

**GSA**

# **GLOBALEYE**

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Issue 25, SEPTEMBER 2023



**India's PM Modi and  
U.S. Congressman Jonathan  
Jackson Forge a Path to Progress...**

# FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Our Cover Story in this edition features U.S. Congressman Jonathan Luther Jackson in action. Featured in Dr VGP Talk Show that reaches 42 million households, we had an enlightening conversation unveiling his action-oriented leadership for his community in the first congressional district of Illinois. On June 23, Congressman Jonathan Jackson who serves on the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture personally met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discusses far reaching issues strengthening U.S. – India relations particularly a Path to Progress in the Agriculture Sector.



Shivam Viswanathan, our Chief Community Officer curated the Dr VGP Talk Show featuring Congressman Jonathan Jackson and did an excellent task of transcribing the interview.

The 'Page 3' features glimpses of the Global Eye coverage of the Eighth Wonder of the World, B.A.P.S. Swaminarayanan Akshardham Maha Mandir which just opened on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at Robbinsville, New Jersey. Our Global Eye 27th Edition will feature this marvelous architectural wonder as our Cover Story.

G.S.A. Global Eye hosted the first G20 Presidency – India Diaspora Meet on August 17, 2023 at Sheraton Lisle Naperville which has been well covered by Shivam Viswanathan, our Chief Community Officer.

Chicago Bureau Chief Mohita Sukumar covers the 13th Annual AMEC & MEATF Homecoming Dinner led by U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis on August 18, 2023 at Bethel Mennonite Community Church, Chicago. Chennai Bureau Chief Ben Noah Suri writes

about the 384th birth anniversary of the City of Madras in the India News Feature.

It was a proud moment for the American Multi Ethnic Coalition – AMEC USA when its Executive Vice President Seeta Lakshmi Bala who is also our guest columnist was honored with the prestigious The Link & Option Center's League of Legends Champion Award at their 29th Annual gala at Olympia Fields, Illinois on July 29, 2023.

We are facing challenging times, with the recent attack of the Hamas on Israel and we fervently pray for global peace and unity.

We are overwhelmed by the numerous letters to the editor we received in response to our last issue, the 24th edition. It is truly heart-warming to see the breadth of readers from different parts of India & USA and how all of you reacted to the different articles of the last edition.

We truly appreciate our entire editorial and circulation team of GSA Global Eye here in Chicagoland, our India back-office team at Hyderabad and the layout & design team at Jalandhar, Punjab for all their tireless efforts in producing and distributing each edition.

This positive feedback received inspires and encourages us to continue to bring you the G.S.A. Global Eye, the leading magazine with a difference par excellence.

Gratefully Yours :



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# B.A.P.S SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM OPENS



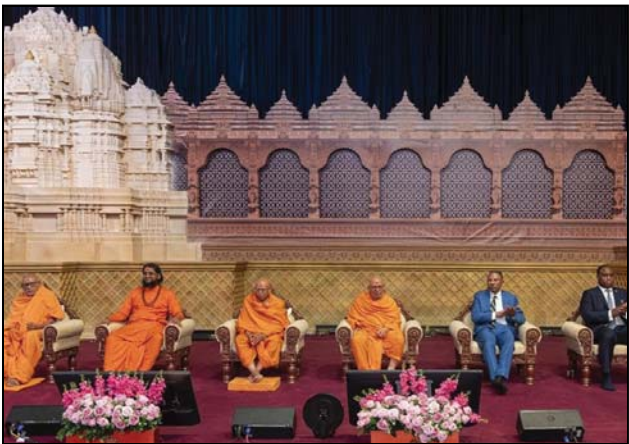
**HIS HOLINESS MAHANT SWAMI MAHARAJ , successor to SWAMI PRAMUKH MAHARAJ DECLARED OPEN THE B. A. P. S. SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM ON OCTOBER 8 IN ROBBINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY. THE WORLD'S LARGEST HINDU TEMPLE**



**His Holiness Guru Mahant Swami Maharaj at BAPS SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM, ROBBINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY, USA**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson receiving blessings from His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj at the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Mahotsav.**



**Dignitaries seated on the Stage of BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Mahotsav.**



**Anil Barot BAPS Public Affairs Midwest welcoming U. S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson & Global Eye Chief Dr VGP to BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, New Jersey.**



**U. S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson speaking at the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Mahotsav.**



**His Holiness Mahant Swami MAharaj blesses Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar, Chairman, GSA Global Eye & Host of DR. VGP TALK SHOW at the grand opening celebrations of the BAPS Swaminarayan AKSHARDHAM , Robbinsville, New Jersey.**



**U. S. Congressman Jeff Van Drew ( R- 2nd Congressional District of New Jersey) speaking at the evening assembly.**



**Satguru Brahmedhand Acharya of Dhmanabh Peeth , Goa speaking .**



**NAVEENCHANDRA KARNA , Executive Director of American Multi Ethnic Coalition - AMEC USA receiving the blessings from His Holiness MAHANT SWAMI MAHARAJ.**



**New York State Assembly Deputy Speaker Representative Phillip Ramos offering his greetings**



**U. S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson son of U. S. Civil Rights Leader The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. Who walked along with Martin Luther King Jr. Poses along side King Jr's quote with his statute sitting pose which is engraved on the outer wall of the Mahamandir of BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham .**

Mrs. Lily Prabhakar's life story is a lesson in compassion and service.

- Benjamin, Chennai

I enjoyed Global Eye reading and especially the elaborate articles of cover story. Please continue giving the best one to the readers.

-- Johnson, IL

Manipur violence devastated Chinglensana Singh as mentioned in Global eye Global Newsmakers. We need peace and dialogue to protect everyone in the region. State and Central Government should react on this to reduce the violence.

- Nanda Kishore, Bengaluru

Very nice Magazine and photos. Enjoyed reading the articles. Thanks for giving the informative magazine.

-- Raja Nagendar, Indore

I read the interview with Prophet Kiran Murali, and it was a refreshing experience. His message of God's love, freedom, and compassion is something we all need to hear more often, especially in today's world. It's a reminder that faith can transform lives and bring hope to those in need.

- Koshy Thomas, Trivandrum

Hello Global eye, Read the articles from Global eye Magazine. Forwarded this newsletter PDF to my family and friends, Cover story is very interesting.

-- sudhakarVerma, Hyderabad

Kudos to the organizers for recognizing and honoring community leaders at the GSA India @75 Expo USA Metro City Sequel 2023. This event exemplifies the importance of celebrating those who make a positive difference in society.

- Dr Preethi, Vijayawada

Congratulations to the 15 Telugu Commu-

nity Leaders who received the NTR Centenary Awards.

- Chaitanya, Vizag

Dear Editor in chief: The Global Eye digital mag is very informative. Please give some more useful information with Nostalgia update with India Legends from India and the techgadgets also would be the latest. Thanks

-Priyanka, Dehradun

I am a regular reader of The Global Eye. It contains a lot of useful information and it is a pleasure to read it.

- Shakti Singh, Kolkata

Mrs. Lily Prabhakar's lifelong dedication to serving her community and her nation is truly inspiring. Her legacy of love and compassion continues to touch the lives of many.

- Chetan Bhatt, New Delhi, India

Chinglensana Singh's story shows how important it is to stop identity-based conflicts in Manipur. Leaders must work together to bring peace and prosperity to the region.

- Harjit Kaur, Punjab

The GSA India @75 Expo USA Metro City Sequel 2023 appears to have been a grand celebration of Indian culture and community contributions.

- KSVN Raju, Pune

Global Eye Mag is a good initiative providing relevant information on various development initiatives. It gives information from diversified fields which is very useful for the students.

- Chenna Reddy, Hyderabad

Thanks to the editorial team for presenting a true and positive picture and news of present situation.

- Manosh

Dr. Vemuri Murthy's recognition with the Telugu Thespian Film Director C.S. Rao Award is well-deserved. His achievements in medicine and cinema exemplify excellence.

- Raj, Chicago

I am a regular reader of your magazine, it is doing great job. I wish your team all the best in your pursuit to provide rich content in the future as well.

- Ashik

The interview with Prophet Kiran Murali was so great. In a world filled with negativity, his story serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder of the importance of faith and compassion.

- SatishSuri, Chennai, India

The Global Eye gives us news, articles that are not found in any other media. Excellent reading. I look forward to each issue and am always surprised by the amazing content and different writing styles. Welcome The Global Eye, today's Leader in Digital media.

- Pradeep,

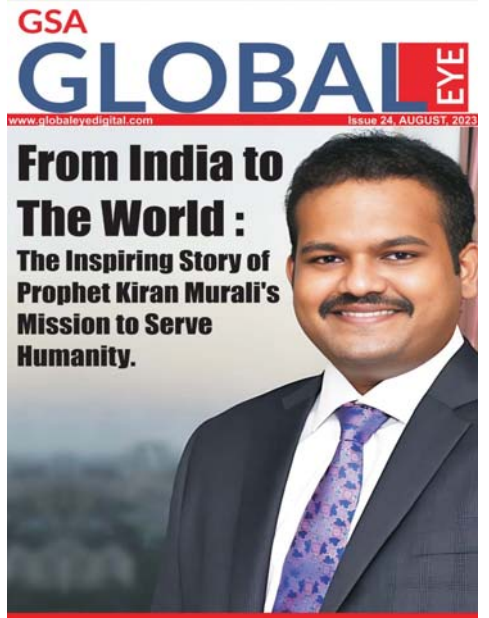
Kudos to the organizers for recognizing and honoring community leaders at the GSA India @75 Expo USA Metro City Sequel 2023. This event exemplifies the importance of celebrating those who make a positive difference in society.

- Suneetha Lokireddy, IL

Thank you for sending the magazine. It is a very impressive magazine that is very helpful in intellectual progress. It is a very transparent Magazine.

-- Vinitjain

Mrs. Lily Prabhakar's story is a testa-



ment to the power of one individual's determination to make a difference. Her work in establishing homes for leprosy children and her dedication to their education and well-being is truly inspirational. She has left an indelible mark on society.

- Williams, Bandra Mumbai

In the youth Section it's clear that the author has a strong grasp of the challenges facing Generation Z and their commitment to effecting change through voting. Their message serves as a powerful call to action for all readers.

Dear Sir/Madam, I am a regular reader of THE GLOBAL EYE MAGAZINE

The Magazine is filled up with news, thoughts and information about social, Political reflecting a milieu of hope & progress despite an air of despair caused by some fear mongers.

-- Ram Prasad

## Bharat American Leaders call for NOBEL PEACE PRIZE for P M MODI of BHARAT, the Global Visionary

In this episode of Dr VGP TALK SHOW, which is a beacon of inspiration for 42 million households, with 2 million hearts in Chicagoland, BHARAT AMERICAN LEADERS call for The GLOBAL VISIONARY NARENDRA MODI to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Prime Minister Narendra MODI crowned as the CHAMPION of the GLOBAL SOUTH by the historic inclusion of the AFRICAN UNION in the G20 Group of Nations is indeed noteworthy.



The Global Visionary MODI's heroic efforts to provide COVID Vaccines to developing countries demonstrates his unwavering commitment to global peace and his tireless efforts to enhance diplomatic relations between nations that has left an indelible mark on the world stage.

