

GSA

GLOBAL EYE

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Issue 27, November 2023

**Chicago Alderman NICOLE LEE transforms the
landscape of Chinatown with EDDIE NI's dream project,
"PACIFICA OF CHICAGO"**

WINDFALL GROUP'S LAUNCH ASIAN THEMED LIFESTYLE CENTER



FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

In this edition of Global Eye Magazine, our cover story features the **Pacifica of Chicago**, a meticulously crafted redevelopment, situated along the south branch of the Chicago River and at the intersection of Cermak and South Canal street in Chinatown, Chicago. This ambitious project was launched in September 2023 by the Windfall Group, Illinois.

The Pacifica of Chicago encompasses an expansive mixed-use lifestyle hub featuring a covered riverfront walkway, a grocery store, riverfront access, dining establishments, entertainment options, a medical center and a 4 star extended stay hotel, catering to a diverse range of needs. Pacifica of Chicago spans an impressive 280,000 squarefeet, with excellent connectivity through Chicago. **Chicago's Alderman Nicole Lee** is credited with bringing this project to fruition. **The visionary EDDIE NI, CEO of Wind Fall Group** is the brain behind this Asian themed lifestyle center which is first of its kind in the Midwest. Pacifica of Chicago will transform the landscape of Chinatown into one of the most prosperous and busiest business corridors in Chicagoland. On Page 3, we have featured a hidden wonder of a massive all granite hand carved Hindu temple in Hawaii. In the spotlight section, we have carried a detailed photo news story on the World's second largest Hindu temple in Robbinsville, New Jersey- the **B.A.P.S. Swaminarayan Akashardham**. In our flash update, India's National Film Awards are featured. The Women's corner showcases the **Amnesty International's Ginetta Sagan Award** recipients over the years. The Ginetta Sagan Awards are given annually by Amnesty International,



USA to women who protect the liberty and lives of women and children where human rights violations are widespread.

India News features interesting stories while the Global News showcases intriguing snippets. Our regular columns including Seeta & Shivam's Chatter page, Youth Page and Bollywood are all action packed in this edition. We enjoy receiving your feedback and letters on our different articles. Global Eye Magazine will continue to bring you an unique blend of news, articles. We encourage contributing writers and photographers to send in their work for publication.

All of us at Global Eye Magazine strongly believe in Celebrating Lives and Sharing Our Pride through each of you.

Vijay G Prabhakar



Neal Patel, CEO of Medstar Laboratory, Hillside, IL, and John D. Castilla, Executive Vice President of Medstar Laboratory Inc. present the MedStar GOLD COLORS to Dr. VGP for the successful release of the 30th Episode of DR. VGP TALK SHOW on December 6,2023.



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How a massive all-granite, hand-carved Hindu temple ended up on Hawaii's lush Kauai Island

The main deity is the 700-pound quartz crystal shivalingam, an abstract representation of Shiva. The campus also houses Kadavul Temple dedicated to Shiva in the cosmic dancer form, or Nataraja.

KAPAA (Hawaii): It is the only all-granite, hand-carved Hindu temple in the West built without power tools or electricity, and it's nestled on one of the smaller islands in Hawaii surrounded by lush gardens and forests. On the island of Kauai, the presence of the Iraivan Temple — a white granite edifice with gold-leafed domes, modeled after millennia-old temples in South India — is unexpected and stunning. Less than 1% of Hawaii's 1.4 million residents are Hindus and on Kauai, the number of Hindus may not even exceed 50, according to some estimates.

But that hasn't deterred the two dozen monks living at the Kauai Aadheenam campus from being good neighbours and stewards of their faith tradition, drawing pilgrims and seekers from around the globe.

In this all-male temple monastery complex, the monks study and practice Shaivism, a major tradition within Hinduism, which holds Lord Shiva as the supreme being.

One of the order's monks, who has spent decades supervising the temple's construction and tending to its gardens, is Paramacharya Sadasivanatha Palaniswami, who came to the Kauai community of Kapaa in 1968 with his teacher and the centre's founder, the late Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami.

He says the Iraivan Temple was inspired by the founder's mystical vision of Lord Shiva seated on a large boulder on these grounds. Its construction began in 1990 and continued after the founder's death in 2001. The word "Iraivan" means "he who is worshipped" in Tamil, a language spoken about 8,000 miles away in southern India.

The monks created an entire village in India for the artisans who hand-built the temple over the last 33 years, said Palaniswami. "Our guru believed that electricity brings a magnetic force field and a psychic impact," he said.

"It's like when the power goes out during a storm, something different happens when there is no electricity. There is a certain quiet, a calmness."

Illuminated only by oil lamps, Iraivan has no fans or air-conditioning. Its architectural style is from the Chola Dynasty, which ruled parts of what is now South India and Sri Lanka for about 1,500 years, starting in 300 B.C.

The main deity is the 700-



pound quartz crystal shivalingam, an abstract representation of Shiva. The campus also houses Kadavul Temple dedicated to Shiva in the cosmic dancer form, or Nataraja.

Priest Pravinkumar Vasudeva arrived in March when the temple — 3,600 stones, pillars and beams made with roughly 3.2 million pounds of granite — was consecrated.

He is still amazed it stands on this tiny island. "In India, you could possibly build something like this, but it hasn't been done," he said. "Here, it is nearly impossible, but it has been done."

The order's origin story began in 1948 with founder Subramuniyaswami, a former San Francisco ballet dancer who sought out a spiritual teacher. In northern Sri Lanka, Guru Yogaswami initiated him into Shaivism and instructed him to build "a bridge between the east and west," said Palaniswami, the garden-tending monk.

Based in San Francisco in 1969, the founder "felt the sacred pull" of the Kauai property while on a retreat there, the monk said. It was a rundown Tropical Inn resort at the time.

To Native Hawaiians, the plot of land was known as Pihanakalani, or "the fullness of heaven." Cognizant of that connection, Subramuniyaswami wanted to make sure the new temple aligned with Native Hawaiian spirits.

So 35 years ago, he reached out to Lynn Muramoto, a local

Buddhist leader who had navigated a similar situation. She is the president of the Lawai International Center on Kauai, which is home to 88 Shingon Buddhist shrines on an ancient sacred site where Hawaiians once came for healing.

She visited the temple site with the late Abraham Kawai'i, a revered Hawaiian spiritual practitioner, or kahu, and witnessed the "deeply moving" moment when Kawai'i called the location "perfect."

Sabra Kauka, a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner on Kauai, said she was "a little aghast" in the beginning, but then consulted Aunty Momi Mo'okini Lum, her calabash aunt who is descended from Moikeha, the chief from Tahiti who built Pihanakalani some 1,000 years ago. Lum told her the monks had the means to take care of the land in perpetuity. "And so I laid down my concerns," she said.

Kauka praised the monks' landscaping, from plant choices to controlling invasive species. "The very fact that we have people on this island who care for our historic places, realize the value of them and are taking care of them in an exquisite way is remarkable," Kauka said.

Subramuniyaswami prioritized fostering connections across the island's faith traditions. These relationships have stretched beyond Kauai, and continue today. Following the deadly Maui wildfires in August, Palaniswami said, the temple helped connect Hindu

donors to local groups leading recovery efforts.

The monastery-temple complex, accessible via a public gate, also helps connect visitors to something greater. Devajyothi Kondapi from Portland, Oregon, has only heard stories about great saints and sages in ancient India who blessed and sanctified the land.

"Here, I feel their presence," she said during a recent visit, a trip she makes a couple of times a year. "What makes this a divine place is the monks' discipline."

The monks, who take vows of celibacy, nonviolence and vegetarianism, are guided and inspired by the philosophy of Shaivism. They live in huts and begin their day with 4 a.m. worship and meditation, followed by gardening, woodworking, cooking and other tasks.

They do not speak about their prior lives. Beyond the temple itself, one of their most significant projects took eight years to complete. In the 1990s, the monks digitized agamas, or ancient Shaivite texts etched on palm leaves, Palaniswami said.

They preserved these fragile texts, or as Palaniswami calls them, a Shaivite "user manual of sorts," and made the digitized version public. Now anyone can read Shaivite instructions on everything from running a temple and celebrating festivals to preparing meals and managing a family.

The Shaivite tradition is one that blends theism (belief in gods) and monism, the belief in

one, supreme being, said Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami, the order's current leader. The end goal is to attain oneness with the supreme being.

"A beautiful, holy place has the catalytic power to help you find that sacredness within."

Sannyasin Tillainathaswami, a monk who has lived here for more than a decade, said the ancient practice drew him in because it delves deep into the meaning of one's existence.

"If you find the centre of yourself, you've found that which is the centre of everything," he said.

Over the last 50 years, Palaniswami, who knows every sector of the 382-acre grounds, has carved out tranquil spaces conducive to meditation and reflection. The monk wears flowing saffron robes and a fluffy silver beard. His hair is gathered in a bun atop his head, adorned with a red hibiscus bloom. Streaks of sacred ash mark his forehead, accentuated with a vermilion dot in the middle.

On most days, Palaniswami, who also runs the order's website and publications department, drives a golf cart along the winding pathways tending to the flora — plumeria, orchids, hibiscus, passion fruit, redwood, lotuses and herbs.

Along with his guru, he planted 108 Rudraksha trees, which are native to Nepal and rarely seen in the West. The word "Rudraksha" in Sanskrit means "the tear of Shiva." The trees bear cerulean fruit, and its seeds are used for prayer, meditation and protection.

"Shiva was in heaven and looked down on the earth, and when he saw the plight of humans, it so moved him that he wept a tear that rolled off his cheek and fell to the earth," Palaniswami said. "From that tear grew the first Rudraksha tree."

The trees started as 3-inch seedlings about 45 years ago, and now tower over 100 feet with thick roots. The monks pressure-wash the seeds, stringing them into meditation malas, worn as a reminder of Shiva's compassion, said Palaniswami, who plans to build a public meditation room.

For Veylanswami, the order's leader, his favourite campus meditation spot is where a gentle waterfall meets the gushing Wailua River, which is sacred to some Native Hawaiians.

There, he says, he feels a transformative power, especially when he chants Shiva's name.



Dr. Barai's efforts to build bridges between communities are inspiring future generations. Thank you, StandWithUs, for recognizing the importance of Dr. Barai's work.

**Satya Murthy
Illinois**

The GSA India @75 Expo USA focused on empowering MSMEs and housing entrepreneurs. Sessions led by Abbas Ali Mirza, Dr. Ajit Pant, and R.V. Reddy offered valuable guidance and resources, paving the way for a brighter future for small businesses.

**Dr. Padma
Chennai, India**

Your article provides a well-rounded understanding of the key trends shaping the real estate landscape. The focus on sustainability and smart homes is commendable, and the call for digital transformation in the industry is insightful. Thank you for sharing your expertise with your readers.

**Raja M
Chicago**

The GSA North American Round Table Summit highlighted the immense nutritional value of millets. Dr.

Rao and Dr. Parasuraman emphasized their richness in nutrients, making them beneficial for managing diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

**Thomas Den
Bangalore, India**

Supreme Court upholds federalism by ensuring Governors act as constitutional heads, not roadblocks.

**Nisha
New Delhi**

Congratulations to Karina Garcia on her well-deserved appointment to the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board! Her dedication to our community and extensive experience are invaluable assets to this important initiative.

**Melina Pal
Park Town, IL**

Pam Morris Walton's story not only inspires but also educates. Through her experience and book, she raises awareness about the importance of organ donation. Her story serves as a powerful reminder that a single act of generosity can save lives and bring hope to countless individuals. Thank you, Pam, for using your platform to make a difference.

**Charles Dawoon
IL**

Thank you Dr VGP. The GSA North American Round Table Summit instilled hope for the future. The discussions on millets' benefits painted a picture of a brighter future. We must continue building upon this momentum to unlock their full potential.

**Issac
Delhi.**

Pam Morris Walton's journey is a testament to her remarkable spirit. Her transition from a popular gospel radio host to a champion for organ donation is truly inspiring. Her story demonstrates the power of transformation and reminds us that even the most challenging experiences can lead to new purpose and meaning in life.

**Dr Prem Kumar
Hyderabad**

The GSA India @75 Expo USA highlighted the beauty and significance of Indian culture through sessions on Khadi and silk handlooms. Poonam Bhatia and Ramya Nagarajiah shared their insights,

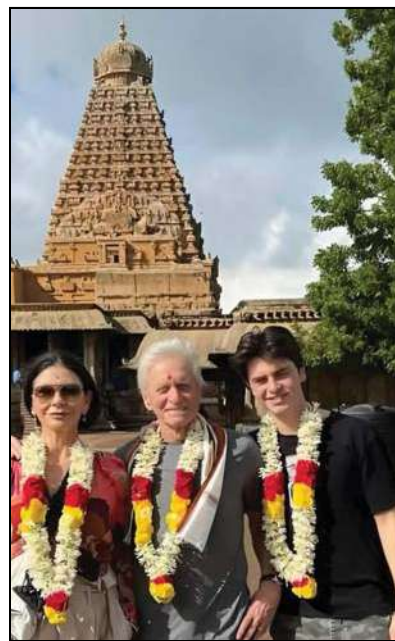


promoting cultural exchange and preserving traditional craftsmanship.

Ravi Kanth

Karina Garcia's appointment is a testament to her dedication and leadership. Her contributions to the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board will make a lasting impact on our community and our state.

James IL



Hollywood Actor Michael Douglas who recently received the Satyaji Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFI is currently touring India along with his wife Hollywood Actress Catherine Zeta Jones and son Dylan, visited the Brihadisvara temple in Thanjavur, Tamilnadu.
**Ramesh Kondalswamy
Chennai, India**



IFFCO Chairman Dileep Sanghani celebrated his daughter POONAM's wedding in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India in a fitting matter with Indian culture and ethos. I had the pleasure of attending the wedding celebrations recently and blessing the beautiful couple.
**Sanjeev Mehta BJP Spokesperson,
Gujarat State
Ahmedabad, India**



Nisha Samuel, Delhi Bureau Chief, Global Eye Magazine was recently elected as Vice President of YWCA, New Delhi. Congratulations to Ms. Nisha Samuel on winning this prestigious election.
**Rajni Chauhan R.J.
New Delhi, India**

ENVISIONING TOMORROW: CONGRESSMAN DANNY DAVIS ' INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AND \$1 BILLION IMPACT.

Embark on a journey into the world of transformative gifts with Dr. VGP's Talk Show, reaching 42 million households globally, including 2 million in Chicagoland. The 7th Congressional District of State Of Illinois is fortunate to have a PROVEN LEADER DANNY K. DAVIS who Champions Education, Health, Women, Employment, Economic Development and Unity. Congressman DANNY DAVIS is daily transforming Chicagoland with the passage of his impactful legislation and bills being passed in the U. S. House. On November 27, 2023 DAVIS's legislation on Technology in the Parks Initiative with a Federal grant for Columbus Field House was passed. On November 15, Rep. DAVIS and Feenstra honor American Education Week by championing bills to expand Education assistance program to workers and employers. On November 7, Rep. Davis honors First Generation College Celebration Day by championing bills to help first generation low income and Veteran Students succeed in College. On October 30, Rep. DAVIS announced \$177 Million for Illinois to help households with Home energy costs. On October 28, Rep. DAVIS joins HUD's Regional Office to announce \$5.5 Million for energy efficiency and climate resilience in HUD- assisted multifamily property.....

List of legislations goes on and on.... DAVIS Serving the people of Illinois' 7th Congressional district and beyond. Watch this episode featuring U. S. Congressman



DANNY K. DAVIS, a living legend with 44 years in politics, shaping the landscape of Chicago and beyond. From humble beginnings in Arkansas to becoming an influential force in Congress, Congressman DAVIS shares his remarkable journey. Discover how his childhood without electricity ignited a passion for reading, leading to a lifetime commitment to education. Dive into the era of Mayor Harold Washington and the

transformational impact of powerful women activists in Chicago's history. Learn about the genesis of the 43-year-strong Back to School parade, a symbol of Congressman DAVIS's dedication to education. Explore his tireless efforts in healthcare, bringing over \$1 billion to his district, and boasting the most educational and healthcare institutions in any congressional district nationwide. From advocating for second chances to being a visionary in early childhood education, Congressman DAVIS exemplifies determination, unity, and inclusivity. Witness the unwavering spirit of a leader who believes that the best is yet to come and aims to empower every individual toward a brighter future. Join us in celebrating the remarkable journey and vision of Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS, a beacon of hope and inspiration for his constituents and beyond.

