

**GSA**

# GLOBAL EYE

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Issue 22, June, 2023



**"I am happy to know that North America Cricket Promotion Council is being set up under Dr VGP's leadership" - Jay Shah**

# FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Our Cover Story in this edition reveals the simple manner that India's Home Minister Amit Shah's family launched a free lunch and dinner program for the needy in honor of his mother, Ma Kusumben Shah at Mansa, hometown of Amit Shah in Gujarat, India. Mrs. Sonal Shah, wife of Amit Shah accompanied by her son Jay Shah's wife Rishita Jay Shah and granddaughter Rudri freely mingled with large gathering at their family temple, Bahucharaji Mataji Mandir personally designed by Shri Amit Shah and his son Jay Shah. The family of India's Home Minister was definitely "One among the people" and lovingly served the meal to hundreds of the needy persons at the mandir.



I met Jay Shah, Honorary Secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad over dinner. We discussed the formation of North America Cricket Promotion Council in USA. I invited Mr. Jay Shah to visit U.S. in August 2023 and he graciously accepted my invitation. Mr. Jay Shah was very appreciative of all the efforts taken by us to strengthen Indo- U.S relations through innovative initiatives.

The popular Community Chatter Column initiated by Shree Gurusamy, our Chief Community Officer and Guest Columnist Seeta Bala is being spruced up. Alli Dhanaraj, Chief Circulation Officer curated the Face to Face Interview with Dione Harden, the Founder & CEO of You Break IT You Fix It Foundation, Chicago. Dione Harden's transformational journey is really an inspiring one.

Mohita Sukumar, Chicago News Bureau Chief Covered

the story of Kashmiri Dalits urging India's new parliament to be named after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Mohita Sukumar reports on preparations that are underway for the most anticipated event of 2023, the AMEC & MEATF U.S. Congressional Global Community Oscars to be held on Saturday, June 17 at Yellow Box, Naperville.

In the Spotlight Section, Kavitha Pulla, Hyderabad Bureau chief covers article written by Jawaharlal Nehru University's first lady Vice - Chancellor Professor Shantishree Dulpudi who is creating waves in India's educational sector. I personally know Shantishree Dulpudi daughter of India's renowned Journalist Dr. Anjaneyulu from the age of 13 years, when she was a student of Rosary Matriculation School, Santhome, Chennai, India as she was an active member of Madras Youth Association and Tamilnadu Youth Association, both organizations that I established in 1974.

In Youth Corner, Abitha Dhanaraj writes about prioritizing mental health. In the India's News Feature we have featured Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Australia, Fiji and Japan. America is getting ready to receive Prime Minister Modi in New York and Washington DC on June 21, 22 & 23.

We enjoy your letters to the editor and welcome the feedback.. Keep them coming !

*Vijay G Prabhakar*

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**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2023

His Excellency Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister of the Republic of India  
Embassy of India  
2107 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:


On behalf of the bipartisan leadership of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, it is our honor to invite you to address a Joint Meeting of Congress on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

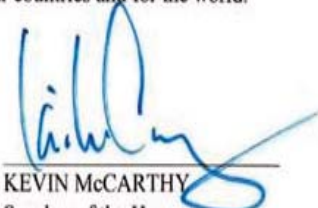
Based on our shared values and commitment to global peace and prosperity, the partnership between our two countries continues to grow. During your address, you will have the opportunity to share your vision for India's future and speak to the global challenges our countries both face.

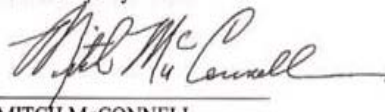
Your historic address to a Joint Meeting of Congress seven years ago left a lasting impact and greatly deepened the friendship between the United States and India. As you said in that address: "Our relationship is primed for a momentous future. The constraints of the past are behind us and foundations of the future are firmly in place." We look forward to paving the way for greater collaboration between our countries in the years to come.


Once again, we would be honored to have you join us for a Joint Meeting of Congress to celebrate the enduring friendship between the United States and India. We look forward to continuing to work together to build a brighter future for our countries and for the world.

Sincerely,

  
**CHARLES SCHUMER**  
Senate Majority Leader

  
**KEVIN MCCARTHY**  
Speaker of the House

  
**MITCH MCCONNELL**  
Senate Republican Leader

  
**HAKEEM JEFFRIES**  
House Democratic Leader

**Congressional Record**  
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2023, No. 83

**Recognizing the Outstanding Contributions of Dr. Anuja Gupta to Chicago in Medicine, Real Estate, and Community Service during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**  
OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 18, 2023*

Mr. Speaker, during this Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it is with profound respect and admiration that I rise to recognize an outstanding member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in Chicago, Dr. Anuja Gupta.

Dr. Gupta is an exceptional example of an individual who has made significant contributions to our community, demonstrating remarkable versatility in her professional life as a cardiologist, a real estate entrepreneur, and a community service leader.

After practicing as a cardiologist in the southern suburbs of Chicago for over a decade, Dr. Gupta switched gears to pursue her growing interest in real estate. Starting with the purchase of a foreclosed condominium in 2008, she built a thriving real estate portfolio. She eventually became one of the few female real estate developers in the region. Today, she serves as the

Managing Partner of Verandah Retirement Community, a pioneering \$43M senior living development in Schaumburg Township designed to cater uniquely to the needs of Indian-Americans in the Midwest.

Dr. Gupta's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. She has received various accolades for her work, including Women in Commercial Real Estate 2022 by the LI Real Estate Journal, Congressional Awards 2022 by Congressman Danny K Davis, The LI State Excellence Award 2021, The Daily Herald Entrepreneurial Excellence Award 2020, the Cook County Asian Leadership Award 2021-2018, and The Daily Herald Influential Women in Business Award 2018.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Gupta has tirelessly served the community in various leadership capacities. She co-founded the Women's Empowerment Campaign Chicago (WE), a networking and empowerment platform for Indian and Southeast Asian women entrepreneurs in Chicagoland, which has grown to over 1700 members. She has significantly contributed to the spiritual community as a board member of the ISKCON temple and was instrumental in initiating an \$11M expansion of the ISKCON Naperville temple. More recently, she has established the Indian American Caucus, a non-partisan civic engagement platform for the

South-Asian community. Furthermore, she is the founder of the NW Suburbs Community Service, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

Her impressive career arc and her undying spirit of community service have been shaped by her personal ethos of grit, tenacity, and the perpetual drive to make an impact. Dr. Gupta attributes her professional successes to these qualities that have helped her overcome a multitude of challenges and continually drive her to strive for more.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege to honor Dr. Anuja Gupta, whose pioneering work in both medicine and real estate, coupled with her profound commitment to community service, makes her an invaluable asset to our city and a testament to the enduring strength and resilience of the AAPI community in Chicago.

As we commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, let us also celebrate the invaluable contributions of extraordinary individuals like Dr. Gupta, whose work enriches our communities and inspires us all.

These remarks have been entered into Congressional Record, where they will be permanently placed in the Library of Congress.





# VIBHA RAJPUT NEW AARAI USA CHIEF

Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar , Chairman , Global Strategic Alliance Inc., Chicago congratulates Vibha Rajput , President of Asian American Restauranters Association Inc , AARAI -a national trade organization for Asian American Restaurants owners in America. AARAI President Vibha Rajput requested Dr VGP to serve as the National Chairman of AARAI to lead the organization in North America so that all Asian American

restaurant owners have a collective platform to engage , empower and excel together. Dr VGP accepted to serve on the AARAI National Board as its Chairman. AARAI President Vibha Rajput thanked Dr VGP for accepting to serve as the National Chair and said this is the FIRST such trade organization for Asian American restauranters in the country and the board is planning an exciting agenda going forward .

# REV. PROF. SATHI CLARKE APPOINTED AT UTC

United Theological College (UTC) has announced that Rev. Prof. Sathi Clarke is joining its faculty from 1 July, as Lecturer in Theology and Mission. An acclaimed theologian, Prof Clarke said he was excited by the appointment.

"I'm drawn to the theology and mission of the Uniting Church and excited to be joining UTC," he said. "My ministry has always involved passionately advancing the mission of God through Jesus Christ to bring the gospel of reconciliation, justice, and salvation as tangible hope for the world through the Church." Professor Clarke has been the

Bishop Sundo Kim Chair of World Christianity and Professor of Theology, Culture & Mission at Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington DC). He will continue teaching in this role, alongside his new part time role at UTC. He and his wife Prema will live in Sydney. Prof. Clarke is an ordained minister of the Church of South India. He has held ministry appointments in congregations in India and the United States, and taught at United Theological College (Bangalore) and Harvard Divinity School. Prof Clarke delivered the 2017 May Macleod lecture.



Through the Global Eye magazine, I get a lot of information about community news, great personalities and their journey through your interviews. I would like to thank the entire team of this magazine for their efforts.

**Pawan kumar Bishnoi,**  
**Kolkotta**

Very interesting interview with Dr Ravi Rao global astrologist. Great interview with informative info about Vastu.

**Ram Nikumbh**  
**Kanpur,UP**

Your magazine is very informative and useful. We read it regularly. Its easy availability and dynamic content is helping in keeping abreast with the latest development. This is the reason why it is becoming my favorite magazine.

**Dr T S Bawal,**

I am an avid reader of Global Eye and eagerly wait for the next issue. Please send the Global eye Magazine regularly.

**Manish Kalidas Nayi**  
**Chennai, Tamilnadu**

I am very impressed with your magazine. A very special thank you to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji for his vision and inclusive leadership for the Asia's biggest church in India.

**Prameela Rani**  
**Warangal**

I went through the current Edition of Globaley magazine. It was really very fruitful and informative. I Wish to hear more from your side and also would love to contribute in the future.

**Dr. Ankit Agrawal**  
**Nodia**

**Pune**

First of all, accept my congratulations for bringing out this fantastic magazine. Please give some articles that will enlighten us and be useful for society.

**Diptaraj Sarkar**  
**Nasik**

Thanks for sharing The Global Eye in which we got a lot of relevant information. Hope we will be getting more information from Current Affairs. With best regards

**Bala Rajesh**  
**Hyderabad**

How can I subscribe to a hard copy of this news monthly? I want to gift it to my father as it has a lot of information. He enjoys reading.

**BVMB Lokesh**  
**New Delhi, India**

We Salute to the Editor in Chief for

giving us such an informative Digital News Monthly for free. We imagine how much effort would be required to get this wonderful monthly news.

**Pawan Kumar Roshan**  
**Naperville, IL**

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

**Dr. Dhananjay Chopra**  
**Kolkotta**

Excellent & Comprehensive Magazine with lots and lots of colourful pictures and very good and informative articles.

**Hanwant Singh**  
**Dehradun**

I applaud the publication of your eminent magazine. I look forward to reading your next edition.

**Hemalatha J**  
**Hyderabad**

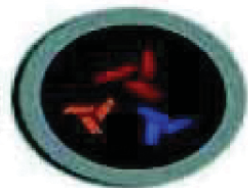
## Dr VGP TALK SHOW Featuring U.S. Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, U. S. House Committee Foreign Affairs



This episode of Dr. VGP Talk Show features the Rising Star of America , U. S. CONGRESSMAN JONATHAN L. JACKSON , who serves on the important U. S. House Committee of Foreign Affairs, Chairing the Africa Sub Committee and also on the Agriculture Committee dealing with Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture & Horticulture. Congressman Jackson's domain includes Commodity Markets, Digital Assets and Rural Development.

Watch the Dr. VGP TALK SHOW to hear CONGRESSMAN JONATHAN JACKSON talk about his first 100 days in Congress and the billions of dollars, he is bringing into the First Congressional District of State of Illinois which is based in Cook County includes much of the South Side of Chicago - Auburn Gresham, Burnside, Chatham & Greater Grand 'Crossing, almost all of West Englewood , Crestwood, Evergreen Park , Midlothian, Posen, Robbins, Orland Park, Orland Hills , Palos Heights, Tinley Park, Worth , Blue Island, Alsip , Oak Forest , Dixmoor, Markham, Channahon, Minooka, Bourbonnais, Bradley, Steger, Manteno, New Lenox, Mokena, Matteson , Kankakee, and some sections of Country Club Hills and Riverdale.

[https://youtu.be/7y\\_uXOhURaQ](https://youtu.be/7y_uXOhURaQ)



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# BCCI Honorary Secretary Jay Shah Congratulated Dr VGP for establishing the North American Cricket Promotion Council



Congratulations to Chennai Super Kings & MS Dhoni for being crowned champions of #TATAIPL 2023. My sincere thanks to all our dotting fans who braved the rains & returned in large numbers again to witness the final. Indian Cricket grows from strength to strength because of your unflinching support



Dr VGP met Mr JAY SHAH , Honorary Secretary , BCCI at Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad this evening May 8 and discussed the establishing the North American Cricket Promotion Council in USA.  
Dr Vijay G Prabhakar , Indian American Community Leader from Chicago invited Mr Jay Shah to visit America in August 2023. Mr JAY SHAH was delighted to hear about establishing of the North American Cricket Promotion Council in USA.

## MRS. SONAL SHAH LAUNCHES THE DAILY FREE LUNCH & DINNER PROGRAM IN HONOR OF MA KUSUMBEN SHAH MOTHER OF INDIA'S HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH JI TODAY IN MANSA , GUJARAT.



