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# Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

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## Toronto's Tamil Community raises over half a Million Dollars for Canadian Healthcare System



Picture taken on June 8th at Kids Town Water Park during presentation of the 9th Annual Walkathon as President of Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce, Gary Anandasangaree introducing Federal & Provincial Political leaders & Hospital Foundation Presidents, Sponsors & well-wishers and commending on the excellent work done by the co-chairs of this event and all the participants who helped for this worthy cause.

(L-R) Brian Dawe, President, Scarborough Hospital Foundation, Mohan Sundaramohan, Branch Manager, RBC Royal Bank (Co-Chair-CTCC Walkathon-2008), Tam Sivathasan, Broker of Record, Veedu Realty (MC for Auction-Walkathon-2008), Jennifer Stewart, President, Providence Healthcare Foundation, Bas Balkissoon, MPP, Scarborough-Rouge River, Jeganathan Balasundaram, Financial Security Advisor, London Life (Co-Chair-Walkathon-2008), Hon. Gerry Phillips, MPP, Scarborough-Agincourt & Minister of Energy, Sritharan Thuraiajah, Insurance Advisor, Liland Insurance (Co-Chair-CTCC Walkathon-2008), Hon. Jim Karygiannis, MP, Scarborough-Agincourt, Gary Anandasangaree, Barrister & Solicitor (President of CTCC)

Photo Courtesy: Gnane

### By Siva Sivapragasam

The Canadian Tamil community in Toronto, now numbering over 250,000, has shown its gratitude to Canada which offered them great opportunities by contributing more than \$500,000.00 to its health care system.

The Funds totaling \$535,000 were raised over the recent years by way of Annual Walkathons and Bowlathons. The Annual Walkathons for the Scarborough Hospital Foundation were organized

by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce while Centenary Hospital funding was the result of a Baby Steps Walkathon organized by a team of volunteers headed by Businessman Kula Sellathurai. Providence Healthcare Foundation was the recipient of the funds collected by the Bowlathon events for which the lead sponsor since inception was RJ Multi Litho Inc., a printing firm owned by a Sri Lankan -Rajeev Muthuraman.

A break-down of the Funds

raised so far for the Health Care institutions mentioned above is as follows:

#### Bowlathon Events

\$ 250,000

#### CTCC Walkathons

\$ 170,000

#### Baby steps Walkathons

\$ 115,000

The total of \$ 535,000 raised so far is being disbursed to the Scarborough Hospital Foundation, Centenary Hospital and Providence Healthcare Foundation.

The funds collected for the Scarborough Hospital Foundation will be of use for the new Emergency Unit while the Centenary Hospital will utilize the funds from the Baby Steps Walkathon for the new Birthing and New Born Center. Providence Healthcare Foundation will make use of the funds given to them for the Tamil Caregiver Project.

(More details of this year's CTCC Walkathon on Centre Pages)

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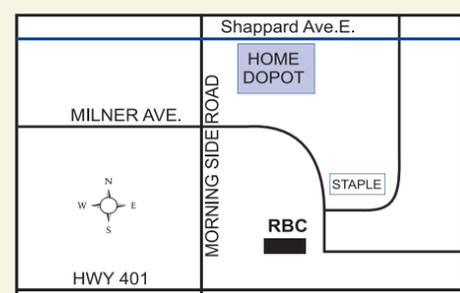
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# Monsoon Newsline

## India, China compete in Indian Ocean

HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka: This battered harbor town on Sri Lanka's southern tip, with its scrawny men selling even scrawnier fish, seems an unlikely focus for an emerging international competition over energy supply routes that fuel much of the global economy.

An impoverished place still recovering from the devastation of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Hambantota has a desolate air, a sense of nowhere, punctuated by the realization that looking south over the expanse of ocean, the next landfall is Antarctica.

But just over the horizon runs one of the world's great trade arteries, the shipping lanes where thousands of vessels carry oil from the Middle East and raw materials to Asia, returning with television sets, toys and sneakers for European consumers.

These tankers provide 80 percent of China's oil and 65 percent of India's - fuel desperately needed for the two countries' rapidly growing economies. Japan, too, is almost totally dependent on energy supplies shipped through the Indian Ocean.

Any disruption - from terrorism, piracy, natural disaster or war - could have devastating effects on these countries and, in an increasingly interdependent world, send ripples across the globe. When an unidentified ship attacked a Japanese oil tanker traveling through the Indian Ocean from South Korea to Saudi Arabia in April, the news sent oil prices to record highs.

For decades the world relied on the powerful U.S. Navy to protect this vital sea lane. But as India and China gain economic heft, they are moving to expand their control of the waterway, sparking a new - and potentially dangerous - rivalry between Asia's emerging giants.

China has given massive aid to Indian Ocean nations, signing friendship pacts, building ports in Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as Sri Lanka, and reportedly setting up a listening post on one of Myanmar's islands near the strategic Strait of Malacca.

Now, India is trying to parry China's moves. It beat out China for a port project in Myanmar. And, flush with cash from its expanding economy, India is beefing up its military, with the expansion seemingly aimed at China. Washington and, to a lesser extent, Tokyo are encouraging India's role as a counterweight to growing Chinese power.

Among China's latest moves is the billion dollar port its engineers

are building in Sri Lanka, an island country just off India's southern coast.

The Chinese insist the Hambantota port is a purely commercial move, and by all appearances, it is. But some in India see ominous designs behind the project, while others in countries surrounding India like the idea. A 2004 Pentagon report called Beijing's effort to expand its presence in the region China's "string of pearls."

No one wants war, and relations between the two nations are now at their closest since a brief 1962 border war in which China quickly routed Indian forces. Last year, trade between India and China grew to US\$37 billion (€24.8 billion) and their two armies conducted their first-ever joint military exercise.

Still, the Indians worry about China's growing influence.

"Each pearl in the string is a link in a chain of the Chinese maritime presence," India's navy chief, Adm. Sureesh Mehta, said in a speech in January, expressing concern that naval forces operating out of ports established by the Chinese could "take control over the world energy jugular."

"It is a pincer movement," said Rahul Bedi, a South Asia analyst with London-based Jane's Defense Weekly. "That, together with the slap India got in 1962, keeps them awake at night."

B. Raman, a hawkish, retired Indian intelligence official, expressed the fears of some Indians over the Chinese-built ports, saying he believes they'll be used as naval bases to control the area.

"We cannot take them at face value. We cannot assume their intentions are benign," said Raman.

But Zhao Gancheng, a South Asia expert at the Chinese government-backed Shanghai Institute for International Studies, says ports like Hambantota are strictly commercial ventures. And Sri Lanka says the new port will be a windfall for its impoverished southern region.

With Sri Lanka's proximity to the shipping lane already making it a hub for transshipping containers between Europe and Asia, the new port will boost the country's annual cargo handling capacity from 6 million containers to some 23 million, said Priyath Wickrama, deputy director of the Sri Lankan Ports Authority.

Wickrama said a new facility was needed since the main port in the capital Colombo has no room to expand and Trincomalee port in the Northeast is caught in the

middle of Sri Lanka's civil war. Hambantota also will have factories onsite producing cement and fertilizer for export, he said.

Meanwhile, India is clearly gearing its military expansion toward China rather than its long-time foe, and India has set up listening stations in Mozambique and Madagascar, in part to monitor Chinese movements, Bedi noted. It also has an air base in Kazakhstan and a space monitoring post in Mongolia - both China's neighbors.

India has announced plans to have a fleet of aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines at sea in the next decade and recently tested nuclear-capable missiles that put China's major cities well in range. It is also reopening air force bases near the Chinese border.

Encouraging India's role as a counter to China, the U.S. has stepped up exercises with the Indian navy and last year sold it an American warship for the first time, the 17,000-ton amphibious transport dock USS Trenton. American defense contractors - shut out from the lucrative Indian market during the long Cold War - have been offering India's military everything from advanced fighter jets to anti-ship missiles.

"It is in our interest to develop this relationship," U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said during a visit to New Delhi in February. "Just as it is in the Indians' interest."



Officially, China says it's not worried about India's military buildup or its closer ties with the U.S. However, foreign analysts believe China is deeply concerned by the possibility of a U.S.-Indian military alliance.

Ian Storey of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore said China sent strong diplomatic messages expressing opposition to a massive naval exercise India held last year with the U.S., Japan, Singapore and Australia. And Bedi, the Jane's analyst, added "those exercises rattled the Chinese."

India's 2007 defense budget was about US\$21.7 billion (€14.1 billion), up 7.8 percent from 2006. China said its 2008 military budget would jump 17.6 percent to some US\$59 billion (€38.3 billion), following a similar increase last year. The U.S. estimates China's actual defense spending may be much higher.

Like India, China is focusing heavily on its navy, building an

increasingly sophisticated submarine fleet that could eventually be one of the world's largest.

While analysts believe China's military buildup is mostly focused on preventing U.S. intervention in any conflict with Taiwan, India is still likely to persist in efforts to catch up as China expands its influence in what is essentially India's backyard. Meanwhile, Sri Lankans - who have looked warily for centuries at vast India to the north - welcome the Chinese investment in their country.

"Our lives are going to change," said 62-year-old Jayasena Senanayake, who has seen business grow at his roadside food stall since construction began on the nearby port. "What China is doing for us is very good."

Associated Press writer Christopher Bodeen contributed to this report from Beijing.