DR VGP TALK SHOW FEATURES CHANGEMAKERS, INNOVATIVE TRENDSETTERS AND EMBRACES UNKNOWN HEROES
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<https://youtu.be/zKxtO9vgBBo?si=RLCtA0FfsACqJu9X>

Chicago's Historic Hoyt Building Set to Blossom into Pacifica of Chicago: A Riverfront Renaissance



Nestled along the scenic banks of the South Branch of the Chicago River, a storied relic of the city's industrial past is poised for a remarkable transformation. The former W.M. Hoyt Building, a testament to the architectural finesse of the Prairie-style era, has languished in vacancy for decades. However, a visionary endeavor by the Windfall Group seeks to breathe new life into this majestic edifice, rechristening it as the Pacifica of Chicago. Proposed as a four-star hotel accompanied by offices, retail spaces, a grocery store, restaurants, a spa, and even a medical center, the ambitious project promises to be a veritable gateway not just to Chinatown and Pilsen but a herald of rejuvenation for the entire area. Led by the indefatigable CEO

Eddie Ni, Windfall Group is prepared to invest between \$40 to \$50 million in the meticulous restoration of this architectural gem. Their aspiration to invoke the building's artistic heritage resonates deeply with historic preservationists. Ward Miller, the executive director of Preservation Chicago, hailed the project as a tribute to an era where industrial prowess intertwined seamlessly with artistic expression. For years, the Hoyt Building stood as a symbol of unfulfilled potential, witnessing several failed attempts at revival. Yet, the perseverance of Windfall Group, led by Judy Ni, remains undeterred. Their transformative vision envisages not just a mere renovation but a community hub, repurposing erstwhile loading docks into open arcades that embrace the river-

side ambiance. The significance of Chicago's Chinatown as a burgeoning cultural hub and its strategic proximity to the vibrant South Loop and downtown area hasn't escaped Windfall's keen eye. Their negotiations with a major hospitality brand to manage the hotel underscore their commitment to making Pacifica of Chicago a destination of choice for locals and visitors alike. The endorsement from Robert Habeeb, CEO of Maverick Hotels and Restaurants, further solidifies the potential of this development. He attests to

Chinatown's hidden allure, often underestimated by investors, citing its proximity to key business districts and its untapped potential. However, hurdles remain before this grand vision can materialize. Approvals from the Chicago Plan Commission and City Council, alongside Landmarks Commission nod for exterior renovation plans, stand as necessary checkpoints for Windfall Group's aspirations. Nonetheless, the project stands as a testament to the foresight behind establishing landmark districts such as the Cermak

Road Bridge District. Miller, in a poignant acknowledgment, recognizes the transformative power of such initiatives, underscoring the long-term impact on neighborhoods. As the Hoyt Building prepares for its rebirth as the Pacifica of Chicago, it serves as a beacon of hope, showcasing the potential for architectural rejuvenation and community revitalization. The story of this transformation epitomizes the resilient spirit of Chicago, where the echoes of the past blend harmoniously with the aspirations for a vibrant future along the majestic riverfront.



The Champagne Toast to mark the launch of Wind Fall Group's Pacifica of Chicago: Alderman Nicole Lee, State Rep. Teresa Mah, Global Eye's Dr. VGP and others join Eddie Ni, Linda Ni, and Judy Ni.



Gary Chen, C.E.O, Park to Shop Grocery chain stores, one of the key stakeholders of Pacifica of Chicago along with Creative Master Eddie Ni and his two other partners Kenny Chen and Sam Huang.



Dr. VGP, Chairman of GSA Global Eye Group Congratulates Wind Fall Group C.E.O Eddie Ni on the groundbreaking Launch. Dr. Jonathan J. Brown, Vice President, Global Strategic Alliance, Northwest Indiana looks on.



Chicago Alderman Nicole Lee, State Representative Teresa Mah, Eddie Ni, and his wife Linda Ni join others at the historic launch of Pacifica of Chicago.



Park to Shop Group C.E.O. Gary Chen is flanked by Alderman Nicole Lee, Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar, President, AMEC, and Illinois State Rep. Teresa Mah at the launch.



Sharon Wong, CEO, Century 21 Realty Associates, Paul Fishbein, M.D; Baun Realty, Dr. VGP, Gary Chen, Kenny Chen, and Sam Huang attentively view the launch.

Lianfeng Group grandly held the Chinatown Taikoo Mall project kick-off meeting



Lian Feng Group held a grand project launch meeting at Taikoo Mall in Chinatown at 2 pm on September 26 (Tuesday). The Hoyt Building (465 W Cermak) , a century-old historical building in Chinatown developed by Lian Feng Group Road) reconstruction design plan has been approved by the city government’s approval committee. SPACE Architects + Planners, a design firm with extensive experience in renovating historic buildings in Chicago, undertook this design task. The kick-off meeting was bustling with guests, and many businessmen, community leaders, and overseas Chinese attended the event. Everyone looked forward to the new development and business opportunities that Swire Malls would bring to Chicago’s Chinatown. The 280,000-square-foot building is located at the corner of Cermak Road and Canal Street, Chinatown’s main streets, adjacent to the South Branch of the Chicago River. It has a 360° panoramic view of the downtown skyline on one side and will become a four-star hotel. Excellent location. An Asian supermarket, food court, spa and medical center will also be part of this vibrant lifestyle centre. On the premise of fully retaining the appearance of the historical building, the project will carefully repair and clean the exterior facades; the

currently damaged windows will be restored according to the original design of the building; a new vehicle drop-off area will be added along Cermak Road; Riverside landscape will also be built in the area along the river. The interior will undergo extensive rearrangement and renovation, and an appropriate number of passenger and freight elevators will be added based on business functions.



Like Lian Fung Group’s other Swire Properties projects, Swire Malls will meet the growing needs of commercial, community, and cultural activities in the surrounding communities, becoming a community gathering center and a good place for

shopping and tourism. In addition, the developer has purchased some surrounding parcels for parking and additional commercial space .



Ni Juling, Chairman of Lianfeng Group, delivered a speech to thank everyone for attending the launch ceremony of the Taikoo Mall project in Chicago today. This historic 1909 landmark building has five floors and a ground floor along the river. Lian Fung Group and several local companies, including (Hong Kong Supermarket Gary Chen, Mr. Wang Honghai, Fujian Chamber of Commerce President Sam Huang, Kenny Chen and Mr. Hu Xiaojun) have embarked on a 280,000 square foot renovation plan to make it modern and vibrant Asian themed living center. At present, more than half of the space has been rented out, including a supermarket and medical center, and we are also negotiating with the Hyatt House hotel to build a star hotel on the second to fifth floors. The remaining space will house a food



court, multiple restaurants, retail stores, spas and salons, and more... Upon completion, Swire Malls will attract local and foreign tourists, extending the vitality and appeal of Chinatown. Approximately 40% of the space is



still available for lease, making this an excellent opportunity for businesses looking to expand their operations. Please seize the opportunity to join this program and embark on this exciting journey together. Thank you for being a part of this historic day, creating a new chapter in Chicago’s history, and opening a new page with Pacific Place Chicago.

District 11 Mayor Li Huihua, District 24 State Councilor Ma Jingyi, Lian Fung Group Taikoo Mall project consultant Paul Fishbein, Baum Realty Managing Director, and other guests attended the event and delivered speeches to strongly support the occupancy and renovation plan of





Lian Fung Group Taikoo Mall. It will definitely bring better vitality and development to Chinatown's future. This is really a very meaningful and exciting plan.

Chairman Ni Juling introduced partners: Chen Jianming, President of Hong Kong Parkshop Supermarket in Chicago, Huang Baozhang, President of Fujian Business Federation, and Mr. Wang Honghai, a well-known Chinese entrepreneur who develops cross-industry real estate, hotels, and building materials in the Chicago area, attended the event and delivered a speech to Swire Malls Full of confidence in future development, Pacific Mall Chicago will become a new commercial highlight in Chinatown and inject more vitality into surrounding communities.

Zheng Hao, chief architect of Lianfeng



Group, introduced this building in detail. This is a landmark building with typical industrial architectural features of the 20th century. It was built in 1909 and was originally called the Hoyt Building. It is a historical building belonging to Cermak Road Bridge. One of the groups. Lian Feng Group and several shareholders have identified that it has an excellent location on the Chicago Riverfront, close to Chinatown, and the charming downtown Chicago skyline, and plans to build it into a unique Asian-style living center, a place based on The theme of Asian culture is a gathering center that serves the community and promotes Asian culture.

Chicago Chinatown is the only Chinatown in the United States with significant population growth. Since its establishment, Chinatown has been a tourist attraction that takes pride in culture and attracts tourists. Therefore, we believe that it is very suitable to create an Asian-themed life center here. It is planned that nearly

half of the merchants will be Asian-related business formats. We have improved the design of this historical building to better meet the needs and shopping and dining experience of tourists and customers. In the northeast corner near the main intersection, a new sunken plaza is set up leading to the riverside level. Passing through the indoor commercial street, one can directly reach the riverside promenade, where people can stroll and enjoy the Chicago river view, or choose to dine on the riverside.

The main entrance of the entire Taikoo Mall is located on the ground floor. The four-star apartment hotel that is interested in moving in will have an exclusive express lobby, which can lead directly to the hotel lobby on the second floor and share an outdoor drop-off area with the mall. The main store on the first floor is an Asian supermarket, covering an area of 46,000 square feet. It has a direct entrance and exit to the mall, making it convenient for customers to shop. You can enter a food court directly from the entrance on the first floor of the mall. As we all know, Asian food culture brings infinite vitality to urban life, so we plan to introduce a variety of delicious food and beverages to Taikoo Mall. Taikoo Mall is only a 5-minute drive from McCormick Place, which is known to attract a large number of conference attendees every year, but the food options there are limited. Therefore, these distinctive Asian restaurants and food courts will attract people in McCormick Place to dine and stay while feeling the Asian flavor.

In the northeast corner of the second floor, the best place to enjoy the beautiful view of the city is the hotel lobby. There are multiple specialty restaurants on the second floor, providing guests with numerous dining options. An eye-catching and artistically gorgeous large staircase in the mall connects the river bank level, the first floor and the second floor, providing customers with a beautiful up and down experience when visiting the mall. Hotel rooms are located along the perimeter of the building from the third to fifth floors. The interior space will house a medical center and other medical office space on the third floor, and a 5,500-square-foot spa on the fourth floor, as well as more than 30 units of 13,000-square-foot salon units. A steakhouse with a



rooftop patio is planned for the fifth floor.

Staying in Ancient China Town is exciting. In the days to come, let us work together to build the future of China Town. A Chinatown full of hope and prosperity will become our common pride and heritage. thank you all!

I hope everyone will seize this excellent opportunity and build Taikoo Mall into a new landmark in Chinatown.



District 24 State Assemblywoman Ma Jingyi, Chairman of the Hualien Association He Daquan, President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Li Jianming, US-China Catering Association Chairman Zheng Shitan, President of Xintai Doors and Windows, Lei Zhengming, well-known overseas Chinese leader Ma Senzhu, Chairman of the Two Congresses, Fang Yanhui, Chairman of the Huang Clan Association, Huang Yongshen, Director of the Chinatown Better Unity Alliance, Chen Benen, President of the Wuyi Hometowns Association, Zhou Qunhou, fellow Zhongshan fellows Association president Mai Haolan, Chinese American Museum Mei Sulan, Asian Museum Huang Hui, Hubin Bank Vice President Huang Yuwen and other overseas Chinese leaders attended the event.

Group photo of guests: Linda Sui, one of the shareholders, Wang Honghai, a well-known Chinese entrepreneur, Li Jianming, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Lei Zhengming, president of Xintai Doors and Windows, Gao Yufeng, director of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Members of the Board of Directors of Lian Fung Group and guests took a group photo and opened champagne



Zheng Zheng, COO of Lianfeng Group, thanked everyone for coming and introduced the guests attending the event: District 11 Mayor Li Huihua,





to celebrate the launch of the Swire Malls Chinatown project Former Miss Chinatown Liang Huijia (right) and Lianfeng Group COO Zheng Zheng took a group photo at the exhibitionCurrently, the investment promotion of Pacific Mall is in full swing. Welcome to negotiate business or lease: 630-423-6031 , email: info@windfallusa.com and log on to the website www.pacificachicago.com&p





PROPERTY FEATURES

Introducing Pacifica of Chicago, a meticulously crafted redevelopment, situated along the South branch of the Chicago River and at the intersection of Cermak & South Canal Street.

This project encompasses an expansive mixed-use lifestyle hub featuring a covered riverfront walkway, a grocery store, riverfront access, retail, dining establishments, entertainment options, a medical center and a 4-star extended stay hotel, catering to a diverse range of needs creating a vibrant and enriching environment for visitors.

- Spanning an impressive approx. 280,000 SF
- Within close proximity to highly coveted neighborhoods such as Chinatown, Pilsen, South Loop, and Bronzeville
- Excellent connectivity through Chicago L-Train/Subway and multiple bus routes

PACIFICA SQUARE | **WINDFALL GROUP** | **CENTURY 21** | **H M C**

HISTORY

Rising five stories above ground and a lower level with river access, the Hoyt warehouse building was erected in 1909 for the namesake grocery wholesaler. Designed by Nimmons & Fellows, the Prairie-style structure is located within the Cermak Road Bridge District which houses the city's only double leaf rolling bridge. It's elegant design and enduring presence have made it an iconic landmark, capturing the essence of Chicago's architectural heritage.

Today, the Hoyt Building continues to stand as a cherished piece of Chicago's architectural fabric, embodying the city's rich past while embracing the future. Now the area is well known for the Pilsen district marketplace and Radius Chicago music venue, all within walking distance from the heart of Chinatown and CTA Redline.

PACIFICA SQUARE | **WINDFALL GROUP** | **CENTURY 21** | **H M C**

POTENTIAL USES

- SUPERMARKET
- HOTEL
- SPA
- BANQUET
- EVENT SPACE
- FOOD HALL
- RESTAURANTS
- CAFE
- BAR
- KARAOKE
- ART STUDIO
- RIVERFRONT ACTIVITIES
- PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- PETS SPA
- VETERINARY CENTER
- ARCADE
- SHARED KITCHEN
- COMMUNITY CENTER
- NAIL / FACIAL / BEAUTY SALON
- BANK / FINANCIAL CENTER
- MEDICAL CENTER
- FITNESS CENTER
- CO-WORKING SPACE

PACIFICA SQUARE | **WINDFALL GROUP** | **CENTURY 21** | **H M C**

OUR STORY

Dedicated to honoring our Asian heritage, Pacifica of Chicago will be a one-stop asian lifestyle center committed to providing you with unique cultural and shopping experiences.

As part of the Windfall Group, we pride ourselves in creating a multicultural destination that will strengthen the Lower West side of Chicago through asian-inspired cuisine, shopping, leisure and entertainment.

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DEMOGRAPHICS

RADIUS (DRIVE TIME)	POPULATION	MEDIAN HOUSE HOLD INCOME	AVG. HOUSE HOLD INCOME
15 MINS	803,708	\$81,400	\$130,272
30 MINS	3,100,242	\$84,735	\$125,725
45 MINS	5,347,140	\$90,764	\$129,060

RADIUS (MILES)	POPULATION	MEDIAN HOUSE HOLD INCOME	AVG. HOUSE HOLD INCOME
1 MILE	47,134	\$93,743	\$128,246
3 MILES	337,890	\$112,179	\$158,918
5 MILES	859,620	\$99,295	\$146,225

SOURCE: ESRI FORECASTS FOR 2022 AND 2027, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU 2010 DECENNIAL, CENSUS DATA CONVERTED BY ESRI INTO 2020 GEOGRAPHY.

PACIFICA SQUARE | **WINDFALL GROUP** | **CENTURY 21** | **H M C**

TRAFFIC

VPD	TRANSIT/SUBWAY	PROXIMITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark ST: 24,200 • W 18th ST: 15,400 • S Canal ST: 9,500 • I-90: 215,500 • Roosevelt Rd: 32,500 • W Cermak Rd: 11,100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 min walk to Cermak-Chinatown Station (Red Line) • 23 min walk to Halsted Station (Orange Line) • 6 min drive to McCormick Place Station (Metra Electric, South Shore Lines) • 6 min drive to 18th Street Station • 2 min drive to Roosevelt Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 min drive to Pilsen • 3 min drive to UIC • 5 min walk to Chinatown • 5 min drive to McCormick Place Convention Center • 6 min drive to Amazon Distribution Center • 5 min drive to 78 Chicago • 6 min drive to Soldier Field • 10 min drive to Chicago Downtown • 15 mins drive to Chicago Midway International Airport • 30 mins drive to Chicago O'Hare International Airport

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AERIAL

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FUTURE PROJECTS/ DEVELOPMENTS

THE 78 PROJECT
\$7 billion mixed-use project for 62-acre site along South Branch of the Chicago River near South Side. It will fuse new homes, commercial enterprises, cultural events, academia and outdoor recreational space.

ONE CENTRAL CHICAGO
\$20 billion mixed-use project would support up to a dozen mixed-use skyscrapers with 9,000 residential units, 11 million sq ft of office and retail space, and multi-modal transit hub.

BRONZEVILLE LAKEFRONT DEVELOPMENT
\$3.8 billion 48-acre lakefront megadevelopment will offer mixed-income housing, retail, a welcoming center and a life sciences center. It's expected to be completed by 2035.

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CONTACT US

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331.465.1113

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REAL ESTATE



SPAC



IMPORT & MANUFACTURING



EDUCATION



FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE



KITCHEN CABINETS & COUNTERTOPS



LIGHTING (ENERGY SAVING REBATE PROGRAM)



Senior Living, Retirement Community

CURRENT PROJECTS



PACIFICA SQUARE (RENOVATION & NEW CONSTRUCTION)

THEMED LIFESTYLE CENTER
AURORA, IL



INTERNATIONAL HUB (RENOVATION)

ONE-STOP SHOPPING DINING ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION
CHICAGO, IL



WINDFALL FLATS (NEW CONSTRUCTION)

LUXURY DOWNTOWN LIVING
QUEENS, NY



PACIFICA CHAMPAIGN (NEW CONSTRUCTION)

CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING
CHAMPAIGN, IL



PACIFICA BURNSVILLE (RENOVATION & NEW CONSTRUCTION)

INTERNATIONAL FRESH MARKET & FOOD HALL
BURNSVILLE, MN

WWW.WINDFALLUSA.COM

DR. VGP VISITS B.A.P.S. SWAMINARAYAN AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE IN NEW JERSEY ON EVE OF THE GRAND OPENING.

