



GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

Vol 24 | Fol 09 A Publication of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

GOPIO INTERNATIONAL AND NEW YORK AREA CHAPTERS SERVED AS WELCOME PARTNERS AT THE INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY RECEPTION FOR INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



Indian American community organisations came together to give Prime Minister Narendra Modi a rousing

reception at Nassau County Coliseum on Sunday, September 22nd. Over 13,000 community members joined the program.

GOPIO and its chapters served as welcome partners of this event in New York.

CONTD. ON PGS 3



GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

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

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GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN

20 OCT 2024

**SUBMISSION
DEADLINES**

15 OCT 2024

Email:

ceo@chantex.com.au

Editor's Note



Welcome to our September Issue; this has been quite an eventful month. I travelled overseas for the first time after my major operation and attended the significant PIO Fest in Malaysia. This event was a great opportunity for us to connect with Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh ji, Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the Minister of State for

External Affairs, who was the chief guest at the PIO Fest.

Locally, our chapters have been active and made significant progress in their respective cities. Our chapters have taken an active part in many community events, such as the Queensland Premier's reception for the Indian Community Australian of Indian Heritage war memorial rededication, to name a few. Their efforts have been instrumental in organizing Functions such as Gandhi Jayanti, which will be a GOPIO Event with other organisations supporting it, together with the Indian Consulate Office.

It was good to see GOPIO members in attendance during Narendra Modi's landmark visit to the USA. After concluding his three-day visit to the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for home on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"PM @narendramodi emplanes for New Delhi after concluding a successful and substantial visit to the USA," the ministry wrote on X.

During his trip, he attended the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington on September 21 and addressed thousands of members of the Indian American community in Long Island in September. After concluding his three-day visit to the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for home on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

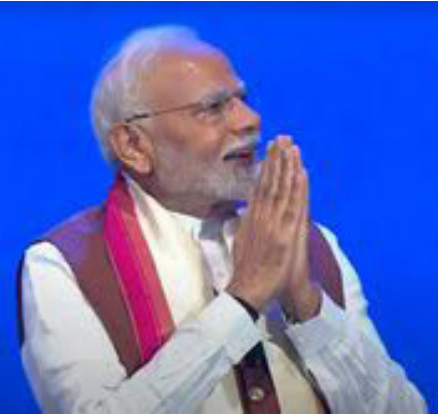
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During his trip, he attended the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington on September 21, addressed thousands of members of the Indian American community in Long Island on September 22, and spoke at the UN's Summit of the Future.

Our women's council has raised concerns about horrendous attacks on women in India; GOPIO Women convened a Zoom meeting on August 25th to address these alarming incidents and discuss actionable solutions. This meeting brought together women leaders, activists, and stakeholders from across the globe, all united by the urgency to combat the rising violence against women in India and to strengthen the voices and safety of women in the country.

GOPIO International actively participated in the AAUC Summit. GOPIO had suggested taking up the legislative issue of legal immigration backlog (Green Card), which has put 1.2 million Indian applicants on the waiting list, which at the current level may take as many as 100 years to get a visa number until and unless the immigration rules are changed to remove the discriminatory rules towards Indian applicants and also the Chinese and Filipino applicants. Two bipartisan bills in Congress

CONTD. ON PGS 7



CONTD. FROM PG 1

"Thank you, New York!": PM Modi after historic address to Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum.

Following his historic address to the Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum in New York, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to the city.

