



অসম এছ'চিয়েচন অফ নর্থ আমেৰিকা Assam Association of North America (AANA) **AANA REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT – April 2026** **Michigan**

Dr. Jugal Talukdar Engages in APS Leadership and Congressional Outreach



Jugal Talukdar, who recently relocated to Michigan from California, is a physicist specializing in quantum computing research. His work focuses on contributing to the second quantum revolution, and he emphasizes that a researcher's role extends beyond the laboratory to include science advocacy and support for the next generation of scientists. He was elected Chair of the American Physical Society (APS)'s Forum on Graduate Student Affairs for 2025, with his tenure commencing on January 1, 2026.

In February 2026, as part of the APS Unit Leadership Committee, Talukdar visited the U.S. Congress to advocate for key issues affecting the scientific community. Discussions focused on supporting international STEM students, ensuring competitive compensation for graduate students

and postdoctoral researchers, securing funding for quantum research, and broadening participation in science education. He had the opportunity to engage with several representatives, including Arizona Senator, Mark Kelly. Dr. Talukdar noted that such advocacy efforts are an extension of a scientist's responsibilities beyond research. Reflecting on his journey from Medhikuchi to conducting quantum research and participating in national-level policy discussions, his experience highlights the broader role scientists can play in contributing to society and inspiring others.

Sonakshee Phukan Wins Prize at the American Guild of Music

Sonakshee Phukan, a Grade 9 student at Troy High School in Troy, MI, and daughter of Shrutimala and Shivajit Phukan, earned recognition at the regional division of the American Guild of Music (AGM).

She participated in the North American Invitational Championship (NAIC) under the Vocal Art division in the self-accompanied pop category. The AGM regional competition spans a wide range of musical disciplines, offering young musicians a valuable platform to showcase their talent. Sonakshee's achievement reflects her dedication to music and her continued growth in competitive performance.

<https://youtu.be/9pdusLZuogU>

