Package for \$250 up to March 31st (which includes tickets to all conferences and six meals from April 26th evening Welcome Dinner to April 28th Lunch) before invitation letter for visa is sent out. Register for the full convention package till March 31st by making a payment of \$250 (saving \$50 since the registration fee will go up to \$300 from April 1st) using credit card at <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/GICCPayment>. Please do mention that it is



GOPIO International Convention 2024

**You are invited !
Save the Date**

GOPIO international convention
April 26th - April 28th
Royal Albert palace,
1050 King Georges Post Road,
Fords, NJ 08863

Please come and join Seminars: Youth, Women, Health and Medical, Science and Technology and Business.

Registration REQUIRED
<http://tinyurl.com/GOPIO-donation>
www.tinyurl.com/GOPIO-2024
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Chairman: Dr Thomas Abraham
gopio@optonline.net; +1 (203) 561-6187
President: Mr Lal Motwani
lmotwani@outlook.com; +1 (516) 581-3332
Convenor: Mr Prakash Shah
firstgrwth@aol.com; +1 (908) 267-5021

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convention registration.

One can also register using the Google Form at the link <http://tinyurl.com/yc7kdrd5> and then make the payment at the above PayPal Link or send a check to the address given in the attached Registration Form.

Community Service Award Nomination

GOPIO is seeking nominations for Community Service Awards (CSA). Awardees will be honored at the finale Awards Banquet on April 27th. Please send in nominations with a bio of the nominee's years of community service along with his/her contacts. Please send in the nomination by March 15th to GOPIOintl.awards@gmail.com with a copy to Imotwani@outlook.com.

Accommodation and Room Booking

The convention has made a special room rate with the Royal Albert Palace at \$69 for double room at the Raritan Hotel at the same premises. Please book your rooms from April 25 to 30 by calling +1 732-661-1313, and mention GOPIO Convention.

GLOBAL ORGANISATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN (GOPIO)

35th Anniversary Celebrations & Global Convention 2024
Royal Albert Palace, New Jersey April 26 -28th, 2024

"Opportunities for Diaspora Indians in India's Big Manifest Future."

237 Fairbury Avenue, Bellrose, NY 11426, USA
Email: Imotwani@outlook.com ; Phone: +1-516-581 3332

Convention committee

Convener Prakash Shah 908-267-5021
Co Convener: Dr. Asha Samant 973-979-6372
Secretary Chitranjan Sahay Belwarior 732-447-5960
Treasurer Srinivas Akarappu 203-887-9014
Asst. Treasurer Suresh Shah 732-208-8386

- Committees:
1. Awards Lal Motwani 516-581-3332
 2. Banquets Rajeev Mehta 732-986-2844
 3. Brochure Jigar Shah 201-355-4417
 4. Cultural Rajul Shah 908-327-0605
Archana Sengar 732-589-9584
 5. Community Outreach Ram Gadhvi 973-699-8582
 6. Fundraising/Finance Sid Jain 201-889-8888
 7. Food Rajul Shah 908-327-0605
 8. Publicity Rohit Vyas 732-319-0972 Vijay Shah 732-939-4570
 9. Reception Hemant Patel 732-610-6789
Anand Paluri 201-207-3214
 10. Transport/Side Trips Minesh Patel 732-485-3001 Sathya Krishnamurthy 513-646-9999
 11. Volunteers Bharat Rama 201-638-3156
 12. Washington Trip Shatrughan Dwarami 845-633-4666 Jay Bhandari 301-254-4679

GOPIO Executive Council 2023-2024

Chairman - Dr. Thomas Abraham +1 203 561 6187
President - Lal Motwani, +1 516 581 3332
Exec. Vice President - Umesh Chandra, +1 421 38856
Vice President/Treasurer - Kewal Kanda, +1 502 897 6976
Global Ambassador - Prakash Shah, +1 908 267 5021
Secretary - Ram Gadhvi, +1 973 699 8582
Int'l Coordinators
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At Large Nani Kaur, +1 914 924 7653
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Caribbean - Deo Gosline, +1 914 482 3661
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Oceania - Harmohan Singh Walla, +61 402 842 375
South Asia - Dhiraaj Ahuja, +91 97371 32272
Associate Secretary - Chitranjan Belwarior, +1 732-447-5960
Associate Secretary - Jay Bhandari, +1 301 254 4679

Registration Form

No.	Date	Event	Event Ticket	After April 1st	Qty	Total Amount
1	April 26th	Reception & Inauguration	\$75	\$80		
2	April 27th	Breakfast	\$20	\$25		
3	April 27th	Lunch & Conference	\$40	\$50		
4	April 27th	Banquet	\$75	\$80		
5	April 28th	GOPIO Life Member/ Charter Delegate Breakfast & Lunch	\$60	\$65		
6		All Event Paid before April 1st	\$250	\$300		

NAME _____ MOBILE _____
Privilege Package: _____ EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____

1. Registration Passes for reception /inauguration on 4/26/2024 at Royal Albert Palace
2. Registration Passes for Diaspora Conference & Lunch on 04/27/2024 at Royal Albert Palace
3. Registration Passes for Banquet on 4/27/2024 at Royal Albert Palace

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South Asia - Dhiraaj Ahuja, +91 97371 32272
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Associate Secretary - Jay Bhandari, +1 301 254 4679

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3. Registration Passes for Banquet on 4/27/2024 at Royal Albert Palace