Under MODI's leadership, Bharat has become an instrumental player in addressing regional conflicts and promoting peaceful resolutions. One of Prime Minister MODI's most notable achievements in promoting peace is his diplomatic engagements with various nations. MODI has actively led the G20 Summit - Delhi, BRICS Summit- South Africa, ASEAN Summit- Indonesia, by engaging in dialogue with world leaders to build bridges of understanding and collaboration. MODI's leadership has facilitated peaceful negotiations which strengthened international cooperation on a multitude of global challenges, including climate change, terrorism, and socio-economic

development.

Prime Minister MODI's emphasis on peaceful coexistence is evident in his domestic policies as well. BHARAT's landing on the Moon's South Pole - the First country to land- Chandrayaan 3, reflects MODI's dynamic leadership. MODI's commitment to religious tolerance and his efforts to bridge communal divides have not only enhanced the domestic fabric of Bharat but have also served as an example to nations grappling with similar challenges. In 2018, MODI was awarded the Seoul Peace Prize for his "outstanding contribution to peace and international cooperation". Furthermore, Prime Minister MODI's initiatives in the realm of sustainable development have had a far-reaching impact on peace-building efforts. MODI's vision for a clean and green BHARAT, as demonstrated through initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, has encouraged global collaboration to address the pressing issue of climate

change. By advocating for renewable energy and championing environmental sustainability, Prime Minister MODI has demonstrated his commitment to securing a peaceful future for generations to come. In light of Prime Minister Narendra MODI's remarkable contributions to peace, Bharat American Leaders wholeheartedly recommend MODI as a deserving candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. MODI's unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and efforts to promote peaceful dialogue and understanding between nations have had a transformative effect on the global stage. DR VGP TALK SHOW FEATURES CHANGEMAKERS, INNOVATIVE TRENDSETTERS AND EMBRACES UNKNOWN HEROES ?? SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO GLOBAL EYE DIGITAL TV YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://shorturl.at/gT157>

<https://youtu.be/d32luCZrdZk?si=cZ96ifopKPI4vm5r>





## U.S. CONGRESSMAN JONATHAN JACKSON : FROM LEGACY TO LEADERSHIP ON THE DR VGP TALK SHOW

Curated By:

**Shivam Viswanathan**

**Global Eye Chief Community Officer**

**Dr. VGP:** Hello, and welcome to the Dr. VGP Talk Show, that reaches 42 million households, including 2 million Across America. Today in our episode of the Dr. VGP Talk Show, we have a very unusual guest, an elected official, a thought leader, a visionary, a teacher, a historian, and above all, a people's person! A people friendly personality who has conquered many challenges, overcomes many obstacles, who has been an investment banker starting early in his career, then went on to be a serial entrepreneur, and also shared his knowledge by being a college teacher in Economics and an entrepreneur. Today he was elected as a U.S. Congressman with a large majority of votes, and his first hundred days in office in the U.S. Congress have been awesome. A man of action, he has already brought 22 million dollars into his

first congressional district in the State of Illinois for infrastructure. He's breaking barriers, meet 57 year old U.S. Congressman, Jonathan Luther Jackson, representing the first congressional district of the state of Illinois. A man of action, a man of his words, a man of honesty, a man of progress, a man of inclusivity, a man for all people for all seasons. Jonathan Luther Jackson - the rising and emerging dynamic congressman from the first congressional district of the state of Illinois.

**Dr. VGP:** Hello and welcome to the Dr. VGP Talk Show, that reaches 42 million households, including 2 million across America. Today we have the Honorable Congressman Jonathan Luther Jackson from the first congressional district as our guest. As you all know, Jonathan Jackson comes from the iconic family of the living legend, The Reverend Jesse Jackson Senior, the U.S. Civil Rights leader and colleague of Martin Luther King Jr.

Jonathan Jackson is the third child out of the five children of Reverend and Mrs. Jesse Jackson Senior. Chief, it's so good to have you on our show today and thank you amidst your busy schedule that you could find time to be on the Dr. VGP Talk Show.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Thank you, Dr. Vijay, my friend. Thank you for having me back, great to be your Congressman, thank you.

**Dr. VGP:** Thank you, and your name, Jonathan Luther Jackson, could you tell us how the middle name Luther was given to you?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, my father was a seminarian student, he met Reverend Martin Luther King several times, and also when he was in school here at the University of Chicago, the theological school, Reverend Martin Luther King asked my father to join him in his civil rights work, and he said, I can teach you more about theology in six months, than you can learn in the next three years here.

So, my father, with a young child, my older brother and sister took up the invitation to work with Reverend Martin Luther King. My father asked Martin Luther King to be my godfather, that's where Jonathan "Luther" Jackson comes from.

**Dr. VGP:** Wow, you just heard Jonathan Luther Jackson is the godson of the iconic Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and it's so wonderful to hear how his dad named him after Dr. Martin Luther King and he began his ministry working side by side with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There's so much history there, Chief, and it's such an insight for all our viewers to know about the Civil Rights Movement with your dad and you as a child growing up. Tell us how your growing years in childhood were.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Very Dynamic, my father was I think 27 years of age on the cover of Time Magazine after the death of Reverend Martin Luther King and my father poured himself into continuing his



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson, representing IL District along with President Irfaan Ali of Guyana , Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick.**

work and his legacy so they created a followed through on the charge the Reverend Martin Luther King, an assignment he put him on to fight for economic Justice for political empowerment and that's where the trajectory changes and he created after the Southern Christian Leadership Conference operation pushed people United to serve humanity after the presidential campaign's rainbow push to show the universality and the diversity of the coalition building the Reverend Martin Luther King had put in his mind and put in motion, so 1971 is a huge International Black Expo seeking economic justice and economic rights for African-Americans.

**Dr. VGP:** Wow!

If you can imagine, very much like colonialism, where you are stripped of your assets, stripped of resources, and put on the segregated side of town, we were fighting for economic integration to break up the slavocracy. We're talking about being put on a part of town where the environmental regulators were made to put the diesel trucks and the lines or the lead service lines were the substandard housing where the substandardization of across the American institutions all the way to the financial products were isolated in these areas that became redlined areas that became ghettos that became extensions of the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow and discrimination segregation so we're still overcoming that legacy and that's where my father picked up the work from Martin Luther King fighting for economic Justice inclusion and political participation making sure that after the right to vote in 1965 now we could use that at vote.

**Dr. VGP:** And that mantle has fallen on your young shoulders, and your dad was, like you said, the transition from segregation to integration's trajectory point. I was at your inauguration in Washington, D.C., earlier this year, and I heard the dynamic democratic congresswoman from Texas, Sheila Jackson, describe your dad as the turning point for where black emancipation happened in our age, it's because of your dad's run for presidency, which opened up several black elected officials not only

at the federal level, the county level, and the state level, they're all credited to the one and only Reverend Jesse Jackson Senior.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, and that was huge, so if you look at 1865 as the end of the Civil War, it wasn't until 1965 that will secure the Voting Rights Act, took a hundred years for African-Americans that have fought in every war.

**Dr. VGP:** 100 years and still pushing

**Jonathan Jackson:** ...and still pushing, the opponents to it are always trying to rescind it.

**Dr. VGP:** And it's very interesting that you say that in 1971 there was a business expo because it's your dad's operation push, which has opened up all the corporate doors, where we now see a black American on the board, it was never done before.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Right.

**Dr. VGP:** It was his strategic leadership and inspiring dynamism which changed the civil rights movement in today's world.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, and he was a part of the continuation of Reverend Martin Luther King's work so Reverend Martin Luther King, in 1954 and 1955, after the Montgomery Bus Boycott he wrote about in his book, "Stride Towards Freedom", was saying we have to withdraw our participation from a system



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson having an important conversation with Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle and Cook County Health leaders about the migrant crisis, health equity, and reducing poverty in Chicago neighborhoods.**

that is evil and harming us Reverend Martin Luther King and other ministers got that from Henry David Thoreau and the treaties on civil disobedience, so it's continuity and unbroken thought leadership. Henry David Thoreau got that thought leadership from the Bhagavad Gita...

**Dr. VGP:** From Gita, Bhagavad Gita

**Jonathan Jackson:** ... absolutely, so that was very important and so fast forward... we've not stopped trying to make progress to make America better and the world more safe and more secure.

**Dr. VGP:** You come across as a very people-friendly person, a person well read, well educated, having studied in magnet high school in Chicago, and then you got a bachelor's degree in North Carolina Agricultural Technology University, an MBA from Kellogg Institute of Business Management at Northwestern, and then you also chose

to be a college teacher teaching economics and entrepreneurship. How did that come about?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Actually, a dear friend of mine, Dr. Wayne Watson, says, Hey, I need you at the university. This was at Kennedy-King College. Of course, I said I don't have the time, and other good things, he says but the children need you so he pulled on my heart and then went on to tell me it's like it's so few African-American male teachers in the system that'll be a real blessing for the students and he says you'll get addicted once you start and so then he went to my mother and my father so I ended up making the time to do so and I tell you it's one of the greatest blessings ever and I was able to teach Algebra I was able to teach business management. How else can you learn if you don't teach the children? They will teach you something every class period.

**Dr. VGP:** You are a walking example of leadership, and you've really given back to the community. Teaching is one of the noblest professions. You are a serial entrepreneur, you started as an investment banker, then you went into telecom, distribution, and other businesses, and then you still had time to give back to education. That shows a very distinct trait in your personality at an early age, you know, much before you entered political freedom, and then your family of your father's legacy has played a major role in developing you. Personally, you're married to a wonderful wife, Marilyn, who's the chief executive officer of Muhammad Ali's Center and Museum in Louisville, in Kentucky, and the father of three children. So, tell us about how your family, your immediate family, has influenced you today to what you are.



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson participating in the 94th annual Bud Billiken Day Parade and is inspired by the legacy of unity and strength this parade and would like to continue to celebrating Chicago's unparalleled heritage.**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson being greeted by Governor J B Pritzker at the 94th annual Bud Billiken Day Parade.**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson met with the executive team of CBS 2 to learn about their community outreach efforts.**

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, that I really appreciate my wife, and she's been the anchor. She's afforded me the opportunity to engage in a lot of civic activities, so I thank her and credit her with that, and children are a reflection of yourself, so you see what you pour into them and you acknowledge the things that you could have done better, and as you're growing, they're growing at the same time, and I've got three children, Jonathan, Leah, and Noah. I'm very proud of them, all in the University now and they're finding their way like all young children to 24, 23 and 22.

**Dr. VGP:** Wow!

**Jonathan Jackson:** And we'll see what the future holds.

**Dr. VGP:** You didn't skip a beat there.

**Jonathan Jackson:** That's funny, Vijay.

**Dr. VGP:** Well, Congressman, you have attributed, which I think all our viewers need to know, about the importance of the nuclear family. Your wife has been the anchor for your family and your three children like you said Jonathan, Lee and Noah are a reflection of yourself and what you do. It's a very good insight to share today where family values have to get the importance they knew they need in a society to progress, and today you're a freshman Congress from the first congressional district, and the seat you took was held by Bobby Rush for 30 years and tell us about the first congressional district, the boundaries.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Think of the most of the population voting base is in the city, it's on the South Side of Chicago, so it's a district that runs both urban/suburban and rural, it used to be in one county 30 years ago, now it's in three counties and that's 60 miles long, if you will, and it's really cuts across of a really a composite of the state, and if you will, the nation, African Americans largely concentrated in the city or growing Spanish-speaking population in the suburban areas and in the rural and suburban areas in the far South Park is mostly Caucasian, so it's over 12 townships, 17 districts, 55% African-American of being 52% I think African-American, 38% Caucasian, and 8% Hispanic.

