

Umesh Chandra receives “Bharat Gaurav” Pride of India award

NEW Delhi: India International Friendship Society (IIFS), New Delhi has announced globally reputed “Bharat Gaurav” for 2011. Umesh Chandra, a well known PIO Community Leader from Brisbane Australia is one of the recipients’ of this prestigious award for his community service achievements. Umesh Chandra alongside other recipients was honoured with Bharat Gaurav Award and certificate of Excellence at a high profile Global Friendship Day Gala Banquet in Delhi on January 6th 2011.

Umesh Chandra has been serving the Queensland Indian community for the last 15 years in different capacities. By profession, Umesh Chandra is the Chief Operating officer of Chantex Pty Ltd. The company operates three subsidiaries namely Brisbane Indian Times, Globenet Realty and Bollybiz promotions.

Umesh Chandra is currently serving as the founder president of GOPIO (Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin) Queensland Chapter, Vice President of FICQ (Federation of Indian Communities in Queensland), Vice President QMC (Queensland Multicultural Council). He is Queensland Governments appointed Liaison Officer for the international Indian Students.

Umesh Chandra’s community service includes three hours of voluntary radio announcing every week. He is the initiator and presenter of “The Bollywood Show” on radio 99.7fm every Monday night from 7pm till 9 pm. Umesh has been one of the presenters of the Hindi program on Radio 4EB 98.1fm. He is the Publisher of Queensland’s first full colour newspaper for Indian community “Brisbane Indian Times”.

For the last fifteen or so years, Umesh has been associated with a prayer Group which meets without fail every Tuesday night at Hindu Society of Queensland’s Gayatri Mandir. He is a founder and life member of Hindu Society of Queensland, life member of Shree Laxmi Narayan Mandir. He has been recommended by Hindu Society of Queensland as the voluntary Hindu Chaplain for students of University of Queensland.

Umesh Chandra has attended many global conferences relating to the Indian Diaspora, these include Chennai PBD and GOPIO International Conference 2009, Delhi PBD and GOPIO International Conference 2010. New York 20th anniversary GOPIO International conference. Pravasi Samellan 2010 in Bhopal Madhya Pradesh as guest of the Chief Minister. GOPIO International conference in Durban, South Africa to mark 150 years of arrivals of Indians in South Africa. Umesh has strong ties with Mauritius.

Umesh attended a historic unveiling of a commemorative plaque "in recognition and remembrance of Indian Indentured Labourers: 19th - 20th centuries" at Kidderpore (Demerara) Depot Clock Tower Kolkata early January.

Umesh Chandra, a keen musician is the founder and manager of Brisbane Babas Band, which spreads the rich Indian Music to the wider community. Brisbane Babas Band is the most popular and performed Bollywood and Bhangra Band in Brisbane.

He has brought to Brisbane many renowned artists including Sonu Niigam, Raj Pal Yadav, Dhinesh Lal Yadev, Dreamgirls of Bollywood, Gurdas Maan and Rahat Fateh Alikhan , he has promoted and hosted many classical concerts.

In the sporting field Umesh has served as the founder president of Ba soccer Sports and Social club. He was also the founder president of the main organising body. During this term he managed to take a team of veterans soccer team to Auckland to participate in the annual veterans soccer tournament organised there.

Gurmeet Singh, Office Secretary (IIFS), in his letter to Umesh said "After perusing your bio-data, most objectively and impartially, it remains our considered opinion that you have given a fight in life and your worthy example does inspire others towards certain remarkable achievement. We have, therefore, chosen to honour you with globally reputed "Bharat Gaurav Award" and a Certificate of Excellence at the function.

The guests of honour at the function are: **Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal** - Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, **Smt. Shila Dixhit** - Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi, **Rt. Honourable Baroness Sandeep Verma** - Minister in Waiting Govt. of U.K., **Ms. Ruby Dhalla M.P.** – Canada; **Shri Oscar Fernandes** - Member of Parliament, **Dr. Bhagwan Shani** - NRI USA.

The Awards ceremony was purposely scheduled during Parvasi Bharatiya Divas. The reason is that knowing the emotional attachment to their country of origin, NRIs and PIO's from across the world, who come all the way to participate in the Parvasi Bharatiya Divas, could conveniently stay a little longer to enjoy the smell of the soil and feeling of oneness.

The main subject of the conference is "Global Participation in India's Economic Development". The accent will be laid on NRI investment, capital and skill. Top leaders, economists, entrepreneurs, and high profile professionals will address this unique assembly. This conference was attended by the elite of Indian economy and polity and the NRI delegates from many countries. It will especially project achievements of Indian Diaspora, which has made Mother India proud.

Prominent persons who have been awarded by the IIFS include: Dev Anand, Prema Cariappa, Navnit Dholakia, Sunil Dutt, Shamim Jairajpuri, Basappa Danappa Jatti, Rajesh Khanna, Prem Chand Pandey, Kamlesh Patel, Heenal Raichura, Amichand Rajbansi, Lord Diljit Rana, Dhirubhai Shah, Chaudhary Ishwar Singh, Marsha Singh, Ashok Sinha, Nirmal Chandra Suri, Harinder Takhar, Mother Teresa, Pankaj Udhas, Bharati Vaishampayan, Sandip Verma, and Drukchen Jigme Pema Wangchen

India International Friendship Society (IIFS) is a fifteen-year old non-profit organization established with an aim to forge greater unity and integrity among the people of Indian origin living all over the globe.

The society also aims to enhance India's broad relationship and forge greater friendship and cooperation with all the countries on the globe, irrespective of small or big, developed, developing or underdeveloped yet there is always a need for greater understanding and it is our endeavor to set a new rapport of closeness and real understanding among all people of the world. It is desired that all human being should live together in peace, love and brotherhood.

The society has an essential role to play in fulfilling this objective by creating conditions for exchange of views among all the people, especially of Indian origin. Its aim is to create a sense of national and International friendship and understanding where it can have a program to share with others.

By virtue of this, the society wishes to see all-around progress and development of all, inclusive of our country. Its program is to share professional, educational, industrial and even personal experience with all the people of this continent and the others.

The society has also a program of coordinating India's and N.R.I.'s efforts in creating joint ventures. For this purpose it has an advisory committee in which some talented and highly respected Indian experts in diverse fields, such as Economists, journalists, Socialists, Industrialists, Scholars, Engineering Experts, Member of Parliament and some retired Generals are involved. Many a time the society has invited N.R.I.'s from distant places to confer with their Indian counterparts to have a successful collaborative and fruitful discussion.