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## English



"I have traveled more than anyone else, and I have noticed that even the angels speak English with an accent." - Mark Twain (1835-1910) American Writer  
Yacht in Walkal, North-West Province, Sri Lanka [humanityashore.org]

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# Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

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MARCH 2008

## What's Inside Monsoon



St. Thomas ...



Chinese Cuisine



Designer Profile



Hindu Ceremony in Bali

Monsoon Health 9

Monsoon Arts 12

Monsoon Real Estate 23

Monsoon Photo Journal 36

Monsoon Auto Mart 37

Monsoon Food Court 38

Cine Journal 45

## Expanded Program for International Students to gain Permanent Residency

Ontario's Immigration Minister Michael Chan talks to "Monsoon Journal"

By Siva Sivapragasam

Ashok Shivakumar is an international student in Ontario not only with a mission but also a vision. His mission is to earn a Degree but his vision is to seek permanent residency in the great country called Canada.

As heavy snow blanketed the pathways and cold winds blew across the Road, I spoke with Ontario's energetic Citizenship and Immigration Minister Michael Chan. In an exclusive interview with "Monsoon Journal", he spelled out the details of Ontario's newly expanded pilot Provincial Nominee Program, which is an opportunity for international students gain permanent residency.

According to Mr. Chan, before the program was expanded, only graduates of Ontario post-secondary institutions could be considered. They could work only in one of 20 selected categories. Now, the program is open to students from across Canada and the job offer only needs to be related to their field of study. Students can



start applying as early as in their last semester of their degree or diploma, or up to two years from the date on which they received their degree or diploma. They are then entitled to receive nomination that leads to permanent residency. The federal Government will fast track nominees for permanent residency, saving years of wait times for some students.

The Minister emphasized that this is a "win-win program" benefiting both the students and

Canada. Mr. Chan is enthusiastic that Ontario will attract some best brains from the rest of the world and that students will have an additional opportunity to put their talents to work in Ontario.

If Ashok Shivakumar's dreams come true, Ontario maybe buying some of the best brains from the international market.

The following are the details of the new Pilot Provincial Nominee Program.

**(Press Release on Page 3)**

Process so far falls short of International norms and standards.

The Colombo Government has cited the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice Udagama as proof of its bona fides in probing human rights violations.

The IIGEP pull-out has affected the Commission's credibility drastically.

## Independent panel monitoring rights abuse probe in Sri Lanka resigns in frustration

The Sri Lankan Government of President Mahinda Rajapakse was dealt a severe blow as the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons unilaterally suspended its monitoring of

Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe selected instances of human rights violations in Sri Lanka. The IIGEP stated that the Presidential Commission's Public Inquiry

## India's Finance Minister Chidambaram unveils 2008 Budget



By Krishni Loganathan

Harvard educated and Tamil Nadu born India's Financial guru Palaniappan Chidambaram unveiled the 2008 Budget by putting an icing on the cake for the middle class with a tax credit of Rs. 4,000.

Premier Manmohan Singh and Chidambaram, both holding Harvard and Cambridge Degrees, have been identified as Financial Pundits who have steered the Indian Economy over the years with well thought out reforms that have made India the Asian Tiger. The much awaited loan waiver for the poor farmers in India is one of the proposals in the Budget and this will cost the Government Rs.40 crores.

... continued in Page 5

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# Canada Newslines

## Building Ontario's Future with International Student Graduates

Ontario is facing a labour crunch in certain occupations. The bottom line - Ontario needs immigrants and is in stiff competition to attract and retain them.

By 2011, Ontario's labour market growth is projected to flat-line - due to the double bind of aging populations and declining birth rates. All western nations are experiencing the same challenge. As emerging economies are becoming more prosperous, fewer people feel the need to immigrate.

Ontario already welcomes over half of immigrants to Canada annually. Newcomers are essential to Ontario's economic growth and getting into the workforce is the key to their success. That's why Ontario invests in programs, such as bridge training, that assist newcomers to use their international skills and experience and move into the labour force more quickly. We are helping newcomers seize the opportunities in Ontario.

In addition to our own talented youth preparing themselves to

enter the workforce, there is another untapped and ready source of skilled labour that exists right here in Ontario and across the country. An estimated 35,000 international students are enrolled in Ontario colleges and universities.

These young people have decades of talent to contribute. They are highly skilled, with Canadian education and credentials. They have adapted to Canadian society and many of these students want to make this province their home.

The Ontario government wants international students to stay and work in this province after graduation. That's why under the program we have expanded our Pilot Provincial Nominee Program.

Details about the program can be found at [www.ontarioimmigration.ca](http://www.ontarioimmigration.ca).

The program is now open to international students Canada-wide who have a job offer from an Ontario employer for a position related to their field of study.



Previously, only international students from Ontario with job offers in select occupations were eligible.

Successful applicants will be fast-tracked for permanent residency, processed by the federal immigration department within six to twelve months.

This means that Ontario employers can get the workers they need, fast. It also means the province will have a new pool of highly skilled workers to help meet its labour needs now and into the future.

**Michael Chan**

Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

## Visible minorities as victims of crime



Statistics Canada has released a study on Feb 15, 2008, based on data from the 2004 General Social Survey, revealing some differences in rates of violent victimization when place of birth was taken into consideration.

Canadian-born visible minorities had rates of violent victimization in 2004 that were three times higher than visible minorities who were born abroad, according to the new study.

Some of the study's findings are:

- Canadian-born visible minorities experienced a rate of 211 violent incidents for every 1,000 people, compared to 69 incidents for immigrant visible minorities.

- The study showed that a number of factors could help explain these differences. For example, Canadian-born visible minorities are younger, more likely to be single and more likely to be low-income earners than their foreign-born counterparts.

- Canadian-born visible

minorities also participate in a higher number of evening activities. Previous studies have shown that these factors are related to a greater risk of victimization.

- Place of birth was still a factor in the likelihood that a member of a visible minority would be the victim of a violent crime.

- The rate of victimization for all visible minorities was 98 incidents for every 1,000 people in the population, compared with 107 for those who were not visible minorities.

According to the 2001 Census, 4 million Canadians reported that they were visible minorities, representing 13.4% of the total population. This compares to only 4.7% of the population in 1981. Visible minority data from the 2006 Census will be released this upcoming April 2, 2008.

You can find the study on our website at the following link: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/85F0033MIE/85F0033MIE2008015.pdf>

## Liberals Commit \$50 Million to Create Foundation to Strengthen Ties with South Asia

TORONTO - A Liberal government will allocate \$50 million for the creation of the South Asian Foundation of Canada to harness the growth potential of the booming South Asian economy, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion said recently.

"I am pleased to announce a Liberal government will create a foundation to promote dialogue and knowledge exchange between Canada and South Asian countries on a wide range of economic, security, political, environmental and social issues," Mr. Dion told the Canada India Business Council in Toronto.

"The South Asian Foundation of Canada will help forge and strengthen links between policy, business, and research communities that work on relations between Canada and the growing economies of South Asia, and will in turn endeavor to tie this better coordinated group to people working on the ground in those countries."

The South Asian Foundation of Canada will be modeled after the hugely successful Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, which has been conducting strategic research on Canada's economic, political, and social relations with the Asia Pacific region since its creation in 1984.

Mr. Dion explained that the foundation will be instrumental in ensuring the continued growth of our Canada's export industries, currently hard hit by high fuel prices and a sagging US economy.


"One in four jobs is linked to the export market and right now, our largest trading partner is facing a recession. If Canada, as a major trading nation, wishes to remain competitive in the global marketplace we must continue to seek out new markets for our goods and services," he said.

Mr. Dion expressed his pride in the Liberal Party's long and vibrant relationship with the South Asian community in Canada, and reaffirmed his commitment to building on this relationship as Prime Minister.

"Canada is in an enviable position to build upon our strong, long-lasting relationships with the countries of South Asia. We have large, vibrant communities that have maintained close family ties with South Asian countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We have a dedicated, knowledgeable business community ready to capitalize on the wealth of opportunities these booming economies present.

"And in time, we will once again have a Liberal government that will make South Asia a prior-

ity; will take real steps to expand trade; and will reach out to our friends on the other side of the globe to bring our countries closer together."




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A flower that forgot its radiance  
Or a crop that forgot the rain - are  
Not there in this whole world, my friend" -  
Mahakavi Subrahmanya Bharathiyar

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From the Publisher's Desk ...

**International women's day – 'Recognizing the plight of those left behind'**

International women's day –  
'Recognizing the plight of those  
left behind'

International women's day -  
observed on the 8th of March, is  
an occasion for celebration as well  
as critical reflection on the world's  
progress towards achieving gen-  
der equity.

It is a time to reflect what  
women have accomplished, to call  
for change and to celebrate acts  
of courage and determination by  
ordinary women who have played  
an extraordinary role in the histo-  
ry of women's rights.

The Monsoon Journal joins  
hands with world humanity in ce-  
lebrating this day.

Around the globe many organ-  
izations observe the International  
Women's Day with events, cere-  
monies and longer term programs  
committed to the welfare of  
women.

On March 3rd, Vital Voices (a  
global partnership towards  
empowering women), Diane von  
Furstenberg (fashion designer),  
Carly Fiorina (former CEO of  
Hewlett Packard) together with  
Exxon Mobil and Euro RSCG  
launched the 'Women Can'  
Campaign at the Diane von  
Furstenberg studio in New York  
City. The campaign is an interna-  
tional collaborative of business  
leaders offering their expertise  
and financial support to provide  
opportunities and inspire women  
leaders in developing countries  
around the world.



Women's Day observances  
this year are also highlighting the  
plight of women living amidst  
conflicts within nations.

Plight of women in conflict  
areas is a vast human tragedy  
that unfolds with devastating  
news, day after day from Sri  
Lanka and many other nations.

Calls from the offices of the  
United Nations and International  
Committee of the Red Cross  
marking this year's Women's Day  
highlight the mounting challenges  
faced by women in those conflict  
areas.

The impact of the armed con-  
flict in Sri Lanka has created  
numerous problems for women of  
different ethnicities, particularly to  
Tamils from the North and East of  
the island nation. We see often  
heartrending photographs in the  
media of women displaced, reset-  
tled in unfamiliar territories,  
moved about carrying their me-  
ager belonging and holding fast to  
their children. They also face the  
difficult aftermath of the Sri  
Lankan state sponsored 'enforced  
disappearances'. The state com-  
plicity in the disappearances was

well documented in a report by  
the Human Rights Watch on  
March 6th.

Assistant Secretary-General  
Kathleen Cravero of the United  
Nations in her message marking  
this year's Women's Day is urging  
UN Security council to ensure bet-  
ter monitoring of how states treat  
civilians during conflicts. She also  
called for a systematic collection  
and review of data on violence  
against women and for the seri-  
ous investigation and punishment  
of perpetrators.

"Women with missing rela-  
tives: recognizing the plight of  
those left behind", is what is being  
focused by the International  
Committee of the Red Cross  
(ICRC). The ICRC says,

"For hundreds of thousands of  
women one of the worst conse-  
quences of armed conflict is the  
long and agonizing wait for news  
about their missing relatives".

The ICRC also points out that,  
since the vast majority of those  
who are killed or disappear are  
men, the burden of trying to find  
out what happened to them usu-  
ally falls to the women in their  
family.

The Monsoon Journal joins in  
urging the world humanitarian  
community in bringing the plight  
of these women to the limelight of  
the International Community and  
working towards the betterment  
of the lives of women in areas  
torn by civil strife.

**Reader's Views**

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you for  
sending me this month's copy of  
the Monsoon Journal.

It is informative and it reflects  
the wonderful diversity we find  
here in our new home, Canada. I  
was especially pleased about two  
articles in your newspaper  
amongst others. I am currently  
reading Gandhi's autobiography  
so your recognition of him and his  
contributions to India, South  
Africa and United States is out-  
standing. The linkage, between  
India and Africa, is often not  
known yet you have outlined the  
shared values threading through  
Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
and Mandela. It shows the com-  
monality between us all and the  
values to thrive towards. I would  
also say that your continued  
recognition of Black History  
month is wonderful.

As mentioned, I am pleased to

receive this monthly and I am  
pleased to read and learn about  
the many developments across  
the world.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Gervan Fearon**  
Associate Dean, York  
University  
President, Tropicana Comm-  
unity Services

\*\*\*\*

Hi Editor,

Thank U for the link and I will  
try and get the physical copy too,  
I did want to discuss a few points  
with u and i hope to call u over  
the weekend, the Issue looks  
Great, as always.

Thank you  
Abizar

\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,

Page 27 looks fantastic. I cir-  
culated it among my colleagues at  
CIBC. Regards,  
Doug Maybee  
Director, External Communi-  
cations & Media Relations  
CIBC

\*\*\*\*

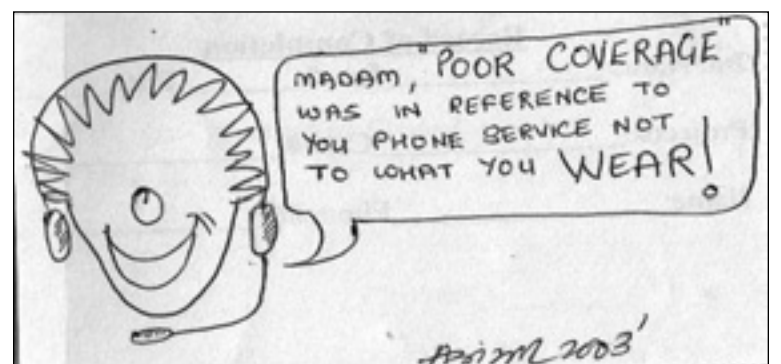
Thank you for sending me the  
information about "Monsoon  
Journal" online. I am very  
impressed about this news paper.  
Very colourful, covers wide range

of areas, well written and in a nut-  
shell. a job well done.

I just returned from a busi-  
ness trip from Mumbai, India. This  
time, spent nearly 11 days over  
there in Mumbai, I have to travel  
to several international destina-  
tions (Besides India and US,  
mostly Europe, Japan and  
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# Monsoon Newsline

## Immigration Wait Times increase - Karygiannis

OTTAWA – Recently, the Honourable Jim Karygiannis, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt, released figures showing that immigration "Wait Times" are growing under the Harper government. The figures also indicate that the "Wait Times" vary depending on where the application is made.



"These figures clearly show that the government and Minister Finley cannot manage this file – they are not getting the job done," said Mr. Karygiannis. "Why are we not looking at people as people? The wait times should be the same, no matter where you are applying from."

Immigration wait times have increased by more than twenty percent since 2004. Some immigrants are forced to wait two thousand three hundred percent longer depending where they are from and which category they are applying under.

Dependent children processed by Canadian officials in Beijing, Seoul or Ankara, have an eighty percent chance of being processed within four months. However, the average dependent child's wait time is thirteen

months in Singapore, nineteen months in Guatemala and thirty-four months in Cairo. Skilled workers from Lima can expect to be processed within fourteen months, fifteen months from Paris but are likely to wait up to seventy-one months in Kiev.

"This smacks of discrimination. It does not pass the smell test." Mr. Karygiannis commented. "Harper and his cronies promised that they were going to fix things. They were going to shorten wait times and everything was going to get better. Clearly, they are not getting the job done."

Mr. Karygiannis obtained the figures from Citizenship and Immigration Canada through the Access to Information Act.

## Bank of Canada lowers overnight rate target by 1/2 percentage point to 3 1/2 per cent

The Bank of Canada announced that it is lowering its target for the overnight rate by one-half of one percentage point to 3 1/2 per cent. The operating band for the overnight rate is correspondingly lowered, and the Bank Rate is now 3 3/4 per cent.

Information received since the January Monetary Policy Report Update (MPRU) indicates that economic growth in Canada through the four quarters of 2007 was broadly in line with expectations. Domestic demand has remained buoyant, as rising commodity prices and high employment have continued to support income growth. Canada's net exports weakened further in the fourth quarter, reflecting the slowing U.S. economy and the impact of the past appreciation of the Canadian dollar. Overall, the Canadian economy remained above its production capacity at year-end. Core and total CPI inflation – at 1.4 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively, in January – have also been consistent with the Bank's expectations.

At the same time, there are clear signs that the U.S. economy is likely to experience a deeper and more prolonged slowdown than had been projected in January. This stems from further weakening in the residential

housing market, which is adversely affecting other sectors of the U.S. economy and contributing to further tightening in credit conditions. The deterioration in economic and financial conditions in the United States can be expected to have significant spillover effects on the global economy. These developments suggest that important downside risks to Canada's economic outlook that were identified in the MPRU are materializing and, in some respects, intensifying.

The Bank now judges that the balance of risks around its January projection for inflation has clearly shifted to the downside, and, as a result, the Bank is lowering the target for the overnight rate. Further monetary stimulus is likely to be required in the near term to keep aggregate supply and demand in balance and to achieve the 2 per cent inflation target over the medium term.

The Bank will publish a new projection for the economy and inflation, including risks to the projection, in the Monetary Policy Report on 24 April 2008.

**Information note:**

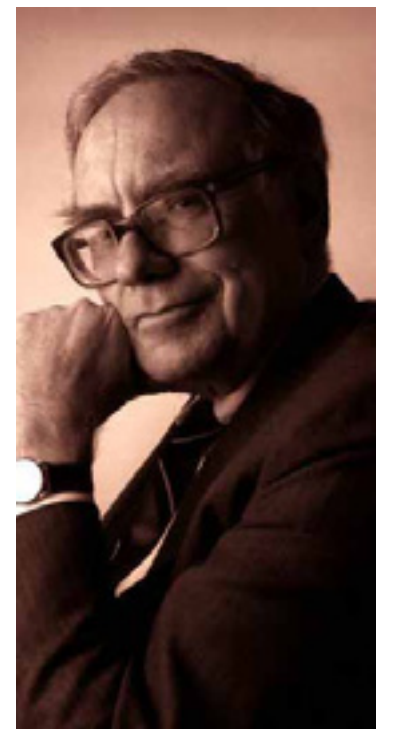
The Bank of Canada's next scheduled date for announcing the overnight rate target is 22 April 2008.

## Buffet is richest, 4 Indians in Top 10

In changing sweepstakes in the world's billionaire club, India's Anil Ambani has emerged as the biggest wealth creator while famed American investor Warren Buffett has overtaken software czar Bill Gates and Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim to lead Forbes' list of the world's richest people.

Four Indians - steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal, Mukesh Ambani, his estranged younger brother Anil and realty baron K.P. Singh - have made it to the top 10 positions, as against just one, Mr Mittal, a year ago.

India has retained its position as the top source of billionaires in Asia with a total of 53 people, who have a cumulative net worth of \$340.9 billion on Forbes' 2008 World's Billionaires list.



### India's Budget ....

continued from Page 1

The tax system has been restructured to raise the tax exemption from Rs.1.10 lakhs to Rs.1.50 lakhs. The middle-class will enjoy a tax saving of about Rs.40,000 per year. There has been no burden placed on the Corporate sector. Excise duties have been scaled down to promote growth and production. It should be mentioned that this will be Chidambaram's final budget before the present Congress Government faces a general Election next year.



# The minimum wage is going up.

If you're an employer, here's what you need to know.

|                                | General Minimum Wage | Students under 18 and working not more than 28 hours per week or during a school holiday | Liquor Server | Hunting & Fishing Guides: for less than five consecutive hours in a day | Hunting & Fishing Guides: for five or more hours in a day whether or not the hours are consecutive | Homeworkers (people doing paid work in their home for an employer) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Current wage rate</b>       | \$8.00/hour          | \$7.50/hour  | \$6.95/hour   | \$40.00   | \$80.00  | 110% of the minimum wage   |
| <b>Mar. 31, 2008 wage rate</b> | \$8.75/hour          | \$8.20/hour  | \$7.60/hour   | \$43.75   | \$87.50  | 110% of the minimum wage   |

On March 31, 2008, the general minimum wage will increase to \$8.75 per hour from the current rate of \$8.00 per hour.

To find out more about how the new minimum wage guidelines affect employers and employees, call or visit the Ministry of Labour web site.

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1-800-531-5551 [www.ontario.ca/minimumwage](http://www.ontario.ca/minimumwage)



# Canada Newsline

## The 2006 Canadian immigrant labour market: Analysis by region or country of birth

Immigrants born in Southeast Asia, particularly those from the Philippines, had the strongest labour market performance of all immigrants to Canada in 2006, regardless of when they landed in the country. The study assessed the labour force situation for immigrants at three stages: very recent immigrants, who had landed between 2001 and 2006; recent immigrants, who had landed between 1996 and 2001; and established immigrants, who had been in Canada more than 10 years.

The study found that in 2006, many very recent immigrants in the core working-age group (aged 25 to 54), regardless of their region of birth, had experienced more difficulties in the labour market than the Canadian born. Among very recent immigrants, only those born in Southeast Asia

Republic of China, Hong Kong, India, Vietnam, Philippines, Iran or Pakistan. For all Asians aged 25 to 54, their employment rate was much weaker than that of the Canadian born, especially among very recent immigrants. Their employment rate was only 63.8%, compared with 83.1% for their counterparts born in Canada.

### • Immigrants born in Europe

Despite being a declining proportion of immigrants aged 25 to 54, those born in Europe still represented the second-largest source region of all immigrants in 2006. Many came from the United Kingdom, Italy, Poland, Portugal or Romania. As with most other regions, very recent immigrants born in Europe had a higher unemployment rate than the Canadian born. Their unemploy-



had unemployment rates, employment rates and participation rates that were more or less on par with the core working-age Canadian-born population. Those born elsewhere in Asia (including the Middle East) as well as individuals born in Latin America, Europe and Africa all had higher unemployment rates and lower employment rates in 2006 than their Canadian-born counterparts.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

#### • Asian-born immigrants largest group to settle in Canada

Regardless of period of landing, people born in Asia (including the Middle East) were the largest group of immigrants that had settled in Canada as of 2006. Many were born in the People's

Republic of China, Hong Kong, India, Vietnam, Philippines, Iran or Pakistan. For all Asians aged 25 to 54, their employment rate was 8.4%, above the average rate of 4.9% for people born in Canada.

#### • Immigrants born in Latin America

As with almost all other regions, very recent immigrants of core working age born in Latin America had higher unemployment rates and lower employment rates in 2006 than did the Canadian born.

#### • Immigrants born in Africa

No matter what period they had landed, immigrants of core working age who were born in Africa had higher unemployment rates and lower employment rates compared with the Canadian born and with immigrants born in some other regions.

## RBC GIVES CRICKET A BOOST IN CANADA

### New elementary school program funds equipment and provides training

More youth in Canada will be able to participate in the sought-after game of cricket, thanks to the new RBC Wicket Cricket program designed to help schools and communities easily introduce the sport to their physical education programs.