Shivam Viswanathan, Global Eye's Chief Community Officer curated this transcription of the Talk Show. Naveenchandra Karna, Chief Information Officer, Global Eye Magazine videographed the Talk Show in Robbinsville, New Jersey on October 7, 2023.



Hello and welcome to the Dr. VGP Talk Show.

Hello and welcome to the Dr. VGP Talk Show, that reaches 42 million people, including 2 million households in the United States of America.

DR.VGP:

We're here today to take you on an experience, you would never see before: a historic epic visit to the grand opening of the **world's largest Hindu temple**, the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville, New Jersey. Just behind me, you see the **Lord Swami Narayan**

statue, 11 feet high. Lord Swami Narayana was in Vedic pose when he was 11 years old in the Himalayas. He stood like that for one whole month. Join me as we enjoy this mystic, mesmerizing experience at BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, Robbinsville, New Jersey.

DR.VGP:

Here at the welcome center of the Maha Mandir BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, you can see the **great Pramuk Swami Maharaj**, whose vision has brought this world's second largest Hindu temple to life, along with Swami Mahant, the current Guru of the BAPS

Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple. It's such a majestic presence to be in this welcome center with its architectural design, never seen anywhere in the world. Now we're going to meet one of the media volunteers, CHAITALI INAMDAR who's going to talk to us more about the making behind the scenes of the world's largest Hindu temple today.

DR. VGP:

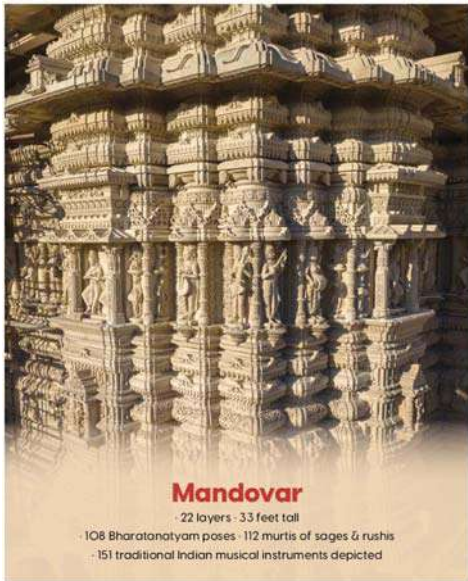
Here is a confluence of waters brought from 108 rivers in India, including the holy Ganges. As you can see, this large expanse welcomes you to the **world's 8th wonder of the World the BAPS**

Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple, the Maha Mandir, in Robbinsville, New Jersey.

CHAITALI INAMDAR: I'd like to actually hand it over to Mr. Anil Barot, who invited you here from Chicago, to share a little bit more about **BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Mandir**.

Anil Barot: Dr. Vijay G.Prabhakar -DR VGP, thank you very much for coming out.

This is just a phenomenal opportunity. As we open the BAPS Akshardham in North America, this is just one step closer to us seeing reality through all of our volunteers. **We call this the festival of inspiration.** It's really to inspire the youth that



Mandovar

22 layers - 33 feet tall
108 Bharatanatyam poses - 112 murtis of sages & rishis
151 traditional Indian musical instruments depicted



Locations:

- 1. Nilkanth Plaza
- 2. Brahma Kund
- 3. Welcome Center
- 4. Akshardham Mahamandir
- 5. Parikrama
- 6. Museum
- 7. Gift Shop
- 8. Shayona Cafe

have put in a lot of effort, time, dedication, and service in what we call "Sewa" in many different ways. It's really to inspire the youth to take it to the next level, so thank you very much, It's been a pleasure to have you. I know we answered a lot of your questions. You're always welcome to come back here at any time. You'll see this continue to grow and be open to the public, and I and we welcome everyone and anyone of all faiths.

Dr. VGP: Anil ji, We are indebted to you for bringing us over here to see this **incredible work of architecture and faith in action**, as I said earlier, an embodiment of divinity and diversity together. Thank you so much for having us.

Anil Barot: Thank you very much for coming out.

Dr. VGP: We are here today with Chaitali Inamdar, one of the media volunteers from

New Jersey, and Chaitali is part of the volunteerism in BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, which is one of the hallmarks of BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham temples. There are 12,000 volunteers in North America; they are from all different professions, including doctors, engineers, hotel owners, businessmen, and youth. Youth is the vital link, which I observed during my visit here yesterday, today, and also back home in India. The vibrancy with which they have involved the youth is something, I think no other sect or religion across the world has done. So happy to have Chaitali with us today. Welcome to the **Dr. VGP Talk Show**, that reaches 42 million households, including 2 million in the United States of America. Chaitali, tell us more about this magnificent temple, which I call the eighth wonder of the world.

Chaitali Inamdar: Thank you so much. It's an honor to be on your talk show, so I really appreciate you having us on. Behind us is actually the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham reporting live, if I can say so, and in front of us, we also have the two reflection ponds, which make up the serenity and tranquility of the entire campus. I can share a little bit about the journey or the process of how the Maha Mandir has been pieced together. You know, we have four different types of stone that have gone into the making of this entire Maha Mandir, including the parikrama that, in fact, we're standing in today. So, the parikrama is made from sandstone, and the Maha Mandir is made from limestone, marble, and granite.

Dr. VGP: So Parikramas are the columns, the archways that are going right around the whole magnificent temple, and look at the intricate carvings that are there.

Chaitali: And I would love to add that you know there's so much symbolism that you'll find in any Hindu Mandir across the world, and especially here we find the symbolism in the parikrama that almost serves as a garland around the Maha mandir or a garland around God if you will, and the details that you see from each of the mutris (statues) that align the parikrama; they're holding a unique musical instrument, so again celebrating the Indian heritage culture, art, and literature all across this campus.

Dr VGP: Chaitali, I think in the monument there are **over 10,000 statues here in the Maha Mandir, and there are 108 poses of the classical Indian dance Bharatanatyam and 151 musical instruments sculptured here, right?**

Chaitali: Yes, you got that right. They're actually all aligning the main outer wall of the Maha Mandir that's behind us, and so the mandir has these beautifully intricate carvings, murtis in the 108 mudras of Bharatnatyam, and unique Indian classical instruments, 151 of them.

Dr. VGP: Tell us how long and how many



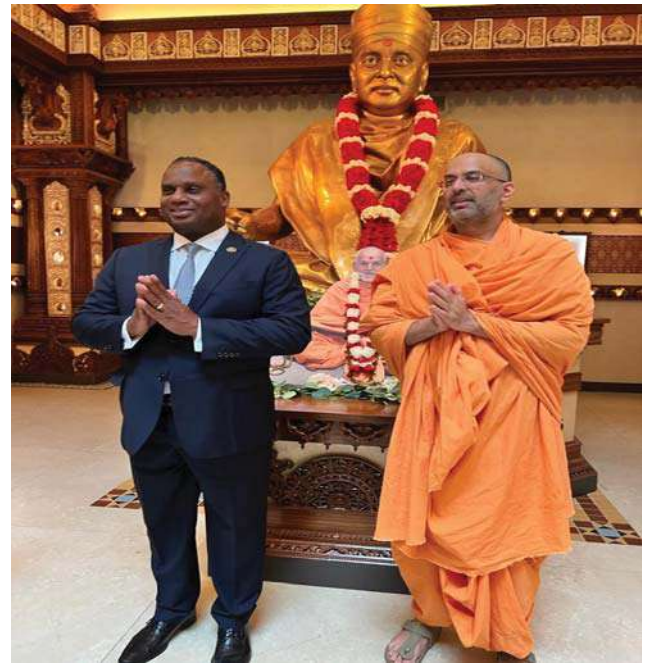
years it took to build this magnificent Hindu temple.

Chaitali: Yes, so it took about 12 years in the making, and it was the culmination of, you know, efforts, and more than efforts, I would say, the seva and bhakti of the 12,500 volunteers who came together from different walks of life from different parts of the world to make this construction of the Maha mandir come to reality.

Dr. VGP: So, it's a spiritual enlightenment of divinity and devotion that has brought us to this masterpiece, a monument to humanity. Tell us what Swami Pramukh Maharaj's vision was in 2013 when he laid the first brick for this 8th wonder of the world.

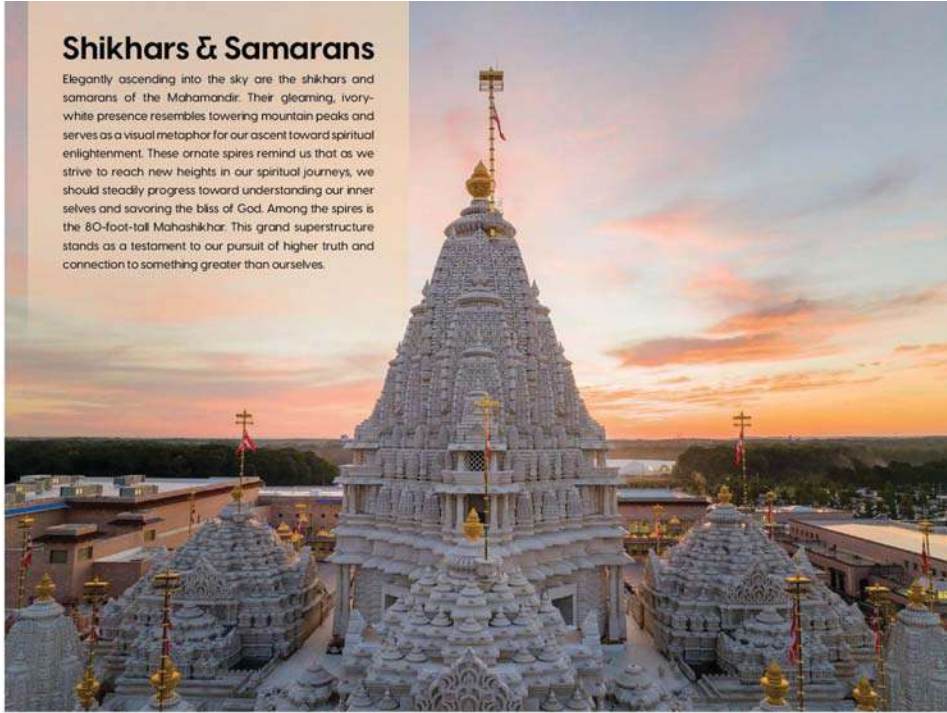
Chaitali: Pramukh Swami Maharaj, as you may know, was the **fifth spiritual successor of Baghavan Swaminarayan**, to whom this entire campus is dedicated and in fact, his last wish or his last project, if you will In his mind, his vision was to create a place that provides peace and inspiration to all who visit, irrespective of their faith, irrespective of their beliefs or background. As you know, it was meant to be a place that inspires everybody to





Shikhars & Samarans

Elegantly ascending into the sky are the shikhars and samarans of the Mahamandir. Their gleaming, ivory-white presence resembles towering mountain peaks and serves as a visual metaphor for our ascent toward spiritual enlightenment. These ornate spires remind us that as we strive to reach new heights in our spiritual journeys, we should steadily progress toward understanding our inner selves and savoring the bliss of God. Among the spires is the 80-foot-tall Mahashikhar. This grand superstructure stands as a testament to our pursuit of higher truth and connection to something greater than ourselves.



lead a good life and gives that peace and tranquility from the usual hustle and bustle of the daily life that we are often surrounded by.

Dr VGP: You know when you speak,

you're so vibrant, and one of the things that touches me the most about the BAPS movement all over the world is that you all have **1200 temples in 52 countries.** I guess the fabric is youth like

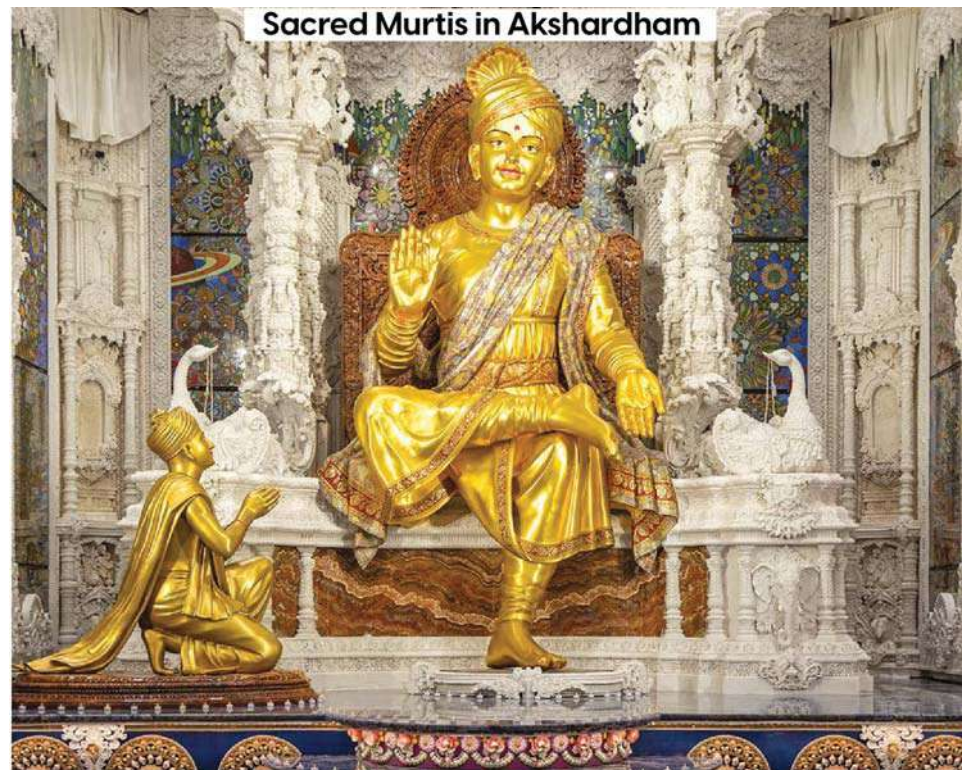


yourself. Tell us what the different youth empowerment programs are, how youth are invited into Hindu culture, and what's the magic of BAPS in getting the youth involved.

Chaitali: I would say it's a connection from the heart. When you think about having a mandir like this in the United States on American soil, it is truly a sense of pride and belonging for so many, like myself. It strengthens our cultural identity and allows us to feel this sense of connection and belonging, you know, to our rich heritage. So **mandirs preserve and nurture that culture for us**, and for that, we're very grateful. I would like to add that I recently had the opportunity to be a part of the Mahila Din, where it was celebrating women's contributions across the nation and everywhere around the world as well and I got to be a part of that and it was just so empowering to see the women; in fact, we celebrated stories of women who were actively involved in the construction. So you're talking about women who drove all around the site, who

helped in the stone work, who helped in the assembly of the stone in making this mandir, and it was just so empowering to hear that we can truly celebrate the spirit of service, you know, irrespective of gender, and feel that empowerment.