May 8: A special honor in memory of KUSUMBEN Shah ,a daily lunch & dinner for the needy program was launched today at Bahucharaji Mataji Mandir by Mrs Sonal Shah wife of India's Home Minister Amit Shah at his hometown , Mansa . Mrs Sonal Shah was joined by her daughter in law , Mrs Rishita Jay Shah and 7 year old granddaughter Rudri . Dr VGP, Indian American Community Leader from Chicago was the Special Guest on the occasion and was warmly welcomed by the Mandir trustees ,the Mandir priest Het Pandya ,J.S.Patel, M.L.A. Of Mansa and Hitesh Barot , Chairman of Standing

Committee, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation at the Mandir . Mansa is the hometown of India's Home Minister Amit Shah , where he rebuilt this temple in 2021 in honor of his family diety , Bahucharaji Mataji . The ancestral temple originally built is a few feet away from this new temple. The free lunch from 11 am to 12.30 pm and free dinner from 6 pm to 7.30 pm is being offered daily throughout the year 365 days for the needy in honor of late KUSUMBEN Shah , mother of Amit Shahji .  
"ONE AMONG THE PEOPLE "  
Speaking to Global Eye News Services , Dr Vijay G Prabhakar said today seeing

three generations of Amit Shahji 's family in action by freely mingling with the people of Mansa and taking care of their needs was truly a sight to behold . Mrs Sonal Shah in a simple purple and pink cotton kurta arrived in a Toyota Fortuner vehicle without any fanfare , same vehicle she used in April 2019 when we met her in Gandhinagar . Sonal Shah , Rishita Jay Shah and Rudri Jay Shah after receiving the blessings of the family diety and pooja , patiently and caringly served the needy men and women a hearty lunch . Notwithstanding the blazing heat and always with a smile , all three of them personally served each

person who lined up to receive the lunch. After serving the meals for more than one hour and a half , Mrs Sonal Shah , Rishita Shah and little Rudri ate the same food while chatting with the town people devoid of any airs . It reflects the sincerity and altrucity of each of them , truly showed that they were one among the people. An awesome way to celebrate Ma KUSUMBEN Shah's life and legacy by daily providing good healthy meals to the needy people of Mansa around the year . Mansa is a town with a population of 200,000 and is one hour's drive from Ahmedabad.  
www.globaleyedigital.com

# Jay Shah: Unveiling the Dynamic Journey of a Rising Star

**Jemima Pramod**  
**Senior Correspondent**

In the realm of Indian politics, one name has been making waves in recent years - Jay Shah. Son of the current Home Minister, Amit Shah, Jay Shah's meteoric rise from a businessman to a prominent political figure has captivated the nation's attention. This article delves into the life and recent activities of Jay Shah, shedding light on his journey, accomplishments, and the impact he has made in the political landscape of India.

## Early Life and Education

Jay Shah was born on December 1, 1987, in Mumbai, India. Growing up in a politically charged atmosphere, with his father actively involved in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jay Shah developed an early interest in politics. However, he chose to carve out his own path and pursued a business degree from the renowned Nirma University in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. His educational background equipped him with the knowledge and skills necessary for his future endeavors.

## The Rise of a Businessman

Following his graduation, Jay Shah delved into the business world and made significant strides. He played a pivotal role in establishing the Temple Enterprise Private Ltd., a company engaged in the business of commodities trading, imports, and exports. Under his leadership, the company grew steadily, gaining recognition for its remarkable achievements.

## Political Involvement and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

While Jay Shah's entrepreneurial pursuits were gaining momentum, he concurrently embarked on a political journey. With his father's influence and guidance, Jay Shah began to play a more active role in the BJP and its affiliated organizations. In 2019, he was elected as the Secretary of



Jay Shah with US ambassador in India Eric Garcetti

the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), one of the most influential sports bodies in the country. Jay Shah's appointment to this coveted position marked a significant step forward in his political career.

## Initiatives and Reforms

Since assuming the role of BCCI Secretary, Jay Shah has initiated various reforms and brought about substantial changes in the functioning of the cricketing body. His efforts have focused on increasing transparency, promoting grassroots development, and enhancing India's presence in international cricket. By implementing these reforms, Jay Shah has garnered both praise and criticism, with some commending his vision while others questioning his methods and intentions.

## Political Influence and Future

## Prospects

Jay Shah's increasing influence within the BJP has not gone unnoticed. As a trusted confidant of his father, Amit Shah, he has been involved in strategic decision-making and has become an influential figure within the party. Speculations regarding his potential entry into electoral politics and future leadership roles have been rife. However, it remains to be seen how Jay Shah's political career will unfold in the coming years and whether he will emerge as a prominent leader in his own right.

## Meeting with Global Leaders and Diplomats

One notable aspect of Jay Shah's recent activities has been his engagement with global leaders and diplomats. These meetings serve as a platform for discussing bilateral relations, trade, and investment opportunities. Jay Shah has been at the forefront of fostering diplomatic ties, emphasizing India's position as a global player. Such interactions highlight his diplomatic acumen and demonstrate his potential as an influential figure in shaping India's foreign policy.

## Economic Engagements and Business Initiatives

Given Jay Shah's background in business, he has actively pursued economic engagements and spearheaded various business initiatives. Collaborations with

domestic and international corporations have been a focal point of his recent activities. By promoting investment and facilitating economic growth, Jay Shah aims to bolster India's economy and contribute to the



JayShah honoured with the prestigious Gamechanger Award at CNBCTV18 IBLA awards! The award is a recognition of BCCI's leadership and unwavering commitment that has propelled Indian Cricket to unprecedented heights.

country's overall development. These initiatives position him as a bridge between the political and business spheres.

## Engaging with Grassroots and Social Initiatives

Recognizing the importance of connecting with the grassroots, Jay Shah has also been involved in numerous social initiatives. From participating in cleanliness drives to supporting educational programs, his efforts reflect a commitment to improving the lives of ordinary citizens. Engaging with social initiatives helps Jay Shah build a positive public image and demonstrates his dedication to serving the people.

## Addressing Key Issues and Challenges

Amidst his recent activities, Jay Shah has addressed several key issues and challenges facing the nation. He has taken a stance on critical matters such as national

security, governance reforms, and socio-economic development. By articulating his vision and proposing solutions, Jay Shah is positioning himself as a thought leader within the BJP and the broader political landscape.

Jay Shah's recent activities and meetings have been instrumental in shaping his political trajectory. From engaging with global leaders to addressing key issues at home, he has demonstrated a multifaceted approach to political leadership. While his actions have garnered both support and criticism, Jay Shah's ability to navigate complex challenges and leverage his diverse experiences will ultimately determine his impact on Indian politics. As he continues to evolve as a rising political figure, Jay Shah's future engagements and meetings will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping his legacy and the direction of the country.

# MAYOR OF GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT WARMLY WELCOMES DR. VGP TO GUJARAT

Hitesh Makwana, Mayor of Gandhinagar, Gujarat gave a rousing welcome to Dr Vijay Prabhakar on arrival this afternoon to Gujarat State. Mayor Makwana presented a Mahatma Gandhi's Bust Statute from Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation to Dr VGP on arrival. K. P. Jethva, Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Gandhinagar presented Dr VGP a replica of the Statute of Unity - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, The Icon of India to commemorate his visit to Gandhinagar today May 6, 2023. Dr Vijay G Prabhakar presented the latest edition of GSA weekly publication The Global Eye to Gandhinagar Mayor Hitesh Makwana on the occasion.





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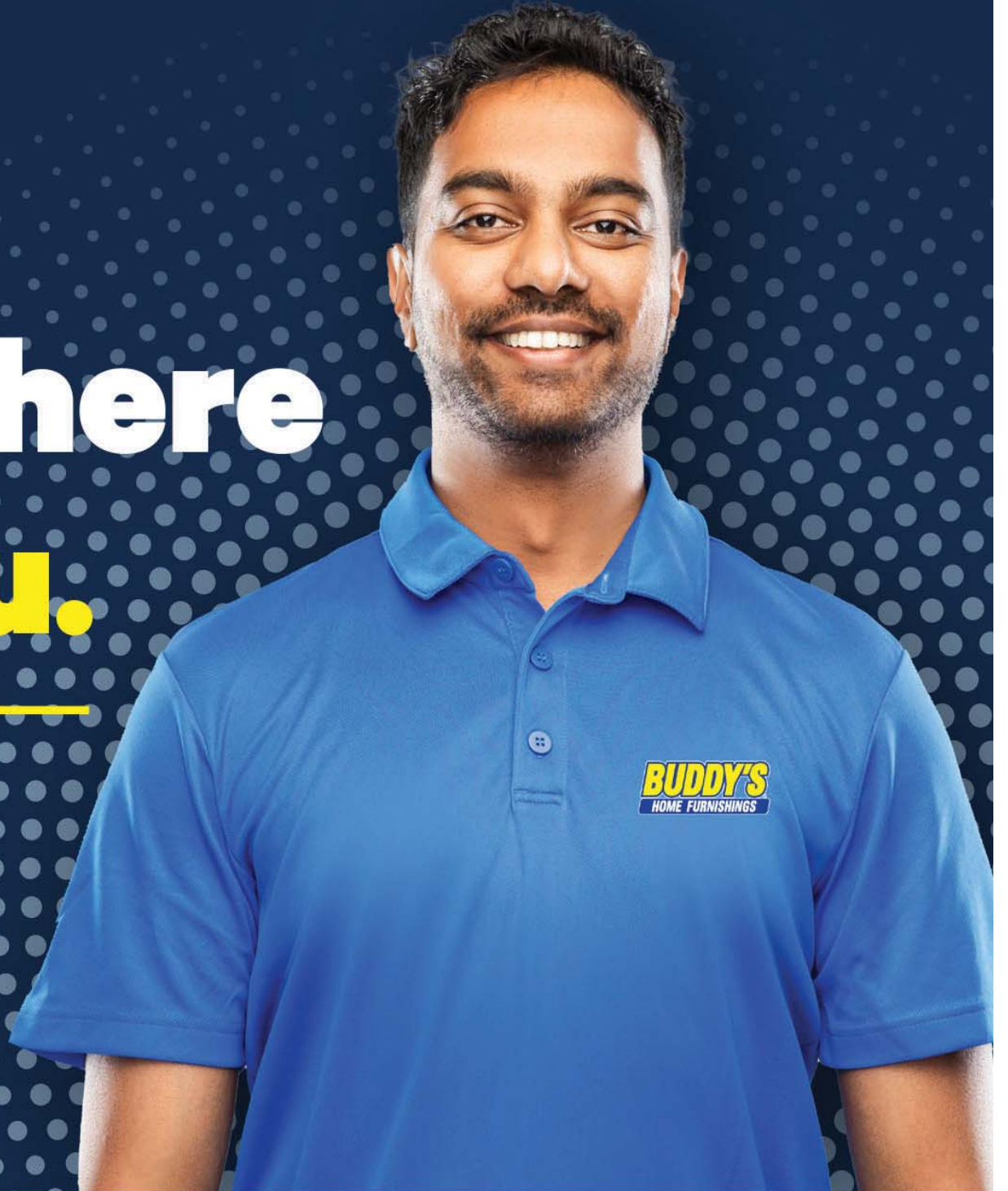


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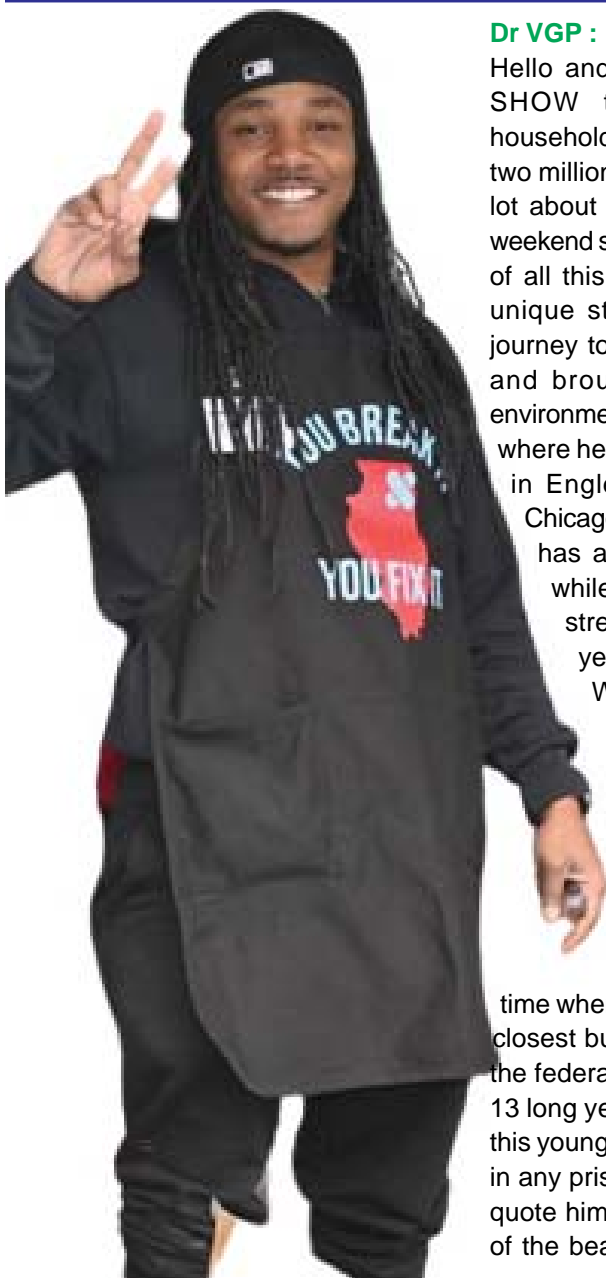
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## DR. VGP'S EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW WITH CHICAGO'S YOUNG DIONE HARDEN

Mind boggling transformational Journey from a top drug dealer at age 23 making \$1500 a day to his 13 long years in prison to trying to fix the community he broke today.