**Dr. VGP:** Very interesting mix, a very diverse mix and I see you also have Orland Park, Frankfort in the first congressional district and pockets of ...

**Jonathan Jackson:** ... Tinley Park, Bourbonnais, Manteno, Wilmington ...

**Dr. VGP:** ...parts of Southland

**Jonathan Jackson:** Absolutely, so that part is very exciting, so I'm in agriculture and on Foreign Affairs, and I get to deal with agriculture both in the city and in the rural part of the district.

**Dr. VGP:** Very interesting, especially with the hydrogen production plants in the rural areas of your congressional district, which I did read about. What are your priorities, Congressman Jackson, for the first district?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, I ran on a platform of guns, gas, and groceries. Those were pressing issues last year. This time there was a rapidly rising cost of groceries, there was the cost of fuel, and there was the gun epidemic, so specifically talking about gas is not just for the car, that's dealing with mass transportation in general. We need to have a mass transit formula not just for the city but for the entire nation. The biggest predictor of people's outcome and health and life has to do with their access to transportation. Transportation lets you get to school, get to the doctors, get to after-school programs, employment, so we have to have mass transit. Many people live in transit deserts where they don't have access to public nor private transportation.

**Dr. VGP:** Transportation is very key to get to jobs and to get to school and education ...

**Jonathan Jackson:** ... Sure, and groceries. Here we are living in the Midwest and the heart of the city, it is over 150 years old, and we have growing deserts, where we have an abundance of fertile farmland and an abundance of

freshwater. Twenty percent of the freshwater in the world comes off of our great lakes, and yet we're not fertilizing the soil with the water to feed our own population, so we can increase our food security and food production, and then we talk about the epidemic of drugs. Think about it, two manmade manufactured things are now the leading cause of deaths amongst our children in America: gun violence is the leading cause of death. Fentanyl and drug abuse are killing our children. Children, God bless them, and we pray they never die, but when they do, it should be by accident; it shouldn't be by something that was manmade, and our children now have gone from having fire drills in our schools to gun drills. Children even getting lessons on how to do sutures to stitch up your classmate if they're shot, so there's a fear, sense of terror that's over our children, and I want to make sure as best I can every day I'm trying to pull back that reign of terror that influences that cloud of terror over our children's heads.

**Dr. VGP:** Very profoundly said, you have identified the three things which lurk in the community: groceries, gas, and guns, and we are so fortunate to have a bright spot on the horizon like a person like yourself who's understood the problems and who have now got an opportunity to address the problems and to try to see how the community and your Congressional constituents can combat the drug menace, like you rightly said for the young people, the manmade gun violence. Now that you just completed

100 days in Congress, it's been so action-packed as we can read full of impactful initiatives that you've done. Tell us what was the highlight of your first hundred days in Congress.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, from an African-American's point of view, one part was to cast my vote for the most qualified person to be speaker of the house, leader Hakeem Jeffries.

**Dr. VGP:** It was historic that you had an African-American

**Jonathan Jackson:** Yes, and that same institution, that same body, what they call the will formed in 1789 after 234 years. This was the first time in American history we could mention a person of African descendants ...

**Dr. VGP:** incredible!

**Jonathan Jackson:** ... to for the highest office in that chamber to be speaker of the house, so in the history of America, there have been 12,505 members of Congress, only 175 African-American and to have been given that privilege to be on the floor.

**Dr. VGP:** So, you're one of the 175 African-Americans who served in Congress...

**Jonathan Jackson:** ... maybe 176. Someone else just got in.

**Dr. VGP:** Great! Wow! So, it must have been a very poignant time for you when you saw Hakeem Jeffries assume the role of Democratic leader of the Congress as well as the House because you are so well versed in history and you can talk about 1786 and 1895. You're so immersed; very few elected officials have that type of erudite background which can bring history back and to see how it could, what affected us then, and what it is today, comparing it and see how we can push forward and forge ahead with your agenda. Now, like you rightly pointed out you were given two very important committee assignments in the U.S house of Congress serving as a ranking member in the Foreign Relations Committee which is very important for America having relationship with China with India with Kenya and all the other countries, you've already made I think two or three foreign trips with the committee members of Congress visits outside the country and also you serve on a very equally important Committee of agriculture you talked about food insecurity and agriculture today is something which has gone diversified with the digital agenda too and it's so important for America to be the green bowl of the world where we can produce food and have grains and also foreign agriculture



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson hosted the first-ever Senior Fair in the 1st Congressional District where the community come together to celebrate, connect, and support the cherished seniors. The event was a bridge connecting the communities with their government as it matches Congressman's belief that strong communities are built on understanding, communication, and trust between the people and their representatives.**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson held a Town hall meeting in the Village of Frankfort on August 3, 2023. From the bustling streets of the South Side of Chicago, stretching southwest to the vibrant city of Joliet, the district is diverse, dynamic, and deserving of representation that reaches every corner.**

which your committee has oversight so tell us about first about the how do you feel about the important assignments how is it lending to your leadership role for the first congressional district in particular?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, thank you for that. So, among two committees, the foreign affairs subcommittee, the Africa agriculture subcommittee on digital markets and on food and nutrition, so every five years this is a farm bill funding year, so this budget is going to become over 1.3 trillion dollars.

**Dr. VGP:** Wow.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Trillion with a T.

**Dr. VGP:** Wow.

**Jonathan Jackson:** And that has to deal with everything from crop insurance

**Dr. VGP:** 1.3 trillion dollars of farm funding budget.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Yes.

**Dr. VGP:** And that's for a five-year budget or one year, Congressman?

**Jonathan Jackson:** That's five years. So, what's going to happen is you're going to see from cropped insurance for soybeans and for corn, which is very important to the state of Illinois 50% of our grain corn is shipped out of the United States, and one-third of that is sent to China, so this puts us in the forefront of knowing what is going to be our trade relationship with China. We also do a lot of pork production, Chinese have been major consumers of some of our pork ...

**Dr. VGP:** Very interesting, so pork from America is being exported to China today?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Yes, it is very popular. That's one part of it, the other part is on the digital markets. This city has the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the Chicago options, those are under the Department of Agriculture.

**Dr. VGP:** Wow! Very interesting, who would ever imagine that the Department

of Agriculture will have oversight over the Chicago Mercantile.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Right and so 75% of the Department of Agriculture's budget and the fully funded farm bill this year goes into SNAP, the Supplemental Nutritional and Assistance Program

**Dr. VGP:** That's part of the Link Card SNAP program

**Jonathan Jackson:** Yes, and the electronic benefits transfer, and I would like to call that food insurance, like you have crop insurance, some people need food insurance so that when they cannot afford to eat, the government steps up and helps them feed themselves.

**Dr. VGP:** Very ingenious, food insurance.

**Jonathan Jackson:** So we've got 77% of the American population between the ages of 18



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson meeting with one of the world's greatest moral leaders, Rev Dr. Barber, whose unwavering commitment to justice and equality through the @poorpeoplescampaign is simply awe-inspiring.**

and 25 do not qualify to participate in our voluntary armed services, they are not physically fit, so we are overfed and undernourished so we have to talk about bringing nutrition back in, in order to keep our nation's military strong but 77% of our population that could participate in our voluntary armed services is not ...

**Dr. VGP:** Physically fit

**Jonathan Jackson:** ...could not qualify to defend our country.

**Dr. VGP:** That brings up a whole another paradigm of like food insurance is wonderful, like you said, the SNAP program, and how crops and insurance have food insurance.

**Jonathan Jackson:** And then, if we go a little bit further, how do people qualify for SNAP, you've got one threshold of \$20,289, people who don't make that, which is roughly \$10 an hour, \$390 a week, or \$55 a day, should be able to qualify for some supplemental nutritional assistance. We have to make sure that women and children are protected, as well as our elderly population, so therefore, 85% of the people that receive these benefits are seniors or children who have dependents that may be disabled, or they physically cannot get to work. So, we have to make sure those programs are protected. We've had three million students that were given additional eligibility for the time of COVID because these were hungry students that were going to college and immediately out of college that did not have access to food, and the other part is in foreign affairs, can you believe that in America, the first time we've had a trade agreement with the African continent was in 2000? After hundreds of years of kidnapping African bodies, we finally had a trade agreement with Africa, and that didn't start until the year 2000.

**Dr. VGP:** My God, you give us so much information, which we have to digest, and you're such an authority today on agriculture digital markets, on food insurance, on crop insurance, and I think the people need to know how important it is, and letting all of us know on this show really helps us to understand the

bandwidth of the US Department of Agriculture.

**Jonathan Jackson:** I stopped, but there's World Broadband. We have the authority to link up small communities; grants for cities under 50,000 all come to the Department of Agriculture. There are some innovative programs in horticulture for urban farming. There is another innovative program that you would love - writing food as medicine. Doctors will be able to go to local farmer's markets and give people food as medicine; there's so much in there that we're excited about.

**Dr. VGP:** It's very interesting. I think we should do another session and just have a town hall on agriculture for all the small towns in the State of Illinois.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Oh, please, I look forward to that.

**Dr. VGP:** We must do that, and talking about your recent foreign visit to Taiwan, could you tell us something about that because some of the Chinese American people are really concerned about what the Biden-Harris Administration is doing or going to do about Taiwan.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, I'd like to thank my good friend, Ro Khanna. He was the chair of that delegation. He invited me along because he wanted me to see, as a freshman, the front end of American foreign policy, military challenges, and what democracy means in Taiwan. What I was able to see is that the burning question that has to be answered is at what point do the people determine for themselves their form of governance? How much of that is tied to history? How much is tied to aspirations? If people say this is the identity we want, at what point do we acknowledge them? The same thing happened in the United States of America; there came a point that we were no longer a colonial subject because of the same thing that happened in India, where the people fully asserted themselves and said, No, this is not Bombay, this is Mumbai. This is who we are culturally, and the same thing is happening with Ukrainian people, so we have to fight for self-determination, but I



**GSA Global Eye Magazine and Indian American Business Coalition USA (IABC) celebrated NTR's 100th Birth Centenary on June 04, 2023 and U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson was the Chief guest.**





**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson facilitated an incredible cultural exchange program between students from Verbum Dei High School in Compton, IL and Radley College in the UK.**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson his First 100 Days Community Town Hall at IBEW Local 134! Chicago. At the First 100 Days Community Town Hall, over 300 residents came together to discuss vital issues and initiatives impacting Chicago.**

saw in Taiwan or people that identify with the cultural connectivity.

**Dr. VGP:** Did you visit the famous chip factory in Taiwan?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Oh my God, and that was quite an experience, particularly with the chairman, who's an American citizen who worked at, Texas Instruments who had an outstanding career wasn't able to become a CEO of a Fortune 500 company that had all of the brilliance in him went back to Taiwan became the chair of TCSM - Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, and he with his brilliance, U.S. educated back to Taiwan, because we didn't have enough opportunity to put an Asian person as a CEO and now created that mind power to be the epicenter for the entire world.

**Dr. VGP:** Very interesting, and it's just a brain tap reversal, like they call it.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Which is the problem with our foreign policy today if we do not continue to keep our doors open to make sure that we have access to the best and brightest from around the world to find opportunity here, they will find opportunity in other countries, and we will lose our competitiveness. So, I think it's something we have to move on with all alacrity and all urgency to make sure that people know America is open for business. We're not perfect; we have things we're trying to figure out, but we're still compassionate enough to bring people in from around the world.

