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ISSUE-19/MAY 2023



**India's Finance Minister  
Nirmala Sitharaman's  
visit to Washington D.C.  
April 15, 2023**

**U.S. Commerce Secretary  
Gina Raimondo  
Describes India's P.M. MODI as  
World's Most Popular Leader**



# FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

India's Ambassador to USA, Taranjit Singh Sandhu hosted one of the finest events, "Celebrating Togetherness" at Washington D.C to celebrate the Festivals of India on April 15 on the sprawling lawns of India House, the official residence of India's Ambassador.

India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman headlines the Special guests that included U.S Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S National Secretary Council's Indo – Pacific Co-ordinator Kurt Campbell, Dr. Rahul Gupta, White House's Chief of National Drug Control Policy, FedEx C.E.O Raj Subramaniam, New York's State Assembly Woman Jennifer Rajkumar among others were present at the Vibrant event which showcased India's Unity in Diversity through a cultural extravaganza par excellence.

G.S.A. Global Eye Magazine salutes Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Deputy Chief of Mission Sri Priya Ranganathan, Community Affairs Minister Jag Mohan IPS and the Embassy's First Secretary, Political & Commerce Abhimanyu Gahlaut for organizing an inclusive event which was meaningful, purposeful and served as a cornerstone to strengthen Indo

– U.S relations. First Secretary Abhimanyu Gahlaut eloquently emceed the event.

Our CIO Naveen Karna did an excellent coverage of India Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu's Celebrating Togetherness event which serves as our cover story. The

Focus section of this edition features the Top 18 under 18 Indian American youth who were honored at the Curtain raiser of G.S.A India @75 Expo U.S.A. on September 24. This was the first time in the United States, that Top 18 under 18 Indian American youth were honored across America.

In the lifestyle section, Sabeel Ahmed writes about Ramadan, a month of transformation through fasting. Mohammed Scharif writes a Column on Loud thinking and speaks out. Interesting articles are featured in the Women's Corner and Youth Page.

We welcome your feedback and letters to the editor are being regularly published.



*Vijay G Prabhakar*

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# The worst bird-flu outbreak in US history is ‘wiping out everything in numbers we’ve never seen before.’

A new strain of bird flu, also known as avian influenza, is spreading across the US. The H5N1 strain is causing a variety of new problems and has killed more than 58 million birds. One scientist said the variant is “wiping out everything in numbers we’ve never seen before.”

The US is currently experiencing its worst-ever outbreak of bird flu, also known as avian influenza — and a new study has found that the strain could become endemic in the country. The outbreak is “wiping out everything in numbers we’ve never seen before,” Jennifer Mullinax, an assistant professor of environmental science and technology at the University of Maryland, told Sky News. The new H5N1 strain has already killed over 58 million chickens, turkeys, and other birds, Reuters reported. The US is no stranger to the impact of the disease, with the H5N8 strain having led to the culling of 50 million birds in 2015. But the new, more contagious strain is particularly affecting wild birds, Sky News reported. “Unlike H5N8, this disease is heavily impacting wild birds,” Johanna Harvey, a postdoctoral researcher and the lead author of the study published in Conservation Biology at the University of Maryland, said. “It’s difficult to estimate how many birds are truly affected across wild populations, but we’re seeing dramatic disease impacts in raptors, sea

birds, and colonial nesting birds. And we now have the highest amount of poultry loss to avian influenza, so this is a worst-case scenario,” she added.

The researchers believe that bird flu will probably become endemic — a phenomenon where a disease is constantly present within an area or community in the US — which could affect food security and the economy. Last week, the US government started testing four new bird-flu vaccines to try and protect the poultry from this mass outbreak, Reuters reported.



## Are humans in danger?

The disease can and does affect humans, but it’s rare. The first case of H5N1 infection in a human in the US was reported in April 2022. A man was also diagnosed with the virus in Chile, according to the World Health

Organization. Most cases of human infection have been in Southeast Asia, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There were only three cases of human infection in 2023, two in Cambodia, and one in China. One of the people infected in Cambodia, an 11-year-old girl, died from the illness. Speaking about this death to AP, James Wood, the head of the department of veterinary medicine at Cambridge University, said there is no reason to be unduly concerned about human infection with bird flu. “Tragic though this case in Cambodia

is, we expect there to be some cases of clinical disease with such a widespread infection. Clearly, the virus needs careful monitoring and surveillance to check that it has not mutated or recombined, but the limited numbers of cases of human disease have not increased markedly, and this one case in itself does not signal the global situation has suddenly changed,” he said.

## Markets are in trouble

Avian flu is ravaging farmers and the markets. In January, Insider’s George Glover explained the egg crisis facing Americans as prices surged by almost 60% in 2022 due to the influenza outbreak. The average cost of a dozen eggs rose by 59% last year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with prices more than doubling in West Virginia and six states in the upper Midwest. The unprecedented spread of disease and 2022’s high inflation rates raising farmers’ costs caused the jump — and it doesn’t look like it will change soon.

# U.S. on track to issue more than a million visas to Indians this year: official

Donald Lu said that they are also prioritising work visas — H-1B’s and L visas, the most sought-after by IT professionals from India

The U.S. is on track to issue more than a million visas to Indians this year, a senior official has said, assuring that the Biden administration is committed this summer to make sure it processes all of the student visas for Indians whose school starts this fall. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu also told PTI in an interview this week that they are also prioritising work visas: H-1B’s and L visas, the most sought-after by IT professionals from India. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. “We are on track to issue more than a million visas this year. This is a record for us along with a record number of student visas and immigrant visas,” Mr. Lu said. Mr. Lu said the U.S. is committed this summer to make sure it processes all of the student visas for Indians whose school starts this fall. There have been growing concerns in India over the long waiting period for first-time visa applicants, especially for those applying under B1 (business) and B2 (tourist) categories. India is now number two in the world in terms of international students coming to the United States.

“We’ve also been prioritising work visas: H-1B’s and L visas. Wait times at some of our consular sections in India, for these visas are now below 60 days. We will continue to make sure that we prioritise visas for workers, as this is vital for both the American and the Indian



economy,” Mr. Lu said. “For certain petition-based nonimmigrant work of visa categories, we plan to restart domestic visa renewal for applicants who meet certain requirements, including being physically present in the United States. We plan to have a pilot up and running later this year. This would eliminate the need for these applicants to travel abroad to renew their visas,” he said.

Responding to a question on those Indian IT professionals who are on H-1B visas and have lost their jobs, Mr. Lu noted that the Department of Homeland Security recently put out some new information specifically on the point of what these workers ought to do who want to readjust their status. India-U.S. relationship enjoys bipartisan support in the U.S., he said. “I think part of the answer you can find in a really strong diaspora community in the U.S. For 30 years or more, our relationship is in part driven by Indian Americans who have lived here for decades, but still keep a very strong tie with India,” he said. Over a million people fly back and forth between the two countries. “That’s an amazing number given that we’re not close at all. It’s very expensive to fly back and forth. But those ties of people who moved here or maybe their parents come from India, those ties remain. They haven’t been cut by immigration,” he said. “In fact, we now know that over 1,00,000 Americans are living in India as well. This relationship is very much to weigh and benefits both of us. Yeah. So, I think that’s true for political parties as it is for families in the U.S.. Growing up I had many Indian American friends. I think that’s just part of the fabric of the United States,” Mr. Lu said.



Dear Sir,  
Received the "Global Eye" magazine published by your GSA. Everyone in our family read this, it is a very good informative magazine and it is also free. Thank you sir.

**kumawa  
Odisha**

Dear Sir,  
I read the online magazine regularly. Read the Indian government is laying stress on a multi-pronged strategy for development. Infrastructure is developing rapidly. It will be very good if we get the print version.

**Hanwant Singh Rathore**

Dear Global Eye,  
It is good and we are eagerly waiting for the Talk show with Indian Celebrities or Politicians of all parties without any bias.

**Ramanujachari  
Tirupathi**

Sir,  
Ordered DAILY PRAYERS book from their website after watching the Advertisement in your magazine. It is very beautiful. Thanks to you and Sainathji.

**Shri Gopal Srivastava  
Pune**

Received the latest issue of Global magazine. The cover story of this issue was very attractive with lots and lots of

information about Naperville.

**Edward Williams  
Naperville**

THE LATEST ISSUE IS FULL OF IMPACTFUL ARTICLES

The latest issue is full of very impactful articles. Cover Story, G-20, Women's Achievers, Houston University Tamil language and all.

**Cammy  
Chennai**

Hi Sir: Very nice to read the magazine and US news. How can we participate in the events like Awards events, Womens day and others. Can we nominate from here India???? Expecting your answer.

**Charu Sharma  
Mumbai**

STOP TARGETING KALAKSHETRA , A RENOWNED INSTITUTION OF DANCE.

I am very distressed to read the huge propaganda being made against Kalakshetra. I know the director and many former directors who have been doing excellent work. I also know the present Chairman and many former Chairmen , the gentlemen of great knowledge and sincerity. The complaints of sexual harassment arise in very institution including government institutions , colleges, offices and universities and each place has the mechanism to deal with it in place.

Kalakshetra also has these mechanisms in place. When such things have happened in Secretariat or Madras university in the past we did not discredit the Vice Chancellor or the Chief Secretary. So we should not go on harping against Director and the Chairman and the Board. As i understand a written complaint has not yet been made. What is the reason for that?

Without a written complaint why so much of anti- kalakshetra propoganda is going on . Those who are orchestrating it are they interested in the issue of the abuse or in destroying an outstanding institution in the country. i think issue should be dealt by the forum created for the purpose in all sincerity and truth should be found and all attempts to discredit the Chairman, director, Board Members should stopped until all the facts of the matter are known.

**C. K. Gariyali I. A. S. ( Retd )  
Chennai, India**

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

**Babu Verma  
Skokie, Illinois**

This is a very informative magazine Dr. Vijay. I am requesting a subscription thank you for sharing.

**Christina Emmett  
Royal Oaks  
Michigan**

Very colorful! Well organized! Good Job Dr.VGP!

**Chacko George  
New York**

Greetings and Good morning. As usual Dr. VGP 's voice culture accent and modulation was good.

I enjoyed Dr. VGP Talk Show featuring Scott Wehrli, Naperville newly elected Mayor.

1, The start was excellent stating it just not 4 years of mayor tenure but 40 years of Naperville. I think that's a visionary thinking

2, looking at seniors on welfare measures giving more confidence is sensible

3, 20% are Asian Americans and that gives pride and happiness to look forward for such facilities

4, childhood spending with neighbours and amazing 64 cousins and thier time together in college days.

5, His economic development association makes it rationale for his Mayor slot

6, Very relevant question as to who was his mentor, followed by Roadmap to next 40 years

7, very impressive is about he said people should not immerse more into politics rather they should be more concerned on thier development and Naperville development

Overall the interview was balanced and good.

**Y. C. Narendra Babu  
Chennai, India**



**YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN FROM BROOKLYN, NEW YORK SPEAKS UP FOR PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP !**  
**FIND OUT WHY ?**  
Watch the DR. VGP TALK SHOW featuring 29 year old RAMIYA CATTEN , a rising Fashionista Realtor speak out....  
<https://youtu.be/L-9I4IAoB8M>

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# Biden expected to tap Julie Rodriguez to run 2024 campaign

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden is expected to tap Julie Rodriguez, a senior White House adviser, to manage his reelection campaign, two people familiar with deliberations on the matter said Sunday. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because Rodriguez's appointment has not been finalized and Biden has yet to formally launch his reelection campaign. CBS News was first to report that Biden has decided to pick Rodriguez.

Rodriguez, a longtime Democratic party activist, also worked in former President Barack Obama's White House. She's the granddaughter of labor leader Cesar Chavez and labor activist Helen Fabela Chávez. Growing up in California she was active in campaigns, picket lines, boycotts, marches and union meetings. She has served as Biden's director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs since the beginning of his presidency and added the senior adviser role last June. Rodriguez also has deep ties to Vice President

Kamala Harris. She served on Harris' Senate staff and on Harris' 2020 presidential campaign as national political director and traveling chief of staff. She went on to be hired by Biden's 2020 presidential campaign as a deputy campaign manager and senior adviser for Latino outreach. Biden is expected to formally announce his 2024 reelection campaign as soon as this week, according to three people briefed on the discussions. The people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said they were not aware that a final decision on timing had been made, but that Biden had been eyeing Tuesday, April 25, four years to the day since the Democrat entered the 2020 race. The upcoming announcement is expected to be in the form of a video released to supporters. Biden, 80, has repeatedly said he intends to run for a second term but advisers say he has felt little need to jump into campaigning because he faces no significant opposition to his party's nomination.



# Buddha statue found in Egypt points to ancient India links

AFP April 7, 2023 - A statue of Buddha has been discovered in Egypt's ancient seaport of Berenice on the Red Sea, shedding light on trade ties with India under the Roman empire. A Polish-US mission discovered the statue "dating back to the Roman era while digging at the ancient temple in Berenice", an antiquities ministry statement said on Wednesday. The find has "important indications over the presence of trade ties between Egypt and India during the Roman era", the head

of Egypt's supreme antiquities council Mostafa al-Waziri said. The statue, with part of its right side and its right leg missing, measures 71 centimetres (28 inches) in height and portrays Buddha with a halo around his head and a lotus flower by his side. Waziri said Berenice was one of the largest seaports in Roman-era Egypt, and was often the destination for ships from India laden with spices, semi-precious stones, textiles and ivory. Egypt has unveiled many major

archaeological discoveries in recent years, amid attempts to revive its vital tourism industry after years of political unrest and the Covid pandemic. However, critics say the flurry of excavations has prioritised finds that grab media attention over hard academic research. The crown jewel in the government's plans is the long-delayed inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum at the foot of the pyramids in Giza. The government plans to attract 30 million tourists a year by 2028, up from 13 million before the pandemic.



