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**THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF**  
**ROHIT KUMAR SINGH IAS**  
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
GOVT. OF INDIA  
**Consumer Protection**



**CONGRESSMAN DANNY DAVIS**  
**VICTORIOUS FOR 15TH TERM :**  
**30 YEARS RECORD**

# FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

In this 29th edition of G.S.A. Global Eye Magazine, our cover story features the historic victory of Illinois's Dean of Congressmen, U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis from the 7th Congressional District of Illinois for the 15th consecutive term. With this resounding victory, this people's Congressman will be seated in the United States Congress for a record 30 years.

The Ethnic Communities garnered full support for this inclusive leader Danny K. Davis who truly believes in empowering minorities and ethnic communities to excel. Global Eye Magazine for the second year honored America's Top 18 under 18 Achievers with a congressional plaque, a personalized medallion signed by Congressman Davis along with a proclamation by Mayor of Naperville, Nathaniel Booker for each of the 18 Awardees. The 2023 year Young Heroes were celebrated in the Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence at Englewood, Chicago.

In our Spotlight Section, we cover the American Multi-Ethnic Coalition - AMEC USA and 7th Congressional District Multi-Ethnic Advisory Task Force - MEATF's 12th Annual International Women's Day Celebrations honoring the Top 20 Global Women of Excellence held on March 6, 2024, at the Ford House Building at Washington D.C. Four U.S. Congressmen participated in this Congressional Awards Ceremony which Celebrated the Global Women of Excellence - Congressman Danny K. Davis (7th CD-IL), Jonathan Jackson (1st CD-IL), Raja Krishnamoorthi (8th CD-IL), and Shri Thanedar, the Congressman from Detroit, Michigan.

In this edition, we added a new section, "Voice of Our Leaders" where our elected representatives can directly address our readers. We have our usual Youth Outlook, Women's Corner, India News Feature, USA News Feature and Global Community Reflections, sections in this edition.

This year 2024 has kick-started with India's federal elections for 543 Members of Parliament throughout

India from April 19 to June 4, 2024. The 18th Lok Sabha (Parliament - Lower House) will be elected in June 2024 for a five-year term. The last elections were held in May 2019 for the 17th Lok Sabha.

Similarly, 2024 is the year for the United States Presidential elections with the Republican Party's Convention being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in July 2024 and the Democratic Party's Convention in Chicago in August 2024.

This year has the potential to be a strong year for the global economy. In search for New Horizons and the need to develop inclusive leaders

with a global outlook, we had launched The Global International Institute For Leadership in January 2023.

On February 17, 2024, the Global Eye International Institute for Leadership, a 501 -C-3 not-for-profit educational organization organized a Primer on African American History which was well attended and covered in our last edition. The Global Eye International Institute For Leadership is introducing a 5-day certificate course on Artificial Intelligence and Innovations from June 10 to June 13, 2024, at Medstar Auditorium. This certificate course would include field visits and hands-on projects including lectures for the participants. Limited seats are available and all are encouraged to apply for admission to [editorial@globaleyedigital.com](mailto:editorial@globaleyedigital.com).

We truly look forward to receiving your feedback and enjoy reading your letters to the editor. These letters inform us of our readers' insights, suggestions and inspire us to continue bringing you a unique blend of news and articles. We also encourage contributing writers and photographers to send in your work for publication.

The year 2024 continues to deliver on the promise of prosperity. Yes, Together we can scale new heights.




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# University of Houston renews MoU with ICCR

The MoU was signed last year but was renewed for another year this week at UoH between its Chancellor-President Renu Khator and Consul General of India



India in Houston, DC Manjunath. The Chair aims to teach and conduct research on Tamil language, literature and culture at the University of Houston. The establishment of the Chair was welcomed by the leaders in the Joint Declaration issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the US in June 2023. Under the MoU, Dr T Vijayalakshmi, the visiting chair professor from India, has been teaching a curated Tamil Language and Culture Course at the University for the last two semesters. "Having knowledge and appreciation for different cultures is a hallmark of an enlightened and advanced society. That's why I'm so grateful that the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has renewed our visiting scholar's

partnership. It enhances our students' depth of knowledge and gives them a competitive advantage internationally," Renu Khator, the first Indian-American to lead a major research university in the US since 2008. Manjunath said that the "addendum will further enhance and deepen the India-US education and knowledge partnership". UH is only the third American university to partner with the ICCR on its global Indian Chairs Abroad programme, along with Rutgers University and the University of Pittsburgh. The Tamil language, considered the oldest in the world, is one of the top five languages spoken in the United States, which is home to nearly 3,00,000 Tamil Americans. Classes in Tamil Studies began

for the first cohort of students at the University of Houston by the ICCR and UH MOU signed in June 2023. The classes are being taught by Dr Thangavel Vijayalakshmi, a visiting professor of Indian Studies at UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

"If something is truly valuable, it can be embraced with joy by anyone. The Tamil course at UH has been well-received by students, especially American students who are eager to learn about the language, values, and culture of Tamil Nadu and India. UH has also shown a deep interest in establishing this course. It is anticipated that this initiative will successfully achieve its goals, as desired by India and America", Dr Vijayalakshmi said.

The University of Houston and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies to conduct research on Tamil language, literature and culture

at the university.

The MoU was signed last year but was renewed for another year at a ceremony held early this week at the University of Houston, between its Chancellor and the President Dr Renu Khator, and Consul General of

## 20 YEAR OLD TANYA NEWMAN, CHENNAI STUDENT ADDRESSES THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA ON THE PLIGHT OF TAMIL WOMEN IN SRI LANKA

Satyabhama University 3rd year Engineering student. Spoke passionately about how Tamil women of Sri Lanka are still doubly affected by the economic conditions prevailing there post-Tamil genocide that happened in May 2009.

Ms Carmine Tanya Thank you chair, The prolonged economic crisis in Sri Lanka has greatly affected the sufferings of Tamil women who are largely the main bread winners of their families after the brutal genocide of 2009. The



90,000 war widows have been pushed to the brink of existence as there are no aid nor job opportunities available. Health care is severely affected as essential medicines are unavailable and surgeries postponed. Food insecurity and inadequate nutrition can lead to serious long-term consequences for mothers and their children.

According to official data updated to 2020, there are 67,000 households headed by women in the North and 127,000 in the East. Many Tamil women who became breadwinners because their husbands, fathers or brothers were kidnapped or killed in the war are now elderly. Many died, some became disabled and mentally ill, others suffer from war trauma, mental and physical stress that makes them weaker than their age. Many have been abandoned by their children because of the economic crisis and the government has no concrete programme for them.

These women have also lost their land to the government as part of the high security zones and Sinhala resettlement programmes in the North.

There has been no effort by the government towards reconciliation nor working out a political settlement or a compensatory package. In a democratic way, the UN and the International community must prevail upon Sri Lanka to recognise the rights of Tamil women towards self-determination and conduct a referendum in order to determine their secure future.

Thank You

Ms Carmine Tanya Thank you chair, Sri Lanka is a signatory to most of the International instruments including the ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC. After the genocide of the Tamils in 2009, the UN commissioned the Panel of Experts headed by Marzuki Darusman, who's Report in 2011 stated that the "Conduct of the war represented a grave assault on the entire regime of International Law designed to protect individual dignity during both war and peace."

Sri Lanka has rejected any International Investigation mechanism despite the UN passing several resolutions. It only proves the bullying and time buying tactics of Sri Lanka. In 2015, the present President, who was then the Prime Minister had promised to cooperate with the UN and the International community in accepting the International mechanisms seeking truth and moving towards reconciliation.

Despite the horrific economic crisis where the Tamils are denied their basic economic rights to receive aid, the government has not accepted the key demands of the Tamils and the UN including demilitarising the North and East, return civilian land belonging to the Tamils nor investigated disappearances. Though the government shows that food supplies have reached the north and east, it has essentially reached the armed forces stationed there.

The victims' only hope for justice lies in the hands of United Nations and International Community who should recognize the commission of genocide in Sri Lanka to pave the way for further steps to hold Sri Lanka responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Thank You



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RECEIVED FOR OUR GLOBAL EYE MAGAZINE'S 28th EDITION FROM ACROSS INDIA & USA, REFLECTS OUR READERS INSIGHT ON OUR ARTICLES.

Thank you for highlighting the insightful discussions on African American history. The impressive lineup of speakers at the Global Eye Institute's event. More coverage on community empowerment.

**Sheetal Chicago**

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, a flower show in Chennai! love to see exotic blooms alongside native varieties. Enjoyed the flower show with family alot.

**Sumanth Tambaram, Chennai**

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor, I'm impressed by the Rajasthan government's initiative to use Palace on Wheels for religious tours. It's a creative way to tap into new markets and offer unique travel experiences. Can't wait to see more innovative ideas like this!

**Naman Patil Baroda**

\*\*\*\*\*

Kudos to Dr. VGP for showcasing Dr. Bharat Barai's remarkable journey. watched the entire show and subscribed to the channel. All the talk shows are Truly inspiring.

**Jason Naperville, IL**

\*\*\*\*\*

Reading about the Sankranti celebration made me wish I was there! Can you write about more fun events like this? Can you announce these type of events well before the event so that we can attend.

**Varsha Rosemont, IL**

\*\*\*\*\*

Inspiring profiles of young achievers like Kelyvn Thomas in America's Top 18

Awards. Keep showcasing diverse talents. Suggestion: Include more details on how these achievers are making a positive impact in their communities.

**Pramod Chauhan New Delhi, India**

\*\*\*\*\*

"I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed reading about Lieutenant Governor Sinha's efforts in Jammu and Kashmir. It's incredible to see the impact he's having. He's truly making a positive impact.

**Sakshi Dehradun**

\*\*\*\*\*

As a Kashmiri reading about Lieutenant Governor Sinha's leadership in Jammu and Kashmir made me feel hopeful for the future. It's great to see someone making such a big difference in people's lives.

**Raj India**

\*\*\*\*\*

Impressive coverage of Clayton Harris 111's vision for justice. His holistic approach is what our community needs.

**Nelson Illinois**

\*\*\*\*\*

Lilyma Khan's story in TMS touched my heart. She went from hardship to becoming a head chef! It's inspiring to see her resilience. Thank you for sharing such motivating stories.

**Viraj Mumbai**

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm excited to read about the religious tours on Palace on Wheels. It's a fascinating blend of luxury and spirituality, offering travelers a unique and memorable experience. Thank you for sharing this insightful travel update.

**Aparna New Delhi**

\*\*\*\*\*

Good to see the Magazine after few more days of waiting. Appreciate the commitment to inclusivity and empowerment showcased by The Global Eye International Institute.

**Moksha India.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Grateful for the thought-provoking dialogue between Dr. VGP and Dr. Barai.

**Pavan Naperville, IL**

\*\*\*\*\*

Avantika Gunjan's piece on African American history opened my eyes to the resilience and strength of the African American community. It's important for us to learn from their experiences and strive for equality for all. Thank you for highlighting this important topic.

**Sumeet IL**

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for showcasing Clayton Harris 111's commitment to community-centered leadership. Let's continue championing inclusive voices.

**Reddy Chicago**

\*\*\*\*\*

Appreciate efforts to boost local agriculture. Three-day flower show last year felt short. Glad this year's expo is 10 days.

**Padmanaban Chennai, India**

\*\*\*\*\*

Wow! Loved reading about the Sankranti celebration in Chicago. Can we have more articles like this? The Sankranti celebration seemed like a blast! Maybe next time,



could you include interviews with people who attended?

**Shravan kumar Vijayawada, AP, India**

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for showcasing exceptional young talent like Pragna Nidumolu. Their dedication is inspiring. Kudos to the magazine for recognizing the achievements of young leaders like Carter John York. Let's continue to celebrate their successes!

**John Avi USA**

\*\*\*\*\*

Fascinating event! History talk ignited passion for African American achievements. Enthusiastic about leadership courses! Consider online options too.

