

GSA

GLOBAL EYE

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ISSUE-18/APRIL 2023

"I am going to use every moment of being your Alderman to serve you to my best."

Nicole Lee

The first Asian American
in Chicago City Council



FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

The election scene in Chicagoland gave birth to new and dynamic leaders. Brandon Johnson, Cook County Commissioner was elected as the 57th Mayor of Chicago in a close photo-finish election. AMEC endorsed candidate Scott Wehrli won the Mayor's post for City of Naperville. 11th Ward Alderman Nicole Lee was elected to the City Council of Chicago and is the first Asian American Women to be a Council member in Chicago's 186 years history.



Excited to announce that Dr Mohammed Jameel, an Indian American physician was elected to the Long Grove Village Board of trustees on April 4, 2023. Mohammed Jameel was also recently appointed as a member of Illinois State Physician Disciplinary Board by Illinois State Governor J. B. Pritzker. Huge Congratulations to Dr M. Jameel on his historic win.

Our Cover Story features Alderwoman Nicole Lee, traces her growth as an inner city youth, top corporate executive to the current civic engagement in an engrossing face to face interview.

Our Chennai New Bureau Chief B.N. Suresh Mangaladurai files a special story in the women's Corner featuring a woman from Kumily, a revenue village and gram panchayat in the Idukki

district of Kerala. 27 year old Laskshmi Das founded Manushi Foundation, a non – profit Organization that provides Menstrual Health Management Session in Kumily.

In the Focus section, Mohita Sukumar, our Chicago News Bureau Chief has covered the presentation of the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Awards to first 15 Awardees. In the spotlight section, Shree Gurusamy our Chief Community Officer covered the 11th Annual MEATF & AMEC Congressional International Women's Day Celebration in Washington D.C.

Seeta Bala, our guest columnist presents a photo feature on AMEC in action which features Naperville City Mayoral Candidate Scott Wehrli.

We hope that you find the new 32-page format and the increased frequency as interesting as our previous editions. We are adapting to your feedback to present unique stories for your reading pleasure.

Vijay G Prabhakar

INDEX

DR VGP's TALK SHOW

WITH 11th WARD ALDERMAN NICOLE LEE

Page no.....06

AMEC endorses Scott Wehrli for mayor of Naperville

Page no.....11

US to do everything to support India to make G20 presidency a success

Page no.....21

Edward and Lily Prabhakar Centenary Awards 2023

Page no.....22

AMEC & MEATF's 11 Annual Congressional International Women's Day Celebration at Washington D.C

Page no.....25

Radhika Apte says she's 'gotten used to rejection'

Page no.....31



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CHICAGO, THIRD LARGEST CITY IN USA ELECTS AFRICAN AMERICAN BRANDON JOHNSON AS 57TH MAYOR IN AN EXCITING ELECTION.



Chicago's young Turk Gerard Moorer congratulating his hero Brandon Johnson on his historic election as Chicago's Mayor.



U.S second largest County Chief, Cook County Democrat Party Chair, and Cook County Board of Commissioners President Toni Preckwinkle gives the prime endorsement for Brandon Johnson, the Mayor elect of Chicago



U.S. congressman Danny Davis fiercely campaigned for Mayor of Chicago Brandon Johnson

Brandon Johnson (born March 27, 1976) is an American educator and politician who is the mayor-elect of Chicago, having won the 2023 election. A member of the Democratic Party, Johnson has served on the Cook County Board of Commissioners

since 2018, representing the 1st district. Johnson was first elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in 2018 after defeating incumbent Commissioner Richard Boykin in the Democratic primary election and

winning the general election unopposed. Johnson won reelection to the County Board in 2022. Johnson was elected mayor of Chicago in 2023. In the first round of the election, he and Paul Vallas advanced to a runoff, unseating incumbent mayor Lori

Lightfoot. Johnson defeated Vallas in the runoff election and was elected to serve as the 57th mayor of Chicago. He will be the fourth African American mayor and first West Side resident to hold the office since 1933 Johnson is considered to be a political progressive.

SCOTT WEHRLI ELECTED MAYOR OF NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS STATE'S THIRD LARGEST CITY



Naperville Mayor Elect Scott Wehrli celebrates his victory with his wife of 25 years, Lynda Wehrli as elections results are declared on April 4 evening in Naperville



The jubilant family of Mayor Elect Scott Wehrli with his son Sam, a 2022 U. S. Military Academy West Point graduate now serving as a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army 82nd Airborne, Hope, a Sophomore - Second year bachelors degree student at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, Mayor elect Scott Wehrli, and his wife Lynda, a local real estate broker and yoga teacher in Naperville.



AMEC Leadership Team congratulated Mayor Elect of Naperville Scott Wehrli and his family on his election as the next Mayor of Naperville on April 4, 2023.



Naperville Mayor Elect Scott Wehrli celebrates his victory with his wife of 25 years, Lynda Wehrli as elections results are declared on April 4 evening in Naperville

Life long resident of Naperville is elected as Mayor of Naperville to provide locally focused leadership. He will set

aside partisan political division so that the city can focus on the local policies to improve Naperville neighborhoods and quality of life.

Mayor elect Scott is a Business Executive, Civic leader and Civil servant. He knows how to lead, negotiate, and make difficult decisions, but most importantly, he listens first, and respects always. Scott's priorities for Naperville are Mental Health, Public safety, Economic Development and Growth, Respect for "The People's Money". Scott is a sworn police officer with the Naperville Park District for 32 years. Decades of local and corporate board experience driving economic development and growth. Scott Wehrli manages his local, family-owned construction business, employing more than 200 people.

NICOLE LEE, ONLY ASIAN AMERICAN IN CHICAGO'S CITY COUNCIL...

FIRST CHINESE AMERICAN TO BE ELECTED IN 115 YEARS TO CITY HALL, CHICAGO



AMEC Leaders Congratulate Nicole Lee on her victory on election night, April 4 at Chinatown.

Photo shows: AMEC Commissioner Sam Ma, Secretary General Shree Gurusamy, Commissioner Allli Dhanaraj, Alderman Nicole Lee, Dr VGP, AMEC President and AMEC Vice President Seeta Bala.

Mohammed Jameel elected to Illinois Village Board

Illinois's Long Grove Village Board elected its first Indian American trustee, Mohammed Jameel on April 4. Long Grove is a village in Lake County, Illinois, United States.

Elected for a four-year term, Jameel is the first Indian -American to serve on the Board. Reacting to the historic win "I am humbled to have been elected to serve our community as a Trustee. When I started this endeavor a few years ago, I committed to be a voice for the people and to represent Long Grove in a manner worthy of the trust required of a public servant. Jameel received the GSA Pride of India Award at the India @75 EXPO event at Illinois in 2022 for his services as chairman of American Democratic Forum, a US-based organization that is instrumental in raising policy issues with US politicians. An alumnus of the Deccan College of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, he completed his residency at Louisiana State University and currently works at North Shore Health Network as an urgent care physician.



Very nice and informative and insights into your untiring efforts and enthusiasms.

Dr S. Sundari , Chennai , Zindia

Wow!!! Very nice Dr. VGP Talk show with newly elected Mayor of Naperville.

Babu Verma

Skokie, Illinois

I take pleasure in informing you that for the last few weeks, I am a regular reader of digital issues of The Global Eye.

- Naresh Beera, Vijayawada

Please accept my congratulation for bringing out a very nice and informative magazine.

Ajay Pothuraju

Koramangala, Bangalore

Very Colorful Edition with tons of pictures and the interview with Naperville city council candidate.

- Joe Susan, Naperville

Very Informative.

—Ram Kumar,

Pallakod, Kerala

First of all accept my congratulations for bringing out this fantastic magazine with beautiful pictures.

Ravi Chinnam

A Very big congrats to the Editor's efforts in creating Global Eye, a magazine that matters. Please cover total India than Tamilnadu and Chennai... North, south and East Indian states... Please accept my request.

Barua, Assam

Good to know much about Naperville from Cover Story Interview with Madhu Uppal. Love to know more about Chicago and USA.

--- Pandit Ram Manohar, Varanasi

I never miss an opportunity to read Globaleyemagazine. The articles are very articulate and the cover story of the magazine is also very impressive.

Prashant Kachru Jadhav
Odisha

I read this magazine on a regular basis. This magazine is printed in a stunning colour scheme. It is a matter of happiness. Many of its articles were inspiring and worth publishing.

Hidden Valley Estates, Naperville

Venkat, Bhopal

What a proud moment it was to personally congratulate Scott Wehrli at his victory celebration as Mayor Of Naperville!! On last Friday, we had a super successful Meet & Greet event at Mindful Meditation Yoga Center organized by Dr Vijay Prabhakarji, Chairman of AMEC which was very well attended. It was truly an honor & privilege for me to moderate face to face dialogue with Scott Wehrli and introduce him as the next Mayor of Naperville!! The beauty of this event was that we welcomed Scott & his wife Lynda with our traditional Vedic way by chanting Ved Mantras, Chandan Tilak & Showering Flower Petals on him!! We also had Scott light the Candle of Victory seeking blessings from Almighty & everyone present. Dr Vijay Prabhakarji endorsed him as the next Mayor of Naperville in his closing remarks. It gives me immense joy to witness the victory we all predicted at our Meet & Greet Event. Huge thanks to Dr Prabhakarji for organizing super successful Meet &



Greet! My gratitude to Seeta Bala, Shree Gurusamy, Alli Dhanaraj & Naveen Karna for their unconditional support with the success of this event. We are very excited to have a Mayor who is a man of stature, a man of dedicated service and a man of compassion, who has proven to be committed to both public service and the business world!! Please join me in wishing Scott Wehrli great success in his new position as Mayor Of Naperville!!.

Anu Malhotra
Napaerville, IL



Your latest issue of GSA Global Eye was interesting . TamilNadu C. M.'s scheme for One Crore Women is great . My mother in law late Mrs Sathyavani Muthu , one of the first woman Dravidian leaders always worked towards social Justice and women empowerment. TamilNadu Government recently celebrated her Birth Centenary in Chennai. Speaking at the recent celebrations, Our Chief Minister M. K. Stalin said, " Today we are celebrating the centenary of Sathyavani Muthu Ammaiyar , who lived as a female lion of the DMK"

Kanthimathy Arachelvam, Chennai , India

Indian-American C.R. Rao wins Nobel Prize equivalent in statistics at the age of 102

Atanu Biswas

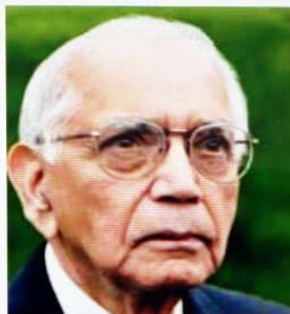
Shridhar Damle
Villa Park , IL

The Indian-American statistician C.R. Rao has been awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics – the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for statistics. It is awarded once every two years to an individual or team "for major achievements using statistics to advance science, technology and human welfare".

The work of Professor Rao, 102, has influenced, in the words of the American Statistical Association, "not just statistics" but also "economics, genetics, anthropology, geology, national planning, demography, biometry and medicine".

The citation for his new award calls him "a professor whose work more than 75 years ago continues to exert a profound influence on science".

Professor Rao's groundbreaking paper, "Information and accuracy attainable in the estimation of statistical parameters", was published in 1945. It was an impressive achieve-



C.R. Rao

ment since he was only 25 at the time. He would go on to do his Ph.D. in 1946-1948 at King's College, Cambridge University, under the supervision of Ronald Fisher, regarded as the father of modern statistics.

The 1945 paper boosted the development of modern statistics and its application in research.

Rao score test

One of Professor Rao's papers in 1948 offered a novel generic approach to testing hypotheses, now widely known as the "Rao score test". This and two other tests, developed by Jerzy Neyman, E.S. Pearson and Abraham Wald, are sometimes called "the

holy trinity" of this branch of statistics.

Professor Rao also contributed to orthogonal arrays, a concept in combinatorics used to design experiments whose results are qualitatively good, as early as 1949.

A 19-year-old Rao could not secure a scholarship at Andhra University for administrative reasons. He was also rejected for a job at an Army survey unit. When he was staying in Calcutta, a chance meeting led him to enroll at the Indian Statistical Institute, where he spent the next four decades. After his retirement in 1979, he settled in the U.S.

The first half of the 20th century was the golden period of statistical theory in general, and Rao is one of the reasons for this. As the renowned statistician Erich Lehmann wrote, Rao was "the person who did the most to continue [P.C.] Mahalanobis's work as a leader of statistics in India."

Atanu Biswas is Professor of statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

BIRTH CENTENARY

E.C.P. PRABHAKAR, I.A.S (Retd)
March 1, 1923 - March 30, 2008

100th Birth ANNIVERSARY

A Distinguished Bureaucrat of 33 years with Government of Tamilnadu, Served as **District Collector** of Ramnad, Madurai & Chingleput, **Director** of Industries & Commerce, **Director** of Agriculture, **Secretary to Government** of Rural Development & Local Administration, Health, Revenue, Education, Science & Technology Departments, **Commissioner** of Transport & Prohibition & Excise, **Chairman & Managing Director**, Tamil Nadu Industries Development Corporation – TIDCO, **Chairman**, Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation and **Chairman**, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu – SIPCOT. Commissioned as a Sub – Lieutenant in the Royal Indian Navy before joining the Indian Administrative Service.