[Courtesy: AP, Via International Herald Tribune]

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## From the Publisher's Desk ... June 20 is World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is an international recognition of those that have been displaced from their homes by war and other factors.

The plight of refugees has been brought to the forefront by the recent natural disasters in Myanmar and the violence in South Africa against migrant workers.

"Today people do not just flee persecution and war but also injustice, exclusion, environmental pressures, competition for scarce resources and all the miserable human consequences of dysfunctional states," says the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The world humanitarian community is in the forefront in assisting to confront this challenge. Yet more awareness and measures to curb abusive practices by authorities in rogue nations who worsen the refugee situation are essential.

The humanitarian community, starting from the UNHCR are primarily working towards the goal of achieving betterment in the lives of refugees. UNHCR says that its prime goal is to "persuade people that it is our common responsibility to make a difference for those forced to pick-up and go through no fault of their own."

But what about those who could be held responsible for creating refugees who are fleeing those 'man made disasters'?

Time after time the leaders of rogue nations get away with abuses and human rights violations that cause civil strife and a lead to mass exodus.

For example, the Tamil community in Sri Lanka was uprooted from their homes in a mass scale, 50 years ago in the May of 1958. Then again in 1983, which began the large scale

migration of Tamils from that country. Recently, Sri Lanka failed to win a seat at the United Nations Human Rights Council as a result of intense efforts by the world humanitarian community in highlighting the abusive practices of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Government of Sri Lanka unilaterally broke a ceasefire agreement earlier this year amidst condemnations by several countries around the world.

Even in the aftermath of natural disasters, leaders of dictatorial countries create obstructions to preserve their power and forgo the well being of their own citizens.

The recent actions by the junta in Myanmar in slowing and or stopping donations from other countries are appalling. The United States Secretary of Defense Robert Gates had strong words for the Myanmar

regime at a meeting in Singapore recently.

Gates said the actions of the junta amount to "criminal neglect" in its failure to allow all foreign workers and aid into the region hardest hit by the cyclone, the Irrawaddy Delta.

Throughout their long and daunting journey from oppression and persecution to asylum and protection, and eventually to a place they can call home, refugees show incredible strength, courage and determination.

Thanks to the humanitarian community and countries such as Canada who are in the forefront of accepting refugees from other countries those fleeing from their home see hope and gather strength, courage and determination. But it is essential that those who are in power and worsening the conditions for refugees are held accountable for their actions.

## Letters to the Editor

### TDSB recommendations are no solutions to solving the problem of school violence

**By: Frank**

In the wake of the Jordan Manners tragedy, the Toronto District School Board commissioned the School Community Safety Panel Report, which was headed by the human rights lawyer Julian Falconer. In taking heed to the Report released by Falconer and his team in January 10, 2008, the Toronto District School Board made public in May 2008 its recommendations to make schools 'safer'. The board is planning to spend \$ 4 million as the first stage of its program to 'improve' the safety of schools. The plan would have an increase in police presence in schools, a strategy to deal with student sexual assault, more higher tech security cameras, on-line access to the student safety line, and intensive training for staff regarding sexual assault. Toronto board chair John Campbell said that the board would hire 90 plus support workers, add a nutrition program, and after school activities and mentorship programs for students living in high risk areas. [ 1 ]

The report assumes that these are the problems facing students in Toronto schools, and that its recommendations would be a panacea. Nothing is mentioned about what gives rise to the violence and the anti-social behaviour such as sexual assault. In addition, was it the lack of security cameras that had Jordan Manners killed? Does the ever more presence of police in and out of the schools solve the problem of youth violence? The experience from many parts of the United States and in certain school boards in Ontario demonstrates that spy cameras, and police presence does not make schools safer. Furthermore, the report is insinuating that the youth are the problem and

that there needs to be programs in place to 'prevent violence in the schools'. TDSB and the McQuinty Liberals who lauded the report are targeting the youth as being the problem, with the police and teachers as agents, being the 'solution'. It is well known that the more oppression and law and order measures executed by administrators onto students, the concomitant would be more resistance. These measures are in place to blame the youth, with the actual social problems facing youth and how to go about solving them are being ignored by the ruling circles and their representatives such as the McQuinty Liberals.

The recommendations by the Toronto board does not take into account the social conditions many youth face. It does not take into account the destitute economic conditions prevalent in many poor working class areas that give rise to violence and anti-social behaviour. In order for one to have the right to an education one must have the right to an adequate standard of living. Nevertheless, the TDSB report is oblivious to the massive cuts to funding in education, its adverse effects it has had to the lowering of education which started with the Harris regime and continues with the McQuinty Liberals with the preservation of the funding formula.

The anti-social offensive which has affected students, particularly poor working class students has been accompanied with the presence of police. These measures that the board plans to incorporate is a cover for the social violence onto the people by the McQuinty Liberals. The hysteria by the ruling circles and their monopoly media about school safety is a diversion and guise about the real issue of

Dear Editor,

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes for the anniversary issue of Monsoon Journal. I am highly impressed with the layout and presentation of news, views and class collection of articles covered in your newspaper.

I wish Monsoon Journal every success and congratulate the entire staff for presenting such thoughtful reading material for the readers and well-wishers of Monsoon Journal.

**Prof. Saran Ghai**

funding Ontario schools to the highest level that society is able to afford. It is the McQuinty Liberals who are violent towards poor working class communities and students who are denied their right to a proper education.

By targeting students as the cause of the violence experienced today, people are blocked from even discussing problems such as bullying, gun shootings in schools, sexual assault and depression. They are blocked to discuss what gives rise to these problems. All the problems above are social problems and it requires social solutions to solve them. These are problems rooted in the social relations of the society youth live in today. The recommendations by the TDSB and their 'prevention' strategies or policies are what is really blocking students, parents, and teachers from discussing and solving the problems facing them.

The TDSB recommendations blame and criminalize youth for the violence in Ontario schools; furthermore, it offers no solutions to the social problems faced in our schools. Instead the board, with the approval of the McQuinty Liberals continue to provide spurious, dogmatic recommendations to a problem that needs to be solved only when there exists a mechanism, whereby students, teachers and people in general are able to sort out the problems facing society and violence in schools. The TDSB recommendations represent the status-quo and that is why it was praised by the McQuinty Liberals.

Toronto District School Board - www.tdsb.on.ca

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# Canada Newsline

## Government of Canada announces funding to Sheridan college to provide language training to newcomers

On May 16, 2008, The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, announced funding for the Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning to deliver settlement services to an estimated 800 immigrants at its campuses in Oakville and Brampton.

The funding of over \$5.5 million will go toward a number of services to help newcomers prepare to enter the Canadian labour market, including language training, mentorship and career development programs for internationally trained individuals.

Participants will also enjoy the same privileges as other Sheridan students, such as access to the library, career centres and computer labs.

"Finding a job is one of the most significant challenges facing new immigrants to Canada," said Minister Finley. "We want newcomers to succeed, and we want to help them find good jobs. Through this funding and the efforts of Sheridan College, newcomers will have the opportunity to develop the skills to find work in their fields. Their success is our success."

"With support from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), we can creatively respond to the unique needs of newcomers through new programming designed specifically for internationally trained professionals," said Joyce Wayne, Director of the Sheridan Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals. "We are very excited to work with CIC to build English language training and post-secondary opportunities for newcomers at Sheridan College. These programs will not only enhance the language capabilities of our immigrants, but will also offer our internationally trained students diplomas and certificates from a recognized college in Canada."

Settlement services are an essential part of the federal government's immigration program. Through the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA), the Government of Canada has increased settlement funding for Ontario by a total of \$920 million over five years. Under the COIA, CIC works with the province and immigrant-serving agencies to make a real difference in the lives of immigrants. In total, since 2006, the Government of Canada has begun investing an additional \$1.4 billion over five years in settlement funding in provinces and



Diane Finley

territories outside Quebec.

Budget 2008 also proposes changes to modernize the immigration system and to shorten the time it takes to bring newcomers and their families to Canada. Under this proposed system, instructions would be issued to immigration officers related to the processing of applications, including in relation to the jobs available in Canada, so that people with those skills and experience can be brought to Canada more quickly. With these changes, newcomers could have more opportunities to find work sooner, to provide a better life for themselves and their families and to benefit more from life in Canada.

Newcomers to Canada can also turn to the Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO), which helps internationally trained individuals find the information they need to get their credentials assessed and recognized more quickly. Established in 2007, the FCRO provides information, path-finding and referral services to help internationally trained individuals use their skills in Canada. There are now 320 Service Canada centres across the country offering in-person foreign credential referral services to newcomers.

CIC funds a number of programs that help newcomers settle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society. These programs are delivered in partnership with provinces, territories and service-providing organizations and include the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program, which provides orientation, referrals to community resources, advice and guidance; Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, which provides basic language training for adults; and the Host Program, which helps newcomers connect with volunteers who help them access services, establish contacts in their field of work and participate in the community.

For more information on CIC programs, consult our website at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca).

## THE BATTLE OF THE NORTH

### Jaffna Central / St. John's Annual Big Match

The above Cricket encounter between both the schools will take place on Saturday 12th July 2008 at Sunny Brook Park.

This match popularly known as "THE BATTLE OF THE NORTH" is being played here in Toronto for the 20th year.

The Over-40 match will commence at 0930a.m and the regular match will start at 0100p.m.

