

Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada



2019

Annual Magazine



CIBC





EDITOR'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada's (GPAC) Gujarat Gaurav Divas and Award Ceremony Event, we are pleased to offer you GPAC Annual Magazine 2019. Gujarat became a different state on May 1, 1960, along with Maharashtra. Gujarat Day 2019 will mark the 59th foundation day of the state.

The President Mr. Bhavesh Bhatt and the board of directors have worked actively to take GPAC one step forward at the time from all aspects. As an organization, we consistently focused on initiatives that aimed at achieving GPAC's objective and mandate, to create professional and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Every article in this issue speaks to challenge, opportunity and the transformative power of hope. In About Gujarat and Insight section, we have included very insightful articles on different topics along with Statue of Unity, which claimed the title of the world's tallest from the Spring Temple Buddha in Lushan, China.

Our magazine captures events carried out from GPAC Gala Night 2017. We also included various Gujarati Not for profit organizations for member's benefit. Please feel free to contact respective organization for making positive contribution in society.

The editing of GPAC's Annual Magazine is part of the enormous amount of effort that goes into the staging of our Annual Award Ceremony Event. An effort of this magnitude requires coordination and precision that cannot be done without the complete cooperation and total dedication of an efficient and united team.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge every individual involved in GPAC with special recognition to our sponsors - The GPAC's true partners in success. Success of any not for profit organization are dependant on contribution by members and volunteers. We request all members to come forward and contribute in area of your interest.

We hope you enjoy our GPAC Magazine 2019. Ongoing support from everyone will enable us to keep on growing and improving the magazine, far into the future.

Sincerely,

Chirag Shah & Parth Patel

Editor Team



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Editor's Message	4
Event Sponsors	6
About the Organization	7
President's Message	8
Board of Directors	9
Esteemed Advisory Council	11
Past Presidents	11
Message from The Leader of The Official Opposition	12
Message from The Premier of Ontario	13
Message from The Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat	14
Message from The Mayor of Brampton	15
Message from His Excellency Consul General of India	16
Award Winners 2019	16
Awardees – 2017 & 2018	21
About Gujarat	22
Facts of Gujarat	23
Vibrant Gujarat 2019	28
Statue of Unity	29
Insights	32
Gujarati Culture by Jay Chauhan	33
A Physician's Lifelong Commitment to Indigenous Health by Dr. Chandrakant P. Shah	35
Making Newcomers Aware of Aboriginal History by Dr. Chandrakant P. Shah	36
Year in Review 2017 To 2019	39
GPAC Gala Night 2018	40
Panorama India Celebration	42
Gujarat Gaurav Diwas and Award Ceremony 2018	44
GPAC Gala Night 2017	46
Directory	48
Member's List	49
International Gujarat Samaj Directory	50
Silver Sponsors	55

The information contained herein is based on sources believed to be reliable, but it's accuracy is not guaranteed. Reasonable effort has been made to determine the accuracy of information received. Readers are advised to seek appropriate legal/financial advice prior to relying on any information contained herein.

EVENT SPONSORS

CORPORATE

CIBC

PLATINUM

Parth Mehta - Home Financing Advisor, Scotiabank

GOLD

Avni Shah - Lawyer, S&S LAWYERS LLP

Ashish Zaveri - Mortgage Specialist, BMO Bank of Montreal

State Bank of India (Canada)

Murarilal Thapliyal - Lawyer, Thapliyal & Rai Professional Law Corp.

SILVER

Atithi - Pure Veg Restaurant

Dhiren Mehta - Licensed Life Insurance Broker

Dipak Vyas - Contact for all Hindu Religious Ceremony

Himanshu Dave - Mortgage Agent, Mortgage Alliance
India 360

Jigar Patel - Quesada Burritos, Oakville

Keyur Shah - Lawyer, Shah Law Office

Nirav Bhatt - Lawyer, Aastha Lawyers

Parth Raval - Lawyer, Parth Raval Law Office

Rakesh Modi - Sales Representative, Homelife/Miracle Realty Ltd.
Regal Accounting

Viral Patel - Mortgage Specialist, RBC Royal Bank of Canada

Yonge-Steeles Ford Lincoln Sales Limited

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION



The Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada (GPAC) seeks to bring together financially successful elements within the Society such as traders, bankers, technocrats, investors, industrialists, businessmen, professionals, along with economists and thinkers, so that each group can share their business knowledge, experience, expertise and resources with their fellow brethren. We also aim to encourage, support and mentor budding entrepreneurs. The end goal is to generate surplus wealth and make society prosperous.

The Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada (GPAC) will be instrumental in mentoring the new immigrants, students who want to establish and flourish in Canada. We will also be working towards the goal of bringing the community together to increase the visibility in our diverse communities. We are also working on the objective of “Give where we live”.

Our Mission

Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada is a premier not-for-profit organization.

Our programs and policies foster individual initiative and the ability of members to make a significant contribution to the economic, cultural and social fabric of Gujarati (Indian)-Canadian community.

Our mission is to be the premier Gujarati – Canadian organization in Canada, by:

- Promoting strong Indo-Canada ties, built upon shared traditions of democracy, pluralism and strong interpersonal connections with a Indian diaspora of more than 1.7 million in Canada specifically 400k+ Gujarati population
- Providing a robust platform for professionals and businesses to showcase their strengths and create positive impacts in the diverse society
- Proposing continual growth and opportunity for trade and investment, science and technology, environment and energy, and security between the two nations
- Unite the diverse Gujarati community to bring the sense of solidarity and togetherness

The political leadership from both countries is keen to push trade and investments, along with more engagement in energy, healthcare, infrastructure development and community contacts.

Our Vision

Together we will achieve a better and prosperous future; economically, culturally and socially. Be the key influencing organization between the Gujarat & Canadian government

Objectives

- To facilitate for possible synergy amongst members
- To strengthen Gujarati-Canadian interest in the socio-economic and political fabric of Canada
- To work with other Gujarati-Canadian organizations for mutual benefit and realize common goals
- Creating learning opportunities through seminars, workshops, mentorship programs and conferences
- To strengthen the economic, political, trade and investment relations between Canada and India
- To unite the diverse Gujarati Canadian community through events, festival celebrations, and collaboration with other communities
- To recognize the contribution and achievements of Gujarati-Canadians at the annual awards gala
- To recognize the contribution of any Canadian towards significantly improving the relations between India and Canada at the annual awards gala
- Council shall strive to promote social, cultural and educational interests of its members, develop understanding between members of the Gujarati Indian community and such other residents of Canada as are interested in the welfare of this community, and make the latter aware of issues of concern to the community at large
- Council shall help promote and retain Indian languages and cultural traditions as essential components of multiculturalism in Canada

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am honoured and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the president of the Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada for the year 2018-19. I am here representing our dynamic GPAC Board and Advisory Council. I want to thank year 2018-19 Executives of the Board – Naresh Patel (Vice President), Dhaval Vediya (Secretary General), Ashvin Amin (Treasurer), Chirag Shah (Director), Don Patel (Director), Naresh Chavda (Director), Pranav Patel (Director), Vijay Pandya (Director). I want to thank past presidents Naresh Chavda & Pranav Patel for steering the GPAC organization to newer heights.

The staggering growth of the Council, in such a short span of time, only goes to prove the unflinching support of the past members, renewal members, new members, and persistent volunteers.

I am fortunate to have talented group of individuals within the current Council. Our goal this year is to continue providing extraordinary event throughout the year and I am confident that with the guidance of senior members, enthusiasm of our youth members, financial support from donors and sponsors, coming year will bring us a lot of fun and excitement.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all our sponsors and donors who act as catalysts for the growth of the Council. We are extremely confident that you will continue to depict your support to this Council that strives to pass on its culture and heritage from generation to generation.

I want to reiterate our vision, “Together we will achieve a better and prosperous future; economically, culturally and socially. Be the key influencing organization between the Indian & Canadian government” and we have exuberated the vision and mission all thru the year.

In the year 2018, we celebrated the 143rd birth anniversary of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel along with GPAC Gujarati new year in association with consulate general of India, Toronto. We also proved to be victorious at the 2018 India Day Parade with Panorama India.

I want to thank his Excellency CGI Toronto, Dinesh Bhatia and the Mayor of Brampton Patrick Brown for accepting our invitation to be with us to celebrate Gujarat Divas 2019 & Award Gala Night.

On the occasion of Gujarat Divas 2019 & Award Gala Night, I would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2019 awards: Lifetime – Mike Mehta; Social Services – Bhartiben Karia; Culture – Kirtidan Gadhvi, Madhur Shah & Yatri Shah; Youth – Rushi Ghadawala; Female – Dr. Prashati Patel.

To conclude, I wish everyone a very happy Gujarat Divas. I encourage all Gujaratis to join this growing and vibrant community! I am looking forward to meet you all during forthcoming council events.

Thank You,

Bhavesh Bhatt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Bhavesh Bhatt

President

Bhavesh Bhatt, Real Estate Broker, Member of Toronto Real Estate Board and Canadian Real Estate Association, Trusted Name in Real Estate Industry, With More than 10+ years of experience, Bhavesh Bhatt has become Homelife "Go to" broker, Platinum award winner 2016 and a consistent leader with a reputation for persistently protecting clients' interests. He has background of Computer Science and worked as IT Manager/Consultant combined 12+ years of experience. Bhavesh has volunteered as President of Brahmin Samaj of Ontario, non-profit community organization.

Nareshkumar Patel

Vice President

Nareshkumar Patel, an accomplished and serial entrepreneur cum businessman who started with one unit in 2005 and now has stake in multiple retail, fast-food businesses across Canada and counting. Open minded & a big hearted person, put all efforts to keep community united. He was awarded Multi-Unit Owner award from Subway for being one of the top 27 performing units in the world. He has volunteered at OFBJP, ICCC, NAIC and Nav Gujarat Samaj.



Dhaval Vediya

Secretary General

An accomplished Senior Management professional with 15 years of experience at CIBC, Rogers, Telus & Sintex, in marketing, digital, social media, retention, pricing, business analysis, supply chain, project and program management. Mechanical Engineer with 2 MBAs, public speaker, management & marketing prodigy and avid community volunteer. Volunteered at ICCC, NAIC, TRIEC, Movember, Futurepreneur, Juvenile Diabetes, United Way, TELUS Diversity & Inclusiveness Council and Rogers Visible Minority Group.