# Singapore to execute Tangaraju Suppiah over a kilogram of cannabis

**Rights activists and family members say Tangaraju, 46, never handled the drugs; and that he was denied a Tamil interpreter during the recording of his first police statement.**

SINGAPORE: The family of a Singaporean man due to be hanged next week over a kilogram of cannabis pleaded for clemency from the authorities Sunday and urged a retrial. It will be Singapore's first execution in six months. Tangaraju Suppiah, 46, was sentenced to death in 2018 for conspiring to smuggle drugs and the Court of Appeal has upheld his sentence which is scheduled to be carried out on Wednesday. "We don't think my brother's had a fair trial ... I have faith the president will read all our petitions," his sister Leelavathy Suppiah told reporters in Tamil at a news conference. "Since young, he's been kind and well-liked by everyone, and he's never done anything bad



to anyone ... he's sacrificed everything to help his family," she added, breaking down in tears. Tangaraju was convicted in 2017 of "abetting by engaging in a conspiracy to traffic" 1,017.9 grams (35.9 ounces) of cannabis, twice the minimum amount that merits the death sentence under the city-state's tough drug laws. Rights activists and family members say there were loopholes in the case and that Tangaraju never handled the drugs. They also claim he was questioned by police without legal counsel, and that he was denied a Tamil interpreter during the recording of his first police statement. Tangaraju's niece Subhashini Ilango, 26, said her uncle had been brave and has said he "is prepared" for Wednesday but that his death will be

unjust. "But he believes that God will help him." Family members, relatives and friends signed appeals at the news conference and activists said they would deliver petitions to the president's office. In many parts of the world -- including in neighbouring Thailand -- cannabis has been decriminalised and rights groups have been mounting pressure on Singapore to abolish capital punishment. The Asian financial hub has some of the world's toughest anti-narcotics laws and insists the death penalty remains an effective deterrent against trafficking. Meanwhile, Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau said Tangaraju "had access to legal counsel throughout the process" and that the judge found it "disingenuous" given his admission he had made no request for an interpreter for any of the other statements. Singapore resumed execution by hanging in March 2022 after a hiatus of more than two years. Eleven executions were carried out last year -- all for drug offences. Among those hanged was Nagaenthran K. Dharmalingam, whose execution sparked a global outcry, including from the United Nations and British tycoon Richard Branson, because he was deemed to have a mental disability.



# Modi world's most popular leader for a reason: US commerce secretary Gina Raimondo



Secretary Gina Raimondo was all praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event organized at the India House in Washington. Listing out reasons for Modi's popularity, Raimondo said, "He is the most popular world leader for a reason, he is a visionary, and his level of commitment to the people of India is indescribable. His desire to lift people out of poverty & move India forward as a global power is real, and it's happening. "The US Commerce Secretary, who recently visited India, also bought the Modi Kurta for her husband.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "unbelievable, visionary" and the most popular world leader with the commitment and desire to move India forward as a global power is real. Raimondo who was in India last month, recounted her recent interactions with Prime Minister Modi, during an event hosted by the Indian Embassy here on Saturday.

"I had an incredible opportunity to spend more than an hour and a half with Prime Minister Modi. He is the most popular world leader for a reason. He is unbelievable, visionary and his level of commitment to the people of India is just

indescribable and deep and passionate and real and authentic. And his desire to lift people out of poverty and move India forward as a global power is real, and it is happening," Raimondo said amid thunderous applause from the audience.

"The best part of the meeting for me was this. Anyone who knows Prime Minister Modi, all of you knows, he is a tech guy, and he is deep into the details. So, I found myself at his home at 7.30 on a Friday night, talking about the details of radio access networks and artificial intelligence. It was just amazing," she said. Raimondo was in India last month for the India-US Commercial Dialogue and India-US CEO Forum meeting.

She led a high-powered business delegation to India. "In the years to come, there will be two ecosystems of technology. One consistent with our democratic values and another not. I said to him, the United States and India need to lead the world together in this technology ecosystem. Without missing a beat, after he travelled all week, he said to me, well, Secretary AI doesn't stand for artificial intelligence. He said, "AI is America-India technology," she said. Raimondo, 51, said that going

forward, India and the US would lead the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution.

"We're entering a new era of even deeper collaboration and partnership between the United States and India. I use that word partnership deliberately, young partnership equal partners working together," she said. Raimondo acknowledged that the best of India was at display during her visit, in terms of culture, tradition and celebrations. "When I was in India, I met with women, and by the way, amazing female weavers and artisans. I met with some of your unicorn entrepreneurs. I met with investors. I met with the biggest CEOs. India has arrived, India has more than arrived. This is a fact. And now what we need to do is deepen the relationship between the United States and India," she said. "Because what we share, as minister (Nirmala) Sitharaman said, democracy is messy. Our democracy is diverse, messy, and imperfect, as is yours but we value diversity, we value education, we value human rights, we value equality," she added. Meanwhile, pictures and video clips of Raimondo playing Holi have gone viral on social media and reflect the strong relationship between the US and India.

"Modi is world's most popular leader for a reason." US Commerce

## India-US people-to-people ties to get stronger, better: WH official



people ties between any country that the US enjoys than with India," he said while addressing a gathering of hundreds of Indian Americans at an event organised here by the Indian Embassy to celebrate the country's diversity. "This is the most powerful connectivity between two people I've ever experienced. In many respects, we as governments really need to get out of the way. Get out of the way and let these people work together in so many different ways," he said.

In a world that has so many

challenges and difficulties, it is wonderful on a regular basis to be able to see this relationship grow and thrive, Campbell said.

He said it has been the greatest honour of his professional life for the last several years to see this relationship come into fruition.

"I'm going to tell you a story about a couple of years ago. This was about 15-20 years ago. I was working on the US-India relationship. It was a difficult time. We were struggling a little bit. I was meeting a counterpart and we were in

Delhi. I was a little angry and we were kind of going back and forth to each other. So after about a minute or two I lost my temper and I said you know I'm going to tell you something. It's going to really bother you. We're destined to be closer friends," he said.

"This is exactly what we have done over the last several years. We've built a stronger relationship, and frankly, I think, as we look into the future, the situation will only get better. It's going to get stronger, it's going to get deeper," Campbell said.

Kurt Campbell, the Indo Pacific Coordinator of US National Security Council, also said that the over the years the tow countries have built a "stronger relationship" that will only get better

There is no stronger people-to-people ties between any country than what the US enjoys with India, a top White House official has said and observed that in many areas, governments need to get out of the way and let people from the two democracies work together. Kurt Campbell, the Indo Pacific Coordinator of US National Security Council, also said that the over the years the tow countries have built a "stronger relationship" that will only get better.

"This is not just a meeting of elites. It is not just about technology. It's not just about working together on security issues. This is a relationship that is based at the people-to-people level. There is no stronger people-to-

## It was best of India on display: US commerce secretary on Holi celebrations



U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, who during her recent visit to New Delhi played Holi at Defense Minister Rajnath Singh's residence, said the best of India was at display, in terms of family, culture, tradition and celebrations. Pictures and video clips of her playing Holi have gone viral and reflect the strong relationship between the US and India. Addressing a gathering of Indian

Americans at the India House, the commerce secretary fondly remembered her Holi celebrations this year in India. "I was recently in India. I went a day earlier so that I could have the opportunity to participate in Holi. And the defense minister was so gracious to host me with his family," Raimondo said on Saturday. "Now I will be honest. (I asked) my counterpart, the amazing energetic Piyush Goyal (the

commerce and industry minister), what can I expect? He said, well, you might get a little bit dirty. It's not a big thing. Just wear some shoes that you don't love. Don't wear your fanciest pair of shoes," she said told the gathering, part of an event being attended by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and top officials from the Biden administration. "I said okay, I didn't know what I was, you know, in for. Three days later, I was still getting the color out of my hair," Raimondo said. It was fantastic and the best of India was on display-- family culture, tradition, celebration, she said and added that it was her greatest honor to participate. "In fact, when (external affairs minister) Mr. (S) Jaishankar, who many of you know and I had previously thought of as a very formal man, came to me and took a whole fist full of colors and (smeared it) all over my face. I went right back at him. It was a great moment for me. I'm grateful to have been welcomed so warmly by India," Raimondo said.



# India, US building foundation for strong, peaceful global community: Nirmala Sitharaman

India and the US are together building a foundation for a strong, peaceful and harmonious global community, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said. "When we celebrate diversity, celebrate inclusiveness, it is also the point that we share a lot of positive thoughts when we are doing this," the finance minister said. Today when "we celebrate togetherness, it is that spirit which governs India and US relationship: a positive thinking relationship of two democracies, which have their own share of challenges and their own share of internal problems, but we don't allow them to overwhelm us", she said. The minister was addressing Indian Americans at an event organised by the Indian Embassy here to celebrate the country's diversity. "We are together and building strong foundations for a strong, peaceful and harmonious global community. That's where, I think, the contribution of the Indian diaspora, here people of Indian origin, to the US is very

important," she said. "You integrated yourself or do you recall with fondness the place of your origin, but you're part of the US today and building a very dynamic and robust economy," Sitharaman said. "This is exactly what is even in India. Differences are there between different regions, different people and different languages," she said.

When people talk about digital achievements of India, the achievements are purely because the platforms have languages, "which are at least 15, as recognized by the Constitution of India, there are more such languages", she said. The minister also highlighted that there are dialects, which can be spoken, but cannot be written as they don't have a script. "But the Indian Constitution recognizes 15 of them. Most of our platforms are available now in regional languages. And that's why when you pay your little bills to your milkman or you wish to vendor, you do it in their own languages.



These are the instruments of success," the minister said. So, every diversity-related issue has been turned to an advantage in building a modern India, Sitharaman said. "I wish this relationship between the US and India grows from strength to strength," said the finance

minister at the event that among others was also attended US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Kurt Campbell, the Indo Pacific Coordinator of US National Security Council, General Atomics Chief Executive Vivek Lall, White House official Dr Rahul Gupta.

## India ready to share strengths and successes with the world : Ambassador Sandhu



Washington : India, the current G-20 president, is ready to share its strengths and successes with the world, its envoy here has said, asserting that the India-US partnership will not only benefit the two countries, but its rewards will be reaped around the globe.

India assumed the year-long presidency of the G-20 in December last year and aims to host a leaders' summit in New Delhi in early September.

The G-20 is an important forum of the world's 20 major developed and developing economies.

"As the current president of the G-20, we are ready to share our strengths and successes with the world -- from vaccines and skills to digital public good as well as

what we learn from others," India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, said on Saturday while addressing a packed gathering of eminent Indian-Americans at the India House here.

Sandhu said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden's believe that democracies will deliver.

"Our cooperation today touches every conceivable domain. Our cooperation today touches every conceivable domain; we are working closely under Quad, I2U2 and IPEF. Our diaspora has given more wings to our dreams and more winds to our sails. Ultimately, it is people of both countries that drive the India-US partnership. Your success is our success. The success of the India-US partnership will not only be in the interest of India and the US, but also the global good," he said.

In January, India and the US announced partnerships in the fields of space, defence, semiconductors and next-generation technologies.

The bilateral agreement is another example of the US bolstering ties in strategic areas with New Delhi, while isolating China.

Addressing the gathering, Sandhu said: "The nature nudges us to celebrate togetherness what I will call is use of harmony, a true reflection of the diversity of India. Today we bring together different religions, cultures, and geographies."

He made these comments on a day when Navreh was being celebrated in Kashmir, Vaisakhi in Punjab and north India, Vishu in Kerala, Ugadi in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra, Bihu in Assam, Poila Boisakh in West Bengal, Mahavir Jayanti, Easter, Ramadan, Eid and the Jewish festival of Passover.

"India is a beautiful garland of diverse colors. We love and enjoy each of these festivals in the spirit of spring," he said.

Ambassador Sandhu also paid glowing tributes to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution on his 132nd birth anniversary.

"Dr Ambedkar studied in Columbia University here in the US, which played an important role in shaping his thoughts and vision. We know people, three small words with which the Indian and American Constitution start to reflect the story of liberty, freedom, non-violence, and rule of law, that we both nourish and cherish as nations," Sandhu said.

Sandhu said, 75 years ago, when independent India was born, "we were a nation, fighting for our own survival. We had to depend on others, even for our basic needs, such as food. Neither history, nor geography, gave us comfort."

"Today, India is the fifth largest economy globally; world's second largest agricultural producer; home to the third largest tech ecosystem in the world, creating a unicorn almost every week; running the world's largest renewable energy expansion programme; largest financial inclusion programme; the largest producer of generic drugs globally and the world's largest producer of movies," he added.

The event was attended by Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Kurt Campbell, the Indo Pacific Coordinator of US National Security Council, General Atomics Chief Executive Vivek Lall, White House drug czar Dr Rahul Gupta and other eminent Indian-Americans.

## Products from scores of districts on display at Indian Embassy in US

Washington, Products from scores of Indian districts were on display at the Indian Embassy here on Saturday at an event organized to celebrate the country's diversity and togetherness. US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, along with visiting Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, had a glimpse of these exhibits during the event that was attended by several hundred Indian Americans from across the country at the India House here, which is the official residence of India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu. Raimondo expressed keen interest in the diversity of these products from India, which ranged from Madhubani painting and wooden coasters to Darjeeling, Nilgiri, Assam Tea, Kanchipuram Saree, to Kashmiri Scarf, and tea light holders.





# India Recognizes And Celebrates Its Diversity: Finance Minister At IMF And World Bank Meet



India loves celebrating and recognising its diversity, Finance Minister Sitharaman has said, as she paid glowing tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution, at an event. India loves celebrating and recognising its diversity, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, as she paid glowing tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution, at an event here.

"We always had this diversity. It's

a country which loves celebrations. It's a country which loves celebrating and recognising its diversity," Sitharaman told a gathering of Indian-Americans at the popular India House, the residence of India's envoy to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, at an event here to celebrate the New Year being observed across the country in multiple ways. "Even as we're doing all this per auspicious calendar, each one of us follow, either based on the Sun horoscope or moon horoscope. They're all around the same time. But based on the calendar year, April 14 marks the birthday of Dr. Ambedkar," she said.

"So here as I'm standing before, largely an Indian crowd, but of course senior officials of the US administration, when I say that India enjoys diversity, celebrates diversity, there can always be times when there is friction here on days when you have so many different people of diverse backgrounds," she said. The Finance Minister is in the US for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank spring meeting. She said that Dr Ambedkar stands out in distinction to show how, despite the background from which it comes, learned from his teacher, in fact took his teacher's name for his own.

Benefited by the scholarship given by a ruler of Baroda, he came to Columbia to do law. Came back and was a veritable fountainhead of so many different thoughts which constitution makers of India had, and the discussions were long and elaborated, post which India's constitution was ready, she said. "They were eminent people in that group which prepared the Constitution of India. Dr. Babasaheb headed that group. And he's given the Constitution is what all of us would say we recognize him for the contribution that he's made," she said. "It's not for me to highlight why I need to underline this when I'm talking about diversity. But because we are in the United States, I want to highlight that we celebrate the great leaders of our pre-independence era as well, Dr. Ambedkar stood for India, worked for Indians. He came from the oppressed Dalit community," she said. "He belongs to them. But he came with a positive thought of being part of new India in the making and wrote the Constitution along with experts. So, when we celebrate diversity, celebrate inclusiveness, it also points out that we share a lot of positive thoughts when we are doing this. So today when we celebrate togetherness, it is that spirit that governs India and US

relationship," Sitharaman said. The event was marked by cultural performances showcasing India's cultural diversity, starting with Gurbani - kirtan - "Awal Allah Noor Upaaya....Kudrat Kai Sab Bande" by Bhai Sat Pal Singh ji, Bhai Onkar Singh ji and Bhai Karm Singh ji from Sikh Foundation of Virginia. On Bhagwan Mahavir Jayanti, thoughts by Atmarpit Vidhiji, a scholar from Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur, Gujarat were shared. Songs on Easter by choir were from Memorial First India United Methodist Church in Maryland.

