

# PRAVASI SAMWAD



**'ONE EARTH,  
ONE FAMILY,  
ONE FUTURE'**



**'GOVERNMENT HAS ACCORDED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY  
TO DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT'**

S JAISHANKAR, External Affairs Minister



## TRUSTED HEALTHCARE PARTNER WITH MULTINATIONAL PRESENCE

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AVAILABLE & ACCREDITED QUALITY HEALTHCARE SERVICES  
LARGEST PRIVATE HEALTHCARE GROUP OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN



**2 Decades**  
of Quality Service Delivery



**40+ Million**  
Patient Visits



**600+**  
Doctors



**5 Countries**  
Oman: 13 Operational  
Locations | 3 Upcoming



**3000+**  
Trained Staff



**Accreditations**  
JCI (USA) | ACHSI | PSFHI |  
NHRA (In Bahrain)



**All Major**  
Specialities



**Awards & Accolades**  
Excellence Award by MoH, Oman  
Oman's Most Trusted Brand  
OER Award for Quality & Excellence  
Oman's Top Brand



مجموعة مستشفيات ومستوصفات بدر السماء

**BADR AL SAMAA**

GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND POLYCLINICS

*More Than Healthcare ... Humane Care*



**Our Centres in Oman** Ruwi | Al Khoud | Al Khuwair | Barka | Salalah | Nizwa | Falaj | Suhar | Sur | Suwaiq | Duqm | Mabella





# EDITOR'S NOTE

## INDIANS ACROSS THE WORLD, IT'S TIME TO BUILD 'ONE EARTH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE'

**T**he Prime Minister's clarion call for 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' while assuming the chairmanship of the G20 nations is significant for the Indian Diaspora meeting at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. We, at Pravasi Samwad, hope to see the fruition of the Prime Minister's words.

Two years is a short time in the life of a nation. But the last two years have indeed been long and trying – not only for India – but the world. Overcoming all challenges, the 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas comes as a refreshing boost to renew Bharat's ties with the Pravasi Bharatiya community spread across the globe.

While the Indore meet will attempt to strengthen the country's ties with the Indian Diaspora, it will also provide the opportunity to acknowledge the migrants' contribution to their homeland. It will not only be the right time to push for the drafting of a policy of engagement with the Indian diaspora but also start the process of building a database of the Indian overseas who play a critical role in the socio-economic development of their home country.

The PBD conclave will be the perfect platform to applaud the motivation of the Indian immigrants. These first-generation Indian emigrants have overcome challenges such as limited resources, government regulations and slow-moving bureaucracy.

But they had the "fire in the belly" and outpaced those Westerners from affluent environments.

That is because our history and pluralism have exposed us to a wide variety of languages, religions, and cultures. That has given the Indian migrant the capability to adjust to difficult and alien environments. Add to that the democratic processes that Indians grow up in equipping us with habits and values such individual initiative and free expression.

It is in such an environment that the 15th report of the Committee on the Ministry of External Affairs has to be seen. Tabled in Parliament recently, the report mentioned that the Indian diaspora comprised over 18 million persons of Indian origin (PIO) and 13 million non-resident Indians (NRIs, meaning Indian citizens living abroad). Simply put, that is the largest overseas community globally. Keeping these numbers in mind, the committee recommended that the government introduce a policy document that can serve as a "guiding principle for a deeper and wider connection with NRIs, while also playing a more proactive role in developing closer contact with them."

**"TWO YEARS IS A SHORT TIME IN THE LIFE OF A NATION. BUT THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE INDEED BEEN LONG AND TRYING – NOT ONLY FOR INDIA – BUT THE WORLD. OVERCOMING ALL CHALLENGES, THE 17TH EDITION OF THE PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS COMES AS A REFRESHING BOOST TO RENEW BHARAT'S TIES WITH THE PRAVASI BHARATIYA"**

Tirthankar Ghosh  
Managing Editor  
tirtha34@gmail.com

# CONTENTS

## PRIME MINISTER'S CALL

06

The Prime Minister's clarion call is significant for the Indian Diaspora meeting at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

## MEA'S QUOTES FOR DIASPORA

08

PBD 2023 is an opportunity for the Indian Diaspora to share ideas about the country's future developments

## YOGA FESTIVAL IN OMAN

09

People of the Sultanate of Oman have taken to Yoga as an elixir for better health with great enthusiasm, writes Indian Ambassador Amrit Narang

## OMAN IS G20 GUEST COUNTRY

10

An opportunity for the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the premier forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

## SIGHTS AND FOOD OF INDORE

13

There is history and culture in Indore, the venue for PBD 2023. In addition, attendees can savour the famous streetfood of the city.

## PB AWARDEES/NRIS

18

Pravasi Samwad profiles some of the Pravasi Bharatiya awardees and important Indian personalities from the Sultanate of Oman



A few words about PRAVASI SAMVAD, the news portal for the Indian Diaspora.

These are extraordinary times and all of us have to rely on trustworthy journalism to keep ourselves informed. This is especially true of the Indian Diaspora.

Members of the Indian community overseas have always been interested about "home" and cannot be fed with inaccurate news. The result is Pravasi Samwad. An impassioned initiative of a handful of Indian journalists spread around the world, we have taken the small step forward with the pledge to provide news with accuracy, free from political and commercial influence. Our aim is to keep you, our readers, informed about developments at 'home' and across the world that affect them. It is again that time of year when we at Pravasi Samwad extend our thanks to those who have enjoyed and supported our work. We hope that you will accept this sincere expression of appreciation and consider helping us financially, which will enable even more reporting and deep coverage in 2023.

All information in PRAVASI SAMVAD, is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. Opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract or in interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced in whole or in part (s) without prior permission. The publisher assumes no responsibility for material lost or damaged in transit. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any loss caused by any delay in publication, error or failure of advertisement to appear.

**For advertising please contact: K S Singh +91 8002295008**

**Editorial & Marketing office: H-502, Sector 78 Noida, Uttar Pradesh**

**Managing Editor: Tirthankar Ghosh | Chief of Bureau: David Solomon**

**Contributing Editors: Roma Ghosh | Laxmi Singh**

**Chief Designer: Nagender Dubey | Photo Editor: Hemant Rawat**





## PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

9 January commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915. To mark this day, the tradition of celebrating Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) started in 2003. 1st PBD Convention was organised on 9 January 2003 to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.

Since 2015, under a revised format, PBD Convention has been organised once every 2 years.

16 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conventions have been organised till date. 16th PBD was conducted in a virtual setting with the theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat" in 2021 during the pandemic.

The 17th PBD Convention will be held from 8 – 10 January 2023 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The theme of the 17th PBD is "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal".

**DAY  
01**

08 JANUARY 2023, SUNDAY

Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Joint inauguration of Youth PBD by External Affairs Minister, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh PBD is a unique opportunity for Pravasis from the State to reconnect with their roots.

**DAY  
02**

09 JANUARY 2023, MONDAY

Inauguration of 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2023

Inauguration of 17th PBD Convention by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India in the presence of Chief guest of PBD.

**DAY  
03**

10 JANUARY 2023, TUESDAY

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

Conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards and Valedictory Address by President of India.

### Plenary Sessions of 17th PBD 2023

The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2023 will include five Plenary Sessions on the following themes:

Plenary Session I: Role of Diaspora Youth in Innovation and New Technologies.

Plenary Session II: Role of Indian Diaspora in promoting Indian Healthcare Eco-system in Amrit Kaal: Vision @2047.

Plenary Session III: Leveraging the Soft Power of India- Goodwill through Craft, Cuisine & Creativity.

Plenary Session IV: Enabling global mobility of Indian workforce – Role of Indian Diaspora.

Plenary Session V: Harnessing the potential of women diaspora entrepreneurs towards an inclusive approach to nation building.

# ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’

That is our Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision as India takes over as President of the G20 nations, a forum comprising 20 of the world’s largest advanced and developing economies, as well as the European Union, which meets every year to discuss their most pressing global issues. The Prime Minister’s clarion call is significant for the Indian Diaspora meeting at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. While addressing the Indian community in Bali on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, the Prime Minister had said India was a ray of hope for the world in the 21st century. “Today’s India doesn’t think small. Today India is doing work at unprecedented scale and speed,” the PM had pointed out. **PRAVASI SAMWAD** is proud to reproduce Prime Minister’s words to the world community.



India commenced its G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022.

The previous 17 Presidencies of the G20 delivered significant results - for ensuring macro-economic stability, rationalising international taxation, relieving debt-burden on countries, among many other outcomes. We will benefit from these achievements, and build further upon them.

However, as India assumes this important mantle, I ask myself - can the G20 go

further still? Can we catalyse a fundamental mindset shift, to benefit humanity as a whole?

**I believe we can.**

Our mindsets are shaped by our circumstances. Through all of history, humanity lived in scarcity. We fought for limited resources, because our survival depended on denying them to others. Confrontation and competition -- between ideas, ideolo-

gies and identities — became the norm.

Unfortunately, we remain trapped in the same zero-sum mindset even today. We see it when countries fight over territory or resources. We see it when supplies of essential goods are weaponised. We see it when vaccines are hoarded by a few, even as billions remain vulnerable.

Some may argue that confrontation and greed are just human nature. I disagree. If humans were inherently selfish,



what would explain the lasting appeal of so many spiritual traditions that advocate the fundamental one-ness of us all?

One such tradition, popular in India, sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements – the panch tatva of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements - within us and between us - is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being.

India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of one-ness. Hence our theme: 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

This is not just a slogan. It takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate.

