



RECAP: 14TH ANNUAL INDO-US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANYAN BALL

By SURAJ NAYEE

The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted its 14th annual Banyan Ball at the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza on September 7th, 2013. The Chamber's signature black-tie event was a sold out affair with over 300 guests, business and political leaders, visiting dignitaries, and local civic officials in attendance.

The Indo-US Chamber is proud to announce this year's business award recipients:

Businessman of the Year: Dr. Murty Yalla, Beckwith Electric Co., Inc.

Businesswoman of the Year: Vaishali Patel, Medenet, Inc.

Young Business Person of the Year: Navin Passem, Law Office of Navin R. Passem

Community Service Person of the Year: Manish Kharod, Verizon Data Services

The evening's master of ceremonies was ABC News' Sarina Fazan and the keynote was delivered by acclaimed comedian Dan Nainan, who spoke about his journey from Intel to international fame. Attendees were also given a glimpse into next year's International Indian Film Academy (IFFA) awards via a live address from Director Sabbas Joseph. The event

was further highlighted by performances from dance troupe Bull Bhangra, and Tampa Bay's Radhika Mehrotra.

The Indo-US Chamber would like to extend a heartfelt appreciation to the following vendors for their dedication and support of our event:

- Venue: The Renaissance Hotel, International Plaza
- Décor: Ritti Couture Weddings & Events, Lakshmi Sastry
- Caterer: Clay Oven Caterers, Chef Desmond Desouza
- DJ & Sound: Philip Blessen
- Entertainment: USF Bull Bhangra & Radhika Mehrotra
- Photography: Webb Works, Jim Webb
- Videography: Nima Film, Javad Akbarpour
- Banyan Tree: Eves Garden

To view more pictures from this year's annual Banyan Ball, please visit our website: www.indo-us.org



ON THE MOVE ...

Each month, the Indo-US Chamber highlights members making strides in their professional lives. To be featured in this section, please attend our monthly networking meetings or email submissions directly to OnTheMove@indo-us.org.



Bull Bhangra is a collegiate dance team founded at the University of South Florida. The team comprises of twelve passionate dancers who strive to spread the culture of India and the passion for dancing by representing Tampa on a local and national level. Since being established in the Fall of 2012, the Bull Bhangra team has performed at the annual India Festival held in Tampa, the Fort Lauderdale Diwali Dhamaka program, the

India International Film Festival Tampa Bay and the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce's annual Banyan Ball. With hopes of applying to National competitions in Spring 2014, the Bull Bhangra team practices three times a week for several hours. Bull Bhangra is available to perform at all public and private events.

For more information contact the team by email at USFBullBhangra@gmail.com or contact Meera Pattni at (813)418-2356.



DJ Philip Blessen was born and raised in a musical family in Kerala, India. He started playing the keyboard, guitar, and singing professionally at the age of 14 years old. He has over 15 years of experience as a professional DJ and a sound operator. He knows how to make a party memorable and keep people on the dance floor through his creative mix

of music. DJ Philip also has extensive experience in live singing and has had the opportunity to work with many famous singers and musicians. His DJ experience includes events such as Bollywood night in Tampa, Checker's Fast Food Annual Function, Rusty Pelican, Tampa Film Festival, and the Tampa Indo-US Chamber of Commerce's annual Banyan Ball to name a few. For more information visit www.djphiliptampa.com or contact DJ Philip Blessen at 813-451-1574.

OCTOBER BUSINESS & NETWORKING EVENT: THE LATEST ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

By RESHMA PATEL

On June 27, the United States Senate passed a Landmark Immigration Reform Bill, which would allow some 11 million unauthorized immigrants presently living in the United States a path to legalization. What is the current status of Immigration Reform? What remains for immigration reform to become a reality? The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce is privileged to host Attorney Dilip Patel at our October 16 business and networking meeting, where he will answer these questions and discuss other hot topics from the immigration world. Mr. Patel will also discuss other provisions of the reform bill which are likely to introduce significant changes to H-1B and other visas used by the business community.



