

Expose: How Hindutva forces used unscrupulous, deceitful tactics to crush a pro-democracy resolution in Chicago City Council

A new video has emerged that reveals fresh insights into the workings of the Hindutva forces in the United States that will surprise you and challenge your assumptions.

In this shocking exposé, Illinois-based Hindutva ideologue Bharat Barai and General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad America Amitabh Mittal reveal their nefarious agenda. They disclose how they manipulated the system with the help of hired lobbyists, anti-Muslim groups, a secret IT cell in Chicago, and a fake secular front created by Barai and his associates, to defeat a pro-democracy resolution in Chicago City Council. The extent of their deception and misrepresentation is astounding.

Their unethical means were directed to ensure the downfall of the Council resolution condemning CAA-NRC and anti-Muslim violence in India.

This video exposes a web of intrigue and manipulation that undermines the principles of fair play and honesty. It strips away the veil of secrecy, showing a murky world of backroom dealings and cunning plots. It raises serious questions about the true cost of political victories secured by Hindutva elements in the US.

Barai and Mittal confess how they waged a fierce campaign against the proposed Chicago City Council Resolution, swearing to stop it at any cost. They unleashed a barrage of protests, petitions, phone calls, and social media posts, blogs, videos, Twitterstorms and contrived emails as powerful weapons, bent on crushing the resolution.

More than three years after the resolution was defeated, we have managed to dig out a rare video that lifts the cloak of the massive plot hatched to defeat the resolution.

Here is the full report.

Introduction

Many large cities in the United States, boasting diverse populations from different ethnicities and origins, understand the significance of having a global presence and participating in international collaboration to effectively tackle a wide range of local challenges. They regularly engage in what is known as sub-national diplomacy.

Chicago, the nation's third most populous city, after New York City and Los Angeles, prides itself on being an unwavering beacon of warmth and acceptance, a sanctuary of love and compassion where every race, every religion, and every ethnicity is embraced with open arms.

In the Chicago City Council, it is a regular and esteemed practice to pass non-binding resolutions concerning international affairs, specifically focusing on democratic norms, fundamental freedoms, and human rights. These resolutions, while not legally binding, serve as a powerful expression of the council's values and principles on global democracy, freedom,

and human rights issues. Such resolutions are part of the local government's human rights activism history.

For instance, in 2022, the Chicago City Council passed a resolution urging President Biden and Congress to halt the expenditure of federal tax funds on nuclear weapons. Additionally, they called for the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and emphasized the need to prioritize global disarmament. In the same year, Chicago City Council passed a resolution in support of Ukraine.

Therefore it's no surprise that during the pinnacle of the protests in India, fervently opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a remarkable wave of solidarity reverberated across several city councils in the United States. The likes of Cambridge in Massachusetts, San Francisco, Seattle and Riverdale stood up and boldly passed resolutions denouncing the contentious citizenship law.

India's Muslim minority, comprising almost 15 per cent of the country's 1.4 billion population, and human rights activists were stirred by apprehensions of marginalization and disenfranchisement due to the implementation of the CAA and NRC.

International bodies such as the United Nations, and rights groups Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch had expressed concern at the enactment of the CAA.

The Cambridge City Council passed a unanimous resolution calling upon the Indian Parliament to "uphold" the country's secular constitution. The resolution declared that the "Modi government's racist and repressive policies" were inconsistent with the values of the city, "which welcomes South Asian communities of all castes and religions".

But some prominent Hindu Americans settled in Chicago instead came out in support of the CAA-NRC. Prominent Indian American Dr Bharat Barai organised a rally in front of City Hall supporting the discriminatory legislation.

Indian-Americans in Chicago hold rally in support of CAA

PTI / Updated: Jan 5, 2020, 12:01 IST



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Indian-Americans in Chicago hold rally in support of CAA



Manav Rachna School of



Members of Indian diaspora demonstrate in Chicago in support of CAA. (Credits:ANI)

"A freezing temp of -1C was not able to dampen the gathering of more than 300 Indian diaspora. They came with colourful and meaningful placards, slogans, banners and flags of USA and India. Their message was loud and clear," said Bharat Barai at the rally.

Amitabh Mittal, Nirav Patel, Hemant Patel, Amar Upadhyay, Rohit Joshi, Shailesh Rajput, Vandana Jhingan, Kalpesh Desai and Devesh Pandit were some of the other Chicago residents who participated and spoke at the rally. The rally was widely reported in Indian media¹.

Mittal is the general secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America. While Nirav Patel heads VHPA's community outreach division.

Dr Barai is an Illinois-based oncologist and has been openly associated with Bhartiya Janta Party and the Sangh Parivar since the 1990s. He and his wife were invited to the State dinner at the White House, on June 22, 2023, organised in honour of Narendra Modi.

¹ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/indian-americans-in-chicago-hold-rally-in-support-of-cao/article30483966.ece>; <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/indian-americans-in-chicago-hold-rally-in-support-of-cao/articleshow/73105984.cms>



IMAGE: Dr Bharat Barai with Prime Minister Narendra D Modi. All Photographs: Kind courtesy Dr Bharat Barai



Traditional Lamp Lighting ceremony with Amitabh Mittal (Joint secretary VHPA), Nirav Patel (VHPA community outreach), Suresh Bodiwala

Barai recently gave a long interview to Rediff.com talking about his long association with Modi, BJP and the Sangh Parivar. He claimed that he was one of the main actors behind getting Modi's visa ban revoked by the previous Obama administration².

While the Anti-CAA-NRC protests were raging in India, Dr Barai hosted a press conference in Chicago and alleged that it was "Sonia Gandhi and Gandhi Family's Congress Party that were organizing the ongoing Anti-CAA, Anti-NRC and Anti-NPR unrests all over India."³

NRI Bharat Barai Inculpates Sonia Gandhi and Congress for Anti-CAA/NRC/NPR unrest in India

by Jatinder Singh Bedi | January 21, 2020 04:41 AM

Print



CHICAGO – BJP-RSS ideologue and a staunch Modi-supporter NRI, Dr Bharat Barai hosted a press conference here and alleged that it is Sonia Gandhi and Gandhi Family's Congress Party that is organizing the ongoing Anti-CAA, Anti-NRC and Anti-NPR unrests all over India. Terming the CAA a "one time exception" Barai stressed that there is nothing wrong in the CAA. He addressed Chicagoland based Indian mediamen.

