

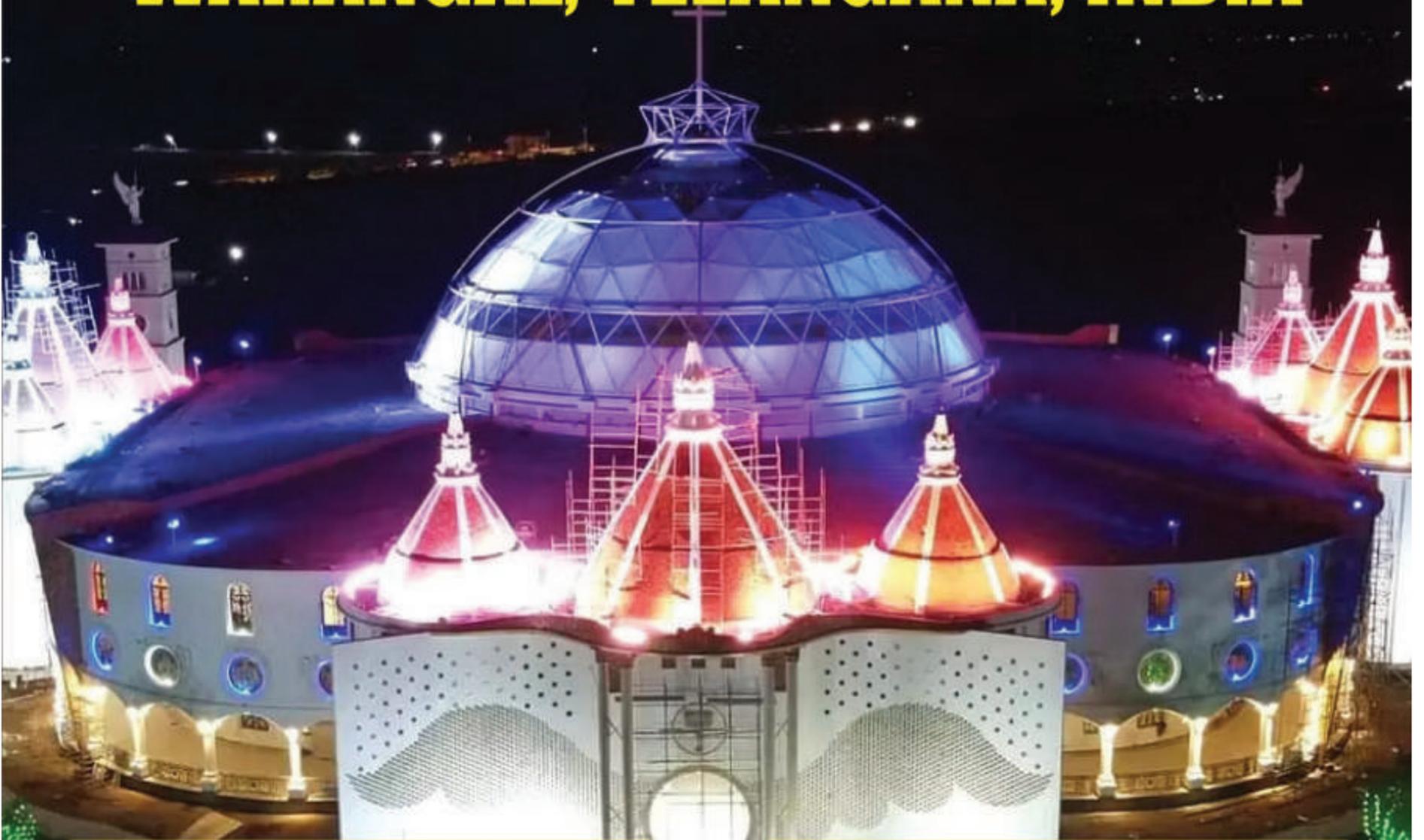
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GLOBAL EYE

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Issue 21, May 26, 2023

ASIA'S LARGEST CHURCH OPENS IN WARANGAL, TELANGANA, INDIA



"It is great pride that India under the Global Visionary & inclusive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Asia's Largest Christian Church" : Dr VGP, May 4, 2023

FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Presenting the 21st edition of G.S.A. Global Eye Magazine which is now on a weekly frequency along with printed hard copies in response to the overwhelming positive feedback received from across India and Chicagoland, U.S.A too.

Kavitha Pulla, our Hyderabad News Bureau Chief reports on the epic grand opening of Asia's largest Christian church in Warangal district of Telangana State, India is our cover story. Personally attending the dedication ceremonies where I met the simple and humble spiritual warrior **Rev Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala** was a true blessing. Thanks to Indiana's Family Christian Center President **Dr. Steve Munsey**, who invited me to join this epic event, where I witnessed thousands of people



who thronged the event, it was indeed a sight to behold. In our Focus section, my exclusive interview with the popular Global Astro – Vastu expert **Dr. Ravi Rao** explains the vedic science of Astrology in layman's terms. This interview is a mystic experience that grabs your soul, as it provides an emotional insight into the life of a global astro vastu expert, a political mentor, author and motivational business consultant.

Alli Dhanaraj, our Chief Circulation Officer curated the focus section's exclusive interview efficiently to make it an interesting read. Our Chief Community Officer **Shree Gurusamy** along with our guest columnist **Seeta Bala** have christened their weekly community news round up as Shree & Seeta's Chatter in a new

colorful photo feature. Chennai News Bureau Chief **Suresh Managaladurai's** interesting article on the precarious balance of nature between man and wildlife is featured in our spotlight section.

We welcome **Roopashi Khatri** from Bangalore, Karnataka as our Vice President for India to Co-ordinate our in depth feature articles from across India. In our Global Update **Ahmed Jirreh** shares the Somaliland's Celebration of 32nd Anniversary of regaining its sovereignty in an enlightening article. Chicago News Bureau Chief **Mohita Sukumar** covers the Indian American Medical Association Charitable Foundation's 29th Annual Gala which raised \$120,000 for its free charitable medical clinic operating in north side of Chicago.

Alli Dhanaraj covered the swearing in ceremony of Chicago's new Mayor Brandon Johnson on May 15 at Credit One Arena of University of Illinois at Chicago, which was well attended by over 6,000 persons. Thank you for your encouraging letters to the editor and we welcome your responses which are being regularly published. Yes, together we shine brighter !

Vijay G Prabhakar



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US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan to visit Saudi Arabia



US President Joe Biden's National Security Adviser will travel to Saudi Arabia on the weekend for talks with Saudi Leaders as well as Indian and Emirati officials. Jake Sullivan's trip, which starts on Saturday. Comes as relations between Washington and Riyadh have been strained since Mr. Biden's visit to take kindgom in July 2022.

Nepal's RSP withdraws support to the Prachanda-Led government



Nepal's Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP) has decided to withdraw its support to the Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda government and instead stay in the Opposition. The move will not immediately affect the position of the Prachanda-led government, but it may result in a political crisis after some time.

Civilian complain to neglect as Fighting rages on in Kharatoum



Heavy gunfire echoed around Khartoum again on Friday as civilians trapped in the Sudanese capital said the army and rival paramilitary forces were fighting on and ignoring their plight. Heavy gunfire echoed around Khartoum again on Friday as civilians trapped in the Sudanese capital said the army and rival paramilitary forces were fighting on and ignoring their plight.

Russia's Wagner Cheif threatens to pull troops out of Bakhmut



Russian paramilitary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin on Friday threatened to pull his frontline fighters from Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine next week because of ammunition shortages, berating army chiefs in a grisly video. Mr. Prigozhin's Wagner group has spearheaded the grinding, months-long Russian assault on Bakhmut, almost capturing the city in the longest and bloodiest battle of the campaign.

Neera Tanden named new domestic policy adviser: White House

Washington: President Joe Biden picked a senior aide, Neera Tanden, to replace Susan Rice as his domestic policy adviser, the White House said in a statement. Tanden, a longtime Democratic aide who served in two prior presidential administrations, will take on one of the most senior policy jobs in the administration, covering most areas outside of national security and the economy. As Biden's staff secretary, Tanden already played a major role in the West Wing, controlling the schedules, briefing books and other paperwork that reach the president's desk. Stefanie Feldman, an aide to Rice, will replace Tanden as staff secretary.



reform." Rice departed after a two-year term that included wrangling over tense issues from immigration to healthcare, guns and police reform.

The move comes as Biden continues to face some headwinds on immigration after promising to roll back almost all of the restrictive policies imposed under his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump. The US plans next week to lift Covid-19 restrictions that block migrants trying to cross illegally at the US-Mexico border.

Tanden, long seen as a lightning rod for her sharply worded tweets, was named to her current behind-the-scenes job after being forced to withdraw her nomination to be budget chief amid fierce opposition from Republicans and Senator Joe Manchin, a Democrat from West Virginia. While Republicans have attacked Tanden for her left-leaning views, she has also sparred with the progressive camp over her support for Hillary Clinton against Senator Bernie Sanders in the 2016 Democratic presidential race, and drew fire for backing cuts to the Social Security retirement program to balance the budget nearly a decade ago.

COVID-19 no longer a global emergency, says WHO

The World Health Organization said on May 5 that COVID-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency, marking a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic that triggered once-unthinkable lockdowns, upended economies worldwide and killed at least 7 million people worldwide. WHO said that even though the emergency phase was over, the pandemic hasn't come to an end, noting recent spikes in cases in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. The U.N. health agency says that thousands of people are still dying from the virus every week. "It's with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "That does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat." When the U.N. health agency first declared the coronavirus to be an international crisis on Jan. 30, 2020, it hadn't yet been named COVID-19 and there were no major outbreaks beyond China.



More than three years later, the virus has caused an estimated 764 million cases globally and about 5 billion people have received at least one dose of vaccine. In the U.S., the public health

emergency declaration made regarding COVID-19 is set to expire on May 11, when wide-ranging measures to support the pandemic response, including vaccine mandates, will end. Many other countries,

including Germany, France and Britain, dropped many of their provisions against the pandemic last year.

When Tedros declared COVID-19 to be an emergency in 2020, he said his greatest fear was the virus' potential to spread in countries with weak health systems he described as "ill-prepared." In fact, some of the countries that suffered the worst COVID-19 death tolls were previously judged to be the best-prepared for a pandemic, including the U.S. and Britain. According to WHO data, the number of deaths reported in Africa account

for just 3 per cent of the global total.

WHO made its decision to lower its highest level of alert on Friday, after convening an expert group on Thursday. The U.N. agency doesn't "declare" pandemics, but first used the term to describe the outbreak in March 2020, when the virus had spread to every continent except Antarctica, long after many other scientists had said a pandemic was already underway.

WHO is the only agency mandated to coordinate the world's response to acute health threats, but the organisation faltered repeatedly as the coronavirus unfolded. In January 2020, WHO publicly applauded China for its supposed speedy and transparent response, even though recordings of private meetings obtained by The Associated Press showed top officials were frustrated at the country's lack of cooperation.

WHO also recommended against members of the public wearing masks to protect against COVID-19 for months, a mistake many health officials say cost lives. Numerous scientists also slammed WHO's reluctance to acknowledge that COVID-19 was frequently spread in the air and by people without symptoms, criticising

the agency's lack of strong guidance to prevent such exposure. Mr. Ghebreyesus was a vociferous critic of rich countries who hoarded the limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccines, warning that the world was on the brink of a "catastrophic moral failure" by failing to share shots with poor countries. Most recently, WHO has been struggling to investigate the origins of the coronavirus, a challenging scientific endeavour that has also become politically fraught.

After a weeks-long visit to China, WHO released a report in 2021 concluding that COVID-19 most likely jumped into humans from animals, dismissing the possibility that it originated in a lab as "extremely unlikely." But the U.N. agency backtracked the following year, saying "key pieces of data" were still missing and that it was premature to rule out that COVID-19 might have ties to a lab.

A panel commissioned by WHO to review its performance criticised China and other countries for not moving quicker to stop the virus and said the organisation was constrained both by its limited finances and inability to compel countries to act.

Vijay. Today I picked up from Suchir Indian store Your GLOBAL EYE news You have such amazing Energy and talent We wish for you and your magazine to grow always It is a magazine for all people with events from around the world We wish you more success..good health and prosperity

**Jayanthi & Dr Pratap Kumar,
Oakbrook, IL, USA**

The Globaleye magazine is improving. Every issue of the magazine now gets better and better. I always look forward to it. Thanks for your email.

**Prema
Nagpur**

New Global magazine is an informative and useful magazine. I put this magazine as a new magazine because it is all new compared to last year's issues. Great going.

**Amit Prabhu,
Kolkata**

I saw this magazine in my email. I enjoyed the information contained in the magazine. I was able to read information about many changes, progress, and development taking place in our Community, which filled my heart with joy.

**John Deon
Hobson West, Naperville**

Delighted to know about King Charles's oath ceremony. Very colourfull pictures. Excellent Coverage.

**Nandkumar Udhan
Vizag, AP**

A fascinating publication of Globaleye magazine. Reading the magazine brings me great joy. The interview with Mayor Scott in this is a great presentation. Really he is a proven leader. As a Naperville resident, very interested to see his plans.

**Ethan, Peoples Media
Chicago**

Wonderful info with Global snippets from all around the world. I see so new and good changes in the present issues.

Thanks for the efforts put in by the team. Salute to the hard work.

**Smith Mitchel
USA**

My mother also reads this magazine. My name is M. Satish Arvind, and I am from Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. I am very happy to read Global magazine. There is a lot of information with lots & lots of images.

**Satish Arvind
Tiruchirappalli, TN, India**

Wonderful!!!!!! Awesome coverage of Filmfare Awards with pictures. Congratulations to the award winners. I want to be there one day as a best director.

**Pawan Besetti,
Hyderabad, Telangana**

Very interesting information about Digital immunity and Advanced Security systems by Mallikarjuna. Good to see that Forbes recognizing our Indians.

I need some clarification from the team of Globaleye. The name of the magazine itself is Globaleye but on the cover, just under the global name, the American flag is displayed. This is like inserting other countries' ideology in our Indian minds. We always say Bharat Mata ki Jai.

**Bharat,
Mumbai**

This Global eye magazine follows VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM the spirit of one earth, one family, and one future, is showing the world a new path. Thank you for the colorful magazine

**Gaurav Namdev
Spatar Association, Delhi**

Publication very impressive and of high standard. I always get every issue of Global Eye Magazine. I am very glad that you send us this magazine without missing it. Its publication is very impressive and of a high standard. Articles and news are worth reading.

**Swapna Kulkarni
Bengaluru**

Liked the beautiful picture of the entire

magazine. I liked the stories on Face to Face interviews, IT, Community news and Filmfare. Big thanks to the Chief of editor, global Eye Magazine and his entire team and supporting Staff.

**Priyadarshini
Indore**

This Global magazine is a very informative magazine that provides interesting information about development activities and community news. Best wishes to the editorial team and hope that you continue to provide effective stories.

**Laxman Raju
Guntur, AP, India**

GLOBAL EYE magazine is becoming a rich source of knowledge these days. Nice to read the achievements of new mayor Scott Wehrli and Doctor Rajendran. The youth page articles, women's page and UK King Charles are great to read. Thank you so much.

**Shankar Prasad
Mangalore**

I wish to congratulate you for bringing out such an informative magazine.

**Praveen Satta
Hyderabad**

My name is N Swamy Rajesh from Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. I read the

Bureau of Outreach and Communication's magazine The Global Eye. It's very informative and very knowledgeable for every person of our country. I read this regularly. I want a hard copy of the magazine so that my entire family could read it.

**Rajesh,
Nellore, AP**

Nice and good looking Nice presentation It includes all important news from top to bottom

**Peter John
USA**

Firstly congratulations for the very useful magazine. I am very happy to read it. It is very useful in the current situation.

**Kriti
Nodia**

Good information with good articles.

Shamik, India

Global eye is very colorful and pleasing to the eyes.

Looking forward for your digital magazine. I have missed few issues but able to download it from the website. Kudos to the team for their relentless effort.

Tilak Delhi

NEW BLOOMS

New blooms; new blooms
New blooms so vain
Fresh without any understanding
Of what it is to be in pain
The bud that blooms
Is proud of its beauty
Realises not that death looms
A bud is not for infinity
Bud does turn into a flower
Which soon doth so wither
But its death has power
For then a fruit appears in the bower
New blooms; new blooms
Don't worry for death is not forever.

**B. N. Suresh Mangaladurai,
Kumily , Kerala, India**



This episode of Dr. VGP TALK SHOW features Chicagoland's most popular Gospel Radio Host PAM MORRIS WALTON, who worked under the global icon STEVIE WONDER.