"RBC's investment in Canadian cricket is aimed at elevating awareness of the sport on all levels with a view to reaching cricket-enthusiasts of all generations," said Mark Whitmell, director, Cultural Markets. "We want to help build this sport in Canada so that cricket fans can feel proud of their association with it, and families from cricket-loving countries can pass on this cherished tradition to their children. We feel that the best way to do that is from the ground up, by helping schools and communities respond to kids and their families who are passionate about the game."

Geared to students from grades two to six, the RBC Wicket Cricket program gives physical education teachers and community recreation leaders the means to introduce kids to the basics of the game, while providing a fun and exciting physical activity that develops interpersonal skills, enhances self confidence and instills the value of fair play.

"Our support of cricket in Canada is part of our ongoing efforts to build deeper connections with people in ways that are relevant and which reinforce our commitment to multicultural com-

### • Immigrant men more likely to be working than immigrant women

In general, immigrant men of core working age were more likely than their female counterparts to be participating in the Canadian labour market.

### • Young very recent immigrants had high unemployment rates

Young very recent immigrants aged 15 to 24 had unemployment rates in 2006 that were higher and employment rates that were lower than their Canadian-born counterparts, no matter in which region they were born.

### • Most older immigrants were born in Europe, Asia

The study also examined older workers. In 2006, Canada had about 2.1 million immigrants aged 55 and over, the vast majority of whom (93%) were established immigrants. In fact, most had landed in Canada before 1986. Most of these older immigrants were born in two regions: Europe (59%) or Asia (25%).

Source: Statscanada



The students at Vradenburg J.P.S. in Scarborough, who play cricket in Tim Stone's physical education class, participated in a training video for the RBC Wicket Cricket program. Mr. Stone, along with cricket advocate Melvin John, supported RBC in the creation of this new youth cricket program.

munities," Mr. Whitmell added.

Even before today's launch, program advisors Melvin John, an avid cricket supporter, and Tim Stone, an elementary school teacher in Scarborough, Ontario – had engaged more than 100 schools in the Greater Toronto Area alone. Through word of mouth alone, close to 400 schools from across the country have already registered online for the program.

"Many schools do not have the budget to make large investments in cricket equipment or the resources to meet the demand for the game," said Mr. Stone. "Through the RBC Wicket Cricket program, teachers will be able to easily access the resources they need to confidently begin or continue to develop the sport of cricket in their schools and communities."

Interested school teachers, community recreation leaders and coaches can obtain more information and register for the RBC Wicket Cricket program at <http://www.rbc.com/cricket>. By registering, they will receive a free kit that includes equipment such as youth-sized bats, balls and wickets (while quantities last), and a teacher's resource guide on DVD, outlining the rules of the game and practice drills.

Later in the spring, RBC will launch a new interactive cricket website where students and teachers participating in the RBC Wicket Cricket program can download training videos, watch cricket drills, and post related community events and photos. It will also include more advanced coaching information and tips for establishing a house league and tournament play.

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# Monsoon Newsline

## India Announces \$13 Million in Funding to Protect Tigers

India's government plans to spend nearly \$13 million to create a special force to protect the endangered tiger population.

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram announced to parliament Friday that the money will be used to raise, arm and deploy a special tiger protection force.

A recent survey found India's tiger population has declined to just over 1,400 from 3,600 in 2002. Chidambaram said the number should ring an alarm bell and that the tiger is under grave threat.

India's government last month pledged to spend \$150 million to create new tiger reserves and shift villages and tribal communities out of tiger habitats.

Officials have also opened a national wildlife crime bureau to



A royal Bengal tiger grimaces as he lays in his enclosure at zoo in New Delhi, India

counter the poaching of tigers and other endangered animals.

Tiger hunting is illegal worldwide. Poachers often sell tiger skins and other body parts to China for use in traditional medicine.

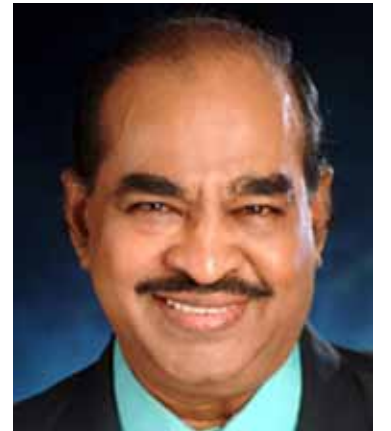
[voa]

## D.G.S. Dhinakaran- Committed Crusader for Christ entered Glory

By: John Atputharajah

Bro. G.G.S. Dhinakaran of Chennai South India passed away on the 20th of February after brief illness at the Royapettah Government Hospital. He brought the message of Christ to millions in India and throughout the world. His soul stirring sermons, devotional songs and ministry of healing opened the minds of many to embrace the victorious message of peace and salvation pioneered by the Lord Jesus Christ. Further more he started an evangelical movement called 'Jesus Calls' which is very effective in ministering to the sick and the suffering especially in the nook and corners of India. The prayer towers organized by the Jesus Call movement in many cities like Chennai, Colombo, London, Paris

and Toronto have 24 hours prayer help available for the needy at request. More importantly he had established a University, a hospital and vocational centres to help the needy in Chennai. His ministry was similar to those of his western counter parts like Benny Hynn and Billy Graham. The spiritual fervour evoked by his ministry is infectious and brought many to adopt the life - changing faith. Moreover he had organized conventions and healing crusades all over the world drawing massive crowds who gathered to listen to him. Besides he had trained his son Dr. Paul Dhinakaran, his wife, daughter-in-law and grand-children to continue the vibrant movement with all the modern facilities. The Twenty-four hour



Jesus Calls Telecast makes his programs available in the homes of devotees. His funeral service took place at Royapettah YMCA Grounds on the 22nd of February. The apostle of love who prayed for millions now rests in peace with the Lord whom he loved so deeply.

## Prolific Tamil writer Sujatha passes away

His lucid prose drew thousands of youths to literature:

Sujatha, one of the most prolific writers of contemporary Tamil literature, passed away in a private hospital here late Wednesday Feb 27th after a brief illness. He was 72.

S. Rangarajan, who wrote under the pen name, Sujatha, was known for his versatility in writing. He had a way with words, whether it meant writing short stories, science fiction, plays, pieces on history or screenplay for films.

He played a significant role in taking information on trends in science and technology to the common man through his simple articles.

An engineer, Sujatha was instrumental in designing and producing the Electronic Voting Machine when he was working with Bharat Electronics.

His columns for Tamil weeklies such as Ananda Vikadan, Kumudam and Kalki were widely read and fetched him numerous fans in all age groups. He had drawn thousands of youngsters to Tamil literature with his lucid and engaging style.

Born at Triplicane, Chennai, Sujatha had an exciting childhood at Srirangam, near Tiruchi, where he grew up under the care of his paternal grandmother.

After his schooling at the Boys High School, Srirangam, he pursued his bachelor's degree in physics at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, where he and former



president Abdul Kalam were classmates.

He then did his engineering in electronics at the Madras Institute of Technology.

Many of his pieces reflected his academic background, especially those of the science fiction genre.

All the same, his writing was very accessible to all kinds of readers.

Playwright Crazy Mohan, who visited the writer recently, said, "He is one of the most multi-faceted writers in Tamil. His writing was terrific, consistent and extremely informative. He could write just about anything with amazing ease. Sujatha was certainly a genius."

[courtesy:hinduonnet.com]

## 'Chennai most preferred Indian city for Asian Expats'

The charm and grandeur of Indian cities may be incredible, but they are not the preferred places to live for Asian expats, according to a recent survey which has ranked Chennai at 126 out of 254.

However, the southern metropolis found better favour when it comes to Asian cities with a ranking of 26, said the survey.

Singapore maintains the highest quality of life in the world for Asian expatriates, according to the latest Location Ranking Survey on expatriate living conditions by international HR consultancy ECA International.

Chennai has been ranked highest among Indian cities at 138 position followed by Bangalore (153), Mumbai (156), New Delhi (169) and Kolkata (193) as the best place to live for Asians in the world.

Among Asian cities, Chennai has been ranked at 26 place followed by Bangalore and Mumbai at 29 and 30th positions. New Delhi and Kolkata are at the 36th and 40th ranks respectively, the survey revealed.

In the survey of 254 locations globally Baghdad has been ranked the lowest. "Globally, Baghdad remains the least favourable location to live, followed by Kabul, Karachi and Port-au-Prince. Risk to personal security and the lack of suitable facilities for expatriates makes these locations the least desirable," ECA International General Manager in Hong Kong Lee Quane said.

The annual, ECA

Internationals Location Ranking Survey compares living standards in 254 locations globally according to categories including climate, air quality, health services, housing and utilities, isolation, social network and leisure facilities, infrastructure, personal safety and political tensions.

[PTI]



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# Monsoon Newsline

## Silent suffering and cost of living in Jaffna

Two reports from the Jan-Feb issue of Groundview bi-monthly Journal:

**I: The psychological trauma of an age old war**

By Puthiyavan

A recent survey conducted by a social organisation in Savatkadu, Anaikottai Jaffna under the supervision of a psychiatrist, revealed the silent suffering of generations who've witnessed the war first hand.

The killings, abductions and disappearances that take place daily have contributed to decades of mental agony, which are finally taking its toll in the manifestation of an aggressive society.

The survey revealed that the majority of young widows had lost their husbands due to killings or abductions. All the young widows were suffering from mental depression.

Their children in age group of 1-10 years displayed signs of stubbornness, urinating in the bed, and pain in the limbs. However it was indicated in the survey that, these disorders were purely psychological impacts of the violence they had witnessed.

The elderly have now grown accustomed to the killings and abductions of their kith and kin including their children, in-laws, and friends. They are tired of grieving; attending

funerals, there's no one to console one another; each and every family is victimized daily by the violent activity in Jaffna. They've learnt to control their feelings, they hardly laugh or cry.

Such emotions could lead to a tendency of frustration and finally develop into a long term psychological trauma. The survey also highlighted that, community awareness programmes at the village level could help restore these people emotionally.

During the survey it was brought to our attention that a girl returning from school asked her mother for food by threatening her with a cane. When we inquired about her family, we came to know that her father was abducted on front of the family at gun point.

The survey proved that psychological trauma had no boundaries where well educated and rich families were affected as well as poor.

Sri Lankan soldiers in Jaffna peninsula, November 2007.

(AFP/File/Pedro Ugarte-via Yahoo! News)

**II: No one to listen to our plea**

By Udayar in Jaffna

"The cost of living is sky rocketing like the Kfir jets" said an old man standing along a road side in Jaffna. He was holding his loaf of bread tightly as though it was something precious.

"Yes, soon will have to give up

eating" another old man standing next to him admitted. It is easy to estimate the cost of living by comparing the price increase of wheat flour and bread.

While posing a question regarding the cost of living to a crowd in front of a grocery shop, a man answers, "so many reporters and media people have asked visited us and asked the same question again and again, our silly people have been repeating the same story, but we hardly witness any outcome. They just pour out their grievances. On the one hand our people gain some mental solace, on the other hand the reporter gets a story" he said dejectedly.

"Who cares about our plight? Though we had rice and sambol for lunch, we just pretend as though we ate lunch with chicken curry. We use to hide our personal difficulties, but now we are unable to afford even bread and sambol for our meal" said Vimala (50).

Jelina Stanislas travels every day from Sillalai to Jaffna for work. She says, "fuel prices are increasing day by day, so are the bus fares. Early morning, I come to Jaffna then I have to take a bus in the evening to go home. I don't know when all will come to an end. Thought the bus fares increase I have to catch one bus after the other, if I want to come to work".



Sri Lankan soldiers in Jaffna peninsula, November 2007. (AFP/File/Pedro Ugarte-via Yahoo! News)

A trishaw driver by the name of Ravi said that he will take me to a place in Navanthurai, where stagnated rain water had collected. "Do you know that place? Get into my auto, I will take you there" said Ravi eager to earn a few rupees under the guise of helping me with some information.

As he has described, the area was submerged by flood water due to the monsoon rains, which had not drained as yet. Big stones were laid in front of all houses to cross the path without stepping into the water. It was sad to see the children standing inside their houses and staring through the windows. The residents were living

amidst unhygienic conditions which had led to breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other water borne diseases. The Jaffna District Rural Bank Association was also under water.

It's quite natural for a community living in such poor conditions to become frustrated with life. When we returned to the place where Ravi had stationed his trishaw, he slowly looked at his watch and checked the time. "One hour has passed, please pay me Rs.450/=" he said. It was not a demand. It was a firm affirmation. Knowing his plight, I agreed without any negotiations only asking him to take me home safely.

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# Monsoon Health



## Painful Steps

By Mithura Anandarajah, PT

For the sake of fashion, we are willing to step into great lengths. To make that perfect outfit, our shoes reflect our style and personality. Whether it is slinky stilettos, flip flops or runners, the variety of footwear we use is endless. We can all relate to dancing the night away and returning home limping through our front door. Many a time, we wake up in the morning, grimacing as we take our first few steps. When it comes to footwear, fashion often rules first and comfort thereafter. There are times however, that painful feet become a regular occurrence. A dull aching throbbing in our feet is the last thing we feel at the end of the night and the first reminder in the morning. Eventually, this is no longer the price paid for an evening of fashion. It has become a condition that requires intervention and treatment. Plantar fasciitis is the most common form of foot and heel pain. The plantar fascia is a long fibrous ligament and tissue that extends from your heel, down the base of your foot and into the toes. This fascia stretches with every step and as it gets torn or injured, pain and inflammation results. There are a number of causes for plantar fasci-

itis. The plantar fascia ligament is like a rubber band and loosens and contracts with movement. It also absorbs significant weight and pressure and therefore, with overuse can easily become injured. Athletes are particularly prone to plantar fasciitis and commonly suffer from it. Excessive running, jumping or other activities can easily place repetitive or excessive stress on the tissue and lead to tears and inflammation, resulting in moderate to severe pain. Another common cause of plantar fasciitis is arthritis where individuals are prone to joint and tissue inflammation. Perhaps what impacts most of us, is wearing incorrect shoes. In many cases, shoes either do not fit properly, or provide inadequate support or cushioning. While walking or exercising in improper shoes, weight distribution becomes impaired and significant stress can be added to the plantar fascia ligament. Some of us are predisposed to this condition based on the mechanics of our foot. If we have high or flat arches, pronation or an altered gait pattern, the forces applied on the fascia may accelerate the condition.

The key in treating this condi-



tion is catching it early. Waking up with painful feet is a common indicator. Overnight, the inflammation causes the fascia to tighten and therefore, the first few steps are often painful and limited. The pain may ease once the tissue gets warmed up with continued walking. Pain may worsen as the day progresses with increased activity or with improper footwear. Treatment of plantar fasciitis includes rest, ice and possibly an anti-inflammatory medication. Applying ice to your feet before bed will allow you to sleep easier and will limit the first few painful steps of the day. You may benefit from physiotherapy to address the injury and to facilitate healing. Treatment options include modalities, manual hands-on or taping techniques. You may require a comprehensive stretching and strengthening program. You may also benefit from orthotics in your footwear to limit the injury and to evenly distribute your weight throughout your foot. Orthotics are

custom-made insoles that can be placed in different footwear. More invasive treatment is only used as an option if all other conservative measures have failed. Corticosteroid injections and especially surgery to release the fascia are options used as a last result.

It is important to note that preventing plantar fasciitis is crucial. There are many choices to help prevent the occurrence of this condition, and keep it from returning.

One of the most important is maintaining a healthy weight in order to reduce tension on the plantar fascia. In addition, shoes are very important, and should fit well and provide ample cushioning and support throughout the heel, arch, and ball of the foot so that weight is distributed evenly throughout the foot. Avoid walking barefoot on hard surfaces and replace old shoes before they wear out, especially shoes that you run or exercise in. Also, when exercising, start off slow and ease into new routines to prevent sudden or excessive stress on tissue. Lastly, keep your calf muscles and the tissue of your feet stretched. Greater flexibility in the tissue makes them less susceptible to damage. Remember that although fashion is important, our feet will carry our weight for years to come. For further information or questions, please email [medical1rehab@yahoo.com](mailto:medical1rehab@yahoo.com)

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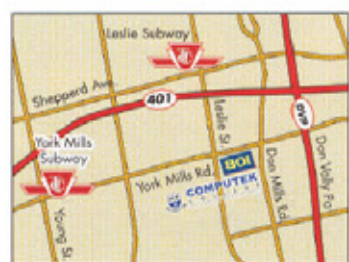
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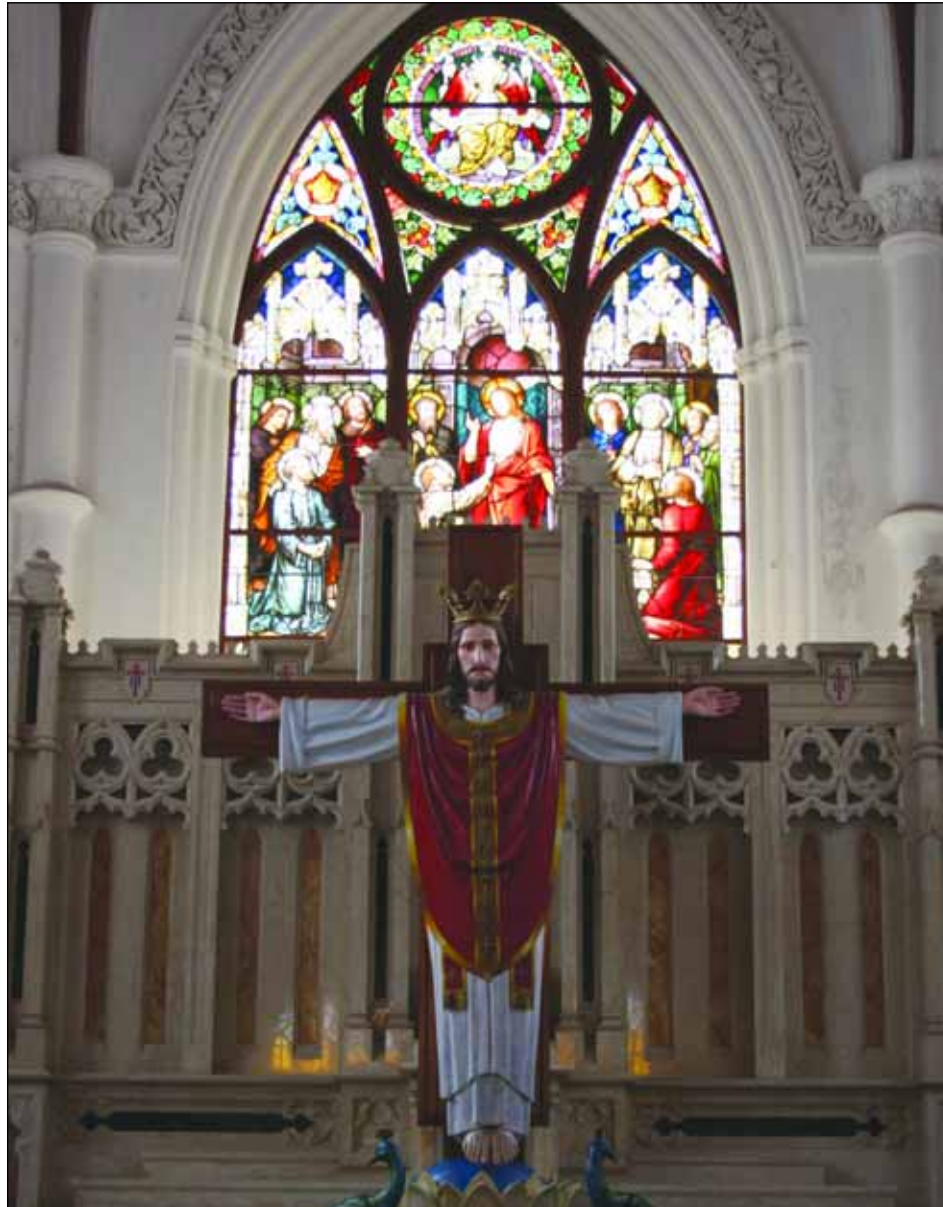
# St Thomas and Bascilica of San Thome

The arrival of St. Thomas in India was a matter of great significance. There is a general belief that Christianity was brought to India by Western countries, which is not borne out by history. The very same time St. Peter and St. Paul proceeded West, St. Thomas had proceeded eastwards to India. Soon after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, His disciples assembled to discuss their future plans in the light of Christ's direction to "go out all over the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation". It is said that the disciples cast lots to decide which way each of them should proceed to execute their Master's orders and it fell to the lot of St. Thomas, to go East. The tradition is that St. Thomas first proceeded to the north-western parts of India, the land of the Gondophares (King Gondophares ruled the areas Sind Southern and western Punjab, Southern Afghanistan and part of the Parthian Domains. Parthian ruled ancient Persia or today's Iran from 247BC to 228AD) during the second quarter of the first century. There is little trace at present of the activities of the saint in these regions. Perhaps his mission was short-lived as history tells us that during the invasion of his empire around 47 A.D., King Gondophares had to flee and his dynasty ended. St. Thomas also had to leave. St Thomas reached Kerala in AD 51-52 from the northern part of India visiting many inland countries spreading the Gospel. One of the reasons for Choosing the Southern coast was flourishing Jewish settlements along the coast of Kodungallur near Thirrisur and Cochin.

There is also another belief that St Thomas left Palastine and sailed from Arabia to the port of Kodungallur in India through the island of Socorata near the gulf of Aden and landed at the port about the year 52AD. During that period the coast of Kerala was famous all over the world for its enormous supply of spices. There were regular sailings from the Middle East to the port of Kodungallur. This belief is supported by strong evidences of the activities of St. Thomas in South India.


*continued in page 21...*

S. Sri Krishnan



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# Monsoon Arts



## Carnatic Music Genius Saint Sri Thyagaraja celebrated in Colombo

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai

'Every Kirtana is a beautiful temple in which the great composer has installed the God of his heart for worship by those who sing and those who hear'- Rajaji.

All musicians and music lovers gathered to pay tribute, and sing and play the Gems of Thyagaraja. Men and women of all age dressed gorgeously, and sat cross-legged on the ground. Five Keerthanams are known as the "Panchrathna Keethnam". The 'Pancha Rathna Krithis' are sung during the

of January 2008. Musicians from all over the state gathered and, sat before the Saint's Samadhi on the banks of river Cauvery, sang "Pancharatna Kritis" and paid homage to him.

