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NRI ACHIEVERS

CONNECTING INDIA WITH NRIs, PIOs & OCIs

INDIAN WOMEN ACHIEVERS SAMMAAN 2017

BAHRAIN

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INDIAN WOMEN
ACHIEVERS
SAMMAAN 2017
BAHRAIN

January 4, 2018



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CONNECTING INDIA WITH NRIs, PIOs & OCIs

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- ▶ Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Former External Affairs Minister, India
- ▶ Dr. Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza, Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, Bahrain
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NRI ACHIEVERS

AN INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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CONNECTING 'INDIA' WITH **NRIs, PIOs & OCIs** ALL AROUND THE WORLD

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LETTERS MATTER

Thank God to see again!!

At last, I got my favorite magazine back on the website and in my mail. Whatsoever the reasons were, you should never interrupt the publication of your exclusive magazine.

I think with the dawn of 2018 you are also trying to change the layout and presentation of NRI Achievers magazine. It is looking good and you are also adding more material concerning to our Indian diaspora. How amazing it is to know that someone can donate 200 million dollars for a noble cause. If Indian diaspora also start thinking about the development and improvement of their mother country India by their contribution then nobody can stop India from becoming a developed and the leading country in the world.

It is also nice to see the increased number of articles including a fiction story in Hindi. Story about an Indian of German citizenship shows that why your magazine is an important bridge between India and Indian diaspora. I rarely saw political stories on other political parties except BJP it was strongly needed because your magazine always looked like a mouthpiece of Bharatiya Janata Party. Any publication should always be a balanced act. Anyway suggestion apart may 2018 make you bigger bold and beautiful.

**Mukesh Sharma, Varanasi,
Uttar Pradesh, India**

कवर स्टोरी अच्छी लगी!!

नवंबर-दिसंबर का संयुक्तांक मिला. थोड़ी राहत भी महसूस हुई. ये पहली बार दिखा कि आप ने कोई संयुक्तांक निकाला. इस बार के अंक में काफी कुछ बदला-बदला सा नजर आया. हर बार बीजेपी को लेकर आपकी मैगजीन में पॉलीटिकल स्टोरी पढ़ने को मिलती थी लेकिन इस बार कांग्रेस के नव निर्वाचित अध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी पर लिखा गया लेख अच्छा लगा. कृपया सभी राजनीतिक दलों को अपनी मैगजीन में बराबर स्थान दें. सात समंदर पार बैठे भारतीय हिंदुस्तान की व्यापक तस्वीर से हमेशा रूबरू होना चाहते हैं, चाहे वह राजनीति हो, खेल हो, शिक्षा हो, समाज हो, या कुछ भी हो. अंत में कवर स्टोरी के बारे में बहुत बढ़िया थी ऐसे और लेख छापें ताकि भारत का नाम रोशन करने वालों से हम परिचित होते रहे.

**अंजलिका दिवान
बर्लिन, जर्मनी**



True Love and Patriotism

People from India have presence all over the globe. But main quality of indian people is true love and patriotism towards their motherland. I feel immense pleasure to know that NRI Achievers world reputed magazine proposed to honour Indian women Achiever Sammaan in association with GOPIO at Bahrain from 6th -8th Jan, 2018. It shows that Indian Women in India and abroad contribute a lot in the development of the nation. If we go back towards our freedom movement NRI's living abroad had contributed their full support to make freedom movement successful. I salute GOPIO and NRI achievers for this noble cause and wish them a grand success for this event and for this event and for a brighter future as well.



**Satvir Singh Jand
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INSIDE


BAHRAIN


22 INDIAN WOMEN ACHIEVERS SAMMAAN

REAL POLITIK

54

क्या अब नई ऊर्जा से लबरेज होगी कांग्रेस?

SILVER SCREEN

56

जोड़ियां जो एक फिल्म के बाद बिखर गईं

SILVER SCREEN

57

एक्ट्रेसज, जो शादी के बाद फिल्मों से दूर चली गईं



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जिद्धियों का सपना पूरा हो ही जाता है!

कामयाब एवं अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में सफलता के झंडे गाड़ चुकी महिलाओं को – दुनिया भर से आने वाली बेहतरीन हस्तियों की Presence में गल्फ होटल के Convention Hall में एक रंगारंग कार्यक्रम के दौरान सम्मानित किया जाएगा .

पूरे पांच साल लग गये अपने एक सपने को पूरा करने में . जब अक्टूबर 2012 में अपनी इस मैगजीन NRI Achievers की शुरुआत की थी तो सपना भी पाला था कि अपने भारतीय और प्रवासी भारतीयों को देश-विदेश में सम्मानित करने का कार्यक्रम भी करेंगे . लेकिन कभी पैसे की कमी के चलते तो कभी व्यवस्थाओं की कमी के चलते मामला आगे खिसकता रहा – पर कहते हैं न बड़े-बड़े सपने देखने वालों और एक अलग किस्म के जिद्दी लोगों को नाकामियां भी हतोत्साहित नहीं कर पाती, कुछ ऐसा ही अपने साथ भी हुआ, और आखिरकार हमारा पहला समारोह INDIAN WOMEN ACHIEVER SAMMAAN 2017 ने अमली जामा पहन ही लिया .

अपने इस कार्यक्रम को हमलोग Gulf Country 'बहरीन' में 6 जनवरी, 2018 को प्रवासी भारतीयों की जानी-मानी संस्था GOPIO (Global Organization Of People Of Indian Origin) के साथ मिलकर आयोजित कर रहे हैं . इसमें दुनिया भर से चुनी गई कामयाब एवं अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में सफलता के झंडे गाड़ चुकी महिलाओं को – दुनिया भर से आने वाली बेहतरीन हस्तियों की Presence में गल्फ होटल के Convention Hall में एक रंगारंग कार्यक्रम के दौरान सम्मानित किया जाएगा .

GOPIO International Convention, 6 से 8 जनवरी, 2018 के बीच बहरीन में हो रहा है . श्री सनी कुलाथकल जो कि GOPIO के Global Ambassador हैं, उनसे हमारी हुई मुलाकात में यह नतीजा निकला कि दोनों मिलकर GOPIO की Convention के दौरान कुछ चुनिंदा महिलाओं को सम्मानित करें .

इसी दौरान भारत के विदेशी संबंधों को मद्देनजर रखते हुए हमने भारत एवं कुछ अन्य देशों से चुनिंदा Businessmen का एक Delegation भी तैयार किया है, जिन्हें बहरीन में अंतरराष्ट्रीय Business की opportunities का एक सजा-सजाया Platform भी उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं .

GOPIO की Business wing GICC (GOPIO International Chamber of Commerce) इसमें अपनी पूरी भागीदारी निभा रही है . GOPIO के President नीरज बक्शी एवं Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham का हमें पूरा साथ मिल रहा है .

NRI Achievers GOPIO का शुक्रगुजार है कि 2018 के शुरुआत में हमारा ये सपना पूरा होने जा रहा है .

आप सभी का सदैव साथ देने के लिए तहे दिल से शुक्रिया

आइये चीयर्स करें ...

- राजीव गुप्ता, एडिटर



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"Kocreate is a dream that we had for aspiring creative entrepreneurs and business. It is our way of translating my experience of 22 years in design, and making it a learning experience and supported journey for people in the creative field."

- Vivek Khurana
Originator



"I have always been passionate about creating impactful business and Kocreate is my vision for that come true. With Kocreate we are looking to associate with interesting people from all fields, especially design, and collaborate and create better design services!"

- Sumit Duggal
Founder & CEO



YES... YOU CAN DO IT!

Last month, the president of Sulabh International Bindeshwar Pathak had said that if a non-resident Indian who lives in different parts of the world comes forward, then even a single person in India will not go out for defecation after the next two years. Pathak feel that, this is a big task, but we can do it and non-resident Indians can play a pivotal role in this. This is a unique opportunity for the NRIs to show their love for the country.

Breaking down the figures, he said the 2019 target could be met with ease if each of the nearly 2 crore NRIs contributes to building six toilets over a span of three years. An individual toilet costs approximately \$500, which means six toilets would cost a total of \$3,000 (Rs 2 lakhs) a cost that could be spread over a period of three years. If all the NRIs come forward and contribute to make India clean and a better place, this beautiful dream will become a reality. Apart from the construction of toilets, Pathak has been leading a movement since 1970 with Sulabh to provide sanitation solutions to the poor. Under corporate social responsibility, Sulabh is collaborating with a number of public sector undertakings (PSUs) in the country and corporate houses to build public and individual toilets across the country. Sulabh claims to engage over 50,000 people and has so far constructed nearly 1.3 million household toilets and 8,500 public toilets.

A lot of people get ridiculed that even in the 21st century, India has to be aware of its people to go to the toilet. But it is a major concern that not only India but almost 48 percent of the world population suffering from various kind of health problems due to the lack of hygiene.

From the city to the village, the campaign to get rid of defecation in the open, now everyone has realized that after taking the toilets in the house, many problems are being solved together, there has been defiance of diseases caused by defecation, but honor of girls and women is also being protected. If NRIs come forward in this area on the call of the Pathak, then India can be free from this problem forever. We Indians must understand that it is not possible to climb the ladder of development without solving this huge problem.

JALAJ SRIVASTAVA

An individual toilet costs approximately \$500, which means six toilets would cost a total of \$3,000 (Rs 2 lakhs) a cost that could be spread over a period of three years. If all the NRIs come forward and contribute to make India clean and a better place, this beautiful dream will become a reality.

NRIs IMPRESSED WITH DEVELOPMENT



A team of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), who attended World Telugu Conference (WTC) at Hyderabad in December, visited Gajwel and Siddipet. They appreciated the efforts being made for development of various sectors. In all 70 NRIs from 42 countries arrived here in

two buses to examine and understand the ground-level realities of development. The team examined the Mission Bhagiratha head works at Komatibanda and the Education Hub being constructed at Gajwel. Later, they reached Siddipet and visited Komaticheruvu and double bed room houses being constructed in the district headquarters. The team will visit Kaleswaram Project. The Government has sanctioned Rs. 25 crore for the development of Komaticheruvu mini tankbund. Mr. Harish Rao said that the amount was sanctioned by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

4.5 LAKH INDIANS ACQUIRED FOREIGN CITIZENSHIP IN 3 YEARS: MEA

A total of 4,52,109 Indian nationals acquired foreign citizenship in 117 countries from 2014 to 2017, Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh said. More than 4.5 lakh Indian nationals acquired foreign citizenship from years 2014 to 2017, according to data available with the Ministry of External Affairs.



A total of 452,109 Indian nationals acquired foreign citizenship in 117 countries from years 2014 to 2017 (till date), Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh said in Parliament on Dec. 27 in response to a question. As many as 46,188 Indians became naturalized citizens of the United States, according to 2016 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, he said. In 2015, the number of Indians who were naturalized in the United States was 42,213. In 2016, the highest number of Indians were naturalized in California (10,298), followed by New Jersey (5,312), Texas (4,670), and New York (2,954).



UK NRIs COMMIT ₹500 CR FOR CLEAN GANGA PLAN

NRI billionaire business magnates in London have committed more than Rs 500 crore of investment to the rejuvenation of the polluted Ganga, as the Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga U P Singh said "cremations were not to blame".

Union minister Nitin Gadkari, whose responsibilities include water resources, said on Wednesday, that in addition to Ravi Mehrotra and Anil Agarwal's commitments to the sacred river, the London-based Hinduja brothers have agreed to maintain the Haridwar stretch and Prakash Lohia, chairman of Indorama Corporation, has committed to the Kolkata section. Lohia is from Kolkata. In India, Shiv Nadar, chairman of HCL, has taken up the Varanasi part, Gadkari, who is on a trip to London, said. He explained that whilst the government had sanctioned Rs 20,000 crore towards the clean Ganges programme, the corporates would pay for their stretches themselves as "total charity cause" and he appealed to "all Indian companies and NRIs across the world" to participate. The costs vary between Rs 100 and Rs 200 crore per project.