Full Page Color Advertisement in Souvenir
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	Back Cover Page (if available)	\$3000		
	Front Inside (if available)	\$2500		
	Inside Back Page	\$2000		
	Last Page	\$1500		
	Full Page Inside	\$1000		
	Half Page Inside	\$600		

Privileged Package:

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2. Registration Passes for Diaspora Conference & Lunch on 04/27 at Royal Albert Palace
3. Registration Passes for Banquet on 4/27/2024 at Royal Albert Palace

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Please send check Payable to GOPIO INC or PayPal WWW.PAYPAL.ME/GIOPAYMENT
Mail completed advertising form info to:

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GOPIO International Women's Council plans "Inspire Inclusion" themed women's conference for International Women's Day



Dr. Neerja Arun Gupta



Ella Gandhi

G OPIO International Women Council met senior GOPIO International officials via Zoom and decided to host the Women's Conference - "Inspire Inclusion" - on March 16th in a hybrid format.

Molly Banerjei, chairperson- Womens Council of GOPIO International said "I'm excited to share that we will host a Women's Conference on Saturday, March 16th, from noon to 1:30 pm. The theme for this event is "Inspire Inclusion," and we are thrilled to welcome 4-5 different speakers to provide diverse points of view. Duration: 10-12 minutes each. I'm looking forward to a collaborative effort with the co-chairs of the Women's Council to make this and many more events a genuinely enriching experience for everyone."

Molly Banerjei can be contacted via email at host@chaiwithmolly.com. Rani Kusto and Charu Sivakumar are the co-chairs of the GOPIO International Women's Council. Author Ritu Chopra



Molly Banerjei



Sudha Acharya



and Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter, Ela Gandhi, are possible speakers.

GOPIO Women's Council's Celebration of International Women's Day to be celebrated on Saturday, March 16th is coming up very well.

GOPIO International is pleased to inform that Mahatma

Gandhi's granddaughter Ela Gandhi has confirmed to be a speaker. Others confirmed are Sudha Acharya and Dr. Neerja Arun Gupta. Ritu Chopra, a management consultant and motivational speaker is in talks with Life Member Shatrugan Dawani and could be a possible speaker.

GOPIO Cairns Inc. supports Far North Queensland communities



Global visit Florida to Cairns on Indian Republic Day



GOPIO Cairns officials meet the wider community members

G OPIO Cairns Inc. has been quite active in Far North Queensland; the organization was inaugurated in August 2023.

Since then, the Executive Committee led by Subash Chetry has been involved in various initiatives to bring Indian diaspora communities together and promote the welfare of Indians living in the Cairns region.

The Cairns region was recently affected by Cyclone Jasper, and the flood aftermath of the Cyclone has left the residents in disbelief and questioning why and how this happened.

The Cyclone had just snipped Cairns City and hit Wujal Wujal, Bloomfield and Cooktown areas. Residents had to be evacuated and airlifted to safety to evacuation centres.

At the same time, the Northern beaches were flooded after Cyclone Jasper, residents had to climb to their roof to be rescued, the Cooktown Highway was blocked and turned into a river, and Council/SES were not able to assist until water levels went down and residents



GOPIO Team - Cairns



Holloways Beach First Hub

became the local heroes.

GOPIO Cairns Inc. was the first community group to visit the flood-impacted areas and provide warm and cooked food donated by Spicy Bite Indian Restaurant.

Initially, the Food drive began with Spicy Bite & ABC Care delivering the food to the homeless people before the Cyclone hit; then, there was a need to help the NDIS patients as they were stuck in their



Community Hub Volunteers



President Subash with Sizzling Wheels Channi Singh



Volunteers with Joint Secretary Aju Mathews



Recognition to Daulat Panwar Owner of Spicy Bite Restaurants



GOPIO Cairns team in action in the kitchen



Monty -Tandoori Nights

homes during the Cyclone.

Subash, the President of GOPIO Cairns Inc. and support from the Executive Committee decided to start a Go Fund Me Campaign to fundraise for food and essentials. Over the last two months, the community has fundraised \$16,000 and delivered approx. four thousand meals to Machans Beach, Holloways Beach, Caravonica, Port Douglas, Mossman, Daintree and even Cooktown through Hinterland Aviation Services.

This was only achieved by a strong team of Individuals who volunteered their time and were dedicated to supporting the community and, with their love and kindness, strong connections with local businesses and community advocates.

GOPIO Canberra and MAC Unite for Australia Day and Indian Republic Day Celebration

GOPIO Canberra and the Multicultural Association of Canberra (MAC) came together for a belated celebration of Australia Day and Indian Republic Day, coincidentally falling on the same date, January 26th.

The event was graciously supported and sponsored by MP David Smith, adding significance. We thank Mr Smith for his generosity. The gathering was honoured by the presence of the new Indian High Commissioner, HE Gopal Baglay, who engaged the community with thoughtful talk and strong bilateral relations between India and Australia. Counsellor Sweety Ji from the Indian High Commission also accompanied the High Commissioner, making it a memorable occasion, especially since it marked His Excellency's first attendance at the MAC /GOPIO Canberra event.

Distinguished guests, including MLAs Peter Cain and Nicole Lawder, and community leaders attended the event. MC Aradhna led engaging discussions about Australia Day, and President Nishi Puri highlighted the importance of reflection and education about Australia's First Nation people. Cultural performances from various nations, captured by Udaya's photography, and a curated culinary experience by Taj Agra added to the festivities.



