



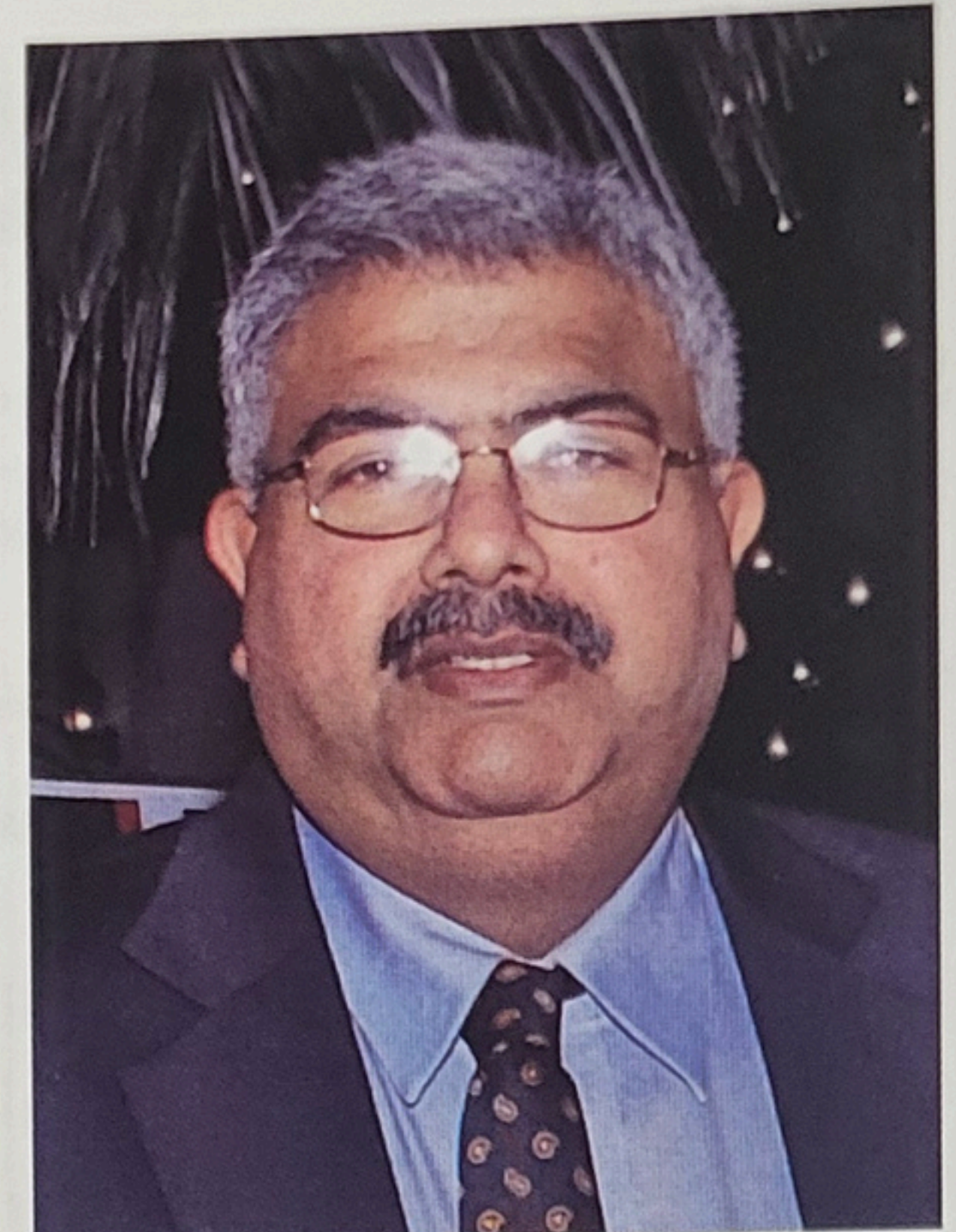
Vijay Thakur



Arjun Sharma



Pronab Sarkar



Rajesh Mudgill

manpower training are some issues that will be brought to light," said Sarkar.

"We were so involved in PATA preparations that registrations for IATO convention started late. However, we are still hopeful that the turnout for the event will be more than what we are hoping for," said Rajesh Mudgill, Secre-

tary, IATO. Sharing his thoughts on the theme of the convention he said, "There is no doubt that keeping our infrastructure in mind, we are certainly at a disadvantageous position compared to our neighbouring countries. Hotels are cheaper abroad and most countries have started offering visa on arrival, two strong ar-

eas where we lack. In addition to this, multiplicity of taxes and high airfares are also forcing tourists to visit other countries than India, and we are thus losing a lot of business. At the convention this year, we are not going to talk on regular topics but rather do introspection on areas where we are lacking. We need to figure out

what is required to surge ahead."

Well, the agenda certainly looks positive and inspiring – something that the travel fraternity is in urgent need of. Let us hope that the convention is able to deliver what it's promising and we all leave Ahmedabad much enriched and stimulated, ready to take on the competitive world!

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