Today, we have the means to produce enough to meet the basic needs of all people in the world.

Today, we do not need to fight for our survival - our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!

Today, the greatest challenges we face -- climate change, terrorism, and pandemics -- can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together.

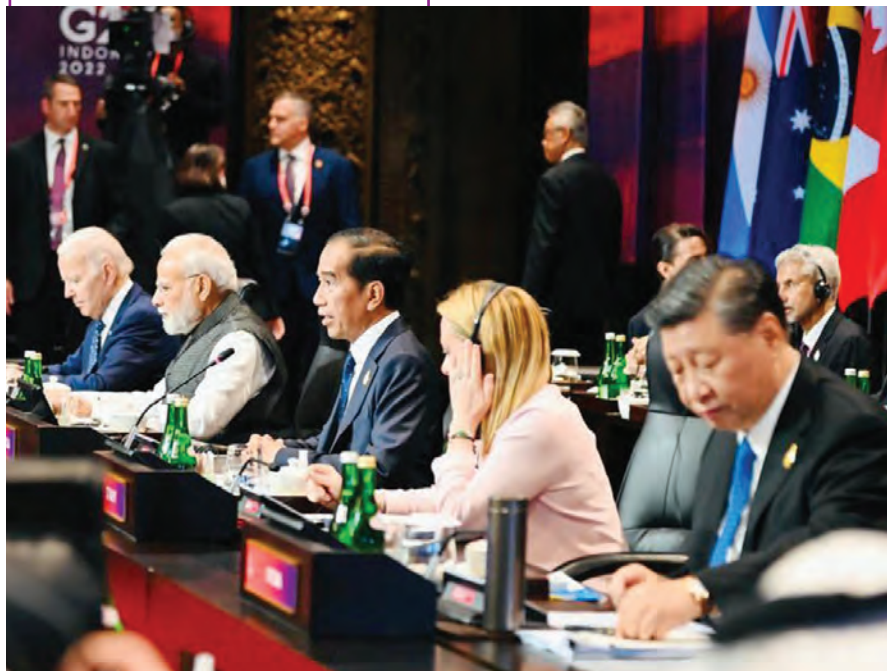
Fortunately, today's technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies.

Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world.

With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India's national consensus is forged not by diktat,



**Some may argue that confrontation and greed are just human nature. I disagree. If humans were inherently selfish, what would explain the lasting appeal of so many spiritual traditions that advocate the fundamental one-ness of us all?"**



but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.

Today, India is the fastest growing large economy. Our citizen-centric governance model takes care of even our most marginalised citizens, while nurturing the creative genius of our talented youth.

We have tried to make national development not an exercise in top-down governance, but rather a citizen-led 'people's movement'.

We have leveraged technology to create digital public goods that are open, inclusive and inter-operable. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial inclusion, and electronic payments.

For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions. During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings

and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.

Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

Our priorities will focus on healing our 'One Earth', creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for our 'One Future'.

For healing our planet, we will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature.



**Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world. With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy."**

For promoting harmony within the human family, we will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical products, so that geo-political tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises. As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern. For imbuing hope in our future generations, we will encourage an honest conversation among the most powerful countries - on mitigating risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and enhancing global security.

India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope.

Let us work together to shape a new paradigm - of human-centric globalisation.

# QUOTE/ UNQUOTE

DR S JAISHANKAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER



**“PBD 2023 IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE INDIAN DIASPORA TO SHARE IDEAS AND SENTIMENTS ABOUT INDIA'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND BE PARTNERS IN THE GOLDEN PERIOD AMRIT KAAL WHEN IN THE NEXT 25 YEARS THE NATION WILL MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS ACHIEVING AN AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT AND IMPLEMENTING PANCH PRAN.”**



**“THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI JI, HAS ACCORDED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT AND IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT IN THE PLETHORA OF DIASPORA INITIATIVES TAKEN SINCE 2014.”**



**“OUR DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT POLICY IS FOUNDED ON THE CORNERSTONE OF 4CS — CARE, CONNECT, CELEBRATE AND CONTRIBUTE — WHEREIN WE HAVE GREATLY INVESTED IN ALL ASPECTS BY INCREASING THE WELFARE SCHEMES AND ACTIVITIES AND DEEPENING THE ENGAGEMENT OF DIASPORA IN VARIOUS EVENTS AND PLATFORMS.”**



**“THE FOCUS IS PEOPLE-CENTRIC, AS ARTICULATED IN THE THEME ‘HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN DIASPORA ENTREPRENEURS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO NATION-BUILDING’ AND ON ‘ENABLING GLOBAL MOBILITY OF INDIAN WORKFORCE - ROLE OF INDIAN DIASPORA.’”**

**“WE CELEBRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS WITH MORE VIGOUR ABROAD AND THE MISSIONS ARE ALWAYS PREPARED TO ASSIST INDIANS ABROAD IN TIME, IN ANY CRISIS. THE VANDE BHARAT MISSION DURING COVID STANDS OUT AS AN EXTRAORDINARY EXAMPLE ON THE SCALE OF THIS COMMITMENT.”**



**“WE BROUGHT BACK 70 MILLION PEOPLE UNDER THE VANDE BHARAT MISSION FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. NO ONE HAS DONE THAT, IT IS THE BIGGEST EVACUATION AND WAS DONE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THAT IS INDIA THAT THE WORLD SEES TODAY.”**

**“HEALTH HUB IS A VERY STRONG TERM... INTERESTINGLY, INDIA IS A HEALTH HUB FOR MANY COUNTRIES. PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED AT THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS WHO VISIT INDIA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES, NOT JUST FROM THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD, BUT FROM THE GULF, FROM EAST AFRICA, FROM CENTRAL ASIA.”**



**“INDIA'S REPUTATION AS THE PHARMACY OF THE WORLD HAS GROWN... IF YOU GO TO ISLANDS IN THE CARIBBEAN, IN SPECIFIC PARTS OF AFRICA, WHERE ACTUALLY VACCINES WERE MADE MUCH CLOSER TO THEM, BUT THEY DIDN'T GET THE VACCINES FROM THOSE CENTRES, THEY WANTED VACCINES FROM US.”**

**“WE ARE THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS MADE ITS OWN VACCINE. WE ARE ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES TO HAVE OUR OWN COWIN APP SO THAT EVERYONE WHO VACCINATES HAS A DIGITAL CERTIFICATE. TODAY'S INDIA IS CAPABLE OF FINDING SOLUTIONS WHILE FACING CHALLENGES.”**



**“I THANK THE DIASPORA MEMBERS FOR THEIR GREAT DEVOTION AND COMMITMENT TO THEIR MOTHERLAND DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC.”**



# Yoga Festival blazed a trail of wellbeing in Oman

The 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) evoked good response from across the communities in Oman. More than 1,500 yoga enthusiasts, including Omani nationals took part in the events that took place in major cities including Muscat, Salalah, Suhar, Nizwa and Sur. The Yoga Festival in Oman blazed a trail for universal health and wellbeing, wrote **AMIT NARANG**, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, on the occasion of IDY, 2022.

**D**iabetes, back & joint pain, blood pressure, heart disease – all too common ailments that do not differentiate between nationality, ethnicity, region or religion. Rich, poor or middle class, all of us are equally vulnerable. The World Health Organisation estimates that non-communicable or chronic diseases kill around 41 million people every year, equivalent to 71 per cent of all deaths globally.

Prevention from such diseases, as also from disorders linked to modern lifestyles such as stress, anxiety and depression, is possible by following a holistic approach to wellness, by bringing about a balance between the mind and body and by enhancing our body's natural tendency toward health and self-healing.

Yoga, the ancient tradition from India, shows the path to holistic health and wellbeing, offering physical and mental health benefits for people of all ages, everywhere.

Requiring a little more than a mat and comfortable clothes, Yoga is the path to everyday health. Its daily practice is simple, affordable and accessible. It promises innumerable benefits, recognised and endorsed by health professionals around the world.

In 2014, the overwhelming response to the United Nations General Assembly call to recognise June 21 as the International Day of Yoga underlined the universal appeal of this ancient discipline for physical and mental health. Since then, the International Day of Yoga has been marked globally with great fervour.

Covid pandemic reinforced to the world the imperatives of natural immunity and good health practices and brought the benefits of Yoga to the centre of global imagination once again.

As the world marks the 8th International Day of Yoga today, Yoga has already



transformed into a mass movement, transcending all barriers and bringing people from all over the world on to a common platform for attaining better health, reinvigorating an inner consciousness and promoting harmony and peace. The theme for this year's International Day of Yoga is 'Yoga for Humanity', showcasing the important role Yoga has played in helping humanity cope with the devastating effects of the Covid pandemic. As a combination of careful body postures, breathing and medita-

tion, yoga can help achieve harmony of the body, mind and soul. It helps boost immunity and resistance to common illnesses, stress and anxiety – just what is required these days. The holistic practice of Yoga not only benefits the mind and body, it also inculcates love, generosity and compassion towards others, promoting a humanity of the heart so needed in today's world.

People of the Sultanate of Oman have taken to Yoga as an elixir for better health with great enthusiasm.



# Oman invited to attend G20 as a guest country

**A**s part of its Presidency of the G-20, India has extended a special invitation to the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the G-20 Summit and meetings as a Guest country.

India assumed the Presidency of the G-20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. Under its Presidency, India is expected to host over 200 G-20 meetings across the country, in addition to the G-20 Leaders' Summit at the Heads of State Government level on September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi. Other countries invited as Guests

include Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Singapore, Spain, and UAE.

The Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, Amit Narang said that India's invitation to Oman to participate as an esteemed Guest country during its G-20 Presidency is a mark of the special friendship between the two countries.

He noted that this reiterated Oman's position as one of India's foremost partners in the Gulf region and beyond and a testimony to the strategic and multidimensional relationship between both countries.

Ambassador Narang further noted that this will be an opportunity for the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the premier intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies, accounting for nearly 85 percent of global GDP, 75 percent of international trade, and two-thirds of the world population. Oman's participation in the meetings of the G-20 will also provide a useful platform to further deepen and strengthen the multifaceted cooperation between the Governments of India and Oman.



(From Left) Amit Narang, Indian Ambassador to Oman; V Murleedharan, MOS for External Affairs and Ibrahim Saif Al Azri, Director General and Editor-in-Chief of Oman News agency during the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Indian news agency ANI and ONA.



# Welcome to the city where you just can't stay indoors



**Y**ou are in Indore, the 'Cleanest City' in India. It's no mean feat. Indore has won the title for the sixth year in a row even as Madhya Pradesh is the cleanest state in the country.

The Commercial Capital of Madhya Pradesh, Indore boasts of history, romance, spirituality and much more. Indore was an ancient settlement which flourished at the end of the 15th century. Once the capital of the Holkars, the city was founded by Rao Nandlal Chaudhary. His name for the city was 'Indrapur' after Lord Indra, the deity of Indreshwar temple. The Indreshwar temple – the city's oldest shrine -- is believed to have gotten its name from its original contributor, the Rashtrakuta King Indra III who was a ruler during the late 10th century.

Subedar Malhar Rao of the Holkar Dynasty restored the Shiva temple in the early 17th century when the city was an existing trading headquarters and a camping location for guerrilla exercises. The Holkar kingdom ruled the city as Maratha kings and later as Maharajas of the city and remained a thriving Maratha Empire until the 18th century. Later, their empire turned into a princely state under the rule of the British Government.

During the Maratha regime, the city was renamed 'Indur', which the local Marathi community continues to use. During the British era, the city's name was Anglicised to 'Indore'.

The Holkar dynasty played a major role in the history of Indore. Indore region was granted as a reward to Malhar Rao Holkar, founder of the dynasty by the Peshwas. Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar brought several developmental changes and reforms in the city. Although Maheshwar was the capital of the Holkars during the reign of Rani Ahilyabai,



Indore remained an important commercial and military centre. Rajawada, Lal Baug Palace and Sukh Niwas stand testimony to the grandeur of the Holkar era in Indore.

After independence in 1947, the Holkar state acceded with the Union of India and in 1948, Indore became the summer capital of Madhya Bharat. On November 1, 1956, the state capital was shifted to Bhopal after state of Madhya Pradesh was created.

Losing capital status did not lower Indore's status. It remains an important commercial centre of Madhya Pradesh and is one of the fastest growing cities in the country. The presence of the third oldest stock exchange, the Madhya Pradesh Stock Exchange, in the city, emphasizes Indore's commercial importance.

Situated on the scenic Malwa plateau, the landscape of Indore comprises undulating plateaus and rocky terrain. These plateaus are between 485 to 579 metres above sea level and in the southeastern area of the city lie steep valleys and hills with narrow streams.

The city enjoys continental weather, given its strategic location in the country's centre, far from the oceans. While summers in the city are swelteringly hot, winters are occasionally freezing, with average rain during monsoons. In addition, the average city weather remains moderate due to its geographical placing near the Malwa Plateau.

This largest city of Madhya Pradesh, Indore shares its boundary with Betwa and Pithampur in the west, Sanwer and Ujjain in the North, Mhow, Choral, Khandwa, and Manpur in the South and Dewas and Simrol in the north and southeast, respectively.

A beautiful city – there is an old Indore and a new Indore – it has quite a few examples of architectural magnificence, thanks to its royal history. Located on the banks of the River Khan and Saraswati, it was due largely to Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar — a great fan of architectural designs – that the city saw the construction of many temples and forts





in and around it. The city and its people remember the queen's contribution: her statue is in the center of the city, near Rajwada.

Indore is a home to many industries, like automobile, textile, IT, etc. and it provides opportunities to students and businesspersons. Even as the city is slowly becoming the IT hub of Madhya Pradesh, a large number of educational institutes are being established. Indore is, in fact, the only city in India to have both the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Another renowned educational institute in the heart of the city is the Devi Ahilya Vishwa Vidyalaya, established in the year 1964. As a hub of educational institutes, Indore attracts a lot of youngsters every year. This gives the city a cosmopolitan lifestyle and today the city is famous for its food, festival, and handicrafts providing tourists the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends and relish their holidays in the heart of India: Madhya Pradesh. Now that we know a little about Indore, let's take a look at the sights of the city. Take a trip to the city's most popular attraction, the 'Rajwada,' which is the historical palace of the Holkars, built almost two centuries ago, located in the centre of the city.

The magnificent Rajwada Palace is a spectacular architectural marvel constructed of timber and stone. Well-known as the Holkar Wada, the palace has seven floors and incorporates Maratha, European, and Mughal architectural elements to make it a truly distinctive attraction.

Located in the city's centre, the Central Museum (also famous as the Indore Museum)

(um) is a haven for history lovers. Instituted in the 19th century, this museum exhibits antiques and relics from modern and pre-



historic times. In addition, the major exhibits comprise coins, sculptures, stone statues, guns used by Jehangir, Babur and Humayun, and armour used in battles.

Another prime attraction is the 'Lal Baag Palace,' one of the most spectacular buildings in Indore. Built on the bank of River Khan by Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar, the Lal Baag Palace remains an eternal testimony to the art, lifestyle, and architecture of the Maratha kingdom. Besides, this three-storey construction that once acted as the home of the Holkars is now a majestic museum. It accommodates captivatingly designed interiors

with Italian and Indian paintings, elegant chandeliers, furnishings that belonged to the early Georgian and late Persian styles, and an enchanting ballroom.

Take out some time to visit Kanch Mandir, made entirely of glass and mirrors by the "Cotton King" Sir Hukamchand Seth, a Jain leader in the early 20th century. Kanch Mandir, constructed with mirrors and glass, is best viewed at night. The Chinese glass lights used for embellishing the interiors improve its visual allure, making it a perfect spot for devotees and art enthusiasts.

Then there are the famous Chattris (cenotaphs or a war memorial) of Indore, built in the memory of the Holkar rulers.

For spirituality, visit the Bada Ganapati, Khajrana, Gomatgiri, and Indreshwar temple that are among the popular religious spots in Indore. Or, enjoy a pleasant night at the Gandhi Hall to watch a classical musical concert.

And for the romantically inclined there

is the Tinchafaal waterfall, located a few kilometers away from the city. There is also the Pipliyapala Regional Park, located on the banks of Pipliyapala Lake. It is worth spending time at the park. Besides taking a stroll in the lush gardens, you can even try boating and explore the musical fountains, the artists' village, and even spend the night in a mini-cruiser, the Malwa Queen.

For the more adventurous, there is the Mayank Blue Water Park where you can feel the adrenaline rush as you go rafting, splashing, and delightful slides and rides.



# Lip-smacking streetfood at your beck and call



If you haven't tasted Indore's culinary delicacies, you are, perhaps, missing the most important part of your visit to the city. Along with its 'Cleanest City' tag, Indore can claim to be the country's street-food capital. The city, according to food enthusiasts, is the undisputed haven for vegetarian street food. enthusiasts when you wake up to the sight of enticing mounds of exquisite poha and fresh from the kadhai jalebis on the street.

There is the Sarafa Bazar, a famous street food lane in the city that offers the best regional culinary treats. A jewellery market during the day and a food lover's paradise at night, this food lane is where you can eat your heart out without burning a hole in your pocket.

Wait, there's more. A must visit place is the Chhappan Dukaan (56-odd stores). So, let's tempt you with a list of the greatest street food of Indore.

The humble Dahi Vada becomes a work of beauty at Indore's Sarafa Bazaar. The magic is done at the Joshi Dahi Vada Wala where he twirls the bowl in the air, then adds four different spices with a single pinch before offering you this tangy treat. The Vadas are delicious, and the twirling bowl remains in your memory for a long time.

- Joshi Dahi Bada House, 24 Bada Sarafa, Sarafa Bazaar

The normally bland Sabudana Khichdi has been turned into a top Indore Street food. The boiling sabudana is blended with a variety of namkeens and crunchy chips, topped with spices, and sprinkled with lemon and coriander to create one of the most delectable versions of the dish you've ever had.

- Sabudana Khichdi is best at Sanwariya Seth which has multiple locations throughout the city, including one at

Sarafa Bazaar.

Garadu is Indore's take on Delhi's crispy and tangy Aloo ki chaat. Garadu, a yam variety, is sliced, cooked till golden brown, and then topped with a generous helping of a particular masala. Added to it is plenty of lemon juice.

- Several shops at Sarafa Bazaar serve them fresh

From early morning to late afternoon, wherever you go in Indore, you'll be within walking distance of a kiosk or shop serving steaming hot poha. You won't be able to stop at just one helping, steamed to perfection and topped with the omnipresent Indori sev, a sprinkling of coriander, and a dash of lemon. It can be served with spicy kachori for a unique flavour combination.



And to become an Indori, wrap up your breakfast with delectable crispy jalebis.

- Poha jalebi is available at every sweet shop in Indore. Tarang's Poha in Chhapan Dukaan is quite popular.

