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FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

In this 31st edition of Global Eye Magazine our Cover Story features an exclusive interview with Dr. Bharat Barai, Chairman, Indian American Friendship Society, Munster, Indiana, and a renowned oncologist serving Northwest Indiana for over four decades. Dr. Bharat Barai talks about his role in promoting U.S.A. - India relations from the 1990's to date. A Gold medalist from his student days, his love for his motherland, India shines through this exclusive interview.

In the Spotlight section, we have a photo feature on Syed Mukkaram's Iftar Party held at Addison, Illinois and Hema Shastri's Dev Dharshan Senior Center's first anniversary Gala held at Schaumburg, Illinois.

In one of our new columns, "Voice of our Leaders", Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi writes about his efforts to combat China's role in America's Fentanyl Crisis and Japanese Prime Minister's joint address to Congress. Congressman Jonathan Jackson strongly condemns Israel's Netanyahu offensive against Rafah and President Joe Biden Personally congratulates Congressman Danny Davis on his decisive re-election.

In the Focus Section, Vijay Muralidaran, our guest columnist features Chicago Tamil Sangam's successful three day 5th International Conference on Thirukkall held on April 5, 6 & 7 at Lisle, Illinois. A special report on The United Punjabis of America - U.P.A's successful 2023, year of activities is published in the Community Reflections section.



Megha Bala, our youth correspondent features Greater Chicago Vedic Society honoring Kasim brothers on Saturday, April 20, and introduces Shailaja Iyer, a passionate music educator in the greater Chicago area in our Music section.

We have introduced a new column 'THE LAST WORD' on page 30 where I will write about a topic of special interest in every edition. In this edition, LAST WORD features "Rejuvenating Ganga with Arth Ganga". Hope all of you will read this article and send me your feedback.

We bring you another edition of Global Eye Magazine that is filled with colorful photo features and enlightening articles for your reading pleasure. Our editorial team is working to provide an unique blend of info news and features just to empower you.

We welcome the awesome feedback from all of you, our avid readers. Please do provide your last name and City where you reside, when you email your letters to the editor, which we love to publish.

Yes, Global Eye Magazine is a Conglomerate of Creative Minds, Innovative Initiatives and Sustainable Solutions that continue to Shape our future!



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Free Subscription to The Global Eye Digital Magazine by sending Email to info@globaleyedigital.com

The Global Eye Magazine is always refreshing and I enjoy your articles. Glad to read the snippets in Bollywood.

Asha, Delhi

Well done, Congressman Danny Davis, on your spectacular win! Your commitment to serving all constituents is truly commendable. Wishing you continued success in your 15th term.

Ramesh Kumar Naperville, IL

I am happy to see Global Eye magazine's photo feature articles. I like the global reach and your reporting on ethnic minorities.

Milan Gupta Pune

Impressive coverage of Clayton Harris

111's vision for justice. His holistic approach is what our community needs.

Nelson Illinois

Congratulations, Congressman Danny Davis, on your decisive victory! Your continued dedication to representing all constituents is truly commendable. Here's to another term of progress and service.

Heman V. Majethia Vizag, AP

To the Editor, I wanted to extend my gratitude for showcasing the partnership between the University of Houston and ICCR in your publication. The establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies to promote Tamil language and culture is a significant step

towards fostering global awareness and appreciation for diverse cultures. Thank you for highlighting this inspiring collaboration.

Acharya Mayaram Bengaluru

Patanjali's apology is a positive move towards responsible advertising. It's crucial for companies to prioritize accuracy and integrity to safeguard consumer interests.

Heman V. Majethia Vizag, AP

Surya Pratap Singh's compassionate approach to education in Bihar's Maoist-affected areas is exemplary. His efforts to provide guidance and support are shaping a generation of hopeful individuals.

Kanagaraju Natesan

Jain Acharya Lokesh's recognition with the American Presidential Award is a momentous achievement. His selfless service to humanity deserves our utmost appreciation and respect.

Sirisha Hyderabad

Heartfelt congratulations to all the Women Awardees on Women's day.

Kriti Illinois

Congratulations to Medstar Laboratory and Global Eye Magazine for their efforts in recognizing women's excellence.

Ankur Chicago

Congratulations Irshad! Inspiring story of dedication & perseverance.

Sam Mumbai

Nooyi's advice on safety and legal awareness abroad is crucial for Indian students. Your magazine can enhance its impact by providing ongoing coverage and resources to support students facing similar situations.

Subhash Veguru New York, USA

Dear Globaleye team, The Global Eye gives us news, articles that are not found in any other media. Excellent Reading. I look forward to each issue and am always surprised by the amazing content and different writing styles.

Chaitanya Deepthi Chennai

Your article on Ramzan at Charminar was both informative and immersive. More narratives like this contribute to a broader understanding of diverse cultural experiences.

Dileep Nainital

Congratulations to Ms. Hema Shastri for being honored as the Senior Citizen Icon 2024 by Global Eye Magazine. Her leadership sets a remarkable example for our community.

Abhijeet B Kolkota

Finally, a guilt-free way to enjoy spirits! Bio Liquors seem like the perfect excuse to indulge without the guilt trip. Cheers to innovation and botanical bliss.

KSN Raju Hyderabad

Impressive coverage of the International Women's Day celebration by Global Eye Magazine. The event's recognition of female excellence sets a powerful example for societal change and gender equality.

Mohan Trivendrum

Very Intresting Articles all over the Magazine... Keep Going...

Monica U.S.A

Felicitation to Irshad for his achievement! Telangana takes pride. Hope this inspires other teachers to strive for excellence!

Ramya New Delhi

How can I subscribe to a hardcopy of this news monthly?

John Mobb Naperville

A delightful read on the charms of Charminar during Ramzan. Encourage more stories that celebrate cultural vibrancy and local traditions.

Arya Hyderabad

Beautiful story! Spring potlucks by Chicago Saree Strong sound amazing!

Isaac Chennai

Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati and Jain Acharya Lokesh deserve commendation for this prestigious honor. His tireless efforts in promoting peace deserve recognition and admiration.

Ravi Teja Navi Mumbai

Bio Liquors: Nature's way of saying 'cheers'! Excited to try these bio-infused concoctions and experience a new level of intoxication.

Giridhar Rajampet

I applaud Global Eye Magazine for shining a spotlight on individuals like Ms. Hema Shastri, whose dedication to senior citizens deserves recognition and appreciation.

Mona Oak Brook

Wish there were more events like this! Celebrate women & sustainability!

Swapna Anumolu Lakewood Valley, Naperville

Let's empower girls in rural areas! More support for their education is crucial.

A Lodge Kochi

Jonathan Morris's recognition of Chicagoland's Black leadership is uplifting.

Emmi Chicago

It's essential for magazines to continue raising awareness and providing resources for students facing similar situations.

Karunkaran Madhurai

I Congratulate the Editor for bringing out the monthly edition converting



Chennai

Inspiring work by Surya Pratap Singh in Bihar's Maoist-infested areas. His dedication to education and career counseling is transforming lives and paving the way for a better future.

Padmaja Bangalore



to weekly of the Global Eye Worldwide Edition. A Magazine of par excellence.

Garima Palakad

Thank you, Jonathan Morris, for acknowledging the leadership of Congressman Davis, Congressman Jackson, and other Black leaders. Their successes deserve recognition and celebration. Keep showcasing their positive impact on Chicagoland

Jim Barrett Chicago

As a reader, I am thrilled to see Dr. Rajiv Kandala's accomplishments highlighted. It's important to celebrate healthcare professionals who go above and beyond for their patients.

Vimala Desai Pune, India

I commend Nooyi's efforts to ensure the safety of Indian students in the US. It's imperative for magazines to echo her message and provide practical support for students studying abroad.

Thomas Vijayawada, AP, India

I suggest featuring more stories like Dr. Rajiv Kandala's and Ms. Hema Shastri's in your magazine. These uplifting tales remind us of the positive impact individuals can have on society.

Sandhya, Aurora

Harvesting data': Latin American AI startups transform farming

Worldwide, farmers are increasingly turning to AI to boost yields and returns, with applications like self-driving tractors, drones that track crop health and smart cameras that recognize weeds for herbicide treatment.



RIO DE JANEIRO: For centuries, farmers used almanacs to try to understand and predict weather patterns. Now, a new crop of Latin American startups is helping do that with artificial intelligence, promising a farming revolution in agricultural giants like Brazil, the world's biggest exporter of soybeans, corn and beef.

Aline Oliveira Pezente, a 39-year-old entrepreneur from the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, was working at agriculture company Louis Dreyfus Commodities when she noticed a problem in how the farming industry operates in Brazil. Producers need huge amounts of credit up-front to buy inputs like seed and fertilizer, she says. But lenders are wary given how difficult it is to size up the myriad risks, from the natural -- droughts, floods,

crop disease, erosion -- to the financial -- bankruptcy, price crashes and more. In 2018, Aline and her husband Fabricio launched a startup called Traive that collects massive amounts of agriculture-related data, then analyzes it with AI, breaking down the capital risk for lenders and giving farmers easier access to credit.

"Lenders used to each use their own (risk analysis) model. Imagine like a giant Excel file," Aline told AFP. "But it's very hard for humans, even those who are super knowledgeable of statistics and mathematics, to create equations that capture the nuances of all the variables.

"They were taking three months to do something that we can do in five minutes with way better accuracy," said Aline, who has a master's degree specializing in AI

and data analysis from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

AI for agriculture

Seven years on, Traive's clients include agro-industry giants like Syngenta, fintech firms and Latin America's second-biggest bank, Banco do Brasil. More than 70,000 producers use its platform, which has facilitated nearly \$1 billion in financial operations, it says.

Aline presented her work this week at the Rio de Janeiro edition of Web Summit, the massive tech gathering dubbed "Davos for Geeks."

Speaking alongside her on a panel called "Harvesting Data: The Next Agricultural Revolution," fellow entrepreneur Alejandro Miseses explained how AI has the potential to reshape farming.

Worldwide, farmers are increasingly turning to AI to boost yields and returns, with applications like self-driving tractors, drones that track crop health and smart cameras that recognize weeds for herbicide treatment. Miseses's Puerto Rico-based startup, TerraFirma, developed an AI model that uses satellite images to forecast environmental risks like natural disasters, crop disease and erosion. "We insist on the physics of it, because we believe that is the base point. Understanding how water moves, how wind moves, how different solar exposures operate throughout your farmland," he said at Web Summit, of which AFP is a media partner this year. The hard part, the panelists said: AI models have to be trained on massive amounts of data.

Although farmers tend to be data-obsessed -- painstakingly tracking environmental conditions, inputs and productivity -- gathering and processing that information around the world is complex. "It's quite resource-intensive. You need servers, you need an immense repository of data," said Miseses, 39. "It's the same old story of garbage in, garbage out."

Climate question

The agriculture industry faces criticism in countries like Brazil, whose rise as an agricultural powerhouse has also seen a surge of environmental destruction in key regions like the Amazon rainforest, a vital resource against climate change.

Innovation optimists argue that, with the world's population expected to reach nearly 10 billion people by 2050, technologies like AI are humanity's best hope for surviving without destroying the planet. Mariana Vasconcelos is the 32-year-old chief executive of Brazilian startup Agrosmart, which uses AI to help farmers manage climate risks and produce more sustainably. "The UN Food and Agriculture Organization says we need to increase food production to feed a growing population. At the same time, we have to produce with less: less land, less deforestation, less carbon footprint. How can we do that without technology?" she said. "Agriculture is often seen as opposed to nature. But I think technology is showing that actually it can regenerate, restore the environment, work together with nature... Agriculture is headed for a more sustainable model."

Russia quietly exits Karabakh, ceding its clout 'for good'

The Kremlin this week quietly confirmed that the peacekeepers were withdrawing, taking with them their weapons and hardware, as well as Russian clout from a region it long considered its own backyard.

BAKU: When Russian troops deployed to Nagorno-Karabakh four years ago, their task was clear: keep the peace between bitter foes Armenia and Azerbaijan and prevent another war in the volatile region. But as Azerbaijani forces swept through mountainous Karabakh last September and crushed Armenian separatist forces in a matter of hours, the Russian mission looked lost. The Kremlin this week quietly confirmed that the peacekeepers were withdrawing, taking with them their weapons and hardware, as well as Russian clout from a region it long considered its own backyard. "We are witnessing a historic process -- Russians are leaving for the first time in two centuries," independent Azerbaijani analyst Elhan Shahinoglu told AFP. Moscow ruled over the Caucasus region first during the Russian empire and then in the Soviet era. When war broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan after the USSR's collapse, Moscow sought to mediate.

The Kremlin deployed almost 2,000 troops in 2020 as part of a ceasefire deal that halted six weeks of brutal fighting between the arch-foes over the

Karabakh region. The accord held until the lightning Azerbaijani offensive last September that ignited an exodus of more than 100,000 Armenians from Karabakh and deepened their frustration with Moscow.

Russia 'betrayed us'

"Along with the Russians leaving Karabakh, the last hope that the population will return home is gone," said Iveta Margaryan, a 53-year-old trained accountant on the streets of Armenia's capital. "The Russians have betrayed us," she added. Observers of the Caucasus say Russia is too caught up with its invasion of Ukraine to retain its sway in the region. Azerbaijan has recently deepened ties with Turkey -- a close military and political partner with shared cultural ties. And with the pullout from Karabakh, Moscow has further alienated Armenia. Yerevan has criticised Moscow's perceived shortfalls, with Prime Minister Nikol



Pashinyan busy forging closer ties with the West. In February, he froze Yerevan's participation in the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation, a defence grouping of several ex-Soviet states. Yerevan also joined the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Moscow's wishes -- a move that obligates it to arrest Vladimir Putin should he visit Armenia. The European Union and United States are now leading efforts to broker a peace agreement between the Caucasus foes, with Moscow stuck playing second fiddle.

