



GOPIO INTL. CONVENTION 2018 IN BAHRAIN UPDATE

Several dignitaries are expected at the GOPIO Biennial Convention to be held for the first time in The Middle East, after holding conventions in New York, London, Paris, Zurich, Trinidad, South Africa, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad. GOPIO International is holding its 28th Year Anniversary and Biennial Convention 2018 in Bahrain on January 6-8, 2018 and concluding with a meeting of the new Executive Council taking over the mantle of GOPIO.

[Congress President Rahul Gandhi](#) and [CPM General Secretary Sitaram Yechury](#) will address delegates at the Convention. Shri Rahul Gandhi will speak at the Finale Plenary Session on Jan. 8th evening while CPM General Secretary Yechury will address the audience at the pre-luncheon plenary session. Both Gandhi and Yechury will share their thoughts on what they see India in the next two decades and how NRIs/PIOs can help India in its development. Invitation was also sent to [BJP President Amit Shah](#), but has not been confirmed yet.



GOPIO Bahrain team has picked up Gulf Hotel, Manama, Bahrain as the venue for GOPIO Biennial Convention. GOPIO will also hold its Annual General Body Meeting on Jan. 6th, which will consider many bylaws amendments.

GOPIO International Convention will be inaugurated on January 6th evening. Chief Guest at the inauguration is [H.E. Dr. Abdulhussein bin Ali Mirza](#), Minister of Electricity & Water, Kingdom of Bahrain. [Shri Alfons Kannanthanam](#), Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture, and Tourism, Government of India, has been invited to deliver the inaugural address while the Maharashtra Cabinet Minister [Raj K. Purohit](#) who also serves as GOPIO Advisor will speak at the inauguration which will be followed by the presentation of the Indian Women Achievers Samman, a collaboration of GOPIO and NRI Achievers Magazine.

Conference sessions will be inaugurated on January 7th morning at a plenary session [H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Daij Al Khalifa](#), President. Court of H.R.H. The Crown Prince as Chief Guest. Keynote Speakers are [Dr. Shashi Tharoor](#) MP, Former Minister of State for External Affairs and [Dr. Sam Pitroda](#), Inventor, Entrepreneur, Telecommunication Pioneer and Former Advisor to Prime Ministers of India. Other speakers are [H.E Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa](#), Chief Executive, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority; [Dr. Anwar M. Abdulrahman](#), Chairman, AL HILAL GROUP, Bahrain; [Mr. Chandan Mitra](#), Chief Editor, The Pioneer & Former BJP MP; [Mr. Sudhir Kumar Shetty](#), President, UAE Exchange and President of GOPIO Abu Dhabi Chapter.

GOPIO community Service Awards will be presented at the Valedictory Session. This year's awardees are: Dr. M. Anirudhan (USA), Mahendrasinh C. Jadeja (UK), Pramod Kamdar (USA), Dr. Sapta Giri Varma Mudunuru (Trinidad), Kamal Vachani (Dubai), Chief Guest is [Mr. Sam Pitroda](#) and [Dr. Shashi Tharoor](#) will deliver the special address.

GOPIO International will be represented by its Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham (USA), President Niraj Baxi (USA), Executive Vice President Noel Lal, Global Ambassador Sunny Kulathakal (Bahrain) and several International Coordinators and GOPIO Council Chairpersons.

GOPIO Intl. Officers to be present at the convention

Contact: Sunny Kulathakal, Global Ambassador, GOPIO International, Tel. in Bahrain +973-39441956, India +91-9845756692, E-mail: kulathakal44@gmail.com

TRAVEL AND HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

Regarding the travel and visa arrangements our travel partner Dadabhai Travels will do everything possible to get the special rate to any destination. You may contact Mr. Aziz Gilitwala, Managing Director E-mail aziz@dadabhaitravel.com, Tel: +973-39614499 or naveen@dadabhaitravel.com, Tel: +973-39843283

UK and US Passport holders will get visa on arrival. Visit Bahrain Govt. website at <https://www.evisa.gov.bh/>. Send in the passport copy (1st and last pages) to the travel agent to arrange the visa, Contact: naveen@dadabhaitravel.com.

Near the Gulf Hotel where GOPIO Convention Team has made an agreement with a new hotel- Park Regis for rooms with \$70 for single occupancy and \$80 for double occupancy including tax and breakfast. The above rate will be available only up to 15th December 2017.

You may book directly on line at www.parkregislotushotel.com. Should you require further assistance you can contact Asst. Director of Sales Mr. Usman Kiani, Tel: +973-36293777 (Mobile), E- mail: ados@parkregislotushotel.com or Shiju Nair, Tel: +973-39830603, E-mail: om@parkregislotushotel.com.

Delegates get free transport to the Gulf Hotel (Convention Centre) which is at a five minutes distance from Park Regis Hotel.