NRI's AIR PURIFIER FIRST THAT KILLS TOXINS


It was the mid-1990s. Months after Yogi Goswami migrated from his hometown Delhi to the US for a career in solar energy, he found his baby son Dilip struggling with asthma. Yogi, now a professor at the University of South Florida, began research for a new technology as no existing air purifier offered relief from poor indoor air quality. Twenty years later, when pollution has become a problem in most parts of the world, his family has found a probable solution: Molekule. Pegged as the world's first air purifier that completely destroys harmful pollutants - existing technology only traps such particles - the device has made to the 2017 list of Time's top 25 inventions. "HEPA filters remain the standard technology in existing air purifiers and, unfortunately, many harmful pollutants are too small for HEPA filters to trap. Larger pollutants like bacteria and mold may be collected by such filters, but they remain on the filter surface, multiply and are released back into the air. Because Molekule actually destroys even the smallest pollutants, they are permanently removed from the air you breathe," said Jaya Goswami Rao, Yogi's daughter and Molekule chief operating officer. Yogi went to school in Delhi and got his BS degree in mechanical engineering from what was then Delhi College of Engineering (now Delhi Technological University). Dilip and Jaya were born in the US. The siblings co-founded Molekule to convert the patented technology developed by Yogi into a consumer product.



SIKHS ARE A POLITICAL POWER IN THE WEST

When Preet Didbal was sworn in as mayor of Yuba City last week in northern California, the city council's chamber was filled with Sikh members. Didbal, who was the first woman to be elected to the Yuba City Council in 2014, and served as vice-mayor, has become the first Sikh woman mayor in the US and the community's excitement was palpable. "The Sikhs are an intrinsic part of the community here and they have always supported me. In fact, it's because of them that I'm here today," Didbal, whose parents immigrated to California from Punjab 50 years ago, told on phone. The Yuba and Sutter counties in northern California have a large Indian-American community from Punjab, with the earliest immigrants arriving a hundred years ago.

"I want to do more to help members of my community, especially the elders," says Didbal, who worked at fruit orchards after school hours during picking season as a young girl.

The number of NRIs registering themselves as 'overseas electors' has seen a two-fold jump in the last three years, latest government and EC data show. The figure, however, is far too less when compared to the number of Indians living abroad and entitled to vote here. The issue of voting by NRIs in Indian elections is being debated again with the government moving a bill in the Lok Sabha to extend proxy voting rights to them on the lines of service voters. The bill says the necessary provision of coming to India to cast ballot caused "hardship" to overseas electors. As of now, non-resident Indians—essentially people living or working abroad who have not given up their Indian citizenship—can cast their vote in the constituencies they are registered in. This means that they first have to register themselves as voters and then take a long flight to India be present on election day. 

TWO-FOLD JUMP IN NRIs AS VOTERS



INDIAN-AMERICAN SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS TOPS GLOBAL THINKERS LIST



Indian-American California senator Kamala Harris has topped the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers' which also features US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley. Besides Harris and Haley, Indian-origin stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj has also made it to the list which recognises a remarkable range of individuals who have found ways to exert enormous influence, often in unexpected ways, on a wide range of issues. "They are the doers who defined 2017," said Foreign Policy while releasing its annual list of global thinkers, which this year number 50 instead of 100 as was mostly the case in previous years. Topping the list is Harris, 53, for giving the Democratic Party hope in the era of President Donald Trump, the magazine said. Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father, is the first-ever Indian-American to be elected to the US Senate. Seen as a potential Democratic presidential candidate, Harris is the only black woman in the Senate. "Her professional bona fides and two decades as a prosecutor, her commitment to social justice (she has made immigrants' rights and bail reform the focus of her first year in office).

PROMISING INDIANS AWARDED



Eminent personalities and dignitaries gathered at the PSOI CLUB, Chanakyapuri for the PROMISING INDIANS' SOCIETY (PIS) GALA NIGHT. Under the aegis of PIS, the event was organized on December 27, 2017 . The awards ceremony was a tribute to the unconditional contribution by professionals and entrepreneurs and felicitated exceptional social entrepreneurs who are beyond role play. The delegates from Canada , Mauritius, United Kingdom , USA , Nigeria and Libya were present during the awards ceremony. Mr Radha Mohan Singh , Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture ,Government of India was invited as the Chief Guest for the event. The Promising Indians' Society is the brainchild of Ms Prerna Singh , a dynamic individual aiming to felicitate people of Indian Origin for their outstanding contribution and deep commitment to bring a difference in the lives of numerous individuals seeking to grow and aspire. PIS received a total of 125 nominations from across the globe for various categories of awards vis a vis , Business and Entrepreneurship , Social Activism , Science and Technology , Idea and Innovation etc . The event saw special felicitation of Dr Acharya Lokesh Muni Ji who is a social reformer , versatile thinker , writer and poet and Mr Sandeep Marwah , .Director of Asian Academy of Film & Television & Asian School of Media Studies.

RAHUL GANDHI TO VISIT BAHRAIN CONVENTION



A global gathering of Indian diaspora and businessmen will be hosted in Bahrain in abid to address key issues facing the diaspora. The highlight of the event will be a visit by Rahul Gandhi, president of Congress party, along with a 35 member delegation of MPs, businessmen and other dignitaries. The biennial meeting of the international convention of GOPIO will be held at Gulf Hotel From January 6 to 8, with more than 200 delegates expected to take park. We are excited to host this event in Bahrain that will be attended by congress president Rahul Gandhi and other senior Indian politicians, said organizing committee chairman Dr. Varghese Kurian.



GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN

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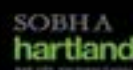


INDIAN WOMEN ACHIEVERS SAMMAAN 2017

BAHRAIN

January 6, 2018

Co-sponsored By



GOPIO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2018
Gulf International Convention Centre, Gulf Hotel

The "Indian Women Achievers Sammaan 2017" felicitate the achievements of exceptional women role-models from diverse fields who have succeeded against mighty odds. These pioneers have broken the glass ceiling for the new generation of aspiring women by setting an example with hard work, perseverance and innovation.

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THREE INDIANS HOSPITALIZED AFTER EATING WILD BOAR MEAT



Three members of a Malayali family in New Zealand are in a critical condition at a hospital there after they ate the meat of a wild boar, suspected to be poisoned. Shibu Kochummen, his wife Subi Babu and his mother Alekutty Daniel were found unresponsive at home by paramedics and subsequently admitted to the intensive care unit of the Waikato Hospital in Hamilton on November 10. While they were initially in a 'vegetative' state, their condition has improved a bit. "Two of them have opened their eyes and started moving their limbs but still not responding to people or their surroundings," Sojan Joseph, who belongs to the same church congregation as the family, told to media. The couple's two children, aged 7 and 1, who did not consume the meat, are being looked after by the church. "We are doing our best to not let this incident affect them, but not sure for how long though," he said. Shibu and his wife, who had migrated to New Zealand five years ago, belong to Kottarakkara in Kollam district of Kerala. Joseph said that while Shibu often goes hunting for wild boars, this time it was one of his friends who gave him the meat. "I do believe they did cook it well since he has been doing it for quite some time," Joseph said. Investigators have reportedly taken away the meat and are analyzing it for toxins. A report is expected in two weeks. The doctors at the Waikato hospital in Hamilton have started treatment for a condition called 'botulism.'

NRI MARITAL DISPUTES GOVT TO COLLECT DATA OF ALL REGD. MARRIAGES



In a bid to curb incidents of NRI husbands abandoning their Indian wives, the government will now collect data on all registered marriages, Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi said. It is also learnt that WCD has asked the Law Ministry to make registration of NRI marriages compulsory. "From now registration of all marriages will be linked to the women and child development ministry's website. This will be in place by the end of this month," Gandhi told reporters. The decision was taken during an inter-ministerial meeting where Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad were present besides Gandhi. The ministry will soon be writing to all registrars asking them to furnish data. It was also decided to appoint an integrated nodal agency under the WCD to will look into complaints related to NRI marriages. This agency will also include officials from the ministries of law, MEA and home affairs. Sources said this step will be taken before the government announces a slew of other measures, including compulsory registration of all marriages which will have to pass the test of Parliament. "We have prepared a plan of action that will go to the Cabinet as it requires amending a few laws," Gandhi added. Earlier this year, the Law Commission had said that compulsory registration of marriages was a "necessary reform". The commission recommended amending the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, and including the provision of compulsory registration of marriage. The government will also convene meeting of states as the topic comes under the concurrent subject list. In 2006, the Supreme Court in the Seema vs Ashwani Kumar case had observed that marriages of all persons, irrespective of their religion, should be registered compulsorily in their respective states, where the marriage is solemnised. [7]

NRI Achievers News Network

NRI ACHIEVERS

AN INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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THE KING HAS GREAT INTEREST IN PRESERVING HERITAGE

He attained the National Diploma in military administration in 1972, from the Industrial College for the Military Forces in Washington.

H.M. HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA
King of Bahrain

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa is the eldest son of the late Amir of Bahrain, Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa. H.M. the King was born in Riffa on January 28, 1950. At the age of six, he began his primary education in Bahrain in addition to reciting the Holy Quran and studying the principles of Islam and the Arabic language. This education had a positive impact on his mastering of Arabic and his appreciation of Arabic poetry, especially Nabati and Bedouin poetry. His Majesty also showed keenness to learn swimming, horse riding and shooting, influencing his interest in sports and patronage of sportsmen. In 1964, following the completion of primary education, H.M. the king was proclaimed Crown Prince.

He completed his secondary schooling from Leys Public School in Cambridge, England. Later, he joined the Mons Officer Cadet School at Aldershot in England from where he graduated in 1968. He also studied at Sandhurst Academy. On his return to Bahrain, H.M. the king played an active role in creation of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). H.M. was appointed head of the Defense Directorate and became a member of the State Council in 1970. Later, in 1971, he became Minister of Defense. A year later, in 1972, H.M. the king, joined the US Army Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the United States of America.

H.M. the King has great interest in preserving heritage and continues to indulge in a number of sports activities and hobbies including falconry, golf, fishing, tennis and football. He attained the National Diploma in military administration in 1972, from the Industrial College for the Military Forces in Washington. He graduated with honors from Fort Leavenworth with a degree in leadership in 1973. He was awarded the military honor certificate from the United States of America for his achievements in military affairs. His name was enlisted in the college's lieutenant honors list.



BIENNIAL CONVENTION & PRAVASI SAMMELAN GOPIO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2018

&

INDIAN WOMEN ACHIEVERS SAMMAAN 2017

January 6th -8th, 2018

BAHRAIN

With a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-denominational society, along with a low cost of living, excellent education facilities offering curricula from around the world and high-quality healthcare, Bahrain is an attractive destination for expat families. As the land of the ancient Dilmun civilisation, Bahrain has long been a trading centre linking east and west. The country has benefited from its position at the centre of the Gulf's trade routes and rich pearl diving industry. Keeping this in mind, the GOPIO, The world wide NGO of Indian Diaspora in association with NRI ACHIEVERS Magazine is organizing 'GOPIO International Convention 2018' in Bahrain from January 6-8, 2018. INDIAN WOMEN ACHIEVERS SAMMAAN 2017 will also be organized on January 6, 2018 by NRI Achiever's magazine in association with GOPIO in this convention. There are several reasons why this place was chosen for this convention. It is significant that Bahrain was the first Gulf state to discover oil, in 1932, and in the past 40 years it has led the regional transition to a modern economy. We are here sharing with all of you the information about the program in Bahrain.