'Shattered' myth

Moscow's unease over Armenia's rapprochement with the West has also become public. The foreign ministry this week demanded that Yerevan "disavow" reports it was deepening military ties with Western countries. France -- home to a large Armenian diaspora -- has also

planted a flag in the region, intensifying its diplomatic backing for Yerevan and providing cutting-edge defensive radars and missiles. "Russia is out, the West is in," said Azerbaijani political scientist Eldar Namazov. The Russian peacekeepers were meant to "project influence," said Gela Vasadze, senior fellow at the Georgian Strategic Analysis Centre. But their withdrawal has clearly illustrated the limits of Russia's power, he told AFP. "The myth that Russian boots never leave territories they had once stepped in is shattered."

Shahinoglu said Putin had withdrawn from Karabakh to keep up friendly relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey at a time when the Kremlin is isolated over the Ukraine war. But in doing so, Russia has lost its ability to "exploit" Armenian separatism in the Caucasus and leverage it for regional influence, he said. "Russia has lost its historical footholds in the Caucasus for good." That sentiment was echoed in Azerbaijan, where the announcement of the Russian drawdown was met with joy and relief.

Calls for calm after reported Israeli strike on Iran

After state television said explosions were heard near the city of Isfahan, Iran activated its air defence systems over several cities, official media reported.



TEHRAN, IRAN: World leaders appealed for calm Friday after reported Israeli retaliation against Iran added to months of tense spillover from the war in Gaza, with Iranian state media reporting explosions in a central province. Israeli officials made no public comment on the attack and Iranian officials played down its significance.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Israeli micro-drones used in the operation had caused no deaths or damage, dismissing it as a “desperate attempt to make a victory out of their repeated defeats”.

But the spectre of direct hostilities between the Middle East arch-foes rattled world markets with prices of oil, gold and equities seesawing.

Israel had warned it would hit back after Iran fired hundreds of missiles and drones almost a week ago in retaliation for a deadly April 1 air strike — widely blamed on Israel — that levelled the Iranian consulate in Damascus and killed seven Revolutionary Guards.

A senior US Congressional source told AFP there had been retaliatory Israeli strikes but declined to provide any details, saying they were classified.

After state television said explosions were heard near the city of Isfahan, Iran activated its air defence systems over several cities, official media reported.

An unidentified Israeli official told The Washington Post the “strike” was retaliation for Iran’s drone and missile barrage and was intended to signal that Israel was able to hit inside Iran.

Iran’s Tasnim news agency, citing “informed sources”, denied that Iran had been attacked from outside. “Contrary to the rumours and claims” made in foreign media, “there are no reports of an attack from abroad”, Tasnim said. Three Iranian officials told The New York Times that small

drones carried out the “attack”, possibly launched from inside Iran, and that radar had not detected unidentified aircraft entering Iranian airspace.

Fars news agency reported “three explosions” close to Qahjavarestan, near Isfahan airport and the 8th Shekari army airbase. Iran’s space agency spokesman Hossein Dalirian said there was “a failed and humiliating attempt to fly quadcopters, which were shot down”. There were “no reports of a missile attack”, Dalirian said on social media platform X. “Reports indicate there was no major damage or large explosions caused by the impact of any air threat,” the official IRNA news agency said.

Iran’s army commander-in-chief Abdolrahim Mousavi attributed Friday’s explosions to “the firing of anti-aircraft defence systems on a suspicious object”. Nuclear facilities in Isfahan were reported to be “completely secure”, Tasnim said, and the UN’s atomic watchdog

confirmed “no damage” to Iran’s nuclear sites.

Washington received advance notice of Israel’s reported strike, but did not endorse it or play any part in its execution, US media quoted officials as saying. President Joe Biden had promised “ironclad” support for Israel, but also urged it to “think carefully and strategically” before launching a response against Iran that could trigger a wider war. An Israeli strike on Syrian army position was also reported on Friday, while an “explosion” hit an Iraqi base overnight.

Outside of Baghdad, several people were wounded in a blast at a military base housing an Iran-backed coalition, security sources said early Saturday. Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces, or Hashed al-Shaabi, said the “explosion” had inflicted material losses and injuries, without specifying how many.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility and the US

military denied reports it had any involvement.

‘Dangerous cycle of retaliation’

Last weekend, Iran launched its first-ever attack directly targeting Israel.

With the help of the United States and other allies, Israel intercepted most of the more than 300 missiles and drones it said Iran had launched. Minor damage and no deaths resulted.

Iran said its attack was in retaliation for the April 1 strike on its Damascus consulate. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been under international pressure over the civilian toll in Gaza’s war, and an analyst said the consulate strike allowed Israel to take the focus off Gaza. However, foreign ministers of the G7 group of developed economies, meeting in Italy on Friday, kept up that pressure.

The group said they opposed a “full-scale military operation in Rafah”, where most of Gaza’s population is sheltering, because

it would have “catastrophic consequences” for civilians.

Mediators have acknowledged that negotiations for a truce in Gaza were stalling, but Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appears to be trying his luck and will meet Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Saturday to discuss the conflict.

Space to climb down

UN chief Antonio Guterres has called for an end to “the dangerous cycle of retaliation” in the Middle East, his spokesman said.

Analysts said further tit-for-tat violence could be avoided.

Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East and North Africa programme at Britain’s Chatham House think tank, said the reported Israeli strike had been “calibrated to avoid damage and further Iranian aggression”.

“As long as Iran continues to deny the attack and deflect attention from it and no further hits are seen, there is space for both sides to climb down the escalation ladder for now,” he said.

Nomi Bar Yaacov, associate fellow of the think tank’s international security programme, said the attack had been “carried out in a manner that will allow Iran to deny the attack and draw a line under it”.

On Tehran’s streets, some called for peace.

“We are against war,” said Behrouz, 71, a retired firefighter who did not give his surname. “We are not happy with the killing of people, whether they are Iranians, Israelis or Gazans.”





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SYMPHONY OF BRILLIANCE DR BHARAT BARAI UNVEILS A GLOBAL LEGACY! DR VGP TALK SHOW



Dr VGP: Hello and welcome to Dr VGP Talk Show that reaches 42 million households including two million across America. Today at this episode of Dr VGP talk show. We are in New Delhi, the capital of India with a very extraordinary gentleman. A gentleman, who has excelled in medicine, a gentleman who strives to strengthen U.S. India relationship, a gentleman who is every man's leader, an inclusive personality par extraordinary. Please welcome Dr Barat Barai to Dr. VGP talk show.

Dr. Barai, so happy to have you with us today amidst your busy schedule in Delhi. You addressed the AAPI Global Health Convention yesterday and gave a very enlightening lecture on oncology. Later on in the evening, you were honored in the Jewish synagogue in Delhi for all your efforts to combat anti-Semitism, so happy to have you.

Dr. Barai, could you tell us about your early childhood?

Dr Barai: I was born in Mumbai as most of my relatives on mother's side as well as father's side were in Mumbai, but my father used to work at Alembic Chemicals, so I grew up in Vadodara where I did my preschool, junior school, middle school, and high school. Then I was in faculty of science at Maharaja Sayaji Rao University in Vadodara. I went to medical school at Baroda Medical College, and I did my MD postgraduate in medicine, also at Baroda Medical College.

Dr VGP: Dr Barai was born in Bombay, schooled in Baroda, Gujarat and did his MBBS and MD in Baroda Medical College and you were an outstanding

gold medalist in school and in medical school, you topped with honors right Dr Barai?

Dr Barai: Yes, in 1964 Gujarat SSC board exam in the state, I stood first in Science and Mathematics. I stood first in premedical examination and then in first MBBS, second MBBS and third MBBS, I received gold medals in each and every subject and then I passed my MD again with distinction and gold medal from Baroda Medical College.

Dr VGP: We are so proud to have a person with so many gold medals. Tell us about your early journey, in America.

Dr Barai: I did my residency in the University of Illinois program at Illinois Masonic Hospital, then I did MD in oncology at Northwestern University Medical School and then I did MD in hematology at Rush Medical School.

Dr VGP: All the top medical institutions, training in

Northwestern and Rush Medical and the University of Illinois and then how and when did you set up your practice in Munster, Indiana, Dr. Barai? What made you go to Munster, Indiana?

Dr Barai: As it happened, I was thinking what to do on completion of my fellowship. I had the offer to continue at Northwestern which I was inclined to do but there were changes at the top level in the department and I was not sure that would be in my best interest and at that time, Methodist Hospital in Merrillville and Gary was looking for somebody to be the chief of oncology- hematology and they mademe an offer and I wanted to stay in Chicago area and I could not refuse it. They have been very good to me, and I have been there now for almost 40 years.

Dr VGP: Wow! Which year was that when you started as a chief?

Dr Barai: 1983.

Dr VGP: Exactly 40 and It's been a long 40 years of

accomplishments and success. Tell us, how was your early community involvement to empower the Indian American community?

Dr Barai: I was always involved in Community Affairs like when I was in pre- science, I was the CR or class representative, when I was in premedical, I was the vice president of Faculty of Science in Baroda Medical College. Also, I was in the junior doctors Association and director or Warden of the postgraduate residence so I was always involved to a degree first seven years in USA because of hard work during the study, I pretty much concentrated on doing my hard work and earning money because my father had retired and we were staying in a rented house in alembic Colony and he had nowhere to go so I said, now my concentration should be to work so I work every weekend while I was doing my residency and earned the money and sent

it so my father could build a house and stay there. But, once the residency was over and I started working at Methodist Hospital as I said they gave me a position as medical director of oncology- hematology and they allowed me full private practice and they got me position at Indiana University Medical School as clinical assistant professor so I said what more can you ask for?

Dr VGP: Exactly, gold medalist Golden Boy and also incredibly committed to help your father is a great amazing story of giving back. Tell us how you met your lovely wife Dr Panna.

Dr Barai: Panna was in class with me, so we became friends.

Dr VGP: So, was it a love marriage?

Dr Barai: Yeah of course!

Dr VGP: Oh great!

Dr Barai: But it was done with the consent of both the parents.

Dr VGP: So, she was a classmate of yours in Baroda medical school.

Dr Barai: Yes!

Dr VGP: Great, great, uhuh

Dr Barai: So, we presented it to both the parents, and they were happy, and they blessed it.

Dr VGP: And so, she both of you all came at the same time.

Dr Barai: We came together!

Dr VGP: As husband and wife! Great, fantastic! Dr Barai you have been the Godfather, for the Indian American community and you have built Bridges between India and USA. Looking back in 40 years, what would you rank as your three greatest accomplishments in strengthening US India ties.

Dr Barai: One would be the nuclear treaty.





Dr VGP: Which year was that?

Dr Barai: 2007 and 2008, where I worked heavily both in Chicago area as well as on the Capitol Hill, I used to go there practically every week and try to present the case why United States Congress should approve the nuclear treaty.

Dr VGP: For India?

Dr Barai: Yes, for India.

Dr VGP: Was it a waiver from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty or what was it called? Could you tell our viewers of the current generation what was that treaty and its significance to India?

Dr Barai: The United States had the rule that any country that was not part of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty (NPT), could not get any nuclear related supplies from United States or any of the 45 signatories to the nuclear club so because India had nuclear test, it could not get any technology or any supplies of uranium or plutonium from any of the 45 suppliers. Now, India itself had very small amount of uranium though they were also producing from the sands of India shores called monazite sands. They were producing the precursors of uranium but to get purified uranium was very important, more for production of electricity, whatever uranium India needed, for making the nuclear weapons.

Dr VGP: So, how tough was it? It was a long battle 24 months to end fighting and lobbying Capitol Hill and who was the Prime Minister of India then?

Dr Barai: Dr Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister of India. You know everybody wants to say nobody should do nuclear testing but when you are in location where India is, and you can't change your physical location. Unfortunately, India is in bad neighborhood. We have Pakistan that has been constantly fighting and supporting terrorism. We have China that stabbed India in 1962 with 'hindi chini bhai bhai' and ever since then, China has been very adversary. Somehow, they instead of thinking that the two giants from Asia could become

leaders, China wants to be the sole leader and it has used its economic power and its military power to try to harass and suppress India. So, the US Congress, they needed to understand the geographical realities of where India was and why they did the nuclear testing and it was not meant to proliferate nuclear secrets with many other countries, India's goal was its own protection and India had made that very clear that.

Dr VGP: So, you were responsible as part of the team for championing to get that nuclear treaty passed in US Congress. What's the second significant milestone you would say that you were in the lead role, Dr Barai?

Dr Barai: The second, I would say when Prime Minister Modi came to United States in 2014. When I met him in Gandhinagar in 2014, I would say May 22nd to be exact, I had asked him, Sir, please come to United States and his answer was at the time, or his mandate you want to say, do the show so that they also get the message that our country is something. He didn't talk about himself, he talked about the country, and we worked very hard at that time it was the first time such a large show was going to be done, the previous biggest one was when Prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee came which was at the Jacob Javits center, about 3,000 people, So, this was a big jump from 3,000 to 20,000 plus.

Dr VGP: I still remember Dr. Barai, when you were organizing the historic Madison Square garden reception for Prime Minister Modi, you took the initiative on your own, to write a single check, a personal check for 600,000 to reserve the auditorium and then the community contributed but that type of passionate selfless leadership is yet to be seen, that's why I always refer to Dr Barai as one of the true living statesman in the world.