The Over-40 team will be captained by Raj Kumar (St. John's) and M. S Rameez (Central). The regular teams will be captained by V. Ajanthan of St John's and Kenneth Mahesan of Central.

This year Over-40 game will be played 20 overs each side and the regular team. Will be 40 overs each.

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Canada

# Monsoon Newsline

## Indians Find U.S. at Fault in Food Cost

By Heather Timmons

Instead of blaming India and other developing nations for the rise in food prices, Americans should rethink their energy policy - and go on a diet.

That has been the response, basically, of a growing number of politicians, economists and academics in this country, who are angry at statements by top United States officials that India's rising prosperity is to blame for food inflation.

The debate has sometimes devolved into what sounded like petty playground taunts over who are the real gluttons devouring the world's resources.

For instance, Pradeep S. Mehta, secretary general of the center for international trade, economics and the environment of CUTS International, an independent research institute based here, said that if Americans slimmed down to the weight of middle-class Indians, "many hungry people in sub-Saharan Africa would find food on their plates."

He added, archly, that the money spent in the United States on liposuction to get rid of fat from excess consumption could be funneled to feed famine victims.

Mr. Mehta's comments may sound like the macroeconomic equivalent of "so's your old man," but they reflect genuine outrage - and ballooning criticism - toward the United States in particular, over recent remarks by President Bush.

After a news conference in Missouri on May 2, he was quoted as saying of India's burgeoning middle class, "When you start getting wealth, you start demanding better nutrition and better food, and so demand is high, and that causes the price to go up."

The comments, widely reported in the developing world, fol-

lowed a statement on the subject by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that had upset many Indians.

In response to the president's remarks, a ranking official in the commerce ministry, Jairam Ramesh, told the Press Trust of India, "George Bush has never been known for his knowledge of economics," and the remarks proved again how "comprehensively wrong" he is.

The Asian Age, a newspaper based here, argued in an editorial last week that Mr. Bush's "ignorance on most matters is widely known and openly acknowledged by his own countrymen," and that he must not be allowed to "get away" with an effort to "divert global attention from the truth by passing the buck on to India."

The developing nations, and in particular China and India, are being blamed for global problems, including the rising cost of commodities and the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, because they are consuming more goods and fuel than ever before. But Indians from the prime minister's office on down frequently point out that per capita, India uses far lower quantities of commodities and pollutes far less than nations in the West, particularly the United States.

Explaining the food price increases, Indian politicians and academics cite consumption in the United States; the West's diversion of arable land into the production of ethanol and other biofuels; agricultural subsidies and trade barriers from Washington and the European Union; and finally the decline in the exchange rate of the dollar.

There may be some foundation to Indians' accusations of hypocrisy by the West. The United States uses - or throws away - 3,770 calories a person each day, according to data from the United

Nations Food and Agriculture Organization collected in 2001-3, compared with 2,440 calories per person in India. Americans are also the largest per capita consumers in any major economy of the most energy-intensive common food source, beef, the Agriculture Department says.

And the United States and Canada lead the world in oil consumption per person, according to the Energy Information Administration, an Energy Department agency.

When it comes to trade, Western farming subsidies undercut agricultural production in fertile areas of Africa, India's commerce minister, Kamal Nath, said in a telephone interview, repeating the point that Americans waste more food than people in many other countries.

The United States is responsible "many times more" than India for the world food crisis, said Ramesh Chand, an economist with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which advises the government on farm policy.

The Bush administration has called for a truce. President Bush is a "great friend and admirer" of India, the United States ambassador here, David C. Mulford, said last week. He added that "this is a time for increased cooperation among nations to solve this problem and that hostile political commentary is not productive."

A White House spokesman, Scott Stanzel, said, "We think it is a good thing countries are developing, that more and more people have higher standards of living."

Some economists argue that blaming India's growth is not only



The purchases and disposal of food by typical American shoppers have tongues wagging bitterly at Indian research institutes.

Pic: Lisa Poole/Associated Press

unfair, but makes little sense.

Food prices have not been rising continually as developing nations grew, said Ramgopal Agarwala, a former World Bank economist and senior adviser at RIS, a research institute in New Delhi. "They were static until 2006, then in 2007 and 2008 there was a sudden spark," he said. But India has been growing for the last decade. This is "not last year's phenomena," he said.

"I don't know who advised the president" on his recent comments, Mr. Agarwala added, but his analysis is "subprime."

Mr. Mehta of the research institute conceded that his remarks on liposuction were meant to be tongue in cheek, but that "politically incorrect" attitudes like President Bush's and Ms. Rice's needed to be challenged. Rather than blaming India, Mr. Mehta said, the West should be adjusting to a changing world.

"If the developing world is going to develop, demand is going to go up and there are going to be new political paradigms," he said.

[Courtesy: NYTimes.com]

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# Monsoon Newsline

## Son of Indian immigrants and rising star in the Republican Party tops potential Vice Presidential candidates

Several Conservative newspapers and columnists in the US who generally support the Republican Party continue to endorse Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal to become the country's next vice president.

Even after a recent visit with Senator John McCain, the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party for President of the United States, the governor insists the two have not had any talks about becoming running mates. Still, talk is swirling throughout the USA and in India, the native land of his parents.

TownHall.com, an influential conservative political website recently summed up Gov. Jindal in an article as the 'bottom line' best choice after analysing several of the possible candidates.

The 'Pro' and 'con' of the candidacy of Gov. Bobby Jindal and its 'bottom line' verdict endorsing Gov. Jindal, by Michael Medved of TownHall.com is as follows:

**PRO:** His impeccable conservative credentials (a 98% American Conservative Union rating during his two terms in Congress) and stalwart defense of human life ("I am 100 percent pro life with no exceptions") would help rally worn right-wingers to McCain's cause. Influential Conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh has praised Jindal as "the next Ronald Reagan - winning with 100 percent pure conservatism." Jindal's remarkable success with ethics legislation during his first months as governor of notoriously corrupt Louisiana would also help McCain run as a reformer who could clean up "the mess in Washington" the way his running mate cleaned up the mess in Baton Rouge.

Above all his youth (he'll be 37 at the convention) and brilliance (biology degree from Brown University, Rhodes Scholar at Oxford U) would help Republicans balance some of the hysterical excitement over Obama. As the son of immigrants (who arrived from India for graduate school in Louisiana when Jindal's mother was pregnant with him) he could help connect with Hispanic voters, where Republicans desperately need help. Asians will also make



up 4% of the electorate and by placing the first Asian-American on the ticket, McCain could help stop the drift of this growing segment of the population toward the Democrats.

Also, Jindal is a devout Catholic (he converted in high school from Hinduism) and has written thoughtful theological pieces for conservative Catholic journals. His ability to connect with religious Catholics will help in any number of battleground states. Finally, he displays an ease on TV and a sense of humor that will disarm all critics: his appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno has become a favorite on You Tube and represented a triumph for the young governor. With Jindal on the ticket, voters wouldn't have to go to the Democrats in order to elect our first person of color to national office.

**CON:** He's too young, too inexperienced - how can Republicans criticize Obama as unprepared, when Jindal is ten years younger? Actually, this argument ends up turning in Jindal's favor, since he possesses vastly MORE experience than Obama, particularly in executive positions. In addition to his early triumphs as governor, he's also won spectacular success in a long series of leadership roles - as executive director of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, President of the Louisiana State University System (at the ludicrously young age of 26!), Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services (unanimously confirmed - and praised - in a bipartisan vote of

the US Senate), and two terms in the House of Representatives (including service on the House Committee on Homeland Security and re-election with 88% of the vote). Nothing in the Obama resume comes close to any of this. It's true that I started promoting Jindal for Vice President on my radio show nearly a year ago (before he even won election as governor) and, frankly, I don't see serious negatives to his candidacy.

### 'The Bottom line'

Bobby Jindal offers the GOP the best chance in many years for reshaping the party's tarnished, tired image without in any way abandoning timeless conservative principles. McCain should select the Louisiana governor several weeks before the convention, to get maximum benefit from his candidacy. Imagine a quick Jindal foreign tour-- including a stop in his ancestral homeland, India, where he will be received (rightly) as a conquering hero. Just as Obama-mania begins to feel a bit forced and old-hat, Jindal-mania can inspire press and public with attention to every aspect of the governor's amazing career, his gorgeous and adorable young family, profoundly eloquent expressions of Catholic faith (he gives moving testimonials to the power of Christ in Evangelical churches), unlikely connection with the "Bubba" vote in Louisiana, and much, much more. The very prospect of a Vice President whose full legal name is "Piyush Subhaschandra Amrit "Bobby" Jindal" has a marvelously exotic, only-in-America feel to it.

## Sri Lanka loses race for Human Rights Council seat

Sri Lanka, which was backed by India, China and reportedly also by Japan, has lost in the race in getting re-elected to the seat of the 47-member UN Human Rights Council. Sri Lanka received 101 votes and ranked 5th among the six Asian countries vying for four seats in the secret ballot of the U.N. General Assembly held in New York on May 21st, 2008.

Japan received 155 votes, Bahrain 142, South Korea 139, Pakistan 114 and Sri Lanka 101.

The Human Rights Council (HRC), based in Geneva, was established on 15 March 2006 and consists of forty-seven Member States of the United Nations. The Council replaced the former 53-seat U.N. Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), which was often criticized for its failure to objectively address human rights violations in individual countries.