Saturday, January 6, 2018

9am - 10.30 am
10.30 am - 12 pm
12 pm - 1 pm

GOPIO Executive Council Meeting, Chaired by President Niraj Baxi
Reports from International Coordinators and GOPIO Council, Chairs
GOPIO General Body Meeting, Chaired by Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham
President's Report - Mr. Niraj Baxi
Treasurer's Report - Mr. Kewal Kanda

1 pm to 2 pm
2 pm - 5 pm

Lunch
GOPIO General Body Meeting (Cont'd),
Chaired by Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham
GOPIO Bylaws Amendments, Presented by GOPIO Bylaws Committee
Presentation on GOPIO MemberNova, By Mr. Dinesh Mittal
Announcement of Election Results (2018-'19) & Endorsement/Election of Chairman by Election Committee
Convention Inauguration

6 pm

National Anthems
Prayer Song by Playback Singer Ms Parvati Menon
Welcome speech by GOPIO Convener Mr. Sunny Kulathakal
Presidential Address by Mr. Niraj Baxi, President, GOPIO
Lighting the Lamp Ceremony Inaugural Address by Shri Alfons Kannanthanam, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture, and Tourism, Government of India
Chairman's Address by GOPIO Founding President Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO
Felicitation by: 1) Dr. B.R. Shetty, Chairman, NMC Healthcare
2) Lord Diljit Rana, Former President, GOPIO

7.30 pm

Indian Women Achiever's Sammaan
(Award Recognition Ceremony)
Opening Remarks by GOPIO's Global Ambassador and Convention Convener Mr. Sunny Kulathakal and Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Chief Editor, NRI Achievers
Award Distribution by Minister Alfons Kannanthanam
Felicitation by Ms Arathi Krishna, Deputy Chairman, NRI Forum, Karnataka
Vote of Thanks by Dr George Cheriyan, President, GOPIO-Bahrain
Cultural Programme

8.15 pm
9.15 pm

Dinner

CONVENTION

Sunday, January 7, 2018

9.00am

9.05am

Prayer Song

Session I Conference Inaugural Session 'India 2030: An Economic Powerhouse'

Welcome & Introduction by Mr. Soman Baby, Chairman, Reception Committee

Keynote Address by Dr. Shashi Tharoor MP, India

Address by

- 1) Mr. Raj Purohit, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Maharashtra
- 2) Mr. Nalin Kohli, BJP Spokesperson
- 3) Mr. Chandan Mitra, Editor, The Pioneer & Former MP
- 4) Mr. Sudhir Kumar Shetty, President, UAE Exchange

Mr. Issac John, Business Editor, Khaleej Times

11am

11.15am

Address by

11.15am

Tea Break

Session II 'Bahrain, a Business & Tourism Destination'

Presided over by Mr Khalid Abdulrahman Almoayyed,
Chairman, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry
H.E Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khaifa, Chief Executive,
Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority

Session III Empowering Indian Women

Speakers Ms. Molly Banerjee, Producer, Chai with Molly,
Toronto, Ms. Meera Devi, Editor, Salam Bahrain, Ms. Michelle
Michael, Durban, South Africa, Ms. Shabnam Modgil,
Moderator Ms. Angela Anand,

12.15pm – 1.30 pm

Session IV 'Opportunities for Business and Investment in India'

Remarks Mr. Nitin Shah, Co-Chairman, GOPIO Intl. Chamber, Atlanta, US

Speakers Mr. Raj Purohit, MLA, Chief Whip, Maharashtra

Dr. Charan Singh, Former Economist, RBI, Stamford Univ.

Dr. Christy Fernandez IAS, Former Secretary to President of India

Mr. Faizal Kottikollon, Founder/Chairman, KEF Holdings

Mr. PC Cyriac IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu

Mr. Kurien Abraham, Editor & Publisher of business magazine 'Dhanam'

Ms. Mini Guleria, President & CEO, Macroscopic Market Resourcing, Los Angeles, USA

Moderator Shaji Baby John, Chairman, Kings Group, Kochi

12.15 pm – 1.30 pm

Session V Health Issues of Diaspora Indians

Speakers Dr. Asha Samant, Chair, GOPIO Health Council, NJ,

USA, Issac Mathai, CEO, Soukya, Bangalore, Moderator Dr.

Rajeev Mehta, Robert Johnson Medical Center, NJ, USA,

1.30 pm-2.30 pm

Lunch

2.30 pm-3.30 pm

Session VI 'India: The Healthcare Destination' – 'India Health
care and Pharmaceutical Industry Challenges & Opportunities'

Speakers Dr. Muhammad Majeed, Founder & MD, Sabinsa/ Sam Group of Companies,

Dr. Zulaika Daud, Dr. Pramod Kamdar, San Diego, USA, Dr. M. Anirudhan, Essen

Nutrition, Chicago, IL, USA, Dr. Azad Mooppen Dr. Sunny Kurien,

Moderator Dr. George Cheriyan, CEO, Amer Mission Hospital

2.30 pm-3.30 pm

Session VII 'Seniors of Indian Origin – Evolving a Global
Network, Issues and Prospects'

Speakers Sudha Acharya, Executive Director, South Asian

Council for Social Services, New York, NY Dr. J. Alexander,

IAS, Former Minister, Karnataka, India Moderator TBD

3.30 pm

Tea Break

3.45 pm- 5.00 pm

Session VIII 'Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Start-Up India'

Speakers: Mr. Vinesh Mehta, President, Federation of
Association of Maharashtra, Mumbai

Mr. Jay Banerjee, President, GOPIO, Toronto, Canada

Ms. Rajespre Naidoo, Durban, South Africa, Mr. Mehen

Poinoosawmy, GOPIO France, Paris, Moderator Mr. Nitin Shah, Co-Chair, GOPIO

16.30pm

Book Release, Businessperson of the Year Award Function &

Public Meeting

Welcome Address by Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO

National Anthems of Both Countries

Address by Minister of Electricity & Water, Kingdom of

	<p>Bahrain, His Excellency Dr Abdulhussein bin Ali Mirza</p> <p>Book release of 'Advancing the Role of Executive Management' authored by Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa by Mr. K.T. Rama Rao, Minister of IT, Telengana Government, India</p> <p>Felicitation by Mr. Niraj Baxi, President, GOPIO Intl., San Jose,</p> <p>Special Address by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP, India</p> <p>Award Ceremony co-ordinated by Mr. Anurag Batra, Chief Editor, Business World, New Delhi, India</p> <p>1) Mr. Raj Purohit, Chief Whip, Maharashtra-Assembly</p> <p>2) Mr. J. Alexander, IAS, Former Minister, Karnataka, India</p> <p>Vote of Thanks by Mr. Noel Lal, Executive VP, GOPIO Intl.</p> <p>Cultural Programme</p> <p>Dinner</p>
8pm	
9pm	
Monday, January 8, 2018	
9.00 – 10.30 am	<p>Session IX 'Political Involvement of Diaspora Indians'</p> <p>Speakers Prof. Bimal Prasad, Leader, National Federation Party, Fiji</p> <p>Mr. Viresh Sharma, Treasurer, GOPIO-CT and President, Laser Systems, Stamford, Connecticut, USA</p> <p>Ms. Nikki Kapadia, Los Angeles, California, USA</p>
9.00 – 10.30 am	<p>Session X 'Powering Global Indian Enterprises'</p> <p>Speakers Mr. Noel Lal, Executive VP, GOPIO Intl.</p> <p>Mr. Ishwar Ramlutchman, GOPIO Intl.</p> <p>Rajeev Gupta, Chief Editor and Publisher, NRI Achievers, India</p>
10.30 am	Tea Break
10.45 am	<p>Session XI 'India: Riding the Wave of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'</p> <p>Keynote Speech by Dr. Sam Pitroda, Former Advisor to Prime Ministers of India</p> <p>Speakers Mr TP Sreenivasan, IFS, Former Ambassador</p> <p>Ambassador Dayakar, IFS, Former Ambassador</p> <p>Mr Rajesh Johnny, Entrepreneur, Bangalore</p>
12.15 pm-1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm-2.45 pm	<p>Session XII 'Capabilities & Challenges Facing Youth and Young Professionals in the Diaspora'</p> <p>Speakers Mr. Neeraj Baxi, President, GOPIO Intl., San Jose, USA</p> <p>Mr. Noel Lal, Executive VP, GOPIO Intl., Sydney, Aus</p> <p>Mr. Ishwar Ramlutchman, GOPIO Intl. India</p> <p>Mr Irfan Malik</p>
2.45 pm	Tea Break
3 pm-5 pm	<p>Session XIII 'Rehabilitation of Returning NRIs'</p> <p>Speakers Mr TP Sreenivasan, IFS, Former Ambassador</p> <p>Ambassador Dayakar, IFS, Former Ambassador</p> <p>Mr Rajesh Johnny, Entrepreneur, Bangalore</p> <p>Speakers Mr. Sunny Kulathakal, Global Ambassador, GOPIO Intl.</p> <p>Advocate K.V. Shamsuddin</p> <p>Mr. P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai</p> <p>Mr Issac John Pattaniparambil, GOPIO Intl. Coordinator, The Middle East</p> <p>Mr Thomas John</p>
7.00 pm-9.30 pm	<p>Finale Valedictory Function & Presentation GOPIO Community Service Awards</p> <p>Chief Guest: Dr Sam Pitroda, Former Advisor to Prime Ministers of India</p> <p>Address 1) Dr Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO Intl., Stamford, USA</p> <p>2) Lord Diljit Rana, Former GOPIO President, Belfast, UK</p> <p>3) Mr Niraj Baxi, President, GOPIO Intl, San Jose, CA, USA</p> <p>4) Mr Noel Lal, Exec. VP, GOPIO Intl., Sydney, Australia</p> <p>Community Service Awards Presentation</p> <p>Cultural Programme</p> <p>Dinner</p>
8pm	
9pm	

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COVER STORY



INDIAN WOMEN
ACHIEVERS
SAMMAAN 2017
BAHRAIN

January 6, 2018



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NRI ACHIEVERS

CONNECTING INDIA WITH NRIs, PIOs & OCIs

INDIAN WOMEN ACHIEVERS SAMMAAN 2017

BAHRAIN

*The beginning of the new year is for us to fulfill new resolutions. Although **NRI ACHIEVERS** had taken the resolution in last year that we will honor these Indian women, who have done remarkable work in their respective fields. We all know that empowerment of women is essential element for a strong society. We also understand this fact as well. The way women in the world have displayed their spirit and talent today's world, it is a matter of pride for all Indians. We are honoring ourselves by honoring these women.*

A universally celebrated artist, a celebrity and a star-performer, Geeta Chandran is synonymous with the Indian classical dance: Bharatanatyam. She began learning Bharatanatyam from the tender age of 5 years under the tutelage of Smt. Swarna Saraswathy, who hailed from the traditional Thanjavoor dasi parampara. Subsequently, Geeta continued learning diverse aspects of the classical dance from a galaxy of eminent Gurus.

Today, even as she completes four decades since her arangetram in 1974, Geeta Chandran has evolved to become a renowned artist who has synthesised the knowledge she received from her stalwart Gurus to imprint Bharatanatyam with her personal vision of the dance. In her dance presentations Geeta Chandran skilfully weaves abstract notions of Joy, Beauty, Values, Aspirations, Myth and Spirituality.

A polymath artist, Geeta Chandran effortlessly catalyses multiple vectors of creativity. She is celebrated not only for her deep and composite understanding of the art of Bharatanatyam, but also for her Carnatic music (she is a trained and accomplished vocalist), her work in television, video and film, theatre, choreography, dance education, dance activism and dance-issue journalism. But all these vectors lead to stillness and a recognition of stirring universes within the self.