**Dr. Mari Chicago**

\*\*\*\*\*

## FACE TO FACE WITH ROHIT KUMAR SINGH IAS, ONE OF INDIA'S SENIOR BUREAUCRATS, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.



**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 North America.**

In this 39th Episode of Dr. VGP TALK SHOW meet ROHIT KUMAR SINGH, an IAS officer of the 1989 Batch, Rajasthan Cadre, India. With an Electrical Engineering degree from I.I.T, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), he completed a master's in Computer Engineering from Clarkson University, New York, USA before joining the IAS. Later he obtained a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University, USA. At IIT BHU, he received the Distinguished Alumini Award in December 2021. At Harvard University,

he was honored with the Lucius N. Liffaeur Fellowship 2004 for outstanding academic performance and commitment to public service.

**INNOVATIVE MAESTRO : MAN OF ACTION: ROHIT KUMAR SINGH** right through his illustrious

career has been an innovator, who specializes in navigating new frontiers. As Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Medical, Health & Family Welfare in Rajasthan State, he developed and displayed the Bhilwara Model of "ruthless containment" to successfully manage the COVID upsurge in the rural and urban hot spots across Rajasthan in 2020.

**PIONEERING PROGRESS: ROHIT KUMAR SINGH'S TRAILBLAZING INITIATIVES:**

As a Member, Finance of the National Highway Authority of India, he received Public Private Partnerships in National Highways via key policy interventions like the Hybrid Annuity Model and the Toll Operate Transfer Model that

resulted in one of the largest FDI in the highways sector emanating to USD 1.5 billion, one of the first successful asset monetization in India.

**UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE WELFARE OF MILLIONS OF CONSUMERS NATIONWIDE: ROHIT KUMAR SINGH** as India's Consumer Affairs Secretary Oversees the implementation of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016, the Standards of Weights and Measures - The Legal Metrology Act 2009, regulation of Packaged Commodities and the Essential Commodities Act 1955. On top of this, ROHIT KUMAR SINGH directly monitors 24 hours / 7 days a week the prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act 1980, monitoring of prices and availability of essential commodities, direct selling, and training in legal metrology. The prevention of Improper use of the Emblems and Names Act 1952, Consumer Co-operatives, National Test House, and laying down Standards, codes, and ensuring quality control of biofuels for end users also fall under his purview.

**IMPLEMENTING CONSUMER RIGHTS UNDER THE VISIONARY PRIME MINISTER MODI, ROHIT KUMAR SINGH EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF EMPOWERMENT AND PROGRESS:** Reporting on a weekly basis with daily inputs to India's Prime Minister MODI to check prices and distribution of essential commodities and under Prime Minister MODI's guidance steers India towards a future of prosperity and equality.

Living upto Prime Minister MODI's standards of efficiency and proactive leadership, **ROHIT KUMAR SINGH's** process extends to navigate the complexities of e-commerce and implementing consumer rights in the digital age with foresight and innovations. Join this enlightening Conversation as we unravel the landscape of governance and consumer advocacy.

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# CONGRESSMAN DANNY DAVIS'S SPECTACULAR VICTORY FOR 15th TERM IN U. S. CONGRESS IN A FIVE CANDIDATES RACE

Danny Davis won over 53% of the vote defeating turncoat pretender Melissa Erwin, Chicago City Treasurer 21%, Kina Collins 19% and Lakefront Indian American Nikhil Bhatia 5% among others. With this win, U. S. Rep Danny Davis would secure serving in the U. S. Congress for 30 years. Dr. VGP, President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition AMEC USA said that Congressman Davis's inclusive leadership for all prevailed last night in spite of all the charlatans attempts to

wrest the seat from a proven statesman. Dr. VGP led the 15 member AMEC delegation to the election night watch gatherings last evening, March 19 for Congressman Jonathan Jackson (elected unopposed) at South Chicago Avenue, for Congressman Danny Davis at 325 S. California Avenue and for Clayton Harris 111, Democratic Candidate for Cook County State Attorney at Taste 222 on Canal Street.

Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Governor

AMEC, Dr Gwen Appleberry, Registrar, Global Eye International Institute For Leadership, Naveen Chandra, AMEC Executive Director, Amar Uphadyay, MEATF Councilman, Acharya Rohit Joshi, AMEC Commissioner, Syed Mukkaram, AMEC Commissioner, Anwar Sadat, AMEC Commissioner, Robert York, AMEC Commissioner, Carter York, AMEC Students Secretary, Dr Chezalyn Grant, Chief Community Officer, Global Eye Magazine,

Nightingale of Chicago Payel Roy Ganguly, her husband Abhishek Ganguly and her daughter Anaisha Ganguly were part of the 15 member AMEC delegation. Dr. VGP thanked all the leaders of different ethnic communities for their continuous support, time and contributions to the reelection campaigns of Rep. Danny Davis, Rep. Jonathan Jackson and for Attorney Clayton Harris's candidacy. Yes, Together We Did it Again! God Bless America



Living legend Congressman Danny K Davis addressing the gathering after his SPECTACULAR VICTORY FOR 15th TERM IN U. S. CONGRESS in a five candidates race. Seen in the picture is Dr. VGP, President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition AMEC USA cheering Congressman.



Naveenchandra Karna, AMEC Executive Director looks on. Dr. VGP, President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition AMEC USA greets Reverend Jessie Jackson, U.S. Civil rights leader, in the back row are Dr Gwen Appleberry, Registrar, Global Eye International Institute For Leadership and Acharya Rohit Joshi, AMEC Commissioner.



Seen in the picture in the back row, Robert York, AMEC Commissioner, Nigthingale of Chicago Payel Roy Ganguly. In the front row, Dr Gwen Appleberry, Registrar, Global Eye International Institute For Leadership, Jacqueline Jackson, the wife of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Governor AMEC and Dr Chezalyn Grant, Chief Community Officer.



From left to right in the picture - Naveenchandra Karna, AMEC Executive Director, Robert York, AMEC Commissioner, Dr. VGP, President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition AMEC USA, Dr Gwen Appleberry, Registrar, Global Eye International Institute For Leadership, Acharya Rohit Joshi, AMEC Commissioner, Nigthingale of Chicago Payel Roy Ganguly and her daughter Anaisha Ganguly along with the living legend U.S. Civil rights leader, Reverend Jessie Jackson.



Naveenchandra Karna, AMEC Executive Director, Santita Jackson, writer, co-host, and executive producer of the nationally syndicated radio show "Keep Hope Alive", Amar Uphadyay, MEATF Councilman, Congressman Jonathan Jackson, Dr. VGP, President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition AMEC USA, Acharya Rohit Joshi, AMEC Commissioner, Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Governor AMEC, Dr. VGP, President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition AMEC USA, Dr Gwen Appleberry, Registrar, Global Eye International Institute For Leadership and Nigthingale of Chicago Payel Roy Ganguly and her daughter Anaisha Ganguly.



Seen in the picture above from left to right - Dr. Chezalyn Grant, Chief Community Officer, Clayton Harris 111, Democratic Candidate for Cook County State Attorney and Professor at Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and Robert York, AMEC Commissioner.



Dr. VGP, Global Eye Chairman, Founder President AMEC USA, and President, American Multi Ethnic Commission standing alongside U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis at the historic Victory Rally at Westside Ministers Baptist Conference in Chicago on March 19 evening heralding a record 15 consecutive terms in office setting a record of 30 years.



In the picture from left to right: Amar Uphadyay, MEATF Councilman, Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Governor AMEC, Dr. Tonyia P. Winston, CEO New Age Services Corporation, Dr. VGP, President, American Multi Ethnic Coalition AMEC USA, Congressman Danny K Davis, Robert York, AMEC Commissioner, Amar Uphadyay, MEATF Councilman, Carter York, AMEC Students Secretary, Dr. Chezalyn Grant, Chief Community Officer, Naveen Chandra, AMEC Executive Director and Anaisha Ganguly.

# Ethnic Community Leaders Behind Congressman Danny Davis 'S Successful Campaign



Congressman Danny Davis hosted by Sudhir Agrawal ,Vice President , Indian American Business Coalition , Neal Patel , National Chair of AMEC USA and Martino Tangkar, President, The Global Eye International Institute For Leadership on March 13 at Chicago Curry House.



Congressman Davis addressing the guests at the dinner meeting



Dr. Rajiv Kandala, Dionne Harden, Carter York, Dr. Zenobia Sowell , Pam Morris Walton, Vijay Muralidharan, Bala Ghimere, and Dr. Eric Dupaya among others join Congressman Davis.



Dr. Gwen Appleberry , Pam Morris Walton , Sudhir Agrawal, Syed Mukkaram, Anwar Sadatullah , Dr. Zenobia Sowell joined other community leaders in endorsing Congressman Danny Davis for his reelection.



Ethnic Community Leaders gave a Clarion Call to wholeheartedly support Congressman Davis and openly condemned those who are pretenders and charlatans who opposed his candidacy for selfish gains.

# **ILLINOIS CONGRESSMAN JONATHAN JACKSON SMOOTHLY SAILS THROUGH PRIMARY UNOPPOSED.**

*Illinois Congressman Jonathan Jackson representing the first congressional district was unopposed in the democratic primaries held in March 19. Freshman Congressman Jackson serves on the U. S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and Agriculture Committee. Congressman Jonathan Jackson's constituents are predominantly African Americans and also include Palestinian Americans from Palos Heights and Indian Americans from Orlando Park and Frankfort in the first congressional district among other ethnicities.*



**Dr VGP introducing the ethnic community leaders at a Reception to support Congressman Jonathan Jackson at Sinha Restaurant, Chicago on March 15.**



**Muslim Community Leaders embrace Congressman Jonathan Jackson for his continued inclusive leadership . Civil Engineer Syed Mukkaram and Fusion Technologies CEO Anwar Sadatullah with Congressman Jackson at the Dinner reception.**



**Congressman Jonathan Jackson and Neal Patel, National Chair AMEC USA in an animated conversation at the reception**



**Acharya Rohit Joshi , AMEC Commissioner passing on Rekhi Energy to Congressman Jackson during his campaign stops .**



**Chinese American Community Leader Sam Ma greeting Congressman Jonathan Jackson while Dr VGP looks on.**



**Ricky Gandhi , Community Activist and a former candidate for Illinois State Representative and his mother Chandan Gandhi with Congressman Jackson at the event.**



**Neal Patel , AMEC National Chair welcoming the Leaders at the dinner reception to support Congressman Jackson**



**Nightingale of Chicagoland Payel Roy Ganguly sang and dedicated a special English song of Harry Bellafonte , " Jamaica Farewell " to Congressman Jackson which led to a huge applause**



**Vijay Muralidharan of Five Entrepreneurs LLC leading the discussion on issues facing the ethnic communities with Congressman Jackson at the event.**



**Dr Bharat Barai , Oncologist , Indiana who is fondly referred to as the Father of the Indian American Community hugs Congressman Jackson at the reception and applauds Congressman 's leadership.**



**United Telugu Christian Community UTCC Founder Vijender Doma and Bethel Wellness Alliance Secretary Jerome Athishtam also endorsed Congressman Jonathan Jackson's reelection bid.**



**The Co- Chairs for the successful meet and greet evening with Congressman Jonathan Jackson held on March 15 from left to right : Syed Mukkaram , Dr Vijay G. Prabhakar, Vijay Muralidharan and Sam Ma.**

# GLOBAL EYE MAGAZINE CELEBRATES AMERICA'S TOP 18 UNDER 18 YEARS ACHIEVERS 2023

Global Eye Magazine for the second year truly believes in celebrating Tomorrow's inclusive Leaders today by honoring the Top 18 under 18 youth from different ethnic backgrounds for their outstanding leadership and unique service to the community at large. The impressive Awards Ceremony was anchored by Congressman Danny K. Davis at the Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence at Englewood, Chicago on February 24, 2024.