**Dr. VGP:** Congressman Jackson, you have said it all. You talked about foreign policy and agriculture. There's one very important issue which all of us immigrants are concerned about immigration reforms, which the US Congress is going through. What is your stand on it? What's your stake for immigration today as it stands in America? And what are you going to do about it in Congress?

**Jonathan Jackson:** We have to have, and this is an issue for foreign affairs; this is an issue which is one of the reason I want to be on that committee on what is the standard by which we accept people into this country, and when we do so, we can measure human rights by one yardstick. I'm concerned about the Ukrainians, and I'm also concerned about the Haitians. When we talk about territorial

integrity and the challenges that people have, let's have one set of rules. We shared 2,000 miles of border with Mexico, and many of these immigrants that are on that border are suffering. When you see a person with no shoes, when you see a mother putting a child on their back, when you see a man coming with just a shirt on his back, these people would rather be at home if they had a home to go to; they'd rather be closer to their ancestors and family if they could, but the conditions have to have been so horrible that they had to flee to come here, and now they're sitting in dust bowls and being met with cages and barbed wire, that to me is inhumane. We should treat people that come from the southern part of our border the same way we treat people that come from the northern part of our border. We have basketball and baseball teams, and we celebrate life with Canadians and that culture, but yet when they come from the south, some people derisively call that our back door. No, that's not our back door; those are our neighbors that we share the border with history, culture, and food. We need that sort of talent, so I hope that we continue to grow in compassion. Sure, there's a right way and a wrong way, but there's also give me your tired, you're poor, your humble masters that you're going to breathe free. We have to not only be thick on words and thin on

deeds, we need to come back and open it up to make sure ...

**Dr. VGP:** You're absolutely right

**Jonathan Jackson:** Can I say one more thing, the Polish community, I look up to them in so many ways, in particular on this issue, when Ukraine was invaded by the Russians, millions of Ukrainians went into Poland and Poland never said we have a crisis and there were millions of people. We may have 8,000 people in Chicago, New York may have 10,000 people, but the Polish people had millions of people come in there, and what did they do? They brought them into their house; they brought them into their school, it took them ...

**Dr. VGP:** A lot of Ukrainians went to Poland during the Ukraine Russian war

**Jonathan Jackson:** Yes, and they're still there, and they've been treated for illness, and some are able to go back home, some haven't. But America, we're broad and much bigger than the land mass of Poland, much more resourceful. We can absorb some people who are in crisis. The solution in the long term is that we have to invest in South and Central American countries in our own hemisphere so that people would have an incentive to stay home. The same is going on in France right now. France, during their long colonial history, has taken so many of the resources out of Central African nations, and now those

people have to come to France to have refuge from hostile environments. Well, France, once they do their trade agreements and stop taking the resources and pillaging off the poor, will start investing back so that people can stay home. The same thing is happening in the UK. You've taken wealth from around the world; now it's time for you to repay, create, and invest back so that people can stay home and want to stay home. So, you take from them, and then they follow their resources, and then you say, now you are crowding us out.

**Dr. VGP:** Very interesting take on the immigration aspect of it. You're saying that we have to invest in Central and South American countries so that there'll be enough resources for them to stay there instead of migrating into America.

**Jonathan Jackson:** And to follow the money that we've taken from them.

**Dr. VGP:** Yes

**Jonathan Jackson:** I was talking to a person the other day, and he said, oh Carter was bad. I'm like, what did Carter do bad? He said he turned over the Panama Canal, I said, to the Panamanians, you look at that as a bad thing? Carter gave them their waterways back, like, come on. So, we've got to get out of an empire and out of a colonial mindset sometimes.

**Dr. VGP:** With all of what you have just said, today the Republicans control the U.S house of Congress. You always talk about going across the aisle. Where do you see the Democrats and Republicans coming together on some important issues concerning America, like immigration and other issues? What is your take on it?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Unfortunately, I don't see where they're coming together now. I've said it over and over again. I've got three takeaways from my first 100 days. Sometimes you're grateful to be in the Capitol because of all the history and the power and influence, and you can make a difference. You've been given the right and authority to vote, and you can smell the cherry blossoms around the Capitol.

**Dr. VGP:** Yes.

**Jonathan Jackson:** As you go to other days, it's a very hyper competitive environment in the ideal world, trying to



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson participated in the GSA India@75 Expo. Seen with him are Congressman Danny K Davis and Oswego Village President Troy Parlier.**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson receiving a copy of the Sabd book published by Global Strategic Alliance authored by Dr. Sarada Sonty.**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson speaking at the GSA India@75 Expo on the concluding day on December 17, 2022.**

get your ideas and legislation passed to make things better. The other days you walk in there you feel like you've entered a bad high school. You're like, is this really the mentality? For example, when you see someone passing out AR-15 lapel pins. With all the gun violence that the nation is suffering and all the children that have been killed, some grown person is on the floor of the House of Representatives passing out gun lapel pins. Someone else is going into the natural resources committee wanting to argue about rules and whether or not they can bring their gun to the house committee on natural resources. Like, come on, we should all have a vested interest in reducing the amount of gun violence in this nation, but some people think that you're infringing upon their rights. But you are infringing upon my right to live free and not feel terrorized by having all these guns.

**Dr. VGP:** You have outlined the right grassroot reality of what's happening on Capitol Hill today. Let's come back to the local scene of Chicago. You were the first and only Congressman backing Brandon Johnson, then Cook County Commissioner, who got elected as the mayor of the City of Chicago. You had the foresight and the vision, and out of all the candidates, you backed Brandon from day one.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Right.

**Dr. VGP:** What do you think Brandon is going to do for the city of Chicago?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, I backed him because I trust him the most; he was the hardest worker and he's the smartest, so it was easy for me to make that endorsement, so I've got extremely high hopes for Mayor Johnson; everyone does, and I want to make sure that people are pulling for him in the right direction. He has enormous challenges on his desk, so let me say we have enormous challenges on our desk. We have a shrinking city, we have a growing deficit, we've got a pension plan that's out of whack, and we've got 50 elementary schools that were closed 10 years ago, so we have fewer children in our public-school system today than we did. Miami-Dade County's public-school system is now larger than the city of Chicago, the third-largest metropolitan city. Chicago has all of the wherewithal to have abundant natural resources; we don't have a water problem, many parts of the country have a water problem; we don't have a heat problem with an inhospitable



**Congressman Jonathan Jackson receiving the Edward Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award of Excellence from Congressman Danny K Davis while Dr VGP and Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy are present.**

climate like other parts of the country, so we are blessed. Why is Toronto larger than Chicago in our hemisphere, whereas Houston is now larger than Chicago? People are leaving because of two reasons: safety and opportunity. We've got to bring safety back, and we've got to bring more opportunities where people can actually make a living in this city.

**Dr. VGP:** You said it all. You have such a good grasp on the city of Chicago's problems, I think Mayor Brandon Johnson's election was a huge breakthrough in having a successful African-American mayor for the city of Chicago. You're right, he has a huge opportunity ahead of him, and he has to make the most of it. I think his leadership, along with your guiding him and all the other African-American and American leaders, should make Chicago a much better and more prosperous place. Having

said that, it's very interesting to note that with your Congressional discretionary funds, which the Congress has given to each U.S. congressman, we could select 15 proposals, fund them, and send them to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. You are one of the few congressmen in the city of Chicago in the state of Illinois, and the majority of your discretionary funds have gone to city and Village governments and infrastructure. You sent a request for a whopping \$22 million spread across 15 projects. Could you throw some highlights on that?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Sure, according to the 118th Congress, there are things that are not up for consideration after the Republicans have taken control. What's not up for consideration are our social services, human development programs, and funding. So, people who want to do

more things in mental health also want to do things in food and nutrition, children's services, and daycare social services, that was not even a possibility for funding according to the new rules. What was up for was physical infrastructure.

**Dr. VGP:** Correct.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Not the human infrastructure, so therefore, places that had poor water lines in Dixmoor and Harvey, and then Robbins, we've supported that. Transportation on 79th and Dan Ryan to look at easing that congestion and how do we create economic development and potentially future community benefit agreements? How do we help Wilmington, Illinois, has a water infrastructure problem grain yard senior development that has led service lines? Illinois leads the nation in the most lead service lines. Let me say it another way, there is no safe amount of lead you can drink, so we have the most lead services, and we can also potentially go back to show some of the behavior and the loss of life to these lead service lines on what lead makes people do, so some of these shootings may not be in their right mind because they've been physically poisoned.

**Dr. VGP:** Absolutely.

**Jonathan Jackson:** With lead in their water.

**Dr. VGP:** You're just showing your distribution of your funds to 15 very awesome projects, like, as you just said, the lead service line, which is going to help 150 daycare centers that have lead service lines, and also adding a homeless shelter with 25 beds. It's really awesome to see that you have studied where the dollar could have the most impact within the existing rules, and that's commendable, Congressman Jackson. I think the first congressional district is in for new leadership, new choices, and a new coalition under your dynamic and inspiring leadership. Now that you're coming closer to home, you wanted to talk to us about this unfortunate incident which happened last week, exactly one week from today, where Officer Preston was killed in a carjacking. Would you like to enlighten us and tell us how you're going to avoid such things, or what's your take on that?

**Jonathan Jackson:** Well, later on today I'm going to be a part of a march with every town in the USA, and this is Mother's Day weekend, so we should be going out there. We're asking mothers



**Congressman Jonathan Jackson with Dr Willie Underwood, Chair, American Medical Association at 41st AAPI Convention in Philadelphia.**



**Awardees of GSA @75 EXPO Sequel that was held at Washington DC on January 4, 2023.**

to come out; we've got to do some civic action Officer Ariana Preston this beautiful young lady, 24 years of age, one o'clock in the morning a week ago from yesterday, was a victim of an attempted carjacking and the young person ended up shooting her in the face and taking her gun this young lady, Officer Preston, on today should have been graduating with her Masters in Jurisprudence. She wanted to serve her community. She was living at home and had two younger sisters, twins, a mother and father. Her mother would tell you she protected her daughter. Her daughter wanted to take the call to join the police force and wanted to advance her education to be a great officer. She did everything right and we can't explain why this level of violence, they said young people wanted to steal some money from her to go get something to eat. He had already done a string of robberies early in the day. So, Ariana should have been graduating today. Ariana was put to rest in her grave this week. Her mother ceremoniously has received her master's degree, so I'm leaving with you today, Dr. Vijay, to carry Ariana's picture in a march. We're going to have another march with women, mothers, fathers, and families against gun violence. Bring their pictures out of their loved ones. We're going to go into the hardest hit neighborhoods that have the most gun violence in the first district and knock on doors hand in hand we've got to spread love, teach non-violence and stop the flow of illegal guns getting into our city. It's children that killed Ariana were 16, 17, 18, 19 years of age and had guns. Well,

children cannot buy guns, there's no gun shop in the city of Chicago, there's no gun range in the city of Chicago, there's no African-American gun ammunition dealer anywhere in the nation or the world. How are these guns coming into our city? They're being flooded in here across state borders that have loopholes, so that's a priority for me, fighting against guns and AR-15s, high assault mags - those are weapons of war.