With Eid celebrations around the corner, devotional offerings were by Nawaz Brothers -- Fardeen Nawaz, Qais Nawaz and Idrees Nawaz to- Syed Muhammad Nizamuddin Auliya -- one of the most famous Sufi saints of the Chishti Order from Northern India in the 14th century.

On Vaisakh Purnima, also known as Buddha Purnima, thoughts were espoused by Dr. Jin Park, Professor and Department Chair of Philosophy and Religion, American University.

"When you look at all these festivals in one, place at one time, this is an example of diversity and inclusion and equity," said Dr Rahul Gupta, the White House drug czar.

## TAMIL DIASPORA MEETS INDIA'S FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN



Community leaders having a selfie moment with Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman  
Left to right Mr. Rajaram Srinivasan, Tamil Diaspora leader, DC  
Mr. Gopinath Durgaiyanaidu, past President of Tamil Sangam, DC  
Mr. Mahendran Sundarraj, Past Executive member of Tamil Association of Greater Delaware Valley (TAGDV)  
Mr. Nambirajan, President of Chicago Tamil Sangam, DC



**Rajaram Srinivasan**

**Washington D.C. News Bureau Chief**

On April 15, 2023, As part of India's diverse cultures and traditions Embassy of India in Washington DC has organized "Unity in diversity" theme of the season of continual festivity celebration such as Baisakhi, Easter, Eid, Gudhi Padwa, Ugadi, Puthandu, Bihu, Navreh, Vaisakh Purnima and Mahavir Jayanti during this Spring season. Also paid tribute to the architect of the Indian Constitution Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his birth anniversary observed on 14 April. This was



celebrated with dignitaries from India and US, members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at India House, Washington DC. More than 700 people attended the event. On the same day, Embassy of India has organized Tamil Diaspora meet and greet with the Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and H.E. The Ambassador of India to the United States, Shri. Taranjit Singh Sandhu at his residence, The India House in Washington DC.

The event was an exclusive for Tamil



Diaspora and Tamil Business community in the United States with the visiting minister. The Finance Minister spoke crisp and throughout in Tamil on the various measures taken by the Indian Government headed by Shri. Narendra Modi for the exclusive benefit of Tamilnadu and Tamils, specifically addressing the initiatives of the Indian Government and its reach out to the Eelam Tamils for their life and welfare. Thanks to the Consular Wing and Community Affairs wing for coordinating an excellent event and special kudos to



Mrs. Hemapriya Ponnuvel, past president of Tamil Sangam, DC honoring Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman.

Mr. Rajaram Srinivasan, Past President of Washington Tamil Sangam for coordinating with many attendees from coast to coast and making the event happen as successfully as it did. Diaspora mementos expressed their heartfelt Thanks to Hon'ble minister's dedicated time with Tamil community during her very busy schedule. Also Thanked the Hon'ble Ambassador to United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Hon'ble Deputy Chief of Mission Sripriya Ranganathan for this great opportunity.



**GLIMPSES OF "CELEBRATING TOGETHERNESS"  
EVENT AT INDIA HOUSE DC**



Dr. VGP, President, World Federation of Tamil Youth, U.S.A (Estd.1991) along with India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on April 15 at India House, Washington D.C.



Nirmala Sitharaman, India's 28th Minister for Finance being welcomed by Dr. VGP along with Chicago's Ayurveda Vaidya and Yoga therapist Deepti Suri at the residence of India's Ambassador to the U.S.A. at Washington D.C.



Dr. VGP recalling Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to Chicago in 2019 when he presented her with a replica of Gandhiji's Pocket watch commissioned by the President of India.



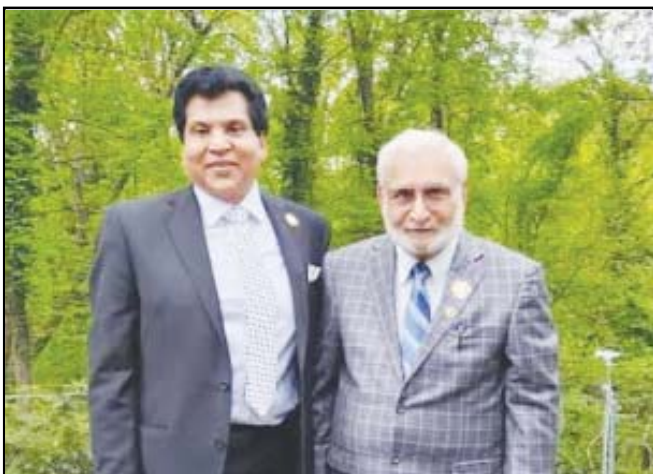
Members of the Tamil Diaspora honoring the India's Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu to U.S.A. Rajaram Srinivasan, Arivumani Ramalingam, President, Tamil Sangam of Greater Washington (TSGW), Veera Venugopal, Selva Jayaraman, CTO and cofounder of Business Integra.



Dr VGP Congratulating India's Ambassador to U.S.A. Taranjit Singh Sandhu on hosting a most vibrant event, "Celebrating Togetherness" to commemorate the successful visit of India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Washington D.C on April 15.



Left to right - Mrs. Lavanya Alagesan, founding member of Reacrion Team(NRI Emergency Services) and Mrs. Indrani Radhakrinan, Past Treasurer of Tamil Sangam honoring Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman with a silk shawl.



Dr. VGP along with Chicago's Federation of Indian Association - F.I.A. 1980 President Dr. Rashmi Patel Praising the excellent organization of the Celebrating Togetherness event showcasing Unity in Diversity of the different faiths of India.



Association of American Engineers of Indian Origin, AAEIO, Chicago's President Gladson Varghese greeting Nirmala Sitharaman India's Finance Minister at India House Washington D.C.



Embassy of India's First Secretary Abhimanyu Gahlaut emceed the colorful event which included a spectacular cultural extravaganza at the Celebrating Togetherness event at Washinton D.C on April 15.



Atlanta's India Consul General Dr. Swathi Kulkarni being greeted by Dr. VGP at the Spectacular "Celebrating Togetherness" event held at India House.



Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director, Executive Office of the U.S. President's office of National Drug Control Policy briefing Dr.VGP at India House, Washington D.C.



Dr. Ashok V. Joshi, International Innovation & Technology Entrepreneur, Utah flanked by Dr. VGP, AMEC President and Gladson Varghese, AAEIO President at the "Celebrating Togetherness" event at Washington D.C.



# United Punjabis of America Vaisakhi Mela a Huge Success



Ms. Louisa Keefe (Susana Mendoza's Rep.), Mr. Ranjit Singh (Consul, Indian Consulate in Chicago), Congressman Raj Krishnamoorthi, Congressman William Foster, Scott Wehrli, Naperville Mayor-Elect, and Mohamad Clayton (Mayor Richard Irving Office)

Members of the UPA Board and Executive Committee: NehaSobti (Jt. Secretary), Madhu Uppal (Treasurer), Dharam Punwani (President), Atul Wahi (BOD), Pratibha Jairath (BOD), GirishKapur (BOD), RoseyBhasin (BOD), Sarita Sood (Vice President), Ashwani Mahajan (Secretary, and Ramesh Malhan (BOD). Not in the photo: Om Dhingra (Chairman), Preeti Chawla (Jt. Treasurer), and PoonamBhala (Public Relations).



Dr. Anuja Gupta

Mr. SudhirDureja

Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar

Mrs. RatnaKapur

Mrs. NehaSobti

It was an exciting afternoon at the Mall of India as United Punjabis of America (UPA) hosted a very successful Vaisakhi Mela on Saturday, April 15. More than 700 people came to enjoy the festive celebration, with 20 busy booths selling colorful clothing and jewelry, providing information for various services available in the community, and offering delicious food for purchase.

A stunning Dhol Tasha performance by Maharashtra Mandal heralded the start of the cultural program and got the audience buzzing with excitement for the rest of the program. The emcees, NehaSobti and Ramesh Malhan, offered a warm welcome to all and invited the dignitaries to help light the lamp of friendship and celebration. Congressman Bill Foster and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi offered Vaisakhi greetings and congratulated UPA for hosting this event. Other dignitaries who joined the two Congressmen were Ranjit Singh (Consul, Indian Consulate in Chicago), State Senator Laura Ellman, Naperville Mayor Elect Scott Wehrli, Aurora Alderwoman Shweta Baid, Aurora Alderman John Laesch, and representatives of Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza and Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin. The UPA BOD Chairman, Om Dhingra, could not

attend the event. He delegated his responsibilities to Pratibha Jairath and Ramesh Malhan. Every year, UPA recognizes community members for their outstanding entrepreneurial or technical achievements and community services. This year five of these awards were conferred. Mr. SudhirDureja was recognized as a Distinguished Punjabi for Technical Achievements & Community Service; Dr. Anuja Gupta as a Distinguished Entrepreneur & Community Service Leader; Dr. Vijay Prabhakar as a Distinguished Community Service Leader; Mrs. RatnaKapur as a Distinguished Punjabi for Community Service Leadership; and Mrs. NehaSobti as a Distinguished Young Punjabi for Community Service. Mr. Dharam Punwani, President of UPA, congratulated the awardees and thanked them for their dedication to service.

Next came the highly anticipated dance performances from highly accomplished and energetic dancers. Colorful giddhas and scintillating Bollywood-style medleys were the order of the day and included performances by (enter group names). The judges Sarita Sood, KananDhingra, ShammiWahi, and RatnaKapur had the difficult job of selecting the winners. Placing first was

NehaSobti Dance Academy, second place went to Rhythms and Grace Dance Studio by Shalini Dixit, and Dwance Academy by Anu Bhattacharya won the third place trophy. But in the eyes of the audience, every performance and performer was a winner. The entertainment ended with a bang with another exciting performance of Dhol Tasha by a group of young performers who handled their dhols with great confidence and skill.

"I am so grateful to everyone who participated in these performances and made Vaisakhi Mela such a success," said Rosey Bhasin, a UPA Board member. In his vote of thanks, Ashwani Mahajan, UPA Secretary, offered thanks to the entire UPA Board and Executive Committee along with a special word of thanks to GirishKapur and AtulWahi for working with the Mall of India team on the logistics and the set up for the entire event.

"What a lovely Mela UPA has organized," gushed a guest as she collected her shopping bags. "I am so glad our friends and we decided to come. We've all enjoyed the shopping and watching these excellent performances." The celebrations continued well after 5 PM as the traffic at various booths continued to enjoy brisk business. "Vaisakhi is such a beloved festival for us, and I am so

proud that UPA continues this tradition of hosting a Mela to bring people together in friendship and gratitude for the bounty this festival blesses us with," acknowledged Pratibha Jairath, former Chairwoman of the Board of UPA. Entry to the UPA Vaisakhi mela was free. It was made possible by the support of various levels of sponsorships that included: International Fresh Market (Event Level), Mr. Anil Loomba, Home Mortgage Solutions Inc. (Platinum Level), Mr. Amrit Mittal, New York Life (Gold Level), Four Silver Level sponsorships of Mr. Rahul Wahi, LLT Group; Mr. Sunil Shah, New York Life; Dr. Bhupinder Beri, Crossroad Animal Hospital; Heartland Bank, and eight Bronze level sponsorships of Iroquois Dental, MoinHauqe Group, Verandah Senior Living, State Bank of India, Blue Sky Innovations, Orochem, Sajmil Builders, and Om Signs and Graphics.

UPA is a charitable non-profit community service organization that has been organizing cultural and social events since 2013, donates food to various food pantries, and offers scholarships for community service. More information about it is available on its website Facebook page at (20+) United Punjabis of America | Facebook.







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Missouri City, TX



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South Brunswick, NJ



**Karthik S Rajaram**  
Rockville, MD



**Shachi Singh**  
Plainsboro, NJ



**Abhra Shankar Ghosh**  
Wheaton, IL



**Farah Rahman**  
Naperville, IL



**Arul Kolla**  
Arcadia, CA



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Naperville, IL



**Anirudh Seshadri**  
San Jose, CA



**Manish Rangan**  
Frisco, TX



**Pinakin Kale**  
Urbana Champaign, IL



**Aarya Rajesh**  
Naperville, IL



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## Aarya Rajesh



- Is a Sophomore at Waubonsie Valley High school, Naperville, IL
- He also leads a team of sixteen at his school to do research on Advanced Photons at Argonne National Laboratory. Aarya was an Ambassador for the non-profit Sports Hi connects student-athletes to scholarship opportunities.
- Member of Borgen Project, a global non-profit fighting poverty around the world where he was a political affairs intern

## Abhra Ghosh



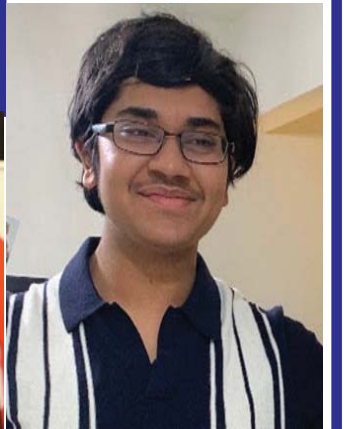
- Sophomore at Wheaton Warrenville South High School, IL
- Cricket player and is right hand top order batsman
- He is a wicket keeper and Bowler
- Right arm medium pace

## Advaith Srikanth



- Sophomore Waubonsie Valley High School, IL
- Karate black belt
- Pursuing cricket at Cricket Merchant Center of Excellence,
- Plays Tabla, an Indian musical instrument

## Arul Kolla



- Junior at Flintridge Preparatory School Arcadia, CA
- Represented Team USA in the International Linguistics Olympiad, in which a USA team won a gold medal
- Winner of the International Telugu Spelling Bee Championship.
- Self-published book Taking Aim, which is currently available for purchase on Amazon

## Arushi Kashyap



- Senior at South Brunswick High School, NJ
- Part of clubs that support her passions and professional interests.
- Motivated to learn, grow, and excel in the STEM field
- Started Non profit organization called 'SayNoToPlasticBadgs' in 2019 and they received sponsorship from Century Bank, Century 21st, and Nationwide.