PAM MORRIS WALTON had a HEART TRANSPLANT in 2016 and is a LIVING WONDER TODAY!

Watch the Dr. VGP TALK SHOW to learn about the importance of ORGAN DONATION in saving lives as you view Pam's 57-day wait for the heart transplant of the 20-year-old donor MARIO, an African American who was killed in Gun Violence in Westside of Chicago.

**ORGAN DONATION SAVES LIVES!
BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR TODAY !!!**

<https://youtu.be/3oVtZrmwPgU>

ASIA'S LARGEST CHURCH OPENS IN WARANGAL, INDIA

P.M. MODI CREDITED FOR HIS INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP : Dr VGP.



Kavitha Pulla
Hyderabad News Bureau Chief

The epic opening of Society of Christ Founder Rev Dr. S. Paulsonraj's CHRISTU JYOTHI PRAYER HALL in Karunapuram, Peddapendyal, Warangal in Telangana State drew over 300,000 persons on May 4 at the dedication of Asia's Largest Church.

Uncontrollable crowds witnessed the grand opening where several leaders including local M.L.A's, Community leaders and various Christian leaders graced the occasion. The Master Creative Genius Dr. Steve Munsey, Pastor of Family Christian Center, Munster, Indiana, USA headlined the opening of the 30,000 seater Christu Jyothi Prayer Hall in Warangal, India today. The spectacular dome was made to order at Houston, USA and shipped to Warangal, India. Rev. Dr. S. Paulsonraj, Founder and Rev. Dr.

G. Jayaprakash, Director, Society of Christ welcomed Dr. Steve Munsey, popular playwright and magnificent theatrical producer par excellence, the guest of honor and the special guest Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar popularly known as Dr. VGP, who is also the National President, Indian American Christian Alliance, USA to the historic dedication ceremonies at Warangal.

Rev. Dr. Paulsonraj, Founder, Society of Christ said that the 25 Acre Campus built at a cost of INR 250 Crores - \$30 million was all from contributions from India including in-kind contributions. Not a single penny of foreign contributions was received, added Rev Dr. G. Jayaprakash, Director, Society of Christ, Warangal.

Speaking to Global Eye News Services, Dr. Steve Munsey described the Christu Jyothi Prayer Hall as a marvelous architecture

with awesome wooden carved pillars, magnificent giant wooden carved doors, spectacular dome with six angels, stained glass windows, appropriate biblical verses, great towers which all gives a heavenly atmosphere that is seen to be believed. Dr. Steve Munsey personally saluted the selfless leadership of Rev. Dr. Paulsonraj where sacrifices over the years that helped him realized his dream of building this great monument. Dr. Steve Munsey further praised the membership of Society of Christ for contributing in kind and in cash to build this great spiritual wonder of Asia.

"U.S. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM 2022 REPORT ON INDIA A HOGWASH" : Dr. VGP

Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar, Indian American Community Leader from Chicago, speaking to Global Eye

News Services said that it is great pride that India under the Global Visionary & inclusive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Asia's Largest Christian Church today. Dr. Prabhakar popularly known as Dr VGP hit out at U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) 2022 report recommending to U.S. Government to place INDIA as a country of particular interest. Today's epic celebration where hundreds of thousands of Christians came out to celebrate their faith is a testimony to the freedom of Indian Citizens to freely practice their faith. USCIRF's recommendations are a hogwash and cannot be construed to depict the real situation in India where all minorities are freely allowed to practice their religion beliefs, thundered Dr. VGP.

Mrs. Gundu Sudharani, Mayor

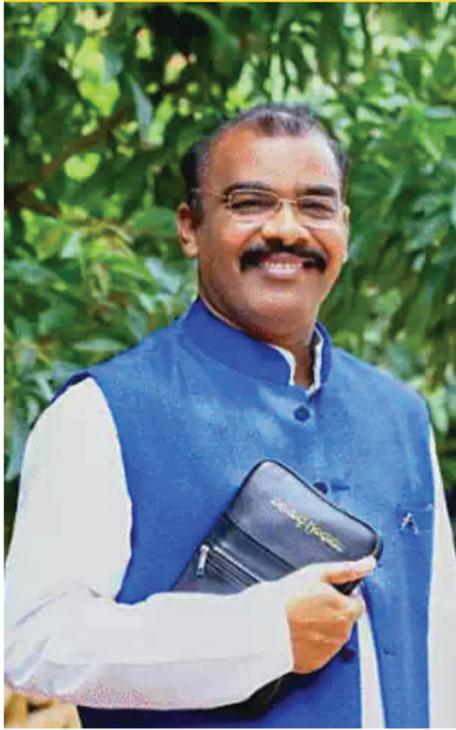
of Warangal specially welcomed Dr. VGP to the City with full civic honors and hosted a reception in the evening of May 4 in honor of Dr VGP's maiden visit to Warangal. Earlier on Friday May 3 evening, Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan welcomed Dr. VGP to Telangana State at Radisson Blu, Gachibowli, Hyderabad City.

Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar thanked Paramjothi Marati of Homewood, Illinois for inviting the American delegation to witness this epic celebration of grand opening of Asia's Largest Christian Church at Warangal, India.

Thousands of persons from all over India including Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka attended the celebrations, and also camped on the campus for the next three days.



Meet Apostle Prophet Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala.



I Sangala Paulson Raj born in a Christian family on March 7th 1973 in Bheemaram village Hanamkonda district Telangana State India. My father was working as a mason and my mother attendant in a government school and younger brother Pharmacist and Accuputure Doctor. My grandfather was wealthy and owned acers of land, but due to alcoholic addiction lost everything and finally become financially poor. Because of poverty, even I had to work and study, but from childhood, I had the spiritual zeal to study bible regularly and prayer was a custom for me. At the age of 10 years I was filled by the Holy spirit and my spiritual life began to thrive. But abruptly my father expired on June 2nd 1989, and the total family burden was upon me as I was the elder son, and on August 15th 1989, I suddenly collapsed in school and they rushed me to the hospital ,when

tested all reports are normal and they discharged me, but after coming to house, there was severe pain in my right leg and gradually I was unable to walk due to pain. The situation was becoming worse day by day and I was in bed for one month, when I was at the verge of death and in severe agony, I started to pray when people were mocking me because of my faith in Christ Jesus. I cried on to God to heal me or to receive to heaven but God graciously, heard my cry and said my son Paul stand up and walk and I began to walk. As I promised to God that I would serve him if he would heal me, so I came to Karunapuram with one bedsheet and a bible though my family members and all relatives hindered me and I was working as a hostel warden in a college but due to slanders, I was removed from the duty, and given the job of night watchman to fill the water tanks in the night. Fasting prayers were a custom in my life and when I was fasting and praying, God showed me a vision in which a small hut and Jesus Christ was enthroned and beside him, I was standing and all sick and diseased were coming and Jesus said to me, lay your hands upon them, and when I laid my hands on them, Jesus laid His and on my hand and all the people were being healed and this was the beginning of my ministry in the year 1991 in a small hut which started with one woman receiving healing from cancer and gradually, the ministry began to grow and people started coming to Karunapuram to hear the gospel and to accept Jesus as their saviour and surrender their life to Jesus Christ. In the year 2004, due to dissensions in the doctrines, I was not allowed to come to the church which I was working, so I started my own ministry in the present place. At that time when I was crying to God, God showed me a glorious church which God is going to

build.

With faith I continued to pray and all the prayers have been fruitful as my God who will fulfil what he has promised, I laid the foundation for the church on June 11th 2016, with no money in my hand, but all the people began to give offerings as the Lord inspired their hearts for this great work and people willingly worked with their missionary and supplied materials and some skilled people have also worked for this great church. When the church main structure was coming up I began to think about a fabulous dome on the church and began to search and finally found CST dome Texas and ordered for it. The whole church is acoustically treated with good quality of material and Nexo sound system which is imported from France is installed in the church, the whole church flooring is of granite (Colonial gold, Colonial white and Sivakasi in the corridors). Inlay work was done in the flooring and the pillars cladding with brass which are imprinted with biblical fruits. The three entrances are wooden doors, engraved with lampstand, olive tree and mercy seat and also the entrances are having mural designs. The main entrance designed Eagle wings on the curved wall with firebricks. And also brass mouldings of lampstand, crown of thorns, prayer hands with bible and Olive tree were fixed on the four sides. The church has four towers on the four corners which are named as Moses, David, Peter and Dr Paul Towers. The church surroundings are Landscaped with beautiful plants. The special attraction is 1600 years old Olive tree. The whole work was completed and Church inaugurated on May 4th 2023 in festivity with procession and after that flag hoisting. The gates of church were opened prayerfully and all the three doors were inaugurated the Fathers door by Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala

and Rev. Dr. Jaya Prakash Gopu, the Christs door by Local Pastors and Holy Spirit door by Pastor Steve Munsey after reading the scripture and praying. The dedication of the church was sensational and all the Glory, Honour, Praise, Thanksgiving be unto Lord Jesus Christ who has shown His grace and given His strength to do this great task. Over thousand pastors have been commissioned for the Ministry and thousand prayer warriors are prepared for continuous offering of prayers. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, prayer services (four worship services) are conducted and every second tuesday of the month whole night prayer. Thirty five thousand people attend for these prayer services and also all our prayer services are telecasted in our Christu Jyothi ministries, YouTube channel and also in our social media. Millions of people have received Christ by hearing the gospel and are baptised and many wonders miracles healings, deliverance, earthly and spiritually blessings people received and also the outpour of the Holy spirit is manifested. The government of Telangana is operating special buses to the Prayer Centre and thousands of visitors are visiting the church every day and glorifying God for this great marvel.

Our organisation is running a bible College and we have 500 churches in different cities and villages and 30 permanent pastors and 50 sisters are doing the ministry and also monthly magazine is published. We 24/7 prayer ministry attending phone calls to pray for the people in need. We conduct gospel meetings in various places every month and thousands of people attend for these meetings. God honoured me with honorary doctorate of divinity which is awarded by Andhra Christian Theological College, Hyderabad for the ministry which I am doing. All Glory to Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.



CHRIST JYOTI CHURCH

Inaugurated as Asia's Largest Church in Warangal

enhance the aesthetic appeal, and the pillars are constructed using Holland technology. Intricate scenes of Jesus' ministry adorn mirrors, creating a captivating ambiance. Special platforms and angelic sculptures further embellish the shrine.

Significance of the Christ Jyoti Church:

The Christ Jyoti Prayer Hall is a sacred space dedicated to worshiping in spirit and truth. It is believed to be a place where miracles, healings, and symbols of faith occur. The visionary Founder, Prophet Reverend Dr. Sangala Paulson Raj, received divine guidance and laid the foundation stone of the church in 2016. The completion of this magnificent shrine after seven years of dedicated effort is a testament to the power of prayers and divine blessings.

Community Services and Activities:

Christu Jyothi Ministries, the organization behind the Christ Jyoti Church, has a rich history of serving the community. Apart from spiritual activities, the society runs a theological college, a health campus that includes HIV/AIDS awareness programs, an old age home, and various social awareness activities. These initiatives

are made possible through the contributions and offerings of local devotees.

Tourist Attraction:

With its inauguration, the Christ Jyoti Church has become a major tourist attraction in the region. The breathtaking architecture, serene environment, and the spiritual significance of the church draw visitors from far and wide. Devotees and tourists alike can immerse themselves in the tranquil atmosphere and experience the beauty of the largest church in Asia.

Conclusion:

The inauguration of the Christ Jyoti Church in Warangal marks a significant milestone, placing the city on the world map for its architectural marvel and spiritual significance. With its capacity to accommodate 40,000 people, the church stands as a testament to the devotion and dedication of the Christu Jyothi Ministries. As devotees and tourists flock to witness this awe-inspiring landmark, the Christ Jyoti Church is poised to become a symbol of faith, spirituality, and cultural heritage in the region.

Introduction:

Warangal, a city in Telangana, has etched its name in the record books with the inauguration of the Christ Jyoti Church, touted as Asia's largest church. Situated in the picturesque village of Karunapuram, the mega church has the capacity to accommodate over 40,000 devotees at a time. With its magnificent architecture, state-of-the-art facilities, and serene surroundings, the Christ Jyoti Church is set to become a significant landmark attracting devotees and tourists from around the world.

A Remarkable Achievement:

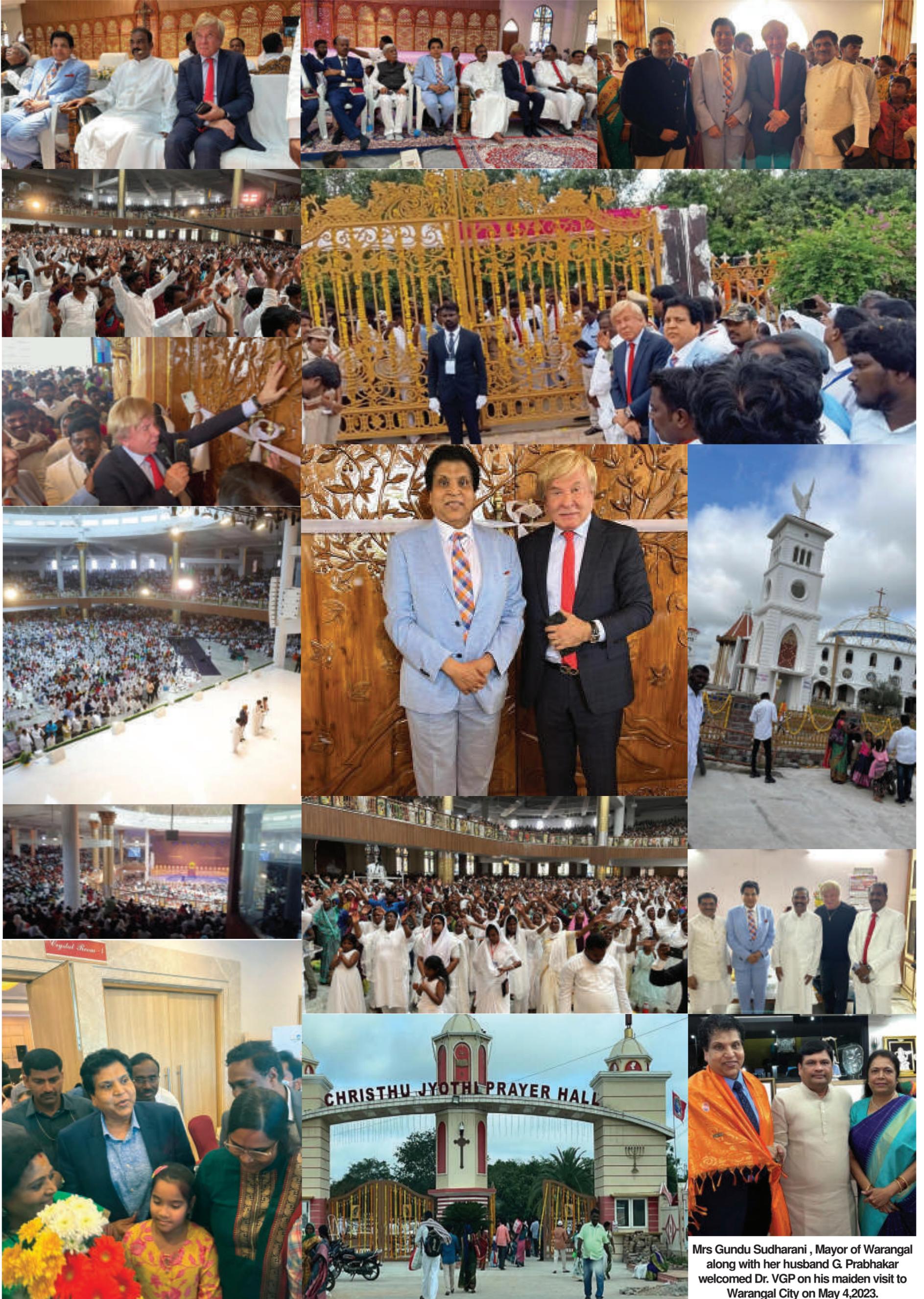
On May 4th, the Christ Jyoti Church was inaugurated in a grand ceremony attended by pastors from various countries and devotees from all over India. Founder Dr. Paulson Raj announced that the

church can host an impressive 40,000 people simultaneously. Dr Steve Munsey, Founder and senior pastor of Family Christian Center, Indiana, USA attended and gave the inaugural message. Built on 11 acres of land, the prayer hall spans an astounding area of 1,50,000 square feet. The construction of the church is a testament to years of dedication and hard work by the Founder, Prophet Reverend Dr. Sangala Paulson Raj.