Bhutte ki Kees is unique. You've never had this serving of corn anywhere else. The bhutte ki kees is essentially boiled and grated corn tempered with heeng, cumin, green chillies, and fennel seeds, topped with other spices, a touch of lemon, and served with shredded coconut, another Indore speciality cuisine.

- Joshi Dahi Bada House, Bada Sarafa, Sarafa Bazaar

Khopra Patties are made of perfectly cooked potato patties with a coconut filling and a generous amount of zesty chutneys. At both Sarafa and Chhapan Dukan outlets, the legendary Vijay Chaat House, one of the best places to eat in Indore, provides these and many other delectable delights.

- Vijay Chaat House, Shops 6-8, Chhapan Dukan, New Palasia

A whole meal in itself, the Shikanji glass is decorated with piles of dry fruit and has a texture between rabri and lassi in taste.

- Madhuram Sweets at Chhapan Dukaan, New Palasia

Among the whole list of must-try ka-

chori spots in the city, the best are the Lal Balti ki Kachori. Spicy balls of fried dough stuffed with a variety of fillings, the Lal Balti ki Kachori vies for the top position. The potato stuffed kachoris are served with the signature green chilli chutney.

- Near Gas Agency, Nagar Nigam Chiman Bagh, Jail Road, Indore

The golden brown delicious malpuas presented on enormous tawas at several food stalls is a temptation you cannot resist while feasting your eyes on the delights at Sarafa Bazaar. Combine it with rabri for the ideal dessert to cap off your Sarafa



culinary adventure. Mawa baatis, a larger and richer counterpart of gulab jamuns, will likewise make you salivate.

- Bada Saraf, Sarafa bazaar

Dal Batti is a meal from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. Made with lentils, wheat flour, and a lot of ghee, the Dal Batti will melt in your mouth and make you fall in love with it. It is served with a salad and a coriander dip.

- Arihant Dal Bati is Indore's most famous site for trying Dal Batti.

In Indore, sandwiches come in a variety of flavours. On your Indore Street food adventure, you could ample everything from grilled vegetable sandwiches to tandoori sandwiches. Locals adore the cheese and sev sandwich, which can be found all around the city.

- Shyam Sandwich and Ajanta Sandwich Centre serve some of the city's most delectable sandwiches

Parathas are one of India's most popular foods, and the ones sold on the streets are particularly tasty. Indore, like every other Indian city, has a specific street where delectable paranthas may be found. Aadesh Shahi Paratha serves varieties of

parathas — from paneer paratha to potato sev paratha.

- Aadesh Shahi Paratha

Vijay Singh founded Johny Hot Dog, which is an excellent place to sample the most popular Indore Street cuisine. The locals adore hot dogs so much that if given the choice between McDonalds and Johny Hot Dog, they would choose Vijay Singh's. A trip to Indore would be incomplete without sampling this delectable vegetarian hot dog.

- Shop no 51, 52, 56 Dukan St, Chhapan Dukan and New Palasia

Fritters, also known as Bhajia, are a popular snack in India. Gram flour or lentils can be used to make this recipe. The bhajia cooked with moong dal is the most popular snack in Indore. Moong Bhajiya should be on your list of must-try Indore street food items, served with coriander dip and an onion and radish salad.

- Mahalaxmi Moong Ke Bhajiye

Bina Tala Samosa, a healthier form of Samosa, is another delicacy offered in Indore that you should try. Baked Samosa, also known as Bina Tala Samosa, is made with flour and packed with boiling potatoes. This meal, sometimes known as veg puffs or patties, is a crunchy delicacy that will satisfy your taste buds.

- Sanchi Point in Indore is a great place to sample this dish's flavours.

Kulfi falooda is the perfect mithai to help you digest that big street food lunch. On a hot summer day, this meal, which combines creamy kulfi with saffron-laced falooda, is instantly cooling. It's chilly, sweet, and has a unique texture that makes you want more.

- All Indore sweet shops

You may have tried everything from paneer jalebi to khoya jalebi, but jaleba is definitely the father of all jalebis. It is a huge jalebi with colossal proportions. After all, jaleba is a dinner and a dessert in one!

- All Indore sweet shops

Dal Bafla, the baked dish may look like its Rajasthani equivalent, but it tastes nothing like it. Wheat, curd, and spices are used to make it. Before boiling, it's formed into round balls and soaked in water. Crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, this balanced and healthful dish is delicious.

- All Indore Street Shops



# AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES SAOG

## OMAN'S PREMIER FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS PROVIDER



Bridge Loans  
Project Finance  
Debt Factoring  
Bill Discounting  
Corporate Loans  
Corporate Deposit  
Lifeline Auto Loans  
Working Capital Loans  
Express Business Loans  
Lifestyle Personal Loans  
Plant Equipment & Machinery  
Construction Loans (Factories & Warehouses)



**Al Omaniya Financial Services (SAOG)**

*Values stronger than money*

P.O. Box: 1087, Jibroo, Postal Code: 114, Sultanate of Oman Tel.: 247 247 00, Fax: 2481 3258  
Email: [aofsoman@omantel.net.om](mailto:aofsoman@omantel.net.om) | [www.aofsoman.com](http://www.aofsoman.com)

# MESMERISING MUSCAT

A cultural hub, Muscat provides a platform to various forms of art and culture. It offers space to stimulating thoughts to spread their wings









## Ratansi Purshottam, Gokaldas Khimji Ramdas globalised Oman's economy

Indian trading families played a crucial role in the diversification of Omani economy, said  
**DR CALVIN H. ALLEN, JR**

**T**he Indian trading diaspora in Oman played a critical role in enabling the globalisation of the Omani economy in the late 19th and 20th centuries, said Dr. Calvin H. Allen, Jr during his recent visit to Oman where he gave a lecture on 'Beyond the Diaspora: Indian Merchants and the Globalisation of Omani Trade in the 19th and 20th Centuries'.

Dr. Calvin is a Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic History and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. In his lecture at Indian Embassy Muscat, Dr. Calvin highlighted the role of Indian merchants in globalisation of the Omani economy.

"From pioneering the export of Omani dates to America and with their role as contractors for important construction

**From pioneering the export of Omani dates to America and with their role as contractors for important construction projects at the beginning of the Omani renaissance, the Indian diaspora families have been pioneers in the transformation of the Omani economy and its diversification."**

projects at the beginning of the Omani renaissance, the Indian diaspora families have been pioneers in the transformation of the Omani economy and its diversification."

Dr Allen cited two of Oman's most famous Indian merchants, Ratansi Purshottam and Gokaldas Khimji Ramdas, as case studies and asserted that both expanded their commercial networks beyond traditional relationships and connections formed through common ethnicity, religion, and locality to ties based on shared global economic values.

"They played an important role in the globalisation of the Omani economy between 1856-1970. Although the success of Indian merchants is often attributed to activities within the great Indian Diaspora," he said.

The globalisation process seems to have started initially through the Indian trading diaspora's connection with India, Eastern Europe, East and North Africa.

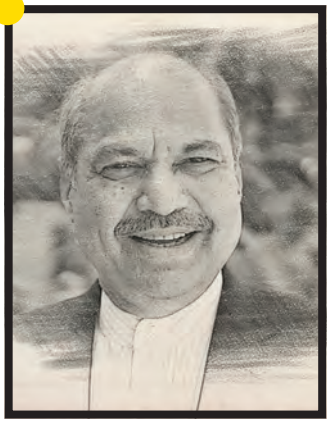
"From pioneering the export of Omani dates to America and with their role as contractors for important construction projects at the beginning of the Omani renaissance, the Indian diaspora families have been

pioneers in the transformation of the Omani economy and its diversification," he said.

Dr. Calvin has a vast teaching experience including full-time positions at the College of the Ozarks in Missouri, the University of Memphis in Tennessee, and visiting positions at Drury College and the University of Pittsburgh.

He is known for his expertise in the history of the Indian Diaspora in Oman and has authored three books on Oman, most recently a survey of Omani history for high school-age students, and more than 40 articles. Dr. Allen had played a vital role in the exhibition 'India-Oman 50 years of diplomatic relations and 5000 years of friendship' at the Bait Al Zubair museum in 2005.





# The man for all seasons

## DR P. MOHAMED ALI

Founder, Galfar Group  
Chairman, National University Science & Technology  
Chairman, MFAR Group

**D**r P Mohammed Ali has the distinction of becoming the first Indian passport holder to receive the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. He received the award from the then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2004 for his outstanding work for India and the Indian community.

Everyone knows Dr Mohammed Ali for his contributions to the community. Indians know him as the Messiah of the Indian community in Oman, while Omanis know him as someone who gave back to his 'second home' Oman in all possible ways.

It was the early 70's when he set foot in Oman, leaving his government job in India's Kerala. He had a dream to work hard, grow and see the country's growth, which attracted him from thousands of kilometres.

1972 he set up Galfar Engineering and Construction Company with a meagre amount and five workers. Today, Galfar and its associate, formed by him over the course of time, have some 65,000 employees.

2002 was a great moment for Dr Mohammed Ali when he was conferred with the prestigious 'Oman Civil Order' by the then His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, making him the only Indian recipient to get this prestigious award.

"After Late Sultan Qaboos, Oman is in the right hands of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The country is overcoming challenges and poised for a new growth scenario under his leadership," he said.

Dr Mohammed Ali passed through many difficulties, successes and challenges in the course of his journey. He travelled through them giving "tough time to his problems" and working harder and harder during his moments of success.