Ashwin Amin

Treasurer

Ashwin Amin, experienced event planner & organizer with 10+ years in providing and staging of cultural events, educational seminars to maintain and foster links with cultures of Gujarat, India and Canada. Civil Engineer by education, works as Director of Om Sai Entertainment and Om Sai Cultural Association. Volunteer at ICCC and Rotaract Club.



Chirag Shah

Director

Chirag Shah, technocrat entrepreneur is a founder and CEO of SUBHTECH SOLUTIONS INC. An information technology consulting company, assisting organizations with advanced technology integration and implementation. Director at Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) and Charter member of Canada India Foundation (CIF). Lead and involved with not-for-profit organization, Milton Gujarati Parivaar (MGP) and Canada India Association (CIA). Raised funds for Milton District Hospital Foundation, Vaishno Devi temple – Oakville and other charities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Don RB Patel

Director

Don.R.B.Patel, known as Don Patel. An entrepreneur with stake in retail business and real estate broker. Passionately involved in many community organizations and taken the leadership with various designations. He is a 'go to' real estate broker of Homelife and helping clients to buy and sale real estate in Ontario for more than 15+ years. Active member of TREB, ICC, OFBJP, Habitat for Humanity, POSUN, Meals on Wheels & many others.

Nareshkumar Chavda

Director

Nareshkumar Chavda, President of Globayan Immigration Corporation. Practicing Immigration Law as an Immigration Consultant & Commissioner of Oath-Ontario. Dealing with many diplomatic missions abroad including High Commission & Consulate offices of various countries part of his professional practice. Vice President and Director – Government Relations Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Canada 2017 – 2018. Director and General Secretary of NAIC, organized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Community Outreach Event at Toronto, attended by Canadian PM Stephen Harper and members of 300 organizations across Canada with total attendance of 10k. He was Invited to Pravasi Bharatiya Divas March 29, 2016, & January 8, 2017, as Guest Speaker on topic of Pre-citizenship surrender certificate enhancement and preservation of OCI smart card. His Education Qualifications: RCIC, B.E., PGDHRM, MBA, LL.B (Two Gold Medals) LL.M



Pranav Patel

Director

Renowned Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public, having outstanding reputation in the legal community. Mr. Patel has served our community at global era of social, economic and professional development as a Director Of IndoCanada Chamber Of Commerce, Chair Of School Council at TDSB, Advisory Committee Member with City of Toronto, Good Standing Member Of Law Society of Upper Canada and Proud Organizing Member of NAIC for most recent visit of Indian Prime Minister Hon. Modiji. Mr. Patel has served vibrant community as a VIP Delegate with Rogers Group and ISKON Canada.

Vijaykumar Pandya

Director

Vijaykumar Pandya, Certified Financial Advisor with over 10 years of experience in the field of finance in Canada having his own Insurance Brokerage – VP Financial. Extensive volunteer experience with BAPS, OFBJP (President), SVBF, Hindu Institute of Learning and ICC. Always ready to support the community in whatever means possible.



ESTEEMED ADVISORY COUNCIL



ANIL SHAH
BHARAT CHAVDA
JASH PATEL
MIKE MEHTA
RAMESH CHOTAI
TONY PANCHAL

PAST PRESIDENTS



Nareshkumar Chavda
2017-2018



Pranav Patel
2018

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

HON. ANDREW SCHEER, P.C., M.P.
L'HON. ANDREW SCHEER, C.P., DÉPUTÉ
LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION / CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION OFFICIELLE

Greetings from the Leader of the Official Opposition

I am pleased to extend my greetings to all those attending Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada's Gujarat Gaurav Divas and Awards 2019!

The GPAC is one of the most influential groups representing the Indian community of the Greater Toronto Area, playing a vital role in promoting Indian heritage as well as building the bridges between Indian and Canadian cultures.

Today's event celebrates the contributions to the economic, cultural and social fabric of the Indo-Canadian community but also allows for all Canadians to reflect on our blessings - to celebrate the peace that flourishes in our country and to look ahead to the future with hopeful optimism.

On behalf of Canada's Conservatives, I offer my best wishes to all those celebrating tonight!

Sincerely,



The Hon. Andrew Scheer, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

May 4, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

I want to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada's Gujarat Gaurav Divas and Awards – 2019.

Tonight, you gather to celebrate business and professional excellence, and good citizenship — values that help define our Indo-Canadian business community.

Congratulations to tonight's deserving award winners! Gujarati Canadians have contributed so much to our province's economic and cultural strength. Your business, professional and cultural achievements, as well as your civic spirit, have helped make Ontario a great place to work, establish businesses and raise families. I wish all of you continued success.

I thank the Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada for hosting this event, and for its dedication to promoting a strong Gujarati and Indo-Canadian community within this great province.

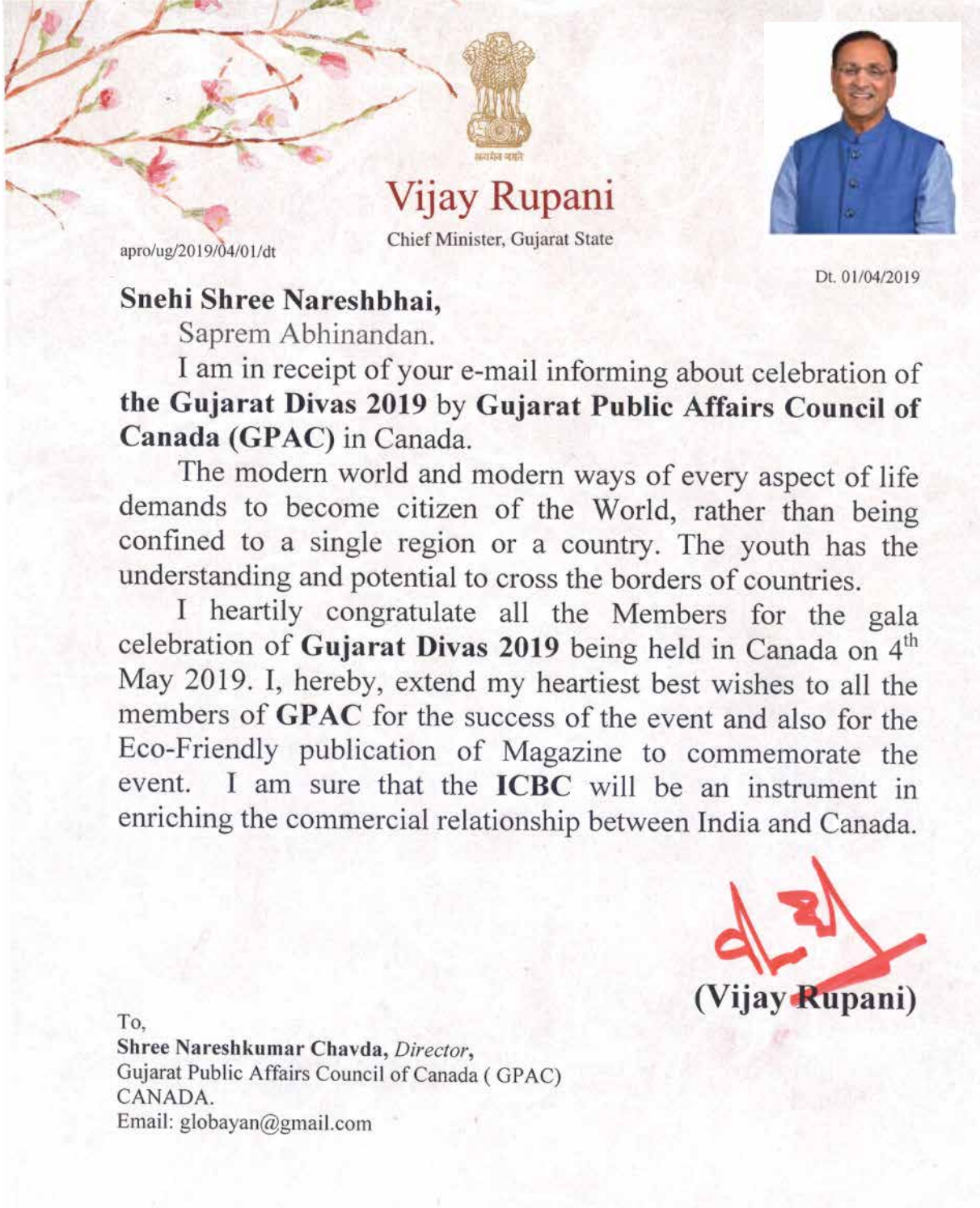
I want everyone to know that our government is working hard to make it easier to do business in Ontario. We're getting out of the way of our job creators, cutting through the red tape that holds businesses back, lowering business costs, and sending a clear message to the world that Ontario is open for business, open for jobs.

Have a terrific evening!

Doug Ford
Premier



MESSAGE FROM THE HONORABLE CHIEF MINISTER OF GUJARAT



apro/ug/2019/04/01/dt

Vijay Rupani

Chief Minister, Gujarat State

Dt. 01/04/2019

Snehi Shree Nareshbhai,

Saprem Abhinandan.

I am in receipt of your e-mail informing about celebration of **the Gujarat Divas 2019** by **Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada (GPAC)** in Canada.

The modern world and modern ways of every aspect of life demands to become citizen of the World, rather than being confined to a single region or a country. The youth has the understanding and potential to cross the borders of countries.

I heartily congratulate all the Members for the gala celebration of **Gujarat Divas 2019** being held in Canada on 4th May 2019. I, hereby, extend my heartiest best wishes to all the members of **GPAC** for the success of the event and also for the Eco-Friendly publication of Magazine to commemorate the event. I am sure that the **ICBC** will be an instrument in enriching the commercial relationship between India and Canada.