Dr VGP: You're absolutely right on the mark; that was my next question. To see the involvement of women in the construction, we actually saw a women driving trucks, and my good friend Anil Barot from Schaumburg, IL, whose wife was part of the women volunteer group, came here and camped. She did the whole corridor you can see around the temple, and that shows action speaks louder than words. I don't think anywhere else in the world you see the volunteers, the millions of volunteers who are putting in their time and effort not only across America but also people from India who have come to make this magnificent 8th wonder of the world. It's never been seen anywhere, and I would like to salute you and all the volunteers here. I think one of the things we all take away and must learn from BAPS is the



Sacred Murtis in Akshardham

Parabrahma Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan, Aksharbrahma Shri Gunatitanand Swami

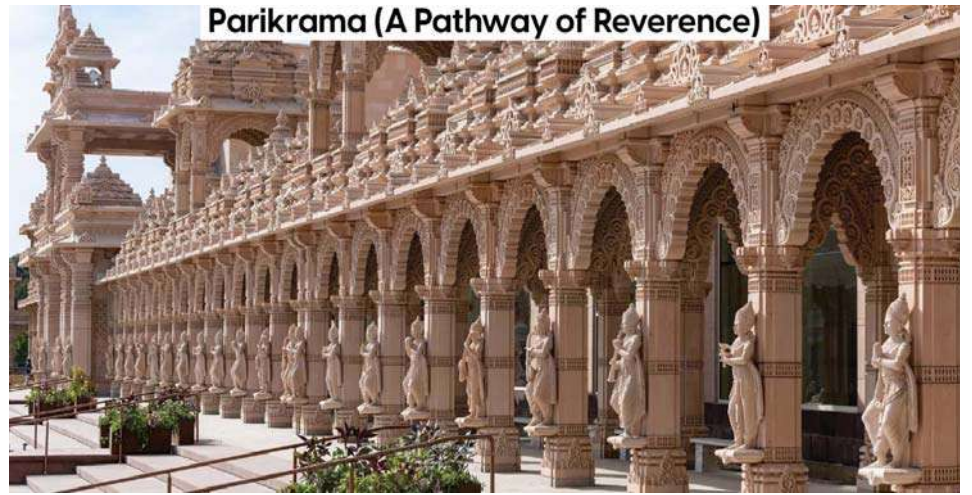
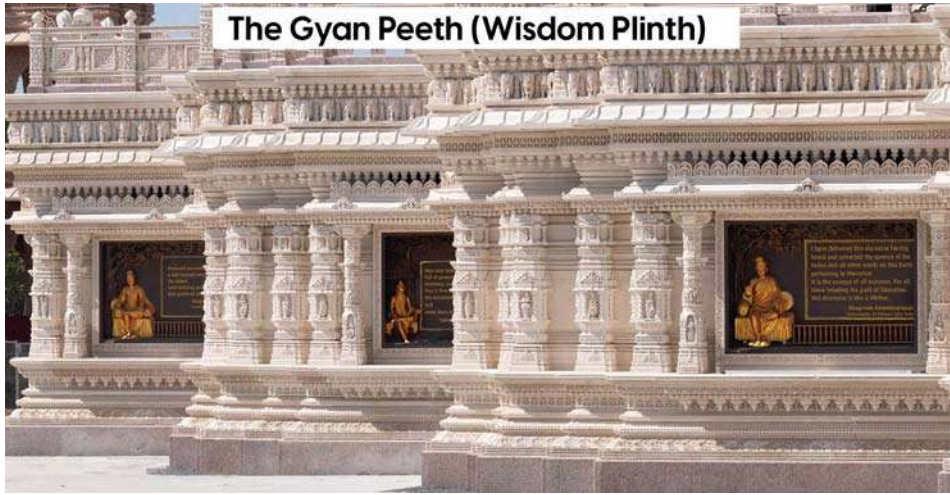


Bhagwan Shri Krishna, Shri Radhaji

Bhagwan Shri Shiv, Shri Parvati, Shri Kartikeyaji, Shri Ganeshi

Bhagwan Shri Ram, Shri Sita, Shri Lakshmanji, Shri Hanumanji

Bhagwan Shri Venkateshwara, Shri Padmavati



sense of volunteerism. You all are selfless to the letter and spirit, very sincere, and very passionate. I was trying to rope in as many BAPS leaders to come on this talk show, and each of them politely declined, saying we do not want to be in front of cameras; we are here for the passion. I would like to salute each and every one of the 12,500 volunteers who made this happen and come alive. It's a historic moment in global history today, and this embodiment, as Congressman Jonathan Jackson was visiting here said, is a testament to faith and action, and this will serve as a global center for unity and peace and let everyone experience peace through Swami Pramukh Maharaj's vision, which is brought to life in a magnificent manner. Seeing is believing.

DR.VGP :What would you like to tell our viewers about the hallmark highlights of this Maha Mandir?

Chaitali: Having been involved in this project for the length of time that I have and my understanding of Swami Maharaj's vision to make this maha mandir in the first place, it's a fact that it wasn't meant to compete against any benchmarks or create new benchmarks even. It was a simple, humble vision that you know, it's a symbol of love and devotion in this Maha Mandir, and so everybody who has come together has felt it in the making, and his vision is that for everybody who comes to visit here on and in the future also experiences that some love and devotion, so I would love it if everybody's able to make some time and come out and experience this magnificent Maha Mandir for yourselves.

Dr VGP: Absolutely, we are on the eve of the inauguration, the grand opening by Swami Mahant, the current Guru of BAPS. While talking to **Siddarth**, who was a part of the media team who brought **Chaitali** talk to us, we also noticed there are 11,000 LED lamps highlighting all over in the mandir, which is so beautiful and that signifies the Festival of Lights, Diwali Festival, and the intricate marble carvings of stone where even the pleats, the brocades, and the jewels which are there, are truly incredible, and the way the whole thing has been planned, we also met the architect Sanjeev . It was exciting to know that the **first Hindu temple in the whole world in a Muslim country is being built by BAPS**, and the grand opening is on February 14 in Dubai. That's another groundbreaking event, bringing the world and nations together, and we really thank Lord Swami Narayana for his spiritual essence, which has to be replicated by all the other religions of the world today. **Inclusivity is as important as divinity, and that's being shown in an unpar-**



alleled manner here today.

Chaitali: Add to that, I would say you know there's this theme of being **embedded in Tradition but embracing Innovation.**

Dr. VGP: Please repeat that, **embedded in Tradition and embracing Innovation !** How well said.

Chaitali: and to that, you know the best example I can share is the **wisdom** that's actually the foundation of the entire Maha Mandir that you see behind us now. **The wisdom shared by quoting is the messages and teachings from all the leaders, all the religions including**

you know, people of the past, great thinkers, and philosophers of the past. We have Martin Luther King ...

Dr. VGP: Yes, I was just going to say we saw that ...

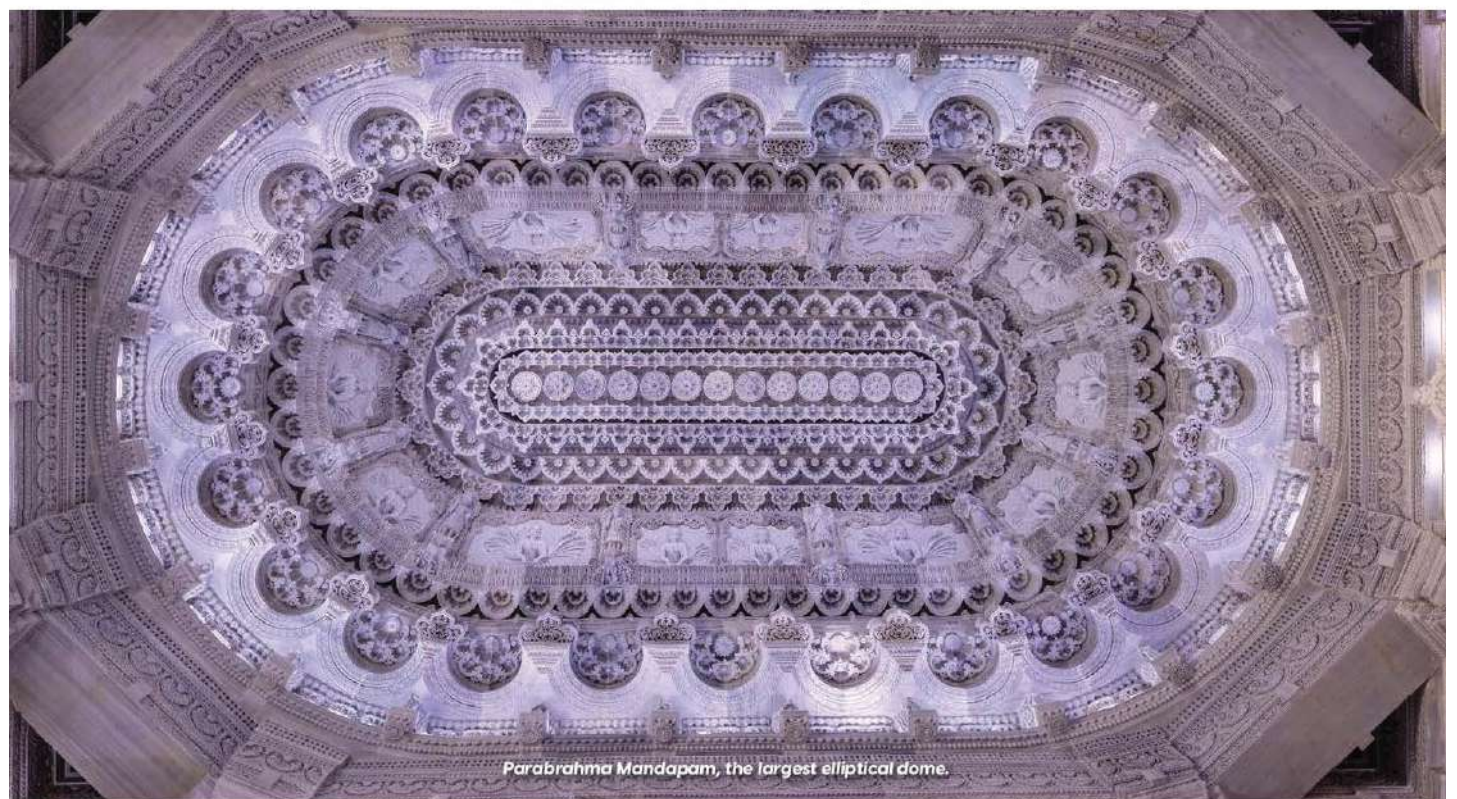
Chaitali: Yes, and it's so inclusive; it's meant to share the spirit that everything good is celebrated here, and, you know, make all good thoughts from all across the world come to us. We're not restricting ourselves to one community, one diaspora, one nation even, for extending that love and gratitude for all the greatness and positivity in the world.

Dr. VGP: Chaitali, you said it so well.

Yesterday we had the tremendous historic opportunity of meeting **Swami Ram Vihari, who is the global chief liaison for governmental and public relations, along with Congressman Jonathan Jackson, and he recalled that on January 29th, 2008, the US Civil Rights leader and living legend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson Senior**, whose birthday happens to be tomorrow, October 8th, and his son Jonathan Jackson met Swami Ram Vihari in the BAPS Delhi Temple, and they were overjoyed with a tremendous reunion after 15 years. Could you tell us what's the significance of October 8th, 2023, tomorrow, when the grand opening takes place?

Chaitali: I can only say a few words because the feeling is truly inexplicable for so many of us who have been a part of these efforts over the last 12 years. You know it's a milestone; it's a historic moment in time that will be etched in our hearts. These stones, you know, there are stones behind us but **each of these stones have had life breathed into them** through the spirit of volunteers, through the spirit of our gurus, and through the lessons and messages of humility that

Akshardham Mahamandir Interior Parabrahma Mandapam



Paramhansa Mandapam



greatest embodiment of peace and unity is being opened in Robbinsville, New Jersey. I think everyone across the world should come, and we at Global Eye Magazine pledge to showcase this to all, not only our 42 million viewers but every Head of State, Congressman, Jonathan Jackson, who is a member of the Foreign Service Committee has visited and vowed to bring all the heads of state here.

DR.VGP :Chaitali, thank you so much for joining us. I mean it's been a tremendous force behind all this, and I'm sure this is going to be a big blast for the grand opening. We would like to again salute the volunteers, all the Swamis, there are over 100 swamis who have come from India for this historic celebration. There are over 12,000 volunteers across America who joined this edifice

monument. Again, I would like to tell you all that **seeing is believing.** My first attempt at looking and being here, left me absolutely speechless, and I say this from the bottom of my heart. To see the stone sing literally, Yogi in a book which was released yesterday (*If stones could sing: A Hindu American story of service and devotion. Robbinsville, NJ: Akshardhampith., by Yogi Trivedi, a scholar of Hinduism at Columbia University*) and we read through that the **stones here rightfully so, sing** and this is a monument never been seen before in 600 years of history. It is the world's second largest Maha Mandir of Hindu temple, I would say the **world's largest global Center of Peace and Unity, where Diversity and Divinity meet.** Thank you so much,

Chaitali, for joining us, and I'm sure all our viewers would visit. You can browse the website of Akshardham Temple for details. **The Temple is open to the public from October 18th, and this episode of DR VGP TALK SHOW will be air from December 13,2023 worldwide.** Thank you so much for having us on the show. May God bless you and all the followers of BAPS Swami Narayan, especially we are sure that Maharaj Pramukh Swami Ji who celebrated his 100th birthday last year, is with us in spirit as we open this Center for Humanity, the Monument of Humanity, which will be the global Center for Peace and Unity, blending diversity and Divinity. Thank you all so much.

Chaitali: Thank you so much!

they have shared with us time and time again

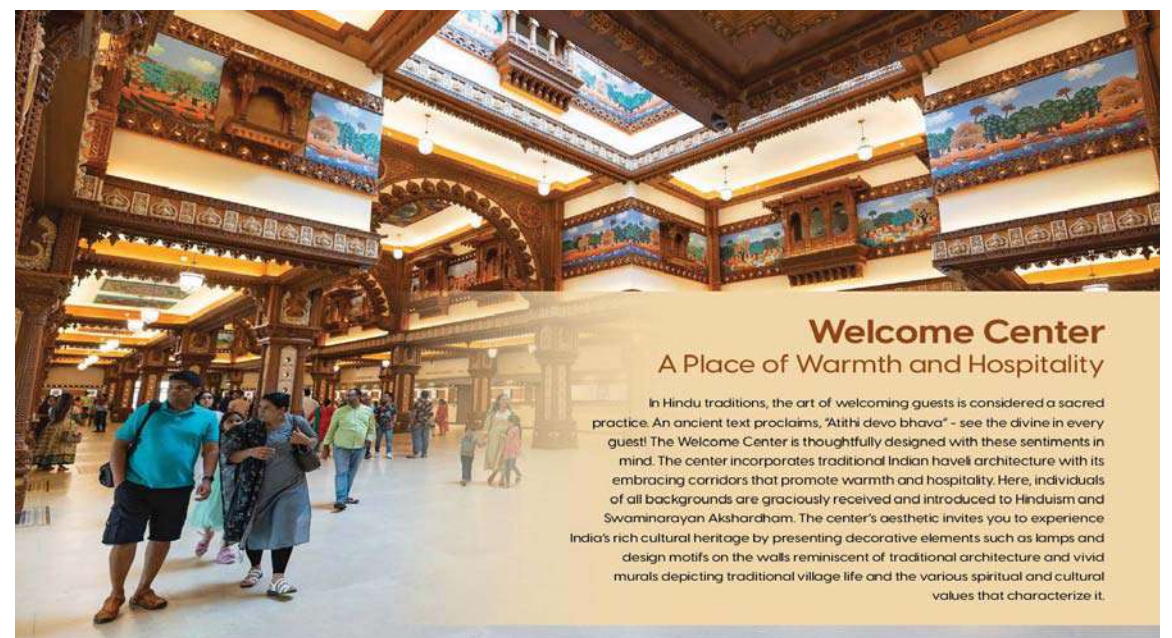
Dr. VGP: Is October 8th the birthday of one of the gurus?

Chaitali: Yes, so we're actually celebrating Mahant Swami Maharaj's birthday as well, according to the Indian calendar.

Dr. VGP: Swami Mahant is the Maharaj as the current Guru whom we met yesterday and blessed us. We like to thank all the volunteers especially **Mr. Anil Barot from Schaumburg, IL** who forcefully brought us here under our tight schedule and made Congressman Jonathan Jackson come here and the passion which he did it! I mean,

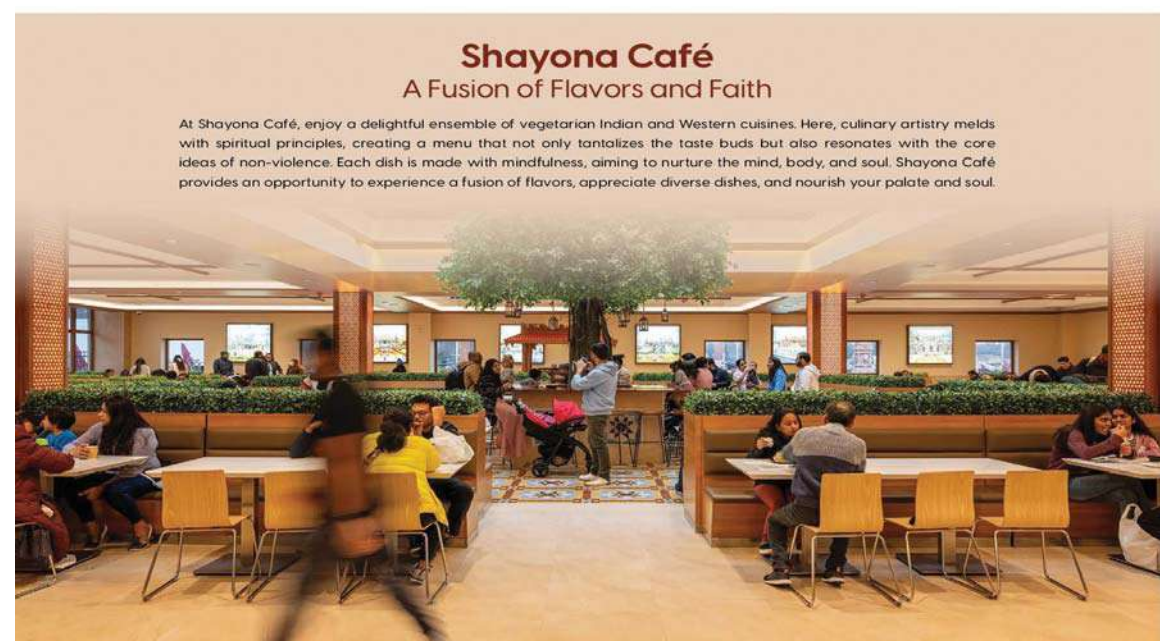
believe it or not, we have to now called it 'the Anil Barot syndrome' because he is insistently called us not 20 times about 40 times a day, to make this happen. At times, we were feeling so bad that we could not answer these calls but he bugged us to the borderline of harassment to make sure Congressman come here. Yes, it's well worth the visit and we want to salute him and thank Anil ji, without him we would have missed out on this great historic happening today.