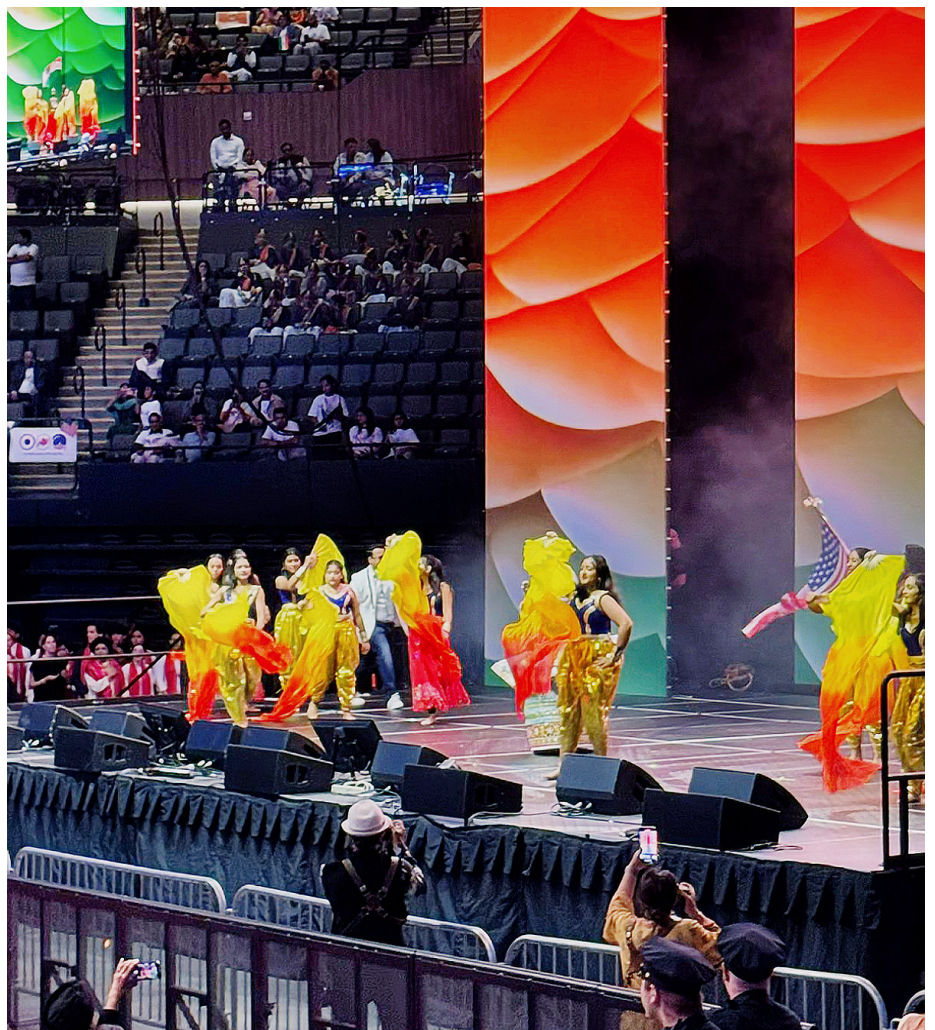


In a post on social media platform X, PM Modi thanked the New York crowd who attended the event and shared glimpses from the memorable community

programme.

"Thank you, New York! These are glimpses from the memorable community programme. I am grateful to all those who joined," he said.

Following his historic address to the Indian diaspora at Nassau Coliseum in New York, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to the city.



GOPIO CO-HOSTS ASIAN AMERICAN UNITY SUMMIT AT THE AT THE US CAPITOL



AAUC delegates at the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Briefing Room with WH officials.

The Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) organized the 2024 National AANHPI Unity Summit from September 19-20, 2024, in Washington D.C. GOPIO International served as a co-host along with eight other local and national Asian American organizations. The summit provided a platform for Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) organizations and leaders to interact and collaborate on issues vital to their communities. The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) is a Founder Member of Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) which takes up and campaign on broad issues of Asian Americans.

In the morning of September 19th, a delegate group of 70 individuals attended a White House Briefing to discuss issues concerning our diverse communities, followed by a White House tour for 100

Summit attendees. In the afternoon, representatives of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI met and listened Asian American community representatives at the Crowne Plaza Hotel which was followed immediately by a youth session discussing racial bias in schools and cross-cultural identities.

The White House Briefing started with a warm welcome by Kristal Ka'ai, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) who spoke on the White House initiatives for Asian and Pacific American Islanders. This was followed by remarks from Special Advisor to Public Engagement Kota Mizutani who spoke on how Asian Americans are engaged with the White House. Mizutani then invited AAUC President Angela Anand and Board Chair Dr. S.K. Lo to speak, who in turn invited representatives of various co-hosting organizations

who spoke on the various Asian American issues such as immigration, need for education initiative, violence against Asians, and discrimination, etc.

All co-hosts presented various Asian American issues at the briefing. In his address at The White House event, GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham highlighted the legal immigration issue on the huge Green Card Backlog. He said that there are two bipartisan Bills in Congress (HR-6543 and S-3269) that could reduce this long waiting period. These bills were included in the AAUC Summit agenda.

Dr. Abraham pointed out that of the 2 million immigrants in the backlog, 1.2 million (62%) are Indians followed by Chinese and Filipinos. GOPIO has taken up this campaign to help the affected people and suggested to the Biden Administration what executive actions they can implement in the short term even before the legislative



White House officials at the briefing and at the Welcome Dinner. From l. to r. WHIAANHPI Executive Director Kristal Ka'ai; Special Advisor for Public Engagement Kota Mizutani; President Biden's Deputy Assistant Erika Moritsugu presenting a message from President Biden at the Welcome Dinner, Front Row from l. to r. Ramya Ramakrishnan of HAF, AAUC President Angela Anand, WH Deputy Assistant Moritsugu, AAUC Board Chair Dr. S.K. Lo, Marsha Golangco of APAPA, AAUC VP Yen Marshal and CEO of My Sister's House, AAUC Treasurer Jan Xie who is also President of ACAESUSA, and AAUC Bylaws/ Board Development Committee Chair Dr. Thomas Chair who is also GOPIO Chairman

measures can solve the problem. The following are the suggestions:

While waiting for legislative action from Congress, Dr. Abraham requested and urged the White House administration to use executive powers and implement these reforms in good faith immediately:

Instruct USCIS to remove the "Compelling Circumstances" clause for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) and Travel Documents (Advance Parole) for approved immigrant petitioners and their dependents who have legally resided in the US for at least ten years.

