

# SHESCH KHABAR

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By KOA Canada Newsletter Taskforce - March 2022

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BRINGING TOGETHER OUR COMMUNITY



# PRESIDENT'S DESK

Herath Poshte !

I warmly greet our KP community across Canada and globally. My best wishes and felicitations on the auspicious occasion of Shivratri and Salaam! May there be peace and prosperity everywhere! I pray that on this sacred occasion, may peace, prosperity, good health, and progress prevail everywhere!

महाशिवरात्रि हेस्त हुंद छुवु सारनी पौष। महादेव तँ माता पार्वती करिनु तुहिंदिस समस्त परिवारस हमेशँ कर्पा अनुग्रह तँ रँछ।

As I write this for you, our readers, I am thinking about all the changes that have occurred in our world as of late. Over the last few months, we have maneuvered through both fantastic moments in time and challenging moments, because of how resilient and nimble our workforces and association have been throughout this pandemic. It has been a rough ride, which genuinely has changed so many lives.

Although we have stepped into the new year with a bit of skepticism, we carry a lot of hope for it to be more exciting and joyful. A socio-cultural Newsletter like Shesch Khabar has an important significance in keeping our community connected and being a powerful organ to provide a platform to its readers to share their views, news, and features that are relevant to the community.

At the outset, we wish our readers A Very Happy and Prosperous Year 2022! Thank you, members, for your continued participation and enthusiasm in our community, and sponsors for your incredible support and advice. At KOA Canada, we hold ourselves accountable for sharing extensive knowledge and innovative initiatives while increasing the prosperity and nurturing the well-being of our people and communities. We continuously set higher standards for ourselves, which drives our community to excel. Our community members have the freedom to express themselves, be part of a winning and supportive culture, and be part of a team.

Trust is earned, not given. And we place great value in earning the trust and loyalty of our people, and our partners. Although we face new challenges each day, we endure and succeed due to our commitment to unwavering diligence, integrity, and team morale. We are confident in our innovation and competencies, yet humility is one of our biggest resources in creating and capturing value for our communities. This is because humility allows us to acknowledge our shortcomings and work to overcome them. It is my honor and privilege to serve our Association and I will put my time and effort to make it worthwhile for our members.

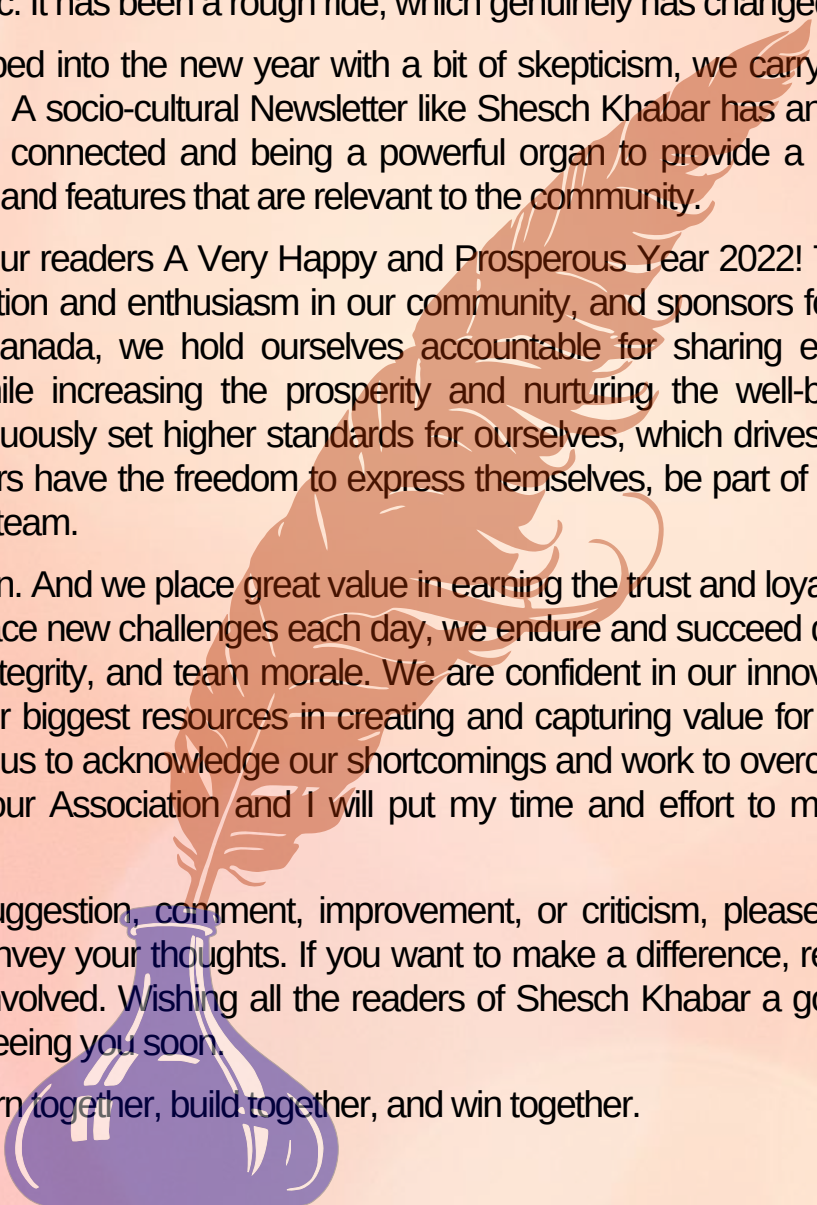
If you have an idea, suggestion, comment, improvement, or criticism, please contact me, any of our leadership team and convey your thoughts. If you want to make a difference, reach out to us, and know you want to get more involved. Wishing all the readers of Shesch Khabar a good and successful 2022 and looking forward to seeing you soon.

At KOA Canada, we learn together, build together, and win together.