"Only by sitting on the sore, you cannot get the fish. You have to wet your feet and venture into the sea," he says summarising his rags to riches story and the philosophy of his life and work. Asked how he strikes a balance between janmbhoomi (motherland) and karmbhoomi (workplace), Dr Mohammed Ali quipped, "I give back to my country as much as possible as an NRI. My country recognised my work and honoured me with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. Similarly, I give my

best in Oman, where I live and work. This is my second home. The government of Oman recognised my work and honoured me with the 'Oman Civil Award'. I have always been instrumental in building a channel for better human resource through educational institutions that I set up with the help of the Omani Government."

He is instrumental in setting up five higher education institutions, including medicine, engineering, pharmacy, and maritime colleges. These colleges helped build a cadre of specialised human resources in the country.

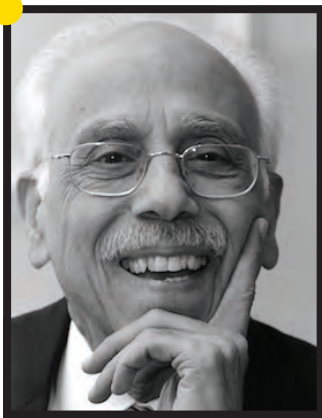
"It was a crucial time for the community in 1990 when Gulf War broke out. There was chaos. We at Galfar Engineering rose to the occasion and set up Indian School Al Ghubra, which has emerged as a premier school for the Indian community in Oman," he said while explaining his engagement with the Indian community in Oman.

Any adversity, whether natural calamities or a situation like Covid-19 pandemic and Dr Ali is there for the community.

Commenting on the expectations of the NRIs from the motherland India, Dr Mohammed Ali said, "The NRI community makes a huge contribution to India's nation-building. The currency crisis of 1991 needs to be noted... NRIs infused money into the system that proved to be hugely beneficial," he said.

"As NRIs, people have some tax relaxation. Sometimes we hear about curtailing that structure, which is not good. That will affect the flow of foreign currency which goes through remittances to India... Another move that requires NRIs to live away from India to protect their NRI status is also not good. NRIs should be allowed to live in India as much as they can. With their resources and foreign they will contribute to India somehow or the other," he said.

He expressed happiness over the country's growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Today, the world is recognising India for its strength. We are strong in asking for our rights. It is a matter of great pride for me as an Indian. Our PM has put India on a different platform."



# Power to his own destiny

**SURESH KUMAR VIRMANI**

Ex MD Bahwan Engineering Group

President of Indo Gulf & Middle East Chamber of Commerce – Oman Chapter

**S**uresh Kumar Virmani, recipient of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman in 2010, is a man of conviction and known for setting high benchmarks for all his ventures.

Born in 1943, three years before India's independence, Virmani's life is full of adventures, which he loves to entertain with ease and a call of destiny. He was born in Lahore with parental roots in Sargoda village in Punjab (Pakistan). His parents migrated to India and settled in Delhi after the partition.

He spent his initial years in Delhi, did graduation in engineering in Jodhpur in 1965 and worked for Voltas in India for 12 years.

1977 was another turning point when he decided to say goodbye to a secured job in Voltas and come to Oman. He calls it a chance encounter with a recruitment agent, which became instrumental in his coming to Oman. He, however, does not forget to mention 'destiny' that was behind all his moves in life.

The agent introduced Virmani to Omani businessman Suhail Bahwan, who was looking for someone to set up an air-conditioning company. It was like a dream come true moment for him as he always wanted to set up a new company and run it independently.

He founded the Bahwan Engineering Company (BEC) in 1977. Initially, it was only an air-conditioning unit with a staff strength of 14. During his tenure as director, the company witnessed phenomenal heights and the staff strength reached around 14,000 when he retired after serving for 36 years. He was instrumental in bringing a large number of engineers from several states in India.

The company built a position of repute and excellence in the areas of products and projects in the electrical, mechanical, civil and oil fields in a short period.

While achieving professional heights,

he did not forget his social responsibilities. He was instrumental in establishing social and cultural institutions for the Indian diaspora in Oman.

He was one of the founding fathers of the Indian Cultural Association, which is now known as the Indian Social Club and is the hub of activities for the Indian community, with its branches spread all over Oman. Later he played an important role in setting up several Indian schools in many parts of the country.

The company that he founded in 1977 grew leaps and bounds under his leadership. The BEC diversified its operations, and today it is 'the company' for all kinds of construction activities in the country, with its presence in most of the GCC countries.

Despite being very busy professionally, Virmani always stood for India and the Indian community in Oman. Whether it was an earthquake in Latur (Maharashtra) and Bhuj (Gujrat) or floods in Bihar, he was at the forefront to provide help. In Bhuj, a village was reconstructed with the help of funds collection from Oman.

He can be seen in all the important social gatherings of the Indian community and is active professionally even after retirement. He is the President of the Indo Gulf

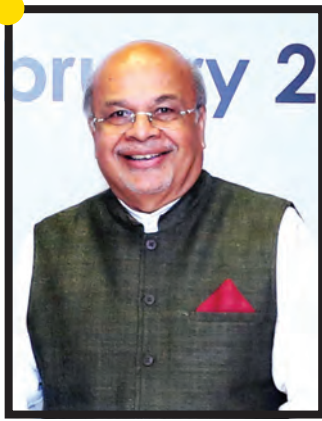
& Middle East Chamber of Commerce, Oman Chapter (under formation). The chapter aims to promote business relations actively between Oman and India.

His proactive involvement in the committee brought the engineer, and now a successful businessman, close to his latent passion for education. "When I see children in school, something touches my inner soul. The cacophony in school may sound like noise to others but I find that very musical. I sense a massive energy among schoolchildren," he adds.



**While achieving professional heights, Suresh Virmani did not forget his social responsibilities. He was instrumental in establishing social and cultural institutions for the Indian diaspora in Oman**





# A philanthropist and businessman

**KIRAN ASHER**

Group Managing Director,  
Al Ansari Group

A philanthropist and businessman, Kiran Navinchandra Asher, received the highest civilian award for the NRIs and PIOs — Pravasi Bharatiya Samman — in 2012. He is the most sought-after man for social and cultural events in Oman due to his acceptability across the communities, sense of wisdom and a good understanding of national and international issues.

Known as Kiran Bhai in the Indian community, Kiran Asher is always ready to play the role of a big brother for anyone in distress and works as a bridge between the communities.

Wisdom seems to have travelled naturally to Kiran Bhai from his great-grandfather, who was appointed 'Kazi' (wise man or a judge) by Late Sultan Qaboos' grandfather. His family is still known as the 'Kazi family' in Oman and India.

Born in Bombay (present Mumbai) in 1946, he lived with his father, who had a business there. After basic education in Mumbai, he left for the UK at the age of 19, where he did B.Tech (Hons.) in Industrial Engineering & Management.

Kiran Asher's association with Oman is as old as his great-grandfather's. In search of the family legacy, Kiran Bhai came to Oman in 1975. The same year he became the Founder-Partner & Group Managing Director of the Al Ansari Group of Companies. Since then, there has been no looking back for him.

The Forbes Middle East put him among the 100' Top Indian Leaders in the Middle East' in 2014 and 2016.

He is a witness to the growth of Oman and has been part and parcel of it through his professional and social works.

An educationist, community leader, donor, sponsor and sports enthusiast, Kiran Asher, is known for doing work without noise. He can remarkably manage several responsibilities with ease, commitment, care and compassion.

No wonder he is on several committees and activities that range from education, community welfare, and sports to business.

He is actively involved in philanthropy work either through the Indian Merchant Community or his personal resources.



He proactively participated in fundraising to rehabilitate the victims of calamities that have struck India. His leadership role after the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 resulted in the construction of 112 houses for the displaced in Bhuj, Gujarat, with the help of contributions from the Indian community in Oman.

The same effort was seen after the disastrous flooding of the Kosi river in Bihar and the tsunami off the Tamil Nadu coast.

His Bridge Trust in India, in association with the local NGO, takes care of basic amenities for villages in various parts of rural India. Another NGO, Ekalvidyalaya, provides basic education to needy students.

Kiran Bhai and his company Al Ansari's generosity is not restricted to India. He and his group were at the forefront when cyclones Gonu and Phet ravaged Oman. He actively participated with the Indian Social Club, Gujrati Samaj and the Indian Merchant Community to help needy people.

He beats the enthusiasm of any young man when he puts on a cap and sportswear for sports events. He is passionately associated with Oman Cricket, of which he is a Senior Board member and Treasurer.

Kiran Asher is always keen to take Indo-Oman relations to the next level and deserves to be known as the 'Wise Man' across the communities.



# Man with a golden heart

## R M PARAKH

Ex Managing Director (Finance)  
Saud Bahwan Group,  
Chairman & Managing Director,  
Biogenomics Limited

**T**he man with a golden heart, Raj Mal Parakh shies away from pomp and splendour. He puts his energy either into professional work or personal commitments, the range of which is very extensive.

The core of RM Parakh, which rested in philanthropy and social work, was not known to many until the Government of India honoured him with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman in 2015. He is instrumental in setting up trusts, educational institutions, hospitals and even shelters for the homeless in the aftermath of natural calamities.

Known for diligence, hard work and managerial skills, R M Parakh is a respected business professional in Oman and the Middle East. He is considered a visionary amongst his peers.

He is the Chairman and Managing Director of Biogenomics Limited, which is planning to set up a plant in Oman. The majority stake of the company has been acquired by the Oman Investment Authority (OIA), which is using R M Parakh's experience to execute the project.

