



GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

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

July 20, 2024

GOPIO QUEENSLAND INC WELCOMES NEW CONSUL GENERAL AND BIDS FAREWELL TO HONORARY CONSUL



GOPIO Queensland Inc. hosted an unforgettable sold-out dinner function to celebrate Mrs Neetu

Bhagotia's appointment as the first Consul General at the newly established Indian Consulate in Brisbane and bid

a fond farewell to Mrs Archana Singh, the outgoing Honorary Consul of India in Queensland.

CONTD. ON PG 3



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GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

20 AUG 2024

SUBMISSION
DEADLINES

15 AUG 2024

Email:

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Editor's Note



Welcome everyone to our June Newsletter. We are halfway through the year, and hasn't it just flown by? Wherever we are in the world at this stage, we are in the peaks, so be it summer or winter, this is the peak. Here, down under, we are in our peak winter, it is cold; the 22nd of June will mark the shortest daylight on this side of the hemisphere.

Welcome to our July Issue, a relatively more minor but never less significant issue. July is also American Independence Day. Independence Day, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States that commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

The Founding Father delegates of the Second Continental Congress made a historic declaration. They proclaimed that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer under the rule of the British monarch, King George III. They were now united, accessible, and independent states. The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2, a momentous event, and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4th, a document that would shape the future of the nation.

Independence Day is a day of diverse celebrations, a true reflection of the cultural richness of the United States. It is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies. These events, both public and private, celebrate the rich history, government, and traditions of the United States, making Independence Day a truly national day.

For the Indian Diaspora, Independence Day in the United States is a precursor to India's Independence Day, a celebration that many chapters are eagerly gearing up for. They are preparing for their annual events that not only celebrate Independence Day but also lead up to the grand India Day Parade, a moment of pride and unity for the community.

Congratulations to Kewal Kanda on his outstanding award. It is quite an achievement and well deserved for his long service to the community.

While GOPIO is non-political and secular, the Indian diaspora and several prominent Indian Americans welcomed the prospect of Vice President Kamala Harris becoming the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. They described it as a historic moment for this small ethnic community.

Harris, 59, announced that she would run for president after her boss, President Joe Biden, announced that he would not seek re-election in the November general elections. Instead, he endorsed her as the party's nominee. Several top Democratic leaders soon supported Harris.

As an immigrant from India to America over four decades ago, I am thrilled to see that an Indian American is the presumptive nominee of one of the two political parties for president of the United States.

The Ministry of External Affairs, India, has begun the nomination process for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025 as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) to be held in early 2025.

CONTD. ON PG 10



CONTD. FROM PG 1

Various distinguished guests graced the event, including Senator Paul Scarr, Cr Vicki Howard, Mayor of Ipswich Teresa Harding, Mrs. Preethi Suraj, and Jim Varghese AM. Their presence added an air of significance and warmth, making the evening special.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Jess Kumar for organizing assistance and to Umesh Chandra OAM for his tireless efforts in orchestrating the event. Umesh Chandra OAM could not attend due to health reasons; his absence was keenly felt.

Special recognition is due to Mr. Pradip Gorasia from the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Gold

Coast Inc. and Mr. Subash Chetry from GOPIO Cairns Inc. for their steadfast support.

Globenet Realty & Dream Style Decorators generously sponsored the evening, whose support was instrumental in making it a success. Yousef Alikhan generously provided the sound system.

Special appreciation goes to Mr Naren Sinnathamby for his exceptional performance as the Master of Ceremonies, which added a distinguished touch to the night. Incidentally, Naren Sinnathamby was the MC when GOPIO Queensland held a similar event to welcome Mrs Archana Singh ji as Honorary Consul for India in Queensland and farewell Professor Sarva Daman Singh ji in 2012

As a highlight of the evening, a poster was launched announcing the sensational JIGRRA, Jigardan Gadhavi, performing live at the iconic India Day Fair 2024. This exciting reveal added an extra layer of anticipation and celebration to the event.

Gratitude is also extended to Mayur Brahmabhatt for capturing the evening's beautiful moments, Hireworks for providing the LCD screen, and Punjabi Palace for providing an excellent venue.

Thank you to the GOPIO Queensland Inc. team for their dedication and hard work, which made the evening a grand success.

Here's to many more memorable evenings together!