Orzu ! Best Regards

POOJA GANJU

PRESIDENT, KOA CANADA





# SHIVRATRI FESTIVAL AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Shivratri (Herath)

Shivratri is the crown of our festivals and is spread over a full fortnight of the Phalguna month. Among the Kashmiri Pandits, this is known as Herath, a phonetic derivation of Har-ratri the night of Hara (Shiva). It is a socio-religious function that is a very part of our life. It is believed that every Kashmiri girl is a Parvati and is wedded to Shiva. The Shivratri symbolises the wedding of the two, and on this occasion, the Bhairavas and other Ganas accompanying Lord Shiva are fed with the choicest dishes up to the fill and to their satisfaction.

Shivaratri (literally meaning Shiva's night) is a festival of great significance for Hindus all over the world, especially for those of Kashmir. Esoterically, it is symbolic of the mystic union of Jiva (individual soul) with Paramatma (the Supreme Godhead) and it represents the high state of spiritual realisation wherein the world of relativity fades away and perfect peace and calm prevail. Shiva Ratri is the integrating force of the Sanatana Dharma, popularly known as Hinduism. Shiva Ratri is the essence of the Yajur Veda, where Shiva is adored as Rudra, Shambhava, Bhava, and Hara.



Shiva Ratri is a spiritual journey from Hara's state of mind to the Bhava state of existence. Walnuts as it is called Doon in the Kashmiri language is an integral part of the Vedic injunction in the Kashmiri Pandit religious ethos. Walnut is an essential ingredient of the Samagri.

Shiva is eternal existence and, therefore, the Supreme Truth. He is free of bondages, devoid of attributes, all-pervading, and yet above everything (Ati tishthat dashangulam). He is Conscience (Chit) and Bliss (Ananda). Everything emanates from Him and everything merges with Him. He answers the form of Brahma and with the attribute of Rajas (Rajoguna) creates the universe.





# KOA CANADA HIGHLIGHTS

## KOA CANADA, COVID -19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND HELP INDIA FUNDRAISER 2021

KOA Canada program Mission mankind "Covid Fund Relief Drive for India, we have managed to raise more than Rs.20 lakhs through our fundraising campaign to support KP families across India's COVID battle. The revenue generated through Covid-19 fundraiser program helped Kashmiri pundit community across metros. This has been an entire KOA Canada community mutual collaboration and efforts, collectively built some great success stories to be recognized within the entire community!!



KOA CANADA PARTNERING SHARIKA FOUNDATION

# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND HELP INDIA

**DONATION DEADLINE MAY 22**

**HELP THOSE WHO ARE GREATLY  
AFFECTED BY THE VIRUS PANDEMIC**

Our Distribution Focus  
Oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, food, medicines, blood and plasma donation,  
donation of essential commodities & hygiene products.

Supporting Zones  
Noida , Greater Noida, Indirapuram, Jammu , Jagti camps, Gurugram,  
National Capital Regions

DONATION ACCEPTED GLOBALLY THROUGH E TRANSFER  
CANADIAN TAX RECEIPTS PROVIDED

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP AT CHECK OUR WEBSITE UNDER PROGRAMS :  
**WWW.KOACANADA.ORG**  
FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS EMAIL : KOACANADA@GMAIL.COM

*Thanks to experiences like this, something incredible happens when teamwork happens. Things change when everyone on the team is equally invested in the overall purpose and goal. Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships." – Michael Jordan*

### High level Outline:

- Our target goal \$30,000 CAD
- Our achieved goal \$34,562 CAD
- Areas served Jammu and National Capital Region
- List of charities supported through donations as follows:
  - Canadian Red Cross <> Indian Red Cross
  - Shanti Manas Foundation
  - Kallpoosh Foundation
  - KMECT
  - Koshur Raag
  - Shirya Bhatt Foundation

# CANADIAN RED CROSS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Wednesday, July 15, 2021  
Ms. Pooja Ganju  
President, KOA Canada

Dear Pooja,

Thank you to you and your members for incredible efforts to raise more than \$26,000 in support of the Canadian Red Cross (CRC)'s Covid-19 India Response Appeal!

This letter is to confirm KOA Canada's donation and wire transfer \$26,420 received June 21/21 from the Sharika Foundation has been directed to the CRC India Response Appeal and will support equipment and people directly impacted by Covid-19 in Jammu, NCR and across India (as directed by the Indian Red Cross).

We know how much the people in India are impacted and suffering through the pandemic – know your gift and efforts will help purchase vital equipment such as oxygen and respirators.

Pictured (right) is a CRC plane being loaded with such equipment just this past month.

How wonderful that you took time out of your own pandemic experience to think of others and we are grateful to be your agent to support those in dire need.



We look forward to celebrating and thanking you in person at a cheque presentation later this month! I will be in touch directly with proposed dates.

Again, thank you for your generosity and believing in the power of humanity by supporting the Canadian Red Cross in this way.

Most Sincerely,

*Kristin Morrison*

Kristin L. Morrison  
Director, Major Gifts  
CC: Amanda Moore, Regional Manager, Community Engagement

21 Randolph Avenue  
Toronto, ON M6P 4G4  
Canada  
Redcross.ca





# KALLPOOSH FOUNDATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Date : 30.06.2021

Respected All, Namaskar !

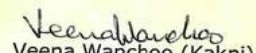
Hope this message finds you all well and safe and your work makes excellent progress with the blessings of MATA BHADRAKALI.

I am to acknowledge with thanks receipt of \$ 2000 CAD equivalent INR directly from KOA Canada and INR 50,000/ & 10,000/ from S/Sh. Satish Chandra & Rohit Patwardhan, respectively, as direct community deposit on behalf of KOA Canada. I would like to thank the KOA Canada Community Members, their Foundations & Entities for their generous support to the Kallpoosh Foundation for supporting COVID project and helping KP families across India. KOA Canada Community Members are wonderful people who care deeply about their community & KPs in India. We are all very grateful to you all for your generosity! THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!

Meanwhile, we have sent Oxygen Concentrators to VESSU KP CAMP, COVID FACILITY CENTRE, SRINAGAR, J&K and utilizing others for needy patients in the KP Community. In addition, we have already served about 300+ meals for Covid Families in GURUGRAM, NCR. We would like to assure you that every donated asset & penny will be utilized judiciously & seek your help and support to extend our services in all areas to serve the KP Community across India.