**Dr VGP :**

Hello and welcome to Dr VGP TALK SHOW that reaches 42 million households across the world, including two million in America. Today we hear a lot about mental health, gun violence, weekend shootings, and war. In the midst of all this our guest today has a very unique story and a transformational journey to share with us. He was born and brought up in a drug-infested environment in the south side of Chicago, where he and his two elder sisters lived in Englewood in the south side of Chicago. You all know that Englewood has a life expectancy of 60 years while seven miles away from the streets, the life expectancy is 90 years and the crime rate is 86%.

With that in mind this young man when he was 14 years old took to dealing and drugs at that young age and by 23 he was one of the top drug dealers earning a whopping amount of \$15,000 a day selling drugs, dealing with drugs and selling guns. Seven years of prime time when he was given in by one of his closest buddies and that landed him in the federal penitentiary where he spent 13 long years, out of the first five years, this young man experienced the torment in any prison anywhere in the world. To quote him, it was like being in the belly of the beast, but the next seven years

was of transformational experience where he was groomed by mentors, where he thought he learnt, he read, he got his GED degree and today he has become an amazing trendsetter, life changer and a change maker has the founder and CEO of You Break It You Fix It Foundation, a federally recognized 501-c-3 not-for-profit, which is changing the landscape of Chicago when it pertains to preventing violence. Providing food for the hungry and providing hope for the suffering. Now in his own words, he tells us when he was young, he was destroying the community, but today he's taking initiative to try to fix the community that he broke.

Was that change easy?

Well, you figure it out by meeting the 39 year old Dion Harden.

Welcome to Dr VGP TALK SHOW that reaches 42 million households across the world, including 2 million in the United States. We have with us today at the Global Eye Studio Dione Harden. Thank you for joining us today in spite of your busy schedule. Dione Harden is 39, Year-old young Executive founder, and CEO of You Break It You Fix It Foundation. Let's hear all about his journey and about the foundation's work. What it is doing today in Chicago. Dione, great to have you on our show today.

**Dione:**

Thank you Dr. Vijay for having me. It is an honor and a blessing to be on the show. I wouldn't have had it any other way. Well,

**Dr VGP :**

Yeah. Thank you, Dione. You have a very unique Journey. you know, Going back to your roots.. Share with our viewers today about your early childhood and how you were growing up?

**Dione:**

Okay, so, first and foremost, I am a product of the south side of Chicago. The Englewood / Gresham neighbourhood, which was riddled with crime and Drug infestation and just, it was at the bottom of the map. And I grew up in a household where both of my parents were victims of the 1980s and 1990s, crack cocaine epidemic.

They both were, you know, users and I eventually, you know, being a product of my environment begin to indulge in the sales of Narcotics as well.

**Dr VGP :**

When you were starting dealing drugs,?

**Dione:**

I was about 14 to 15 years old. Very young. I had two older sisters. I was the youngest brother and my father was in and out of jail. So he really, really wasn't in my life like that. So I was a troubled child without direction and without guidance, but I took a strong liking into sports and I met a mentor of mine, his name was coach Aaron Stevenson, and he was like a father figure to me through my grammar school days and once I left grammar school, I was basically out of his tutelage and I was on my own without

guidance and direction, and I ended up mingling with the wrong crowds. And thus, my journey to becoming a drug dealer started. Once I reached high school early, I started to be a whore.

**Dr VGP :**

So tell us about your experiences were you are living life on the edge? Being a drug dealer at high school student age?

What was it? Like, what drove you to it? I understand your family background. You had a good Mentor at grammar school, the lack of a mentor you lose your say. So tell us about how it was being a drug dealer in the South Side as a teenager growing up living life on the edge. Tell us some of what you recall? Some of the dangers, what are some of the incidents which you can recall, which will help others who are living and who are viewing to not engage in such?

**Dione:**

I have countless stories, Dr. Vijay. Being a drug dealer on the south side of Chicago in the late 90s, and the early 2000s was very, very dangerous but to me, it was exciting. My youthful mind, I didn't know any better, to me it was exciting. But now that I look back from a cultivated mind, from a more mature perspective on life, it was so dangerous and it's an honor and I'm lucky to be here talking to you today because So many of my friends are no longer here, they lost their lives, before the age of 21, still teenagers and, you know, being a drug dealer and being successful at it, cause even more danger, because jealousy, envy, hatred existed.

**Dr VGP :**

So you had explained how the drug dealer Works in a network, you had a supplier and then he gets all these young kids together and then you disappear and sell it on the streets, that leads to gangs and groups. How does that figure out?

**Dione:**

Most definitely. Okay. So the early formation of gangs was for the purpose of community protection, right? However, when the drugs came into play, it



destabilized the gang structure because now, the kids were looking up to the person who had money as opposed to the person who had our back, who were so-called the leaders of the organization, the gangs and things of that nature. So, you had individuals who were drug kingpins, who branched off from the gangs and started their own cartel. So that became another battling operation. So you had guys who had no money but had power, then you had guys who had much money but no power and they would feud with one another.

**Dr VGP :**

You raised a very insightful point earlier saying that even if you're a successful drug dealer it makes your life more dangerous. And because of hatred, jealousy and envy could you throw some light on that? You are a target?

**Dione:**

Definitely, when I was in 2002, right! This was at the height of my drug-dealing career. I was very successful. I was probably making \$15,000 a day.

**Dr VGP :**

Wow fifteen thousand dollars a day and how old were you then?

**Dione:**

I was 22 years old.

**Dr VGP :**

Wow, that's a lot of money, fifteen thousand dollars a day.

**Dione:**

And I was the youngest individual in my group. So the older guys begin to become jealous, because with money comes

power and with money you have influence. So my dollar value gave me more influence on the guys who are even younger than me, while the older guys wanted me to be a part of their organization. They wanted to be a part of mine and as a result, I was a victim of Gun violence, I was robbed at gunpoint.

**Dr VGP :**

How often is quite frequently?

**Dione:**

Probably about three times within a seven-year span, I was a target for what they called the informants, you know, they told on me, you know, to get my house raided and things of that nature. So it was constant. You have to look over your shoulder, all the time.

**Dr VGP :**

So I imagine you as a roaring lion in the den in the drug dealership and in Southside like a Young Turk full of life, making deals, making fifteen thousand dollars a day, incredible. And one thing which you pointed out is that money leads to power and power leads to influence. So correctly said, and so at that young age for seven years, you're having so much power, so much influence because you are making so much money dealing drugs in the South Side. At the same time, in your life you found your way. Were You at any time frightened, were you scared for your life thinking that somebody could betray you, you also said the people told your own, people told on you, you had informants.

Your house was raided. How was living in that space like that at that time?

**Dione:**

I wasn't wise enough to be afraid. Sometimes. You have to be courageous enough to be fearful. And at that time, I had no fear. And the bit of fear that I had, I was afraid to show it because it would show a sign of weakness. So, not only like you said, I was lying in the midst of this jungle, there were more hyenas and jackals. It was even a lion in the wild, is it Danger. So, I had to maintain my position as a dominant alpha male. Which caused me to do things. That was outside of the nature of my own creation. To protect myself in order to protect my Empire and to maintain my image as Alpha.

**Dr VGP :**

You come across today Dione as a very profound young intelligent man and you are typically so articulately expressing yourself. So how did this whole journey of seven years of power, money, drugs influence fearlessness end and how did it land you up for 13 years in incarceration? Tell us.

**Dione:**

Okay. So in 2005, a very close friend of mine, a buddy of mine, I'm talking about working together every day. He ate at my house, he drove the car, we did everything together. He ended up catching a case for counterfeit money. And as a result, the federal agents told him that, hey, you can go home today if you give us someone of higher value than you, someone that's selling drugs, someone that's engaged in gang activity and things of that nature. And that person just so happened to be me.

**Dr VGP :**

You know, this is most unfortunate, but this is what we see, the federal law enforcement agencies are always engaging. They catch the lesser prey, and then ask them to give up the bigger fish. And I think that may be a very good strategy. I'm not knowledge in law enforcement but the strategy which played out. So your best friend gave you up? Yes. After all, you took care of him like more than a brother. And he was the one, who gave you up?

**Dione:Yes. Yes.**

**Dr VGP :**

So how did this happen? Did he set you up?

**Dione:**

Yes, he did. Actually he set me up to, you know, do what they call a control sale, He introduced me to a guy who said that, who he said was his long brother from another, you know, relationship and He was actually a federal informant, himself and I met with this guy and I sold him some drugs, I sold him some guns. And I ended up with a 15-year federal prison sentence in which I ended up doing 12 years, 9 months straight, never been to jail. This is my first time ever in the, you know, going into a penitentiary



correctional facility and I spent more than at that time I was less than 30 and they gave me 15 years. They gave me more than half of my life at that time, 13 years and I ended up doing 12 years, 9 months.

**Dr VGP :**

It must have been an entire transformation between day and night. You are successful, you are given up by your own friend, you were set up in a control say, Environment where you sold drugs and guns to a federal informant agent and that landed you up for 15 years, half of your life incarcerated. Tell us how it was in the federal penitentiary.

**Dione:**

Okay. Well, I'll start off by explaining to you or painting a picture to you of how it felt actually getting sentenced standing in front of the judge, Right? Someone asked me one day, he said, how did it feel to get all of that time? And I thought to myself in the only way that I could explain it is it felt like being alive at my own funeral. I'm standing in front of this judge, my family behind me, there, crying boohoo, and the crying and, I'm facing at the time, it was 30 to life with my guidelines 30 years to life in prison. However, my grandmother, she wrote a letter to the judge as a character witness for me. And my grandmother explained to her who I was prior to my life of crime. And after the judge read my transcripts, and she read my grandmother's, testimony of who I was. She looked at me and she said, I don't see a hardened criminal in front of me. I see someone who actually has the ability to change and to be something more than what you have turned out to be. I see someone who was a victim of Situations and circumstances that were laid down before he even began this life or this journey of crime. And for the first time in my life, I no longer felt like a criminal, I actually felt like a victim and I realized the whole time I thought I was a killer, I thought I was this big growing Giant in on the south side of Chicago and for the first time I live my life, I realized that I wasn't a criminal. I was actually a victim of the situations and circumstances that were laid out to destabilise me. And my people way before, I was even born.

**Dr VGP :**

So choose us all how important the court processes, having a very compassionate judge who can see life as it is and a grandmother who wrote a letter to the judge instead of being sentenced to life for 30 years was able to enable the judge to understand your early upbringing, that you are a victim of for circumstances, which ended up

in what you did for seven years. And which you successfully did for seven years. And that we gave you a sentence of 15 years.

**Dione:**

Yes, she went below the guidelines and gave me what they call it a mandatory minimum.

**Dr VGP :**

Well, it's kind of a mandatory minimum of 15 years.

**Dione:**

They gave me 10 years for the drugs, in five years for the guns that are sold, but they were ranked consecutively. So that means 15 years total. And I ended up doing 12 years 9 months, because you have to do 87% with good behaviour.

**Dr VGP :**

You've explained it all. So, tell us how was it in the penitentiary?

**Dione:**

So for me, in the penitentiary, the first five to six years, I was a product of my environment. So I was still rough around the edges. I was angry at the world. I was bitter. I was going through, you know, I just was living this lavish life where I had all of this money coming in to me every day. I had these nice cars. I had women at my disposal, whenever I wanted to and now I'm subject.

**Dr VGP :**

You lived fast to the fast. What are the cars that you had?

**Dione:**

Oh yeah, back in that time I had a Lexus. Yes, I had you know back in those days in the early 2000s we would buy older model cars. And what we would do is we would send them to the shop and we get them what they call a tricked-out tick-tock-tick, a fresh paint job. Nice and the most expensive in the ring, there goes Dion, spent forty to fifty thousand dollars in the car that cost \$700, you know, and just thinking back on that alone all of the money at the time that I wasted. It was just a waste, but everything happens for a reason. I embrace my journey, I embrace everything, I went through that led me to the point where I am today. So to give you an inside view of life in prison, It was very hostile. It was violent whenever you have grown men

that in America you can be whatever you want to be and but at that time I was mad at American society. I was upset with the situations and circumstances that were laid down prior to my youth. I found out that I wasn't a criminal, I was actually a victim of this system. And that enraged me in my rage causing me to lash out at individuals around me until you got violent physically. Feel physically violent. I was assaulted. I was doing the assault and I've been stabbed. I did the stabbing for five years.

**Dr VGP :**

How did the prison staff and you and the others interact?

**Dione:**

There was corruption in the staff of the prison. They are the ones who actually kind of cultivate the drama that goes on Independently inside. And they capitalize from our disadvantaged position. You know, so during the times, you know, I've been in a race riot in the prison, gang wars in the prison, victim of being physically abused by the staff of the prison. It was just depressing. It was one of the lowest points in my life. It was the lowest point of my life. I've never experienced so much misery and just turmoil. It turns you into a person that is opposite from the nature in which God created you to be.

**Dr VGP :**

That's all the downfall but I think you were telling me in our earlier conversation, there was a transformation process and you got your GED degree in prison and that changed your whole life. When you were really just hearing you describe it, you were really experiencing how we are taught in the Bible that you are living in hell. And that brought you to your senses, tell us about that transformation to all?

**Dione:**

Now, the transformation part. This is the beautiful part. Now, after doing five years and at that time, I had seven more to go, a long time, five years is seven more to go. At this time I've experienced everything that the Penitentiary system has to offer for me. I've learned the ins and outs of how

were cultivated into the people that we are today.