(Vijay Rupani)

To,
Shree Nareshkumar Chavda, Director,
Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada (GPAC)
CANADA.
Email: globayan@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF BRAMPTON



2 Wellington St W
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TTY 905.874.2130

MAYOR PATRICK BROWN



May 4, 2019

Greetings from Mayor Patrick Brown

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Members of Brampton City Council, it gives me great pleasure to extend best wishes to the guests attending the Gujarat Divas and Award Gala Night in Brampton. The gala will be a great celebration featuring live music and exotic Indian food. I am also excited about the first International Book launch of “Ayurveda – The Science of Life” which is written by Dr. Gaurang Joshi.

I appreciate the efforts by the Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada, a not-for-profit organization that fosters programs and policies to make a significant contribution to the economic, cultural and social fabric of Gujarati (Indian)-Canadian community.

Promoting strong Indo-Canada ties, built upon shared traditions of democracy, pluralism and strong interpersonal connections with a Indian diaspora of more than 1.7 million in Canada specifically 400k+ Gujarati population is important for our country.

I want to thank the organizing committee, the sponsors and volunteers for making tonight's gala a success. Enjoy the celebrations. Best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown
Mayor

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA

Dinesh Bhatia
Consul General of India
दिनेश भाटिया
भारत का प्रधान कौंसल



Consulate General of India
365 Bloor Street East, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3L4
Tel: +1 (416) 960-0760
Fax: +1 (416) 960-9812
Email: cg.toronto@mea.gov.in

MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada (GPAC) is organizing Gujarat Gaurav Divas and Awards - 2019 on 4 May 2019 at Dream Convention Centre, Brampton.

I appreciate that GPAC has been honoring individuals of Indian origin, particularly from the State of Gujarat, from diverse fields such as Culture, Social Service, Youth, Business, Best Female and Life Time Achievement with an award named Gujarat Gaurav. This recognition helps in encouraging Indian origin community to do even better in their respective fields.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners nominated for the Gujarat Gaurav Awards 2019.

On this occasion, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the entire team of GPAC and their families. I also pray for continued progress, happiness and well-being for all.


(Dinesh Bhatia)



Scotiabank

Parth Mehta

Home Financing Advisor

Home Financing Solutions

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AWARD WINNERS 2019

OVERALL - LIFETIME SERVICES

HARESH MEHTA

SOCIAL SERVICES

BHARTIBEN KARIA

CULTURE

KIRTIDAN GADHVI

MADHUR & YATRI

YOUTH

RUSHI GHADAWALA

FEMALE

DR. PARSHATI PATEL



AWARD WINNERS



Overall - Lifetime Services

Haresh Mehta

When Haresh Mehta immigrated to Canada more than four decades ago, little did he know that his life would span out in service of humanity. He has an awesome acumen for entrepreneurship, abiding passion for community development, visionary zeal for philanthropy and dedication to foster Canada India ties.

With an innate acumen for business development and an unwavering commitment to helping the communities around him, Haresh Mehta has been an entrepreneur since the 1970s. Launching several highly successful companies that have been trendsetting pioneers in their respective industries, has been the founder, CEO and President of Eximcan Canada since 1992, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing Management from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, U.S.A.

After rapidly diversifying into different spheres and understanding the changing dynamics of globalization, launched Eximcan Canada, a company with global footprints that specializes in distribution, importing and exporting, trading services, fiberglass, chemical, pharmaceutical industries and warehousing facilities. The company is headquartered in the financial district of Toronto, Canada and also has branch offices in India.

His various businesses has provided employment to over 350 people in Canada. USA and India.

Realized that to fulfill his vision of community service, he needed to be politically connected in order to showcase profound achievements and illustrate the need for expansion of community and social services, and required resources. Over the years, has established relationships with several important political leaders and has played a pivotal role assisting these leaders to achieve their goals and expand their networks within the Indian community.

Community development work represents a mix of public life and philanthropy. His main purpose in both areas has primarily been to foster a better understanding between the Indo-Canadian community and mainstream Canadian society.

In mind, success is not a measure of prosperity and wealth. It is a measure of helping the community. Over the past four decades, he has divided his time almost equally between business development and community development.

Achievements encompass all spheres of human endeavor. He has shown exemplary aptitude and acumen for entrepreneurship, an abiding passion for community development, a visionary zeal for philanthropy and dedication through it all.

Haresh is lifetime Trusty & Member of Board of Directors of SANATAN MANDIR CULTURE CENTER.

His purpose is to foster a better understanding between the Indo-Canadian Community and the mainstream. Haresh's community – based work in India includes a family trust established in 1986 in Dungar village in Gujarat to assist impoverished people with cataracts and eye disorders. Over 5,000 cataract surgeries have been performed and over 15,000 patients have been examined. A walk-in medical clinic served over 10,000 patients with free medicine. Many families in the village receive annual grocery supplies and students receive scholarship.

He build a high school under his father's name in Dungar in 2011, which provides educational facilities to 800 students annually. He donated four water filtration plants to four schools ensuring clean drinking water to over 1,700 schoolchildren. He also donated 40 computers and started computer lab for high school students.

Awards

Believing in the adage that work is worship. Bowing to the insistence of his well-wishers, he agreed to accept the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013 and the ICCC Humanitarian Award in 2018.



Social Services

Bhartiben Karia

Realizing the isolation faced by recently arrived seniors (parents of many young immigrants), Bharatiben Karia started the Gujarati Seniors Samaj of Mississauga (GSSM) over 30 years ago and has served hundreds of senior citizens with her volunteerism.

With a sincere heart and passion to help the elderly she takes pride and joy in connecting Gujarati seniors with each other. Maintaining a bond with children, youth, adults and senior citizens she has done so much for the Gujarati community. Carrying on the tradition of her father, Late Amritlal Sheth who started the first Gujarati Newspaper in Gujarat and began a life of service at a very young age.

Furthermore, following the footsteps of her elder sisters who have written Gujarati literature and been actively involved in social work in India, Bharatiben strives to keep her belief in the Gujarati culture and values very much alive here in Canada. She continues the exemplary work for the senior citizens in our Gujarati community.

As the Chair of GSSM, she actively connects with hundreds of Gujarati families living in Canada. Showing her sincere altruism all these years she is truly a guiding light and source of strength, vibrancy and vigor for many.



Culture
Kirtidan Gadhvi



Culture
Madhur & Yatri

For the past 27 years, Madhur & Yatri Shah have been supporting various Gujarati and Hindu cultural organizations in Ontario by offering professional yet non-commercial musical (Garba) Talent to help Hindu Gujarati institutions raise funds and spread the fragrance of the beautiful Gujarati culture.

Madhur and Yatri Shah were born and raised in Toronto, Canada. Even though they are born citizens of Canada, they are committed to keeping the Gujarati culture strong in their lives and they want to spread the jewels of their culture in every way possible through their musical talent. Their sole intention is to spread our rich Gujarati cultural values, language and inspire our Gujarati youth to retain this wonderful treasure.

This year, they will be performing at 7 different venues during the Navratri season.

The enthusiasm and joy that is shared at these events energizes the whole crowd and the divine energy can be felt throughout the year. It is really encouraging to see youth who have been born and brought up in a country like Canada strive so hard to maintain their rich cultural roots. They are committed to have their children continue in this tradition as well.

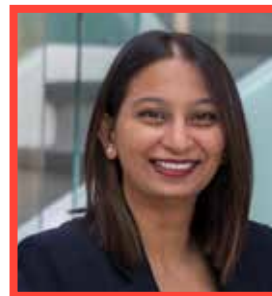


Youth (15 to 30 years)
Rushi Ghadawala

Dr. Rushi Ghadawala, is leading B R Aerospace Group, in the capacity of Executive Chairman. While marching forward in the industry since the foundation in 2010, he has been engaged with various research and operational projects on global level, those have resulted into successful operations of the companies under B R Aerospace Group over four (04) continents in more than ten (10) countries. His expertise is in utilizing space applications for Earth Observation purpose, majorly for Earth Observations to study the effects of Climate Change on the Earth's environment, and Remote Sensing in Agriculture, irrigation and planning, which is reflected into many projects with different governments and space agencies from across the world. He has more than 50 distinguished research publications and a couple of patents on his name in the area of Space technology and applications.

He has also authored a couple of books in Space Science, Technology and Commercial Space Policy, which are published internationally by renowned technical publication houses. His involvement in various technical projects with various associations has enriched him with deep sense of understanding and knowledge with practical experiences in the field. He has also been member of working group committee at the United Nations office for outer space affairs since 2008. Presently, he is involved with various projects, focusing on Space Applications and Capacity Building, and Earth Observation and Climate Change. He is recipient of honorary doctorate for his research work in Energy and Cost-Efficient Interplanetary Travel.

His innovative soil moisture model has already been used by the European Commission and Govt. of India, to address agriculture and irrigation-based disaster mitigation planning. Since 2010, he is one of the only few "elected" members of the highly prestigious British Interplanetary Society. Dr. Ghadawala is actively working on Space Situational Awareness research with private space sector in Canada, as well as he has initiated a project to develop solar powered UAV for Earth Observation purpose with Government of Canada.



Female
Dr. Parshati Patel

Dr. Parshati Patel is an astrophysicist, science communicator and outreach professional with more than seven years of experience in outreach and research. Born and brought up in Ahmedabad, India, Dr. Patel moved to Canada to pursue Astronomy. She received her Hons. B.Sc. in Physics and Astronomy from University of Toronto, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Astronomy and Planetary Science & Exploration from Western University.

She investigated disks around young, massive stars. While working in various astronomy and planetary science outreach programs during her graduate studies, Dr. Patel realized her passion for science communication. She now communicates her passion at the Western University's Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration in London, Ontario.

She develops and leads classroom workshops and camps for youth, produces podcast, organizes public events, and trains educators while coordinating their outreach initiatives.

Dr. Patel was part of the program team that has won two Faculty of Science (Western University) Outreach Awards in 2013 and 2017. She led the development of the Space Explorers Program – the space science and technology themed summer program - at two locations (London and Richmond Hill, Ontario). All the program partners at the second program location (David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill) were awarded the Award for Excellence in Operations by Parks and Recreation Ontario for 2018.

She was recently awarded a Social Media Prize for the 100 Hours of Astronomy campaign organized by the International Astronomical Union in January 2019. Dr. Patel actively researches impact of the outreach programs she conducts on the youth participants. She is interested in understanding and gauging the engagement of the participants as well as their outlook and interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers and fields. She advocates for Women in STEM, Women of Color and co-founded grass roots organization called Women of Color in STEAMM in Canada in 2018.