Praying for your health and longevity and invoking MATA BHADRAKALI'S blessings for all of you and family.

Yours sincerely,

  
Veena Wanchoo (Kakni)  
Chairperson

Smt. Pooja Ganju, President, KOA, Canada  
All KOA Canada Community Members /  
Foundations & Entities.

# SHANTI MANAS FOUNDATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dear, Poojaji  
President (KOAC)

On behalf of Shanti Manas Foundation, We Extend our deep gratitude KOA Canada and it's President Pooja Ganjuji for your timely financial assistance to our Foundation ( Shanti Manas Foundation) We will always remember this great gesture of compassion and concern for kp community in India during Covid crises I Anjalee Kaul as Authorised Signatory of Shanti Manas Foundation thank you and KOAC for your great Support.

We as a team with the help of few dedicated volunteers were able to help many families, reaching out to them personally with all medical facilities, like oxygen cylinders oxygen concentrators, covid kit hospitalization, And after Covid wave slowed down we helped some families financially as well, These were families who were devastated by Covid. Our Volunteers were always there to help even for arranging funerals of our dear ones whom we lost in this pandemic.

I want to acknowledge that we have received Total funds Rs 225967/=

From KOAC.

I on behalf of Shanti Manas Foundation , thank you and KOAC for helping us financially and morally. we will carry on our mission in future also and shall continue to work for different issues related to our Kashmiri pandit community.

Thanking you

Anjalee kaul

Director

Shanti Manas Foundation

# **KUDOS TO TASKFORCES**

We truly appreciate KOA Canada community members for their time, contribution, response, and commitment for being a dedicated partner and supporting mission mankind critical projects for supporting KPs across India 2021. It made a major difference in the lives of our organisation recipients. Any donation, no matter how big or small, shows a willingness to help organisations to help those in need. We also like to acknowledge and appreciate receiving funds outside Canada and outside our community, so once again thanks all, for spreading the word and making it our "Collective Canadian Mission Mankind serving nation during COVID !!

We would also like to highly appreciate and recognize efforts made by our entire CCRST and MCT team members working closely with the KOA Canada executive committee. Your support is gratifying and thank you for being there with your time.

**Special Thanks** to **Mr.Sumir Pattoo** and **Mr.Sagar Chowdry** who went over and beyond connecting with their extended families and friends raising awareness, building an internal group, and encouraging members to support the cause.

**Special Thanks** to **Mr.Pavneesh Madan, Mr.Bushan Bhat, Mr.Vidya Bhushan Dhar, Mr.Sunil Kardar, Mr.Rakesh Kak,** and **Mr. Ashok Koul** who did an amazing job raising awareness and connecting with external organisations in lieu of this mission.

**Special Thanks** to **Mr.Sunny Raina, Ms.Punipriya Misri, Ms.Dimple Soporie, Mr.Sagar Chowdry,** and **Ms.Neeru Padroo** for their efforts and time MCT(Mass Calling Taskforce) support the mission and raising awareness.

**Heartfelt Special Thanks** to, **Ms.Divena Raina, Ms.Siya Soporie,** and **Ms.Neha Padroo** for stepping up joining hands with MCT team reaching out to our community members encouraging them to support the mission, we are extremely proud of our young generation for sparing their time and efforts from their busy school/university schedule and taking the initiative.

**Special Thanks** to **Mr.Rakesh Kak, Mr.Ashwani Bhat,** and **Mr.Prateek Malla** team of "Sharika Foundation" who have joined hands and worked cohesively with the KOA Canada executive board to make this mission a success.





## Letter of Appreciation and Acknowledgment

During this time of great uncertainty, we have been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from our community. Remarkable people, organizations, community groups, small businesses and corporations have all stepped up to support KOA Canada's project in collaboration with Sharika Foundation "Mission Mankind"- COVID 19 Emergency Relief Fund Supporting India. We at KOA Canada wish you and your loved ones the utmost health and happiness. At extraordinary moments such as this sentiment takes on a new meaning.

This year, our gratitude goes even deeper. Your support to fight COVID-19 helps us lead the way in responding to this unprecedented global health crisis. We are honored by the number of people who have reached out in so many ways. **Your gift has helped us raise and surpass our target of \$30,000 to \$34,562 CAD which entails over 20 Lakhs INR.** Your commitment strengthens our capacity to transform, advance, educate and improve the health of communities near and far.

Thank you so much for your generous donation and support wholeheartedly. I am humbled and grateful as your contribution enshrines the future of thousands of families. Your contribution enables us to fulfill the relevant requirements of those families in need. We truly appreciate your commitment to the families in our community. Highly appreciate your support and consideration. **In 2021, thanks to your generosity, KOA Canada in collaboration with Sharika Foundation, on this project has served as a beacon of hope and a temple of healing for our communities in India.**

During this uncertain time, one thing is certain—patients urgently need life-saving supplies. You, our donors, are incredible. You honored your commitment by saying "Yes" to patients in need. Your gift of a second chance at life is priceless. The world continues to shift and we at KOA Canada maintained our commitment by supporting three different organizations **1) Canadian Red Cross which legally mobilized funds to Indian Red Cross** for use in Jammu and National Capital Regions. Distributing oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, food, medicines, blood and plasma donation, donation of essential commodities and hygiene products. **2) Kallpoosh Foundation** supported purchase of ventilators, oxygen concentrators, cylinders, refill cylinders, hospital beds, covid test kits, supply basic dry ration, basic medical care, providing free meals to KP COVID patients in Gurugram. **3) Shanti Manas Foundation** dedicated volunteers working 24×7 to provide medical help i.e., Oxygen cylinders, Oxygen kits, Oxygen Cans, Covid first aid kit per KP families (Masks, N95, Sanitizer, Face Shield, Pulse oximeter, gloves), Medicines (Limcee, Covidzin etc.) in addition to cremation expenses, supporting Kashmiri pandit families within zones like Noida, Greater Noida, Indirapuram, Jammu and Jagiti camps. In addition, some members of our community have also donated to other foundations supporting COVID impacted KPs – **KMECT / Koshur Raag / Shriya Bhatt Foundation.**

**DONORS like you truly means a lot. To us, YOU are our heroes** and we Thank You for helping us meet the challenges of this moment, so we can continue to provide the highest order of care with inclusion, integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, and excellence. It has been inspiring to witness the community come together on behalf of one another and in service to the greater good. We will continue to work together to help address the humanitarian crisis in future. Please stay safe and healthy.