Once I found out who I was by nature, I fell in love with myself. And once I found out who I was and realized that I was operating totally outside of the nature of my own creation, then and only then was I able to begin to take the necessary steps towards becoming who God intended me for me to be by Nature.

**Dr VGP :**

So that transformation process Dione, You began your journey searching for your purpose and trying to reach out for that mantle of what your life is going to be. And so after coming out of prison, You feel a sense of urge that you don't want to be part of the problem, any longer and now you want to be part of the solution? Tell us your post-prison journey.

**Dione:**

So before I tell you my post-prison journey because my post-prison Journey started while I was in prison. So when I reached the actual federal prison, you know, the first five years I was fighting the case. This is the pre-trial area of my incarceration, and then when I went to the actual Penitentiary to serve my time, I met me for the first time in my life, Real men who actually come from the same Walk of Life that I went through. But I found peace in the midst of the turmoil of prison life and who had life sentences that would never come at home who somehow found a way to deal with their situation. In a peaceful manner. So I wanted to know what it was that you learned. What did you go through? In order for you to obtain that peace at mind when you're never going home.

You're and you could see that on Earth if he sees it and they're still content with life. Yeah, you know. Yeah. So that drew you to quest to find out. How can I not have that? Exactly.

So I found out that they found their peace and ensured that others who had a chance, would not end up in the situation that they already come on beyond their greatcoats. Like a guy being a mentor there, they found that their journey in life, they

beings who are there In lesser circumstances lead a fruitful life once they come out. I mean that's so commendable and nobody talks about it and you are sharing such profound insights and such an articulate manner. So tell us how you sort your new nesting ground? How are you changing the landscape from within?

**Dione:**

Okay, so during that time of my incarceration, when I met these men, I became like an understudy to them. I was a part of the gang organizations but they had enough respect in the system.

**Dr VGP :**

So in the prison system too, there are gang organizations?

**Dione:**

Yes, yes. And actually I was a high ranking member in the gang organization in the prison system. I'll call the shots. However, these men think that they think that leadership ability in me and they noticed that I was using it for the wrong thing. And they blanketed me, they brought me and they treated me like family and they taught me. I studied under these guys. They gave me books to read and before I knew it. I had become an individual who ministered to the younger guys, who were just who were in the situation that I just left out of and I see how my transformation in with me being who I was individual. Those guys looked up to it, and changed them. So I seem like, wow, I really have the ability to change. Changing lives to help individuals to better their circumstances in prison as well as outside of prison, I still get calls from guys today thanking me for sharing their stories with me. How I helped them so One day while I was sitting in my cell, I have like two years left before I was coming home. And I said to myself, whenever something goes wrong in our community, we always look for outside sources to come in and correct our problem. And if you look at the history of this particular situation, we have failed horribly. We have failed hard, we've been failed horribly by individuals who try to come into our community and solve our problems because they can't relate. So I thought to myself, I said, who else, better to fix our problems. Then us the individuals who're actually causing self-determination, accountability. So I thought about starting an organization. But what would I name me? Okay, we're breaking the community but we always have somebody else to want to come fix it so hmm. You break it, you fix it.

So my organization was started on the basis of this thought: if you break your community you fix it. So that's how I came up.



**Dr VGP :**

Dione, It's a very fascinating and amazing story indeed how you were transformed in the prison system and you were thought to first embrace then engage and then empower. You just did that and then you got this vision of starting a You Break It You Fix It Foundation.

And as a youth you were destroying the community and now you're taking the initiative to fix the community. Isn't that awesome guys? We have Dione Harden here, so tell us what the "you Break It, you fix it" Foundation is doing today in Englewood.

**Dione:**

So today in Inglewood not only in Inglewood we stretch out as far as the arbor or aggressive neighbourhood to the west side to the north side. It's not a piece of land in Chicago that our feet don't touch in an effort to combat violence and hunger. We feed over 400 families a week through the shepherd hopes food pantry. I have very wise mentors around me like my brother Vijay. This is how we even got to this. The mentored me through the Gandhi King Foundation of for non-violence and we go around the community spreading love and light and my goal is to be a beacon of light to those who have lived and nothing but Darkness, I want to use my organization as Instrument to show young men and young women that, It doesn't matter where you come from it matters where you going where you headed and that you can be the change that you need and you deserve. If only you submit yourself to the uplift of the Fallen Humanity.

**Dr VGP :**

Dione, you're so prolific, and so happy to learn so much about you today in our show. Now, do you plan to write a book? Do you plan to go and give lectures in the school system? I think you should do that. Tell them about what life is and what life could be offered to. It's your choice. And also like you earlier said, in our show, one has to be courageous to be fearful. Very profound statements you have made. If I was one, I would like Global Eye to do a whole film on your journey, a Hollywood movie with Bollywood thirst. I'm sure, you know, because you are a living transformation, a living, Lexicon of Hope. Today for so many people and youth and thank you for really sharing all this candidly. And you were so bold and you're still in the throes of the pathway. In The Crossroads where you are between drug dealers between your everyday work, who break it to fix it, you're between drug dealers, you between the gang violence and the gun violence. You're seeing the poor state of



people who are hungry, like weapons were not big enough or strong enough to defeat the enemy, and which he was facing and that takes courage. And lastly **Mahatma Gandhi**. I would have loved to sit down with that man, because for one, the spirit of love, truth, peace, freedom and justice resonates from his aura, his being, which transmitted to those who I stated before him Dr. Martin Luther King, Muhammad Ali and so many others. I believe that his story needs to be more prominent today, in today's schools, you don't hear too much about him. Having to go study, I studied him while I was incarcerated. And, He has a way of defusing the ego and allowing you to think. And see things from a different perspective. So I would love to have dinner with those three men.

**Dione:**

The P stands for peace, prosperity, and the people that are protecting you on your own.

**Dr VGP :**

Wow. Super. Let's repeat it. Guys that cap which he has P on his cap stands for peace, prosperity, protecting your own and the people.

**Dione:**

Not just black people, not white. Anyone who has the Spirit of Hope and change. We're not a racist group. We are a denomination of different ethnic groups and our number one mission is to promote peace and prosperity to humankind all over the world.

**Dr VGP :**

You have said how beautifully you are changing the landscape today from within and there's no racial divide, only inclusivity. You are such an unassuming guy doing such amazing work today, Tell us, If you are to take three people out for dinner, they could be living or from the Past. Who would those three people be?

**Dione:**

Oh, man. First it would be **Muhammad Ali Cassius Clay**, The reason is because he was courageous enough. Two, Deny himself, the Treasures of the world for all of mankind, his people in particular. But for all of mankind, any man, who's willing to lay down his life and his treasures for his people, he is an idol of mine. Secondly, it would be **Dr. Martin Luther King jr**. Because this is a man who was actually a Warrior by Nature however, he knew that his weapons, Physical

weapons were not big enough or strong enough to defeat the enemy, and which he was facing and that takes courage. And lastly **Mahatma Gandhi**. I would have loved to sit down with that man, because for one, the spirit of love, truth, peace, freedom and justice resonates from his aura, his being, which transmitted to those who I stated before him Dr. Martin Luther King, Muhammad Ali and so many others. I believe that his story needs to be more prominent today, in today's schools, you don't hear too much about him. Having to go study, I studied him while I was incarcerated. And, He has a way of defusing the ego and allowing you to think. And see things from a different perspective. So I would love to have dinner with those three men.

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**Dr VGP :**

Dione Harden, you just heard the three people who would like to have dinner, Muhammad Ali. You know, that Dione Harden the greatest boxing champion for his courage, Dr. Martin Luther King, I Have a dream and Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the India, the peace Apostle who says Be the Change, you can. And that's what Dione Harden is, guys. He's changing the landscape from within. Could you imagine a School Dropout from grammar school speaking to us so profoundly from his experience, and from the challenges he is facing and his journey is continuing. This is a fascinating story, which I think we should publish into a book Dion, because your message has to go across this country, across the world to see that resilience, you know, courageousness and honesty and boldness that makes a man today. And how will you describe Dione Harden in three words?

**Dione:**

Peaceful, approachable and relatable.

**Dr VGP :**

Dione Harden, thank you so much for joining us today at the Dr VGP TALK SHOW. You have seen it all. You have seen the richest at fifteen thousand dollars a day which you were earning and today you Break it You Fix it Foundation is a 501-c:3 Foundation doing awesome work in the south side of Chicago and I think all of you viewers would like to learn the takeaway from

today's Dr VGP Talk Show featuring Dione Harden which is, you can be the chang, you want to be and was the change easy?

**Dione:**

No, it was not. No, it was not. Not at all, especially when you are faced with peer pressure when you grow up, they see the transformation and they are not ready to make the change. My change is actually a detriment to their continuance, you know, and so yes, it was very hard and it's hard. But I'm committed to it.

You just heard it from Dione Harden. Three words how he described himself, peaceful, approachable, and relatable. That's communication. Three fantastic words that describe your beautiful personality, tell us Dione from five years from now. Where do you think that You break it You Fix it Foundation will be? Where would you be in life, five years from now?

**Dione:**

Five years from now I hope to be able to share the light through my organization across the world. Letting young children, adults, and elderly make sure that we have a solid foundation to grow into, to be peaceful and to have Prosperity among humankind. I want to speak to young children. I want to speak to college students. I want to speak to the elderly. I want to speak to the poor, the sick, the weak. I want to share my story with them. I want to relate with them and I want to be able to say that I made a change in my life, in my community and those who know me best.

**Dr VGP :**

You are so profound. You enlightened us with your words. Now, tell us if you're granted one wish, what would that be?

**Dione:**

One wish. I would have to say, Peace to all mankind. No more Wars. No more Senseless killing, no more violence. I don't want riches. I don't want fame. I want peace.

**Dr VGP :**

Dione Harden, thank you so much for joining us today at the Dr VGP TALK SHOW. You have seen it all. You have seen the richest at fifteen thousand dollars a day which you were earning and today you Break it You Fix it Foundation is a 501-c:3 Foundation doing awesome work in the south side of Chicago and I think all of you viewers would like to learn the takeaway from

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**Dr VGP :**

As you know, you soared to new heights with a new nesting ground and you have many more new mountains to climb. We wish you every success every step of the way because we need many more Dione Hardens with us. Thank you Dione for joining us. Would you like to give a quick message to all our viewers across the world.

What does peace mean to you?

**Dione:**

Peace means the absence of turmoil and mental abuse. Peace is total tranquillity. Internally first. A wise man once told me everything that's going on the inside of you is a reflection of what's going on the outside of it. So if you want an external piece, you have to gain internal peace.

**Dr VGP :**

Absolutely. Peace be unto the whole world, and thank you Dione Harden again for joining us on the Dr VGP TALK SHOW.

**Dione:** Thank you.



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Curry House Indian and Nepali Restaurant, located in the South Loop area presents yet another facet of the abundant cultural diversity of Chicago, for which our City is justly renowned. The sweeping Himalayan mountain range touches Tibet, Pakistan, Indian, Nepal and Bhutan, each with its unique blend of cultures and cuisines. Nepal sits astride the heart of the Himalaya. Chicago Curry House features an array of classic Indian and Nepali food, including dishes like "momo" (dumplings with sauce), traditional Nepali "Thalis" (meal combinations), "dal-bhaat" (rice and lentils) and "gundruk" (slightly-fermented and dried vegetables). We also carry many North and South Indian dishes like Madras curry including the ever-popular Tandoor-Chicken and Tandoori Naan items like "roti," "naan" and chicken as well as many curries.

<https://curryhouseonline.com/>

# Boosting business ties with Australia; PM Modi meets prominent personalities

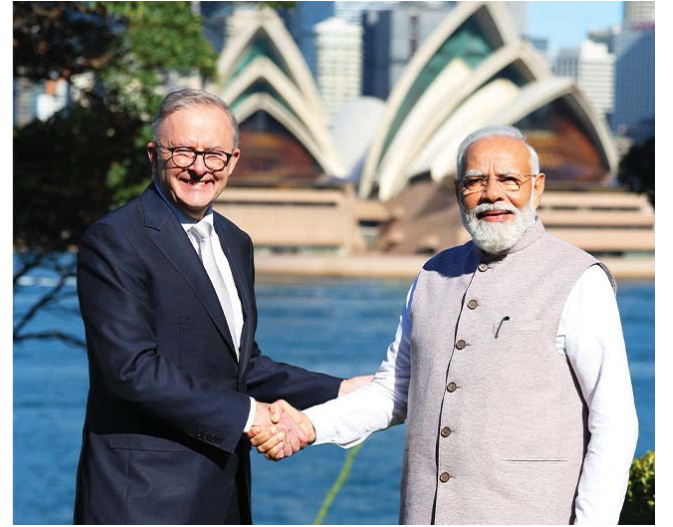


### PM MODI'S DIASPORA CONNECT IN SYDNEY!

PM Modi and PM Albanese addressed a large gathering of Indian community in Sydney. PM Modi highlighted "Mutual Trust and Mutual Respect" as the foundation of the close historical ties between India and Australia. Both the Prime Ministers laid the foundation for 'Little India' in Australia.

### LONG LIVE THE INDIA-AUSTRALIA FRIENDSHIP!

PM Modi and PM Albanese addressed a large gathering of Indian community in Sydney. PM Modi highlighted "Mutual Trust and Mutual Respect" as the foundation of the close historical ties between India and Australia. Both the Prime Ministers laid the foundation for 'Little India' in Australia.