Instruct USCIS and Department of State to create a Rule that will Lock the age of dependent and non-US born children as on the approval date of the very first immigrant petition (I-140) so that these kids do not have to self-deport.

For EAD and Travel



New York Congresswoman Grace with AAUC officials.

Documents, consider charging premium fees, may be as much as \$5,000 per applicant, which will generate substantial revenue for USCIS to enhance the infrastructure to process these applications.

AAUC and GOPIO have requested and urged the Biden Administration to execute these administrative measures immediately and in good faith.

President Biden's Deputy Assistant Erika Moritsugu presented a message from

President Biden at the Welcome Dinner of the AAUC/GOPIO Summit in Washington, DC.

In his message President Joe Biden wrote, "America has a heart and soul that draw from old and new. We all come from somewhere, but we're all Americans. And since our nation was founded, our spirit has been enriched by the immense contributions and diverse cultures of the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander (AA and

NHPI) communities - and that includes those attending 2024 National Unity Summit. By elevating AA and NHPI voices, encouraging civic engagement and advocating for the issues that matter most to your communities, each one of you demonstrates a commitment to our country that continues to propel our great American experiment ever forward.”

“People like you and events like this are a big part of the reason why I have been never more optimistic about the future of this nation. As you gather for 2024 National Unity Summit, I hope you are filled with pride not only in the remarkable achievements of those around you but also of AA and NHPI people all across America,” President Biden continued.

On September 20th, during several meetings with the Congressional officials, the AAUC advocated for various causes such as racial discrimination, civil rights, hate crime prevention, immigration, and Asian American history education. Delegates from 27 states participated.

The summit marked the launch of the mobile responsive online AAPI Community Hub.

During the Summit at the Capitol on September 20th, the AAUC presented its resolution on the Alien Land Laws. Additionally, the AAUC also highlighted the power of the online AAPI Community Hub.

At the Summit at the Capitol, one of the affected Indians in the immigration backlog, Mr. Sathyanarayan Krishnamurthy highlighted the challenges faced by immigrants and their family members who are stuck in the



Ohio Congressman Brad Wenstrup with AAUC officials and delegates from Suffolk County Police Department Asian Jade Society. Rep. Wenstrup and Asian Jade Society Vice President Thomas Joy served together at the Iraq war.



AAUC/GOPIO delegation presenting award to New Jersey Rep. Andy Kim

Employment-Based Green Card backlog, despite having lawfully resided in the USA for decades. Despite having been approved for a Green Card long ago, the discriminatory 7% per-country cap in current version of INA is preventing many of them from obtaining one. Unfortunately, due to their birth in large populous countries like India, some may never receive their Green Cards in their lifetime.

Krishnamurthy also emphasized the plight of half a million children who face the risk of aging out and potentially self-deporting to unfamiliar countries. These children arrived in the USA as

dependents of legal immigrant parents from India and other Asian countries when they were infants or toddlers

Furthermore, Krishnamurthy advocated for bipartisan support for the Common Sense Bill (HR6542, the Immigration Visa Efficiency and Security Act) and its Senate counterpart (S3291 - Eagle Act). These bills aim to gradually eliminate discriminatory and arbitrary country caps over a ten-year period, ensuring fair treatment for immigrants from all countries without adversely affecting anyone.

Several distinguished individuals were recognized



AAUC Award recipients with officials. Front row, from l. to r. Suraj Kulkarni, JencyMalena Mesik, Elizabeth de Leon-Gamboa, Sewa -AIFW Co-Executive Director Dr. Darsharath Yata, Suffolk County Police Department Asian Jade Society President Edwin Hugh, Philanthropist and Businessman Evan Chen, Team Aid Founder Mohan Nannapaneni

for their contributions during the summit:

- US Rep. Judy Chu (California) was honored with the Dilip Singh Saund Award for Political Leadership.

- US Rep. Andy Kim (New Jersey) was honored with the Norman Mineta Award for Public Service.

