

## Seven State Lawmakers Join GOPIO's Northeastern Chapters to Celebrate India's 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day

NFIA joined hands with GOPIO chapters in the Northeast USA (New York, GOPIO Manhattan, GOPIO-CT, GOPIO-Central Jersey) and other community organization in a show of unity to come together to celebrate India's 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day virtually on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, paying rich tributes to their motherland, India as she stands tall among nations of the world, proclaiming freedom, democratic values, economic and technological advancements, and the rich cultural traditions. Chief guest Indian Consul General in New York Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, referring the several elected Indian American leaders who attended the event, Ambassador Jaiswal said, "Your presence and greetings mean a lot to us and to the Indian Diaspora and to the Indo-US relationship."



Photo –Dignitaries and elected officials at the celebration, from left Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Impact Executive Director Neil Makhija, Vermont State Senator Keshha Ram, NJ State Senator Vin Gopal, Ohio State Senator Niraj Antani, CT. Rep. Harry Arora, NH Rep. Latha Mangipudi, NY Rep. Jenifer Rajkumar and NJ Rep. Raj Mukherji

Neil Makhija, Executive President of Indian American Impact, introduced the elected state officials attending the event including New Jersey Senator Vin Gopal and Rep. Raj Mukherji, Vermont Senator Keshha Ram, Ohio Senator Niraj Antani, NY State Rep. Jenifer Rajkumar, New Hampshire Rep. Latha Mangipudi and Connecticut State Rep. Harry Arora.

GOPIO Chairman, Dr. Thomas Abraham pointed out that India has sent a large number of its brightest to America, who have made substantial contributions in building up the economy of America. Dr. Jaya Daptardar eloquently emceed the event. Co-Sponsoring Organizations and the leaders who had attended the event included: President of the National Federation of Indian American Association Lavanya Reddy from Seattle and Secretary Ashok Patnaik from Los Angeles, VP for New York Region Gunjan Rastogi, who is the President of National Indian American

Association for Senior Citizens; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Executive Director Sudhir Vaishnav; Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York President Mukund Mehta; Jiwan Jyoti Chairman Suresh Arya from Rockland County; Jhilmil President Anoop Bhargava from New Jersey; Milan Cultural Association President Suresh Sharma from Hartford, CT; Kerala Center President Alex Esthappan from Elmont, New York; National AIA President Gobind Munjal and India Association of Long Island President Bina Sabapathi



Photo: GOPIO officials and organizers of the celebration, Top row, from l. to r. GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, GOPIO-Manhattan Executive VP Prof. Raj Vangapaty and President Shivender Sofat. Bottom row, from l. to r. GOPIO-Manhattan Committee Member Chitrnanjan Belwariar, GOPIO-CT President Ashok Nichani and GOPIO VP Ram Gadhavi

The taped program can be seen on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/3d90UWW8SvA>.