Chicago Resolution Honouring India's Independence and Democracy

Undeterred by the fervent Hindutva-aligned sentiments that had become overtly active in Chicago, a city Alderwoman named Maria Hadden fearlessly presented a resolution,

² <https://www.rediff.com/news/interview/dr-bharat-barai-the-man-who-fought-to-get-modi-a-us-visa/20230711.htm>

³ <https://www.hellonri.com/news/13987-nri-bharat-barai-inculpatates-sonia-gandhi-and-congress-for-anti-caanrcnpr-unrest-in-india.aspx>

passionately expressing the City Council's unwavering solidarity with Chicago's South Asian community, irrespective of religion and caste. She mooted the resolution in July 2020.

The resolution titled "Chicago Resolution Honoring India's Independence and Democracy" called CAA "inherently discriminatory" which actively "creates an unconstitutional, religion-based criteria to grant citizenship to select immigrants - the first instance of religion being used as a criterion for Indian citizenship." The resolution also noted that "there has been a surge in the number of mob lynching and violence towards minorities, mostly Muslims, Dalits and Christians, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership." It referred to the deeply divisive and hate-filled speech of Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, comparing undocumented individuals to "infiltrators" and "termites", and how he had vowed that a BJP government would "throw them into the Bay of Bengal."

Para 20, 21 and 22 (the last three paragraphs) of the Resolution stated as below.

20. RESOLVED, the City Council go on record urging the Government of India to:
 - a. Respect the human rights of all people and adhere to international human rights law,
 - b. Condemn, at the highest levels, all religiously motivated violence, including violence which targets religious minorities,
 - c. Prosecute anyone actively inciting violence, including violence against peaceful protestors and journalists,
 - d. Uphold the Indian constitution by repealing the Citizenship Amendment Act, stopping the National Register of Citizens, and taking steps towards helping refugees by ratifying various UN treaties on refugees.

21. RESOLVED, That the City Council go on record urging our congressional delegation to support legislation censuring the Republic of India for adopting discriminatory policies such as the National Register of Citizens, the Citizenship Amendment Act, and military occupation and communications blockade of Kashmir; and be it further

22. RESOLVED, That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy to Chicago's Congressional Delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

It was a non-binding resolution, mainly ceremonial in nature. Hadden was hoping that the resolution would be passed coinciding with India's 74th anniversary of Independence Day. It was supported by the Chicago Coalition for Human Rights in India, comprising representatives from Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians and Muslim communities living in Chicago. Other notable human rights organisations like Amnesty International-USA also wrote to the council members in support of the resolution. Prominent politicians like the mayor of the city of Harvey, Christopher J., the mayor of Riverdale, Lawrence L Jackson, and the senator from the 15th Legislative District Napoleon B. Harris III also wrote to Alderman Roderick .T Sawyer, head of the City Council Health and Human Relations Committee, imploring him to co-sponsor and pass the resolution.

It is important to remember that the entire top leadership of the Democratic party at that time including President-elect Joe Biden, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Rep. Schakowsky, Sen. Durbin, and Sen. Duckworth, had expressed concerns on the issue of human rights violations and violence against minorities in India.

But during the following year and beyond, the resolution found itself ceaselessly tossed around like a scorching hot potato. In the crucible of negotiations and intense lobbying, it underwent a metamorphosis of profound proportions, experiencing substantial and far-reaching revisions.

The resolution originally of 10 pages and introduced in July 2020, was eventually watered down to three pages. The revised version consisted of a single paragraph lifted from President Joe Biden's website and a portion of a report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. But even that truncated version was defeated when it was finally put to vote in March 2022. The resolution faced a close roll call vote of 26-18, a rarity for a nonbinding resolution.

How on earth could a resolution denouncing discrimination in India, which should have been an unequivocal, clear-cut decision, end up in a gut-wrenching defeat?

It is now public information that Counsel General of India exerted immense pressure on the city mayor and aldermen to junk the resolution.

The resolution's lead sponsor, Ald. Maria Hadden, told a Chicago Suntimes reporter that she found it "odd" that the Indian government was allowed so much "input," and she was astonished by the "interference and deference."⁴

An organisation by the name of the US-India Friendship Council propped up and lobbied intensely against the resolution. An Islamophobic outfit staged demonstrations and sent petitions against it.

Who were the actors behind these outfits and what was their agenda?

What follows is the inside story in the words of the men who did it.

Barai and Team launched a no-holds-barred attack launched against the resolution

Hindutva forces have established a significant presence in Chicago, with prominent figures like Dr Barai and Amitabh Mittal, leading the charge. They launched a robust and relentless offensive against the proposed resolution, vowing to ensure its defeat at all costs.

In a Facebook video broadcast to a limited number of Hindu zealots in 2022, a few weeks after the resolution's defeat, Bharat and Mittal, laid bare the entire plot they had hatched to get the resolution defeated.

⁴ <https://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/2021/3/17/22335258/chicago-city-council-resolution-denouncing-bigotry-discrimination-india-bjp-modi>

Hindu Lounge #47: Special Edition American Hindus Rise to the Challenge with ... Recorded live

VHPA World Hindu Council of America-VHPA

A Live Weekly Show on Contemporary Hindu Issues by HinduPACT USA
A World Hindu Council of America initiative

This Week
Featured Topic
Hindu Lounge #47:
Special Edition American Hindus Rise to the Challenge with Guests Dr. Bharat Barai and Amitabh Mittal

Ajay Shah Utsav Chakrabarti Dr. Bharat Barai Amitabh Mittal

On FaceBook Live:
facebook.com/VHPAmerica.org
Sundays at 11:00 AM (Eastern)

Live on YouTube:
youtube.com/VHPAVideos

On Twitter & Periscope

Hindu Good News of the Week
Hindu Seva Act of the Week
Hinduphobe of the Week

Join Hosts
Ajay Shah
&
Utsav Chakrabarti
Participate in the LIVE Show

The name of the programme was Hindu Lounge #47: Special Edition American Hindus Rise to the Challenge with Guests Dr Bharat Barai and Amitabh Mittal. The program was hosted by two persons named Ajay Shah and Utsav Chakrabarti. It was broadcast live on facebook page of VHPAmerica.

“The resolution was full of poison, hatred for India and Hindus, against BJP against Narendra Modi. So we started a campaign,” said Barai right at the start of the Facebook event.

As the program proceeded Barai and Mittal revealed the astounding scale of the anti-resolution campaign mounted by him and his team leading up to its defeat in Chicago City Council.

Barai revealed the intricate and fervent lobbying efforts undertaken by him and his team over the course of two intense years leading up to the resolution vote

Barai and Mittal revealed how a relentless wave of demonstrations, a deluge of online petitions, impassioned phone calls, intense behind the scene lobbying, pulls and strains and a torrent of social media posts, blogs, videos, and emails were unleashed as powerful tactics, to defeat the resolution.