An A-Top graded dancer at Doordarshan and at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Geeta is recipient of several prestigious awards including the Lady Shri Ram College Illustrious Alumna Award, the Dandayudhapani Pillai Award, the Bharat Nirman Award, the Natya Ilavarasi, the Indira Priyadarshini Award, the Media India Award, the National Critics Award, the Guru Deba Prasad Das Award, the Sringer Mani and the Natya Ratna.

Founder-President of Natya-Vriksha, an organization devoted to promoting Bharatanatyam, Geeta has evolved a holistic style of teaching the classical dance which engages young learners.



Geeta Chandran

Art & Culture

Geeta Chandran effortlessly catalyses multiple vectors of creativity. She is celebrated not only for her deep and composite understanding of the art of Bharatanatyam, but also for her Carnatic music, television, video and film, theatre, choreography, dance education, dance activism and dance-issue journalism.



Sudha Acharya
Diaspora Services

Sudha has been awarded the Gandhi Community Award, Indo-Caribbean Network Award and the Federation of Indian Associations Award.

Sudha Acharya, the Executive Director of the South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS), has been active in the community from the past thirty-five years. She has held various responsibilities and leadership positions in community based organizations including being President of Federation of Indian Associations of NY, NJ & CT (FIA). She represents All India Women's Conference at the United Nations and has served as the Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

Sudha has been active in the Indian community since early 1970s. Served as President of the Federation of Indian Association of New York in 1983 and organized the India Day Parade. Served as Vice President of the National Federation of Indian American Associations and was the Founding Co-Convener of the First Global Convention of People of Indian Origin and is currently Founding Life Member of GOPIO. Organized many activities for GOPIO including the conference at GOPIO Convention in 1992 in New Delhi and several other conferences in later years. Currently serving as the GOPIO Council Chair for Seniors of Indian Origin.

Sudha serves as the Executive Director of SACSS, after serving as the Founder-President for the first two years. One of the major areas of focus for SACSS is healthcare access and health awareness, senior support, and food security. Sudha has served on city and state level health care coalitions.

Sudha has been awarded the Gandhi Community Award, Indo-Caribbean Network Award and the Federation of Indian Associations Award. She received the Union Square Award for 9/11 relief work at SACSS in 2003, the Pravasi Bharatiya Community Service Award from GOPIO in 2006, the India Abroad Gopal Raju Award for Community Service (2010) and Sri Swami Vivekananda Award for Community Service in 2011. She has Masters Degrees in English Literature and Financial Management.

COVER STORY

India's distinctive sports personality, Padma Shri & Arjuna Award winner, Deepa Malik is paralyzed below chest and has been under treatment for a spinal tumor for the past 17 years. In spite of these hurdles, she has won 23 state and 35 national level medals, as well as 18 international medals; including a SILVER MEDAL at the RIO PARALYMPICS 2016. Deepa has become the first ever Indian Woman to win a medal at the Paralympics. She represented India under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). She is India's first Paraplegic woman swimmer, biker and rally car driver and holds FOUR Limca World Records for adventure sports.

As an appointed Working Group Member of the 5 Year Planning Commission 2012 – 2017, Deepa's inputs have ensured that India's sports policy now includes the provision of equitable sports facilities and rewards for para – sportspersons. Deepa personally assists physically challenged persons to take up sports.

No other woman has achieved so much ever in India till date in SEVERE Disability. DEEPA has only one third of her body parts functional with no bladder and bowl control and no sensation at all below chest level of her body. She is the first paraplegic Indian woman to become a para-sports woman with the highest medal tally ever and Asian records, the first open river water swimmer, first biker and car rallyist. All records created at an age where most of the women retire and in such a disability give up hope. She has been recognized by the Government of India and conferred the 'President's National Role Model Award 2014' as well as 'Women Transforming India 2016 Award (NITI Aayog & United Nations India).



Deepa Malik
Sports

She is the first paraplegic Indian woman to become a para-sports woman with the highest medal tally ever and Asian records, the first open river water swimmer, first biker and car rallyist.



Dr Vibha Dhawan
Science & Technology

Dr Dhawan has more than 60 publications including six books to her credit and holds both a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Delhi.

Dr Vibha Dhawan is responsible for planning and coordination and leads the research for algal biotechnology. She has been with TERI since 1985. For almost three decades, she has been actively involved in tree tissue culture and has developed the technique of in-vitro nodulation for the leguminous tree and has been instrumental in setting up of the modern tissue culture laboratory at the institute.

Dr Dhawan plays an active role in policy development both at the state and national levels and is a task force member for a number of committees of the Department of Biotechnology including those reviewing applications for accreditation of tissue culture laboratories; projects for rural development and climate change and the selection panels of DBT, CSIR, DRDO, etc.

Apart from being an executive council member of five prestigious universities; she is also Advisor, Bioresources & Biotechnology to the Chief Minister of Assam. Furthermore, she is the co-ordinator of DNA (Department of Biotechnology's Natural Resource Awareness Program Club), where TERI has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of a project to work with 651 schools in all the seven Northeastern states of India. She is also the Principal Investigator of a project, "Pilot Scale Demonstration of Algal oil Production" under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology (Government of India).

Dr Dhawan is also associated with Michigan State University and since 2004 has been offering a distance-learning programme on food laws in India. In addition, she is the Adjunct Professor & Consul General (Regional Coordinator) under the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) South Asia Partnership. Furthermore, she has been selected as a Member of the Independent Science & Partnership Council of Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and is also a Non-Executive Director of CABI Board (CABI, an organization dedicated to International agriculture).

She has a number of awards to her credit including, AIBA award in the category of Individual Scientist for the year 1998; Kamal Kumari Foundation award for Science and Technology for the year 1998; First Biotech Product & Process Development and Commercialization Award of the Department of Biotechnology for the year 2000.

Shraddha Agrawal is a businesswoman, she has not only given a new status to the jewellery business in the Indian market but also in the global market. At the moment She is director of Chhhchharia Engg Pvt Ltd. (Brand-Safetech Cranes and Safetech PEB). Apart from this she is associated with HiTech Engineers (Manufacturers of Dumpers, Trailors, Bulklers) and ViruPaksha Plastics Pvt. Ltd. She also laid the foundation of diamond jewellery company Tiara Jewels in 2012. Her schooling was from Kolkata, later she got Diploma in Fashion Research, Marketing and Design from London. She has achieved higher education in Multimedia with Gemology, Foreign Trade Practices too. In a short span of time, Tiara Jewels has become a great brand of jewellery. It reflects her managerial ability.

Presently heading ASSOCHAM Eastern India as the Co-Chairperson of ASSOCHAM Bengal and North East India and Country Chairperson Gems and Jewellery at Women Economic Forum, All Ladies League, she has Conducted events for YFLO Kolkata in interaction with Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Mr Subhash Ghai, Mr Rajat Sharma, Mr Derek O'Brien, Mr Madhur Bhandarkar, Ms Konkona Sen to name a few. she has also organised panel discussions on pertinent women's issues with panelists such as Shazia Ilmi, Madhur Bhandarkar, Mr. Sunil Kanoria (SREI), Mr Kishore Bhimani, Mr. Sanjay Jhunjhunwala and Mr. Sundeeep Bhutoria championing and conducting the first of its kind initiative- ASSOCHAM Naari Shakti.



Shraddha Agrawal
Jewelry

She has achieved higher education in Multimedia with Gemology, Foreign Trade Practices too. In a short span of time, Tiara Jewels has become a great brand of jewellery. It reflects their managerial ability.



Parull Mahaajan
Philanthropy

Parull has been honoured with several Awards for Excellence in the field of Eco-friendly and Sustainable Interior Designs as well as her Social Service to the Society.

Parull Mahaajan is an Inspiring Lady who wears many hats at the same time. A Lawyer, Interior Designer specialising in green and sustainable designs, Advisor, Delhi Literature Festival and Social Activist working for multiple causes like Environment Conservation, Swachh Bharat, Women Empowerment and Promoting the interests of Weavers, Artisans and Farmers. Parull is also the Advisor in Bharat Niti.

Parull was born to Sh M.K. Mahajan, an I.A.S officer from the Haryana Cadre and Krishna Mahajan a social worker. She is married to Amit Katoch, an I.R.S officer currently serving as Joint Commissioner Income Tax in Delhi.

Parull has been honoured with several Awards for Excellence in the field of Eco-friendly and Sustainable Interior Designs as well as her Social Service to the Society. Her articles keep featuring in many newspapers and magazines and she features on many television shows. To sum up she is not just a lady but an Institution in herself.

A well-read scholar and accomplished diplomat, an artiste and a good singer, a dedicated social worker and a philanthropist, Arathi Krishna is a multifaceted personality who came into this world in interesting times – born at the right time in the right place to the right family, which incidentally has a strong political background. Presently, she is the Deputy Chairperson of NRI Forum, Karnataka.

Now in the prime of her life, She has gone through an eventful girlhood, youth, married with children, and served as a key personality interfacing with the Indian-American community and its life in the US. Apart from a higher education from one of the premier US universities, a natural tendency for diplomacy and tact inbred through political exposure right from a young age has made her successful in whatever she endeavours to do. Arathi Krishna was born on May 2, 1968 at Udupi, to Begane Ramiah – a congressman.

who harked from a village called Begane near Sringeri in the Chikmagalore district of Karnataka; and Seetha, so aptly named to be a companion to Rama – who hailed from village Kadthur in the Shimoga district of the same state. As is the case still today in Southern India, both bride and groom though distantly related, had never met prior to their wedding in 1967, when Ramiah was still in the final year of Law College. Seetha in time turned out to be the proverbial woman behind a man destined for success – advising him on all matters from the domestic to the intricacy of politics. Staying in the background, she backed her husband to the hilt from the time he started his law practice to the time he chose to enter politics, and was his unwavering aide in his efforts to lettering up the political pyramid to rise steadily and become a cabinet minister. In this process, Ramiah made a name for himself as a highly respected vokkaliga leader.



Arathi Krishna
Public Service

Arathi is a multi-faceted personality who came into this world in interesting times - born at the right time in the right place to the right family, which incidentally has a strong political background.



Milee Ashwarya

Publication

Her focus has been on championing the best Indian voices while publishing a range of bestsellers across the segments.

Milee Ashwarya is the Editor in Chief for Commercial and Business books and the Backlist Publisher at Penguin Random.

In more than a decade long career in publishing, she has been responsible for establishing and spearheading the local publishing list first at Random House India and now at Penguin Random House India, discovering new trends and exploring new genres.

She graduated in English Literature from Hindu College and completed her Masters in English from Delhi University. Her focus has been on championing the best Indian voices while publishing a range of bestsellers across segments. Her authors include Piyush Pandey, Hussain S. Zaidi, Yuvraj Singh, R. Gopalakrishnan, Karan Johar, Ravi Subramaniam, Twinkle Khanna, Navi Radjou, Shilpa Shetty, Novoneel Chakraborty, Amjad Ali Khan, Suhel Seth, Shradha Sharma, Emraan Hashmi, L K Advani, Sonali Bendre, Radhakrishnan Pillai and Payal Gidwani Tiwari to name a few. A TEDx speaker, she is passionate about issues related to working women and children.

Shabnam Modgil is a leader with many talents and an experienced orator.

Not only is she the Chief Marketing Officer of FunAsiA, but also the weekday morning prime time show host on FunAsiA Radio 104.9 FM that can also be heard worldwide through the Funasia app or online at www.funasia.net every weekday morning from 7-10 a.m. CST.