Suffolk County Police Asian Jade Society (Long Island, New York), SEWA-AIFW (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Team Aid (Boston, Massachusetts), and Elizabeth de Leon-Gamboa (Las Vegas, Nevada) were honored with the Community Service Award.

- Mr. Evan Chen of Long Island was recognized as

Philanthropist of the Year.

- Ms. JencyMalena Mesik (Anchorage, Alaska) and Mr. Suraj Kulkarni (Los Angeles, California) received the President's Young Person and Youth Awards, respectively.

The AAUC has made significant contributions to the AAPI community by organizing national conferences, assembling a diverse working board, developing monthly newsletters and podcasts, and creating an online hub that connects over 15,000 AAPI nonprofits across all 50 states. Visit <https://www.asamunitycoalition.org>.

**

The AAUC is a nationally

operating 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission to unite our diverse Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities around common goals to amplify collective voice through advocacy, collaboration and education. AAUC envisions a world where AANHPI achieve economic and social success and equal political representation, regardless of race, ethnicity or nationality.

Contact: AAUC Board Chairperson Dr. SK Lo sklo@asamunitycoalition.org 952-457-9040 or AAUC President Angela Anand 571-217-2555 or GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham 203-561-6187

Editor's Note

CONTD. FROM PG 2

(HR-6543 and S-3269) could reduce this long waiting period. These bills are included in the AAUC Summit agenda.

My humble request to all life members, chapter heads, and area coordinators is that you please submit

your articles promptly. The articles should be in Word format, and the photos should be attached separately rather than embodied in the Word Doc. I must thank the regular contributors for their submissions; they have taken the time to forward their

articles, and I hope you will do the same.

Until Next Month, Happy reading

—**Umesh Chandra OAM**
Editor in Chief GOPIO News Bulletin
Executive Vice President
GOPIO International

GOPIO INVITATION TO THE LAUNCH OF INDIA COLLECTION OF BOOKS AT PARSIPPANY LIBRARY, NEW JERSEY

VENUE: Parsippany Library, 449 Halsey Road, Parsippany-Troy Hills, NJ 07054

DATE: Sunday, September 29th


TIME: 1:45 PM – Networking with Coffee/Tea

2:15 PM - Launch Ceremony followed by enchanting dances of India.


After the cultural program, attendees will join us for coffee/tea and Indian snacks.

Admission will be FREE. Please RSVP at peddi999@yahoo.com or register at <https://tinyurl.com/LaunchINDIABooksParsippany>. If you have a book on India,


the Indian Diaspora, or an Indian language book to donate, please contact any of the organisers or bring your books to the library before the event. If you deliver before September 29th, please hand them to library staff member Nicolas.



सत्यमेव जयते
Consulate General of India
New York




PARSIPPANY PUBLIC LIBRARY




GOPIO
Global Organization
People of Indian Origin


WE CORDIALLY INVITING YOU TO THE LAUNCH OF INDIA COLLECTION OF BOOKS AT PARSIPPANY LIBRARY


In Association With







PARSIPPANY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT-7475









GUEST OF HONOR

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


Hon. Jamie Barberio
Mayor, Parsippany

Council Members
Parsippany

Dr. Thomas Abraham
Chairman, GOPIO International

Ponnala Lakshmaiah
Former Minister- India & Resident of Parsippany

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



Date & Time
1.45 - 2 pm: Networking with Coffee/Tea;
2.00 pm: Launch Ceremony

RSVP

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

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

GOPIO-METRO WASHINGTON HOSTS INDEPENDENCE DAY BILINGUAL POETRY SESSION



Organizers and Volunteers with speakers and invited guests / GOPIO

The Metro Washington chapter of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) hosted the 16th annual Independence Day bilingual poetry session

(Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan) at the Central Library in Arlington, Virginia.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. A. Abdulla, who in his opening remarks emphasized

the significance of celebrating independence while reflecting on the challenges that have persisted over time. "Organizing such literary and cultural activities is like



Speakers at the poetry session. / GOPIO



lighting small candles in our hearts, helping us appreciate our shared heritage, our Sanjhi Virasat. This appreciation and mutual respect are what make us human. True freedom lies in liberating ourselves from prejudices," he said.

The Mushaira and Kavi Sammelan were chaired by retired Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer Dr. Ashok Narayan, currently visiting the USA. It featured performances by poets including Abdullah Abdullah, Ashok Narayan, Azfar Hasan, Farah Kamran, Jameel Usman, Madhu Maheshwari, Mohammed Akbar, and others.

Over the years, the event has provided a platform for numerous poets and authors to share their works, including luminaries like professor Satyapal Anand, professor Asghar Wajahat, and Dr. K. Mohan, among others.