**These are unprecedented times. Thank you for standing with us.**

**With Sincere Gratitude,**

**Pooja Ganju**

**President, KOA Canada**

[koacanada@gmail.com](mailto:koacanada@gmail.com)

<https://www.koacanada.org/>



# KOA CANADA, MATA KI CHOWKI 2021

KOAC successfully hosted Mata Ki Chowki on Nov 27, 2021, at Hindu Heritage Centre, Mississauga, Ontario. Organising Mata Ki Chowki was another way to worship the Goddess Maa Vaishno Devi, who is the divine mother of all, one of the forms of Adishakti. All the devotees gather to seek blessings from their mother while rejoicing in her praises in harmony and to bestow immense blessings upon her KOAC community followers. We welcomed approx. A number of 130 attendees. On behalf of our entire Canadian KP community, we offered "Mata Ki Chunni". We had 5 priests conducting Mata Ki Chowki Bhajans in addition to the head priest along with the mahaprasad being made by the temple's head chef (also a priest) including another cook from J&K, which was a pure vegetarian satvik delight while keeping all Covid precautions intact.

We had requested to include our Koshur Leela prior to Maha Aarti and graciously the entire temple was echoing with "Maej Sharika Kar Daya Mata's Leela". The overall ambiance was divine, and many devotees had teary eyes full of spiritualism while priests were playing Shak Naad and bells on the side.



<https://www.facebook.com/koa.canada/videos/432230768277632>

[CLICK HERE](https://www.facebook.com/koa.canada/videos/432230768277632)





# **KOA CANADA, OTTAWA, PICNIC 2021**

The KOA Canada families in Ottawa found themselves very lucky during the pandemic to have a window of opportunity to be able to have a picnic among themselves! Spent so much time playing games, remembering old days, making new memories, and even had a good koshur Kath bath that just made everyone laugh to bits.



# **KOA CANADA, OTTAWA, DIWALI FAMILIES CONNECT 2021**

The Ottawa KP families joined and enjoyed a heartwarming get-together. The kids proudly spoke in Kashmiri and Hindi; they introduced themselves, their families followed by the kid's musical and dance performances. The ladies gave beautiful songs and dance performances that were just excellent and graceful! The beautiful Koshur skit had us fondly remembering typical koshur dialogues!

To watch it [\*\*Nabh Trath Koshur Drama\*\*](#)

**CLICK HERE**





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **DR. MOTI LAL MADAN (PADMA SHRI AWARD WINNER)**

Dr. Moti Lal Madan was born to a Kashmiri Pandit family in Srinagar, Kashmir. Motilal Madan (born January 1, 1939) is an Indian biotechnology researcher, veterinarian, academic, and administrator. In a career spanning over 35 years, Dr. Madan published 432 research articles and policy papers in international and national reference journals—including 226 original research papers—and pioneered research in reproductive endocrinology, embryo biotechnology, In vitro fertilization, and cloning.



### **KOA Canada Proudly Presents “Certificate of Honor” to Dr. Moti Lal Madan**



*It's with the deepest sense of honor, pride, and we share Dr. Moti Lal Madan was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in the Republic of India, by the Government of India in January 2022 for distinguished service in the fields of science and engineering. While congratulating him, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar commented that "Madan's accomplishments have brought pride to the country.*

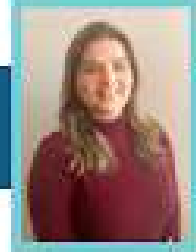
*On behalf of KOA Canada Congrats on your fabulous victory, your achievement is truly commendable. It is a success, you truly deserved. It is an achievement you have truly earned. Success is delivered only to the deserving, now with this achievement, you add another feather to your crown. Congratulations on your newly found fantastic achievement and contribution to society!*



## **MS. SURABHI KAUL (NEW BUSINESS VENTURE)**

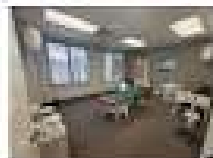


Wright's Wellness Clinic  
920 The East Mall, Suite200  
Etobicoke ON M9B 6K1  
(416) 241-9355  
[www.wrightswellness.ca](http://www.wrightswellness.ca)



Wright's Wellness Clinic is located in Etobicoke and is owned and operated by Surabhi Kaul, a registered physiotherapist, and her husband Abhinav Kaul. Wright's Wellness Clinic offers the following services

- Physiotherapy
- Chiropractic
- Massage Therapy
- Acupuncture
- Prenatal Massage
- Post Partum Care
- Pelvic Floor Physio
- Vertigo Treatment
- Orthotics



We direct bill to all major insurance companies  
Show us this code for your complimentary Physiotherapy  
Assessment:

**WWCKOAC** (Valid until April 30, 2022)

*Ms. Surabhi Kaul, Congratulations on your new venture, wishing you all the success!*



## **MS.ARCHANA JALALI TIKOO (SINGING ARTIST)**

Ms.Archana Jalai is a celebrated artist who has been very active during the pandemic towards her music. She did a number of virtual concerts which were featured by major Cultural organizations in India and North America including KOAUSA, KOACanada Gaashtaruk, and GKPD USA.