Started with Invocation song by Pratibha and Ratish to mark Indian Republic day and Australia day celebrations



His Excellency Mr Baglay High Commissioner of India to Australia interacting with community



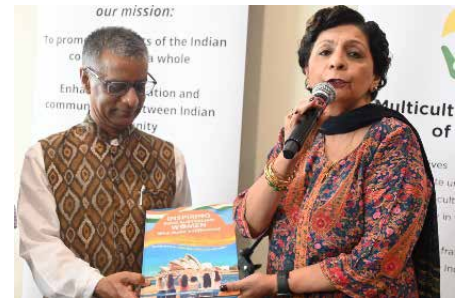
Singing We are one by Ayesha and Aryan with president Nishi Puri

The fully sold-out event, featuring political perspectives and recognition for community contributions, showcased unity and celebration within the community.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to all our young talents for their efforts and infectious



Event attended by diverse communities along with Diaspora



President Nishi Puri presented a book on 50 Indo Australian women who made a difference to HE High Commissioner of India Mr Baglay.



Mr Mohindra one of the recipient being presented a Certificate of Appreciation for community work by HE high Commissioner of India Mr Baglay, MP David Smith(event Sponsor) and president Nishi Puri

enthusiasm. Kudos to Team Bushra, Team Eric and Amy Zhang, Prathibha, Rathish, Aryan, Ayesha, and the children

from El Salvador for a job well done. Special thanks to Owen for managing the sound system flawlessly. Our sincere appreciation extends to all the friends and community members who attended the event in large numbers, contributing significantly to its resounding success.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Sami from Taj Agra, Niranjana Aggarwal and Subhash Mohindra for their community work by HE Mr Baglay and MP David Smith. We also welcomed three aspiring candidates from the diaspora for the upcoming election in October: Mallika Raj from Labor, Amardeep Singh (Liberal) and



Performance by El Salvadorian community

Pradeep (Labor)

President Nishi Puri had the honour of presenting His Excellency with a recently launched book on 50 inspiring women of Indo-Australia, compiled by Mr Harmohan Walia of GOPIO Sydney. She was among the 50 Indo-Australian women who made a difference.



MP David Smith, MLA Nicole Lawder and community leaders enjoying Australia day and Indian republic day function



Bushra and Team from the Bangladesh community presented a Bangla song

Groceries donation, a sharing and caring gesture by GOPIO Canberra and MAC

Keeping up with their commitment to sharing and caring, GOPIO Canberra and MAC donated many groceries to the University of Canberra with the support of our patrons, Naheed Khan and the GOPIO/ MAC committee. Their next donation will be in a few weeks to the Blue Door Homeless men's shelter.

On Sunday 3rd March at 11 am. GOPIO and MAC are organising a diabetes workshop in collaboration with Next Practice Deakin. They are grateful to their patron, Dr Paresh Dawda, for collaborating with us and presenting the seminar at the Labor Club Belconnen.



GOPIO and the MAC committee donating non-perishables item for international students' pantries to the University of Canberra. 8/2/24

Successful Collaboration: Sayreville Toastmasters Club and GOPIO Edison, New Jersey, USA

On January 27th, the Sayreville Toastmasters Club, in collaboration with GOPIO Edison, hosted a highly successful event at Sayreville Public Library, Parlin, NJ.

The event aimed at promoting public speaking within the community. GOPIO Edison's support has been instrumental in the club's remarkable growth, with membership more than doubling in the past six months.

The event featured engaging speeches by various speakers, including the esteemed President of GOPIO Edison, Pallavi Verma, who eloquently highlighted the organisation's mission and the importance of public speaking skills. Attendees were inspired by her insights and motivational words.

Among the distinguished guests were Mr Vishal Srivastava, Vice President of Education; Mr Baba Sheikh; Ms Nisha, Vice President; Ms Olajumoke Ogundokunand; Mr Mohammad Javeed, Vice President of membership, who spoke about membership growth and cohesiveness, among members, whose presence added to the event's prestige and significance.

The evening concluded with heartfelt gratitude expressed by a GOPIO Edison board member and the club's secretary, Mr



Chitranjan Sahay Belwariar, emphasising the value of collaboration and community engagement.

This event exemplifies the impactful partnership between Toastmasters International and GOPIO, two globally recognised

organisations dedicated to personal and professional development. As Sayreville Toastmasters continues to thrive with GOPIO Edison's support, the future looks promising for aspiring public speakers in the community.

India rolls out red carpet for Macron as France hopes to build on trade deals

President Emmanuel Macron was given a red carpet welcome and an elephant honour guard on Thursday as he started a two-day visit to India, with France eyeing lucrative deals with the world's fifth-largest economy.

Landing in Jaipur, state capital of Rajasthan, Macron will be hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a banquet in a 19th-century maharaja's palace.

On Friday, he will be the chief guest in New Delhi at a colourful military march-past with massed ranks of tanks, dancing troupes, camel cavalry and a fighter jet fly-past.

India's foreign ministry says New Delhi and Paris are "strategic partners", while the French presidency says the trip will "consolidate and deepen diplomatic and economic relations".

Despite concerns over human rights, differences over the war in Ukraine and Delhi's close ties with Moscow -- India's key military supplier -- the US and its European allies are courting New Delhi as a military and economic counterweight to China.

France hopes to build on its military contracts after the Indian defence ministry purchased French-made Rafale fighter jets and Scorpene-class submarines in multibillion-dollar deals.

Macron -- who, according to Indian media, is coming after US President Joe Biden was unable



to take up an invite -- is also hoping France can sell six EPR nuclear reactors.