GOPIO CONVENTION 2018 BAHRAIN - REGISTRATION FORM

Date	Event	Venue	Singe Registration (US\$)	No. of Tickets	Total Amount
Saturday, Jan. 6, 2016	GOPIO Executive Council and General Body Meeting (Open Only to Members) - Includes Lunch	Park Regis Hotel	No Charge (for only EC and General Body Members)		
Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018	Reception and Inauguration, NRI Women Achievers Awards, Dinner, Entertainment	Gulf Hotel	50.00		
Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018	Conferences and Lunch	Gulf Hotel	30.00		
Sunday, Jan 7, 2018	Reception, Businessmen of the Year and Dinner	Gulf Hotel	50.00		
Monday, Jan. 8, 2018	Conferences and Lunch	Gulf Hotel	30.00		
Monday, Jan 8, 2018	Finale Banquet and Entertainment	Gulf Hotel	50.00		
Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018	GOPIO Executive Council Meeting (Open Only to E.C. Members) - Includes Lunch	Park Regis Hotel	No Charge (for EC Members only)		
3 Days	All Events		150.00		
Individual Sponsorship	All Events and Listing in the Program Booklet as a Sponsor		250.00		
GRAND TOTAL					

NAME(S)
ADDRESS
E-MAIL:
(cell):

Tel (H):

Tel: (W):

Tel

The total amount may be paid by a bank transfer or with a credit card using Square or PayPal as follows:

[Send the money by Bank Transfer](#)

Details on Bank Transfer to GOPIO Bank account. - **Account with Bank of America**, Bank of America Financial Center, 18641 S. Gridley St., Cerritos, CA 90703, USA.

Account Holder: Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, 11433 Arlee Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650., USA, Tel: 562-887-6976, **To transfer money within the US: Routing No. 011900571, Account # 003851989607**

To transfer money from outside the US: Swift No. BOFAUS3N, Account # 003851989607

[Use Square Inc. link](#), i.e. Use your credit card at <https://squareup.com/store/GOPIO>

Payments Using PayPal - Go online to: www.paypal.com/webapps/mpp/make-online-payments

Choose: Make online payment

Select option: Pay for items or services quickly and securely

GOPIO Email: gopiofunds@gmail.com

GOPIO BIENNIAL CONVENTION – DETAILED PROGRAM

GOPIO BIENNIAL CONVENTION 2018 & PRAVASI SAMMELAN, BAHRAIN, JAN. 6TH TO 9TH, 2018

DAY 1

[Saturday, January 6, 2018](#)

9 am - 11 am

GOPIO Executive Council Meeting
Chaired by **President Niraj Baxi**

11 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
Harmohan Walia, Harbachan Singh and
Dr. Thomas Abraham

Presentation on GOPIO MemberNova
By **Mr. Dinesh Mittal**

Announcement of Election Results (2018-
'19) & Endorsement/Election of GOPIO
Chairman
by Election Committee (**Mr. Inder Singh,**
Mr. Dhiraj Solanki and Dr. Vinod Daniel)

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

Chief Guest – **H.E. Dr. Abdulhussein bin Ali Mirza**, Minister of Electricity & Water,
Kingdom of Bahrain

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 K. Purohit**, Cabinet Minister of Maharashtra, Mumbai, India and
GOPIO Advisor

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 Govt.

Vote of Thanks by **Dr. George Cheriyan**, President, GOPIO-Bahrain and
CEO, American Mission Hospital

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

Chief Guest – **H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Daij Al Khalifa**, President. Court of H.R.H. The Crown Prince

Keynote Speakers: **Dr. Shashi Tharoor** MP, Former Minister of State for External Affairs

Dr. Sam Pitroda, Inventor, Entrepreneur, Telecommunication

Pioneer and Former Advisor to Prime Ministers of India

Address by

- 1) **H.E Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa**, Chief Executive, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority
- 2) **Dr. Anwar M. Abdulrahman**, Chairman, AL HILAL GROUP, Bahrain
- 3) **Mr. Chandan Mitra**, Chief Editor, The Pioneer & Former BJP MP
- 4) **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

11.15 am **Tea Break**

11.30pm – 12.30 pm **Session II - Opportunities for Business and Investment in India**

Introductory Remarks **Mr. Nitin Shah**, Co-Chair, GOPIO Intl. Chamber of Commerce, and

Chairman, Embassy National Bank, Atlanta, USA
Speakers **Mr. Raj K. Purohit**, Cabinet Minister, Maharashtra and GOPIO
Advisor

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 **Mr. Shaji Baby John**, Chairman, Kings Group, Kochi