Post retirement, Served as the **Honorary Chairman** of YMCA College of Physical Education, Chennai for two decades plus and **Chairman** of ATV Group, Mumbai.

An Avid Sportsman, played for State in Cricket – **Ranji Trophy** and for the State in Hockey. **All India Civil Services Tennis Champion** for three consecutive years. Former Honorary Sub-Secretary for **Tennis, Madras Gymkhana Club**, Member, **Madras Cricket Club & Sterling Club**.

Worshipper at Zion's Church, Egmore Wesley Church, St. George's Cathedral, St. Andrews Church – The Kirk, Chennai & All Peoples Church, Bangalore.

An Alumni of Bishop Cotton Boys School, Bangalore, Loyola College, Chennai & Madras Christian College, Tambaram.

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Indrani Sivaram, Samuel Prabhakar, Dr. Vijay & Cynthia Prabhakar

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Xi all the way

SRI LANKA WATCH



China's massive Hainan bet - Beijing is relying on an unlikely destination, a lush tropical island, to launch what some hope will be a second round of reforms and open up the Chinese economy.

SRI LANKA'S PRESIDENT : RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

Chinese leader Xi Jinping was on Friday March 10 formally reappointed as President, for an unprecedented third term, for another five years in office. His selection was no surprise, especially after he was appointed General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party October 2022, again for a third term. The developments mark the return of one-man rule to China, making him the country's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.

The National People's Congress (NPC) session during the weekend also saw the endorsement, along expected lines, of two People's Liberation Army (PLA) Generals, Zhang Youxia and He Weidong, as Vice-Chairmen of the Central Military

Commission (CMC) of the State, which is headed by Mr. Xi. While it would seem like a series of new appointments to powerful positions in the Chinese establishment, it effectively points to one thing — Mr. Xi's firm grip over every branch of the Party and State.

The changes at the helm coincide with China's growing focus on its military might. Last week, the government announced a hike in defence spending by 7.2% to \$225 billion in 2023, saying the rise was needed to deal with "complex security challenges", even as China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang has accused the United States of attempting "to encircle China" through its Indo-Pacific strategy.

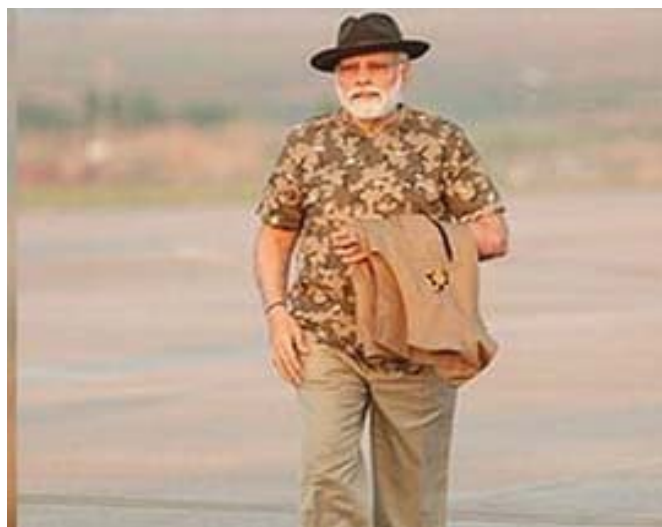


Crisis-hit Sri Lanka reached the last lap in course to secure a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), after its top bilateral creditor China recently provided financing assurances last week.

China's financing assurances followed those from India, and the Paris Club, of which Japan is a member, to the IMF. This is in addition to India's nearly \$4 billion assistance to the island nation last year.

Karnataka: PM Modi visits Bandipur Tiger Reserve

He visited the Theppakadu Elephant camp in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve where he interacted with mahouts and kavadis of the elephant camp.



BANDIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Sunday April 9 and interacts with frontline field staff and Self Help Groups involved in conservation efforts. He also visited the Theppakadu Elephant camp in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve where he interacted with mahouts and kavadis of the elephant camp. He also interacted with field directors of tiger reserves that have scored highest in the recently concluded 5th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation exercise.

"PM Narendra Modi is in the Bandipur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves," tweeted Prime Minister's Office (PMO). According to PMO, Prime Minister Modi launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA). In July 2019, Prime Minister Modi had called for an Alli-

ance of Global Leaders to obliterate demand and firmly curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Asia. IBCA will focus on the protection and conservation of seven major big cats of the world -- Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah, said the PMO statement.

PM Modi also inaugurated the program 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger'. During the program, he released the publications 'Amrit Kaal Ka Vision for Tiger Conservation', a summary report of the 5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves, declared tiger numbers and released a summary report of All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle). A commemorative coin on the completion of 50 years of Project Tiger was also released by Prime Minister Modi.

First Telugu To Get Elected To City Council



Kiran Velpula, an Indian-American professor, has made history by becoming the first Indian to be elected to the at-large council seat in the city of Peoria, Illinois, 188 years

after its incorporation. Peoria County in Illinois has a diverse population, with Asians making up 4.18% of the population, followed by White (Non-Hispanic) at 69.2%, Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) at 17.7%, and White (Hispanic) at 2.8%. During the election, Kiran Velpula received 3,768.08 votes (equivalent to 16.25%) on the election day, 1,988.33 votes (equivalent to 18.23%) through early voting, and 2,518.75 votes (equivalent to 11.54%) through a vote by mail, with a cumulative total of 8,275.16 votes (equivalent to 14.80%). The city of Peoria, Illinois has one city council member for each of the five council districts, along with five at-large council members and a mayor. Voters in Peoria are entitled to a maximum of 5 votes for a candidate, with the number of votes decreasing if they vote for multiple candidates.

In addition to his political achievements, Kiran Velpula also serves on the board of directors for various organizations, including the Center for Prevention of Abuse, EPIC, Neighborhood House, Quest Charter Academy, and WCBU Peoria public radio. He has been recognized as one of the Top 10 Young Professionals of Illinois in the field of Medical Innovation by Jaycees, and has been a recipient of the 40 Leaders Under 40 award.

According to his website, Kiran Velpula expresses that he has found his American Dream in Peoria, where he has been a resident since 2009. He has a background in scientific research, with a doctoral degree from the University of Hyderabad and a management degree from Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

SO WELL

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FACE TO FACE WITH THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN WOMAN ELECTED TO CHICAGO'S CITY COUNCIL... ALDERMAN NICOLE LEE

Watch the Dr VGP's Talk Show featuring Nicole Lee, the 11th ward Alderman of City of Chicago Council at <https://youtu.be/Gk4dY991AkY>

Dr VGP: Hello, and welcome to Dr VGP Talk show that reaches 42 million households, including two million across Chicagoland. Spring is in the air quoting from a poem "fire" by the renowned poet Sharada Purna Sonty. Grass and green trees live. So do flocks of birds, bees and beasts. Schools of fish in water salt. Hugging fungi mighty Rock Slimy, licking clouds the mountains high. With fun broken shells and snails. Creeping snakes and ants to live is the mind that dwells in man in whom fire transforms, the Blazing Flames compete the time. Living life history in piles.

Dr VGP: So well-versed the poem "fire" resonates the guest we're going to feature in today's Dr. VGP show.

Dr VGP: Yes! Words can inspire, thoughts can provoke but only actions can help you reach your dream. Most of us believe in the American dream. We are here today in Chicago's Chinatown to meet a second generation Chinese American who's living her dream with fire in her belly to transform lives, overcome challenges, and continue the family Legacy of prevention, protection and compassion. Meet Nicole Lee, the iconic first chinese-american, alderman in the Council of Chicago representing the 11th ward. The first Asian-American woman in Chicago city council and the first Chinese-American in the history of the Chicago city council. Will she triumph in the upcoming April 4th city of Chicago council's alderman elections?

Dr VGP: You can answer the question yourself as you watch the Dr VGP talk Show that features the iconic Nicole Lee, the first chinese-american to be in the Chicago city council.

Dr VGP: We have Alderman Nicole Lee with us, the iconic first chinese-american in the Chicago City Council,

welcome to Dr. VGP talk show that reaches 42 million households, including two million across Chicago land. Thank you for joining us this morning during your busy schedule for the April 4. Welcome again Alderman.

NICOLE LEE: Thank you so much for having me. And thank you so much for making the time to come talk to me today. It is my honor, thank you. I wouldn't lie. You have a proud record of reaching out to millions.

Dr VGP: What, a proud product of the Chicago Public Schools you are. Tell us about your growing up life years as a lifelong resident of Chinatown and Bridgeport.

NICOLE LEE: Today, we are in the heart of Chinatown, where I grew up, I was born and raised here in Chinatown. I'm a fourth generation of Lee's to live in this community. I could not be more proud to have been brought up here, growing up walking around on the streets. As always have people trying to find this like any other small town. Everybody knows everybody. My parents were involved in the community and I was always, you know, Gene Lee's and Teresa Lee's daughter. I didn't really have my own identity for a long time. I'm and we couldn't really get into a lot of trouble. Will tell you that this is a beautiful Community filled with family, associations with churches, with things for young people to do. And it's really given me so much and that's why I'm so dedicated to giving back to this community.

Dr VGP: Like you said, the rich Legacy, that you inherited from your father, Gene Lee. We all fondly, call him as the Mayor of Chinatown and he has served the city of Chicago for over 20 years. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the then Mayor Richard Daly. You know, the development of Chinatown chair them daily the, you know, the development of Chinatown here, as a very flourishing

neighborhood of the south side of Chicago, has a checkered history from 1898 to 1940 with Sam Moy being then the first Mayor if I may, So caught up for the Chinatown and then in 1975 some of the marked infrastructure developments are the Chinatown Gateway which came up in 75. And then we had later in the nineteen eighties the China Town Square, and then the Ping Tom Memorial in 1999. Tell us today in 2023 about your Chinatown. What are the new developments? What is exciting here today here?

NICOLE LEE: I think the most exciting is the evolution of our community in this city, you know the first Chinatown actually, was on Clark Street further south. Our community has continued to grow and flourish. In fact, we're the only Chinatown in the entire United States that continues to grow. So, in that growth, we've seen that now we've been able to get the first Asian majority ward in all of Chicago and Chinatown itself is red or landlocked at the end of the day. So you know, new development, naturally is Flowing South and West. There is an exciting development going on, just on the outskirts of Chinatown, the historic Point building. There's a developer that has purchased the building to develop that into, I think yet another very attractive place for tourists to come and give them another reason to visit Chinatown.

Dr VGP: Exciting times ahead, under your tutelage. Now from a successful career as a banking executive to being United. Airlines Point, man, the global Community engagement chief for Philanthropy and corporate social responsibility, your transition to being the first chinese-american Alderman, creating history, in Chicago City's 185 years. What was your driving force and inspiration?

NICOLE LEE: You know, to be honest with you, the driving



force that really was the opportunity to represent our community for the first time and to be a strong leader for the community. Had some Outreach from community members and they were encouraging me to do this. And I just thought I could do a good job of this. I know you know as someone who's committed to remaining in the community, I'm raising my own children here, there are a lot of challenges and I've just felt strongly that there was a need for a good strong People to be on the council and to be the first representative for our community was going to be a big task and I thought I was up for it.

Dr VGP: It is commendable that you gave up one of the best positions that you held with United Airlines, as the director of Global Civic engagement, an enviable position. As a single mother of two, you seem to be so committed to your community and you have the pattern of being the first chinese-american in the history to represent the 11th Ward. 11th ward is, I would call it a royal seat. It's given birth to five mayors of our City of Chicago. Our Edward Joseph Kelley, We had Martin Kinley, Richard G Daly, the senior, Michael Blanding and Richard M Daly. So, Nicole today you are the voice of our Asian American community in Chicago. Hope you see Chicago as being a sanctuary City being an international melting point from India and Devon town to Chinatown.

NICOLE LEE: One answers the other.

Dr VGP: Yes.

NICOLE LEE: I think Chicago's role as a sanctuary city is very important. It probably has been a welcoming City. We are the city of big shoulders and big hearts. And I think that we need to continue to do that, but that has to be done in a responsible way to right that has to include engaging the community to really understand how we best support these immigrants and refugees that are landing in our city.

Dr VGP: You're absolutely right. Chicago's history as a self proclaimed, Sanctuary city was done by an executive order by the then Mayor Harold Washington in 1985.

And, Today, interestingly in your ward, the population mix is 37% white, 34% Asian, 23% Hispanic and 4% black. Now, how will you empower the communities and build coalitions to progress the 11th ward?

NICOLE LEE: Yeah, absolutely. So, with the new map boundaries and effective in this next cycle, the 11th ward will actually have 51 percent Asian voting age population, right? So we are probably the most diverse ward in the entire city of Chicago and I think the way we bring people together, it's to just do it, but we have to go, we have to listen to everybody and every voice. Every voice matters. And we have to show that, with our actions too. I think that one of the most important lessons I've learned in the last 12 months is that people want to be seen and they want to be heard, right? They may not always get what they want. But having a voice and really understanding that you have a fair shot at something, Makes a very big difference.