Saint Thyagaraja was born on May 4th 1767 in Thiruvarur in Thanjavur district. He was born as the third son of Ramabrahmam and Seethamma. His father's was a story teller. His family moved to Thiruvaiyaru soon after Saint Thyagaraja was born. Saint



Kritis. He has created two operas namely "Pahlada Bhakthi Vijayam", "Nowka Chitram" and "SitaRama Vijayam". He wrote most of the Kritis in Telugu, and the rest in Sanskrit.

Saint Thyagaraja's music delights and inspires everyone. The Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana is a

Kalasoori Arunthathy Sriranganathan is performing along with her students and fellow musicians

solemn tribute of all Carnatic artistes to one of the greatest composers ever. It's a unique festival.

Saint Thyagaraja is considered as the "Music Trinity" of Carnatic music. His compositions are greatly

popular due to their simple language, sincere lyrics and very high quality music. He has composed hundreds of devotional songs in praise of the Hindu God Rama.

[humanityashore.com]



Saint Thyagaraja was a prolific artist and highly influential in the development of the South Indian classical music tradition

Aradhana. They are Jagadananda of Natai Ragam, Dudukugala of Gowla Ragam, Sadinchanee of Arabhi Ragam, Kanakana Ruchira of Varali Ragam and Endharo Mahanu Bhavulu of Sri Ragam. The Pancharatna Kritis of Thyagaraja are in praise of his beloved deity, God Rama and are extremely skilful and beautiful musical compositions. They are all set in Adi Thalam and each ragam represents the mood of the song and the meaning of its lyrics. They are actually set in the style of a Ragam Tanam Pallavi (RTP) with the charanas (stanzas) substituting for the kalpana swaras (improvisatory passages) in the pallavi section of the RTP.

Saint Thyagaraja was a prolific artist and highly influential in the development of the South Indian classical music tradition

Carnatic Music Festival to celebrate the genius of Sri Thyagarajah was held at the Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo on February 15th 2008 at dusk. Thyagaraja Aradhana was held for the second time in Sri Lanka.

The 161st annual Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana celebrations were held in Thiruvaiyaru on 27th

Thyagaraja got married to Parvathy in 1784, when he was 18 year-old. His wife Parvathy died in 1789, when he was 23 year-old. He married her sister Kamala in 1790, and got a daughter. Saint Thyagaraja named his daughter Seethalakshmi. It is believed that on January 6th 1847 would be the day when he was expected to become Mukthi. He attained Samadhi on Pushya Bagula Panchami in Thiruvaiyaru.

Saint Thyagaraja was an eminent composer in classical music, poet and a philosopher. He was an extraordinary personality born to teach humanity through music and Rama Bhakthi. He saw Rama as a chief, as a saviour of mankind and as a Lord of whole universe. Saint Thyagaraja praised him, cajoled him, taunted him, served him and cried for him,

He studied Sanskrit and astrology. He was very well versed in his mother tongue Telugu. Saint Thyagaraja has composed several Kritis. He made use of 200 ragas to compose different Kritis.

The Divyanama Sankeerthanams and Utsava Samprathaya Kritis composed by him are melodies. He composed 1,800

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# Monsoon Living



**Founder:**  
**Cristobal Balenciaga**  
**Born:** 1895, Guetaria, near Sebastian, Spain  
**Died:** 1972, Javea, Spain

## Designer Profile

# BALENCIAGA



Christóbal Balenciaga

For most of the time that the legendary Basque tailor Cristbal Balenciaga was alive, his design house was at the heart of Haute Couture, with a status that verged on the legendary. Balenciaga trained as a tailor from the age of twelve, and was able to copy couture effectively by fourteen. He opened his own dressmaking/ tailoring business in 1916, and moved to Paris in 1937 when the Spanish Civil War broke out. His distinctive pure lines and relaxed ignored trends. His instantly recognizable

ment, Balenciaga is now at the cutting edge of the industry. Recently, Balenciaga has been worn by Madonna and Sinead O'Connor, with pieces appearing in street and youth-orientated fashion magazines. Many of Ghesquiere's designs have stayed



pieces included flamenco-style dresses, jackets with big buttons and stand-away collars or three-quarter length sleeves, and the controversial sack dresses of 1956 (later made popular by Christian Dior) and the pill-box hat's first worn by America's first lady Jackie Kennedy in the early 1960's. Although essentially working from a sombre palette, by the 1950's he had also gained a reputation as a colourist, introducing pieces in bright yellow and pink.

Balenciaga worked to his own agenda, ignoring trends. When the mini-skirt arrived in 1966, he lowered hems, later creating a distinctive hem raised at the front and dropping at the back, and he cared little for the praise or criticism of other members of the fashion community. He refused to join the ruling body of Parisian fashion, the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture, unlike his competitors Coco Chanel and Christian Dior. From 1957, he showed his collection, along with Hubert de Givenchy, at least a month later than other designers. However Balenciaga was ready to quit in 1948 and continued only at the frantic behest of Dior. Designers Andre Courreges and Emanuel Ungaro were among those who trained under him.

It has only been in recent years that the Balenciaga name has really begun to flourish again, largely due to the company's switch from couture to ready-to-wear in 1987. In 1986 the company was bought by the cosmetics group Jacques Bogart, who brought in designer Michael Goma, followed by Dutch designer Melchior Thimister in 1922. Under the young French designer Nicholas Ghesquiere, appointed from within the company in 1997 against expectations of a higher-profile appoint-



true to the Balenciaga feel: he likes to play with volume, for instance, giving jackets a fitted front and voluminous back, or showing a skirt that reveals its composition of four separate panels when the wearer moves. Other provocative pieces from the young designer include bright white 'mentonnières', or wraps that go over the head and under the chin, structurally clean and true to Balenciaga, yet also reminiscent of hospital bandaging.

### Make-Up Master-Class

How To get the SMOKY EYE look?

Q: What is the foolproof way to create a smoky-eyed look?



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continued from previous page



A: Begin by applying a taupe shade as a neutral base colour over your eyelids. Using a Kohl pencil, draw along the inner rims of your eyes and along your lash line and smudge to soften. If you have small eyes, only apply pencil to the outer two thirds of the eye, but if your eyes are large, trace the whole rim. Strengthen the Kohl by applying a line of powder eye shadow in the same colour over the top. This will set the Kohl by applying a line of powder eye shadow in the same colour over the top. This will set the Kohl so that it lasts longer. Apply a coloured eye shadow along the socket and outer corner of the lid to create definition and con-

A: Apply your eye make-up before applying your base (foundation, concealer and pressed powder). This way, any mistakes can be easily repaired afterwards without fear of wiping away foundation. If you have already applied your base, dust on a thick layer of loose powder in the crescent under your eye. The powder particles will collect any spillages from your eye shadow, so when you are finished use a big brush to dust the powder away, along with the spillages. Always have cotton buds dipped in foundation on hand to clean up any smudging, as they act like an eraser.



tour. Make sure you blend, blend, blend! Finish by curling your lashes, and then apply two or three coats of mascara to upper lashes and just one coat to your lower lashes.

Q: Which are the best colours to use for a sultry effect?

A: The classic shades are charcoal, navy or brown. For a modern effect, team a black pencil with graphite-grey powder or brown pencil with metallic bronze. To make the look more wearable for the daytime, skip applying the Kohl to the inner rims and opt for softer shades, steering away from charcoals and blacks. Try using khaki green, chestnut brown or silvery grey.

Blending really well when you apply layers of colour will also keep your eyes looking softer. Use a pale shadow on the brow bone or one with a slight sheen, to give the eyes a more 3D effect and prevent your make-up looking too block coloured. And remember less is more!

Q: No matter how carefully I apply my smoky eye make-up, it ends up smudging. How can I keep it looking sexy rather than messy?

Also take your time creating this look as it's not one to do on the go. Keep any dark colours away from the inner corners of the eye, as it often can look like you have a black eye! If you find that this is the case, opt for blending in layers of softer shades. Because your eyes really are the main focus of the look, add just a hint of colour to your cheeks and lips, sticking with natural pinky tones. To remove such heavy make-up, hold a cotton pad soaked in eye make-up remover over each closed eye for a few seconds before lightly sweeping away.

by Partheban Kugadason (PK)





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# Canada Newslines

## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**(A Public Forum will be held at Scarborough Civic Centre on March 19th 2008 Wednesday from 6.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. – Organised by Tamil Anti Racism Committee (TARC)**

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination (resolution 2142 (XXI)).

"Racist practices hurt their victims, but they also limit the promise of entire societies where they are tolerated. They prevent individuals from realizing their potential and stop them from contributing fully to national progress."

Ban Ki-moon

United Nations Secretary-General

"Racism, Discrimination and poverty form a vicious cycle."

Louise Arbour

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March with activities led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, New York and at field-presences. This year's theme is: "Racism and Discrimination: Obstacles to Development."

On 21 March 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". In 1966, the General Assembly proclaimed 21 March as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to commemorate the Sharpeville tragedy (resolution 2142 (XXI) of 26 October 1966). 21 March has since then served not only to remind the international community of the dire consequences of racism, but also to recall our obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination.

### Racism and Discrimination: Obstacles to Development

Development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process that aims at constantly improving the well-being of the entire population on the basis of everyone's active, free and meaningful participation and the fair distribution of the available resources. Racism and other forms of discrimination are

not only human rights violations but also major obstacles to achieving development.

The world has made significant strides against racial discrimination in recent decades. The apartheid system was dismantled in South Africa, while many nations passed anti-discrimination laws. But much more remains to be done. Laws on the books haven't always translated into improved conditions on the ground. And numerous countries have yet to formulate and implement effective anti-discrimination policies. In fact, 42 years after it was adopted, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination still falls well short of universal ratification. Overall, recent reports point to a disturbing rise in incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in many parts of the world.

The United Nations, through its lawmaking, human rights monitoring and awareness-raising roles, has an important part to play in the fight against racial discrimination. But each and every one of us must also make a stand: we must disavow discriminatory and intolerant acts in our personal lives and speak out forcefully against them in the public sphere. Given the connection between racism and development, these actions should be seen as an integral part of local and national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Forty seven years after the massacre of dozens of peaceful demonstrators in Sharpeville, South Africa, the world comes together to remember, once again, the worst excesses of a brutal racist regime, and to take stock of the ravages that racial discrimination continues to inflict everywhere.

Racial discrimination is wrong and harmful in itself. It is a denial of human rights, an affront to human dignity and a direct assault on the foundation of the human rights edifice – the principle of equality. Discrimination and bias also have a direct impact on a society's development. A society that tolerates discrimination holds itself back, foregoing the contribution of whole parts of its population, and potentially sowing the seeds of violent conflict.

An overwhelming majority of States has accepted the legal obligation to fight racial discrimination. But a reality check demonstrates that formal commitments are not enough. This International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is the occa-



sion to mobilize public opinion, as well as to remind governments of their duty to combat racial discrimination in all its forms and thereby help ensure the full development of all members of our communities now and for generations to come.

Let us mark this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by recommitting ourselves to the equality of all human beings, and by resolving to make every effort to realize this simple, yet powerful, ideal.

We have come a long way in removing obstacles to the realization of the fundamental principles of equality and non discrimination, but much more remains to be done. Despite the continued efforts to implement effectively the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance persist and in some respects have even grown in magnitude. The challenge we continue to face today is how to translate our stated commitment into concrete action that changes lives for the better.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action acknowledge that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are among the root causes of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. This recognition inspires the theme of our High Level Panel discussion today. It is crucially important that we address in a

holistic manner the complex interface between racism, discrimination and poverty, as well as to understand how all these factors both stem from and engender a denial of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

Poverty is the gravest human rights challenge which deprives millions of their dignity and the capacity to claim their rights. A marked characteristic of virtually all communities living in extreme poverty is that they do not have access, on equal terms, to the institutions and services of Government that protect and promote human rights. This inequality of access, in particular to justice, is often linked to discrimination on other grounds. In particular, racism, discrimination and poverty form a vicious cycle, as discrimination leads to economic deprivation, and poverty increases the extent of discrimination. In turn, the persistence of racist attitudes and practices exacerbates exclusion and poverty.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its General Recommendation No. 25, acknowledges that racial discrimination does not always affect women and men in the same way and that certain forms of racial discrimination may be directed towards women specifically because of their sex. Children also suffer particularly – poverty sharpened by racism exposes children to a double discrimination, heightening further risks of

abusive child labour and exploitation, and diminishes their access to even basic education. Unwarranted distinctions, exclusions, restrictions or preferences on discriminatory grounds reduce victims' possibilities of access to employment and obstruct the achievement of their full potential, having a negative impact on social development and economic growth of both communities and nations. A human rights approach to poverty, that fully recognizes these interlinkages, provides the necessary tools for identifying the roots of poverty that lie in discriminatory practices and for developing remedial strategies.

Once it is recognized that poor and discriminated people are excluded from public and private institutions and do not have enough political power to participate in the relevant decision-making processes, poverty reduction strategies and development programmes can be appropriately calibrated to the special needs of the most marginalized and the protection of their rights. Effective participation of the poor in all stages of policy formulation and allocation of resources must be ensured. Such participation is not only an essential prerequisite for achieving development, but it is also a right reflected in international instruments including the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development.

Similarly, it is essential to ensure access of vulnerable groups on equal terms to state institutions and services, in particular to justice. To be fully effective, institutions should mirror, in the words of the Durban Declaration, "the multi-ethnic, pluricultural and plurilingual characteristics of the population."

Ignorance, intolerance and lack of respect for diversity, which feed into racist views and practices, easily turn to hostility and fear, if not open confrontation and violent conflict. In response, participatory political systems provide the most effective channels of peaceful management of social cleavages in general, and ethnic conflicts in particular. It is therefore crucial to promote such systems providing space for robust public debate and informed policy-making, so that racism is tackled before it becomes an organizing principle for violent confrontation and armed conflict.

In the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, perceptions are essential. It is the responsibility and obligation of all of us to play our part in ensuring that difference is celebrated as an enriching value and a great contribution to the common good.



# Monsoon Newsline

## Separatists and states see hope and fear in Kosovo

By Peter Apps

Newly independent Kosovo might be a unique case, experts say, but it has nonetheless given fresh hope to separatist movements around the world and created a worrying precedent for nations with restive regions.

Effectively under international administration since NATO bombing forced the withdrawal of Serb forces in 1999, Kosovo follows the former Indonesian region of East Timor into independence -- and others are hoping to achieve similar status.

That worries countries from Spain to Sri Lanka, who are fighting their own insurgencies and independence movements and whose concern has led them to refuse to recognise Kosovo.

Almost all of those who have accepted Kosovo as the world's newest state have been keen to stress its uniqueness, citing its history, a near decade under international administration and its status as the final part to break away from former Yugoslavia.

The United States and others recognising Kosovo say Serbia lost the moral authority to the region because of atrocities, massacres and ethnic cleansing, and after



negotiations repeatedly failed to find another solution.

"The mere fact that everyone is going to such great lengths to say it is a unique case and doesn't set a precedent means that ultimately it does set a precedent," said international relations lecturer Spyros Economides at the London School of Economics.

"It establishes a precedent that you can overturn national sovereignty for apparent moral or humanitarian reasons -- but we only apply it selectively."

For example, Western powers were happy to recognise Kosovo, but not Chechnya or Kurdistan, he added, for fear of overly upsetting Russia or Turkey.

Essentially, NATO had intervened militarily to back a sepa-

ratist rebel group and Western states had nine years later formalised that independence, he said -- a significant shift from previous ideas of state sovereignty.

That is a step beyond what happened with the birth of other new nations born in recent years such as Eritrea, which broke away from Ethiopia, or East Timor. Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor was never recognised by the United Nations.

"There is a conflict between two key legal standards," said Sabine Freizer, head of European programmes at the International Crisis Group. "There is the principle of territorial integrity which conflicts with the right to self-determination."

## Frog skin diabetes treatment hope

Skin secretions from a South American "shrinking" frog could be used to treat type 2 diabetes, researchers say.

A compound isolated from the frog, which grows to 27cm as a tadpole before shrinking to 4cm in adulthood, stimulates insulin release.

A synthetic version of the compound - pseudin-2 - could be used to produce new drugs, delegates at the Diabetes UK annual conference heard.

Around two million people in the UK have type 2 diabetes.

The condition, which is often associated with being overweight, develops because the body does not produce enough insulin, or when the insulin that is produced does not work properly.

It means people cannot regulate their blood glucose levels properly.

Scientists from the University of Ulster and United Arab Emirates University have tested a synthetic version of pseudin-2, a compound which protects the paradoxical frog from infection.

They found it stimulated the secretion of insulin in pancreatic cells in the laboratory.

And importantly, there were no toxic effects on the cells.

The synthetic version was better at stimulating insulin than the natural compound, opening the way for its potential development as a drug for treating diabetes.

### Amphibians

Study leader Dr Yasser Abdel-Wahab, senior lecturer in biomedical sciences at the University of Ulster,



said there had been a lot of research into bioactive molecules from amphibian skin secretions.

One recently developed diabetes drug - exenatide - was developed from a hormone in the saliva of the Gila monster - a lizard found in southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

"We found that it stimulated the secretion of insulin and that the synthetic version is more potent than pseudin-2 itself.

"More research is needed, but there is a growing body of work around natural anti-diabetic drug discovery that, as you can see, is already yielding fascinating results."

Douglas Smallwood, chief executive of Diabetes UK, said although type 2 diabetes could be managed with diet and physical activity, the condition was progressive and may require medication to control it effectively.

"Good diabetes control reduces the risk of complications including blindness, heart disease, kidney problems and amputation so new treatments are vital." [bbcsinhala]

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# Monsoon Newsline

## Jaffna born youth creates sensation in LA

### First Tamil artist to release English rap CD

A Jaffna born youth recently made a sensation in the Los Angeles when he became the first Tamil artist to release an English Rap CD. The launch was held at a Hollywood Landmark Mansion which belongs to a Sri Lankan in Los Angeles. The youth brands himself as G-Vo while his actual name is Rajeev Nandakumaran.

Containing 14 tracks the name of the CD is "Wasn't supposed to be this way." It is priced at US\$ 13 and is released by John Baptist Records. Theme of his album is Peace and Rajeev's mission is visiting Australia and Sri Lanka middle part of this year. Also, this CD was played on the Sri Lankan Radio Station at the same time when the CD was released. The subjects of the tracks on the album range from world issues, to faith based perspectives. The album is inspirational - questioning the plight of our society in America, and offering a third world and faith based paradigm.

"G-Vo searches his soul to find Truth out of his circumstances, and his Creator. Other subjects explored are humility, pre-marital sex, the ills of Hollywood, human depravity, and the death of his mother," a spokesman for the young artist said.

Among invitees were influen-

tial musicians and record executives in the Los Angeles Area; family and friends of John Baptist Records; artists' close friends and family; media, production companies such as JnB Productions (sound and engineering). Religious dignitaries from all faiths were present as well.

Rajeev's 90-year-old grandmother, Mrs. Savithiri Navaratnam, bought the first CD on the stage. The registered guests were about 700 and organizers claimed this was a record-breaking crowd in a house environment. After the concert was over, traditional Sri Lankan Hopper and byriyani dinner was served.

The launch venue was Historical Pantages Mansion - Eagle Rock, CA. Owners of this mansion is Nalliah Rajah family. This mansion was built in 1920 by the Hollywood Pantages Theatre owner Late Mr. Alexander Pantages, who was the one who created the theatre system throughout USA and Canada. He was one of the richest immigrants in US in 1920s. This mansion is about 8000 square feet in more than one-acre lot. Mr. Nalliah M. Rajah was the host for this CD Release. The CD is available online at [www.johnbaptistrecords.com](http://www.johnbaptistrecords.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com)

## Ceasefire Agreement annulment causes business confidence to plummet in Sri Lanka

Business confidence shed 17 basis points in February, to 81, the latest edition of LMD, the leading monthly business magazine published in Sri Lanka reveals. It notes, that it means that the unique index - the only one of its kind here, in Sri Lanka - "hasn't crossed the century mark for 10 months on the trot". LMD's BCI commentary contends: "Whilst the Government's Ceasefire Agreement annulment

seems to have been given the thumbs down by war-weary men and women in white collars, our armed forces may make a difference in the medium term by winning its war on terror."

The LMD-Nielsen Business Confidence Index (BCI) has been virtually motionless in recent months, but LMD says that "the February outcome proved to be a watershed - the corporate community may have cast its vote on

whether or not the abrogation of the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) is good for business". The unique index is compiled by leading research firm The Nielsen Company, for LMD.

Sri Lanka government unilaterally ended the Norwegian brokered Ceasefire Agreement with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at the beginning of this year.

**An ethnic Tamil woman waits in line to lodge a report about a missing or abducted relative in Trincomalee February 29, 2008. About 140 ethnic Tamils have been abducted or reported missing since December 2006, with about 30 of those having taken place in the last two months, K. Thirubaraja, a local Sri Lanka Freedom Party official said. Picture taken February 29, 2008. Pic: Alertnet**



## Jaffna TNA MP Sivanesan killed in DPU Claymore attack

Jaffna District Tamil National Alliance parliamentarian, K. Sivanesan, was killed in a Claymore attack carried out by the Sri Lanka Army Deep Penetration Unit (DPU) on A-9 road, 30 minutes after he crossed into Vanni through Oamanthai / Puliyangkulam entry point Thursday March 6th. The MP's vehicle was targeted when he was returning to his residence in Mallaavi, after attending the parliamentary sessions in Colombo. His driver was also killed in the attack. The DPU attackers have exploded four Claymore mines in a row, Tamileelam Police officials told media.

Mr. Sivanesan's driver, Periyannan Maheswararajah, 27,



father of one, from Cheddikulam, Vavuniyaa, was killed on the spot. Sivanesan MP succumbed to his injuries while being rushed to Maangkulam hospital.

## Tamil civilians along FDL villages pay dearly

Tamil civilians of the villages all along the southern Vanni FDL are paying dearly for the constant shelling by the Sri Lanka military. Since the Sri Lanka intensified its attacks on Vanni, thousands of families have displaced from their homes due to the shelling by the Sri Lanka military.

The plight of these people without adequate assistance, also due to the blockades on essential items placed by the military, is making the lives of the displaced people a real misery.

Shelling has injured people in Alampil; disturbed schools; and destroyed houses and other property.

Shelling near Madhu has injured IDPs in camps injuring people including children.

In Adampan in the Mannar district farmers abandoned thou-

sands of acres of cultivated rice fields when they were forced to displace. These fields are now ready for harvesting but the owners are unable to harvest the rice. Instead, shells fired by the Sri Lanka military regularly fall into this fields ready for harvest destroying the crops.