Paid Lobbyists were pressed into service. Barai and the team mounted direct and indirect pressure on several individual aldermen and alderwomen and weaned many of them over to their side.

Barai openly disclosed that different aldermen were swayed by various motivations; some driven by votes, while others were influenced by donations.

The revelations offered a candid glimpse into the high-stakes world of political manoeuvring played by Hindutva forces in getting the resolution defeated.

Barai revealed how he managed to get the resolution put in cold storage for more than a year.

“The Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee had promised that the resolution had been put in cold storage and it would never come up,” revealed Mittal.

“But he did not keep his promise,” Mittal said.

When it was again taken up by the Health and Human Services Committee in February 2021, Barai said, they were taken by surprise. However, they managed to get it deferred by approaching two aldermen. “We studied the rules of the City Council and found that if at least two aldermen requested then it could be moved further by a month. We needed more time to think over and counter. We met a couple of aldermen and requested them to put a hold on it for a month. And that was successful,” said Barai.

Following the deferral Barai and Mittal proceeded to stitch a majority to vote against the resolution piece by piece.

Barai named many influential Indian origin individuals who arranged meetings between him and different aldermen.

“Amrish arranged meetings with at least four aldermen. Mangrola had contributed (political donations) to at least three aldermen, so he personally lobbied with those three aldermen and all three voted for us. Ram Chakravarty influenced two aldermen,” said Barai.

Right-wing Bloggers like Satya Dosapati, Arvind Kumar, Suhag Shukla and Sunanda Vashisht were pressed into service to write blogs on myriad websites, says Barai in the video.

Four days before the vote we sent hundreds of WhatsApp messages imploring people to oppose the resolution, said Barai.

Barai and his team also created an automation process coded in the mass WhatsApp messages. “With one click (on WhatsApp message) all 50 aldermen will receive emails. Believe it or not, each alderman received five to seven thousand emails.

They created 17 different versions of email petitions. “We created 17 different versions, so it does not look like a copy-and-paste job. We had randomised the process, so on every click it would send a different version with your name and your address,” revealed Mittal.

“We created an organisation under 501 (c)(3), using a “fancy name” called US-India Friendship Council, said Barai.



US INDIA FRIENDSHIP COUNCIL

Companionship * Collaboration * Commitment

USIFC is an organization working for the development of Economic, Education, Political Alliance, and Cultural Exchange between the US and India. We promote social harmony and cultural understanding between our birth nation and our adoptive home. USIFC is an independent American organization and undoubtedly has no connections with any political parties or organizations in the US or abroad.



“If you approach congressmen or aldermen as Hindus it will have one type of impact. But if you go as...your goal is same, it doesn't change. Because religious organisations don't get as much attention. But a neutral name like US-India Friendship Council has more impact. Because you can argue that it will impact the friendship between the two countries..so the entire campaign (against the resolution) in the media was under the name of US-India Friendship. Though we are the guys who control it but we don't put the Hindu name there. If we want to do it under the Hindu name we have other organisations. So you can have different organisations doing the same thing but from a different angle,” said Barai.



Amitabh Mittal speaks on March 22, 2021 during a rally organized by the United Indian American Community of Chicago outside Ald. Maria Hadden's office in Rogers Park to show opposition to a resolution sponsored by Hadden in City Council. (Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune)

Bharat Barai, Mittal and Nirav Patel are on the board of USFIC.

According to Barai's own admission, USFIC was created to influence the City Council resolution. But as per the Internal Revenue Service code, to be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3), an organisation may not be an action organisation i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.⁵

Let's get into some of their tactics in greater detail.

Role of Lobbyist Joe Moore

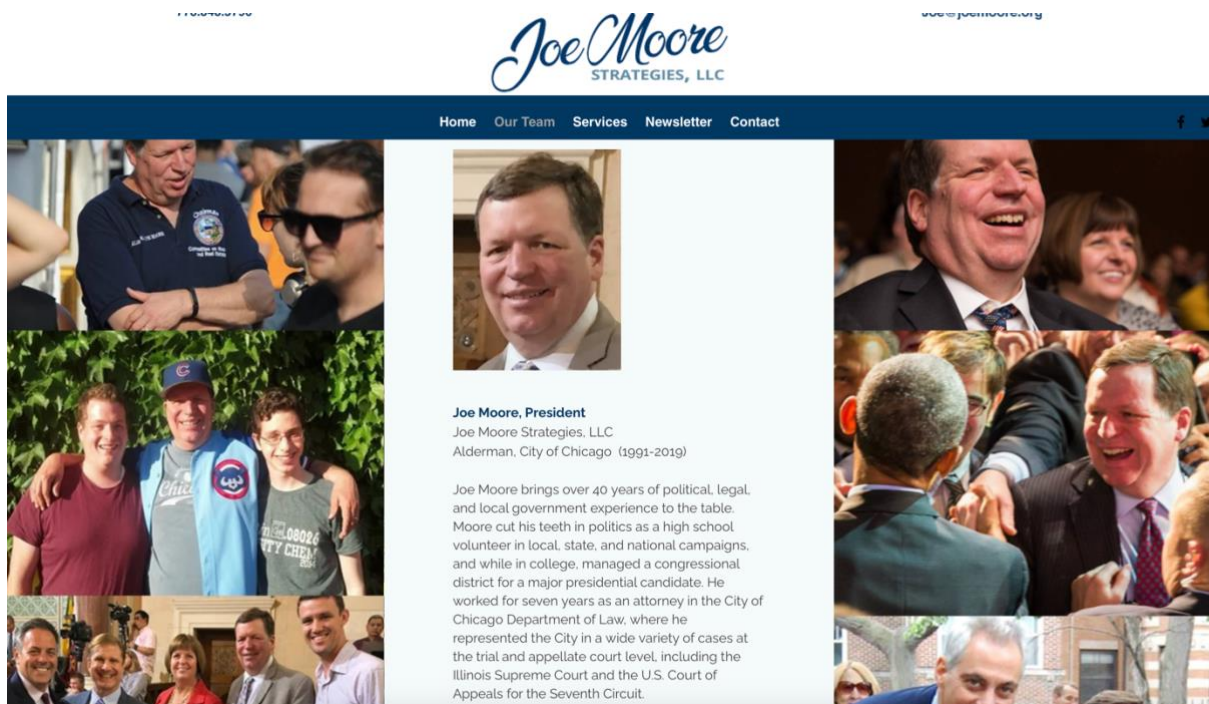
Chicago-based Hindutva forces hired a lobbyist, called Joe Moore, to work against the resolution. Moore is a former Chicago Alderman. Ironically he was defeated by Hadden in the election to the office of alderperson.