GOPIO QUEENSLAND PRESENTS

INDIA DAY FAIR

2024

FREE EVENT

17th
AUGUST 2024

10:30 AM TILL 8:30 PM

ROMA STREET PARKLAND
(AMPHITHEATER)



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KEWAL KANDA RECOGNIZED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

7/18/2024

Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Services



JULY 19, 2024 AT SANATAN DHARMA TEMPLE, 15311 PIONEER BLVD, NORWALK, CA 90650

The Indian-American community recognised Kewal Kanda with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Services, organised by Charu Shivakumar, Rani Kuusto, Aparna Hande, and Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee in collaboration with the Excel Foundation at Sanatan Dharma Temple in Norwalk.

Approximately 100 community leaders and friends of Kewal got together in Sanatan Dharma Temple's community hall to recognise him for his services to the Indian-American community. All those who spoke showered him with praise for his exceptional leadership and catalyst for community leaders' cohesiveness. Kewal has been instrumental in helping people with OCIs, Visas,

Passport renewals, Surrender Certificates, and many other consulate services. He also leads the organisation of the Consular Camps in the Artesia/Cerritos/Norwalk area. He also managed and participated in Blood Donation Drives and Health & Welfare Seminars organised by GOPIO-LA Chapter.

Kewal's dedication to the Indian-American community is unwavering. He currently serves as the Vice President and Treasurer for GOPIO-International. He has been involved in numerous Indian-American organisations, always striving to help his community in any way possible. His commitment is evident in his roles as the founder president of the GOPIO-LA Chapter (2013), Rajput Association of America (1984), and his

presidency at FIA-SC in 2006. In 2015, the Government of India, through the Consul General of India, San Francisco, organised the Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (RPBD) in Los Angeles. Kewal Kanda's role as treasurer and core committee member was instrumental in successfully managing the event. It was a source of pride and connection for the entire community.

Kewal's influence and respect in his community extend to his current role as the Chairman of the United Indian Associations of Southern California (UIASC). This consortium of many local organisations celebrates India's Republic and Independence Days, and Kewal's leadership in this role is a source of pride and connection for the entire community.

GOPIO MANHATTAN AND HAPPY LIFE CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2024, HOSTED BY FILMMAKER TIRLOK MALIK

New York: Global Organization for People of Indian Origin - Manhattan Chapter and Emmy-nominated filmmaker and Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlok Malik, along with The Indian Panorama and Indian American Forum, organised an interactive and informative session on June 22 featuring eminent experts and speakers to celebrate International Day of Yoga 2024.

The ever-ebullient Malik emphasised loving yourself and “if you love yourself, it is your responsibility to take care of your happiness and health”. He conducted practical exercises, as well as chair yoga, peppered with calls for laughter among many participants logged in for the session from the New York area, other parts of the USA, India, and worldwide.

In his address as chief guest, Amb. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, underlined that yoga is a holistic body-mind-spirit system. He congratulated GOPIO and Tirlok Malik for holding the event open to all.

In his 4th year leading this event, session host Malik asked the speakers to address

The question: There are challenges and hardships in life, but how do you let them

Go and laugh at life? Give me your mantra, he asked them.

Indu Jaiswal, Chairperson of



Consul General Binaya Srikant Pradhan



Host Tirlok Malik

the Indian American Forum and a medical Professional shared her mantra: “Always have a positive outlook and believe in yourself.”

Prof. Indrajit Singh Saluja, Editor-Publisher of The Indian Panorama, said that.

Happiness is within you. He

added that the five don'ts – ahimsa, Satya, etc.--of Patanjali yoga is a formula for not causing unhappiness to others.

Tara Shajan, a medical professional, suggested we should revisit our happy Memories, particularly from childhood, and try to lower our

happiness threshold.

Neeta Bhasin, the founder of Times Square Diwali, shared that she has learned to Prioritise her happiness.

Neha Lohia, a filmmaker and spiritual enthusiast, said that we should take Whatever happens to us as 'prasad' from God.

Parveen Chopra, founder of wellness and spirituality webmag ALotusInTheMud.com mentioned the sutra, "Heyam dukham anagatam" (Avert.