Nedunkerni in LTTE administered Vavuniya is another village that has been made inaccessible

due to constant threat of claymore attacks by the Sri Lanka military. The inaccessibility of this office hampers the regular work of schools that is served by this office. Several claymore attacks on this road have targeted a vehicle belonging to the agriculture department, an ambulance, and other vehicles, killing scores of employees including doctors and nurses. [Ittpeps]

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## Sri Lanka facing total collapse of rule of law

Sri Lanka is now facing a total collapse of the rule of law with the increase in abductions, killings and cases of torture in police stations, Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) in its submission to the Universal Periodic Review of human rights in Sri Lanka, held by the Human Rights Council recently.

It also said that abductions and disappearances, which have re-emerged in the country, are occurring on a large scale in the north, east and the south in the country.

"However, only cursory, if any investigations and inquiries have been conducted into these crimes, with the perpetrators typically allowed to escape unpunished," the ALRC said.

In its submission the Hong Kong based ALRC accused the government of opposing suggestions for a UN field presence in the country.

"The ALRC and its sister-organisation, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), have consistently maintained that if a state has the capacity and will to



carry out investigations into gross violations of human rights occurring within its jurisdiction, there is no requirement for international intervention.

"The government and its mouthpieces insist that Sri Lanka has the required capacity to deal with the prevailing situation and that the UN is required only to provide technical assistance," it was said.

It added that by consistently failing to conduct credible investigations and deliberately obstructing them, the state has shown that it lacks not so much the capacity but the requisite will to safeguard the rights of its citizens.

[SL]



# Half a million people in Sri Lanka could be affected by conflict in 2008

The UN and NGOs working in the conflict-ridden north and east are warning of a mounting humanitarian toll in 2008 due to the escalation in hostilities between Sri Lankan government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Agencies should be prepared to assist "up to 500,000 conflict-affected individuals comprising IDPs, returnees and economically affected persons", according to the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) 2008, prepared by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) country team for Sri Lanka and released on 22 February.

"The CHAP is based on the assumption that as the government acts on its stated intention to disarm the LTTE, the conflict in Sri Lanka will continue and intensify," the report stated. "Even if it were to slow down or end during the year, there would remain very significant humanitarian needs to be met in the areas of conflict."

The report warned that displacement levels could be similar to 2007 when 308,000 persons were forced from their homes. More than 140,000 have now been resettled in eastern Sri Lanka, but as of mid-February, 225,000 people remained displaced in eight north and eastern districts.

The main areas of assistance identified in the CHAP are protection, shelter, food, water and environmental sanitation (WASH), food aid, nutrition, health, education, food security (including agriculture and fisheries), economic recovery and infrastructure, and logistics. The CHAP report states that of the US\$175.4 million required for 2008, \$29.2 million has been committed by donors.

"The humanitarian community is operating under extremely difficult circumstances, which have affected its ability to reach as many people as need support," the report stated. In some areas of the north access is near impossible.

Since December 2007, when the Tamil Tigers informed UN and other agencies working in the northern Mullaitivu District under their control that they could not guarantee their safety, agencies have downsized, with limited numbers of staff returning only during daylight hours, Mullaitivu government agent, Imalda Sukumar, told IRIN.

"No one [UN or other relief agency staff] stays here in Mullaitivu ... everybody leaves by late afternoon," Sukumar said, adding, "Obviously there are delays in programme implementation and assistance."

Humanitarian agencies are finding it increasingly difficult to transport assistance into Tiger-held areas beyond Vavuniya, the last government-held town before Tiger-controlled areas 220km north of the capital, Colombo. All goods and vehicles undergo stringent government checks at Madavachchiya town, 30km south of Vavuniya.

### Barriers

To facilitate its own food distribution activities in the north and to assist other agencies with transport and storage of their own relief goods, the World Food

Programme (WFP) has been providing a fleet of trucks for transport and established logistical hubs and storage facilities just south of the line marking Tamil Tiger-controlled areas.

Mohamed Saleheen, WFP country head in Sri Lanka, told IRIN it was critical given the escalating food needs in the north to pre-position food supplies in Vavuniya to avoid pipeline breaks. He also cautioned that as demand increased, WFP would need additional funding to purchase food and maintain storage and logistical capacity.

CARE International is one such agency that depends on the WFP storage facilities and trucks to move supplies to LTTE-held areas. "It is vital now that the WFP operations continue," Nick Osborne, CARE country head, told IRIN. "There are so many



**IDPs at the Nanthurai welfare camp in Jaffna town. As of mid-February, 225,000 people remained displaced in eight north and eastern districts**

issues related to the transportation of goods and it's easier to do that through one agency."

However, he warned about increasing barriers to distribution. "There are all kinds of restrictions and checking on goods being transported to areas under the Tigers," he told IRIN.

On 12 February, the Sri Lankan Army introduced new procedures for allowing vehicles into Vavuniya from Vanni (Tiger-held areas), according to the IASC. "This new directive permits only seven light vehicles and seven trucks per day," it stated.

The Sri Lankan military said the delay was due to a lack of technical staff to man the checkpoints. "It is because of lack of personnel and we are working to get more people to the checkpoints and soon the restriction can be eased," a military spokesman, Brig Udaya Nanayakkara, told IRIN.

However, the situation is unlikely to improve significantly soon, as the CHAP report warned. "Since the CHAP was drafted at the end of 2007, the best-case scenario, which included cessation of violence, implementation of the CFA [ceasefire agreement] and no new internal displacements, can no longer be viewed as a realistic option, at least during the first part of 2008," it stated. "Indeed, the first month of 2008 witnessed an escalation of fighting along the FDL [forward defence line], several devastating Claymore attacks and growing insecurity inside and out of the conflict areas."

[irinnews]

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# Monsoon Features

## Seven last words of Jesus on the cross

by Raymond Rajabalan

The seven sayings of Jesus on the cross are a traditional collection of seven short phrases uttered by Jesus at his crucifixion immediately before he died, gathered from the four Gospels written by Mark, Mathew, Luke and John.

The seven sayings form part of a Christian meditation that is often used during Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday. The traditional ordering is a harmonisation of the texts from each of the four canonical gospels.

### Father forgive them, for they know not what they do

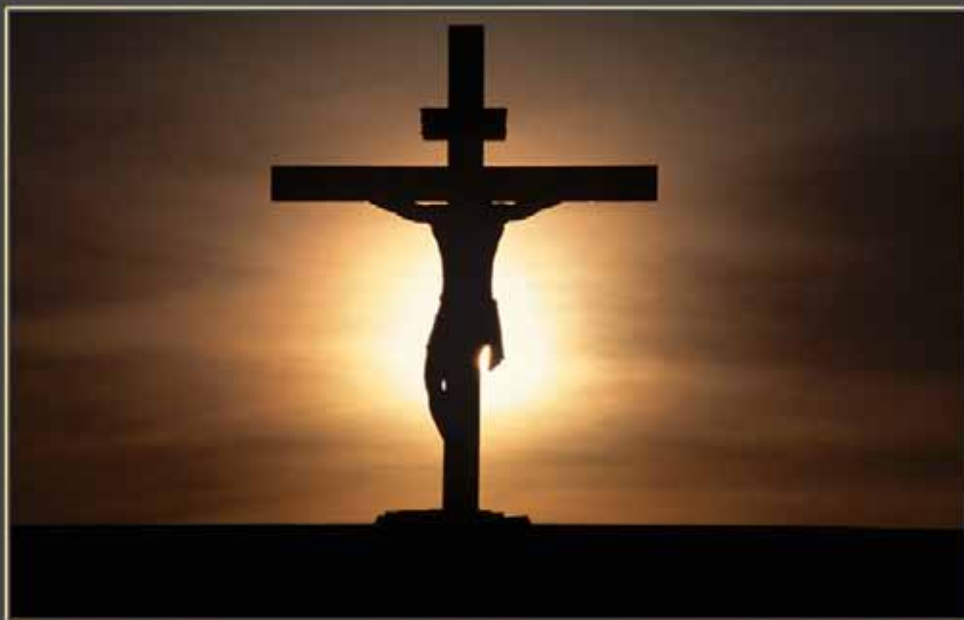
Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do".

thieves. In Luke's Gospel, one of them supports Jesus' innocence and asks him to remember him when he comes into his kingdom. Jesus replies to him using his set formula for important sayings: "Truly, I say to you...". Then follows the only use of the word "paradise" in the Gospels. As this is the word used in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) for the Garden of Eden, Jesus may have meant a return of humanity to the presence of God. However, it is traditionally meant to refer to the abode of the blessed dead. Perhaps, it can be read that the thief's own confession of guilt opens the way to forgiveness of sin.



Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane



The Lamb of God

This first saying of Jesus upon the cross was Jesus' prayer for forgiveness for those who were crucifying him: the Roman soldiers, and apparently for all others who were involved in his crucifixion.

In Matthew 5:44, Jesus exhorts his followers to love their enemies and to pray for those who persecute them. This verse appears to reflect Jesus' teaching of unqualified love and forgiveness for all, including those who might seem to oppose or even attack us.

### Today you will be with me in paradise

Luke 23:43

And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise".

Jesus is crucified between two

### Behold your son: behold your mother

John 19:26-27

Jesus saw his own mother, and the disciple standing near whom he loved, he said to his mother Mary, "Woman, behold your son". Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother". And from that hour, he took his mother into his family.

Jesus entrusts Mary, his mother, into the care of a disciple. Traditionally, this is thought to be John the Evangelist, but he is only referred to as the beloved disciple. The Catholic Church interprets this phrase beyond just the disciple, saying that Jesus was giving his mother to all of the church, and consequently all of the church to her

Another view on this saying is that Jesus, on the verge of giving

up his life, and having had given up everything else in his life, was now giving up his only last "possession," which was his mother. Thus, he would be dying in absolute poverty, without even the benefit of a mother.

### Eli Eli lema sabachthani

Matthew 27:46

Around the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, saying "Eli Eli lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why

have you forsaken me?"

Mark 15:34

And at the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, "Eli Eli lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Of the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross, this one stands out. It is the only saying recorded in Matthew and Mark, and is the only one that appears in two, parallel accounts.

This phrase also appears on the opening line of Psalm 21.

Many Christians believe that the quotation presents Psalm 22 as a prophecy of Christ's suffering, of his message, and, as a whole, of his exaltation

### I thirst

John 19:28

He said, "I thirst".

This saying perhaps represents the total humanity of Jesus, and the thirst for God of those who are put far from him. As he is given sour wine to drink, soaked in a sponge on a hyssop stem, this may be a reference to Psalm 69:21, where sour wine is offered.

It may allude to Jesus' statement about drinking the cup that the Father gives him (John 18:11).

### It is finished

John 19:30

Jesus said, "It is finished".

Jesus announces that his work, atonement, is completed. Sometimes the meaning 'the debt of Humanity to God is written off' is read into this verse.

### Into your hands I commit my spirit

Luke 23:46

And speaking in a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit".

This saying is based on Psalm 31:5. Because of this, it is unlikely that 'my spirit' refers to a disembodied soul, but simply to one's self: I put myself in your hands now.

Holy Jesus, devoid of any sins chose to die on the cross in order to redem the humanity, thus expressing His profound love for the sinful mankind. The sayings on the cross expresses a variety of emotions, expressing forgiveness for those plotted to crucify Him, the agony of undergoing painful death, expression of his love for his earthly mother finally culminating in committing himself into the hands of the Father.

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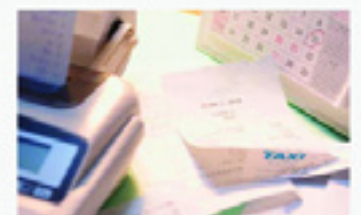
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## Rajaguru T. Raveendran - Renowned Scholar in Martial Arts from India - in Toronto

By: Pudhuvai N.Raman, M.A

Art is long-Life is short – Learning any kind of art has no age limit. Apart from acquiring knowledge through highest qualifications, one needs primarily to qualify himself in self discipline, self confidence tuned with moral character and good physical health. Living for long ages has no meaning unless one achieves the credits, respects and recognition among all. Even after his death, his name should remain as everlasting in the history of mankind. But, what is the real state of nature universally, if you imagine which will focus the intensity of stress and strain, peaceless life because of innumerable problems and unhealthy conditions. Above all increasing anti-social activities such as violence, terrorism, murder and looting, damages to the public properties etc throughout the world.

Particularly in this modern world, the younger generation's mind are polluted with the above activities due to increasing unemployment problems, non recognition of their talents and skills. Above all the relationship with parents and teachers resulting to take their own decisions as per their whims and practice. Though failure is the stepping stone for success, innumerable youth who have become dejected in their life, have not realized this golden proverb. With guilty of consciousness, they become not only the burden to their families but also regarded as enemy to the community. Hence it is the primary responsibility of the parents to look after them by providing proper care through education, moral habits with good friendly environment so as he or she gets respected by all. Thereby they become the roll model to others. Mere education can't fulfill these qualities unless opportunities such as art and music, painting and sportive activities are not utilized by them from their tender age. To achieve and sustain this revolutionary vision, Master Rajaguru T. Raveendran from Tamil Nadu, who often used to visit Toronto, has come again with a long term project.

We all know that throughout the world the self-defence martial art in the name of Karate and Kungfu are very popular among all. Though it has originated from our Asian tradition in the form of

Silambam, Kalari, Vil & Vaal Payirchi, wrestling etc have taken various styles as per the traditions and cultures of each nations. All such arts not only develops physical strength, but also provides mental growth for successful life with spiritual mind. Though it helps to safe guard in times of danger, violence not only to oneself as well others also. In Canada, we all know that Rajaguru Martial Arts Academy, founded by Rajaguru T. Raveendran has become very popular through its Director Mr. Sri Ram Rangan.

Canada, being a country of giving importance to the unity in cultural diversity, Mr. Sri Ram has been giving this training for the past 5 years and achieved lot of credits by their students participation in various national level and state level competitions and won championship with the able guidance of his master Rajaguru T. Raveendran.

Master Rajaguru T. Raveendran, being very simple in nature, has achieved a record of honors and accolades in various countries. Being an exponent in the Martial Arts, he has got number of branches in various states of India and participated number of International Conferences. Being an editor of 'Manitha Sakthi Kural' his contributions in social services are abundant. As such he runs an orphan school as well feeding more than 10 seniors for the past 15 years at Chennai (Tamil Nadu). This time his visit to Toronto to organize number of workshops, seminars and to give training in the new techniques of Martial Arts to the students of Rajaguru Martial Academy Scarborough and its branches.

His main objectives are focused to train the minds of youths to develop their skills physically and mentally associated with spiritual concepts like Yoga and Meditation. With all these background and experience of intellectual personality, no doubt he will enrich our younger generation to lead a successful life in all respects. Thus his vision to establish among the teenagers the path of self discipline and moral characters will put them to achieve greatness and enlightenment in future. For further details please contact Master 'Rajaguru' T. Raveendran 647 887 4878 or Mr Sri Ram Rangan 416 473 8472

## Dilmah's Natural Ginger Teas are now available in Sri Lankan stores in Toronto

Dilmah Teas, the premium brand known around the world for their unique freshness and quality, has now introduced their Ginger tea in Toronto and surrounding areas. Ginger is rich in polyphenols and flavanoids and has many health beneficial effects. Asians commonly use ginger in tea to add flavor. Since entering the Canadian market couple of years ago, Dilmah has quickly established as a quality brand of tea.

With several scientific studies showing drinking tea on a regular basis is beneficial to health, more people are turning to tea, away from coffee and cola drinks. The anti-oxidants found in tea are shown to boost our immune system and help our body to fight infections. The flavanoids found in tea are shown to reduce the LDL ('bad cholesterol') levels in blood, and reduce hypertension

and heart diseases. However, the amount of benefits depends largely on the quality of the tea. In general, the teas that give dark color and bitter taste are low quality teas that have lost most of the antioxidants and flavanoids. Teas grown in Ceylon are known to be the best, because of the elevation and climate.

They are expensive in the market. The leading brands in Canadian market are 'blended' teas. The true meaning of 'blend' is, teas from different parts of the world are mixed. A typical blend has large percentage of cheap, low-quality African teas and low percentages of Indian and Ceylon teas. Unlike the blended teas, Dilmah teas are unblended, pure Ceylon teas. Because Dilmah teas are processed and packed within 15 days of being plucked, they are uniquely fresh. This process

ensures not only the freshness of aroma and flavor but also the richness of anti-oxidants and flavanoids that give the health benefits. Dilmah tea is designed to empower the consumer by offering unblended teas of a single origin pure Ceylon, which arguably is the home of the best teas in the world.

Dilmah's premium black and ginger teas are now available in select Sri Lankan stores. Dilmah's ginger tea is delicately enhanced with Natural ginger for the spicy, sweet taste. These teas are available both as loose leaves and in tea bags. To ensure the freshness and flavor, loose ginger teas are vacuum-packed in airtight packets, and the ginger tea bags are foil wrapped.

To learn more about Dilmah teas, please visit Dilmah's web site at [www.dilmahtea.com](http://www.dilmahtea.com)

## St Thomas and Basilica of San Thome

Continued from Page 11

In Kerala he founded seven churches at Palayur, Kodungallur, Kottakavu (Parur), Kokkamangalam, Niranam, Nilakal and Quilon. After his teachings of the gospel on the west coast, he shifted his activities to the coast of Tamil Nadu in the East. Three places are outstanding in their connection with the missionary work of St. Thomas in this part namely Mylapore, Little Mount

was praying before the cross carved by him on a stone, which is seen to this day, an assassin procured by King Mahadevan's ministers and priests, crept up stealthily and pierced him with a lance from behind. Thereupon, the Apostle is reported to have fallen on the stone cross and embraced it, his blood wetting it and the space around. This was in the year 72 A.D. This cross was

Kutchery road, Mylapore. It is believed that the Apostle Saint Thomas lived his last years in South India. This Cathedral was originally built in 1504 by the Portugese. It was rebuilt in 1893 with a 180 ft basilica by the British.

It is supposedly built atop the tomb of one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, St. Thomas.

San Thome Basilica is the



and Periamalai. Here he was the favorite of the local king Mahadevan. But he was ever in danger of losing his life by the scheming ministers of the king. St. Thomas had to hide in the jungles of the Little Mount to escape persecution. From Little Mount he shifted to St. Thomas Mount, a very difficult place of access in those days. Unbroken tradition maintains that while the Apostle

accidentally discovered as the Portuguese were digging up the foundations of a new church on the mount.

The Indian Government issued a stamp commemorating the 1900th death anniversary of St. Thomas in 1972. This cross is specially adopted for design of this stamp.

Basilica of San Thome

This Cathedral is at the end of

principal church of the Madras-Mylapore Catholic Archdiocese. In 1956, Pope Pious XII raised the church to the status of a Minor Basilica, and on February 11, 2006 it was declared as an international shrine by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. The San Thome Basilica is a pilgrimage center for Christians in India. The church also has an attached museum.



# Monsoon Newsline

## Entrepreneurship in Asia, Alive and Kicking

By Philip Fernando

Asian giants China and India have shown colossal economic gains generally considered epochal and almost parallel to what USA went through during period following World War II. India just unveiled the cheapest car in the world and its capacity to attract investment and jobs is almost legendary. China's growth rate has even surpassed the ravenous consumerism of the west in terms of goods and services produced. They are going through the most rapid industrialization in history. China has factories that can accommodate 200,000 workers. The most critical measure of success is that both countries are showing tremendous acumen in creativity in management and production methods.

According many published accounts, among the 193 nations in the world, China is easily the number one in steel, concrete and metals consumption. China manufactures half the cameras, one-third of all TVs, and by 2015 over sixty percent of all cars made in the world. World's most reputed

and posh car manufacturers have set up shops in Beijing: Porsches, Ferraris and Maseratis.

Several studies by research groups predict that China's middle class of 100 million would increase to 700 million by 2020. Billionaire Rupert Murdoch foresaw this phenomenal growth years ago and spent a fortune spreading out its roots in China and has shown tremendous potential after a slow start. Microsoft has a solid foothold in the region. These are only two of the western giants trying to make it big over there. Hundreds are following suit in areas so varied that it is too numerous to mention here.

Economist Maynard Keynes's equated the building of Pyramids by armies of surplus labor in ancient Egypt, to what came to be known as the stimulus driven economic growth. Induced demand for goods and service did the trick when consumption was low. The recent congressional bonanza to the U S consumers to the tune of a \$ 152 billion stimulus packet

was nothing short of a gigantic demand booster, instead of building pyramids, consumers are rushing to Walmart. China is bent on taking similar steps to keep alive its growth rate.

The fiscal boost is occurring in China at a terrific pace. World Finance Ministers gathered few weeks ago in Tokyo to talk of similar stimulus packets. Increasing spending will also happen in Britain according to Alistair the chancellor.

Most observers felt a tinge of gloom when China showed a drop in its export revenues. Contrary to what was doomed a down turn, China has increased its reliance on domestic spending to an unprecedented level. China's economy now relies greatly on the internal demand caused by massive doses of investment on power plants, roads, railways as well as consumption of car, clothes, shoes etc. So much so that most economist believe that the drop in external demand for goods produced in China due to the recessionary forces in the

west have not been felt to the extend anticipated.

China's appetite for raw materials is almost astronomical. According to the World Bank the net exports of China contributed less than one percent of the GDP in 2007. In contrast the domestic demand had grown by ten percent.

Growth rate driven by investment and domestic demand is what the world wanted to see happen in China. If the Chinese economy were to depend on exports to an inordinately high degree, any recessionary downturn in the west would have had deep financial implications. China is world's largest importer of iron ore, refrigerators, grains, cell phones, TVs, timber, foundries and fertilizers to name a few. It has assembled the largest number of bull-dozer, cranes and building equipment in the entire world.

China is emulating the classic economic growth model and relies on the proven method of delivering goods and services

according to economies of scale. With foreign exchange reserves of the highest level possible, the chances of development getting derailed were considered minuscule. It is ironical that what China is practicing now is also hotly debated here in the US as primary elections have centered on the topic of how best to stimulate the economy by consumer spending. Are the roles being reversed? Adman Smith the author of "Wealth of Nations" must be turning in his grave to see the type of free-enterprise system taking root in a place far away from his English country home.

The flip side of industrial growth has also surfaced due to the vast amounts of hazardous waste generated. Air and water pollution are a major problem. China is now the leading emitter of CO2 in the world ahead of the US. China is spending millions on environmental recovery and protection programs. Here too the scope is immeasurable. Cleaner methods of production are being pursued somewhat belatedly.