Fifteen of the HRC's 47 seats will be decided by U.N. General Assembly secret ballot which is the third annual election for the Geneva-based council.

13 of the 47 seats are allocated for the 44 Asian Member States of the United Nations.

The HRC is an intergovernmental UN Charter-based body, which meets in Geneva 10 weeks a year, and is composed of 47

elected UN Member States who serve for an initial period of 3 years. Council membership is limited to two consecutive terms, and any Council member may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.

A key component of the Council is a periodic review of all 192 UN member states, called Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which is a mechanism based on reports from different sources, including the NGOs. Each country's situation will be examined during a three hours debate, during their term of membership.

Nobel Peace Laureates, Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, South African Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu and Adolfo Pérez Esquivel of Argentina filed objections to select Sri Lanka to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, in a commentary published by Página 12 in Buenos Aires, "compared the routine torture and the hundreds of 'disappearances' and extrajudicial killings committed by Sri Lankan government forces to the 'dirty wars' waged by various Latin American governments against their own citizens in the 1970s and 1980s.

[TamilNet]

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# Canada Newsline

## Government of Canada announces new Language training funding for internationally trained Environmental Engineers

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) will be able to provide enhanced language training to internationally trained environmental engineers in Toronto thanks to an investment by the Government of Canada. The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, on June 2nd announced funding of more than \$58,000 to provide enhanced language training to 40 environmental engineers who were trained abroad.

The training will be delivered as part of the Professional Access and Integration Enhancement Program, a joint initiative of the TRCA and several other community and professional associations. Engineers who participate in this program are also offered a 12-month full-time job placement with a host organization in the environmental engineering field.

"Language can be one of the most challenging barriers faced by newcomers to Canada," said Minister Finley. "With this investment, highly skilled environmental engineers in Toronto will have access to the specialized language training they need to work

in their field of expertise.

Their success is good for Toronto and good for our country as a whole." "Thanks to the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), we can now address the challenges facing internationally trained professionals in finding employment in their field," said Brian Denney, Chief Administrative Officer of the TRCA. "This new funding allows us to offer services that will increase the communication skills of newcomers, provide better access to professional accreditation, and open doors to the job market."

Settlement services are an essential part of the federal government's immigration program. Through the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA), the Government of Canada has increased settlement funding for Ontario by a total of \$920 million over five years. Under the COIA, CIC works with the province and immigrant-serving agencies to make a real difference in the lives of immigrants.

The 2008 budget also proposes changes to modernize the immigration system, including

shortening the time it takes to bring newcomers and their families to Canada. Under this proposed system, instructions would be issued to immigration officers related to the processing of applications, including in relation to the jobs available in Canada, so that people with those skills and experience can be brought to Canada more quickly. With these changes, newcomers could have more opportunities to find work sooner, provide a better life for themselves and their families and benefit more from life in Canada.

Newcomers to Canada can also turn to the Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO), which helps internationally trained individuals find the information they need to get their credentials assessed and recognized more quickly. Established in 2007, the FCRO provides information, path-finding and referral services to help internationally trained individuals use their skills in Canada. There are now 320 Service Canada centres across the country offering in-person services to newcomers.

CIC funds a number of programs that help newcomers set-



tle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society. These programs are delivered in partnership with provinces, territories and service-providing organizations. Funding for the TRCA is provided through the Enhanced Language Training initiative which provides both occupation-specific language training and employability assistance. Other programs include the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program, which provides orientation, referral and

counselling services; Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, which provides basic language training for adults; and the Host Program, which helps newcomers connect with volunteers who help them access services, establish contacts in their field of work and participate in the community.

For more information on CIC's programs, consult our website at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

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# Monsoon Health



## The Energy of Exercise

The sun is shining and skies are blue. The mountains of snow seem like a distant memory away. As the change of seasons occurs, it comes with a sense of energy and exuberance. It is the perfect time to put that energy towards New Year resolutions that have been long forgotten. If you did make any resolutions this year, exercise and healthy living was probably on your list of top ten. Whether it's through the media, your family or your physician, the importance of exercise and physical fitness is instilled into us. However, for many of us, it is a concept that sounds great theoretically, but yet we find it challenging to make it part of our lifestyle. Our work, family obligations and social life all usually will come first before we take care of ourselves.

We all know that exercise is good for us. Why and how is the question?

The most commonly known benefit of exercise is that it prevents chronic diseases like heart disease and osteoporosis. It improves your blood flow, ensures

By Mithura Anandarajah, PT

that your heart is working efficiently and reduces the bad cholesterol that can block up the arteries. Exercise and strength training have been shown to increase your bone strength and minimize the effects of osteoporosis.

As an appeal to our vanity, exercise helps us manage our weight. We are all in the process of pulling out our skimpy summer wear. Shedding those extra pounds suddenly has more meaning and motivation. The more you exercise the more calories you burn. This could include taking the stairs instead of the elevator; walking to the corner store instead of driving. As long as you are moving, you are burning calories.

Exercise enhances our mood. It results in the release of chemicals in our brain, called endorphins, which make us feel happier and more relaxed. Use it as a way to release stress or anxiety. It also has the added bonus of

helping you sleep better at night. A good night sleep will improve your concentration, productivity and mood. Exercise has been shown to improve your sex life. It gives you more energy and endurance; the increased circulation that results from exercise can make it more satisfying.

How much is enough? As a guideline, it is recommended for healthy adults under the age of 65 that at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (walking or swimming) five days a week or 20 minutes of vigorous activity (running) three days a week, plus strength training twice a week. If you're trying to lose weight or meet specific fitness goals, you may need to increase the activity. The more active you are, the greater the benefits you receive.

What is equally important is that exercise can be fun. It does not need to be a chore that is grudgingly scheduled. Go for a hike, take a ballroom lesson or



spend some time gardening. Find an activity which appeals to your personality. Do it with a partner or your family so that it is part of your social life. Turn off the television and go for a walk. Park at the end of the parking lot and

walk. Make simple changes in your life that makes you keep moving. It you're moving it counts! So this spring and summer, enjoy the energy of exercise. It will help you look, feel and be younger.

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- ◆ MS Outlook

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# CTCC 2008 awards for various Business Categories

## Woman Entrepreneur Award - 2008

**Rajamani Nadpurajah**  
of Three Star Bindery



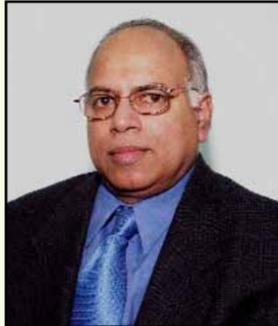
Rajamani Nadpurajah, who hails from Kotahena in Sri Lanka and winner of CTCC's Woman Entrepreneur for 2008 never realized that she too would become a Business woman when she arrived in Canada. On arrival in Canada she enrolled herself as a student at Seneca College and completed her education there. Later, Rajamani started working in a Bindery Firm. Motivated by the owner and for her dedication towards the organization, the owner persuaded Rajamani to buy the business. She decided to take the challenge and purchased the business. As a result, Rajamani elevated herself as a proud owner from the position of an employee.

She has invested in modern plant and machinery for binding and finishing work. Having been an employee before, she treats her employees as family members and they all work as one extended family towards the success of the business. As a devout Born Again Christian she firmly believes in family values and is a proud mother of two children- Prashana and Laxshaa.

## MbSt Outstanding Community Services Award- 2008

**Vairamuthu Sornalingam**

Vairamuthu Sornalingam's passion for Music, Drama and Dance is no closer than to his family. In such a context, Sornalingam's community involvement naturally centered around the national identity and culture of the Sri Lankan Tamils. He arrived in



Canada in 1986 and like many professionals started doing jobs different from his profession. Later he started his own firm- Yarl Metal Fabrication Inc. which manufactures Architectural

Ornamental Products.

Driven by a passion and kindled with an interest Sornalingam wanted to show the world and the Canadian mainstream that the Eelam Tamils are not second to any other community in cultural activity. He started providing facilities to men and women of his community to showcase their hidden talents in Art and Culture, especially in Music and Drama. He began producing Dramas, composing Songs and Lyrics thus providing the infra structure to the budding artistes and exposed to the community talented persons in their chosen fields. In 1990, he started the Thamil Isai Kala Mantram for classical artistes to show case their talents and create a national identity of it's own for his community. He receives limitless support from the community for his cultural programmes, specially "Isai Arangam".

## Best Marketing Award - 2008

**Mr. & Mrs. Sureshkumar Asiyans**

Sureshkumar and his wife Thirumagal are the proud owners of a 30,000 square feet textile emporium in Toronto and the largest Sri

children's clothing. The Success of Asiyans can definitely be attributed to the consistent Marketing Strategies adopted in their sales campaigns. The regular rapport with their customers through their database guar-



Lankan Textile store in North America. Driven by a passion coupled with an interest to start something of his own, Suresh originally began importing textile items in a small way from Singapore. Slowly but steadily, the Business started growing. Today, Asiyans, with a floor space of 30,000 feet square area occupying three floors, is well-stocked with all textile items and giftware carrying different varieties of Sarees, Men's wear, Ladies wear and

antees customer satisfaction, quality and continuity. They sustain their market by continuous commercials through Print, Radio and TV Advertising. Asiyans is today a one-stop shopping centre for the entire family. Apart from their Business interest, both Suresh and Thirumagal spend time, energy and finance in community involvement by contributions to Religious, Educational and Sports charities and organizations.