Dr Barai, what is the third major significant, you would list in strengthening Indo US.

Dr Barai: Representation of Indian American community and their interest both in India as well as in United States because we are a small community though we are growing and we have our own problems related to Visa, passports, whatever facilities are needed for the residents either at the consulate or when they come to India and their representation in the United States for their personal Liberty, any discriminatory attitude because of the color and that extended to the medical licensing board because people used to complain that the doctors who came from other countries they were discriminated as foreign medical graduates and even though they were equally or more qualified they will get less positions but I can tell you in last 24 years that I have been on the medical Licensing Board of the state of Indiana, I have not observed that. Indiana, in U.S. is a Republican state and it used to be called a redneck state, but I have not seen the redneck attitude at least at the medical licensing board. People are very friendly; people are very accommodating and God loving people.

Dr VGP: Great! 40 years, truly you have been the living

Ambassador for India in North America and recently of recent last decade it's gone beyond the borders of North America. Tell us, how you have been, you were honored with the historic Champion award by the StandWithUs Israel organization in North America in the last week of October, yesterday you were honored by the Jewish synagogue with the golden star of dignity and honor, the highest honor of the Jewish synagogue given to you. I would call you the golden man or the Golden Boy for us.

Tell us, some of the significant things you have done, to strengthen India, U.S., Israel relationship and particularly today where Israel Hamas war is in the news. You have played a significant role for the Indian Jews in Israel as well as fighting anti-Semitism in Chicago and North America and as well as strengthening India - Israel relationship Dr Barai, give us some,

Dr Barai: Vijay, I always as a student of history, had remarkable admiration for the people of Israel, the land where they are in the biblical reference it is called land of Canaan, which comprises today's Israel as well as West Bank which was called Judea and Samaria. So, the Jewish people have been living in that land going back 4,000 years, not today, well before Islam or even Christianity were born. The first temple was built there probably thousand years before Christ, that was destroyed by Nabataean, one of the kings from where Iraq is today. They built the second temple about 500 years before Christ and that second temple was also destroyed by the Romans when they killed Jesus Christ, crucified him. Then, the Jewish people fled in the boats, thousands of them were taken as slaves and taken to Rome and it was the Jewish slaves that built the Colosseum, and it was the Jewish women who were used for the pleasure

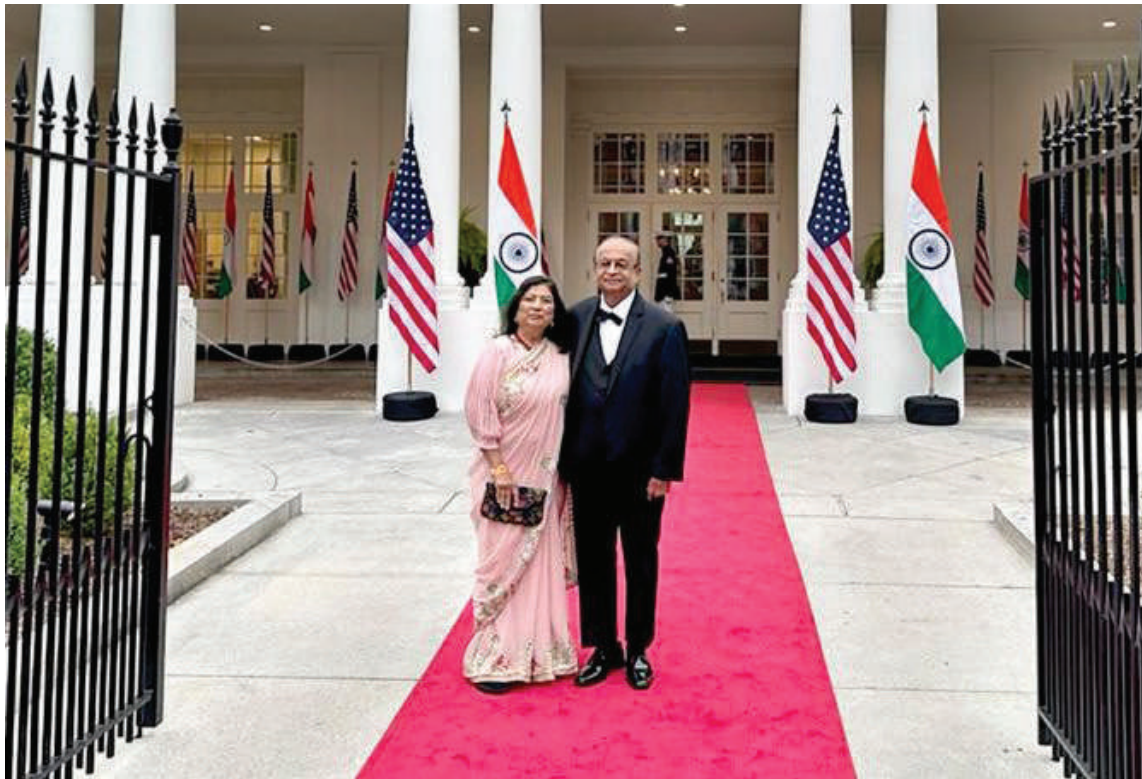
of the Roman soldiers in Rome. They went to different parts of world including India and they have been living in India for almost 2,000 years and I'm proud to say as Indian that this is one country, where the Jews have never been discriminated against, harassed, never have their synagogues been vandalized. So, that's a very proud and admirable record for India.

Dr VGP: Absolutely!

Dr Barai: I have been a student of what is happening in the Middle East. You know, what I don't understand, and I argued with some of the Muslim doctors who work in the hospitals. There are 57 Islamic countries in the world, there are many Christian countries, there is only one Jewish country in the world, a very tiny 8,550 square miles. Why can't the Jews have their own country and live peacefully there? Look at what they have done. In 1948, in the last 75 years, since they became independent or at the country they have had remarkable economy, they've converted the desert area into a blooming agricultural success, they converted into a technological giant so many technology inventions are coming from Israel. They converted themselves into a manufacturing Hub though pardon me more for electronics and defense related equipment. Look at what has happened to the other half, which was Palestine, under the British mandate, they are still fighting the only thing that they are manufacturing are rockets and machine guns to try to kill people.

I think Vijay, in my opinion they are on a wrong track and the other Islamic countries that are supporting them blindly because quote and unquote their fellow Muslims are not doing any favor to them. The Palestinians have still remained poor though they get a lot of money from other countries, so they are not living





as poor, but they are called refugees which they are not living as refugees. When I visited Bethlehem in 2017 and I see on the pictures in Gaza they are living in good multi-story housing, their per capita income is higher than per capita income of an average Indian. So, people are called refugees but really they are getting free food, housing, everything else from United Nations, from United States, from the European countries and from the Arab countries.

Dr VGP: Yeah!

Dr Barai: But, that's not doing them a favor, if you instead of giving them free food and free housing, if you educate them give them industry, teach them how to grow their own food, you will do a bigger favor to them that they will remain on their own feet they will be able to feed themselves, they will be able to have a job for themselves, have an education for their children. So, I hope that some of the Arab leaders use their oil wealth to try to guide them on a path of peace and prosperity and if I quote Mrs. Golda Meir, "When will peace come to Middle East" she said, "when the Arabs start loving their children more than they hate Israel!"

Dr VGP: very well said, Dr Barai! On that note, during Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Israel, you had a significant role to play, and I think one of the most impactful outcome of that, thanks to your initiative was getting the OCI card for the Indian Jews in Israel, Could you throw some light how that occurred was it 2017 or 2019?

Dr Barai: 2017. Yeah, July 4th and 5th, I remember because it was U.S. independence day, so on July 4th 2017, we had organized two sets of symposia or think tank symposia in the mornings at the Israeli Institute of strategic studies where many of the former generals of the Israeli Army/ Air Force

participated in the symposia in the evening it was at Be Begin-Sadat Institute and after the symposia was so around 8:30, two of the Jewish girls Indian origin they came crying and they said that they could not get the OCI card and I was not aware of that. I say how come and they said because Indian government had the rule that anyone who served in foreign military could not get OCI card and they said that they wanted to do was go to India, study their ancestry, where they grew up, what their forefathers did, the Jewish history but she said they did not have the money to go every three months for the airfare they wanted to stay there for a year or two study it and write a PhD thesis and they said that they had made representation to Indian ministers, to the Ambassador and they all said there's nothing that they could do because this was a law passed by Indian Parliament and Indian Parliament would have to amend it. Now, this was the first time on 4th of July, I became aware that such a thing existed. I mean, myself have an OCI card but that limitation I did not know. So, the next day morning on 5th of July the day Prime Minister was to address the Indian diaspora.

Dr. VGP: The Indian Diaspora!

Dr Barai: Indian diaspora in Tel Aviv. I sent him an email that last night at the Begin-Sadat Institute, a couple of girls brought this out and is there anything that can be done so at 5:00 on the 5th of July.

Dr. VGP: The same day. literally within 10 hours

Dr Barai: I got a text, I got an email that PM (Prime Minister) has been briefed in an hour so I knew that at least he was aware of it and at 5:00 we had a meeting with Prime Minister Modi along with people who participated in the symposia at the Israeli Institute of strategic studies as well as Be Begin-

Sadat Institute. At that time, the Prime Minister remarked saying that I will address it in the evening. So, I knew that a not only he was aware he had something to say about it and I said yeah he remembered it to address it to me that I'll address it in the evening so at the public meeting which was also attended by Prime Minister Netanyahu, he said now kush kabar. So, I knew that something good was going to come out and he said that those people of Indian origin who had to serve in foreign military as a part of compulsory training or draft will be eligible to get the OCI but not the people who voluntarily enlisted themselves to serve in the military of other countries. Now Vijay, this affected only two countries now that I know Israel and Singapore where there is compulsory. You won't believe, after he made that announcement so many people were crying with joy that they had been trying for 10 years according to them to get this regulation addressed and within eight hours' time, Prime Minister Modi studied it, fortunately Dr Jai Shanker was also with him in Israel as a foreign secretary at that time he was a foreign secretary at that time and must have consulted him but I was so happy that the request of the Jewish Indian diaspora in Israel was addressed so quickly by Prime Minister Modi

Dr. VGP: See, this is a classic example of how Dr. Barai with his you know utilizes his close intimate relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to United States, long before during the U.S. India Fellowship, long before he entered active leadership politics in BJP, he visited America and he stayed with Dr. Bharat Barai. Earlier in Baroda, Dr Barai and his brother and Mr. Narendar Modi and his brother were very close friends as they were growing up.

You rarely see somebody who uses that close relationship for the community and inclusive not anything he has done with using it for personal gain, personal recognition, for him or his family members. I mean, this is something outstanding, which we all of us must learn of selflessness and how to use our strategic relationships for the community at large! So, we salute you, there are several such stories we will share with you with Dr Barai, but I am just saying he didn't affect this outcome affected people Beyond India and America's borders to Israel and Singapore. So, we salute you for this type of leadership which is rare to come across. Another instance, we were yesterday in the Jewish synagogue, and he was interrupted while he was giving a lecture, he took time to take a phone call from a close muslim friend of him. What I am trying to say, you know Dr Barai, his passion for India, he respects India as a secular Nation where Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Jains, and Sikhs can all coexist, and he is a leader as you can see way before the Modi era. In 2007-2008, passionately was fighting for India to fight to get the nuclear treaty. Who would take time every week to be in Washington DC? It costs time, money, airfare and use your relationships with the US Congressional leadership, Senate leadership, with the U.S. President at the time to get this to happen. This is what is meaningful purposeful use of relationships for the country at large. It is not that Dr Barai today represents India, represents the marginalized communities across the world, leaving his footprints not only in America, Israel, and Singapore. Dr. Barai, could you tell us, what would you now that you have been closely observing both the administrations in the U.S. and India under Prime Minister Modi's 10-year rule. Dr Barai is one of the world statesmen, which you are, one of the few ones living today, how would

you, what would you say our Prime Minister Modi for the last 10 years has done a revolutionized India from shining India to New India and put India on the global map. Today Prime Minister Narendra Modi is regarded as a global Visionary leader. How, what would you see are the top five major transforming achievements, during the last 10 years of Prime Minister Modi for New India?

Dr Barai: Vijay, if you start with the basic premise that is driving him, then people will understand subsequent things.

Dr. VGP: Please!

Dr Barai: He loves India, and he wants to make India, a leading country in the world. You always used to cite the example of South Korea that after the Korean War, South Korea was in shambles and how they have built into an industrial power, so same way India has been in shambles. In 1993, when he came to my house and stayed with us used to have chai pe charcha, everyday morning and he used to describe the conditions of India, remember at that time.

Dr. VGP: Which year was that? 1993

Dr Barai: 1993 September,

Dr. VGP: Dr Barai today you are regarded as one of the living Statesmen not only in America, in Israel and in India and the rest of the world. Could you tell us you know there has been historic transforming initiatives in India which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done from bringing shining India to New India in the last 10 years since he has assumed as Prime Minister. What would be the five major impactful initiatives?