Courtesy: Asian Tribune



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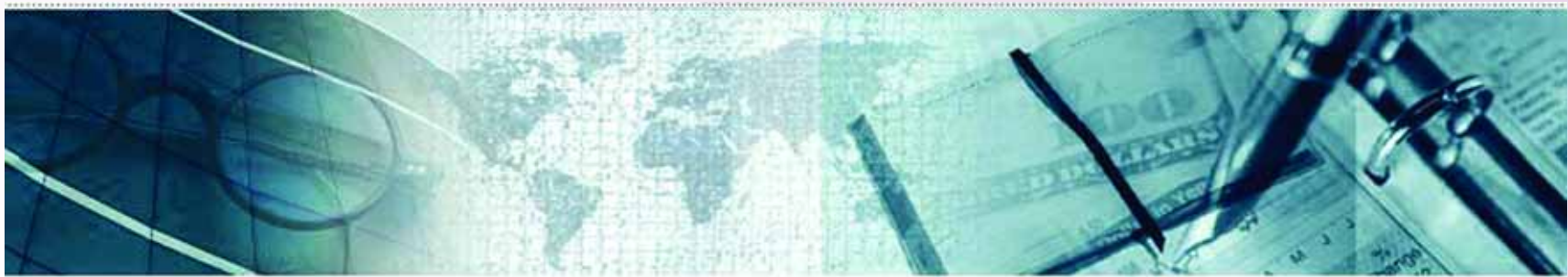
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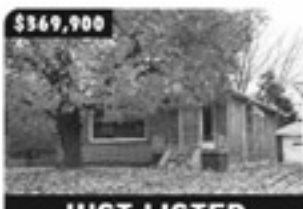
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## Mittal's £40m house on sale



Indian steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal has decided to sell off his £40-million house on Bishops Avenue here after one of his neighbours got permission to build flats next door.

Mittal's Summer Palace on Bishops Avenue - the ultimate Billionaires' Row in London - is one of Britain's most expensive homes. His neighbours include the Sultan of Brunei and members of the Saudi royal family.

But the world's largest steel maker has placed his property on the market with an asking price of £40 million after the Barratt family's plans to construct luxury apartments were approved by authorities, the British media reported on Friday. Mr Mittal, whose fortune is estimated at £51 billion, had earlier led an unsuccessful attempt to prevent the builder getting the permission

from the local city council.

However, according to media reports, there has been no comment on the issue by the steel magnate.

But, Mr Trevor Abrahamson of Glentree Estates, one of the two agents selling Mr Mittal's steel and glass house, has welcomed the apartments. "Because the buyers are local people, community spirit is coming back. Bishops Avenue is a global name. It is well known to the international wealthy and for them to have a house here is the ultimate status symbol. But Bishops Avenue will not become flats from end to end as planning laws are draconian."

"There is still strong demand from international buyers who want a second home in a political and economic safe haven, and also want a statement of their wealth," he added.

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Leased for 97% asking price



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**SOLD**

### Kennedy/Eglinton

2 bed rooms plus solarium, 2 full baths, Jacuzzi  
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upgrades  
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**SOLD**

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# Investment and Banking – Margosa Credit Union: An Analysis

Arun Senathirajah ACIB,  
MBA (Banking Mgmt) UK

## Introduction

Margosa Credit Union (MCU) received formal approval from the Financial Service Commission of Ontario (FSCO) and was incorporated on September 28, 2007. The MCU organized a successful Investors Nite on 18th of November 2007 at The Westin Prince Hotel, Toronto Ontario. Involving in the activities of a credit union is a new venture for Sri Lankan communities. This shows the courage and determination of the community to get involved in the main banking and financial stream of Canada. Sealan Professionals is the sponsoring organization of the Margosa Credit Union. The MCU would be functioning in compliance with the requirements of Credit Union and Caisse Populaires Act of 1994. To grasp a clear idea of the MCU's functions and role in the targeted Sri Lankan community, it is important to understand the growth of the credit unions, current environment and regulatory framework, its supporting organizations in which credit unions operate. A comparison between the banking sector and credit unions in the organizational structure and products and services rendered are also looked into in order to make a correct assessment.

## Growth of Credit Unions

The credit union movement in Canada currently consists of almost 2,200 individual credit unions caisses populaires, all of which are co-operatives. Canada has the world's highest per capita membership in the credit union movement, currently about 33 per cent of the population are members of a credit union. Today credit unions are the only financial service providers for more than 900 Canadian communities. Credit union assets are also more closely tied to the local economy than are those of other financial institutions. Based on assets, some of the participants in the Canadian credit union movement rank among the largest in the world. Together the more than 600 credit unions and over 700 caisses populaires represent assets in excess of \$128 billion. Desjardins has more than \$70 billion in assets and about \$12 billion in assets under management. The average return on equity for

banks and trusts from 1991 to 1998 was 8.8 per cent, slightly higher than the 8.5 per cent for credit unions. However, the performance of credit unions has been much less volatile than that of banks and trusts. The movement is well capitalized. Over the past decade, credit unions have increasingly financed their growth out of retained earnings rather than share capital.

## Regulation

The legislative and regulatory framework for credit unions and caisses populaires generally parallels that of federal financial institutions, such as banks. All credit unions and caisses populaires are provincially incorporated. Consequently, the industry is almost exclusively regulated at the provincial level. The federal government does, however, play a regulatory role in the credit union movement through some of the centrals. The national central, the Credit Union Central of Canada (CUCC), is chartered and regulated by the federal government, which provides the CUCC with liquidity support through the Bank of Canada and the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC). In 1999, the federal government announced a major reform of the financial services sector. Among the initiatives affecting credit unions was a proposal to restructure the current three-tier system of local credit unions, provincial centrals and the national central into a two-tier system. Another proposal centred on the possible creation of a national co-operative bank.

Role of DICO (Deposit Insurance Corporation of Ontario) DICO insures all deposits in Canadian Currency payable in Canada. Deposits include Savings and Chequing Accounts, Term Deposits, Guaranteed Investment Certificates, Interest and Dividends payable in deposits. Membership shares, investment shares, preferred shares, Foreign Currency deposit accounts, Mutual Funds are not insured by DICO. In the unlikely event of ceasing operations of a credit union, the deposits continue to be insured by DICO in accordance with the specified coverage limits. As a general rule, CDIC protects eligible deposits up to a maximum of \$60,000 per person at each member institution.

Role of Credit Union Central of Canada (CUCC)



While credit unions are independent, local organizations, they are linked and served by provincial and national organizations. Provincial centrals in every province and the national CUCC ensure a collective voice for credit unions and the economy of scale necessary to offer the most advanced financial services. One of the primary roles that the provincial and national centrals play is to manage liquidity within the credit union system. That means ensuring that credit unions with heavy borrowing needs can access money from CUCC with money on deposit. It is through the centrals that credit unions access credit and debit card systems, gain access to the Canadian payments system, and ensure deposit guarantees. Another service of Credit Union Central of Canada is the MemberDirect® On-line Access System. And the Credit Union Electronic Transfer Systems® (CUETS) handles credit card management for the system. The CUCC supports credit unions as a last resort similar to Bank of Canada stands to help commercial banks.

## Other Supporting Organizations

The trend in the financial services industry is toward financial institutions offering an ever-wider range of services. Credit unions are no exception. Through Credit Union Insurance Services, a joint venture of national co-operative insurers The CUMIS Group and The Co-operators Group, credit unions offer members a full range of insurance services. Concentra Financial Services Association assists credit unions in administering Registered Retirement Savings Programs, Registered Education Savings Programs, mortgages, estates, and other wealth man-

agement services. Credential Financial Inc® is the national wealth management provider founded by the Canadian credit union system. By partnering with Credential, credit unions can offer their members access to a diverse range of investment and insurance products, as well as investment planning, advice, and sound portfolio management. It administers more than \$5 billion on behalf of its credit union partners.

## Financial Services Innovations

Technological changes continue to push the credit union movement to re-evaluate the most appropriate method of delivering services to its members. They were among the first to install ABMs, and have been leaders in the provision of direct payroll deposit services in Ontario, debit cards in Saskatchewan, telephone banking in British Columbia and on-line banking in Quebec. Today, the credit union movement is keeping pace with product and service developments in Canada's financial services sector. The movement is becoming more active in the sale and distribution of mutual funds and insurance products. Desjardins is especially active in the insurance market. In British Columbia, Vancouver City Savings Credit Union owns a bank. And credit unions generally have access to trust services through Co-operative Trust Company of Canada. Many credit unions are now offering services over the Internet.

## Comparing Credit Unions and Banks

There are many significant differences between credit unions and banks. Credit unions are established on the basic principles of a co-operative movement. A credit union exists solely to serve

and promote the financial well being of its members. Credit unions operate under one member – one vote system. It tries to help financially the people who have been deprived in being accommodated by the banks because of their poor credit rating or virtually have credit history at all and including those of modest means through a system that is cooperative, member-owned, volunteer directed and not-for-profit. Unlike banks, credit unions do not to pay high dividends to an outside group of stockholders. Credit union income is returned to members and so that credit unions can offer higher interest rates on deposits and charge lower rates on loans.

## Structure and Membership

Credit unions and caisses populaires are co-operative financial institutions owned and controlled by their members. Their ownership and corporate governance are based on co-operative principles, and their main purpose is to provide deposit and loan services to members. Each member has one vote, regardless of the size of deposit or share capital held. The members elect a board of directors – mostly volunteers, for their credit union at an annual general meeting. Banks are for-profit, board and stockholder controlled, financial corporations. Stockholders hold influence in the bank based on the total value of their stocks. Customers of a bank who are not stockholders do not own a financial interest in the bank. Boards are compensated for their service. Banks face no restrictions on which clients they serve. Under federal and state laws, credit unions may only offer membership to individuals who belong to a select group, community or membership is defined by a geographic area. Membership entitles members to certain legislated rights. Among these legislated rights, is the fact that a credit union does not get the right to refuse service to whomever they please. Each member must purchase at least one share in the credit union, the cost of which varies according to the size and type of the credit union. This share confers membership and the right to use the credit union's services.

Continued in Page 30

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Continued from page 29

### Products and Services

Credit unions concentrate on the provision of services to members, which results in the "recycling" of membership funds. In this way, credit unions play an integral role in local development by reinvesting their deposits and profits in the community as personal and business loans, mortgages and dividends paid on members' shares. On average, compared to banks, credit unions pay members higher rates on deposit accounts and offer loans at lower interest rates. Credit unions offer attractive pricing. At a time when many Canadians are frustrated with the impersonal service they receive from big banks, credit unions took care of this role and their communities as priorities. Since credit unions are member based, they tend to be more familiar with their clients than other financial institutions. Credit unions have maintained a steady market share in such key service areas as residential mortgage financing, consumer credit and deposit services. Credit unions are an important source of financing for small and medium-sized enterprises as well. Credit unions provide the same kinds of financial services as do banks i.e. savings and chequing accounts, term deposits, Registered Retirement Savings Plans, consumer and business loans, credit cards, debit cards, on-line services, mortgages, wealth management etc. on a for-profit basis. But earnings are not the main motivation of credit unions. Service to members and the community is of equal or greater importance. For example, 85 per cent of individuals who conduct basic banking operations at a credit union will also go there to obtain personal loans. In comparison, only 60 per cent of those who conduct their basic banking at a bank will use their branch for personal loans. Compared to credit unions, bank pay the customer lower interest rates on deposit accounts and offer loans at higher interest rates. They are also important in the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises. In ranking small business satisfaction with the quality of service received from their banking institution, a 2003 Canadian



Federation of Independent Business survey found that credit unions ranked first in terms of overall satisfaction among business clients. Credit unions now account for 18 per cent of the small business banking market in Canada. Credit unions also charge fewer service fees and provide more free services than a conventional bank or trust company.

### Margosa Investment

Subsequent to the approval of the Financial Securities Commission of Ontario (FSCO) Margosa Credit Union have effectively started selling shares from September 30, 2007. Margosa Credit Union is authorized to offer for sale to its members Class A Investment shares and Class B Investment Shares. It will sell at least 1,500,000 Class A investment shares and Class B Investment Shares. Both Class A investment shares and Class B Investment Shares will be sold at \$1.00 per share. Minimum of 500 and maximum of 5000 shares are allowed for purchasing of Class A investment shares. Minimum of 5000 and maximum of 25000 shares are allowed for purchasing of Class B investment shares. Thus the goal is to attract a total of \$1.5million investment capital allocated to 50/50 to each share holdings. The share offers are scheduled to close on March 15, 2008. Class C Patronage Shares are shares which would be used to pay dividends on the membership shares or to pay rebates based on the business a member does with MCU. Membership

Shares purchased at a purchase price of \$100 when you join MCU.

### Income

Class A shares have cumulative dividend feature and Class B shares are non-cumulative. The dividend rate proposed for the Class A Investment Shares is 0.5% above the average month-end posted rate for non-callable, 5 year Government of Canada bonds during the previous year, as published by the Bank of Canada. Dividends on the Class A and Class B Investment Shares are not guaranteed and based solely on the profitability of the MCU and the discretion of the Board of Directors

### Marketability, Liquidity and Risk Involved

MCU investment is a venture oriented seed capital. It has no secondary market. It is not like an investment in blue chip companies or like AA rated investment or other exchange traded securities. MCU investment is not a liquid investment, such as large caps, governments, supranational or corporate bonds with a good credit rating. Once invested exit strategy also has a 5 year lock-up period, with subsequent laddered exit option for a minimum of 10% per year of the total investment in the MCU by an investor. Full redemption could take about 15 years period. Generally neither Class A nor Class B Class shares are redeemable for five years after they are issued. After five years redemption will be restricted in any fiscal year to 10% of the total amount of Class A or Class B Investment Shares issued.

### Diversification

A combination of several different investments is likely to provide a more acceptable level of risk exposures than having all assets in a single investment. The risk level of single investment is mitigated when it is a part of total portfolio holdings. Anyone thinking of investing their entire savings should seek an investment advisor before investing in MCU shares. If the prospective client already has a diversified portfolio he/she would face lesser risk. Prospective investors should also bear in mind it is a midterm to long-term investment and the investment value is much dependent on the success of the MCU.

### Expected Role of the Margosa Credit Union

Backed by Sri Lankan members, Margosa Credit Union is committed to the following:

- Sense of pride and belonging
- To generate savings with their own Credit Union which they can trust
- Provision of low cost service
- Quality of service in a home-like environment
- Overcome language barriers with respect to main stream banking
- Provision of specialized services
- Satisfy the needs of our seniors and low income earners
- Low literacy and educational levels are not a problem to serve.

### Marketing Strategy

There are well over 350,000 Sri Lankans live in Toronto GTA and its suburbs. The MCU will offer a range of low cost products and services to the diverse economic and social-make up of the members and potential members. It will look out for better ways to reach out to the under-served in the field of membership. Further there are many successful business entrepreneurs who may need more financial help to thrive. There are categories of customers of Sri Lankan origin who face severe constraints and conditionalities from the main banking system, such as high transaction costs, insistence of high credit rating, collateral etc. Other customers could be attracted from the negative / hard-line approach of the main banking system in par-

ticular: impersonalized service due to automation of the banks, insensitivity to particular needs of the borrower, total rejection by the banking system and non-accommodation of marginal borrowers by the banks.

### Products and Services

MCU has a plan to accommodate opening of Saving Accounts, Cheque Cashing, Term Deposits, and granting Personal Loans at the early stages of its functioning. As it grows MCU will embark on other businesses such as Checking Accounts, RRSP Accounts, Home Mortgages, Wealth management, Credit cards, granting business loans etc. Deposits and profits MCU make will stay and be reinvested in the entity, for the benefit of the members.

### Commitment to Community and Common Goal

The mission of the MCU is to provide full range of personal financial services of superior quality to its members in an environment of mutual respect and genuine caring. With a common goal of community commitment the MCU expect to make a financial impact on lives of Canadian Tamil and Sinhala communities living in Ontario. With the same motive it welcome the prospective investors who are prepared to take risks in achieving this common goal. They are also advised to consult their financial advisors before making their investment commitment.

A prospective investor should read MCU's Simplified Prospectus, which elaborates the structure of the shares and other basic information need to know before investing. Further they should obtain an application form for membership (if you are not a member already) and offering statement. The offering statement contains important information about the investment. Investor should complete a pair of forms to subscribe for investment shares. You can call 416 298 4540 or 416 308 3852 or visit Margosa Credit Union Office at 100A-2100 Ellesmere Road at Markham and Ellesmere intersection in Scarborough ON. to obtain these documents.

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# Monsoon Features

## New Fashion Magazine in Toronto

**By Krishni Loganathan**

A Toronto based Media Company-Serandib Media 1 has launched a fashion Magazine titled Total Fashion Magazine. The magazine is produced by a group of talented Canadians from diverse cultures and will cover the latest news, trends and styles from the fashion and beauty industry. Contributions will be from both European and Eastern cultures that are showcased in today's fashion world. The first issue covers current seasonal fashion trends with articles on how to look better for the career woman, fashion tips for young professionals and wedding tips for the

blushing bride. Additional features include lifestyle stories on black history month, Chinese New Year and new fashion designers.

TFM will be published six times a year and was announced that the first issue will be distributed free of charge. The magazines will be available at all Gateway Newsstands in subway stations in the GTA. The Publisher of the Magazine is Thiru Mahesan while the Chief Editor is Siva Chidambaram.

Pictures here are from the launch event held at Princess Banquet Hall...

*Photo Courtesy: Kajan Bala*



A Team member of TFM being interviewed at the Launch Party.



Publisher Thiru Mahesan



Fashion Models displaying the latest trends



Publisher Thiru with Team Members



Publisher Thiru Mahesan and Editor Siva Chidambaram interviewed by ATN at the Magazine Launch



Fashion Models at the Launch



Bridal & Beauty Care Expert Logi Mariathasan addressing the guests



The TFM team - L to R: Siva Chidambaram - Editor, Thiru Mahesan - Publisher, Reshu Khanna - Chief of Operations, Kajan Bala - Graphic Designer, Jay Molina - Advertising & Marketing



## Fund raising event for Markham-Unionville Conservative candidate - Duncan Fletcher

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, attends the function for fundraising dinner event for Conservative candidate for Markham-Unionville, Duncan Fletcher.

Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, MP, York Police Chief Armond LeBarge, Thornhill Conservative candidate Peter Kent attended the event.



## Durham Tamil Association raises Funds For much needed Medical Equipments for the Jaffna Hospital through An Evening of Entertainment

Jaffna Hospital's long felt need for an Anesthetic machine will soon be fulfilled, thanks to the tireless efforts of the Durham Tamil Association and the members who teamed up to make this a reality. The cost of purchasing the machine is estimated at \$ 23,000 and the Association has so far raised \$ 18,000.

An evening of variety entertainment was held recently at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Scarborough as part of the ongoing funding efforts. Mr. Mark Holland, Federal M.P. for Ajax-Pickering was one of

the distinguished guests present at the event. Mr. Holland praised the activities of the Association and remarked that the funding efforts was for a noble and worthy cause to satisfy a much-needed requirement for the Hospital.

Among several businesses who supported the event, Major Sponsors of the evening's entertainment were Adco Logistics and Home Décor, Cash Point, A&T Manpower Services, Skill Wood and Ms. Kalyani Nathan from Scotia McLeod. Among the Durham Tamil Association mem-

bers who spent time and energy towards the funding efforts were Kalyani Nathan, Kula Sellathurai, Thayanandan Raja-ratnam, Kanga Sivanathan, and several others. Dinesh Kumar spoke on behalf of the President of DTA and thanked everyone who assisted in the funding efforts and helped to put up the evening's entertainment.

Guests at the evening function were entertained with Music and Dance followed by a sumptuous dinner.



Mark Holland MP at Jaffna Hospital Fund Raiser event presenting trophy to one of the sponsors



Mark Holland MP at Jaffna Hospital Fund Raiser event



Some of the Organisers of Jaffna Hospital Fund Raiser

## Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce's President Gary Anandasangaree announces plans & development for 2008

At the quarterly meeting held on Feb 16th, President Gary updated on recent developments of the Chamber. Since taking office in October, the new Board has been working hard to build on existing programs and develop new ones in order to be more relevant to the members.

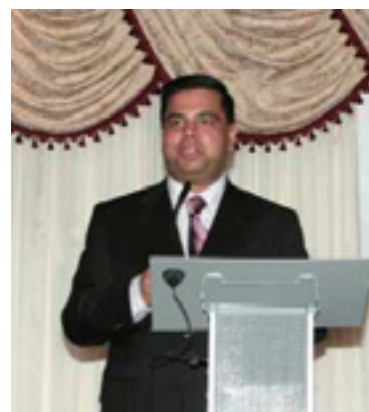
### Excerpts from President's speech is given below.

One of the first issues tackled by the Board was to develop a strategic plan for the organization. A strategic plan would allow stakeholders of the Chamber to modernize the organization, while ensuring that our core values are reflected in its mandate. After consultation with our Consultant, Sanjeevan Selvarajah, it was determined that the process would take much more time than initially anticipated. The process will commence by a questionnaire being sent to all members, past and present, to seek input into

some of the core issues confronted by the Chamber. Concurrently, we will set up several focus groups to study specific needs of the organization, mainly areas in which we require greater involvement from the Chamber. Thirdly, based on the information gathered both at the focus groups, and the general membership, we would have a one day strategic planning meeting culminating in a two and five year plan. While it is easy to put together a plan, it is much harder to implement. As a result, we will have an implementation strategy that will allow the Chamber to monitor its progress and evaluate our performance in implementing the plan. The initial round will begin shortly with a questionnaire being sent to all members.

The Chamber Board has taken a bold step by revamping Chamber Nite, our signature program. We are moving to a new venue, namely Fairmont Royal

York Hotel and have set the Chamber Nite for April 26th, 2008. Fairmont was chosen after an extensive search and discussion with several hoteliers. Fairmont Royal York offers the Chamber a venue which by itself will give us the exposure worthy of our event. The menu will be strictly South Asian, which was one of our concerns at our previous venue. Parking was a major consideration for us, and we are delighted to announce that we will be providing valet parking to the guests of the event. It is a good sponsorship opportunity that we are working on finalizing in the very near future. We have prepared a sponsorship package that is being circulated to potential sponsors. Once we finalize them, we will forward the information to you. We have also revamped the Awards categories. We have eliminated the Awards of Excellence and have added a new award which recognizes market-



ing excellence. The full details of these awards were mailed out to our members.

After considerable discussion, we decided to eliminate the Business Convention. This will be replaced by two new programs: the Annual Golf Tournament and a series of five to seven networking events around the city. More details of these two events will be forthcoming to our membership.

As part of our membership development process, we have entered into an agreement in principle with the Co-operators Insurance Company. The program will give between 5 to 10 percent discounts to all members

who purchase certain insurance from the Co-operators. The program will initially be available exclusively through the Morningside and Sheppard Branch. The program is likely to save each member around \$200 to \$500 dollars. In order to be eligible, each membership should be current and must have paid their dues for the year at the Chamber. We are in the process of developing more incentives with other suppliers. For more information, you may contact Senthuran Punithavel at 416-396-0707.