FunAsiA is a multi-media company that owns and operates a radio network of 24 X 7 AM and FM stations, publishes a monthly magazine called FunAsiA Desipages of which Shabnam is the Editor for the last 15 years. In addition to owning Bollywood Movie Theaters all over Texas, FunAsiA also owns Banquet Halls and Auditoriums for movies, concerts, exhibitions and other events. She has organized and conducted Beauty Pageants and Singing Competitions, etc. When there is a South Asian happening, FunAsiA is always at the forefront, and Shabnam Modgil is at the helm of these events, organizing and emceeing up on the stage.

Currently she is the President of the Board of the United Nations Association in Dallas, and is passionate about the 17 SDGs or Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, and was selected Woman of the Year by the United Nations Association in 2012.

As Past President of the Dallas Indian Lions Club, she has followed the motto of the Lions Club International Foundation – “We Serve” helping out wherever she possibly can, and was awarded the Melvin Jones Award by Lions Club International Foundation and was also selected Lion of the Year.

She has lead the largest Asian American Chamber in North America as the Chair of The Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce concentrating on the theme of women empowerment as well as a representation of 25 Asian communities.

She has served on the Board of Visit Dallas, the Dallas Convention and Visitors' Bureau for 3 years as her services towards making Dallas an international city. The City of Dallas bestowed on her the Award for Women in Heels.



Shabnam Modgil

Media

She has followed the motto of the Lions Club International Foundation – “We Serve” helping out wherever she possibly can, and was awarded the Melvin Jones Award by Lions Club International Foundation and was also selected Lion of the Year.



Kanika Dewan
Infrastructure

Journalists have lauded her for designing and building all stone works and finishes at some of the world's largest airports including the New Delhi International Airport T3 and Mumbai International Airport.

Kanika Dewan, Born an Indian, who was raised in the Middle East, educated in England and the United States, Dewan has the ideal exposure to address the sensitivities required to counter the hindrances towards achieving a utopian society, through incorporating SDG's in an increasingly polarized world.

Kanika Dewan has not only been awarded several Entrepreneur Of The Year accolades on an international level, she was recognized as one of the top 40 Global Leaders by The Wharton School of Business . In addition she has also earned a place in the 'Guinness Book of World Records'.

She has recently been selected as a Young Global Leader (YGL) for the World Economic Forum. In her role as YGL, she has made further development towards her goal to reduce corruption on a global level. Through the World Economic Forum, she has been exposed to inimitable leadership journeys in Japan, Argentina and Jordan, where she has publicly presented her social impact initiatives amongst other recognized global leaders. Her recent speech at the World Economic Forum in Jordan, about her new initiative: a unique indicator of economic progress, has been recognized by the UN as well as associations of the World Bank.

Journalists have lauded her for designing and building all stone works and finishes at some of the world's largest airports including the New Delhi International Airport T3 and Mumbai International Airport.

As Chairperson of Ka Design Atelier, Kanika Dewan's design acumen extends to art work in stone designed for the world's largest luxury yacht for the King of Oman where she innovated a proprietary light weight stone system.

Kanika's mission of "life improvement" has led her to design a one of a kind, environmentally friendly stone paneling system for the 7 star, Leela Palace in Delhi. Her contribution to the world of design is further expanding to define a milieu of art, technology, ecology and education in museums spaces within airports in order to communicate a unified message to empower a divergent society.

In a world where multicultural has become a norm, it is inconceivable for the younger generation of Indians living abroad to even contemplate a situation where the society would consciously and actively put hurdles to integration of the Indian community into the socio-cultural mainstream.

They would be even more surprised to learn that it has taken concerted and sustained efforts on part of a dedicated group of individuals in the diaspora to consistently chip away at the prejudices to help create a more accepting social environment.

Molly Banerjei is among those women who have dedicated their life to creating a better, more wholesome environment in Canada, her adopted country – her karma bhoomi – to aide in understanding of the Indo-Canadian community. She has done this by being a social activist for over two decades and perhaps more pertinently, as being the queen of Canada's diversity television during the last decade.

Her chat show 'Chai with Molly' has been on Canada's television networks in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec for the last seven years, and has proven to be a major catalyst for change. It celebrates the diversity of Canada with a commitment to respect and appreciate the variety of personalities and characteristics that make people distinct.

The show seeks to create an environment that encourages and honors individual and collaborative achievement, weaving a tapestry of multiculturalism in the process that defines the identity of Canadians and makes them admired among all other nations. The growing popularity of the show has ensured that it will soon have a pan-Canada reach from coast-to-coast.

Her mission is to promote the unique brand of 'Canadian Multiculturalism' through 'Chai with Molly' show which is carefully crafted to celebrate Canadian inclusive diversity based on trust and mutual respect. Her most remarkable achievement has been to 'link' people from all ethnicities and backgrounds together as Canadians.



Molly Banerjei
Cultural Diversity

Her mission is to promote the unique brand of 'Canadian Multiculturalism' through Chai with Molly show which is carefully crafted to celebrate Canadian inclusive diversity based on trust and mutual respect.



Roshni Hassan

Beauty

She is Bharat Nirman (Make in India) 2017 awardee. She was invited to judge prestigious events like the Eastern Fashion Legacy (Guwahati audition), the biggest fashion show that takes place at Hyatt in Kolkata every year.

Roshni Hassan, is a Businesswoman, a Writer, and a Social Activist. She won the Mrs India Earth (2nd runners up) and represented India in Mrs United Nations pageant 2017 at Jamaica, Kingston. She is now the title winner of the pageant, she is Mrs United Nations 2017 and also people's choice ambassador. She has been awarded and felicitated at many events.

She is the Brand Ambassador of Pushpak Group (North East) and Clothing brand Samyukta for Canada, Iran and India. She is also the brand ambassador for Para Sports Foundation, India.

Apart from these, She is Bharat Nirman (Make in India) 2017 awardee. She was invited to judge prestigious events like the Eastern Fashion Legacy (Guwahati audition), the biggest fashion show that takes place at Hyatt in Kolkata every year, Dy 365 (news channel) calendar girl/boy hunt, Miss India North East, Oriflammes face of North East, Tender petals preschool completion and many more.

She has also walked as a showstopper for fbb, Big Bazaar and many other prestigious designers of North east. She was invited as a guest of honor at INIFD 20 yrs of Alumni meet in Siliguri along with celebrity designers. She has been actively involved with numerous social activities and her new book is likely to be amongst the readers soon.

COVER STORY

Shivani Malik, hails from a background with rich international exposure and diverse experiences. With a keen eye to detail and precision, Shivani entered the business back in 2007 when Da Milano had only two stores. Soon she took up the challenge of expanding the brand across horizons and successfully managed to achieve unprecedented success.

Reckoned as a fast moving bridge-to-luxury brand, Da Milano today has over 65 stores and eyes for augmenting its customer reach by marking global footprints at important locales and capitals internationally. A trendsetter in many ways, Da Milano's innovative and discreet fashion aesthetics has won many fans over the years.

With an educational career dotted in the international cityscapes, Malik having won many laurels, is an Economics honors graduate from the prestigious University of Delhi and further procured a specialization in Economics and Finance from Warwick Business School, United Kingdom.

A 'go to' woman for all things luxe, Shivani's passion and flair in marketing and communication constantly spurs her to come up with fresh perspectives and new ideas to keep up with current trends and appease the discerning clientele with guaranteed access to the best collections, every fashion season. Her creativity and conviction contributes in creating Da Milano as a distinguished brand and reinventing the very notion of affordable luxury in India. Staying abreast with time, Shivani is responsible for brand's global acclaim in the Gulf and with a compelling vision of making Da Milano a global brand, she believes Da Milano will give competing brands a run for their money.



Shivani Malik
Entrepreneurship

Shivani is responsible for brand's global acclaim in the Gulf and with a compelling vision of making Da Milano a global brand, she believes Da Milano will give competing brands a run for their money.



Smita Srivastava
Rural Activist

Smita is India's one of the Make in India activists who is working harder to connect the pulse of the market with weaver's aesthetics skills.

Hailing from the land of Banarasi fabric, Smita, as a fashion graduate knows textile and its texture like back of her hand. As the CEO of Confluence, Smita's eyes are set on the Make in India principle. Smita is India's one of the Make in India activists who is working harder to connect the pulse of the market with weaver's aesthetics skills. She has been awarded with the Make In India award in 2017 for her extensive dedication towards creating a platform for the artisans. As the pinnacle of female achievement, Smita's urge to revive heritage loom and handloom has turned impoverished artisans into expert seamstress. 

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Dr. Thomas Abraham

Founder President & Chairman, GOPIO

When PIOs were only a handful in the United States and had fewer cultural, religious and linguistic groups, Dr. Thomas Abraham, dreamt of uniting them all under one group. He founded the Federation of Indian Association (FIA) of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut (1977). After seeing its grand success, he dreamt of bringing the numerous FIAs from around the nation, under the National Federation of Indian-American Associations (NFIA) in 1980.

Dr. Abraham's public service and Indian community involvement started in 1974 at Columbia University where he mobilized the Indian student group under India Club of Columbia University. He became the Chairman of the Joint Committee of India Organizations in 1976 which he transformed as the Federation of Indian Association (FIA) of New York.

FIA organizes the largest India Day parade outside India. Dr. Abraham has organized large community meetings, honoring former Prime Ministers, Morarji Desai, Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

GOPIO

GOPIO (Global Organization of People of Indian Origin) who is organizing 'Biennial Convention 2018 in Bahrain from January 6 to 8, 2018, is a non-partisan, secular global organization engaged in promoting the well being of People of Indian Origin, enhancing cooperation and communication between Indians living in different countries.

GICC, a non-geographical chapter of GOPIO International aims to create worldwide networking opportunity for people of Indian origin in business and professional services. As there are over 3 million businesses owned by People of Indian Origin around the world within the Indian Diaspora of 30 million. GICC encourage and promote increasing levels of business investments by and among NRI/PIOs in various parts of the world.

GICC reaches out and set up chapters in neighborhoods with large number of Indian owned businesses and services. It is also launching chapters in small towns, cities, states/provinces and countries. Hopefully GICC will emerge as the most networked Indian Diaspora business group. Unlike other chambers, GICC's biggest advantage and benefit to its members and chapters will be is that it's the most globally networked Indian Diaspora business group.



Niraj P. Baxi

President, GOPIO

Sunny Kulathakal

Global Ambassador, GOPIO



Bangalore-based NRI Sunny Kulathakal has a knack and penchant for treading roads less taken. A self-made man, who is becoming the President of GOPIO, is always keen to explore new realms, one who can spot an opportunity ahead of others and work tirelessly to achieve goals. That is Sunny who had set an amazing record in networking in an era sans computers. An organizer extraordinaire, writer, journalist and social activist, he immensely values the trait of reaching out to people and zealously preserving the links. His friendships span continents and races. This amazing capacity to win friends has drawn him to the Diaspora making him a familiar face at international gatherings of people of Indian origin. The disarming smile that can floor anyone is Sunny's unique trait. What has drawn many to Sunny is his enviable trait to build friendships and nurture it even under adverse circumstances. The trait of retaining friendships for decades is difficult to emulate. Over the years he has amassed a string of amazing enduring contacts that range from neighborhood shopkeepers to national and international figures.

Baxi is a third generation insurance and financial industry professional. He is a highly acclaimed speaker at diverse forums with a background in Insurance and Finance. Baxi has taught and been a speaker at various professional forums in the US, India, Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore for over 25 years. Niraj Baxi has been contributing to the founding and growth of many civic, communities, political and business associations in the US, India and around the world. He was the only overseas national to be invited before the Malhotra Committee (looking at privatization of insurance) in 1994. He recommended privatization, as it will serve the consumer with greater choices of products and services, while streamlining company operations.