Dr VGP: You have been an alderman from March 2022, nearly a year, I'm sure you must have seen the significant difference, Like you just said, listening to the community, having one of their own.

NICOLE LEE: Yes.

Dr VGP: It makes a huge difference in the Parameters of communication for the (you are saying) 51% of the 11th ward is going to be Asian American, that's really indeed, a matter to be celebrated in today's world. And how do you see, you have seen closed quarters? The needs of your diverse, as you said, in the 11th Ward and what needs to be? Strengthened, tell us what needs to be

strengthened in the 11th Ward. And also tell us how will you strengthen the Chicago public school system in your ward? You yourself being a Chicago Public School student and at the same time, you have a master's in public policy from one the top 10 universities in the United States, University of Chicago. Incredible. Nicole, tell us your plans for Chicago Public Schools.

NICOLE LEE: I think we can't have a conversation about educational opportunities for our kids without having a conversation about what everybody needs. In the 11th Ward in the burgeoning near South Region, we have had a need for a neighborhood High School for A very long time. You know, we've continued to grow and it's has forced a lot of families to make tough decisions about sending their kids to private school, or in some cases, moving out of the city. And I think that's a really big challenge. I think we have to address Citywide. So, while I am a 100% for building a new high school to serve this community, we also can't forget about all of the other schools in the system. So there are, there's at least one school where my constituents are mapped to from a neighborhood perspective that is under enrolled and I think it has its own struggles, but I think CPS and the city council members need to work together to make sure that we're providing the kind of resources, And really good strategic thought about how we lift these schools up.

Dr VGP: You have hit a very vital point. Education is the Cornerstone of any community in order to have an educated Workforce in today's growing economic situation. And you are for a neighborhood school. That brings me to a point, you know, the mayor's race of City of Chicago is also up for grabs with the runoff on April 4th. What is your take on the two candidates, we have or who, who would you prefer? Which would be better for the 11th ward of Chicago?

NICOLE LEE: Well, I'm proud to have endorsed Paul Vallas for mayor and he in turn has also endorsed me as his Aldermen because he's a resident of the 11th ward

Dr VGP: Oh, I didn't know that. That's interesting, fantastic.

NICOLE LEE: I am his Alderman right now.

Dr VGP: He is the 6th Mayor if elected, to be from the 11th ward, oh my God! It's exciting.

NICOLE LEE: Yes, it's very exciting, and I firmly believe that Paul Vallas is the right choice for the City. He's going to help ensure that we are fully resourced for Public Safety that we begin to ride the ship for Public Safety. As well as ensure that we've got good educational opportunities. He's got plans for all of this.



Dr VGP: Excellent, Nicole, You have said it so rightly, It's going to be a historic moment on April 4th. Let's wait and watch. Now, We are hearing a lot of things in the Mayoral race, as well as generally that Chicago's property taxes. Now, I would say, what's your take on property taxes in Chicago?

NICOLE LEE: I think property taxes are something that everybody is concerned with but not everybody necessarily understands work on what all goes into it at the end of the day. And I think with this last set of property tax bills that people have received, it has hit Property Owners very hard. My own parents included their taxes with their assessment and their taxable actually went up, 60%, Six Zero

Dr VGP: My God!

NICOLE LEE: And for Working Families and for seniors who are on fixed income it's a very difficult thing. So, I am very concerned That people are going to be priced out of their own homes. So, I want to work with my colleagues and counter parts on the County side to take another look at how we are assessing values

Dr VGP: That's a very good strategy and I think you are one of the few Alderman who is able to study the matter and respond in a very strategic manner because getting County along makes a big difference in our city. Council alone cannot address the property tax act

NICOLE LEE: Because the city's tax levy is a very small part of that, you know, the taxing bodies include the county and the city and then you pay your own state income taxes, but the property taxes, most of that goes to the county. Not to the city.

Dr VGP: Correct, Alderman the question that looms large in every one of our minds is, how will you reduce crime and prevent violence in your community?

NICOLE LEE: I think the way to do that is we all have to do this together. The police alone can't solve this problem.

Dr VGP: Absolutely

NICOLE LEE: One body alone. Can't do it. I like in our Public Safety challenges to a forest fire. We can't just bring a water gun to this, right? We have to attack it from above. We've got to take it from below. We've got to try to smother this, so It means making sure that the police are fully resourced and that they have the funding that they need and I fought for that and voted for the budget. We got the police, the budget that they needed.

Dr VGP: Excellent.

NICOLE LEE: We got a record number of dollars to address the homeless issues, as well as additional police officers Patrol CTA as well as violence prevention initiatives as well. So we've got to do this all around. Resources are important but it's also important that we as individual residents understand our own role in that. And as frustrating as it may be, sometimes more scared that some people might be picking up the phone and dialing 911. The fact is calls for service Drive resources when it comes to police and safety. So we have to be able to make sure that we're if you see something happening that you are saying something, make the phone call, you can do it anonymously. But everybody's got at least that responsibility to be engaging.

Dr VGP: You are from what I hear, and what I see you are an action-oriented Alderman and you acted on the



property tax bill, You acted on increasing funding for the police. Now, you know, Chinatown is so strategically placed that It's usually known as a place for opportunistic crimes because they can get away into the expressways. What is your comment on that? And how could you think of resolving that? Prevent that?

NICOLE LEE: We've been working really closely with the 9th District Police Department, the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Our great neighborhood watch groups. So, I think working all together and collaborating, making sure that we are communicating with each other. Whether that's having business owners, give access to their cameras, to the police department, they have real time information about crimes going on, or you know, getaway cars so they can read license plates so that they can better track these criminals after they committed these crimes. The other thing is just having presence. Beat 914 is the beat for Chinatown. There are two regular beat cars, which is the only beat in the entire District that has to be cars. That's very uncommon because Chinatown is such a big economic engine for Chicago. I think there's a recognition that, you know, we want to continue to keep this a safe place for both residents and visitors to continue to come to. So we've got an additional partner on the weekends just for added presence. The Cook County Sheriff is also present doing role falls on a daily basis here. And really is just a combination of the continued Good relationship with the 9th district and really responding to needs as they come up and having really great open. The station.

Dr VGP: You have said it so well, you know the Alderman



NICOLE LEE: It was very disappointing to hear, I was actually running for office to represent the first Asian majority Ward, and to say that Asian representation on the city council is not important, I think. In no other time right now. Representation is important. I'll tell you one of the best things to come out of my time. For me personally, serving as Alderman is meeting young people, young Asian people who are excited about me and excited

that they have someone that looks like them reflected in this High office. Someone actually said to me, a young lady said "are you Nicole Lee, are you our Alderman" and I said, yes, I am. Um, she said I learned about you in school and that was just like a mind-blowing moment to think that their kids are learning about me in school. Like I as a child could not have imagined a time where there would be an Asian American woman, a chinese-american woman from our community representing Asia

Dr VGP: Awesome

NICOLE LEE: Yes. So, the issue of representation, I think to my opponent, I would say it's disappointing and it's offensive at the end of the day. Representation matters incredibly incredibly much, especially to those who have not been represented in the past.

Dr VGP: You are absolutely correct. And that is most condemned that your Challenger, He may be a police officer or a firefighter but him discriminating and spewing hate against the Asian-American Community? By saying we cannot be represent the city of Chicago is a racist correct? And that is a hate it could be equal to a hate crime. Today,



is the most pivotal, powerful person and the to go person in the whole 11th ward and you have explained how well you are approaching this problem of reducing violence in a collaborative approach which many other counterparts of yours have not done. You know, involving the community, the businesses, the local law enforcement as well as the health professionals, Having thinking about the prevention as well as the protection.

NICOLE LEE: Absolutely.

Dr VGP: And could you tell me how you feel today as the Alderman.

NICOLE LEE: You know what you call that a powerful position I applied for people all the time of being an Alderman is not a glamorous job of. I talk about trash and rats way more than I ever thought it would in my life. But it's a vitally important role because we are on the front lines we are the sort of first line of defense when it comes to constituents, who have questions or have issues, my main role is to connect residents in the ward with the resources of the city. You know, from a budgetary perspective, we don't have a whole lot to work with, as individual Alderman. But you know what we can do is ensure that the resources that the city has are being brought back into the ward for the benefit of our constituents, whether that is a small business with grants or a non-profit agency with other programs and grant opportunities for infrastructure. I mean, you name it. There's a way for us to bring resources back in. That's really, you know, my main task is to do that.

Dr VGP: Nicole Lee, you come across as a straight-talking, easy to approach, down to earth human being and it's Chinatown and Bridgeport and new city is so fortunate to have such an all-compassionate consuming Alderman today, and the City of Chicago representing 11th ward. You know, vested interests and particularly one of your challengers has said, that a statement which is very poignant that it is not important to have an Asian-American represented in the city council, your comment on that.

when the whole world is growing closer when the gaps are being united, Chicago is known to be an inclusive community. And I think that should send a strong message. Not only to the Asian Americans in your ward, but to others that we have to elect, reelect, and elect a strong Asian American women, like yourself, just

because of that statement, you know, reading the reports Global Eye and Dr VGP's talk to feature you because we are in the role of compounding, multi ethnic communities. And we said we must address this issue today. How can somebody who was dreaming of running for office and representing people in the Chicago city council makes such a racist, hate comment, that there is not important to have an Asian-American today in the Chicago city council. That is condemned and I think we all should in one voice. Stand together for a United Chicago and that's what Chicago represents.

Having said that, Alderman Nicole Lee because that's a very sensitive subject to us. While we are growing up and that President Biden-Harris Administration is doing so much for anti Asian-American hate and crime and Anti Asian-American violence. If you have somebody representing your ward with 51% who are Asians, it is totally a no, no. Would you agree with me?

NICOLE LEE: Yeah, I agree. And I think that it was a really ignorant comment at the end of the day, you know, I don't I can't say that I know my opponent well enough to say that he is a hateful person, but I think that points out to the lack of understanding, which I think fundamentally is the biggest problem, because he doesn't understand the experience of more than half of his work.

Dr VGP: You know, you have been so kind, like, you are as I earlier said. but that ignorance, If you are

standing to represent people who are Asian Americans, how can you say it's not important to have an Asian-American representative in the Chicago city council?

NICOLE LEE: Yes.

Dr VGP: Now, if elected on April 4th as the 11th ward Alderman, what will be your top three priorities for the 11th Ward.

NICOLE LEE: my top three priorities are going to be public safety, First and foremost, the safety of our community is the Paramount to everything that I'm standing for as the leader of the ward. That is my top priority and I'm going to continue to do what I've been doing to fight for resources for the police. I'm going to make sure that we're investing in violence prevention. I'm going to make sure that we are providing opportunities for young people too. We're going to continue to work with community policing and the caps and making sure that residents in the community are also playing their own role in this. We want to be able to have people feel good about walking around in their neighborhood and not walking around in fear.

Second priority is going to be educational opportunities. Getting a neighborhood high school for our community is the next biggest priority. We need the school, we needed it for decades and we deserve it.

Third priority is business development, we need to make sure that we continue to have thriving communities. So we have opportunities along the Halsted Street Corridor, as well as Archer Avenue and 35th Street. So there are lots of opportunities, coming up. To remove the theater, revitalization, just should be done by the fall. I think, that's going to be a Big Boon to bring more businesses in and that's where we got to really lean in and work with the Department of Planning, Development, and others of these professional associations that have retailers, that will hopefully look favorably upon coming into our neighborhood in the 11th ward making it a very business, friendly place.

Dr VGP: You have described your three priorities in such clarity Public Safety, Number 1, 2 a neighborhood school for education is the backbone of any community and business development. And to have a flourishing business neighborhood, not only in Chinatown, but on the end of Halstad, Archer and 35th Street. I mean, it's you are on the right track. You walk the talk. It's such a pleasure to have met you today. Learnt about you, your values, what you have done. Previously, what has prepared you for the Aldermanic Road? What you've done in the last one year and what you will continue to do for the 11th ward, could you describe yourself in three words?

NICOLE LEE: I only gave three. I'll go with. I'm passionate, I am a good listener and I'm a bridge builder.

Dr VGP: Fantastic Nicole Lee, you are an Alderman and the first Asian American woman to serve the City of Chicago. The first Chinese-American in Chicago's Hundred and Eighty Five years describes herself as passionate, a good listener and a bridge builder. What more can you ask for? Thank you so much for being with us. In concluding, could you tell us and give us your message to our viewers and to your constituents of 11th Ward?

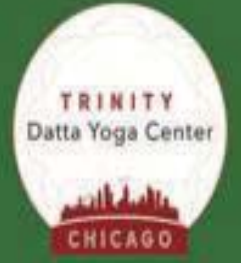
NICOLE LEE: I really appreciate the opportunity to serve the 11th Ward for the last 12 months. I've worked hard to earn the trust of the community and to show you what I can do. I hope that on April 4th you give me an opportunity to continue to serve you for the next four years. Thank you.