In closing, this will be a water-mark year for the Chamber. We are making changes: we have moved our office to a new location, have new staff, and have new programs in place. We will, over the course of the year, develop a strategy for the long term growth of the organization. Your vital input is critical to this process. We need you to be our ambassadors and bring in new people so that we can grow and be even more relevant.



## Waterloo News



# Lost empires rise and fall as storyteller weaves magic

**THANA DHARMARAJAH**

Guelph Mercury, GUELPH

"She stood four times, Wagadu in splendour.

"Disappeared four times in great distress through vanity, falsehood, greed and dissension.

"Four times she changed her name."

So begins Adwoa Badoe's tales of the fallen empire of Wagadu in Western Africa at its peak around 1050.

Wagadu is the name the people gave the empire, which Arab travellers later named Ghana, Badoe says.

In her unique voice, she'll tell these stories of the Soninke people dating back to the fifth century to Guelph residents at the Guelph Youth Music Centre Saturday night. She happened upon the tales in the book *African Genesis: Folk Tales and Myths of Africa*, compiled by German anthropologist Leo Frobenius and Douglas C. Fox.

"I saw these stories and they excited me because it was so old and I wondered 'What did they mean by how this empire was lost and found?' " Badoe says.

Wearing a cinnamon-coloured

Bubu, a traditional dress from Ghana, and a matching head scarf, Badoe sits on the stage at the music centre where she'll tell her stories like the storytellers before her told them to their villages.

In *Song of Wagadu: Song of Africa* she'll tell four stories of how Wagadu fell. The first fall is due to vanity.

The prince becomes frustrated because he is unable to inherit the throne since his father is incapacitated, but not dying, Badoe said. In his frustration, the prince learns to play the lute. In pursuit of this new interest, he abandons his responsibilities to the empire, which leads to its defeat.

Badoe will then tell of how the empire fell a second time through falsehood and a third time through greed.

"Every time the empire is lost, the empire finds a new beauty which helps it to be found again," she says.

The fourth time the empire falls is through dissension. The story doesn't explain the reason, but Badoe created her own story to end the tale.

"I see Wagadu in the state



that Africa is now," she says, adding she'll speak about how tribal wars and slavery led to dissension.

Badoe then has a young slave girl find these ancient songs of Wagadu and gets the whole world to hear these songs.

"Even though the story belongs to the Soninke people, I see a theme that runs through sub-Saharan Africa," Badoe says.

She's hosting her storytelling evening during Black History Month as a way to share her Western Africa heritage with those in Guelph.

"This is not just a story, but

its history," she says, adding that people remain concerned about building communities. "The themes of it speak about the very things we're concerned about today."

Growing up in Accra, Ghana, Badoe was always aware of storytelling and dance as part of her culture. She went on to train as a physician and when she arrived in Guelph in 1992, she began the tedious process of converting her credentials.

In the meantime, she began to explore her passion for writing. That led her to publish her first children's book, *Crabs for Dinner*, in 1995.

Then, while supervising lunch duty at the school her children attended, she began to tell stories.

They captured the interest of teachers, who invited her into their classrooms.

Badoe has since gone on to entertain audiences at storytelling festivals in Montreal and Toronto, Eden Mills Writers' Festival, Milton Writers Festival, the Mississauga International Children's Festival and the Hillside Festival.

Brian Holstein, a storyteller with the Guelph Guild of Storytellers, said with the advent of technology, people no longer seem to remember tales.

"The written word or the electronic word no longer requires people to remember fact . . . or fantasy," he says.

Storytellers like Badoe share many of these collected stories, moulding it to their own personalities.

"She just weaves magic," he says.

People listened carefully in the oral tradition because they didn't have the written word, says another local storyteller Ann Estill. Stories were a great source of knowledge to the community.

In every century there's been someone who cares about stories and won't let them go, Estill says, noting that Badoe collects these tales and brings them forth to the community.

"She lets us know of the struggles and joys of an earlier civilization."

## PROJECT HOPE

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## TAMIL CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WATERLOO REGION

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The program provides an opportunity for students to earn money toward their continuing education, and help start their careers with a true business leader. Students who meet the eligibility requirements are invited to apply.

Manufacturing and administrative positions are available to qualified students for the summer months. To apply for these opportunities, students should meet the following criteria:

- ❖ They are 18 years of age or older, as of the job start date for manufacturing roles. For administrative roles, students may be 16 years of age or older.

- ❖ They will be available to work full-time hours between May 1 and August 31, 2008. Start and end dates may vary depending on the role.

- ❖ They must be willing to work a variable shift schedule for manufacturing positions.

- ❖ They have enrolled in regular full-time studies at a post-secondary institution in September 2008.

**Note:** Previous manufacturing experience or enrolment in a technical or electronics program is considered an asset, but not essential.

Encourage your children, relatives, and friends to begin a great career path with RIM by applying for a summer student opportunity at [www.rim.com/go/students](http://www.rim.com/go/students).

**Remember:** Students must apply using the online form by Friday, March 14. Paper copies will not be accepted.

For more information, visit [go/campusrecruitment](http://go/campusrecruitment). If you have any questions, contact the RIM Summer Student Program at [summerstudent@rim.com](mailto:summerstudent@rim.com).

[www.tamilculturewaterloo.org](http://www.tamilculturewaterloo.org)



## Math and General Knowledge Contest Results

The Results of the contest organised by Mahajana College Old Students Association is given below. The contest was held on Jan 12, 2008.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Grades 1 &amp; 2 General Knowledge Contest</b>   | <b>Grades 1 &amp; 2 Mathematics Contest</b>   |
| Ramitha Muralitharan Gold Medal                     | Ramitha Muralitharan Gold Medal               |
| Cynthiya Gnanaseelan Silver Medal                   | Yanojan Selvanagam Gold Medal                 |
| Jaathursan Senthilkumar Bronze Medal                | Cynthiya Gnanaseelan Bronze Medal             |
| Subani Yohanathan Bronze Medal                      | Mathusza Jeyanathan Bronze Medal              |
| <b>Grades 3 &amp; 4 General Knowledge Contest</b>   | <b>Grades 3 &amp; 4 Mathematics Contest</b>   |
| Harrisan Srivenkupalan Gold Medal                   | Sulacsan Pirapakaran Gold Medal               |
| Sarika Navanatham Silver Medal                      | Kajan Thanabalachandran Gold Medal            |
| Mainan Ravinthiran Bronze Medal                     | Nivethika Kumarathas Bronze Medal             |
|   | Geetha Jeyapragasan Bronze Medal              |
| <b>Grades 5 &amp; 6 General Knowledge Contest</b>   | <b>Grades 5 &amp; 6 Mathematics Contest</b>   |
| Kuhan Jeyapragasan Gold Medal                       | Mithunan Ravindran Gold Medal                 |
| Harrish Suhumar Silver Medal                        | Harrish Suhumar Silver Medal                  |
| Mithunan Ravindran Silver Medal                     | Janahan Selvanagam Bronze Medal               |
| <b>Grades 7 &amp; 8 General Knowledge Contest</b>   | <b>Grades 7 &amp; 8 Mathematics Contest</b>   |
| Arun Sithamparapillai Gold Medal                    | Arun Sithamparapillai Gold Medal              |
| Arjun Arawinthan Silver Medal                       | Kirusanthi Kaneshwaran Silver Medal           |
| Kirusanthi Kaneshwaran Silver Medal                 | Durugshan Wijayakumarar Bronze Medal          |
| <b>Grades 9 &amp; 10 General Knowledge Contest</b>  | <b>Grades 9 &amp; 10 Mathematics Contest</b>  |
| Perasanth Sovunthararajan Gold Medal                | Nitharshan Nithianantharajah Gold Medal       |
| Piramilan Thuraisingam Silver Medal                 | Arjun Sithamparapillai Silver Medal           |
| Kershanth Thevasundaram Bronze Medal                | Piramilan Thuraisingam Bronze Medal           |
| <b>Grades 11 &amp; 12 General Knowledge Contest</b> | <b>Grades 11 &amp; 12 Mathematics Contest</b> |
| Anand Ganeshalingam Gold Medal                      | Vaisnavee Thulakanathan Gold Medal            |
| Kumararaj Manoharan Gold Medal                      | Anand Ganeshalingam Silver Medal              |
| Kovathisan Sriskanda Bronze Medal                   | Pranavan Ganeshalingam Bronze Medal           |

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### Words of Peace

## Three Educated Parrots

'What I would like to talk today is very simple. I would like to begin with a story' says Prem Rawat, widely known by the honorary title Maharaji.

"The story is about a person who loved to raise parrots. And so

of Beethoven.

Well, one day, unfortunately, the man died and the parrots got left. The relatives came, saw the parrots in the cage, and decided who was going to take care of them. Maybe the best thing is to

we know that formula." In all the things that they saying, they were really trying to impress this other parrot and the parrot was getting very-very impressed.

Out of the corner of his eye, he saw a cat, and this cat had

incredible formulas, we know these symphonies, we know so much. Surely, if we don't know one thing, what difference could it make?"

And as he saw the cat coming closer and closer, he took his wings and he took flight, and he said: "Good luck, because that one thing you don't know – that

with incredible explanations, and we talk about societies, about nations. But we don't talk about the individual people.

When the war rages on within the minds of individuals, this is the reflection that you see.

War is representative of what takes place in the vacuum of the fundamental fulfillment that each individual needs to feel.

Peace is not a luxury. Peace is as important as breathing air, as eating food, as having shelter. Because it is the fundamental necessity of every heart on the face of this Earth.

A long time ago, a Greek philosopher -- now, you know the name -- said: "Know thyself." A long time ago, a Chinese philosopher said: "To know your friends is good intelligence, but to know yourself is good wisdom." True wisdom comes when we can listen to our fundamental needs that are begging us for that freedom. If human beings can start wars, they sure can make peace. It is the reverse side of that coin.

Do whatever is necessary to find peace in your life and be content. Look for peace, find peace, and enjoy peace. If you can't, I can help. It's as simple as that.

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one day, he decided that he really wanted to raise some very, very special parrots. So, he went and he bought three eggs, hatched them, and started raising them.

And he tried to teach these parrots everything he could. He taught them about Newton's physics laws. He taught them about formulas. He played music for them. And by the time these parrots got old, boy, they could recite incredible formulas. They could quote from incredible scriptures. They could say amazing things. They could quack in complete tune, the entire symphony

release them. So, he did. Now, these parrots had never learned how to fly, so he let them out on the tree right outside the window and they crawled up on the branches and they sat there looking around. This was a new experience for them.

To their great surprise, they saw another parrot sitting on a branch higher up, and they struck-up a conversation. And the conversation went something like: "Look at all the things we know. We know this, and we know that, and we can recite this, and we know this formula, and

definitely deducted the parrots and was starting to come up the tree. So, this other parrot looked at the three parrots and said: "Do you know how to fly?" They said: "Of course, we know how to fly. We know everything about flight there is. Pressure is created at the bottom of the wing, low pressure's created at the top of the wing, and because of this, we can fly." He said: "No-no-no-no-no. I'm not talking about the formula bit, I'm talking about do you really know how to fly?" They said: "But we know so much. We know so much. We know all these

one thing you don't know – you really need to know. And because you don't know that one thing, all that you know isn't going to do you any good."

I think it's a cute story. What is the significance of this story? The significance of this story is that all that we have accomplished in this world – and it's a lot – but if we haven't accomplished that one thing that is so fundamental to us, then all that we have accomplished isn't going to help us.

We look at wars and we detest wars. And we come up



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# Monsoon Photo Journal



## Melasti, a Hindu ceremony in Bali, Indonesia

Melasti is held once a year, that is two or three days before the Hindu new year day, Nyepi. On Melasti day, thousands of Balinese (with traditional costume) head to the beach, carrying Hindu symbols. Holy songs are also played on the gamelan (traditional Balinese instruments) along with the sound of the priest's hand bell. Children, teenagers and the elderly sit together and devotedly say prayers to the Creator (Ida Shang Hyang Widhi Wasa). The Melasti ceremony is held as a symbol to sweep away all the dirtiness and to pick up the holy water that is found in the middle of the ocean, in order to clean the human mind and environment where they live

Melasti is also known as 'Day of Silence', and "Balinese New Year" in 2008 around March 7th.



Idol of Lord Ganesha in Bali



Bali Child Dancer



Bali's Kecak dance: Taken from the Hindu epic Ramayana, the dance tells the story of Prince Rama and his rescue of Princess Sita, who has been kidnapped by the evil King of Lanka. Unlike other dances, there is no gamelan orchestra accompanying it. Instead, a troupe of over 150 bare-chested men serve as the chorus, making a wondrous cacophony of synchronized "chak-achak-achak" clicking sounds while swaying their bodies and waving their hands.



Hindu Priest with Balinese Offering



Melasti Ceremony is one of unique traditions to sanctify the god symbol to the sea



Hindus in Bali hold the purification ceremony of Melasti, a day ahead of Nyepi Day



At a Melasti Ceremony



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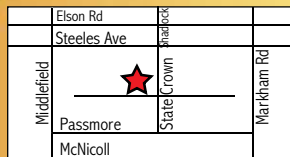
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# Monsoon Food Court



## Chinese Cuisine

Chinese originated from the various regions of China and has become widespread in many other parts of the world — from East Asia to North America, Australia, Western Europe and Southern Africa.

Regional cultural differences vary greatly amongst the different regions of China, giving rise to the different styles of food. There are eight main regional cuisines: Anhui, Cantonese, Fujian, Hunan, Jiangsu, Shandong, Szechuan, and Zhejiang. There are also featured Buddhist and Muslim sub-cuisines within the greater Chinese cuisine.

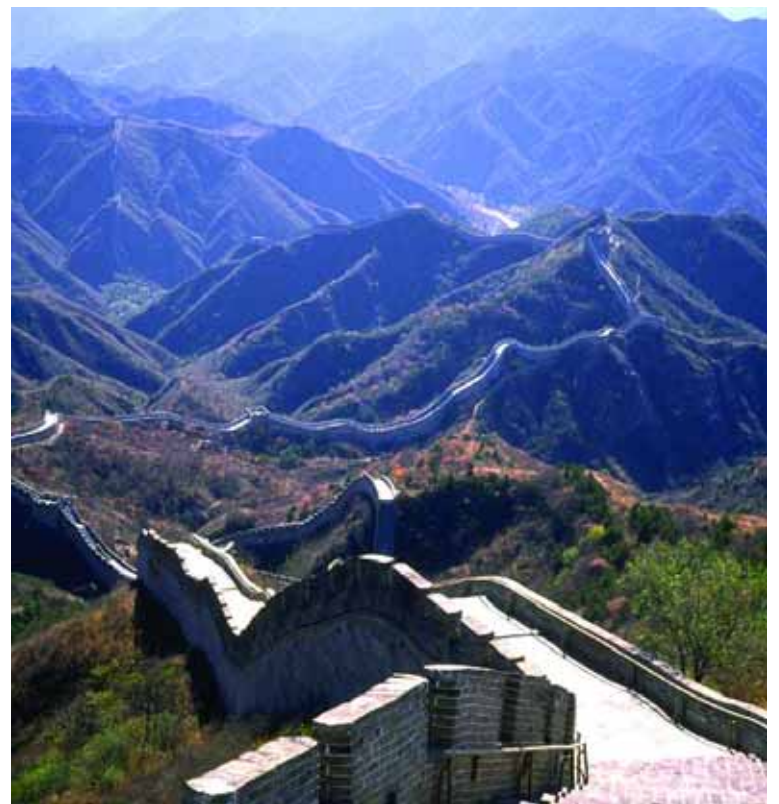
A meal in Chinese culture typically consists of two or more general components. Carbohydrate source or starch. Typically rice, noodles, or Steamed buns, and accompanying dishes of vegetables, meat, fish, or other items. This cultural conceptualization is in some ways in contrast to cuisines of Northern Europe and the USA, where meat or animal protein is often considered the main dish, and analogous to the one of most Mediterranean cuisines, based typically on wheat-derived components like pasta or cous cous.

Noodles are a critical part of much of Chinese cuisine, like, in

many parts of China, particularly northern China, wheat-based products including noodles and steamed buns predominate, in contrast to southern China where rice is dominant. Despite the importance of rice in Chinese cuisine, at extremely formal occasions, sometimes no rice at all will be served; in such a case, rice would only be provided when no other dishes remained, or as a token dish in the form of fried rice at the end of the meal. Soup is usually served at the start of a meal and at the end of a meal in Southern China.

In contrast to most western meals, a Chinese meal does not typically end with a dessert. However, a sweet dish is usually served at the end of a formal dinner or banquet, such as slice. Chopsticks are the primary eating utensil in Chinese culture for solid foods, while soups and other liquids are enjoyed with a wide, flat-bottomed spoon (traditionally made of ceramic). It is reported that wooden chopsticks are losing their dominance due to recent logging shortfalls in China and East Asia many Chinese eating establishments are considering a switch to a more environmentally sustainable eating utensil, such as plastic or bamboo chopsticks.

More expensive materials used in the past included ivory and silver. On the other hand, disposable chopsticks made of wood/bamboo have all but replaced reusable ones in small restaurant fruits or a sweet soup which is served warm. In most dishes in Chinese cuisine, food is prepared in bite-sized pieces. Ready for direct picking up and eating. Traditionally, Chinese culture considered using knives and forks at the table barbaric due to fact that these implements are regarded as weapons. It was also considered ungracious to have guests work at cutting their own food. Fish are usually cooked and served whole, with diners directly pulling pieces from the fish with chopsticks to eat, unlike in some other cuisines where they are first filleted. This is because it is desired for fish to be served as fresh as possible, and more importantly, whole fish culturally signifies wholeness of things as it has a proper beginning (head) with an end (tail). It is common in many restaurant settings for the server to use a pair of spoons to divide the fish into servings at the table. Chicken is another meat popular in Chinese meals. While the chicken is cut into pieces, and similar to serving fish every single piece of



the chicken is served including gizzards and head in order to signify completeness.

In a Chinese meal, each individual diner is given his or her own bowl of rice while the accompanying dishes are served in communal plates (or bowls) that are shared by everyone sitting at the table. In the Chinese meal, each diner picks food out of the communal plates on a bite-by-bite basis with their chopsticks. This is in contrast to western meals where it is customary to dole out individual servings of the dishes at the beginning of the meal.

Many non-Chinese are uncomfortable with allowing a person's individual utensils (which might have traces of saliva) to touch the communal plates; for this hygienic reason, additional serving spoons or chopsticks. Common/public/shared chopsticks) may be made available. In areas with increased Western influence, such as Hong Kong, diners are provided individually with a heavy metal spoon for this purpose. The food selected is often eaten together with some rice either in one bite or in alternation.

## SZECHUAN CHICKEN

6 chicken breasts, boneless, skinless, about 6 ounces each

4 egg whites

3 tablespoons cornstarch

Sauce:

4 tablespoons rice wine, dry sherry or cooking wine

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

3 teaspoons Tabasco sauce

3 tablespoons sesame oil

2 tablespoons soy sauce

2 tablespoons brown sugar

3 teaspoons chilli paste

1/2 teaspoon crushed dried red chillies, or to taste

2 slices ginger and 3 gloves garlic, minced

Other:

4 carrots cut into thin strips

1 red bell pepper, sliced

1 green bell pepper, sliced

1 onion, slice

3 green onions, chopped

1 cup plus 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

### Preparation:

Rinse the chicken and pat dry with paper towels. Cut the chicken breasts into thin strips. (Partially freeze chicken breasts first to make this easier).

Combine the sauce ingredients in a small bowl and set aside. Whisk the cornstarch into the egg whites. Coat the



chicken strips in the cornstarch mixture. Heat 1 cup oil in the wok. Cook the chicken strips briefly in the hot oil until they turn white. Remove the chicken and drain on paper towels. Clean out the wok and add 1 tablespoon oil. When the oil is hot, add the carrots. Stir-fry briefly and add the peppers.

Make a "well" in the middle of the wok and add the sauce. Heat briefly, and then mix the sauce in with the vegetables.

Return the chicken to the wok.

Stir-fry 1 to 2 more minutes. Stir in the green onions. Serve with rice.

## Simple Chicken Fried Rice

4 Egg, slightly beaten

4 tea spoons Oil

2 cups Chicken, finely diced

2 Onion, finely diced

1/2 cup Water chestnuts, finely

diced

1/2 cup Bamboo shoots, finely

diced

1/2 cup Celery, finely diced

1 cup Fresh bean sprouts

1/2 cup Frozen peas (opt)

1/2 cup Sliced mushrooms (opt)

6 cups Cooked rice

2 tea spoons Soy sauce

Salt & Pepper



1. Cut up and prepare all ingredients. Reserve.

2. Heat wok up with 1 tablespoon oil and fry egg into a thin sheet.

Remove to plate and reserve.

3. Add 2 tablespoons more oil to wok. Heat until smoking. Stir fry chicken and onion together until cooked. (If leftover meat is used, just heat through.) Add bean sprouts, peas, celery. Stir and cook 2 minutes with wok covered. Uncover wok, add all the rest of the vegetables. Stir fry and cook covered for 2 additional minutes. Add cooked rice, sea-

son with salt, pepper, soy sauce. Reduce heat to medium. Take your turner and break up clumps of rice as finely as possible. Make sure rice takes up soy sauce and does not remain

white. Keep stir-frying until all rice is broken up and heated through. Shut heat off. Cut up sheet of egg into small pieces and stir into rice, or remove rice to serving platter and garnish with egg slivers.

by Chef Nate  
chef@monsoonjournal.com



# Monsoon Features

By J.M. Rajaratnam

[ We have become expatriates for one reason or another and are bringing up our children in an environment and culture alien to what we were brought up in, and one which considers dark skinned people as inferior to the whites. We have unconsciously created an identity crisis for our children. At some time or other they come to ask themselves " who are we? what is our background? what is our culture & heritage? Is it inferior to the one we are growing up in?" Many of them are confused - are they Tamils or Americans, English etc. Many grow up with an inferiority complex.

We must take the time out of our busy lives to teach them that our civilization is one of the oldest in the world and our language is considered the oldest living language. They should be taught our culture and heritage. With this knowledge they should go about with their heads held high, that they are in no way inferior to others. This is not to say that they should not accept the best in other cultures. Mahatma Gandhi said that he would open the windows so that other cultural winds may blow in, but that he refused to be swept off his feet by them.