## MbSt Outstanding Professional Award - 2008

**Dr. Rajeswari Thurairajah**



As a woman obstetrician and gynecologist, her greatest reward and achievement in her medical career in Canada was to serve the natal needs of mothers-to-be of the Tamil community over a long span of twenty-five years.

Dr. Rajeswari Thurairaja began her medical career in Colombo. Later, she served in the U.K. for five years. It was hard at the beginning for Rajeswari when she arrived in Canada, as she had to repeat four years of Residency, to qualify for the Specialist License. She weathered the storm and finally found a staff position at the Queensway Hospital in Etobicoke.

It was during her long career in Mississauga that she came into close contact with the women of the Tamil

community. It was a time when large numbers of our community were migrating into Canada. It so happened that she was the only Tamil woman Gynecologist at that time and our women who were new to the country received not only pre-natal medical advice but she was also a Family Counselor as well.

Dr. Rajeswari has involved herself with the community by participating in community discussions, seminars and giving talks even to Seniors.

## Young Entrepreneur Award - 2008

**Shanmugalingam Kunachelvan**  
Brilliant Tutor At Your Home

Young Shanmugalingam Kunachelvan's novel idea of Tutoring at home has created an extensive team of rowing



ambassadors in Education through out the GTA. His team of nearly 150 teachers do their daily rounds of tutoring 1,800 students. His concept of imparting education to the younger generation in their homes has made it convenient and easier to both the student and the parent. Arriving in Canada in 1992, he entered McMaster

University and passed out as a Software Engineer in the year 2000. He worked for Nortel for a brief period of two years. Driven by an interest to be self employed and to put his education to better use, Kunachelvan struck on this novel idea of tutoring in the homes.

"Tution on wheels", so to speak was started with a modest 15 students at the beginning, and gradually began to grow. Within five years, the number of students has exceeded 1,800 with nearly 150 teachers covering Toronto, Markham, Brampton, Etobicoke, Ajax, Mississauga, Pickering and Scarborough areas. Kunachelvan is proud to say that his business flourishes on referrals and word of mouth. He selects the best of the teachers dedicated to their work and all of them are Degree or Diploma holders. Kunachelvan is today a happy and contented individual that he is providing education to the younger generation in their own homes.

## Best Entrepreneur Award- 2008

**Bala Balasingam**  
ADCO Logistics

Mr. Bala Balasingham is the owner of a Courier Transport Business which he started in 1991. His firm transports auto-parts shipments within Canada and also across to the U.S

When Bala Balasingham arrived in Canada, all he possessed was a \$ 20 dollar bill. Working twenty-hours a day and sleeping only four hours, Bala climbed up the steps of the ladder to be the proud owner of a business worth \$60 million today.

Arriving in Canada in 1984, he started working on odd jobs until 1991 when he joined a Courier Company as a Driver. Bala's desire and ambition to start something of his own made him open the courier transport business. He employs about 150 persons and has skilled per-

sonnel at all levels.

Bala is married to Ranjani and attributes much of his success to his marriage to her. He is the proud father of six children, all of whom he



says brought him luck. He is also involved in community service, especially to social and religious projects in his birth place.

Pictures taken on April 26, 2008 during 11th Annual Awards ceremony to recognize the above winners held at Fairmont Royal York



Cinniah Ramanathan, Siva Sivaramalingam, Hon. Stephane Dion, Dinesh Ramanathan & Dr. Tham Vasanthakumar



Dr. (Mrs). Giri, Dr. Giri, Mr & Mrs. Ganga, Mr & Mrs. Raveendraraj & other guests



CTCC Board of Directors, Advisory Council & Awards Gala-2008 Team Members at Fairmont Royal York

# A Case of Reverse Imperialism

By Benjamin Willson

**Beware India's manifest destiny.**

Though still labeled an emerging market, one could argue that the Indian economy has already emerged. According to Forbes' list of international billionaires, four of the top 10 are Indian. And with an annualized five-year total return of 42.2%, Forbes ranked India second after Brazil in its assessment of the growth of the world's largest public companies. The U.K., with a growth percentage of 17.1%, and the U.S., with 11.1%, occupy two of the last three spots on that list. The balance of power is starting to shift.

This discrepancy is understandable given the context; it is more difficult for established companies in the U.S. and U.K. to grow as quickly as those expanding from nothing, as is the case for start-up companies in India. Nevertheless, these figures highlight an important trend. As the Indian economy continues to spread its wings, its companies are turning to new international markets.

**Could this be the beginning of a reverse imperialism?**

During the 18th century, the British first annexed and then colonized India, seeking to exploit the subcontinent's vast natural resources and to expand trade. Tea became an important commodity and came to symbolize British colonial rule.

**How times have changed!**

In 2000, Tata Tea--a member of India's Tata Group conglomerate of 27 publicly listed companies--bought Tetley, the U.K.'s largest tea company. Tata Tea now represents the second largest tea manufacturer in the world by volume, surpassed only by London- and Rotterdam-based Unilever.



What is driving India's expansion? "Unlike China where companies are state- and government-led, in India, it is people's own money," says Tarun Khanna, a professor at Harvard Business School and author of *Billions of Entrepreneurs: How China and India Are Reshaping Their Futures and Yours*.

In March, another subsidiary of the Tata Group, Tata Motors (nyse: TTM), acquired Jaguar and Land Rover from Ford Motor (nyse: F) for \$2.3 billion. It's another example of originally-British brands being scooped up by an old colonial friend. While the two brands will continue to follow their own business plans, Tata Motors hopes they will boost the company's ability to be a "meaningful player in the global market," says Debasis Ray, head of corporate communications at Tata Motors.

The company recently unveiled its Nano model in New Delhi. Touted as "the people's car," the small four-seater with a price tag of \$2,500 is said to be the least expensive car in the world.

The monetary muscle behind the quest for new horizons is fuelled by a cheap domestic labor

market and Indian companies' high price-to-earnings ratios, according to Khanna. Smaller Indian companies can more easily collaborate with bigger counterparts in other markets--even those in other former colonies.

Last week India's biggest telecom, Bharti Airtel, called off merger talks with South Africa's largest provider of cellphone service, MTN Group, citing disagreements over the terms of the deal. Reliance Communications, India's second-largest telecom, subsequently announced it was entering talks with the South African company. A resulting MTN-Reliance merger would result in over 100 million customers, a larger network than AT&T.

The shared colonial past, actually, is an advantage. The British Empire, Khanna believes, created a legacy whose repercussions are felt in India and in Africa's eastern and southern regions. "Imperialism is laying the seeds of global chess, with Indian companies naturally capitalizing on their shared history," he says.

Perhaps other nations should prepare for a new breed of imperialism. This time, we will be pouring the tea.

[courtesy:forbes.com]

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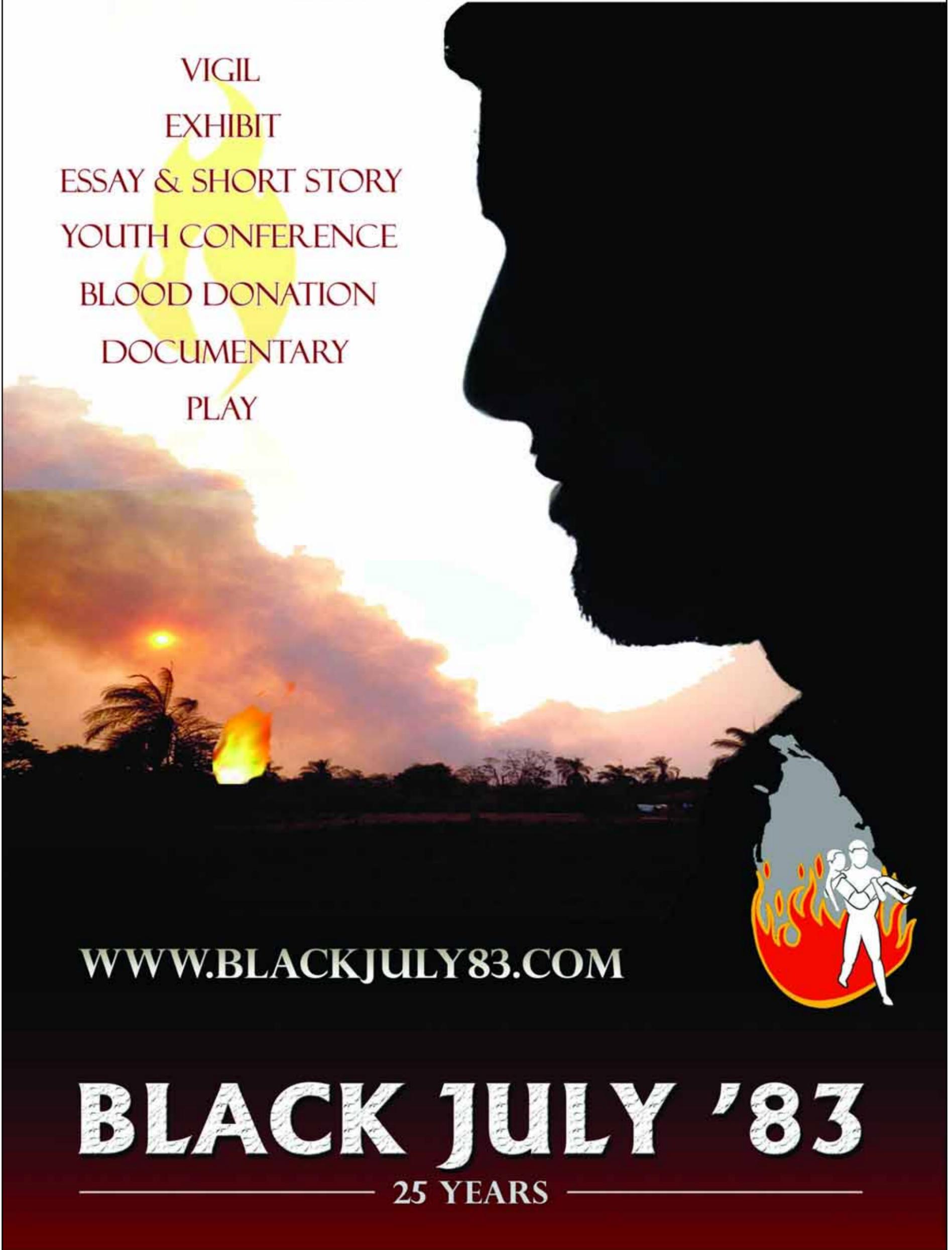
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# Healing Rite