## Arya Babu



- Jubior at Hathaway Brown School, Shaker Heights, OH
- Won several regional, national and international piano competitions in classical piano over the years.
- Made her debut at Carnegie Hall in New York in May 2015 after winning 2nd prize at the American Protégé competition.
- Regular performer (12 times) at Carnegie Hall and Stern Hall after winning many international competitions.
- Co-founder of 'Feed the Soul Through Music' foundation

## Farah Rahman



- Senior at Waubonsie Valley High school, Naperville, IL
- Youth Ambassador for Eye Level a STEM Academy
- Member of the Imagery Committee at Waubonsie Valley High school
- President of Youth and Government
- Head of internal affairs of Tri-M Music Honors Society

## Karthik Rajaram



- Sophomore at Thomas S Wootton, Rockville, MD
- Accepted in PVYO (Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra) for clarinet choir
- Part of Model UN Club (represented India and won an award for honorable mention)
- School Ambassador
- Selected for the AOIT (Academy Of Information Technology) program in school
- Plays in invitational tennis program (JSI Jack shore invitational)



## Manish Rangan



- Junior at High School Frisco, TX
- Created UVSET-SAFETouch, a multi-patent pending, UV-C based door handle sanitizer
- Graduated from Discover STEM program, which has seen many young innovators emerge with patents.

## Anirudh Seshadri



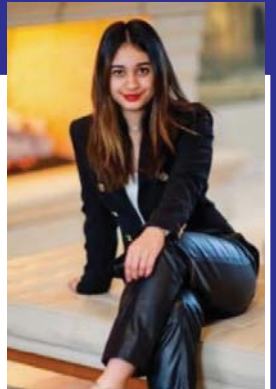
- Senior at Lynbrook High School, San Jose, CA
- Founder of TeenAiders, Anirudh and some of his high school friends volunteered their time to create worksheets and other learning materials which were then distributed to students in villages by a nonprofit in India.

## Pinakin Kale



- Freshman at UIUC Urbana Champaign, IL
- Is a Freegeek - taught computer classes while at high school
- Worked as a legislator in Youth and Government
- Selected by Rotary Club to attend a Leadership Program

## Riya Kapoor



- Junior at Lake Forest Academy, Frankfort, IL
- Winner of Sudden Cardiac Death Awareness Research Foundation Scientific Symposium
- Leadership experience as Lake Forest Academy prefect, to uphold and further the school's mission
- Appointed as Public Relations Board Director for Sudden Cardiac Death Awareness Research Foundation
- Supported children in Haiti who were subject to slavery through fundraising for their education

## Rohit Chakka



- Freshman at University of Texas, Austin, TX
- published a book entitled "The Unofficial Guide to Personal Finance: For Teens, By Teens" to help provide low income and low access high school students with education on personal finance
- A top 40 state ranked player for multiple years

## Sachi Singh



- Senior at West Windsor High School, Plainsboro, NJ
- Educating underprivileged children in India
- Started Non profit organization called 'SayNoToPlasticBadgs' in 2019 and they received sponsorship from Century Bank, Century 21st, and Nationwide.

## Sathvik Sankaranarayanan



- Senior at Ridgepoint High School, Missouri City, TX
- successfully started the Ekam Houston chapter, grew participation among Houston youth and helped raise over \$30k, to have material impact in Covid relief, women's and children health and various other initiatives involving clean water which have helped hundreds of families in India.
- one of the key interfaces between districts in India and chapters in US to ensure maximum impact.
- An accomplished mridangam player

## Sathya Padmanabhan



- Senior at BASIS Chandler school in Phoenix, AZ.
- Won the Youth of the Year Award for Community Excellence for the impact Brillianaire made for students in India that helped 510+ students, served 1000+ hours, and established 5 global chapters.
- He won the Youth of the Year Award for Community Excellence for the impact Brillianaire made for students in India.
- He is the Student Wing Secretary for the World Federation of Tamil Youth in which I have had the opportunity to showcase my leadership at stunning cultural events among prominent figures in our society.



## Vedant Shukla



- Sophomore at High School student at Schaumburg, High School
- Leadibg Volunteer for SEWA International with 150+ hours of community service
- Plays golf, Tennis and volleyball for his school Team
- Organized 5k, fund raisers fo school clubs

## Vidhi Arora



- Senior at Lynbrook High School, San Jose, CA
- Founder of TeenAiders, Anirudh and some of his high school friends volunteered their time to created worksheets and other learning materials which were then distributed to students in villages by a nonprofit in India.

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for Streamwood Village Trustee

Streamwood is a town in the northwest suburbs of Chicago with a population of 40,000.

Nazneen Hashmi, a well-known community activist is an Adjunct Industry Professor, Information Technology and Management at the Illinois Institute of Technology, IIT Chicago.

Nazneen Hashmi won by a wafer-thin margin of 5 votes to become Streamwood Trustee.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

It is time to nominate the 2023 Top 18 under 18 Indian American Youth

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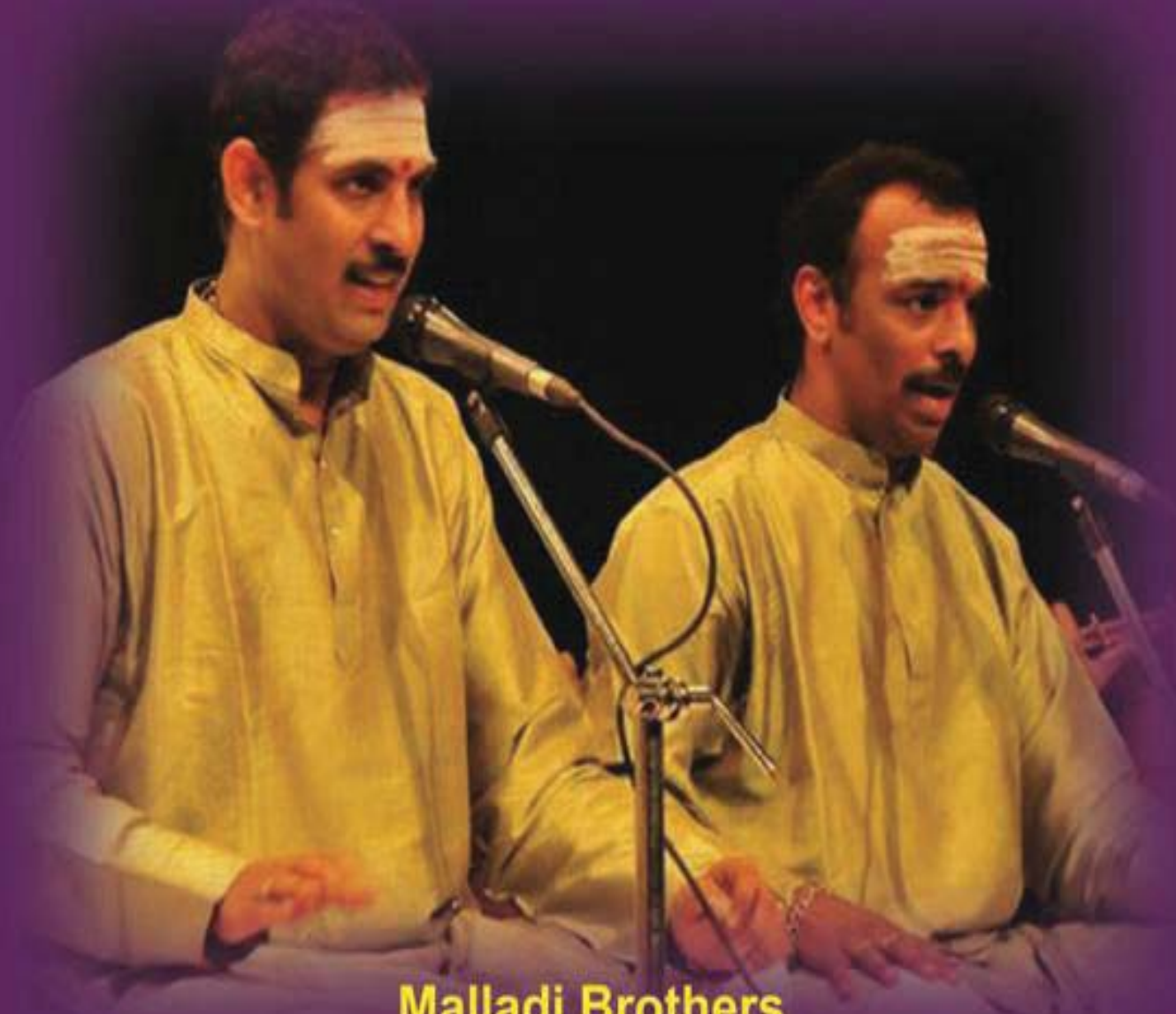




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# Ramadan: A Month of Transformation Through Fasting



**Dr. Sabeel Ahmed**

As dawn approached, my son Yusuf awoke purposefully, ready for the day ahead. Despite my concern about his early rising at 4 am, he was energetic and eager to eat. At the tender age of 7, Yusuf had already embraced fasting for an entire month during Ramadan. Fasting is not obligatory until a child reaches puberty; however, children are allowed to fast as practice so they can organically take up fasting as they reach the age of maturity. This prompts us to ask: what is Ramadan, and why do Muslims fast during its days?

**Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam.**

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is revered by Muslims globally as a time for fasting, introspection, and service to the community. Though primarily a religious observance, fasting during Ramadan is also a fundamental obligation for Muslims. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Other four pillars of Islam include: the declaration of faith in the unity of God (Allah) and the prophethood of Muhammad, peace be upon him; performing the five daily prayers; offering mandatory alms; and

undertaking the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in one's lifetime, if possible.

**Ramadan: A Month of the Quran**

The Quranic revelation started being revealed to Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, during Ramadan back in 610 CE. For the next 23 years, Prophet Muhammad kept receiving messages from the Quran until he passed away when he was 63 years old in 632 CE. So, during Ramadan, Muslims remember how important the Quran is and how it helps guide them in their lives.

**Fasting: A Shared Spiritual Experience Across Faiths**

Fasting has long been a spiritual practice that transcends the boundaries of various religious traditions. As Muslims adhere to this time-honored custom, they are also following in the footsteps of those who came before them, namely the previous Prophets and their people. This shared experience of fasting can be observed in other faiths, each with its own unique observance: the Christian season of Lent, the Jewish days of Passover, and the Hindu practice of Vratas.

**Fasting as a Pathway to Renounce Sins**

It could be easier to avoid eating and drinking than to abandon vices such as smoking, lying, cheating, and gossiping. Fasting, however, allows individuals to become more mindful of their actions and strive to leave behind these negative habits, not just during the fast, but for the rest of their lives.

**Fasting as a Pathway to embrace virtue**

During this holy month, Muslims are urged to embrace a more compassionate and empathetic lifestyle by being extra charitable, attending to the well-being of their parents, lending a helping hand to neighbors, and deepening their connection with the divine through an increased reading

of the Quran and dedicated prayers. As these virtues are practiced with heightened intention and awareness during Ramadan, they gradually become integral to one's life.

**Thankfulness: How Ramadan Helps Us Appreciate Blessings**

Often, we don't think about the many blessings God has given us. Getting food from our fridge or a drive-through is easy without being thankful. But when we fast during Ramadan, breaking the fast makes us see food differently. We start to understand and appreciate the amazing gifts God has provided us.

**What Is done during the day of fasting?**

A typical day of fasting begins with an early morning meal called suhoor, consumed before dawn. The fast is then broken with iftar, a meal that takes place after sunset. Individuals engage in prayer, reflection, and heightened devotion throughout the day. Additional time is dedicated to reading the Quran and participating in extra nightly prayers. Moreover, acts of charity are increased, showcasing the spirit of generosity and compassion during this holy month.

**Developing a greater empathy for the hungry**

Fasting is not just about abstaining from food and drink; it's also an opportunity to develop empathy and compassion for less fortunate people. While it's easy to sympathize with the plight of people in need, fasting can help us take that understanding to the next level. By feeling the pangs of hunger ourselves, we can gain a deeper appreciation for what those who go without food and water endure on a daily basis. As Muslims, this experience should inspire us to open our hearts, minds, and wallets to the less fortunate and to take concrete steps toward addressing their needs.

**Health Benefits of Fasting**

While primarily a religious practice,

Ramadan fasting has been shown to offer numerous health benefits. It can improve metabolism, aid in weight loss, reduce the risk of diseases like heart disease and diabetes, improve mental clarity and reduce stress levels. Though the spiritual benefits of fasting are its primary purpose, the health benefits make it an excellent practice for improving both physical and mental well-being.

**Eid Celebration: Post-Fasting Festivity**

Eid al-Fitr, a significant Islamic holiday, marks the end of a month of fasting. Muslims wear special clothes and attend a morning prayer at the mosque. Afterward, they visit family and friends to enjoy a special meal together, strengthening bonds. Children receive gifts from relatives, making the day memorable. Eid al-Fitr also encourages extra charity, Zakat al-Fitr, to include the less fortunate in the celebrations. Eid is a joyful day that unites Muslims, promotes generosity, and shares blessings.

**The Transformative Power of Fasting**

The ultimate aim of fasting during Ramadan extends far beyond the physical act of abstaining from food and drink. It is a transformative journey, a spiritual boot camp that pushes individuals to reflect, discipline themselves, and strengthen their relationship with their Creator. Through self-restraint and devotion, individuals are encouraged to improve themselves and become better family members, neighbors, and human community members. The goal is to emerge from the month of fasting with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to live a more compassionate, just, and moral life. We pray that God showers us with His guidance, so that we may all live together as brothers and sisters in this amazing human family, united by our commitment to justice, morality, and in loving peace....aameen.

## LOUD THINKING

**M. Scharif**

Living is very simple, not being informed by nature made it a little hard, otherwise, it is not that difficult. If we look around, all other living creatures live with out any complication, for us human it is a little difficult, because we change our nature by other routes than the prescribed way, like all other living creatures live by genes, simple reason is our raring period which is beside kangaroo the longest, it takes 21 years to become a real responsible individual which plays a big role, During this growing up we complicat the things by being not Apt to the change, humans are slow and lazy and not only we human but life itself look for comfortable means to achieve it goals. Nature store the present in the form of information in our cells. Brain does verbal information, but our physical and physiology evaluate as it goes by, adopts it according to the need of time. never dwell on fossils .fossils remains in the form of memory stored in hippocampus. One does not have to know Darwinian evolution for growth of the species and survival. Looking at you own physics tells the story of evolution. Let me explain it. Looking at human figures we could easily see that it is all made to move forward. Hands can only operate frontally, position

of the eyes, feet, all other parts and organs of the body are pointing to forwardness. Back is just a support like chessy of the car on which the rest of the machine resides.

Any one talks about the past they are not only ignorants but unthoughtful.

Life is a constantly balancing act. It is oscillating between outer and inner constants like Temperatures of the body is supposed to be 98.6 all the time it adjusted itself by variation of the outer, if it is too hot body starts sweating to cool of, too cold shivering and inner body's temperature gets higher because of motion. PH 7. Maintains. Blood pressure is maintained by the heart and lungs.