Architectural Marvel:

The Christ Jyoti Church stands tall with its remarkable architectural features. The church's aluminum dome, imported from the United States, adds a touch of grandeur to the structure. To ensure a pristine acoustic environment, the prayer hall is equipped with soundproof materials. Marble interiors sourced from Vietnam

GLIMPSES OF THE OPENING OF CHRISTU JYOTHI PRAYER HALL



Mrs Gundu Sudharani , Mayor of Warangal along with her husband G. Prabhakar welcomed Dr. VGP on his maiden visit to Warangal City on May 4,2023.



AMERICAN MULTI ETHNIC COALITION - AMEC & MULTI ETHNIC ADVISORY TASK FORCE - MEATF PRESENTS



12TH ANNUAL U.S. CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS GALA SPECTACULAR GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS



THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARs

HONORING OUR COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL HEROES

MESMERIZING ENTERTAINMENT
RED CARPET.. SPECTACULAR ACTION PACKED PROGRAM
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GLOBAL ASTRO VASTU EXPERT DR. RAVI RAO PREDICTS BJP BIG WIN OF 386 SEATS IN 2024 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. VGP

Dr VGP:

Hello and welcome to Dr. VGP TALK SHOW. There are no easy lessons. There's no promise of Enlightenment. Only the wisdom of experience that comes from one's own Journey. Our Guest today at Dr. VGP TALK SHOW that reaches 42 million households, including two million in USA, showcases how gratitude and good things life has offered is exquisitely, satisfying. Among them, A Mystic experience that grabs your soul. Today, Dr. VGP TALK SHOW provides an emotional insight into the life of a global Astro vastu expert, a political mentor, author and motivational business consultant who's haunting voice resonates with a sense of epic sweep. Global Eye viewers, a journey worth viewing and listening to.

Meet the iconic, Dr. Ravi Rao.

Dr Ravi Rao:



Thank you. Thank you doctor for having me in Chicago. I'm very grateful to you and I'm honored and let us start the show.

Dr VGP:

Thank you so much, Dr. Ravi Rao for joining us at the Dr. VGP TALK SHOW today in spite of your busy schedule, all the way from Ahmedabad, India to Chicago, USA. Dr Ravi Rao, Could you introduce yourself briefly to our viewers?

Dr Ravi Rao:

Yeah, I've been a business consultant. I practice Vastu & Astrology for Industries and businesses.

Dr VGP:

Great, Born in Andhra Pradesh, Vizag, living in Ahmedabad, India and today with us in Chicago. Tell our viewers, what does the word vastu mean? In simple layman's language?

Dr Ravi Rao:

Vastu is a very traditional word. Vasati itivastu, any dwelling, has certain principles in terms of energy using the materials like light, wind, everything. So, how do you make the property? Whether it is a residence or commercial building or office building. It has certain tenets to follow. If you follow them, they elevate you in terms of peace and prosperity, they may become stumbling blocks and thereby it has some negativity, which can result into negative results in terms of progress.

Dr VGP:

Great, you very well explained the part of elevating. You had earlier described astrology as a science of time and vastu a science of space. Could you elucidate a little further on that?

Dr Ravi Rao:

Yeah, astronomy is the Behavioral Science of heavenly bodies. The influence of those heavenly bodies on the living beings is what astrology is all about. So it is a science of time and vastu is the science of space in between lies your life and action. So one decides the time, one decides the materials. Science of time, not much can be changed and science of space which can be moved or altered by manifesting few things. Thereby, you can get results in your favorable Direction.

Dr VGP:

Excellent, so you're telling us that vastu is a science of space by making adjustments

and you can get favorable success for prosperity. And I like the way you described astronomy as a behavioral science, can you please repeat that for us?

Dr Ravi Rao:

Astrology signs of time when to do what to do is, what time will decide and how you adjust your things. For example, you want a Study table, it should be east facing or North facing. When you have that, You tend to study well and remember well, where if you face the wrong direction, or a difficult Direction, you may have to work a lot harder to get the same result. That is what I experienced in my last 25 years journey.

Dr VGP:

Yeah, you were saying, astronomy is the study of heavenly bodies and that effect on human beings limitations is astrology. The positioning of the planets and the stars.

Dr Ravi Rao:

The movement of the planets around the zodiac is, what an influential portion of subject is called astrology.

Dr VGP:

Great, India is known for having one of the foremost astrological and vastu experts. And we are fortunate that to have you on our show today and the interesting part about your personality Dr. Rao is that you are applying the vastu principles to political mentorship to business consultant taking a whole new chatspace opening up for the vastu principles and that's fascinating and that's needed today. Could you today we are seeing the headlines of Adani hindenburg episodes. I wouldn't say it's a controversy. What is your take on it?

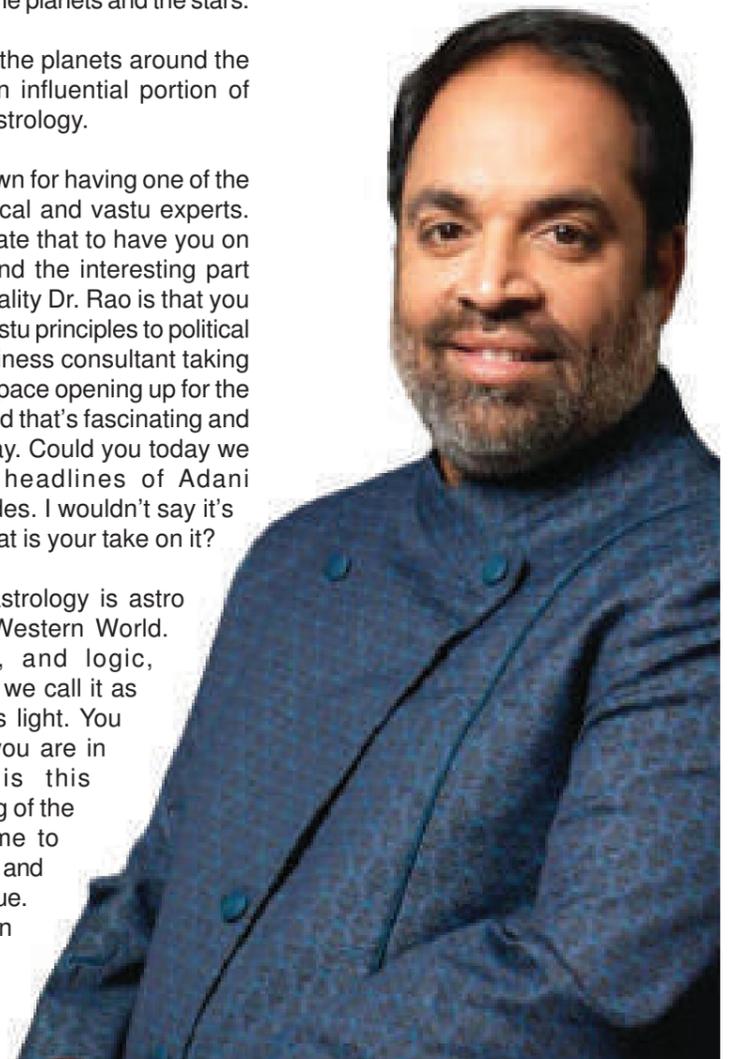
Dr. Ravi Rao:

I'll come to that astrology is astro and logic in the Western World. Astrology stars, and logic, astrology. In India we call it as Jyoti shree means light. You need light when you are in darkness that is this traditional meaning of the subject. Now come to the subject of Adani and the Hindenburg issue. It is quite political in nature and people have got vested interest. They try

to attack the Indian economy, to destabilize politics, my view. And I've been following this topic and the progress in India, and Indian businessmen in India. I've seen, I've been following it closely because I'd buy stock markets, so Indian system by itself is very robust. Proper protocols are there and proper agencies that their job. So, I don't think somebody from outside can talk about Indian agencies or the missionary, how they should perform, how the loopholes are there. So I don't think I will buy the theory of, is their opinion to destabilize the economy and it is discredited. Already we can see the results very soon.

Dr VGP:

Okay. What's your astrological predictions to the Adhani group today?



Dr. Ravi Rao:

I see good steady growth. I see right now. The economy is an upscale upswing mode. And these expected round the you next year. By now we'll be talking about election results and election in India. So the preceding year to elections is always an opposition time to destabilize the economy, political Fabric and unrest.

Dr VGP:

Very well said, so there's more than it what we look at and there is some Sinister move In this whole controversial report, which is being blasted in the social media and elsewhere Dr. Rao, tell us some of the examples of how your vastu principles, your vast Consultancies has changed businesses and people's lives.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

When I started way back in the mid 90s, it was all the sick companies that I had to handle and they used to come to me, When there was no hope for them. So, when I did some small changes here and there, the results were very fascinating. By Word of Mouth, I've been moved from South India to North India, North



India to West India, now around the globe, I'm traveling. And for the last 25 years, I have not rested a minute. I've been traveling, constantly advising various business groups and various businesses including small, medium scale, Upscale.

Dr VGP:

Tell us about the signature analysis. I learnt that your vastu and astrology experts could analyze the personality by the signature. Yes. And if you can tweak it, you enhance his chances for prosperity and success. Is that right?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Yes. Graphology has been one of the subjects in forensic Sciences since ancient times. Graphology is nothing but the stroke of your thought in the mind. So what personality you have is nothing but your thought process that reflects in your signature.

Dr VGP:

Wow, that's a very interesting aspect, could you please repeat that for our viewers.,

Dr. Ravi Rao:

your signature is nothing but a thought process, what personality you are. That thought process will happen in the mind first. So how you think? What you think, is how you do your things? And it Reflects in your signature?

Dr VGP:

Wow. So signature is nothing. But a thought process, it is a reflection of your thought process. So how you sign tells you a lot about your personality?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Absolutely. So how I bring it into Consulting like this, Man things. If suppose a person has got difficulties or some obstructions, they start blaming others. They don't blame themselves, most of the time sometimes he is the stumbling block for himself. So by removing certain hurdles and thought process modifications, he can help himself to grow further. That is how I have been helping people.

Dr VGP:

Wonderful. You know, I learned something new that tweaking signatures could serve thought process and could bring a new dimension to a person's life, that's fantastic. Tell us something about numerology. You know people say you add up your birth numbers, it becomes one

number and that becomes your favorite number and that's auspicious. Could you throw some light on Numerology? It is a science of numbers?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

We know since ancient times that Arya Bhatta is the Surya siddhanta 0 and the dots has been invented invented by India. It is astrology which gave birth to numbers the whole Science has a lot to do to with astrology, because the navagrahas nine planets are there. They are given by astrology. The number of the week. Seven days has come out of astrology. So, astrology is a science which given birth to numbers. Each planet has got a corresponding number.

Dr VGP:

Wow.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

So your actions, your source of activity, your liking and disliking is got a lot of to do with the numbers.



In the sports competition. If you want an example in Sports, I'll give an example. The football is the most favorable sport of the world, people talk about football. When you see forwards nine ten eleven numbers. So astrology talks about outdoor sport energy at the competitive level. So nine represents Mars 10 represents sun and eleven represents moon.

Dr VGP:

So each of the planet has a specific number and that planetary number effects, you work it, with

Dr. Ravi Rao:

That role that you play. That is the primary one. And the birthday that you're born with, is your favorable number.

Dr VGP:

So, you add up all the numbers, the rates, the month, and the year,

Dr. Ravi Rao:

That is geometry we play. We play the Matrix, we play, and we arrived at favorable numbers and unfavorable numbers. Okay? So unfavorable will try to keep them away. Favorable numbers to try to adapt in your day-to-day life that will give you a smooth Journey. The numerology does not give you a success or a destination. It makes your journey smoother so that you reach your destination, happily and Successfully.

Dr VGP:

Ah okay. That's interesting. Thank you for that lovely explanation or numerology. You talked about vastu and you talked about the signature analysis, these are all very important facets which I'm sure we have to learn. Is the study of this Sciences as you call it, as the Astrovastu sciences and the study of the Vedic and occult science, has that reached a peak or they're still ongoing studies and research in that field that you can read more into it or

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Honestly, it has been neglected for a quite long time in ancient times, Kings used to take care of it. Ever since, the modern inventions have happened, the subject has gone to dust bins. Now with, I would say the Renaissance. Now, it is not reach to Peak but now people have developing Faith to have one understanding the problems to handle themselves. That is the way it's going to come back into the picture.

Dr VGP:

Wow. So the great. So you're saying this is a Renaissance today of way that occult Science article, science means the magical, the mystical world of astronomy astrology, numerology, and the science is growing, and there's lots more to be learnt from the fields. And that's wonderful to know,

Dr. Ravi Rao:

so dependable Source, I would say so dependable Source.

Dr VGP:

Great, it's so interesting to learn about these features. Another interesting part of your personality is being political mentorship. Are you using all these principles of vastu, of astrology and astronomy to enhance? How do you, how do you politically Mentor? How do you see political mentorship using all these Innovative resources? Or I would say Vedic resources to enhance a person's political branding

Dr. Ravi Rao:



When I studied astrology in the MA School of studies in astrology. One of the subject was moon in astrology which talks about country's Horoscope. Every country has a horoscope.

Dr VGP:

Wow, that's interesting.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Yeah. I'm fortunate to write a book on 203 countries.

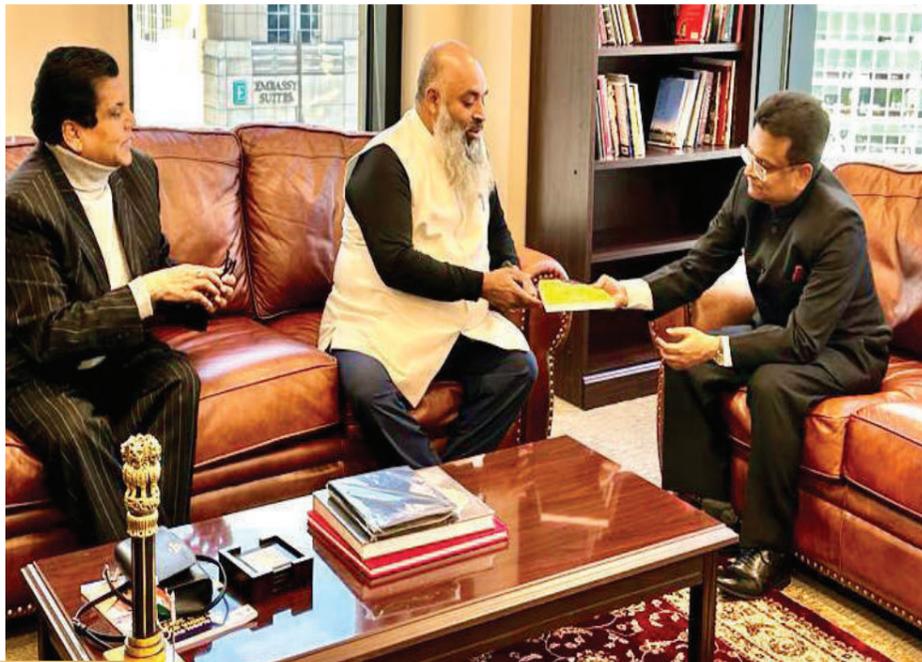
Dr VGP:

Wow.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

On the nation's prophecy whereby. I kept interest on particular strategy because politically astute talks about political stability of a country. Political stability, gives economic stability, economic stability, gives social justice, that is where the economies are intervened.

Dr VGP:



Sports astrology on Cricket. Talking about the World Cup stock mode. World franchisee cricket and recently I advised one of the Middle Eastern international cricket leagues. They wanted me to Mentor the team and the team

won the cup and this is last week.

Dr VGP:

Wow, excellent.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

So the gulf Giants have won the cup. So it is I was one of the part of the team from behind this. So I would take the pride in sharing that moment with

Dr VGP:

Very interesting Sports is becoming a global connotation on its own and having Astrology, I mean, sportsmen are being coached being nutrition and now we have the mental health and the psychological



the individual goal? And What is your Your insight into their Political journey.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

My brief interaction with them has allowed me to analyze their signature, their date of birth, and try to see their purpose of getting into politics, and their nature and what they're going to do in the Politics.

You very rightly said dr. Ravi Ravi has predicted for Congressman Jonathan Jackson of the first district, a very bright future in the house and he would according to Dr.Ravi Rao, astrological and vastu predictions when he visited the first district office is that, watch out for Jonathan Jackson to climb up the ladder. And he also has given a very



So, you're telling me that each country or nation has a horoscope, and you have predicted and written a book called Nations prophecy. For 203 Nations. And where is that book

Available doctor Rao

Dr. Ravi Rao:

It's available in the public domain like Amazon, one can order, one can read it and I also elaborated 5, 6 countries in detail including America. America is one of the oldest democracies. And India is the biggest democracy. Yes. So other democracies look forward to these big Nations. How they meet their challenges. So I've written the history of 150 year history of some of the countries. And when I do political mentorship, I take the political scenario of every country before I advise entrepreneurs as well as politicians my part of my concern.