Farah Kamran's book *Surkh Shaam Ka Diya* was released during the event, by the Urdu poet and short-story writer Jameel Usman. Renowned journalist, novelist, and short-story writer Nuzaira

Azam presided over the session, highlighting Kamran's perseverance, dedication, and literary contributions.

During the event, tribute was paid to the late senior poets of the Metropolitan Washington area, Rakesh Khandelwal and Gulshan Madhur, who passed away last year, in recognition of their significant contributions to the literary community. Additionally, homage was offered to the late Talat Shamim, wife of Dr. Abdullah Shamim, a former active member of the Urdu Literary Society, a subsidiary of AAA-DC. Condolences were also extended to the late Professor Ahmad Shahid Khan, a retired AMU professor and father of AAA-DC Treasurer-elect Dr. Salman Shahid.

The poetry session was skillfully moderated by Mohammad Akbar, who introduced the poets and ensured the program ran smoothly. Afzal Usmani served as the Master of Ceremonies, while Renuka Misra expressed heartfelt gratitude to all

participants, attendees, and volunteers for their contributions to the event's success. The Arlington Library was also thanked for providing the venue.

Hosted annually in collaboration with the Aligarh Alumni Association-Washington, DC, this year's event saw active participation from several organizations, including the Association of Indian Muslims of America (AIM), the Hyderabad Association of Washington Metro Area (HAWMA), the Montgomery Nawabs (MONA), and the American Society of Science, Engineering, and Technology (ASSET).

The Embassy of India in Washington, a supporter of the event since its inception in 2011, co-hosted the inaugural bilingual poetry recitation in collaboration with AAA-DC and GOPIO-Metro. Neha Singh, the First Secretary of Press and Culture at the Indian Embassy, attended the event along with representatives from various community and literary organizations.

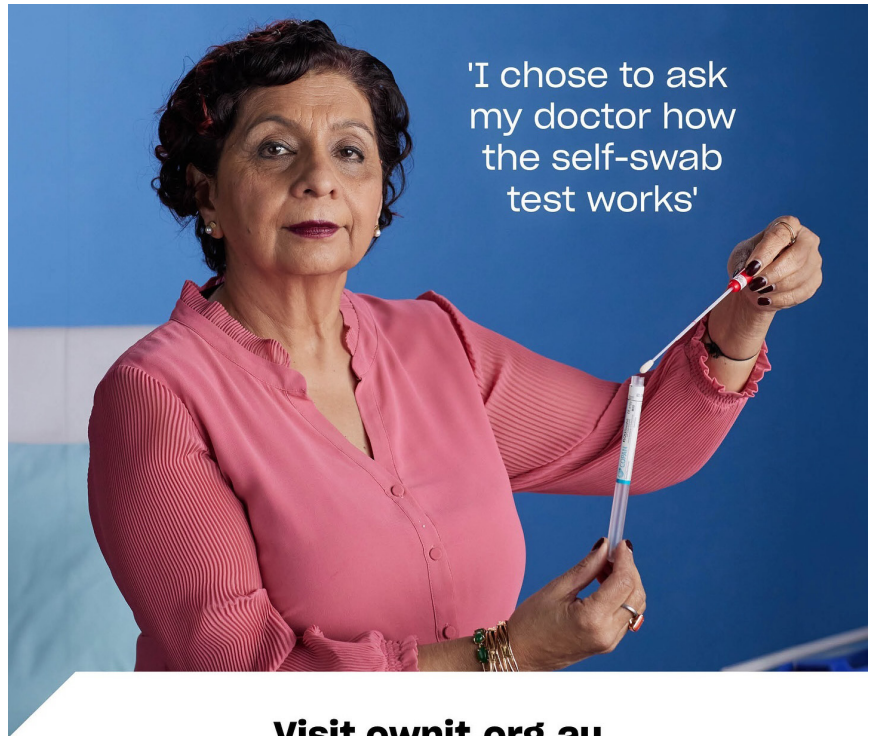
GOPIO CANBERRA PRESIDENT NISHI PURI ADVOCATES SELF-SWAB TESTS

Cervical cancer is preventable. The Cervical Screening Test is a simple process that looks for signs of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common infection that causes most cervical cancers.

Most cases of HPV clear up on their own; however, sometimes it can develop into cancer.

The HPV vaccine does not protect against every type of HPV that can cause cervical cancer. It's essential to have Cervical Screening Tests, even if you've had the HPV vaccine.

Over 70% of cervical cancers occur in people who have never been screened or aren't up to date with their screening.



'I chose to ask my doctor how the self-swab test works'

Visit ownit.org.au

GOPIO CANBERRA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

President Nishi Puri reports: "GOPIO Canberra and Mac ensures that we contribute and make a difference for those doing it tough.