Sri Lanka needs 'political offensive' for peace, reconciliation: scholar

Sri Lanka should commemorate the 25th anniversary of the July 1983 riots and put forward its best offer to the Tamil people as part of a political offensive to end the war and find peace and reconciliation, a US scholar said.

William Grassie, a senior Fulbright Fellow, said the commemoration will be "healing" and "helpful" for Sri Lanka to show its commitment to ensure equal protection for all its citizens under the law.

"The 1983 riots provide an opportunity to collect oral histories of survivors which can be translated and printed in newspapers and presented in TV documentaries," Grassie told a public seminar.

"It will be important to emphasize the individual human tragedies, rather than to rehearse conflicting narratives about who is responsible for the ensuing civil war.

"It would also be important to include oral histories of Sinhalese who helped to shelter Tamils from the mob violence," he said.

Grassie says such a commemoration would send a message to the Tamils across the world that most Sinhalese recognize that a "terrible injustice" was done to their fellow citizens who deserve equal protection.

## Rampaging Mobs

The 1983 riots against Tamils fuelled by the killing of 13 Sinhalese soldiers by the Tamil Tiger guerillas in the north led to the murder of hundreds of Tamil civilians and destruction of their property across the country.

The riots not only sparked full scale war between Tamil guerillas and government forces but also fuelled hatred and suspicion between the two communities.

Thousands of Tamils fled the country seeking asylum in western countries and others joined the Tamil militant groups including the LTTE in the country's north.

Grassie, speaking about a best case scenario for Sri Lanka, at a public seminar said recognition is the first step in reconciliation and that the government's failure to protect its citizens from lawlessness in 1983 has to be publicly recognized.

"The tone of the commemoration should be "never again" and to promote a vision of unified, peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka, in which all citizens ... are entitled to equal protection under the law," Grassie said.

The near three-decade war has consumed resources and resulted in the deaths of thousands of Sri Lankans across the

island.

## Military Campaign

The government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa has vowed to pursue a military campaign to crush the Tamil Tigers who control much of the country's northern region.

Last year, government forces made progress by gaining control of the eastern province after ousting Tamil Tiger guerillas from their jungle bases.

With the government pushing for a military victory, the Army intensified operations against the Tigers in the northern, northwestern and north eastern regions.

Intensified military action has triggered Tiger terror attacks against civilians, military personnel and government officials in the south.

Grassie said despite a win on the military front Sri Lanka could still see a worst case scenario with a loss of democracy.

## Losing Democracy

"In thinking about the worst that might happen here, Sri Lanka might win the war and lose its democracy," he said.

"The violence of the war will metastasize and a radical Tamil underworld will be created and will join a Sinhalese and Muslim underworld.

"Muslims will systematically arm themselves in self defense feeling threatened from all sides," he said.

Grassie says Sri Lanka could end up as a failed state, heavily indebted by war spending leading to runaway inflation, investments and aid drying up, tourism crippled, an exodus of upper and middle class youth overseas, hunger and disease on the rise and communal riots.

According to Grassie even a worst case scenario could herald one of the greatest political and economic miracles of the twenty first century.

He says a political offensive should be carried forward alongside the military offensive by the government to reach out to the Tamil population both in Sri Lanka and abroad and to the international community.

Grassie says the government in reconciliation should forward its best offer to the Tamil people who have suffered the most during the civil conflict.

"The international community says there has to be a political solution ...so go ahead and develop a political solution and make the proposal now and make it publicly to the world," he said

"Basically I would tell the LTTE the same thing. Put your best offer forward, make it publicly and let's stop this silliness."

[Lanka Business Online]



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# Monsoon Newsline

## Lankan Tamil second richest man in Malaysia

A Tamil of Sri Lankan origin is the second richest man in Malaysia, while a businessman of Indian origin occupies the 16th place in the list of the 40 wealthiest persons in the Southeast Asian country.

T. Ananda Krishnan 70, whose family originates from Jaffna, runs the telecom firm Maxis, with a net worth of \$ 7.2 billion. In the lists published by the Forbes magazine, he is behind Robert Kuok, 84, who has diverse business interests and a fortune worth \$ 10 billion.

Maxis became a private firm in a leveraged buyout in 2007 and has a 74 percent stake in India's telecom operator Aircel.

Krishnan is the wealthiest person with a Tamil background, ahead of Shiv Nadar who is the 10th richest man in India.

Vinod Sekhar of Indian origin is placed 16th in the Forbes' list and has a net worth of \$ 320 million.

For its Malaysia list, Forbes set the bar at only \$ 100 million, compared to the billionaires list the magazine is known for.

Noting that Sekhar, 40, runs Petra Group, named after his daughter, Forbes said the company is best known for its Green Rubber Global, which has a



patented process to devulcanise used rubber, which makes it recyclable.

Another Tamil of Sri Lankan origin on the list, at No 26, is 63-year-old G. Gnanalingam, whose fortune is to the tune of \$ 230 million. The former tobacco executive is executive chairman of Westports Malaysia, the nation's largest privately owned port.

According to the magazine, the total net worth of the top 40 people in Malaysia is \$ 46 billion, up \$ 3 billion from last year.

Net worths for people with publicly traded fortunes were calculated with share prices and exchange rates from May 9. For privately held fortunes, the magazine said it used database company BRIS and other sources to estimate what companies and assets were worth if public.

(IANS)

## Margosa Investment Shares

**Together we are One, Driving forward the Financial Future for all Sri Lankans & South East Asians**

Margosa Credit Union was authorized to sell to its members, Class A and Class B Investment shares on September 28, 2007. There are more than 1,500,000 Class A and Class B Shares for sale and each share will be sold at \$1.00 per share. We have openings for two types of investors - the small time investor who would like to associate with us, just because it is a Sri Lankan Venture.

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shares are cumulative, meaning that they accumulate, and once accumulated must be paid before dividends are paid on shares ranking below the Class A shares. Once dividends are paid on Class A shares, Dividends may be paid on the Class B shares. The Dividend rate on the Class A investment share exceeds by 1% the simple average of the yields on the monthly series of the Government of Canada five-year Bonds as published by the Bank Of Canada for each month in Margosa's Fiscal year. Once these shares are issued, they are not redeemable for a period of 5 years. Exceptions will be made on approval by the Board of Directors.

Investment shares will be sold to Margosa Members only. They will be given a copy of the Share Offering Statement, which carries all the important information. They could pick up a copy by dropping by our Office located at 2100 Ellesmere Road, Suite #100A. If you need a copy in the mail, just call us at 416 915 8989. We would be more than willing to discuss your concerns and will not obligate any member to pur-

## Tamil Australian Maha Sinnathamby - Tenth wealthiest individual in Queensland, Australia

Maha Sinnathamby, A man with Sri Lankan Tamil roots, who migrated to Australia in his 18's has been listed as tenth wealthiest individual in Queensland in BRW 2008 Rich list. Courier Mail reported his achievement as, "The man who founded the entire Springfield property development, Sinnathamby is worth an estimated \$571 million. He has few obvious trappings of wealth, living in a modest abode at Fig Tree Pocket, his own real luxury being driving a Mercedes car." Like Sri Lankan Tamil Community Maha is highly values the importance of Education and says & believe "Education is the key. Education creates a strong community. Education changes our potential."

Profile of Maha Sinnathamby from His Official Website

Maha Sinnathamby is a Hindu of Tamil descent, born in Malaysia in 1939 where he lived in the small farming village of Rantau, without power or water, and where he was educated at a Catholic school. His father survived three years in a Japanese POW camp, thanks largely to his mother making regular and long journeys from the village to the camp to bring him food.

Maha had to travel 36km every day by bus to and from school. He learnt two significant lessons from his parents - the importance of a good education and the value of a strong work ethic.

Maha travelled to Australia by boat in 1962 to study civil engineering at the University of New South Wales and after years of persistence, graduated and worked for different organisations as a civil and design engineer, including a stint with the World Bank.

He started his own property business in Perth in 1976 and later moved his young family to

chase shares.

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Queensland in the early 80's, convinced that bigger opportunities awaited him in the Sunshine State. He continued slowly building the family company with numerous small residential subdivisions and several commercial projects in the region.