DR.VGP: **Israel is going to war today with the Hamas; Ukraine and Russia are involved in a war, but here the world's**



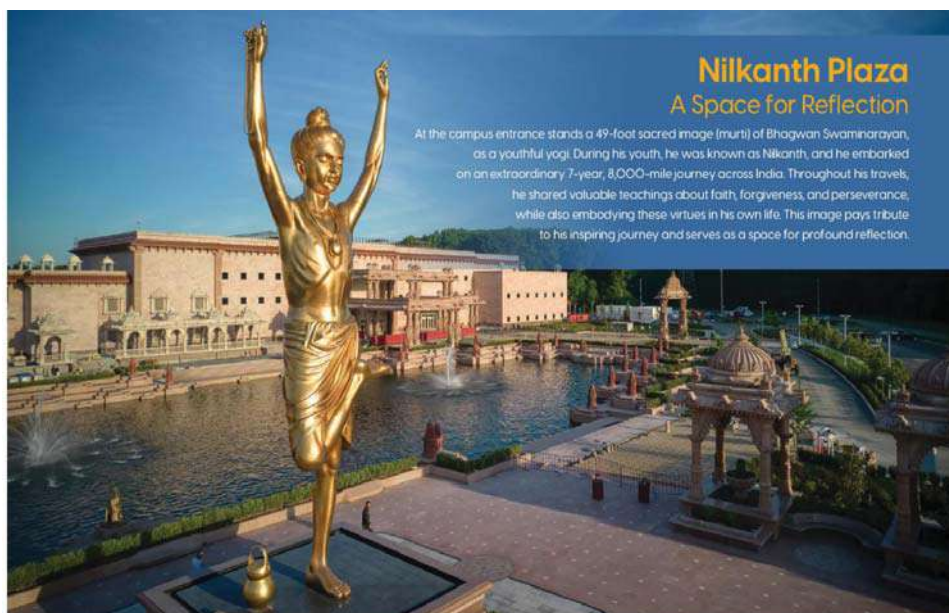
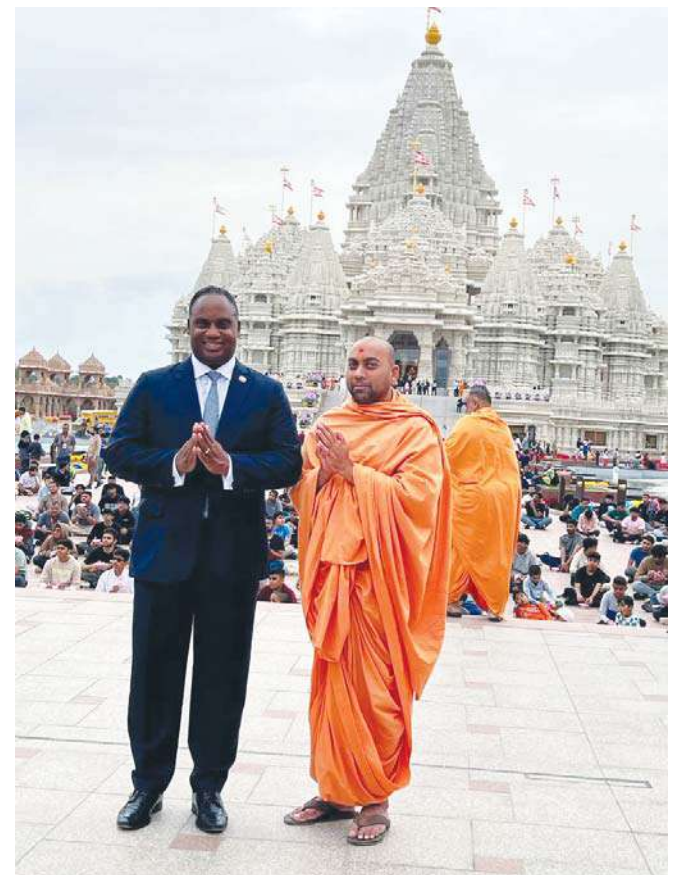
Welcome Center
A Place of Warmth and Hospitality

In Hindu traditions, the art of welcoming guests is considered a sacred practice. An ancient text proclaims, "Atithi devo bhava" - see the divine in every guest! The Welcome Center is thoughtfully designed with these sentiments in mind. The center incorporates traditional Indian haveli architecture with its embracing corridors that promote warmth and hospitality. Here, individuals of all backgrounds are graciously received and introduced to Hinduism and Swaminarayan Akshardham. The center's aesthetic invites you to experience India's rich cultural heritage by presenting decorative elements such as lamps and design motifs on the walls reminiscent of traditional architecture and vivid murals depicting traditional village life and the various spiritual and cultural values that characterize it.



Shayona Café
A Fusion of Flavors and Faith

At Shayona Café, enjoy a delightful ensemble of vegetarian Indian and Western cuisines. Here, culinary artistry melds with spiritual principles, creating a menu that not only tantalizes the taste buds but also resonates with the core ideas of non-violence. Each dish is made with mindfulness, aiming to nurture the mind, body, and soul. Shayona Café provides an opportunity to experience a fusion of flavors, appreciate diverse dishes, and nourish your palate and soul.



Nilkanth Plaza
A Space for Reflection

At the campus entrance stands a 49-foot sacred image (murti) of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, as a youthful yogi. During his youth, he was known as Nilkanth, and he embarked on an extraordinary 7-year, 8,000-mile journey across India. Throughout his travels, he shared valuable teachings about faith, forgiveness, and perseverance, while also embodying these virtues in his own life. This image pays tribute to his inspiring journey and serves as a space for profound reflection.



Brahma Kund
A Traditional Stepped Pond

The Brahma Kund, which foregrounds Swaminarayan Akshardham, is a traditional Indian stepped pond that brims with water from 108 of India's holy rivers and the waters flowing through the fifty states of the US. This reservoir pays tribute to our planet's precious resources and expresses reverence for nature within Hinduism by representing the rivers as sacred beings in their personified forms. It inspires visitors to pause and experience the beauty of nature and its divine creator.



CHILDREN'S HOME OF HOPE

“ LIFE becomes meaningful...it comes alive when LOVE is freely shared with the Hope of building new lives.

”



The Children's Home of Hope, Maduravoyal, Chennai, India, is a Residential Home with an inhouse Primary School and was established in 1970. The vision of the Home is to provide healthy children of leprosy patients, orphans and destitute children of single parents with nourishing food, shelter, a safe environment, education and above all shower them with LOVE.

The old CHOH building, being about 40 years old, was badly damaged and had to be demolished in 2010. In its place, by God's grace, now stands a new building, which almost 100 children call their Home.

A core focus of the Home is to provide the children with an all-round Education. The children are educated to their fullest potential to be a well rounded citizen in tomorrow's world. We have children doing B.E, BBA, B.Com, B.C.A, B.A, B.P.E, B.P.T, Dip. in Nursing and other Vocational courses.

We request Corporate and Individual Sponsors to share in the joy of helping us give new life to these budding young ones. These children's lives are precious ... and no contribution is too small.

This has been a blessed fulfilling journey for almost 5 decades and we don't intend to stop. We would love to have you join us on this journey and to be a blessing to many....

We would love to have you visit us. More information and video clips are on our website.



CHILDREN'S HOME OF HOPE
#288, Poonamallee High Road,
Maduravoyal, Chennai- 600 095,
India

www.chohindia.org

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JUWAIRIYA MOHIDEEN IN SRI LANKA WINS THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA GINETTA SAGAN AWARD

The Ginetta Sagan Award recognizes and assists women who are working to protect the liberty and lives of women and children in areas where human rights violations are widespread.

THE AWARD RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, OFTEN AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK.

Enhances the recipient's ability to live and work freely, and protects the recipient's capacity to continue her work, by bringing a new level of international attention to her accomplishments and the obstacles she faces. Brings increased international scrutiny to the crisis, region or issue for

which the recipient works. The Ginetta Sagan Award emphasizes that more human rights work must be done by and for women. The annual award grant of \$20,000 is given in recognition of individual accomplishment but also in the belief that it will serve as a beacon of hope to women everywhere who are fighting for human rights. The Award is intended to help women throughout the world in their struggle to overcome oppression, to let them know that they are not alone.

ABOUT GINETTA

"Ginetta Sagan's name is synonymous with the fight for human rights around the world. She represents to all the triumph

of the human spirit over tyranny." –Bill Clinton

Ginetta Sagan, former honorary Chair of the Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA, devoted her life to defending the rights of those who were unfairly persecuted by repressive governments. Ginetta was born in Italy and was active in the anti-fascist Italian resistance movement during WWII. She was captured and tortured in 1945, but escaped on the eve of her execution. She later moved to the United States, where she founded 75 Amnesty International chapters around the country. As an advocate of human

rights, she traveled widely, often to countries where her life was endangered. She researched and wrote meticulous reports about the abuses that she observed, serving as a witness and public voice of the oppressed. She inspired countless others to follow in her footsteps. As an activist and educator, she was instrumental in saving the lives of hundreds of prisoners of conscience. Ginetta's commitment to human rights serves as her legacy to future generations.

"SILENCE IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE IS COMPLICITY WITH THE OPPRESSOR" – GINETTA SAGAN

2023 AWARD WINNERS

2023 – JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA, POLAND

JUSTYNA WYDRZYŃSKA IS A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AND DOULA. SHE CO-FOUNDED THE ABORTION DREAM TEAM, AN ACTIVIST COLLECTIVE CAMPAIGNING AGAINST ABORTION STIGMA AND OFFERING ADVICE ON ACCESSING SAFE ABORTION IN POLAND, WHERE ABORTION LAWS ARE AMONG THE MOST RESTRICTIVE IN EUROPE. IN MARCH 2023, JUSTYNA WAS CONVICTED FOR HELPING A WOMAN IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP ACCESS A SAFE ABORTION. DEMONSTRATING HER COURAGE DESPITE THE HOSTILITY SHE FACES, JUSTYNA SAYS: "I WAS DRIVEN BY THE WILL TO HELP WHEN NO ONE ELSE WANTED TO OR COULD HELP. FOR ME, HELPING [HER] WAS AN OBVIOUS, DECENT, AND HONEST THING TO DO." DESPITE THE THREATS TO HER, INCLUDING HER CONVICTION, JUSTYNA CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR WOMEN AND PEOPLE WHO CAN GET PREGNANT IN POLAND TO BE ABLE TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR REPRODUCTIVE LIVES.



2023 – JUWAIRIYA MOHIDEEN, SRI LANKA

HAILING FROM THE VILLAGE OF ERUKKALAMPIDDI, JUWAIRIYA MOHIDEEN WAS COMPELLED TO LEAVE HER HOME IN 1990 DURING THE EXPULSION OF MUSLIMS IN NORTHERN SRI LANKA, AND RELOCATED TO PUTTALAM IN THE NORTHWESTERN REGION AS AN INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON. DESPITE NUMEROUS CHALLENGES, JUWAIRIYA BECAME AN ACTIVIST, FOUNDED THE MUSLIM WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT TRUST AND JOINING THE WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK, WHICH ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN'S AND MARGINALIZED INDIVIDUALS' RIGHTS. FOR OVER THREE DECADES, JUWAIRIYA HAS BEEN A DETERMINED ADVOCATE AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN MUSLIM MARRIAGE LAW. HER EFFORTS ALSO FOCUS ON FOSTERING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MUSLIM AND TAMIL COMMUNITIES, CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO SOCIAL CHANGE.



PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2022 – BAI BIBYAON LIGKAYAN BIGKAY, PHILIPPINES

BAI BIBYAON LIGKAYAN BIGKAY HAS BEEN PROTECTING HER PEOPLE AND DEFENDING THE ENVIRONMENT FROM EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES SINCE THE 1980S AS AN INDIGENOUS ACTIVIST AND THE FIRST WOMAN CHIEFTAN OF THE MANOBO TRIBE IN MINDANAO. SHE CO-FOUNDED SABOKAHAN UNITY OF LUMAD WOMEN, A GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION THAT EMPOWERS WOMEN, YOUTH AND LGBT LUMAD IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND DEFENSE OF ANCESTRAL LANDS THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING, EDUCATION, AND SERVICES. SHE HAS ENDURED THREATS, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION, AND HAS EXPERIENCED CHRONIC FORCED DISPLACEMENT, YET SHE HAS CONTINUED TO PUSH FORWARD THE STRUGGLE FOR INDIGENOUS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS.



2022 – SUHA TUTUNJI, LEBANON

SUHA TUTUNJI IS A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND A ROLE MODEL FOR EDUCATORS IN HER HOME COUNTRY OF LEBANON AND ALL CONTEXTS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT. SINCE 2013, SUHA HAS LED THE REFUGEE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR JUSOOR, AN INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WITH THE MISSION OF MAXIMIZING THE POTENTIAL OF SYRIAN YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION, WORKING TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT ONLY IN SCHOOL BUT ALSO LEARNING CONCRETE, PRACTICAL SKILLS THAT HELP ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE. IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THERE ARE MANY BARRIERS TOWARD ACCESS TO REFUGEE CHILDREN'S LEARNING, SUHA HAS REIMAGINED EDUCATION, LEADING A POWERFUL MOVEMENT IN HER HOME COUNTRY AND REGION.



2021 – RIYA WILLIAMS YUYADA, SOUTH SUDAN

RIYA WILLIAM YUYADA IS A SOUTH SUDANESE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE ACTIVIST WHO WORKS TEACHING PEACE BUILDING IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES. SHE FOUNDED CROWN THE WOMAN-SOUTH SUDAN, A NATIONAL GRASSROOTS FEMINIST ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TO FOSTER A FUTURE WITH ZERO TOLERANCE FOR INEQUALITY, INEQUITY, AND INJUSTICE. RIYA IS ALSO CO-FOUNDER OF PLAY FOR PEACE SOUTH SUDAN, WHICH PROVIDES TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE SOUTH SUDAN HIGH LEVEL REVITALIZATION(HLRF) FORUM PEACE TALKS, A PEACE INITIATIVE IN SOUTH SUDAN. ACROSS MULTIPLE CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES, RIYA HAS ADVOCATED FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND PEACE-BUILDING INITIATIVES THROUGH A FEMINIST LENS.



2021 – NAW K'NYAW PAW, MYANMAR/THAILAND

NAW K'NYAW PAW IS A DEDICATED ACTIVIST WORKING FOR GENDER JUSTICE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, CHILD PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP. SHE WAS BORN ON THE THAI-BURMA BORDER AND BECAME A REFUGEE AT THE AGE OF 11, AND SHE IS NOW THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE KAREN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION, A FEMINIST, INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT PLAYS A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE TO BRING DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO BURMA/MYANMAR. HER WORK FORCES ON CAPACITY BUILDING, INCREASING AND AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S VOICES AND INFLUENCE, AS WELL AS PROVIDING SERVICES TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN.



2021 – NORMA ANDRADE, MEXICO

NORMA ANDRADE IS THE CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF NUESTRAS HIJAS DE REGRESO, ONE OF THE PIONEERING ORGANIZATIONS ORGANIZING FAMILIARS OF MURDERED AND MISSING GIRLS AND WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. SINCE 2001 AFTER KIDNAP, TORTURE, AND ASSASSINATION OF HER DAUGHTER LILIA ALEJANDRA GARCIA ANDRADE, NORMA HAS WORKED FOR JUSTICE AND VISIBILITY OF GENDER-BASED CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. SHE CURRENTLY ADVISES RELATIVES OF VICTIMS OF DISAPPEARED AND MURDERED GIRLS AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA TO ADVOCATE.



2019 – VICTORIA NYANJURA, UGANDA

VICTORIA NYANJURA IS A CHAMPION FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF WOMEN SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT. SHE WAS ABDUCTED BY THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY WHEN SHE WAS 14 YEARS OLD AND SPENT EIGHT YEARS IN CAPTIVITY. AFTER ESCAPING, SHE FOUNDED WOMEN IN ACTION FOR WOMEN (WAW), A UGANDAN ORGANIZATION THAT IMPROVES THE LIFE OF WOMEN AND YOUTH THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING, BUSINESS SKILLS ENHANCEMENT, AND SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES. SHE ALSO PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ORGANIZING A PETITION FOR REDRESS THAT RESULTED IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA UNANIMOUSLY PASSING A RESOLUTION TO REMEDY THE PLIGHT OF VICTIMS OF NORTHERN UGANDA'S CONFLICTS. SHE IS A RECIPIENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL NAVARRA SOLIDARITY PEACE PRIZE AND THOMAS D MCCLOSKEY PEACE FELLOWSHIP.



2019 – MALIKA ABUBAKAROVA, RUSSIA

MALIKA ABUBAKAROVA IS A LAWYER FROM CHECHNYA WHO FOUNDED THE NGO "WOMEN'S RIGHTS" IN GROZNY, ONE OF FEW NGOS IN ALL OF RUSSIA TO FOCUS ON THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. AS REPRESSION AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN HAS STEADILY INCREASED IN HER REGION, MALIKA HAS HELPED HUNDREDS OF WOMEN ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS IN COURT. IN ADDITION TO WINNING OVER 40 CASES DOMESTICALLY, MALIKA ALSO FILED THE FIRST CASE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FROM RUSSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS CEDAW COMMITTEE AND ALSO LITIGATES CASES ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WINNING FOUR CASES IN 2018-2019. MALIKA ALSO RUNS EDUCATIONAL AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS, DISCUSSING ISSUES SUCH AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, THE DANGERS OF EARLY MARRIAGES, THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING, SELF-DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION.



