



# GOPIO BIENNIAL CONVENTION 2018 & PRAVASI SAMMELAN, BAHRAIN, JAN. 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

## DAY 1

### Saturday, January 6, 2018

9am - 10.30 am	GOPIO Executive Council Meeting Chaired by President Niraj Baxi
10.30 am - 12 pm	Reports from International Coordinators and GOPIO Council Chairs
12 pm - 1 pm	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	Lunch
2 pm - 5 pm	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
6 pm	Convention Inauguration

National Anthems

Prayer Song by Playback Singer Ms Parvati Menon

Welcome speech by GOPIO Incoming President and Convention Convener Mr. Sunny Kulathakal

Presidential Address by Mr. Niraj Baxi, President, GOPIO Intl.

Lighting the Lamp Ceremony

Inaugural Address by Honorable Shri Alfons Kannanthanam, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture, and Tourism, Government of India

Address by Mr. Raj Purohit, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Maharashtra, Mumbai, India

Chairman's Address by GOPIO Founding President Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO International

Felicitation by: 1) Dr. B.R. Shetty, Chairman, NMC Healthcare  
2) Lord Diljit Rana, Former President, GOPIO International

7.30 pm **Indian Women Achiever's Samman  
(Award Recognition Ceremony)**

Opening Remarks by GOPIO's Global Ambassador and Convention Convener Mr. Sunny Kulathakal and Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Managing Editor, NRI Achievers

Felicitation by Ms Arathi Krishna, Deputy Chairman, NRI Forum, Karnataka

Vote of Thanks by Dr George Cheriyan, President, GOPIO-Bahrain

8.15 pm Cultural Programme

9.15 pm Dinner

## DAY 2

Sunday, January 7, 2018

9.00am

Prayer Song

9.05am

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

Welcome - Mr. Sunny Kulathakal, GOPIO's Global Ambassador and Convention Convener

Introduction - Mr. Soman Baby, Chairman, Reception Committee

Keynote Address by Dr. Shashi Tharoor MP, Former Minister of State for External Affairs

Address by

- 1) Mr. Chandan Mitra, Chief Editor, The Pioneer & Former BJP MP
- 2) Anwar M. Abdulrahman, Chairman, AL HILAL GROUP, Bahrain
- 3) Mr. Sudhir Kumar Shetty, President, UAE Exchange and President, GOPIO Abu Dhabi Chapter

Moderated by Mr. Issac John Pattaniparambil, GOPIO Intl. Coordinator for The Middle East, Business Editor, Khaleej Times. Dubai, UAE

11am

Tea Break

11.15am

**Session II 'Bahrain, a Business & Tourism Destination'**

Presided over by Mr Khalid Abdulrahman Almoayyed, Chairman, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Address by H.E Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khaifa, Chief Executive, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority

11.15am

**Session III Empowering Indian Women**

Speakers Ms. Molly Banerjei, Producer, Chai with Molly, Toronto  
Ms. Meera Devi, Editor, Salam Bahrain  
Ms. Michelle Michael, Durban, South Africa  
Ms. Shabnam Moudgil, Community Leader, Dallas, Texas  
Moderator TBD

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., World Bank, IMF and Currently Professor at IIM, Bangalore  
Mr. Faizal Kottikollon, Founder/Chairman, KEF Holdings, Dubai  
Mr. PC Cyriac IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu  
Mr. Kurien Abraham, Editor & Publisher of business magazine 'Dhanam'  
Ms. Mini Guleria, President & CEO, Macroscope Market Resourcing, Los Angeles, USA

Moderator Mr Shaji Baby John, Chairman, Kings Group, Kochi

12.15 pm - 1.30 pm **Session V Health and Wellness 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 Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Industry Challenges & Opportunities'**

Speakers Dr. Zulekha Daud, Managing Director of Zulekha Hospitals, UAE  
Dr. Pramod Kamdar, Arena Pharmaceuticals, San Diego, USA  
Dr. M. Anirudhan, Essen Nutrition, Chicago, IL, USA  
Dr. Azad Mooppen, Chairman and Managing Director, Aster DM

Healthcare, The Middle East and India  
Dr. Sunny Kurien, Chairman, Dr. Sunny's Group, Sharjah

Moderator Dr. George Cheriyan, CEO, Amer. Mission Hospital Bahrain

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 Banerjei, President, GOPIO, Toronto, \_\_Canada  
Ms. Rajespre Naidoo, Durban, South Africa  
Mr. Mehen Poinosawmy, GOPIO France, Paris