In the early 1990s, Maha's mind turned to the potential of the south-east corner as a fast-growing "sun belt" region. With business partner Bob Sharpless, he secured a 2,860-hectare parcel of land in Ipswich, south-west of Brisbane, for \$7.9 million in 1992. Maha became Chairman of Springfield Land Corporation which was established in conjunction with the purchase of the parcel.

Friends, family and business partners all marvel at his extraordinary passion and persistence. The family saying is: "It's never a no, until it's a yes."

Maha's lobbying and negotiating skills as he and his team lay the foundations of Springfield were extraordinary - he once approached Premier Wayne Goss at a business function and pounced on him on the way out the door, just so he could get a face-to-face meeting with Goss about State Government support for Springfield.

He lobbied the Education and Transport Departments just to get

reaches the desired level of \$1.5 million. At that point, the funds will be released to Margosa and the Share Certificates will be issued to the Investors. It is only then, will the time period for dividend calculation, begin. Concentra will provide the assurance to all the investors that Margosa will not have access to the funds until it has complied with all contractual agreements.

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their co-operation to help build basic infrastructure to the area.

Eventually, it needed a special act of Parliament to enable things to happen and he achieved the extraordinary - getting all 89 members of Parliament to vote in favour of the legislation.

Maha assembled a team who shared his vision and commitment and has in just 15 years developed Greater Springfield - Australia's first privately-built city and the country's largest master planned community. It is the tenth largest master planned community in the world. Greater Springfield has a present population of over 15,000 people. With an average number of three families moving to the city per day, a population growth of over 100,000 is predicted within the next 20 years.

Maha is passionate about education. He sees it as the golden ticket to a better life - just as it's been with him.

He has a vision of socially uplifting society around him - in this case the Ipswich and Western Corridor - through education.

Maha is married to Yoga and has three daughters - Raynuha, Meera, Uma - and a son Naren. All of them work for Springfield Land Corporation.

[<http://www.mahasinnathamby.com/>]

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# Monsoon Newsline

## Senator Barack Obama Clinches Democratic Nomination

By Philip Fernando in Los Angeles

Senator Barack Obama has effectively clinched the Democratic presidential nomination even if he were to lose both S. Dakota and Montana as many super delegates have just expressed their endorsements of Obama-he may win both primaries. Based on a tally of convention delegates, both pledged and super delegates Obama has exceeded the required 2,118 delegate count now. He becomes the first black candidate ever to lead his party into a fall campaign for the White House. He had greater sustaining power than his gamey contender Hillary Clinton who fought to the last primary.

Both Obama and Clinton drew historic voter turnout primary after primary. It looked somewhat racially polarizing towards the end as Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Virginia rallied behind Clinton. Obama is certain of getting more than the 2,118 delegates for clinching the party nomination at the Convention in

August. The 46-year-old first term senator will face Sen. John McCain of Arizona in the fall campaign to become the 44th president.

The anatomy of the Obama win was described as a combination of unstoppable prodigious fundraising, ultra modern organizing skills delivered meticulously and his theme of change that motivated an electorate opposed to the Iraq war and worried about the economy. These were harnessed to his own innate gifts as an orator and a campaigner.

Clinton campaigned from the beginning as the candidate of experience ready to be president from day one, a former first lady and second-term senator of repute. It may have overstated the position so much as to sound like a scolding voice of a seasoned veteran jostling against a charismatic and audacious charmer,

But after a somewhat shaky year on the trail, Obama won the first Iowa caucuses on January 3, 2008. Suddenly, the 46 year-old upstart had become acceptable

currency-in fact, sovereign gold

His acceptance speech after winning Iowa was "We came together as

Democrats, as Republicans and independents, to stand up and say we are one nation, we are one people and our time for change has come." A video built around Obama's "Yes, we can" rallying cry quickly went ballistic. It drew its one millionth hit within a few days of being posted,

Hillary Clinton was feisty to the end. Many believe that numerous talking heads, articles, books and blogs have and will dissect her candidacy, what she did wrong, her husband's role, what this means for our country's political future and how she would be remembered.



WINNING TAKE: Michelle Obama applauds her husband Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, after his speech at a primary night rally on Tuesday in St. Paul.

PHOTO: AP

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# Monsoon Arts



## Bhushany Kalyanaraman, Carnatic musician

Single minded devotion to Carnatic music - that sums up Bhushany Kalyanaraman. Hers is an extraordinary tale, spanning oceans. Born and brought up in Colombo, Sri Lanka, it was a typical Tamil household where her father used to ensure that everyone was awake at 5 a.m., reciting the Tiruvempavai. A renowned musician, her father had won the title "Sangita Bhushanam" from Annamalai University. All her sisters too sang well.

Love of Carnatic music brought Bhushany to Chennai, at 16, to stay and study music at the Government Music College. She went back to Sri Lanka, to teach music at a Jaffna college. The riots in 1982 brought her back to India, drawn by her deep admiration for her subsequent guru and husband, Tanjore S. Kalyanaraman, senior disciple of the legendary G.N.B.

A congenial atmosphere prevailed in her marital home, with a very supportive mother-in-law. "My husband was totally immersed in music much of the time," recalls Bhushany. "He never took any fee from his many students, he was a very stern man, a strict taskmaster, and a perfectionist.

His family was quite well to do, which allowed him to concentrate on music. A veritable genius as a vocalist, he even had many senior musicians coming to him for guidance. He has been my only guru, after my father. I'm what I'm today only because of him," says a nostalgic Bhushany. Sadly Kalyanaraman passed away a few years ago, leaving a big void in the music world, and in Bhushany's life.

A senior vocalist today, Bhushany has number of students both in Chennai and abroad, and many foreign students of Indian origin, who come to live with and learn from her. Many of her foreign-based students have had their formal arangetrams, proving her success as a teacher.

Today Bhushany is an Indian citizen; so much at home is she in India. "I've been all over the world, except Russia. I like it best here. I stay abroad for two-three months, to teach and perform," says Bhushany.

Her ambition is to establish a school for Carnatic music in S. Kalyanaraman's name, both here and abroad. Taped lessons too would bridge the distance, in her absence. Grateful for everything that music has bestowed on her, she also wishes to

do something for destitute women and children "to be able to reach out to people who do not have the luxury of music, people weighed down by pressing basic needs, to survive."

A Sri Lankan nation ever appreciative of Tamil culture and Carnatic music has honoured her with "GANA RATNA". Sri Lankan organisations in London have had her sing for fund raisers in 2001 and 2003. Bhushany is a fortunate person - she has the best of both Sri Lanka and India, the best gained by besting life's many odds.

### My favourite raga

"Bhairavi, captures moments in the flux of human experience, denoting majesty (gambhiram), seriousness now and peace and bhakti at another moment. It has the power to offer deliverance from current difficulties and protection against those of the future. In worship and especially in fulfilment of a vow, I intentionally sing this raga summoning forth help from without and within," says Bhushany Kalyanaraman, who has had her training from stalwarts such as Kulasegaran, her own father and all-time greats such as T.M. Thiagarajan and K.V. Narayanaswami. Bhairavi



### Beautiful swarajati

also brings forth special memories when she sings 'Bala Gopala,' Muthuswami Dikshitar's chowkakala kriti with her illustrious husband Kalyanaraman sometimes at his pitch and sometimes at her own, understanding the nuances of the raga, its strong rishabh and the movement which brings out the whole range and atmosphere that is unique to Bhairavi.

"The same feeling I experience while rendering Syama Sastri's beautiful Kamakshi swarajati. Mohanam is yet another raga which brings forth an intuitively comprehensible image of devotion. Singing it from childhood I find my best expression in Manickavachagar's 'Thiruvachagam,'" says Bhushany.

[Courtesy: Hinduonnet.com]

## What is Thamiz Isai?

By K.S. Sivakumaran

The Thamiz word for Music is "Isai". It is also known as "Sangeetham". Carnatic music is associated with the music of the Dravidians (Thamilians, Telugus, Kannadigas, Malayalees and the others of the southern regions of India). Some researchers say that Carnatic music evolved from Thamiz Isai (meaning music of the Thamilians).

To know more about Thami Isai I picked up the special issue (46-47-March 2008) of the journal Oalai published by the Kolumbu Thamil Sangam. I must congratulate the editorial board consisting of Dr V. Maheswaran, Dr A. Jinnah Sharifudin, K. Raghuparan and Vasanthi Thayaparan who in turn turned to a consultant board of knowledgeable people in the caliber of Prof. Saba Jeyarasa, A. Raghupathy Bala Sridharan, S. Sivaloganathan, K.Shanmugalingam and Pathma Somakanthan. Incidentally the journal's editor is T. Mathusoothanan.

According to the editor the pioneer researcher on Thamiz Isai was Pandit Abraham, but he also mentions that Swami Vipulananda was also involved in music research! The editor is gracious enough to add list some of the books in Thamiz on Thamiz Isai.

For the general information of interested readers, here are the resources: Karnamitha Saagaram ( Pandit Abraham),Yarl Nool (Swami



Vipulananda), Silapathikara Isai Nunukka Vilakkam(S. Ramanathan), five volumes of Then Inthiya Isai (Sambamurthy), Thamiz Isai Valam, Thamiz Isai Iyal, Thamiz Isaik Kalanjyam (V.P.K. Sundaram). One thing more-Photos of Pandit Abraham and Swami Vipulananda adorn the front cover of the magazine which is available from the Kolumbu Thamil Sangam at 7, 57th Lane (Rudra Mawatha), Colombo 06, Sri Lanka.