Dr VGP: Thank you again Alderman Nicole Lee for joining us. You are truly committed to empower our communities, and Forge ahead and build coalitions, and to restore 11th ward and its rightful place in the City of Chicago.





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AMEC endorses Scott Wehrli for Mayor of Naperville

American Multi Ethnic Coalition endorsed SCOTT WEHRLI as the next Mayor of Naperville on Friday, March 31 at a successful meet and greet and fundraiser held at the Mindful Meditation Yoga Center at Naperville.

Dr Zenobia Sowell, AMEC Governor welcoming the gathering said that American Multi Ethnic Coalition - AMEC is a BI PARTISAN grassroots community organization that empowers ethnic communities across Chicagoland through social, educational, health, economic, cultural & political initiatives.

ANU MALHOTRA, CEO & Founder, Mindful Meditation Yoga, Naperville exquisitely moderated the Face to Face Dialogue with SCOTT WEHRLI and eloquently introduced the next Mayor of Naperville, SCOTT WEHRLI as a proven leader, a humane man of action with a flair for inclusivity ..

Bharat Malhotra, Co - Host introduced MADHU UPPAL, candidate for Naperville City Council who was present.

Dr SARADA SONTY, Author & Co-Founder of SAPNA giving the Call to Action, recited a poem authored by her for SCOTT WEHRLI titled 'Inspiration ' in recognition of his trailblazing economic leadership, law enforcement service, for spearheading Naperville's quest for Unity & Safety and championing the Mental Health needs of Naperville.

Thanking AMEC for hosting this meet & greet fundraiser, SCOTT WEHRLI said

today Naperville has about 30% Asian American population. WEHRLI said that creating good economic development based on sound policies is of utmost important so that schools can receive adequate funds to give our children the best education they deserve. He added that Mental Health will be his major focus irrespective of religion or where they come from.

Lifelong Naperville resident SCOTT WEHRLI spoke about his 32 years of service as a part-time police officer with the Park District, 20 years plus as a Trustee with North Central College, and Chairing the Naperville development partnership board for over 10 years. At 24, WEHRLI became the youngest member to serve in the Naperville Liquor Commission and was appointed by three successive Mayors, a singular distinction to date.

WEHRLI praised his mentor, Naperville's most popular Mayor PRADEL who was a nonpartisan candidate that groomed him into serving the Naperville community. As the owner of a construction company employing over 200 employees, he understands the need to bring economic development to the City. WEHRLI added if elected he will focus on public safety, economic development, and making people's lives better. SCOTT WEHRLI declared that Mental health will be his number one priority so that Naperville will continue to be the SAFEST City to raise a family with great schools, a library, and an inclusive community that touched

everyone's life.

SCOTT WEHRLI acknowledged that he was an adopted kid and it was his family that encouraged him to follow his passion to serve the community that he deeply loved. WEHRLI thanked Hus's parents for giving him an opportunity as they ran many different businesses that prepared him to be a community leader. SCOTT introduced his wife LYNDA of 25 years as being his inspirational partner in continuing to serve the City of Naperville.

Dr VGP, President of AMEC presenting AMEC 's endorsement described SCOTT WEHRLI as a leader with positive energy, inclusive spirit, and proven well-balanced leadership that the City Of Naperville needs as their next Mayor. Dr VGP recalled how SCOTT WEHRLI had spent more than 6 hours, actively participating with the community on the concluding day of the historic GSA India@75 Expo on December 17,2022 at Sheraton Lisle Naperville.

Nearly 60 Community leaders from diverse backgrounds including Sivam Viswanathan, Alka Sood, Naveen Karna, Siddesh Shevade, Dr Sriram Sonty, Amar Upadhyay, Yousef Razzak, Rohit Joshi, Seeta Bala, Anu Khetarpal, Ajay Shah, Alli Dhanaraj, Rev Jebamony, Kalpesh Joshi, Vijay Muralidharan, Tom Banks, Robert York, Ashonti Mc Kinney, Fizza Razzak, Anica Dubey among others participated in the Face to Face dialogue.



American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc (AMEC) TEAM welcoming Scott and Lynda Wehrli for the Meet and Greet event held at Mindful Meditation Yoga Center on March 31, 2023. Left to right: Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Governor of the AMEC Inc, Dr. VGP Founder and President of AMEC USA and MEATF, Lynda Wehrli, wife of Naperville Mayor candidate Scott Wehrli, Bharat Malhotra, CO founder of Mindful Meditation Yoga Center and Seeta Bala, Vice President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition.



A'shonti Tiesha McKinney, Program Coordinator of the Gandhi- King Center For Non Violence greeting, Scott and Lynda Wehrli.



Scott and Lynda Wehrli interacting with some of the participants at the Meet and Greet event.



Siddhesh Shevade, Hindu Sevak Sangh Chicago Coordinator welcoming Scott and Lynda Wehrli at the event.



Vijay Muralidharan, an IT professional and AMEC Commissioner -Oakbrook, greeting Scott and Lynda Wehrli.



Scott Wehrli meeting Ajay Gharia and his wife Smita Gharia, of Arya Samaj. Ajay has dedicated his life serving Arya Samaj of Chicagoland where he serves as the Secretary.



AMEC youth delegate Robert York from Chicago greeting Scott Wehrli.



Scott Wehrli with Madhu Uppal, a Community Activist and a Candidate running for Naperville City Council.



Madhu Uppal, Candidate for Naperville City Council interacting with participants.



Ramesh Malhan, President of Hindu Society of Chicago, and Secretary of UPA (United Punjabis of America) speaking to Scott Wehrli.



AMEC Meet and Greet participants with Scott and Lynda Wehrli of Naperville, Illinois.



Yousef Razzak, Owner of Kolachi Tandoori Grill, Schaumburg and AMEC Commissioner, Schaumburg speaking at the event.



Kalpesh Joshi, President of Asian American Hotel Owners Association Midwest greets Scott and Linda Wehrli.



Scott Wehrli listening to the speakers with rapt attention along with Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, Founder and President of AMEC Inc and MEATF.



Anu Malhotra, Founder and President of Mindful Meditation Yoga Center, Naperville welcoming Mr. Scott Wehrli to light the candle of victory.



Photo – From left to right – Madhu Uppal, AMEC Governor Zenobia Sowell, Lynda Wehrli, Scott Wehrli, Dr. VGP, Vijay Muralidharan and Ramesh Malhan at the Meet and Greet.



Dr. Zenobia Sowell, AMEC Governor welcoming Scott Wehrli and all the Meet and Greet participants.



Dr Sarada Purna Sonty, Academician, Author and President of SAPNA, USA, presenting a poem titled "Inspiration". Dr. VGP introducing the phenomenal woman Dr. Sarada Sonty.



Seeta Bala AMEC Vice President of American Multi Ethnic Coalition, USA Seeta Bala, AMEC Vice President introducing herself.



Manmeet Kaur a popular Bollywood singer in the Chicagoland area, speaking at the meet and Greet.



Reeta Hoskote a long time Naperville resident and a professional singer wishing Scott Wehrli every success.



Sahini Ramineni, a senior at Benedictine University and Co Founder of SAHHI – South Asian Heart Health Initiative, speaking at the event .



AMEC Delegate, Fizza Razzak, CEO of Fizz beauty (Luxury on site beauty team) and COO of Gravitea Boba speaking at the event.



Shivam Vishwanathan an IT professional and Campaign Manager for the City council candidate Madhu Uppal speaking at the event.



Amar Upadhyay, a Senior IT Professional and Senior Vice President of AMEC Commissioner introducing himself and seated next to him is Rohit Joshi, a Retired Professor from NIU and an AMEC Commissioner, Niles.



AMEC Meet and Greet host, Anu Malhotra introduced Scott Wehrli as a proven leader, humane man of action with a flair for inclusivity.



Pastor Jebasingh Jebamony of Multi Ethnic Church of Mount Greenwood speaking at the Meet and Greet while Naperville's Community Activist Anu Khetarpal looks on.



Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty thanking Anu Malhotra, the host and presenting a framed copy of her poem.



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EASTERN INDIA'S FIRST VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS ROLLS OUT!



PM Modi flagged off Vande Bharat Express between Howrah and New Jalpaiguri via video conferencing. The train service will boost connectivity. The PM also inaugurated other metro and railway projects in West Bengal aimed at furthering 'Ease of Living' for the people.



REMEMBERING THE COURAGE OF THE SAHIBZADES AND MATA GUIRI Ji

PM Modi participated in a historic programme marking 'Veer Bal Diwas' at Major Dhyanchand Stadium in Delhi. PM Modi said that 'Veer Bal Diwas' will remind us of the immense contribution of the Sikh Gurus and the sacrifice of the Sikh tradition for protecting the honour of the nation.



INDIA-AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT COMES INTO FORCE

PM Modi expressed happiness as India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) came into force. The PM said that it was a watershed moment for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between both the countries.



1.5 LAKH AYUSHMAN BHARAT - HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRES OPENED

PM Modi lauded the achievement of the target of 1.5 lakh Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres. He said that the feat will infuse fresh energy in New India.



PM MODI SPEAKS TO UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT ZELENSKY

PM Modi and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy spoke over the phone. They exchanged views about the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. PM Modi reiterated his call for immediate cessation of hostilities and said that both sides (Ukraine and Russia) should revert to dialogue and diplomacy.

WHAT'S MAKING NEWS?

THE TIMES OF INDIA

IAF successfully tests extended range version of BrahMos missile from Sukhoi jet

Firstpost

Yearender 2022: How has Atmanirbhar Bharat changed India's defence industry

Firstpost

Will work together to strengthen our strategic partnership: Modi congratulates Netanyahu on becoming Israel PM

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

India on right track to be global EV hub: Ola's Bhavish Aggarwal

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Here's why 2022 became a historic year for India-US relations

NEWS18

How Modi Government Transformed Northeast and Made it Reservoir of India's Growth



Snippets from PM Modi's address in Lok Sabha 8th February, 2023



India is scaling new heights in technology sector: PM



2004-2014 was a 'lost decade' for India, we are now in India's decade: PM



India is overcoming challenges with the determination of 140 crore Indians: PM

Palm Sunday celebration on Rameswaram, commemorate triumphal entry

The Christian season of Lent before Easter began this year on February 22 with Ash Wednesday. The last Sunday of this Lent is observed as Holy Sunday.

RAMESHWARAM: Palm Sunday was well celebrated in churches on Rameswaram Island. The devotees gathered to partake in the festival in a traditional manner and carry cut palm leaves in their hands during the processions. The Christian season of Lent before Easter began this year on February 22 with Ash Wednesday. The last Sunday of this Lent is observed as Holy Sunday.



Palm Sunday is celebrated annually by Christians to commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into the city of Jerusalem. It is also known as the Holy Sunday of Songs. It is celebrated on the Sunday before Jesus' resurrection (Easter). In this way, Palm Sunday was celebrated in the churches of Rameswaram island. Kurutholai Bhavani was held at Thangachimadam St. Theresa's Church which was presided over by Father Sebastian. Just as the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with olive leaves in their hands in those days, many Christians took palm leaves, shaped them into a cross, and carried them in their hands. Following the completion of Kurutholai

Bhavani at St. Teresa's Church, special prayers were held under the leadership of Father Sebastian. New India is inclusive as ever before where a major Christian festival is being celebrated in a prime Hindu pilgrim town.

How India is helping Turkey and Syria

Excerpts from Suhasini Haider - The View From India: THE Hindu's International Weekly



A global rescue effort is underway to aid Turkey and Syria after a devastating earthquake has tragically claimed thousands of lives. More than 30 countries are part of the relief effort, sending aircraft with relief, field hospitals, diggers, and rescue teams, including India, the U.S., U.K., Russia, China, Japan, Pakistan, Israel, and several European countries.



The humanitarian aspect, no doubt, is and should remain the abiding and primary focus in such tragedies. As with every global disaster, there are also tangential diplomatic implications. For instance, India's assistance to Turkey comes at a time when ties are still tense. Even so, as Haider explains, the fact that the government put aside political considerations and sent aid, just as Turkey did in sending relief to India during its COVID crisis, does help the bilateral relationship.

Tamil Nadu C.M. Stalin forges ahead with Affordable Housing in Chennai.



TamilNadu's Minister for Chennai metropolitan development authority-CMDA Sekar Babu is revolutionizing urban development with emphasis on affordable housing. Miss Apoorva IAS , Principal Secretary to TamilNadu Government for Housing & Urban Development is effectively implementing the Chief Minister ' vision on "Housing For All" In state of Tamil Nadu, India.



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KUMILY'S DAUGHTER WHO IS GIVING BACK TO HER HOMETOWN

Very rarely do we come across people who care about others without expecting anything in return.



We Kumily also spelt as Kumaly is a revenue village and Gram Panchayat in the Idukki district of Kerala. It is a town in Cardamom Hills near Thekkady and Periyar Tiger Reserve. Kumily is a gateway town into Kerala from Tamil Nadu.

B. N. Suresh Mangaladurai

Such is the saga of Lakshmy Das a young lady of 27 years who found the existing garbage disposal system in the small town of Kumily inadequate to deal with the problems faced by women in disposing their sanitary waste such as sanitary napkins, because the wastes are manually sorted.