The danger that has not yet come). Do regular exercise, yoga and meditation, he

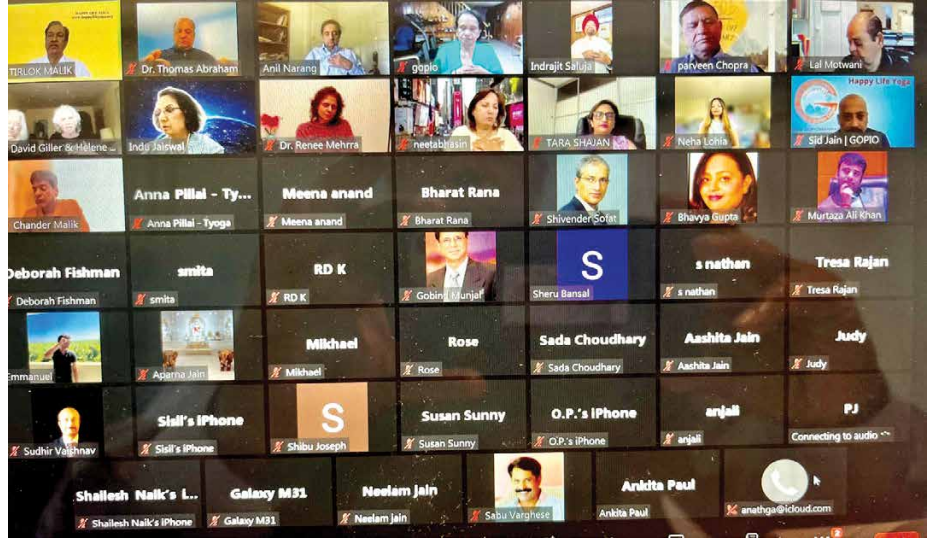
It was said to avoid poor physical and mental health later in life.

Dr. Renee Mehra, Host of the Zoom In with Renee Online show, conducted a short meditation. Others who spoke included GOPIO International President Lal Motwani, AIA National President Gobind Munjal, 'Vegan Ambassador' Anil Narang and Deborah Fishman.

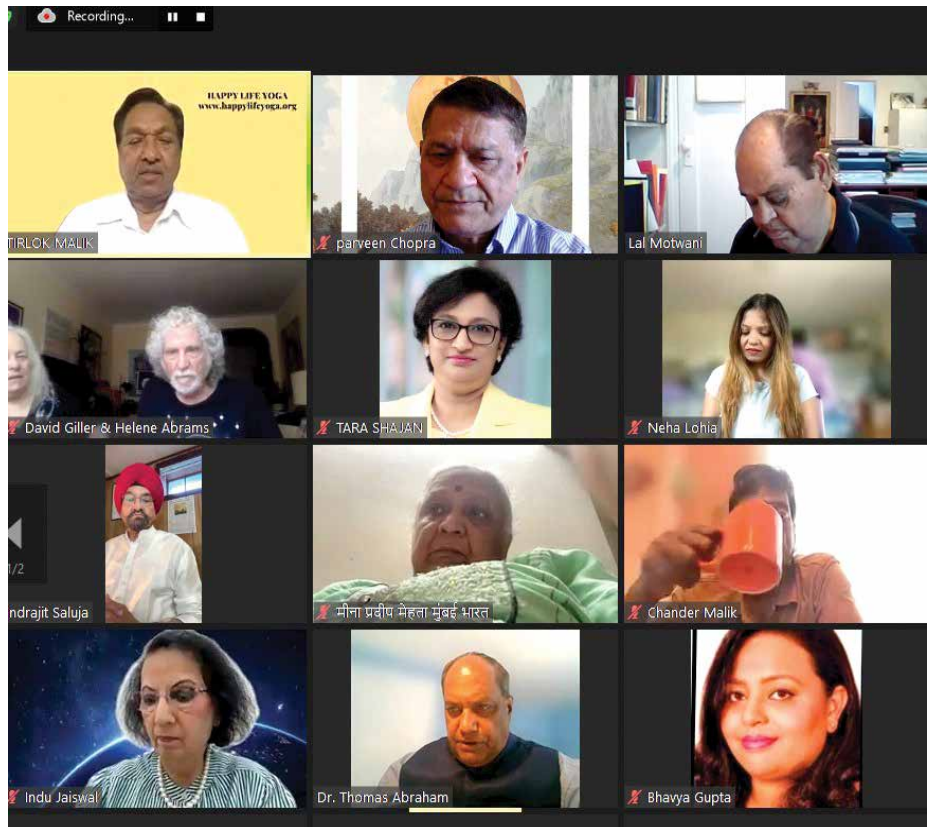
GOPIO International Chairman Dr Thomas Abraham, who also serves as an advisor to GOPIO-Manhattan, spoke in his welcome address about the objectives of GOPIO and urged those who are not members yet to join the GOPIO International organisation or a nearby chapter. GOPIO-Manhattan President Shivender

Sofat said the message shared at the session should be shared with others. GOPIO-Manhattan Board member Sid Jain provided technical service at the session. Chapter Secretary Bhavya Gupta gave the vote of thanks.