You can find most of her creative work in the YouTube link below – [Archana Jalali Tikoo](#) [CLICK HERE](#)

*Ms.Archana Jalali Tikoo, Congratulations and best wishes for your next adventure!*



## **MS.POOJA GANJU (WOMEN POWER AWARD WINNER)**

Ms. Pooja Ganju has been delighted and honored to be recognized as the “Women Power” by fintech b2b and global talent management . This is a diverse collection that highlights women of all ages from across industries driving change in their networks, workplaces, and communities. By showing passion and resilience, this recognition elevates and entitles the women who demonstrate exemplary leadership and has made significant contributions to her industry. Empowers and supports other women in her workplace with commitment and passion for serving others while making an impact and leading with purpose and is changing the landscape in which women serve. When we celebrate one woman; we celebrate ALL women!



Ms. Pooja Ganju has been humbled and further honored to be invited on an exclusive interaction on the topic of women empowerment by women power, chapter head Spain, and women power global talent teams.

Here is the youtube link to exclusive interaction with Ms.Pooja Ganju  
<https://youtu.be/SMBCHIDCndQ> [CLICK HERE](#)

*Ms.Pooja Ganju, Heartiest Congratulations on your well-deserved success !*



# **MS.SHABNAM TIKU (INTL PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE AWARD)**

Real Estate Agent  
Coldwell Banker Sarazen Realty  
Cell 613-220-2472

*Congratulations!*

## **ON RECEIVING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE AWARD**

We would like to express our sincere admiration for your outstanding efforts in 2021. You have made impressive progress in your business goals, constantly and rapidly evolving against the backdrop of a very competitive trading environment and the ever-changing pandemic situation. Despite all these challenges, you rose to the occasion!

**SHABNAM TIKU**  
**YOU ARE AMONG THE TOP 5% OF**  
**COLDWELL BANKER AGENTS**  
**INTERNATIONALLY.**



Keep up the hard work in 2022 and we have no doubt great things will come your way!



**COLDWELL BANKER**

**SARAZEN REALTY,  
BROKERAGE**

*Ms. Shabnam Tiku, Warmest congratulations on your achievement!*



# Kids Achievements



## **GRADUATIONS**

- Vishnu Bhan – International Business Management (December 2021)
- Aakriti Kaul – Building Information Modeling – LM (September 2021)

## **SMILES FOR SENIORS OTTAWA**

**(Founded by Saumya Tiku and Anirudh Tiku in 2020)**

Smiles for Seniors is a student-led organization founded by Saumya and Anirudh, dedicated to bringing happiness to the lives of seniors in retirement facilities by small acts of kindness. Their mission is to strive to make a difference in the community by spreading joy and positivity to isolated seniors. All it takes is one letter or art piece to put a smile on their face and light up their day.



The Covid-19 pandemic has been harsh for everyone, especially seniors in Retirement homes, isolated from their friends and family. Determined to support those in need, we took the initiative of creating our own volunteer organization; Smiles for Seniors Ottawa. We put substantial time and effort into contacting several long-term care facilities throughout Ottawa, creating a website, process flow and documentation for volunteering, and much more. Through our organization, we have been able to spread joy and positivity to seniors by sending submissions of uplifting letters, cards, art pieces, short stories, poems, and musical performances. These submissions are created by student volunteers throughout the world (over five countries). Starting an organization during the pandemic entailed many challenges and a process that was laborious but fulfilling, knowing that our efforts would result in spreading positivity in the community. With persistence, we have expanded Smiles for Seniors substantially and have, to date, collected thousands of submissions and over 1500 volunteers.

We find everything that we have accomplished through Smiles for Seniors (from being featured in Volunteer Ottawa's annual report and a News channel interview, working with school clubs and being recommended by guidance counselors and teachers in numerous high schools, to impacting the lives of hundreds of people). In the process, we have helped many high school students as we provided an opportunity for them to volunteer in the midst of the pandemic. We not only have experienced substantial personal growth but are thrilled to see that we could create such a profound and long-lasting impact on so many people in our community!

Here is the link to our website:

<https://smilesforseniors.wixsite.com/ottawa>

**CLICK HERE**

# KOA Canada KP Spotlights

## MR. AVTAR AND MRS. PHOOLA GANJOO

My wife Phoola and I migrated to Canada in 1968. At that time there were only a few Kashmiri families living in Ontario. We have enjoyed our stay in Canada including all the amenities the country had to offer while maintaining close ties with our birth country India. Our two boys are married and settled in California. My other relatives including my siblings are also well settled in the US. We both have retired from our respective professions and have followed our passion, travelling.



This passion has taken us all over the world. In addition, we have been busy with other activities that we could not enjoy during our working life. Over the years we have met people from all walks of life and have made a lot of good friends. The last two years have been inactive for us due to COVID-19 restrictions. Now that these restrictions are being lifted, we are looking forward to meeting in person most of our friends, including our Kashmiri biradari, soon at the gatherings.

## MR. ANIL AND MRS. ASHA KAUL

Mrs. Asha Kaul is a professional Beauty consultant specialist in Cosmetics & fragrance, Eyebrows Microblading, Eyelash Volumizing, etc. Mother of charming son Harsh Kaul, an IT professional, Koshur Cuisine enthusiast. Mr. Anil Kaul is a professional Business Consultant specialist in B2B, Business Tools, International Trade, etc, Life and Wellness Coach, Spiritual enthusiast, and preacher.

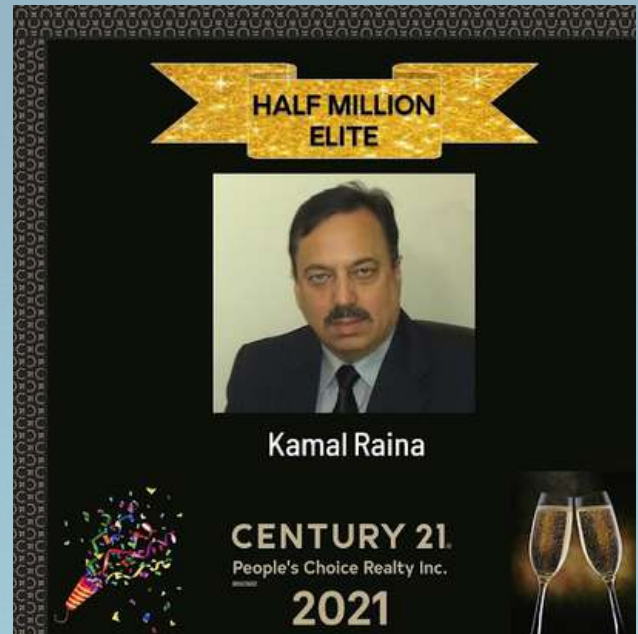


He played a lead role in one of the first-ever North American Amarnath Yatra and Ice Shiva Lingam events on behalf of Sharika Foundation, Canada.