### BOOSTING BUSINESS TIES WITH AUSTRALIA

PM Modi addressed a Business Roundtable with CEOs of top Australian companies. He highlighted the economic reforms and policy initiatives by the government for promoting ease of doing business. PM Modi invited the CEOs to take advantage of investment opportunities offered by India.



### PM MODI MEETS PROMINENT PERSONALITIES IN AUSTRALIA

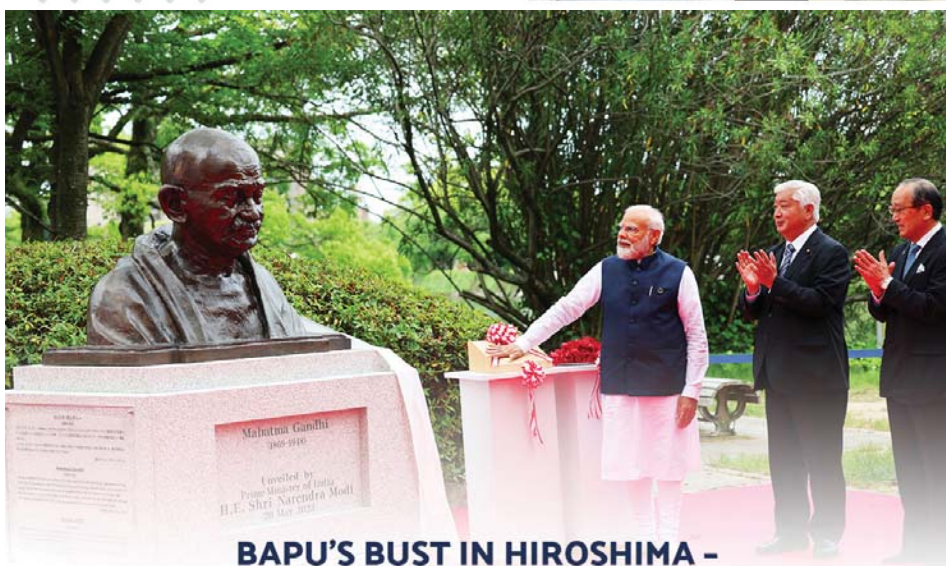
PM Modi in his recent visit to Sydney, Australia met with eminent personalities including Prof Andrew Forrest (Businessman), Gina Rhinehart (Chairman, Hancock), Paul Schroder (CEO, AustraliaSuper), Prof Brian Schmidt (Nobel Laureate), Guy Sebastian (Australian Singer), Sarah Todd (Australian Celebrity Chef), Danielle Mate (Australian Artist) among others.

### UNPRECEDENTED HONOUR FOR PM MODI IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PM Modi was conferred with three prestigious awards during his visit to Port Moresby for the FIPIC Summit. He was conferred the 'Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu' by Papua New Guinea, 'Companion of the Order of Fiji' by Republic of Fiji and 'Ebaki' Award by Republic of Palau.



### PM MODI'S SPEECH AT COMMUNITY PROGRAMME IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



### BAPU'S BUST IN HIROSHIMA - A SYMBOL OF PEACE

In a historic event PM Modi inaugurated the statue of Mahatma Gandhiji in Hiroshima, Japan. He acknowledged that India is proud to be the land of Gandhi Ji and will always work to realise his vision for humanity.

### INDIA-UKRAINE BILATERAL MEETING ON THE SIDELINES OF G7

PM Modi conveyed to President Zelensky, India's clear support for dialogue and diplomacy to find a way forward.





**INDIA AND BRAZIL MARK 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

PM Modi and PM Silva reviewed their Strategic Partnership, and discussed ways to further deepen it.

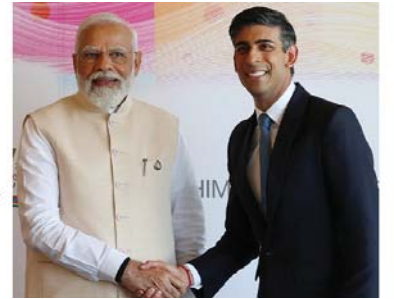


**RISING PROMINENCE OF INDIA-FRANCE RELATIONS**

PM Modi and President Macron discussed Strategic Partnership in various areas, including trade, civil aviation & renewables.

**DEEPENING COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND UK**

PM Modi and PM Sunak discussed the status of India-UK FTA, trade & investment, science & technology, higher education.



**FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED!**

At FIPIC Summit, PM Modi said that despite the challenges of climate change, poverty, supply chain disruptions, India has always stood with the pacific countries. He reiterated that India viewed the pacific countries as Large Ocean States, playing a pivotal role in connecting India with the region.



**TAMIL CLASSIC 'THIRUKKURAL' TRANSLATED TO TOK PISIN LANGUAGE OF PNG**

PM Modi met PM Marape on the sidelines of the FIPIC Summit in Port Moresby. Both leaders took stock of their bilateral relations and discussed ways to further strengthen their partnership across various sectors. PM Modi also unveiled the translation of 'The Thirukkural' in Tok Pisin language of PNG.



**TAKING QUAD COOPERATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

PM Modi participated in the 'Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima along with PM Albanese of Australia, PM Kishida of Japan and US President Biden. PM Modi emphasized the importance of consolidating Quad's constructive agenda and delivering tangible outcomes for the region.



**GREAT SYNERGY IN INDIA-JAPAN RELATIONS**

Discussions between PM Modi and PM Kishida focused on areas of education, tourism, green hydrogen, digital infra among others.

# The Importance of Modi's Indo-Pacific Tour

Speaking in Hiroshima and to China, the country on top of most Indo-Pacific minds. Amid China's military expansion in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, Prime Minister Modi said India was committed to protecting its sovereignty and integrity while promoting peaceful resolution of maritime disputes based on international law, in comments made during an interview with Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun.



The PM also met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit and expressed anguish at the devastation caused by the war and conveyed his personal desire to end the hostilities. This was their first in-person meeting since the start of Russia's war.

A highlight of the trip was to be the Quad leaders' summit set for this week in Australia. A shortened version was convened hastily in Hiroshima after U.S. President Joe Biden at the last minute decided to cut short his visit to the region to deal with the continuing debt default domestic political crisis in Washington – a decision that was

criticised for the mixed signalling about U.S. commitments to the region. In addition to a joint statement that committed to strengthening ties, the four countries also outlined plans to work together on clean energy supply chains, cybersecurity and secure software, and critical and emerging technology standards.

The G-7 summit, meanwhile, to which India was invited, saw leaders of the group, which includes Britain, the United States, Japan, Canada, Germany, France, Italy and the European Union, pledge to "starve Russia of G7 technology, industrial equipment and services that support its war machine."



Also last week, India-Russia ties were in to EU Council rules, "Russian crude, if the crosshairs of the EU, with top foreign affairs and security official Josep Borrell saying it was "certainly a circumvention of sanctions" if Indian diesel and gasoline (petrol) entering Europe were made from Russian oil and that EU Member States "have to act". External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who met Borrell, said according

to EU Council rules, "Russian crude, if the crosshairs of the EU, with top foreign affairs and security official Josep Borrell saying it was "certainly a circumvention of sanctions" if Indian diesel and gasoline (petrol) entering Europe were made from Russian oil and that EU Member States "have to act".

For an in-depth look at the PM's Indo-Pacific tour, this week's World View by Suhasini Haidar assessed the multiple dimensions of the visit, from the multilateral to the bilateral and the regional significance. You can read or watch her analysis here.

# Mahipal Reddy, Ven Reddy & Mahee Muskula

## OPENS 'NAATU' RESTAURANT IN SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS



this and more allow diners to explore various regional delicacies that will leave your tastebuds delighted. Naatu has impeccable service, and from the moment you enter, the attentive and friendly staff make you feel right at home. Their dedication to ensuring an exceptional dining experience is evident in their promptness and attentiveness throughout your meal. They cater to all your dining preferences with their range of service options. Whether you prefer a leisurely dine-in



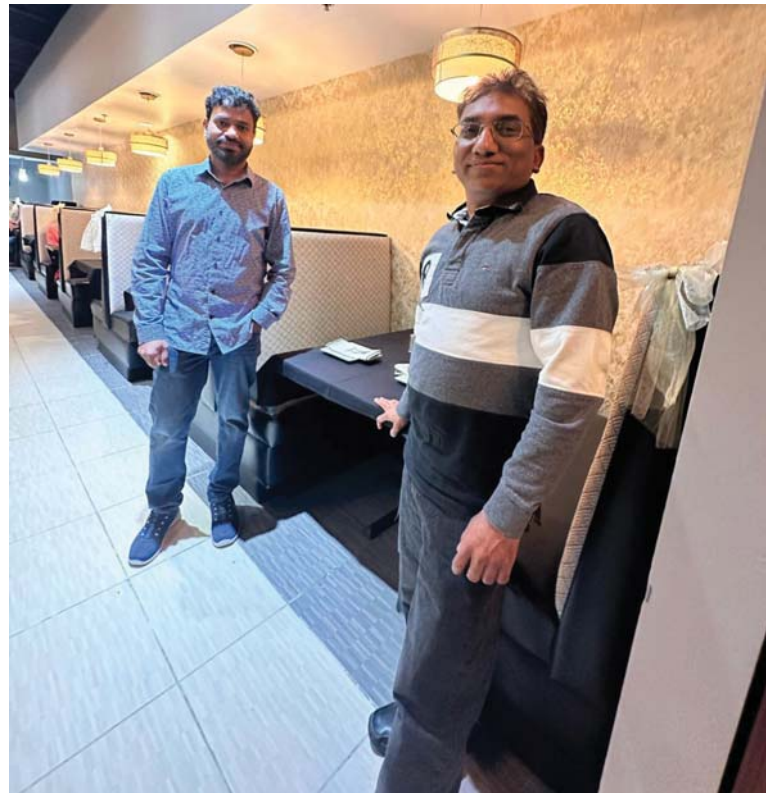
**Abitha Dhanaraj**  
Nestled in the vibrant Schaumburg, Illinois, Naatu is a culinary haven for lovers of Indian cuisine. It is a culinary haven that not only delights the taste buds but also enchants the senses with its exquisite interior design. Step inside, and you'll find yourself transported to a world of elegance and charm.



The interior of Naatu is a sight to behold, adorned with perfect chandeliers that cast a warm and inviting glow over the entire space. The ornamental and intricately designed ceilings add a touch of grandeur, the walls a mesmerizing yellow damask pattern, and as you gaze all around, you can't help but appreciate the craftsmanship that went into creating such a

stunning ambience. It's a feast for the eyes, perfectly complimenting the South Indian flavors that await you on the menu. Now let's talk about the star of the show: the food. Naatu takes great pride in preparing dishes that perfectly embody the essence of Indian cuisine. Their pan-Indian menu offers a diverse range of options from parotta to different meats and curries to different kinds of aromatic biryanis. All of

experience, the convenience of curbside pick-up, or the comfort of no-contact delivery, this restaurant ensures that your needs are met. Naatu is a true gem with their focus on quality ingredients, skilled cooks, and a range of dining options, they are the ideal destination for a transportation to South India. A memorable dining experience and a culinary adventure is what to expect when you dine at Naatu.



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# Kashmiri Dalits Urge India's New Parliament to be named after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

**Mohita Sukumar**  
**Chicago News Bureau Chief**  
 Jammu, May 22nd, 2023: DOM felicitated Nisha Samuel (National Executive Member Christian Sabha) DOM (Dalit OBC. Minority) a wing of All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organizations J&K today welcomed Ms Nisha Samuel, Former Member of Public Grievance Commission, Delhi & National Executive Member Christian Sabha, in their office. RK Kalsotra, Chairman DOM & State President All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organisations J&K along with S Kuldeep Singh, Sikh Missionary, Ashraf Ali, President Anjul Islam Committee and Ashu Perer Mattoo, State President All J&K Christian Sabha presented Buke and Shawl to Ms Samuel.

action to protect the rights and moreover focused to promote communal harmony and brotherhood among different communities. Kalsotra, who later apprised Ms Samuel that Confederation is hosting Round Table Conferences for

said that their organization is working on Ambedkarite principles and fully support the cause and will join the movement. While addressing all the people of different sects to come together to fight



naming New Parliament Building as Dr B R Ambedkar Parliament House and we demand support from the masses and struggling to save Constitution and Save Rights, whereas DOM is also raising issue of reservation to Dalit Christian also. Ms Samuel

against the powers who wants to destroy the peace and harmony in the society and even focused to follow the path of Baba Sahib Ambedkar Ji and gave equality to the underprivileged classes. S Kuldeep Singh, said Sikh missionaries always stand



with equality and brotherhood, while Ashraf Ali suggested to respect religious sentiments of all communities and stand with each other. Ashu Peter Mattoo added in the same context and urge Govt to fulfill the pending

demands of Christian community. Meeting was very interactive between each to strengthen the communal brotherhood under the banner of Dalit OBC, Minority (National Executive Member Christian Sabha)





# 12 TH CONGRESSIONAL GLOBAL COMMUNITY OSCARS GALA



**Mohita Sukumar**  
**Chicago News Bureau Chief**  
Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar Founder President, AMEC and an internationally renowned Public Health Professional with pioneering accomplishments, announced their 12th Annual AMEC & MEATF Global Community Awards Gala 2023 on schedule for Saturday, June 17, 2023, 6PM onwards at Yellow Box, Naperville. The event previously attended by 1000+ guests is expected to be of Brobdingnagian proportions. The Preparations for the event has begun in full swing with less than 3 weeks and is anticipated to break all glass ceilings turning to be an exuberating celebration. The Annual Oscars honours



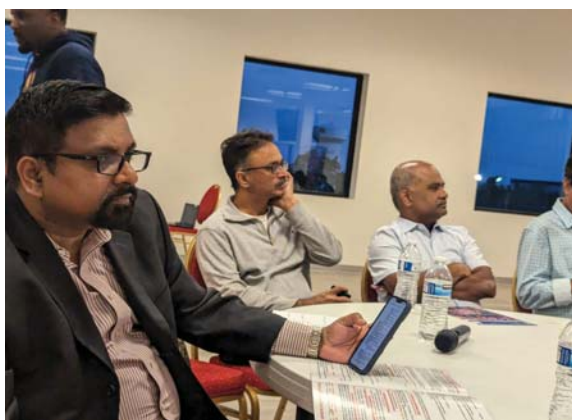
individuals that have inspired and excelled in serving our ethnic communities exhibiting their leadership skills. These are individuals that continue to achieve more with their services, empowering and enlightening all of us. Congressman Danny K. Davis, will be in attendance with

Dr. VGP on the 12th Annual Congressional Global Community Awards Gala honoring our community heroes for their exemplary achievements in community services. Hosted by AMEC-American Multi-Ethnic Coalition, the start studded event will be live streamed around the globe. American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc (AMEC) -AMEC is a bipartisan grass root level organization to empower the multiethnic communities through social, educational, cultural, health, economic and youth initiatives. AMEC strives to promote and protect ethnic minorities by maximizing every resource that we have for the good of our communities. Expected at the event are prominent dignitaries, U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis, Raja Krishnamoorthy & Bill Foster, Naperville Mayor Scott Wehrli, Aurora Alderman Swetha Baid, Dr. Zenobia Sowell, CEO, Sowell Dental Associates among

others. Preceded by a Banquet Dinner Gala, the Grand Event will contain dazzling entertainment segment featuring nonstop music, song and dances from around the world in 60 minutes. A Fashion Fusion Parade and a special showstopper presenting "Nattu Nattu" a telugu language song which brought the spotlight back on India by winning the Oscars in 2023.