Dr Barai: I just want to take one basic theme, which drives him. He wants to make India a great country in the world and bring prosperity to the people of India especially common man. Remember his own childhood background was extremely poor, the children, parents they stayed in one room, there were no toilets at the time, even the cooking was done outside in open



because the only single room has a living space. So, if anybody says, does he know how a poor man lives, he has lived through that life, so he understands the necessity of having water, having toilets, have cooking need for housing and he always thought of South Korea is an example where the country was in shambles after the Korean War. They used to live in shanties in many areas like Daravi, he has converted like the Korean nation has converted itself into an industrial power. Now in 1993, when he came to Chicago at time of 100th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's lecture to the world parliament of religion, he used to sit down and talk what he saw were the problems of India, Now, many of us know the problems of India but he was the one who also had suggestion of different solutions, what can be done to address it and this is from a man who had no government position as he was a karyakarta (worker). So, now going back to that, one was a government that is dedicated to the welfare of people, not their boss, so you can see that he makes all the secretaries to come by 9:00 AM to the Departments. He tells the ministers, to spend less time going around, in fact before any Minister goes abroad, it requires Prime Minister's permission and that's because they ask what do you want to do because he says you know stay here, work for and be available and work for the benefit of the country. So, a government that is responsive to the people and works for government. The second thing we realize is that India has lot of smart people.

Dr. VGP: Yes!

Dr. Barai: How to unleash the genius of Indian people for the benefit and give them opportunity? So, entrepreneurship is encouraging very much and that is one of the big achievements. India is a country that now next to United States, has the biggest number of new ventures coming up and third is Israel, believe it or not! So that is the second thing that he has done to unleash

the genius of Indian people. Third thing is corruption, we used to say in the past, the corrupt politicians, the corrupt bureaucrats, and the corrupt businessmen, they had monopolized for their own personal wealth and left the people of India on the side in name of garibi hatao. They certainly hataoed their own garibi but not of people of India, so being that he is absolutely committed to throwing out corruption. Now I realize, in a country of 1.4 billion it takes time from top to the bottom but if he learns that he'll not allow any corruption at the top level that he aware of whether it's among the ministers or among the bureaucrats that he knows of, so fighting against corruption and encouraging things based on the merits so bringing the transparency. The other thing is digitalizing India's economy.

Dr. VGP: Absolutely!

Dr. Barai: That is a big achievement! After Madison Square Garden, I wanted him to come to Chicago second time, he says Bharat, no, I am going to go to San Jose, Silicon Valley, he says I want to convert India into a digital economy, that is my priority.

Dr. VGP: He has!

Dr. Barai: He has. So, he told me that I am going to go to Silicon Valley because I want to meet all those entrepreneurs and I want to bring them to India, and I want to convert India into a digital economy, and he has done that.

Dr. VGP: Absolutely! You see even vegetable vendors not using the paper.

Dr. Barai: Yeah, they go and click on the QR code. So, the next achievement is atmanirbhar Bharat, he realized if you want to be a superpower, you cannot be dependent on other countries for your own defense. So, India has started manufacturing lot of Defense equipment. So, he has given priority to build up India's defense system. So, I was

listening to Mr. Gadkari, and he is a terrific transportation, Minister. India has built so much of infrastructure roads but especially along the borders, Northern borders. He has built so many roads so that the Chinese aggression if they come can be countered and India has a very good infrastructure built in and same way whatever defense equipment whether it's tanks or machine guns or RPGs or rocket launchers or Navy destroyers or Navy aircraft carrier or in the air fighter jets he just gives it a top priority and his top priority is make as many of those things as possible in India and if as a short term gap arrangement you to import, do it so that's how we got.

Dr. VGP: The make in India, made for the world!

Dr. Barai: Got the Apache helicopters, they are going to get the sea drones, so whatever is necessary in the short term to get it to bolster India's defense but in the long term he wants to get most of the items which are

a vital defense equipment manufactured in India.

Dr. VGP: so wide ranging, Dr Barai has summed up the mantras this wide ranging of Prime Ministers transforming action oriented in initiatives including giving gas ovens to women, stopping opendefecation, which was known in India, rural electrification, the infrastructure, surface transportation, roads

from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, the connectivity like Dr. Barai talked about Minister Nitan Gadkari and his digitalization of all of India and apart from that he has also revolutionized, the education system in India and he has made even the convocations, recently Prime Minister Modi was in my hometown Tamil Nadu, Trichy Bharathidasan University and there's no traditional convocation gowns and it's all been Indianized. I mean it is a true moment where we are at the pinnacle of being proud to say we are Indians, lifting our heads up. Dr. Barai.

Dr. Barai: Vijay, let me tell you some important things. We used to say, roti, kapada aur makan, now we have to go a little more, electricity, water, and sanitation. For the last 75 years, why did it take Prime Minister Modi in 2014 to say we should have toilets in every home? When he was the chief minister of Gujarat, he made sure that every house in Gujarat had electricity which he said he is going to do for India and maybe in a year or two more than 85% homes are also electrified. Third thing was tap water supply, why does it take 65 years for someone to realize that every home should have portable water coming there and next question why should people live in shanty towns?

Dr. VGP: Roof over the head, housing

Dr. Barai: the roof, small housing. In Dharavi, I was recently reading last week, the Adani group you know it was by open transparent bidding process that all the shanty jopadas in Dharavi are going to be replaced by pakka-makan. So, why did it take 65 years for somebody?

Dr. VGP: To answer your question, Dr. Barai, India needed a global farsighted visionary leader Prime Minister Modi, who could also keep our bureaucrats on their feet, to provide, make it action, not just passing files.

Dr. Barai: He knew what a common man needed, not those guys who live in the farm houses.

Dr. VGP: Yes, he was a common man. He was brought up as a tea seller, absolutely! I agree with you.

Dr. Barai: The need of a common man and all those guys who go around with their dogs in their farm houses.

Dr. VGP: And his intelligent mindboggling micromanaging of the whole country is incredible. The recent three state elections, BJP won because of Modi not because of any of the Chief ministers, not of the freebies, not of any of the schemes. Yesterday, I met with a group of editors from Delhi and asked them candid questions. Tell me what was the thing, they said, Sir only one - Modi, Narendra Modi, he put his name out there,





the people responded there and 2024 is going to be the same repeat result and as long as Modi is the Prime Minister, BJP will be in the government, they said.

Dr. Barai: You know he will hold all those people accountable. He brought in new Chief ministers, many new cabinet members and whatever promises are given to the people he will hold them accountable and if they do not perform,

Dr. VGP: He will ensure that they perform, that's the Modi's mantra

Dr. Barai: If they do not perform, they'll be out.

Dr. VGP: Today on a on the subject, India is rising as you all know the future of the U.S.-India relationship, everybody is describing it as a pinnacle, the golden period they never seen and I've been 40 years also since I've been in United States and I never seen the U.S. India relationship at its peak. We had President Biden rolling out the red carpet at the State House visit of Prime Minister Modi. You were one of the fortunate few Indians and Dr. Panna Barai, invited for the White House dinner, where millet was served for the first time and yoga was one of the primary global achievements of Prime Minister Modi and now millets is being promoted all over the world. With you and Purdue University, we initially rolled out an initiative which is taking America by storm. Dr Barai, where do you see the future of this U.S. - India relationship? Are we at the peak or is there more to be done?

Dr. Barai: No, it will continue to consolidate. There are almost five million Indian Americans there who act as a bridge between the two countries. We have many, actually this relationship

should have grown 75 years ago we both are democracy, we are both committed to the rule of law, we both are pluralistic societies who respect the freedom, who respect the Ingenuity, who respect the entrepreneurship so this relationship should have become much better 75 years ago but be as it may, that started the talk at the time of AtalBihariVajpai and it increased during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh but Narendra Modi realized that United States is a top technological country and if we are to transform the lives of Indians, we will need more technology, more digitalization, more agriculture so by collaborating with United States

There is a lot more to be gained for both the countries. United States also realizes that their biggest enemy is cunning China. if it's one thing for Chinese to become superpower and take pride which is fine but to try to antagonize intimidate smaller countries whether it's Vietnam, whether it is Cambodia, whether it is Philippines, whether it is Indonesia and Taiwan so you need a very strong country that can stand up to the Chinese and I would say the stupid Chinese have done a big favor to U.S.- India relationship by trying to threaten India so India feels a need to be closer to United States also. So, this relationship both not only in the field of Defense intelligence but in the field of technology, in the field of agriculture, and in the field of Entrepreneurship will be beneficial to both the countries.

Dr. VGP: Very well said Dr. Barai. You know when we were seated together in the joint session of U.S. Congress and

the Senate when Prime Minister Modi addressed on June 22nd. We were so proud to see how he addressed in his historic address all the accomplishments of India, what India and U.S. relationship is today and what is more to be done. I mean that's an address for 60 Minutes, non-stop in perfect English, conveyed the message of what he has done and what he's going to do and on that note, Dr. Barai you know what if you're given three people to take out for dinner from the present or the past who would those three people be?

Dr. Barai: Well, one is of course Narendra Modi. If he will come again for dinner. I think I have a lot of admiration for President Biden. I have known him since 2008 when I went to him, he was the chairman I believe of the Foreign Relations Committee.

I have a lot of regards for him at that time I tell you Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had sent Murali Deora was the minister of petroleum.

Dr. VGP: Yes, from Maharashtra.

Dr. Barai: Yeah, former mayor of Mumbai. He said Bharat Bhai, there is not a single Democratic co-sponsor of the resolution in US Senate and Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh very much wishes that we have Democratic co-sponsor and he wanted me to talk with Senator Evan Bayh, who was Senator of Indiana, Senator from Indiana, and my good friend.

Senator Bayh said he would feel more comfortable if some of the democratic senior members also were co-sponsors, not just him so delegation from Chicago we went to meet Senator Biden and we requested him and you know what he said, he said Doctor, I am going to support and co-sponsor this resolution not for myself but for my children and my grandchildren. I envision the relationship between the two countries to be a long-standing relationship so Senator Biden was the first one who openly committed to sponsoring the nuclear treaty and based on a rational and even now, even though some of the so-called Muslim leaders in the USA have threatened him to withdraw the support, he is not deterred, he's doing what is good in supporting Israel.

Dr. VGP: So, the third person, Sir.

Dr. Barai: The third person that I admire, I am thinking about between two or three, but I would say probably the former British

prime minister. She's not alive so Margaret Thatcher, Iron Lady, who took Britain out from the leftwing union led politics to a sort of superpower country.

Dr. VGP: So, you just heard Dr. Barai saying his favorite three people or the three people he would like to take out for dinner, Prime Minister Narendra Modi who stayed in his house earlier in 1993, President Joe Biden who was the chairman of the house Foreign Relations Committee in 2008, who was a friend of India and by Prime Minister Modi's Administration has become an Indo friend today and the third one Margaret Thatcher, the Iron lady of Europe.

Dr. Barai: in three words how would you describe yourself? I mean I would write a book on you and I'm planning to do that anyway but go ahead.

Dr. Barai: I am a volunteer for India and USA and Indian American community.

Dr. VGP: okay, so Dr. Barai in his characteristic selfless human Service says, 'I am a volunteer for India and U.S. relationship, and I'll continue to be there'.

I mean thank you so much Dr. Barai for joining us on the show. You know, Dr. Barai is so busy among his daily oncology visits at the hospital and also attending to community needs, community events and strengthening Indo-U.S. relationship and also, we tried coordinating our time to have taping this talk show in Munster, Indiana but God has blessed us in the New Year today in Delhi he squeezed in time for taping this episode for Dr. VGP Talk show. We are very fortunate as he has a busy schedule. We flew all the way to Delhi to have the Talk show. Thank you very much Doctor!



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13TH CONGRESSIONAL GLOBAL COMMUNITY AWARDS GALA
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American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc. AMEC in collaboration with U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis's Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force, MEATF is organizing the 13th Annual Celebration of our Community Heroes globally.

American Multi Ethnic Coalition Inc., (AMEC) is a Community organization to empower the multi ethnic communities through social, educational, cultural, health, economic and youth initiatives. AMEC strives to promote, protect ethnic minorities and maximizes every resource that we have for the good of our communities. AMEC firmly believes that when we partner together, we all grow. American Multi Ethnic Commission is the 501-c-3 Not for profit organizational arm of AMEC USA.

The Annual Awards Gala attracts Community Leaders, Physicians, Professionals and Businessmen from all walks of life, especially from 24 ethnic communities including African Americans, Mexico, Latin Americans, Nigeria, Ghana, India, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Jordan, Middle East, Palestine, Korea, China, Japan, Philippines, Greece, Ukraine and others. Distinguished persons will attend the Gala and view the Exhibits. The Gala's Program Brochure/Ad book which contains the profiles of the Outstanding Awardees which will be widely published through our media partner, The Global Eye-Worldwide Digital Monthly that reaches 42 million households.

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Call for Nominations for the following Award Categories from members of different ethnic communities residing in USA and also from overseas. Please email to amec.2022@yahoo.com. The name of your nominee with complete contact information: Occupation/Designation, Mailing address, Passport Size Photograph, Email Id and contact phone number with a brief Resume.C.C and a statement from the nominator on rationale for nominating the Organization/individual on or before **April 22, 2024**. The 2024 Awards Jury will shortlist the nominees and inform the nominees as and when they need more information.

1. OUTSTANDING CHILD OF THE YEAR	18. REALTOR OF THE YEAR
2. OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR	19. SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR
3. OUTSTANDING YOUTH OF THE YEAR	20. MARKETING STAR OF THE YEAR
4. LIGHT OF LIFE	21. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
5. CORPORATE OF THE YEAR	22. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD
6. HEALTHCARE INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR	23. DESIGNER OF THE YEAR
7. MUSIC MOGHUL OF THE YEAR	24. PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
8. HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR	25. COMMUNITY ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR
9. PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR	26. GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD
10. DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP OF THE YEAR	27. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
11. ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR	28. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
12. EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR	29. HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR
13. MAHATMA GANDHI SESQUICENTENNIAL PRIZE	30. COUPLE OF THE YEAR
14. WOMAN OF THE YEAR	31. CIVIC LEADERSHIP OF THE YEAR
15. MAN OF THE YEAR	32. DANNY K DAVIS PEACE PRIZE
16. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	33. ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
17. BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR	

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GREATER CHICAGO VEDIC SOCIETY HONORS KASIM BROTHERS

Megha Bala
Youth Correspondent

Greater Chicago Vedic Society (GC Vedic), a registered non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3), is headquartered in Naperville, Illinois. Dedicated to promoting religious, charitable, and educational activities, GC Vedic is led by Mr. Narayan Thirumalai and his able Team.