This article is written mainly to give an insight into our ancient civilization to our youngsters (and many old ones)]

Excavations in 1920 - 22 at Harappa & Mohenjodaro (which lie in what is now Pakistan) confirmed the existence of a hitherto unknown civilization in the Indus Valley. Contacts with dated phases of Mesopotamian civilizations showed that the great cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro, built of brick, including well constructed houses, a regular city plan and an elaborate covered drainage system, were flourishing before and after 2350 B.C. After this discovery the Indus Valley took its place with Mesopotamia and Egypt as the home of one of the oldest evolved civilizations of the world. It is evident from the excavated material that the civilization was essentially indigenous in character.

Indications exist that Harappa and Mohenjodaro which were strongly fortified citadels with rectangular watch-towers at regular intervals were seats of centralized government resembling that of autocratic priesthoods or priest-kings who combined the secular and religious administration, similar to temple rulers of Ur in Mesopotamia. Seventy five smaller sites have been identified with a distance between the two extreme points of more than 1000 miles North to South, and 300 miles East to West. Its area exceeded contemporary civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt and Iran.

The Harappa site, unfortunately, fell into the hands of brick-diggers and this vandalism is one of the greatest losses to archeology as otherwise more knowledge about the Indus Valley culture would have been available. Excavations have revealed nine occupation levels, one above the other, indicating long periods of prosperity and then decline. It was finally abandoned around 1700 B.C.

In addition to dwelling houses, there were well organized workmen's quarters, workmen's platforms for pounding grains, and granaries. Roofs of buildings were flat and were made

## ANCIENT TAMIL CIVILIZATION

of wood, reed and mud. Walls were often 5 feet thick and the size of the average house was 35 ft by 35 ft with several rooms placed around a central courtyard. A majority of the houses were two stories high and some were even higher. They appear well-designed and comfortable, with most having bathrooms and a circular well.

The most remarkable building at Harappa is the "Great Granary" with dimensions of 168 X 135 feet, possibly serving as a public storage, and at Mohenjodaro, the "Great Bath", possibly used for religious or ceremonial bathing. The dimensions of a large palace was 242 X 112 feet and another was 177 X 116 feet.

Their system of drainage is the most complete ancient system yet discovered and might almost be termed "modern". A brick lined channel flowed down every street and into this main drain ran small tributary drains from the houses on either side. The drains were covered over with brick laid a few inches below street level and which could be lifted if necessary, to inspect or clean.

The streets run in straight lines from East to West and are crossed by others at right angles going north to South, making these cities to be considered the earliest examples yet discovered where a scheme of town planning existed. Everywhere the impression is of order and symmetry. Some of the main streets of Mohenjodaro are of considerable size. Sir John Marshall the expert archeologist has marvelled at the planned city and drainage system and says that such wonderful buildings were never found in any other ancient civilization.

Some slight differences in the earthenware found in Harappa and Mohenjodaro led researchers to the conclusion that Harappa was older than Mohenjodaro.

Their ships sailed from the western port of Lottal excavated in what is now Gujerat.

The skeletal remains belong to heterogeneous races. Both cities seem to have been cosmopolitan as they had a floating population owing to their commercial character. The valley had flanks open to the intrusion of other races and the interior was occupied from times immemorial by races of comparatively lower stages of development. The main stock of the people had affinities with the Mediterranean people. Other types found were Austro-Asiatic and some Mongolian and Alpine people from the Central Asiatic highlands. The burials contained large collections of pots numbering 15 to 40. The dead wore ornaments - shell bangles, necklaces, anklets of paste beads, a copper finger ring, and earrings of thin copper wire.

In their pottery there is everything from huge storage jars down through a wide range of household utensils to tiny delicate domestic containers. Pottery is wheel-made and well fired and generally shows a thick red fabric, often treated with a bright red slip. There are offering stands, beakers, cups & saucers, goblets, dishes, basins, ladles, heaters, cooking pots and water pitchers. Painted designs include foliated and geometrical devices, mostly inter-locking cir-



cles, vase, comb and scale motifs. Toilet articles included handled copper mirrors ( the copper, when polished, had to do for the still undiscovered glass), antimony rods, shell spoons and mother of pearl shells.

Other items found are chisels, axes, saws, knives, spears and arrow-heads, even a copper razor; also fish hooks, needles, frying pans and even a dinner dish with cover. There are bone and ivory objects, statuettes in stone and red sand stone with details worked out with extreme realism and artistic skill. Though ante-dating the Greco-Roman statuary by about 2000 years, it can easily stand comparison to it. There were also inlaid work and high class miniature statuary.

Of the large number of terracotta human figurines found at Harappa, the majority are female, nude, except for a narrow girdle round the hips. Many wear a distinctive fan-like head-dress at the back of the head and are bedecked with profuse jewelry. Similar features favor the belief that they were sacred images representing the "Great Mother Goddess" whose images are found in large numbers in Iran, Mesopotamia and Egypt. Male figurines were nude and mostly bearded and wore long hair at the back. The figurines were modelled by hand and painted red. There were similarities with such objects found in the Middle East around the second millennium B.C. Animal and bird figurines were also found in large numbers.

The figural art is also illustrated by steatite seals bearing life-like representations of such animals as Brahamani bull, buffoon, tiger, rhino, crocodile, unicorn, a human figure with horns and a tail, and a horned tiger. The seals also bear short inscriptions in pictographic script. The plastic art was also well developed.

Ornaments are of many materials - terracotta, shell, copper, bronze, beads, precious metals overlays with gold, ivory, carnelian and other stones. Necklaces & pendants of beads of semi-precious stones are most common. Square disc-shaped etched carnelian beads decorated

with white designs similar to those of Mesopotamia & Iran have also been found, to indicate trade with those neighbors to the west. Gold necklaces, armlets, bangles, finger rings and fillets for head wear were worn both by men and women while carnelian beads, earrings, nose studs, anklets and conical head ornaments were worn exclusively by women.

The most characteristic of all objects found are the seals and sealings. Some Indus Valley seals found in Mesopotamian sites have helped to establish the close connections between the two cultures and to fix a date for the Indus Valley civilization. The date of the Indus Valley has been fixed with some certainty as contemporaneous with the early dynastic period of Babylonia - about 2500 - 1800 B.C. It must be remembered that it depends on Mesopotamian chronology, and any modification of the latter must entail a corresponding re-dating of the Indus Valley finds.

Their system of weighing was binary, the ratio being 1:2:4:8:16:32:64. Of a large number of weights found, very few were fraudulent. Copper and bronze were used for making domestic utensils, implements, statuettes and ornaments. The total absence of iron made implements indicates that they belonged to the Bronze Age.

Agriculture was the main occupation. They grew wheat, barley and date palm and were meat eaters. The existence of brick lined street drains and rain water pipes, the universal use of brick in construction and the representation of the seals of animals such as the tiger, rhino, elephant and buffaloes which favor moist habitat showed that the Indus Valley enjoyed heavy rainfall. They bartered crop surplus to import essential raw materials such as metals and other commodities. The architecture was plain and utilitarian. The aim seems to have been to make life comfortable rather than luxurious. Their religion seems to have included "Mother Goddess", and trees and animal worship.

It is certain that they were of non-Aryan racial stock and highly civilized,

possessing a high standard of art and craftsmanship and a well developed system of pictographic writing that had existed for a considerable period before the arrival of Indo-Aryans. It could be that they were invaders as their settlements have also been found in Baluchistan. They were probably already highly civilized before they entered the country. Almost all experts call the civilization "proto-Dravidian" and many are of the opinion that they are the ancestors of Tamils.

Prof Ra. Mathivanan, a research scholar, has determined that letters found in the Harappa inscriptions were ancient Tamil. The pictographic writing found under a painting on a rock formation in the South Arcot district of Tamil Nadu was the same as that found in the Indus Valley. A four foot long brick found during excavations in the Karunool district of Andrapradesh has inscriptions in Indus Valley letters. A seal found during excavations in Anaicodai in Eelam contained both Indus Valley letters and brahmlic script. All these have been translated into modern day Tamil.

More evidence of who the Indus Valley people were is found in the translations of the Vedas ( which were written by the Aryans who came to India some 3500 years ago) by H.H. Wilson, Ralph Griffith, and A.A. McDonnell and A.B. Keith in English and by M.R. Sambunatha Iyer in Tamil. The Indus Valley people are described as noseless, black and god-less barbarians. They are called Dravidians, Thasar, Thayook, Asurar, Arakkar, Rakshather and Sutra. They are also described as anti-gods, chandalas, milechas, sons of prostitutes and in many other derogatory terms. However, their courage and fighting abilities are praised. There are several reference to the town of Hariyupa (later became Harappa).

Some of the many major kings of the Thasar (Tamils) referred to in the Vedas are Samparan, Varacinan, Viruthiran and Susunan with whom the Aryans fought many battles. With Samparan they fought over a period of 40 years. Several sub-rulers and army chiefs are also mentioned. Thanu who went to the battle front to help her son Viruthiran and Kiraki and Arayi, wives of the sub-ruler Kijava, who also went to the front are some of the heroines mentioned. Even today these names are common in parts of Tamil Nadu. The army of the Tamils had women battalions.

The Vedas also refer to the Dravidians occupying the whole of the then known India from the Himalayas to Cape Comrin. They also mention that during the war the Aryans killed hundreds of thousands of Tamils, took several as slaves, destroyed several cities and fortresses, plundered their wealth, broke dams against rivers and bunds of tanks thus inundating the areas, and took their livestock and weapons.

The abandoning of Harrapa and Mohenjodaro was probably due to several factors such as sacking and flooding by invaders, progressive desiccation of the Indus Valley and dangers of floods.

There is no doubt that the civilization was ancient and well advanced. Tamils should be proud to belong to it.



# Monsoon Features

by **Samy Appadurai**

It was a very pleasant dinner party in downtown Toronto. I was invited as a guest, and was seated next to a highly skilled, recently-arrived new immigrant from East Asia whom I knew quite well. While having dinner, we started chatting about various topics, and, in due course, our conversation turned to real estate. The gentleman next to me told me he was looking to buy a house. I said, "Why don't you look for one in Scarborough?"

Spontaneously his face turned bright red, and a sharp, bitter reaction poured out of him. He spoke very negatively about Scarborough, and his vehemence shocked me. I would never have expected a new immigrant to react in such manner. I knew it was unlike him to express himself like that and realized that someone must have given him a biased opinion.

I buried my emotional reaction within myself and told him quietly that I had been living in Scarborough for the past 21 years and have never had any trouble. Rather, I told him, I enjoy living here. He told me that his friends had advised him that Scarborough should be his last choice. This is how a wonderful place is being painted with the wrong color.

Scarborough is a world in miniature. One can easily see this at Kennedy Station during rush hour. People who live and work in Scarborough come from over 170 countries, speak more than 160 languages and come from a multitude of ethnic groups. They live together like members of a modern family. Indeed, Scarborough is a role model for multiculturalism—the concept of unity in diversity, of people living together in peace and harmony. The demographic composition of Scarborough is special and unique. One need not travel around the world in eighty days to have new experiences. One need only visit Scarborough for a few hours to be exposed to a world of international culture and cosmopolitan experiences.

Today's rainbow in Scarborough reflects its make-up very well. It came out from a single cloud. When a couple of pioneers, David and Mary Thomson, settled in Scarborough almost 170 years ago, it was virgin forest

## My Scarborough



land. Since then, much transformation has taken place. Scarborough became part of Metropolitan Toronto on January 1, 1998, when the cities of Etobicoke, North York, York, East York and Toronto were amalgamated, and when the outlying boroughs, including Scarborough, were brought into the amalgamation. Now Scarborough is part of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), an area of 6387 sq km with a population of 2,385,421. The size of Scarborough is 70 sq miles.

Beneath our topsoil lie layers of Pleistocene deposits of the Great Ice Age, thousands of feet thick. Under them are the Ordovician sedimentary rocks. This rock formation contains fossils that were brought by the invasion of the sea more than 500 million years ago. It is land rich in minerals and fertile soil. The Scarborough landscape reflects the richness of what lies beneath the surface of the ground. Its magnificent cliffs and lakes, coupled with the great variety of trees such as maple, walnut, birch, oak and magnolia add to the beauty. In spring and summer, grass in all its glory covers the ground like a rich carpet. In winter, the purity of the snow covers all and imparts the landscape with a bare and haunting beauty.

Beautiful Lake Ontario and the other Great Lakes did not exist before the Pleistocene Ice Age. The Ice Age created not only the large lakes, but the numerous small lakes, rivers and creeks that are such an important part of where we live. They are part of Scarborough as well.

The first inhabitants of Scarborough were the natives who migrated to North America from Siberia via the Alaskan land bridge, which no longer exists. Research indicates that they arrived on our shores between 30,000 and 35,000 years ago. Their main occupations were hunting and trading. They began to make things around 5000 BCE. Around 500 BCE, agriculture was introduced by First Nations' groups in what is now known as the United States. Those Aboriginal peoples learnt agriculture from the First Nations' people living in what is now Mexico, who were the first known peoples to cultivate corn.

Upon the arrival of the white man from Europe, entire Aboriginal civilizations were flourishing on our shores. They spoke many languages, but, tragically, many of them were killed or have died out. In the face of much persecution and devastation, they continued to practice their religion

and maintain their cultural values. Today, although there has been a tremendous decline in the level of Native culture in Canada, parts of the country are experiencing a renaissance of First Nations' cultures and languages. This is particularly true in the Far North, specifically in Nunavut, and in the Prairie Provinces. There are now 1,172,790 Aboriginals living in Canada, and this statistic accounts for 3.8% of the Canadian population. Quite a number of First Nations' people reside in Scarborough.

The second wave of immigrants to Scarborough came from Europe almost 500 years ago. It is interesting to note that, on August 27, 1791, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe of Upper Canada officially named our region Scarborough.

Whenever I meet with Councilor Michael Thompson, attend the Lawrence Festival at Wexford and travel across Lawrence East, passing David and Mary Thompson Collegiate Institute, I always think of the Thompson, the distinguished Scarborough pioneers who arrived here in the 1790s. We citizens of Scarborough are honored to have their names grace the school.

The Thompson and the other

settlers of the time had very difficult lives. Nevertheless, they were steadfast in their determination to build up Scarborough, and, thanks to these tireless pioneers, Scarborough got off to a wonderful start. At that time the population density was very low, and the supply of land far greater than the demand for it. Incredibly, crown lands were sold at the rate of seventy-five cents per acre. Today an equivalent amount of land in Scarborough costs approximately half a million dollars or more.

When we look at Scarborough's burgeoning population today, it is hard to imagine that the area was not always densely populated. According to the census of March 1809, in the Town of Scarborough there were 34 men, 24 women and 82 children—a total of 140 souls. Today the average number of people living in a Scarborough high-rise is over one thousand. A few years prior to that census, in 1802, the number of inhabitants stood at only eighty-nine. Most of them were of British and French origin.

The economic depression of 1820-1850 brought Great Britain to its knees. Foreign trade collapsed. Small farms were sold to rich people and were turned into estates. The economic challenges of the time resulted in heavy job and property losses. Around the same time, the Irish Potato Famine hit Ireland very badly, and hundreds of thousands fled the country in order to survive. In addition, the Industrial Revolution eliminated the need for large numbers of workers, so a labor surplus developed. The unemployment rate skyrocketed as machinery replaced human labor. Meanwhile, the cost of living kept increasing but the minimum wage was brought down due to the labor surplus. All this adversity led to mass migration, and, indeed, the Government of Great Britain encouraged the exodus as they could see no way to support the population. Some of the emigrants settled in Scarborough, and their contributions to the town made it grow exponentially. It is remarkable that the population of Scarborough increased from 477 in 1820 to 1,135 in 1830.

Continued in Next Page

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# Monsoon Features

## My Scarborough

Continued from previous page

At first, education was left to the settlers. The planning, collection of the necessary resources, establishing schools and funding were not institutionalized. Of course, at that time a basic education was not considered a fundamental right. It was not mandatory for the government of the day to provide an education for ordinary children.

In response to the protests of the people, the Legislature of Upper Canada accepted upon itself the responsibility of providing basic education. This policy was implemented in the Town of Scarborough towards the end of 1817. The first school was established at the Thompson-Springfield farm and was followed at the L' Amoureux settlement. Subsequently, additional schools were established in other parts of Scarborough.

At that time both birth rates and death rates were high, but the natural increase in population was quite low. Poor health care and high infant and adult mortality were the cause. Indeed, the mortality rate in certain areas was as high as 60% during the 1830s. Many settlers died of tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, typhoid, typhus and smallpox.

As time went on, great advances in health care were made, immigration increased and Scarborough began to move from its rural and agricultural roots to an urban and industrial environment. The wooden houses gradually disappeared and were replaced by houses made of sturdy brick.

As well, the development of roads and transportation brought much-needed prosperity to Scarborough. Along with bicycles, electric trains were introduced. The telephone opened up new pathways of business and social life. The automobile, as well, contributed a great deal to the development of Scarborough. Cars and buses filled the streets. All of this brought about a dramatic increase in population: At the beginning of the 20th century, the population of Scarborough stood at 11,746.

While World War I left Canada with devastating losses, Canadians were proud that their efforts had contributed to the Allied victory in Europe. The advent of World War II, however, shook North America, Europe and much of the rest of the world to its very roots. After the war ended in 1945, our soldiers

returned home and settled down. Family life flourished, and the so-called baby boomers, along with many refugees and immigrants, made a very positive impact on the demographic pattern.

Since those days, Scarborough has become home to a multitude of newcomers who have brought their rich cultures, age-old languages, deeply held heritage values, special traditions, outstanding skills, long years of experience and many other assets to our community. Many of them also brought with them the suffering they experienced as a result of torture, genocide, discrimination and persecution. Others arrived as victims of natural calamities such as floods, tsunamis, volcanic eruption and drought. Others, however, came here with the resources to invest abundant capital in our community, and life in Scarborough has flourished as a result.

Scarborough is full of highly skilled people and outstanding professionals. Workers in the business and manufacturing sectors also contribute to the vibrant social climate in our community today. Scarborough is filled with positive energy, and artistic and cultural festivals fill our streets throughout the year. People here generally live together in peace and harmony, and they care for one another. They share their values, and, together, are quietly building up a very positive community heritage.

There are, of course, some negative aspects to life in our community. Tragically, youth violence, dysfunctional families, theft, vandalism, the drug trade and homelessness affect growing cities all over the world. Scarborough is no exception, but countless good-hearted people in the political, social, educational, religious, medical and business sectors are working hard to eliminate these problems. Results of these initiatives can already be seen, and their efforts will continue to bear fruit.

In conclusion, Scarborough is a city of old, established families and the newcomers who have joined them in creating a vibrant, progressive society. Scarborough is not at the bottom of the heap; it is a wonderful and thriving city. Newcomers are welcome to join us, and so are visitors. Please come to Scarborough and enjoy all that our community has to offer. You will not be disappointed.\

## Blood Donor Clinic Organised by Sri Sathya Sai Baba Scarborough Centre-Feb 23, 2008



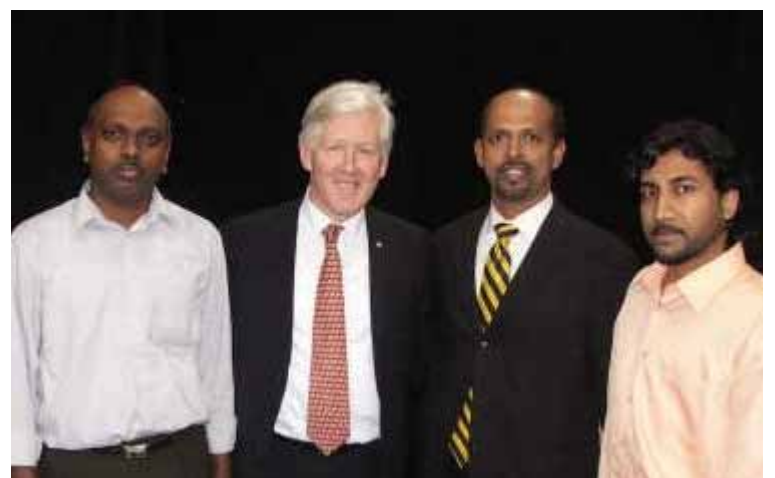
## "THENDRAL" SOUTH ASIAN TAMIL COMMUNITY FAMILY MONTHLY JOURNAL INTRODUCTION IN G.T.A



Publisher Vallikkannan (MVK) Maruthappan speaking about the launch of the Newspaper. Pudukai Raman Editor and Ram Kumar at the head table

## Bob Rae visits Tamil One TV station

Bob Rae who is contesting at the Toronto Centre constituency on 17th March 2008 by-election visited the Tamil One TV station last week and participated in the Political Desk TV feature conducted by Ken Kirupa. Mr. Rae also congratulated CEO of Tamil One Mr. Sri on the completion of 2 years TV broadcasting.





Message from  
Kanish A. Thevarasa

Chair, Bowlathon &  
Treasurer, Providence Health-  
care Foundation

It is indeed a pleasure for me to communicate this message through the courtesy of "Monsoon Journal" about the upcoming Bowlathon 2008 event which is primarily being held to raise funds for Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver project.

"Bowlathon" has been made a successful event, thanks to the support and encouragement



received from many people and organizations.

The future well being of a community depends on serving the community. The growing support and dedication of the volunteers is very encouraging and it will allow us to exceed the ultimate fundraising goal and meet the ongoing needs of the Tamil Caregiver Project. Creating awareness and channeling information across the community about the project also becomes an essential ingredient to achieve the goals of the project and its finances. "Monsoon Journal" is playing an active role in filling this need and getting the word out about the annual "Bowlathon" is highly commendable.

On behalf of the volunteers spearheading this fundraising, I thank for the growing support. We are ever ready shoulder to shoulder to be with more of you in the community, as we continue to volunteer for Providence Healthcare and its mission in meeting the needs of thousands of Tamil caregivers throughout the future.

Message from Lead  
Sponsor RJ Multi Litho



# Bowlathon - In Support of Providence Healthcare Foundation



Mr. Rajeev Muthuraman, the CEO of RJ Multi Litho is one who believes that you have to give back to the community what you earn from them. "It's not what your country can do for you, but it's what you can do for your country." says Rajee accordingly, Rajee's aim is to help out anyway possible. Being an entrepreneurial owner of a successful business, he is doing his part for the com-



Frank Barbosa, Partner of  
RJ Multi Litho

munity to support and assist in projects sponsored for the community.