**Emaida Lebron, High School Junior (11th grader), Acero Garcia High School, Chicago, IL**



**Maddox Manuel, High school Senior (12th grader) from Nequa Valley High School, Naperville, IL**



**Pragna Nidumolu, High School Junior (11th grader), Freedom High School, Chantilly, VA**



**Shipra Jha, High School Junior (11th grader), Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL**



**Carter John York, High School Sophomore (10th grader), Hansberry High School, Chicago, IL**



**Karamot Fatai, High School Senior (12th grader), Evanston Township High School, Evanston, IL**



**Damien Bluitt, High School Sophomore (10th grader), University of Chicago Woodlawn Charter School, Chicago, IL**



# GLOBAL EYE MAGAZINE CELEBRATES AMERICA'S TOP 18 UNDER 18 YEARS ACHIEVERS 2023



**Aadya Karna, High school Senior (12th grader), Plainfield East High School, Plainfield, IL**



**Hannah Leong, High School Sophomore (10th grader), Naperville Central High School, Naperville, IL**



**Kiya Blake, High School Senior (12th grader), University of Chicago Woodlawn Charter School, Chicago, IL**



**Jay Jadhav, High School Junior (11th grader), Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL**



**Ilkay Simsek, High School Junior (11th grader), West Lafayette High School, West Lafayette, IN**



**Darshan Thomas, High School Senior (12th grader), Fenwick High School, Oak Park, IL**



**Samuel Yousefzai, High school Senior (12th grader), Roycemore School, Evanston, IL**



**Joseph Awinongya Jr, College Junior, St. Francis University, Joliet, IL**



**Finesse Nolden, High School Senior (12th grader), University of Chicago Woodlawn Charter School, Chicago, IL**



**Kyrel Walls, High School Sophomore (10th grader), Perspective / IIT Math & Science Academy, Chicago, IL**



**BY Dr. Chezalyn Grant, CCO, Global Eye**

On the illustrious evening of Wednesday, March 6th, the American Multi-Ethnic Coalition and Global Eye Magazine collaborated to orchestrate the esteemed 12th Annual Congressional International Women's Day Celebration, hosted under the distinguished patronage of **United States Representative Danny K. Davis**. It was an occasion infused with reverence and admiration as we gathered to pay homage to the remarkable achievements of 20 outstanding women of excellence.

These women, whose names would be etched in the annals of history, not only demonstrated unparalleled ambition, dedication, and resilience in their respective fields but did so with the added distinction of being women of color, imbuing their journeys with an extra layer of significance. Among the luminaries in attendance were **iconic U.S. Congressmen Representatives Danny K. Davis, Shri Thanedar, Raja Krishamoorthi, and Jonathan Jackson**, accompanied by his esteemed wife, **Marilyn Jackson, President and CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center**, who was also celebrated for her extraordinary contributions to society.

It was my distinct honor and privilege to co-host this extraordinary event alongside the remarkable **Katherine Thorat**, Executive Vice President of the American Multi-Ethnic Coalition. Before the ceremonial proceedings commenced, we were blessed with a poignant and soul-stirring opening prayer delivered by **Prophet Kiran**

**Murali**, the esteemed Founder of Jesus is Alive Ministries in Chennai, India. His words infused the gathering with a sense of solemnity and purpose, setting the stage for the uplifting evening that lay ahead.

The atmosphere was further elevated by the gracious remarks of the esteemed **Dr. Vasavi Chakka**, whose eloquence and wisdom resonated with all in attendance. As the evening unfolded, it took a heartwarming turn with the appearance of **Miss Anaisha Roy Ganguly**, a charismatic second-grade student from Steck Elementary School. Her youthful exuberance and eloquence captivated hearts and minds, serving as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

Following **Miss Anaisha's** beautiful address, we were treated to the melodious voice of **Jonathan Joseph Brown**, the distinguished Northwest Indiana Bureau Chief of GSA Global Eye Magazine. His enchanting talent and captivating presence held the audience spellbound, leaving an indelible impression on all fortunate enough to be present.

As we proceeded to honor each of the extraordinary women in turn, it was truly a delight to witness their radiant smiles and hear their heartfelt speeches as they graciously accepted their well-deserved awards and shared memorable moments with **Congressman Danny K. Davis**. And as the final awardee graciously received her recognition, **Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar** graced the audience with his profound words, ensuring that the 12th annual International Women's Day celebration would be remembered and cherished for years to come.



12th Annual Congressional Women's Day Celebrations 2024



**PROGRAM**

2.45 PM - 3.10 PM : Music Prelude : MULTI ETHNIC MUSIC ENSEMBLE



Southern Indian Veena  
Saraswathi Ranganathan



Spanish Flamenco Guitar  
Carlo Basile



Venezuelan Andes Latin Percussion  
Fran Vielma

**Hosts : CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

Katherine Thorat, Vice President, AMEC American Multi Ethnic Commission, USA  
Dr. Chezalyn Grant, Youth Chair, MEATF Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force, 7th CD - IL

- Opening Prayer : **Prophet Kiran Murali**, Founder, Jesus Is Alive Ministries, Chennai, India
- Welcome Address : **Dr. Vasavi Chakka**, Awards Jury Co-Chair
- Opening Remarks : **Dr. VGP : Prof. Vijay G. Prabhakar**, Founder AMEC & MEATF
- Call to Action : **Miss Anaisha Roy Ganguly**, 2nd Grade Student, Steck Elementary School, Aurora, IL
- Musical Tribute : **Jonathan Brown Joseph**, Northwest Indiana Bureau Chief, GSA Global Eye Magazine

**HONORING THE TOP 20 GLOBAL WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE BY HONORABLE U.S. CONGRESSMAN DANNY K. DAVIS**

- Awards Presentation : **U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis**
- Medallion Presentation : **U.S. Rep. Jonathan Jackson**
- Red Rose Presentation : **U.S. Rep. Shri Thanedar**
- SABD - GSA First Book : **U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi**  
Authored by America's Phenomenal Woman Dr. Sarada Sonty



**PRESENTATION OF THE EDWARD & LILY PRABHAKAR CENTENARY AWARD To Neil Khot**

CEO Rely Services, Schaumburg, IL

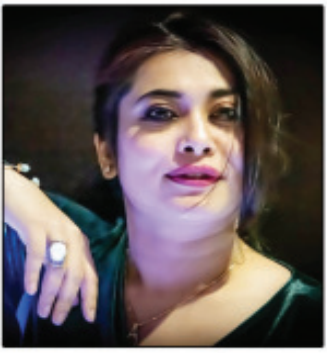
**PRESENTATION OF NEWTON DEVASAHAYAM CENTENARY AWARD To Dr. T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman**

Washington Bureau Chief, White House, United Nations & Congressional Correspondent, News India Times

- Chief Guest Remarks : **U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis**
- Closing Remarks : **Naveenchandra Karna**, Executive Director, AMEC



ENGAGE! EDUCATE! EMBRACE! ENLIGHTEN! EMPOWER! ENRICH!



**Payel Roy Ganguly**  
Artist  
Chicago, IL



Professionally Trained Singer, Performer and teacher with more than 23 years of learning experience as a vocalist, with specialization in

RabindraSangeet. Alongwith, she has an extensive experience in teaching and performing the niche genre of Indian Classical and other forms of music- like Toppa and Bhajan and had a fair grip on Folk Music mainly from Bengal called "Baul" Music to find followers in the world music scene. She has had hands on experience being a lead stage player with great communication skill to emote to the audience for events with a character for quick learning as a team player Intends to enthuse the world by showcasing her talent in global platform, which would help to explore and realize her true potential. Willing to take her niche skill to enlightening the world with her skill. Payel has been award winners in various platforms all over USA. Her recent proclamation by honourable Mayor of Naperville-Mayor Scott S Wehrli on the occasion of Chinese New Year for her notable contribution in social causes through her singing and empowering ethnic communities supporting the idea of "Talent for a Cause".



**Marlyn Jackson**  
President & CEO  
Muhammad Ali Center



Professionally Trained Singer, Performer and teacher with more than 23 years of learning experience as a vocalist, with specialization in

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**Dr. Ayesha Suneja Seymour**  
PhD Clinical Psychology,  
Atlanta, Georgia



Dr. Ayesha Suneja has dedicated her life to the service of others. As an advocate for women's mental health and emotional wellbeing, she incorporates the timeless wisdom of her Indian heritage with the most advanced modalities of modern Psychology which she gained from an Undergraduate degree in Psychology, Master's in Counseling,

additional Master's in Psychology, and PhD in Clinical Psychology. The focus of her doctoral research and training has been the impact of trauma and shame on women and the neurological benefits of meditation and mindfulness. Dr. Ayesha has provided Psychotherapy and Psychoeducation regarding trauma, shame and mindfulness to countless patients in Alcohol/Drug Rehabilitation Centers, Adolescent Residential Behavioral Programs, Women & Families Wellness Programs, Homeless Shelters, Mental Health Clinics and University Counseling Centers. She spent 10 years teaching Undergraduate level college courses in Developmental and Cognitive Psychology, Psychopathology and Theories of Consciousness at The Art Institute of California and provided psychoeducation and training on mindfulness and meditation to cardiac patients in Dean Ornish's Reversing Heart Disease Program at The University of California, San Diego's Acute Cardiac Rehabilitation Center. In addition, Dr. Ayesha has worked compassionately with terminally ill women at Mother Teresa's House of the Dying and Destitute in Kolkata, India and trained with the Elizabeth Kubler Ross Foundation in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico in the service of women in hospice.



**Dr. Uma Katiki**  
National Cultural Service Coordinator,  
TANA, Naperville, IL



Although trained in the sciences and a Ph.D. holder, Uma has directed her considerable energy and drive towards improving the lives of people, especially those from the Telugu speaking population in the US. Fierce in her vision for women empowerment,

Uma has used her affiliations and leadership positions with several organizations to offer seminars, workshops, and skills training to help women develop connections and resources. She has led her teams of volunteers to conduct numerous food and clothing drives to homeless shelters, Women shelters, mask distribution to first responders, Eye camps and women's Day events. She has taken up the task of helping those families who are coping with incidents of domestic violence. Uma has connected these families with resources including social services, legal aid, and other similar needs. She has been a member and officer in many cultural organizations and has served in TANA (Telugu Association of North America, a large international voluntary organization) as the Women Services coordinator. Now she's has been elected as TANA's cultural service coordinator. With her passion and drive for community services, Uma is determined to use her affiliations to help improve and enhance the quality of life for women in the community.



**Seeta L Bala**  
Director,  
Gandhi King Centre for Non-Violence



Seeta Bala serves as the Director of the Gandhi King Centre for Non-Violence, Englewood, Chicago. She lives in Aurora, IL and is a Seasoned professional with a rich background in government agencies and corporate leadership roles, including the U.S. Department of Labor and IBM Global Services.

- Accolades include prestigious awards like the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Innovation Award, 2022 - Chicagoland's Top 20 Women of Excellence and recipient of League of Legends Champion award Community Ambassador for 2023 from Link and Options Center Inc., Chicago.
- Active engagement in civic and public service as Secretary General of AMEC USA.



**Rebekah Ratliff**  
Mediator & Arbitrator,  
Atlanta Georgia



Rebekah Ratliff is an international mediator and arbitrator with the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Service (JAMS). She provides dispute resolution services worldwide with JAMS. She is a credentialed former commercial insurance

claims professional with more than 25 years of experience in negotiating claims loss matters for global insurance companies, nationwide and internationally. Her work in dispute resolution is especially gratifying, because her name means "peacemaker". Ms. Ratliff is a native of Chicago, IL, and graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana, holding a degree in Psychology.

Ms. Ratliff is the Secretary of the National African American Insurance Association (NAAIA), serving as their Governance Committee Chair and International Relationships Liaison. She has dedicated her life and time to service. Rebekah is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Among

other affiliations, she is a member of Top Ladies of Distinction and National Council of Negro Women service organizations. Ms. Ratliff is the 1st Vice Chair of the National Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section. She also serves on the American Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section and DEI Advisory Councils. She was honored with the ABA DR Section's inaugural Ladder Award in 2023 for her work to advance equitable inclusion for diverse professionals, across industries. Ms. Ratliff is the recipient of various other prestigious awards, to include Business Insurance Women to Watch (2021) and Insurance Business America's HOT 100 and Elite Women awards. She was also honored with the (2023) Business Insurance Alonzo Herndon diversity Award and 7th U.S. District (IL) "Light of Life" Congressional Award in 2018.