Although Kumily Panchayat has an excellent system of waste management wherein bio-waste and plastic waste are segregated and collected at the doorsteps of the residents such a system does not cater to the management of sanitary waste and sanitary napkins. Lakshmy found this to be a major problem when she returned home from Kochi where she did her under graduation. She had been used to throwing out the sanitary waste into the garbage bin there but when she returned to Kumily she found this a major cause for concern.

Lakshmy who had earlier done a stint of volunteering at Auroville, in Pondicherry had come across a project called Eco Femme that worked toward creating environmental and social change through sustainable menstrual practices.

Therefore, Lakshmy reached out to Eco Femme which was into providing reusable sanitary pads for the poor and the marginalised and as a preliminary activity started conducting Menstrual Health Management (MHM) sessions in Kumily with the support of a few likeminded individuals. Thus was born Maanushi Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Kumily which

commenced its activities in December 2020. The subject of menstrual practices has been Taboo in India for ages and Lakshmy has faced a lot of challenges in her efforts. The Foundation has been concentrating on driving sensitization campaigns on menstrual health education and sustainable menstrual practices, sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness, and climate change-related issues in the community. Lakshmy has conducted MHM sessions in a tribal settlements, anganwadis, and government schools in Kumily. She has also conducted a session in one of the rural colleges in Tamil Nadu near the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border. Lakshmy has also conducted online sessions during the pandemic due to the restrictions imposed during that period.

The MHM sessions conducted for small groups of about 20 to 30 women highlight the cultural taboos associated with menstruation and provide guidance on how to maintain hygiene during menstruation along with information about various products available. The MHM sessions are conducted under Eco Femme's "Pad for Pad" program, which also has a provision of providing four reusable cloth pads for female children. So far, Lakshmy has provided cloth pads for more than a 100 such children. Realising that the awareness sessions on menstrual health would be successful only when the women were economically empowered the team has also implemented economic activities for developing

sustainable livelihood among its beneficiaries. Maanushi has been able to reach out to over 3500 women through awareness programmes and have distributed reusable cloth pads to over 800 menstruators. Through the rural incubator project and the Ecommerce platform, 9 women entrepreneurs are supported. Lakshmy has been constantly supported and encouraged by her parents. Her mother was working with the Forest Department as a Social Worker engaged in conservation activities and her Dad operates his own Driving School in Kumily. Lakshmy has been selected to the Global Changemaker Fellowship programme in recognition of the activities of Maanushi Foundation supported by Aadeeb and Shafeena Foundation. CDF Global Changemaker Fellows were selected from applicants across the world. The cohort has 40 fellows from 18 different countries. Lakshmy has also been selected by IIM Bangalore - NSRCEL Pre-Incubation for her project on a rural health centre. Maanushi Foundation has also been invited to mentor at the Youth Connect Innovation Lab, an initiative empowering young entrepreneurs from Africa to launch and establish sustainable social ventures. Apart from working for menstrual health awareness, Lakshmy is also engaged in creating awareness for people to switch to sustainable living habits. She also conducts small sustainability workshops and produces chemical-free soaps and bio enzymes. A postgraduate in

English, Lakshmy is also a full-time copy editor, and author who has now enrolled for a Ph.D. program. While busy with her community work, Lakshmy has also brought out a compilation of her short stories named "On the Way Back Home".

During the pandemic Lakshmy had carried out a food distribution drive, and had crowdsourced funds for the same. Lakshmy plans to utilise the remaining fund from crowdsourcing to develop a small network of producers or people who can make consumable products and sell them through other networks that they have. "Maanushi Foundation" and Eco Femme are in need of support and we are reaching out to you to help them obtain any form of support to continue the good work they are doing. Nothing is too big or small. We would be grateful if you could help them by circulating this info to your contacts. You can support them by donating to the project through direct donations via [donations.auroville.org/ecofemme](https://www.donations.auroville.org/ecofemme) (All donations are 50% tax exempted) If you would like to be part of the project by supporting them to reach a definite number of girls or as part of a CSR initiative, kindly contact kathy@ecofemme.org We at "Global Eye" wish Lakshmy and her organisation as well as their partners all the very best in all their future endeavours.

To know more about Maanushi and its webstore, kindly check out:

Website:
www.maanushifoundation.org
Webstore: <https://maanushiforearth.myshopify.com/>

MEET GENESIS PLACEMENT SERVICES C.E.O KAVITHA JAYASEELAN, AN ENTREPRENEUR PAR EXCELLENCE

Genesis Placement Services, based in Chennai, India, has been making significant strides in the recruitment industry since its inception in 2000. Over the years, the company has grown from strength to strength, carving a niche for itself in the industry and scaling new heights of success.

One of the reasons for the company's success is its innovative approach to recruitment. Genesis Placement Services employs a unique combination using technology and human expertise to help clients find the right candidates for their organizations. The company's implementation to software tools enable them to identify the best-fit candidates quickly and efficiently. At the same time, the company's team of experienced recruiters work closely with clients to understand their needs and provide personalized solutions.

Another factor that has contributed to the company's growth is its commitment to customer satisfaction. Genesis Placement Services has built a reputation for providing high-quality services to its clients, which has resulted in a loyal customer base. The company's client-centric approach has also helped it to attract new clients, many of whom come to them through word-of-mouth referrals. In recent years, Genesis Placement Services has been on a growth trajectory, proposing to expand its services to cover new areas and industries. The company has plans to



Kavitha Charles Jayaseelan



**Charles Jayaseelan
Co-founder & Chief Consultant**

open new branches in different cities in India, including Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. This expansion has allowed the company to serve a broader range of clients and candidates, further increasing its reach and impact in the industry. As the company has grown, it has also focused on building a strong team of professionals. Genesis Placement Services has invested in the development of its employees, providing them with training and career growth opportunities. This has helped the company to attract and retain top talent in the industry, which has been crucial in its success. Looking to the future, Genesis Placement

Services is well-positioned to continue its growth trajectory. The company is constantly exploring new ways to improve its services and meet the changing needs of its clients. With its innovative approach, commitment to customer satisfaction, and talented team of professionals, Genesis Placement Services is poised to scale even greater heights in the years to come.

Together, the founders Kavitha and Charles Jayaseelan bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge to Genesis Placement Services, which has helped the company to establish itself as a



leading player in the recruitment industry in India. Their vision and leadership have been instrumental in the company's growth and success, and they continue to play an active role in the company's operations, driving its growth and expansion into new areas and industries.

Enquiries Welcome :
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Web :
www.genesisplacement.co.in



OPRAH WINFREY'S QUOTE ON ACHIEVING YOUR DREAM

If you want to achieve great things in life, it's important to surround yourself with people who uplift and inspire you. As Oprah Winfrey once said, "Surround yourself with people who are going to lift you higher."

When you surround yourself with positive, supportive individuals, you create a powerful network of people who believe in your potential and want to see you succeed. These people can provide you with encouragement, motivation, and valuable advice

that can help you achieve your goals. On the other hand, if you surround yourself with negative, unsupportive people, you may find yourself constantly struggling to stay motivated and on track. These individuals can bring you down and drain your energy, making it difficult to achieve your full potential.

So, if you want to reach new heights and accomplish great things, make sure to surround yourself with people who will lift you higher. Seek out friends, family members, and colleagues who share

your passions, values, and ambitions. Together, you can support and encourage one another, and achieve your dreams.



Oprah Winfrey



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The World's Most Efficient Space Program



Aarav Karna
6th grade, JFK Middle School,
Plainfield, IL

Now we all know ISRO right? Well for the readers who don't know what ISRO

is, it's the national space program of India. To begin, ISRO was founded in 1969. At this time India was behind many countries in terms of space exploration. For example, America had already landed humans on the moon at this point. India was built on agriculture, right? That would work, but what happens when you have no idea what the weather is going to be like? That's the problem many farmers in India were having to figure out. Their main method was based on semi-scientific methods (Clouds, winds, animal behavior, signs, etc.) Thus, in order to accurately guess the weather ISRO was founded.

Scientists in India had already begun building the rockets, but this led to a major question. How do we transport the

rocket parts? Bikes, they're cheap, reusable and don't need gas! But what about satellites and fuel tanks, one might ask? They're way bigger than rocket motors. Indian scientists decided the best course of action would be using bull karts. Finally, we'll discuss major ISRO missions. The ones we'll be talking about are their Mars mission, their upcoming manned mission, and finally their record-breaking 104 SAT mission. The Mars mission was launched aboard a PSLV rocket which managed to get a Mars orbiter around Mars in its first try! And they did this with a budget of 73 million dollars (4.5 billion rupees) which sounds like a lot but if you take into the fact that NASA spent 455 million on their probe, you can really start

to see the difference in efficiency between these two entities. India has an upcoming manned mission! Now this launch is kind of like the SpaceX starships its going up from the ground up, but there is really no exact "we know when its going to happen" date as of right now. As for this last launch, the PSLV rocket carried a record-breaking 104 cube SAT's up into low Earth orbit. This occurred on February 15th, 2017.

In the end, we see a common ideal shown between the people from both countries. America is well-known for its people who despite being from different countries built their way up. India reflects a similar story on growth but there is one common ambition between the two countries. Entrepreneurial spirit combined with a low budget.

Jayson Jebasingh's experience with M.C.J.R.O.T.C

My name is Jeyson Jebasingh, I was born and raised in India. It was my dream to come to the United States of America. God honored my desire and the dream. When I heard the news that my family was in the process of coming to America, I was happy but nervous about the new beginning in a new land here in the U.S.A. I was too sensitive about the new culture, language, and was eager to receive many career opportunities available. Finally, when me and my family moved to the U.S.A. I took time exploring learning and making friends at my middle school. Later when I was in my freshman year in high school, I saw students wearing military uniforms in my school and at that time

I had no knowledge about the military. I asked one of my classmates why he was wearing the uniform and he replied saying "This is for the Marine Corps J.R.O.T.C. program, J.R.O.T.C. stands for Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. It's a class at our school but there is more to it than just a class." Later that day I spoke to my school counselor and asked to try J.R.O.T.C. for a semester. She took me to the classroom saying "here you go, have fun" and the whole class was joyful and welcomed me. That cheerful beginning started to take root in me and I am marching forward to deepen my education in this field of the Marine Corps and contribute in all possible ways. I started to volunteer in

activities that was held by J.R.O.T.C. and dedicated to help other students that needed help. I also joined the Marksmanship team and Drill Team as an after school activity in which I had a lot of fun and competed against other high schools. I remain grateful to my Supervisor, Instructors and all the teachers at the school for their support of me to grow. My sincere gratitude goes to Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, the Founder of American Multi Ethnic Coalition, and his entire team for the motivation offered to me. I continue to look for opportunities and take steps to succeed and be talented. I am grateful for this opportunity to be a part of J.R.O.T.C.



Jeyson Jebasingh
10th grade, Dwight D. Eisenhower
High School, Blue Island, IL

MLC: Cricket's American dream

Amit Chaudhary

It was probably an unusual choice but where could you find a better launchpad than a space centre. Last Sunday, in the latest attempt to start a professional T20 league in the US, Major League Cricket (MLC) held its inaugural player draft – American version of player auction – at the NASA Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas, the second-largest state in the US. "It has been an icon of American leadership and history for the last several years," Vijay Srinivasan, co-founder of American Cricket Enterprises (ACE) – USA Cricket's commercial partner and parent company of the MLC, said about the choice of venue. "I don't know if it (professional sports draft at NASA Space Centre) has happened before, but we really enjoyed it." The US is the biggest market for sports in the world with some of the biggest sporting leagues operating in the country and affluent fans ready to splurge. But cricket, considered the second most-watched sport in the world after football, somehow has yet to create a space for itself in the US sports market. Attempts



were made in the past, too, to start professional leagues in the US but, for various reasons, including bad governance, those attempts never got off the launchpads. The latest attempt could be the game changer, though. For starters, the project with an initial funding of \$120 million, has the backing of some of the most successful and influential people from technology and media sectors, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen. As many as four out of six MLC teams have the involvement of Indian Premier League (IPL) clubs

– Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings. "We are not bringing a sport to the US, we are not building a new audience. We have an existing audience that we are working with and we've engaged with for the last several years and this is an audience that is certainly large enough to sustain and help us launch our league, and we are hoping this audience grows from here," Srinivasan said. "If you look at the 2015 and 2019 Cricket World Cups. The number of people who travelled to those events in Australia and England, the largest

travelling audience outside of India came from the US." Cricket Means South Asia The first season of the MLC will be played from 13 to 30 July with six teams playing 19 games (it could rise to 30 games from season 2) at two venues in Dallas and North Carolina. The timing gives the MLC some advantage over other similar leagues in other parts of the world. July is an offseason for all the major teams, except England and West Indies. It will help MLC avoid any overlapping with another T20 league. Cricket in the US is mostly played and watched by people from South Asia, and the MLC organisers

understand that. That's probably the reason why the six MLC teams are strategically located in the cities that have a large South Asian diaspora – Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, New York, Texas and San Francisco – to take advantage of the existing fanbases. According to Srinivasan, who ran Willow TV, a sports channel dedicated to airing international cricket in the US, for close to one-and-a-half decade, there are about 45 lakh homes across the US that are interested in cricket. "It's an audience that is as large as the entire population of New Zealand," Srinivasan said.