Dr VGP, the creator of AMEC Oscars gala along with his AMEC Leadership team extends their warm invitation to all guests from Chicagoland and the neighboring states to the event. The tickets are bookings fast and guests are requested to book their complimentary guest passes using the following links or email to AMEC.2022@yahoo.com

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/12th-annual-us-congressional-awards-gala-2023-tickets-632544797517>  
<https://forms.gle/QPtZoq9ZAKqbJc9RA>





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Mergen IT offers a range of digital transformation services that can help businesses unlock their full potential and stay ahead of the curve.



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ServiceNow is a cloud-based platform that can help businesses streamline their operations and improve efficiency. Mergen IT's team of experts can help you implement ServiceNow solutions tailored to your business needs and goals, from IT service management to HR and beyond.

**workday.**

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Cloud computing has become an essential part of modern business operations. Mergen IT's cloud computing solutions can help businesses optimize their infrastructure, improve security, and reduce costs. We offer customized cloud solutions that are tailored to your specific needs and goals.

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Data is the lifeblood of modern businesses. Mergen IT's BI & Data Warehousing solutions can help you harness the power of your data and make data-driven decisions that drive growth. Our team can help you implement BI and data warehousing solutions that are tailored to your business needs.

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*Shree &*



*Seeta's Chatter*

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



Boat Party hosted by Vibha Rajput at Chicago River on May 27th to welcome summer in Chicago.



We have a big surprise in store at the 2023 Oscars on June 17th. Be there to watch, Naatu Naatu by our Amec Team dancers



Seeta Bala, Vice President of AMEC during her visit to Bangalore met Mr. Chandrappa, Director of Marketing, Mysore Sales International Limited presented a copy of Global Eye edition 19 featuring Honorable Union Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman.



AMEC Communication director, Neelam Saboo celebrated her birthday on May 31, 2023 in her house surrounded by her friends and family.



Dignitaries attending the opening of Dev Darshan Senior Center on March 25th, 2023. Hema Shastri, founder of the center is an active member of AMEC team.



Seeta Bala, Vice President of AMEC during her visit to Bangalore met Dr Raj Kumar Khatri IAS(R), M.B;B.S. MBA, Principal State Coordination Office, Reliance Jio, Reliance Projects and Property Management Services Ltd, receiving a copy of the Global Eye magazine.



Amal McCaskill is an American former professional basketball player who played in the NBA selected by Orlando Magic, San Antonio Spurs, Atlanta Hawks and Philadelphia 76ers. He headlined the opening of Dev Darshan Senior Center in Bensenville, IL on March 25th, 2023.



Madhu Rohatgi making Dahi Vada for amec meeting



Seeta Bala, Vice President of AMEC during her visit to Bangalore met Dr. Mahesh Managing Director of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd, presented a copy of Global Eye edition newspaper.

Congratulations to 51-year-old dentist Flemingson Lazarus, a fitness freak earned the distinction of being the only Indian to have successfully completed IRONMAN 70.3 event in Egypt on November 18.

# Meet the First Lady Vice Chancellor of India's premier University , Jawaharlal Nehru University- Professor Shantishree Dulpudi

JNU's Alumni include India's Finance Minister Seetharaman, India's Foreign Minister Jaishankar & India's Ambassador to U. S. Sandhu among other eminent personalities.....



Born on 15 July 1962 at Leningrad [now Saint Petersburg], Russia [the former USSR]. Educated in Chennai at the Presidency College, both B.A. and M.A. Topper and Gold Medallist; Completed M.Phil and Ph.D in International Politics from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New-Delhi; Post-Doctorate in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Uppsala University, Sweden. Appointed as the first woman and alumna Vice Chancellor of India's top University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New- Delhi. Joined on 7 February 2022 for a period of five years. Teaching and Research career spanning over three and half decades beginning with lecturer at the Goa University from 1988 and in 1991 joined the University of Pune, now Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Previously Professor [since 2006] in the Department of Politics and Public-Administration holding the additional charge of Director-International Centre, since 2001-2007. Published four books and edited two. Have published several research papers and widely traveled. Completed several projects both major and minor. 30 students have completed their Ph.D under my supervision and 8 M.Phils. At present 4 students are working for their doctorate under my supervision. Was the General Secretary of the Pune University Teachers' Association from 1996 to 2009. Was elected to University of Pune Senate and Management Council [Syndicate] 2001 to 2006]. On several Universities, board of Studies as an expert in my areas of teaching and research - International Relations, Asian Studies, Culture and Foreign Policy, Conflict, Violence and Gender. Member of several national academic and research bodies from 2015 and continue until now.

Languages Known – Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Hindi, Sanskrit,

English. Can understand Kananda, Malayalam and Konkani.

Published several research papers and books. A few given below.

Parliament and Foreign Policy in India, New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers, 1990.

"Restructuring Environmental governance in Asia-Ethics and Policy", [Sole editor] [Hongkong: City University Press,2003].

Cultural Diplomacy: Buddhism and India's Look East Policy [co-author Dr. Rimli Basu] [2012] Lambert Academic Pub. [978-3-8465-8021-9].

Retreat of the State: Implications of Drug Trafficking in Asia [co-author Dr.Rimli Basu] [2012][978-3-659-12896-7].

Edited- Prof. Amulya. K. Tripathi, Orissa, D. Santishree Pandit, Pune, Roshni Kujur. [Eds "Understanding Post 9/11 Cross –Border Terrorism in South Asia". My chapter is : "Indo-Sri Lanka Relations in the 'Post –LTTE period", ESS Publisher, New Delhi, 2016. ISBN: 978-93-80036-84-7. [Second Author- Dr. Rimli Basu]

Edited-Book: Covid-19 Crisis and the Future of Higher Education in India [2022] KVS Sarma; Santhishree Dhulipudi-Pandit; Saraswathi Unni; Raosaheb Bawaskar

Chapters in more than 36 books. So far published several articles in "The Hindu"[Madras], "News Today"[Madras], Gomantak Times[Panaji], Sakal [Pune] and several "Letters to the Editors. Monthly column on International affairs in the New Swatantra Times' [Hyderabad] Published several Book Reviews in New Quest, Freedom First, Bhavan's Journal, International Studies, Indian Journal for Political Science, Indian Journal of Foreign affairs, Diplomatist. Editorial board of research journals.

Served as Vice- President of IPSA [2012-2015] and President [2021, December]. Member of Government of India national committees like ICSSR, ICCR, IAS, MAKAIAS MPISS; President of India has nominated to several Central Universities as his nominee on Selection Committees. Member of Academic councils of University of Pune, and several

other universities of India; as subject expert and up-gradation of syllabus; Guide and Consultant for students appearing for the Civil Services and career counseling; held positions on several academic and professional bodies Have been active in student and cultural organizations; connected with the working of a few social service institutions; founding member of two organizations working for society, New Life for India movement and Youth Forum for Gandhian Studies.

Several awards  
Best All round student in Std XII - AdarshVidyalaya, Chennai. Youth Forum For Gandhian Studies, Chennai- Woman Educator Award 2003. Wisetex award for Women leaders in the next decade - Eduaction 2004. Veer Savarkar Award for Education field, Pune, May 2010. Smt. Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Award May 2022. Universal Peace Federation - Ambassador of Peace Award 2022. Deendayal Upadaya Award - 2022.

**JNU Convocation 6th and the first without any protest. 948 PhDs awarded highest of any Indian Higher Education Institute. Chief guest Smt.Dropudi Murmu Honble President of India, Sri. Dharmendra Pradhan , Honble Minister of Education, Prof. Ajay K Sood Principal Scientific Advisor Special Guest, Dr.V.K.Saraswat Chancellor JNU and Member Niti Aayog and Prof.Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit VC JNU.**





EAM Dr S. Jaishankar inaugurated the first-of-its-kind National Convention on India's International Relations orgd by Indian Council For Cultural Relations with JNU as Knowledge Partner, today. In his key-note address he observed that India now seen as giver and not just taker, as in the past. Minister of State Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi also addressed besides #G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant. Over 58 academics, mainly HODS of Dept.s of International Relations of over 45 universities are participating in this unique outreach initiative JNU VC Dr Santishree Pandit also joined.



DELHI JNU VICE CHANCELLOR SHANTISHREE PUNDIT INSTALLED AS THE GLOBAL EYE GSA INDIA @75 EXPO 2022 USA CO-CHAIR, INDIA GSA India@75 Expo 2022 President Dr. VGP, Expo Executive Vice President Dr Vasavi Chakka & Expo Additional Director General, Atlanta Parthiban Shanmugam inaugurated Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi Vice Chancellor Dr SHANTISHREE D. PUNDIT as the GSA India @75 Expo Co Chair, India at Washington D. C. today at an impressive ceremony at Mayflower Hotel, Washington D.C.

JNU Vice Chancellor Dr Shantishree with India's Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman at JNU in 1985

# Cancel culture and public space in India

The huge uproar over a film and the politics of the ban in India is extremely unfortunate. Such is valid for the content of the national curriculum framework. The same textbooks were revised in 2006, yet no protests occurred. Those who represent the hegemonic narrative before 2014 believe they are ordained with the divine right to write the last word on history, and nothing could follow their final word. Any dissenting opinion or fact is branded misnomer or trolled endlessly. Through a well-coordinated ecosystem, the hegemonic Left vilifies anyone who disagrees with such curated narratives. This brings about the vital issue of freedom of speech and creative expression in the country, portending the absence of diversity with a preference for hegemony and exclusivism in intellectual and public spaces within and outside India. One sees this in the treatment of Karan Kataria at LSE. Had Karan not been a Hindu, would his case have been treated as it was? Such are the issues worth debates and discussions. India's democracy is back after the Congress won in Karnataka and EVMs are reliable. Otherwise the same ecosystem cried that Indian democracy and diversity were in danger. This was being said in India and abroad by supporters like George Soros. Democracy and diversity are not determined by electoral victories and defeat. Indian democracy is very strong rooted and as old as our civilization. The advent of social media has been celebrated as a public good. However, the flip side of social media still needs to be understood through serious research within the academic discourse. Social media is blamed for promoting and sometimes perpetuating cancel culture. However, social media should be understood as a medium rather than the initiator of such ill practices. The cancel culture stands as an excellent example of failure to understand the risks associated with social media. Cancel culture is loosely defined as a contemporary phenomenon in which individuals or groups seek to publicly ostracize or punish individuals for their actual or perceived transgressions against certain social norms or values. Individuals or organizations are presumed guilty without due process, leading to loss of employment, reputational damage, psychological distress and even legal actions. Given the visibility and speed of social media, cancel culture relies on social media campaigns that quickly escalate and become viral, resulting in swift and severe (and sometimes unfair) consequences for the targeted individual or organization. However, the fascinating thing about these norms and values that cancel culture promotes is how they change with settings and individuals. Simply put, the same rules do not apply to everyone. Cancel culture is an extreme example of perverting the benefits of social pressure. It is commonly used to dismiss or target anyone with a slightly different opinion. Hate speeches are unacceptable, but social reprobaton is still a necessary component of free speech. One can freely speak their mind, but one should be aware of its consequences. As is often said, "You cannot have your cake and eat it, too." In his recent book, *Cancel This Book: The Progressive Case Against Cancel Culture*, a human rights lawyer and free speech advocate, Dan Kovalik, argues for the necessity of free speech in public spaces. He remarks, "speech that offends but does not interfere with another's right of participation, should not be banned or otherwise suppressed. Rather, such speech ... should be met with speech; with argument and dialogue, as a means to advance both free speech and hopefully equality."