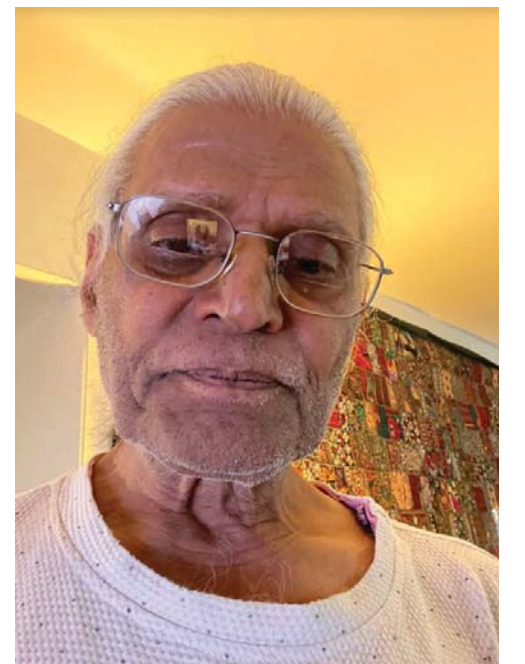
Our relationship with the outer and inner is almost one. What it means as we and nature are not different, more than related, we are. Like, Indian sages, Muslim Sufies, Jewish Qabalist, all of these end up making an experience, which is 'I Am'. No further question all questions means separations. (This statements is present in all Mystical books whether they are from any branch of religion, otherwise they are not true. Not in a sense that they are wrong but, It is like a man with eyes and one blind as they can not be the same even if they are similar in all other aspects( as Quran )

, some say that tatt or Siva, Adoni, Al La. (That it is you and nothing else, you and you only. Or I am, Aham. That is why all religion starts with neiti neiti, Hear Hear O Israel, your lord is Adoni. (Non devisable) One Although above statements aren't scientific in measured ways. I could go into a lot of details to explain, which require a not only lot of space but it is impossible to explain in any kind of words. Currently now even metaphysical is almost touching those religious experiences, which sages and saint have mentioned and tried to express it, but not having a vocabulary at their disposal, beside that these experience, which no words could describe, are subjective Experiences.

Our knowledge of the brain (currently) and body has given us a better understanding and all the books on mysticism. Even the metaphysics and mystical experiences are almost sharing the same dilemma. They almost converging at one point. Mass is nothing but Frozen energy.  $E = MC^2$  x speed of light.

As the body try to juggle, and balance itself, because of its auto, defensive system to protect the Life. All other processes and the actions are work in order to protect the living, and the life.

Above introduction is of Human Dilemma.



Meditation (Murakba) is an other way is first to know. And knowledge along with practice, practice is like an experiment in the laboratory which ultimately brings closer to that, they are working up on. Experience, becomes a subjective.

Subjective and Objective is nothing but two faces manifesting different position. Subjective is an experiencing position, while Objective is an observing the experience some one is having or looking back, even in thinking. Some British reporter ask Michael Jackson that what do you think

**Contd. on Next Page**



# LOUD THINKING

Contd from page 18

when you dance ? "If you are thinking then you are not dancing ." Replied Michael.

If we keep these two aspects of the same manifestation focus . I give an other example.

When Muslim recite Kalama , or Jewish schema.

First: Jewish :

Schema Yisrael YAWA Eluhinu YAWA Ehad.

Nowadays because of the name Yahwah.

Scheme Yisrael

Adonai Eloheiu

Adonai Ehad

Hear O Israel the Lord is our God

The lord is One.

Muslim kalama goes like this

Ashado an-Ilaelaha Illallah

I am the witness that God is One

Above both statements are an objective statements .

Jewish Kabala try to bring experience subjective, and makes God an experience.

So for them it become a subjective look .

Zohar and it's understanding became the foundation of kabala.

Zohar is a story of god . Both Father and son whom zohar is related tried to explain the Torah through the Eyes , ears of God.

For people Sephere -yetzira the symbolically representation With a diagram . Which had been explained and interpreted , they went so far to , that it represent the secret of universe even physical laws from quantum to .....

With so many ways. That it became hard to understand for an ordinary person. And the scholars who made it more complicated.

I will explain to you. Which you find no where. kabala If you go by the semantic language then they translate it Tradition , past gone by, Old. But there is one mistake all scholars making is that Hebrew language is not original it is Mixture of the languages where they traveled and live From Canaanite , which include Lebanon Jordan . Arabian, Persian Armenian. Greek, Latin. There are no comas and semicolon, any kind of spacing , that is why Rabi, that is why the Brahman in India also the same way, who only can pronounce and put spaces to make the meaning for the masses of their religious books. That is why the rest of the people remain ignorant and followed what the Rabi , Sufi, or the Brahman make it out for them. I am sorry I went into a totally different discussion.

Let me come back to the word kabala . If I put the space in the words . I will read as Kab-e-Ela Now

Kab means square and Ela is Gods name ( Israel: Isra children of God , means children of God) so kab Early Tents dwelling was nothing but square . Even David stored, remains of Moses into a Tent according to the Bible , called Tabernacle.

So Kabala is House of God . Kab-e-El . House of God.(Tabernacle)

Since there was no measurements of the first Temple Seffere yetzere was a Diagram of the tent construction if you look all the temple Or synagogues are constructed according to the Diagram. So actual Mysticism is one can see that Zohar which means Illuminate . Zo-light, har visible If you follow the covenant then you can see me . It is God who is in search of man . It is man who have to prepare himself to receive . Preparation for to receive Him is the Mysticism .

Since God is everywhere and created every thing , even us , all those verbs used in From Bible to Quran , is trying to give us human clues to reach him . Whether it is a story of Grail or covenant , all are pointing that some thing that we human have to experience . I can't go more , because some thing is making me to stop. Because it is all experiencing , making love can be described in porno books or film, real experience is no comparison, I am talking about space in between reading and watching , there is no space measurement , that is where the experience starts. Experience , poetry , prose , any form of Arts .are an effort to put us closer to that experience. Best literature doesn't relate one experience but a universal. Who ever come closer to Me, then his story is My story, this is about me , it crosses the culture, religion . Now let us go to the Kalma the Muslim's way of expressing the same as Jewish schema . It is actually the translation of , in Arabic.

There is two ways of Muslim say it .

Ashado An -laella-h- illalla

I am the witness that there is no one but Allah to be the Lord.

The other version is ,

La- Ela- ha - illalla. There is nothing but Allah is the only.

The difference is in the negation is that you have to include yourself in the negation. What it leave is Him and Him only.

Similar in oral tradition of Tibetan Buddhism is that a every thing is void . Nothing exists except Void.

The true understanding which is only taught orally , to the deserving desciple, in which one have to include in that Void.

Otherwise it is academic arguments. All meditation , experience and practices are nothing , but excercise to experience the futility of oneself .

The true Fana means to loose oneself. Fana is the word Sufi used is to mean torture onself, same is the case with Indian when Tiag is the word . Both are Totally Misunderstood.

Every religion you go you will find the same abuse, because of not understanding the real meaning of.

Because it never meant to be what they practice . Because of, the lack of experience, words become a living code, rather going deeper to reach the experience . They literally live the words . As Sarter put rightly that words are like windows with glass. To look out side , and beyond. but if ones eyes get stuck on glass . The purpose of the window disappears. you loose the out side . It was meant to go beyond those walls we built to call house and windows give you a dimension , for those walls. But

Currently all the Eastern spiritual , from Yoga to Meditation which are nothing but commercially exploiting the weakness or sincere desire of people to change .

We will go together in this journey.

If any one does not know how to swim , first he will be even afraid to go near. But if some one through him into the water . What happened you can see him struggling to stay above the water . His hands feet his body every part of the body is making an effort to save him . But we know all struggle is useless , rather more struggle he does faster goes to the bottom. But once some one shows him , by carrying in his arms , which is nothing but take fear of drowning out of his psyche. A few try will be able make him to discover a secret of the swimming . which he practice it

never forget that nitch , which he discovered with his teacher . Even when he is in water he can float without an effort.

An other example similar to this To learn to ride the bike. You remember. Once you discovered that nitch which is don't look down . Look straight keep the handle straight only you have to jerk it . A ballancing during motion on an unstable two wheeler. You injured your knees , bruised your arms , concoction on head. But once you discover that nich . Nothing matter you ride without holding the bars .

Another example , I am trying to make a point I will come to it, every human experience after out of womb, requires an assistance and help to learn to keep living. Parents , teachers , freinds, minds the books. Nature have provided us with the tools of learning, eyes ears, smell, touch. Taste. They are only tool to gather information. They collect the information. Goes through filter , Brain, mind processe it , gives the idea about the world and our relation with it. Let me go back to the conversation I was having , Nitch . A person standing in front of a piano , I asked him . Sir do you know how to play piano? He replied in negative . I asked him to hit finger on the keys.

He put both of his hand's finger on the keys. Piano roared . I said to him , but you said that you don't know . He laughed, and I did too, along with him. We both understood what it means to play piano , and what it means to having an ability to play and playing after learning. Now listen carefully .

What I am trying to say is that better living is also has similar kind of nitch which is a guru or an enlighten teacher can make you to come close to it .if you are lucky you are able to intuited it . Other wise it is just a ...

futile exercise. One need first is a thorough knowledge to clear the dark web out . Then you need an understanding of what you studied. Then you try by practicing , you discover that which is books and teacher is trying, if one is lucky. Otherwise it is an excercise , which has benefit, but not the desired one. The ordinary life is that of the average human consciousness separated from its own true self and from the Devine and led by common habits of the mind, living and body, which are the laws of the ignorance. The religious life is. Movements of the same ignorant human conscious, Modern terminology virtual, old Maya, Sarah, Dream, turning or trying to turn away from the earthly towards the Devine, but as yet without knowledge and led by the dogmatic tenets and rules of some sect or creed which claims to have found the way out of the bonds of earth-conscious into some specific Beyond.

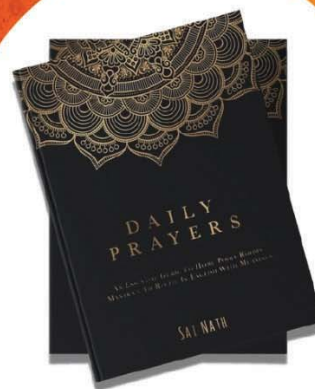
I like the title of the book by Herman Woulk God is in search of man."

It struck me like O G. Never thought that way. Now it make sense that. In Arabic there is a saying, Jadda Wajada. Seeker gets it's rewards. Buddha, Zarathustra, Moses, Jesus, Mohammad, Newton, Copernicus, or currently people who are doing PhD and researchers, God reward them with their effort. God is attentively watching every effort, who wants to talk to Him.

In other words nature is furiously want to make this world better like He says Gennah Or paradise.

So the Avesta or Gitta, Torah or Bible or Quran. Principia of Mathmatic, or secret of D N A all are the proof that God is waiting for a man who is trying to probe Him. Gets the Reward.

**ARE YOU TAKING ALL THE CREDIT FOR YOUR SUCCESS?**

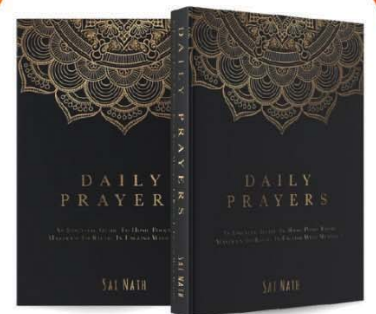


Many of us believe that when we are doing well in life, we are invincible. Your success is the result of not only your efforts, it is a combination of several factors and support systems.

When someone misunderstands good fortune as one's accomplishments, therein begins the journey towards one's decline.

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# PM Modi to embark on 2-day tour of MP, Kerala

**PM Modi will first participate in the National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh on April 24.**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit poll-bound Madhya Pradesh as well as Kerala and the union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu from April 24 to 25, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation of projects worth over Rs 25,000 crore. In a series of tweets on Sunday, he gave a glimpse of programs in which he will participate during the next two days. PM Modi will first participate in the National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh on April 24. Incidentally, Madhya Pradesh will go to the polls later this year in December, and in this context, the Prime Minister's repeated tours to the state since the past few weeks hold a lot of political significance.

Also, during the event, PM Modi



will inaugurate an integrated eGramSwaraj and GeM portal for public procurement at Panchayat level. He will lay the foundation and dedicate to the nation projects worth around Rs 17,000 crore. On April 25, Modi will flag off the Vande Bharat Express at Thiruvananthapuram central railway station. After this, he will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation, development projects worth more than Rs 3,200 crore, at the Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram. Later during the day, Modi will visit NAMO medical education and research institute and then will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation, various development projects worth more than Rs 4,850 crore at Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. PM Modi will also inaugurate the Devka seafront at Daman.

## Kerala Congress (Joseph) leader Victor T Thomas joins BJP

**The joining of Victor T Thomas to BJP will have a major impact in the Christian-dominated district of Pathanamthitta.**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Victor T Thomas, who resigned from the post of Pathanamthitta district president of the Kerala Congress (Joseph), joined the BJP in Kochi on Sunday. Thomas served as the state president of the youth wing of the organisation as well as the state president of its student body. He had contested in 2011 and 2016 assembly elections as United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate and of late he was the Pathanamthitta district chairman of the UDF. While speaking to media persons at Kochi, Victor said that the Kerala Congress led by the former minister, PJ Joseph was not the old Kerala Congress and has lost the support of cadres.

It may be noted that the Kerala Congress led by PJ Joseph is with the opposition UDF led by the Indian National Congress and the Indian Union Muslim



League. He said that he was joining the BJP to be part of the nationalist movement and added that the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was taking BJP to

great heights. The joining of Victor T Thomas to BJP will have a major impact in the Christian-dominated district of Pathanamthitta. As Victor has grassroots support in many areas of Pathanamthitta district, his joining can prove to be a shot in the arm for BJP, just before the two-day visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram. The BJP is trying to woo the Christian community and the joining of Victor to the party will give a major boost to the party in the Christian belts of Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Pathanamthitta and Aranmula assembly constituencies. BJP state president, K Surendran, party prabhari for Kerala, and former Union Minister, Prakash Javedkar were present when Victor T. Thomas joined the BJP during a public function at Kochi on Sunday.

