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April 10, 2008.

I am deeply distressed to learn of the sad demise of Shri Gopal Raju earlier today.

He had several accomplishments to his credit as a veteran journalist with impeccable credentials. Besides being the founder of *India Abroad* newspaper and IANS news service, he was also associated with three other New York-based news weeklies.

Shri Raju was also active in community service. He founded the Indian American Centre for Political Awareness to bring political awareness among the younger generation of Indian Americans.

In recognition of his multi-faceted and exemplary contributions, he had been conferred with the *Pravasi Bharatiya Samman* award in 2007.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and to his many friends, colleagues and admirers.

(Ronen Sen)