Dr VGP:

That's very interesting and intriguing and insightful. For all of us to know that every country has, you have a prediction and every country has its own astrology and its own horoscope So, as to say. Yesterday, you met some of the leading U.S. Congressmen, starting with the Freshman Congressman U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson who serves on the powerful U.S House, Foreign Relations Committee and agriculture. You also met U.S. Congressman Danny. K Davis who's one of the most Living Legends serving the U.S. house of Congress for 30 years and you also met U.S. Congressman Raja krishnamoorthi. Our very own Indian Congressman in the house. Could you give us your perception of how that meet with

Dr VGP:

What is your prophecy or what's your message for? Where do you see representative Jonathan Jackson.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

He's the most simplest man, he is a man of people and he's man of man on the street, I would say on this on the ground, he connects very well with people and it represents their issues to the Congress and he gives entire service oriented approach and he will continue healthy. And for along time in this profession.

Dr VGP:

Wonderful. What about Congressman? Raja Krishnamoorthi. What is his future? Been a very successful Congressman.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Yeah. Right now in some position and he has got another two scales to go up and he will

Dr VGP:

He is right now on the house Committee of intelligence which is a very significant committee. He was recently named by the house leader, Hakeem Jeffrey to head the committee on China and he is a ranking member on the committee house committee on China.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Actually, I only limit to his signature and date of birth and the role he is playing for the community here, the community includes Indians, and people who are staying in his neighborhood. So that allows me to say that he has got a progressive carrier, a promising career. And who meets the politics are about service Services more to the giving rather than taking

Dr VGP:

One other interesting thing, Dr. Ravi Rao is, I see that you have authored a book on Sports astrology. I have never heard of sports astrology, and that's something that's fascinating to me. Could you Enlighten us on what that book is about? What is sports astrology Today?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Sports astrology, Originally originated during the Roman time, when horse races were going on, the Elite Class used to predict on the horses and say and Greek astronomers used to advise the elite class in terms of the race and Victorious, taking inspiration from that slot. I analyzed through Indian traditional astrology. I started analyzing since 1990s when I saw NBA championship of Chicago Bulls winning the trophy Jordan Michael, Jordan winning the trophy with my favorite number 23.

Dr VGP:

Okay,

Dr. Ravi Rao:

So as per the theory, There are indoor games and outdoor games. So there are favorable numbers and unfavorable numbers. So I Started analyzing other games like football, which is zero football, and World Cups and all that. Cricket is a religion in India. I wanted to write a book on Cricket. So I authored my first book on

aspect with astrology. Perfect, you yourself were a cricketer in vizag playing for the visakhapatnam, district team been a college captain and what do you, where do you foresee the sports of cricket? Is it going, is it already, Conquering, the world? Where is what's happening to Cricut today? And where do you see the future?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

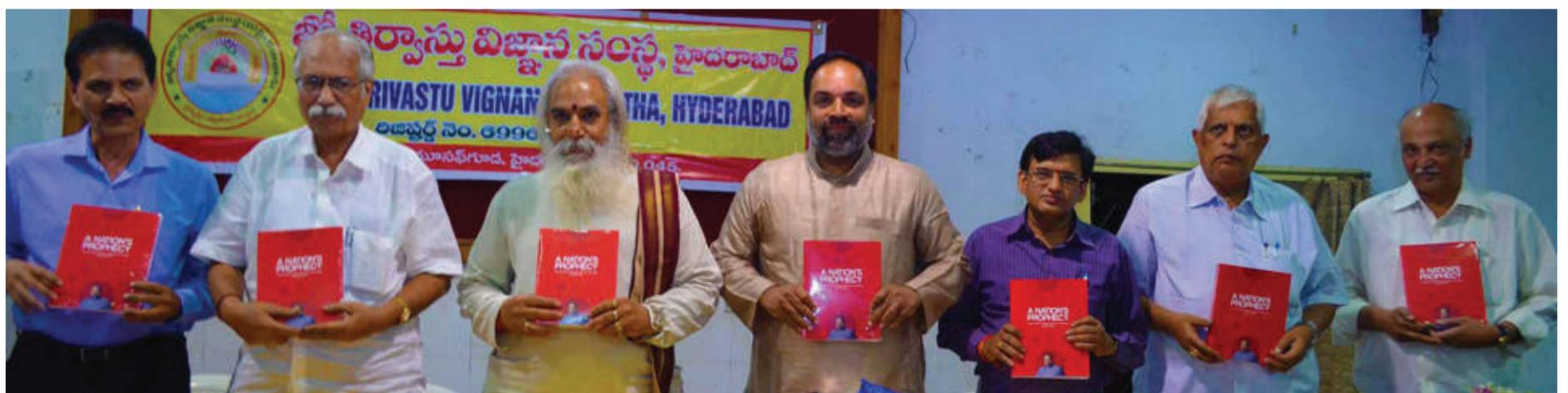
Then we used to play sports for Sake of fun and for the sake of our own career but there was no professionalism then. Because they were not rewarding much and jobs were the main Forte. Today, sports is definitely a skill, a sports person also can earn money. Make a career out of his skill. Some people are good in studies, some people good in sports, not necessary that they both have to be a criteria. So, the sports is a new thing which will, which you can make it as a carrier that Is the and I think the sports Cricket specially will soon transform to USA and you start seeing Cricket in the coming years to come here.

Dr VGP:

Yes, I'm told that I forecast. Yes, IPL is going league, is going to come to North America very soon. We're all excited about it and would be looking forward to it. I also heard that you're going to be the dean of a master class, which is going to be held shortly sometime in 2023 at the Global Eye Institute International Institute of leadership in New York. Could you tell us what that Master Class is about

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Having spent in astrology and verse 24, last 25 years and guiding people for betterment, I feel the need of the hour is everyone should learn a bit of astrology and





numerology and signature analysis, in guiding their own families, to start with. So I am offering a course which is a six day a week Course where people can learn and help themselves first. If they're good at it, they can always go as a propaganda for one. So that is the idea of bringing the subject to this part of the world.

Dr VGP:

Absolutely dr. Ravi Ravi. You're one of the few people who are willing to share your knowledge especially I've known Vastu Experts, astrologers are very, very protective of their knowledge and won't share. This is for something wonderful that of all people in North America can utilize and it will be an in-person course. And it'll be wonderful for us to learn the basic tenets of this. And so we can practice it up for ourselves, our families and think that's wonderful and truly grateful for you for taking that initiative to doing that. I'm sure all of us would be welcoming this course, which will you'll be the dean of the of instructing and directing it. The last thing I'd like to have your enlightened view on is Today, India made big breaking news with Air India, acquiring nearly 500 Jets from Boeing and United States and Airbus and France. Tell me, what do you think of that? It's the biggest deal ever made in the aircraft industry and it's from Air India. And from India, we are providing employment to America, President Biden said, the president of France gave an official, tribute to India for Making the largest purchase in the history for a airbus.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

In my view, having political astrology and economic understanding of the economy, the shift is moving towards Eastern side. That is why economic autonomy and economists are forecasting. India is the future of this country, talking about this Air India deal. Indian economy is going to be on a upswing mode. And our leadership is, in the hands of honorable Prime Minister Modi, Who's a role model for many people. Not only me, not only are Indians, but there are many global leaders who follow him.

So, under his leadership, there are many decisions, many initiatives have been taken to boost the economy for everyone. It's not only Indians in India, Indians across the globe are favoring Modi, or respecting body or their followers of Modi. Now when he Takes decisions with respect to economy infrastructure, tourism and security. It is more interesting for people to visit, India and have friendly holidays and Indians are visiting America also is happening very recently, and I'm happy to see lot of entrepreneurs who are taking initiatives in USA, from Enterprise, to moving to political side. And, for instance, I met Davis yesterday and he's again, a pure man who's meant for service and like, Modi Ji is helping India to lead from the front. This also should be very interesting to interesting to note that I'm happy to meet him, and I'm happy for all the people who are staying in this community

Dr VGP:

Dr. Rao, you've credited the whole Airbus Air India historic aircraft deal to Prime Minister Modi ji which is of course another feather in his cap. How would you talk about? We hear alot about minorities in India, the Muslim and Christian minorities in India under Prime Minister Modi ji's government. What is your take? Would give us an insight into that?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Yeah, I am a witness to this transition from Gujarat to Varanasi Varanasi to other parts of India and his statement of subke Sath Subka Vikas, subka Vishwas, and I see it happening and transforming from every Community. For them it's only India, one India, stretched India, strong India. That's what is the message. And that's what I foresee in the actual reality. So it is I think agenda for others who have vested interest in damaging, political map of India, but the reality is every Community is progressing well and doing well and you can see it yourself.

Dr VGP:

the rated dr. Rao. Thank you for that Insight. I'm sure all the minorities are safe and secure and prospering under Prime Minister Modi ji's Dynamic leadership. Could you tell us in English? What's Subke Sath, Subka Vikas and Subka Vishwas?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

For everyone, prosperity is for everybody and faith in everybody.

Dr VGP:

Sabka Saath means that India is for all, Subka Vikas is for everybody to Prosper. Everybody should be prosperous and Sabka Vishwas means, he has faith in everybody

Dr. Ravi Rao:

And we will see this in the happening in the next election too, which is happening in 2024. That is the forecast for You. He is going to raise the, take the flag high and move forward with more numbers.

Dr VGP:

Be precise, tell us precisely what's going to happen.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

He will win the election with the majority.

Dr VGP:

Today, BJP party has 333 seats in the parliament. What are you predicting in 2024 for next year's lok Sabha election.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Yes. Based on my political analysis based on the date of election, date of result day and the political horoscope of the country normally decides. But having forecasted last two, Elections. And with the running government in mind, I would see anywhere between three eighty plus seats in the upcoming elections.

Dr VGP:

Wow Dr. Ravi Ravi has just predicted that India's Prime Minister Modi and the Bharathiya Janta Party will sweep the next parliamentary elections in 2024 with 386 seats. Am I right? Dr. Rao.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Yes.

Dr VGP:

And your prediction is based on Modi's these progress report card

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Country's horoscope

Dr VGP:

His report card, his performance of what he has done. His inclusivity for the

minorities, Indians and the Agriculture and the economic development, Which includes the historic Blockbuster aircraft deal which are India made with a have with Airbus and Boeing in the United States. Dr. Rao, you have been very informative.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Yes, The need of the hour is bringing machine learning and artificial Intelligence into the political system. So, I would want Modi cloning into artificial intelligence and induct into every protocol setup, the kind of intelligence where politics becomes corrupt free and friendly to the society. And upliftment of society, that is what I think Indo-american association can bring.

Dr VGP:

Are you predicting that this is going to happen dr. Rao. It's very interesting, you know, friends, artificial intelligence is taking over. The healthcare and Medicine, Agriculture and droning. Artificial intelligence is taking over. You see we have a Naperville Nalla robotic restaurant. Now Dr. Rao is predicting that artificial intelligence will play a vital role in politics not only in India with the world over by having Prime Minister Modi ji cloned in robotic intelligence to his leadership principles of transparency, honesty, development, and inclusiveness to be the global Visionary leader,

Dr. Ravi Rao:

Responsible government,

Dr VGP:

And a responsible government, and transparent government would be an artificial intelligent robot. And that's what He suggests or predicts, are you suggesting or predicting?

Dr. Ravi Rao:

It's not the need of the hour but it's going to happen,

Dr VGP:

He says it's going to happen. And so with that amazing note, that artificial intelligence is going to have a significant role in the governance of Nations starting with India and the politics. I mean that would answer the question after Prime Minister Modi ji hoo on that note. Thank you dr. Rao for that wonderful prediction. On that Happy note viewers, we thank Dr. Ravi Ravi for joining us. It was a very enlightening conversation with you Chief. And especially the part of artificial intelligence is going to play a role in politics and governance of Nations. Thank you all. Thank you Dr. Ravi Again, for joining us on this wonderful journey.

Dr. Ravi Rao:

I thank you, the Global Eye Mission and Doctor Vijay, for calling me for this talk show and I wish good luck to all of you for the Countryman. And you may do much more better talk shows with many other dignitaries across the world and I wish you all the success globally.





PAW POWER

Pets are serious business in India. Companies are pampering, for a price, dogs and cats with swimming lessons and spa sessions, personalised tags and grooming vans

Lijee Philip

Mahesh and Tina Shetty's lives revolve around their three-year-old Labrador, Veer. When the 30-something IT professionals were transferred from Hyderabad to Mumbai at the end of 2021, they chose to live in Thane simply because of the pet boarding facilities there. "Since we have to go to the office at least two-three times a week, we needed options like dog sitters, boarding and grooming places and pet play areas," says Tina. The Shettys often leave Veer at Woof N Goof Pet Resort, which charges ₹ 500 for five hours of boarding and ₹ 1,100 for 24 hours. Now they have also taken a monthly subscription for Veer's swimming lessons, which cost ₹ 4,000 for eight sessions. Taking care of a pet doesn't come cheap. The Shettys say they spend close to ₹ 25,000 a month on Veer.

Pets are serious business in India. As grooming vans roll into neighbourhoods, dogs and cats can get their hair brushed, nails clipped and paws massaged for ₹ 1,150-3,500 — what their humans would spend on salons. Afterwards the human and her cat can walk into a pet cafe where they can spend an evening together, with the furry client choosing perhaps a carrot cupcake from a

menu specially made for them. "Earlier dogs' role was to guard the property and cats just chased mice at home. Now pets are getting a different, privileged treatment from owners," says Mihir Shah, cofounder of Woof N Goof, which offers pet care services such as boarding, grooming and agility training.

The market for premium pet products such as organic food, luxury accessories, personalised nutrition and telemedicine has grown significantly following the surge in pet ownership during the Covid-19 pandemic.

HEAVY PETTING

The pet population in India is estimated to be around 32 million, growing at 11% per annum, with dogs being the most popular, followed by cats and fish. The market size of pet care in India was \$569.4 million in 2022 and is estimated to reach \$1,932.6 million by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 16.5%, according to Decipher Market Research Agency.

The fastest growing sectors are pet food, which captures two-thirds of the market revenue, followed by pet accessories, grooming and healthcare.

With people spending more on pet care products and services, the investor appetite in this sunrise sector is also growing. Investor interest and scrutiny, in turn, have brought a certain professionalism in the pet care segment. Investments can be neatly divided into before, during and after the pandemic. From 2018 to 2020, the Indian pet care industry saw investments of \$20 million across eight deals, according to Decipher. This jumped to 11 deals and \$77 million in 2021-22, according to estimates of Venture

Intelligence. About 70 pet care firms were founded in the last two years to cash in on the surge in pet ownership, according to Decipher. "The development of premium pet products and services, which often command higher prices, can generate higher profit margins, too," says Anushka Iyer, founder of Wiggles, which raised an angel funding of \$1 million in 2019 and a pre-series-A funding round of \$5.5 million in 2021, led by Anthill Ventures. Around \$20 million could be raised soon in a Series A round, adds Iyer. Wiggles recently acquired the D2C company Capt Zack in a 100% cash and equity deal. This is possibly the first time an Indian pet care startup has acquired a homegrown brand. Wiggles has a facility called Petsville in Pune which offers boarding and conducts puppy training camps on weekends and even programmes to help anxious pet parents understand their animals better. It has also launched immunity-boosting probiotic strips for pets, which cost ₹ 255, and a "balanced meal" for puppies that comes to ₹ 300 for a packet. There's even an energy drink. "Wiggles addresses the basic needs of pets through vet consultations, supplements and medicines, keeping in mind the rapid increase in pet abandonment in India mainly due to the rising costs associated with pet care," says Iyer.

The pet care industry has more unorganised than organised players. But it has a high potential for disruption and growth. And the fact that the sector has bucked a serious crisis like the pandemic makes it a particularly attractive investment option. Rashi Narang, founder of the online pet store Heads Up For Tails (HUFT), which offers more than 1,000 products across 80 brands, says, "The pet care market is growing globally and so there has been VC interest in the space. Postpandemic, there has been a surge in the number of pet care companies in the country with many players entering the market to meet specific needs such as pet sitting, boarding, training and grooming." HUFT offers grooming services across 35 centres in nine cities.