## Gemini Shankaran, doyen of Indian circus, passes away at 99 in Kerala

**Shankaran was admitted to the hospital one week ago and was undergoing treatment for age-related ailments**



KANNUR: Gemini Shankaran, (99), the pioneer of the Indian circus, passed away at Kannur at a private hospital on Sunday night. Moorkkoth Vengakkandi Shankaran (MV Shankaran), popularly known as Gemini Shankaran, was considered the pillar of the Indian circus. He brought the Indian circus to the world stage through his contributions. He was admitted to the hospital one week ago and was undergoing treatment for age-related ailments. Born on June 13, 1924, as the son of Kolasseriyyil Kavinisserry Raman Nair and Moorkkoth Kalyani Amma, Shankaran had learnt the art of circus from Keeleri Kunhikkannan of Thalasserry, for three years. He tried

to manage his life by opening up a grocery shop at his native place but after suffering heavy losses he had to shut down the shop. Later he joined the army and returned to Thalasserry after the Second World War. As his earlier guru Keeleri Kunhikkannan had died, Shankaran continued his training under M K Raman of Thalasserry. After two years of training under Raman, Shankaran went to Kolkata (then Calcutta) and joined Bose Lion Circus company. Later he joined the National Circus company. His life changed when he decided to buy Vijaya Circus company in 1951. He renamed the company as Gemini Circus to suit the zodiac sign associated with his birth.

In 1977, he started his second circus company, Jumbo Circus. Later he also started his third company the Great Royal Circus. In his condolence message, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Shankaran was instrumental in making Indian circus famous around the world. "He was a circus artist as well as the owner of several circus companies," Pinarayi said. His departure is a big loss to the art form of circus," he said. His mortal remains were brought to his house at Varam around 10.30 am on Monday. The funeral will be held at Payyambalam on Tuesday. He is survived by children Ajay Shankar, Ashok Shankar and Renu Shankar.





Islamic Center of Naperville members are gathered for Ramadan prayers which is called Taraweeh, that is held for 25 days and lead by their Imam. Ramadan is a holy month for Muslims all around the world.



Around 1000 Members are seen offering Ramadan prayers at Islamic Center of Naperville. Throughout this month, Muslims reflect on self-control, focus on giving and express gratitude for what they have.



2023 Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA) Leadership North America's International Veena Conference : exceptional Curtain raiser event. Left to right : Saraswathi Ranganathan and Dr. Saradapurna Sonty .



GSA Global Eye's Chief Information Officer, Naveen Karna participated in the Northwestern Kellogg' Executive Leadership Program from April 17 to April 20,2023, pictured with the other participants.



GSA Global Eye's Chief Information Officer Naveen Karna is flanked on the left by Kellogg's Artificial Intelligence Professor Anderson and on the right by Kellogg's Analytics Professor Florian Zettelmeyer at the Executive Leadership Program



American Multi Ethnic Coalition (AMEC) Leadership Council meeting was hosted at Alli Dhanaraj, AMEC Commissioner's home on March 18, 2023 and the meeting was presided by AMEC Governor Dr. Zenobia Sowell.



AMEC USA and Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force (MEATF) Leadership Council kicked off with planning for the largest multi ethnic event of the year, the 12th Annual Congressional Global Community OSCARS 2023 to be held on June 17, 2023.



Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy unveiled the new logo of the GSA Global Eye on March 15, 2023 at Medstar Auditorium . Prominent Community leaders including Abdul Kiswani, Ajay Shah, Neil Khot, Hitesh Gandhi and Dr. Zenobia Sowell, AMEC Governor attended the event.



Face to Face with Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy discussing issues that impact the community. Left to right - Fizza Razzak, Yousef Razzak, Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, Neil Khot, Abdul Kiswani, Dr. Vijay Prabhakar and Alli Dhanaraj.



Iftexhar Shareef hosted an exclusive EID dinner at a Persian Restaurant in Chicago. FIA Trustees present: Hina Trivedi, Bhailal M Patel , Babu Patel , Ajai Agnihotri, Minhaj Akhtar, Guest of honor Sher Rajput, Dr Prem Raj Yadav from Shamshabad, Akram Mohiuddin, Khurram Syed and Vijay Ranjan



The monthly Planning Advisory Council meeting of the Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence was held under the Chairmanship of Dr Twin Green, CEO of The Link & Option Center in Englewood, Chicago.



Dr. Saradapurna Sonty, Executive Director. Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA) along with the participants of the Ragas ensemble held in Chicago.



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# The Gift of a lifetime



**Gloria Holland**  
Realtor  
San Diego, California

I consider my New Years Resolutions with my Mother in December. I call my Mother, and we discuss the current year, goals achieved, goals unobtained, and future goals. We break it down into groups, Spiritual, Career, Health and Household.

I contemplate my resolutions, take input from my Mother, and by January 7th I am ready to start my year, fresh and new.

It was to be a humble Christmas. My husband and I had a particularly hard year financially and decided our love would be our gift. I was two years old, spirituality speaking. The first year I awoke in spirit was amazing! The second year, I asked God to empty me. I asked to become an empty vessel, and I prayed for this for six months.

I didn't realize the caliber of my request until I was fully empty. I was financially ruined, and even harder, my daughter was estranged from me. Christmas would focus on Christ, and not consumerism. I hand made modest gifts for the family, and planned a nice Christmas dinner. I went to bed accepting our circumstances grateful that love would be enough. It was Christmas Eve, and I fell into a deep sleep. I awoke in a vision, I was shown something about

everything. It is difficult to explain, because I don't know how to bring it into words. In my vision, a voice clearly asked me...Would you like to see more? And I said yes, and the moment I said yes, I was thrust into my very existence. I was in eternity. In eternity, you do not have the confines of space and time, and with you, in you, is your entire being. Some people describing near death experiences, say their life passed before their eyes, and I know why. It's because I was in every thought, word, sight, sound, and the complete knowledge of my life together simultaneously. Everything I ever thought, knew, learned, said, and felt was boundless in this space. I was in the knowledge of the universe. It was epic. I can try to describe it as an overhead projector, the sheet on the projector is your human life, representing your mind and body, the friscalating light, that pours towards the screen is you consciousness containing every millisecond of your life. It's all there. Everything. You take everything with you, good and bad. Be thoughtful how you pack your eternal suitcase. You take everything with you.

I awoke. Christmas Day. I was vibrating. I started humming. My throat, eyes face body, everything was in deep vibration. I came back to reality. It was 4:44 in the morning, Christmas day. On what was intended to be a humble Christmas, I received the gift of a lifetime. I came down. I called my Mother, when I described my experience, she said 'I believe you saw your soul!'

2 weeks later, I was reviewing my New Years Resolutions. I came across an intention I wrote, at the suggestion of my Mother. It read 'Jesus, let me see my soul as you see it' I had forgotten I asked. Below is the spiritual excerpt from my new years resolutions, I titled it the Gloriously Manifesto III as I was to be three years old,

spirituality speaking...  
Gloriously Manifesto III Learning to Walk and Talk  
Spiritual  
Go to Church every Sunday on time  
Keep Holy the sabbath, this entails helping people in need the entire day, visit the sick, offer help and kindness to all people. Deliver food to the homeless.  
Serve a Sunday dinner to the family.  
Meditate for 15 minutes when I wake  
Join the CBW Foundation  
Figure out how to help humanity  
Jesus may I see my soul as you see it  
Go to confession once a month  
Do a general confession, a life time confession (venial sin mortal sin)  
Stop wasting  
Stop personal consumerism, consider all purchases  
Pray for Wendy's safe return to US  
One hundred and eight billion people have lived on planet Earth, of this number a fraction of those people are awake in spirit. 108 billion caterpillars, marching ever onward, not knowing what lies ahead, just knowing marching is compelling, needed, and sometimes rewarding. Life is such a beautiful fragile puzzle. if you are blessed, as I am, to figure it out and awaken into the butterfly, life completely changes into a beautiful connection with God. The people who have been enlightened with God's Holy Spirt, are woke. It can happen to you any time during your lifetime, most people, sadly, never wake, and they die in the cocoon. I woke when I was fifty. It can take a lifetime.

I am not the body, I am not even the mind. True fact. Think of your spiritual self. What does it mean to be infinite? The human mind has a problem conceiving infinity. I was blessed with a glimpse of my soul, I visited eternity. The dimension without time, body, and ego holds the essence of each person.

Every second you've lived is what you are, Once you understand your connection with God, and awaken in spirit, you know, undoubtedly, you are not the mind, you are not the body. The ego is an obstacle, a thorn to be removed.

Breathe. The chants are an important part of meditation. They allow a vibration in the body to connect with God. Einstein understood quantum physics, and the absolute power in the frequency, I don't have the ability to explain the equations, but I can tell you, from previous experience a vibration exist, and the purpose of chant in meditation is to bring you closer to God. In my experience, after I beheld my own eternal soul, I decided to chant, and when I did this, I vibrated on a level I have never known. As I hummed, every part of my face, neck and throat was vibrating, and I could physically feel it. This is the destination souls seek when chanting.

I cannot blindly follow words I don't understand. My niece Alistar said she would never wear a shirt she couldn't read, or understand. In prayer, this sacred space between myself and God, I find it imperative I know the exact message I am sending. I must consider the people in my life in need of prayers, or I offer the Lords Prayer or other prayers I find acceptable to lay at the feet of God. How dose one wake up? Impossible to answer, it's a question with an answer in the shape of a snowflake. It's different for every individual person. A good way to awaken yourself is to consider the story The Wizard of Oz. This story parallels life. Every individual person is Dorothy. Life is the yellow brick road. Knowledge, Courage and Love are an integral guest as you journey through life to find him. The Great Oz, actually God, patiently awaits your arrival. When you find him, you understand, he was there the entire time. You had the power all along, and didn't even know it. Once you awaken in spirit you will know how it differs from your previous life. God bless the sleepers, the path reveals unto you, Agape. You won't know what it is, until you know.

## Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA)

**19th International Veena Conference & Festival Saturday May 6th & Sunday May 7th, 2023**

**Mohita Sukumar**  
Chicago News Bureau Chief

Sri Annamacharya Project of North America (SAPNA) was founded in 1989, registered in 1993 in Chicago IL by Saradapurn. & Dr.Sriram Sonty. It's an establishment of center for Indic Cultural traditions "Chicago Kala Bharathi" museum and archives of Annamacharya literature

In August 1990 The Saint Annamacharya Project USA was initiated with a Fund Raising Kuchipudi Dance Recital by Siri

& Sita (popularly known as the Sonty Sisters) along with Music Concert by Padmini Rao, Lakshmi & Srikanth Venkatraman & Lecture by Swami Sukhabodhananda.

SAPNA is organizing the 2023 Veena Festival and Conference on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> for two consecutive days as well as remotely through recorded sessions. Established in 2009, the festival has matured in the past years with offerings of veena performance in myriad of ways, and with discussion on numerous aspects



of veena. This unique festival – One of its kind in North America – has become a staple for the Indian classical music presentations. The festival has been graced by internationally famous artists, and it has provided

platform to many veena students for their recitals.

Even with the tough times during pandemic, Veena Festival carried out its usual activities, albeit remotely, and presented the concerts and discussions online in 2020 and 2021. This Year the Veena festival will present eminent artists, live concerts by internationally renowned artists, several solo concerts, disciples of Raja Veena School of Music, Eight Artist Presentation by Vidushi Dr. Emani Kalyani followed by panel discussion. This festival will be unique experience a pristineness of music culture by disciples and students from different states with different knowledge, a Conglomeration of different art forms. The mission of SAPNA is to promote the Indian classical music and to pass this ancient art-form to the future generation. Over the years, these festivals have witnessed some of the student artists matured into established musicians, who have performed at prominent venues in USA and India. The veena festival takes pride in being part of the success of these students. Having a veena festival in Chicago is a fitting tribute to many internationally renowned artists residing in Chicago. Not only



**Dr Sarada Purna Sonty**

these artists perform all over the world, but they are also passing the prestigious art of playing veena to hundreds of students. SAPNA is honored to have their students and artists on stage.

**"When Music flows Peace begins - Health appears - And expectations end"**



# An Insight into Opioid Crisis



Drag, inhale, puff, expel, repeat. This is what it has come to. Despite growing attention to the problem of prescription opioid use, misuse, and abuse in the United States, there are many unanswered questions. What is going to be the future of the youth and young adults if we legalize marijuana and more across the United States? How will this affect the upcoming generations? Will there be a boost in dispensaries built where other facilities could be? Many policies aimed at curbing opioid use have been enacted ahead of reliable evidence on the likely efficacy of such conciliations. Regardless, throughout the youth and young adult population use, numbers are rising exponentially. There are many factors that may lead to substance abuse. According to Russell Portenoy (Director of the MJHS Institute in Palliative Care), "introduction of high-dose, extended-release oral tablet formulations of opioids with good bioavailability." This means that drugs are easily obtainable and prescribed to patients, as opposed to the traditional methods which require monitored in-patient medication proposals. The youth find it harder to attain prescriptions from doctors and so resort to surpassed street narcotics. Abuse is recognized as one of the major psychiatric conditions and there are treatments, restrictions, and guidelines for the same. The diagnostic criteria for substance abuse narrow down to physical dependence, tolerance, and other behavioral traits. With illicit use, both therapeutic and non-therapeutic use of opioids is associated with tolerance and physical dependence. The American Pain and Addiction Societies rose to the conclusion that identifies four criteria for addiction as being, "impaired control over drug use, compulsive use, continued use despite harm, and craving" (Knisley et al., 2008). There is a high prevalence of abuse among outpatients on prescription therapy, and an average of 20% of patients on long-term opioid therapy abuse again. Studies and investigations have further shown a relevant difference in the gender and age of the patients with more males than females and pertaining to the younger generation of patients being more involved. To be more specific, oxycodone and hydrocodone are majorly abused with

three-quarters of these patients abusing both of these. The overall costs of treatment is high and the average cost of treating patients in the health system is greater than for treating non-abusing patients. The reason is that patients who abuse tend to have more comorbidities and thus higher costs for treatment plans. With the increase in the number of long-term treatments for chronic conditions in abuse, there has been an increased number of fatalities from overdoses. It is highly important that healthcare providers ensure that they do not give patients more than what is required in order to prevent abuse overall.

Opioids are a class of drugs that are used for pain management and relaxing the body. It comes down to self-medication, misuse, and abuse of the medication, whether it was bought illegally or prescribed, as a result of long-term addiction. Going back to the two main factors of diagnosing addiction. One may develop two different kinds of dependence: physical dependence and psychological dependence.

Physical dependence pertains to when the patient experiences withdrawal symptoms when they don't take the same doses at the same time as usual. When they skip the drug, they are unable to perform their respective daily activities. The other type of dependence is psychological dependence, and this is more to do with what the patient's brains are telling them. "You need it." A patient gets cravings and urges to consume the dosage of the particular drug without any physical symptoms. Another cause of opioid abuse is the fact that some people sell narcotics in order to provide for their families and friends for profit. They also in turn end up getting addicted to the drugs. Another reason could be that patients think that they are rewarding themselves. These are all major concerns for the patient at hand.