2018 – DOROTHY NJEMANZE, NIGERIA

DOROTHY NJEMANZE, CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DOROTHY NJEMANZE FOUNDATION, IS A FILMMAKER, ACTRESS, PUBLIC SPEAKER, AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST BASED IN ABUJA WHO WORKS TO EXPOSE WIDESPREAD ABDUCTION AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NIGERIA. SHE HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED AND SUFFERED VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION FOR HER WORK AS A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER. SHE WAS ONE OF FOUR PLAINTIFFS IN A LANDMARK CASE BROUGHT AGAINST NIGERIA, IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS FOUND GUILTY OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. THROUGH HER FOUNDATION, SHE HELPS VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACCESS LEGAL SERVICES, MEDICAL CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND INCREASED ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. THE FOUNDATION ALSO CREATES AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS IN REGIONAL DIALECTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS AT THE GRASSROOTS.



2017 – CHARON ASETOYER, COMANCHE NATION

CHARON ASETOYER IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY BOARD AND THE NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER, LOCATED ON THE YANKTON SIOUX RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA. ASETOYER'S ACTIVISM IS FOCUSED AT THE INTERSECTION OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS. SHE HAS BEEN AN UNDENIABLE FORCE IN IMPROVING HER COMMUNITY'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING THROUGH PROVIDING RESOURCES LIKE HEALTH INFORMATION, REFERRAL SERVICES, A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER, AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING. IN ADDITION, HER COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH HAS INFLUENCED POLICIES AND PRACTICES AT THE LOCAL AND FEDERAL LEVEL. SHE WAS APPOINTED TO THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND HAS ALSO SERVED ON THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE EPA



2016 – JULIENNE LUSENGE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

JULIENNE LUSENGE, DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF LE FONDS DES FEMME CONGOLAISES OPENS IN A NEW TAB (FFC- CONGOLESE WOMEN'S FUND), IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED ADVOCATES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EASTERN DRC. AFTER VIOLENT CONFLICT USURPED THE REGION, JULIENNE, A RADIO-JOURNALIST, BEGAN DOCUMENTING HORRIFIC SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT THE HANDS OF WARRING PARTIES. BY 2001, JULIENNE CO-FOUNDED AN NGO (SOFEPADI OPENS IN A NEW TAB), WORKING ROUND-THE-CLOCK TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE; GET THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT AND THE UN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT RAPE WAS BEING USED A WEAPON OF WAR; AND CONVINCED GOVERNMENT AND THE UN TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EASTERN DRC. IN 2007, SHE LAUNCHED FFC, WHICH WORKS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL CONGOLESE WOMEN'S GROUPS WORKING TO ENSURE WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY, ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING SPACES.



2015 – AMAL KHALIFA HABBANI, SUDAN

JOURNALIST AND ACTIVIST AMAL KHALIFA HABBANI HAS PROMOTED EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN SUDAN THROUGHOUT HER CARRER. SHE HAS BEEN BEATEN, FINED, ARRESTED, AND DETAINED MULTIPLE TIMES FOR HER ADVOCACY WORK. SHE CO-FOUNDED THE AHJRAS AL-HURRIYA NEWSPAPER, A SMALL SCHOOL RUN BY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN, AND THE SUDANESE JOURNALIST'S NETWORK. AFTER A COLLEAGUE WAS DETAINED FOR INAPPROPRIATE DRESS, AMAL AND HER COLLEAGUES CREATED THE "NO TO WOMEN'S OPPRESSION INITIATIVE," WHICH OPPOSES PUBLIC ORDER LAWS AND ARGUES THAT THEY ARE IMPOSED TO SUBJUGATE AND ASSAULT WOMEN. IN JULY 2017, SHE WAS CONVICTED OF "OBSTRUCTING A POLICE OFFICER FROM DOING HIS JOB" BECAUSE OF HER REPORTING, AND WAS FINED 10,000 SUDANESE POUNDS OR TO SERVE FOUR MONTHS IN PRISON. SHE IS CURRENTLY APPEALING THIS SENTENCE.



2014 – DR. MAGDA ADLY AND

DR. MAGDA ADLY'S ACTIVISM BEGAN IN THE 1970S, AND SHE WAS IMPRISONED DURING THE SADAT REGIME IN 1977 AND 1978, ACCUSED OF "CHANGING THE REGIME BY FORCE." IN 1993 SHE CO-FOUNDED (WITH CO-WINNER DR. SUZAN FAYAD AND OTHERS) EL NADIM CENTER FOR REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, THE ONLY SPECIALIST CLINIC IN EGYPT THAT IS DEDICATED TO TREATING VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA. AS A RESULT OF HER WORK, DR. ADLY HAS FACED NUMEROUS THREATS TO HER SAFETY AND WAS ATTACKED IN 2008 WHILE WAITING TO ATTEND AN APPEAL HEARING AGAINST THE PRE-TRIAL DETENTION OF THREE TORTURE VICTIMS. IN FEBRUARY, 2017, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT CLOSED THE CENTER OPENS IN A NEW TAB AFTER REPEATED THREATS AND CONTINUED CRACKDOWN OPENS IN A NEW TAB ON CIVIL SOCIETY, AND SHE AND OTHER CENTER WORKS NOW HAVE FILED A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CLOSURE.



DR. SUZAN FAYAD, EGYPT

DR. SUZAN FAYAD BECAME ACTIVE IN WOMEN'S AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS A COLLEGE STUDENT IN THE 1970S. SHE CO-FOUNDED (WITH CO-WINNER DR. MAGDA ADLY AND OTHERS) EL NADIM CENTER FOR REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN 1993. SHE SPECIALIZES IN REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND TORTURE. INITIALLY, THE CENTER WAS FOUNDED TO GIVE DIGNITY AND PROTECTION TO TORTURE VICTIMS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BUT ITS MISSION HAS EVOLVED TO INCLUDE LEGAL ACTION AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS OF GENDER AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE. SINCE FEBRUARY, 2017, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT CLOSED THE CENTER OPENS IN A NEW TAB AFTER REPEATED THREATS AND CONTINUED CRACKDOWN OPENS IN A NEW TAB ON CIVIL SOCIETY, AND SHE AND OTHER CENTER WORKS NOW HAVE FILED A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CLOSURE.



2012 – JENNI WILLIAMS, ZIMBABWE

ACTIVIST JENNI WILLIAMS IS A FOUNDER OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE ARISE (WOZA). WOZA ENCOURAGES WOMEN AND MEN TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT ISSUES THEY MAY BE TOO FEARFUL TO RAISE ALONE, INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RAPE. IN NEARLY A DECADE OF STRUGGLE AND HUNDREDS OF PROTESTS, MORE THAN 3,000 WOZA SUPPORTERS HAVE SPENT TIME IN POLICE CUSTODY. MS. WILLIAMS HAS BEEN BEATEN, IMPRISONED WITHOUT FOOD OR MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND THREATENED WITH EXECUTION. MS. WILLIAMS HAS SAID THE WOZA SLOGAN, "TOUGH LOVE," REFLECTS HER CONVICTION THAT "THE POWER OF LOVE CAN CONQUER THE LOVE OF POWER." AS OF 2016, SHE HAD BEEN ARRESTED 65 TIMES BUT CONTINUES TO WORK FOR THE RIGHTS OF ZIMBABWEANS.



2010 – REBECCA MASIKA KATSUVA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

REBECCA AND HER DAUGHTERS WERE RAPED, AND HER HUSBAND KILLED, BY COMBATANTS IN CONGO'S LONG-RUNNING CIVIL WAR IN 1998. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, KATSUVA BEGAN A "LISTENING HOUSE" FOR WOMEN LIKE HER IN HER HOME IN AN ISOLATED, CONFLICT-RIDDEN REGION OF SOUTH KIVU, FAR FROM URBAN MEDICAL AID AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS. SHE BEGAN TAKING WOMEN AND CHILDREN INTO HER HOME TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES. IN 2002, SHE RENAMED HER ORGANIZATION THE ASSOCIATION DES PERSONNES DESHERITES UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (APDUD). MS. KATSUVA VERY SUDDENLY DIEDOPENS IN A NEW TAB IN 2016 FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND MALARIA, BUT THE ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO HELP WOMEN, FINDING THEM MEDICAL CARE AND SHELTERING THEM IN NEARLY 50 HOUSES BUILT BY THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY A COMMUNAL FARM.



2009 – YOLANDA BECERRA VEGA, COLOMBIA

FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS, YOLANDA BECERRA VEGA HAS COURAGEOUSLY FOUGHT TO HELP WOMEN IN COLOMBIA RESIST POLITICAL MARGINALIZATION AND RAISE THEIR VOICES AGAINST THE COUNTRY'S LONG-RUNNING CONFLICT. AS NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE 3,500-MEMBER POPULAR WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (ORGANIZACIÓN FEMENINA POPULAR), SHE HAS ENDURED PHYSICAL ATTACKS AND CONSTANT THREATS AND INTIMIDATION BY ARMED GROUPS. THROUGH MARCHES RALLIES AND STREET THEATRE, MS. VEGA HAS CAMPAIGNED AGAINST VIOLENCE AND IMPUNITY. HER ORGANIZATION ALSO OFFERS WOMEN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, EDUCATION, HEALTH SERVICES AND LEGAL AID FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.



2008 – BETTY MAKONI, ZIMBABWE

SINCE 1999, BETTY MAKONI HAS BEEN BUILDING THE GIRL CHILD NETWORK (GCN), A LOOSE NETWORK OF ORGANIZATION THAT TRAINS GIRLS TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL, THRIVE IN THE HOME AND SOCIETY, AND RESIST SEXUAL ABUSE AND RAPE – OR, IF THEY HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED, TO SURVIVE WITH PRIDE. THE NETWORK NOW SERVES OVER 30,000 GIRLS IN 45 DISTRICTS ACROSS ZIMBABWE. MS. MAKONI'S WORK HAS WON SUPPORTERS IN ZIMBABWE AND INTERNATIONALLY, INCLUDING THE 2007 WORLD CHILDREN'S PRIZE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. NEVERTHELESS, MS. MAKONI REPEATEDLY HAS BEEN THREATENED, ARRESTED, AND IMPRISONED. YET, DESPITE GOVERNMENT THREATS AND VIOLENCE, SHE PERSISTS TO IN HER ACTIVISM FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.



2007 – LYDIA CACHO RIBEIRO, MEXICO

LYDIA CACHO RIBEIRO, INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST, IS ONE OF MEXICO'S LEADING DEFENDERS OF CHILDREN'S AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS. SHE FOUNDED AND DIRECTS THE CENTRO INTEGRAL DE ATENCIÓN A LAS MUJERES (CIAM) IN CANCÚN, A CRISIS CENTER AND SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF SEX CRIMES, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND TRAFFICKING. HER 2004 BOOK, LOS DEMONIOS DEL EDEN (THE DEMONS OF EDEN) CREATED A NATION-WIDE SCANDAL BY EXPOSING A HIGH-LEVEL PEDOPHILIA RING. BECAUSE OF HER WORK, MS. CACHO HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS DEATH THREATS AND WAS RAPED IN AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE HER. IN RESPONSE TO AN INVALID ARREST AND CORRUPTION, MS. CACHO BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN IN MEXICO TO FILE A FEDERAL SUIT AGAINST A GOVERNOR, A DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AND A JUDGE. SHE IS ALSO THE FIRST WOMAN IN MEXICAN HISTORY TO TAKE A WOMAN'S RIGHTS CASE TO THE MEXICAN SUPREME COURT.



2006 – LJILJANA RAICEVIC, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

LILIJANA RAICEVIC WAS ONE OF THE FIRST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN HER COUNTRY TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS. IN 1999, SHE FOUNDED THE WOMEN'S SAFE HOUSE, THE FIRST SHELTER FOR WOMEN IN MONTENEGRO. THE SHELTER SERVES AS THE FOCAL POINT OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND ADVOCACY WORK FOR WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING. RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A BETTER PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR FEMALE VICTIMS, MS. RAICEVIC AND THE WOMEN'S SAFE HOUSE SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE WITNESS PROTECTION LAW BY THE MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENT. THE WOMEN'S SAFE HOUSE CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR WOMEN IN MONTENEGRO.



2005 – HAWA ADEN MOHAMED, SOMALIA

HAWAADEN MOHAMED HAS DEVOTED HER LIFE TO THE BETTERMENT OF SOMALI WOMEN IN A COUNTRY TORN APART BY CIVIL WAR. MS. MOHAMED IS THE FOUNDER OF THE GALKAYO EDUCATION CENTER FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (GECPD). THE CENTER SERVES OVER 500 WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH MEDICAL CARE, VOCATIONAL AND INCOME-GENERATING TRAININGS, SUPPORT FOR MORE THAN 50 ORPHANS, AND IT IS THE ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN THE AREA. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT GECPD HAS WORKED FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING (FGM/C), WHICH IS WIDELY PRACTICED IN SOMALIA. MS. MOHAMED CONTINUES HER WORK AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GECPD.



2004 – NEBAHAT AKKOC, TURKEY

A KURDISH TEACHER FROM DIYARBAKIR IN EASTERN TURKEY, MS. AKKOC RESPONDED TO HER OWN EXPERIENCE OF POLITICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE, INCLUDING THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND AND HER ARREST AND TORTURE, BY FOUNDED THE ORGANIZATION KA-MER (WOMEN'S CENTER) TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SOUTHEAST ANATOLIA, TURKEY. TODAY THERE ARE BRANCHES OF KA-MER IN FIVE OTHER ANATOLIAN CITIES PROVIDING LEGAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING FOR ABUSED WOMEN. KA-MER OFFERS A CRISIS LINE HELP, DIRECT ASSISTANCE, AND INTERVENTION FOR WOMEN AND FAMILY MEMBERS IMPACTED BY SO-CALLED "HONOR KILLINGS."



2003 – SONIA PIERRE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MOVIMIENTO DE MUJERES DE DOMINICO-HATIANAS, (MUDHA), SONIA PIERRE WORKS TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS OF THE DEEP-ROOTED CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF HAITIAN DESCENT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. MUDHA CHALLENGES BOTH GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BY EMPOWERING WOMEN, PROVIDING ACCESS TO BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES, AND CHALLENGING RACIST LAWS AND PRACTICES THAT MAINTAIN PEOPLE OF HAITIAN DESCENT IN CONDITIONS OF POVERTY. MS. PIERRE VERY SUDDENLY DIEDOPENS IN A NEW TAB IN 2011 FROM A HEART ATTACK, BUT MUDHA CONTINUES TO HELP WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FIGHT RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION.



2002 – JEANNINE MUKANIRWA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO/CANADA

JEANNINE MUKANIRWA WORKED FOR THE PROMOTION ET APPUI AUX INITIATIVES FEMININES (PAIF), A WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN GOMA TO INFORM WOMEN OF THEIR RIGHTS AND PROVIDE CONCRETE ASSISTANCE THROUGH SELF-FUNDED COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS. AS ONE OF THE FEW VOICES IN EASTERN CONGO WILLING TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST RAPE AND OTHER HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUES BY DIRECTLY CONFRONTING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES, MS. MUKANIRWA WAS THREATENED WITH DEATH AND ARRESTED MANY TIMES. IN 2001 SHE FLED TO CANADA, WHERE SHE CONTINUES TO WORK ON BEHALF OF PAIF.



2000 – HELEN AKONGO, UGANDA

FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS, CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEIZED, TORTURED, AND FORCED AT GUNPOINT TO BECOME REBELS IN THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA) IN NORTHERN UGANDA, HAVE BECOME THE LIFE'S WORK OF HELEN AKONGO, WHO WORKED WITH GUSCO, THE GULU SUPPORT THE CHILDREN ORGANIZATION. MS. AKONGO'S SPECIAL CONCERN IS THE SUPPORT – PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY – OF THE GIRLS WHO HAVE ESCAPED AND COME TO GUSCO FROM THE BUSH, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE PREGNANT OR WITH CHILDREN.



2000 – GIULIA TAMAYO LEON, PERU / SPAIN

SINCE 1997, GIULIA TAMAYO LEON, A PROMINENT WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER FROM LIMA, PERU, HAS DOCUMENTED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST LOW-INCOME WOMEN IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES. WHILE CAMPAIGNING AGAINST CASES OF FORCED STERILIZATION OF WOMEN IN PERU, MS. TAMAYO AND HER FAMILY RECEIVED DEATH THREATS. NOW LIVING IN EXILE IN SPAIN, MS. TAMAYO WORKS FOR THE MADRID OFFICE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.



2000 – HINA JILANI, PAKISTAN

IN 1981, HINA JILANI CO-FOUNDED THE FIRST ALL-FEMALE LAW FIRM IN PAKISTAN AND LATER ESTABLISHED A WOMEN'S LEGAL AID PROGRAM FOR PAKISTANI WOMEN, INCLUDING THOSE SEEKING TO DIVORCE ABUSIVE HUSBANDS. AS A RESULT, MS. JILANI HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF VIOLENT ATTACKS, INCLUDING THE "HONOR KILLING" OF A CLIENT IN HER OFFICE. IN RECOGNITION OF HER WORK, SHE HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS. IN 2013, SHE JOINED "THE ELDERS," A GROUP OF STATESPEOPLE, PEACE BUILDERS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS BROUGHT TOGETHER BY NELSON MANDELA.