## **MR. KAMAL RAINA**

Mr. Kamal Raina is a very successful Realtor working with Century 21 serving the Greater Toronto Area. He specializes in Residential and Commercial Real Estate. His contact number is 416-731-2820



## **MR. PRATEEK MALLA**

Namaskar!

HERATH MUBARAK

I am Prateek Malla, Son of Mr. Kanwal Krishen Malla & Mrs Vijay Malla. I was born on a cold, snowy day in Srinagar, Kashmir on Sahib Saptami which fell on 24th Jan that year. Due to the Kashmiri Pandit mass exodus and genocide in early 90s my parents left our ancestral home and moved to New Delhi to raise me -a 4year old and my elder sister. That's when the adventure began! I completed my studies and got an Engineering Degree from India and a Degree in Business Administration from Zanzibar. I held various Global Business and Product development roles in the Telecom industry.

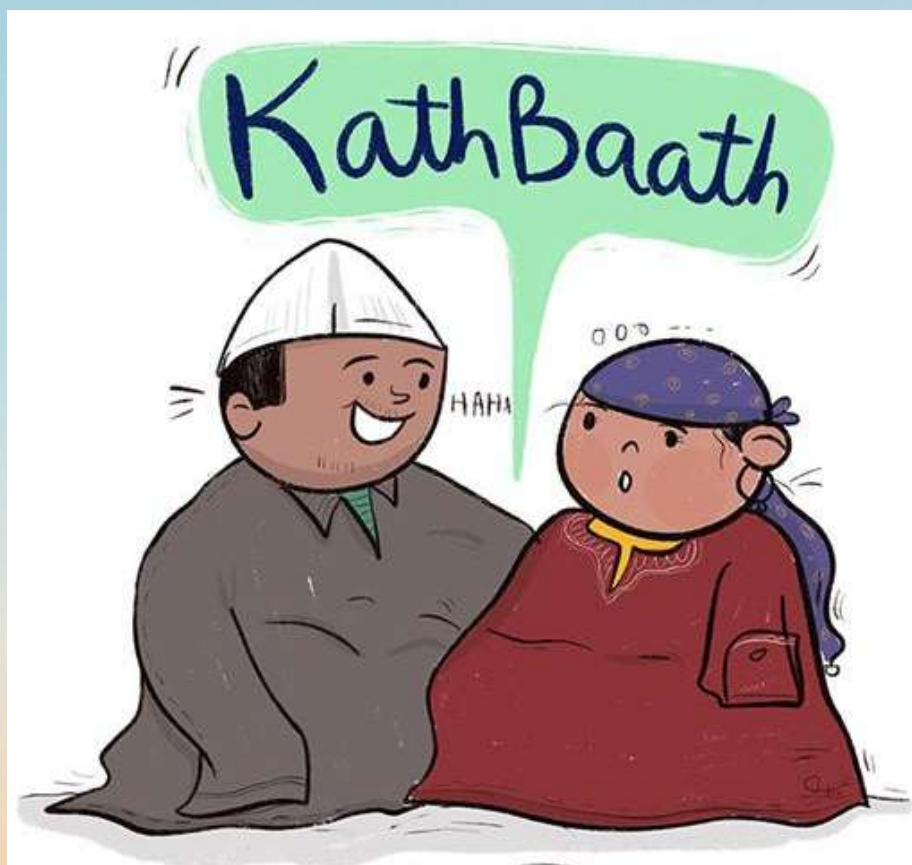


My work gave me an opportunity to travel and live in 7 different countries before I decided to drop my anchor in Canada after my wedding in 2015. I took the plunge, wrapped up my cushy job and life in Oman and in March 2016 moved to Canada with hope and dreams in my eyes. The move was exciting as I was looking forward to starting a new phase of my life with my spouse who was raised and lives in Toronto.



But as they say “Life is what happens when you’re busy making other plans” and mine was no different. As with all new immigrants, I had my own share of struggles. After a few “survival jobs” I landed a position with Canada Post in 2019. Currently, I hold the post of Territory Manager -Alberta and Saskatchewan and I am serving as the Elected Union Representative for the Sales and Service team for 2 years in a row. I am also working as a Chief Marketing Officer for a Tech start up that is taking shape. I got lucky to meet the amazing KOAC and Sharika foundation team. It brought me closer to my roots and culture which I am so proud of.

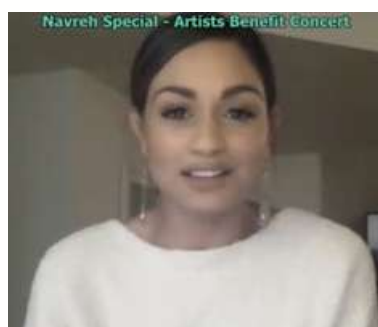
I worked as a Volunteer for both the organizations and then I was chosen to be the General Secretary for Sharika Foundation in 2020. It has been an honor to be associated with the Sharika foundation and KOAC. Together they have managed to bring the community closer and perform religious and charitable functions in the past. The Pandemic did not make life easy for us and we could not organize the events as we would have wanted. Looking forward, I would like us as a community to participate and make such events successful and aim at having our own little place for the religious functions and celebrations. I am proud to see more and more young people participating in these cultural activities and helping in welcoming Newcomers in settling and making them feel at home. I feel blessed to be born in an Indian-Kashmiri Pandit family as Resilience and patience is embedded in us !