Ms. Ratliff is the Founder and CEO of HBCU IMPACT®, a non-profit, created to attract, educate and employ students at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) into career opportunities in the insurance, risk management, financial services and legal industries. This initiative engages students at more than 50 HBCUs and over 25 corporate partners. She is an adjunct professor at Howard University School of Law, teaching insurance-related curriculum that she designed, to introduce law students to insurance-related legal career opportunities. Ms. Ratliff is a best-selling author and highly sought-after presenter, panelist, and lecturer in the insurance and legal industries. She frequently speaks on DEI, leadership, conflict resolution and she is known for facilitating multi-generational conversations, commanding audiences from around the world.



**Seema Govil**  
Co-President- India Franchise Council  
Founder & CEO cosmos City Media

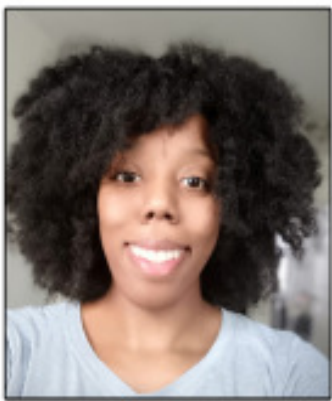


Seema Govil is a dynamic force in business and media, boasting a successful consultancy role with Franchise Consulting Company and serving as the co-President of India Franchise Council and Founder and CEO of Cosmo City Media.

a full-service PR and media agency in Austin, since 2013. Seema's niche is the widely untapped South Asian demographic. As a Franchise Coach, she shares her extensive knowledge through seminars and panel moderation, enlightening others about the nuances of franchising.

With an eleven-year tenure as a TV Asia anchor, Seema has covered a myriad of topics, including success stories of South Asians, nonprofits, spirituality, arts, lifestyle, healthcare, politics, and business. Over the years, Seema has actively participated in various nonprofit boards and film festivals. Her philanthropic spirit and filmmaking prowess culminated in 2022 when she journeyed to India to produce a compelling documentary for Akshaya Patra kitchens. Titled "Let's Rewrite Their Story," this documentary unfolds a narrative of positivity and empowerment within the Akshaya Patra nonprofit. The impactful documentary is now featured prominently at the Akshaya Patra gala nationwide, serving as a powerful tool for raising awareness and rallying support for the cause. Seema now holds a role on the advisory board of Akshaya Patra Austin, demonstrating her ongoing commitment and solidifying her dedication to making a lasting and positive impact on the community.

An alumna of the Leadership Austin program, Seema, is dedicated to mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs, leveraging her wealth of experiences to help them reach their goals and contribute to the community. Diversifying her media reach, Seema hosts the Fablife360 podcast, showcasing positive and inspiring stories from celebrities in India and the US to or individuals striving to achieve their dreams.



**A'Shonti Tiesha McKinney**  
Co-Founder,  
YHs Child



A'Shonti Tiesha McKinney is a dedicated pillar of the community that has long advocated for the well-being of those who are not in a position to voice themselves and enact tangible

change. She has set on several policy boards, traveled to expand resources, and started several organizations that address the social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of community members. She is the CEO of Crowned Elites LLC focusing on Social and Emotional Well-being through Movement. She is the Co-Founder of YHs Child bringing covenant-building strategies, praise, and worship to community members. A'Shonti has also taken on several policy initiatives focused on the well-being of incarcerated people and police reform that focuses on the humanity of those arrested along with the welfare of officers. This woman has traveled to several countries gathering information on how the economy, culture, and world views affect the treatment of its citizens. She believes that we should seek to have an understanding of our fellow brothers and sisters so that we can operate in Love and build a Kingdom culture that operates in excellence.



**Shashi Thanedar**  
Community Activist,  
Detroit, Michigan



•Born and brought up in IIT Powai. •Worked in IIT as a cashier in a cooperative bank.  
•After leaving IIT I worked in Kanjurmarg/Bhandup as a cashier in Finance company in

the loan department.

- Had a second job too which I did part-time for a builder as an Accountant/ clerical job.
- Got married and came to the US. •Helped to raise the kids.
- Got Administrative Asst Diploma. •Helped to grow our business.
- Did volunteer work in MIDC School. Taught in Balvihar.
- India Association cultural programs organizer ( St. Louis, MO.)
- Served at Marathi Mandal of St. Louis for 2 years as a President.
- Moved to Miami after the recession.
- Worked as a volunteer in a very well-known Mercy Hospital in the ER department for 1 1/2 years. •Later moved to Ann Arbor, MI.
- Was very active in Hosting cultural programs in our house.
- Now helping raising grandkids and supporting My husband who is a Congressman, won from Detroit District 13.



**Dr. Sweta Sneha**  
Founder, Executive Director  
Healthcare Management Informatics

Dr. Sweta Sneha, Founder-Executive Director and Professor at Kennesaw State University (KSU), is the visionary leader and architect of Healthcare Management and Informatics (HMI). In her role she leads KSU's strategy to innovate and design the healthcare of the future while optimizing industry-academic partnerships, global workforce development, experiential equity, economic development, and successful fundraising to support HMI foundation. She collaborates with the ecosystem of global experts in industry, academic, technology, healthcare, and government to develop innovative, scalable solutions that empower patients' healthcare journey and outcomes; enhances efficiency and revenue cycle; and reduces provider burnout. She



passion to equity, impact, and reach of education for a diverse workforce ready to tackle 21st century healthcare. She is respected in the community as a subject matter expert and has been a recipient of numerous awards and accolades for her impact on global workforce development and innovation in health-tech including the TITAN100 award recognizing the top 100 most influential leaders in Georgia (2024, 2023), Tech Leader of the Year (TAG 2023), American Medical Informatics Association (2023), Woman of the Year in Technology (2022), Visionary Leadership in Healthcare (Health 2.0 2024), Distinguished Service Award (2019), KSU Collaboration Award, NCWIT RISE-IT Award, and Women in Technology (WIT) -Top Three (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021). Dr. Sneha has been a trail-blazer for diversity and inclusion - mentored over thousands of students with diverse background, ethnicity, and

has single-handedly increased the revenue with HMI by over \$10 million and impacted KSU's footprint on the talent pipeline and equity in global health-tech workforce by over 500%. Dr. Sneha brings over two decades of experience in healthcare and technology to her current role as a visionary leader in digital healthcare with the

belief system; taught executive in healthcare, technology, and management; designed and developed clear pathways for minorities and under-represented groups to succeed; volunteers countless hours to advance global access to education; and sponsors budding entrepreneurs/leaders at Innovation Academy. Dr. Sneha has published over 100 peer-reviewed research; authored a book on revolutionizing healthcare; delivered panel sessions, workshops, and keynotes; in addition to serving on several boards. Dr. Sneha serves as editorial steward and university ambassador for Blockchain in Healthcare Today; editorial board for Health Systems Journal; co-chairs Health IT at Americas Conference on Information Systems, and Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sciences. In As a subject matter expert, Dr. Sneha was invited to serve Atlanta Regional Commission Roundtable for Emerging Technology in Life Sciences, AgTech, and Workforce Development. Additionally she serves on the board for Technology Association of Georgia – Digital Healthcare, Tech Alpharetta, TITAN100, and American Medical Informatics Association Industry Academic Partnerships. Dr. Sneha has a PhD in Computer Information Systems from Georgia State University and a BS in Computer Science from University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to her current role, she worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Management Consulting.



**Pam Morris-Walton**  
Gospel Radio Host,  
Chicago, IL

journey continued to Chicago, Illinois at WBEE in Harvey, Illinois. While in the Chicago area, after a decade, Pam joined V-103 FM for a number of years. When the opportunity presented itself at Pervis Spann/ Melody Spann Cooper radio station WVON, she began a long tenure, where Pam continues to host a weekly program "Gospel with Pam Morris-Walton" 11-2 pm Sunday program, currently in her 29th year. Gospel music is healing, uplifting, inspiring and encouraging to all. Pam Morris-Walton completed 20 years of event planning in the Office of Special Events for the City of



Chicago, serving as the guiding light of the world's largest free-admission Gospel Music Festival. Appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley, Pam Morris attracted top national and local talent and drew an audience from across the nation booking more than 2,500 Gospel groups. Ms. Morris-Walton created, then coordinated Mayor Daley's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Breakfast that featured such influential speakers as Dr. King's daughter; Reverend Bernice A. King; Dr. King's son, Martin Luther King, III; Ambassador Andrew Young; Dr. William Gray; Mayor Willie L. Brown of San Francisco, CA; Reverend Michael L. Pflieger; Bishop Horace E. Smith, MD, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. and Geoffrey Canada, CEO of Harlem Children's Zone. Pam received an Honorary Doctorate Degree and has served as an Interfaith Liaison & Outreach Consultant for two Illinois Governor candidates, the United States House of Representatives in the Second Congressional District of Illinois, two Presidential candidates and was the co-host of Broadcast Ministers' Alliance (BMA) with the late Archbishop Lucius Hall on Comcast TV 25. Pam served as the Interfaith Liaison Consultant for

the Honorable Chief Judge Timothy Evans and members of the 2022 Cook County Judicial Retention Class. As an Authority on Gospel Music, Pam has recorded two albums and has been recognized as an international Gospel consultant who provided services to a diverse list of entertainment venues that includes: The Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy; The Gospel and Soul Easter Festival in Terni, Italy; and The Tree of Life Gospel event in Durbin, South Africa; and was the Lead Ambassador for American Heart Association Power to End Stroke Most Powerful Voices Gospel Tour and Ambassador for the Bernie Mac Foundation. With a commitment to her community and the Clergy, Pam continues to serve, making a difference. She served on the (Grammy) Board of Governors of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences-Chicago Chapter. Pam is the 2006 Stellar Award Recipient for Gospel Announcer of the year, a motivational speaker, gospel consultant and advisor. Awards include the 2010 Who's Who in Black Chicago Award, 2010 City of Chicago Appreciation Award, the 2012 and 2019 National Council of Negro Women Media Award and a 2014 HistoryMaker, 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award. Pam serves on several boards including the African Festival of the Arts, Bronzeville Children's Museum, Timuel Black Foundation and Timeless Gifts of the Performing Arts. Pam resides in Chicago with husband Reverend Frank Walton.

when I was five years old and in primary school. When I got to secondary school, I explored other genres and launched into music fully. Then, I loved to sing 'Orin Ibile' (folk songs) and used to perform at weddings, birthdays and funerals with my group. I was the leader of my group then. I have seven albums to my credit, including the one I released last year. One of my albums is called Aditu. Happenings in Nigeria inspired my first album, Current Affairs released in 2012. It's inspired by the challenges people were going through spiritually, physically and morally. The annual US Congressional Awards is popularly known as Global Community Oscars hosted by the American Multi Ethnic Coalition (AMEC USA) and 7th Congressional District of Illinois' Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force (MEATF). The award is in recognition of my accomplishments in the arts and entertainment industry. The award ceremony was telecast live across 32 countries of the world, with over 1,000 people attending in person.



**Taiwo O Fatai**  
Renowned Fuji Singer,  
Nigeria

Taiwo Fatai was born in August 1974 in Obizi Nbase, Owerri, Imo State. However, I grew up at Ile Oba Tirejeoye, Oyan, Odo-Otin Local Government, Osun State. I developed love for singing



when I was five years old and in primary school. When I got to secondary school, I explored other genres and launched into music fully. Then, I loved to sing 'Orin Ibile' (folk songs) and used to perform at weddings, birthdays and funerals with my group. I was the leader of my group then. I have seven albums to my credit, including the one I released last year. One of my albums is called Aditu. Happenings in Nigeria inspired my first album, Current Affairs released in 2012. It's inspired by the challenges people were going through spiritually, physically and morally. The annual US Congressional Awards is popularly known as Global Community Oscars hosted by the American Multi Ethnic Coalition (AMEC USA) and 7th Congressional District of Illinois' Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force (MEATF). The award is in recognition of my accomplishments in the arts and entertainment industry. The award ceremony was telecast live across 32 countries of the world, with over 1,000 people attending in person.