1999 – SIMA WALI, AFGHANISTAN / USA

SIMA WALI, PRESIDENT OF REFUGEE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, INC., HAS BEEN ADVOCATING FOR AFGHAN WOMEN AND MEN FOR OVER 20 YEARS, WHEN SHE NARROWLY ESCAPED FROM AFGHANISTAN TO RESETTLE IN WASHINGTON, DC. SINCE THE FALL OF THE TALIBAN, MS. WALI HAS RETURNED PERIODICALLY TO AFGHANISTAN TO CARRY OUT NEEDS ASSESSMENTS AND LEAD CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAININGS FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS. IN 2009, MS. WALI CO-AUTHORED INVISIBLE HISTORY: AFGHANISTAN'S UNTOLD STORY AND WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE DOCUMENTARY THE WOMAN IN EXILE RETURNS: THE SIMA WALI STORY.



1999 – ADRIANA PORTILLO-BARTOW, EL SALVADOR / GUATEMALA / USA

ADRIANA PORTILLO-BARTOW HAS PAID DEARLY FOR HER POLITICAL COMMITMENT, FIRST WHEN SHE WAS FORCED TO FLEE FROM EL SALVADOR TO GUATEMALA AND THEN WHEN HER FATHER, STEPMOTHER, SISTER, SISTER-IN-LAW, AND TWO DAUGHTERS, THEN AGED NINE AND ELEVEN, "DISAPPEARED" IN 1981. FLEEING TO THE USA IN 1985, MS. PORTILLO-BARTOW FOUNDED THE "WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?" PROJECT WHICH PURSUES THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DISAPPEARED CHILDREN OF GUATEMALA.



1998 – BEATRICE MUKANSINGA, RWANDA

BEATRICE MUKANSINGA FOUNDED MBWIRANDUMVA ("SPEAK, I AM LISTENING") TO AID WOMEN DISABLED, TRAUMATIZED, AND LEFT WITHOUT HOMES OR FAMILIES FOLLOWING THE GENOCIDE THAT KILLED THOUSANDS IN RWANDA. MBWIRANDUMVA PROVIDES COUNSELING, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, SHELTER, FOOD, AND SKILLS TO HELP WOMEN HEAL EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY AND BECOME ECONOMICALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT.



1997 – MANGALA SHARMA, BHUTAN / NEPAL / USA

MANGALA SHARMA WORKS TO ASSIST THE THOUSANDS OF REFUGEE BHUTANESE WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN RAPED, TORTURED, AND SHUNNED BY THEIR FAMILIES. MS. SHARMA CREATED BHUTANESE REFUGEES AIDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (BRAVVE), WHICH NOW PROVIDES COUNSELING AND TRAINING IN INCOME-PRODUCING SKILLS IN ALL EIGHT BHUTANES REFUGEE CAMPS IN NEPAL. IN 2001 MS. SHARMA WAS GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE SHE WORKS WITH REFUGEE FAMILIES.



Congratulations to all Awardees.

From



"Unveiling the Dark Side: How Online Gaming Impacts Children Negatively"



Nisha Samuel
Delhi Bureau chief Global eye

In a bustling town where the digital world

thrived, children eagerly immersed themselves in online games. At first, it seemed harmless, a way to connect and have fun. However, as time passed, the once-joyous gaming sessions began to cast a shadow on their lives.

Tom, an enthusiastic young boy, found solace in the virtual realms. Initially, it was a fun way to unwind after school. But as the games grew more immersive, Tom's interest in outdoor activities dwindled. His grades suffered, and interactions with family and friends diminished.

Similarly, Sarah, a creative and bright girl, fell into the captivating allure of online games. Her parents noticed her withdrawal from real-world activities, neglect of responsibilities, and struggles

with sleep patterns. They observed her becoming increasingly irritable and isolated, seeking solace only in the digital dimensions. As the community grappled with this concerning trend, psychologists and educators raised alarms. They highlighted the adverse effects: compromised social skills, decreased academic performance, disrupted sleep schedules, and even physical health concerns due to prolonged screen time. Realizing the gravity of the situation, parents, teachers, and policymakers collaborated to spread awareness about responsible gaming. Workshops and seminars were organized to educate families on setting healthy boundaries, promoting balanced

lifestyles, and encouraging diverse interests beyond the screens. Through collective effort and a newfound emphasis on moderation, the town gradually witnessed a positive shift. Children started rediscovering the joy of outdoor activities, academic performance improved, and families reconnected over shared experiences, not just screens. The story served as a wake-up call for the community, emphasizing the importance of balance and mindful engagement in the digital era, ensuring that the lure of online games didn't overshadow the richness of real-world experiences for the children of the town.

Modi, the first INDIAN PM to fly a fighter jet sortie

Modi visited HAL's Bengaluru complex and reviewed the progress achieved in the production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

BENGALURU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew a sortie on indigenously designed and developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas in Bengaluru on Saturday. Modi took to the skies from the HAL airport. He is the first Indian prime minister to fly a fighter aircraft sortie.

After the sortie, Modi termed his experience incredibly enriching. "Successfully completed a sortie on Tejas. The experience was incredibly enriching, significantly bolstering my confidence in our country's indigenous capabilities, and leaving me with a renewed sense of pride and optimism about our national potential," the PM stated on X.

During the 30-minute sortie on the twin-seater aircraft, Modi looked cheerful and was seen waving at the pilot of an aircraft that was flying along. The PM congratulated the Indian Air Force, DRDO, and HAL for the LCA's success. "Today, Prime Minister Shri@narendramodi took a sortie in #Tejas which is our indigenously designed and developed multi-role Light Combat Aircraft. By flying in #LCA Tejas PM Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to take a fighter aircraft sortie," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted. "This showcases his meticulous attention and appreciation for



India's defense systems. Under his guidance India's defense manufacturing is growing by leaps and bounds," he said. The IAF stated that the PM undertook a 30-minute sortie on Tejas twin-seater aircraft from the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment in Bengaluru. Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari felicitated Modi after the sortie. Modi visited HAL's Bengaluru complex and reviewed the

progress achieved in the production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

A statement from HAL said the PM visited the production line of LCA Tejas and interacted with the engineers there. The engineers briefed him that the aircraft is now powered by GE 404 engine which will be upgraded to GE 414 engine for LCA Mk II manufactured in India with 80% transfer of technology from GE Engines. The PM was briefed about the

capacity investments being done by HAL to scale up production of LCA Tejas aircraft. HAL has established two production lines of LCA Tejas in Bengaluru, which can produce up to 16 aircraft a year. An additional production line is being established at HAL, Nasik, to scale up LCA production beyond 24 from 2024-25 onwards. The engineers also explained about the progress made on the LCA MK1A programme.

India's first woman Supreme Court judge Justice Fathima Beevi dies at 96. Justice M Fathima Beevi, a woman of many firsts who broke convention

Fathima Beevi, first woman judge of SC and former governor of Tamil Nadu, passes away



KOLLAM/CHENNAI: Justice M Fathima Beevi, a pioneering figure in the country's judicial history and the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, passed away in Kollam on Thursday. She was 96. She was admitted to the Travancore Medicity Hospital in Kollam following pulmonary issues.

She was later diagnosed with pneumonia and breathed her last on Thursday at 11.45am, the hospital authorities said. Born in Pathanamthitta in 1927, Justice Beevi embarked on her educational journey at St Joseph's Convent School.

She earned a BSc degree in chemistry from the University of Kerala and pursued law at the Government Law College in Thiruvananthapuram, with the encouragement of her father, Annaveetil Meera Sahib. In 1950, she made history by becoming the first woman in Kerala to earn a law degree. Her illustrious legal career began with her topping the bar council exam in 1950, followed by her enrolment as a lawyer on November 14, 1950. Starting in the lower judiciary, she ascended the ranks, serving as a munsiff in the Kerala Subordinate Judicial Services in May 1958, subordinate judge in 1968, chief judicial magistrate in 1972, and the district and sessions judge in 1974.

In January 1980, she assumed the role of judicial member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, paving the way for her elevation to the High Court as a judge on August 4, 1983. She became a permanent judge of the High Court on May 14, 1984, and retired on April 29, 1989. She was appointed as a judge in the Supreme Court on October 6, 1989, under the Rajiv Gandhi government, becoming the first Muslim woman judge in any higher judiciary. She retired from the apex court on April 29, 1992.

In 1997, Justice Beevi took charge as the Governor of Tamil Nadu, becoming the first woman from the Muslim community to hold the position. Though Beevi had many accomplishments in her legal arena, her term as governor of Tamil Nadu between 1997- 2001 ended in controversy, especially her decision to allow the swearing-in of AIADMK leader J Jayalalithaa as the chief minister of the state in May 2001 after the Assembly elections the AIAD MK leader was convicted in the TAN SI land case in October 2000. Normally, people convicted of such crimes are barred from contesting elections for six years. But Fathima Beevi allowed Jayalalithaa to become the chief minister within eight months of her conviction in the case. This drew a lot of criticism from almost all quarters, particularly from the DMK. In 2001, Beevi stepped down as the governor of Tamil Nadu after the union cabinet decided to recall her for failing to send an objective report on what had happened during the arrest of DMK president M Karunanidhi on June 30, 2001. She gave a clean chit to the police in this incident and the then NDA government found the report as a mere reflection of the AIAD MK government.

Following this, Fathima Beevi stepped down as the governor of Tamil Nadu on July 2, 2001. Justice Beevi's contributions extended beyond the judiciary; she served as the chairperson of the Kerala Commission for Backward Classes and was a member of the National Human Rights Commission. The mortal remains of Justice M Fathima Beevi will be shifted to Pathanamthitta, with the funeral slated to take place on Friday at 2pm at the Town Juma Masjid in Pathanamthitta.

Ornamental fisheries market in Bengaluru makes Rs 100 cr.

The KAFSU displayed fishes like Goldfish, Guppy, Sword Tale, Molly and Widow Tetras at the recently organized Krishi Mela 2023 in the city.



BENGALURU: Some buy it for decorative purposes, some, to spread positive vibes at home. The ornamental fisheries market in Bengaluru is growing, with an overall monthly market revenue coming up to around Rs 100 crore, according to Fisheries Research and Information

Centre. Dr Chethan N, Fisheries Scientist, Karnataka Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KAFSU), said that previously the fisheries business was very scattered, however, in the past five years, there has been a 15-20 percent rise in the business. The city has around 2,500 retail shops running a profitable business, he added.

The KAFSU displayed fishes like Goldfish, Guppy, Sword Tale, Molly and Widow

Tetras at the recently organised Krishi Mela 2023 in the city. Dr Chethan said that the Goldfish was the most sold ornamental fish followed by Guppy.

They sold close to 800 small fishes within a day of commencement of the mela. Now the fisheries business for both edible and ornamental fishes is much more streamlined and farmers are seen adopting pisciculture as an alternative source of income. The state

fisheries department is also taking measures to bring Karnataka at par with Tamil Nadu and West Bengal which have a well established fishery business. A training program was recently organized for 50 farmers to educate them about the ornamental fish business, help create a small ecosystem within their land, create optimal environment for breeding fishes, and use of appropriate equipment to achieve end results.

Uproar in Odisha assembly over tribal land transfer issue, House adjourned

After the adjournment of the House, BJP MLAs marched to Raj Bhavan to meet Governor Raghubar Das and submit a memorandum on the transfer of tribal land.



BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha assembly witnessed a ruckus by the opposition parties for the second consecutive day on Thursday over the state government's decision to allow Scheduled Tribe (ST) people to sell their land to non-tribals. The BJP and the Congress intensified their protest in the House, demanding the roll-back of the state cabinet's decision. Speaker Pramila Mallik adjourned the proceeding till 4 PM, as members of the opposition trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans against the BJD government. After the adjournment of the House, BJP MLAs marched to Raj Bhavan to meet Governor Raghubar Das and submit a memorandum on the transfer of tribal land.

The assembly could transact business only for three minutes as Water Resources Minister Tukumi Sahoo replied to a question on irrigation facilities.

As soon as the House assembled for the Question Hour at 10.30 AM, BJP and Congress members trooped into the well and shouted slogans, demanding immediate withdrawal of the state cabinet's decision to allow the ST people to transfer their land to non-tribals in the scheduled areas (tribal-dominated areas).

Adorned 'angabashtra' with tribal motifs, the BJP members held placards aloft and raised

slogans in the House, alleging that the government's decision would encourage corporate houses to grab tribal land in the mineral-rich areas of the state. They demanded that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

announce the complete withdrawal of the cabinet decision on the tribal land transfer. Congress members led by party's whip Taraprasad Bahinipati tried to climb the Speaker's podium and raised slogans, describing the BJD government as "anti-tribal".

The Congress members also demanded the proper implementation of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 in Odisha. The state cabinet had on November 14 decided to amend the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by STs) Regulation, 1956 to allow

ST people to transfer their land to non-tribals in scheduled areas. ST people, however, will need to seek written permission from sub-collectors to sell their land to non-tribals. Following protests by the opposition at that time, the government withheld the decision two days later.

"The state government has no concern over tribal welfare though it claims to have rolled out several schemes for the tribes.

The recent move of the government exposed that it has been anti-tribal. They will become landless if the state cabinet's decision is implemented," BJP chief whip in

the assembly Mohan Majhi said.

Stating that the decision of the cabinet was against the provision of the Constitution, he said, "We cannot understand what prompted the government to take such a decision to grab the tribal lands." Though state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marandi had announced that the November 14 cabinet decision was put on hold, the BJP demands complete withdrawal of it. Both the opposition parties asked the Speaker to allow a notice for discussion on the matter in the House.

Spirituality is India's gift to world: India's President Droupadi Murmu Takes part in convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

ANANTAPUR: Spirituality is India's invaluable contribution to the world, said President of India Droupadi Murmu. Participating as a chief guest at the 42nd convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in Puttaparthi on Wednesday, she said that from time to time, great spiritual figures have spread the message of virtue, compassion and philanthropy.

"Sri Sathya Sai Baba was one such great personality who sanctified the area of Puttaparthi. Millions of people have been and will continue to benefit from his blessings," the President added. Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer and minister KV Usha Sricharan also attended the programme.

The President said that she was happy to note that Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning gives fundamental importance to human and spiritual values. Murmu further lauded

the institute's holistic vision towards education and the concept of edu-care. Expressing confidence that

students of the Institute will succeed in developing professionally sound, socially responsible and spiritually aware personalities, Murmu said that they are expected to spread the values and teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and present examples of spiritual growth along with modern development. Sharing her personal experience of teaching at the Sri Aurobindo Integral Education Centre in Rairangpur of

Odisha, the President said, "The main goal of Integral Education is to transmit the life values of truth, good conduct, peace, affection, and non-violence in the life of every student". Later, President Droupadi Murmu conferred 21 Gold Medals on the qualifying students who achieved distinction in various disciplines.

Governor Abdul Nazeer in his address said, "The Institute is a beacon of light for value-based Integral education in this country".

He congratulated the students and said that he believed the values imbibed here are making a positive impact on society and that the students have a greater responsibility to live the message of true education as they step out into the world. He said the culture of Bharat is based on the eternal truth which is unaffected by time and place, unshaken by circumstances, unchanged by historical changes, and untouched by natural calamities.



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13-year-old Indian-origin yoga prodigy Ishwar Sharma wins gold in Europe

Ishwar is passionate about spreading the message of Yoga, especially for special needs children," his family said in a statement, with reference to his autism and ADHD.

LONDON: A 13-year-old Indian-origin Yoga prodigy from south-east England with several awards under his belt has added another Gold Medal to his tally at the European Yoga Sports Championship in Sweden.

Ishwar Sharma, from Sevenoaks in Kent, started taking up Yoga when he was three years old after seeing his father practise daily and went on to win several World Yoga Championships.

Last weekend, he bagged the Europe Cup 2023 in the Boys 12-14 category when he competed in the European competition organised by the



International Yoga Sports Federation in collaboration with Swedish Yoga Sports Federation in Malmo."Ishwar is passionate about spreading the message of Yoga especially for special needs children," his family said in a statement, with reference to his autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Sharma, who led daily Yoga

classes for 40 children across 14 countries during the coronavirus lockdown, was honored by then British prime minister Boris Johnson with the Points of Light award.

"You have brought the joy of Yoga to hundreds of children globally during lockdown. I was particularly inspired to hear how you have helped children with special needs enjoy the activity you enjoy and excel at," Johnson said in a personal letter to Sharma at the time in June 2021.

He has won five world championships and the British Citizen Youth Award at the House of Lords for his contribution towards Yoga. Along with his father, Dr Vishwanath, Ishwar runs IYoga Solutions to spread the word about Yoga and its many benefits in the UK.

NASA AND ISRO JOINT MISSION SUMMARIZED



AARAV KARINA

7th Grade, JFK Middle School. Plainfield, IL

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have come together to explore the great beyond. And by that, I mean keep track of stuff here on earth using satellites. Together they designed and tested NISAR which stands for NASA-ISRO, Synthetic Aperture Radar. NISAR is supposed to be able to scan the entire world in 12 days, to observe weather patterns and glaciers and compare what it saw to 12 days ago. Other natural events that the satellite will gain information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater. What we can say is that it will be one big week for the science industry as NISAR is ex-

pected to launch aboard India's GSLV rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh state in 2024. The rocket itself packs a lot of power, including two massive solid rocket boosters and one massive main engine.