'A key partner'

Modi was guest of honour at France's annual Bastille Day celebrations last July, and Macron is to receive a similar welcome.

The French president was last in India for the G20 summit in September.

Paris and New Delhi collaborate on space and

satellite technology, and the French delegation includes astronaut Thomas Pesquet.

The visit includes a stop at Jaipur's 18th-century Jantar Mantar astronomical observation site, before dinner with Modi at the Rambagh Palace, a luxury hotel.

On Friday, Macron will watch a military parade in New Delhi for Republic Day, the 75th anniversary of India's constitution.

Just as Indian soldiers

marched down the streets of Paris in 2023, a French contingent will join the military spectacle, as French-built jets roar overhead.

India is "a key partner in contributing to international peace and security", the French presidency said ahead of the visit.

Last year, Macron visited neighbouring Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and also took a Pacific trip aimed at "recommitting" France to the wider Asia-Pacific region.

'No taboo subjects'

Rights issues will also be discussed. Journalists, activists and religious minorities have complained of harassment since Modi's Hindu nationalist government took power in 2014, with accusations of rising

religious intolerance towards the country's Muslim minority.

Modi's government has been accused of stifling independent media, with India falling 21 places to 161 out of 180 countries in rights group Reporters Without Borders' press freedom index since Modi took office a decade ago.

French journalist Vanessa Dougnac was told this month that she is facing expulsion after more than two decades in India for what authorities have termed "malicious and critical" reporting.

The visit also comes days after Modi opened a Hindu temple, built on grounds where a mosque stood for centuries before it was torn down in 1992 by Hindu zealots incited by members of his party.

Modi said the temple

heralded a "new era" for India after a ceremony that embodied the triumph of his muscular Hindu nationalist politics and galvanising loyalists ahead of elections later this year.

Macron is slated to visit a Muslim Sufi shrine in New Delhi's Nizamuddin West neighbourhood during his visit.

A Sikh group in Britain also called on Macron to skip the parade "or raise concerns directly" with Modi after the alleged targeting of Sikh separatists abroad, an issue that sparked a major diplomatic row with Canada last year.

"There are no taboo subjects", a French presidential adviser said ahead of the visit.

"But the goal is to discuss them with respect and with the aim of achieving concrete results".

Key announcements made after discussions between India and France



As submitted by
Mr Ved-Prakash
GOOJHA, GOPIO
International
Coordinator - Europe

1. Declaring 2026 as the India-France Year of Innovation
2. Operationalisation of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) at Eiffel Tower
3. Setting up of a Solar Academy in Senegal under the STAR-C programme of International Solar Alliance
4. Establishment of India's Consulate in Marseille and French Bureau de France in Hyderabad
5. Operationalisation of the Young Professional Scheme under the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement
6. Operationalisation of 5-year validity Schengen Visa for Indian Masters alumni of French institutions
7. Support to France for the United Nations Ocean Conference to be organised in Nice in 2025

Indian Art Exhibition organised by GOPIO Gold Coast



GOPIO Gold Coast officials with Anthony Shorten (5th from right) at the official opening of the art exhibition

G OPIO-GC was recently invited to organise an art exhibition at the Robina Community Art Gallery (opposite the Robina Community Library) to coincide with the 75th Indian Republic Day celebrations. The GOPIO-GC committee requested the community to lend their artwork for such an exhibition. The response from the community was overwhelming, and we were able to launch the exhibition on the 23rd of January, 2024. Anthony Shorten, a strong advocate for multiculturalism, formally opened the exhibition. Numerous artists and community representatives attended the launch.

The art on display included oil paintings, watercolours, cross-stitch needlework, Madhubani



Artists and community representatives attended the art exhibition launch



A section of the art exhibition

paintings, and Lippan art. This showcases the sheer diversity of Indian art. GOPIO-GC thanks Asha Jose, Kamiya Talati, Lakshmi Narasimhan, Megha Dasog, Neelam Maheshwari,

Nidhi Patel, Seema Chauhan, Smitha Mandre Jackson, Sudha Manian and Varsha Badhe for their contributions. The display is scheduled to run till the 4th of Feb 2024.

GOPIO Gold Coast hosts the Australian Citizenship Ceremony

This Australia Day weekend, we at GOPIO Gold Coast were thrilled to host an inspiring Australian Citizenship Ceremony, marking a significant milestone in the lives of our newest Aussie citizens. It was a day filled with joy, pride, and a shared sense of belonging in the beautiful mosaic of Australian society.

Thank you to Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate for presiding over the ceremony, Mayoress Ruth Tate for your kind support, and MP John-Paul Langbroek, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, for welcoming the 50 new citizens, Moktiar Singh (Mok) for being the MC for the ceremony.



Didgeridoo performance as part of the Welcome to Country during the Citizenship Ceremony



Fifty new candidates took up citizenship at GOPIO Gold Coast's event



Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate and John-Paul Langbroek MP at GOPIO Gold Citizenship Ceremony



Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate, Mayoress Ruth Tate, MP John-Paul Langbroek, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, and other community leaders welcomed the 50 new citizens

GOPIO Gold Coast hosts 75th Indian Republic Day at Robina



Members of GOPIO Gold Coast with representatives of GOPIO International, FICQ, The India Australia Society of Queensland and elected representatives

G OPIO Gold Coast hosted the 75th Indian Republic Day celebrations on Saturday, 27th January 2024, attended by approximately 100 people from the Gold Coast and the wider Indian and multicultural Community.