There are numerous psychosocial factors that add to this scenario. Some of the factors that influence the development of opioid addiction are the age of the patients, the character and intensity of the pain for which the patient is receiving treatment, and the presence of other psychiatric disorders. Nearly all the racial/ethnic groups and age groups experienced increases in opioid-involved and synthetic opioid-involved overdose death rates. Overdoses have increased among minority populations including Hispanics and African Americans. From 2015 to 2017, nearly all racial/ethnic groups and age groups experienced significant increases in opioid-involved and synthetic opioid-involved overdose death rates, particularly blacks aged 45–54 years (from 19.3 to 41.9 per 100,000) and 55–64 years (from 21.8 to 42.7) in large central metro areas (Pubmed). More and more in recent years, the youth and young adult demographic has increased with usage. An analysis of US data finds an unexpectedly high prevalence of prescription opioid use among youth. As recently as 2015-2016, 21% of adolescents and 32% of young adults said they had used drugs in the past year. Nearly four percent and eight percent, respectively, reported misusing opioids (Science Daily 2019). The increased involvement of synthetic opioids in overdose deaths is changing the demographics of the opioid overdose epidemic. This in turn only increased more in 2020 and has a good chance of increasing in the years to come.

Due to a large number of cases of abuse of opioids, health institutions, and the government have set up measures to ensure that the public health concern is mitigated. Health institutions are using various methods to screen patients for any risk factors for abuse before treatment. Or if they are suspected as well, they also use screening methods for those in this

category and in general for patients on treatment as well. Tests are being given out as well, the most common being the urine drug test which assesses the abuse of opioids in patients' systems. This is non-invasive and also assesses adherence to the treatment as well as drug levels that are detectable 1-3 days after their first exposure to it. According to Wasan et al, the test provides objective documentation of treatment compliance and offers a method of screening opioid abuse in patients on chronic pain management (Pubmed 2007). Behavioral intervention is also integral. The last methods that have been put into place are rehabilitation centers and programs that try to work through behavioral issues that are associated with drug overuse and addiction. According to Ballantyne, "Behavioral interventions with close monitoring and cognitive behavioral substance misuse counseling could increase overall compliance" (2003).

In conclusion, opioids have been on the increase over the last number of years and have been a major health concern to the youth and more. Opioids are increasingly used in the management of chronic pain, and patients in therapy have been found to have a preponderance to abuse them and psychosocial stressors are also a major cause of the abuse. It is a hard pill to swallow, but this is what it has come to. Drag, inhale, puff, expel, repeat, no more. We need to continue implementing more policies and restrictions to lessen the numbers and curb the usage downwards instead of up. Forwards, not backward. Though none can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new beginning.

**Abitha Dhanaraj**  
Undergraduate  
Final Year - Finance and Marketing  
University of Illinois at Chicago

## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR NRI STUDENTS & YOUTH TO VISIT INDIA

### "Know India Program" - August 2023 66th & 67th Editions

Know India Program (KIP) which is a flagship program of the Ministry of External Affairs is scheduled to hold a three-week orientation program in August of 2023 to encourage young individuals of Indian Origin to familiarize themselves with the different facets of life in India and the progress in various sectors like economic, industrial, educational, science & technology, communication & information technology, culture, etc. KIP provides a unique forum for students & young professionals to visit India, participate, bond, and experience contemporary India. With 65 editions held so far & 2296 young individuals having participated to date, this is the longest-running engagement program of the Ministry. In 2022 KIP resumed after the pandemic and has organized six editions (60th to 65th) in Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha as the partner States. August 2023 program will reflect the elements of New India and the vision of 'Amrit Kaal' highlighting social, economic, scientific, and technological developments in



India and provide exposure to schemes like Skill India, Digital India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, etc. Through this short-term immersive experience, young Indians will have the benefit of learning about sectoral developments in Science & Technology, Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure projects, Startup ecosystem, Digital infrastructure, India Stacks, JAM trinity, Education, Defense, Agriculture, and Tourism while retaining some elements of the cultural and civilizational heritage of India like Yoga, Ayurveda, classical dance forms & music and archaeological history. Young Individuals (18-30 years) of Indian Origin are encouraged to participate in the upcoming program and benefit from Know India Program (KIP) programs 66th and 67th Edition

For more information, Please contact India's Consul at Chicago, Press Information & Culture Ranjit Singh.  
Email: pic.chicago@mea.gov.in  
Website: www.cgichicago.gov.in





# American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc.

*American Multi Ethnic Coalition is a bipartisan grass root community organization that celebrates 38 ethnic communities of America.*

**“Empowering Ethnic Minorities through Cultural, Educational, Economic, Healthcare & Political Initiatives”**



Dr VGP, President AMEC and team called on Randhir Jaiswal, India’s Consul General at New York on April 19, 2023 to update the Consul General of AMEC activities. Consul General Randhir Jaiswal was a guiding force for the successful conduct of GSA India @75 Expo 2022



India’s New York Consul General Randhir Jaiswal discussing the GSA India @75 Expo, USA New York’s sequel with Dr VGP, Ravi Karkara, President GE International Institute of Leadership, Geetha Radhakrishnan, Co-Chair, New York State Chapter, IABC – USA, Prabhuram Ramanathan, Chair, New Jersey State Chapter, IABC – USA and Koshy O. Thomas, AMEC’s New York State Chapter Chair



India’s New York Consul General Randhir Jaiswal flanked by the GSA India @75 Expo USA Founder, President of Global Eye International Institute of Leadership, New York, AMEC’s New York Chapter Chair, Indian American Business Coalition IABC – USA’s New York State Chapter Co-Chair and New Jersey State Chapter Chair



Geetha Radhakrishnan, Co-Chair, Indian American Business Coalition’s New York State Chapter presenting the G.S.A. India @75 Expo U.S.A 2022 Show guide to India’s Consul General Randhir Jaiswal at New York.



Dr VGP greets Minesh Patel, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA at the Bhavan headquarters in Manhattan, New York on April 19, 2023



Ravi Karkara, President, Global Eye International Institute of Leadership, New York presenting the 18th edition of GSA Global Eye to Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan Director Minesh Patel, while Dr VGP and Prabhuram Ramanathan look on



New York Assembly Woman Representative Jennifer Raj Kumar welcomes Dr VGP to her district office in Queens, New York on April 19, 2023



Geetha Radhakrishnan, New York State Chapter Co-Chair of IABC – USA presenting the G.S.A India @75 Expo 2022 showguide to State Representative Jennifer Rajkumar. Koshy O. Thomas, Ravi Karkara and Dr VGP look on



Rep Jennifer Rajkumar, the first Indian American elected to the New York State Assembly welcoming the AMEC delegation to her district office on Queens, New York.



Ramiya Catten, Successful Fashionista Realtor from Brooklyn, New York being featured in the Dr VGP TALK SHOW at the production shoot on April 19, 2023



Dr Rajkumar Rajappa, Chairman, Kumar Industries, Trichy, India receiving the GSA Pride of India Award 2022 from Dr VGP, Founder, GSA India @75 Expo, USA in New York at the Wyndham Hotel, Manhattan on April 19, 2023



GSA Pride of India Awardee Dr. Rajkumar Rajappa flanked by Dr. VGP, Geetha Radhakrishnan, Venkar Boyalla, Narasimhulu, Koshy O. Thomas and Rajesh Kumar of New York.





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Paul Bensman, CEO of NRM Streamcast, Detroit, Michigan Welcoming Dr. VGP to the Bensman Biz Show, a worldwide live streaming show



Dr VGP welcomed to Detroit, Michigan by AMEC Michigan State Chapter Tom Hakim, Paul Bensman, Vice Chair of IABC USA's Michigan State Chapter, Samar Patel, IABC USA's Michigan State Chapter Chairman and Chris Denha, AMEC Michigan State Chapter Vice Chairman



Paul Bensman, CEO of NRM Stramcast, Detroit, Michigan featuring Dr. VGP to Atlanta and discussed the hosting of G.S.A India @75 Expo 2023 Atlanta Sequel in July 2023



India's Atlanta Consul Madan Kumar Ghildiyal welcoming Dr. VGP to Atlanta and discussed the hosting of G.S.A India @75 Expo 2023 Atlanta Sequel in July 2023



Dr. Clarence Beals, GSA Global Eye's Chief Operating Officer, USA presenting the 18th edition of GSA Global Eye Magazine to India's Atlanta Consul Madan Kumar Ghildiyal, while Dr VGP looks on



CEO of Global Entertainment, Atlanta Mustafa Ajmeri received Edward & Lily Prabhakar centenary Award for his community at a Special Ceremony in Global Mall, Norcross, Georgia



Swetha Pakala, Global Eye's Atlanta News Bureau Chief introducing the Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Awardee Poonam Datta, President, Seva Adult Day Care & Home Care, Norcross, Georgia at the Special Award Ceremony at Global Mall, Norcross, Georgia



Dr. VGP, President, AMEC presented the AMEC & MEATF Top 20 Global Women of Excellence Award to Urmil Tracy Marshall, Mental Health Advocate on April 22, 2023 at Atlanta



Cynthia Dorsey Edwards, C.E.O of Storehouse of Solutions L.L.C., Atlanta received the AMEC & MEATF Top 20 Global Women of Excellence Award 2023 from Dr VGP at a Colorful Ceremony at Global Mall, Norcross, Georgia



AMEC General Council Meeting was held at Vijay and Sandhya Muralidharan's residence in Oakbrook, Illinois. A welcome cake was jointly cut by Muralidharan and Shathi, parents of Vijay M, and Mrs Madhu, mother of Sandhya and young Surya Muralidharan on April 25, 2023



AMEC Commissioner, Oakbrook, Illinois Vijay Muralidharan welcoming the American Multi-Ethnic Coalition delegated to the AMEC General Council meeting on April 25, 2023



Shivam Viswanathan of Naperville was felicitated for organizing a good campaign for Madhu Uppal for Naperville City Council elections at AMEC General Council meet



# “IT IS TIME FOR A NEW CAUSE, A NEW COALITION, A NEW LEADERSHIP, A CHOICE AND A CHANGE” ASSERTS U.S. CONGRESSMAN JONATHAN JACKSON



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson flanked by Chairman Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar and Director Ms. Seeta Bala cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the Global Eye International Institute of Leadership at Manhattan, New York – Officers of the Institute are also in the photo.**



**U.S Congressman Jonathan Jackson flanked by Praful Billore, CEO MBA Chaiwala and Institute’s President Ravi Karkara along with the other officers at the launch of the Global Eye International Institute of Leadership.**



**U.S. Congressman Jackson presenting the G.S.A Pride of India Awards to Mr Thirumala Kumbum, CEO Value Financial Services, Texas and Mrs. Geeta Radhakrishnan, Certified Public Accountant, New York – Also in the photo left to Right. Jerome Athishtam, Treasurer, MEATF, Ravi Karkara, President, TGEILL, Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar, G.S.A Chairman, Thirumala Kumbum, Congressman Jackson, Geeta Radhakrishnan, Seeta Bala and Shree Gurusamy, Directors.**



**U.S. Congressman Jackson Presenting the G.S.A Pride of India Award to Dr Chitti Moorthy, Radiation Oncologist, Westchester Medical Center, NY. Dr VGP Institute Chairman, Ravi Karkara, President and Mrs. Kausalya Moorthy also in the photograph.**

Inaugurating the Global Eye International Institute of Leadership at Manhattan, New York City, U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson called for a new leadership that got to rise above race, above sex, find a choice and a change. Congressman Jonathan Jackson, (1st District Illinois) congratulated the Indian American Visionary Leader Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar for establishing this Institute to create tomorrow’s inclusive leaders today.

Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, Chairman, The Global Eye International Institute of Leadership in his presidential remarks said that effective leadership is essential for achieving success in today’s fast paced and competitive world. Dr. Prabhakar added that the first course offered is the Global Sustainability Leadership Program under the leadership of ERIK SOLHEIM (Former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program) from June 19 to June 24, 2023. This program will train 50 global leaders in the application of sustainable development goals to strengthen the green economy added Dr. Prabhakar.

Ravi Karkara, President of the Global Eye International Institute of Leadership shared the six main verticals of the Institute including sustainability and climate change, start-up entrepreneurship, women empowerment, youth leadership, civic

leadership & decision makers and geoeconomics. Karkara added that each short-term course will have experts as faculty, include field visits and programs to enhance the skills and abilities of the participants to become effective leaders. Ms. Seeta Bala, Member of the Institute’s Board of Regents introduced Dr. Chitti R. Moorthy, Radiation Oncologist, Westchester, NY, Mrs. Geetha Radhakrishnan, a certified public accountant from New York and Mr. Thirumala Kumbum, CFO, Value Financial Services of Texas who were each presented with G.S.A. Pride of India Award by U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson at the event.

Presenting the Awards U. S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson, Member of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Relations and Agriculture, commended the services of Dr. Chitti R. Moorthi of New York who was listed on the Wall of Tolerance, Montgomery, Alabama signed by the Great Rosa Parks. Jerome Athishtham, Treasurer, Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force, 7th Congressional District and Neelam Saboo, Communications Director, American Multi Ethnic Coalition, USA presented the “Ark of Covenant” memento to Congressman Jonathan Jackson to mark the launch of the Institute. India’s young dynamic entrepreneur, an angel investor, social media influencer, Praful Billore, CEO,

MBA Chaiwala, Indore, India delivering the keynote address called upon global young leaders to take full advantage of this International Institute of Leadership to advance humanity and excel in service to mother earth.

Shree Gurusamy, Secretary of the Institute’s Board of Regents announced that Institute will hold their certificate courses regularly at the Global Eye Institute Hall, Wyndham Hotel Midtown Manhattan, 345 W. 35th street, New York, NY-10001. There will be four certificate courses during 2023 including the Youth leadership empowerment program from July 31st-August 5, 2023, Entrepreneur start-up leadership program from October 9th-14, 2023 and Women in Leadership program from December 4th-9, 2023, added Shree Gurusamy. Shan Vaidyalingam, South Asia Sales & Advertising Executive of the Global Eye Magazine said that the Institute will attract the finest professionals from all over the world particularly from developing countries.

Vikas Khanna, Indian Celebrity Chef, New York welcomed the G.S.A. family led by Dr Vijay G Prabhakar. As a New Yorker, “I congratulate Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar for setting up the much-needed Global Eye International Institute of Leadership as it will support upcoming young entrepreneurs in India and USA and also help develop

indigenous leaders, women leaders and also entrepreneurs. Dr. Vijay Prabhakar has started a fantastic initiative and has set an example for all of us to follow. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our Honorable Congressman Jonathan Jackson and all the eminent personalities. I would like to congratulate the Institute’s President, Ravi Karkara for all the support he has been giving all of us throughout our career.” K. O. Thomas, Registrar, The Global Eye International Institute of Leadership, New York said that Global Eye Institute celebrates U.S.A – India relations and will be a catalyst for global unity, harmony and prosperity. Koshy added that the Global Eye Institute is located centrally in Manhattan, New York and easily accessible by public transportation.