Moore's LinkedIn page bio describes him as "An experienced government affairs consultant and lobbyist, who served for 28 years as a member of the Chicago City Council and seven years

⁵ <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/exemption-requirements-501c3-organizations>

as an attorney in the City of Chicago Department of Law. Skilled in Government Affairs, Business Development, Legislative Relations, Politics, Procurement, Disruptive Industries and Emerging Markets. Strong government affairs and advocacy background with a law degree and a bachelor of arts degree in political science.”

He runs a firm called Joe Moore Consultancy LLC.⁶



“Joe Moore was an alderman for almost 20+ years. So he knew everybody. To piece together 26 aldermen who would vote against it was an impossible task two weeks ago. But Moore played a decisive role,” said Barai in the Facebook live event.

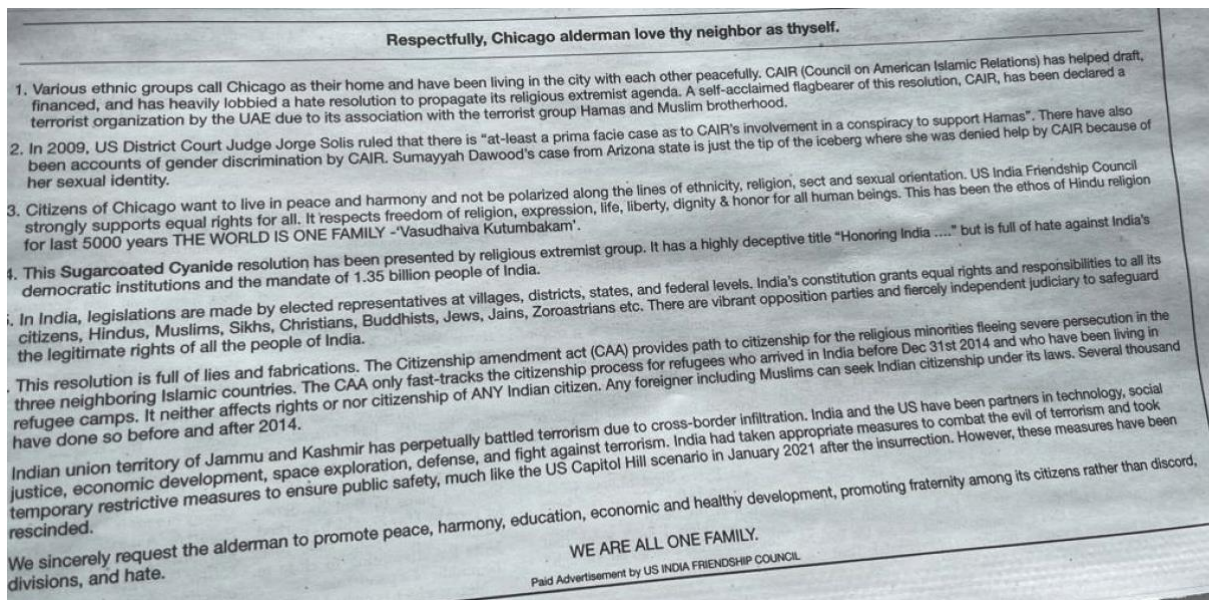
Barai in the same chat revealed how aldermen otherwise not easily accessible became accessible through Moore.

Barai and Team joined forces with an Islamophobic outfit to portray the resolution as a work of radical Islamist Groups.

Barai said in the Facebook event that the resolution was sponsored by an America-based charitable outfit called Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) which he claimed was associated with Hamas.

⁶ <https://www.joemoore.org>

Barai and Team publicly declared that the resolution was drafted and financed by CAIR. They put out newspaper ads targeting CAIR and linking the resolution with CAIR's 'religious extremist agenda.'



"We talked with Jewish organisations, they also joined in with us to try and denounce it. The other point (we pushed) was that it (violence against Indian Muslims) was an outright lie. No such thing has happened. It was sponsored by CAIR, which is a terrorist organisation. How many bought our argument we don't know," said Barai.

Barai also revealed how an alderwoman named Debra Silverstein who had made up her mind to vote in support of the resolution was persuaded by a religious leader in her district and the mayor of Lincolnwood to vote abstain when the resolution was put to vote.

"Our Jewish friends mounted a campaign on Facebook openly in our support."

What also emerges from the video is that a Muslim-hating organisation joined forces with Hindutva elements. "In the run-up to the vote, those who were calling the aldermen's offices asking them to vote against the resolution outnumbered those who were in support of it by 4 to 1," said Mittal.

Role of the Middle East Forum

Hindutva forces worked in tandem with an Islamophobic outfit by the name of the Middle East Forum to work against the resolution.

A right-wing Hindutva Twitter handle which actively campaigned against the resolution posted the below tweet after the resolution's defeat:



@IndusLens was congratulating @BenjiBaird for working closely with them in getting the anti-CAA resolution defeated.

@BenjiBaird immediately responded to @IndusLens with the below tweet:



Several more right-wing Twitter handles joined the thread in congratulating @BenjiBaird.



Shishir S Shetty @Dhaarmix · Mar 24, 2021

...

Your work greatly helped us in exposing CAIR Benjamin. We are indebted to you.



Vanakkam Modi @Vivek_here7 · Mar 25, 2021

...

Benji it is heartening about working together. Thank you for that. We need to stick together and defeat islamist forces.



Barai had disclosed in the Facebook live event that they had created an IT cell with 7 people who regularly engaged in Twitterstorms to campaign against the resolution.

The threads from accounts like the above further confirm that anonymous Twitter accounts were created which openly engaged in Islamophobia and hate speech while the city council resolution was being deliberated.

The question arises who is Benjamin Baird and why was he working in tandem with Hindutva forces to defeat the resolution?

Baird is on the staff of an entity called Middle East Forum. MEF is headed by a well-known Islamophobic called Daniel Pipes. In a blog post dating back to 2006, he made a baseless assertion, wrongly asserting the existence of 751 "no-go zones" in France under the control of Muslim vigilante groups, effectively barring government services, including the police, from entry. Astonishingly, for the subsequent nine years, Pipes persisted in upholding this fallacy, repeatedly amending his original post with prejudiced anti-Muslim remarks, attempting to portray these alleged zones as extending to other regions in Europe.