Our fortnightly donations help our international students and homeless shelters. We also regularly donate non-perishables and clothing to those who need it to make a difference".



GOPIO CANBERRA HOLDS HEART HEALTH WORKSHOP



MAC and GOPIO successfully held a heart health workshop on September 15, 2024, for CALD and multicultural communities. Dr Davinder Singh from Canberra Heart Clinic facilitated the event, which was fully booked.

The session featured an interactive session with numerous audience questions regarding blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes prevention. Dr. Singh emphasised the importance of healthy eating and exercise for heart health.



Thanks to Dr Singh for his accessible presentation, all participants for their attendance, Udaya for

photography, Rebecca Vassaroti MLA (Greens) for her support, and the Labor Club for their generosity.

BEST OF BHARAT EXPO PLANNED FOR REUNION ISLAND

GOPIO DELHI/NCR CHAPTER is organising the BEST OF BHARAT EXPO @ Reunion Island as per the attached relevant documents. Anyone interested in launching effectively in Europe & potential African countries is advised to participate in our proposed expo from 20 Nov. to 24 Nov 2024. B2C & B2B, in addition to

FDI, are expected.

Padmashree Dr. Soma Ghosh will perform cultural shows twice a day, followed by an Indian food court, which will be an extraordinary Value addition to expect almost 50000 visitors during all five days of the expo. Euro currency so that buying power is stronger and more important. Reunion Island imports A To Z

and most Indian products from France.

We invite all GOPIO members from any part of the world to participate in B2C , B2B , Cultural shows, or in Food festivals. We are expecting almost 50,000 potential visitors with Euro power to spend. As a token of our appreciation, we offer a special 10% discount to our GOPIO participants.

B2C
&
B2B

Everyday cultural Shows
performed
by **PADAMSHREE**
Dr. Soma Ghosh



BHARAT TRADE EXPO & CULTURAL SHOW

BEST OF BHARAT IN REUNION

ROLE OF GOPIO IN BHARAT AMRIT KAL

MAJOR
ATTRACTIONS
OF THE EVENT

- TRADE FAIR
- FASHION SHOW
- CULTURAL SHOW
- AWARDS CEREMONY
- ORIGINAL INDIAN RESTAURANT
(WITH CHEFS FROM INDIA)




SUPPORTED BY

20 - 24 NOVEMBER 2024

PARC DES EXPOSITIONS - NORDEV

ST DENIS - ILE DE LA RÉUNION

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India Africa
Trade Council



Global India
Business Forum



Indian Economic
Trade Organisation



Swami Vivekananda Yoga
Anusandhana Sansthanam

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY



FEDERATION OF
INDIAN INDUSTRY



Global Organization
People of Indian Origin



EMBOSS

GOPIO INTERNATIONAL AND GOPIO QUEENSLAND REPRESENTED AT AUSTRALIANS OF THE INDIAN HERITAGE WAR MEMORIAL



From left Leanne Enoch MP Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts, Mrs Usha Chandra, Vice President GOPIO Queensland, Mrs Preethi Suraj, President Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland, Mrs Umesh Chandra OAM Executive Vice president GOPIO International

Umesh Chandra OAM, Executive Vice president of GOPIO International, said, "It was an incredible honour to stand alongside fellow community leaders and esteemed members of our broader community at the re-dedication ceremony of the Australians of the Indian Heritage War Memorial. This significant event served

as a heartfelt tribute to the brave individuals of Indian heritage who proudly and selflessly served our country. Their contributions to our nation's history are a powerful reminder of the values of courage, unity, and sacrifice.

Thanks to the Australians of the Indian Heritage War Memorial Committee and Sunnybank RSL for their tremendous efforts in

organising this meaningful initiative. Your dedication to ensuring the recognition and remembrance of these individuals is truly commendable. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the honourable guests whose presence added to the occasion's significance. We paid a fitting tribute to those who served with the utmost pride and devotion".

GOPIO CHAPTERS REPRESENTED AT QUEENSLAND PREMIERS' RECEPTION

Queensland Premier Steven Miles MP hosted a community reception for the Indian Community, and all three Queensland Chapters, namely GOPIO Queensland, GOPIO Gold Coast and GOPIO Cairns, were represented at the reception. Umesh Chandra OAM represented GOIO International.