In celebration of the Centenary Celebrations of Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Padma Shri Dr. Sheik Chinnamoulana, GC Vedic partnered with RR International and SciArt Services to host an event at the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago in Lemont on April 20, 2024. The highlight of the event was a mesmerizing performance by the Kasim brothers, renowned for their mastery of nadhaswaram music, aimed at preserving this ancient art form for future generations.

Hailing from a prestigious lineage of musicians in Andhra Pradesh, the Kasim-Babu duo received early training under their maternal grandfather, Dr. Sheik Chinna Moulana, a legendary

figure in the world of music. Dr. Chinna Moulana, recognized as a Sangeetha Kalanidhi and Padma Shri awardee, dedicated his life to the preservation and promotion of nadhaswaram music. He was appointed as the "State Artist" of Tamil Nadu by the Government of Tamil Nadu and served as a Honorary Professor in the Raja's Government Music College of Thiruvaiyaru, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Chinna Moulana received numerous awards and accolades from around the world for his contributions to music. He founded the Saradha Nadhaswara Sangeetha Ashram with the sole aim of imparting knowledge of music, specifically nadhaswaram playing, to younger generations.

The Kasim brothers, Babu and his brother, belonging to a great family of musicians, have been instrumental in carrying forward their grandfather's legacy. Having accompanied Dr. Sheik Chinna Moulana in many concerts across India and abroad, they continue to captivate audiences with their soul-



stirring performances. Their dedication to preserving and promoting nadhaswaram music is evident through their involvement in the Saradha Nadhaswara Sangeetha Ashram and the establishment of the Dr. Chinnamoulana Memorial Trust.

The performance by the Kasim brothers at the Greater Chicago Temple located at Lemont, Illinois on April 20, 2024, drew an enthusiastic audience of over 500

people, who were spellbound by their musical prowess. Kasim brothers were accompanied on the thavil experts, Shri. Kalyanapuram G. Rajan and Shri. Madurai M. Vijaykumar.

GC Vedic, currently has a membership of over 750 patrons within the Greater Chicago Area, continues to serve its community through diverse initiatives. For more information about GC Vedic, please contact at info@gcvedic.org.

Meet Shailaja Iyer : A Passionate Music Educator in the Greater Chicago Area

Megha Bala
Youth Correspondent

Shailaja Iyer, an esteemed music educator with over 15 years of experience, is making significant strides in the Greater Chicago area with her dedicated efforts to imparting traditional Indian Carnatic music education. Armed with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, Shailaja's journey began with the prestigious Gold medal from Bangalore University, India, a testament to her unwavering commitment to her craft.

Since her early years, Shailaja has been immersed in the world of music, guided by a diverse array of esteemed teachers who have played a pivotal role in shaping her musical journey. Her training at Kalakshetra, Chennai, provided her with invaluable opportunities to lend her voice to dance groups, further enriching her musical prowess and versatility.

As the Art Director of Shruthilaya School of Music, Shailaja channels her passion for music into nurturing the talents of budding musicians. The

name "Shruthilaya" encapsulates the essence of music, representing the cycle of creation, sustenance, and dissolution - "shrushti sthithi laya" in Sanskrit. Just as nature operates in cycles, the eternal sound "naadam" is ever-present, symbolizing the essence of music. The school's name reflects its ethos, emphasizing the importance of pitch (shruthi), strength in sustaining notes (stithi), and rhythm (laya) in music. Shailaja's dedication to fostering a love for music among her students is palpable in the warm and inclusive environment of Shruthilaya, which caters to learners of all ages and backgrounds. Under this umbrella, the school has curated numerous presentations in the community, evolving and growing alongside its students. Moreover, Shruthilaya acknowledges the spiritual journey inherent in music, using it as a

tool for personal growth and connection with nature.

Recently, on April 21st, Shruthilaya



students ranging from six-year-olds to adults showcased their annual performance at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, IL, which received a commendable turnout. The recital featured a diverse repertoire, spanning

different ragas and encompassing sarali, janti, geetams, varnams, and bhajans, offering students an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills in traditional Carnatic music.

Shailaja's journey as a music educator is fueled by her unwavering passion for music and her steadfast belief in its transformative power. Her dedication to lifelong learning and her desire to give back to her community serve as an inspiration to all who have the privilege of learning from her.

Looking ahead, Shailaja's aspirations extend beyond personal achievements; she harbors a deep desire to expand her musical knowledge and contribute even more to her community through her teaching. In Shailaja Iyer, the Greater Chicago area has found not just a music teacher, but a passionate advocate for the arts and a beacon of inspiration for future generations of musicians.

For further information, please contact shruthilaya.carnatik@gmail.com.

Dr John K Vettath, who performed Kerala's first heart surgery, passes away at 97

He was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Surgeons of India for his outstanding contribution in the field of surgery.

KOCHI: Dr John K Vettath, 97, a leading cardio-thoracic surgeon and general surgeon who did Kerala's first heart surgery in the 1960s, passed away on Tuesday. A native of Mulanthuruthy in Ernakulam, Dr Vettath served at CMC Ludhiana, MGDM Hospital, Kangazha, Medical Mission Hospital, Kolenchery, and Lourdes Hospital, Kochi, before retiring at the age of 70. He had retired "from surgery, not from life" after spending 46 years caring for the sick. He was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Surgeons of India for his outstanding contribution in the field of surgery.



Albert Starr, the pioneer in artificial cardiac valves. He returned to Ludhiana to become the head of the new department of Cardio Thoracic Surgery. In 1967, he returned to Kerala and began work in two rural mission hospitals -- MGDM at Kangazha and MMM Hospital, Kolencherry. Dr Vettath is survived by wife Dr Naomi J Vettath, a leading ophthalmologist, children Dr Mary Varghese, Ann Kurien, Mathew Vettath and Susan Koshy, sons-in-law Dr Kiron Varghese, Kurien Abraham, Koshy Oommen and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Mathew. The funeral service will begin at his residence (Vettath, Azad Road, Kaloor) at 9 am on Wednesday. The body will be laid to rest at the cemetery (Eloor) of the St George Orthodox Valiyapally, Palarivattom, after prayers at the church at 10 am.



A PRAYER

Lord Thou knowest that I am getting older,
 Keep me from becoming talkative and possessive,
 Free me from the idea that I must express myself on every subject,
 Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs,
 Keep me from the recital of endless detail, give me wings to get to the point.
 Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They are increasing with the years, and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as the days go by.
 Restrain me from telling what I have done for others, instead let me count my blessings in silence.
 Teach me the glorious lesson, that occasionally I may be wrong.
 Make me thoughtful, but not noseey, helpful but not bossy.
 With my vast store of wisdom and experience, it seems a pity not to use it,
 But Thos knowest O Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

07 October 1926 : 09 April 2024

Dr. John Vettath (97) renowned Surgeon who performed the first Cardiac surgery in Kerala passed away 5 days ago..His daughter shared these lines penned by him which lay on his table. That's how he looked at life as he got older.

DEAR SUN, PLEASE GO TO SETTINGS > DISPLAY > BRIGHTNESS! AND REDUCE IT...TOOO HOT TO HANDLE!!

I HAVE NOT CHANGED ANY SETTINGS... PLEASE GO TO YOUR SETTINGS AND...

(1) INCREASE NUMBER OF TREES
 (2) REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS LEVELS
 (3) REDUCE CONCRETE JUNGLES
 (4) INCREASE NUMBER OF LAKES..

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Beautiful Words

Anonymous Author

6. Often, when we lose must read and try to hope and think this is the understand the deep end, GOD smiles from meaning of it.1. Prayer is above and says, not a "spare wheel" that "Relax, my child, it's you pull out when in just a bend, not the end! trouble, but it is a 7. When GOD solves "steering wheel" that your problems, you have directs the right path faith in HIS abilities; throughout. when GOD doesn't solve your problems, HE is so large & the Rear has faith in your abilities. view Mirror is so small? 8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there not as important as our be anything worse than FUTURE. So, look ahead losing eye sight?" and move on. He replied: "Yes, 3. Friendship is like a losing your vision!" BOOK. It takes a few 9. When you pray seconds to burn, but it for others, God listens takes years to write. to you and blesses

4. All things in life are them, and sometimes, temporary. If going well, when you are safe and enjoy it, they will not last happy, remember that forever. someone has prayed

If going wrong, don't for you. worry, they can't last long 10. WORRYING either. does not take away

5. Old friends are Gold! t o m o r r o w ' s New friends are Diamond! TROUBLES. It takes If you get a Diamond, away today's PEACE. If don't forget the Gold! you really enjoy this, Because to hold a please pass it to others. Diamond, you always need It just may brighten a base of Gold! someone's day...



2024 International Veena Festival & Conference
Sri Annamacharya Project of North America SAPNA
Veena Global Council Chicago & India Classical Music Society ICMS
Trinity Datta Yoga Center

Cordial Invitation

20th International Veena Festival & Conference

Raga Yatra

Journey to the Infinite

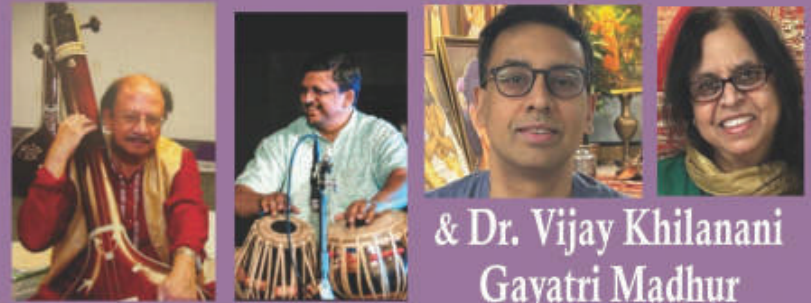
Day 1 : May 4th Saturday 2:30 pm - 9:00 pm
TDYC / KDHT Carpentersville,
Krishna Datta Hanuma Temple,
225, S Kennedy Dr. Carpentersville IL 60110

Title Presentations & Felicitations

Grand Concerts : Carnatic Vocal, Hindustani Vocal & Veena Concerts.

- 1:30 pm : SriKala Purna Dr. Tapan Bhattacharya, Dhanunjay Kunte, Somnath Bhattacharya, Hindustani Vocal Concert
- 2:45pm : Veena Vidushi Nirmala Rajasekhar, Vidwan Sai Raghavan, KVS Vinay - Grand Veena Concert
- 5:00pm : Grand Carnatic Vocal Concert "Sangita Kalanidhi" Sri Nayveli Santhanagopalan, Vidwan KVS Vinay - Violin, Vidwan Vinod Seetaraman - Mridangam & Yuva Kalakar Rajith Iyer
- 7:30 pm : "SriKala Purna" Title Presentations & Felicitations
- 8:00 pm : "Akasha" The Boundless Ensemble of Ragas SriKala Purna Saraswathi Ranganathan
- 9:00 pm : Panel Discussion
- 9:30 pm : Dinner

Concert-1



& Dr. Vijay Khilanani
Gayatri Madhur

Concert-2



Concert-3



Concert-4



Audio Video : Dr. Suresh Bodiwala
Design : Kiranmayi Saragadam



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2024 International Veena Festival & Conference
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20th International Veena Festival & Conference

Day 2 : May 5th Sunday, from 2 pm
 TDYC / KDHT Carpentersville IL, Krishna Datta Hanuma
 Temple 225, S Kennedy Dr. Carpentersville IL 60110

2:00pm : Deepa Prajvalanam, Welcome,
 Presidents Remarks
2:15pm : Carnatic Vocal Concert : Veena Vidushi
 Rama Gurupalli
3:00 pm : 'Anushruthi' Disciples of Sangita Kalacharya
 Suguna Varadachary & Aravind Sundar
4:00 pm : Grand Vocal Concert
8:00 pm : Panel discussion

Raga Yatra
 Journey to the Infinite

*Srikalapurna Title presentations
 & felicitations*



**Grand Carnatic
 Vocal concert : 4:00 pm**

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"Sangita Kalanidhi" Mridanga Vidvan
THIRUVARUR BHAKTHA VATSALAM
"Vani Kala Sudhakara" Vidvan RK SHRIRAMKUMAR
"Mridanga Vidvan"
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Audio Video : Dr. Suresh Bodiwala
 Design : Kiranmayi Saragadam

CHICAGO'S SYED MUKKARAM HOSTS IFTAR PARTY ATTENDED BY OVER ONE THOUSAND COMMUNITY LEADERS

On April 7, 2024, at Shalimar Banquet Hall, Addison, Illinois, community Leader Syed Mukkaram was joined by Anwar Sadatullah, CEO, Fusion Systems & Services Inc., Oakbrook, Illinois, Shakeel Khan of American Muslim Association, Abdul Malik and Saif Ali Khan at a well attended Iftar

Party. U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis and U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson were the guests of honor on the occasion and spoke eloquently on the occasion. Dr. VGP praised the community for raising funds for an American Muslim cemetery at Lynwood, Illinois.