In 2018, Pipes authored an op-ed featured in the Washington Times, wherein he advocated an unsettling notion. He contended that due to immigration and what he terms "Islamization" (dubbed "I&I") being pivotal concerns in shaping the Western future, political leaders in the West should contemplate "collaborating with" far-right factions such as the Freedom Party of Austria.⁷

⁷ <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/04/18/anti-muslim-figure-daniel-pipes-advocates-partnering-far-right-political-parties>; https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/FAIR_Smearcasting_Final.pdf

Staff Bios

MANAGEMENT

Daniel Pipes

President

Daniel Pipes, a historian, has led the Middle East Forum since its founding in 1994. He taught at Chicago, Harvard, Pepperdine, and the U.S. Naval War College. He served in five U.S. administrations, received two presidential appointments, and testified before many congressional committees. The author of 16 books on the Middle East, Islam, and other topics, Mr. Pipes writes a column for the *Washington Times* and the *Spectator*; his work has been translated into 39 languages. DanielPipes.org contains an archive of his writings and media appearances; he tweets at [@DanielPipes](https://twitter.com/DanielPipes). He received both his A.B. and Ph.D. from Harvard. The *Washington Post* deems him "perhaps the most prominent U.S. scholar on radical Islam." Al-Qaeda invited Mr. Pipes to convert and Edward Said called him an "Orientalist."



Follow Daniel Pipes on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/DanielPipes), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/danielpipes).

Gregg Roman

Director

Gregg Roman functions as the chief operations officer for the Forum, responsible for day-to-day management, communications, and financial resource development. Mr. Roman previously served as director of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. In 2014, he was named one of the ten most inspiring global Jewish leaders by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He previously served as the political advisor to the deputy foreign minister of Israel and worked for the Israeli Ministry of Defense. Mr. Roman is a frequent speaker at venues around the world, often appears on television, and has written for the *Hill*, the *Forward*, the *Albany Times-Union*, and other publications. He attended American University in Washington, D.C., and the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel, where he studied national security studies and political communications.



STAFF

Benjamin Baird

Islamism in Politics (IIP) Coordinator, Islamist Watch

Benjamin Baird researches Islamist activity in Washington DC and state capitals across the country, organizes to counter these efforts, and educates the public, the media, and politicians on the threat posed by Islamist involvement in politics. He is a decorated U.S. Army infantry veteran and frequent contributor to the Investigative Project on Terrorism, *The Daily Caller*, and other prominent media outlets.

Follow Benjamin Baird on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BenjaminBaird), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BenjaminBaird).



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Benjamin Baird ran a campaign urging Chicago voters to 'Tell Chicago City Council to Vote "NO" to Anti-India Resolution Endorsed by Islamists'.

Baird is also the director of the Counter-Islamist Grid, a project of the Middle East Forum.

The Chicago chapter of the Counter-Islamist Grid (CIG), organized a campaign and sent more than 12,000 letters to city aldermen, warning them that "the Islamic extremists were behind the divisive bill."

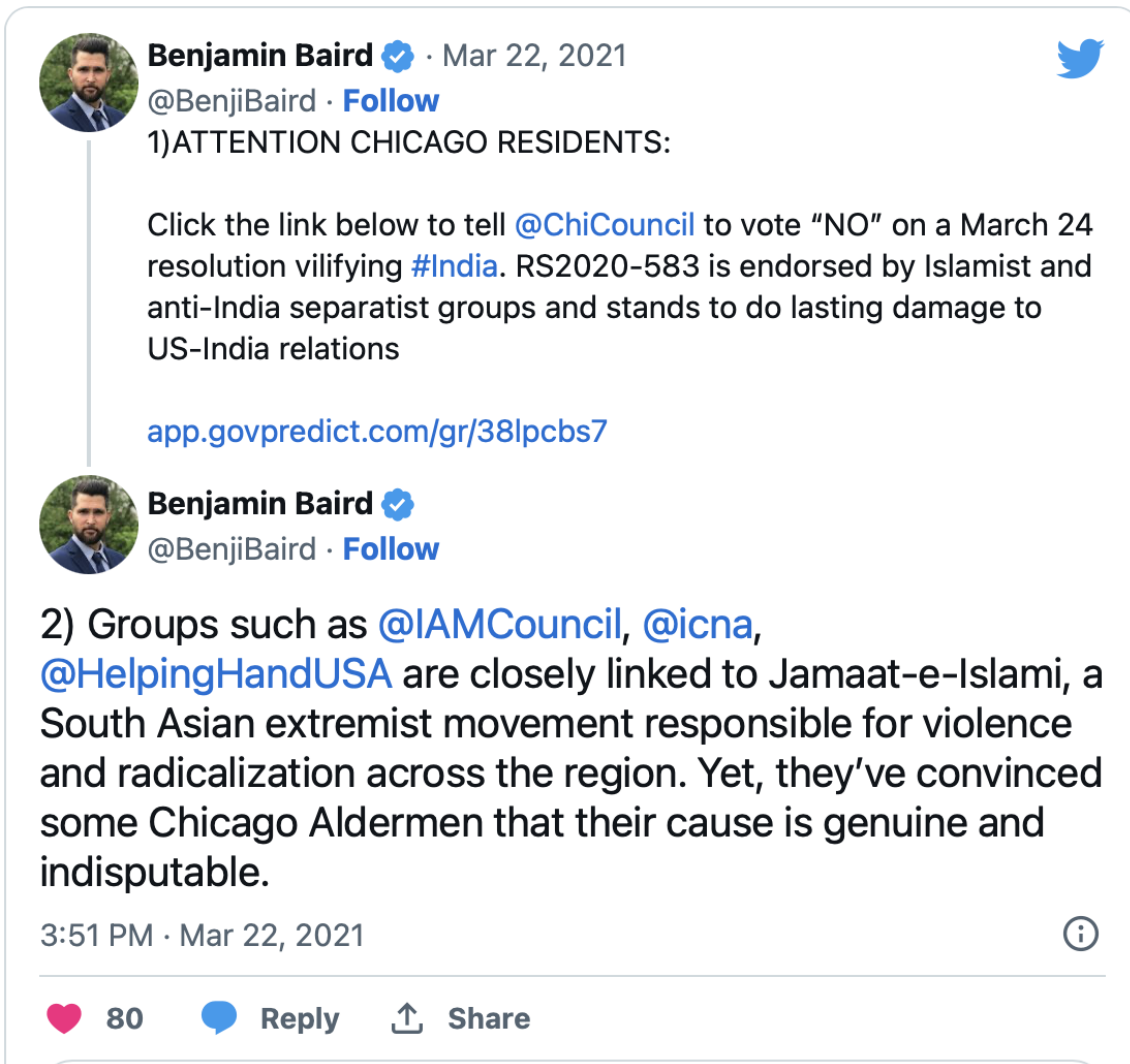
"This resolution is the brainchild of a coalition of Islamist and ultra-partisan organizations that are closely connected to violent extremist and separatist movements in South Asia," the constituent letters stated. "They seek to weaken and divide India to advance their theocratic agenda."