"The US is the 4th largest media market for cricket in the world [after India, Pakistan and Bangladesh]." "It's a very affluent and highly educated demographic that watches Willow TV and for them cricket is a passion. It's probably the wealthiest demographic of any sport in the US," he added. Two-fold Challenge The idea of MLC germinated back in 2016 when Srinivasan and his partners sold the Willow TV. Having worked with cricket audience, they were aware of the huge demand for cricket in the US.

US to do everything to support India to make G20 presidency a success

Blinken will also attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Quad grouping and will hold bilateral talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar in Delhi.



Australia," Lu said, adding that immediately following the Quad ministerial meeting Blinken will participate in a panel at the Raisina Dialogue. Lu said several crucial matters would be taken up during the Quad meeting.

"And what will be interesting about this I'm not aware that they've ever had an hour-long public event where the four foreign ministers have had a chance to talk about the Quad, and to demonstrate how it is getting tangible and concrete things done in the Indo-Pacific," Lu said. In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resource-rich region. China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea. "I think we're going to hear about what we're doing on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief. We'll hear about what we're doing to improve security in the Indo-Pacific, in the Maritime Domain Awareness space. We will

talk about achievements in vaccine diplomacy, and then you'll hear about the launch of the Quad fellows programme, and a recent business and investment forum," Lu said.

Giving a preview of the trip, Toloui said the purpose of the G20 is to bring together the major economies of the world to tackle common challenges. "We will be discussing food security, energy security, health security, the climate crisis, development, humanitarian challenges, and other issues that require international coordination, like the proliferation of illicit synthetic drugs," he said. Blinken will discuss the range of things that the United States is doing to address these global challenges that include the USD 13.5 billion that the US committed last year to address emergency food needs, as well as strengthen food systems for the medium term. "It includes actions like the USD 450 million that the United States has pledged to the pandemic fund, as well as USD 1.3 billion per year the US will invest under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to support health care workers fighting HIV/AIDS, and it will include many other things," he said.

"It is also an unfortunate reality that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is not only itself a threat to sovereignty and territorial integ-

ity of states – Russia's invasion also makes so many of these critical global challenges, from food insecurity to energy insecurity, worse," he said. Responding to a question on the India-Russia relationship, Lu hoped India will use its influence with Russia to support an end to the conflict, and as Foreign Minister Jaishankar has said, end to the conflict according to the principles of the UN Charter: territorial integrity and sovereignty. "We have said before, the Secretary has said India has had a long and complicated history with Russia going back to the Cold War days, that is a deep and sustained relationship over many decades," Lu said. The ties between India and Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. India's import of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few months despite increasing disquiet over it in many Western countries.

India has faced pressure from the West to distance itself from Moscow after Russia invaded Ukraine. The US also trying to encourage India to encourage India's transition away from Russian weapons. India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

NEW DELHI: The US is looking forward to doing everything it can to support India's work to make its G20 presidency a success and Secretary of State Antony Blinken would attend the crucial meeting of the foreign ministers of the grouping next week in New Delhi, a senior official has said. Blinken will also attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Quad grouping and will hold bilateral talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar in Delhi. India assumed the Presidency of the G20 on December 1 last year. The top American diplomat is travelling to New Delhi on a three-day official visit from March 1 to 3.

"Blinken looks forward to going to Delhi as part of India's G20 presidency year. We look forward to doing everything we can to support India's work to make its G20 presidency a success," Ramin Toloui, Assistant Secretary of

State for Economic and Business Affairs, told reporters here. "There is no shortage of common challenges, and we want to deepen our partnership with other G20 countries to address these challenges," Toloui said. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu said Blinken will be meeting India's External Affairs Minister Jaishankar. "They'll talk about our strategic partner partnership but really focus on how we're working together in the Asian Quad, in the G20, what we're doing on defence cooperation and the Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technologies that is being run out of the White House and the (Indian) prime minister's office," he said.

"On March 3rd, the Secretary will also participate in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Asian Quad, which is the United States, India, Japan, and

Houston University inks MoU with ICCR on Tamil language, literature

"The Tamil language is considered the oldest in the world, and is one of the top five languages spoken in the United States, which is home to nearly 3,00,000 Tamil-Americans and this MoU will further enhance and deepen the US education and knowledge partnership," Mahajan said.

HOUSTON: The University of Houston and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies to conduct research on Tamil language, literature and culture. The MoU, signed on March 29, is the latest step in years-long effort to bolster the university's Indian studies programme.

"We are grateful to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for this collaboration that will surely strengthen the cultural ties between our two countries," said University of Houston President Renu Khator, the first Indian immigrant to lead a comprehensive research university in the United States since 2008. She said expanding the university's international footprint will enhance the educational experience for students and prepares them for success on the global stage. The ICCR Chair of Indian Studies position will be held by a visiting scholar from India, with expertise in Tamil studies. The Chair will start functioning this fall. Aseem Mahajan, Council General of India in Houston, told PTI that the Chair aims to

teach and conduct research on Tamil language, literature and culture and deepen the education partnership. "The Tamil language



is considered the oldest in the world, and is one of the top five languages spoken in the United States, which is home to nearly 3,00,000 Tamil-Americans and this MoU will further enhance and deepen the US education and knowledge partnership," Mahajan said. The visiting professor in the Univer-

sity of Houston College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences will teach students, collaborate with faculty on research and do public

presentations throughout the semester to preserve and promote Tamil culture, a release by the varsity said. The University of Houston (UH) is only the third American university to partner with the ICCR on its global Indian Chairs Abroad programme, along with Rutgers University and the University of Pitts-

burgh. Dan O'Connor, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, said the visiting professor will be a bridge across multiple disciplines. "India is not only a modern, global hub of business and culture, it's an ancient hub as well that's rich in history, literature and architecture going back millennia," said O'Connor, who noted that candidates for the position are currently being evaluated. "It's important to preserve that heritage through partnerships like this for tomorrow's global leaders, some of whom we are teaching right here at UH," he said. The visiting professor's appointment will be for one semester but could be extended to a full year. A new visiting professor could be selected for subsequent semesters, the release said. In 2019, non-profit organisation Houston Tamil Studies Chair, Inc pledged USD 2 million to the UH to establish an endowed chair in Tamil studies, and the Mutyala family donated USD 250,000 to establish the Sita and Bhaskara Rao Mutyala Endowed Professor of India Studies, currently held by Sarasij Majumder.

Edward and Lily Prabhakar Centenary Awards 2023

**Mohita Sukumar,
Chicago News Bureau**

The Global Eye Magazine in collaboration with Indian American Business Coalition (IABC) and Medstar Laboratory celebrated 3rd Annual International Women's Day at Medstar Laboratory Auditorium Hillside, IL on Saturday, March 4th, 2023, honoring Top 20 Chicagoland women of excellence from diverse background who mobilize and contribute by making a difference with their services and for their social, political and economic achievements. Edward and Lily Prabhakar centenary Awards was presented in a special segment during the grand event to commemorate the birth centenary of the parents of our Chairman Dr Vijay G Prabhakar to nine special guests and Awardees.

Chief Guests for the event, Congressman Danny K. Davis, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi & Dr. Anindita Ghosh (First Lady of India Chicago & Wife of Mr. Somnath Ghosh Consul General of India at Chicago) graced the occasion with their presence and addressed the gathering on DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for gender equality.

In Attendance, just to name a few, were distinguished guests, Alderman Nicole Lee-11th ward Chicago City Council, 11th ward, Delia Ramirez US Congresswoman 3rd District -IL, Senator Cristina Castro- State Senator 22nd District IL, Ramona Buress-Head Patient Engagement :Takeda Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, Dr Tonyia Winston-CEO New Age Service Chicago, Tonya Hunter CEO Children for Cops

Naperville, Dr Erica Taylor- Medical Director – Howard Brown Medical Center Chicago, Neal Patel - National Chairman AMEC IL Chapter Chair, Dr Audrey Tansksley- Internal Medicine Physician at Innovative Care Chicago, Begun Chand Nasim – Community Activist Chicago, Madhu Uppal – Community Activist, Anu Malhotra – Founder, Mindful Meditation Yoga, Naperville, Dr Vijay G Prabhakar- AMEC President, Shree Gurusamy- Secretary General, Seeta Bala – AMEC Vice President amongst others.

The event was attended by nearly 200 community leaders from Chicagoland area. The program commenced on time with opening prayers by Gulshan Baksh, A M E C Commissioner followed by an Invocational Dance by A'shonti Tiesha Mckinney, YH's Child dance troupe. Dr Vijay Prabhakar – Global Eye, IABC & American Multi Ethnic Coalition (AMEC) President opened the event with his inspiring words, talking about the purpose of the day, which is to recognize women's achievements, the challenges they face, and focus greater attention on gender equality.

The most awaited and special segment of the event was the Edward and Lily Prabhakar centenary Awards. Congressman Danny K. Davis and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi presented nine awards on March 4th as

listed below from different walks of lives, different nations, different ethnicities, and ages.

The Global Eye Magazine, premier worldwide digital publication that reaches 42 million households including two million in Chicagoland has instituted the Edward and Lily Prabhakar centenary Awards to commemorate the Birth Centenary of the parents of Dr V G Prabhakar.

Edward Prabhakar, born on March 1, 1923 is a distinguished Bureaucrat, an I.A.S officer of Tamil Nadu Cadre, An Avid Sportsman – Cricket player for Tamilnadu in RANJI TROPHY, All India Civil Services Tennis Champion, and a caring humanitarian, served as a Chairman, Board of Management, YMCA College of Physical Education, Chennai for more than 20 years. ECP Prabhakar IAS had the honor of being chosen in 1963-1964 for the FORD Foundation Fellowship in Madison, Wisconsin USA and in 1970's for the Governance and Development program at University of Sussex U.K.

Lily Prabhakar born on August 22, 1923 is fondly remembered as LADY of LOVE who established the first home for leprosy children in 1968 in the world known as CHILDRENS HOME OF HOPE now located at Maduravoyal, Chennai. Lily

Prabhakar was also honored by the Indian Prime Minister in 1964 for collecting the highest Amount of Contribution to the National Defense Fund, as the wife of Collector of Madurai.

During the event, it was announced that Global Eye Magazine will honor 100 persons throughout the birth centenary year being observed from March 1st, 2023, to August 22, 2024. Overall, it was a successful and a well appreciated event attended by dignitaries who stressed the need for technology and innovation to advance gender equality. Dr. Anindita Ghosh spoke of the call to Action – Action to Stand with one another in unity, Action to strengthen protection, and action to accelerate women's full participation and leadership. In his closing remarks, Congressman Danny K. Davis stated that 2023 is a historic year for women empowerment, Women in leadership achieving equal future in a digital world. On behalf of IABC, USA and the Global Eye Digital Worldwide Magazine, Seeta Bala, AMEC Vice President congratulated all the awardees for Edward and Lily Prabhakar centenary Awards including the Top 20 women of excellence 2023.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi congratulated all the awardees and the members of IABC & Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force (MEATF) whose contributions were equally impressive. In conclusion they extended their support and stated that they take immense pride to be associated with Global Eye Inc. which is inclusive of all and truly represents the diverse America.



Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, Chairman of G.S.A Global Eye magazine presenting the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to the Living Legend U.S. Congressman Danny Davis for his lifelong inspiring leadership which has led to the development of community healthcare throughout America and also for relentlessly empowering the ethnic communities. AMEC Virginia State Secretary Indrani Davaluri looks on.



U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Intelligence received the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence in recognition of being the first Tamil American to the U.S. Congress and the first Indian American elected from the State of Illinois. Photo Shows: U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis, Dr. VGP and Indrani Davaluri from Virginia.



Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, Chairman of G.S.A Global Eye Magazine presenting the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to U.S. Congresswoman Delia Ramirez, of 3rd District of Illinois for being the first elected Latino Woman from Midwest to the United States Congress. Brian Pasternack, Administrator, Office of Foreign Labor Certification, U.S. Department of Labor, Emcee Shree Gurusamy, Secretary -General, AMEC and Co-Emcee Seeta Bala, Awards Jury Chair look on.



U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis presented the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to newly elected U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson for being a crusader for the minorities in America. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, AMEC Virginia Secretary Indrani Davaluri and Dr. VGP look on.



Student volunteers from U.S. Kids for Water, a non-profit organization based in Illinois received the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Award of Excellence from U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi in recognition of their exemplary service to the community.



Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Awards Presentation



U.S.A. Africa Chamber of Commerce President Dr. Gladys Folorunsho and American Multi Ethnic Coalition Governor Dr. Zenobia Sowell presenting the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to Neal Patel, CEO, Medstar Laboratory Inc, Hillside in recognition of his dynamic leadership as the Illinois State President of Indian American Business Coalition, USA.



Ms. Leontine Horne, A.K.A. "Mother Love" of Chicago a longtime resident of Chicago Housing Authority Senior building speaking after receiving the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence for her forty years of community service to Chicago residents.