**Dr. VGP:** Congressman Jackson our hearts, prayers and sympathies are with officer Preston and her family at this time, as you have struck an emotional chord on us saying that her perpetrators and killers were 15, 16, and 17 year old and you know it's something we are thankful at least you are here today to lead the charge against gun violence for the city of Chicago and the Southland and try to make a difference and try to reduce it. You had earlier, last month in March, had invited Secretary Becerra, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and President Biden's Cabinet member, to come to Englewood. You know where the life expectancy is 60 years, seven miles away in Steepleville, it's 90 years, and the violence rate is 86%. For the first time, we have had a Health and Human Services secretary cabinet member of president, to visit Englewood area, which is in your part of your constituency, to reduce the town hall to talk about gun violence and mental health and where secretary Becerra said gun violence is a health issue and thanks to your again visionary leadership within 60 days of you being in Congress to bring the attention of President Biden's Cabinet

member to this very important issue and we all together as a community not only the elected leadership, the clinicians, the community Leaders, the gatekeepers of the community should all gather together to avoid any more officer Preston's deaths. It's a huge loss for society. She was a police officer, and three young kids came and shot her in her face, and that's where we look up to you, Congressman Jackson...

**Jonathan Jackson:** ... and I also say to the families whose children did this crime, they're also now victims, that these parents have lost four children that are going to have a life in jail, and no parent had foreseen that, you know, so it's a loss of five children, if you will, and I say respectfully but child because within my oldest and that's just a function of my age that I'm sharing, so this hurts like I would have lost my own child to see officer and although as bad as the crime was that these young people did their brains are not fully developed until the age of 25. They'll be in jail charged and judged as adults, and not until they come unto themselves where they even realize the gravity of the moment and the crime that they've committed, and so for the rest of their lives, once they're old enough to understand what they've done. So, we've got to even talk with Hollywood about producing the music that's poisonous to these children's minds, who's producing the movies that's poisonous to their minds, and who's producing the video games that's poisonous to their minds. Ideas are getting into these children's minds, desensitizing them to violence, and we have to get to the root.

**Dr. VGP:** And it's a multifaceted approach Congressman Jackson, we look up to you on that note that this cycle of violence, like you rightly pointed out, the perpetrators of crime, themselves, and their families are going to be hurt. This is a huge issue which has to be addressed, and we all have to work under your leadership to address this issue. We hope that in the coming months and years, you will take a stand on reducing gun violence and making the City of Chicago and Southland a much safer place to live. We thank you again for joining us and for such an informative and enlightening conversation which we had. We covered so many subjects, and I'm so proud that today Illinois has a congressman who's so well read, well informed, and is willing to listen to the people of Illinois, and I guess your Leadership Model is not only for the first district of the state of Illinois or for the state of Illinois but across the country for the minorities and for the others who are interested in developing a gun-free America, a prosperous, healthy America where there'll be no more food deserts with you. Also, with your ingenuity and erudite scholarship serving on the House Foreign Relations Committee, which is also making sure that America will retain its superpowers, treat its neighbors and countries across the world with respect, and mutually develop together and strengthen relationships.

**Jonathan Jackson:** And can I say one last thing?

**Dr. VGP:** Please, what's your message to our viewers, Congressman, please look at the camera, it's all yours.

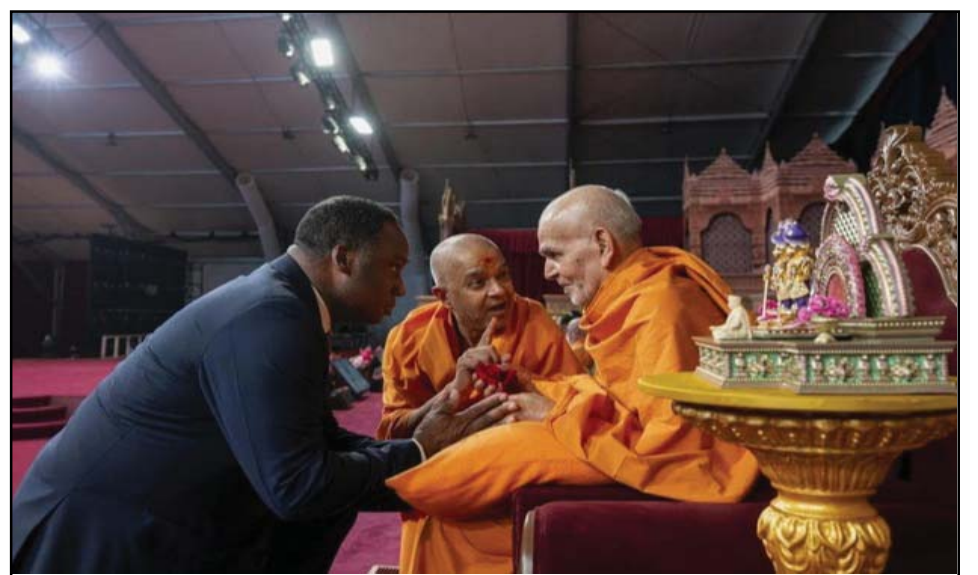
**Jonathan Jackson:** I am honored in this Asian History Month to be with an outstanding person, Dr. Vijay Prabhakar. I've known Dr. Vijay for over 30 years, and this, I must say, is another high in my life to be on the same stage to do an interview with my friend who's done so much for so many, so selflessly. He has really built bridges across communities and divides, it hasn't been comfortable, it hasn't been convenient, but reaching out to the African-American community, opening the doors to the Indian American community, and through others, he's done a marvelous job. I don't take his leadership for granted, and anything he's a part of, I am more than happy to support.

**Dr. VGP:** Thank you, Congressman Jackson. I'm so humbled to be here. Thank you again for joining us. It's been a wonderful afternoon here with you today. Thank you so much.

**Jonathan Jackson:** Thank you, Doctor.



**Congressman Jonathan Jackson inaugurating the Global Eye International Leadership Institute (GEILI) held on January 28, 2023 at Manhattan, NY.**



**U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson receiving blessings from His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj at the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Mahotsav**



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# 12th Annual Congressional International Women's Day Celebrations

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# U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy presented the GSA Pride of India award to Rahul Karad of Pune India at Global Eye's G20 Presidency India Diaspora Meet.



Along with Somnath Ghosh, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, and Kathy Thorat, Rahul Karad receives the Pride of India Award from Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy.

Lisle, IL - August 17, 2023 - An evening of unity, faith, and recognition unfolded as esteemed guests and leaders from various communities and backgrounds came together for a memorable event at the Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel. The event commenced with an interfaith invocation, where representatives from different faiths, including Acharya Rohit Joshi Ji for Hindu faith, Katherine Thorat for Christian faith, and Raees Yawer for Muslim faith, joined in prayer, highlighting the spirit of inclusivity. Shivam Viswanathan introduced the evening's charismatic leader, Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, Chairman of GSA Global Eye Magazine. Under Dr. Prabhakar's tutelage, the session commenced, setting the stage for a night filled with inspiration and celebration. Dr. Zenobia Sowell, AMEC Governor, delivered the warm welcome address, extending greetings to all attendees. The event then featured a video presentation

showcasing MIT WPU's World Peace Dome, the largest of its kind globally, and a glimpse into the historic Bharat National Legislators Conference held in June 2023 at MIT WPU. U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy presented the GSA Pride of India Award to Rahul Karad, Executive President, MIT World Peace University, Pune in recognition of his remarkable achievements at a young age. SeetaBala, GSA Awards Jury Chair reading the citation, commanded Karad's leadership in convening the historic National Legislators conference in June 2023 at Mumbai, where over 2,500 MLS's from 25 states attended. Receiving the prestigious award, President Rahul Karad delivered a truly inspiring and heartfelt speech that deeply resonated with the captivated audience. MIT WPU's extensive global alumni network is a testament to Rahul Karad's impactful leadership.

The Presidential Address was delivered by Somnath Ghosh, Consul General of India in Chicago, emphasizing the significance of events that promote collaboration and unity between nations. The event reached its pinnacle with the Chief Guest's remarks by U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson and U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy. Their presence underscored the importance of fostering international relations and cultural understanding. Dr. Vasavi Chakka, Executive Director of the Indian American Business Coalition, USA, delivered closing remarks, reflecting on the event's success and its impact on the community. Quick remarks were also delivered by Neil Khot, National President of the Indian American Business Coalition (IABC) USA, Dr. Suresh Reddy, Trustee of the Village of Oakbrook, Illinois, and President of AAMEP USA, and Ulka Nagarkar, Trustee of Maharashtra Mandal Chi-

cago, among others. The event concluded on a delightful note with a sumptuous dinner, providing attendees with an opportunity to further connect and celebrate the diverse cultures that make AMEC a vibrant and inclusive organization. **About MIT-WPU:** With a rich legacy of 40 years of fostering world-class academic excellence and over 100,000 alumni across the globe, MIT-WPU is one of the premier institutions of higher learning in India, offering Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Diploma, and Ph.D. programs. Uniquely positioned as one of the first universities across the world that offers the highest standard of professional education ingrained with the postulates of peace studies, MIT-WPU enables an inclusive culture of dignity, fairness, and respect amongst its students, grooming them into future-ready, responsible citizens of the world.



Photo shows the large gathering of over 150 community leaders at Global Eye's G20 Presidency Indian Diaspora meet.



Dr Vasavi Chakka, Naperville City SECA Commissioner, Vinita Gulabani, FIA President Schaumburg, Padma Sri Dr S. V. Rama Rao, Dr Suguna Siramdasu, Nagendra Sripada And Mrs Gita Sripada attentively listening.

# Glimpses of Global Eye's G20 Presidency - India Diaspora Meet



The gathering saw a strong presence of elected representatives, community leaders, and influencers.



AIAANA president and community leader Madhu Uppal and Jeremy Wang, acting president of the DuPage County Regional Board of Schools



The Global Eye magazine was given to Rahul Karad by Shivam Viswanathan, Executive Director of GSA India @75 Expo USA Metro Cities Sequels 2023, in the presence of SeetaBala, Congressman Jonathan Jackson, and Oak Park Trustee Dr. Suresh Reddy



The Consul General of India in Chicago, Somnath Ghosh, addressed the audience.



Acharya Lokesh Muni was intrigued by the significant social impact made by a magazine like Global Eye, which reaches more than 42 million homes globally.



Kathy Thorat (AMEC Secretary General) presents Annual AMEC & MEATF Global Community Awards Gala booklet souvenir to Rahul Karad



Dr. Vasavi Chakka (Executive Director of the Indian American Business Coalition, USA) presents the Global Eye GSA India @75 Expo booklet souvenir to Rahul Karad



Congressman Jonathan Jackson and Rahul Karad with SeetaBala (AMEC Executive Vice President), Brij Sharma (CEO/President, PowerVolt, Inc.), Naveen Karna (AMEC Executive Director), and "PADMA SHRI" Dr. S.V. Rama Rao



Congressman Jonathan Jackson, flanked by distinguished AMEC members that include Bharat and Anu Malhotra, Naveen Karna, Dr. VGP, VilayMuralidharan, SeetaBala, Kathy Thorat, and Hema Shastri on his left, and Sudhir and Archana Agrawal and VanitaGalabani on his right.

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# Glimpses of Global Eye's G20 Presidency - India Diaspora Meet



Martino Tangkar, President, Indonesian Diaspora of America symbolically presenting The Global Eye Magazine to Neil Khot, National Chair, Indian American business Coalition USA to mark handing over of G20 Presidency from Indonesia to India.



Kathy Thorat, North America Sales and Advertising Executive, GSA Global Eye Magazine honored India's Consul General at Chicago Somnath Ghosh with a silk Shawl at the meet.



U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy presented the GSA Pride of India award to Rahul Karad of Pune India.



U. S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson congratulating Rahul Karad, Executive President, MIT World Peace University(WPU), Pune, India.



Brij Sharma, CEO Powervolt Ltd, Addison, IL, U. S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson and Dr. VGP, Editor-In Chief, Global Eye Magazine.