Is this a good thing for mankind? This companionship could be beneficial for both the U.S. and India as it fosters a stronger alliance between both countries and the mission itself. Both parties will have more access to scientific data that could affect how we view natural events and our planet. All in all, this companionship could lead to bigger and better things in the future.

Hailing from the village of erukkalampidy, Juwairiya Mohideen

was compelled to leave her home in 1990 during the expulsion of muslims in northern sri lanka, and relocated to puttalam in the northwestern region as an internally displaced person. Despite numerous challenges, juwairiya became an activist, founding the muslim women's development trust and joining the women's action network, which advocates for women's and marginalized individuals' rights. For over three decades, juwairiya has been a determined advocate against gender-based violence, addressing discriminatory practices in muslim marriage law. Her efforts also focus on fostering reconciliation between muslim and tamil communities, contributing significantly to social change.

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HABILITATIVE SYSTEMS, INC., TO HOST THIRD ANNUAL RACE AND HEALTH EQUITY AWARDS, DEC. 7

HSI Celebrates 45th Anniversary; Honors Leaders, Legislators Who Improve Community Health Outcomes

CHICAGO : Led by President and CEO Donald J. Dew, Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HSI), now celebrating its 45th year, will host the Third Annual Race and Health Equity Awards Celebration, Dec. 7, at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 South Shore Dr., Chicago. Themed "Recognizing the Impact of Political Determinants of Health," this year's Race and Health Equity Awards acknowledge the role legislators and legislation, as well as community leaders, play in positively impacting the quality of life in local communities, including health outcomes.

This year's honorees are Illinois Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford (4th District), State Sen. Mattie Hunter (3rd District), State Rep. Camille Lilly (78th District), State Rep. La Shawn Ford (8th District), and South Shore Cultural Center Director Andrea Adams. "Our Illinois state legislators kicked the door open, transforming health and human services throughout the state, writing and ratifying new legislation that has resulted in positively impacting health outcomes for our families," Dew said.

HSI, a Historically Black Community Based Organization (HBCBO), provides behavioral health and human services in 15 underserved communities throughout metropolitan Chicago. Health and human services is one of the four pillars the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus identified as needing

HSI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 "3rd Annual Race and Health Equity Awards" Celebration
 "Recognizing the Impact of Political Determinants of Health?"
 Thursday, December 7, 2023
 South Shore Cultural Center
 7059 S. South Shore Drive • Chicago, IL 60649
 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

We are honoring leaders whose efforts positively influence issues related to race and health equity in our communities.

This year's honorees include:
 Andrea C. Adams, South Shore Cultural Center
 La Shawn K. Ford, State Representative, Illinois House District 8
 Mattie Hunter, State Representative, Illinois House District 8
 Kimberly A. Lightford, Senator Majority Leader, Illinois Senate District 4
 Camille Y. Lilly, State Representative, Illinois House District 78

Andrea C. Adams
Center Director
South Shore Cultural Center

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative
IL State House District 8

Mattie Hunter
State Senator
IL State Senate District 3

Kimberly A. Lightford
Senate Majority Leader
IL State Senate District 4

Camille Y. Lilly
State Representative
IL State House District 78

[Click here for more information, tickets and Awardee Biographies](#)

reform in order to dismantle systemic racism in the State of Illinois. "Sometimes legislators get a bum rap, but the work that they do is important to daily life, and our Illinois legislative honorees are continually delivering for us," Dew said. "Our honoree Andrea Adams has a long history of service in the City of Chicago. She is an unsung heroine who has led governmental entities and organizations doing good work on our behalf. Sometimes she is a quiet behind-

the-scenes worker, but she is always a mighty force to make things happen, locally and on the national level. We are proud to honor her," Dew said.

The Race and Health Equity Awards will benefit HSI's many programs, which include case (care) management, employment and training, outpatient mental health, and residential and substance use services. This year the program also supports students aspiring to become community health workers,

a vital partner for health equity, said Cynthia Washington, HSI fundraising chair and immediate past board chair. "Lives are at stake. Our communities need to be able to access healthcare systems to gain equitable care, an undeniable human right. Proceeds from the Race and Health Equity Awards help us in the daily fight to meet this critical need," she said.

The Race and Health Equity Awards will have a festive ambiance and will include fine dining, dancing and entertainment by two major musical dynamos, vocalist Simone Green and violinist Adrian Morris. For more information and tickets, call 773-854-8313 or visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hsi-3rd-annual-race-and-health-equity-awards-celebration-tickets-723574018367?aff=oddtcreator>.

About Habilitative Systems, Inc.

For 45 years, Habilitative Systems, Inc., a Historically Black Community Based Organization, has provided quality behavioral health and human services to individuals and families in 15 underserved communities throughout the Chicago Metropolitan area. HSI staff respond to the most pressing needs of society, serving persons with mental illness, disabilities, substance use disorders as well as seniors, and children experiencing prolonged trauma.

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China says surge in respiratory illnesses is caused by flu and 'other known pathogens'

The ministry called on local authorities to open more fever clinics and promote vaccinations among children and the elderly as the country grapples with a wave of respiratory illnesses.

BEIJING: A surge in respiratory illnesses across China that has drawn the attention of the World Health Organization is caused by the flu and other known pathogens and not by a novel virus, the country's health ministry said Sunday.

Recent clusters of respiratory infections are caused by an overlap of common viruses such as the influenza virus, rhinoviruses, the respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, the adenovirus as well as bacteria such as mycoplasma pneumoniae, which is a common culprit for respiratory tract infections, a National Health Commission spokesperson said.

The ministry called on local authorities to open more fever clinics and promote vaccinations among children and the elderly as the country grapples with a wave of respiratory illnesses in its first full winter since the removal of COVID-19 restrictions.

"Efforts should be made to increase the opening of relevant



clinics and treatment areas, extend service hours and increase the supply of medicines," said ministry spokesman Mi Feng.

He advised people to wear masks and called on local authorities to focus on preventing the spread of illnesses in crowded places such as schools and nursing homes.

The WHO earlier this week formally requested that China provide information about a potentially worrying spike in respiratory illnesses and

clusters of pneumonia in children, as mentioned by several media reports and a global infectious disease monitoring service.

The emergence of new flu strains or other viruses capable of triggering pandemics typically starts with undiagnosed clusters of respiratory illness. Both SARS and COVID-19 were first reported as unusual types of pneumonia.

Chinese authorities earlier this month blamed the increase in respiratory diseases on the

lifting of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Other countries also saw a jump in respiratory diseases such as RSV when pandemic restrictions ended.

The WHO said Chinese health officials on Thursday provided the data it requested during a teleconference. Those showed an increase in hospital admissions of children due to diseases including bacterial infection, RSV, influenza and common cold viruses since October.

Chinese officials maintained

the spike in patients had not overloaded the country's hospitals, according to the WHO.

It is rare for the U.N. health agency to publicly ask for more detailed information from countries, as such requests are typically made internally. WHO said it requested further data from China via an international legal mechanism.

According to internal accounts in China, the outbreaks have swamped some hospitals in northern China, including in Beijing, and health authorities have asked the public to take children with less severe symptoms to clinics and other facilities.

WHO said that there was too little information at the moment to properly assess the risk of these reported cases of respiratory illness in children.

Both Chinese authorities and WHO have been accused of a lack of transparency in their initial reports on the COVID-19 pandemic, which started in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019.

ISRO celebrates diamond jubilee of first sounding rocket launch

The year 2023 will also go down in history as the year when Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the 23rd of August, the day Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as 'National Space Day'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Diamond Jubilee of India's first sounding rocket launch from Thumba in Kerala coincides with the year 2023 which saw the historic twin feats of Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions, said the Union Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh.

The year 2023 will also go down in history as the year when Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the 23rd of August, the day Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as 'National Space Day', he said.

Jitendra Singh, who is also the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology was addressing the Commemoration of the 60th year of the First Sounding Rocket Launch at a function at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launch Station (TERLS) on Saturday.

On the occasion, Jitendra Singh witnessed the ceremonial launch of a similar Sounding Rocket undertaken from the Space pod where the original launch took place on November



21, 1963. In a symbolic gesture, the countdown was announced by Pramod P Kale, who read out the countdown way back on the first launch 60 years ago.

Later, addressing the media, Jitendra Singh said, the success of the Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions reiterates India's indigenous capabilities and vindicates the dream that Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the first Chairman of ISRO and the founding father of India's Space Program, saw six decades ago.

"It is also a vindication of the

dream of Vikram Sarabhai, who might have been short of resources, but not short of confidence because he had faith in himself and in India's inherent potential and inherent acumen," said Singh.

Building on the success of Indian Space initiatives which got a boost in the last 4 to 5 years, including the recent Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L1 Missions, Singh said, PM Modi has asked ISRO to aim for India's first manned Space Mission 'Gaganyaan' by 2025, lunar sample return mission,

'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian Space Station) by 2035 and the first Indian to set foot on the Moon by 2040.

Stating that India's Space program is now at an equal pace with the world's leading Space agencies, Jitendra Singh said that NASA might have been the first to land on the moon, but it was India's Chandrayaan-1 that discovered water molecules on the Moon and now Chandrayaan-3 has for the first time landed on the South Pole of the moon.





Seeta &



Shivam's Chatter

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

Indian American Veterans Organization Annual Gala



IAVO Celebrated their 2nd Annual Gala on November 11, 2023 - Veterans Day. Left to Right: Rajender Dichpally, Director, IAVO, Chief Guest Ramesh V.Kapur, President, U.S. India Security Council, Maryland, Dr. VGP, Chairman, Global Strategic Alliance, USA, Chris Aryan, founder & President I.A.V.O. and Mrs Usha Kamaria, Director, IAVO.



India's Consul General in Chicago, Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, the Guest of Honor is flanked by Chicagoland Community leaders Seeta Bala, Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Dr. VGP, and Naveen Chandra Karna at the Gala.



Naveen Karna, Madhura Sane, Jairath, Dr. Beri, Prathibha J, Sunil Shah, Mrs Beri, Dr VGP, Jigar Shah, and Jitendra B. were seen enjoying the Gala.

AMEC's ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING



Newly elected Lt. Governor of American Multi-Ethnic Coalition MARTINO TANGKAR and newly elected AMEC Chairman SAM MA being felicitated by AMEC Membership Chair Mohita Sukumar and AMEC Treasurer Shivam Viswanathan.



The well-attended American Multi-Ethnic Coalition Annual General Council Meeting held on November 19, 2023 at Yellow Box, Naperville which set the calendar of events for 2024.



AMEC's Media Chair ALLEN GEORGE and his newly wedded wife SANDRA were felicitated on their recent wedding in Cochin, India in October 2023 during the Annual General Council meeting.



Renowned Saxophonist FEMI OEEBULE hosted a Spectacular PRAISE EXPERIENCE 2023 with the theme of Heaven on Earth with over 60 different musicians on a single stage, which was truly phenomenal on November 25.



Rev. Thomas Varghese, Pastor, Fairfield Baptist Church, Chicago gave a powerful Thanksgiving message on November 23 at India Mission Telugu Methodist Church, Oak Park, Illinois. Ma Suguna Vallabdas, Co-Founder of Oak Park Church, Pastor Kamalakar Maddi, and Mrs. Valsamma Varghese are seen in the photo.



AMORINO, a French multinational Chain of Gelato boutiques opened their 235th Cafe at Chicago's Fashion Outlet Mall in Rosemont, Illinois with a wide range of products flown from France directly. Antonio Fernandez, Amorino's General Manager for U.S.A. & Mexico personally welcomed Global Eye Magazine's Seniors Correspondent Mother Love a.k.a. Tina Horne at the opening.



Indiana's State Representative Mike Andrade hosted a Welcome Luncheon on October 29 at Tandoor Restaurant at Schererville, Indiana for Global Eye Magazine's Northwest Indiana Bureau: Dr. Vasavi Chakka, C.F.O. GSA Global Eye Magazine introducing the Global Eye to Community leaders of Northwest Indiana.



Dr. Bharat Barai, Chairman, Indo-American Friendship Council and Dr (Mrs) Panna Barai welcomed the G.S.A.'s visiting Millet's delegation from India at their home in Munster, Indiana. Left to Right: Dr. K.R.S. Murthy, AI Expert, San Francisco, Dr. N. Parasuraman, Chennai, India, Dr. Sudhakar Chakka, Naperville, IL, Dr. Vasavi Chakka, Dr. Bharat Barai, Dr. Panna Barai and Amar Upadhyay, Schaumburg, Illinois.



Chicago Indo U.S. Lions Club at their Annual Gala honored three Community Leaders among others with the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award for their commitment to strengthening the Nation and our Communities through Volunteer Service. From Left to Right: NEIL KHOT, National Chair, Indian American Business Coalition, SUNIL SHAH, Founder Chair, Federation of Indian American Associations, Schaumburg and DR. VJAY G. PRABHAKAR, Founder President, American Multi-Ethnic Coalition, AMEC - USA.

Glimpses from the 2023 INDIA'S National Film Award ceremony in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

President Droupadi Murmu lauds Waheeda Rehman for not changing her name to work in films

In her speech at the Nation Film Awards, President Droupadi Murmu congratulated Waheeda Rehman for her Dada Saheb Phalke Award win. She said, "I congratulate all the winners and appreciate all the people whose efforts helped you in your achievement. I am very happy to present the Dada

Saheb Phalke Award to Waheeda Rehman. I congratulate her. She has made a place for herself with her talent. In her personal life too, she made an identity with dignity and self-confidence. I have been told that she refused to change her name for the sake of working in films, which was trend at

that time. She selected roles that broke many stereotypes. Waheeda ji has set a example that for women empowerment, women have to come forward."The President also congratulated Pallavi Joshi, Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon for portraying roles of strong women on screen.





Shah Rukh Khan, a decade younger to Anil Kapoor, brought the Bollywood Daddy trend to centre stage with Jawaan—the badass father smoking a cigar, throttling a bike, and beating up bad guys.

Bollywood daddies are suddenly looking hotter. Why Bobby Deol, Madhavan are not done yet

In the two-minute second teaser of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal*, what stands out the most is not Ranbir Kapoor, or even the visceral violence. It is the jaw-dropping transformation of Bobby Deol. His rebirth has left everyone stunned. Deol is part of a growing cohort of older actors who were written off in the 2000s but are returning to the screen better than ever. It's the age of Bollywood Daddies—and nobody is complaining. The term 'daddy' is now being used on social media to define older stars—whose careers seemed to be over or never really took off, but have now gotten a second wind. Deol has joined R Madhavan, Suneil Shetty, and Milind Soman among others in reminding a new generation of Indians that they are still in the game. Barring actors like

Anil Kapoor whose body of work has defined every decade since the 1980s, Bollywood is rarely kind to its ageing stars. Women face the worst of it, but even male stars do not find space in the 'sexiest men alive' surveys and other such lists. But the Bollywood Daddies are bucking this trend.

They wear their greys proudly but without the potbellies. They sport salt-and-pepper hair instead of dyeing them jet black. They focus on their fitness regime, and hone their physiques.

Shah Rukh Khan is about a decade younger to Kapoor, but it was his role as a father in *Jawaan* (2023) that brought this trend to centre stage. He's the badass father smoking his cigar and throttling a bike, and beating up bad guys.

Rebirth as the daddy This trend probably started in 2017, when R Madhavan

shared a selfie of himself, 'daddy' movement. Suneil Shetty, whose Amazon Mini TV show *Hunterrr* got 2.5 million views despite a sketchy



laser. It went viral. It was as if we finally got our own George Clooney, and ageing didn't just become 'normal' but also sexy.

Bobby Deol or even Madhavan's viral selfies are not the only markers of this

storyline, shows the power of his appeal. Shetty's last noteworthy appearance was as the antagonist Raghavan Dutta in *Main Hoon Na* (2004). He reprised his role as Shyam in *Phir Hera Pheri* (2006). None of these roles, however, did much to revive his career, or image.

It was much later, in 2019, with the remake of *Sheher ki ladki* song from his and Raveena Tandon's 1996 film *Rakshak* that sort of reintroduced Shetty. *Badshah's* remake of the song has 255 million views, and a lot is from watching Shetty in a suave, sleek, 'daddy' avatar.

Since then, he has only set pulses racing and hearts palpating. From social media to public appearances, including at his daughter Athiya Shetty's wedding with

cricketer KL Rahul, everyone is sitting up and taking note of the 'new' Suneil Shetty. People collectively went into a trance when he walked the ramp with Athiya at the opening of Jio World Plaza. No need for Hollywood

There are, of course, actors who have never gone out of fashion. Top on this list is Anil Kapoor, whose career has been a steady dishing out of popular movies. He, too, has been labeled the universal 'daddy' figure, a role he cheekily embraced in *Thank You for Coming* (2023) by playing the older love interest, Professor, of Kanika (Bhumi Pednekar).

The other consistent 'sex symbol' of sorts in India has been model-actor Milind Soman, whose 1995 video with Alisha Chinoy for *Made in India* song can probably still make people, irrespective of gender or age, swoon.

Over the years, he has also embraced his greying hair and changing body, and remained people of the most popular symbols of fitness, especially with his win in the toughest triathlon in the world. Soman won the Ironman Triathlon in 2015, and showed all young guns how it's done. He also enacted the role of the sexy, older, more sorted lover, Dr Aamir Warsi, in Amazon Prime Video's *Four More Shots Please* (2019-23) opposite Sayani Gupta.





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