Moderator Mr. Nitin Shah, Co-Chair, GOPIO Intl. Chamber, USA,

6.30pm **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 Bahrain, His Excellency Dr Abdulhussein bin Ali Mirza

Book release of '*Advancing the Role of Executive Management*' authored by Dr. Shaikh Mohamed Al Khalifa. Book released by His Excellency Dr. Abdulhussein bin Ali Mirza

Felicitation by Mr. Niraj Baxi, President, GOPIO Intl., San Jose, CA, USA

Special Address by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP, India

Award Ceremony coordinated by Mr. Anurag Batra, Chief Editor, Business World, New Delhi, India

Address

1) Mr. Raj Purohit, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Maharashtra, Mumbai, India

2) Mr. J. Alexander, IAS, Former Minister, Karnataka, India

Vote of Thanks by Mr. Noel Lal, Executive VP, GOPIO Intl.

8pm Cultural Programme

9pm Dinner

## DAY 3

### Monday, January 8

9.00 - 10.30 am **Session IX 'Political Involvement of Diaspora Indians'**

Speakers **Prof. Bimal Prasad**, Leader, National Federation Party, Fiji  
**Mr. Viresh Sharma**, Treasurer, GOPIO-CT and President, Laser Systems, Stamford, Connecticut, USA  
**Ms. Nikki Kapadia**, Los Angeles, California, USA

Moderator **TBD**

9.00 - 10.30 am **Session X 'Powering Global Indian Enterprises'**

Speakers **Dr. Rami Ranger CBE**, Chairman of Sun Mark Ltd. and Sea Air and Land Forwarding Ltd., London, UK  
**Dr. J. Rajmohan Pillai**, Managing Director, The Beta Group, Kollam, Kerala, India  
**Mr. Noel Lal**, Executive VP, GOPIO Intl. and Managing Director, South Pacific Engineering and ABLEC Electric, Sydney Aus.  
**Mr. Ishwar Ramlutchman**, GOPIO Intl. Coordinator and Chairman and Managing Director, Vukani and Mazulu Services PTY., Durban, South Africa

Moderator **TBD**

10.30 am Tea Break

10.45 am ***Session XI 'India: Riding the Wave of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'***

Keynote Speech by **Dr. Sam Pitroda**, Former Advisor to Prime Ministers of India

Moderator by **Dr. Thomas Abraham**, Chairman, GOPIO International

12.15 pm-1.30 pm Lunch

1.30 pm-2.45 pm ***Session XII 'Capabilities & Challenges Facing Youth and Young Professionals in the Diaspora'***

Speakers Mr. Neeraj Baxi, President, GOPIO Intl., San Jose, USA  
Mr. Noel Lal, Executive VP, GOPIO Intl., Sydney, Aus  
Mr. Ishwar Ramlutchman, GOPIO Intl. Coordinator, Africa  
Advocate Sivan Madathil, Kochi, Kerala, India  
Mr Irfan Malik

2.45 pm Tea Break

3 pm-5 pm **Session XIII 'Rehabilitation of Returning NRIs'**

Speakers Mr. Sunny Kulathakal, Global Ambassador, GOPIO Intl., Bahrain  
Advocate K.V. Shamsuddin, Sharjah  
Mr. P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai, President, Kerala Samajam, and  
Recipient of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, Bahrain  
Mr Issac John Pattaniparambil, GOPIO Intl. Coordinator, The  
Middle East, Business Editor, Khaleej Timesm Dubai abd  
Chairman World Malayalee Council  
Mr Soman Baby, Recipient of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman,  
Bahrain

Moderator Mr. Jacob George, Former Correspondent, India Today  
Magazine

7.00 pm-9.30 pm **Finale Valedictory Function & Presentation GOPIO  
Community Service Awards**

Chief Guest: Dr Sam Pitroda, Former Advisor to Prime Ministers of India

Address 1) Dr Thomas Abraham, Chairman, GOPIO Intl., Stamford, USA  
2) Lord Diljit Rana, Former GOPIO President, Belfast, UK  
3) Mr Niraj Baxi, President, GOPIO Intl, San Jose, CA, USA  
4) Mr Noel Lal, Exec. VP, GOPIO Intl., Sydney, Australia

Community Service Awards Presentation

8pm Cultural Programme  
9pm Dinner



**DAY 4**

Tuesday, January 8

9am - 10.30 am

GOPIO Executive Council Meeting  
Chaired by President

11.00 am

**Desert Trip** (Optional, buy tickets separately)