He has served on the Advisory Board at the American College and served on the Board of the National Association of Insurance & Financial Association (NAIFA), Silicon Valley. He is a winner of several insurance industry awards in addition to being recognized as Court of the Table, 25+ years Qualifying & Life Member of The Million Dollar Round Table. He served as Area 1 Chairman of the MDRT's MCC. Baxi is considered to be an industry leader and resource in helping financial professionals transition from being salespeople to being trusted advisors.



H.R. Shah
Board of Advisors, GOPIO

India is privileged to have a number of selfless individuals who have made extraordinary contributions for the cause of humanity. One such individual is the well-known entrepreneur, philanthropist and community leader, H.R. Shah, the Chairman & CEO of TV Asia, a coast-to-coast broadcaster.

Shah's association with the diaspora runs deep. He is a founding member of GOPIO as well as Past President and Trustee of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA). It is a measure of his standing in the US that he is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Ellis Island-National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO). The charismatic Shah has endeared himself as a close friend of the Indian community throughout the US, by serving the community for over 30 years. He has generously donated his time, energy and resources and is a pillar of the community, always supporting various social works, cultural, educational and related activities in the US and in India. As the Chairman and Trustee of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (USA), the world famous institute of Indian culture, education, music and the arts, he has worked for the upliftment in lifestyle of Indians via education. Shah actively supports the Queens Child Guidance Center of New York, a group that has helped numerous children of all ethnic groups receive better healthcare and lead a better quality of life in the US.

COVER STORY



NITIN SHAH, CEO
Embassy National Bank

Nitin Shah has the unique distinction of simultaneously being a successful banker and a successful hotelier. He serves as chairman and CEO of Embassy National Bank, an Atlanta-based community bank that he helped establish in 2007 which is a leading lender to small businesses in the southeastern US. He is also the president of Imperial Investments Group Inc., a Georgia-based hospitality company that he founded in 1984 whose assets include numerous hotels plus a variety of commercial real estate properties. In 1989, he was among the founders of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association – (AAHOA). As chairman of AAHOA in 1993, he is credited with increasing awareness of the then fledgling group by tirelessly traveling across the country to drum up membership and revenue for the association. Currently, AAHOA has more than 15,000 members and is among the most influential, most respected groups in the hospitality industry. Nitin continues to be actively involved in the leadership of AAHOA.


Issac John, a prominent economic and financial commentator, is one of the well-connected and widely respected journalists in Middle East's mainstream media. At present, Issac is the Associate Business Editor of Khaleej Times. He has been with the paper for more than 22 years, and written tens of thousands of in-depth news and analytical reports.

A veteran of many a breaking news stories and invigorating analytical articles, Issac has been in the UAE's mainstream journalism for 34 years -9 years with Gulf News, two years with Emirates News, one year with UAE Digest, and 22 years with Khaleej Times. Acclaimed for his authentic and insightful analysis of global and regional business and economic aspects, issues and trends, Issac is respected for his astute understanding of the local business scene and its prospects.

Issac has won over two dozen international, regional and national awards for his journalistic contributions. He has also made his mark in the Gulf social and media circles with his exemplary interpersonal skills, proactive initiatives and contributions in diverse fields — social, humanitarian, cultural, arts, literature, and business.



ISSAC JOHN
Int'l Coordinator,
The Middle East, GOPIO

Prakash Shah has more than 45 years of experience in the areas of mortgage banking, international investment banking, venture capital, financial management, computer systems and management sciences. Shah is Chairman and Chief Executive of First Growth Mortgage and Realty Group, LLC. He is also Chairman of First Growth Realty, Inc., a commercial real estate brokerage company. He is also former chairman of First Growth-Commonwealth Title Agency, LLC. Mr. Shah was nominated by Governor Florio, and unanimously confirmed by the New Jersey Senate, as one of the six-member Board of Directors of New Jersey Development Authority (NJDA). Subsequently, Governor Whitman approved his election as chairman of NJDA making him the first Asian Indian to be elected chairman of a state agency in New Jersey. He served the NJDA for six years until 1998. Prior to founding First Growth, a financial company, Shah was concurrently Managing Director of Asian Oceanic Group (a merchant banking group based in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore), Executive Director of Asian Oceanic Securities, Inc., and a General Partner of Bliss & Co. 



PRAKASH A. SHAH
Co-Chairperson
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15 YEARS

JOURNEY OF NRI ACHIEVERS

In 2012, NRI Achievers was conceptualised to bring the NRIs more closer as a community; to be heard and implemented & also to bridge the gap between India & Indian Diaspora. Taking the pulse of international migrants trends, United Nations survey states that Indian diaspora population on across the globe is the largest.

People of Indian origin living in countries across the globe have enriched their adopted countries in diverse fields. They have carved their niche in public life, economics, industry, business and trade, music and film, medicine, science, space and technology, academics and the culinary arts et al. Their contributions have earned them both recognition and respect. The communications revolution, the Internet, Facebook, Twitter have enabled instant communications, making it possible for Non-resident Indians and People of Indian Origin to follow closely India's economic growth story. In 2012, NRI Achievers magazine was started with fervour to keep their bonds with motherland strong.

The mission and vision is aligned with the new generations of people of Indian origin who come of age in different countries. The demographics in India too change with a far more globally aware young population coming to the forefront in different fields. Indian Diaspora might have taken on the nationality and citizenship of the countries that they are living in. Many of them have returned to use their knowledge and skills for strengthening India's developmental process. As it is imperative that the connections between India and its Diaspora needs to be deepened and new bonds renewed.

During its journey of around five years, the magazine has been ably providing opinion focusing on what the diaspora need.

Indians viewed their countrymen who emigrated abroad for better opportunities with suspicion on lines that if they had betrayed the motherland. But now with people of Indian origin scattered across the globe, attitudes





about the Indian diaspora are changing dramatically.

The idea behind NRI Achievers crux is to highlight the effort to harness the energy and assets of Indian communities around the world. The magazine aims at turning every Indian abroad into an ambassador of India. Indians living abroad visit India every year to boost ties. A lot has been discussed and written on behalf of the Indian Diaspora for their concerns which goes beyond books, culture and films.

Rajeev Gupta, who is the founder & Editor of the magazine, states that our magazine aims at changing the contours of diplomacy and looking at new ways of strengthening India's interests abroad. We are the mouthpiece with a long-term goal behind the diaspora development. We prefer to reach out to larger numbers cutting across age, occupation and income. 7

Author: **Priya Giri**



His flexible and lucid writing style has garnered audiences among both the laity and the intelligentsia. Key to this success is rajeev's ear-to-the-ground perspective of pegging his news features, communication abilities and the ease with which he is capable of handling scalable workloads and meeting deadlines.

My Philosophy is... “FIND A WAY OR MAKE A WAY”

With more than 25 years of hands-on experience in print journalism and electronic media, Rajeev Gupta has held key positions in some of India's leading media houses. Also ably conversant and proficient with the creation of content, it's moderation and packaging for audio-visual broadcast, he has been an asset to the television channels and e-media groups he has been associated with. With some 200 odd broadcast programmes under his belt, he has dealt with different issues such as sustainable develop-

ment, gender equality, political analysis, rural growth, agriculture et al., not to mention music, which remains one of his passion to this date.

On the managerial, administrative and business development fronts, Rajeev has a keen fine-honed skill-set in domains like advertising planning, strategy-building and policy planning. One of his core-competencies worth mention is his uncanny ability to get people of diverse thoughts and worldviews together to build special-interest groups, and networking them for common causes both philan-

thropic and commercial.

As a working journalist, he has to his credit many thousands of incisive stories, features and op-ed pieces that have found place in leading dailies and periodicals of the country. His flexible and lucid writing style has garnered audiences among both the laity and the intelligentsia. Key to this success is rajeev's ear-to-the-ground perspective of pegging his news features, communication abilities and the ease with which he is capable of handling scalable workloads and meeting deadlines.

Drawing freely from his rich experience in media amassed over two decades plus of direct involvement





in the domain of national journalism, he along with some of his close friends in the profession started an international monthly in year 2012, that goes by the name of NRI Achievers. With a vision to connect our overseas natives to their motherland, bridging the gap and disconnect that exists between India and its Diaspora was and remains the key mandate of the magazine. With this media platform that comes out both as a print edition and also has an electronic avatar, Rajeev Gupta has attracted the attention and appreciation of many in the fraternity, the media business and the globe-sprawling NRI-PIO-OCI

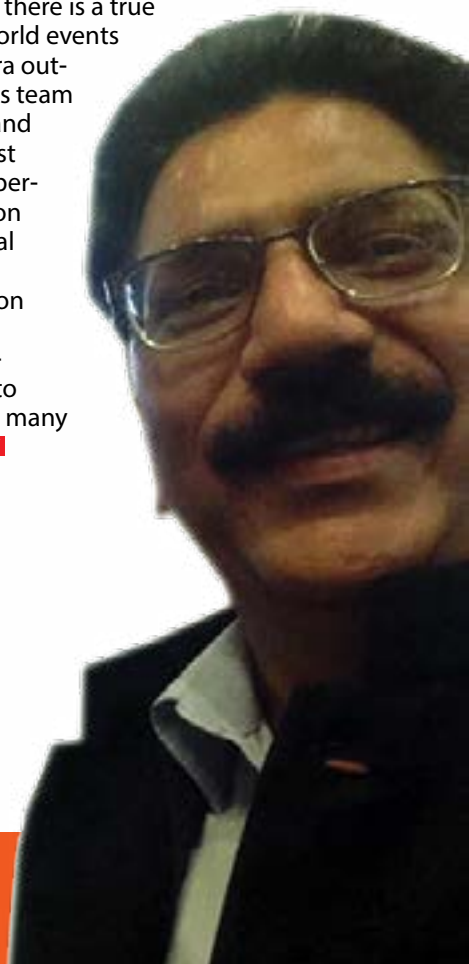
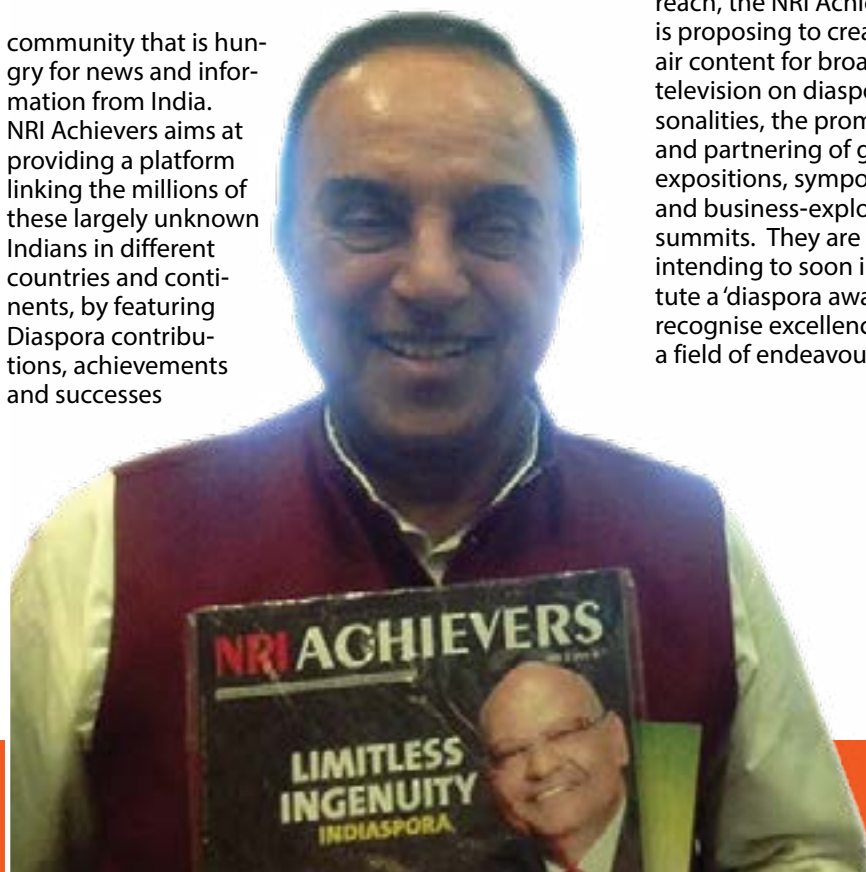
and circulating it globally to pivotal institutions and academia that are nodal points for the type of target audience it is designed for.