**Tiffany Henyard**  
Mayor of Dolton,  
Illinois

On April 6, 2021, Tiffany A. Henyard, the 8-year former village trustee, became the Village of Dolton's first African American woman mayor. She was sworn in on May 8, 2021 becoming the youngest mayor in Dolton's 130 year history. Henyard, a democrat raised in the Village



of Dolton, won the election by securing 82% of the vote against the incumbent mayor during the 2021 election. Much fanfare surrounded the newly elected mayor and her swearing in ceremony was attended by dignitaries from across the State of Illinois including former Cook County Clerk Dorothy Brown, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Illinois Speaker of the House Representatives Emanuel Chris Welch and many others. In a move that sent shockwaves across the State of Illinois, on March 3, 2022 a few minutes before the stroke of midnight Mayor Tiffany A. Henyard became the first African American Supervisor of Thornton Township. The 4-

0 unanimous vote by the Thornton Township board cemented Henyard as the youngest woman to ever hold the position. Thornton Township is the largest township in the State of Illinois with over 190,000 residents. Mayor Henyard is a life-long resident of Dolton and continues to work passionately for the residents in the community where she grew up. She graduated with high honors from Thornridge High School and earned a Bachelor of Art's Degree in Business Administration with the highest honor, summa cum laude, from Robert Morris University.

Henyard is the recipient of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign/Human Rights Defender Award, Chicago Honors "Community Activist of the Year Award", the Dorothy Brown & New Millennium of Women for Change – Government Commitment Award, the prestigious "Queens Award" for Service to Community during COVID-19 Crisis, The 2022 United Way Leadership Award and the South Suburban College MLK Award



**Felicia Kiran**  
Co-Founder Jesus is Alive Ministries,  
Chennai, India

family with a routine of devoted life and a



Felicia Mercy comes from an orthodox Christian what God had planned for her future she invested her time in fasting and prayer, surrendering to God. It was until one day God asked, Will you leave your family to take the

churchgoer for many years. In the year 2013, there was a great touch of God in her life which shook her desires and passion for life. God spoke to her and said, My daughter, wait patiently, prepare and consecrate yourself for my plans for you are big. Not understanding

gospel to every nation, without her realization there was an instantaneous love that filled her heart and she said, YES TO THE KING, on that very same week their family got a call with a marriage proposal of Brother Kiran Murali. Seeing Brother Kiran Murali, she understood it was for such a ministry, that God had prepared her through fasting and prayer. In 2018 April, she was married to Brother Kiran Murali and together began their journey through Jesus Is Alive Ministries. Today by the grace of God, she shares the vision along with her husband, preaching the gospel, healing the sick, empowering leaders, prophesying over nations, and raising disciples for Christ through Jesus Is Alive Ministries.



**Stella Okere**  
Program Coordinator  
United African Organization, Chicago



Stella Okere was born in Lagos, Nigeria. She came to the United States in 2004 to continue her

to help people. She went on to study for her Master's degree at Governors State University. There she found her passion in the Social Work field. Stella was widely successful in school, often landing on

education. She went to South Suburban College where she received her Associate's Degree. After graduating from SSC, Stella obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Governors State University which ultimately developed into

the Dean's list. Stella participated in a number of academic clubs, including Tau Sigma. In the pursuit of helping people, she was able to intern at a few companies that focused on aiding individuals, families and the community; that included United African Organization, where she now works as Program and Family Support Services Coordinator (LMSW), Coordinator for Youth and Employment, Coordinator and Supervisor for Intern, Volunteer, Navigators Supervisor, Hair braiders Association and Cab driver Association Coordinator. Stella participated and helped the community with resources, outreach, Advocating for the community. She hosted webinars on various programs including rental and mortgage assistances, African Youth Forum and soon.



**Dr. Vicky. Yamamoto**  
20th President of SBMT



Dr. Vicky Yamamoto is a cancer scientist at University of Southern California, Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center with extensive experience across esteemed institutions including Mount St. Mary's University, The Scripps Research Institute, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. She lives in Los Angeles, CA

- Renowned for publications in prestigious journals and contributions to developmental neurobiology, cancer stem cells, and molecular targeted therapy.

- Founding member and executive leader at Society for Brain Mapping & Therapeutics (SBMT), dedicated to policy change, advocacy, and improving healthcare quality.



**Dr. Sheila Stephen**  
Former Vice Chancellor,  
TNPESU



Dr. Sheila Stephen, is a Former Vice Chancellor of TNPESU (Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University) and is from Chennai, India.

She has to her credit over 70 research publications and collaborations with institutions like Oxford and Worcester University Was appointed as the first female Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University in Chennai in 2018.



**Menka Soni**  
Community Leader & Philanthropist



Menka Soni, is the founder of AmPowering Group of Pageants, is a visionary in the pageant industry, recognized for her transformative journey lives in Seattle, WA.

- She challenges traditional norms by advocating for progress and embracing a growth mindset, crowning winners who embody real values.
- With innovative pageant systems like Mr. & Ms. Empowering Universe, Menka Soni celebrates ambassadors of positive change, honoring real accomplishments and inspiring courage in others.

**PRESENTATION OF THE EDWARD & LILY PRABHAKAR CENTENARY AWARD**

**To Neil Khot**

**CEO Rely Services, Schaumburg, IL**



**PRESENTATION OF NEWTON DEVASAHAYAM CENTENARY AWARD**

**To Dr. T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman**

**Washington Bureau Chief,  
White House, United Nations &  
Congressional Correspondent, News India Times**



**MULTI ETHNIC MUSIC ENSEMBLE**



**Southern Indian Veena**  
**Saraswathi Ranganathan**



**Spanish Flamenco Guitar**  
**Carlo Basile**



**Venezuelan Andes Latin Percussion**  
**Fran Vielma**

# GLIMPSES OF 12TH ANNUAL AMEC & MEATF CONGRESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS







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# Virginia State Senate passes resolution commending work of Indian American journalist

The Virginia State Senate unanimously passed the resolution with a voice vote on March 8.



State Senator, Suhas Subramanyam, who is also a Democratic candidate for US Congress from Virginia's 10th Congressional district. The Virginia State Senate unanimously passed the resolution with a voice vote on March 8. Introducing Jayaraman in the Senate gallery, Subramanyam referred to him "as the recipient of the prestigious Ashoka Award for social change," while commending his dedication to journalism and foreign policy. Subramanyam said Jayaraman on January 27 "received a Distinguished Service Award 'for advancing media coverage for the Indian diaspora and fostering US-India relations' from the then Indian Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Sandhu and Lieutenant

## Capitol Hill, D. C. Diary

Governor of Virginia and President of the Senate, Winsome Sears. On February 28, Kannan Srinivasan, the first Indian-American immigrant elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, also presented a commendation to Jayaraman on the House Floor for having received the Distinguished Service Award.

Born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Jayaraman, also known as J. T. Vishnu, previously worked with Hindustan Times, The Tribune, and The Sunday Observer in New Delhi, before moving to the US.

He also worked at the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and contributed to publications including the UN Yearbook and the UN Chronicle.

Virginia State Senate has passed a resolution commending the work of an Indian American journalist T Vishnudatta Jayaraman for his "dedication to journalism and foreign policy." The resolution was introduced on March 4 by Indian American

The Ashoka Award was presented to Jayaraman by the former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and 22nd Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, General J. J. Singh, and former India's Minister of Home Affairs and Tourism, Subodh Kant Sahay in New Delhi on December 17, 2023. The event was organised by The Charles Walters Council for Innovation & Research, India.

Jayaraman has an undergraduate degree from Loyola College, Chennai. He has a Masters Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication, and a PhD in International Administration and the United Nations from the University of Madras. He also has a Masters degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University, New Jersey.



## Aurora diary



## Chennai Diary

Shweta Baid, Indian American Alderman of Aurora City Council hosted a Fundraiser on March 15. Richard Irvin, Mayor of Aurora, Dr Vasavi Chakka, CFO Global Eye Magazine, Artista Leong, Community Leader, Naperville and Nirmala Reddy, Community Activist, Aurora joined Alderman Shweta Baid at her fundraiser.

Prime Minister Modi blessing Rising BJP Star from Tenkasi, Tamilnadu Ananthan Ayyaswamy while BJP Tamilnadu President Annamalai looks on, recently in Tirunelveli on February 28.

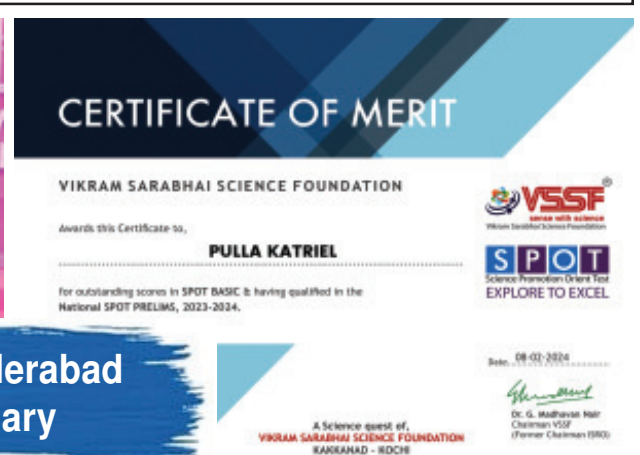


Naperville's Socialite Rita Singh graces the birthday bash of Parul Singh, President of Safecure Security Services Pvt. Ltd at Claridges Hotel, Delhi on March 19.



Sanjeev K. Singh, CEO of, ASAR Digital, Lisle, IL and his wife Rita Singh were Chief Guests at News Channel Network 10 Holi Celebrations in Delhi on March 21. Sanjay Goswami, CEO and Managing Editor personally received them.

## Delhi Diary



Young 9 year old Katriel Pulla, 3rd Grade student of Silver Oaks Int'l School, Mighty Oaks Campus, Hyderabad Excels. She Got the 1st place in Higher Level Spellbee, 3rd place in Speaker @Silver Oaks, selected for Math and Science Olympiad Nationals, and selected for SPOT Top 100 hosted by the Vikram Sarabhai Science Foundation National Level. Also earned a Special Appreciation Award from the Silver Oaks School Principal and Director for her excellence in all activities other than academics. Congratulations Katriel.

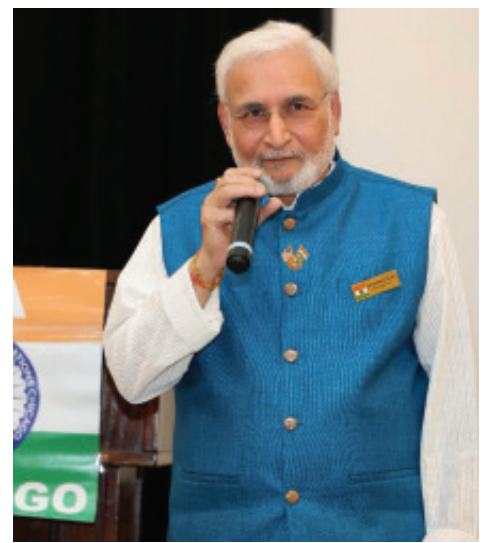
## Hyderabad Diary

# FIA 1980 CHICAGO'S 75 th INDIA REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS - February 10, 2024

FIA Chicago 1980 celebrated India's 75th Republic Day in a most fitting manner with Mr. BHUTIA IFS India's Deputy Consul General yesterday February 10, 2024 at Ashton Place under the president ship of DR. RASHMI PATEL, the dynamic FIA Chief. A very powerful short video of the significance of Republic Day of India along with the year long action packed review of FIA's

activities to empower the community was screened and applauded by all. The Emcees for the evening KIRTHI and KATHY excelled while HINA PANDYA 'S Women Empower group from Des Plaines rocked. The well attended event included Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, India's Deputy Consul General BHUTIA, FIA 1980 Trustee Board, FIA's Executive Leadership

Team and over hundred FIA Members. Dr. Sreenivas Reddy and Dr. VGP were honored at the event for their Community Leadership and there was a rich cultural entertainment of Patriotic Dances and Songs followed by a delicious dinner for all. FIA 1980 Chicago keeps marching on to another year 2024 of Community Empowerment and Fulfillment.