City aldermen found themselves inundated with a torrent of messages expressing strong opposition to the legislation.

15th Ward Ald. Raymond Lopez was quoted in the press describing the overwhelming influx of communication, with thousands of people reaching out to his office, passionately expressing their disapproval of the resolution.

Ald. Cardenas from the 12th Ward told a news reporter recalling how his office was flooded with statements from concerned local citizens. The sheer volume of calls hampered their day-to-day functions within the Ward.

CIG sent thousands of Constituent letters to aldermen alleging that the resolution was endorsed by groups such as the Islamic Circle of North America and Helping Hand for Relief and Development, calling them "the U.S. branches of Jamaat-e-Islami, a militant South Asian Islamist network responsible for thousands of murders during Bangladesh's war for independence."



Baird wrote on Twitter what was already peddled in the constituent letters posted by his organisation that “the resolution was backed by groups such as Indian American Muslim Council, Islamic Circle of North America and Helping Hand USA which are closely linked to Jamaat-e-Islami, a South Asian extremist movement responsible for violence and radicalization across the region.”

“Yet, they’ve convinced some Chicago Aldermen that their cause is genuine and indisputable”, he wrote. He further wrote that local city council members do not receive regular briefings on terrorism in Kashmir, have little understanding of Indo-American relations, and know even less about India’s internal politics. “Is this the type of elected body that should influence US foreign policy?”, he wrote.



Benjamin Baird · Mar 22, 2021



@BenjiBaird · [Follow](#)

Replying to @BenjiBaird

5) Likewise, the @ChiCouncil resolution condemns India for temporarily shutting down internet in Kashmir during a period of civil unrest and terrorist activity. Here, too, this issue was already explored by the federal govt, when US Congress refused to vote on a Kashmir bill.

Diplomacy

Why US Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's Kashmir resolution doesn't have many takers

Kashmir resolution lists security challenges faced by India in J&K but also urges govt to refrain from use of force against peaceful protesters and those detained.

NAYANIMA BASU

7 January, 2020



Benjamin Baird

@BenjiBaird · [Follow](#)

6) After failing to convince the federal govt to take up its cause, the anti-India network has moved onto greener pastures, hoping to persuade over-burdened municipal governments to pass distorted and deeply offensive resolutions targeting India.

UPDATE: Here is a statement from Sawant on the passage. In the statement, Sawant compares the situation in India to the formation of Nazi Germany National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship Amendment Act by the BJP and Modi regime bear frightening similarities to the early Nuremberg laws the Third Reich in 1930's Germany," she says.

4:16 PM · Mar 22, 2021



During phone calls and emails with several aldermen, CIG-Chicago Associate Hesham Shehab told the aldermen that the resolution supporters were not the disinterested human rights and



CIG-Chicago Associate Hesham Shehab (center) attended a March 22 rally outside of resolution sponsor Maria Hadden's downtown office. CIG

civil advocacy groups they claim to be.

"Although their mission may appear just, these radicals are not just passive observers of the communal strife gripping India; rather, they are actively complicit in provoking this unrest," Hesham Shehab was quoted in an article written by Benjamin Baird on the Middle East Forum website.⁸

⁸ <https://www.meforum.org/62339/islamist-lobby-suffers-loss-in-chicago>

Islamist Lobby Suffers Loss in Chicago with Defeat of Anti-India Resolution

by Benjamin Baird
American Thinker
May 10, 2021



On March 24, a [coalition](#) of Islamist and anti-India separatist groups failed to convince the Chicago City Council to pass a [resolution](#) vilifying India and accusing it of religious persecution. The bill attracted fierce opposition from Chicago's Indian and Hindu communities, which joined [counter-Islamists](#) in a grassroots campaign to defeat the non-binding legislation.

In a 26-18 vote, Resolution 2020-583 was [rejected](#) by a majority of Chicago aldermen who refused to wade into foreign affairs and make uninformed judgments about communal tensions in India.

"If we take this on, why not take on the Chinese ethnic cleansing debate? Why not deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?" [asked](#) Ald. George Cardenas, who voted against the resolution.

Chicagoland was just the latest political battleground in a nationwide push to persuade local governments to weigh in on India's internal politics. After [failing](#) to pass legislation at the federal level, India's critics have targeted progressive strongholds across the United States, persuading elected officials in cities such as [San Francisco](#) and [Seattle](#) to introduce resolutions condemning India.



Chicago was the latest American city to consider a symbolic resolution condemning India, the world's largest democracy, for religious persecution. A coalition of Islamist organizations is lobbying local governments to consider similar bills after failing to move U.S. Congress and the State Department.

Deferred for six months, the deceptively titled "Chicago

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Personal targeting of Maria Hadden

Equating the resolution as a handiwork of radical Islamist groups was not the only strategy deployed by Chicago-based Hindutva outfits.

Hadden was accused of spreading hate by Barai and his team.

Several Twitter handles like Chicago Hindu Community (@ChicagoHindus) and Reject Anti-India Hate (@No_ANTIND_Hate) were created to wage the propaganda war and target Hadden personally.

The Hindutva social media machinery brazenly and intentionally blended and equated the criticism of the Indian government with criticism of India itself, and without reservation, associated criticism of Hindutva with that of Hindus in an attempt to obfuscate the issues at hand.

Chicago Hindu Community Retweeted



Reject Anti-India Hate @No_ANTIND_Hate · Mar 22, 2021

Why are Indian immigrant dreamers not as important as American?