The event was graced by the presence of QLD MP for Surfers Paradise John-Paul Langbroek (Shadow Minister for Seniors, Communities and Disability Services & Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, QLD MP for Bonney – Sam O'Connor (Shadow Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Shadow Minister for Science and Innovation, Shadow Minister for Youth, Gold Coast City councillor Herman Vorster, Umesh Chandra OAM Executive Vice president GOPIO International and several other dignitaries and representatives of the many Indian and



Students of Rhythm India School of Dance performed a cultural item

multicultural communities.

India Republic Day represents the true spirit of the independent India. The highlights of the event included a traditional welcome to the country by the Ngarang-Wal Gold Coast Aboriginal Association, where some of the members were honoured with the gift of Ochre, the singing of the Australian and Indian National Anthem and Shloka chanting by the Mantra group, classical Bharatanatyam dances performed by the talented students of Rhythm India School of Dance and a beautiful ode to

the almighty by Mr Sanjay Dar.

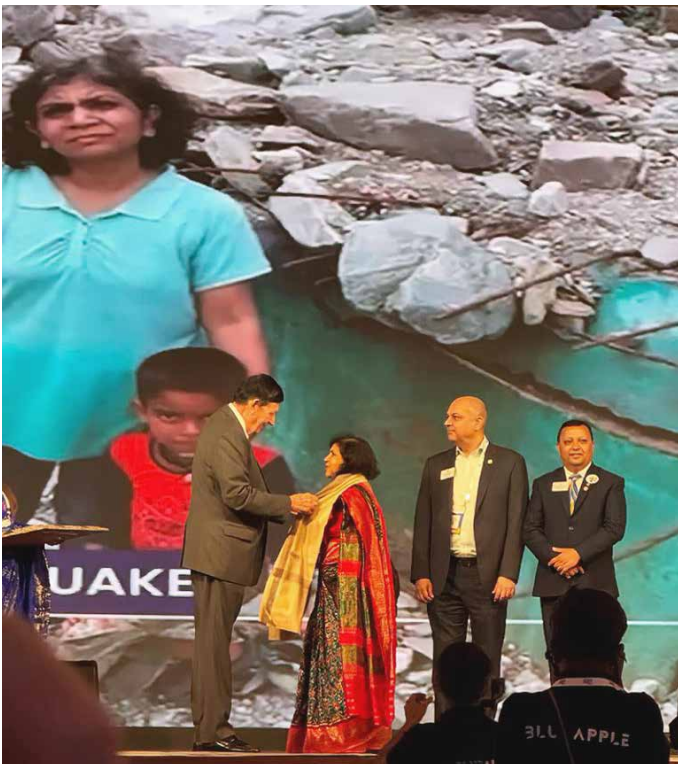
Attendees enjoyed delicious Indian snacks by the 'Maha catering group', which they enjoyed while mingling after the formal proceedings.

The GOPIO GC Indian Republic Day event was an excellent opportunity to bring together people of Indian origin and proudly display both the traditional Australian and Indian culture and heritage to the broader community.

QLD MP and Shadow Minister kindly sponsored the event for multiculturalism, Mr John Paul Langbroek.

Dr. Neerja Arun Gupta, Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University, GOPIO International Life Member and Academic Council Chair felicitated by Lions Club

Lions Clubs felicitated Dr Neerja A Gupta at the Give Conclave for Lions Clubs International in the presence of Lions International President Patty Hill and other senior Lions officials. The award recognises exemplary services towards society and path-breaking achievements in life. The first established international award was given for different work undertaken for disaster management and contribution towards nation-building.



She received the Champions of Change Award from Lions Clubs International in Mumbai. Lions International President Patty Hill was present, and PIP Frank Moore did the honours. Shri Subhash Sarkar, Union Education Minister, also attended. In all, 16 Indians were awarded.



GOPIO International officials attend the Indian Republic Day celebration at CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

On the 25th of January 2024 at 10.30 am, to coincide with the same at midnight in India, for the first time in Chapman University's history, Indian Republic Day is celebrated.