# KOAC MEMBERS SUPPORT KOSHUR RAAG INITIATIVES

KoshurRAAG is a non-profit organization a 501 (c) (3), registered in Florida, USA. It was conceived to connect, celebrate Kashmiri pandit heritage and culture, and its inaugural event held in November 2020. KoshurRAAG goals are, a) to inspire, promote, and support underserved artists by providing them encouragement, resources, and opportunities to learn and showcase their talent while augmenting their skills, b) Provide life enrichment to the larger community through the koshurRAAG platform while also serving as custodians of the Kashmiri Pandit cultural heritage and identity through music and related arts, and c) Become a medium for educating and raising awareness at about Kashmiri Pandit culture, traditions, heritage, and history.



MS. SHANELLE KAUL



MS. ANNIKA RAZDAN



MS. ZOONI THUSOO



MS. AKSHINA TAPLOO



MS. RASHMI & MR. AMRIT DHAR



DR. PAVNEESH MADAN



SHRI TEJ RAINA



MS. JHEELAF PARIMU  
RAZDAN



MR. SHASHI RAINA



MS. ARSHIYA BHAN

KoshurRaag's YouTube footprint features 1K+ subscribers, 55K+ views, and 6K+ hours of watch time. From a team structure standpoint- Mr. Arvin Mattoo (USA) and Mr. Upinder Bhat (USA) established the groundwork, scouted new talent, fundraised, and strengthened the pillars of KosurRaag. Dr. Pavneesh Madan (Canada) joined the team as an advisor, the architect behind the structure of every event, from ideation to fruition. Later, Ms. Swapna Wali Raina (USA) joined the team as a strategist and hosted several events to deliver quality content. Since its inception several talented members, several Kashmiri pandit youth made their appearance on this platform and performed on the show, enthralling the audience.

All past KoshurRAAG events can be viewed on their YouTube Channel, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. For anyone interested in participating in future events, please email [admin@koshurraag.com](mailto:admin@koshurraag.com) or connect via any of the social media platforms.



*KOA Canada would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all Canadian members highlighted above and would like to acknowledge and recognize everyone's participation on this platform for their continuous support. "You have the creativity and determination to do whatever you can dream. We hope you feel proud today and confident in your ability to rise to your next challenge."*



# **KOA CANADA KIDDIE SPOTLIGHT'S**

## *Budding Star – Noah Raina*

Noah Raina, son of Mr. Amrit and Ms. Amita Raina is a typical kindergartener who enjoys playing outdoors, dancing, and walking trails. In winter you can find him anywhere there is snow, never step back from getting into snowball fights, and relaxes those tired muscles by making snow angels. One thing is common across seasons, he loves talking about dinos.



## **BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *Precious Bundle Of Joy – Kavish Koul*

Congratulations on the new addition, Ms. Anju and Mr. Ashok Koul: We feel very blessed and excited to announce the arrival of our grandson, Kavish Koul, born on NOV 18, 2021.



## **MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congratulations and best wishes on this wonderful journey, as you build your new lives together." Ms. Shikha Darbari tied the knot with Mr. Rohit Prajapati on 5th February 2022.



# NEW COMERS

- *Vishnu Bhan*

Namaskar Everyone, I am Vishnu Bhan. I am from Udhampur, J&K, India. I came to Canada for my further studies, currently, I am a student at Algonquin College.

- *Shruti Ganjoo*

Namaskar sarynee! I'm Shruti Ganjoo. I have recently moved to Kingston. I work as a Data Scientist for Novelis Inc. I'm looking forward to meeting you all.

- *Avni Bhan*

Hello everyone! I am Avni Bhan. I am from Delhi, India. I am currently pursuing my Master's at the University of Ottawa. I am very happy to join the Kashmiri Community and looking forward to meeting you all. Although I am finding the city really nice, cold and beautiful, I do miss my family back in India, especially my dog :)

- *Aakriti Kaul*

Namaskar Mahrah! This is Aakriti Kaul from Delhi, India. I've completed my architecture in India and right now I'm a postgraduate student at Algonquin and am desperately waiting for summers honestly. It's amazing to find a Koshur group here. I am looking forward to meeting you all soon!

- *Vaibhav Kaul*

Namaskar Sarni! I am Vaibhav Kaul. I moved to Ottawa last year. I am working as a Technical Lead in an Aviation firm. Meeting the KP families in Ottawa has been a warm experience in this cold-weather country. I look forward to getting together with the KP families.





# TRAVEL BLOG

## **Banff National Park**

*Escape to the rugged beauty of Canada's first national park*

### Fast Facts

Location: Alberta, Canada

Date established: 1885

Size: 1,641,027 acres

Annual visitors: 4 million



### **Why go and what to know**

In 1883, on the slopes of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, three railway workers discovered a natural hot spring, and from there the park was born. Nowadays, Banff is one of the world's premier destinations, spanning a region of unparalleled majestic mountain scenery. Every year, millions of visitors make the pilgrimage to Banff to take in its stunning views and arsenal of activities. (Take a majestic mountain drive through Alberta). Banff National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Banff was Canada's very first national park and the third national park established in the whole world. Banff has more than 1,000 glaciers throughout the park. The mountains in the park are 45 to 120 million years old.

### **All You Need to Know: Banff National Park**

Banff National Park is a protected paradise in the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. It is Canada's oldest and largest national park, with more than 2,500 sq. miles of dense forests, lakes, glaciers, and mountains.

Banff National Park is on the western border of Alberta near British Columbia. Calgary is the largest nearby town and is about an hour and a half away by car. The highly travelled Trans-Canada Highway passes through the park and the small towns Banff and Lake Louise. The three main ecoregions of Banff National Park are montane, subalpine, and alpine. The subalpine region takes up more than half of the park's area and consists of thick forests. A small part of the park is the lower montane region with a variation in trees including spruce, willow, aspen, fir, and maple trees. The alpine region has glacial valleys and meadows. Each year, people come from all over the world to explore this Canadian gem. There are numerous resorts and luxurious hotels including the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel and Chateau Lake Louise. During their stay, visitors like to take advantage of the mountainous terrain by downhill and cross-country skiing, backcountry hikes. Climbing is a great option, and mountain climbing is a popular activity in the park all year.