# Rep. Jackson Introduces Bipartisan Bill, The Marshall “Major” Taylor Congressional Gold Medal Act

## Major Taylor Was America’s First Black Sports Star



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, U.S. Representatives Jonathan L. Jackson (D-IL-01) and Jim Baird (R-IN-04) led 32 of their colleagues in introducing the bipartisan **Marshall “Major” Taylor Congressional Gold Medal Act**. This legislation would posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Marshall Walter “Major” Taylor — America’s first Black sports star, but someone many have never heard of — in recognition of his significance to the nation as a trailblazing athlete.

Taylor managed to become the first African American world champion in any sport and earned the title of “world’s fastest man” despite the extraordinary challenges of the Jim Crow era. He endured attempts by white promoters in both the North and South to exclude him from races. White riders, too, subjected Taylor to curses, insults, and even physical harm during competitions. Despite these adversities, Taylor’s exceptional talent and tenacity turned him into a sensation, drawing tens of thousands at races across the United States, Europe, and Australia.

“It is without question that Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor was a man before his time, a stellar athlete, a leader in the field of cycling, and a trailblazer,” said **Rep. Jackson**. “I believe it is fitting that Congress award the ‘world’s fastest man’ one of our nation’s most prestigious honors.”

“Even when compared to today’s athletes, Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor is among the greatest cyclists of all time,” said **Rep. Baird**. “His accomplishments are especially impressive considering the challenges he faced on his climb to cycling greatness. Marshall Taylor is one of the greatest athletes in Indiana history, and I can think of no one better suited to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.” “Marshall W. ‘Major’ Taylor challenged both the odds and the adversity of his time with dignity and determination, and he went on to ultimately triumph,” said **Karen Brown Donovan, the great-granddaughter of Major Taylor**. “The awarding of a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal would be a significant achievement towards honoring his life and legacy.”

**Supporting Individuals and Groups Co-lead:** Jim Baird (R-IN-04)

**Original Cosponsors (32 total):** Danny Davis (D-IL-07), Robin Kelly (D-IL-02), André Carson (D-IN-07), Henry “Hank” Johnson (D-GA-04), Barbara Lee (D-CA-12), Eleanor Holmes-Norton (D-DC), Janice Schakowsky (D-IL-09), Mike Quigley (D-IL-05), Earl Blumenauer (D-WA-03), James McGovern (D-MA-02), David Scott (D-GA-13), Gwen Moore (D-WI-04), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18), Mike Thompson (D-CA-04), Jasmine Crockett (D-TX-30), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-07), Alma Adams (D-NC-12), Al Green (D-TX-09), Rashida Tlaib (D-MI-12), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-08), Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL-20), Chuy Garcia (D-IL-04), David Trone (D-MD-06), Ann Kuster (D-NH-02), John Duarte (R-CA-13), Frederica Wilson (D-FL-24), Tony Gonzales (R-TX-23), Debbie Dingell (D-MI-06), Ted Lieu (D-CA-36), Maxwell Frost (D-FL-10), Joe Wilson (R-SC-02).

**Supporting Organizations:** Bronzeville Trail Task Force, Inc., Major Taylor Association, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, League of American Bicyclists, ADD Impact Network & Bike to the Beach, and Black Girls Do Bike, Inc.

“For Taylor to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the U.

S. Congress, would finally recognize and acknowledge the astounding achievement by an African American professional cyclist during the Jim Crow Era of the early 20th century,” said **John Adams, Founder and Executive Director, the Bronzeville Trail Task Force, Inc.**, a Chicago non-profit that launched its Major Taylor Initiative in January 2023 to advocate for Taylor to receive civic recognition that was long overdue. “Taylor became world champion and was known as the world’s fastest man. We are honored to lead this effort and thankful that so many have joined us in seeking this recognition and elevating him to his rightful place in the U.S. sports and civil rights history.”

“As a barrier-breaking athlete, an advocate for racial equality and fairness, an exemplar of good sportsmanship, and a paragon of human dignity, Major Taylor earned global fame in his lifetime but didn’t always get the national recognition he deserved,” said **Lynne Tolman, President, Major Taylor Association, Inc.** “A posthumous Congressional Gold Medal will cement his place in U.S. history.”

“The League is thrilled to support this effort by Rep. Jackson to recognize one of the greatest cyclists in history, Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor, for his accomplishments, his impact, and his legacy with a Congressional Gold Medal,” said **Bill Nesper, Executive Director of the League of American Bicyclists**. “Major Taylor was ‘the fastest man in America’, a global superstar who set world records and brought home world championships. As a Black athlete at the turn of the 20th century, he faced racism throughout his life and career from spectators, competitors, race organizers, and the bicycling community, including the League. The League agrees with Rep. Jackson that Major Taylor deserved better back then, and he deserves this recognition now. We’re proud to be part of ensuring the nation celebrates Major Taylor for the path he blazed for future generations.”

“We talk a lot about diversity today,” said **Elizabeth Kiker, Executive Director of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association**. “Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor brought diversity to the cycling world by himself many, many years before it was safe or expected to do so. It is long past time for him to receive this honor — and we are grateful to Rep. Jackson for bringing it forward.”

“Major Taylor is one of the greatest athletes to have ever lived, but his greatness as a pioneering athlete has never been fully recognized,” said **Hector J. Garcia, Jr., Executive Director of the ADD Impact Network & Bike to the Beach**. “At a time of deep divisions and partisanship, I applaud this bipartisan group of Members of Congress for working to rectify this oversight and look forward to the day when the Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor Congressional Gold Medal Act passes into law.”

“I wholeheartedly endorse the ‘Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor Congressional Gold Medal Act,” said **Monica Garrison, Founder and Executive Director Black Girls Do Bike, Inc.** “Major’ Taylor was not just a remarkable athlete but a true trailblazer and advocate who shattered racial barriers in the world of cycling. This bill rightly recognizes his historic significance and contributions to our nation. I commend Rep. Jackson for his efforts in championing this cause and urge all to support the bill, ensuring that Major Taylor’s legacy continues to inspire generations to come.”

**About the Congressional Gold Medal** Since the late 1700s, Congress has expressed public gratitude to individuals and groups by awarding medals and other similar decorations. The Continental Congress awarded the first Congressional Gold Medals. Since that time, Congress has awarded gold medals to express public gratitude for distinguished contributions, dramatize the virtues of patriotism, and perpetuate the remembrance of great events. Two-thirds of both the House and Senate must cosponsor the legislation to advance it.

## Congressman Danny K. Davis on Economic Well-Being

Congressman Danny K. Davis helped direct needed tax benefits to bolster the economic well-being of individuals, families, and communities, especially during the pandemic. Congressman Davis, Played a leadership role in establishing the stimulus, unemployment, and employee retention payments that assisted tens of millions of individuals and businesses in surviving. Helped increase temporarily in 2021 the Earned Income Tax Credit for non-

custodial parents, individual workers, foster and homeless youth, and younger workers – a key provision of his Responsible Fatherhood Act. Secured a substantial, temporary increase in the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit in 2021 to ensure working families receive up to \$8,000 to cover child care expenses. Directed investment to economically-distressed communities in 2000 when Congress enacted his Community Renewal and New Markets Tax

Act establishing renewal communities, empowerment zones, and the New Market Tax Credit. Championed laws that encourage charitable giving, improve retirement savings and lower educational debt for employees with student loans, provide free tax assistance and financial literacy to low-income and underserved taxpayers, and protect student loan borrowers by ensuring the non-taxability of forgiven student loans between 2021 to 2025.



# Preventing a Government Shutdown and Funding Essential Services



the CCP, it is also crucial that our efforts do not further fuel anti-Asian American discrimination and prejudice. While it is true CCP-affiliated entities have been taking troubling steps in recent years, including purchasing land near sensitive and military sites, the cure must not be worse than the disease, and laws such as Florida's SB264 prohibiting Chinese nationals, regardless of their ties to the CCP, from purchasing any real property in the state are discriminatory and have real negative consequences on the Asian American community. The Select Committee on the CCP looks forward to continuing to work with the Agriculture Committee and others from both parties throughout Congress to make tangible efforts to protect Americans, their property, and the intellectual property from our adversaries.

On Friday, I was glad to join a majority of my colleagues from both parties in passing a spending package that funds the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024 while strengthening border security without cutting essential programs. The passage of this legislation comes after another package of bills was signed into law by President Joe Biden two weeks ago that included \$14,490,287 in federal funding I was proud to secure for 15 local community

projects located throughout the Eighth Congressional District. Keeping the federal government open and operating at full funding levels is critical, and had this bill not passed, important agencies and services like the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Social Security Administration, and Medicare and Medicaid would have dramatically slowed. I am grateful to the leadership in both parties for keeping our government running and fully op-

erational.

### Testifying on the Importance of Protecting American Agriculture from the CCP

On Wednesday, I testified before the House Committee on Agriculture on the importance of protecting American farmers and their products and intellectual property from foreign adversaries, including the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). As Ranking Member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the

United States and the CCP, protecting American property and interests from interference from the CCP has always been our top priority. The bipartisan economic report released in December highlighted several critical agriculture-related areas the U.S. must address, including passage of the Securing American Agriculture Act, legislation Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Ashley Hinson (R-IA) adopted from the report. However, while we must protect American interests from

On Thursday, I took to the House Floor to speak on a number of topics and issues facing our country today, including on the need to address hunger, childcare, and internet access for all Americans. You can watch my remarks on the Affordable Connectivity Program Reauthorization Act here, my remarks on childcare here, and my remarks on fighting hunger and homelessness here.

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# 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.



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India

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# Patanjali tenders unconditional apology for misleading advertisements

The affidavit filed by Acharya Balkrishna said that he "regrets that the advertisement in question which was meant to contain only general statements inadvertently included the offending sentences".

**Suchitra Kalyan Mohanty**

NEW DELHI: Patanjali Ayurved has tendered an unconditional apology to the Supreme Court while complying with its notice asking it to show cause why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated for allegedly flouting an undertaking given to the top court on November 21, 2023.

The affidavit filed by Acharya Balkrishna said that he "regrets that the advertisement in question which was meant to contain only general statements inadvertently included the offending sentences". Earlier, both Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna had been directed by the top court to appear in person in court on April 2 for not responding to contempt notice. The unconditional apology of the respondents came in an affidavit filed days after he was summoned to appear in person before the top court along with Baba Ramdev on April 2.

"The Deponent on be-



Patanjali products. Image used for representation purpose only.

half of Respondent No. 5 (Patanjali Ayurved) submits an unqualified apology before this Hon'ble Court for the breach of the statement recorded in Para 3 of the order dated 21.11.2023," the affidavit said. Balkrishna also assured the court that he "will ensure that such advertisements are not issued in the future". A dissatisfied Supreme Court on Tuesday took strong exception to Patanjali Ayurved,

its MD for not filing their reply to its earlier notices on 'violating' an undertaking on misleading advertising products, forcing it to direct Baba Ramdev and Balkrishna to be personally present before it in the next date in the case. The order of the Top Court seemed to be a big setback for yoga guru, Baba Ramdev and Patanjali. The apex court's two-judge Bench, led by Justice Hima Kohli and also

comprising Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, passed these remarks against Patanjali and others, after hearing a petition filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA). The IMA alleged that this was completely wrong and misinformation on the part of Patanjali Ayurveda's advertisements, which claimed to cure certain diseases including; Blood Pressure, Diabetes and Asthma. "It is completely wrong

to advertise on such kind of diseases and to cure such diseases," the IMA said.

In the previous hearing on February 27, the Court had imposed a temporary ban on advertisements of the Patanjali Ayurved's medicines, and issued contempt notices to its founders Ramdev and Balkrishna for making misleading claims.

