

July 11, 2015

Atlanta, Georgia Welcomes Shri Nagesh Singh, Consul-General of India, and His Family

Over 360 attendees representing some 150-plus organizations gathered for a vibrant event at the Bombay Grill in north Atlanta to welcome Shri Nagesh Singh, Consul-General of India, Mrs. Pragma Singh, son Yashovarma and daughter Yashavinito Atlanta. Shri Singh, who requested to be referred to by his first name without the usual honorary titles, comes with 20 years of distinguished service to India. His appointments have included being Officer on Special Duty to the Vice President, Director, Private Secretary to the Minister of State, and Under Secretary in the Videsh Mantralaya (Ministry of External Affairs). He served as Counselor on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs in the Indian Permanent Mission to the United Nations Organization in New York. He has also served in the Indian Embassy in Dakar, Senegal.

The event was sponsored by several prominent Atlanta residents and organizations including Ravi Chander, Pratap Singh Chauhan, Prasad Garimella, S.R. Gangasani, The Event Designer, Global Mall, Mahesh & Smita Patel, Stokes, Rudy Narine, Wayne, Lazarus & Carmichael LLP, Neera Bahl & Shilpa Jadwani, Attorneys, Anis Serali and C.B. Yadav.

The program with MC Subash Razdan, started with renderings of the Star Spangled Banner by Shloka Dave and Jana Gana Mana by Indrani Dave. Dhiren Shah of Global Indian Business Council delivered a rousing welcome, followed by Greetings from Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall, introduced by Dr. Sudha Tata. The team from Geet-Rung (Divya) School put on a "Govinda Gopala" dance. The Invocations were delivered succinctly and beautifully by Niranjana Dave, Manohar Singh, Bhai Karnail Singh, Hasan Kamal, Younis Farhat, Sameer Shah and Tara Khanna, in moving words of friendship and unity. Mayor Rusty Paul of Sandy Springs, introduced by Anita Kapoor, conveyed greetings. The vision of Sandy Springs in bringing the Indian Consulate has been followed by several other Consulates moving to the city, so that Mayor Paul remarked that Sandy Springs was a rare "city that had its own Foreign Policy".

Shri Nagesh Singh, introduced by Sneha Mehta, in his brief Keynote Address conveyed a message of friendship, dynamic service and optimism. He commented on the fellowship and collaboration between all the community organizations reflected in the event. Viswanath Ganti delivered the Vote of Thanks, which was followed by an excellent dinner. The CGI and his team made it a point to meet all the participants. It may be said that no one spent a quiet evening, judging by the animated discussions and meeting of friends in the community. The décor and ambience of the event came in for much praise as well.