Since arriving in Oman in 1978, RM Parakh has successfully displayed dynamism and visionary leadership in the Saud Bahwan Group, one of the largest trading houses in the Middle East. He served as Managing Director (Finance) in the company and played a key role in its success.

Both the Indian and Omani sides, appreciate his role in the growth of Indo-Oman bilateral relations.

He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman, and founding Chairman of the Muscat chapter of the Chartered Accountants of India for five years, from 1989 to 1994.

Asked how he felt after being honoured with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest civilian award for the Indian diaspora, and RM Parakh

quipped, "It is a matter of great pride for me. It matters a lot to me and gives me an added responsibility to do more for my motherland and the land of work, from where I could serve the cause of humanity in Oman and India."

In Oman, he serves the social cause without being in the limelight. He almost everywhere to cater to the need of the humanity and society.

He has a long list of social work, including direct or indirect support for the orphanages, visually and physically challenged people, child education, girl education, eye camps, polio camps and direct assistance to people affected by natural calamities.

People known to him recall his contributions during the Uttarakhand flood tragedy, the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat and Bihar's Kosi flooding. "Despite his busy professional schedule, RM Parakh chose to be in Uttarakhand with his team for seven days to execute his plan to rehabilitate people. He adopted four worst-affected villages in Uttarakhand and did massive work for other affected people," said Sathish Nambiar, President of Indian Social Club, Muscat. "At the same time, we feel proud that an NRI from Oman was the highest donor for the New Delhi-based Pravasi Bhawan."



**I feel bad when I see people not having access to a good hospital for treatment. I try to do as much as I can... I do not accept any outside donations in my private charitable trust (RM Parakh Charitable Trust). I do everything from the personal fund,"**

RM Parakh does not want to talk much about his philanthropy and thanks the almighty God for making him able to do all the good work.

"I feel bad when I see people not having access to a good hospital for treatment. I try to do as much as I can... I do not accept any outside donations in my private charitable trust (RM Parakh Charitable Trust). I do everything from the personal fund," he says with a sense of compassion and conviction for the social cause that he stands for.





# A doctor who loves Oman as much as his village in Erode

**DR SETHU RAMANATHAN**

Senior Consultant in Orthopaedics  
Head of Sports Medicine  
Muscat Private Hospital

**H**is childhood passion for sports led Dr Sethu Ramanathan to become an expert in sports medicine. He emerged as the 'Father of Sports Medicine' in Oman by developing the first sports medicine service in the country.

Oman is a country where football is the most popular game among the nationals, and a doctor to heal football-related injuries was much needed.

Soon after his arrival in Muscat on August 15, 1987, Dr Ram filled the vacuum, as he was the only one in the country to offer sports medicine service. He joined as Head of the Arthroscopy and Sports Injuries Unit at Khoula Hospital, Muscat (National Trauma Center) and remained there till November 2013. Currently, he is a Senior Consultant in Orthopaedics and Head of Sports Medicine at Muscat Private Hospital, Oman.

"The initial years in Oman were challenging yet interesting for me. I started enjoying my job because many football lovers would have game-related issues. They would be thrilled to have the right direction and medication for their problems," he said, remembering his initial days in Oman.

Passion for his job gave him wide recognition. He was the first NRI elected president of the Indian Association of Sports Medicine (IASM) in 2012. He is a member of the International Editorial Board of Journals of The Knee, USA, and Orthopedic Update, India. He also served as a member of the Asian Network of Sports Nutrition, Japan.



A proud Indian, Dr Ram is equally fond of Oman, which he calls his second home. "I find Oman the best country to live, work and relax. Omani hospitality is one of the rarest things to get anywhere in the world. The people here share, care, and make you comfortable in good and bad situations. During my 35 years in the country, I hardly had any situation, which made me uncomfortable," he says.

A committed professional, Dr Ram's commitment to society and the community is equally strong. He is a person who does not make noise for his good work and keeps on serving the communities through associations and clubs in Oman.

Back in India, Dr Ram's family supports a middle school in his native village near Erode. He is a strong votary of education and believes "education is the only tool that can bring people out of poverty. We are doing our bit and expect people to spread the cause of education as much as possible."

Dr Ram and his family have been supporting the school for several years. "My grandfather started it in 1940 as a 'Thinnai' school. The school moved later to a thatched building. Now it is equipped with an IT lab with an instructor to start digital education. The school now has a new building and modern classrooms for the students," he says. "I do not claim to be doing something 'great', but I strongly believe that "education is the only gateway to success in life, and every Indian child should have access to this gateway."

## ■ Q&A

# ‘As Pravasi Bharatiya, we are all Ambassadors of India’



**AFTAB PATEL**, Chief Executive Officer, Al Omaniya Financial Services SAOG, Sultanate of Oman, has travelled on the path of success. He is proud about India's rising stature on the international scene. As a Pravasi Bharatiya, Patel believes that when members of the Indian Diaspora make an impact outside India, they act as Ambassadors of India multiplying the pride of a 'Rising India' manifold. Aftab Patel spoke to PRAVASI SAMWAD:

● Please mention background of your first visit to Oman. Which year did you come to Oman? Your experience of being in Oman then and now.

In 1984, I came to Oman to join one of the major business houses "Dr. Omar Zawawi Group". It was matter of prestige to be selected to work for this group. Oman as then was just embarking upon its journey of development and was playing host to the GCC conference for the first time. In preparation for this, Oman's iconic Al Bustan Palace Hotel was being built and the road network was being expanded. At that time the major areas in the capital city that had been developed were Ruwi Muscat and Muttrah which had the main business and residential areas. I have been lucky to have witnessed lot of development of Oman over the years. Today Oman can compare with most developed nations of the world. It has grown manifold in the areas of healthcare, education, tourism, infrastructure, industrialization, air travel etc.

● Success comes with certain sacrifices. How do you see the dotted lines between success and sacrifice or between sacrifice and success?

From starting of my career in Oman as a salaried professional to running the leading NBFC in Oman, I have definitely travelled the path of success. The one thing that I did not sacrifice working my way up this path was "value". I believed in building a business entity with a strong foundation with strong values and ethics. I did not work backwards by trying to achieve a certain stock price for the share of Al Omaniya and tailor corporate action towards achieving this goal. My team, in fact, worked to build a strong sustainable business model. Although we could not predict all the storms, our business would have to weather especially something that totally caught us unaware this principle of building a strong business model helped us weather, business, interest

rate cycles and also Covid-19.

● Over the last few years, India's stature as a nation has gone up in the world. As a Pravasi Bharatiya, how has that impacted you?

India's rising stature on the international scene is a matter of pride for every Indian and when Pravasi Bharatiyas make an impact outside India, they act as Ambassadors of India multiplying the sense of this pride.

● Being successful in the country that brought you success has an added responsibility. How do you strike balance between your responsibilities for the Motherland and the Second home?

I see no differences in my responsibilities for my motherland and my second home. I believe that a person has to be a good human being first and foremost. I consider myself a responsible global citizen who can rise above man made artificial boundaries. When opportunities arise to help the motherland, I try to extend my maximum help whether it be individuals, organizations and humanitarian causes. In Oman, I extend my help too. In helping humanity, I don't set any barriers — whether the call is from my homeland or my second home.



**When opportunities arise to help the motherland, I try to extend my maximum help whether it be individuals, organizations and humanitarian causes. In Oman, I extend my help too. In helping humanity, I don't set any barriers — whether the call is from my homeland or my second home."**

● As an NRI, what are your expectations from India?

When we came out of the country, in those days better opportunities were limited in India. Now with the good educational system and diverse economic growth across all spectrum of the economy, opportunities are plenty for anyone to grow. The emigration out of the country has reduced but still the image of the country is yet to change for better across the globe. For realizing the country's full potential and to stand as a super power where the reverse brain drain has to happen, the country has to go implement relevant policy





level changes which will attract and promote invention and innovation in every area.

● **As a Pravasi Bharatiya, what would you like the Indian government to do as far as issues of 'individual taxes' and 'NRI voting' are concerned?**

As far as "individual taxes" are concerned I would like there to be a degree of flexibility in the application of the "tests of residence". The current period of (120 days) is very restrictive. Sometime NRI's may need to spend more time in India either for their own treatment or to take care of close family members. In genuine cases, where the stay is due to unavoidable circumstances, the period of stay after which an NRI is deemed a resident for tax purposes should be extended, a feeling of inclusivity if it would give NRI, if the facility of voting can be extended to them which however it is more important that the NRI voting process be conducted with due sanctity rather than just extending the right.

● **The Pravasi Bharatiya community has remained united in country/ies it is in. How do you see the challenges of modern India?**

The challenge of modern India is to become corruption free. My vision for a modern India is a corruption free India, a secular India where every citizen has access to basics rights and opportunities without artificial barriers or hinderances.

● **There are NRIs who are positively engaged with situation in India and do a considerable work to help the country while living outside. Are there any such activities that the NRI community in Oman is doing? What role do you play in such activities?**

I am a board member of Oman India Friendship association since its inception in 2020 which was formed by a ministerial decree of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Oman. This is a first kind of initiative in West Asia, the aim of this association is to promote matters of mutual interest, improving understanding between the business and social communities

of India and Oman. This association provides a platform for business to business and people to people ties. This move to form this association has also been lauded by our Honorable EAM, Mr S. Jaishanker.

I am also nominated to be a board member of Indo Gulf chamber of Commerce Oman chapter. This forum is an initiative of professionals and business leaders from India and the Oman to create a platform dedicated to connect and promote economical, industrial, commercial and cultural activities in India and Oman.