The Supreme Court had earlier in its order restrained the company from issuing all advertisements relating to various diseases; including; Blood Pressure, Diabetes and Asthma.

The Apex Court in its earlier order restrained a temporary ban - including Print and TV -- on Patanjali medicine advertisements.

Relying on Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act 1954, the Apex Court in its order restrained Patanjali Ayurved from advertising its products relating to diseases/ disorders.

## A TAPESTRY OF TRIUMPHS : GUJARAT UNIVERSITY'S FIRST WOMAN VICE CHANCELLOR DR. NEERJA GUPTA'S TRAILBLAZING JOURNEY.

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 North America.

➤ In this 40th Episode of Dr. VGP TALK SHOW, meet the illustrious DR. NEERJA GUPTA, the dynamic Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University. DR. NEERJA GUPTA\* stands tall in today's vibrant world of academia and enlightenment. This captivating episode filmed amidst the sprawling campus of Gujarat University nestled in the heart of Ahmedabad, showcases DR. GUPTA'S remarkable journey which unfolds like a tapestry of triumphs reflecting her visionary leadership.

➤ BEYOND THE GREENS OF GUJARAT UNIVERSITY: A RENDEZVOUS WITH GUJARAT UNIVERSITY'S VISIONARY ICON. Amidst the verdant greens of Gujarat University, DR. NEERJA GUPTA, the first woman to helm this prestigious institution, shares her insights, passions, and transformative endeavors. With over 20,000 faculty members and a staggering 500,000 students, Gujarat University stands as a



beacon of academic excellence, embodying the vision of its founding father, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

➤ FROM MOSCOW TO AHMEDABAD : A NOMADIC SCHOLAR SHAPES EDUCATIONAL PARADIGMS. In a candidate, DR. NEERJA GUPTA reflects on her childhood shaped by the nomadic life of a defense family, her academic

pursuits spanning from Meerut to Moscow, and her pivotal role in shaping educational paradigms. From disaster relief efforts to pioneering research initiatives, her indomitable spirit and compassion shine through.

➤ SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS : DR. NEERJA GUPTA'S FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION. Join us as we delve into DR.

GUPTA's visionary initiatives, from revolutionizing Indian knowledge systems to fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

➤ RAISE YOUR SONS AS YOUR DAUGHTERS ": DR. NEERJA GUPTA'S CALL FOR SOCIETAL HARMONY. With her signature mantra, "Raise your sons as your daughters," DR. GUPTA advocates for a

paradigm shift toward gender equality and societal harmony.

➤ REVOLUTIONIZING KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS : DR. NEERJA GUPTA ON IGNITING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. Embark on a journey of enlightenment, inspiration, and empowerment with DR. NEERJA GUPTA, a beacon of change in the hallowed halls of Gujarat University. Don't miss this captivating episode of Dr. VGP Talk Show, where intellect meets innovation and leadership ignites transformation.

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## Andhra Pradesh: Spreading the gift of wellness beyond borders through yoga

In last 15 years, more than 2 lakh people have benefitted from Sirisha's yoga classes; she has brought laurels to the State by bagging several national & international awards

VIJAYAWADA: At a very young age, Balam Sirisha knew that yoga was her calling. Guided by the encouragement of her father, B Subbarao, she took up the mission of advocating the therapeutic benefits of yoga, emphasising its ability to heal both body and mind. In the last 15 years, more than 2 lakh people have benefitted from her yoga classes.

Her knowledge has extended beyond borders, as she also trains foreigners, currently teaching 500 foreigners online. She also visits 11 schools each year and teaches yoga to students.

A native of Bhimavaram, she has pursued B.Sc, Ph.D., M.Sc, and M. Phil in yoga. In the initial stage, she practised yoga under the guidance of Bhupathi

Raju Satyanarayanaraju. Yoga guru Garre Seetharamayya encouraged her to take part in yoga

competitions. Under the mentorship of Malisetty Ankamma Rao, she achieved several medals. She remarks that her journey is not just about personal achievement. She said it is about uplifting others and spreading the transformative power of yoga far and wide.

Through her free yoga classes for the underprivileged and awareness campaigns, she has brought the gift of wellness to those who need it the most. Several of her students have gone on to win national championships, while some of them are taking her knowledge forward by conducting yoga classes.

She told TNIE, "Yoga is not just a physical practice. It is a profound journey of self-discovery and healing. I have witnessed the power of yoga firsthand, using it to overcome stress and cultivate inner peace in my own life. Through yoga,

people can learn discipline, cure mental and physical illness. Yoga has helped me a lot to reduce stress. People of any age group can practise it. It also helps in dealing with negative emotions and thoughts within us and helps us focus on the goals we wish to achieve." She has represented Andhra Pradesh in many competitions in the 28 to 35 age category and bagged several international and national medals. She bagged a gold medal in the Asia Pacific Yoga Sports Championship held in Thailand in 2023, gold in the National Level Tournament conducted by Saptharishi Yogadhara Sports Academy, and three gold medals in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the International Yoga Championship. She even stood third in the Khelo India event held in Karnataka. She was also selected for the Vietnam Asian Competition and World Cup



Competitions. Additionally, Sirisha also secured a bronze medal in a tournament conducted by the Yoga Federation of India in 2018, a gold medal in the National Level Tournament held in Andhra Pradesh. She stood fourth place in a competition held at Dharmasthali in Nepal in 2017. She is the recipient of the Champion Women Award, Pule National Award, Vishwambhara Jathiya Mahila Award, Ugadi Purashkar, spe-

cial appreciation award from the Andhra Pradesh government, and the 2023 Uthama Prathibha Puraskar in Hyderabad.

However, Sirisha lamented that she was unable to take part in several international championships due to the lack of sponsors and insufficient funds. "My aim is to take part in international championships and establish my own yoga academy to help people understand its benefits," Balam Sirisha said.



## IAS officer Surya Pratap Singh ignites dreams and aspirations in Bihar's conflict zones

A young IAS officer in Bihar's Maoist heartland is striving to give wings to the ambitions of hundreds of students, providing them free tuition and career counselling, Ramashankar writes



BIHAR: In the heart of Bihar's Rohtas district, where the shadows of insurgency once cast a long and daunting veil over the pursuit of education, there emerges a beacon of hope: a young luminary by the name of Surya Pratap Singh.

With unwavering dedication and a fervent belief in the transformative power of education, Singh, a 2021 batch IAS officer hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district, has embarked on a mission to illuminate the lives of hundreds dwelling in the shadows of conflict.

Singh, the youngest among four siblings of Baburam

Gangwar and Shanti Gangwar, pursued his graduation and post-graduation from Bareilly College, before securing a position in the Indian Air Force's flying branch through the Combined Defence Services (CDS) examination.

However, during his training in Hyderabad, severe injuries forced him to leave the training program and return home. After a brief period of offering tuition and career counselling to aspirants, he appeared for and passed the civil services examinations.

Singh has had a penchant for teaching ever since he left the

Indian Air Force (IAF) in 2017 after suffering injuries during training. "It was during that period I started career counselling and lending my support to IAF aspirants. My efforts bore fruits, and more than 100 aspirants got selected in the armed forces," he remarked.

Having exchanged the skies for the corridors of bureaucracy, Singh's journey is not merely one of career progression but also a testament to his unyielding commitment to service. Amidst the tumult of Maoist-infested areas, where fear once reigned supreme, Singh stands as a steadfast advocate for change, championing the cause of education with unwavering resolve. Venturing into government-run schools on weekends and holidays, Singh doesn't merely impart knowledge; he ignites flames of aspiration within young hearts. With each lesson taught, he fosters an environment where dreams take flight, transcending the barriers of circumstance and adversity.

What sets Singh apart is not

just his administrative prowess but also his innate ability to connect on a human level. Fluent in the local dialect, he breaks down barriers of communication, forging bonds of trust and understanding with the very students he seeks to uplift. In his presence, they find not just a mentor but a friend, a guiding light

For Singh, education is more than just a tool for empowerment; it's a lifeline, a beacon of hope in a sea of uncertainty. Drawing from his own experiences and upbringing, he understands the profound impact a single gesture of kindness can have on a young mind, and he strives to replicate that warmth and encouragement in every interaction.

Beyond the confines of classrooms, Singh's influence extends to the broader community, where he tirelessly advocates for the importance of education and career guidance. From his days in the IAF to his current role, his journey is marked by a steadfast commit-

ment to nurturing talent and unlocking potential.

As Singh continues to tread the path of service with his unwavering dedication and boundless compassion, he embodies the spirit of change, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more hopeful Bihar.

'Despite poverty, lack of resources...proper guidance can transform lives'

Venturing into government-run schools on weekends and holidays, Singh doesn't merely impart knowledge; he ignites flames of aspiration within young hearts. With each lesson taught, with each moment spent in the company of students, he fosters an environment where dreams take flight, transcending the barriers of circumstance and adversity. Singh, a man with an innate ability to connect with individuals, and empathise, says, "It's education and proper guidance that can completely transform the life of students. It does not matter whether he or she is poor and lacks resources."

# YOUNGEST EVER TO GIVE CALL TO ACTION ADDRESS AT U. S. CAPITOL HILL : 7 YEAR OLD ANAISHA ROY GANGULY.



Good Afternoon, My name is Anaisha Ganguly I am 7 years old and a grade 2 student at Steck Elementary School. Today we are here to



U. S. Civil Rights Leader Rev Dr. Jesse Jackson Sr. Congratulating Anaisha Roy Ganguly for being the youngest person to speak on U. S. Capitol Hill ever. Acharya Rohit Joshi , AMEC Commissioner noted that it with pride that this historic honor goes to a girl child from Kolkata, India - Anaisha . Also in the photo are Payel Ganguly mother of Anaisha and Acharya Rohit Joshi.

celebrate International Women's Day.

The theme for International Womens Day is Inspired Inclusion.

**What does Inspired Inclusion mean?**

It means when we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion to create a better world. When we look around the room I'm reminded of the inspirational women, all of you present here today and some who are not physically present for inspired inclusivity.

I would recall the mother of our Congressman Danny K Davis who was in Arkansas and taught Congressman Danny to read and read and read.

She not only made Danny the most inclusive and inspiring reader today in America, thank you Mama Mazzie Davis who contributed in building Congressman's personality.

Congressman Jonathan Jackson's wife

Marilyn Jackson is currently the President and CEO of Muhammad Ali Center of Excellence in Arkansas- Ali is one of the world's greatest boxers and Marilyn Jackson is heading the institute.

Today we have with us a

very special guest of honor Bryan who was there with us last year too.

poetry and I know that these words resonate with Congressman Jonathan



Bryan Pasternick who's 2 daughters are his everyday inspiration.

Bryan who heads the office of foreign labour in Washington DC who gets his inclusive nature from his 2 daughters.

We have with us a women Congressman representative Delia Ramirez. Again, Thank you Delia for joining us this very special moment as you are one of the Top 20 Global Women of Excellence. When the mind is without fear and head is held high as

Rabindranath Tagore has the most apt quote -

Jackson who lives a life of legacy without fear and his head always held high. Today ladies and gentleman, I would like to thank all of you at the American Coalition - the Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force of the 7th Congressional district and the American Multi Ethnic commission for giving me this opportunity to give the call to action to this afternoon's gathering. I will treasure this moment and I thank each of you as I would like to have these qualities and serve the US Capital.

Thank you all, Hail all women, Victory to our women. God Bless America!

## Quick history, why is Pluto not a planet?



**AARAV KARNA**  
7th Grade, JFK Middle School. Plainfield, IL

Since 2006 people have been vying for Pluto to be a planet once more, however the only reason people are doing this is because they don't know the true reason why Pluto was knocked off the planet roster. Pluto was discovered on February 18th, 1930, and was named a planet. Now I'm naming this quick history so I'm just going to cut to the chase and say that Pluto was demoted due to not only not being big enough, but also being in the

Kuiper belt. The Kuiper belt is basically the asteroid belt but far away past Neptune. It was basically the same situation with ceres a planet in the asteroid belt, once they discovered it, they found another object near it, and another, and another. Eventually planet counting got very long so ceres was stripped back down to a dwarf planet.