AWARDEES – 2017 & 2018



OVERALL - LIFETIME SERVICES 2017

DR. CHANDRAKANT SHAH

OVERALL - LIFETIME SERVICES 2018

MR. JAY CHAUHAN

CULTURE 2018

MR. OSMAN HUSSEN MIR

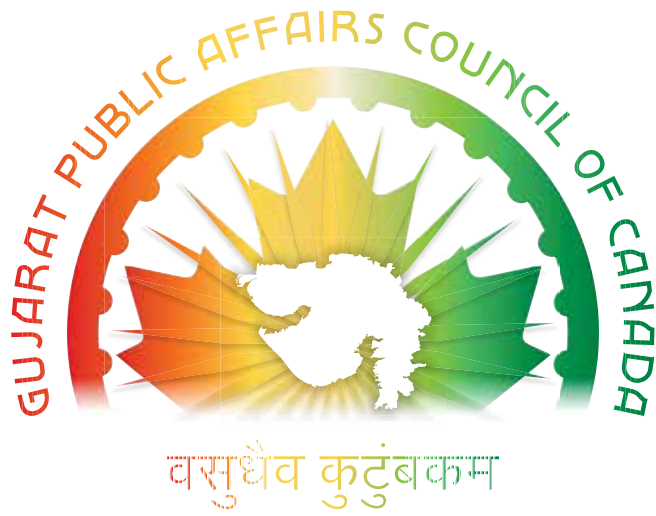
BUSINESS 2018

MR. AJAY SHAH

SOCIAL SERVICE 2018

MR. DEVANG BHATT





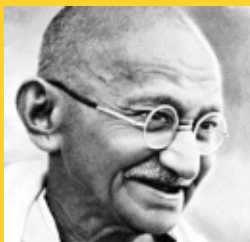
ABOUT GUJARAT

Facts of Gujarat

Vibrant Gujarat 2019

Statue of Unity

FACTS OF GUJARAT



Great leaders of the subcontinent such as Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel hail from Gujarat

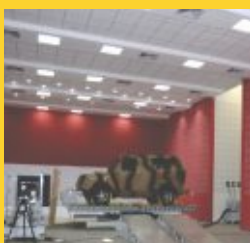
Highest no. of operating airports in India including 16 Domestic and 1 International



Gujarat contributes 7.14% to India's GDP



15 Richest Indians are Gujaratis in the 2015 Forbes Billionaires List



The Gandhinagar based Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU), has Asia's first integrated indoor ballistic testing range

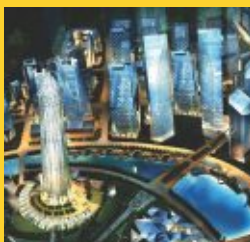
Gujarati is the 7th most spoken language in India with about 54.6 million native speakers in the country



Surat has the largest manmade textile centre in India



Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) in Gandhinagar is the only university across the world, dedicated to Forensic & Investigative Science



Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) is India's 1st International Financial Service Centre

The state owned Gujarat State Wide Area Network (GSWAN) is the largest IP-based ICT network in Asia Pacific Region and second largest in the world; connecting 33 districts and 248 talukas of Gujarat with the state capital Gandhinagar



The world's largest grass - roots refinery is located at Jamnagar in Gujarat



97.27% of the total roads in the state are surfaced. 98.86% village connectivity with all-weather roads, the highest in India



Different varieties of Dutch roses grown in green houses in Tapti, Surat and Navsari district reach the markets in Tokyo, Dubai and those in European countries via Amsterdam every week

Gujarat boasts of the longest coastline in India - 1600 kms & has the highest no. of ports handling over 40% of India's cargo.



Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, having a capacity of 2000 beds is the largest Government operated hospital in Asia



Gujarat has topped the list of 21 states with most investment potential as per the NCAER State Investment Potential Index (N-SIPI) 2016.

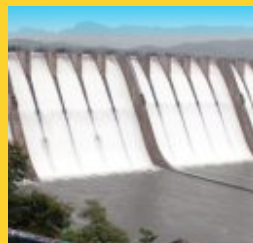


World's largest gas based Sponge Iron Plant and World's fourth largest single location steel plant are located at Hazira

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Cotton Stock Exchange were established by Gujarati's who today account for over 35% of the stock market wealth of India.



24 Hour, 3 Phase power in all the villages of the state under the Jyotigram Yojana



Sardar Sarovar Dam is a gravity dam on the Narmada river near Navagam in Gujarat. It is the second largest concrete gravity dam (by volume) after Grand Coulee Dam in the US and has the world's third largest spillway discharging capacity.



Ahmedabad has been nominated for the UNESCO 'World Heritage City' status for the year 2017

Madhapar, one of Asia's richest villages, is in Kachchh, Gujarat



Of the top 10 destination states for FDI in Asia Pacific region in 2015, Gujarat was the top state attracting USD 12.4 billion in investments, leaving behind China's Shanghai, Jiangsu, Guangdong & Tianjin states



The Rann of Kachchh is world famous for its white desert, rare ecosystem, fossils, wildlife and terrain



Gujarat is World's largest producer of processed diamonds



Amul is Asia's biggest dairy

Gujarat, a policy driven State was first in India to introduce and implement BOT law, Shipbuilding policy, Solar Power policy, Cottage and Rural Industries policy, Special Investment Region (SIR) Act.



Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, Ahmedabad among top 15 cleanest cities of India



India's largest peanut butter manufacturing state

Gujarat is home to the world's largest scooter manufacturing plant - Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) plant at Vithalapur with a capacity of 1.2 million scooters per annum



Gujarat has been awarded the most film friendly state in the country and is a favourite destination for film shooting



The Indian Institute of Management (IIMA), Ahmedabad has been ranked 24th in the FT (Financial Times) Global MBA Ranking 2016 in its top 100 list of B-Schools, announced in January 2016.



Onion dehydration industry of Gujarat is the biggest in the country

Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary also known as the Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary spread over 4954 sq. km. located in the Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, is the largest wildlife sanctuary in India



Gujarat's Children's University is among one of the only four universities globally that considers the holistic development of a child right from her / his birth.



Gujarat is the only abode of Asiatic Lions

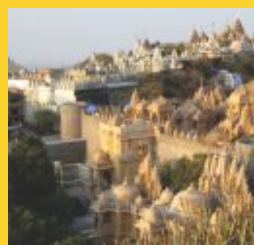


World's first multi-developer, multi-technology, multi-facility and beneficiary SolarPark (600 MW) & India's highest Solar Generation Potential (around 69,000 MW)

The longest dance festival in the world lasting nine nights, Navratri, is celebrated in Gujarat



Gujarat ranks first among the states in India in marine fish production



Palitana in Gujarat, at a height of about 3.5 km, is the only place in the world with more than 900 Jain temples



India's highest cotton producing state - 108 lakh bales in 2014-15 season

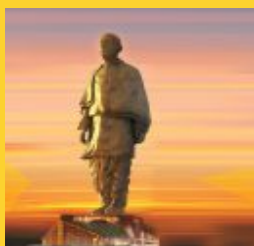
India's first liquid chemical port terminal established at Dahej in Gujarat



Only state in India with two LNG terminals having a capacity of 13.6 MMTPA and three more terminals coming up including one Floating terminal at Amreli



World's largest producer of Castor, Cumin, Fennel Seeds and Isabgol



A 182 metre tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the 'Statue of Unity' being constructed in the state will be the tallest statue in the world

Gujarat adjudged the Best State by India Today in its annual State of the States (SoS) Survey 2015



Gujarat is the 3rd largest denim producer in the world



India's first Marine Wildlife Sanctuary and first Marine National Park were created in the Gulf of Kachchh off the Gujarat coast in 1980 and 1982 respectively



India's largest producer of Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Gujarat has 23 wildlife sanctuaries and 4 National Parks



India's only state to have a state-wide Gas Grid



The Champaner - Pavagadh Archeological Park near the Pavagadh Hills in Gujarat has been recognized by UNESCO as a 'World Heritage Site'



There are more than 100 step - wells in Gujarat, the largest being the Rani-ki-Vav (Queen's Well) built in the 11th century in Patan, which has also been recognized by UNESCO as a 'World Heritage Site'

Shree Khedut Sahkari Khand Udhog Mandali Ltd., popularly known as the Bardoli Sugar Factory located in Bardoli, is Asia's Biggest Sugar Factory and the biggest sugar cooperative in Asia



India's First Private Port at Pipavav in Gujarat



Mundra Port has the world's largest fully mechanized coal terminal with a capacity of 60 MMTPA

Gujarat, recognized for its vibrancy and entrepreneurial spirit is one of India's leading states in industry and commerce and assumes a pivotal role in the fast changing business dynamics of India to meet the globalization drive

Gujarat has and continues to be the pride of India from an economic, cultural and social development perspective. The State has a richly varied heritage of art and culture which finds its roots in rural and cottage activities and livelihoods.

Gujarat takes its name from Gujjar, an ancient

ethnic community. The State is home to major sites of the Indus Valley Civilization such as Lothal and Dholavira. Dholavira is the world's oldest reservoir, while Lothal contains the ancient ruins of the world's first dockyard

Rich in history and booming with prosperity, we welcome you to explore the "Khushboo of Gujarat". Aavo Padharo - Come, witness and be a part of this growth story

VIBRANT GUJARAT 2019



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar.

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar in the presence of thousands of delegates and business leaders from across the world. "India is now ready for business as never before. In the last 4 years, we have jumped 65 places in the Global Ranking of World Bank's Doing Business report. But we are still not satisfied. I have asked my team to work harder so that India is in the top 50 next year," he told the audience.

The three-day investors' meet is taking place at Mahatma Mandir facility for international events in the state capital and is ready to witness the participation of the heads of five countries – Uzbekistan, Rwanda, Denmark, Czech Republic and Malta – and over 30,000 national and international delegates. Some of the major events during the three-day meet include a round-table interaction with the heads of global funds, 'Africa Day' and an MSME convention. The closing ceremony will be held in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, the CM said.