A herd mentality traverses cancel culture where any discomfort or disagreement is not an instigation of self-reflection or recourse to checking facts. Instead, it becomes a cue to cancel the person or the idea. The most significant pathology of cancel culture is an ever-changing goal post where the behaviour is condemned regardless of its reasons, simply because you feel offended. Another pathology of cancel culture that increasingly occurs is "selectivity". Some issues, content, or ideas are acceptable in one setting or when endorsed by like-minded individuals. Meanwhile, when someone else takes up the problems, they are condemned as insensitive, ill-informed, or accused of politicizing the issue. Besides negating facts and being selective, cancel culture is guilty of promoting the mob mentality that ultimately causes the death of reason, independent thinking, and, most importantly, due process. Some hateful actions or ideas, like Nazism, deserve to be curtailed and banished. Yet, criticism of Nazism is not based on a convenient alignment of interests but on facts and informed knowledge of the abhorrent Nazi ideas. Moreover, the lack of due process results in most victims being undeservedly besmirched. Cancel culture also causes great rifts in a society where even the dead are not safe, and such culture readily becomes a witch hunt.

# Mann ki Baat: A bullhorn for women's empowerment

The programme helps link women's empowerment with the country's development



The use of a forgotten medium the radio, revolutionised the popularity of Akashvani or the All India Radio by a visionary Prime Minister in reaching to the poorest of the poor in the far-flung remote areas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted India's first "visually enriched radio program," Mann ki Baat (Inner Thoughts), on 3 October 2014 to establish a "dialogue with the citizens on issues of day-to-day governance." Ever since, the radio program has discussed various issues that included but were not limited to education, economy, foreign affairs, health, national security, politics, sanitation, startups, society and particularly, women.

Over the last eight years, the government has vigorously campaigned for strengthening Nari Shakti across all segments of governance, including their participation in national defence. Whether congratulating women's success in sports or acknowledging their role in building an Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat, the Mann ki Baat has been a critical platform for women's empowerment. But how exactly has Mann ki Baat engaged with women and related

issues? Five major observations can be made in this regard.

First, women have been a dominant focus in Mann ki Baat. PM Modi has talked about the role of women in the context of history, politics and their changing role in society. He has been a vocal advocate of revitalizing women in Indian history, particularly those from marginalized communities. A recurring theme in his talks is a high regard for women freedom fighters, educationalists, and social workers. For such reasons, Prime Minister has used the platform to draw attention to such notable yet overlooked figures of the past like Savitribai Phule, who he believes "personifies the indomitable spirit of our Nari Shakti".

Second, Mann ki Baat has talked about women both as a group and as individuals. As a group, PM Modi talked about the macro directions in women's roles and their growing participation in the country's development. Here, the focus is mainly on collective concerns related to women, like entrepreneurship, health and nutrition, education and leadership. A good example is an

initiative in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu known as Tharagaigal Kaivinai Porutkal Virpanai Angadi that links up 22 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to sell several items like the Thanjavur doll, bronze lamps, bags, mats and toys. The initiative notably cuts the middleman and helps women sell their products directly to clients. Prime Minister hailed the group during the 89th edition of the show.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister has addressed individual women from all parts of the country who have excelled in their fields and inspired others. This attention accorded to individual women is remarkable since it enables citizens (especially women) to reach out to the head of the government to tell their stories and raise concerns. Prime Minister frequently calls out individual women by name to applaud them for the initiatives that improved their lives and those of others around them. For instance, in the 98th edition of the show, he talked about an SHG run by Kamala Moharana of Kendrapada (Odisha) that makes sustainable baskets and mobile stands from milk pouches and plastics.

Similarly, in the 21st episode, PM Modi praised Babita Rajput of Agrotha village (Madhya Pradesh), who mobilized other women of Agrotha to build a canal to bring water to a dried-up lake that threatened their survival.

Third, Mann ki Baat helps link women empowerment with the country's development. From the outset, the Modi administration has sought to change the scope and notion of empowering women by emphasizing a shift from "women empowerment" to "women-led empowerment." This shifted approach may appear inconsequential. However, it marks a fundamental change in how the government approaches women and women's issues. Instead of restricting women as merely the beneficiary of the development agenda, it has made women a "critical prerequisite" for development. Mann ki Baat is a critical component of delivering this message.

Fourth, through Mann ki Baat, PM Modi has sought to reach out to the country's non-women populace to remodel women's role in Indian society. In a recent episode, PM Modi exclaimed that the "daughters of the country are raising the flag of their bravery." He referred to this in the context of Group Captain Shalija Dhani (the first woman Air Force officer to get a Command Appointment in a Combat Unit), Captain Shiva Chauhan (the first woman officer to be posted at Siachen), and the women-only platoon of peacekeepers at the UN Mission in Sudan and South Sudan. Similarly, he also commended women who went to earthquake-struck Turkey

as part of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) units. Such decisions underscore the government's intent of creating a separate space for women's societal role besides as homemakers.

Fifth, through its voluminous examples of women succeeding and bringing forth change, Mann ki Baat has served as a publicizing platform for the government's initiatives. The government has launched over a dozen women-specific policies over the last eight years, including Sukanya Samridhi, Beti Bachao Beti Padaho, Stand-Up India, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Sarvada Shaktishaali Scheme. However, the government faces a severe challenge in making the public aware of such policies.

Here, Prime Minister has used Mann ki Baat as an affordable and easy-accessible instrument to reach the widest possible audience and inform them of government initiatives. Whether allowing girls in Sainik Schools or helping women start businesses, PM Modi has dedicated considerable time to publicizing government policies and raising awareness.

In a nutshell, Prime Minister's return to radio as a means to reach out to people showcases that the government's focus is less on the projection of empowerment but more on delivery, wherein Mann ki Baat has been a bullhorn for women empowerment. An issue that international leaders lament that getting to gender equality will take a long time as many as 200 years, but in India the Prime Minister has given a clarion call for Nari Shakti in the making of Amrit Kal, India 100 at 2047.

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# It took Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit, an OBC woman scholar, to study caste of Hindu gods



When serious intellectuals emerge from the organic social base of the productive communities like Shudras, Dalits and Adivasis, their own caste location begins to determine their consciousness irrespective of whether they come from the Hindutva school or the Communist school, writes Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd

Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit has come up with a new theory about Hindu gods and goddesses. Her theory inaugurates a discourse of departure from the right-wing Hindutva school from within. Her lecture on the theory at a programme organized by the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi in August 2022 was met with disapproval from her own camp – and a pretension of indifference from the secular left-liberal intellectuals, the result of which has been a serious intellectual loss for them and for the nation. The priestly forces are demanding her removal from position and arrest. They have threatened agitations and representations to the Prime Minister. Such threats need to be fought back. Their sentiments are as bigoted as that of the Muslim fundamentalists who attacked Salman Rushdie.

Shantishree is the first OBC woman intellectual raising new questions from a position of power at a time when the Hindutva forces are ruling the nation. She is the first woman vice-chancellor of JNU. She succeeded a military-minded vice-chancellor who was against dissent and intellectual engagement. Now her initiating a discourse unmindful of the consequences from her own camp is a refreshing illustration of academic freedom. She is raising intellectual questions that have implications to society at large. Even from among the Indian woman intellectuals of the feminist, liberal and Marxist ilk, I have not come across an OBC intellectual with such seriousness and willingness to take on the patriarchy of Brahmanism.

The most positive aspect of her initiative is that she, from within the right-wing camp, has taken Ambedkar more seriously and taken on Manu's position of caste and the brahmanical spiritual system. Manu is a sacred thinker for all Hindutva Brahmin writers and leaders like M.S Golwalkar, Deendayal Upadhyaya, Mohan Bhagwat, Ram Madhav and so on. But he is a regressive anti-women casteist ancient thinker for Shantishree. She is absolutely right. Though Shantishree said that all (non-Muslim, non-Christian) women are Shudra and only by virtue of marriage to a Brahmin man they become Brahmin, most "Brahmin" women writers, historians and social scientists operated exactly with

the opposite position and understanding. They lived, and wrote as Brahmins. I was witness to their anti-reservation politics (except a handful) during Mandal struggles. Men and women historians, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists of JNU, let alone other universities, have not in their writings condemned Manu as regressive, as Shantishree just did. Liberal and Marxist historiographies and anthropological investigations have been used to protect the caste system from university positions.

Most respected leftist historians who wrote on ancient India like D.D. Kosambi, Romila Thapar, R.S. Sharma never wrote anything serious about Manudharma Shastra from the vantage point of a Shudra/Dalit/Adivasi, nor did they sympathetically read Ambedkar's position on Manu and Hindu Dharma Shastras. Sociologists and Anthropologists like M.N. Srinivas, Andre Beteille, Dipankar Gupta never examined the caste location of the Hindu gods and goddesses. Shantishree says that there is "no Brahmin in the pantheon of Hindu gods and goddesses and many are either from Kshatriya heritage or from Shudra/Dalit/Adivasi heritage. When she said Shiva could be a Dalit or an Adivasi and Jagannath of Puri was an Adivasi she deconstructed the divine forces from an anti-caste point of view. Their anthropological position could be ascertained from the brahmanical ancient Sanskrit texts themselves. Against the names of some godheads, caste is mentioned. Those caste names correspond to the existing castes among the Indian people.

When Shantishree is talking about the anthropological location of Hindu gods – which every Brahmin scholar man or woman wanted to avoid – it is a scientific examination. Even the most radical left intellectuals have avoided these questions. Avoiding the discourse about institutions of huge inequality and oppression from the ancient days does not help the nation or a given religion. All forms of inequalities need to be problematized by thinkers and philosophers in order to build a nation with human equality and dignity of labour. We know today for sure that the brahmanical castes are anti-labour and hence anti-development. Dignity of labour and production are interrelated.

Earlier in her presentation at a seminar in Delhi University she had said that Draupadi and Sita were the first feminists in Indian history because Sita was the first single mother and Draupadi was the first autonomous woman who opposed all five husbands on many

issues. This itself was quite an un-Hindutva position.

Indian anthropology had a problem in that the practitioners were as brahmanical as anybody else. They never examined the present and the past from a human perspective. Their own caste cultural consciousness determined their methodology and description. For example, for M.N. Srinivas, purity and pollution were central to his study of the Indian social system. Production, equality/inequality and the labour power of the productive communities never occupied centrality in his analysis. When serious intellectuals emerge from the organic social base of the productive communities like Shudras, Dalits and Adivasis, their own caste location begins to determine their consciousness. Whether they are from the Hindutva school or from the Communist school, if they acquire serious intellectual curiosity and the ability to grasp the fundamental flaws of society they begin to raise new questions. The questions that Mahatma Phule, Savitribai Phule, Ambedkar, Periyar raised are qualitatively different from the questions that Brahmin intellectuals of their times raised. Shantishree, as an OBC woman scholar, has taken a progressive position in evaluating the brahmanical spiritual system.

Shantishree is the only intellectual from the Hindutva camp to raise new questions in my lifetime. She will face challenges and as an intellectual she has to fight it out. As an alumna and now as the vice-chancellor of the same JNU her proposition attracts attention.


JNU is known for the Western stream of social-science knowledge. They seriously study Western scholars

and quote them in their research and the teachers encourage the students to do so. That method has not played a great creative, transformational intellectual role. It has produced some good scholars and administrators who can operate only in familiar Western structures. No JNU scholar or thinker has produced a groundbreaking work so far. While defending herself Shantishree also said that she was a serious academic and not an original thinker like Ambedkar and therefore only paraphrased his ideas on gods and goddesses in a seminar. As I see it, at this stage of the Indian sociopolitical system, Indian universities must produce original scholars and thinkers like Ambedkar. Let us not forget that he was a product of Columbia University. When the Western universities could produce original scholars, thinkers and philosophers, why not Indian universities? In a country like India any serious social-science student has to examine ancient, medieval and modern structures from the point of view of people's philosophy. As Shantishree herself claims, JNU is the number-one university in producing social-science ideas but that the status is based on a comparative assessment. All Indian universities have been engaging with Western ideas. Within that list, JNU has been doing better.


The religious system holds an important place in a nation. A critical analysis of Indian religious structures and its divine and social figures plays an important role in building advanced social-science knowledge. To make India a competitive nation, our universities must allow critical thinking to thrive. I hope Shantishree continues her dissenting studies while being in that position.

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# Prioritizing Mental Health: The Imperative for Enhanced Support in the Coming Generations



**Abitha Dhanaraj**

In a world that often feels chaotic and overwhelming, we find ourselves at a critical crossroad. It's time to confront a silent crisis that is tearing at the very fabric of our society: the deteriorating state of mental health. This urgent call for actions demands our attention. Let us delve into the profound impact of mental health on every individual, for it is an affliction that affects us all.

Mental health concerns can arise in various forms and

affect people from all walks of life. Anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Substance abuse, such as recreational drug overdoses and alcohol poisoning. Many turn to these harmful coping mechanisms as a way to alleviate their emotional pain or escape their reality temporarily. Furthermore, incidents of violence, particularly in educational settings, highlight another distressing aspect of this crisis. School shootings and other acts of violence to others are all complex issues with multifaceted causes. Tragically, some individuals, overwhelmed by their struggles, may even contemplate or attempt self-harm or suicide. Addressing the underlying mental health issues is crucial in preventing such incidents of all scopes and would ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals.

Today's young people face an array of challenges that were less prevalent in previous generations. The relentless pressure to excel academically, cope with social media comparisons, and navigate a rapidly changing world, as well

as COVID takes a toll on their mental well-being. To be "perfect" in an ever changing world filled with scrutiny has become relentless. Anxiety and depression grip them, leaving scars that are often unnoticed, cries not heard and hidden, cycles and voices in their head with floating questions and thoughts, all that they themselves can't even fathom and compartmentalize. All of this going untreated results in extinguishing a spark that could have ignited their ambitious dreams. Out of reach. It is crucial to understand that mental health has the potential to shape a person's life trajectory and influence their overall happiness and success.