Basically, the same thing happened Pluto and today it is considered a dwarf planet.

## QUICK HISTORY OF POTATO CHIPS



**AARAV KARNA**  
7th Grade, JFK Middle School. Plainfield, IL

I'm going to start making different series. Okay so there was this dude named George Crumb, George works at a restaurant named Moons Lakehouse Café in New York. George was happy with his job. But one day a man walked into the restaurant and ordered fries, after being served the man sent them back claiming they were "not crispy enough". When he was served again, he sent them back again claiming they were "too soggy". After a bit of back-and-forth George lost it and cut

the potatoes very thin and served them. You see back in the day eating with your hands was something people would call a FUPA (Fatty upper public area) So he was the man was forced to use his hands. Unexpectedly the man loved them and dug in, and now according to Wonder "86%" of Americans eat potato chips.

**Wonder** <https://start.askwonder.com/insights/want-help-looking-potato-chips-industry-specifically-interested-knowing-annual-agyiqz1ag>

# Indian Neuroscience delegations participate at SBMT's 21st Annual World Congress in LA



From Left, Dr. Kedar Challakere, Dr. Babak Kateb, Dr. Keerthy Sunder, and Dr. Bhavana Chawda at the Bioskills lab of SBMT covering brain and spine surgery and innovation during the SBMT's 21st Annual World Congress in Los Angeles, CA. PHOTO: WBMF



Indian physician and Academic Affairs Director of SBMT, Dr. Kevin Morris speaking after receiving the Golden Axon Leadership Award, on March 15, 2024, at The World Brain Mapping Foundation's Awards Gala held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California. PHOTO: T. Vishnudatta Jayaraman, News India Times

Los Angeles, CA: The Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics (SBMT) held its 21st Annual World Congress on March 14-17, 2024, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, where 900 presenters, including several Indian-American and Indian-origin physicians and scientists from around the world discussed on topics such as neurosciences, neurology, spine and cerebrovascular diseases, multiple sclerosis, regenerative medicine, stem cell research, neuro-oncology, and Alzheimer's disease.

Founding Chairman of SBMT, and President of World Brain Mapping Foundation, Dr. Babak Kateb told News India Times, "It's an honor to have our Indian delegation here including neurosurgeons, neurologists, psychiatrists, and neuroscientists. We had 900 presenters and about 50 Indian delegations supported us through this consortium of scientists globally." Noting that Indian delegations are part of Neuroscience20 or N20 of the G20 Summits, Dr. Kateb said, "We are working together to advance neuro technology innovation not only in the United States, but also in India and Asia Pacific."

Dr. Abilash Haridas, a neurosurgeon from Los Angeles, and the incoming president for SBMT in 2025, told News India Times "SBMT is a very unique organization that embraces the field of neurosciences and brings together doctors, scientists, engineers, and psychiatrists," adding "We have to have these types of interdisciplinary collaborations to really create new technologies, new innovations, especially in the biotechnology industry..."

As part of N20 during the 2023 New Delhi G20 Summit, he said, "We brought our team to share how we can help India in some of its problems with the neurosciences, and the burden that it's giving to the society."

"We want to have an impact

in the entire world," said Dr. Haridas adding SBMT will participate in N20 during the G20 Summit in Brazil. An immigrant from India, he added, "We have a unique opportunity because we have a lot of Indian doctors in the United States..." while stressing his goal is to strategize "how can we leverage our innovation to help not just people in America but even people in India. And more importantly, how can we leverage our technology to make low-cost solutions to high impact problems." Founder of the Sunder Foundation, Dr. Keerthy Sunder from California said, "The Foundation is actively collaborating with SBMT in research as well as in endeavors such as the Ukraine humanitarian mission, and N20 every year."

As the Chair of the Psychiatry Committee for SBMT's Annual World Congress, Dr. Sunder pointed out, "We are very excited to continue this collaboration and bring cutting

edge treatments which are interdisciplinary between neurosurgery, neurology, neuroimaging, neuroradiology, psychology, and psychiatry to come together for breakthrough treatments in resistant disorders like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia."

On March 15th, Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine, Nataliia Kalmykova participated virtually in a keynote session moderated by Dr. Kateb of SBMT, which has been supporting Ukraine through its Global Physicians and Scientists initiative. SBMT also has a Bioskills Hands-on Cadaver Lab with many Indian-American neurosurgeons, led by Dr. Namath Hussain, and Dr. Haridas. This year, Synaptive Medical Inc, Stryker, and Centinel Spine participated as SBMT's key partners.

Senior VP, Clinical Development and Drug Safety of Celularity, Dr. Sharmila Koppiseti from New Jersey, said the purpose for her

attending SBMT 2024 is to provide some insight into some of her company's stem cell therapies in multiple sclerosis, ALS, neuromuscular diseases, and also in oncology indication. Dr. Abhidha Shah from Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, India said she presented on the topic of intra axial brain tumors. She told News India Times, "I presented on my work on white fibers and the anatomy of white fibers and how it helps me during intra axial brain tumor surgery," adding, "Also, on our concepts of surgery on Gliomas and how to get a maximal resection and preserve function without causing any neurological deficit to the patient."

Director of Neurosurgical Anesthesia, Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Medicine, California, Dr. Rashmi Vandse spoke about anesthetic management for patients undergoing endovascular thrombectomy for stroke.

"There's been significant debate regarding general anesthesia versus conscious sedation for patients who are undergoing endovascular thrombectomy" Dr. Vandse told News India Times adding in the past, "We used to think conscious sedation was better based on the outcome from some of the retrospective and observational studies."

But in the last few years, she added, "We have had about nine randomized studies. And now the overall conclusion is that we can do either general anesthesia or conscious sedation, but the hemodynamic control of blood pressure is very important" and that she participated in the Congress to share this experience with her colleagues and neurosurgeons.

Director of Endovascular Cerebral Vascular Surgery at LLU, Dr. Promod Pillai, said he presented on the role of venous angioplasty in patients with benign intracranial hypertension. "It's a unique disease process where we have very limited treatment options and often patients fail medical as well as conventional surgical treatments," he added.

Indian Physician Dr. Kevin Morris, Dr. Joe Bolanos, Dr. George Perry, Dr. David Baron, and Ira Soebroto-Bullo received the Golden Axon Leadership Award, on March 15th, at The World Brain Mapping Foundation's 21st Annual "Gathering for Cure" Awards Gala held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Several others were also presented awards in different categories for their significant achievements.

Excerpted : News India Times , USA



From Left, Singer Rockstar, Kiesza, Chairman of SBMT, Dr. Babak Kateb, 22nd President of SBMT, Dr. Abilash Haridas, Chairman of Celularity, Dr. Robert Hariri, and Chairman of Synaptive Medical, Cameron Piron at the SBMT's 21st Annual World Congress in Los Angeles, CA. PHOTO: WBMF

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## Tamannaah remembers the time she was rejected from 'Boogie Woogie'



Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who was recently seen in the Telugu film 'Bhola Shankar', shared that she was rejected from 'Boogie Woogie', and it has been one hell of a journey for her to get to collaborate with actor Jaaved Jaaferi.

The actress attended Prime Video's slate announcement event, 'Prime Video Presents', with the team of her upcoming streaming title 'Daring Partners', which also stars Diana Penty and Jaaved Jaaferi.

Tamannaah told the media: "I was once rejected from 'Boogie Woogie'. Since, then it has been a journey to share the same platform with Javed sir, it all has come full-circle."

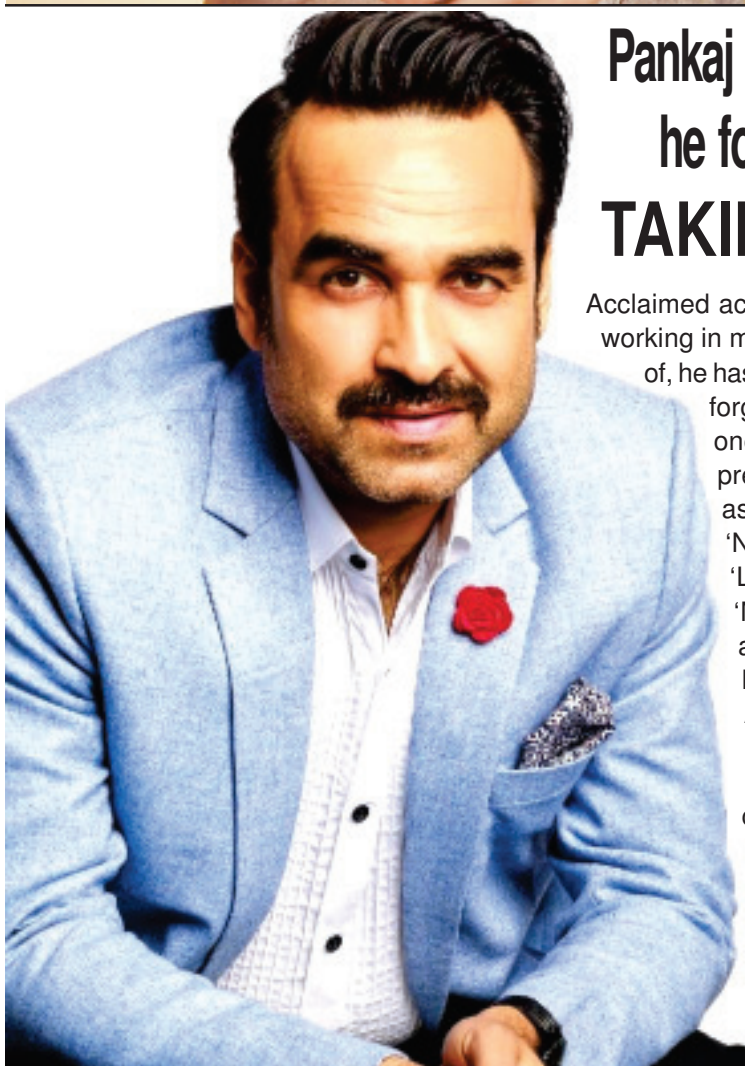
'Daring Partners' follows the story of two best-friends, who embark on a daring journey as partners in an alcohol start-up. The series unfolds their audacious journey, where they challenge norms, bend rules, and 'craft' their destiny within a male-dominated industry. 'Daring Partners' will soon drop on Prime Video.

## Cardi B was 'afraid' to live her life, 'lost' herself to negative comments



Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B said that she was "afraid" to live her life after a barrage of negative comments on social media last year. "I just feel like I lost myself with everything," she said. "A lot of music commenters and everything and a lot of people just be like, 'She's afraid to drop an album, she's afraid to drop music,'" Cardi recalled. "Like last year, I barely dropped music. It's just like I was just afraid to do everything," she told Complex's '360 with Speedy' series reports pagesix.com. It was in 2023, when Cardi B released 'Bongos' with Megan Thee Stallion. Her last album 'Invasion of Privacy' dropped in 2018. But her singles such as 'Up' and 'WAP' kept her in the news. "I was afraid to go live, I was afraid to post a picture, I was afraid to go to the club, and then the next day seeing people, what they going to say about me, and everything," Cardi said.

## Pankaj Tripathi reveals how he forgot his dream of TAKING A BREAK



Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi said that after working in many good projects he had dreamt of, he has another wish which he completely forgot about – a good holiday. Pankaj, one of the best in Indian cinema at present, has worked in projects such as 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Fukrey', 'Newton', 'Bareilly Ki Barfi', 'Mimi', 'Ludo', 'Main Atal Hoon', 'Stree', 'Mirzapur' and 'Murder Mubarak' among many others. Is Pankaj living his dream? He told VOICE: "No. After doing so much work I have realised that along with that dream, I had one more which I had completely forgotten about. It was taking a holiday and doing absolutely nothing. I got so busy that I realised that I am not taking a break." Pankaj, a National School of Drama alum, agreed that he is living his dream of working in good content.



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