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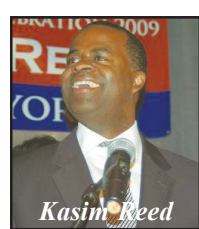
Diwali Celebrations in Atlanta: Left: A view of the Annakut offerings that were part of the Diwali festivities at the BAPS temple in Lilburn. Report on Pg 4. Right: Vishakha of Choti Bahu fame met with her Atlanta fans at the Global Mall during the annual Global Mela. Report on Pg 5.

Atlanta Mayoral Race Heads For Run-Off

Atlanta: Councilwoman Mary Norwood and state Senator Kasim Reed (D) were headed for a Dec. 1 runoff after no candidate in a crowded field received a majority of the vote.

"Unofficial results show veteran city councilwoman Mary Norwood is earning the most support with 46 percent. She is seeking to become the city's first white mayor in nearly four decades," reported the Associated Press.

State Sen. Kasim Reed, who is black, is in second place



with 36 percent. City council President Lisa Borders finished in third place with 14 percent votes. The winning candidate needs to get 50 percent of the vote plus one.

The low turnout and indecisive result point in part to the fact that no superstar candidates were in the offing, unlike the case when 41 percent of the electorate ushered the city's first female black mayor, Shirley Franklin, into office eight years ago, reported Jerry Hart on Bloomberg.com. Both candidates will aggressively go after those who voted for third-place finisher Lisa Borders.

Efforts Stepped Up To Unseat India's No. 1 Critic Dan Burton

Washington D.C: The US India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) hosted a fundraiser to support Dr. John McGoff, a strong candidate to unseat noted India critic Rep. Dan Burton in next year's Republican Primary election. Dr. McGoff came within 7% of defeating Rep. Burton in last year's Primary election. Dr. McGoff is an emergency physician and a Colonel in the Air National Guard.

Rep. Burton's numerous assaults on India include accusing India of "being one of the world's worst human rights abusers" and for having "a record of committing acts of terrorism." Rep. Burton has made unsubstantiated accusations about India on the floor of Congress over 16 times in the past two decades.

Vinnie Rao, an Indian American leader from Indianapolis who co-hosted the event, said "We are excited to work with USINPAC to support Dr. McGoff in this crucial race that is significant to the interests of Indian Americans and India. The community in Indiana has supported Dr. McGoff for many years and we will continue to do so."

Dr. John McGoff said "I would like to thank Indian Americans in Indiana and USINPAC for

their assistance and support of my campaign to unseat Congressman Dan Burton. The Indian American community is a vital part of the fabric of our country. I have always supported their efforts to improve the way of life for all of us here in the United States and will continue to do so as a member of Congress."

"Dr. McGoff is the Indian American community's best chance of defeating Rep. Burton and stopping his attacks on India once and for all. Dr. McGoff's background in medicine and the National Guard qualifies him to deal with the some of the most pressing issues facing Americans, including health care and terrorism," said Sanjay Puri, Chairman of USINPAC. "We look forward to continuing to help Dr. McGoff in his campaign."

Since its inception, USINPAC has launched campaigns to neutralize Rep. Burton.

Meanwhile, for the first time in decades, two local state lawmakers, Rep. Bob Cherry and Sen. Beverly Gard (both R-Greenfield) are backing GOP opponents vying to unseat U.S. 5th District Congressman Dan Burton.

The 2010 Republican primary will be Burton's 14th re-election campaign.



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