We also support a lot of social and cultural activities undertaken by the Diaspora.

● **What is your message for India?**

My love for the motherland and people is unlimited. The country has gone through so much struggle and sacrifice to get independence and post-independence great leaders with dedication and perseverance have progressed India to today's position. I want India to be a democratic super power held in high esteem, a country with no poverty, full of unity among diversity and peace

● **Do you offer team-building activities?**

We have a sailing programme where people are divided into teams of four. We give them a basic lesson on sailing which ends with a race. Sailing is a great team-building sport since every person must do the job right in order to win the race. Many corporates also conduct business meetings on our yachts.

● **How has the Indian Embassy in Oman fared vis-à-vis the Indian community?**

We are fortunate to have a focused and forward looking diplomatic corps in Oman. Over the years, the Embassy has been actively involved in strengthening the relations and playing a vital role in uniting the Diaspora and also in promoting various Cultural and Community events. The Diplomatic corps has always been looked up by the Indian diaspora in case of any exigencies and their support is overwhelming.



# Chasing success with care and compassion

## ABDUL LATHEEF

Director,  
Badr Al Samaa Hospital International,  
Member, OCCI Board of Directors

From a Sailor in the Merchant Navy to the first elected expatriate member of the Board of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Abdul Latheef changed many hats. Currently, he is the Managing Director of the Sultanate of Oman's largest private healthcare establishment Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals.

Since the elections for the OCCI Board of Directors members have just gotten over, Abdul Latheef is excited and humbled over the results and support he got from the members of the business community in Oman.

"This is the first time that expatriates were allowed to contest the OCCI election, and I got elected from so many contestants, not only from India but from many other countries. This is a whole lot of responsibility to work as a catalyst to bring more and more foreign investment, as the Board has assigned me the job of Chairman of the Foreign Investment Sub-Committee," said Abdul Latheef, who is known for starting new businesses and turning them into successful ventures.

Commenting on his inspiration behind the idea of contesting for OCCI elections, Abdul Latheef said, "I am grateful to my well-wishers who pushed me to contest knowing my humble background. I extend my special thanks to Indian Embassy official Second Secretary, Parmanand Sinha for his motivational words that convinced me to contest..."

Abdul Latheef served as a Sailor in the Merchant Navy for two years and went to Italy to work with

the UAE embassy. After working for five years, he shifted to the healthcare industry in the early 1990s. He joined Naseem Al Rabeeh Hospital Group as head of Corporate Communication in Saudi Arabia.

With his innovative ideas and excellent strategies, he turned the hospital into the most successful healthcare group in the Kingdom. Soon he was taken to the Board of the hospital.

One of the transits at Muscat International Airport while travelling from Saudi Arabia turned into a big moment for Abdul Latheef.

"The transit was six hours long, and the owner of the Naseem Al Rabeeh Hospital was with me. So we decided to explore Muscat and found the scope for a hospital in the capital city of Oman."

In 2002 he and his partner PA Mohemmed started Badr

Abdul Latheef with Faisal bin Abdullah al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.





Al Samaa Hospital with a total staff strength of 40. "Soon, we expanded branches in other cities in Oman and in 2022, when we are celebrating our 20th anniversary, our staff strength is more than 2,000. Among them, 500 are Omani nationals, and 500 are doctors," said Abdul Latheef with a sense of pride.

"Seriousness and humanity," he emphasised while explaining the USP of his meteoric success. He gives full credit to his team and calls the staff 'a family of 2,000 members of Badr Al Samaa'.

Healthcare, according to him, is a sector which needs complete seriousness, care and compassion.

"We never compromise on seriousness. There are times when people come to our hospitals with no money. We try to help them as much as possible. During natural calamities and the recent pandemic, we extended all possible support to people and the health sector."

Abdul Latheef is a known philanthropist in the Indian community. He keeps on supporting cultural and social events.

Despite success in a foreign land, he is always concerned about his homeland. He finds utmost satisfaction in philanthropic acts and hence loves to be identified as the founder of the Aishal Foundation, the charitable trust established in India in the memory of his mother.

Abdul Latheef claims to have no struggles in life as he always took the challenges in the right stride.

"When we started the first branch of Badr Al Samaa in Muscat's Ruwi in 2002, there were no social media, and advertisement was a challenge for us. I enjoyed distributing leaflets to passersby near the mosque opposite our hospital. Similarly, I would take ambulance keys to drive emergency patients to the hospital.

I even did the front desk job to receive patients; all those were professional fun for me."

His expectations from India and the Indian government are not big but basic. He wants the Indian government to address issues related to the Indian community, particularly those workers who go to foreign countries without any medical insurance.

"Most of them do not have enough money to take care of their health, and they generally approach hospitals when problems worsen. Our government can easily handle this by giving them some kind of insurance.

A proud Indian from Kasaragod in Kerala, Abdul Latheef is happy over India emerging as a global power. He, however, calls for communal harmony, which in turn can bring more foreign investment to the country.

"If the business grows, it grows for everyone, every caste, creed and religion. Similarly, it affects everyone when something or the other happens to any of the communities."

He wishes the large NRI community got voting rights as soon as possible.

As a board member of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdul Latheef is responsible for interacting with expatriate investors in Oman, listening to their issues, updating the Chamber and looking for an amicable solution.

"Being a businessman in Oman for so many years, I broadly know the issues. The Omani authorities are willing to listen to and offer the best possible opportunity to the domestic as well as foreign investors."

A thorough entrepreneur, Abdul Latheef decided to enter the education sector in Kerala in 2009. He entered into the industry not to earn money but to develop institutions that could be the pioneer in their respective areas.

The first venture in the education industry was the College of Engineering & Technology in Kannur, Kerala, India.

His entry into the education sector got appreciation from other members of his company's Board due to his practical visionary, goal-oriented approach and willingness to take risks and convert them into opportunities.

In order to capitalise on the business opportunities,

Latheef entered into various other sectors, including real estate, education, construction, retailing, hospitality, etc.

Today, he is a major stakeholder and director board member of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals & Polyclinics, Badr Al Samaa Hospital International, and Al Nabeel International in the Sultanate of Oman.

He has Al Basma Electronics, Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre, Kuwait and some other businesses in Kuwait. He is also the Managing Director of Al Hilal Hospital Company BSC in Bahrain, director of FSN Tours & Travels WLL, Dubai (UAE), and also holds a major stake in Gulf Asian Medical Centre,

Jubail, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In India, he has a major stake in Wintouch builders Private Limited, Kerala, and he is also vice chairman of Indiana Hospital & Heart Institute, Mangalore, India.

Commenting on his success story, Abdul Latheef says, "My success is the success of my team and people associated with me. Since I am there in their good and bad times, they are always there with me. I trust them, they trust me, and this is how the good work is progressing and will continue to progress with the grace of almighty God."

Abdul Latheef wants to be part of the New India that is growing at a fast pace. "The world has started taking India and Indians seriously...If India addresses the gaps in the health and education sectors, it is sure to achieve new heights, the benefits of which would percolate down to the common people of the country."

"I hope the bilateral relations between India and Oman get better and better, as this is the country of peace. I love India, I love Oman," says Abdul Latheef, who wants to be a link between businesses in Oman, India and the world.



**When we started the first branch of Badr Al Samaa in Muscat's Ruwi in 2002, there were no social media, and advertisement was a challenge for us. I enjoyed distributing leaflets to passersby near the mosque opposite our hospital. Similarly, I would take ambulance keys to drive emergency patients to the hospital. I even did the front desk job to receive patients; all those were professional fun for me."**



# Oman is an oasis of peace for Pravasi Indians

**YUSUF NALWALA**

Chairman, Al Yusr International

**Y**usuf Nalwala, Chairman of Al Yusr International, has witnessed the growth of Oman from an infant nation to a world-class country. When he landed in Muscat on February 20, 1977, he was surprised to see the dynamics of the country. He found it the right place to execute his ideas.

"The country was on a fast pace of development under the dynamic leadership of the Late Sultan Qaboos. He was enthusiastic about the development. I had a civil engineering background and saw huge potential for construction projects. The situation fulfilled my financial and professional needs and I decided to execute my learning in real projects," said Yusuf Nalwala explaining the circumstances he came to Oman.

Coming from an entertainment hub like Mumbai, he initially missed the elements of entertainment like cinema and FM channels. Still, the warmth of the nation and the flow of work was fulfilling for him.

"The most striking thing was the behaviour of local people. I found them easygoing, friendly and helpful. Safety and security were reassuring like today, and I was lucky to have some like-minded Indian expatriates soon after arrival."

Major developments in the country happened before his eyes. Being a civil engineer associated as a partner with an important construction company, Yusuf Nalwala was part of many projects.

With a wide range of development, very soon Oman emerged as a modern and clean country with wide roads and the best of facilities. It started attracting expatriates from all over the world.

"For most Indians, it was, and is, a second home due to short distance from India, hospitable Omanis and, importantly, the most peaceful country in the region... There is a big difference between the Oman of 1977 and today. Now we have the best facilities at par with international standards."

Yusuf Nalwala admits he missed the Indian Postman the most when he arrived in Oman, as he was not used to operating the Post Box in which "you have to go and collect your letters".

He is straightforward yet kind to people and generous to a cause. He has been associated with social and cultural activities and loves to attend community events as much as possible.

"It keeps you rooted and connected with your tradition and culture," he says.

For several years he was Chairman Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman. Former teachers, parents and school committee members remember his sincere efforts for the school and availability to sort out issues on an urgent basis.