Parents play a pivotal role in all of this. They have the key to unlocking the potential for healing. Through love, understanding, and conversation. Open communication, no matter the topic, active listening, and providing a supportive environment are vital in ensuring that children feel safe and valued. Encouraging emotional expression and teaching healthy coping mechanisms can equip

children with essential skills to navigate the challenges they may encounter. Regularly checking in with children about their emotions and individualistic experiences can foster trust and allow parents to address any emerging issues promptly.

Schools serve as a critical space where mental health support can be integrated into everyday life. By implementing comprehensive programs, as well as counselors, that prioritize mental health education, schools can empower students to understand their emotions and seek help when needed. Educators must be trained to recognize signs of distress and provide appropriate guidance. Creating safe spaces where students feel comfortable discussing their mental well-being can break the stigma associated with mental health and encourage early intervention.

Support for mental health should extend beyond the confines of homes and schools. Our communities, bound by empathy and compassion, can create a

network of support that uplifts the broken spirits of those struggling. By embracing one another's pain and sharing the burden, we can forge an unbreakable bond of understanding. Let us stand together, ready to offer a listening ear, a comforting embrace, or a simple act of kindness. Our collective love and support have the power to change lives and heal wounded hearts.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of mental health and its impact on everyone is vital. Neglecting mental health can lead to increased social isolation, decreased productivity, and a strain on healthcare systems. Recognizing this sooner is better than later.

The time to focus on mental health is now more than ever. Let us create a world that ensures that coming generations are equipped with the necessary tools to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Let's stop allowing suffering to flourish, time is truly of the essence.

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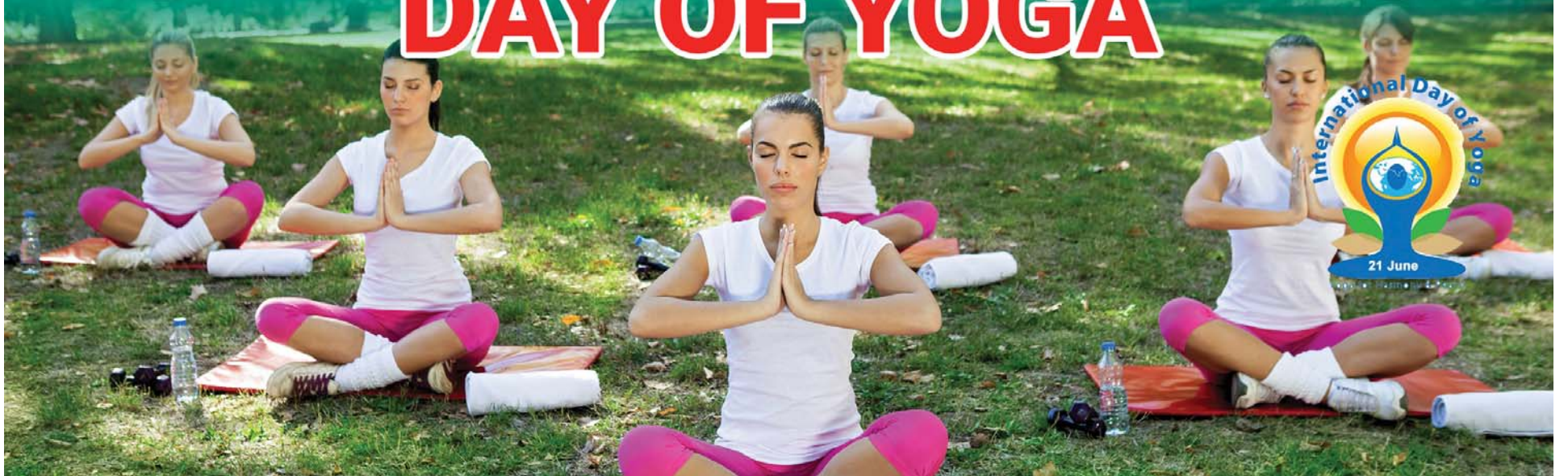
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**A royal wedding**



Just married: Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein and Saudi architect Rajwa Al Saif wave to well-wishers after their wedding ceremonies in Amman on Thursday.

**Brazil lawmakers vote to limit demarcation of Indigenous land**



Brazil's Lower House of Congress approved a legislation that would limit expanded demarcations of Indigenous lands. It states that reserves can only be on land occupied by Indigenous people at the time of the promulgation of the constitution in 1988. Indigenous people protested the move in Sao Paulo.

**Germany orders closure of four of five Russian consulates**



Berlin ordered four of Moscow's five consulates in Germany to close, the latest escalation of tensions sparked by the war in Ukraine. The move comes after Russia put a limit of 350 on the number of German government officers allowed in Russia. Moscow called Germany's decision "ill thought out" and vowed a response.

**Russian court fines WhatsApp for failing to remove banned content**



A Russian court imposed a three-million-ruble (\$37,000) fine on messenger service WhatsApp on Thursday for failing to delete banned content. WhatsApp was punished for failing to remove a chat group that offered an anti-depressant whose sale is forbidden in Russia, according to Russian news agencies.

**Sudan Army quits truce talks with RSF for not honouring their word**



The Sudanese Army suspended its participation in U.S. and Saudi-brokered ceasefire talks, accusing its paramilitary foes of failing to honour their commitments. The Army walked out "because the rebels have never implemented a single one of the provisions of a short-term ceasefire," a government official said.

**NATO-led peacekeepers step up security after Kosovo clashes**



NATO-led peacekeepers stepped up security around a town hall in northern Kosovo, where hundreds of ethnic Serbs gathered again at the scene of clashes earlier this week. Hundreds rallied outside Zvecan's town hall on Wednesday for a third consecutive day and held aloft a huge Serbian flag that stretched over 200 metres.

**U.S. slaps sanctions on Sudan rival factions as ceasefire crumbles**



The U.S. announced sanctions on Sudanese leaders for the failure of U.S. and Saudi-brokered ceasefire efforts after shelling and air strikes killed 18 civilians at a Khartoum market. "We are following through by levying economic sanctions, imposing visa restrictions against actors who are perpetuating the violence," the U.S. said.

**Australian soldier loses Afghan war crimes defamation case**



A decorated Australian soldier lost a landmark defamation case on Thursday. Ben Roberts-Smith sued three newspapers for 2018 reports that alleged he was involved in the murders of unarmed prisoners in Afghanistan. The court found that the newspapers had proved the bulk of their allegations and dismissed the case.

**Russia says it has repelled new Belgorod border incursion attempt**



Russia said it repelled an attempted incursion along its border by 'pro-Ukrainian militants', while heavy shelling prompted a partial evacuation of civilians. Russia repelled three cross-border attacks near Shebekino, and it accused Ukraine of using "terrorist formations" to carry out attacks on civilians.

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**Israeli civilian shot dead near the entrance to West Bank Settlement**



An Israeli Civilian was shot dead at the entrance to a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank. Meir Tamari, 32 years old, was fatally wounded beside the Hermesh settlement. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian President Mahamud Abbas' Fatah Party, said it was behind the attack.

**Elon Musk meets Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang during Visit**



Elon Musk met Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing on Tuesday, as the Tesla CEO embarks on his first trip to China in more than three years. Qin and Musk discussed relations between China and the U.S., with the Qin saying the two countries should "apply the brakes in a timely manner to avoid dangerous driving."



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## Kriti Sanon turns boss lady in black Versace pantsuit

Kriti Sanon took to Instagram and shared stunning pictures of her latest look for an event in Abu Dhabi. For her publicity duty, the diva opted for power-packed look to go with the outing. She wore a form-fitted black Versace pantsuit. She wore a bell-bottom pants with a well-fitted blazer and added

some oomph factor with a zipper corset cropped top. Making it both elegant and powerful was her minimalistic jewellery. Instead of going for layered chains, Kriti amped her boss lady look with a chain-inspired necklace and statement rings. Her smoky eyes and matte nude lips provided a subtle symphony

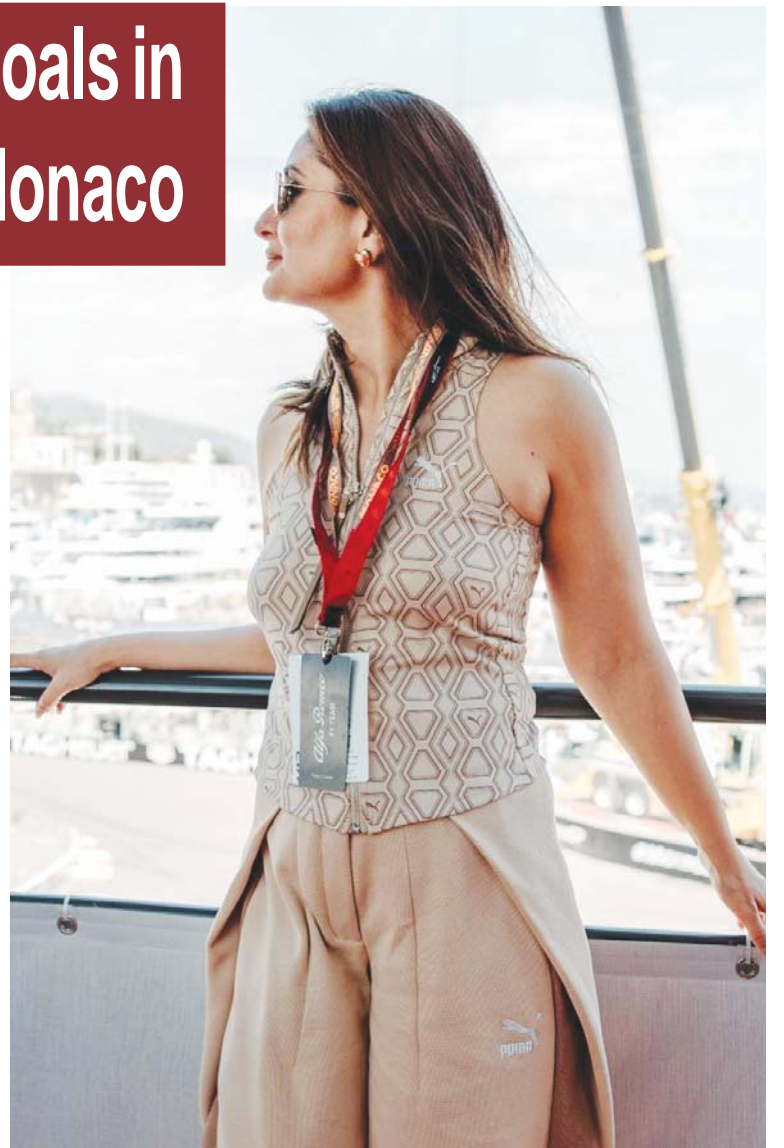
to the look. If you loved Kriti's black attire, here's another outfit she wore a while back. She wore a gorgeous monochromatic gown, by Richard Quinn, with a dramatic off-shoulder detailing. A sleek bun and pointy heels kept the outfit look breathtakingly elegant.

## Kareena Kapoor serves major summer goals in beige athleisure at Grand Prix event in Monaco



She featured stylish Puma track pants with a sleeveless patterned top and a zipper. Keeping the look subtle and making it summer-ready, she added a pair of statement sunglasses and, for an innovative spin, she opted for nude heels.

"What a day," wrote Kareena as she posed with both former cricketer Yuvraj Singh and Finnish F1 racer Valtteri Viktor Botta. For the second day, she opted for a sleek appearance in black athleisure. She wore a Puma bralette with joggers and teamed the sporty outfit with a blazer. Bold red lips and a pair of dark sunglasses added to the chicness of the attire. And then her neat bun was the cherry on the cake. This time, however, the diva didn't finish off the look with heels but added a pair of platform shoes to complete the ensemble.

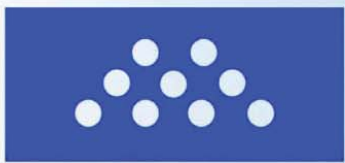


Kareena Kapoor's fashion trajectory has seldom disappointed style critics. Her streak continues now even as she experiments with different genres only to put up new looks that one couldn't fathom. Besides ruling red-carpet events, Kareena makes casual looks opulent and chic with simple styling techniques, much of which we can decode in her latest outing in Monaco. The diva attended the F1 Grand Prix in the Lingua region of Italy as the sports ambassador of the brand Puma. For the event, she served some fashion goals with her athleisure look by opting for a beige-nude statement.

## Shabana Azmi's 'paisa vasool' moment

After its Cannes Film Festival screening, which was followed by a five-minute standing ovation, the makers of Anurag Kashyap's neo noir thriller Kennedy hosted a star-studded special show in Mumbai on Tuesday night. Celebrities such as Shabana Azmi, Shekhar Kapur, Sudhir Mishra, Manoj Bajpayee, Varun Grover, Piyush Mishra, Vijay Varma, and more came for the screening and let their hair down. Sunny Leone directed by Anurag Kashyap. It stars Rahul Bhat and Sunny Leone in the lead roles. The film marks the third collaboration of Kashyap and Bhat after Ugly (2013) and Dobaaraa (2022). It is the story of an insomniac ex-police officer who operates secretly for the corrupt system. Backed by Good Bad Films and Zee Studios, the film also stars Megha Burman, Abhilash Thapliyal and Mohit Takalkar.





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