STATUE OF UNITY



FUTURE IN THE MAKING

Phase 1 of Development

This 182 meters tall Statue depicting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, spread in 20,000 sq.meter of project area, will be surrounded by an enormous man-made lake spread across 12 kms of area.

In and around the Statue, there will be:

World's best Exhibition narrating the story of Indian National Movement, the unification of India and Sardar's contribution

Memorial Garden

Bridge connecting Sadhu Island with the mainland

Memorial and Visitors Center

Improved Roadway between the Statue and Kevadia

Parking and Transport Site

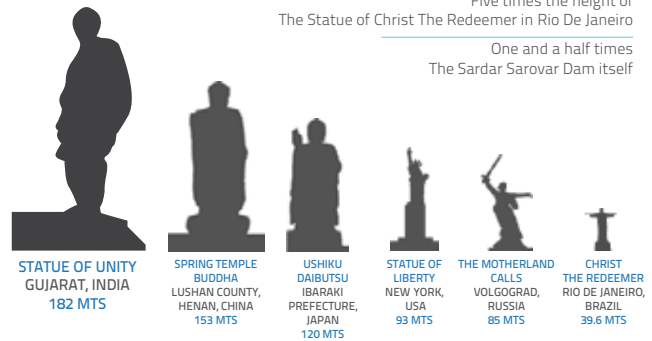
Hotel and Convention Center

A NOTCH ABOVE THE REST

Double the height of
The Statue of Liberty in New York

Five times the height of
The Statue of Christ The Redeemer in Rio De Janeiro

One and a half times
The Sardar Sarovar Dam itself



The Statue will have an estimated capacity of 15,000 visitors/day

A/V Exhibits on a fixed route to maximize the visitors

The upper observation level can hold up to 200 people at a time

3,000 people can visit the observation level per day, reachable by stairs

The visitor attraction at the base of the Statue is expected to be significant

These metrics are comparable to the Statue of Liberty, the Washington monument, the Eiffel Tower and Pavilions at the 2010 Shanghai Expo

Phase 2 of Development

In the second phase, the engineering and designing at the project site will witness the following activities:

Development of banks of River Narmada up to Bharuch

Development of road & rail, and tourism infrastructure

Schools, colleges and universities for tribal development

Education Research Centre and Knowledge City

Tourism corridor from Garudeshwar to Bhadbhut

Clean Technology Research Park & Agriculture Training Centers



STATUE OF UNITY - PLAN

THE PROJECTED PLAN. THE EXPECTED GROWTH.



“The Statue will stand high, not just in meters and feet, but much more in terms of academic, historical, national and spiritual values. My vision is to develop the place as a source of inspiration for ages to come.”

Narendra Modi,
The Chief Minister of Gujarat

With the making of this iconic structure, the overall project area is expected to grow through several activities and initiatives including infrastructure for entertainment, education and research activities.

Considering that the location of the Statue falls under the jurisdiction of Narmada district that is predominantly tribal, much importance will be given to the issues of tribal culture and economy of the area to be included in and around the Statue.

A SHARED SENTIMENT. A SHARED UPLIFTMENT.

“He should not confine himself within the limits of India, but the world is entitled to see and hear more of him.”
- Winston Churchill

We embark on a sincere attempt to do justice to this great visionary and his epochal contributions to the Indian nation.

BUILDING BONDS OF IRON:

The LOHA campaign will connect the farmers with their leader. From each of India's 6,50,000 villages, one agricultural iron implement will be collected. This iron implement will be used in the project, thereby, making this structure, a unique creation of farmers from all over India.

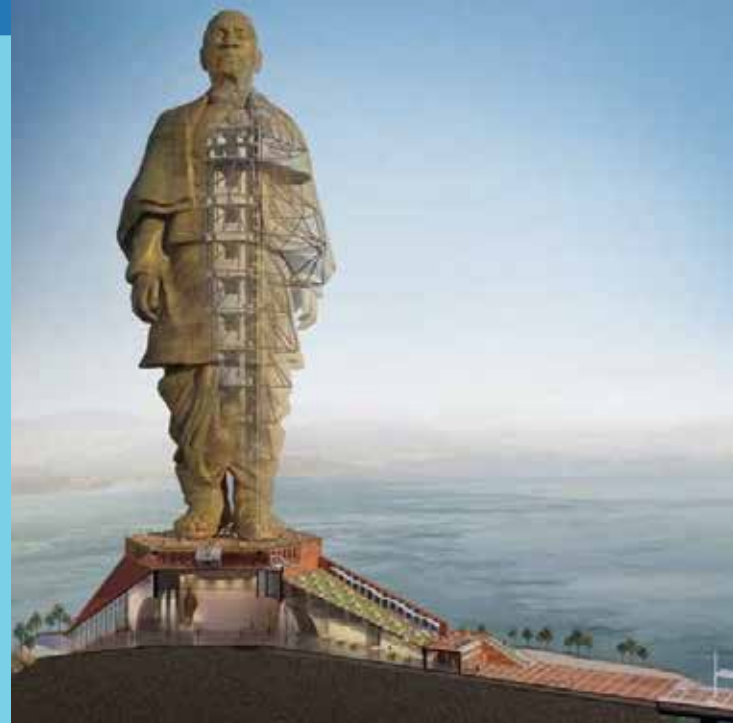
A WORK OF THE INTELLECTUAL. A WORK OF THE SKILLFUL.

The Government of Gujarat has handed over the onus of constructing the Statue of Unity to the 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Rashtriya Ekta Trust' (SVPRET), chaired by honourable Chief Minister. SVPRET will undertake all R&D and social activities to benefit the masses in the areas of education, infrastructure, tribal welfare, health and other socio-economic interests.

SVPRET has appointed a consortium comprising Turner Project Management India Private Limited as Lead Member, Meinhardt India Private Limited and Michael Graves & Associates Inc. to provide the design, engineering, project management and construction management services for the Statue of Unity project. Many of the consortium members have been involved in the making of some of the world's tallest structures.

SSNNL (Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited) management team & its engineers have built the world's third largest dam and an irrigation system, which is in the top five irrigation networks of the world. This team will implement the project.

A high-power Executive Committee, headed by Chief Secretary of Govt. of Gujarat comprising of other senior secretaries, will take care of various executive and project related decisions



STATUE OF UNITY - DEVELOPMENT

STEPPING UP TO BUILD HIGH. STEPPING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE.

The Statue of Unity will be a naturalistic and historically accurate representation of Sardar wearing characteristic garments in a walking pose.

The rich bronze cladding on the Statue gives it a marvelous look

World's fastest elevators to keep the visitor's tour engaging

The public three-level base of the Statue - exhibit floor, mezzanine and roof - contains the Memorial Garden and a large continuous exhibit hall that will be developed as a visitor attraction focusing on the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The observation deck at 500ft can accommodate 200 people at a time. The panoramic view from this level will enable visitors to see the beautiful Satpuda & Vindhyachal mountain ranges, the 256 kms long Sardar Sarovar Reservoir and the 12 kms long Garudeshwar Reservoir

Access to the statue is via boat ride (3.5 kms)

An elaborate Gallery for a massive panoramic view of the World's largest irrigation dam, the river and the hilly terrain, and an illustrious sight of Arabian Sea

A state-of-the-art Underwater Aquarium

A large modern canopied public plaza, overlooking the river and the Statue, will have scrumptious food stalls, ornate gift shops, retail kiosks and other visitor amenities

ICON BASED RURAL AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

The project site will be completed with modern infrastructure which will support better standard of living for locals as well as better connectivity for visitors.

The project site will be connected with modern connectivity infrastructure such as expressways, improved rail system and helipads

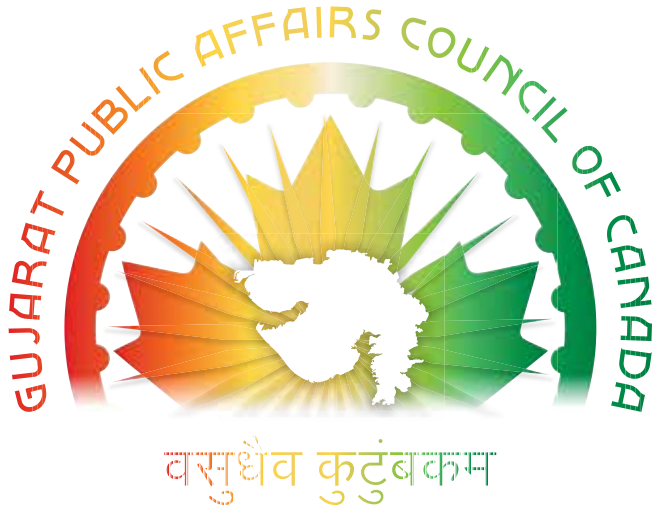
Through scientific area planning, clean industries will be located around the project site

Research facilities in the area of biotechnology, clean energy and ethnic crafts will generate white collar jobs in this area

Location and development of educational institutions in the areas of agriculture, animal husbandry, pisciculture will generate an educational and skill development complex to support economic activity in the region

Development of tourism infrastructure to support MICE - Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions; which will generate huge livelihood opportunities for the local tribal population





INSIGHTS

Gujarati Culture

By Jay Chauhan

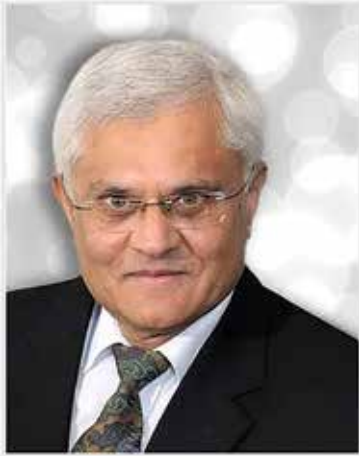
A Physician's Lifelong Commitment to Indigenous Health

By Dr. Chandrakant P. Shah

Making Newcomers Aware of Aboriginal History

By Dr. Chandrakant P. Shah

GUJARATI CULTURE



Jay Chauhan is a lawyer and author of an autobiographical non-fictional novel called Love in the Empire.

Who are Gujaratis? Much of the world outside India does not distinguish between a Gujarati and Punjabi and a Bengali or groups of Indians. India has a population of several times the size of United States or European Union. It has 29 States within one country. It is the largest democracy in the world. This week the Indians will go to polls in a country that now has a population of 1.3 billion which is second biggest after China.

