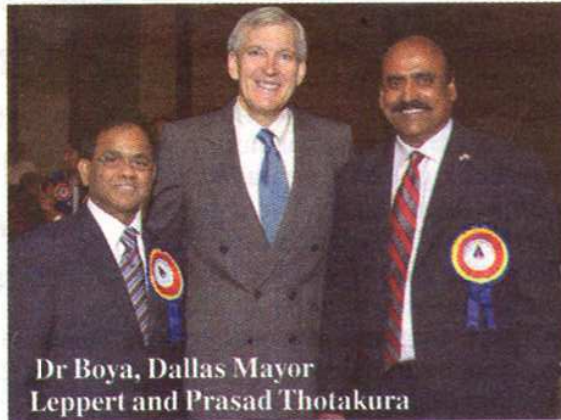


**IN BRIEF**

**Dallas to get statue of Mahatma Gandhi**



Dr Boya, Dallas Mayor Leppert and Prasad Thotakura

■ **DALLAS, TX:** The Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC), a 20-year-old non-profit organisation has been pursuing the City of Dallas to install a statue of Mahatma Gandhi for a long time and finally got the approval for it.

"We sincerely thank Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert for taking the initiative to realise our long-cherished dream. More than 100,000 Indian-Americans, who live in the Greater Dallas area, would be very excited to see a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the heart of Dallas City soon. This is the project of the whole Indian-American community; several India-based organisations, including the India Association of North Texas (IANT), individuals, professional, businesses, entrepreneurs, women, youth and senior citizens, would be a part of this project. The statue would be made in India by noted sculptor B Siva Varaprasad and shipped to Dallas. Varaprasad is an experienced sculptor, who specialises in making bronze statues and also winner of the President (Abdul Kalam) Award for his skills," said Prasad Thotakura, Texas State Coordinator and General Secretary, IAFC.

IAFC, the host organisation of the project, has already allocated \$10,000 for this cause. Several organisations and businesses are coming forward to support the project. Prasad Thotakura, Dr Tarakumar Reddy, Piyush Patel, Taiyab Kundawala, Dr C R Rao, Dr Niranjan Tripathy, Rao Kalvala, Dr Sat Gupta and Renee Dutia are on the Board of Directors of IAFC. Leaders of all community organisations would be meeting to discuss details of the move.