By attracting attention of NRIs/PIOs/OCIs, SLM Media Solutions, the publisher of the magazine, has developed strong and personalized relations with many who constitute the 'who's who' of our Diaspora communities worldwide – a resource that may well be harnessed for initializing truly global business opportunities for our states and the broader sectors of our national economy.

Within the brief period of time this publication has been on the scene, it has succeeded in attracting the attention and appreciation of the fraternity and the industry, by its popularity in the NRI-PIO community, and becoming one of the de-facto links between India's Diaspora and the homeland.

Rajeev and his team are today hard at work in crafting some pathbreaking projects that are diaspora focussed. In response to the not infrequently expressed opinion that there is a true need for regular real-world events as part of India-Diaspora outreach, the NRI Achievers team is proposing to create and air content for broadcast television on diaspora personalities, the promotion and partnering of global expositions, symposia and business-exploration summits. They are also intending to soon institute a 'diaspora award' to recognise excellence in many a field of endeavour. 

community that is hungry for news and information from India. NRI Achievers aims at providing a platform linking the millions of these largely unknown Indians in different countries and continents, by featuring Diaspora contributions, achievements and successes







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SUNIL HALI

Media ka **Big Boss**

Sunil has recently undertaken to expand Indian Life & Times, a premium magazine in English language, and INDI-ALife.us, a News and Infotainment portal in the USA.

Sunil believes in “Frontline” leadership and brings an in-depth knowledge of South Asian community and media in the USA, professional management and an innovative vision to all the ventures involving him.

Sunil Hali is a leading torch bearer of India in the USA and Canada since 1992. With an unmatched understanding and goodwill within Indian diaspora, Sunil was featured in “Jewels of India, 2013” and “Roshni Media, 2014”. As head of Maya Consulting Group, Sunil has emerged as a pioneer in South Asian media, marketing and management in North America in last two decades.

A double gold medalist engineering graduate from IIT Roorkee, Sunil is the first Indian to be featured on the cover of The New York Times in 1995, in its Metro Section, for his maiden venture in media and entertainment as a Producer of Mausam - Seasons, a 52 part Indo-American soap opera. The New York Times, once again, favorably reviewed his second project as a Producer-The Music Festival of INDIA, the largest South Asian event ever held in the US to celebrate India's 50th anniversary of Independence in 1997. With a corporate strategy to build a vertically integrated Indian media powerhouse for creation and distribution of premium quality content targeting Indian diaspora, in June 2000, Sunil launched, as a Publisher, The North American edition of The Indian Express through a Franchise Agreement. The publication became 1st Indian news media to be launched in the US. It has grown all across the North American continent, with multiple editions from East and West Coast as well as from Canada.

Sunil's Joint Venture with DIVYA BHASKAR, the leading Gujarati newspaper from Bhaskar Group of India, for a North American edition in 2004 has also become a great success. Two separate editions are published from USA & Canada to serve the largest Indian community segment with a premium Gujarati language

weekly newspaper.


He has also been a guiding force behind Radio Zindagi since its launch from California in 2012. Radio Zindagi is the first South Asian 24x7 radio network in the US that now caters to 400,000 South Asians in USA.

Sunil launched Global Punjab TV, the Punjabi language TV channel in 2013 and is now all set to promote three more Indian TV Channels in the USA.

Sunil has recently undertaken to expand Indian Life & Times, a premium magazine in English language, and INDIALife.us, a News and Infotainment portal in the USA. The portal helps in connecting with India and Indians around the world and delivers global news from India and news about Indian diaspora in North America.

Sunil is also credited with mega events for brand India since 1999. This includes “Building India Excellence Awards” (2016); “Indian American Achiever Awards” (2007); “Zee Gold Bollywood Awards” (2000); “Zee TV Miss India Worldwide” (1999) and “Zee Gold Six Nation Cricket Championship” (2001).

Sunil also produced NREYES, the millennium TV series profiling the most successful NRIs in USA. His other globally acknowledged television programs include, Indo-American soap written by Mrs Sudha Murthy, “Dollar Bahu” (2000-2001), “Hello Global Punjab” with Kanwar Sandhu, on Global Punjab TV (2014 till now), “New York Sikh Day Parade” on PTC Punjabi TV (2011).

Sunil believes in “Frontline” leadership and brings an in-depth knowledge of South Asian community and media in the USA, professional management and an innovative vision to all the ventures involving him. 

NRI Achievers USA Bureau

TOP ROYAL HONOUR FOR INDIAN-ORIGIN SCIENTIST PRATIBHA GAI

Acclaimed York-based scientist Pratibha Laxman Gai has been named for damehood, the female equivalent of a knighthood, leading a number of people of Indian-origin from various walks of life in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2018 released.

Pratibha Gai, professor and acclaimed expert on electron microscopy based at the University of York, grew up in India and won the national science talent scholarship before winning another scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge.

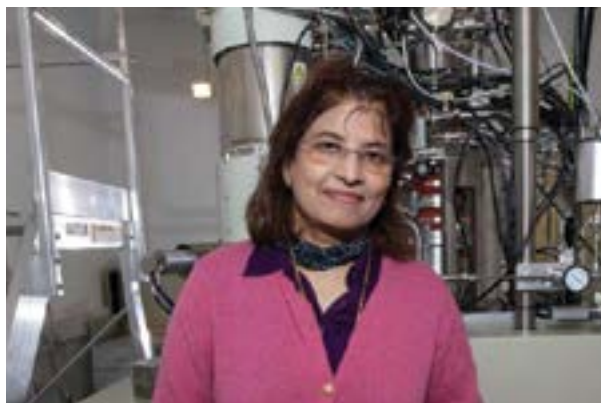
She is the fourth Indian-origin woman conferred with the honour since it was instituted in 1917, following Maharani Lakshmi Devi of Dhar (1931), educationist Asha Khemka (2014) and medicine academic Parveen Kumar (2017).

She has been honoured for "services to chemical sciences and technology", an official release said.

The damehood and other honours will be conferred at the Buckingham Palace by Queen Elizabeth and other members of the royal family at various times in 2018.

Inspired in early life by the renowned physicist-chemist Marie Curie, Gai's patented inventions are in the fields of hydrocarbon catalysis/polymers, energy sources, electronic ceramics, Piezoelectrics and nano-coatings for polymers and food.


She created the atomic-resolution environmental transmission electron microscope and is considered an outspoken advocate for women with careers in science. She has over 300 refereed scientific papers in leading journals and nine co-authored and edited books and journal issues.



Her expertise includes development of novel chemical processes, nanomaterials, reaction mechanisms and novel in-situ environmental electron microscopy in gases and liquids, surface science and catalysis for healthcare, and energy and climate control.

The Queen's New Year's Honours List 2018 includes the names of former deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, novelist Michael Morpurgo, Beatles drummer Ringo Starr and women's cricket captain Heather Knight, whose team beat India in the world cup final.

Other Indian-origin individuals named for the honours include:

Officers of the Order of the British Empire: Jarnail Singh Athwal (for services to business and charity, Datchet, Berkshire); Charanjit Bountra, professor of translational medicine, University of Oxford (for services to translational medical research); Ranjit Lal Dheer (for services to local government and to charity, London); Rilesh Kumar Jadeja (for services to people with disabilities, London); Rohinton Minoo Kalifa (for services to the financial services and technology, London); Paromita Konar-Thakkar (for services to energy analysis, London); Rajan Madhok (for services to renal research and tackling health inequalities in Scotland, Pollockshields, Glasgow); Jaswant Ramewal (for services to defence, London); Naymitkumar Shah (for services to law enforcement and diversity, abroad). 

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क्या अब नई ऊर्जा से लबरेज होगी कांग्रेस?

राहुल गांधी छल और फरेब की राजनीति नहीं करते। वे कहते हैं, मैं गांधी जी की सोच से राजनीति करता हूँ। अगर कोई मुझसे कहे कि आप झूठ बोल कर राजनीति करो, तो मैं यह नहीं कर सकता। मेरे अंदर ये है ही नहीं। इससे मुझे नुकसान भी होता है। मैं झूठे वादे नहीं करता।

एक लम्बे इंतजार के बाद आखिरकार राहुल गांधी कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष बन गए। पिछले काफी अरसे से पार्टी में उन्हें अध्यक्ष बनाए जाने की मांग उठ रही थी। कांग्रेस नेताओं का मानना था कि पार्टी की बागडोर अब राहुल गांधी के सुपुर्द कर देनी चाहिए। अध्यक्ष पद के प्रस्तावित चुनाव के लिए नामांकन की आखिरी तारीख तक राहुल गांधी के खिलाफ किसी ने भी परचा दाखिल नहीं किया था। कांग्रेस नेता मुल्लापल्ली रामचंद्रन ने कहा कि नामांकन के 89 प्रस्ताव दाखिल किए गए थे। सभी वैध पाए गए। सिर्फ एक ही उम्मीदवार मैदान में है, इसलिए मैं भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष पद पर राहुल गांधी के निर्वाचन की घोषणा करता हूँ। कांग्रेस पार्टी के अध्यक्ष पद पर राहुल गांधी निर्विरोध चुन लिए गए हैं। ऐसे में अब कांग्रेसी कार्यकर्ताओं को लगता है कि पार्टी में नई ऊर्जा का संचार होगा और वह अपनी पुरानी स्थिति को फिर से प्राप्त करने में कामयाब होगी। गुजरात चुनाव के नतीजे के बाद वैसे भी कांग्रेस उत्साहित नजर आ रही है।

राहुल गांधी को घूमने-फिरने और खेलकूद का बचपन से ही शौक रहा है। उन्होंने तैराकी, साईलिंग और स्कूबा-डाइविंग की और स्वैश खेला। उन्होंने बाक्सिंग सीखी और पैराग्लाइडिंग का भी प्रशिक्षण लिया। उनके बहुत से शौक उनके पिता राजीव गांधी जैसे ही हैं। अपने पिता के तरह उन्होंने दिल्ली के नजदीक हरियाणा स्थित अरावली की पहाड़ियों पर एक शूटिंग रेंज में निशानेबाजी सीखी। उन्हें भी आसमान में उड़ना उतना ही पसंद है जितना उनके पिता को

पसंद था। उन्होंने भी हवाई जहाज उड़ाना सीखा। वे अपनी सेहत का भी काफी खयाल रखते हैं। कितनी ही मसरूफियत क्यों न हो, वे कसरत के लिए वक्त निकाल ही लेते हैं। वे रोज दस किलोमीटर तक जागिंग करते हैं। वे जापानी मार्शल आर्ट आइकीडो में ब्लैक बेल्ट हैं। एक बार उन्होंने कहा था, 'मैं अभ्यास करता हूँ, दौड़ता हूँ, तैराकी करता हूँ और आइकीडो में ब्लैक बेल्ट भी हूँ।' उन्हें फुटबाल बहुत पसंद है। लंदन में पढ़ने के दौरान वे फुटबाल के दीवाने थे।