Nishita Agarwal, cofounder of Papa Pawsome, which offers grooming products for pets, says, "We are focused on pan-India growth and are expanding our products lineup, which includes safe pet care products like silicone-free serums, waterless sham-poops, paw creams and spa kits for dogs and cats." It has also introduced "natural products using plant derivatives which replace harmful chemicals", adds Agarwal. India is one of the fastest growing pet care markets in the world, according to Decipher Market Research Agency, due to the rise in double-income households, changes in lifestyle, urbanisation and growth in pet ownership. The pet population penetration is still small, with only 10% households in India having a pet, which shows there is room for growth. In the US, where 66% households have a pet, the pet population is 145 million, more than four times that in India. Attitudes towards pets are changing. A pet is no longer just a loving animal in the household, which gets a pat, a bath and some food, but is pampered like a family member. "Pet parents are willing to spend on their pets and are looking for products and services that cater to their specific needs," says Vineet Khanna, cofounder of Supertails, a Bengaluru-based pet care startup, which raised \$10 million in a Series A funding from Fireside Ventures last November. The two segments that are growing aggressively are pet food and pet grooming, says Shashank Randev, founder of early-stage venture capital fund 100X.VC, which backed Papa Pawsome to raise ₹ 2 crore in seed funding in September 2022. As VCs evaluate the market, a significant portion of the capital is being allocated for pet food and hygiene products, says Randev. The pet industry is a nondiscretionary spending category, making it relatively resilient to macroeconomic factors and a stable market for investors, says Khanna of Supertails. Insurance companies are not far behind. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance introduced a comprehensive pet dog insurance

Size of Pet Care Industry in 2022

India: \$569mn
US: \$120bn

How Many Own a Pet



policy in 2020. "We wish to help pet parents across the country take better care of their furry child and not worry about the expenses towards their medical needs. We are working towards increasing awareness about the policy and expanding the reach of the insurance so that more pets benefit from the coverage offered," says TA Ramalingam, chief technical officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. The premium for the dog insurance policy, which covers 25 breeds of domesticated dogs, starts at ₹ 315. The company says it is seeing a 30% growth in average ticket size of the premium. It will now launch an insurance product for pet cats. HUFT's Narang says adoption of pets has become stagnant now as people are going back to office and have a lot less time on their hands than during the pandemic. Animal shelters are also reporting a rise in abandonment of pets. However, the number of pets is expected to rise in the near future and the current dip is most likely a temporary aftereffect of the pandemic which saw some noncommittal and impulsive pet adoptions, says Narang. As the ecosystem develops, the adoption of pets is likely to accelerate, says Shah of Woof N Goof.

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Top PE/VC Investments in Pet Care

- November 2022**
Digital pet care Startup Vetic raises \$3.7 mn in a round led by Lachy Groom
 - Pet care platform Supertails raises \$10 mn in a round led by Fireside Ventures
 - August 2022**
Heads Up For Tails raises \$37 mn in a series A funding round
 - July 2022**
Pet care startup Pupkart raises \$2 mn in a round led by Venture Catalysts
 - June 2022**
Pet care platform Papa Pawsome raises \$1.5 mn
- Source: Decipher Market Research Agency

Doc helps kids kick it like Beckham

Dr Manisha Shah's Kahaani Football Club represents Gujarat at IWL and helps nurture dreams of 200 underprivileged kids



Usually, we fall short of Rs 20 lakh per year which is the minimum needed to provide coaching and other playing facilities for the children. We have been struggling to get sponsorships.

— Dr Manisha Shah

Nishcal Sanghavni

Passion for football led a doctor to open a football club in Ahmedabad that today represents Gujarat in the Indian Women's League (IWL). However, Kahaani Football Club is no ordinary club. Its story is as unique as that of its founder Dr Manisha Shah.

The club that has nurtured football talent of at least 200 kids from underprivileged families was begun by Shah after she could not find a certified football coach for her two sons. Shah, who lived with her family in the US & Hong Kong for 16 years, decided to return to Ahmedabad in 2004. In the city, apart from struggling to find a certified coach for her sons, then aged six and eight, she also found that as per rules, they couldn't take part in tournaments till they were 13. Shah thus founded a football club as her kids were football fanatics and soon

began organising football tournaments to attract more kids to the game. In 2011, she came across some talented kids, who were unable to afford football coaching and decided to deploy her funds to train them. From 2013, she began to visit municipal C schools to look for kids who had the inclination and calibre for football. Initially, for a few years, an MNC

funded the project. The club bore the raining, coaching, food, transportation and other expenses of these kids. Shah's efforts have helped train over 200 underprivileged children in football. She has even helped them get admission to secondary schools and has provided them with career opportunities as football coaches, fitness trainers and referees. This year, the Kahaani Football Club team crossed another milestone when it got selected for the IWL, the top-tier

professional football league of Indian football organised by the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Each state sends one team to the IWL and Kahaani Football Club represents Gujarat this year. The team has 12 girls from Gujarat all of whom come from low-income families. Most of these players are children of painters, rickshaw drivers, maids, security guards and daily wage labourers. On the challenges of funding the football dreams of such players, Dr Shah said it usually costs Rs 50 lakh every year to provide coaching and other playing facilities for the children. "Of this, Rs 20 lakh is the minimum expense and we have been struggling to get sponsorships. I always chip in with my funds to make up for any shortfall. Usually, we have been falling short of Rs 20 lakh per year," said Shah. She said the IWL tournament expenses are about Rs 8 to Rs 10 lakhs

and they found a sponsor in Sameeksha Capital for the same. Despite the setbacks, Kahaani has been making a splash with six of its girls playing for the Gujarat team and two others representing India. One of its male players currently plays for a Football Club in Chennai. Shah, a practising doctor is also a former hockey player and plays football regularly with her students. The club found support from Lalita Sain who has been its female football coach for past 12 years. On Saturday, Kahaani FC lost the match to East Bengal at Shahibaug Police Stadium. On Thursday, Kahaani FC lost to Delhi's HOPS Football Club in the IWL match played at Transstadia.

Save Shakti Foundation launches 'Keep a Bowl Chennai 2023' initiative

The foundation has donated 2,000 bowls free of charge to community animal feeders and rescuers with the aim of providing clean drinking water to them during summer



On Friday, the Save Shakti Foundation announced project "Keep a Bowl" Chennai 2023 to create awareness about the importance of water bowls for community animals. "We urge each one of you to keep a bowl of water outside your homes for the animals to drink. This way, we can extend our support to dogs, cats and birds during the hot summer," said Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, founder and chairman, Save Shakti Foundation. The initiative has been launched in partnership with pet food maker Royal Canin. Actor Ramya Krishnan hoped that every street would have at least one

bowl. "We take care of our pet dogs well. So we must extend this to community dogs," said K.R Kadir Murgan, councillor for Ward 170 in Kotturpuram. "Amir Mahal is always open to supporting animals", said Nawab Mohammed Asif Ali, Dewan to Prince of Arcot. "And the Arcot Foundation is donating 100 bowls towards this cause," he said. Govind Suryawanshi, director, corporate affairs Royal Canin, emphasised the company's participation in supporting community dogs. This is the second edition of the "Keep A Bowl" challenge.



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Shree &



Seeta's Chatter

A photo feature on Community's happenings....



This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to an eminent engineer Sri Ramana Murty Yedavalli. Mr. Yedavalli served the City of Chicago's Public Works Department as its Chief Engineer from 1986-1991 and as the Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Bridges from 1991-92. Mr. Yedavalli started DuSABLE Inc., an engineering construction management company, and completed over 240 projects until he retired in 2022. He constructed and completed the O'Hare airport's 13,500 cars parking garage, international terminal 5, and two runways.

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Acclaimed Veena artist, Mr. Rajesh Vaidya gave an outstanding Veena concert at Rama Temple in Lemont on May 14th, 2023. Photo shows GSA Global Eye Chief Community Officer Shree Gurusamy, Rajesh Vaidya, and AMEC Vice President Seeta Bala.



Naperville Mayor Scott Wehrli and His wife Lynda Wehrli visited the newly constructed ISKCON temple in Naperville. Mayor is seen garlanding the statue of Acharya Prabhupada the founder of ISKCON.



Virtuoso drummer/multi-percussionist Padmasri Sivamani is seen backstage with Guitarist Prasanna. The duo performed a concert on May 20th, at Trinity Datta Yoga Center, located in Carpentersville, IL.

Shree Gurusamy, Chief Community Officer of GSA Global Eye Magazine & Secretary General of AMEC USA met Ms Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Member of Parliament from South Chennai in Naperville at a dinner hosted in her honor on Friday, May 19, 2023. Ms. Thamizhachi M.P. From India who is a retired Professor of English, Tamil Poet, Author, and powerful orator was pleased to learn about the multi-faceted work of AMEC USA over 12 years to empower ethnic minorities and welcomed the bandwidth of the GSA Global Eye Magazine as one of the largest digital worldwide magazine along with its recently introduced hard copy - weekly printed edition



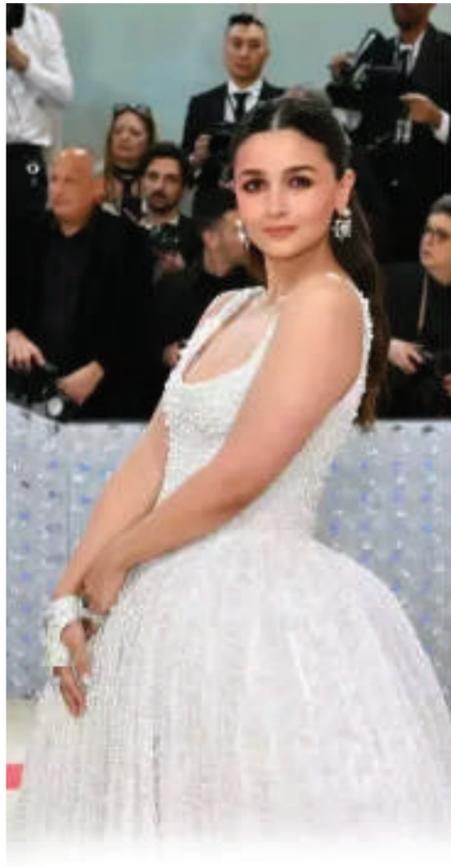
Aarush Entertainment & AB Entertainment presented Javed Akhtar's Live in Chicago music concert on May 19th at Yellow Box Auditorium in Naperville IL. Popular Indian idol fame Singer Meiyang Chang and Film fare award winner Jhanvi Shrimankar performed nostalgic Bollywood songs which were penned by the legendary lyricist. Living legend Padmashree Javed Akhtar Sahib explained how he wrote each of his masterpiece songs which captured the interest of the audience.



AMEC Communications Director Neelam Jai participated in a rally organized by Moms Demand Action in Springfield, IL on May 16th, 2023. The energy was high as volunteers rallied together for common sense gun safety. IL Attorney General Kwame Raoul attended this rally and showed his support for gun safety legislation.



Chicago Malayalee Association hosted KALAMELA- an annual dance competition on April 29th, 2023 at the Syro Malabar Church in Bellwood, IL. It was an extremely well-organized event with a lot of volunteers and supporters. Unbelievable talent was on display. Hats off to all the children and youth that participated and made it a grand success.



Stars channel feline energy, pearl power at Met Gala

Officially, it was the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute benefit, a black-tie extravaganza held in New York to raise money for the museum's fashion wing. Unofficially, it was the party of the year, the Oscars of fashion – The Met Gala 2023. The event witnessed A-listers from different fields come together to celebrate late designer Karl Lagerfeld. Alia Bhatt, who made her debut at

the gala this year, wore a custom bridal dress embellished with pearls. Priyanka Chopra made her chic appearance with Nick Jonas. In pearls, custom gowns and classic black and white dresses, stars celebrated this year's theme, Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty. From Doja Cat, Rihanna to Penelope Cruz, the gala served many internet-breaking looks.

A nod to Lagerfeld at fashion's biggest night



Jared Leto dressed as a mascot in a giant white cat costume in a tribute to Choupette

FELINE GRACE AT THE RED CARPET

While Karl Lagerfeld's beloved fluffy Birman cat Choupette didn't prowl down the red carpet (despite the invite), the furball became a muse to several looks at the gala



Doja Cat took inspo from both her name and the theme, paying homage to Lagerfeld's famed white cat. Wearing custom Oscar de la Renta, Doja plastered feline prosthetics to her face



Rihanna stunned in a ruffled bridal dress

BRIDAL COUTURE ON DISPLAY

Celebrating the late designer Karl Lagerfeld with the theme, *Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty*, the first Monday of May witnessed A-listers come together at the red carpet of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's costume institute. TNN



Penelope Cruz looked ethereal in a veiled gown

Co-chairs Dua Lipa and Penelope Cruz, joined by Rihanna, were among celebs who channeled their own versions of the classic bubble bridal dress as a tribute to the late designer's legacy at Chanel

Dua Lipa gave her gown a modern twist with pockets



Lil Nas X dazzled in crystals and silver bodypaint by Pat McGrath and Dior Men and meowed at the paps



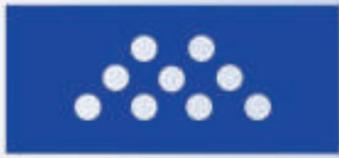
Karlie Kloss

SERENA WILLIAMS AND KARLIE KLOSS FLAUNT BABY BUMP IN STYLE

Serena Williams confirmed that there were the "three of us" on the red carpet, where she arrived with husband Alexis Ohanian, announcing her pregnancy. Karlie Kloss, sporting a black dress, shared her pregnancy earlier in the night in an interview with a livestream at the event. Both Serena and Karlie were decked in pearls



While Serena Williams opted for a black gown and glitters to adorn her look, Alexis Ohanian looked dapper in a black suit



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'DON'T PUT A PAUSE ON AI'



Sebastian Thrun, founder of Kitty Hawk Corporation & cofounder of Google X



"The motion to pause AI is counterproductive. AI is not out of control. AI is an amazing new technology that promises to make people more effective"



stated in the petition. AI is an amazing new technology that promises to make people more effective. Say you are a doctor, a lawyer, or an accountant. What if, with the help of AI, you could do a week's worth of work in just a few hours? Wouldn't that be exciting? Such a revolution happened in farming more than 100 years ago. A modern farmer can now make 100x the food than her predecessors, thanks to technology inventions such as the steam engine and nitrogen fertilisation. Why not do the same with mental office work? I find this incredibly exciting.

Technology has revolutionised the way we work, and the West is a leader in many areas. Why are private enterprises calling for regulation, which is unusual in US technocapitalism?

AI is so overhyped that people lose sight as to what was accomplished. In the movies, AI is usually portrayed as the evil overlord that threatens all of society. All that has happened is that we can more accurately predict what a knowledgeable person might say next. There are worlds between that. We should not act out of fear. We should act out of our aspirations to make the world a better place.

Large language models (LLMs) have become a concern. It's interesting that LLMs are based on a simple task of predicting the next word. How are they trained to do it so effectively?

I agree. This is an important observation. LLMs simply predict what a reasonable person might say next. But the way they accomplish this is magical. The best LLMs are trained on nearly all online text, such as the entire Web, books and massive amounts of software. They all use a technology invented in 2018 by Google, called transformers. Transformers let predictions be influenced by events way in the past. In doing so, LLM outputs become very sophisticated. So much so that they now pass the state bar exam at 90 percentile. This blows my mind.

But word prediction is nothing new. Forty years ago, researchers used statistical predictors in fields such as speech recognition, natural-language modelling and stock-market prediction. But back then the data used to condition those models was sparse. Today our machines have grown fast enough to learn from billions of documents, and they are able to mimic people with astonishing accuracy.

Are LLMs as advanced as people make them out to be, or is technology being overhyped?

It is a bit overhyped. LLMs don't plan, they don't decide, they have no intention, malice, or intent to overthrow the world as we know it.

They are just sophisticated methods for predicting what a normal person would say next. What I find remarkable is that by doing this well, LLMs can generate amazing documents. They can now do what most high school or college students are asked to do. This says more about us than LLMs. Apparently, by saying 'smart' things we can do a lot of jobs.

Are LLMs such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard stoking fears around AI development?

Many people are fearful because they don't know what this will mean. I respect that. Movies never point to a rosy future with AI. Instead, they portray how AI becomes so smart that it enslaves us, the people. If this is your concern, rest assured. No one is trying to accomplish this. All we have are systems that are good at generating text or images.

Will these machines become uncontrollable and even enslave us? What is your take?

We are a very long way away from enslavement. Picture a person — perhaps your spouse or your admin — becoming good at predicting what you will say next. Will that enslave you? I don't think so.

What exactly did LLMs do to trigger widespread concerns?

We all were surprised at how good these LLMs have become in a really short time. We must ask ourselves what our jobs of the future will look like. I do believe jobs will change. People will become more efficient in doing their work, thanks to LLMs, and as a result, some jobs will shrink while others will grow. But throughout humanity this has been the case and, overall, this has always been a good thing.

What are some potential concerns we should have while using LLMs and other AI systems, and how can we address these concerns responsibly?