Mrs Usha Chandra GOPIO Queensland Vice president with Madhu Khanna, Archana Singh (former honorary counsel for India in Queensland) and GOPIO Youth members at the premier's reception



From left, Yousuf Alikhan, founder member and trustee GOPIO Queensland, Queensland Premier Steven Miles MP, Mrs Usha Chandra GOPIO Queensland Vice President, Charis Mullen MP, Umesh Chandra OAM GOPIO International Executive Vice president



GOPIO Gold Coast members at Queensland premiers reception for Indian community

MRS KRITILATA RAM, INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR GOPIO INTERNATIONAL IN FRANCOPHONE REGIONS, PRESENTED AT THE DIASPORA CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK



Mrs. Kritilata Ram, international coordinator for GoPro francophone regions, attended the international conference held at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 19 July 2024. This was organised by the Organisation for Diaspora Initiatives, New Delhi, and the South Asian Studies Program, National University of Singapore.

Mrs. Ram presented her paper on the unique topic "Indian Diaspora in Singapore and Mauritius: A Comparative Analysis of Settlement, Contribution, and Participation in the Political, Socio-Cultural, and Economic Spheres of Life". Her research, which was well-received, shed light on the significant role of the Indian diaspora in these regions, offering a fresh perspective that piqued the interest of the audience.



M. GOOJHA VED PRAKASH, LIFE MEMBER OF GOPIO INT USA, COORDINATOR FOR EUROPE, PARTICIPATED IN THE 78TH INDIAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN PARIS. IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THE YOUTH PARTICIPATION



RASA MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024, AWARD HANDED BY THE MAURITIAN AMBASSADOR OF MAURITIUS



At the Rasa Music Festival, held at the Kamani Auditorium, Delhi, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and Vishwanath Trust organized a grand celebration of Indian music. K. Raj Lakshmi Ji, one of the key organizers, not only acknowledged my vocal prowess but also my dedication

to preserving the essence of Indian music for future generations. This was a moment of profound respect and honour, culminating in the recognition by the High Commissioner of Mauritius.

The event also recognised many distinguished individuals, including Mahant

Shri Bishwambhar Mishra Ji of Sankat Mochan Mandir and @spicmacayofficial promoter Rashmi Ji. Shri @anupjalotaonline Ji and Rakesh Chowrasia Ji were among the other prominent figures honoured at the festival.

Pt. Vishwanath, a vocal artist, and the young prodigy



Bhashkarnath on Sehnaï provided a memorable evening of music for the elite audience in Delhi.

#RasaMusicFestival
 #IndianMusicRoots
 #KamaniAuditorium
 #MinistryOfCulture
 #VishwanathTrust
 #MauritiusHighCommissioner
 #CulturalHonours
 #SankatMochanMandir



M. GOOJHA VED PRAKASH PROMOTING THE NEW INDIAN DIASPORA IN FRANCE AND FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES



As submitted by Mr Ved
 Prakash Goojha

At UNESCO Gala Night
 celebration of Handisport
 Olympic Games Paris

2024.

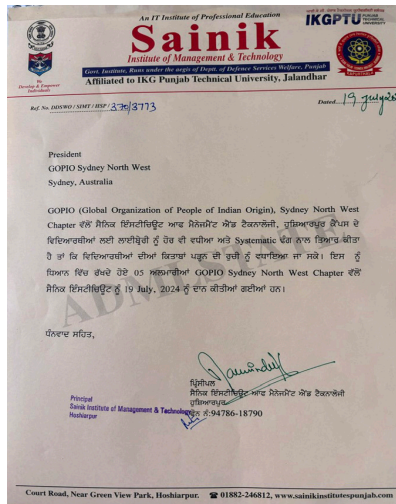
M. GOOJHA VED PRAKASH is the Founder and President of Gopio France and Francophone Countries, an NGO Fully Recognized by the UN in

September 1989 in New York, USA.

Life Member of Gopio Int USA, Coordinator for Europe. Introduction of Dr. KANIKA TEJUA.

GOPIO SYDNEY NORTH WEST CHAPTER DONATES ALMIRAHS TO SAINIK LIBRARY

GOPIO Sydney North West chapter donated five almiraHS (cupboards)) to the new library of Sainik Institute, Hoshiarpur. Eighty per cent of the students are the children of Indian army personnel of lower ranks, 75% of students are the children of Indian army personnel of lower ranks, and 25% of students are from backward classes



The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 20, 2024, at Sainik Institute, Hoshiarpur (Punjab). The Principal, Dr Parminder Kaur Saini, and her staff are delighted to receive the same for their new library. Congratulations!



SPECTACULAR 15TH ANNUAL 'CARING AND SHARING' EVENT BY GOPIO SYDNEY NORTH-WEST

The 15th Annual 'Caring and Sharing' Event, a glamorous and dazzling affair, was a significant milestone for the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Sydney North-West Chapter. Held at the Sapphire Function Centre, Auburn, on 14 September 2024, the event marked 15 years of dedicated support for underprivileged children in India and needy persons/organisations in Australia. The chapter's annual contributions to the Cancer Council of Australia and the National Heart Foundation of Australia, along with its past aid to victims of various disasters, underscore the event's profound impact.