There are about 68 million Gujaratis in Gujarat alone, which is about the same size as the population of United Kingdom. Many Gujaratis migrated to other countries during the colonial period and continue their Gujarati culture and speak the Gujarati language at home and maintain their family traditions, generation after generation. Gujarat is the heartland of spicy vegetarian food.

Gujarat was once behind Punjab in economic development, but now has turned into a vibrant economy in the last 20 years. Currently, it is growing economically at an annual rate of more than 5% cumulatively each year. If Gujarat was a country, it would have the third largest growth rate for any economy around the world, after China and South Korea.

This miracle of economic development in Gujarat comes from the leadership of Narendra Modi, a Gujarati, who has transformed Gujarat first and then India next under his leadership. He is one of the most popular leaders in the world. India is now seen as a potential major power along with US, Russia and China with nuclear and space capability. Indian space technology has put in orbit more satellites in one launch than any other country in the world, including US.

India is now firmly on the path of being an industrial economy and a technologically advanced country although there are large rural sectors which are still agrarian. The real picture of India is not understood in the west as the Western media still continues to portray a negative picture of India. A good example of this negative image making, is a recent article in The Economist which described the current election of India by portraying a picture of a woman carrying bricks, but failing to describe the achievement of Indian society to provide democracy to massive population of India.

India has now lifted millions out of poverty in the last two decades. This development of social and economic change emerged first in the State of Gujarat in India. Gujaratis dominate the economic hub of India around Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat and Mumbai on the west coast of India. Mukesh Ambani, a Gujarati, is the richest man in India with ownership of vast industrial complex manufacturing many products and owning one of the most expensive houses in the world in Mumbai.

Why is this leadership of Gujaratis not noticed in the outside world? This is in part because the outside world perceives India as one country. Gujarati culture is a humble and unpretentious and has a strong Hindu based conservative religious attitudes, which perpetuates generation after generation with arranged marriages

and stable family structure. Gujarati modesty prevails in not saying 'thank you' as social and family obligations are considered duty. The polite greeting of 'nameste' with clasped hands, represents the ultimate in Gujarati politeness which western cultures often interpret as lack of assertiveness and ability.

The cultural norm of Gujaratis is the large family system which includes parents, grandparents and children. After marriage the daughter in law becomes the member of the husband's family and the relationship with in-laws conducted amicably. Focus of the family is education. Gujarati families strive to pay for the children for higher education rather than let children borrow for education.

Gujaratis form part of the Aryan group which settled in North India thousands of years ago. Gujarati language which evolved from Sanskrit, developed in west India about a 1000 years ago. Punjabi culture on the other hand faced challenges on the western front from foreign aggressors like Alexander who come through the Khyber pass, and it created a strong and assertive culture in that part of India which is evident today in the military forces of India.

The Punjabis and Gujaratis settled in Canada and each have about half a million in Canada, but the cultural traits of each group plays out differently in Canada. In politics in the Trudeau Cabinet there are about 4 Sikhs and Punjabis, and a total of about 20 federal members of parliament who are also of the same group. To Canadians they appear Indian. Gujaratis are not represented in politics of Canada.

The assertive cultural traits of Punjabis and Sikhs plays out in assertive professions like law, politics and Journalism. There are more Punjabi news papers than Gujarati papers in Canada and there are more Punjabi speaking lawyers than Gujarati speaking lawyers,

and more of them are in litigation and in the court room arena. Gujaratis are less likely to take up sports like boxing and hockey.

The colour coding of Indians by the British after the end of black slavery in 1833 and use of indentured labour from India in 1836 onwards, has created colour coding of societies. Indians got slotted in the middle group and Gujaratis culture being humble has taken longer to revive their confidence to be in leadership positions, and create a culture of entrepreneurship and industrialization in the second half of the 20th century. The revival of the Gujarati culture is now reflected not only within India, but also outside where the Gujaratis have outperformed others in many foreign countries. Examples are a number of professionals, including lawyers, doctors, engineers. Ownership of half of all motels in US is held by the Patel Gujarati group. A large proportion of the UK doctors are Indian there is a good representation of Gujaratis in that group.

In US the family income of Indians is about US \$90,000 whilst American family income is about US \$50,000. There is a very large numbers of Gujaratis in this US population.

Gujarati culture is rapidly changing with our exposure to the western world. The new generation, both in India and outside, is becoming more assertive. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, is a Gujarati, and he transformed the image of Gujaratis and Indians within India and outside. He sets a very good example of humility with strength of individual character, which comes from Gujarati culture.

Gujaratis have risen to the occasion in Indian history. Gandhiji was a Gujarati from Porbandar and Rajkot. He became a Barrister in England but lived a frugal life and led the non-violent movement which made India independent and

brought down the colonial rule of Britain around the world. Mukesh Ambani, another current example of extraordinary achievement in business. His US \$54 billion net worth makes him the richest man in India, and also one of the richest in the world.

Many Gujaratis themselves do not know that they as a group built the East African economies of Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar and Tanzania, by building, schools, trade and professions under the umbrella of British Empire in the twentieth century. My personal story exemplifies the story of East African Gujarati Indians. With no law school in Tanzania, I learnt English and became a Barrister at Lincoln's Inn in England.

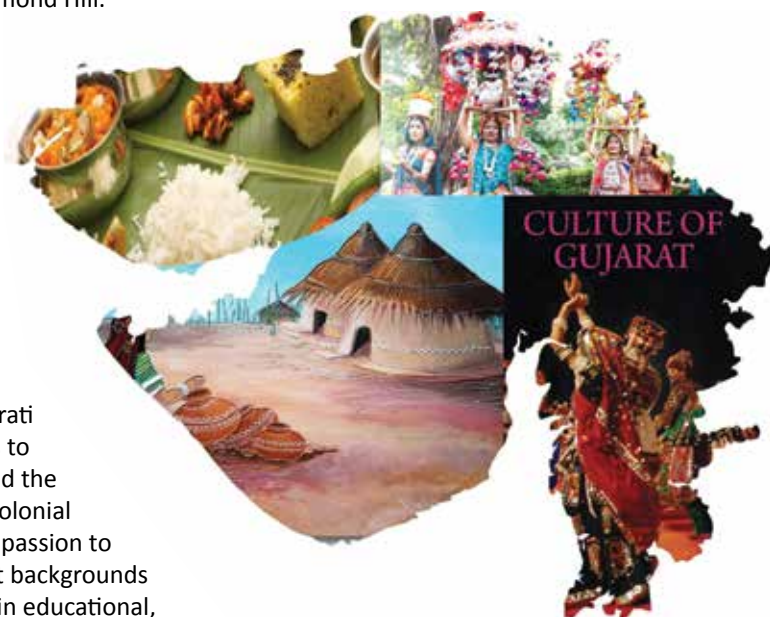
I got scholarships at London School of Economics and Berlin Universities to study development economics, recognizing that economics was more important than law in Africa. With political upheaval and with Africanization, I moved to Canada and studied again at Osgoode Hall and became a lawyer in Canada, and then a Deputy Judge, and now a mentor to many lawyers, and particularly women and minorities in Richmond Hill.

In excelling in all endeavours in the west, my message to Gujaratis is that we should not compromise our values by making short cuts to achieve our professional and family goals. Gujarati community needs to be united and shed the remnants of the colonial thinking. Our compassion to others of different backgrounds should be shown in educational, political and charitable activities and

in helping others including the native populations of this country. We need to adjust our attitude of humility and improve our image and participation in politics, business, industry, law, literature and journalism which are expressive professions.

As India assumes a more dominant role in world cultures, the dominant cultures of India, including Gujarati culture, will become more understood in the rest of the world.

* Jay Chauhan is a lawyer and author of an autobiographical non-fictional novel called Love in the Empire.



A PHYSICIAN'S LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS HEALTH



Shah is most well known for his research and activism in the Aboriginal Health and Wellness space.

For Dr. Chandrakant P. Shah, professor emeritus at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Honorary Consulting Physician at Anishnawbe Health Toronto (AHT), commitment to Indigenous health goes back more than four decades.

In the mid-70s, the University of Toronto professor of Public Health and paediatrician first volunteered to serve as a clinician for 26 First Nations in the Sioux Lookout Zone, a role he continued until 1988.

"As a relatively new immigrant to Canada, I had no exposure to First Nations people. When I visited one of these communities, I was taken for a home visit by canoe to see a woman struggling with multiple sclerosis as she could not travel to the clinic. When I visited her, she told me her major concern was not her own health; she was worried for her four young children who did not have enough to eat. Her home was cold and drafty; it had no indoor plumbing and the kitchen cupboards were bare. I was heartbroken. I thought to myself, here in Canada, we boast about being the breadbasket for whole world, and yet, in my own backyard, children are starving," remembers Dr. Shah.

Dr. Shah became a strong ally of Indigenous Canadians. His commitment and dedication grew to helping the medical profession to understand the impacts of historical trauma and the social determinants of health on both the quality of life and life expectancy of Indigenous peoples.

"While I continued to visit First Nations communities to provide healthcare services, I also began to understand that First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples living in urban areas were a growing population. Today, 60 per cent of Indigenous people live in Canada's urban cities," says Dr. Shah. After his retirement from the University of Toronto, Dr. Shah agreed to come to work to support Toronto's Indigenous community as a physician at AHT.

Dr. Shah worked alongside and collaboratively with traditional healers, medicine people, counsellors and other multidisciplinary healthcare professionals to help urban Indigenous peoples reclaim their health and cultural identity. More importantly, he has been a strong advocate for self-determination and the leadership by Indigenous people, including the role of traditional healing practices in moving healthcare forward.

He also successfully advocated for the inclusion of more information about Canada's First Peoples in Citizenship information for new Canadians so that people like him and his wife Sudha, who came to Canada in the early 60s, would have a better understanding of the impact and history of Indigenous people on our country.

Today, at the age of 82 and after he has now retired (for a second time) from his day-to-day work as a staff physician at AHT, Dr. Shah continues to support the work of Anishnawbe Health as an honorary physician consultant. He provides advice and guidance on current

issues. He volunteers as a board member and chair of the finance committee for its new foundation where he is actively recruiting donors, sponsors and partners to support the campaign for a new home for the organization.