U. S. Congressman Danny K. Davis and U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi presented the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to Jerome Athistham, Member Secretary of 7th Congressional District's Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force, MEATF for the last ten years.



Mr. Seeni Gurusamy, Telecommunications Engineer Nokia, Illinois, a resident of Naperville, Illinois was honored with the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence for being recognized as DMTS-Distinguished Member of Technical Staff which is given to 2% of the Nokia's global workforce of 87,900 employees.



U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi and Congressman Danny K. Davis presented the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to Dr. R. Krish Bala, Prototype Design Engineer Consultant, Aurora, IL in recognition of being the first Asian American Engineer to receive Pride of Dekalb County in 2001 and for his continuous contribution to the field of engineering research.



Dr. Zenobia Sowell, CEO of Sowell Dental Associates, Chicago and American Multi Ethnic Coalition USA Governor receiving the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence from Congressman Danny K. Davis and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi for her dedication and commitment to empowering minority communities across Chicagoland.



96-year-old Dr. Samson Arzoumanian, Iranian American Dentist originally from Urumieh, Iran was honored by U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis and U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi with the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence for his outstanding contribution to society. Dr. Arzoumanian's son-in-law Dr. John Yousefzai and granddaughter Dr. Rani Yousefzai are also flanking the honoree.



U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi presenting the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to Ambassador Dr. Twin Green, Founder & CEO of The Link & Options Center, South Holland, IL.



Child Prodigy 11-year-old Christiana Gray of Calvin Christian Academy, South Holland received the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence from U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis in recognition of being a powerful motivational speaker and young poetess.



Dr. Tariq Butt, President, Chicago Medical Society receiving the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence from U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis and U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson at U.S. Capitol Hill, Washington D.C. on March 8, 2023.



U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson, Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Relations presented the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence to Shan Vaidyalingam, Sri Lankan American, the Global Eye's South Asia Sales & Advertising Executive, Los Angeles. Congressman Danny K Davis and Ms. Indrani Davaluri, AMEC Virginia chapter secretary looks on.



New York's Global Champion of Sustainability Ravi Karkara received the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence from U.S. Congressman Danny K Davis and Congressman Jonathan Jackson at U.S. Capitol Hill, Washington D.C. in recognition of his dedication to spreading the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

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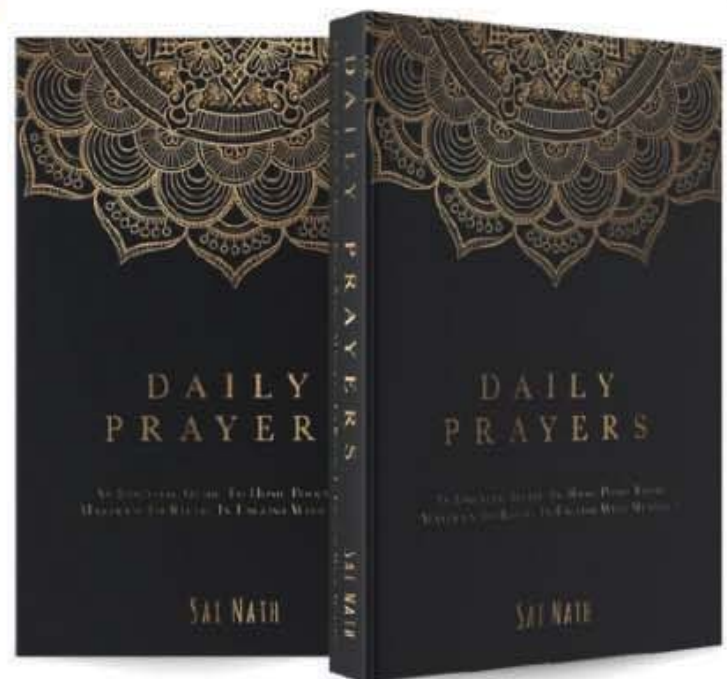


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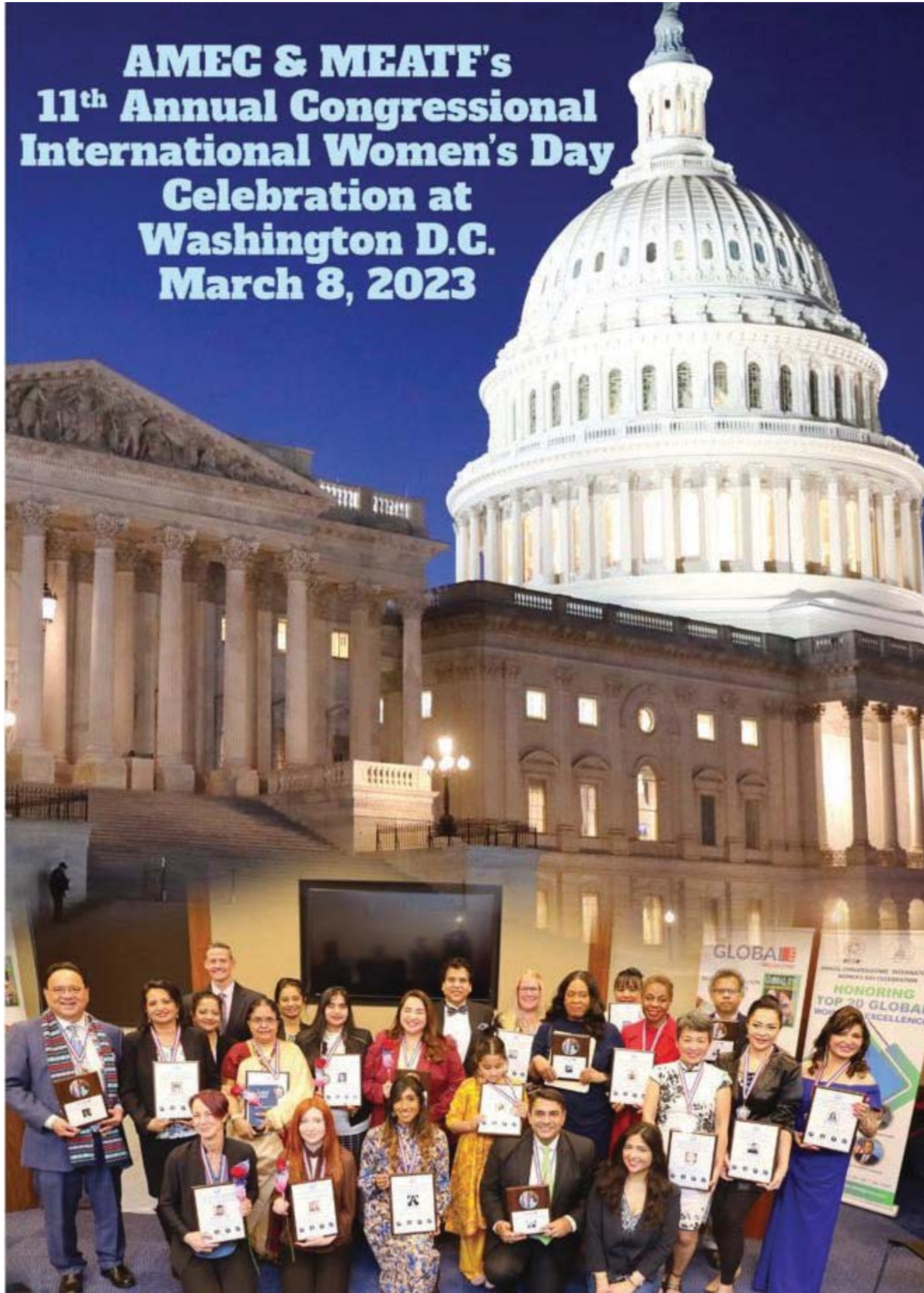
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AMEC & MEATF's 11 Annual Congressional International Women's Day Celebration at Washington D.C.

Washington DC: American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc. AMEC and the Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force - MEATF hosted the 11th Annual Congressional International Women's Day 2023, on March 8, 2023, on Capitol Hill, and celebrated the achievements of 20 women of diverse ethnicities.



tol Hill. Referring to Karkara, Dr. Prabhakar said he was happy to "[pass] the baton to the next generation," and her Call to Action "set the tone for today." The Special Guest was a high ranking federal official Brian Pasternak Administrator, Office of the Foreign Labor Certifications, U. S. Department of Labor , Washington D. C. who Presented a copy of GSA's first publication SABD - a collection of poems authored by Dr Saradapurna Sonty to each awardee at the ceremony . Past President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), and Pediatric Anesthesiologist from San Antonio, Texas, Anupama Gotimukula who was one of the 20 Global Women of Excellence 2023 awardees, highlighted AAPI's contributions during the COVID pandemic. Dr. Gotimukula said AAPI rose over \$5 million in fundraising, supplied oxygen concentrators and ventilators, and provided telemedicine assistance during the acute Delta wave crisis in India. She also talked about AAPI's national blood donation drive last year, and her ongoing Rural India public health initiative, "Indian Preventive Task Force Guidelines" for preventive health, which has directly benefited 60 vil-lages to-date.

"I work for NASA and diversity inclusion and equity is one of our core values, and I look forward to increasing that through the digital future," said Deputy Director of NASA Goddard Flight Center, Maryland, Joanne Hill. Mary Barthelton 2023 Candidate for Virginia House of Delegates and Space Systems Engineer, an advocate for low-income families in Fairfax County, promoter of STEM education, and supporter for the resettlement of refugees, said, "I believe that it is important for women to support and uplift each other and to encourage one another to pursue their passions and goals. By doing so we can create a world where every woman has the opportunity to succeed regardless of their background or their circumstances."

Community Activist, Zoe Ma who helps underserved inner-city youth with violence prevention, through the Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence in Englewood, IL, said she is a Chinese immigrant who arrived in America alone 28 years ago with just \$40 in her pocket. "My personal achievement can inspire young women and single mothers, and the path to empowerment is through entrepreneurship," she said while advocating fair representation of women and minorities in the government and corporate world for equitable society. Caldwell Realty Top Performer Katherine Thorat, Meridian Health CEO. Sherri Husa , Black Public Safety Alliance Chicago Founder Nikki Harvey , State Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, Dr Twin Green, CEO , The Link & Option Center , South Holland , IL, Cynthia Dorsey Edwards, CEO Storehouse of Solutions , Atlanta, Dr Rani Yousefzai , CEO, Belleza Med Spa , Skokie, IL, Melani Fernando , Executive Director , Aetna Health Plan of Illinois, Delia Davis, Deputy Director of NACHC, Washington D.C., White House Correspondent of ANI, Reena Bhardwaj, President & CEO of Esolvit, Usha Boddapu, Founder of SAPNA, Dr. Sarada Sonty, and Founder of Vidya Jyothi, Pratibha Jairath were among the other awardees who were honored at the impressive ceremony . The organizers Seeta Bala AMEC & MEATF Awards Jury Chair and Shree Gurusamy AMEC's Secretary General excelled as the emcees for the event with flawless and seamless precision. Richa Chand AMEC Commissioner introduced the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award recipients and interviewed the Top 20 Global Women awardees for The Global Eye TV.

Congressman Danny K. Davis Raja Krishnamoorthi Jonathan Jackson and Delia Ramirez, Congresswoman all representing Illinois along with President of Chicago Medical Society Dr. Tariq Butt ,Vaithilingam Shanmuganathan, South Asia Advertising Executive , The Global Eye, Los Angeles who hails from Sri Lanka and Founder of Dads with Daughters , New York Ravi Karkara were all presented the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Awards. This Award commemorates the birth centenary of Edward & Lily Prabhakar, the parents of Dr VGP Dr Vijay Prabhakar, the founder of AMEC & MEATF . So far 16 outstanding persons have received the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award. The Global Eye Magazine is honoring 100 individuals/ institutions with the Prestigious EDWARD & LILY PRABHAKAR CENTENARY AWARD throughout the Birth centenary year of DR. VGP's blessed parents from March 1,2023 to August 22, 2024 Congressman Danny K Davis said, "I thank all of you for coming to visit your

house, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. It belongs to you." Appreciating Samara's leadership qualities, he referred to her talk as "one of the most fascinating speeches" he had ever heard.

Praising the organizers, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said he was happy to be part of the occasion to celebrate women. Referring to the organizers, he said "They do the Lord's work in terms of helping others in a time when a lot of people need help... so the helpers are the ones that we look to in Congress for leadership." About Davis, Krishnamoorthi said "he is about the people," and "community empowerment," and "if there is a way, he will mean to get it done." Acknowledging the efforts of Davis to recognize ethnic communities, minorities, and especially women, Dr. Prabhakar expressed his content in the continuing of the awards ceremony for the second consecutive year on Capitol Hill. He thanked Chief of Staff to Davis, Tumia Romero, for playing a vital role in bringing this ceremony to Capi-

Dr. Twin Green

President & CEO of Link & Option Center
South Holland, IL

- Founder, President and CEO of LINK and Options Center, a BH provider located in South Holland, IL. With 3 branches established 30 yrs ago.

- Dr. Green has been serving the youth, middle aged and seniors who are facing mental illness and Substance abuse.