GOPIO Sydney North-West Chapter team has worked passionately to ensure the success of the 15th Caring & Sharing event. Such



events result from the spirit we all have to care for the underprivileged and needy. Therefore, the funds raised through these events symbolise hope for the disadvantaged.

The night of the 15th Annual 'Caring and Sharing' Event was a celebration of great cause and unlimited entertainment. The audience

was treated to a diverse range of performances, ensuring there was something for everyone. From the scintillating acts of the Dr Tanima Banerjee team of Bandana Cultural School, the energetic Bhangra by the Down to Bhangra team, the traditional Giddha by the Tandan Virasat Diyan team, and the lively Bollywood

dance by Michelle Khurana, the event was a showcase of cultural diversity and talent. The lively Antakshari and the energetic DJ further added to the excitement, attracting the zeal and enthusiasm of all the guests present at the event.

Generous offerings from the sponsors in Australia and the support of the dedicated individuals in India have allowed the team to extend a helping hand to over 12000 less privileged primary school children in India for the last 15 years. A few necessities that will be provided again to the primary school kids include warm clothes, shoes, socks, ceiling fans in classrooms,

hand pumps for drinking water, water coolers, RO filters, inverters with batteries, furniture, Daris, sound systems for prayers, sports items, stationary and other essential commodities as per the requirements of the remote area schools. The Caring & Sharing event raised funds for kids in India. It donated to the Cancer Council of Australia, the National Heart Foundation of Australia, NSW Rural Fire Service and Kids in Nigeria for their righteous causes.

GOPIO Sydney North-West Chapter extends its heartfelt thanks to our main sponsors – Yogesh Manav & Jasbir Kang of Auburn Sapphire Function

Centre, Kewal Kalra of Kalra Group of Companies, Sumit Joshi of RyRo Loan Centre, HEC High-End Construction, Baljit Pelia of Vista Home loan, Garry Kalra of UltraTune, Seven Hills and B Town Wheels & Tyres of Blacktown, Ozzy Tyres, Raj Mangat of Laing + Simmons Rouse Hill-Box Hill, School Tutoring Bella Vista & Colebe, Sunbeam Services and NSW Dental Care Blacktown. Your generous support and dedication have been instrumental in the success of our 15th Annual 'Caring and Sharing' Event. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and look forward to continuing our partnership.



GOPIO WOMEN'S RESPONSE TO ATTACKS ON WOMEN IN INDIA

Report by Molly Banerjei,
Chair Gopio Women's Council

In response to the recent and horrendous attacks on women in India, GOPIO Women convened a Zoom meeting on August 25th to address these alarming incidents and discuss actionable solutions. This meeting brought together women leaders, activists, and stakeholders from across the globe, all united by the urgency to combat the rising violence against women in India and to strengthen the voices and safety of women in the country.

The participants engaged in a robust and meaningful discussion, acknowledging the gravity of the situation and the need for a multi-faceted response. It was agreed that while raising awareness is crucial, tangible and practical actions must be taken to drive real change and protect women from further violence.

The following recommendations were put forth, outlining a strategic and impactful approach to addressing this crisis:

It was strongly recommended that GOPIO Women pursue a position on the Supreme Court Committee addressing women's issues. By securing representation, we can directly provide input and recommendations to India's highest judicial authority. This step is essential for ensuring that women's perspectives are



heard and incorporated into legal and policy frameworks designed to combat gender-based violence.

Recognising the importance of grassroots efforts, the group recommended forming partnerships with local NGOs in India that focus on women's empowerment, safety, and rights. By aligning with these organisations, GOPIO Women can support and amplify their efforts, providing resources and international solidarity. Strengthening the work of these NGOs is crucial in addressing the needs of women on the ground and fostering sustainable change.

The GOPIO Women Education Council will proactively organise educational seminars to empower women with personal safety, legal rights, and self-defence knowledge.

These seminars will aim to build women's confidence and equip them with the tools to navigate dangerous situations, ensuring their protection and security. Additionally, these seminars will create awareness about the legal recourses available to victims of violence.

GOPIO Women recognises the gravity of women's challenges in India and is committed to taking actionable steps to address the crisis. The recommendations outlined in this report provide a clear and focused strategy to protect and empower women, advocate for justice, strengthen grassroots efforts, and educate women on their rights and safety. By implementing these actions, GOPIO Women can make a tangible difference in the fight against violence and build a safer future for women in India.

GOPIO TEAM 2023-'24

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



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

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