It is important that we learn to use this technology responsibly. Cybercriminals and other bad actors have begun using LLMs, and that is problematic. Just like any tool, this new tool can be misused. We don't quite know yet in which way this can happen with LLMs. But we need to be diligent. Eventually, we will need new laws and regulations once we better understand how LLMs can be misused.

What would be the right form of regulation that you would welcome as an innovator?

I strongly believe safety and ethics are paramount. LLMs pick up implicit biases from the texts on which they are trained. People who use these models should be aware of these biases. And as with any technology, there will be intentional misuse. I welcome any regulatory framework that minimises the risk of misuse by bad actors as long as we keep the path to innovation wide open. These are early days. Let's be extremely diligent and keep the conversation going.

Do you think that research on AI should be stopped, or do you believe that it should continue, but with more responsible usage?

Stopping it would give bad actors the upper hand. We need to do the opposite. Continue to develop it and work on ethical ways to use this technology responsibly. By using it the right way, AI will make people so much stronger. I am all for research on the ethical use of LLMs. This technology has enormous potential. I am glad back in the day we didn't stop the printing press, the steam engine, electricity — all technologies which at the time frightened people.

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Are electric cars worth it?

Nowadays, electric cars are considered the Renaissance of the world. Non-gas guzzling cars such as Tesla's are in high demand, due to their inherent ability



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

of reducing carbon emissions while not throwing out greenhouse gases. Electric cars are also known to have saved costs on fuel in the long run. However, are electric cars truly worth it?

The first thing we must look at is how much the car itself costs. For most people, when they buy electric or hybrid cars, it's to enjoy the fuel savings in the long run. But it's probably going to take at least a year to recoup your losses from your initial purchase. However, that's only half of the reason why people are buying both hybrid and electric cars. Take Tesla for example, the reason it's so notable is because of billionaire Elon Musk. Elon Musk is known for doing actions that, while aren't crazy, increase the company's image. Overall, Elon Musk's image and fuel saving are the main reasons why people are buying electric cars. According to Leafscore, "Over time, particularly if gas prices continue to be volatile, an electric vehicle will certainly save you money."

Next, we'll investigate the manufacturing of electric car batteries. Electric cars, themselves, overall help the environment due to the cars not releasing greenhouse gases such as CO2. However, the production of batteries on the other hand is a different story. These batteries are known to have a certain amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere when being built. Fortunately, lithium is the only product that we know is hurting the environment but in the next few years we have yet to see the effects of this release of gases.

Finally, can we answer the question, are electric cars worth it? And for the most part the answer is yes due to their ability to help the environment while also being fuel efficient.

Sebastian Thrun, founder of Kitty Hawk Corporation, cofounder of Google X and Udacity and a pioneer in the field of self-driving cars, responds to an open letter signed by thousands of tech experts and industry leaders, including SpaceX founder Elon Musk and Apple cofounder Steve Wozniak, which said developments in artificial intelligence should be paused for six months till safety protocols are put in place. In a conversation with ET Prime's Kanika Saxena, Thrun disagrees with them and says AI should continue to progress and there is nothing to fear from machines. Technological advancements can usher in tremendous benefits and advancements, he says. Thrun, who has been lauded for his contributions to AI, robotics and machine learning, and is an adjunct professor at Stanford University, says open and honest conversations about the ethical implications of AI should continue, along with work to ensure that these technologies are developed and utilised in a responsible and beneficial manner. Edited excerpts:

What are your thoughts on the call to pause developments in AI?

Over 10,000 individuals, including notable researchers, business leaders and policymakers, just signed a petition to pause developments in AI. The letter cites an 'out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one can understand, predict, or reliably control'. We should take a moment to ask ourselves what happened. The motion to pause is counterproductive. AI is not out of control, as



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THE PRECARIOUS BALANCE OF NATURE BETWEEN MAN AND WILDLIFE

B.N.Suresh Mangaladurai
Chennai News Bureau Chief

The capture of a wild bull elephant named Arikomban on 29th April 2023 and his resettlement into a forest about 100 kilometres away from his home in Idukki District of Kerala, India has brought back into focus the escalating conflict between Man and Wild Animals caused by the growth and development of humankind.

About thirty percent of Kerala is said to be made up of forests and there are many human settlements and farms located close to the forests. Over thirty lakhs of people are living on the borders of 23 protected forests which are spread over 115 densely populated panchayats (local government bodies) in Kerala.

As per the 'Administration Report 2020-21' of the Kerala Forest Department, there have been 8,017 recorded instances of human-wildlife conflict in the state during 2020 - 2021. It is said that over 640 lives have been claimed by human-wildlife conflict in Kerala in the last five years. Yet, there is no concrete plan to address the threat, and during the recent past the people of Idukki, Wayanad, and Palakkad districts have been protesting against the increasing loss of lives and the need for immediate government action.

However, there are different views and counter views about what is causing this increase in animal-human conflict. Each claim and counter claim just passes the blame around without accepting that the blame lies with all the stakeholders.



Conservationists blame the locals and the government; while the government blames encroachments and the efforts of conservation. Meanwhile the locals are caught between these two and their frustration is being used by political activists to further their own respective causes. Historically, the locations where the conflicts are taking place have all

been wild jungles before the arrival of Man. A few tribal groups originally inhabited these jungles. However not much happened in the District until the arrival of the British Colonists who then developed Tea, Coffee and Cardamom plantations here. Manpower for these plantations was recruited from neighbouring Tamil Nadu and the labour colonies around these plan-

tations were the early settlers here.

It is said that during times of famine in the early twentieth Century the Maharaja of Travancore by royal decree encouraged the people to occupy the jungles of Idukki District under the condition that they start cultivating food crops there. Later the arrival of Tourists interested in wildlife and

As a result of all the pressure, the Kerala Government decided to relocate the elephant while animal rights activists believe this cannot be a lasting solution to the problem.

the natural beauty of the jungle ensured a growing economy.

The growing population in the District resulted in the establishment of many residential Colonies directly upon the corridors used by the wild animals in their search for food and water.

In the recent past, local residents have found an increase in the number of elephants trespassing onto the fields and main roads; chasing vehicles and raiding shops while monkeys, flying squirrels, and wild boars are also accused of ravaging crops. There are a few tuskers who have also gained notoriety in the region and they go by the names Mottavalan, Arikomban, Chakkakomban, Murivalan, Mottavalan, Hose Komban, 4G and Padayappa.

At the centre of the current controversy is Arikomban aged around 35, who was frequently spotted with a herd of cow elephants and their calves. Arikomban who finds himself currently in the spotlight of attention is well built, has short tusks, a bulky body, and a broad forehead. Arikomban is said to raid local ration shops and households where he feeds on rice, jaggery,



and salt.

Arikomban is a combination two Malayalam words "Ari" which means rice, and "Komban" which means the one with tusks. The Tusker has got this name because of his fondness for rice and his habit of raiding rations shops and household kitchens in the region to get to the rice stored therein.

Some of the locals have branded Arikomban as being notorious and claim that he has killed around 12 people until date. However, the claim is not validated or substantiated. Reports of his unleashing havoc remain mere allegations without adequate proof.

Many Forest officials and a good number of locals confirm that Arikomban has caused no harm to life and property in the region so far, other than occasionally raiding ration shops and houses for rice.

It is also said that an attempt is being made by some vested interests to portray the elephant as a villain to hide their own villainy and land grabbing activities. A campaign has been carried out through local and social media recently to showcase Arikomban as a dangerous elephant who roams around human habitations and kills people.

As a result of all the pressure, the Kerala Government decided to relocate the elephant while animal rights activists believe this cannot be a lasting solution to the problem.

To lure Arikomban, A dummy ration shop was set up to trap him at Cement Palam near Chinnakanal. Two Kumki (Trainer) elephants, named Vikram and Surya, which are trained to handle wild elephants and make them accept captivity had already arrived to force Arikomban to submit to the relocation. Two more Kumki elephants were expected to arrive soon.

The Forest Department's plan was to sedate the elephant under the expert supervision of a famed veterinarian Dr Arun Zachariah, chief forest veterinary surgeon, and take him to Kodanad Elephant Training Centre which is about a hundred kilometres away from his home. More than 30 people arrived in Munnar and began to prepare themselves for the exercise. Forest officials believe that Arikomban is still impressionable and could be moulded with proper training to be-

come an ideal Kumki elephant.

A wooden enclosure, referred to as a Kraal was erected to house Arikomban in captivity and train him to obey the dictates of humans. Unaware of all these activities Arikomban continued to engage in his normal pursuits. It was at this juncture that an activist based in Thiruvananthapuram filed a petition in court and challenged the Government's decision to capture Arikomban.

In response to this plea a division bench of Justice AK Jayashankaran Nambiar and Justice Gopinath of the High Court of Kerala ruled on Wednesday, the 29 March 2023 that a five member Committee of Experts (CoE) should be set up to recommend measures to prevent Arikomban from entering into human habitations by 5th April 2023. The court also stipulated that the Kumki elephants and the personnel should continue to remain at their stations to safeguard the locals while awaiting the final verdict. According to the Honourable Court the ultimate objective was to strike a balance between the interests of the local residents and Arikomban.

The bench also mentioned that if the Elephant was deemed a threat to the locals it should be temporarily immobilised and radio collared to ensure that its movements could be tracked and controlled. A satellite-enabled GPS collar was initially requisitioned from Bangalore but later was supplied by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) from Assam.

The high court also examined the real cause of the human-animal conflict in the

Anayirangal area. Considering that the area was part of the reserve forests about 25 years ago, the court wanted the Forest Department to explain the reasons for allowing people to settle down in areas which were the original habitat of elephant; thus putting the people in danger. Off the record, Forest Department officials mention that the Chinnakanal-Anayirangal areas were the original habitat of wild elephants until 2002, when the politicians and policymakers of the State made a blunder by relocating 301 poor tribal families, who had lost their original landholdings to powerful settlers. Rather than restore their original land holdings and antagonise the powerful bigwigs, the government took the easy way out and assigned these reserve forests which were the original home of the wild elephants to the landless tribes people. Prakriti Srivastava IFS, the then Divisional Forest Officer located in Munnar during this period had objected to the government's move. She had mentioned that the new colony to rehabilitate these tribals was located bang in the middle of a traditional elephant corridor, which provided passage for the elephants between Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

It is said that of the 301 tribal families which were relocated here only 15 families remain while the other families have left the Colony after selling away their holdings to others who were not the original beneficiaries of the scheme.

The Kerala High Court after examining the History and current scenario wanted the government to look into the feasibility of re-

locating the remaining tribal families as a permanent solution rather than relocating the Tusker. It is said that even in 2006, there had been a move to shift the tribals to government land in Vallakadavu and thus integrate the existing colony and the vicinity with the Chinnakanal sanctuary.

The Forest Department in its affidavit also seemed to be of a similar view for the elephants will continue to use this corridor to the Anayirangal Dam during summer when the Dam becomes their only source of water. The elephant corridor stretches from Anamudi Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu and Parambikulam in Kerala upto Periyar and Mathikketan Shola in Idukki.

With Operation Arikomban put on hold the response from the locals to the court order was immediate. The residents of Sinkukandam and 301 Colony in Chinnakanal went at once on a protest march to the Kumki camp at Cement Palam the same day destroying the barricades set up by the Forest Department at Sinkukandam.

A Joint Action Council (JAC) was formed to co-ordinate the protests and the JAC organised dawn-to-dusk hartals in 10 panchayats demanding the immediate capture of Arikomban. Political parties too extended their support.

The JAC also organised a blockade at Pallivasal on the National Highway-85 connecting Kochi with Dhanushkodi. It is alleged that not all the protestors are tribals but those who are being instigated by rich landowners and land mafia which wishes to promote Tourism in the corridor.

Animal rights activists and wildlife experts are of the opinion that capturing Arikomban and resettling or relocating him would not provide a lasting solution for there are other tuskers in the area who would then take his place to lead their herds along the corridor.

They believe that the persecution of Arikomban will set a precedent for the relocation of the other tuskers including Mottavalan, Chakkakomban, and Padayappa for it is alleged that the other elephants have killed about 15 people.

On 5th April 2023, the five member Expert Committee ap-



pointed by the High Court recommended that Arikomban should be shifted from the densely populated regions of Periyakanal - Sinkukandam region of Munnar and moved to Parambikulam which is considered to be lesser populated. The Committee also mentioned that the tusker should be rehabilitated to Parambikulam as it would be relatively well fed here. Time was also a factor for consideration as the report stated that the tusker could be taken to Parambikulam within six hours.

Accepting the Committee's recommendations the court advised the Forest Department to be extra careful while transferring the elephant which is said to be in musth (heat) condition. The court also cautioned the public against using fireworks or sharing selfies with the captured elephant.

However, there was unrest among the people of Parambikulam who did not want Arikomban in their midst. Dialogue and dis-



Looks like Arikomban's faith in humans has been shaken.

At the time of writing this report, Arikomban is said to have strayed into the Tamil Nadu side of the border and roaming the Megamalai Forests in the region. The Forest administration in Tamil Nadu is said to be on high alert and have warned tourists not to visit the region. It is also reported that Arikomban had even attacked a grocery store there. It was also reported that Arikomban's right eye is damaged and that he may have injured it at the time of his capture.

While the inhabitants of Chinnakanal heaved a sigh of relief at Arikomban's departure wildlife experts and environmental activists believe that capturing Arikomban is not the solution. They suggest that only relocation of human settlements from the wildlife corridors will provide a lasting solution. They also believe that continued capture of bull elephants will only result in the cow elephants being unable to mate and thus significantly reduce the elephant population and lead to probable extinction.

It was predicted by the experts and activists that a new Komban will soon start raiding for food. Arikomban's friend Chakkakomban had already revealed his intentions. Chakkakomban did his best to prevent his friend Arikomban from being captured and is very angry about his friend being taken away. Only time will tell how many more bull elephants will take Arikomban's place. At the time of writing this article environmental activists and wildlife experts are being proved right for an angry herd of elephants led by Chakkakomban completely destroyed a shed belonging to one Rajan at Chinnakanal at the break of dawn on 1st May 2023. Fortunately Rajan was not in the shed at that time. While there seems to be the threat of an elephant uprising in Chinnakanal, there are some who believe that Arikomban will not be content in the Periyar Forest Reserve and will try to get back to his home ground. Since there are towns and villages which block him from going back it is feared that he may even stray into the neighbouring forests on the Tamil Nadu side of the border and cause problems there as well. What is being determined here is not just the fate of Arikomban but the fate of all wildlife and their right to live in their natural habitat! We can only wait with bated

cussions failed as people from other locations too opposed any move to resettle Arikomban in their neighbourhood.

As the standoff continued the Kerala Government approached the Supreme Court on 12th April seeking a stay on the order passed by the Kerala High Court. The State Government mentioned that there was a threat to the lives and properties of the people of Kerala. The Supreme Court bench headed by chief Justice DY Chandrachudan rejected the petition and mentioned that the decision of the Expert

Committee appointed by the Kerala High Court would stand.

The Kerala government has accepted this decision and awaits a directive from the High Court's Expert Committee. The Forest Minister Saseendran mentioned "all the forests of Kerala are good places for translocation. The government has tried to solve the problem caused by the Arikomban; some people's organisations have created an obstacle".

As the issue dragged on, the High Court once again requested the Expert Committee to find a suitable alternative location. At

an online meeting of the Committee held on 24th April 2023 the recommendations of the CoE were confidentially handed over to the Court who then forwarded the same to the Kerala Government.

While it was certain that the tusker would be captured and resettled elsewhere, no one was certain of the exact location as the Government did not want any backlash from the people. After failed attempts to capture Arikomban on 28th April 2023 he was finally sedated and captured on the afternoon of 29th April. Arikomban was then taken in a convoy to Thekkady Forests in the Kumily Panchayat and was released in Methakanam which is located approximately 15 kilometres from Thekkady. This is a densely forested area near the Tamil Nadu border. Arikomban was found wandering within a radius of three kilometers from where he was released. Forest authorities have made arrangements to place stacks of fresh grass at strategic locations for Arikomban to consume. However, the elephant has ignored them and is not eating. Moreover the authorities had also place two barrels of water mixed with medicines for Arikomban but he has upset and overturned the barrels without drinking them.