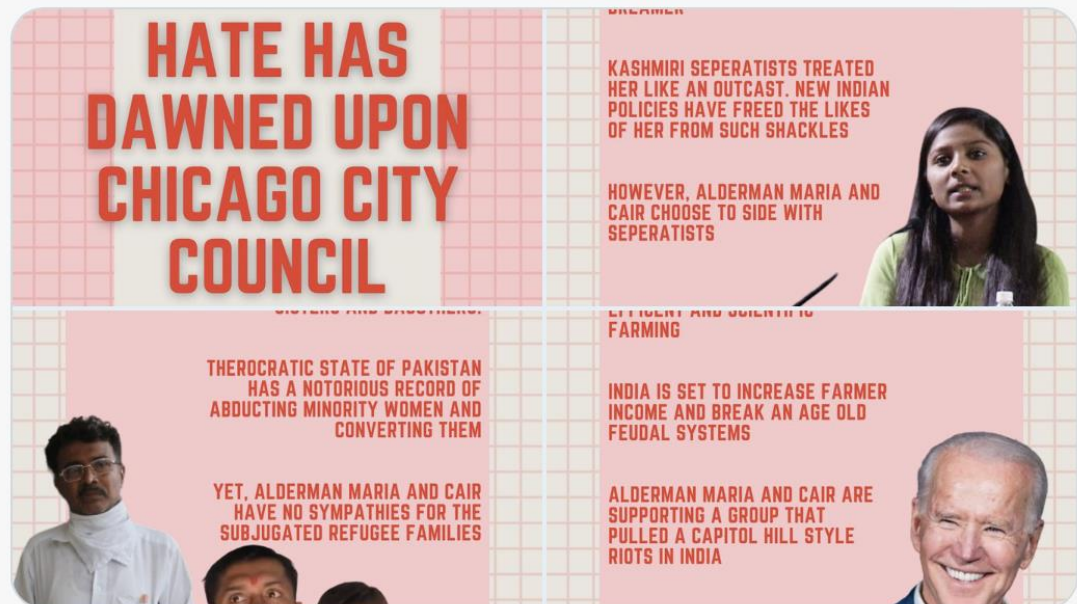
Why oppose India for accepting persecuted minorities?

Why oppose scientific and efficient farming in India?

Why insult 1.3 billion Indians for petty politics?

Answer us...

[#ChicagoIndiaResolution](#) [#VoteNo](#)



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72

100



Below is a tweet posted by Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, a prominent Chicago-based Indian-American, who is openly aligned with the BJP and Sangh Parivar.

Chicago Hindu Community Retweeted



Dr Vijay G Prabhakar @DrVGPrabhakarUS · Mar 22, 2021

...

Why did @ChiAlderwoman introduce such a devious resolution. USIFC only brought a trolley today . But @Mariafor49 is bringing HUMAN BOMBS thru her HATE resolution sponsored by Islamic Group.Why?

Yes Maria started this and woke up a peaceful Indian Americans in Chicago.



Alex Nitkin @AlexNitkin · Mar 22, 2021

Replying to @AlexNitkin

The US India Friendship Council brought this trolley outside @ChiAlderwoman's office this morning (pic via Hadden). She says people are phoning her office to call her a terrorist.

Can't say I've personally ever seen this much organizing around a nonbinding resolution before...



Chicago Hindu Community Retweeted



narwania @narwania · Mar 20, 2021

**STOP 49 TH ALDERMAN MARIA HADDEN'S
HATE RESOLUTION R2020-583**



MARIA HADDEN , DON'T SOW SEEDS OF HATE AMONG OUR INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO AND BEYOND.

MARIA HADDEN , YOUR HATE RESOLUTION IS MISLEADING AND FULL OF LIES.

MARIA,RESIDENTS OF 49th WARD WERE NOT CONSULTED AT ALL, ON THIS ACT OF YOURS.

INSTEAD , MARIA HADDEN INTRODUCES THIS RESOLUTION TO APPEASE HER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS-26 OF THEM INCLUDING RADICAL OUTFITS LIKE CAIR: COUNCIL ON AMERICAN ISLAMIC RELATIONS.



Chicago Hindu Community @ChicagoHindus · Mar 20, 2021



Chicago City Aldermen and Alderwomen- we oppose this resolution. This is based on incorrect information and will increase hate crimes towards Indian Americans



Richa Gautam @RichaGotham · Mar 10, 2021

These are the girls that CAA will Save... these are the girls Maria Hadden is targeting with her anti CAA resolution.

[bbc.com/news/stories-5...](https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-5...)

#persecution_inPakistan @CoHNAOfficial @chicagoreader @ChiAlderwoman @chicagotribune @ChicagoHindus @ChicagoRefugee



Chicago Hindu Community Retweeted



Reject Anti-India Hate @No_ANTIND_Hate · Mar 19, 2021



@ChiAlderwoman @Mariafor49 - Why, Maira, why Maria, why did you introduce a false, misleading resolution against India? Why Maria, you want to be the reason to divide the Asian community and cause for Hate Crimes?

[#SayNoToResolutionR2020583](#)



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14



Vijay Prabhakar was also one of the principal actors behind the demonstration staged outside Maria Hadden's office days before the resolution was put to vote.

On March 22, 2021 Mittal staged a rally outside Hadden's office in Rogers Park. The placards that Mittal and his colleagues held in their hands read: Maria. Stop spreading hate.⁹



Amitabh Mittal attends a rally on March 22, 2021, organized by the United Indian American Community of Chicago outside Ald. Maria Hadden's [office in Rogers Park](#) to show opposition to a resolution sponsored by Hadden in the City Council that recognized India's Republic Day and condemned violence against certain castes and faith groups. (Brian Cassella / Chicago Tribune)

Barai in Facebook Live revealed that he also personally targeted the chief sponsor of the resolution Maria Hadden for her sexual orientation. "Maria Hadden the prime mover behind this is herself a lesbian. In fact in my tweets to her I wrote that if you went to Afghanistan you will not get any freedom. You will be put under burqa and once they know your sexual orientation you will be stoned to death under Sharia law."

The social media cell associated with Chicago-based Hindutva groups also targeted anybody who spoke in favour of the resolution or against CAA-NRC legislation.

Involvement of Consul General of India

In an even more shocking turn of events, the then Consul General of India in Chicago, Amit Kumar, astonishingly joined forces with those arrayed against the resolution. This unethical

⁹ <https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-india-resolution-chicago-city-council-20210324-x3w5kowzajhmdemtnbcgfvnt4-story.html>

alliance added another layer of immorality and chicanery to the battle, as a high-ranking diplomat aligned with the ideologues of Hindutva in Chicago, challenging the very essence of democracy.

Speaking to Chicago Tribune Hadden said she originally planned to pass the resolution around India's Independence Day in August 2020 but attributed much of the delay to the office of the Consul General of India in Chicago, which opposed the resolution. "There were some concerns, hinted at by the consul general, that maybe this would damage some relationships with the city," Hadden said

Barai revealed that Amit Kumar made personal calls to all the city aldermen. "The weight of his office did help our cause," said Barai.

Kumar wrote two letters dated 19 & 25 February 2021 addressed to the then-Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot claiming that "this resolution has caused much agitation among the Indian American community in Chicago area."

He also wrote that the contents of the resolution "run contrary to the spirit of friendship among our peoples, and have the potential to divide communities and cause disharmony."

Both these arguments unmistakably and unabashedly echo the relentless propaganda pushed by Barai and his team.