Dr. Rashmi Patel, FIA Chicago 1980 President thanked by Rahul Karad, MIT WPU Executive President and U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson.



Left to Right: Seeta Bala, GSA Awards Jury Chair, Brij Sharma, CEO Powervolt, Ltd, Naveen Karna, Chief Information Officer, GSA Global Eye Magazine, U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson, Dr. Ashok V Joshi, Salt Lake city, Utah, Awardee Rahul Karad, and Neil Khot, National Chair, Indian American Business Coalition, USA.



Acharya Lokesh Muni, President, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati, New Delhi, U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson, AMEC Governor Dr. Zenobia Sowell, MEATF Chairman Dr. Martino Tangkar and AMEC Commissioner Rohit Joshi at the meet.



Left to Right: Naveen Karna, Global Eye's CIO, Shivam Vishwanathan, Global Eye's CCO, Seeta Bala, GSA Awards Jury Chair, Lion Hina Trivedi, Kishan Das, President, Nehru Group of Institutions, Kerala, India, Somnath Ghosh, India's Consul General at Chicago, Acharya Lokesh Muni, Hema Shastri, AMEC Commissioner, Malathi Dharmaraju, President, Chicago Andhra Association, Sweta Kottapalli, Secretary, Chicago Andhra Association and Dr. Rashmi Patel, FIA Chicago 1980 President.



Dr. Mak Jawadekar, Advisor MIT World Peace University, Pune India presented a coffee table book on World Peace Dome at Pune, India to India's Consul General at Chicago Somnath Ghosh at the meet.



U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson presenting the GSA Pride Of India Award to Rahul Karad, MIT WPU Executive President, Dr. VGP, Editor-In Chief, Global Eye Magazine, Hitesh Gandhi, Past President FIA Chicago, Vinita Gulabani, FIA Chicago President and Seeta Bala, GSA Awards Jury Chair.



U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson with community leaders at the Global Eye's G20 India Presidency Diaspora Round table Meet on August 17 at Sheraton Lisle Naperville

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*Seeta &*



*Shivam's Chatter*

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



AMEC members Naveen Karna and Shivam Viswanathan caught up with writer-director Vivek Agnihotri at the Cine Lounge theater in Niles for the premiere screening of The Vaccine War. A succinct takeaway from the film: "India can do it".



Dr. VGP speaks at an event to bid farewell to Mr. Ranjit Singh, who served as a Consul at the Consulate General of India in Chicago. Other consuls in the picture: from right: Mr. Vinod Gautam, Consul (Head of Chancery and Community Affairs) Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Pal, Consul (Press, Information and Culture) Mr. Ranjit Singh, Consul at Consulate General of India, Chicago



The celebration of India's Independence Day at One Aurora Plaza, Aurora, IL, witnessed the presence of elected representatives, including Mayor Richard Irvin and Alderwoman Shweta Baid from Ward 10.



Observance of Indian Independence Day in Oak Brook, IL, initiated by Suresh Reddy, a dedicated Trustee of Oak Brook, IL.



Pastor Steve Munsey of Family Christian Center, Munster, Indiana ordaining Prophet Kiran Murali at his Church.



Jignesh Patel BAPS Public Affairs, Houston and Anil Barot BAPS Public Affairs Midwest welcoming U. S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson (D-1st Congressional District of Illinois) at BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, New Jersey.



The diaspora roundtable gathering during India's G-20 presidency took place on August 17, 2023, where Rahul Karad was honored with the GSA Pride Of India Award. The event welcomed distinguished guests, including Congressman Jonathan Jackson, Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, Consul General Somnath Ghosh, and Acharya Lokesh Muni, among others.



Prophet Kiran Murali releases the new logo of G.S.A. Global Strategic Alliance at an elegant ceremony at Matrix Club, Naperville. Dr RASHMI Patel, President FIA 1980, Chicago received the first copy of the new logo.



Global Eye Magazine hosted a Luncheon Reception to welcome Sanjeev Mehta, Gujarat State BJP Convenor External Affairs Department at Naperville recently. Left to right photo shows :GSA Chair Dr VGP, GE CFO Dr Vasavi Chakka, Guest Sanjeev Mehta, Mayur Vyas of Bolingbrook, Amar Uphadyay, OFBJP, Chicago and GE's CCO Shivam Viswanathan.



Community leaders at India's Independence Day Dinner hosted by Consul General of India at Chicago Somnath Ghosh at Chicago Cultural Center. From left to right: Mohita Sukumar, Global Eye Chicago Chief, Padma Sri Dr S. V. Rama Rao, CG Somnath Ghosh, Dr VGP and Shivam Viswanathan, Treasurer AMEC.



Special Meet and Greet with Hon. Yuvraj Sambaji Raje Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, Maharashtra, an Indian Member of Parliament and a 13th direct descendant of Hon. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

# MEATF & AMEC 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HOMECOMING DINNER A Night of Unity & Leadership

Bethel Mennonite Community Church 1434 S Laflin St, Chicago IL 60608



By: Mohita Sukumar  
Chicago News Bureau Chief  
Chicago, IL –August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - The Bethel Mennonite Community Church once again became a hub of warmth, unity, and inspiration as it played host to the 13th Annual Homecoming Dinner in collaboration with the MEATF & AMEC members. This much-anticipated event, held at 1434 S Laflin St, Chicago, IL 60608, showcased the strength of community bonds and the promise of visionary leadership.

The evening began with a heartfelt Welcome Address by Naveen Karna, the Executive Director of AMEC. Naveen set the tone for the event by emphasizing the importance of gatherings like the Homecoming Dinner in fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose within the Mennonite community. This tradition was started by our founder Dr VGP, 12

years ago when we wanted to support Congressman Danny K Davis in his initiatives for having a “Back to School” parade for the west side school children. Naveen welcomed everyone on behalf of AMEC team and Thanked Tony Bienke, the pastor of the Bethel Mennonite Community Church, for hosting this annual homecoming event. Dr. Zenobia Sowell, AMEC Governor, and an inspirational leader for all the past years followed with her Opening Remarks, underscoring the significance of such occasions in nurturing connections, both old and new, and encouraging intellectual discourse within the community. Martino Thangra, who has been an awesome inclusive leader and chairperson of the Multiethnic Advisory Task force of the 7<sup>th</sup> congressional district will continue on to be the chairperson of the MEATF.

Highlight of the evening was the presence and Chief Guest Remarks by the Honorable Congressman Danny K. Davis. Congressman Davis, who serves as the Ranking Member of the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee, took the stage and in his address centered on the congressional agenda for 2023-2024, offering attendees a unique insight into the national landscape and how we as a community can engage effectively in shaping its future. The presence of Congressman Danny K. Davis added a layer of significance to the evening. The inauguration and swearing-in ceremony of the AMEC leadership team for 2023-2024 marked a momentous occasion. These leaders, filled with enthusiasm and commitment, stepped forward to guide AMEC into the coming year, with a renewed focus on community-building. As the evening drew to a close,

attendees were treated to the Closing Remarks by Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar, founder president. Dr. Prabhakar’s words resonated with the audience, highlighting the importance of collaboration, leadership, and community engagement in achieving common goals.

The 13th Annual Homecoming Dinner was not merely an event; it was a celebration of unity, leadership, and the enduring spirit of the AMEC community. It provided a platform for community members to reconnect, share ideas, and celebrate the values that bind them together. In the end, the 13th Annual Homecoming Dinner served as a testament to the strength and unity of the Mennonite community. It was a night filled with hope, inspiration, and a renewed commitment to the values that define this close-knit and forward-looking community.



# Glimpses of MEATF & AMEC 13th Annual Homecoming Dinner



Pam Morris Walton, Chicago's popular Radio Jockey being welcomed by American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc. (AMEC) Governor Dr. Zenobia Sowell, MEATF Chair Martino Tangkar, Bethel's Pastor Toni Bianci and AMEC Executive Director Naveen Karna.



AMEC's Executive Director Naveen Karna welcoming U.S. Congressman Danny Davis to AMEC's 13th Annual Homecoming Dinner on August 18, 2023 at Bethel Mennonite Church, Chicago.



U.S. Congressman Danny Davis with the newly inaugurated American Multi Ethnic Commission that were sworn into office at the event.



Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer introducing the Living Legend U.S. Congressman Danny Davis.



U.S. Congressman Danny Davis presented Pastor Leamon Riley Sowell Inter-Faith Leadership Prize to Acharya Lokesh Muni, Founder, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharathi, New Delhi, India.



60 members of the American Multi Ethnic Commission at the AMEC's 13th Annual Homecoming dinner



Bethel Mennonite Community Church of Chicago presented their highest honor, "Crown of Service Award 2023" to Neal Patel CEO of Medstar Laboratory Inc, Hillside,



U.S. Congressman Danny Davis praising the leadership of Dr. Vijay Prabhakar for establishing innovative initiatives for America's ethnic communities.



AMEC Membership Chair, Mohita Sukumar introducing AMEC's 2023 - 2024 leadership team.



U.S. Congressman Danny Davis congratulated Jerome Athishtam, AMEC's newly elected Vice President.



U.S. Congressman Danny Davis presenting the AMEC medallion of office to Shivam Vishwanathan, AMEC Treasurer.



U.S. Congressman Danny Davis presenting the AMEC medallion of office to Kathy Thorat, AMEC Secretary General.



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# ***NAPERVILLE CITY COUNCILMAN PAUL LEONG'S SUMMER PICNIC SHOWCASES MULTI ETHNIC CULTURE***

City Councilman Paul Leong Hosted a summer polluck picnic. It was a great oppourtunity to meet our constituents and organization. Global Eye GSA Team was present and contributed warn delicious delicaies represnting ethnic cultural food from southeast Asia and finshing off with delicious masala chai.



From Left to Right: Shivam Viswanathan, Vasavi Chakka, Mohita Sukumar, Dr Vijay Prabhakar, Paul Leong, Arista Leong , Seeta Bala , Naveen Karna



From Left to Right:Seeta Bala,Naveen Karna, Paul Leong, Dr Vijay Prabhakar, Christopher Pecak, Lynda Wehrli, Scott Wehrli, Shivam Viswanathan, Vasavi Chakka, Mohita Sukumar



From Left to Right: Paul Leong, Christopher Pecak,Dr Vijay Prabhakar, Shivam Viswanathan, Mohita Sukumar, Vasavi Chakka, Seeta Bala,Naveen Karna



Dr Vijay Prabhakar explaining the Global Eye GSA displays, Artifacts to Mayor of Lisle Christopher Pecak. Also seen in pic is Vasavi Chakka



Dr Vijay Prabhakar explaining the Global Eye GSA displays, Artifacts to Mayor of Lisle Christopher Pecak. Also seen in pic is Vasavi Chakka



From Left to Right: Seeta Bala, Dr Vijay Prabhakar, Vasavi Chakka, Josh McBroom, Shivam Viswanathan, Lynda Wehrli, Mohita Sukumar, Naveen Karna



Mohita Sukumar helpings Guests with trying out different Indian Sarees with Indian accessories



AMEC Leaders with Chines Couple In Saree



AMEC & Global Eye Both Attracted Great Interest



Indian food Served by IABC-USA's Executive Director Dr Vasavi Chakka



AMEC & Global Eye Booth Setup by AMEC Executive Director Naveen Karna & Global Eye's Community Officer S. Viswanathan



Dr Vijay Prabhakar presenting and showcasing Manipuri saree to guests



AMEC Executive Director Naveen Karna serving Masala Chai to guests.