Community Leaders joined the Guests of Honor, U.S. Congressman Jonathan Jackson, U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis at this successful Iftar Party.



Dr. VGP, President, AMEC-USA, Anwar Sadatullah, CEO, Fusion Systems & Services Inc., Oak Brook, IL, Congressman Jonathan Jackson, Syed Mukkaram the host and Congressman Danny K. Davis at the event.



Anwar Sadatullah presented a traditional shawl and a special topi from Ajmer Dargah, India to Congressman Jonathan Jackson. Dr. VGP looks on.



Janab Saif Ali Khan welcoming U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis to this Ramadan event and appreciated Congressman Davis's inclusive leadership.



Syed Mukkaram made a passionate and emotional address appealing to the over thousand guests to donate generously for the American Muslim cemetery to be built at Lynwood, Illinois.



Congressman Jonathan Jackson echoed the immediate need for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Syed Mukkaram looks on.



Congressman Jonathan Jackson addressing the gathering outlined his pathway to peace, the message which he is going to take across the United States during 2024.



Dr. VGP, Founder President, American Multi-Ethnic Coalition, USA spoke about the need for the Multi-Ethnic communities of America to be united during these challenging times.



A section of the large gathering at the Iftar party which started with special prayers.



Congressman Jonathan Jackson embraces the Community's young leaders at the event.



Several hundred guests enjoying the Ramadan Iftar party at the Shalimar Banquet.



Over thousand guests attended the Iftar party, which was a time for celebration and togetherness on April 7, 2024

DEV DHARSAN SENIOR CENTER'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY GALA ATTRACTS OVER 500 SENIOR CITIZENS. HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO HEMA SHASTRI ON THIS GRAND SUCCESS

India's Consul General at Chicago, Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, the Chief Guest at the successful first annual gala of Dev Dharshan Senior Center, the brain child of the visionary and dynamic community leader Hema Shastri congratulated the

Senior Citizens of Chicagoland for the great turnout. Ambassador Ghosh spoke eloquently about the significant contributions of the Indian diaspora senior citizens to the growth and continued success of the Indian diaspora here.



Renowned Musician Raju Bankapur performed a melodious Flute Recital which opened the anniversary gala. Founder-President, Ms. Hema Shastri looks on.



Pandit Shri Rohit Joshi blessing Hema Shastri, the visionary founder Hema Shastri was the first woman in India to complete a 32,000 feet parachute jump in 1975 for which she received the All India NCC Army Certificate and Wings from India's Lt Col. General H.K. Bakshi.



A delicious dinner was served to all prior to the festivities and musical performance by SAMMY & GAUTAMI at the Gala.



Naperville City Councilman Paul Leong's wife Artista Leong and a member of American Multi-Ethnic Commission - AMEC enjoying the Gala



IIT-Madras Alumni Dr. Sudhakar Chakka and the Iron Lady of Naperville Dr. Vasavi Chakka were special guests at the gala.



Chicagoland's Singing Couple Saurin and Foram Thakkar with their young son Kian, Young Kian Thakkar is a child prodigy in the making.



Hema Shastri thanking one of the Gala Sponsors Manish Gandhi and his wife Shailaja Gandhi, while Mika Shastri, Center's Secretary, and Dharshan Thomas, Young Basketball star looks on.



A Special Salute was offered to Paeamputra's Late Dr. C.L. Shastri, former main priest of Mana Seva Mandir and Acharya at Jalaram temple, who was the inspiration for the Dev Dharshan Senior Center.



A section of the large gathering at the gala being led by Vinita Gulabani, President of Indian American Cultural Association, South Barrington, IL.



Dr VGP speaking at the gala while Devesh Shastri, Treasurer of the Center and Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, India's Consul General at Chicago looks on.



Dr VGP, Chairman GSA and Dr. Vasavi Chakka, C.F.O. Global Eye Magazine presenting the Global Eye Senior Citizen Icon Award to Hema Shastri at the Gala. Ambassador Somnath Ghosh, Naveen Karna, C.I.O., Global Eye, Richa Chand, the Gala's emcee and Neelam Desai, Vice President of the Center looks on.



Mehdi Ali, C.E.O., Capital Hospice & Palliative Care LLC., Oakbrook, IL, the Gala's grand sponsor speaking about the significance of Hospice care for Senior Citizens in this digital age. Dr. VGP, Ambassador Somnath Ghosh and Physician of the Year Dr. Rajiv Khandala looks on.

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U.S. REPUBLICAN SENATOR MIKE BRAUN RUNNING FOR INDIANA STATE GOVERNOR

A committee of Hosts led by Dr. Bharat Barai and Co-Chaired by Neal Patel, Dr. VGP, Anwar Sadatullah, Savi Singh, Syed Mukkaram, Kallpesh Joshi, Tomas Abraham, Deepak Shah, and Dr. Vasavi Chakka hosted a Meet and Greet reception

for Indiana State's next Governor, U.S. Senator Mike Braun recently. Glimpses of this impactful event. The primary elections for the State of Indiana Governor is on May 6, 2024.



Prophet Kiran Murali, Founder of Jesus Is Alive Ministries, Chennai, India praying with U.S. Senator Mike Braun from the State of Indiana. Prophet Kiran Murali gave the Invocational Prayer and Blessings at the event.



Dr. Vasavi Chakka, Co-Chair of the Meet and Greet welcoming the important Community Leaders representing the diverse Chicagoland communities to the event. U.S. Senator Braun, Neal Patel and Dr. VGP looks on.



Dr. VGP in his opening remarks spoke about the inclusive leadership of Senator Mike Braun and referred to the American Multi Ethnic Coalition being a bi-partisan grassroots community organization that work towards the empowerment of the multi ethnic communities of America.



Kalpesh Joshi, the Midwest Chair of Asian American Hotel Owners Association spoke about the need of the State Government to review the hospitality industry's economic index and incorporate a friendly environment to start new ventures in the state.



Savi Singh, President, General Construction Enterprises wanted equitable distribution of Work orders from State Government for minority contractors in the infrastructure industry.



U.S. Senator Mike Braun responding to different suggestions and requests, welcomed the feedback received from the community and business leaders.



U.S.Senator Mike Braun expounded on his vision for the next eight years if elected as the Governor of Indiana from 2025 to 2032.



U.S. Senator Mike Braun said that if elected as the next Governor of State of Indiana, he will lay special emphasis on Northwest Indiana. An economic corridor for Northwest Indiana including Gary, Hammond, Munster, Sherville and Crown point includes the expansion of Gaeny International Airport and development of Gary Port.



Dr. Bharat Barai of Munster, Indiana endorsing the candidacy of U.S. Senator Mike Braun for the Governor of State of Indiana in a spirited address.



U.S. Senator Mike Braun thanking Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar for hosting this vibrant roundtable of community and business leaders to support his Candidacy for the Governor, State of Indiana.



U.S. Senator Mike Braun being flanked by The Medstar Brohers, C.E.O. Neal Patel and C.O.O Raj Patel of Medstar Laboratory Inc. Hill Side on arrival for the Meet and Greet event.

Chair : Dr. Bharat Barai
Co-Chairs : Neal Patel, CEO Medstar,
Anwar Sadatullah, Haroon Ansari, CEO Pinnacle Health,
Dr. Zenobia Sowell, Thomas Abraham, Syed Mukkaram,
Savi Singh, Vasavi Chakka, Dr. VGP & Committee of Hosts

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U.S. SENATOR MIKE BRAUN
(Republican - State of Indiana)

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FOR INDIANA

MONDAY
January
29
2024

TIME
5:30
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FOR HIS ELECTION AS GOVERNOR, STATE OF INDIANA

VENUE
NAREN PATEL AUDITORIUM
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The United Punjabis of America Proud of a Very Successful 2023



UPA Hosts a Colorful Vaisakhi at Mall of India

United Punjabis of America (UPA) accomplishments in 2023 are impressive in their scope and variety. UPA celebrated Vaisakhi and Diwali, donated and served food at Consulate of India's Kala Utsav, donated school supplies, packed 540 food bags for Feed My Starving Children, awarded two scholarships to high school students in recognition of their community service, honored ten distinguished persons, organized a picnic and an Appreciation Dinner, and participated in India Independence Day Parade and the International Yoga Day.

Many dignitaries honored us with their presence and congratulated

UPA for organizing the Vaisakhi (April 15), and Diwali (October 28) events at the Mall of India, Naperville, IL. These dignitaries included Honorable US Congressmen Bill Foster (IL District 11) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL District 8), Naperville Mayor-Elect Scott Wehrli, Consulates Ranjit Singh and Sanjeev Kumar Pal, and representatives of Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza, Illinois Senator Laura Ellman, Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin, and Aurora Alderwoman Shweta Baid.

The Vaisakhi and Diwali events had a variety of excellent dance performances, including Bhangra and Giddhas, by

children and adults. The attendance at these free-entry events ranged from 700 to 1,000 people of all ages. The attendees also enjoyed the excellent performances of many singers, including Shikha Tandon. These singers brought the audience to fill the dance floor. Both events had booths for food, jewelry,

clothing, etc. The free-entry events of Vaisakhi and Diwali were made possible by the sponsorships of International Fresh Market, Home Mortgage Solutions (Anil Loomba), Orochem (Drs. Anil and Asha Oroskar), New York Life (Amrit Mittal and Sunil Shah), LLT Builders and Om Signs & Group (Rahul Wah),

Crossroads Animal Hospital (Dr. Bhupinder Beri), Heartland Bank, Iroquois Dental (Dr. Deepak Agarwal), Moin Haque Group, Verandah Senior Living (Dr. Anuja Gupta), State Bank of India Blue Sky innovations (Sanjeev Gulati), Sajmil and Om Signs & Graphics.



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UPA honors the following ten distinguished persons for their exceptional entrepreneurship, community service, technical achievements, or service to UPA



Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar



Dr. Anuja Gupta



Ms. Ratna Kapur



Mr. Sudhir Dureja



Ms. Rosey Bhasin



Mr. Vipin Wadhwa



Ms. Neha Sobti



Mr. Ashok Potdar



Mr. Prem Mehrotra



Mr. Atul Wahi



UPA Annual Appreciation Dinner, a Memorable Evening with Melodious Singing by Dr. Pardeep Sood and Ms. Shikha Tandon



UPA picnic (July 5) at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Wheaton, IL. The Wealth Management Network and Mr. Naresh Singh were the sponsors for the picnic.



UPA Participates in India Independence Day Parade, with the Parade Float Partly Funded by PowerVolt and Brij Sharma

GITAC's international foundation poised to support youth with innovative business ideas



The Ghana India Trade Advisory Chamber has launched its knowledge bank initiative which is to support the youth with innovative business ideas. According to the President of GITAG, Dominic Oduro Antwi, the initiative is to shape and financially support students with business ideas in all fields to create more opportunities. This, he believes, will help address unemployment in the country and aid economic growth and development. He said students in all sectors including agriculture, health, business and science can take advantage of this

initiative and come up with ideas which will undergo scrutiny for days and properly shaped for investments. 'GITAG seeks to help and motivate the youths and students. If you have an idea, bring it, we will analyse it and get you an investor. We looking at various areas,' he said On the criteria, he indicated that, student at all levels can take advantage of this and come up with an innovative idea. 'Basically, we want anybody from anywhere, whether a university student or not. But what we want is someone with innovative idea', he added He opined

that the chamber will also offer scholarships to undergraduate students who want to pursue their Masters Degrees abroad. 'As part of the chambers work is to give scholarships to Ghanaians whether students or those who want to upgrade themselves .Every year, between now till the next four years, we will give 30 scholarships to Ghanaians", he explained He finally called for unity with regards to trade and the business community on the African continent which is in line with the aim of the Global Africa Trade Advisory Chamber.

MEET INDIA 'S ONLY JEWISH BUREAUCRAT DR. PRASANTH KUMAR PONUGOTI I.T.S., DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DELHI.

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➤ In this 42nd Episode of DR. VGP TALK SHOW, Unveiling A Hidden Gem: A Journey into Indian Judaism and Technological Innovation Today with Israel in the headlines and all are looking for a pathway to peace, we feature the only Indian Jew working for Government of India, Dr. PRASHANT KUMAR PONUGOTI I. T. S.

➤ **RADIANT INSIGHTS : DR. PRASHANT KUMAR PONUGOTI'S ILLUMINATING JOURNEY:** Step into this journey with Dr. VGP Talk Show where wisdom dances on the lips of scholars, and the echoes of enlightenment reverberate through the corridors of intellect. Join us on a voyage through the boundless seas of knowledge, where each episode is a tapestry woven with threads of erudition, draped over the loom of eloquence.

➤ **BENEATH THE SURFACE: HISTORY OF INDIAN JUDAISM :** We unveil a symphony of insight as we delve into the rich tapestry of history and culture, exploring the captivating narrative of India's Jewish legacy. From the ancient streets of Machilipatnam to the bustling synagogues of Bombay, our guest, the illustrious DR. PRASHANT KUMAR PONGUTI, ITS, guides us through the annals of time, revealing tales of resilience and reverence.

➤ **AN ODYSSEY OF INSIGHT AND INNOVATION DR. PRASHANT KUMAR :** A luminary in India's bureaucratic sphere, stands as the solitary Indian Jewish bureaucrat with an illustrious 33-year tenure serving the nation. His academic tapestry, woven with threads of technology, law, and business administration, adorns him with distinction. Hailing from the historic town of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, he embodies the cultural richness of the Bene Manashe and Bene Efraim communities, resonating with India's Jewish heritage. **Dr. KUMAR'S** narrative intertwines



with the saga of Indian Jews, reconciliation amidst turbulent tracing back to the 12th-century turmeric trade, their synagogues dotting the coastal landscapes from Machilipatnam to Cochin. With visionary zeal, he envisions an Indo-Israeli innovation nexus, catalyzing technological marvels to shape a brighter tomorrow.