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
शिकागो



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
CHICAGO

25 February 2021

Dear Hon'ble Mayor Lightfoot,

I am writing in continuation of my previous letter dated 19 February regarding the resolution recently considered by the Health Committee of Chicago City Council that makes several unwarranted comments on India.

2. In my letter, I had provided the background to some of the issues mentioned in the resolution. The resolution not only reflects inadequate understanding of issues, which are internal to India, but also contains factual inconsistencies and conflates matters without context.

3. As you would no doubt be aware that this resolution has caused much agitation among the Indian American community in Chicago area. The contents of this resolution are factually incorrect, run contrary to the spirit of friendship among our peoples, and have the potential to divide communities and cause disharmony.

4. I am given to understand that the matter was deferred by the City Council in its meeting on 24 February. I have already conveyed my readiness to discuss this matter with the Aldermen of the City Council. Indeed, meetings have been set up with some of them in the coming days. I hope to engage in dialogue on this matter before it is further considered.

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Amit Kumar)

Honourable Ms. Lori E. Lightfoot,
Mayor of the City of Chicago,
121 N. La Salle St., 4th Floor,
Chicago, IL- 60602

The defeat of the pro-democracy, pro-human rights and pro-equality and fair play resolution is now commemorated by Barai and his team every single year. They cynically call it India Unity Day.

The proponents of a divisive, exclusionary, and absolutely fascist ideology, are shamelessly trying to cloak their abhorrent Hindu nationalist agenda under the deceptive banner of unity.



INDIA UNITY DAY 2023

To Commemorate the defeat of the Anti India resolution
introduced in the City of Chicago Council on March 24, 2021
March 24, 2023 6:45PM Medstar Auditorium



PROGRAM

MC : Shree Gurusamy, Secretary General, AMEC

6:45 PM	Interfaith Prayer:	Seeta Bala, <i>Shruthilaya Music School, Naperville</i> Rev Jebasingh Jeyamoney, <i>Pastor, RCA's Multi Ethnic Church of America, Chicago</i> Sher Mohammed Rajput "Mayor of Devon"
6:50 PM:	Welcome Address	Martino Tangkar, <i>Chairman, Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force, 7th CD</i>
6:52 PM	Opening Remarks:	Dr. Zenobia Sowell, <i>Governor, AMEC</i>
6:55 PM	Call to Action:	Ms. Anu Malhotra, <i>Founder, Mindful Meditation Yoga, Naperville</i>
7:08 PM	Guest Speakers:	Rakesh Asthana, <i>Secretary General, MAFS</i> Nand Garg, <i>Community Activist</i> Dr. Ajit Pant, <i>President, US India Chamber of Commerce</i> Shridhar Damle, <i>HSS Chicago</i> Vinita Gulabani, <i>President, FIA Chicago</i>
7:25 PM	Honoring Ceremony:	Mohita Sukumar, <i>Executive Director, MEATF- 7th Dist.</i>

GSA Pride of India Award to
Sher Mohammed Rajput, "Mayor of Devon"

Edward & Lily Prabhakar Centenary Award 2023 to

- Neal Patel, *National Chairman AMEC & CEO Medstar, Hillside*
- Mohammed Schrif, *Community Activist, Chicago*
- Rakesh Asthana, *Secretary General, MAFS*

Presentation of Mahatma Gandhiji's Commemorative Pocket Watch to
Hello NRI Jatinder Bedi

7:35 PM	PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	Dr. Bharat Barai, <i>Chairman, US-India Friendship Council, Munster, Indiana</i>
7:40 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	Dr Vijay G Prabhakar, <i>President, AMEC</i>
7:45 PM	FACE TO FACE DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESSMAN DANNY DAVIS	Hosts: AMEC Commissioners - Vijay Muralidharan & Alli Dhanaraj <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of Guests at Roundtable• Dialogue- Questions/Comments for Congressman Davis
	CHIEF GUEST'S REMARKS:	Congressman Danny Davis
8:30 PM	DINNER	Yousef Razzak, <i>CEO, Kolachi Tandoori, Schaumburg</i>

Contributions to Citizens for Davis is appreciated

Embrace ! Engage !! Empower !!!

Dr Vijay Prabhakar is one of the main organisers of the event. He has made some high connections to the larger Hindutva universe.

He recently flew down to India to meet Jay Shah, the son of Union Home Minister of India, Amit Shah. The apparent reason given was to discuss establishing the North American Cricket Promotion Council in the USA.



Barai, Prabahakar, and their cunning team masterfully unleash a barrage of new outfits, veiled beneath seemingly innocuous names. The strategy is to seamlessly infiltrate the very core of the US establishment, cunningly sowing the seeds of dissent and division within the tightly-knit South Asian community residing in the US.

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MADE IN INDIA - MADE FOR THE WORLD
ON THURSDAY JULY 6, 2023 - 6PM
AT NAREN PATEL AUDITORIUM,
MEDSTAR LABORATORY,
HILLSIDE, IL 60162


Special Guest

Somnath Ghosh
 CG of India in Chicago

Chief Guest

Rep Jonathan Jackson
 1st District IL

HIGHLIGHT



तीन दिनों में भारत और अमेरिका के परस्पर दिक्षों की एक नई और गौरवशाली यात्रा आरंभ हुई है।
 ये नई यात्रा- GLOBAL STRATEGIC ISSUES पर हमारे CONVERGENCE की है।
 ये नई यात्रा-
MAKE IN INDIA, MAKE FOR THE WORLD
 को लेकर हमारे CO-OPERATION की है।

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Dr. Bharat Barai
 Oncologist, Indiana

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Executive Director | |

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 Mohita Sukumar - 630-608-7264

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It is truly disheartening and utterly disappointing that the elected representatives in the United States are deliberately ignoring the harmful and polarizing ideology propagated by Hindutva outfits within the US borders. If we fail to acknowledge and confront this malevolent force, we will face an impending catastrophe that will tear apart the closely-knit fabric of the South Asian community in this great nation, as it has already done in India. Therefore, we must act NOW before irreparable damage is done.

Conclusion

As the important findings of the revealing video come to light, the lack of transparency surrounding Hindutva ideologue Bharat Barai and Amitabh Mittal's questionable methods is finally lifted. They have been exposed for their network of deception, which involved hiring lobbyists, collaborating with Islamophobic organizations, and running a covert IT cell. The unethical lows to which they sunk to crush the resolution condemning CAA-NRC and violence against Muslims in India have left us shocked and dismayed. It raises serious questions about the negative impact of Hindutva in the United States and the extreme measures that the right-wing Hindutva groups would take to silence dissent, crush democratic norms, and suppress the truth.