Sarees from different State of India Displayed



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President of India Droupadi Murmu being welcomed at the Raj Bhavan, Chennai, India by Dr.N. Parasuraman, Senior Scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai during her recent visit to Chennai.



Padmasri Dr.S.V.Rama Rao fondly referred to as "PICASO AMERICA" was honored at the north American Telugu Association NATA's Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas in recognition of his extraordinary Art/Painting pieces.

## SabkaSaath: PM Modi welcomes African Union to G20



**AFRICAN UNION NOW A G20 MEMBER**

In a landmark achievement for India's G20 presidency, the African Union (AU) got a permanent seat at the G20 high table with PM Narendra Modi announcing it in his opening remarks at the leaders' summit. Foreign minister S Jaishankar escorted AU chair and Comoros President Azali Assoumani to his seat after Modi brought the ceremonial gavel down to invite AU to the premier forum for global economic cooperation. PM Modi also embraced Assoumani before guiding him to his seat. Amid the gloom of Ukraine war, and its restraining effects on India's G20 presidency, PM Modi had written to all G20 leaders in June seeking a permanent membership for the 55-member AU is the second regional group which is home to some of the fastest growing

economies in the world and has a combined GDP of \$2.4 trillion. "It was in the spirit of 'SabkaSaath' that India proposed permanent membership for the African Union in the G20. I believe that we all agree on this proposal," said PM Modi, as he invited the AU chair. Foreign minister S Jaishankar later said it was a matter of particular satisfaction that AU had become a member of G20 under India's presidency. "It's in line with our priority to address the concerns of the Global South," he said. As a resource-rich country with 1.3 billion people and youthful demographic, Africa has been keen to play a more significant role in international affairs. The AU is the second regional group, after EU, to join G20. Only South Africa was a member of G20 so far. While a formal proposal from AU for membership came only last year, African countries had been advocating for G20 inclusion for the past 7 years. According to Indian authorities, Modi himself led from the front for AU membership as he believed this would be a step towards a 'just, fair, more inclusive and representative global architecture and governance'.

## G-20 Summit clinches New Delhi Declaration

On the opening day of the event, G-20 forges consensus on the contentious 'Ukraine paragraphs'; PM Modi stops proceedings to make announcement



(From Left) World Bank President Ajay Banga, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio da Silva, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and US President Joe Biden Pose for a photo during G-20 Summit in New Delhi on Sunday]



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# AMEC Executive Vice President Seeta Bala Honored with T.L.O.C.'s LEAGUE OF LEGENDS CHAMPION AWARD at the 29th Annual Gala

By: Mohita Sukumar  
Chicago News Bureau Chief  
**Olympia Fields, IL, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023** - The LINK & OPTION CENTER, Inc. celebrated its 29th Oscars event on July 29th, 2023, with a grand gala that recognized and honored individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields improving lives of people in need. The 29th Oscars event, hosted by the charismatic **Dr. Twin Green, Founder, President & CEO of The LINK & OPTION CENTER, Inc.**, commenced with a delightful Cocktail Reception featuring live entertainment by the talented Lady Sax. The Gala Dinner was further enhanced by the captivating performances of BLT Entertainment. The evening also included an invocation by Minister Barbara J. Brooks from the Apostolic Church of God, as well as reflections on the past and praise for the future. The event started off with an Introduction by Katana S Green, Granddaughter of Dr. Twin Green and a Young Entrepreneur. **Dr Twin Green** in her warm welcome address, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the continuous support that has made 2023 yet another remarkable year for The LINK & OPTION CENTER, Inc. With 29 years of unwavering dedication to improving the lives of people in need, the organization has exemplified excellence, accountability, and a commitment to serving its clients, funders, accrediting bodies, licensing bodies and the community. Their Model is based on Integrated health care approach to



accessing quality care coordination and strong partnership, which is evident by our agency's success. The evening reflected on the need to serve, celebrate, and honor friends who greatly impact the commissioned work of The LINK & OPTION CENTER. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the "League of Legends Champion Award," which honored ten outstanding individuals for their significant contributions to the commissioned work of The LINK & OPTION CENTER, Inc. The award recipients included:

- Honorable Jonathan L. Jackson, U.S. Congressman
- Honorable Nicholas "Nick" K. Smith, State Representative
- Honorable D. Renee Jackson, Circuit Judge
- Honorable John A. Fairman, Associate Judge
- Honorable Nichole C. Patton, Circuit Judge
- Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Supervisor
- Bonita Estelle, ComED External Affairs Manager
- David Berkey, CEO - Illinois Health Practice Alliance
- Mayor Sheila Chalmers-Currin, Village President-Matteson

Seeta Bala, AMEC Executive Vice President  
Among the esteemed recipients of the prestigious "League of Legends Champion Award," **Seeta Bala, AMEC Executive Vice President and GSA India @75 EXPO Awards Jury Chair** stood out as the shining star, receiving the "Community

Ambassador" accolade. Seeta Bala, currently holding the positions of AMEC Executive Vice President and GSA India @75 EXPO Awards jury chair, is a beacon of positivity, joy, and optimism in everyday life. Her personal mission centers around building, nurturing, and promoting networks of individuals working towards shared goals, and she has consistently demonstrated unwavering commitment to assisting others. As the "Community Ambassador," Seeta's zeal for fostering connections and inspiring potential partners has resulted in active collaboration on a range of projects. Her purpose-driven approach has been instrumental in helping individuals and teams achieve personal and collective success. Throughout her illustrious career, Seeta Bala has received numerous accolades, including the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Innovation Award (Team), multiple instances of the Meritorious Performance Award from the U.S. Department of Labor, the Able Leader Award at IGATE Capital for innovative leadership programs, and the President's Award for Outstanding Contribution at the Learning Services Division of IBM. Following the awards ceremony, guests were treated to an Oscars After Party featuring the incredible musical talents of DJ Chico. The LINK & OPTION CENTER, Inc. extends its heartfelt congratulations to Seeta Bala on receiving the "League of Legends Champion Award - Community Ambassador" and expresses gratitude to all the distinguished honorees for their remarkable contributions.



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## SRK-Alia Bhatt to Janhvi Kapoor, who wore what to Ambani's Ganapati celebrations

Mukesh Ambani and Nita Ambani celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi at their Mumbai residence Antilia on September 19. Celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Janhvi Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt, Ranveer Singh and several others attended the gala celebrations. Here, we take a look at what they wore.



Shah Rukh Khan, who is riding high on the success of his film 'Jawan', arrived at Mukesh and Nita Ambani's residence with his family. The actor was dressed in brown and black pathani set while his wife Gauri complemented him in a pastel-hued kurta set. Suhana Khan and AbRam also attended the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations at Antilia. They were dressed in ethnic outfits.

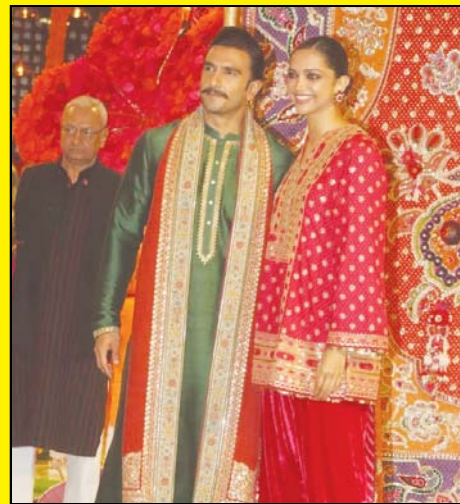
Mukesh Ambani and Nita Ambani marked the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi with a grand celebration at their Mumbai home on September 19. Needless to mention, the who's who of Bollywood arrived at their Ganapati celebration dressed in remarkable ethnic outfits. Here, you can see Nita Ambani along with Radhika Merchant and Shloka Ambani wearing splendid sarees.



Janhvi Kapoor turned heads in a magnificent tissue saree. She kept her look simple with no over the top make up or jewellery. She accessorised her look with just a pair of earrings and kept her tresses open.



Alia Bhatt sizzled in a striking red saree at Mukesh and Nita Ambani's Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. She paired her monotone red saree with a strappy blouse that featured sequinned mirror work all over.



Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh looked absolutely breathtaking in traditional attire. While Ranveer opted for a bottle green kurta set with a contrast red dupatta, Deepika complemented him in a salwar suit.



Salman Khan arrived at Antilia with niece Alizeh. Salman sported a buzz cut hairstyle and was dressed in a blue and white kurta set. Alizeh, on the other hand, wore a sequinned sharara set.



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhya were also photographed at the celebrations. Aishwarya was dressed in a traditional suit set in a subtle shade of blue, while Aaradhya donned a matching ensemble in a sunny yellow colour.



When it comes to pulling off a magnificent saree, no one does it better than Rekha. For Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations at the Ambani residence, Rekha wore a maroon saree.



Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani were one of the best-dressed couples of the evening. Kiara wore a yellow saree with embellishments all over the border and Sidharth opted for a blue kurta set.



Ananya Panday looked stunning in a red saree which she paired with blouse that featured a plunging neckline. The actress completed her look with a choker and earrings set.

# CELEBRATING THE 384TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF MADRAS



**Ben Noah Suri a.k.a B.N.Suresh Mangaladurai**  
Communications & Development Consultant  
Alumni Relations Specialist

August is considered a special month by the people of Madras which is now called Chennai for it is recorded that the city of Madras was originally founded on 22nd August 1639. This day is considered the Birthday of the city and the day is now being celebrated in many ways. This year will mark the 384th Birth Anniversary of the City. The celebrations will spill over throughout the month and August has now become the Madras Month.

It was on 22nd August 1639 that a small parcel of land upon which the Fort. St. George stands today, was procured by the British driven East India Company. The negotiations for the purchase of Madarasapattinam as that piece of land was then called were carried out by Francis Day, his 'Dubash' BeriThimmappa, and their higher up, Andrew Cogan on behalf of the East India Company with the local Nayakkar rulers.

The parcel of land then was christened as Madras by the British and thus began the Journey of Madras. From out of the fort, sprang settlements which gradually grew to swallow neighbouring villages and link them all together into one heterogeneous whole.

The city of Madras pre dates the establishment of cities such as Calcutta and Bombay. The only other city which existed prior to the establishment of Madras was Delhi



which was then in the hands of the Mughals. Madras was the first city established by the British. Madras has many firsts to its credit and space would become a major constraint if they were all listed out here.

Madras today stretches Far and wide. It has become the engine of growth for the whole of South India; so much so that all South Indians were termed as Madrasis. Madras which was later renamed Chennai in 1996 is now a hub for many sectors including the IT Industry, Medicine and health care, Education, auto ancillaries, Film industry and many more path breaking movements in arts, culture and politics.

While it is indeed a memorable day, not much was done to celebrate the day until the new millennium or to be more specific until 2004 when a small group of historians and journalists first started officially celebrating the day.

The idea was initially spearheaded by the Late Mr.S. Muthiah the eminent city historian along with the Editor cum Publisher of the Mylapore Times, Mr.Vincent D'Souza. They were later joined by other luminaries and scholars

who helped make the movement grow.

However, it must be said that that the celebrations are not just by these personalities but encompasses all lovers of Madras from all walks of life. Varied People and organisations have now begun celebrating and organising events across the city.

As part of the celebrations, many interesting activities are planned every year - visits or walks to landmark places and areas of the city, bicycle rides, exhibitions, and lectures on the city with titbits of information about the city's history and heritage, storytelling and a quiz on the city.