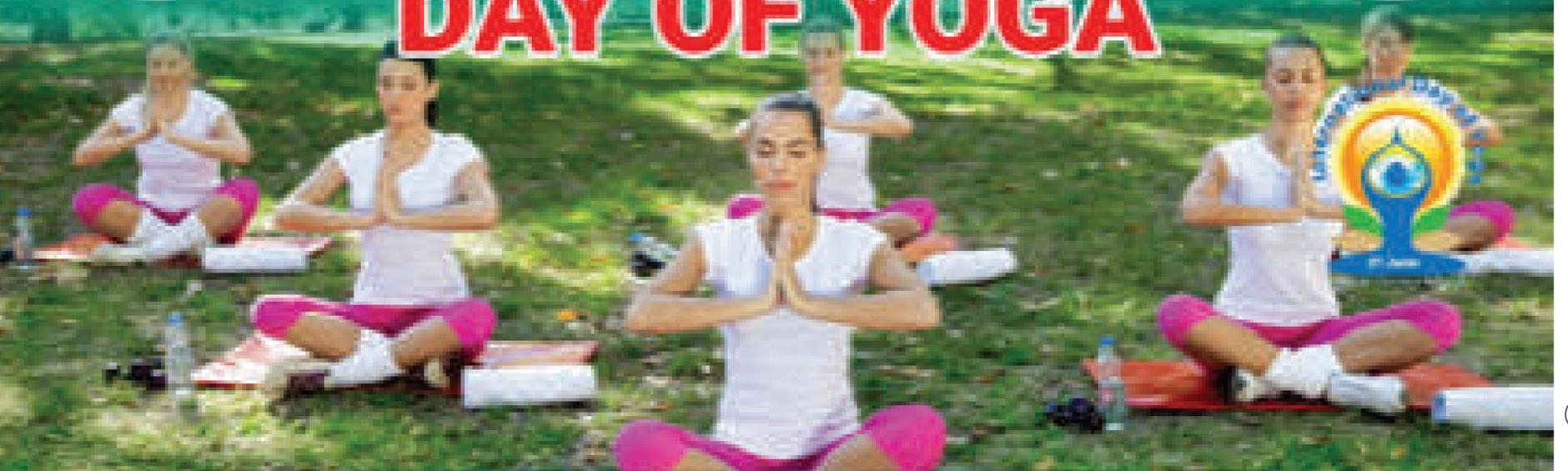




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Bitter-Half Of Working Story

Yes, more women are at work. But most of these jobs are informal. And much of the upswing in employment is distress-driven following the pandemic. Women are taking up invisible forms of work, mostly unpaid



Phalasha Nagpal

Female labour force participation rate (current weekly status) has increased from 16% in 2017-18 to 21% in 2021-22, while the unemployment rate has declined from 4% to 2%, according to the recent Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report. It means around 22.5 million more women have joined the workforce or are actively seeking work. This was achieved despite the devastating and disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on women and young girls. What drives this increase? Is it a survival strategy forced by Covid-19? Is it structural shifts? Or is it a result of changes in restrictive traditional norms? Is it transitory or long-term? PLFS has some answers. Agriculture remains the most ubiquitous employment. Data points to its increas-



ing feminisation as women's share increased from around 57% in 2017-18 to 63% in 2021-22. In contrast, men's share fell from around 40% to 37% for the same period. Most other sectors – construction, trade, restaurant, transport, storage and communications – remain male-dominated.

Self-Employed & Unpaid

The report classifies workers into casual labour, salaried/wage workers and self-employed. Women in casual labour and

in regular/wage employment have declined by 6% and 4% respectively. By contrast, the share of self-employed women drastically increased by 10% to stand at 62%. A closer look showed the majority of self-employed women work as part-time or full-time helpers in their household enterprises and are without pay (60%), while a lower percentage are employers and own-account workers (40%).

Meanwhile, rural women's workforce participation emerged as the key driver of women's employment, having shot up by almost 22% vis-à-vis the 2% for urban women, compared to pre-pandemic levels. For the same period, the share of men working as casual labour and regular/wage workers has remained constant (23-24%) as has that for the self-employed (52-53%) who mostly work as employers or own-account workers (81%).

These shifts point to the increasing informalisation of women's work – an increased share in agriculture sector, higher participation in rural areas, and a sharp uptick in self-employment, alongside simultaneous decrease in salaried, wage and casual labour work. This is not the case for men.

Two things are clear. First, the distribution of women's labour force has changed since the pandemic. Second, these shifts are deeply gendered, underpinned by existing and new Covid-19-induced gendered expectations and norms.

Evidence suggests compared to men, women were hit worse by Covid-19 in terms of loss of jobs, economic distress, and an increased burden of household work, up by as much as 30%.

To cope with these crises, while balancing gender-based domestic roles, self-employment became an obvious choice for many, especially given the control over time. Plenty instances exist of women setting up petty businesses or being an extra pair of hands in household enterprises to enable households to smooth over financial distress. Women took up more insecure forms of employment commanding less wages, often characterised by poor work conditions, exploitation, and risks to safety.

Covid-Hit & Distressed

Rural and self-employed women are the hardest hit in terms of earned incomes. Average earnings of self-employed women dipped from Rs

A large percentage of self-employed women would be classified as living in extreme poverty as per World Bank's poverty line... A woman working as a salaried/wage worker, for instance, would be earning 64% less each month by shifting to self-employment

5,407 in July-September 2021 to Rs 5,311 in April-June 2022. These figures mean a large percentage of self-employed women would be classified as living in extreme poverty as per World Bank's poverty line. Sectoral shifts from manufacturing and services to agriculture and less remunerative employment also dampened earnings.

A salaried/wage worker woman, for instance, earns 64% less each month after a shift to self-employment.

Finally, gender-wage inequality has also increased. For the self-employed, men have gone from earning 2.2 times more than women in 2017-18 to 2.6 times in 2020-21. These trends demand serious attention.

Much of the upswing in women's employment is distress-driven. Women are subsidising their households' economics at personal cost by increasingly taking on invisible forms of work, which are undervalued, unrecognised, and mostly unpaid. In doing so, they have become worse off with exacerbated social, gender, economic and health inequities. These effects are more pronounced for the poorest and most marginalised, the uneducated and unskilled women – the section largely driving the upswing in overall numbers.

These trends are unsustainable. Aspirations and choices should motivate women's decision to join the workforce rather than a pandemic-induced necessity. This calls for reconfiguration of what women do and what women are able to do.

To transform what women do, transition must be made out of low-paying low-productivity roles into work that offer sustainable livelihood. Structural reforms, such as greater access to opportunities in lucrative sectors such as manufacturing, and job roles, and supporting women up the agricultural value chain, such as providing market access, can go a long way. Equally, this requires nudging shifts in gender norms that restrict women's decisions to join work.

To enhance what women are able to do requires greater access to gender-responsive opportunities through flexible work, part-time roles, hyper-local opportunities so women can balance domestic roles with paid work. It also requires empowering them with skill-sets (quality and demand-driven technical, vocational skills and soft skills) and resources (safe and affordable transport, mentorship, etc) so they can take on more remunerative jobs.

The writer is consultant at Oxford Policy Management and works on skills, livelihoods, social inclusion in LMIC. Views are personal

Naper Talk 2023 - Women's Day



Going beyond the boundaries and bringing diverse women together was a perfect way to celebrate Womens day. Naper Talk 2023 was held on March 12th, 2023 at Naperville Woman's Club. 9 amazing key note speakers representing different genre of work kept the audience engaged with their eye opening talk. They were Amanda Caverzasi, Amanda Wittenborn, Hema Rajagopalan, Jennifer Barrett Mary Lou Wehrli, Madhu Uppal, Nisha Mathews Eric, Rachna Jaison and Rachna Prasad.

Guul iyo Gobanimo

Somaliland celebrates 32nd anniversary of regaining its sovereignty

Somaliland is celebrating its 32nd anniversary this week. This anniversary dates back to the 18th May 1991 when Somaliland regained its independence. Somaliland first secured independence on 26th June 1960 from Britain, but unfortunately made the historic error of relinquishing that independence five days later when it went into a merger with Somalia on 1st July 1960 to form Somali Republic. 18th May has rectified that error. 18th May is a day for the people of Somaliland to remember the hard struggle they went through which finally led to the re-birth of Somaliland nation and the establishment of State institutions. It is a day to remember all the people who lost their lives so that the next generations can live in dignity and freedom. The freedom and the security we enjoy today came at high price and the sacrifice offered by Somaliland heroes. This day, its purpose is not only a day to remember the heroes, but we are also praying for them. It is also a day for the people of Somaliland to reflect on the challenges and opportunities they face. On this day, the people of Somaliland organise various events across the country and in the diaspora. The nation's capital, Hargeisa, will be lit up. Somaliland president Muse Bihi Abdi appointed a national committee to coordinate this anniversary, which includes the Minister on Internal Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Information, Mayor & Governor of Hargeisa and other members. According to some Somaliland Government officials, the celebration of this 18th May will be celebrated more than the previous years. Speaking to the media, the Minister of Internal Affairs stated: "We should all celebrate this anniversary together as a nation and also share the significance of this day. To make the event great and peaceful working with the security forces is important. At the place where the national committee was launching the 32nd anniversary celebration, the Minister of Foreign Affairs also sent this special message to the Somaliland Diaspora "The commemoration of this 32nd anniversary will be stronger than the previous ones. It is an anniversary that we strengthen our unity and togetherness. The theme or motto of this year's celebration is Unity, Peace and Triumph. We look forward to celebrate in a happy atmosphere, but as a society we must be vigilant during the celebration time and we must all work with the security agencies". This year, as the Mayor of Hargeisa mentioned many places in the city of Hargeisa have been prepared to celebrate the 32nd anniversary. This means the commemoration of this year will be more extensive than was the case in the previous years. This day is not only a celebration, but it is an opportunity to make people aware the value of peace and stability. It is really unfortunate that this 18th of May coincided with the on-going conflict in Sool. It is an event that aims to convey messages of peace to find a solution to the conflict that has claimed the lives of some Somaliland people on both sides. In this brief article, I do not intend to present all of its historical past or how it has reached its current position as a nation. You may want to refer, for this, to my article on the 30th anniversary: <https://www.horndiplomat.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Somaliland-30th-anniver->



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Some of the key achievements

Although Somaliland has been seeking recognition for thirty-two years, it is clear that it has not achieved this, but it is on course. When you look at it from another side, there are many things that Somaliland has achieved. Amongst these are the maintenance of peace, security and stability, the peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next dating back to 1993 when



HE late Abdurahman Ahmed Ali

transferred power following a conference in the city of Borama to the elected HR late Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal. During the two-year period presidential term of Abdurahman Ahmed Ali the country was in a difficult situation and this president will be remembered for the opportunity he gave to organise the Borama conference in order to strengthen the statehood of Somaliland. He will also be remembered for laying the foundation for the creation of Somaliland Institutions such as the first Somaliland cabinet etc. During his presidency,

HE Late Ibrahim Haji Egal restored peace and stability in to the country. He succeeded in disarming the fighters of the struggle who were later unified as a national army. Disarmament was a big achievement for Somaliland which led to move towards other social development. Strengthened Somaliland institutions are one of the things



to remember during his time. What also needs to be mentioned is that Egal was the president who introduced a new Somaliland currency in 1994 (Somaliland shilling). The main legacy achieved by President Egal was the draft of the Somaliland constitution, which was the key to the development of Somaliland's democracy.



The third president of Somaliland HE Dahir Riyale Kaahin made a significant contribution to the process and progress of Somaliland democracy. He succeeded in organizing local election, parliamentary election and two presidential elections with 'one man one vote' systems. According to the report the brenthurstfoundation, "Somaliland's commitments to improving democratic norms and standards and its regular change of leaders at the polls have made it a regional democratic superpower. Its progress should shame much richer African countries where incumbents are rolling back democratic progress, since this

threatens their power and financial privilege".

When Freedom House compared Somaliland with other countries in the region, you can understand that Somaliland has achieved a lot in terms of democracy despite the absence of international recognition. Somaliland scored 42%, while the following countries scored: Ethiopia (22), Djibouti (24) and Somalia (7), Uganda (34), Rwanda (21), Burundi (14), Egypt (18), Sudan (17), South Sudan (2) and Eritrea (2). According to Freedom House, Kenya is the only country in the region has reached the level of 48%, which shows that Kenya is partly free.



HE Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud (Silanyo), the fourth president of Somaliland, was the first president who dared to promote Somaliland forces by giving them the ranks they deserved. I really believe that this issue was a big contribution to the army and Somaliland as a nation as well. The introduction of Somaliland's ranking system has increased its discipline and other benefits like salaries etc.

President Silanyo managed to increase Somaliland's budget from just £47 million to over three hundred and fifty million dollars. The government's achievements also include holding a local election in 2012 and 2017 presidential election. Launching and starting road construction projects, such as the one between Burao and Erigavo, was also President Silanyo's legacy. One of the main achievements of Silanyo's government

was its agreement with DP world, which is a major investor in the country.



HE Muse Abdi Bihi, the incumbent president successes in holding combined elections 31st May 2021 which was the election contested by candidates from Parliament and local districts. It was fair and free as reported by the international observers who attended. In this election where most of the seats were won by the two opposition parties Waddani and Ucid, the results were accepted by the ruling party (Kulmiye). The creation of the Somaliland youth service is one of the major achievements would also go down as President Bihi's legacy. Thousands of young people have gained access to gain experience and work through this service. Furthermore, the completion of construction of Berbera port (DP world), Corridor, Hargeisa Bypass and Erigavo road are among other major projects that the Muse Bihi managed to complete. The president's trip to the United resulted in the creation of relations based on partnership, which is expected to lead great outcomes in the interest of both countries. The diplomatic relationship between Somaliland and Taiwan is one of the achievements of this government. Both countries hope that the relationship will be beneficial for the citizens of both countries.

Resilience in Somaliland and the celebration of 32 Anniversary

Somaliland has reached its 32nd anniversary this year as the people of Somaliland have shown their resilience to overcome difficult situations. Despite the fact that Somaliland has not received any recognition from the rest of the world, the people of Somaliland have managed to create a functioning government system which has gone through different stages, each of which had its own challenges. In the last year and the beginning of this year the people of Somaliland faced with multiple crises. The country went through major economic and social challenges including droughts, the burning of the Waaheen Market which is still under construction. Although the Covid Pandemic is not the same as before in Somaliland, it has had an impact on the lives of the Somaliland people. While most of the people have financial adversity, the people are still resilient and trying to help each other as a single society. Somaliland's people being resilient have led us to a step forward towards tangible achievements whilst we are still waiting for the international community to recognize us as a country.

The conflict in Sool region and the celebration of 18th May: It is unfortunate that Somaliland's 32nd anniversary this year coincides with the ongoing conflict and war in Lasanod. First of all, I am sharing my personal feelings that my heart goes out to all those have died in Lasanod since the war started. My deepest condolence goes to the victims and their families. Human lives are precious, and I hope that peace is given a chance. The war in Lasanod and its area



is not a fight between the people of Sool region and Somaliland forces. It is certain that the Lasanod conflict has put us in a situation where we are under attack. It is a war planned by external forces and goes beyond the people of Sool. I believe the main agenda behind this conflict is to destroy the existence and the progress that Somaliland has been building step by step for the last 32 years. It is also a war where its aim is to damage Somaliland's reputation and the legacy of our future generation. The region where Somaliland is located is unstable, especially neighbouring countries in the horn of Africa. Somaliland Government is not accepting to give a chance those whose commitment and intention is to weaken or destroy Somaliland. President Muse Bihi's annual address "Somaliland forces are defending the territorial integrity of Somaliland, which is nonnegotiable." The traditional leaders (Garaadada) of Sool need to understand and realise that Sool and other eastern regions are part of Somaliland. What is really sad, and a negative phenomenon is that traditional leaders from the Sool region have so far refused to negotiate to end the war and the hostility. On the other hand, it is important to mention that the president and the Somaliland Government has called several times for unconditional talks between the two sides. We all have to be aware of the fact that it is not in

anyone's interest for the conflict and war continue. We all want a peaceful Sool where people live with dignity and a good life, and we all need to work together to get there. With this anniversary, it is worth mentioning that MP. Amina Elmi has joined the Somaliland Parliament as a member this year. It is a huge victory for Somaliland in general and the Somaliland women in particular who have no voice in the Somaliland Parliament. The current members of the Parliament were elected in 2021 on the basis of one man one vote. Conclusion Somaliland as a nation is still going through difficult times. One of the tough issues is the Lasanod conflict, a war to weaken Somaliland's existence with external involvement. The majority of young people in Somaliland are currently unemployed and do not have enough opportunities to change their lives. There is also the fact that the cost of living in Somaliland is a burden for many of the poor people who are vulnerable to the world's rising prices. The conflict between the Government and the opposition is one of the issues that Somaliland needs to resolve in the near future. However, despite these challenges, Somaliland has a bright future ahead. All stakeholders in Somaliland need to work together to strengthen the unity of the people. The difficult circumstances that Somaliland is currently facing can only be

overcome through unity and togetherness. Finally, to all the people of Somaliland, I wish you a happy anniversary. Let's keep our peace and stability together. It is vital for us to maintain the law and order as Somaliland is located in a region where the security and stability is weak. I hope for the Sool region to become a stable area and live in peace with the rest of Somaliland. Reference: Gerard Prunier (21 January 2021), The country that does not exist: A history of Somaliland Somaliland: Africa's longest de facto: Independent State: May 2021 Boobe Yusuf Duale (11 Jun 2020) 60 sano ka dib xoriyadda: Sooyaalkii Xisbigii SNL ee 1960- kii http://www.somalilandlaw.com/state_of_somaliland_1960.htm: last accessed 16 May 2023 <https://www.thebrenthurstfoundation.org/news/somaliland-the-power-of-democracy/AbdirahmanAbdillahiJibril> (18 May 2021) Somaliland-30th-anniversary-2021-pdfnew.pdf (horndiplomat.com) <https://freedomhouse.org/country/somaliland/freedom-world/2022> Abdirahman Abdillahi Jibril: Opinion: A call to my fellow Somalilanders in the Diaspora (hornobserver.com). Abdirahman Abdillahi Jibril (Awliyo) Jabdi35@yahoo.com



DR. TARIQ BUTT HONORED AT IAMA CF GALA

Chicago Medical Society President Dr. Tariq Butt received IAMACF's Lifetime Achievement Award on May 20. KISHORE CHUGH, DAVE VASUDEVAN, DR MALANI & DR.GUPTA ALSO AWARDED

Mohita Sukumar

Chicago News Bureau Chief

Indian American Medical Association Charitable Foundation IL & Indian American Medical Association Celebrated their 29th annual banquet and IAMA semiannual meeting on May 20th, 2023, at Waterford banquets, Elmhurst IL. Mother Teresa Once said, "It's Not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving" - IAMACF was established in 1994 and continues to provide a non-profit 501(c) (3) platform through its free clinic that reaches out to understand people irrespective of age, race, gender, or ethnicity. Their services are inclusive of all and without these services a considerable number of the patients would have no access to essential medical care. The event commenced with social hour and exhibitors display followed by Nation Anthem.