Always one to lead by example, the Shahs and their family have made their own leadership gift to the campaign. Dr. Shah and his wife Sudha donated \$100,000 to support the foundation's campaign to raise funds to support a new home for Anishnawbe Health that will bring all of its services and programs under one roof. In recognition of this gift, the reception area on the primary care floor of the new health centre will be named in honour of the Shah family.

"I strongly believe in the need for a new facility for Anishnawbe Health. Primary health care was the focus of nearly 20 years of my career and I knew it was where we wanted to direct our support," says Dr. Shah.

This reception area is the first point of contact for clients visiting primary care physicians and team members for medical challenges and to seek support in managing chronic disease such as diabetes and hypertension.

For more information on how you can join the Shahs in supporting the work of the Anishnawbe Health Foundation, visit <http://support.anishnawbe.ca/the-campaign/a-new-home-for-anishnawbe-health>.

- Courtesy: Anishnawbe Health Foundation

MAKING NEWCOMERS AWARE OF ABORIGINAL HISTORY



Shah is most well known for his research and activism in the Aboriginal Health and Wellness space.

Grant's Desi Achiever Dr. Chandrakant Shah is a Canadian physician, researcher and social activist.

Dr. Shah has been a staff physician since 1996, providing primary health care to Toronto's indigenous community as well as people who have been marginalized, such as the homeless, the unemployed and children living in poverty.

He was bestowed the Order of Ontario in 2005 and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Bringing Awareness of Aboriginal Issues in the Citizenship Examination for New Canadians published by Dimension, Canada Race Relation Foundation (CRRF), details the efforts of Dr. Shah to update the Canadian citizenship examination with a more robust understanding of First Nations and Aboriginal Canadians.

The condensed version below was published in 150 Stories: Celebrating Canada's Sesquicentennial, which pays tribute to Canada's diversity, democratic principles and multiculturalism by telling the stories of remarkable Canadian individuals, organizations, initiatives and historic events.

I immigrated to Canada in 1965 after medical training in India, the United Kingdom and the United States.

At the time, Canada was a less receptive country for visible minorities, and I faced a significant amount of discrimination in my professional life.

In Ontario in particular, I was told that I would never get a license to practise medicine no matter what my qualifications were.

This attitude led me to British Columbia to practise medicine.

I returned to Ontario in 1972 when I was approached by the University of Toronto with an offer of a professorship in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics and a staff physician at the Hospital for Sick Children.

In 2007, I was recognized as an Making newcomers aware of aboriginal history Outstanding Physician of Ontario by the same organization that had rejected me in 1965.

This experience shaped my work and my advocacy efforts over the years. At the University of Toronto, I worked to shift thinking on diversity in faculty composition. UofT is the largest Canadian university, in the most diverse Canadian city where visible minorities constitute over 50 per cent of the population.

By 1999, the university's student body reflected the diversity of Toronto, but the same was not true for its faculty (only 8.7 per cent visible minorities).

During this period the university had made several pledges to increase the diversity of its faculty but very little had been achieved. In January of 2000, The Toronto Star published my interview with them about the lack of a plan to increase

faculty diversity by administration at the University of Toronto.

Working with a colleague, I had constructed a model to show projected diversity rates within faculty, based upon current efforts, would take 52 years to reach 15 per cent!

The Toronto Star report drew a large amount of attention and resulted in changes in hiring policies and proactive recruitment. By 2014 (a mere ten years later), U of T achieved 15 per cent of visible minorities in the faculty.

I have also focused my efforts to help Aboriginal peoples.

I was always bothered by the citizenship examination and the lack of Aboriginal history content.

The citizenship department requires all immigrants who wish to become Canadian citizens be well versed in certain aspects of Canada such as its parliamentary system, organization of provinces and local governments, as well as aspects of historical perspectives, such as the role of 'founding nations'; and it had three cursory lines about the Aboriginal population.

There was no mention about the treaties that were signed; about the forced process of assimilation through residential schools; the "sixties scoop"; and how systematically, Aboriginal peoples were stripped of their culture, heritage, language and belief system.

In 1991, I began a one-person letter writing campaign to the governments of the day, churches and social organizations about the need for a change in the Citizenship Guide to provide more information about Aboriginal peoples to new immigrants.

Since Confederation, new immigrants represent at least sixteen per cent of the Canadian population, yet they have very little or almost no knowledge about Aboriginal peoples – leading many new Canadians to hold stereotypical negative views towards Aboriginal peoples.

My letter-writing campaign lasted for almost three years and as a result in 1994 the materials provided in citizenship guide and the citizenship exams were updated.

The guide now includes relevant material about Aboriginal peoples and questions on the exam.

Since 1994, over two million new Canadians are now aware of Aboriginal peoples and their history; as will all the future newcomers to Canada be. This has been in keeping with the spirit of

– Reprinted with the permission of Canadian Race Relation Foundation and author Dr. Chandrakant Shah

ARTICLES CREDIT:

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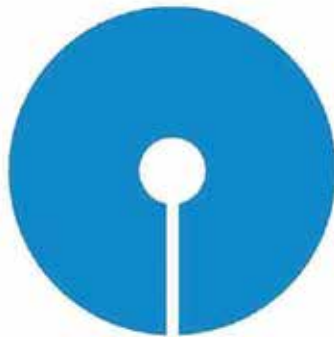


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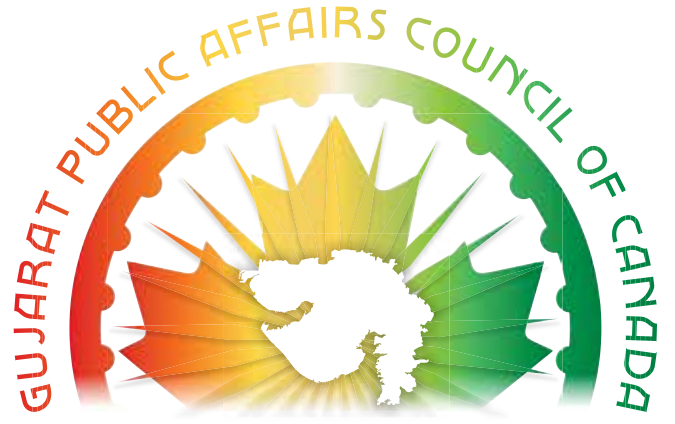
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YEAR IN REVIEW

2017 TO 2019

GPAC Gala Night 2018

Panorama India Celebration

Gujarat Gaurav Diwas & Award Ceremony 2018

GPAC Gala Night 2017



GPAC GALA NIGHT 2018



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3rd November, 2018

Gujarat Public Affairs Council of Canada (GPAC) is a premier not-for-profit organization which was formed with the vision of "Together we will achieve a better and prosperous future; economically, culturally and socially. Be the key influencing organization between the Gujarat, India & Canadian government." Our programs and policies foster individual initiative, and the ability of members to make a significant contribution to the economic, cultural and social fabric of Indian - Canadian community.

GPAC celebrated Sardar Patel's Birth Anniversary and inauguration of Statue of Unity in Gujarat. GPAC also celebrated the festival of Diwali and Hindu New Year; a unique event with live music entertainment with Gujarati, Folk, Bollywood, ghazal songs by Praher and Sampada from India & speeches by Chief Guests at Sringeri Vidya Education Foundation, Toronto on November 3rd, 2018 from 6.30pm.

His Excellency Consulate General of India (Toronto), Shri Dinesh Bhatia and Mayor of Brampton, Mr. Patrick Brown were event's Guest of Honor. GPAC Members and Advisory Council was in attendance. Gujarat Gaurav Award winners Dr. Chandrakant Shah, Jay Chauhan and GGA Business category winner Ajay Shah were present at the event. The event was also graced by Renowned Swami of Sivananda Ashram in Ahmedabad, Adhyatmanandaji and Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muniji of Ahimsa Vidya Bharti, New Delhi. Vipin Sharma of Canada India Global Forum addressed the community.

Event started with Deep Pragatya, followed by National Anthems of Canada and India. Pranav Patel welcomed everyone and also invited new President Bhavesh Bhatt to the stage who gave the information about GPAC, past year's work and future initiatives which GPAC will endeavor into.

Dhaval Vediya, Secretary General of GPAC felicitated CGI, Toronto Shri Dinesh Bhatiaji who then displayed two videos on Statue of Unity and life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He also gave a very informative and interesting speech on Sardar's life, governance, public life and management.

The event management was done by Ashwin Amin (Treasurer). The stage management was done by new VP, Nareshkumar Patel, IT and website was taken care by Director Chirag Shah. The food management was done by Don Patel and Vijay Pandya. Naresh Chavda, Pranav Patel were instrumental in attracting the right Sponsors for the event. Event was Emcee'd by Jaimin who made the entire event very interactive. GPAC gave opportunity to an all Gujarati Orchestra and Singers (mostly from Ahmedabad). Melodious singing, scintillating music and energetic performances were the key highlights.

Sringeri Vidya foundation served mouth-watering starters, appetizers, sumptuous dinner followed by desserts. The event was attended by Media giants of Gujarati Media – Gujarat Weekly, Gujarat Abroad, Swadesh, Gujarat Newsline & Divya Bhaskar. Was also covered live by TV channels like PTC, Zee TV and ATN.

For GPAC,

Dhaval Vediya

(Secretary General)

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GPAC GALA NIGHT 2018



PANORAMA INDIA CELEBRATION

India Day Parade Celebrations - August 2018

GPAC participated in the India day Parade with Panorama India. Parade Marshall was renowned Bollywood Actor, Jimmy Shergill from India. GPAC was approached to create a float for Gujarat. We harped on the opportunity, Board of directors contributed for the design and making of the float. The float was on a 56" truck which was divided into two.

GPAC member Bhavesh Kothari helped with the design. In collaboration with Seniors group, we were able to depict Mahatma Gandhi and a village theme on one half of the float. The other half was Garba performance with a group of dancers who were clad in designer chaniya cholis and kedias. Garba music made the entire parade and dance on the tunes of Gujaratis.

It was quite popular and people really liked the design as well as the music. We were adjudged the BEST float among the 40 floats, received the Prestigious First Prize. It was attended by 60,000 community members which helped to make GPAC aware in GTA.