Tirlolok Malik has conducted



Audience at the Yoga Day on Zoom Celebration



Organizers and speakers at the Yoga Day Session

over 100 Happy Life Yoga workshops over four years.

He created this workshop (No mats needed!) inspired by Ayurveda, yoga, and

Indian philosophy as a practical way to live a happier and healthier life in today's Testing times.

GOPIO-Manhattan, with a mission to serve the larger society and those in need, has taken several initiatives since its founding in 2020. The chapter organises Community Feeding, which provides

a vegetarian lunch for the homeless and needy at Tomkins Square Park in Manhattan on the last Monday of every month. The chapter appeals to the community to support the initiative by volunteering and sponsoring.

For additional information on GOPIO Manhattan, contact President Shivender Sofat at 731-988-6969, e-mail info@gopioManhattan.org or visit here: <https://gopioManhattan.org/> Facebook Link: GOPIO Manhattan NYC.

WOMEN'S CRICKET CLUB OF STAMFORD 'SIZZLERS' ORGANIZES TOURNAMENTS AND RAISES FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES



Stamford Cricket Club Sizzlers, a local, homegrown women's cricket team comprising 20 women, conducted its second annual women's cricket tournament at Stamford's Lione Park on June 22nd, 2024. SCC Sizzlers hosted seven teams and 250 people from Stamford, Greenwich, and Westchester.

This year, the tournament was conducted in support of the Women and Children's Fund of the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF). In the past years, DVCC, The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County, and the Wounded Warriors Project have benefitted from their donations. This group of vibrant South Asian women,

working professionals, and moms connected post-COVID through their shared passion for the sport. Through this venture, they hope to inspire and drive more women in the community to follow their lead.

GOPIO-CT has been supporting the Stamford team. Many team members and their families participate in GOPIO-CT activities. Captain Bindu

Philip and Vice-Captain Monika Mittal lead SCC Sizzlers.

This year, HCC Drakainas, a Long Island-based team, and Phoenix of Westchester made it to the Finals. The tournament will be held in the coming weeks.

Ms Mary Grace of FCCF also attended the felicitation ceremony and accepted their donation from Sizzlers.



Editor's Note

CONTD. FROM PG 2

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour for overseas Indians. The President of India confers PBSA as a part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

We wish all the nominees all the best. Since 2003, we have been organising conventions annually on a Non-Resident Indian, Person of Indian Origin, or organisation or institution established and run by Non-

Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin who have significantly contributed to many fields. GOPIO International takes an active part in the PBD.

Seeing many of our chapters taking active and leadership roles within our community is pleasing. Our area coordinators and members are called to be delegates at international conferences. Our people are our strength, and we are better

suited for them.

Well, it's time to say goodbye. I want to thank everyone for their good wishes while I was hospitalised; medical science has again done its magic, and I am back on track with minor adjustments.

Until next month, happy reading.

—Umesh Chandra OAM

Editor in chief

GOPIO International News Bulletin



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LIVE SINGING & DANCE PERFORMANCES
BUFFET DINNER

AUGUST

SATURDAY **3** AT 6 PM

2024

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GOLD COAST

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Non Member Tickets \$99

Ticket includes buffet dinner, welcome drink and goodie bag

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DRESS-CODE: BLACK TIE

Men: Formal suit or formal Indian suit

Women: Gown or Indian traditional formal attire





GOPIO-CT invites you to India Independence Day Celebration August 11th, 2024



Free Admission
Sunday, August 11 th, 2024
11:30 AM Flag Hoisting,
Stamford Gov't. Center
12:00 PM India Independence
Day Ceremony
1:00 PM India Day Festival &
Kite Flying
Mill River Park, Stamford, CT

Jaya Daptardar 203.460.0189

Prachi Narayan 203.274.2240

Mahesh Jhangiani 917.273.9657

Sonali Gannu 203.554.4587

Sushanth Krishnamurthy (203) 829-8412



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