In a world where the will of the people is to pass their assets to their beloved ones in the family upon their demise, Rajee believes that everything is lost, and one has not achieved anything in their lifetime if that is the only thing that happens; He believes that one has to give back to society as well; otherwise the personal achievement does not bear much value., he says. He pointed out that the fund-raising event is for a worthy and noble cause. He stated that most of us believe that the elderly and infirm have to be cared for in the later years." Seniors in our community deserve the best in their last stages of life". "Bowlathon" has now become an annual event and thanks to the support and cooperation received from all, we are able to help the Tamilcaregiver project.

TD Financial Group

actively supports  
"Bowlathon"

TD Financial Group is one of the key sponsors of Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project, the Annual "Bowlathon".

Two spokespersons from TD Canada Trust, Mike Drak, Manager, TD Commercial Banking and Shamala Kumar, Small



Business Advisor, TD Canada Trust conveyed their feelings to "Monsoon Journal" that TD was both pleased and happy to be associated with this fund raising project. Both Mike and Shamala operate from the branch located at 3477 Sheppard Ave East (Warden & Sheppard). Shamala told "Monsoon Journal" that seniors and elderly in the community need special care and support. She stated that the contribution from "Bowlathon" will go a long way to achieve this.

Both TD staffers feel that they are extremely pleased and proud to be part of this fundraising event, and it's a joyous occasion which envisions a secure future for an important project in the community. They pointed out that, "one of the key aims of any successful community based activity is to ensure that information about the work is known and disseminated to the people as widely as possible". They congratulated "The Monsoon Journal" for taking this initiative.

Mike Drak and Shamala Kumar reiterated that TD Financial Group supports community based initiatives from coast to coast across the country, and strongly believes in the contributions of volunteerism. "Nurturing the spirit of volunteerism fosters a strong foundation across communities, and ensures the well being of all", they emphasized.

They went on to congratulate the organizers for taking such initiatives that encourage volunteerism and the spirit of contributing to the community. They conveyed their best wishes for the success of this year's "Bowlathon" and the contribution from it to the

"Tamil Caregiver Project".

Message from Key  
Sponsor Auto Bahn

Speaking to "Monsoon Journal" about the Bowlathon event, Mr. Kulwant Mann, CEO of Autobahn stated that Autobahn Freight Lines firmly believe in giving back to the community what they have earned. He remarked that they want to share the fortune they are blessed with by empowering the community to help themselves.

He stated that the Tamil Caregiver Project is one of a kind that provides medical and moral support to the elderly. It's important to take care of our elderly, who are sick and/or aging. It's important for them to receive medical care in their languages and respecting their religious and traditional values....."It's a Birth Right to Age with Dignity"



Kulwant and his Company want to see this program succeed so that they can expand this program into other South East Asian communities. He wanted everyone to encourage and support this program.

## Bowlathon

April Showers bring Autumn  
Bowlers  
Tamil Caregiver Project  
Providence Healthcare  
Foundation

**Saturday, April 5, 2008**

Thornccliffe Bowlerama

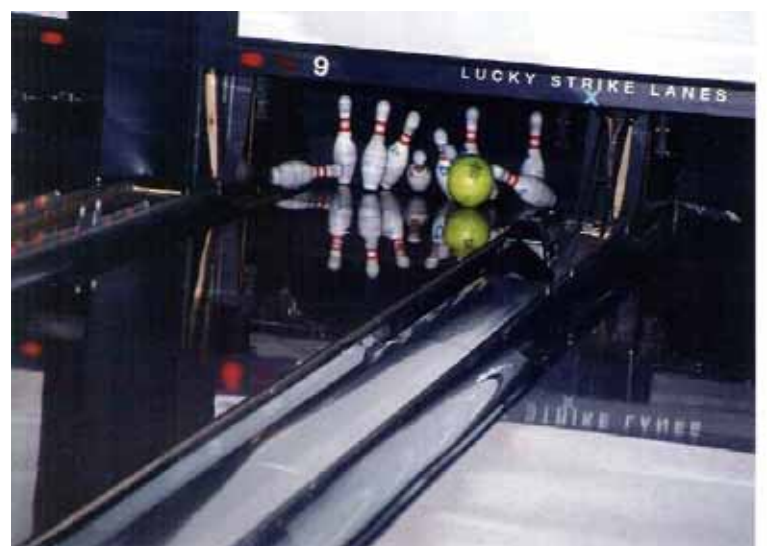
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# Book Reviews

## Favorite Folktales of Sri Lanka

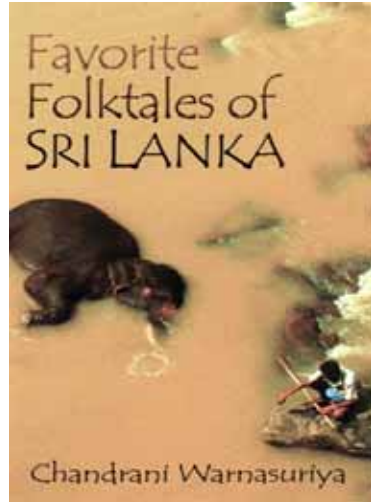
"Favorite Folktales of Sri Lanka" by Chandrani Warnasuriya of California is a collection of stories selected and retold for children. Sri Lankan children born and bred in North America miss the influence of grandparents and close relatives left behind in their homeland, and grow-up without a firm knowledge of their culture, customs, stories and songs that molded their values and lifestyles of their parents and grand-parents. Favorite Folktales of Sri Lanka helps to fill this void and helps in making the Sri Lankan children understand the culture and customs of life back home.

The book is published by Publish America which is a traditional Publishing Company whose

primary goal is to encourage and promote the works of new, previously undiscovered writers. Publish America pays its authors advances and royalties and makes available the books in U.S. and Europe.

The stories in this collection will hopefully give young people an opportunity to learn something of their home land. The stories are very lucidly written and the style of the language is easily understandable by the children. Names used are common to enable both Sinhala and Tamil children to grasp what is told in the stories.

The Retail Price of the Book is \$ 16.95 available online in leading book stores or directly from the



Publisher. The author is also making arrangements to make the book available in Toronto she can be contacted at [cwarnasuriya@yahoo.com](mailto:cwarnasuriya@yahoo.com)

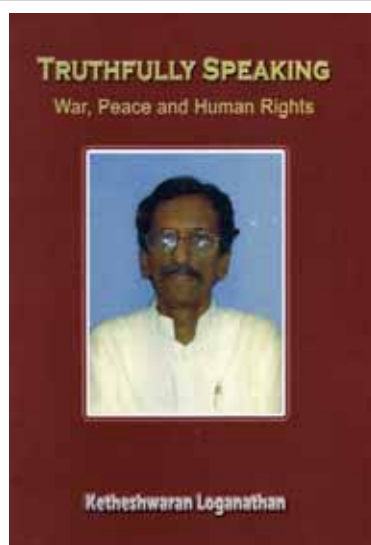
## Truthfully Speaking

"Truthfully Speaking" is an anthology of articles written by Ketheswaran Loganathan (popularly known as Kethesh) in the Sri Lankan Daily Mirror newspaper under the pseudonym "Sathya". This anthology contains 30 articles written between the period February 2004 and November 2005, analyzing the ethnic problem and the peace process.

Ketheswaran is the son of Mr.C.Loganathan, the first Sri Lankan General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon and a powerful financier who wielded much influence during his period. Kethesh received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. On his return to Sri Lanka, he worked as a Researcher

in the Marga Institute. He later proceeded to Netherlands for post-graduate studies and obtained a Master's Degree. In later years, he was involved in politics. In 1995, he withdrew from politics and resumed his academic career by joining the International Centre for Policy Studies. He later functioned as a Consultant for Express Newspapers(Cey) Ltd., Publishers of the "Week-end Express" and "Virakesari" Newspapers.

His book "Truthfully Speaking" is a collection of articles tracing the history of the Ethnic Problem with emphasis on Democracy and Peace, while touching on subjects like Norway's role, lessons from General Elections, Tamil Nationalism, Constitutional Reforms



, July '83 Pogrom, Tsunami etc. The Book is published by the Point Pedro Institute of Development and available with them at "Maanica Vasa", Thambasetty, Puloly West, Point Pedro, Sri Lanka. It is priced at 400 Sri Lankan rupees.



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[www.rgeducation.com](http://www.rgeducation.com)

## Monsoon Kids Corner

### Color Me Competition-2

Dead Line for entries:  
Mar 25, 2008

Entries have to be made on original paper, photo copies not accepted.

The Winner will be selected and posted in the March issue.

Please mail to:  
Monsoon Journal  
3107 Sheppard Ave East  
Toronto, ON  
M1T 3J7

Winner for Previous Color Me Competition - 1  
**Ocean Sikder**  
Etobicoke  
Congratulations from  
Monsoon Journal



How many words about  
BUGS  
can you find in the puzzle?

1. BEETLE
2. GRASSHOPPER
3. SPIDER
4. CATERPILLAR
5. WEBS
6. WASPS
7. DRAGONFLY
8. CRAWLS





# Monsoon Events



## Bata Shoe Museum Asian Heritage Month Event

Date: to be confirmed.

Checking Mrs. Bata's calendar, and exploring Senator Poy's availability

Location: Bata Shoe Museum

Detailed Description: The speaker is Professor Ted Goossen, York University.

He will give a talk on Japanese themes, to complement the Bata Shoe

Museum's month-long exhibition of Japanese footwear.

Co-organizers: Bata Shoe Museum

York Centre for Asian Research, York University, and Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

Date and Time: Friday May 2, 2008

Location: Gardiner Museum

Detailed Description:

4 - 5 pm

Free Public Lecture

Charles Mason, Chief Curator of the Gardiner Museum will talk about the

Bell Collection of Chinese Blue and White Porcelain from the Ming and

Qing Dynasties

6- 9 pm

Free Hands on Clay Programs

Try your hand at creating a miniature Terra Cotta

Warrior. Thousands of

life-sized warriors and horses were made of clay and buried with China's

First Emperor at Xi'an. The Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses were one of

the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century Make

your own warrior, with details inspired by images from the Army of

Emperor Qin Shihuangdi! Or make a clay model of your Chinese horoscope

animal. This is the year of the Rat!

There will be live classical Chinese Music played in the foyer 6 - 9 pm,

and fortune cookies for all!

Co-organizer:

Gardiner Museum

Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

Date and Time: May 4-5, 2008 whole day

Location: City Hall Rotunda, Toronto Downtown

Detailed Description: Photo Exhibition/Painting Exhibition, TDSB, TCDSB, Chinese Canadian

Photographic Society of Toronto, Chinese PEN Society

The Fourth Asian Heritage Month Education Roundtable at the University of Toronto

Date: May 5, 2008

Location: University of Toronto at Scarborough

Time: early to late afternoon

Detailed Description: The theme is INCLUSIVE EDUCATION THROUGH THE ASIAN ARTS. There will be performances by Professional Asian Artists, followed by the Education Roundtable featuring speeches by Ministers (tbc), school board experts, professional artists and academics.

Featured artists (subject to change):

Gauri Guha--Malhar Presentation and accompanist

Chi Ping Chinese Dance Group

Anna Guo--Dunhuang Chamber Ensemble

Maricel Perez--Filipino Singer

Co-organizers:

Department of Humanities, University of Toronto at

Scarborough

Canadian Studies, University College, University of

Toronto

Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian

Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

Supporter: Asian Institute at the Munk Centre for

International Studies, University of Toronto

Date and Time: May 4 or May 7, 2008

Location: Bata Shoe Museum

Detailed Description:

There will be a lecture by Elizabeth Semmelhack, Curator of the Bata Shoe Museum, on a subject of

Japanese footwear; a small temporary display of

Japanese footwear from the Museum collection

Date and Time: to be confirmed

Location: To be confirmed

Detailed Description:

Kung Fu fundraising for Canadian Cancer Society

Date and Time: May 11 to May 24, 2008

Location: Cedar Ridge Studio Gallery in Scarborough

Detailed Description:

Writers and Artists Show

Co-organizer:

Chinese PEN Society

Date and Time: May 14, 2008

Location: To be confirmed

Detailed Description:

Social Service Network Event

Co-organizer:

Social Service Network

Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian

Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

Bata Shoe Museum Asian Heritage Month Event

Date: to be confirmed.

We are checking Mrs. Bata's calendar, and exploring Senator Poy's availability

Location: Bata Shoe Museum

Detailed Description: The speaker is Professor Ted

Goossen, York University. He will give a talk on

Japanese themes, to complement the Bata Shoe

Museum's month-long exhibition of Japanese footwear.

Co-organizers:

Bata Shoe Museum

York Centre for Asian Research, York University, and

Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian

Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

Date and Time: to be confirmed

Location: University of Toronto

Detailed Description:

Asian Culture, Buddhism and Mental Health Forum

Date and Time: May 19-23, 2008 whole day

Location: Metro Hall Rotunda, Toronto Downtown

Detailed Description: Photo Exhibition/Painting

Exhibition

Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto,

Chinese PEN Society

The Sixth Annual Asian Heritage Month Lecture at the University of Toronto

Date: May 27, 2008

Location: University College, University of Toronto

Time: Late afternoon to evening

Detailed Description: The featured SPEAKER is Moyez Vassanji, O. C.

Winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize (1990), Harbourfront Festival Prize (1994), Giller Prize (1994), (2003)

The DISCUSSANT is Professor Chelva

Kanaganayakam, Department of English, University of Toronto

Co-organizers:

Canadian Studies, University College

Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

and the Department of English, University of Toronto

Supporter: Asian Institute at the Munk Centre for

International Studies, University of Toronto

Date: May 30, 2008

Location: Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall

Detailed Description: Buddhist Community Event

The Inaugural Asian Heritage Month Lecture at York

University

Date: June 3, 2008

Location: Moot Court, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Time: Late afternoon to early evening

Detailed Description:

TITLE: hen China Stood Up: the experience of Dr.

James Gareth Endicott SPEAKER: Professor Stephen

Endicott, Son of Dr. James Gareth Endicott

AND remiere of Dragonfly: Scenes from a screenplay

on Dr. James Endicott by Professor Robert Fothergill,

Winner of Chalmers Award, and Dora Award nominee

Co-organizers:

York Centre for Asian Research, York University, and

Asian Heritage Month-Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

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# Kollywood Film Review



by Anand. J  
**Anjathey**

Anjathey is truly one of the master pieces of Tamil cinema in recent years. We have seen many police stories on screen, in the past. But Anjathey is certainly not the usual one. The fine treatment and classic style of making by Myshkin made the film as a superior quality entertainment. The film avoids cliches and usual stereotypes as it makes its journey from opening credits to the end.

The story opens in a typical police housing colony, where Satyavan alias Sathya (Narain) and Kripa Shankar (Ajmal Ameer) both sons of police head constables (MS Bhaskar and Livingston) are childhood friends. Though they are close friends for years, they are totally different in their attitude towards



life. Satyavan is an aimless, irresponsible and happy go lucky youngster, who always spends time drinking with friends and getting into petty fights. He also hates to become a policeman like his father. Kripa on the other hand is ambitious, gentle in nature and has a big dream to join the police as a sub inspector.

One day Satya is badly humiliated by his father for spoiling a festival day in the colony, when he gets into a fight with Daya (Prasanna) a notorious psychopath guy, who is running a kidnapping racket with a mechanic Logu (Pandirajan). After this incident, Satya decides to join the force by using the influence of his uncle, a personal assistant of a powerful minister. Both, the well versed Kripa and irresponsible

Satya appear the police Sub-Inspectors (SI) examination on a same day, but using his influence Satya is selected while Kripa fails. On the next day itself Kripa drifts away from his best friend and turns out to be his most bitter foe.

Meanwhile after joining the force, Satya slowly transforms his character as a good police and becomes more human, righteous and duty conscious in his career. He wins the accolades from his higher authorities for his sincere and brave efforts in saving the life of a poor fish seller. After knowing all these good aspects of Sathya, slowly Uttara starts admiring him, which irk Kripa. At the same time, Daya, the cunning psychopath holds the police force to ransom as he kidnaps young girls from rich families for money and also rapes them so that they will remain silent.

The police top brass set up an encounter cell under a cop (Ponvannan) to hunt down the kidnapers, and Satya is also drafted into the team. Daya, who is now on the run, recruits Kripa knowing that he is on a revenge romp, whose only aim is to see the fall of his friend.

Now the final game starts between these three powerful characters, which leads to a fantastic climax in a sugarcane field near the border of Andhra.

No doubt, the story and casting of Anjathey are very new to Tamil Cinema. Especially, the perfect casting is the biggest strength of the film. Narain and Prasanna play their roles with ease and perfect.

In many scenes, Narain simply steals the viewer's heart, particular-

ly in a scene, where he shows his wrath against his higher official. He is an excellent show of the transformation of a young rowdy into a responsible police officer. From the first frame to the last, his performance will remain in every viewer's hearts to remember the actor.

It is doubtful that any other growing actor like Prasanna is even ready to think about this kind of negative roles at the earlier stage of their career. Prasanna has done the role with a passion and every one should encourage the actor to do more different roles in future.

Myshkin introduces new guys like a one-armed 'Kuruvu' (played by a former stuntman Bomb Ramesh, who lost an arm while shooting an explosion scene for a film) a go-between Satya and Kripa, is terrific.

Ajmal makes a promising debut; he is clearly an actor to look out for.

Is it Pandirajan? Unbelievable! The director is using this talented actor in proper manner. Without his moustache as the humorous accomplice of Daya is a scream and provides some funny moments.

The girl next door Vijayalakshmi plays as Uttara, who initially hates Sathya, but later slowly fall in love after realized his noble heart. Ponvannan, M.S Bhaskar and Livingstone are all aptly cast in supporting roles.

The film is far superior to any other recently released films in technical aspects too. Particularly, Mahesh Muthuswamy's camera work with using a lot of top angle crane shots and low angle close ups tell many stories to the viewers. The climax scene, which is shot in a sugarcane field is really a visual feast. Sunder C Babu's music is peppy especially the Kuthu song Kathazha is foot tapping number.

The content of Director Myshkin is very realistic and believable. His stylish making and controlled script binds everyone with their seats. Thanks to Myshkin for not showing excessive blood or notorious rapes and other cruel actions though the story travels all these said possibilities.

There are few loopholes in the script, but that too tolerable. And the film is little bit too lengthy (3hrs 15 mins!), but it seems that the director takes that much of time to

establish his characters and script. So it is not a big issue and overall the film is sensible and enjoyable.

We always criticize filmmakers for not giving films with the right blend of classic-commercial elements but fails to appreciate when they give such films. Anjathey is surely a film in that genre. We must appreciate Myshkin for giving Anjathey as a fantastic entertainment!

**Anjathey – Povadharku Thayangathay (Must see)**

## Sadhu Miranda

After comedy riots like Friends and Engal Anna, ace Malayalam director Siddique come out with Sadhu Miranda, a poor cocktail of comedy, sentiment and action. Abbas and his brother rob a bank at Pondicherry on a sunny day. They steal Rs. 20 crores of Govt money come from the treasury. The police catch them but they escape from the clutches of the police by kill Prasanna's innocent sister - a bank customer who comes to apply for an education loan. Abbas, using his links with the drug mafia tries all to legalize the money illegally.

Prasanna seeking vengeance for his sister's death and abducts

is a comical flick or an action thriller. The eventual result is a mess.

Most of the scenes look to be in a very amateur manner and are very boring. Prasanna acts well in the role of a brother who seeks vengeance for his beloved sister's murder. But in the action scenes, it is too hard to believe his extraordinary punches and dives. The role of a white collar bank robber fits Abbas like few roles have recently. Kavya tries to emote beyond just using her eyes expressively but often fails in the process. Her looks neither seductive nor family oriented but she shows some maturity in the scenes with Prasanna.

Seniors like Kota Srinivasa Rao, Charlie, MS Bhaskar and Karunas are really save at least a part of the movie and make the same watchable particularly Kotta Srinivasa Rao who rocks in the role of a comic villain. Manivannan, Manoj K Jayan, Sachu are also in the cast. The title song of the film is very impressive. The lyrics and the item girl performance (Swetha Menon) in the song are very catchy and seductive.

Prathap V Kumar's cinematography is noteworthy. The editor should have concentrated on making the scenes crisp. Gokula Krishna's dialogues are funny in



Abbas' brother and make him as an addict to drugs, dupes him and makes Abbas to rush back to Chennai from where he has comfortably settled in the US. The rest of the movie is as good as any ones guess. It seems that the director confuses the audience a little while into the film as to whether it

parts, crisp and clever in others.

In short, the movie is very average

**Sadhu Miranda – Namakku Thaangadhu.**

Comments to:  
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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support, thoughts, and prayers which have been a great help to us during this time.

Nirantha De Silva was a beloved husband, a loving father, a loyal friend and an innovative leader in the community. Nirantha was the epitome of honour and integrity. He was a patriot, proud of both his Sri Lankan heritage and his newly adopted country, Canada. This pride and integrity became the brick and mortar of Trico Canada.

As part of our continued devotion to his life's work and to the integrity of his vision, Trico is determined and committed to keep Nirantha's spirit alive in the community. Trico will continue to serve the Sri Lankan community as it always has---with professionalism, pride in service, and above all, with honour and integrity. It will continue to be the personification and epitome of Nirantha.

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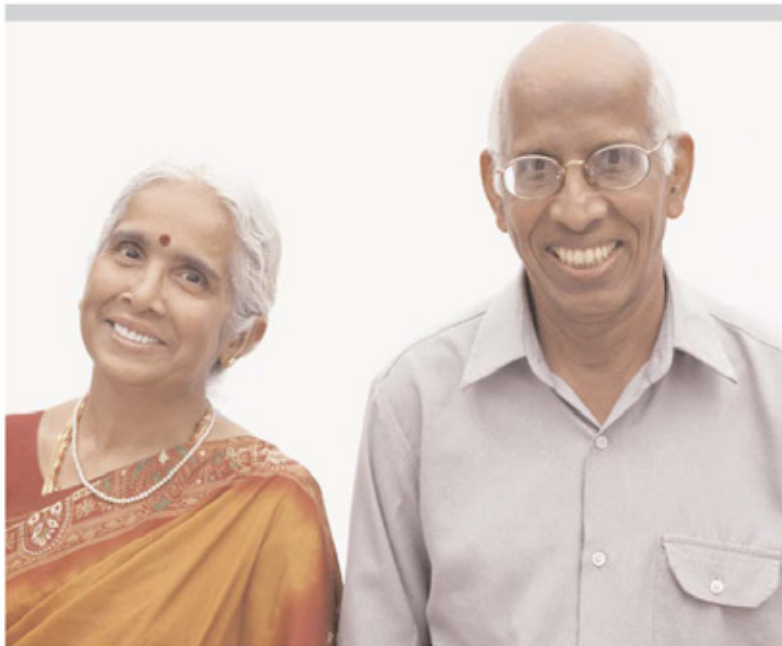
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