PANORAMA INDIA CELEBRATION



GUJARAT GAURAV DIWAS AND AWARD CEREMONY 2018



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GPAC Gaurav Divas Celebrations 2018

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Our programs and policies foster individual initiative, and the ability of members to make a significant contribution to the economic, cultural and social fabric of Indian - Canadian community.

GPAC celebrated the birth anniversary of Gujarat state on May 5th; we planned a unique event with enthralling mixture of entertainment, awards presentations, and speeches by eminent public figures from our community at Sringeri Vidya Bharti Foundation, 80 Brydon Drive, Etobicoke, ON, M9W 4N6.

The event was declared open by GPAC General Secretary Dhaval Vediya along with some housekeeping and privacy rules and fire & safety announcements. The Directors welcomed & escorted each dignitary and guests to their reserved spots. We had the Deep Pragatya ceremony by GPAC Advisory Council and Directors with vedic chants by Sringeri Priest. Chief Guest of the event was Excellency Consul Mr. Depinder Singh (in place of His Excellency Dinesh Bhatia) and Minister for Senior Affairs, Dipika Damerla graced the event. This year Gujarat Gaurav was bestowed on 4 individuals with global achievements in the field of Business, Culture, Social Service and Lifetime. The hall was then filled with patriotism when Canadian and Indian National Anthems were sung with full enthusiasm. Zankar Dance Group performed Lord Ganesha Vandana and a dance theme on Gujarat including Garba and Dandia Ras.

Naresh Chavda, GPAC President provided the audience the reason why GPAC was created, Mission, vision and then thanked the members and dignitaries involved. He also provided the summary of the events since 2017 and spoke about future ventures of GPAC. Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Vijaybhai Rupani had sent his congratulatory message to GPAC and all Canadian-Gujaratis which was read by Vice President Pranav Patel. Bhavesh Bhatt announced MOU with Garvi Gujarat Seniors Group. The Consul and Minister were felicitated with flowers by Jash Patel and Tony Panchal and introduced by GPAC directors Chirag Shah and Vijay Pandya respectively. Thereafter International Book Launch of India@2050 written by renowned Management guru, Dr. Shailesh Thaker was

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Gujarat Gaurav Samman is the award which is conferred to a Canadian of Gujarati origin who has distinctly contributed to both the Gujarati community and Canadian society at large. Gujarat Gaurav Award 2018 was conferred on Shri Jay Chauhan who is a renowned ex-judge, lawyer, author and philanthropist who has served the Gujarati & Canadian community at large. He graciously accepted the award and also gave a very inspiring speech. The award was presented by GPAC Directors, Dipika Damerla and Consul Depinder Singh. Gujarat Gaurav for Business was won by Ajay Shah, top realtor in GTA. Gujarat Gaurav for Social Service was awarded to Media & journalism guru, Devang Bhatt who flew from India for this event. Gujarat Gaurav for Culture was won by folk and Bollywood singer Osman Mir.

GPAC organization also got the privilege to get associated with organizations like OFBJP, UPICA, Panorama India, Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce and International Yoga Day Canada.

Vote of thanks to the esteemed guests was presented by Directors - Don R.B Patel and Bhavesh Bhatt. Sponsor were thanked by directors - Ashvinkumar Amin & Naresh Patel.

In the audience, along with 500 - GPAC members, their families, invitees, Advisory council members, we had Dr. Shailesh Thaker (renowned Management Guru) & Devang Bhatt (Media and Journalism guru) from India. Then Sachin Joshi and Sonal Vala with their live entertainment mesmerized the audience with their selection of folk, sufi, classical and Bollywood songs. Event photography and videography was covered by Naik Productions.

Sumptuous dinner was served which concluded the ceremony. There were a lot of networking opportunities for members and families. This event was covered by Gujarati Newspapers – Gujarat Weekly, Gujarat Newslane, Gujarat Express, Gujarat Abroad, Divyabhaskar and Swadesh. TV networks - ATN & Zee TV covered the event too.

In all a very successful event with the efforts of Naresh Chavda (President-GPAC), all directors and members.

Thank s.. Dhaval Vediya (Secretary General)



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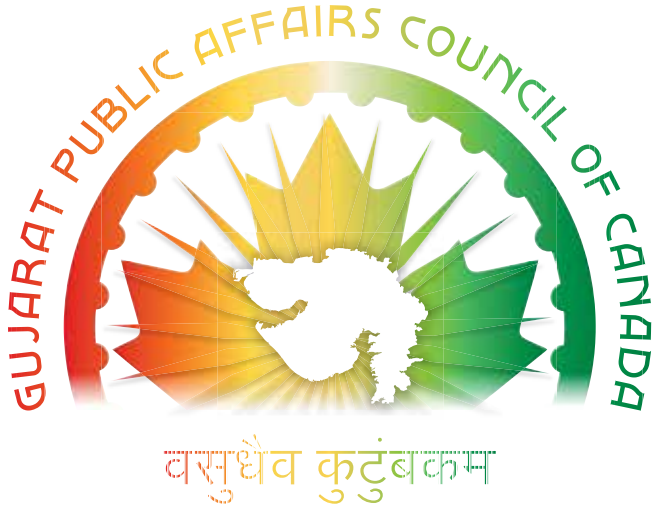
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Thanks.. Dhaval Vediya (Secretary General)



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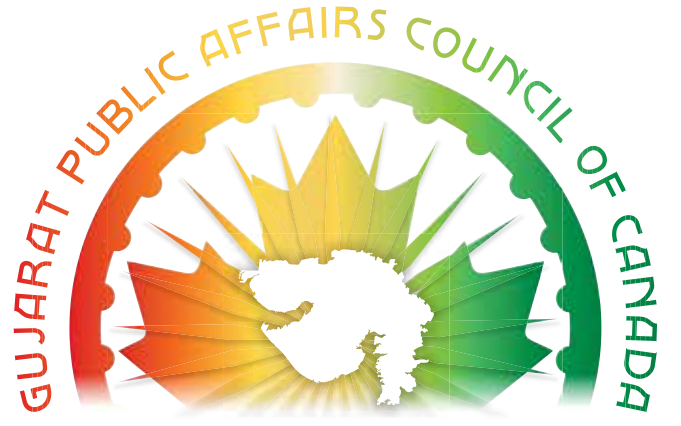
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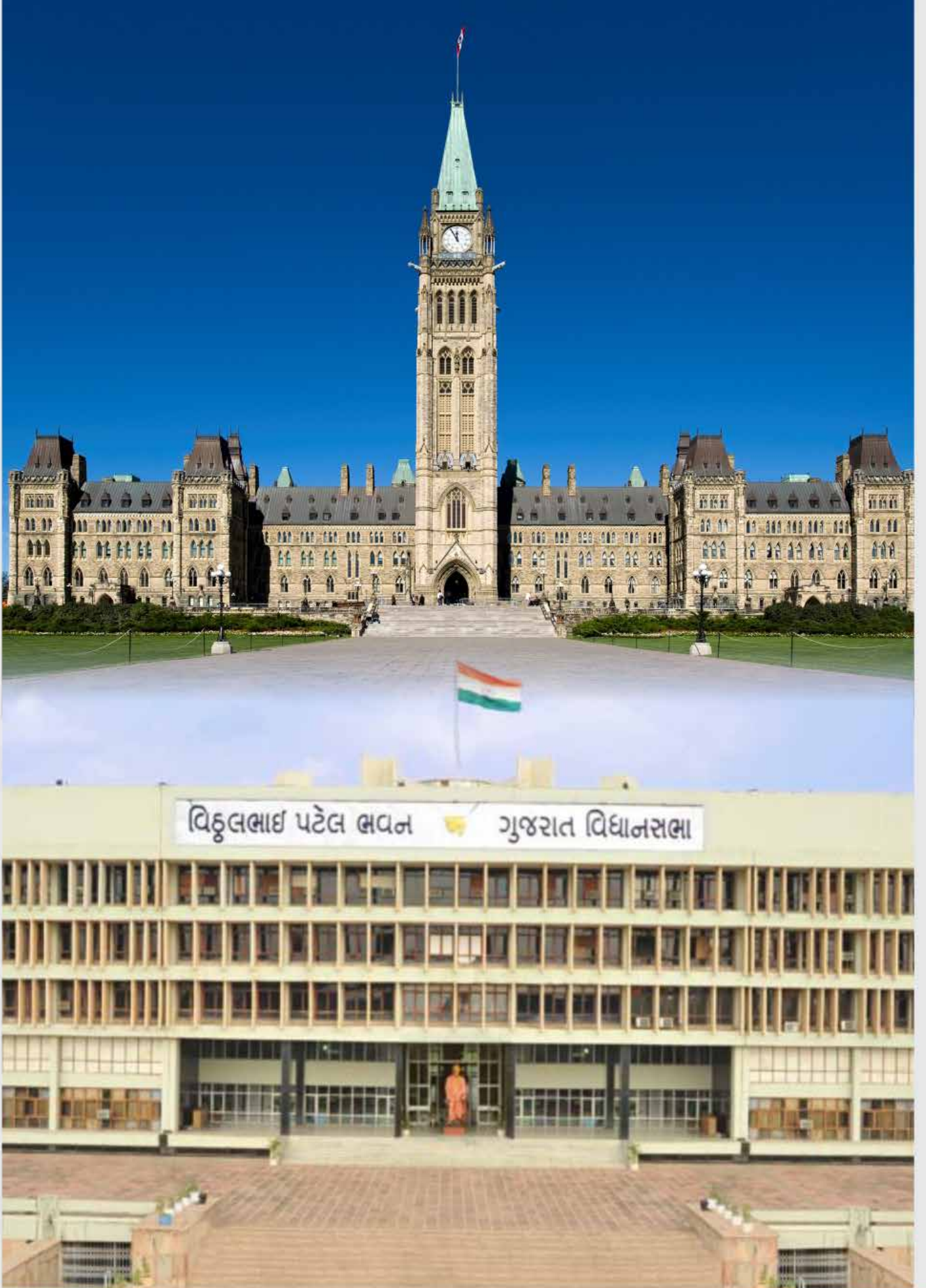
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