➤ **DR. PRASHANT KUMAR'S PATHWAY TO PEACE** recognizes the current crisis in Israel as a multifaceted challenge. He emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the complexities and approaching the issue with empathy and understanding. Dr. KUMAR urges for peace and dialogue as the path forward, advocating for mutual respect and

times.
➤ **ECHOES OF ENLIGHTENMENT DR. PRASHANT KUMAR'S QUEST FOR PROGRESS :** His Journey embodies the fusion of heritage, intellect, and visionary leadership. Join us as we unravel the tapestry of his remarkable insights and aspirations on Dr. VGP Talk Show. **DR. VGP TALK SHOW FEATURES CHANGEMAKERS, AND INNOVATIVE TRENDSETTERS AND EMBRACES UNKNOWN HEROES**

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IIT Madras celebrates 65th Institute Day, felicitates alumni, faculty and student achievers

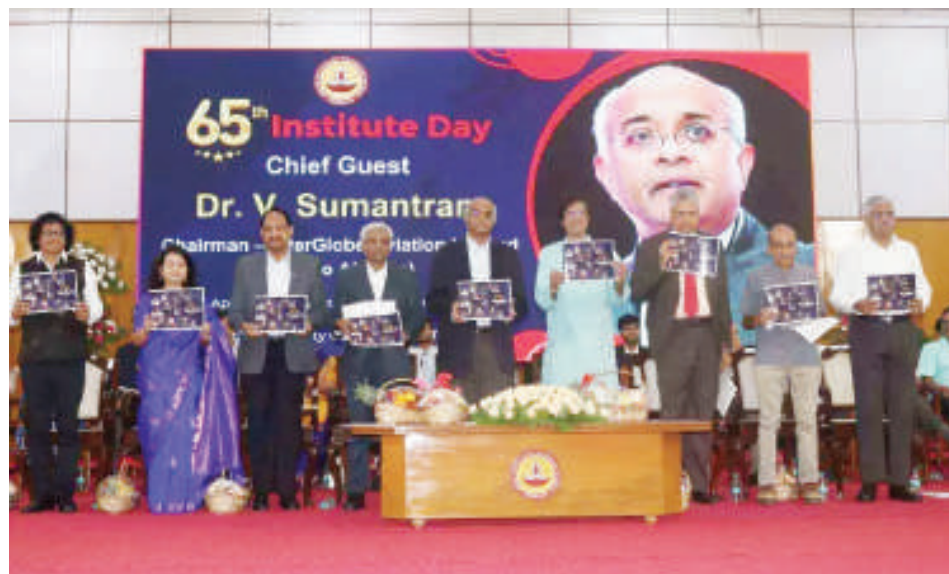
A highlight of the event was the honouring of alumni, faculty and students for their extraordinary achievements over the last year.

CHENNAI: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) celebrates its 65th Institute Day 20 April with students, faculty, alumni teaching and non-teaching staff. A highlight of the event was the honouring of alumni, faculty and students for their extraordinary achievements over the last year.

A major feat of the Institute was gaining the top honours in the National Institutional Rankings Framework (NIRF) Rankings, becoming the Number 1 institute in 'Overall'. The Chief Guest of this occasion was Dr. V. Sumantran, Chairman of the Board of Directors of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (IndiGo Airlines), and Chairman, Celeris Technologies. Dr. V. Sumantran is an alumnus of the 1981 batch of BTech in Aeronautical Engineering and a Distinguished Alumnus of IIT Madras. Dr. Sumantran is a unique combination of business leader, technocrat, academic and author, having lived and worked in the US, Europe and Asia during a 40-year career. He also serves and has served on the boards of several corporations, and as advisor to several Fortune-100 organizations in autos, technology, industrial equipment, and aerospace.

Addressing the Institute Day event, Dr. V. Sumantran, Chairman of the Board of Directors of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (IndiGo Airlines), and Chairman, Celeris Technologies, said, "Being a student in the Aeronautics Department, our batch was typically between 9 and 12 students and we had a personal relationship with our professors. They knew us well. It was also a time of so much flexibility and encouragement. I volunteered during my summer vacations at the super sonic wind tunnel in the Department, which prepared me well for my future endeavours." Dr. V. Sumantran added, "All focus on cost innovation and frugality does not mean we have to be limited in scale. IndiGo is an airline that initially started as a low-cost airline and is a very young airline by global airline standards. We were founded only in 2006. The entire platform of this airline has been 'affordable fares, courteous service, on-time performance and very well networked route system'."

Further, Dr. V. Sumantran said, "Even now, as India is really moving forward with a lot more speed. We are seeing the infrastructure in the system grow. We have got about 140 operating airports now that will be 220 by the year 2030. We are seeing huge increases in regional travel and beyond the domestic, India is slowly becoming a convenient hub for travel between South East Asia and the Middle East. There is a huge amount of growth that we can see coming out of this. Last year in Paris (Air Show), we placed an order for 500 aircraft, which is the single largest aircraft order in aviation history, counting by number of aircraft order. This was built based on the confidence we have of the Indian Market, how it is growing and how increasingly we can take this scale even more globally." "We have the



largest number of women pilots for any airline in the world. This is not based on women pilots per aircraft. We are also among the lowest CO2 emissions per-seat per-km in the world. IndiGo is the third most valuable airline in the world. On a global scale, we have been able to earn our place among the biggest and most valuable airlines in the world. The message is that India offers for us a phenomenal platform. For a sustainable world, India can offer lessons on how to grow with responsibility - Achieve more with less and Secondly, well before even 2047, many of our enterprises can be globally successful," Dr. V. Sumantran concluded. Dr. Sumantran started his career with a 16-year stint with General Motors at their Research Laboratories in Detroit and subsequently on deputation in Europe as Director- R&D at the GMFIAT Alliance. At the invitation of Shri Ratan Tata, he returned to India in 2001 as the Chief Executive Officer of TATA Motors' Car business in its formative years. Delivering the Presidential Address, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said, "IIT Madras BS Data Science and Electronic Systems programs have crossed enrolling more than 26,000 students who are in different parts of this 'Multiple-Entry, Multiple-Exit' program.

This year, we must aspire to reach 30,000 students so that within the next two-three years, IIT Madras should have a total of 50,000 enrolled as part of our higher education system. This will include 12,500 students in the campus and more than 37,000 in the online mode." Prof. V. Kamakoti added, "This year, we had lot of targets in mind. Target No 1 was 'Patent a Day'. We wanted 366 patents to be filed in the last one year. I am happy to state that we have crossed 370. The number of patents granted crossed 400. It is innovation and protection of our IPs that are going to make India a super power."

Further, Prof. V. Kamakoti said, "For the next year, as a target, we are looking at 100 start-ups, or a start-up once in every three days. In December 2025 (Placement season), I want to have the pride that 20% of our graduating class are already CTOs. I am sure we are going in this direction. In Zanzibar, we are going to offer an

MTech in Infrastructural Engineering. The Government has already given us more than 200 acres for setting up the IIT Madras Zanzibar permanent campus. Today, India's GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) is around 28% - the number of students who finish their school and come to higher education.... It is time that we all work towards increasing the GER to 50%, as envisaged in NEP 2020. In this direction, we have started 250+ Rural Interaction Centres since the majority of youth across India are in rural areas besides nine centres in the Northern part of Sri Lanka. Our target is 500 Rural Interaction Centres for this year."

Presenting the student report, Mr. Aniket Singh Patel, outgoing Students General Secretary, said, "Student led initiatives have been instrumental in supporting the students on their academic journey. We have simplified the peer support and other aid for the students. Our students won the General Championship after 12 years. The students skills were showcased during events like Saarang, the annual cultural technical festival of the Institute."

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS - Several recognitions were presented during the occasion. Teaching' for 2023-24. This award is based on an endowment by IIT Madras alumnus, Prof. Marti Subrahmanyam, Stern School of Business, New York University. The Institute Research and Development Awards (IRDA) were introduced in 2013-14 to encourage excellence in research.

The Early-Career Research and Development Award, which carries a grant of Rs 25 lakh, was presented to the following Professors: Prof. Anubhab Roy - Department of Applied Mechanics and Biomedical Engineering Prof. Tarak Kumar Patra - Department of Chemical Engineering The Mid-Career Research and Development Award, which carries a grant of Rs 40 lakh, was presented to the following Professors: Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam - Department of Electrical Engineering Prof. Basavaraj Madivala Gurappa - Department of Chemical Engineering The Distinguished Alumnus Awardees for 2024 are: (Awardees who received the DAA in-person during Institute Day)

1. Shri Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary, India [1986/MT/MS]
 2. Prof. S. Chandrasekar, Professor, Purdue University, USA [1981/BT/ME]
 3. Dr. Gankidi Madhusudhan Reddy, Outstanding Scientist and Director, DMRL, DRDO, India [1999/Ph.D/MT]
 4. Ms. Mili Majumdar, Managing Director, Green Building Council of India and Senior Vice President U.S. Green Building Council, India [1992/MT/CE]
 5. Shri Sankaran Naren, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer for ICICI Prudential AMC Ltd, India [1987/BT/ME]
 6. Shri Venkat Rangan, CTO, Clari Inc, USA [1981/BT/ME] (Awardees who were unable receive their awards in-person)
 7. Prof. Anima Anandkumar, Bren Professor at Caltech, Sr. Director of AI Research at NVIDIA [2004/BT/EE]
 9. Dr. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre [2011/Ph.D/ME]
 10. Dr. Palanivel Veeramuthuvel, Project Director, Chandrayaan 3, ISRO [2016/Ph.D/ME]
 11. Prof. Soundar Kumara, Allen, E & M., Pearce Professor, Pennsylvania State University [1977/MT/IM]
 12. Prof. Venkatraman Gopalan, Professor, Pennsylvania State University [1989/BT/MT]
 13. Prof. Karan Sher Singh, Professor, University of Toronto, Weta Digital, Co-Founder at JALI Research, JanusVR. [1991/BT/CS]
 14. Dr. GDS Ramkumar, Head of Engineering, Apple Info Apps, Apple Inc [1990/BT/CS] 2021 DAA
 15. Shri Prasanna Ramaswamy, Musician Virginia, USA [1992/BT/OE] (came in person to receive the award this year)
- The combined donations raised by Shastra (annual technical fest of IITM) 2024 and Saarang (annual cultural fest of IITM) 2024 teams was Rs.3,00,000/- for this year. It was donated to:
1. Deepam Trust, Chennai - Rs. 1,00,000/-
 2. The United Orphanage for the Disabled, Coimbatore - Rs. 1,00,000/-
 3. Ties That Bind Foundation, Chennai - Rs.1,00,000/-
- The following awards/ honours were also presented during the event:
1. Institute Blues - students
 2. Academic awards - students
 3. Excellence in teaching - faculty
 4. Non-Academic Employee Recognition Awards
 5. Outgoing officials who have completed their terms as HoD/Dean/Advisor etc.
 6. Outgoing students executive wing

Raja Combating the Chinese Communist Party's Role in America's Fentanyl Crisis

On Tuesday, as Ranking Member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), I helped lead a hearing examining the role the CCP has played in the fentanyl crisis that has ripped families and communities apart. Just before the hearing, our committee released a bipartisan report detailing our investigation into how the CCP is not only allowing companies operating within the People's Republic of China (PRC) to continue to supply the world with fentanyl components, but also subsidizing them.

It is estimated that 97 percent of illicit fentanyl materials come from the PRC, which contributed to the deaths of 76,000 Americans from fentanyl-laced opioid overdoses in 2022, even as there were zero fentanyl-related deaths in the PRC. Furthermore, our



committee's report found that the CCP is using tax incentives to aid companies in producing these dangerous chemicals and doing little to criminally punish those responsible. During my question line, I also revealed that the CCP has been censoring

words in Chinese on PRC-based websites related to fentanyl while allowing the dangerous products to be promoted in English. These actions have added to the belief that the CCP is protecting its own citizens from fentanyl

while allowing it to run rampant internationally, including in the U.S. Congress must do more to tackle the opioid epidemic in our country, and it starts with cutting off fentanyl precursor supplies being promoted by the CCP. More than

110,000 Americans die due to drug overdoses from January 2022-January 2023. That equates to one death every five minutes, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Our home state of Illinois has been rocked by opioid-related deaths in recent years, with 3,261 Illinois residents dying from opioids overdoses in 2022 alone, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. There needs to be accountability for the CCP for the role it played in fueling this American nightmare and tragedy, and that is what this hearing and bipartisan report were about, including my policy recommendations for strengthened sanctions, prosecution, and accountability. You can watch my full opening statement here, and my full question line to the witnesses here. You can also watch my discussion on the report and hearing on CNBC

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Joint Address to Congress

Last week, it was an honor to welcome Cook County Commissioner Josina Morita as my guest to see Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida appear before a joint session of Congress. As Ranking Member of the Select Committee on the CCP, I was particularly eager to hear Prime Minister Kishida discuss how our two countries would continue to work together to counter the growing threats posed by the CCP and

ensure peace and security throughout the Indo-Pacific region. I was also pleased that President Biden secured agreements with Japan to bolster our partnership in the fields of economic and military cooperation. Prime Minister Kishida also announced greater investment in American companies, which will lead to increased trade and more American jobs.