Attorney Dilip Patel

Dilip Patel is a partner in Shutts & Bowen's Corporate Immigration Group in Tampa and is board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law. Prior to joining Shutts & Bowen, Mr. Patel founded his own firm where he concentrated his practice in immigration and business transactions. He has also served as General Counsel for an International IT

services company. He has tremendous experience in the field and practiced law in London prior to establishing himself in the United States. He received his Juris Doctorate from Florida State University School of Law, and he graduated with an LL.B. law degree from the London School of Economics. Mr. Patel has also been recognized in the Best Lawyers in America, Immigration Law for a number of years. Being an immigrant himself, Mr. Patel brings a unique passion to the field.

The Chamber strives to provide an educational platform for new and existing members to learn from leading experts in their respective fields. The October meeting is an opportunity to expand our awareness of the current immigration debate and is sure to bring a riveting discussion on how immigration reform is essential for our economy. The Chamber continuously endeavors to foster an inclusive environment for students, business owners, professionals, and entrepreneurs alike, and we encourage you to reach out to one of our Executive Committee members if you have questions regarding the format of our meetings, or to simply offer feedback on how we can make the experience more meaningful for you. As is tradition at all our Monthly Business and Networking Events, there is no cost to attend and dinner will be served.

E-VERIFY AND VISAS: AN IMMIGRATION REFORM WATCHLIST FOR SMALL EMPLOYERS

By Patrick Clark

Setting aside political talking points, how are small businesses likely to be affected by an immigration overhaul? The big picture is that "the Senate bill makes more visas available for employment-based immigration," says Stephen Yale-Loehr, who teaches immigration law at Cornell Law School. Beyond that, here are three issues that small business owners should keep an eye on:

E-Verify. Employers in some states and industries are already required to use the E-Verify system to check the immigration status of new employees. In the past, that's led some employers to complain that the program prevented them from filling open positions. Others argue that the system is slow to keep up with name changes, which might prevent workers from showing up as legal residents if they've been married or divorced. If the Senate bill becomes law, "E-Verify is something that everyone's going to have to get used to," says Yale-Loehr. In fiscal year 2012, 91 percent of workers checked through E-Verify were U.S. citizens, according to a factsheet distributed by the White House.

Entrepreneur visas. The Senate bill passed would create two new types of visas: the temporary X visa, for entrepreneurs who don't plan on staying in the U.S. permanently, and the EB-6 visa, which can lead to residency. In each case, visas are available to entrepreneurs who hit thresholds for investment capital raised, jobs created, and revenue earned.

H-1Bs. Speaking at his organization's annual meeting last week, American Immigration Lawyers Association President Doug Stump said the Senate bill would make the H-1B hiring process more difficult for small businesses. The visas, which allow high-skilled workers to come to the U.S. on a temporary basis, are typically associated with large technology companies. According to a Brookings Institute paper published last July, nearly half of H-1B visa requests filed in 2010 and 2011 requested only one worker, and 94 percent requested fewer than 10 H-1Bs.

To view this article in its unedited entirety: Clark, Patricia. "E-Verify and Visas: An Immigration Reform Watchlist for Small Employers." Bloomberg Businessweek. 01 Jul 2013: <<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-07-01/e-verify-and-visas-an-immigration-reform-watchlist-for-small-employers>>.

Upcoming Indo-US Chamber Event: Business & Networking Event: The Latest on Immigration Reform

Date: Wednesday October 16, 2013
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Speaker: Attorney Dilip Patel, Partner, Shutts & Bowen LLP
Location: Homeowners Choice Insurance Building (5300 W. Cypress St, Tampa, FL 33607)
This is a FREE event. Dinner will be served. No RSVP required.

INDO-US CHAMBER MISSION

"To provide an active forum in which Asian American professionals and business owners, through an exchange of ideas, with a unified voice, can communicate, interact, and secure a position within the business industry and become a source of inspiration by promoting professionalism and excellence through education and community involvement."

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"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
~John Quincy Adams

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