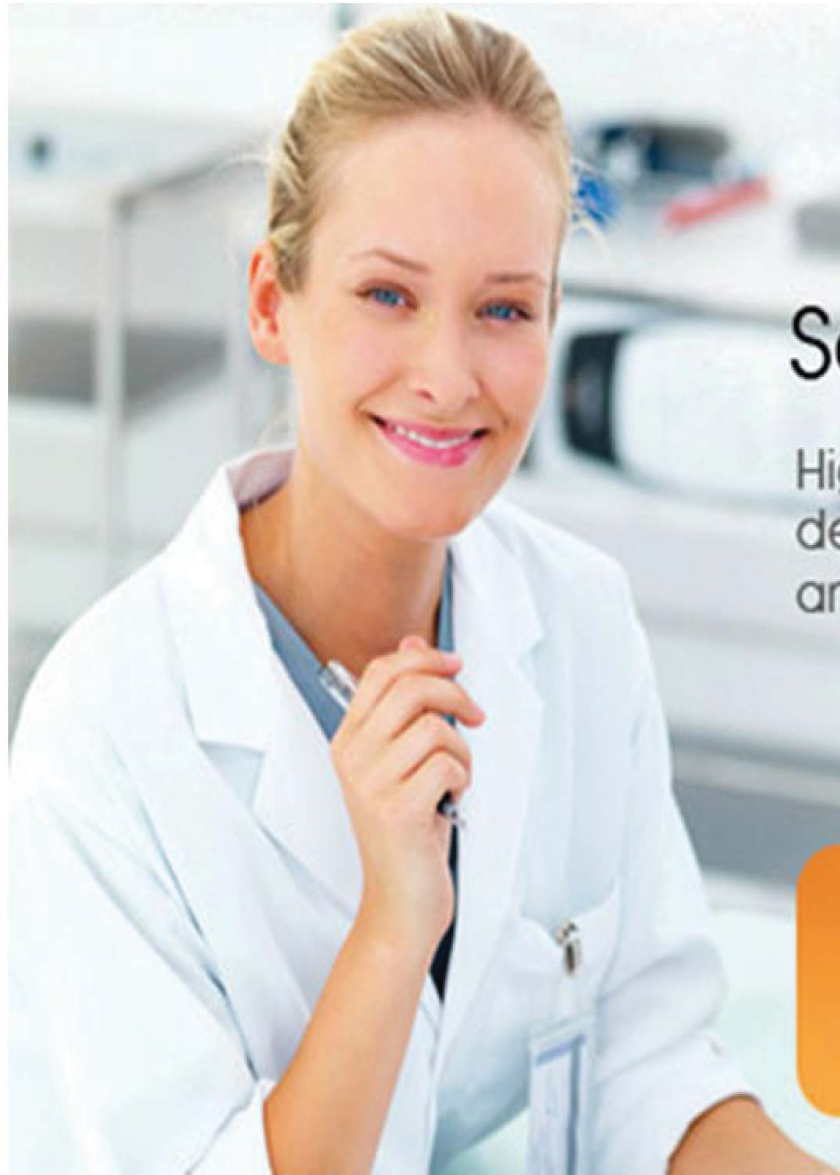
Miss. Sachi Singh, High School Senior, Plainsboro, New Jersey giving the closing remarks and welcomed the Leadership Institute located in the tri-state area. Vibha Rajput, G.S.A India @75 Expo Council Member, Ravi Teja, AMEC Pennsylvania Chapter Chairman, Suresh Bodiwala, CEO, Asian Media USA, Ramya Ramnarayan, Director of Nrithyanjali, New Jersey, Dr. Hari Eppanapally, CEO, The CIC Group, Inc. New York City and Sandeep Tupili, Fashion Designer, New York among others gave their felicitations on the occasion.





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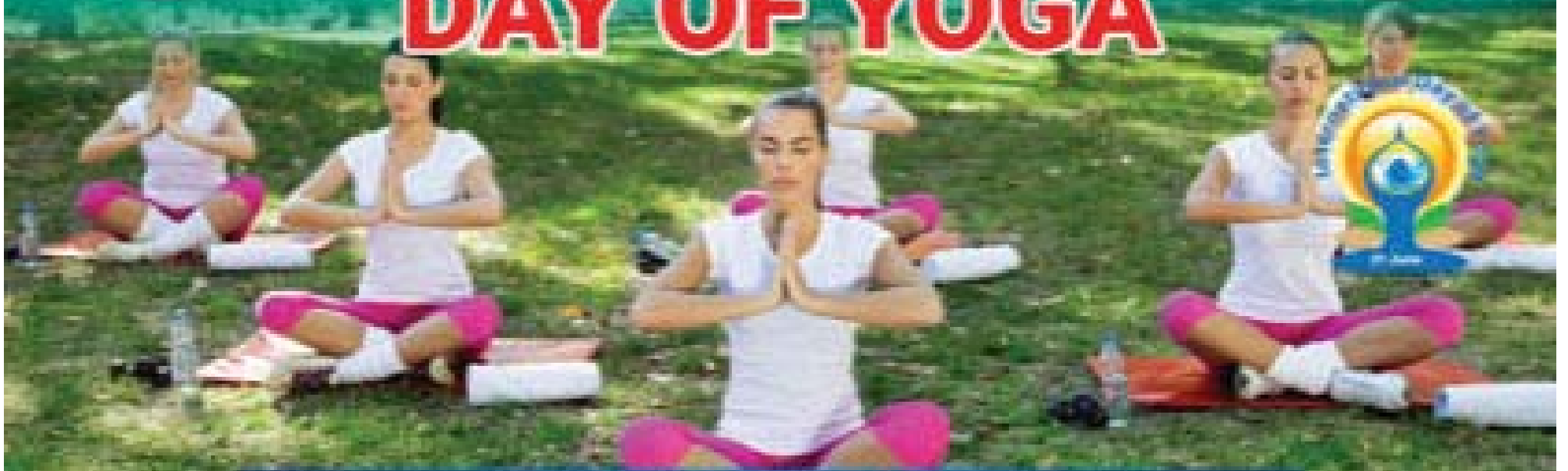




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**Naveen Karna**  
630-348-6408



# Diljit Dosanjh's Turle Wali Pagri at Coachella

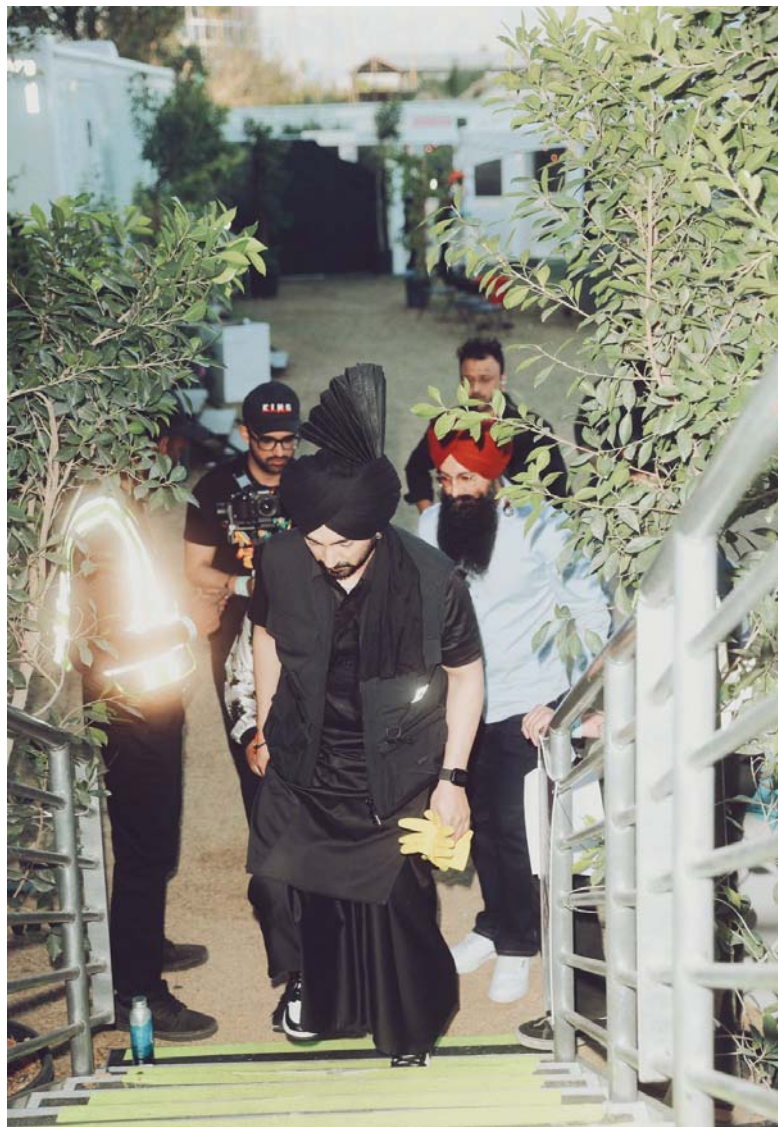
## His Turban Stylist Gurpartap Singh Kang Calls It 'Proud Moment for India'

Diljit Dosanjh created history when he celebrated and performed his music at the Coachella Music Festival on April 15th. Marking his debut and being the only Punjabi Sikh to perform at the festival, Diljit brought his Punjabi vibe not just through his music but with his desi style as well.

Dressed in a traditional Punjabi costume which comprised a black kurta, chadra ( a piece of cloth tied on the lower half of the body) and pagri (turban), Diljit added a contemporary twist to the look by including a pair of Jordans, yellow gloves and a Carhatt WIP Elmwood vest. Known for his love for luxury brands and Indian silhouettes, Diljit has never shied away from experimenting with his looks. Keeping Coachella's look an extension of his roots and his identity, Diljit had everyone in the audience vibe with him as he set the stage on fire with his performance at the festival. A pagri is held in high regard by the Punjabi and Sikh community, and Diljit has been honouring it in every performance be it on stage acts or in movies. And making him achieve every look with elan, is his turban stylist Gurpartap Singh Kang. Gurpartap who has been working with Diljit for the past 12 years, has been instrumental in Diljit's iconic pagri looks. And with Coachella 2023 being the most iconic moment, Gurpartap who is currently in the US with Diljit spoke exclusively to News18 about how proud he was to see Diljit

Dosanjh perform on such a big stage such as Coachella. "Haryana ke chote se village Ranjit Nagar (Gondar) se Coachella tak pouncha..Proud moment," expresses Gurpartap Singh Kang. Speaking about his choice of outfit for the festival, Gurpartap further adds, "It is a proud moment for Punjabis and India, to see our traditional costume on such a big stage like Coachella. I feel extremely blessed to share this moment with Diljit and style the traditional pagri for his iconic performance." Donning a traditional look on an international stage, says a lot about Diljit, when asked Gurpartap who styles Diljit's stylish looks, Gurpartap says, "Diljit styles his own on stage looks. I tie and style his pagri based on the costume and the scenario requirement for instance film characters etc. For the Coachella performance, we decided on doing the traditional Punjabi turle wali pagri." The pagri which was made from 8 metres of cotton voile fabric complemented the black kurta and chadra adorned by Diljit. The yellow gloves added a pop of colour to his monochrome look.

While this look definitely celebrated his charming personality, we can't wait to see what he will be wearing for his second performance at Coachella 2023 on April 22. I guess we just got to wait and watch!



## Honey Singh and Tina Thadani Break Up After a Year of Dating?

Singer and rapper Honey Singh has parted ways with his actor-model girlfriend Tina Thadani. If a recent report by Hindustan Times is to be believed, the two called it quits just a few days ago and are living separately now. Not just this, but they have unfollowed each other on social media and have also deleted pictures with each other. However, the reason behind their break up is not known as of now.

"They wanted different things in life. While they are currently dealing with the breakup maturely, both need time to heal. Tina is heartbroken, currently and trying to focus on her work. Honey, is not shy talking about the breakup. He has informed everyone about it," a source cited by the news portal claimed.

However, when Tina Thadani was contacted by the news portal, she refused to comment on her breakup rumours and simply said, "I don't really want to talk about it". On the other hand, Honey Singh

remained unavailable for comment.

Honey Singh confirmed his relationship with Tina in December last year at an event in Delhi. Back then, the singer had announced his new album titled 3.0 when he shared that the title of his album was given by Tina. Pointing out at Tina, who was sitting among the audience, he had said, "Meri girlfriend baethi hai Tina, isne mujhe ye naam dia hai. Isne bola ki you are Honey 3.0 This is the third one (my girlfriend Tina is sitting here, she has given me this name, Honey 3.0)." "We met on the sets, and I felt something different, more like she is mine. So, eventually I had to put a lot efforts to woo her and finally she agreed upon it. She has drastically changed my life. She knew a little about my early life already. I gave her more details and insights of my life so that someday she does not get to know something suddenly that would shock her or put her in thoughts that she should have known that particular information earlier," he later told Bollywood Hungama.



## Kangana Ranaut Says Aamir Khan

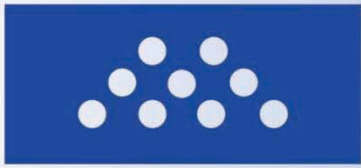
### Was Her 'Best Friend' But Tiff With Hrithik Roshan Changed It All

Kangana Ranaut took to her Instagram stories on Tuesday and shared a throwback video from her appearance on Aamir Khan's TV show, Satyamev Jayate. In the video, Kangana revealed how she consciously rejected several item songs in Bollywood after she saw a young girl dancing to an item number. Kangana was also joined by Deepika Padukone and Parineeti Chopra in the episode. Sharing the clip, Kangana penned down a note and claimed how Aamir Khan used to be her 'best friend'. However, she further alleged that the equation between her and Aamir changed after her infamous battle

with Hrithik Roshan. Kangana mentioned that it was because of Hrithik that Aamir made his 'loyalties clear'. "Actually mujhe bhi kabhi kabhi woh din yaad aate hain jab Aamir sir was my best friend... jaane kahan gaye woh din (Sometimes I recall the time when Aamir Sir was my best friend... I don't know where those days have gone)," Kangana wrote. "One thing is for sure that he has mentored me, appreciated me, and shaped a lot of my choices, before Hrithik did that legal case on me. Post that they made their loyalties clear – it was one woman against entire industry," the actress further added.







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