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi

Congressman Jonathan Jackson on Netanyahu offensive against Rafah

Washington, D.C. : Benjamin Netanyahu targets the southern Gaza city of Rafah, killing 22 people, including 18 children. This brings the death toll of innocent children to nearly 15,000. Every 10 minutes a child is killed in Gaza. The bloodshed is too much to bear. It has been less than 24 hours since Congress voted in favor of rearming the Netanyahu regime. Netanyahu's first act was violent murder against more innocent children in Gaza. This must stop. The U.S. is now complicit. We cannot cede our moral authority any longer. Netanyahu's actions are immoral. U.S. foreign policy must not be foreign to our values. American made missiles will be ordered, shipped and delivered to Netanyahu



before one American meal will be delivered to a famine-stricken people. This while Netanyahu remains in violation of U.S. law. His interference in U.S. humanitarian operations in Gaza violates section 620i of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. This law must be enforced. We must protect innocent civilians. This endless rampage of revenge, retaliation and starvation on innocent civilians in Gaza, for the heinous crime committed by Hamas, must end. What are we teaching our children in America? Is this action in Rafah strengthening or eroding our moral credibility in the world? Killing innocent civilians does not defeat Hamas, it recruits for Hamas. Netanyahu is not winning a war; he's losing the long-term prospect for peace.

PRESIDENT BIDEN
CONGRATULATES DANNY DAVIS

United States President Joe Biden Congratulates Congressman Danny K. Davis on his decisive Victory recently in Chicago. Mayor Brandon Johnson of Chicago Looks on

CHICAGO TAMIL SANGAM SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THIRUKKURAL

Vijay Muralidaran
 Oak Brook Chicago Tamil Organization (Chicago Tamil Sangam), ever since its inception in 1969 has been rendering services to spread, educate and sustain Tamil speaking ethnic communities' tradition, language and culture. Called as CTS, in short, Chicago Tamil Sangam deeply engages its Chicago patrons in art, culture, literature, music, drama and other skills pertaining to Tamil Speaking. On April 5, 6 and 7th of 2024, the CTS hosted the 5th International Conference on Thirukkural in Chicagoland. CTS joined hands with International Association of Tamil Research & Conference, North America and Institute

of Asian studies, Chennai at Sheraton Lisle. The purpose of this global conference is to appeal UNESCO status and recognition for Thirukkural. The Tamilians (people who hail from the state of Tamil Nadu who speaks Tamil language), of Chicagoland and other parts of USA. The Conference was held for three days with day 1 mainly introducing Tamil researches who arrived from England, India, Sri Lanka, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong and other states from USA. Children from Tamil School sang songs from Tamil literature. In the evening, the first day of the conference came to a wrap with light music from local talents followed by a scrumptious dinner.

The second day of the conference started with traditional lamp lighting by Indian Padmasri Solomon Paapaiya. This lamp lighting signified the official start of the conference and was observed by Tamil researchers, Tamil activists, Chicagoland tamil community patrons. The welcome address was given by CTS President Nambirajan Vaithilingam. Members of Missouri Tamil Sangam, Milwaukee Tamil sangam and Chicago tamil sangam showcased silambaattam, drama to honor tamil literature. Dinner was served with light music hosted by Tamil movie industry prominent music director James Vasanthan. On the Third day of the conference, many competitions were

held, and the winners were offered prizes. The supporters, hosts and donars of the conference were recognized. The Conference came to a conclusion after the appreciation speech by IATR President Arasar Arulalar and the Vote of thanks Speech by CTS Vice President Saravanakumar Manian. Thirukkural is a classic Tamil Language text consisting of 1,330 short kurals which are sacred verses. Each Kural has seven words and the entire Thirukkural is divided into three books on Virtue, Wealth and love. The author of Thirukkural is Thiruvalluvar, a scholar of Tamil native. The text has been dates between 300BCE to 5th century CE.



Official Conference Inauguration by Padmasri Solomon Pappaiah



Chicago Tamil Sangam President Nambirajan Vaithilingam and President of Institute of Asian Studies, John Samuel honoring Chief Guest Consul-General of Chicago Mr. Somnath Ghosh.



Session presenters on Thirukkural - Leadership & Management Techniques



Chicago Tamil Sangam - Executive Board Members and Office Bearers



CTS President Nambirajan honoring Illinois 8th District Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. It is noteworthy to mention that Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi is the first and the only Tamil American in US Congress.



Illinois's 8th district Tamil Speaking Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi addressing the conference participants. Congressman Raja articulated how important and critical it is to go back to our roots and learn & cherish our history



Vijay Muralidaran - author posing by a life size Thiruvalluvar Banner displayed at the conference.



Honoring Dr John Samuel -IAS(Chennai) - by Nambirajan (CTS President) and Nainar (CTS Treasurer)

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REJUVENATING GANGA WITH ARTH GANGA



Arth Ganga, a visionary blueprint, was inaugurated during the National Ganga Council meeting in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kanpur. This transformative model is a developmental paradigm and a holistic vision designed to nurture the Ganga River and its environs.

At its core, Arth Ganga intricately weaves economic activities with the river's ecosystem, aiming for sustainable development. With an ambition to contribute 3 percent of the GDP from the Ganga Basin, this model stands on six pillars: Zero Budget Natural Farming, Monetization and Reuse of Treated Wastewater and Sludge, Promotion/Generation of Livelihood Opportunities, Promotion of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Increased People's Participation, and Institutional Development and Building.

ARTH GANGA: EMPOWERING TRADITIONS

The Arth Ganga initiative stands as a beacon for uplifting local economies and empowering communities by creating multiple opportunities for livelihood generation. Notable initiatives, including the establishment of 40 Jalaj Units by the Wildlife Institute of India, the regular conduct of "Ghat pe Haat", skill-building programs for Ganga volunteers, the setting up of the Arth Ganga Resource Centre by HESCO, and Ganga Aarti Trainings, underscore the commitment to reviving culture and enhancing livelihoods.

JALAJ: BRIDGING ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY

Amidst this, the JALAJ Awareness and Marketing (JAM) Center emerges as a pioneering initiative navigating the intricate balance between economic advancement and environmental stewardship. Under the Arth Ganga model, Namami Gange has championed chemical fertiliser-free natural farming using traditional Indian practices, a cornerstone of the first commercial retail outlet for natural products at Dilli Haat in New Delhi. With 75 JALAJ centres nationwide selling a variety of natural farming products, such as agarbattis, honey, and Ganga jal, the impact is significant, as evidenced by the nearly Rs 13 lakh worth of products sold at the Dilli Haat outlet within the first three months of operation. These centres,

showcasing products crafted by Mahila Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Ganga Praharis, not only uplift the present but also lay the groundwork for a sustainable future. With the establishment of JALAJ units for income-generating activities, Namami Gange is fostering a symbiotic



relationship between Ganga's cultural heritage and economic prosperity, especially among women. Furthermore, JALAJ promotes a circular economy model by providing spaces for information sharing, training, and sales centres. This approach contributes to biodiversity conservation and educates residents about sustainable practices. By actively involving local communities, JALAJ enables them to participate in conservation initiatives and take responsibility for the river's health.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Not only this, a spectrum of other engaging events, including Ganga Aartis, dedicated cleanliness drives, rejuvenating Yoga sessions on the ghats, and vibrant "Ghat Pe Haat," along with numerous awareness and cultural activities (nukad natak, painting, quiz, etc) are being regularly conducted in coordination with District Ganga Committees to encourage public participation and instil a sense of ownership and responsibility among stakeholders.

Arth Ganga aims to strengthen the cultural connection with the river through the orchestration of aartis and the establishment of Ganga trails, fostering a deeper appreciation for Ganga's

cultural heritage and promoting sustainable tourism practices in harmony with the river's essence. The commitment to community involvement in Ganga preservation is a cornerstone of this multifaceted approach, ensuring a harmonious blend of cultural vibrancy and environmental stewardship along the sacred waters of the Ganga.

GANGA BHOG

Under the expansive umbrella of Arth Ganga, another novel initiative has taken root-Ganga Bhog, Gangotri se Ganga Sagar Tak. In collaboration with Namami Gange and HESCO, Ganga Bhog reimagines sacred offerings to Maa

signifies a transformation in spiritual practices, harmonising tradition, health, and sustainability along the Ganga. Ganga Bhog sparks a nutritional revolution along the Ganga Basin by choosing millets, acknowledging the river's influence on community sustenance. Aligned with the UN's declaration of 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets, Ganga Bhog aspires to transform the Ganga Basin into a Millet Basin. Rooted in natural farming, it champions the nutritional benefits of millets and envisions a global market for locally nurtured products. Ganga Bhog catalyses economic empowerment, particularly for women engaged in millet cultivation.

NAMAMI GANGE: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

As we navigate the multifaceted realms of JALAJ's eco-economic synergy, the vibrant resurgence orchestrated by Arth Ganga in local economies, a harmonious blend of tradition, empowerment, and ecological stewardship comes to life. Arth Ganga, with its visionary pillars, propels us into an era where prosperity is intricately woven with cultural vibrancy, instilling a renewed sense of responsibility for the sacred waters of Maa Ganga. In this tapestry of innovation, tradition, and resilience, Arth Ganga sets the stage for a sustainable legacy, ensuring that the Ganga Basin flows not just with water but with the promise of a sustainable ecosystem for generations to come.

editorial@globaleyedigital.com

Dr. VGP Speaks Out.....

Ganga, introducing a healthier, locally sourced alternative guided by the "5 Ms": Mother (Ganga), Mitti (fertile soil), Mahila (local women), Mota-Anaj (millets), and Mandir (temple). The "5 Ms" symbolise a profound connection with the riverine ecosystem, each representing an integral aspect. Mother represents the Ganga as the source of life, aligning offerings with its sanctity. "Mitti" envisions a sustainable approach to cultivating local millet items, with fertile soil as a custodian of the river's vitality. Mahila, the third "M," focuses on empowering local women and reshaping communities and economies. Ganga Bhog advocates for "Mota-Anaj", or millets, aiming to replace traditional offerings with locally cultivated items, nurturing traditions and economies. The final "M," Mandir,



Nargis Fakhri as a child dreamt of becoming a vet and not an actor

(News Agency)- Actress Nargis Fakhri, who was recently seen in the streaming series 'Tatlubaaz', has shared her childhood dream. The actress is an "animal" and she attributes her compassion towards animals to her childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian.

However, the actress shared that over the years, she fell in love with the profession of acting and her craft.

Walking down the memory lane, the actress said:, "I wanted to become a veterinarian as a child. I love animals and since my childhood, I always have wished to provide them with a

safe environment, but destiny had other plans and I landed up in the film industry. And if I had to reflect on my life, I wouldn't change a thing."

"Over the years, I fell in love with my craft. I mean, look at it, I can do and be whatever I want on screen. And also, I have experienced how impactful films are on people's lives, which is why my endeavour is to try and do films that are important and films are sort of an escapism from our daily struggles."

Nargis made her Hindi cinema debut opposite Ranbir Kapoor in 'Rockstar'. The film was directed by auteur Imtiaz Ali, who is currently scooping acclaim and audience love for his streaming movie 'Amar Singh Chamkila' starring Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra.

Meanwhile, the actress has a series of interesting projects in the pipeline.

Aamir Khan lodges FIR against Congress for alleged deep fake video used in poll ad



(News Agency)- Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan, who was last seen in 'Laal Singh Chaddha', is taking action against a fake advertisement by a political party. The actor has filed an FIR with Mumbai Police against a fake Congress advertisement. The said advertisement has a deep fake video of the Bollywood superstar created by artificial intelligence, and it targets the ruling BJP over their promise of Rs 15 lakh in the account of every citizen. It is an alleged AI-generated deep fake video that uses a clip from an episode of the Aamir Khan-hosted TV show 'Satyamev Jayate', which was telecast 10 years ago. The official spokesperson of Aamir Khan has issued a statement saying that the actor has initiated legal action and has reported the matter to the authorities. The spokesperson said: "We want to clarify that Mr Aamir Khan has never endorsed any political party throughout his 35-year career. He has dedicated his efforts to raising public awareness through Election Commission public awareness campaigns for many past elections. We are alarmed by the recent viral video alleging that Aamir Khan is promoting a particular political party." The spokesperson further mentioned: "He would like to clarify that this is a fake video and totally untrue. He has reported the matter to various authorities related to this issue, including filing an FIR with the Cyber Crime Cell of the Mumbai Police.



Akansha Ranjan Kapoor celebrates Puthandu in new Instagram video



(News Agency)- Actress Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, who is known for 'Guilty', 'Ray' and 'Monica, Oh My Darling', celebrated the Tamil New Year, Puthandu on Sunday. The actress took to Instagram and shared a video of herself. The video has several close-up shots of the actress as she moves around in a bedroom with old-world charm furniture used in South Indian households. The colour palette of the video is also kept warm with shades of cream and brown. She wrote in the caption, "My Tamil New Year wishes to everyone." She dons a striped saree with her hair tied in a bun, adorned with a bindi and ethnic jewellery in the video celebrating Puthandu. Sharing her thoughts on her South Indian girl era and the photoshoot, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor expressed: "I felt my most elegant, mature and graceful self in this beautiful South Indian attire with absolutely no makeup or hair done." "The women there are so raw and real, which made me feel so pretty. Today, on this special occasion, I would like to send my love to everyone celebrating Puthandu. May the new year bring lots of joy and happiness to everyone's life". Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress is gearing up for her upcoming sci-fi action thriller film 'Maaya One' in which she stars opposite Sundeep Kishan.



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