राहुल गांधी छल और फरेब की राजनीति नहीं करते। वे कहते हैं, मैं गांधीजी की सोच से राजनीति करता हूँ। अगर कोई मुझसे कहे कि आप झूठ बोल कर राजनीति करो, तो मैं यह नहीं कर सकता। मेरे अंदर ये है ही नहीं। इससे मुझे नुकसान भी होता है। मैं झूठे वादे नहीं करता। वे कहते हैं, 'सत्ता और सच्चाई में फर्क होता है। जरूरी नहीं है, जिसके पास सत्ता है उसके पास सच्चाई है। गुजरात में एक आयोजित एक रैली में उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के मासिक रेडियो कार्यक्रम 'मन की बात' पर तंज करते हुए कहा - अगर कांग्रेस चुनाव जीतती है, तो हमारी सरकार हर किसी के लिए होगी न कि केवल एक व्यक्ति के लिए। अपने 'मन की बात' कहने के बजाय हमारी सरकार आपके मन की बात सुनने का प्रयास करेगी।

बहरहाल, राहुल गांधी के सामने कई चुनौतियां हैं जिनका सामना उन्हें पूरी हिम्मत और कुशलता से करना है। 7



जोड़ियां जो एक फिल्म के बाद बिखर गईं

बॉलीवुड में ऐसी कई जोड़ियां हैं जिन्होंने पहली बार सिल्वर स्क्रीन पर आकर हिट फिल्म दी लेकिन दोबारा फिर वे किसी फिल्म में नजर नहीं आए। ऐसे ही एक स्टार हैं शाहरूख खान जो 1997 में आई 'परदेस' में महिमा के साथ थे। निर्माता-निर्देशक सुभाष घई की इस फिल्म के जरिए महिमा ने फिल्म इंडस्ट्री में कदम रखा था। वह फिल्म सुपर हिट रही। 2005 में समर खान की महिमा चौधरी अभिनीत 'कुछ मीठा हो जाये' में शाहरूख का एक कैमियो अवश्य था लेकिन असल में शाहरूख खान और महिमा चौधरी 'परदेस' के बाद कभी साथ नजर नहीं आए।

2011 में आई रोहित शेट्टी की फिल्म 'सिंघम' में अजय देवगन और काजल अग्रवाल की जोड़ी थी। 2004 में समीर काणिक की 'क्यों हो गया ना' में एक बहुत छोटा किरदार निभाने वाली काजल अग्रवाल की बतौर हीरोइन बॉलीवुड की यह पहली फिल्म थी। बॉक्स ऑफिस पर यह जबर्दस्त हिट रही। अजय देवगन और काजल की जोड़ी को दर्शकों ने काफी पसंद भी किया लेकिन इन छह सालों में अजय देवगन और काजल अग्रवाल अब तक फिर एक साथ नजर नहीं आए।

2004 में 'टारजन: द वंडर कार' के साथ अपना कैरियर शुरू करने वाली आयशा टाकिया की सलमान खान के साथ पहली फिल्म 'वांटेड' (2009) में आई। प्रभु देवा निर्देशित यह फिल्म न केवल बॉक्स ऑफिस पर जबर्दस्त हिट रही बल्कि सलमान और आयशा की जोड़ी को दर्शकों ने खूब पसंद किया लेकिन उसके बाद सलमान और आयशा की जोड़ी सिल्वर स्क्रीन पर नजर नहीं आ सकी।

आमिर खान और असिन की जोड़ी ने 2008 में आई 'गजनी' में जबर्दस्त धूम मचाई थी। इस जोड़ी को दर्शकों ने खूब पसंद किया। साथ के बेहद कामयाब निर्देशक ए आर मुरुगदास निर्देशित 'गजनी' 2009 की सबसे बड़ी हिट रही लेकिन आमिर खान और असिन दोबारा फिर कभी साथ नजर नहीं आये।

आमिर खान और ग्रेसी सिंह की जोड़ी ने आशुतोष गोवारीकर द्वारा निर्देशित 'लगान' (2003) में जबर्दस्त सफलता हासिल की थी। वह फिल्म न सिर्फ क्रिटिक्स द्वारा सराही गई बल्कि बॉक्स ऑफिस पर भी दर्शकों का उसे खूब प्यार मिला। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी फिल्म खूब सराही गई लेकिन आमिर और ग्रेसी सिंह की जोड़ी इस एक फिल्म के अलावा कभी सिल्वर स्क्रीन पर नजर नहीं आ सकी।

राज कुमार हीरानी की 'मुन्नाभाई एमबीबीएस' (2003) में ग्रेसी सिंह ने संजय दत्त के साथ जोड़ी बनाकर सिल्वर स्क्रीन पर जोरदार जादू बिखेरा था। फिल्म हिट होने के बाद लगा था कि संजय और ग्रेसी सिंह

कई फिल्मों में साथ नजर आयेंगे, लेकिन वो फिर कभी साथ नहीं आये।

1989 में आई सूरज बड़जात्या की 'मैंने प्यार किया' साल की सबसे बड़ी हिट थी। इसमें सलमान और भाग्यश्री की जोड़ी थी लेकिन इसके बाद दोबारा किसी फिल्म में नजर नहीं आये। भाग्यश्री आखिरी बार 2006 में 'जननी' में नजर आई थीं।

बॉबी देओल और टिक्कल खन्ना ने 1995 में 'बरसात' में एक साथ काम किया था। राज कुमार संतोषी की इस हिट फिल्म के बाद ये जोड़ी किसी भी फिल्म में नजर नहीं आई। टिक्कल आखिरी बार 'लव के लिए कुछ भी करेगा' (2001) में नजर आई थीं। उसके बाद उन्होंने एक्टिंग छोड़ दी।

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सितारों की दुनिया एक्ट्रेस, जो शादी के बाद फिल्मों से दूर चली गईं

फिल्म इंडस्ट्री में एक कहावत बड़ी मशहूर है कि यहां पर एक बार जिसे एक्टिंग का कीड़ा काट खा ले, वह इससे अलग, इसके बिना नहीं रह सकता। ढेर सारे ऐसे उदाहरण हैं, जिनमें शादी के बाद कुछ एक्ट्रेस वक़्ती तौर पर यह इंडस्ट्री छोड़कर चली गईं लेकिन कुछ ही अरसे बाद फिर लौट आईं। इनमें से कुछ को कामयाबी भी मिली लेकिन ज्यादातर पहले सा जलवा फिर कायम नहीं कर सकीं। लेकिन इसके बावजूद आज के दौर की कुछ एक्ट्रेस ऐसी भी हैं जिन्होंने यदि एक बार फिल्म इंडस्ट्री से नाता तोड़ा तो फिर पलट कर नहीं देखा। 41 साल की हो चुकी ईशा कोप्पीकर एक ऐसी ही एक्ट्रेस हैं। कुछ मराठी फिल्मों के अलावा 'फिजां' (2000), 'प्यार इश्क और मोहब्बत' (2001), 'कंपनी' (2002), 'कांटे' (2002), 'दिल का रिश्ता' (2003), 'डरना मना है' (2003), 'क्या कूल हैं हम' (2005), जैसी फिल्मों में काम कर चुकी ईशा ने 2009 में बिजनेसमैन टिप्पू नारंग के साथ शादी की थी। उसके बाद से अब तक फिल्मों में काम नहीं किया है।

'गजनी' (2008) से करियर की शुरूआत करने के बाद 'लंदन ड्रीम्स' (2009), 'रेडी' (2011), 'हाउसफुल 2' (2012), 'बोल बच्चन' (2012), 'खिलाड़ी 786' (2012), 'ऑल इज वेल' (2015), जैसी फिल्मों में काम करने वाली अस्मिता ने 2016 में माइक्रोमैक्स के को फाउंडर राहुल शर्मा के साथ शादी की। शादी के बाद से अब तक वह भी फिल्मों में नजर नहीं आई हैं।

'पेंटर बाबू' (1983) से करियर शुरू करने वाली मीनाक्षी शेषाद्री ने 'हीरो' (1983), 'मेरी जंग' (1985), 'दिलवाला' (1986), 'डकैट' (1987), 'घर हो तो ऐसा' (1990), 'घायल' (1990), 'दामिनी' (1993), 'घातक' (1996), जैसी फिल्मों के साथ बॉलीवुड में काफी अच्छी पोजीशन हासिल की थी। निर्देशक राज कुमार संतोषी तो उन पर दिलो जान से फिदा थे। मीनाक्षी 1995 में बैंकर हरीश मैसूर के साथ शादी करने के बाद पति के साथ अमेरिका चली गईं और फिर लौटकर नहीं आईं।

मिस इंडिया रह चुकी नम्रता शिरोडकर ने 'मेरे दो अनमोल रतन' (1998) से करियर की शुरूआत करने के बाद 'कच्चे धागे' (1999), 'वास्तव' (1999), 'पुकार' (2000), 'ब्राइड एंड प्रिज्युडिस' (2004), 'अस्तित्व' (2000), 'तेरा मेरा साथ रहे' (2001), जैसी काफी फिल्मों में काम किया। 2005 में उन्होंने साउथ के एक्टर महेश बाबू के साथ शादी की। तब से उन्होंने कोई फिल्म नहीं की है।

शाहरुख खान के साथ 'स्वदेश' (2004) से करियर की शुरूआत करने वाली गायत्री जोशी ने अगले ही साल 2005 में ओबेरॉय कंस्ट्रक्शन

के विवेक ओबेरॉय के साथ शादी करने के साथ फिल्मों से अपना नाता तोड़ लिया और आजकल वह अपने पति के व्यवसाय में उनका हाथ बंटा रही हैं। राजेश खन्ना और डिंपल कपाडिया की बड़ी बेटी टिंवकल खन्ना ने 'बरसात' (1996) में बॉबी देओल के अपोजिट करियर की शुरूआत करने के बाद 'जान' (1996), जब प्यार किसी से होता है' (1998), 'मेला' (2000), 'जोरू का गुलाम' (2000) और 'जोड़ी नंबर 1' (2001) जैसी फिल्मों में काम किया लेकिन वह न तो अपनी मां जितनी खूबसूरत थीं और न ही उन्हें मां जैसी कामयाबी नसीब हुई। 2001 में अक्षय कुमार के साथ शादी करने के बाद वे इंडियन डिजाइनिंग के अलावा फिल्म प्रोडक्शन के साथ जुड़ी हुई हैं।

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सालभर भी नहीं चली सुनिधि की शादी

सुनिधि चौहान के लिए एक जनवरी, 2018 दोहरी खुशियां लेकर आया. नए साल पर वे बेबी बॉय की मां बनीं. यह उनका पहला बच्चा है. उन्होंने मुंबई के सूर्या अस्पताल में शाम 5 बजकर 20 मिनट पर बच्चे को जन्म दिया. सुनिधि का निजी जीवन उतार-चढ़ाव भरा रहा है. उन्होंने सिर्फ 18 साल की उम्र में पहली शादी कर ली थी. मशहूर सिंगर सुनिधि चौहान ने पहली शादी 19 साल की उम्र में 2002 में कोरियोग्राफर और डायरेक्टर बॉबी खान से की थी. बॉबी सुनिधि से 14 साल बड़े थे. दोनों ने मिलकर पहला नशा एलबम लॉन्च की थी. यहीं से इनकी लव स्टोरी शुरू हुई. सुनिधि ने परिवार के खिलाफ जाकर एक सादा समारोह में गोपनीय तरीके से शादी की थी. लेकिन यह शादी एक साल भी नहीं चली. सालभर के भीतर ही दोनों एक दूसरे से अलग हो गये. अब जबकि सुनिधि पहली बार मां बनी है, देखना है कि बॉबी से उनके संबंध फिर पूर्वत होते हैं या नहीं. 



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