Banff village has evolved from a whistle-stop into a thriving year-round resort town with hotels, restaurants, art galleries, and outdoor adventure outfitters. Summer activities include visiting the local hot springs or swimming, canoeing, and kayaking on one of the park's lakes. Mountain biking and horseback riding are other great ways to explore the rugged landscape. There are many adventures possible at this vast Canadian park. A variety of rentals are available around the lakes where people can boat and fish in the summer or ice skate and ice fish in the winter. No matter when people visit, there are many ways to have an enchanting adventure at beautiful Banff National Park.





# KOSHUR FUN FACTS

The feeling of being Kashmiri is when:

You recognize other Kashmiris either by their pigmented eyes, fair skin or crooked nose!!! When you return home from a relatives house & the first thing your grandmother asks u is : "suen kya osey" ... when you like "batta" more than rice and "zamdoud" more than curd...when u teach other u love "monj haak" more than butter chicken!! Weddings last for at least a fortnight!

All the women at your parties try to see who can talk the loudest.  
You can hear their laughter and even the voh-vohs from the basement.  
You meet a whole new line of families at Kashmiri gatherings.

You are going to be a daakhtar [doctor].  
You drink nun-chai and eat kulchas.

You can pronounce tchzamun/ tchzarvan  
You know the correct pronunciations to the song, Rind Posh Maal...

You know many kashmiri phrases such as

- KholAKhar
- Trath Payin
- Kya Gowm
- Balai Lagey
- Shikas Lad

You are the most politically aware kid in your school.  
When any food you eat is subjected to the Wazwaan test, which it inevitably fails.

When the first thing you wait for in the morning is to get the tchzot, bakerkhaani, kulcha etc. from the Kaandhur's shop.  
When double-tchzot is given to the spoiled brats, cuz they won't eat the traditional breads.

If you happen to pass all the uncles, you always hear them debating about Kashmiri politics.  
Your knees have ached after hours of sitting around a thasanaari eating food.

You've spied on the wazzas at your wedding before.  
Everyone is your aunty and everyone is your uncle.

You are always in search of the "vyaes"- the bone marrow in the tsyun.  
No meal is a meal without rice. No meal is a meal without meat.





You never felt the need for having deserts after an enormous wazwaan.  
You think you are the only person competent enough to call yourself an Aryan.

Kashmiri is the perfect code language in public places because NOBODY knows it.  
You've grown up being extremely proud of your culture.

When you are somehow related to that other Kashmiri.  
You wear a sweater over your salwar kameez.

Any news piece on Kashmir catches your eyes within 5 milliseconds of you flipping through the newspaper.  
You don't know / can't find the Hindi / English word for Monj-Haakh.

When your house is filled with Samavars.  
You wonder what a samavar is doing at your Iranian/Russian friend's house.

People are puzzled when you speak Kashmiri.  
When all the Kashmiri women talk, no one can hear what anyone else is saying.

You find it hilarious when you watch Kashmiri soap operas and they are trying to act romantic.  
Sweety Sweety Drai Duty is your theme song.

Your dad told you that you were the prince/princess of Kashmir when you were a kid. You grew up believing him.  
You know all about the India-Pakistan separation.

People respond with "where's that?" when you tell them where you're from.  
Your house is filled with Kashmiri rugs and furniture.

You are sure to bring in the Kashmiri connection to anything and everything.  
You are irritated when your french manicure is stained yellow from the wazwaan food.

**We love our culture and Heritage . It's all about Being Kashmiri!!**



# KOSHUR NEWS

1. The Kashmir University to notify modalities for re-opening of its main and settelite campuses.
2. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been regularly reviewing the Covid situation in the Union territory and has now decided to resume offline teaching by re-opening all educational institutions.
3. The Chief Secretary has stated that the Covid positivity rate in the UT has been contained to 0.7 %.
4. Jammu and Kashmir schools, colleges for offline classes reopen on Monday the 14th of February, 2022 after a break of about two years as the Covid-19 cases are declining.
5. Students, youth of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara take out Tiranga rally to pay tributes to martyrs of Pulwama terror strike.
6. Government approves Rs.26,275 crore plan for police modernization, Rs.18,000 crore fixed for security expenditure in Jammu and Kashmir.
7. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on February 12, 2022 laid the foundation stone for the Tawi Riverfront Development Project in Jammu.
8. CRPF pays tribute to jawans killed in 2019 Pulwama terror attack at War Memorial.
9. Having accomplished the job of Arch closure on China Rail Bridge 111 km-long winding stretches from Katra to Banihal for the Rail Link is expected to be completed in December 2023.
10. A 23- km long Metro lite project in Jammu and of the same length for Srinagar have been proposed, with a completion date of March 2026.

## KOSHUR CALENDER

MONTHS	EVENTS
<i>April 2022</i>	2 Sat : Navreh, Thaal Buth Vichun 4 Mon : Zang Tray 9 Sat : Durga Ashtami 10 Sun : Ram Navmi, Navdurga Visarjan
<i>May 2022</i>	9 Mon : Ashtami 15 Sun : Ganesh Chaturdashi, Sankranti Vrat 30 Mon : Amavasiya Panchak Starts on 22-May-2022 Sun at 11:11 Din till 26-May-2022 till Thu at 12:37 Raat
<i>June 2022</i>	8 Wed: Jyestha Ashtami 29 Wed: Amavasiya Panchak Starts on 18 - Jun - 2022 Sat at 6: 42 Shaam till 23 - Jun - 2022 Thu at 6: 13 Prata



# **NEWSLETTER TASKFORCE TEAM**

*Collaborate- Connect and Empower*



*Deepit Ganjoo*



*Dipti Wangu*



*Meenakshi Raina  
Hukkoo*



*Vishnu Bhan*



*Gunjan Kak*



*Akash Kaul*



*Neeru Padroo*



*Pooja Ganju*



*Bharat Challu*



*Rashi Hakim*

## **KOAC CONTACT INFORMATION**



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<https://www.facebook.com/koa.canada>

*Continue Sharing your feedback we would love hear from you all!!!!*

*Thank you for your time and continuous support...*