IAMA President Dr Piyush Vyas addressed the event, pledging his commitment and dedication in working with IAMACF to further its mission. As the current IAMA president, Dr Vyas expressed his exhilaration to help with recruiting volunteers for the clinic that has served as a critical vehicle for medical professionals to care and connect with local community.

IAMACF MISSION: The clinic is committed to providing the basic primary health care, preventative medical care, public health education & community health care research with dignity & respect. IAMACF Chairperson Dr Suneela Harsoor welcomed the attendees to the 29th fundraising banquet & celebrated the achievements of IAMA-CF for their ex-

emplary work. IAMA-CF was awarded a gold rating from the NAFC Quality Standard Program for 2023. They have multiplied the effect of donations providing \$3.30 in care for every dollar invested. Dr Hasoor extended her special thanks to the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) and the Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (IAFCC) for their assistance in securing financial aids from the state of Illinois for their service. IAMA-FC had the honor of advocating alongside Executive Director of IAFCC Melissa Maguire for continued funding for free and charitable clinics. In her closing remarks she stated that there is always more to do and this year they plan to provide additional clinics and resume Mental Health service, update their medical equipment's, and expand the pharmacy and diagnostic services.

Dr Abha Agarwal, Chief Medical officer at Humboldt Park Health, Chicago was the keynote speaker for the evening and shared her journey and experience. Dr Abha Agarwal has served in numerous leadership roles in the US. In 2011 she was recognized for her role as a rising healthcare leader, she was invited to the White House to meet President Obama's health and policy advisor and to provide testimony at the US Senate. In 2019, she received a special invitation to the 4th Global Health Ministers Summit on Patient Safety in Saudi Arabia to speak to Health Ministers from 63 countries.

The goal of the Charitable foundation is to raise \$5 million. At this size, the foundation would be able to fully support the budget of the clinic through annual investment income while preserving the market value of the fund in perpetuity. "There could be no definition of successful life that does not include service to others", - These are words of wisdom from President George H.W. Bush.

IAMA-CF clinic which is located in one of the most densely populated immigrant /refugee areas provides a culturally appropriate environment and services through volunteer physicians and staff. Not only is their clientele coming from diverse communities but also the team of volunteers who carry out the clinic work are from diverse cultures. They Help IAMA-FC fulfil an integral part of their mission by helping those who have no where else to turn to for medical help because of economic, cultural or language barriers.

Dr Ashutosh Gupta, nephrologist, was recognized with the Humanitarian Award during the event. In January 2018, he joined National Kidney foundation of Illinois (NKFI) as a board member. At NKFI gala dinner in Oct 2018, he saw the wonders of a live kidney donation where the donor and recipient shared their journey and experience. During the event he also learnt that the mother of one of the invited guests, Dr Kalyani, had donated her kidneys before she passed away from an unexpected event. These two events had planed a seed of

kidney donation on Dr Ashutosh Guptas mind. In June 2019 Dr Gupta was approved as an eligible donor and the procedure was set for July 18th, 2019, after receiving an appropriate recipient. The procedure was successful and now close y 4 years after the procedure both the donor and the recipient are in good health.

Dr Tariq H. Butt, founding member of Access Community Health Network (ACCESS), received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Since 1991, Dr Butt has been on the frontlines of community-based health care delivery as a board-certified family physician. He currently vice president of health affairs at Access. Dr Butt is an active and engaged member of Chicago's civic and philanthropic communities, serving on several foundations including the ortho S.A Sprague Foundation, Portes Foundation and Snow City Arts Foundation. In Addition to his passion for health care, Dr Butt is an education advocate and champion serving more than 20 years on Chicago Board of Education and is a former director of Illinois Association of School Boards.

It was a successful and delightful event for IAMA-CF - Seva Clinic and they extended their heartfelt thanks to all their volunteers for their self-less services. As they continue to serve the community and work towards their mission to provide quality healthcare to the underserved communities - here's closing with a quote from Mother Teresa - "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things".



Dr Tariq Butt receiving Lifetime Achievement Award from Dr Harsoor. Dr Bharati Swaminathan, Dr Vemuri Murthy, and Nursat Deen look on.



Dr Suresh Reddy & Mrs Leela Reddy welcoming AMEC leadership to the IAMACF Gala.



Dr Suneela Harsoor, dynamic President, IAMA CF speaking.



Dr Brij Malani, Internal Medicine Specialist receiving a special award from President Dr Suneela Harsoor while Dr Bharati Swaminathan, Gala Co Chair and Nusrat Deen Ahmed, Secretary look on.



Dr Satya Ahuja presenting Appreciation Award to Kishore Chugh, an active volunteer of IAMACF.



Dave Vasudevan, CEO, Digislate Inc., Naperville receiving the Appreciation Award from Dr Suneela Harsoor, while Dr Bharati Swaminathan and Nusrat Deen look on.



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"Our best and brighter days are ahead of us"

BRANDON JOHNSON SWORN IN AS MAYOR OF CHICAGO

Alli Dhanaraj -Chief Circulation Officer



UIC's Credit Union One Arena this today, with a deep belief with his wife, Stacie, and their three children, Owen, Ethan and Braedyn, by his side. Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr., Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, Congressmen, Danny K. Davis and Jonathan Jackson, Governor J.B. Pritzker and his wife Mary Kathryn Muenster were seated with Brandon Johnson on the occasion and witnessed the inauguration of the 57th Mayor of the 3rd largest city of the country. After being sworn in as Chicago's 57th mayor, Johnson vowed to lead a civic renaissance that will

and conviction that our best and brighter days are ahead of us. We can lead Chicago to a new era. Together, we can build a better, stronger, safer Chicago. We just have to look deep into the soul of Chicago. Can I get a witness?" Johnson added. Johnson also called for reopening city mental health clinics that were closed more than a decade ago by former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and voiced support for the so-called "treatment not trauma" proposal to have trained social workers and medical



Alli Dhanaraj with the Commanders Michael Tate of District 6 and Commander Courts of District 8 at the Inauguration of Mayor Brandon Johnson



unite people with "radically different ideas for how to confront" Chicago's problems behind a singular purpose. Mayor Brandon Johnson addressed the crowd and said, "I'm talking about calling in the wisdom of the soul of Chicago, calling in the compassion of the soul of Chicago, calling in the expertise. I'm talking about calling on every single person in the city of Chicago to build a city that works for everyone,". "I say specialists respond to 911 calls on nonviolent mental health crises, rather than police officers. "Let's get this right for future generations," Johnson said. Unity, public Safety are some of his agenda to make the 3rd largest city in the nation a great city. He called on everyone to come together to work together to do good for Chicago and the lives of Chicagoans better.

Bringing his inaugural address to a rousing conclusion by calling for Chicagoans to unite to revive the city, Johnson said "I can't wait to continue to lead this city towards a future that generations to come will look back and see the soul of Chicago that has made it possible for posterity." The theme of the entire program was "Inauguration for the People of Chicago" and the Mayor and his family were very involved in the selection of the artists and the programs for the event to get a good cross section of Chicago. Brandon Johnson 46 - a former teacher and longtime Chicago Teachers Union organizer who had most recently been serving as a Cook County commissioner, son of a preacher, was officially sworn in as Chicago's 57th Mayor on Monday the 15th of May, at

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Adipurush Trailer Release Highlights: Prabhas Chants 'Jai Shree Ram' at Launch; Fans Call It 'Mindblowing'

The trailer for Adipurush, starring Prabhas and Kriti Sanon, is finally out now. The makers dropped the trailer on the official YouTube channel of T-Series this afternoon. Meanwhile, a mega launch event was organised for the same in Mumbai. Prabhas was also in the city to attend the event along with Kriti and director Om Raut. Saif Ali Khan, who plays an antagonist in Adipurush, skipped the trailer launch event. According to reports, Saif has planned to give

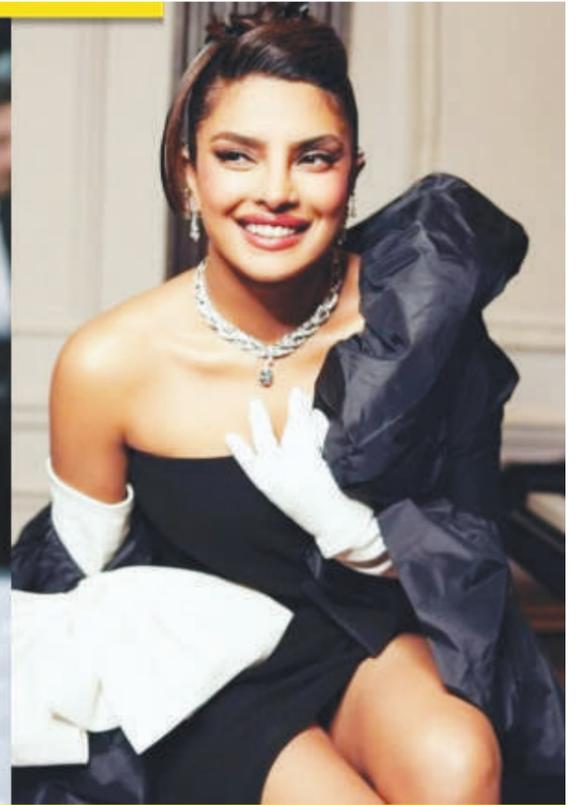
Adipurush promotions a miss because he will be off for his annual vacation with his wife Kareena Kapoor Khan and sons Taimur and Jeh. Earlier, Saif also didn't attend the poster and teaser launch of Adipurush in Ayodhya. The team of Adipurush on Monday showcased the film's trailer exclusively to a bunch of fans in Hyderabad and the early



response has been largely goosebumps". Unfortunately, soon after the preview event, the trailer of Adipurush was leaked online. Touted as a film celebrating "the victory of good over evil", multilingual period saga Adipurush is an on-screen adaptation of the Hindu epic Ramayana. Adipurush stars Prabhas as Raghav, Kriti Sanon as Janaki, Sunny Singh as Shesh, and Devdatta Nage as Bajrang. Directed by Om Raut, the film also

stars Saif Ali Khan as the antagonist Lankesh. Earlier, Adipurush courted controversy, including boycott calls, when the teaser of the magnum opus was launched in October over the depiction of Hindu deities and inferior quality of visual effects. The makers were also slammed for the apparent Islamisation of Lankesh over Saif's look as the demon king, who was seen sporting a beard and buzz cut.

Neena Gupta Is 'Very Jealous' of Priyanka Chopra, Alia Bhatt's Met Gala Stint, Says 'I Wish...



Many from the current generation of Bollywood actors are ruling the roost globally. They are being lauded for blazing the trail and paving the way for having taken representation, diversity, and inclusivity a notch higher. While Deepika Padukone was a presenter at the 95th Academy Awards, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Alia Bhatt graced this year's MET Gala, making many heads turn. Not only is their feat inspirational for newbies trying to make it big in the West but also for older actors. As for Neena Gupta, she feels mixed emotions. In an exclusive chat with News18, Gupta confides that she has been experiencing a kind of 'envy' and she wishes she could have received this kind of global recognition too back in the day. "I wish we also had the same kind of exposure. I think about it every passing minute. I feel envious every second (smiles)," she says. Having defied the age-old norm pertaining to ageism in the Hindi film industry with a slew of projects that she has been and will be headlining, Gupta wishes she was a young actor today. "I wonder what if I was a young actor in this day and age! I could have achieved so much more. Having said that, I

know that you can't have everything that you wish for. I definitely do feel thankful for all the work that's coming my way even at this age. But yes, I feel very, very jealous when I look at them wearing gowns and walking [on the global stage]," she states. The 63-year-old, however, has already decided that if she ever gets invited to a global event, she will be sporting a creation put together by her designer-cum-actor daughter, Masaba Gupta. She remarks, "If they call me, I'm game. I don't have the body to wear a gown. So, I'll wear a very beautiful saree if I'm invited to go [to an international event]. But no one's inviting me (laughs). If an opportunity comes my way, I've Masaba to style me." Known for her candour, the actor, who was recently seen in Mrs Chatterjee VS Norway, jokes that female actors who are younger than her also have a reason to be 'jealous' of her. Prod her and she puts forth a plethora of films that she has lined up for release. "We just wrapped up Charlie Chopra & The Mystery of Solang Valley and I'm shooting for Metro In Dino. Pachhhattar Ka Chhora is also in the making. I've done a segment in Lust Stories 2 which is directed by R Balki. It will release on June 29. It's a beautiful and amazing short,"

she says. Gupta further adds, "Then I've three projects with Jio Studios – one feature film called Baa and two anthologies named Dogs Not Allowed and Ishq E Nadaan, where I'll be working with Kanwaljit (Singh). I've also finished another film for Amazon with Jackie (Shroff). It's called Sabun and it's very close to my heart. It's very different from Khujli (2017). It's directed by Vijay Maurya and he's so good!" At present, she is looking forward to the world television premiere of Goodbye (2022) on &Pictures on Sunday (May 7) at 12 noon. While speaking to us about the film, she is reminded of her friend and peer, Satish Kaushik, who passed away on March 9 following a cardiac arrest. "A very close friend of mine, Satish Kaushik, passed away. We used to meet seldom but whenever we used to meet, he used to tell me, 'Nancy, aaj tere ghar pe dinner karenge.' The dinner plans would also include Anupam (Kher). But because of our diverse schedules, that dinner plan never materialised. Goodbye deals with exactly this. Life is unpredictable and anyone can leave us at any given moment. So, it's important that we say what we want to anyone who matters or do the things that our heart desires."

Kangana Says 'No One Asked for Ban' on Aamir Khan's LSC; Shabana Azmi Tweets 'Refresh Your..'

Actor Shabana Azmi has seemingly responded to Bollywood star Kangana Ranaut's claims that "no one asked for a ban" on Aamir Khan starrer Laal Singh Chaddha. In a fresh tweet, the veteran actor shared a screenshot of an old article about a plea seeking a ban on Laal Singh Chaddha.

Sharing the photo of the online news article, Shabana Azmi wrote, "So Twiterratis who are saying there was only boycotting of LSC and no call for ban kindly refresh your memory. There was a PIL asking for ban." Shabana Azmi had earlier questioned those who were

demanding a ban on producer Vipul Shah's latest release The Kerala Story. She had tweeted, "Those who speak of banning The Kerala Story are as wrong as those who wanted to ban Aamir Khan's #Laal Singh Chaddha. Once a film has been passed by the Central Board of Film Certification nobody has the right to become an extra constitutional authority." Kangana Ranaut had agreed with Shabana Azmi but pointed out that "no one asked for a ban on LSC". Reacting to her tweet, Kangana wrote, "This is a very valid point except for the fact that no one asked for a ban on LSC."



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