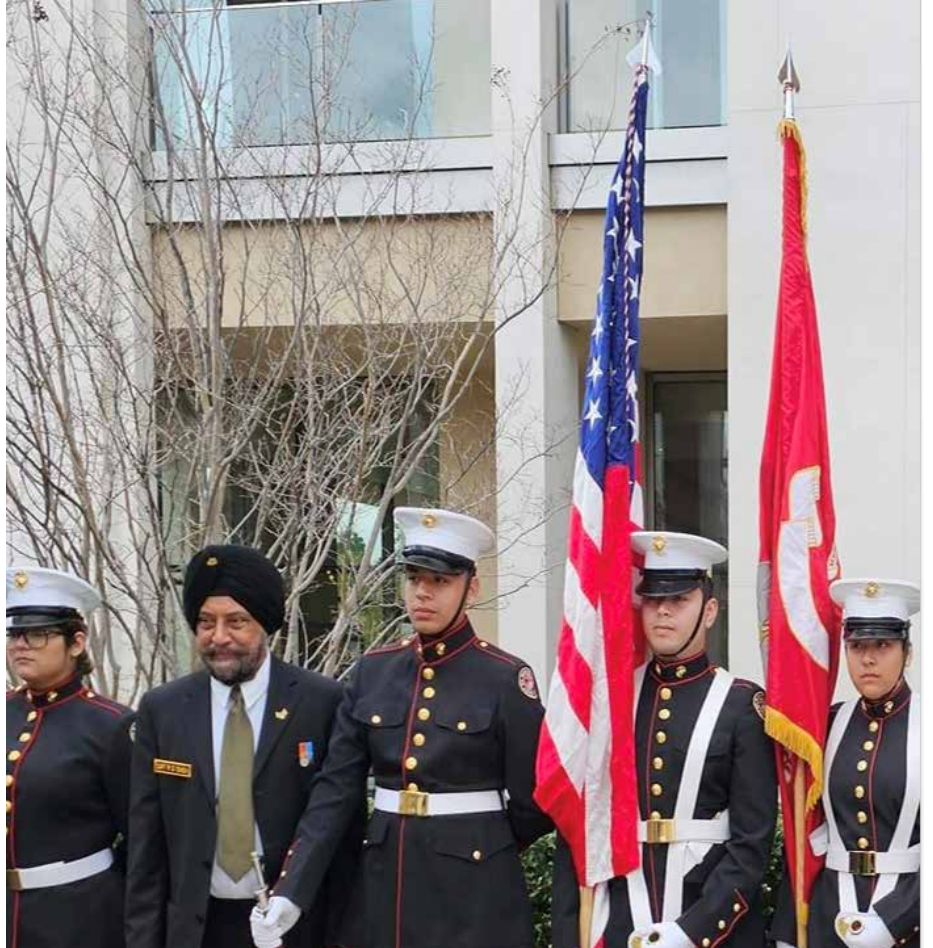
After a long struggle and hard work, Prof. Pradip Shukla and Prof. Yatri Shukla successfully created this historical event under their leadership. This event becomes a platform to foster a sense of pride, installing patriotism and pride, showcasing Indian Culture and democratic values. It was a proud movement for all Indians. Fostering a sense of pride and instilling patriotism.



The President of India unfurls the Indian flag on January 26 each year, symbolising the adoption of the Constitution in 1950. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chairman of its Drafting Committee, is considered the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. The ceremony started with a parade by a colour guard, the American and Indian national anthem, and special guest speeches. The Dean of the University graced the event as



Prof. Yatri Shukla, Capt RD Singh, Capt Aparna Hande, Major Gurjit Singh and Prof. Pradip Shukla



Color guard and ROTC of Orange Highschool

the chief guest.

The Honorable Eric Garcetti-US Ambassador to India, congratulated Chapman University for doing this major event for India’s Republic Day Celebration. He warmly greeted the audience and people of India on Republic Day. He expressed the highest appreciation for Mr and Mrs Shukla for taking the initiative to establish this event.

The event was attended by Kewal Kanda, Hark Vasa, Amrit Bhandari, Aparna Hande, Pratysh Dave, Sonal Pujara Ladva, Vidhya Murthi, Aarti Kaushal Chopra, two former presidents of TIE (The Indus Entrepreneur), University Administrators, faculty, staff and students, despite the rain and with great enthusiasm.



The Hon'ble Major Gurjit Singh, Capt Aparna Hande, and Capt RD Singh unfurled the Indian National Flag

The event ended with refreshments for all.

Everyone left with a great sense of pride.

Article by Aparna Hande, RN, MSHC

Woman of the Year 2012, 56th District

VP - NFIA 2023-24

CO- Chair, GOPIO

International, Health and

Wellness Council 2023- 2024



GOPIO-LA Organizes Blood Donation Camp



GOPIO-LA Officers

Buena Park, CA. February 11, 2024, the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin-Los Angeles Chapter (GOPIO-LA) organized a blood donation camp through the Red Cross in Buena Park Gurudwara. Rajinder Dhunna, a trustee, and Baljinder Tahim – VP for GOPIO-LA took the lead in organising this camp. They were assisted by Kewal Kanda – VP/Treasurer GOPIO-Intl, Charu Shivakumar – President GOPIO-LA, Ashok Madan – Intl Coordinator for North America GOPIO-Intl and many other members of GOPIO-LA. Dr. Asmath Noor – Jt. The secretary was kind enough to buy Pizza for the Red Cross staff.

The response to blood donation was so overwhelming that Red Cross personnel could not handle all the donors and had to turn



Ashok Madan (GOPIO International Coordinator for North America) donating blood.

back 30-40 people willing to donate blood. They were disappointed that they could not help this noble cause. The Red Cross personnel were expecting 15-20 qualified donors. They ended up collecting 28 pints of blood from 28 donors. Some of the GOPIO-LA members were

willing to donate but were not allowed as they had visited India within the prior six months or did not meet the qualifications. Only Ashok Madan was qualified and donated blood. Gurudwara's Head, Granthi Bhai Sahib Narinder Pal Singh, was one of the donors. Not only did



Gurudwara's Head Granthi Narinder Pal Singh donating blood

he donate blood himself, but he also encouraged the Gurudwara congregation to volunteer for blood donation. That is one reason we had an overwhelming response for blood donation.

The Red Cross was initially

scheduled to work from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, but because of the great response to blood donations, they had to stay till 4:00 PM to accommodate all registered donors. Without a doubt, this blood donation camp was a great success

on all counts. GOPIO-LA officers appreciate and thank Gurudwara management, especially Bhai Sahib Narinder Pal Singh, for their support and for allowing us to use their facility for this noble cause.



Red Cross worker attending the blood donors

GOPIO-Manhattan continues feeding people in need in the community



Kewal K Kanda, Vice President of GOPIO International, was presented a Certificate of Recognition by Chapman University's George L Argyros College of Business and Economics in recognition of his outstanding Community Leadership.