- The Global Ambassador Citizens Action Alliance of Behavioral Health in Chicago land.

- A Scholar, motivational speaker and life changing advocate.

- Co-founder of Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence established in Englewood, IL.



Asian Media USA

Dr. Cathy Subber

CEO of Advanced Health of Naperville

- Dr Cathy Subber runs a successful chiropractic physical therapy practice in Naperville, IL.

- Her practice helps patients of all ages and types of symptoms reach their optimal health. She is one of the first doctors in the U.S. trained in cranio fascial dynamics and the founder of cranial treatment.

- She hosts a podcast called socket plug info you and is also the Founder of The Branch Moms Community as she has a passion for building the Community. The Branch has over 60, 000 local mom mentors and has a mission to never let moms feel alone in their journey of motherhood.



Asian Me

Joanne Hill Kittle

Deputy Director at NASA
Goddard Space Flight Center
Maryland

- Dr. Joanne Hill is the Deputy Director of Engineering and Technology at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

- A Research Scientist with extensive experience in space instrumentation including X-ray polarimeters, X-ray detector systems, and X-ray optics.

- Prior to joining the NASA, She served as a Senior Research Scientist at Universities Space Research Association, and a Research Associate at Penn State University. She received her Degree and Doctorate, from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.



Zoe Ma

Community Activist
Skokie, IL

- Zoe ma is a Chinese American and holds a Masters in Business administration that helped her leverage and experience different careers from being a mortgage consultant, financial advisor and went on to becoming a co owner of a Senior Wellness center.

- Improving communication between Chinese American Christians and African American Christians through fellowship with African American churches in Chicagoland.

- Investor Rights Advocate 2017-Present EB-5 Arbitration Specialists



Asian Media

Anupama Gotimukula

Pediatric Anesthesiologist
San Antonio

- Past President of AAPI (2021-2022) which represents 150,000 Indian American Physicians throughout America.

- She was in the forefront of AAPIs Covid relief efforts to India during her tenure in AAPI, as treasurer, secretary and VP and President elect of AAPI. She has reformed and transformed AAPI, which is the largest professional medical society after AMA in USA.

- She is a Pediatric Anesthesiologist working in San Antonio, Texas



Asian Media USA

Mary Barthelson

Space Systems Engineer
Virginia

- Accomplished systems engineer in the space industry. She serves as a Principal Systems Engineer at SAIC, where she designs the architecture of space systems.

- She advocates for low-income families in Fairfax county, promoting STEM education and supporting resettlement of refugees.

- In 2023, she entered the Virginia House Delegate race to represent district 7 on a platform to reduce housing insecurity, ensure access to mental health services and address the challenges and opportunities presented by technology.



Asian Media USA

Prathiba Jairath

Founder, Vidya Joshi
USA

- Founder and chairperson of Vidya Jyothi USA, a non-profit organization serving under-privileged children.

- A talented singer, who has entertained audience with her expressive style of singing.

- A Business Owner with a passion to serve the community.



Asian Media USA

Katherine Thorat

Realtor at Coldwell Banker Realty
Woodridge, IL

- Director General, GSA India @75 Expo, USA

- Executive Director, Indian American Business Coalition - IABC, USA

- Former District Sales Manager, AIR INDIA, Chicago

- Successful stint in the Airlines Industry for over 25 years as a District Sales Manager

- American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc. Commissioner
- City North Top Producer Award at Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group in 2023

- Awarded the Top producer at the International Sterling Society in 2022.



Asian Media USA

Sherry Husa

President & CEO
Meridian Health Plan of Illinois
Chicago, IL

- President and CEO at Meridian Health Plan of Illinois - Centene Corporation

- Ms. Husa has more than 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry.

- Ms. Husa is a seasoned healthcare executive with a particular depth of knowledge in medical management and provider network contracting.

- provide access to comprehensive, quality healthcare at lower costs.



Asian Media USA

Dr. Rani Yousefzai

CEO Belleza Med Spa
Skokie, IL

- CEO of Belleza Med Spa and XO studio in Chicago.

- Business Entrepreneur who has successfully owns and operates multiple home healthcare agencies.

- Pakistani -Iranian American Community Leader

- Assyrian Christian Church Activist.



Reena Bhardwaj

White House Correspondent for ANI
Washington DC

- White House correspondent for ANI.
- Previously worked for CNN- New Delhi
- Worked as a journalist, Anchor & Principal Correspondent at CNN-News18



Asian Media USA

Dr. Mercedes Martinez

Psychiatrist
Chicago, IL

- Psychiatrist, with over 30 years of experience working at Chicago Reed Mental Health Center

- Mexican American Physician

- Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force Council Member.

- National VP of American Association of Multi-Ethnic Physicians



Asian Media USA

Melanie Fernando

Executive Director, Aetna
Better Health of IL Chicago, IL

- Accomplished healthcare industry executive with a wealth of experience in consulting and leading strategy for the nation's largest public healthcare companies. Currently the Chief Operating Officer of Aetna Better Health of Illinois.

- She is the cofounder of Street Samaritans, a grassroots nonprofit organization focused on uplifting the homeless in the Chicagoland community with transitional support and services.

- Melanie is an experienced leader in Managed Medicaid dedicated to delivering high quality, equitable care to our communities' most vulnerable populations.



Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty
Founder & CEO SAPNA

- Dr. Sarada Purna Sonty is an Academician, a Singer, Writer and a Published author in multiple languages – English, Sanskrit and south Indian languages
- Holds three PhDs in languages, Sanskrit and musicology.
- Authored 28 books to her credit
- The GSA India @75 Expo celebrated her as “The Phenomenal Woman”



Usha Boddapu
Founder Esolvit,
Austin, TX

- Usha is a serial Entrepreneur and Philanthropist and is the President and CEO of President Esolvit a digital Excellence IT service company. She is also the chief AI Scientist at ARYTIC Inc,
- She is a National award winner From U.S. Department of Commerce
- Pride of India from GSA India@75 EXPO
- City of Austin Excellence awardee for giving back to the Community
- Usha Bodappu is the Co-founder of the Non-Profit organization Blessing Account
- She has served on several national and Forbes, AI Executive Advisory Board, City of Austin Advisory Board, Disparity Study, USPAACC and GAACC Board.



Jennifer Rajkumar

New York State Assembly Woman
Civil Rights Lawyer
New York

- Member of the New York State Assembly from the 38th district.
- Rajkumar is a Hindu and has advocated for making Diwali a school holiday.
- Lawyer, professor, and government leader who made history as the first South Asian-American woman ever to be elected to a state office in New York.
- Prior to being elected to the State Legislature, Ms. Rajkumar served as Director of Immigration Affairs for New York State. In this role, she built and led a first-in-the-nation \$31 million project to assist immigrants in obtaining legal services.



Cynthia Dorsey Edwards

President/CEO of Storehouse of Solutions, LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

- President/CEO at Storehouse of Solutions, Inc.
- Her professional career of twenty four years serving in leadership positions in the field of education, along with eighteen years with the Bell System (AT&T, Southwestern Bell, and Illinois Bell).
- Expertise in the areas of sales & service, marketing, and marketing management.



Deila Davis

Deputy Director, National
Association of Community Health Centers Inc.

- Deputy Director of Federal Affairs at National Association of Community Health Centers
- More than 16 years of experience crafting policy agendas and legislative proposals to support the mission of FQHCs/community health centers and the broader movement around expanding access to medical care.
- Deep understanding of the health care delivery system including various portals of care, primary care networks, Medicaid managed care, 340B drug discount programs and policies to address the social determinants of health.



Nicole L. Nikki Harvey

Board President
Sankofa Safe Child Initiative, Chicago

- Founder-Chair, Black Public Safety Alliance, Chicago
- National Secretary, National Council of Negro Women
- Founder, the Chosen Collective Women's Group
- Founder, Illinois Black Caterers Association
- Director of Congressman Davis's Constituency Development Program & Operations, 7th CD-IL



Tracy Marshall

Mental Health & Women Empowerment Advocate,
Atlanta, Georgia

- Urmil "Tracy" Marshall is on a mission to raise mental health awareness and reduce the stigma and shame associated with mental health diseases and challenges.
- In 2022, she was elected to serve as Chairperson of the Georgia DBHDD Regional Advisory Task Force. She is currently serving in this position.
- Tracy lives in Atlanta, Georgia. She owns her own production company specializing in photography and videography.



CALL TO ACTION ADDRESS



8 Year old Samara Karkara
Grade 3, MAS School
New York

Glimpses of AMEC International Women's Day in Washington DC on March 8th, 2023



Jio Studios unveils slate: Dunki, Bhediya 2, Stree 2, Zara Hatke Zara Bachke, Laal Batti and others

Jio Studios announced that they are collaborating with noted filmmakers including Rajkumar Hirani, Sooraj Barjatya, Dinesh Vijan, Ali Abbas Zafar, Aditya Dhar, Prakash Jha, Amar Kaushik, and Laxman Utekar among others for their upcoming titles.

Jio Studios on Wednesday unveiled its upcoming slate in India that features over 100 movie and web series titles including Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Dunki, a film with Amitabh Bachchan and sequels to Bhediya and Stree. Jio Studios, the media and content arm of Reliance Industries Limited, announced that they are collaborating with noted filmmakers including Raj Kumar Hirani, Sooraj Barjatya, Dinesh Vijan, Ali Abbas Zafar, Aditya Dhar, Prakash Jha, Amar Kaushik, and Laxman Utekar among others for across genres of films and Gujarati, and Bhojpuri. The original web series in their upcoming titles. The studio has lined up ready to release over 100 stories in multiple languages including Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, and Bhojpuri.



Maaf starring Kartik Aaryan and Shradha Kapoor, Stree 2 with Rajkumar Rao and Shradha Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Section 84. While Stree 2 will release on August 31, 2024, Bhediya 2 will hit screens in 2025.

R Madhavan-led Hisaab Barabar, Zara Hatke Zara Bachke, starring Vicky Kaushal and Sara Ali Khan, Blackout with Vikrant Massey and Mouni Roy, south star Vijay Sethupathi's Hindi movie Mumbaikar, The Storyteller with Paresh Rawal and Adil Hussain, Dhoom Dhaam with Pratik Gandhi and Yami Gautam, Taapsee Pannu and Kriti Sanon, Bhediya 2 with Varun Dhawan, Bhul Chuk featuring Shahid Kapoor, an untitled film with Shahid and Kriti Sanon, Bhediya 2 with Arvind Swamy's Empire are also part of the line-up.

Radhika Apte says she's 'gotten used to rejection': 'I think it is extremely hard to sell yourself, stay relevant'

When asked about comparisons between Mrs Undercover and Manoj Bajpayee's The Family Man, Radhika Apte said that she loves Raj and DK but she has not watched the critically acclaimed web series.

Radhika Apte, the actor who has lit the screens and stimulated the audience's interest in web content by being part of Sacred Games, Ghoul, Parched, Lust Stories, Andhadhun, among many others, is now playing a special agent in Mrs Undercover. Radhika was among the early adopters of OTT space and emerged as its face in India. In this interview with indianexpress.com, Radhika talks about her work in films and OTT, and how competitive the space has become in the last few years. Radhika plays a homemaker who is a former spy in the show. Calling the Anushree Mehta directorial a unique idea that took her instantly, she says, "When the director told me about it, I was totally into it. It is such a unique idea and it is also very playful and relatable. We see our mothers or friends being treated in a certain way at times because they are housewives or trying to do both — manage home and work." Radhika



says she believes in picking up roles she can relate to. "You don't have to live that life to relate to a role. You can relate to it emotionally too. She is someone who has a different priorities now and feels a bit let down by the agency that has forgotten her. Now, they want her to leave everything and come back. It is something very relatable. I have seen my mother, who is an anesthetist, do so much — she cooks, takes care of the home, and is the glue that holds our family together. It is true for my aunt and some of my friends as well, but they don't get the credit for it. They also think that it is something they have

to do but at the same time, they are taken for granted." While Radhika has proven to be a scene stealer in almost all the projects she has acted in, she feels there is a "certain perception" about her due to which filmmakers don't offer her "breezy roles." Asked her penchant for intense roles, the actor says, "When I did Monica O My Darling, people asked why don't you do more comedy. And now this (Mrs Undercover) is also a comedy, but I am rarely offered such roles. As an actor, you choose from what you get. People's perception of you unfortunately guides what you are offered.



Alia Bhatt expected to walk Met Gala 2023 red carpet



Before making her international debut in Netflix's thriller Heart of Stone, Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt is all set to make her Met Gala debut this year. She will be representing India on the red carpet of the prestigious fashion event. A few reports suggest that the actor will be wearing an outfit by the Nepalese-American fashion designer, Prabal Gurung. However, her team has refused to divulge any details regarding the same. When indianexpress.com reached out to Alia's team, they

refused to comment. "It is everywhere on the internet, but there's nothing from our side," they said. Alia has had quite an illustrious 2022, both personally and professionally. She starred in two superhit films, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi and SS Rajamouli's RRR. Alia also tied the knot with Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor last year and the two became parents to daughter Raha. Before Alia, a few Indian celebrities have walked the red carpet at Met Gala.

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