As participation grew, the Madras Day was been expanded to Madras week and now spills over with events hosted throughout the month of August.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Chennai zone, the Goethe-Institute also known as Max Mueller Bhavan along with Greater Chennai Corporation, the City Police, and other departments, organisations and institutions have all begun celebrating this Day and have organised several

events as part of the annual celebrations. The idea behind the celebrations is to create awareness about the heritage of the city and pride among the people of Madras.

City walks are usually organised every year to take around interested participants to visit prominent areas of significance in Madras and highlight the hidden stories, the local history and culture of such parts of Madras. These walks are curated by experts in the field along with interns, and focus on unheard stories and bring in the experience of the local culture, architecture, lifestyle, and delicacies.

Over the years, the Madras Day have grown bigger and bigger. It is said that in 2023 over 75 events were organised by various organisations to mark the occasion.

As a curtain raiser this year to the city walk project, the Goethe-Institut celebrated Madras with various events lined up to transport participants into the past and explore the multi-faceted nature of the city.

This year's walks included "the Hidden Treasures of Washermanpet walk", "the Global presence in George Town Walk" and "the Aminjikarai: Explore the new and the old walk". These city walks are done by interns, selected, and trained exclusively for this project by the trainers under the aegis of Goethe-Institut Chennai. Walks are done both in English and Tamil to cater to the wider audience of Chennai.

Over 15 such Heritage Walks and 20 lectures / talks were held in all across the city. Walks were also held inside the Madras High Court and the St. George Fort and was well received with enthusiastic participation from the youngsters who love their city.

Among such activities this year there were a Madras Day Photo Contest organised by Madras Photo Bloggers, a tour of Madras Museum in Egmore, a Vintage Bicycle Exhibition at the DakshinaChitra Heritage Museum, a Book Exhibition which showcased rare literature related to Chennai and the old Madras which was organised by the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), an Art Exhibition on Wildlife Organised by Madras Naturalists Society and many other such activities which included dance and music concerts, poetry recitations, school exchange programmes, food fests and vintage car and bike rallies.

Sale of T-Shirts and mementoes have also become a standard feature of Madras Day celebrations every year. While the concept of Madras Day has now extended to the whole of the month of August many hard-core Madras lovers are apprehensive that these celebrations are becoming commercialised and may soon become yet another meaningless celebration for the benefit of trade and commerce.

For the people of Madras, "Every day is a Madras Day"



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**LONDON**

**U.K. police arrest terror suspect who escaped from jail in London**



The U.K. police on Saturday arrested a terror suspect who escaped from a London prison earlier this week, sparking a nationwide manhunt. Daniel Khalife, a 21-year-old former soldier, fled from Wandsworth prison in south London on Wednesday morning, probably by clinging to the bottom of a delivery van.

**BEIJING**

**China on 'high alert' after Canada and U.S. ships transit Taiwan Strait**



China said on Saturday its troops were "on constant high alert" after two ships belonging to the U.S. and Canada transited through the Taiwan Strait. Beijing said that the two ships — identified only as Johnson of the U.S. and Ottawa of Canada — had "openly hyped up" their passage through the waters.

**SIDON**

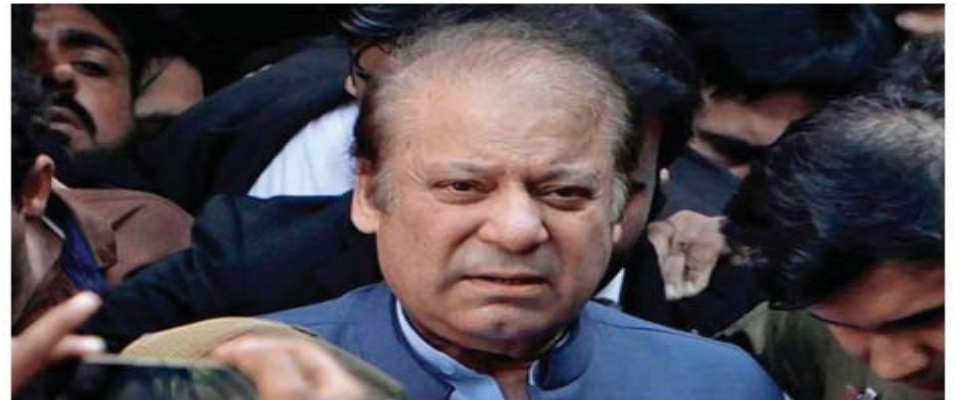
**Three dead as renewed clashes hit Palestinian camp in Lebanon**



Two fighters and a civilian were killed on Saturday in clashes at a south Lebanon Palestinian camp. Renewed fighting broke out late on Thursday in Ain al-Helweh refugee camp on the outskirts of the coastal city of Sidon just weeks after deadly violence pitted members of Fatah movement against Islamist militants.

**ISLAMABAD**

**Former PM Nawaz Sharif likely to return to Pakistan in October**



Former PM Nawaz Sharif likely to return to Pakistan in October "Ending his over four years of self-imposed exile in the UK, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is likely to return to Pakistan next month. Quoting sources present at a meeting in London where he was speaking, the Dawn newspaper reported that he "spoke about his return, but a clear date for travel has not been disclosed."



**Busy schedule:** (From left) U.S. President Joe Biden poses for a selfie with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter Saima Wazed at the summit; France's Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, Bruno Le Maire, attends the first session; French President Emmanuel Macron and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese embrace each other; and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (C) arrives to attend a press conference.



**All aboard:** (From left) Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak with U.S. President Joe Biden before start of a session; UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron at the partnership for global infrastructure and investment event; a craft exhibition at the summit; Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with World Trade Organization (WTO) Chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala during a dinner for G-20 Finance Ministers ahead of leaders' summit.



**Coming together:** (From left) Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese meets with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on the margins of the G-20 Leaders' Summit; Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and U.S. President Joe Biden attend the launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance; Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong with U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak; Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks with his advisers before the start of the second working session

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# Santhanam's terrific Tamil horror comedy 'DD Returns' is streaming exclusively on ZEE5 Global

(By our staff reporter) Mumbai-ZEE5 Global, the world's largest streaming platform for South Asian content, expands its library with Tamil blockbuster 'DD Returns'. The movie celebrated huge success in theatres with astounding performance and dialogue delivery which made the audiences smile throughout the movie. DD Returns traces the journey of Sathish [Santhanam] who is desperate to save his girlfriend which leads him to a haunted house. Produced by RK entertainment and directed by S. Prem Anand, the film is one of the best Tamil comedy films in recent times with a pinch of horror. The acclaimed movie is currently streaming on ZEE5 Global. The movie features an ensemble cast



that includes Santhanam, Surbhi, Redin Kingsley, Lollu Sabha Maaran, Pradeep Rawat, Masoom Shankar, FEFSI Vijayan, Rajendran and Munishkanth. The horror comedy chronicles around Sathish and his quest to find and rescue his girlfriend – Sofia when her predicament spirals into a do-or-die situation. Satish and his team are forced to play a dangerous game called 'Win or Run' organized by the ghosts inhabiting the palace. The cryptic ghosts who devised the lethal game during their lifetime designed it to brutally kill contestants upon failure to advance. Will Sathish and his team emerge victorious and escape the ghosts? Or will someone meet an unfortunate end at the hands of the phantom game designers?

## Jennifer Lopez shares hot pics in lingerie, fans say 'you look gorgeous'

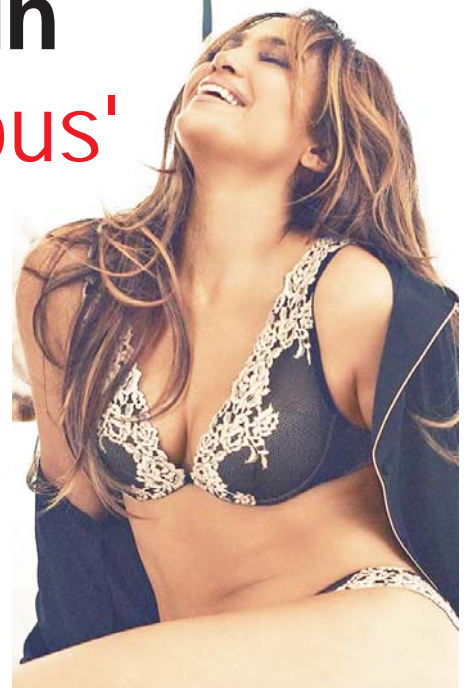
Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez is one of the most fit celebrities in Hollywood. On September 4, the actress uploaded a series of pictures on Instagram where she can be seen wearing black lingerie with white lace details.

**JENNIFER LOPEZ SHARES STEAMY PICTURES**  
Jennifer Lopez recently graced her Instagram feed with sizzling photographs of herself wearing black lingerie adorned with delicate white lace accents. These pictures were uploaded as a part of a sponsored collaboration with the renowned Italian lingerie brand, Intimissimi. For the caption, Lopez wrote, "When it feels right, nothing else matters (sic)". Take a look at the pictures posted by the singer-actress:

### FANS COMMENT ON THE POST

The post received several comments from fans, some calling her 'Queen on fire', while others praised her for her dedication towards maintaining her physique. Check out some of the comments below:

On the work front, Jennifer will star alongside Jharrel Jerome in the biographical wrestling drama 'Unstoppable', produced by Ben Affleck and based on the life of wrestler Anthony Robles. The production began in May 2023 but was put on hold indefinitely due to the 2023 Writers Guild of America strike. Lopez has also committed to lead and co-produce Netflix's film adaptation of the bestselling novel, 'The Cipher'. She also has several projects in the works as a producer.



## When Tinnu Anand fired Madhuri because she refused to shoot in bra for a scene

Filmmaker and actor Tinnu Anand has been associated with some popular films in the past. Recently, Anand opened up about an unpleasant incident that had occurred on the sets of his 1989 feature Shanakht.

The 1989 movie starred Madhuri Dixit Nene and Amitabh Bachchan in lead roles, their first on-screen pairing.

**TINNU ANAND ON THE UNPLEASANT INCIDENT ON SETS**  
But things took an ugly turn on the sets when Madhuri refused to shoot in a bra for a scene in the film. Tinnu Anand became upset when

he heard it and said that the actor could have expressed her discomfort about the situation when she was signing the film and not on the day of shoot. Speaking to Radio Nasha, Tinnu Anand said, "I narrated the entire sequence to Madhuri and I told her that you have to remove your blouse and for the first time, we should see you in your bra. And I am not going to hide anything behind a haystack or anything. Because you are offering yourself to help

a man who is trying to help you. So it is a very important situation and I want to shoot it on the first day. She said okay."

"I said you can design your bra, whatever you want. You don't have to wear a bra bra but you can design your own bra, I don't mind. But it has to be a bra because you are opening your blouse, offering yourself," Anand added.

### MADHURI'S REFUSAL TO DO THE SCENE

Even Amitabh, who was a legitimate star at the time, could not play the role of a peacemaker as Madhuri was asked to pack her bags and leave the set after she refused to do the scene. But later, Madhuri's secretary

requested Tinnu Anand to reconsider and said things would turn around. Recalling what had happened on the day, Tinnu Anand shared, "I asked what happened. She said, 'Tinnu, I don't want to do this particular scene.' I said, 'I'm sorry, you have to do this scene.' She said, 'No, I don't want to.' I said, 'Okay, pack up, say good bye to the film. I'll cancel my shoot.'" Eventually, the shoot resumed but was wrapped in only five days.





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