GOPIO-Manhattan's community feeding this month was held on Monday, January 29th, serving a vegetarian lunch at Tompkins Square Park in Manhattan (New York City). Over 60 people turned up for a nutritious veg. Lunch. The sponsor for this month was GOPIO-Manhattan Board Member Raj Punjabi, in memory of the 2nd death anniversary of his late father, Naval Kishore Panjabi. Other GOPIO volunteers present to serve the food were Harsh Panjabi and GOPIO-Manhattan Vice President Dr Vimal Goyle, who



is also the Community Feeding Program Coordinator.

One can sponsor in the name of your loved one who passed away or for someone's birthday. Volunteers of Interfaith Services prepare the food in a nearby

kitchen. Sponsors are welcome to come and serve the food, but not necessary. The sponsorship fee is only \$300 to buy food ingredients. If interested in sponsoring, call the program chair, Dr. Vimal Goyle, at 316-371-7098 or write to info@GOPIOmanhattan.org.

The GOPIO-Manhattan chapter started this program in December 2020, held on the last Monday of every month. For 2024, two monthly slots are available. 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
 Facebook Donate, Share, Like : <https://www.facebook.com/GOPIONYC/>

International Coordinator Europe, Mr Ved Prakash In Mauritius



Mr. Ved Prakash Goojha, the International Coordinator for Europe, GOPIO International, and Mrs. Ram, the International Coordinator for Francophone Regions.

On 25 January 2024, the Hindu community of Mauritius celebrated Thaiposam Cavadee. It is a festival mainly celebrated by the Tamil Community in honour of Lord Muruga, the elder son of Lord Shiva, for his victory against the forces of evil. It is one of the most impressive festivals of enthusiasm, devotion, and vibrant colours.

Ten days before the festival, on the 17th of January, the flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Solitude Mariamen Kovil in the presence of Mr Ved Prakash Goojha, the International



Mr Ved Prakash Goojha with his Family



Prayer by the Priest at the Kovil



Devotees walking to the kovil with their cavadees



Hoisting of the flag, indicating the beginning of the fasting.



Miss Poonam Mootia, Asst Treasurer, participated in the procession of our meeting, prayers, and offerings to the God Muruga

Coordinator, Europe, GOPIO International. Mr Ved Prakash was the Chief Guest and was accompanied by his family. I had a perfect occasion to meet him and discuss some projects that can be carried out for GOPIO in the Francophone Regions.

GOPIO International team meets Acting Indian Ambassador to the USA Sripriya Ranganathan



Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan speaking to Indian community leaders at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

The Consulate General of India in New York and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan hosted a Meet and Greet Welcome Reception in honour of Ambassador



GOPIO officials at the Meet and Greet Event



Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Chief of the Mission and currently Acting Indian Ambassador to the USA, at the Bhavan in New York City on February 16th with Indian community leaders from the New York area. GOPIO International was well

represented by its Chairman, Dr Thomas Abraham, Global Ambassador and upcoming Convention Convener Prakash Shah, other officials, and representatives from its chapters, GOPIO-Manhattan, North Jersey, Central Jersey and Connecticut.

Indian Consulate in New York Hosts Interactive Meeting for Indian Community Leaders with New Consul General Shree Binaya Pradhan



GOPIO Team at the interactive meeting: From l. to r. GOPIO Intl. Associate Secretary Chitranjan Belwariar, GOPIO-NY President Beena Kothari, GOPIO-Manhattan Exec. VP. Prof. Raj Vangapaty, Dr. Rajeev Mehta, GOPIO Intl. Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, GOPIO Intl. President Lal Motwani, Kavita Motwani, Rajul Shah, GOPIO 2024 Convention Convener Prakash Shah and GOPIO-Connecticut VP Prachi Narayan

Indian Consulate in New York hosted a meeting of significant community groups from the Northeast Region of the United States to an interactive meeting with the new Indian Consul General Binaya Srikanth Pradhan at the Indian Consulate on Friday, February 2nd. Altogether, 50 community representatives from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio participated. Organisation representatives present at the meeting included the Global

Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) and its chapters, Federation of Indian Associations - FIA (NY, NJ, CT), FIA Columbus (Ohio), Association of Indian America (AIA), Asian Indian American of Central Pennsylvania (AIACPA), Federation of Malayalee Association of North America (FOMA), Uttar Pradesh association of America, Tamil Sangam, Telugu Association of North America (TANA), Telegu Literary and Cultural Association (TLCA), Bihar Jharkhand Association, Oriya

Society, Indo American Press Club, Hindu Center and several other service organisations including Team Aid. Heads of many of these groups were present at the meeting.

Deputy Consul General Dr Varun Jeph started the meeting in a conference room style with welcome remarks, he then introduced Consul General Pradhan. Organisation representatives were allowed to speak on their organisation, any community issues and ways to cooperate with the Consulate. After hearing



Consul General meetign community leaders from North East USA



CG Pradhan and DCG Jeph

from all invitees, the Consul General responded, thanking all community groups for their tremendous work helping the consulate and contributing to improved US-India relations.

CG Pradhan also concluded with the following comments on the Consulate working closer with the community groups: If there is a need for a Visa camp for passport, OCI or other consular services, the Consulate will come to the community group if there are enough people in need; Consulate wants to be connected with Students coming from India especially in the first year to help them out; for any emergencies, the Consulate is there to help out; Consulate would like to connect to University student leaders; suggested that community should go out and vote and



President Lal Motwani, Kavita Motwani with CG Binaya Srikanta Pradhan

get involved in local politics; Consul General and Deputy Consul General will come to local Community events if invited in time; and community can use the ballrooms for state foundation events. Finally, CG Pradhan said that the Consulate

always welcomes feedback from the community.