1.30 pm-2.30 pm **Lunch**

2.30 pm-5 pm **Session III - Rehabilitation of Returning NRIs**

Speakers **Mr. Sunny Kulathakal**, Global Ambassador, GOPIO Intl., Bahrain
Dr. Gan Bhukta, Professor, GITAM University, Vishakhapatnam and Director NATSAFT Corp., New Jersey, USA

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

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**, Cabinet Minister of Maharashtra, Mumbai, India

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

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

8.00 pm Cultural Programme – Drama by Indian Women of Bahrain

9.00 pm Dinner

DAY 3

Monday, January 8

9.00 – 10.15 am

Session IV - Political Involvement of Diaspora Indians

Speakers

Ravindran Robin Nair, Officer of the Order of Fiji and **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
Mr. Ishwar Ramlutchman, GOPIO Intl. Coordinator and Chairman and Managing Director, Vukani and Mazulu Services PTY., Durban, South Africa

Moderator

TBD

9.00 – 10.15 am

Session V - Powering Global Indian Enterprises

Speakers

Mr. Jay Banerjei, President, GOPIO-Toronto, Canada
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. James Mathew, Managing Director, Crowe Horwath, Dubai

Moderator

Brunswick, NJ, USA

Mr. Dinesh Mittal, CEO, Vested Business Solutions, North

10.15 am

Tea Break

10.30 -11.30 am

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

Speakers

Dr. Muhammed Majeed, CEO, Sabinsa (USA) and Sami Labs (India)
Dr. Pramod Kamdar, Asteria Pharmaceuticals, San Diego, USA
Dr. M. Anirudhan, Essen Nutrition, Chicago, IL, USA

Dr. Sunny Kurien, Chairman, *Dr. Sunny's* Group, Sharjah

Moderator **TBD**

10.30 -11.30 am **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
Navin Negchiani, General Manager, Mohammed Jalal Group, Bahrain

Moderator **Dr. Sai Giridhar**, CEO, Middle East Hospital, Bahrain

11.30 am **Session VIII - India in Two Decades and Utilizing NRI/PIO Resources for India'**

Keynote Speech by **Mr. Sitaram Yechury**, General Secretary, Community Party of India (Marxist)

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

1.00 pm **Lunch**

2.00 pm- 3.00 pm **Session IX 'Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Start-Up India'**

Speakers: **Mr. Vinesh Mehta**, President, Federation of Association of Maharashtra, Mumbai
Ms. Rajesree Naidoo, GOPIO-Durban, South Africa
Mr. Mehen Poinosawmy, GOPIO-Paris, Paris, France
Mr. Santosh Varghese, CEO, Toshiba, Middle East & Africa, Dubai

Moderator **Mr. Nitin Shah**, Co-Chair, GOPIO Intl. Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman, Embassy National Bank, Atlanta, USA

2.00 am – 3.00 pm **Session XI - Health and Wellness Issues of Diaspora Indians**

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

Dr. George Cherian President, GOPIO-Bahrain and
CEO, American Mission Hospital
Dr. Sapta Giri Varma Mudunuru, CEO, PINHANS (India) and
District Medical Officer, Trinidad and Tobago

Moderator **Prof. Rajeev Mehta**, Rutgers RWJ Medical School, NJ, USA

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm **Session X - 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
Ms. Rini Johar, President, GOPIO-Redwood, California, USA

Moderator **Sudha Acharya**, Executive Director, SACSS, New York, NY

4.00 pm – 4.30 pm **Session X1 - Conclusions and Resolutions**

Chair **Dr Thomas Abraham**, Chairman, GOPIO Intl., Stamford, USA
Panelists **Session Moderators**
Resolutions Presenter - **Prof. Rajeev Mehta**, Rutgers RWJ Medical School, NJ, USA

5.00 pm-6.00 pm **Valedictory Function & Presentation GOPIO Community Service Awards**

Chief Guest: **Dr Sam Pitroda**, Inventor, Entrepreneur, Telecommunication Pioneer and Former Advisor to Prime Ministers of India

Welcome **Sunny Kulathakal**, Incoming President and Convention Convener
Remarks 1) **Dr Thomas Abraham**, Chairman, GOPIO Intl., Stamford, USA
2) **Mr Niraj Baxi**, President, GOPIO Intl, San Jose, CA, USA
3) **Mr Noel Lal**, Exec. VP, GOPIO Intl., Sydney, Australia

Special Address – **Dr. Shashi Tharoor** MP, Former Minister of State for External Affairs

6.30 pm to 8 p.m. **Finale Session**

Chief Guest: **Mr. Rahul Gandhi**, President, Indian National Congress. New Delhi, India

8pm

Cultural Program and Dinner

Tuesday, January 9

DAY 4

9am - 10.30 am

GOPIO Executive Council Meeting
Chaired by President

11.00 am
(Optional, buy tickets separately)

Manama Site seeing and Desert Trip