Yusuf Nalwala admits that India's global stature is growing. It is emerging as a technically competent and reliable economy. "We have more respect in getting visas to several countries, which was earlier unavailable. I am sure those working in India have benefitted from this international recognition in the economic sphere."

He, however, calls to overcome some basic issues to make things better. He is a votary of India of its long traditions and legacies. "Several heroes and martyrs have laid their lives to build the foundation for Indian society. My appeal to all is to integrate and respect all beliefs and live in harmony that is enshrined in our Constitution."

"We must do away with communal overtones, adhere to values that promote a belief system, integrate them to make a new social and cultural order where everyone can live in peace and harmony and achieve their aspirations with respect and confidence," he said.

Asked about tax concessions and voting rights for NRIs, Yusuf Nalwala presented his views without mincing words. "Honestly, I do not have any problem with both matters. I am not taxed on my NRI income, which is a boon. Paying taxes on Indian income should not be an issue for NRIs. Since resident Indians are paying taxes over income in India, NRIs should also not have any grievance over taxes on income in India." As a general request, he requested the media not to spread negativity. They should also highlight good deeds and positive happenings in society and the world.

"Let's try to make this world a better place to live," he says.



**AMITA SHARMA**

Owner & Director,  
Al Injaz Private School LLC

# Bringing a change through education

A highly successful woman, Amita Sharma is extremely thankful to Oman, the Omani people and its government for understanding her point of view and allowing her to establish a school.

The school, which she started in 2004 with three students and four teachers, has matured as one of the best schools in Oman with full educational facilities, including provision for children with special needs.

Charming yet assertive, Amita Sharma has her own managerial skills to conceive an idea and convert it into reality. Her plans go well in advance without letting people know what actually she is going to do.

The same happened with her school. She must have started preparing for it way back in 1985 when she claims to have started her professional career in Oman, and 2004 was the ultimate result of it. If someone looks at the school in 2022, he will not resist asking Amita Sharma how she managed to build such a marvelous institution.

"With a professional beginning in 1985, my passion was to be with children to teach and learn from them. I went through various activities like school-level teaching, organising summer and winter events for personality development for boys and girls, and I achieved the next level when I started coaching classes for middle and senior students in 1999."

Preparation for Al Injaz Private School must have started here. It was her groundwork to run an educational institution that gave her the confidence to establish the school five years later, in 2004.

She admits the difficulty of a woman who has the passion for doing something professionally and compassion for the family. "It was a great balancing act in which I had to achieve my dream. At the same time, I had to take care of my family, in which every member is dear to me. The struggle was between heart and mind. One would say to be with them; the other would ask to go and work... I was lucky to have the full support of my family," she says.

"I am a proud and humble Indian. People of Oman recognise the ability of Indians, and now I am happy the world is endorsing the fact. Oman and India have been supporting each other in their common growth objectives.



India's current and fast-growing stature globally under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, makes me feel elated as well. Oman is my Karambhumi, which gives me an opportunity to serve my Janmabhumi, my motherland India."

"I am grateful to Oman, which allowed me to make my dream come true. Helping the needy has always been close to my heart. Oman gave me that ability. Financial and physical support to motherland India has always given me soulful happiness," she continues.

She has genuine expectations from India. She wants India to become a world leader and support global growth and happiness. She wants the world to realise the great Indian thought of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', where the world is treated as one family.

"Rather than expecting the Indian government to do something for me, I wish to educate every needy Indian by starting educational institutions in India. I seek support from the government to enable me to foster my education dream to continue in India."

And "yes", she wants to vote in elections and calls for facilities for the NRIs to vote from their countries of residence.

# “ENJOY IT, LOVE IT, CHERISH IT because there is nothing like India”

**NRI Rajiv Malhotra** left India in 1971 and reached Canada to complete his Master's in law. He has been practicing law for the last 50-odd years in Edmonton, Canada but his heart beats for the country of his birth. When Pravasi Samwad caught up with him in Delhi, he urged members of the Indian Diaspora around the world to attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Day.

I have been born and brought up in Delhi. I have spent my childhood here and have been here till 23 years of age. Delhi has been my dream world. Delhi is my vatan, my vatan and my vatan.

I left for Canada on August 12, 1971 before my law exam results were announced. I had started my journey to do my Master's in Comparative Law at Miami University, USA. During my visit to London, I got a telegram from my family that the University of Alberta in Canada would like me to talk to them. I did call them from New York and they offered me a teaching Assistant Scholarship along with the money for the ticket to Edmonton. Little did I know at that time that I would be coming to a place so close to the North Pole where temperatures could very easily drop to minus 40 degrees during winter.

I was one of the pioneer Indian lawyers in Canada, especially Edmonton. I had to be at least 20 percent better than a Canadian lawyer to survive in my business. Remember, Alberta was for Albertians at that time. I broke the glass ceiling by doing my Masters in law there and started doing a lot of legal work for different organisations which were called multinationals in your part of the world.

I have done very well in my law practice. I have been kind of an icon in Edmonton among the legal circle. I have had the same office for the past 44 years. This when Google says they don't exist anymore. I am an 'antique' lawyer in Edmonton.

I just love Delhi. I try to come here at least once a year. This year, I have come twice – once in March/April and now in November/December.

I was born in Connaught Place. Went to Modern School and then to KM College and then Faculty of Law. My



favourite eating place is Embassy and Have More in Pandara Road. I also like a restaurant in the Outer Circle of Connaught Place called National. Three generations have changed hands but the food is the same and very good.

I am feeling proud that the Pravasi Diwas is being organized in January. India always makes us very proud. We are very proud of India. We would love to come and spend our time, money, energy here because it is the best country in the world for us guys who have left to be abroad. We have left everybody to be in that part of the world

to be successful, make money and everything. But people don't realise the sacrifices we have made. Come to think of it, I don't know my brother or sister's children and their children.

We are lucky to be in Canada which is the most beautiful place on earth. I am also lucky to have been born in India which is also the most beautiful place on earth. For those of you who are visiting India for this special occasion – the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – I would say 'ENJOY IT, LOVE IT, CHERISH IT because there is nothing like India.



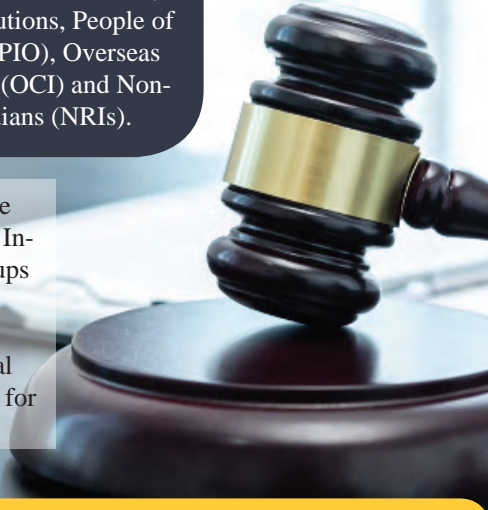


# JUSTICE FOR YOU

We provide all kinds of legal services to Indian nationals: Individuals, Business Houses, Academic Institutions, People of Indian Origin (PIO), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

We also arrange Arbitration for Individuals, Groups and Corporate Houses. We have special panel for NRIs for Arbitration.

Please contact for any Legal Assistance:  
Mobile: +91 9662023657  
Email: success.shivank@gmail.com



## COOKERY CLASSES

Learn from an experienced cookery columnist with over 25 years of experience.

*Roma Ghosh has been a food writer with well known Indian publications like Woman's Era, Hindustan Times and Times of India.*

*Learn the nuances of Indian and fusion cuisine through creative recipes curated with years of experience both on-line or in small groups in your very own town.*

### PANCHMISHELI BAITHAK

Connect with contemporary Indian cuisine curated specially for small groups. We stage sit down get-togethers for small groups at our residence in extreme South Delhi in an ambience where food and adda are the focus.

A memorable bhoj curated especially to your choice.

Connect with us  
@ 9810149467,  
9818600690



## ART COLLECTORS,

### HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE A MASTERPIECE

One of the early works of Rameswar Broota is available for genuine art collectors. The painting, similar to his famed Ape Series, was specially commissioned for a publication and is not listed in any of the painter's collected works.

Broota's ape-like characters satirically represent socio-political disparities with a comic-tragic evocation saturating his canvases with bright colours. Oil on canvas: 25 inches X 25 inches



Rameswar Broota was born in 1941 in Delhi and graduated in Fine Arts from the Delhi College of Art in 1964. He lives and works in New Delhi. His works are in leading collections in India and abroad including the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the Rashtrapati Bhavan, several Lalit Kala Akademi collections across India, and a number of educational and other institutions. Some of the prominent international collections include the Josip Broz Tito Museum in Yugoslavia and the Kunst Museum in Dusseldorf. His works are part of various private collections in India, USA, Germany, Switzerland, UK, France, Mexico, Sweden and Dubai.



Greetings to 17<sup>th</sup>  
PBD Delegates



Dr. P. Mohamed Ali  
(Chairman, Board of Directors)  
Dr. Ali Al Bimani, (Vice-Chancellor)  
Email: alibemani@nu.edu.om

National University  
of Science & Technology  
الجامعة الوطنية  
للعلوم والتكنولوجيا

A preferred destination for International  
Students from 29 countries

Stipendary Internships for  
International Medical Students

Luxury Accommodation for  
International Students

Easy Availability of Student Visa

## Study in Oman

### PROGRAMS IN

Pharmacy

Medicine

Maritime

Engineering



SCAN FOR  
MORE  
DETAILS

<https://nu.edu.om>