Heads of several national and umbrella organisations were present at the meeting. They included GOPIO Chairman Dr Thomas Abraham and President Lal Motwani, FIA NY/NJ/CT President Dr Avinash Gupta, AIA President Gobind Munjal, FIA Columbus President Sriram Menneni, AIAPCA Founder/Chair Deep Gupta and FOMA President Dr Jacob Thomas. GOPIO was very well represented.

Consul for Community Affairs A.K. Vijayakrishnan, who managed the event, voted for thanks. Other Consuls present at the meeting were Consul for Trade Manish Kulhary, Consul Bijender Kumar (Passport, OCI and Visa), Consul Shruti Pandey (Culture) and Head of the Chancery Vishal Harsh. A networking dinner followed.

GOPIO International Coordinator (Oceania) Mr Harmohan Singh Walia launches book – Inspiring Indo-Australian Women Who Made a Difference

In commemoration of strength and success, the recent book 'Inspiring Indo-Australian Women Who Made a Difference' launched on 27 January 2024 at Usana Head Office, Castle Hill, by Mr Harmohan Singh Walia, serves as a compelling testament to women's resilience. Orchestrated in partnership with the book's compiler, a notable figure, Mechanical & Industrial Engineer and skilled photographer, Mr Harmohan Singh Walia, alongside Women In Business (WIB) and Usana Australia.

The event aimed to spotlight fifty women who have overcome challenges and emerged stronger. The abovementioned book continues his earlier two publications, 'Success Stories of Indo-Australians' and 'Challenges, Opportunities & Successes'. The book features Mrs Nishi Puri – President of GOPIO Canberra, as one of the inspiring women. Mr Walia's objective in compiling the three coffee table books is to present and sketch the lives and history of current Indo-Australians.

Mr. Walia is a figure of influence, accomplishment, and respect. He commands admiration for his notable achievements and possesses

50 Inspiring Women Who made a Difference!



a remarkable talent behind the lens as a photographer. He understands the importance of words and pictures in capturing the spirit of the community. He has been an active member of GOPIO

International and GOPIO Sydney Northwest.

Kumud Merani, the emcee, an Australian Day Ambassador, former veteran TV anchor, broadcaster, and executive producer of



Hindi programmes on SBS radio, skilfully guided the audience, maintaining a lively atmosphere.

Tiya Gorain, the inspirational founder of Empowered BWB and co-founder of WIB, set the tone with an inspiring opening speech, highlighting the impact of platforms like Empowered BWB, WIB, and “She” Magazine (founded

by Alpana Srivastava) in empowering and supporting women entrepreneurs.

The event showcased literary accomplishments and delved into health and wellness. Sarita Verma and Casey Zhang shared insights on Usana Health & Wellness products and business opportunities, emphasising holistic well-being.

The screening of the

short video prepared by Harjot Singh of KH Brothers Films was humorously appreciated by the audience as it emphasised the need to respect every woman.

The distinguished guests were the Consul General of India, Dr S Janakiraman, National Chair of AIBC and former NSW Leader of Opposition, Jodi McKay, CEO of CMRC, Ms Melissa



Monteiro, Councillor & Ex-Mayor of Parramatta, Sameer Pandey, Councillor Barbara Burton and Councillor Reena Jethi underscored the event's significance.

Mr Harmohan Singh Walia and his wife, Mrs Manbeen

Walia, were gifted scarves by Jodi Mckay, which was a great honour. Mrs. Manbeen Walia merits special mention for her unwavering support towards her husband.

The book launch event emerged as a resounding

success, celebrating the triumphs of women and highlighting collaborative efforts dedicated to empowering and supporting women in their journey to succeed.

Editor's Note

CONTD. FROM PG 2

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in English. Even the White House has misprinted the word "February" before in a press release!

Well, so much for February. Let's focus on the historic moment when Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was inaugurated; the mega event was witnessed live via multiple streaming sources worldwide. Justice was finally delivered five hundred and fifty years later. While the celebrations were shared among many diverse cultures of India, foreign media have been criticised for biased reporting. Several online petitions have been signed against some of the journalists.

Congratulations to the Indian Government on this achievement

and for restoring faith in humanity; it had been a long time coming; as the saying goes, Satyameva Jayate ('Truth alone triumphs').

26th January is Australia Day and is widely celebrated. However, a growing movement opposes the date and calls it "Invasion Day". There have been protest marches and mass gatherings. Brisbane City Councils hold a special Citizenship ceremony on the day, and this year, five hundred and fifty new candidates took up Australian Citizenship at the ceremony. I was honoured to have been a special guest representing GOPIO International.

Many local Indian associations observed Australia Day, including FICQ, GOPIO Gold Coast, Tamil Association of Queensland and Varnam Cultural; it is

pleasing to see our Indian community joining Queensland's multicultural community in celebrating and observing Australia Day.

India's 75th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotism with the iconic Parade in Delhi. French Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron was the chief guest this year. In Queensland, multiple celebrations were held, the main one organised by FICQ and usually at Sunpac. GOPIO Gold Coast held its event on 27th January, while GOPIO Cairns held theirs on 26th January.

With this, I must pen off, thank you all for your ongoing support until next month.

Happy Reading!

—**Umesh Chandra OAM**
Editor-in-Chief

Executive Vice President GOPIO
International

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.



Activ
Go to:

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