The magazine has excellent articles relating to Thamiz Isai. Let me translate into English the Thamiz titles of the essays: Music-Language-Society: an expression of relationship (Prof. Saba Jeyarasa), Researcher Pandit Abraham (T. Mathusoothanan), Research on Ancient Thamiz Isai (Swami Vipulananda), an excerpt of a speech delivered by Swami Vipulanada on the cantos Arangeattu Kaathai, Yaarl Nool - a research encyclopedia of Thamiz Music (Dr E. Balasundaram), The Beginning of Thamiz Music in the Arena of World Music (Prof.S.K. Sivapalan). The Researcher on Thamiz Music V.P.K.

Sundaram (Thurai Madan), Movement for Thamiz Song (Prof V. Arasu), Was Carnatic Music cribbed from Thamiz Isai? ( P.Vealsamy), Musicians from Alavai (Alaveddi) (C.Kanthasamy), Melting oneself Singing( Vasanthi Thayaparan), Islamic Bards (S. Sivakumar), Pleasure of Music (M. Dhandapaani Desigar), Lyricists that wrote'Kerthanais' in Thamiz (Vasanthi Thayaparan), and The Thing that is Music (S. Subramania Bharathi).

This monograph carrying researched material on Thamiz Music by varied hands is really worthwhile publication.

An introduction of personages that received this year's honours for their outstanding contributors to Thamiz Studies is by S. Sivasubramaniam. The recipients were E.K. Kanthasamy, S.M. Hanifa and Dr Sangarapillai Nagendran

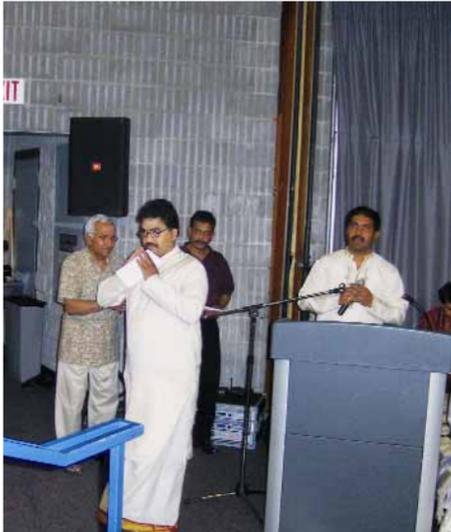
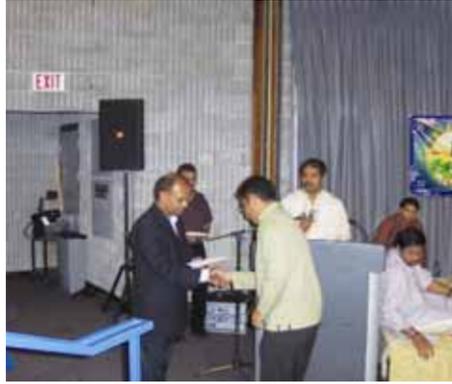
It also includes as plus features Quotes on Thamiz Isai, Keerthanais and poems.

sivakumaranks@yahoo.com



# 'Isaikku Eathu Ellai' the 19th Programme on Tamil Songs - organized by 'ISAI ARANGAM' the cultural Organization in Scarborough

Review- By Pudhuvai N. Raman



'Music is Divine - Music has no language' are the ancient proverbs. To add an additional saying ' Music has no Boundaries' has been the Theme of "Isai Arangam" an Organization, which has been promoting Fine Arts by giving importance to the Tamil Poems and Tamil singers by an eminent scholar and poet Mr. Vairamuttu Sornalingam for the past 8 years in Scarborough. Every year 'Isaikku Ethu Ellai' a very popular music program has been inspiring the Tamil Community since it aims to promote the younger generation to write poems in Tamils, compose music and sing in its annual event.

Though the Music formation may vary whether it is a song or instrumental by its style, rhythm, its cultural, traditional and natural sources throughout the world, everyone admire by a sense of relaxation and peace of mind when we listen them. As such thousands of poets, singers, musicians in all countries are still remembered for their contribution in music. So far as the Tamil community is concerned, we all know that Carnatic, Hindustani, classical and western music are very popular in the present modern world with advanced scientific technical instruments. Even then Tamil classical music with its ragas within the frame of Sabthaswarangal still remains with its melody and rhythm giving an eternal bliss to the music lovers.

As such 19th Programme of Issaikku Ethu Ellai, which was held on June 1st at Centennial College indoor auditorium ( 75 Ashtonbee Road, Scarborough) has proved its success by the beautiful performance by the leading musician Mr. Varnarameswaran and his accompaniments.

Mr. Kathi Selvakumar, a very popular artist, as the Master of Ceremony welcomed all and highlighted the salient features of Isai Arangam and Agnikunjugal as well introduced the performing musicians in the beginning.

In his welcome address, he also stated the forthcoming event of 'Agnikunjugal' to be held during September 08. As one of the fans of Isai Arangam, his comments on the lack of support to come forward to write Tamil poems really touched the audience in all respects since this organization's aims and objectives are giving importance to the growing younger generation, who possess and deserve talents and skills in composing songs like Bharathiar, Kavingar Kannadaasan and world famous Kaviperasu Kavingar Vairamuthu among us. Hence to show these talented persons identity, recognition as well raising popularity among all, Isai Arangam has created a platform by conducting talent competitions that too awarding a cash award of

4000/- by its unique programme of Agnikunjugal.

Unfortunately the strength of participants are not encouraging since 4 to 5 poets only submit their poems, for which composing music and conducting a concert could not be a successful one unless minimum 10 persons participate in this competitions. He also stated unless if there is no more than 10 participants in this effort, it has been decided to conduct only one solo music concert by famous singer Kumari Adhirai Sivabalan, which is to be held in August. Hence it is everyone's interest to promote Tamil songs by encouraging the talented writers so as new Tamil songs by the migrated Tamil Community writers could get strengthened to retain our tradition and culture extensively in this multicultural nation.

6 poems written by famous poets like Pudhuvai Ratnadurai, Poet Seran, Promar S. Vivekanandan and the main singer Varnarameswaran in the ragas Mayamalavagowla, Yaman Kalyani, Revathi, Sangaraparanam, Hamsanandi and Misra Sivaranjani were really superb. As such singer Shri Varnarameswaran compared these ragas with the present popular Tamil Film songs, really inspired everyone and applauded with great enthusiasm. Further the accompanied instrumental players viz., Payas Savahir (Key Board), Vaithinathan Natarajan (Violin), Gajajeyan Pararajasekaram ( Mirudangam), Raju Ragawan ( Sithar), Pratheepan (Ocropod) and Keerthan Diviyarajan (Tabla) exposed their talents with uniformity. Particularly Key Board Player Payas Savahir's composition of Sangaraparanam with Western music style was really beyond words of appreciation.

All the artists and poets were honored with cash award, presented by Lawyer Nathan Sritharan and eminent Mirudangam Player Shri Karaikudi Krishnamoorthy. Who felicitated this program and expressed his blessings so as to fulfill the organizers ambition to own a big auditorium in future as well to achieve their progress with great success. As the pioneer to this project Poet Promar S. Vivekanadan, who was presented a cash award, donated the same to this organization. Though strength of audience from various fields of Business circle, media and music lovers were insufficient, no doubt everyone deserves appreciation since the whole program from beginning to end was highly admirable. Monsoon Journal extends its greetings to Isai Arangam to continue its spirit with a request of our readers to extend their moral support in all respects.

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E&O E

# Monsoon Features

## Consecration of Auxilliary Bishop held in Batticaloa

The Episcopal Ordination of the Bishop-elect Msgr. Joseph Ponniah was held Saturday afternoon at St. Mary's Co-Cathedral, Batticaloa by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Kinglsey Swampillai, the Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa, sources in Batticaloa said.

A large number of religious dignitaries and Bishops of Catholic Church from various dioceses in the island as well as a large number of people from various parishes in the district participated in the historic event.

After the consecration of the auxiliary bishop, Rev. Dr. Kinglsey Swampillai handed over selected responsibilities to the newly elected Bishop.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Ponniah, Vicar General of Trincomalee-Batticaloa, Sri

Lanka was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the same diocese by Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI in March.

The newly consecrated Bishop was born in Thannamunai, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka in 1952 and ordained a priest in 1980.

Having done his B.Ph at St. Paul's Seminary, Thiruchiraapalli in South India, and B.Th in the Papal Seminary, Poona, India, Fr.Ponniah returned to Sri Lanka for the Ordination.

Thereafter, he did B.A. in the University of Peradeniya, Licentiate in Biblical Theology at Urbana University, Rome, and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Christian Civilization at the University of Jaffna.

He served at the Parishes of Batticaloa Cathedral, Vaakarai, Veechckukkalmunai, Aaiyithiyamalai,

Periya Pullumalai and Thandavanvely.

He was appointed as the Rector of St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, Batticaloa and served from 1993 to 1996.

In 1996 he appointed as a Lecturer at the National Seminary, Ampitiya, and Kandy in 1996 and was involved in the National Seminary formation and giving lectures in Sacred Scripture, Hinduism, Indian Philosophy and Catechetics, until 2001.

He was also Resource person at the National Institute of Education, Maharagama, lecturing Religion in Tamil language to the teachers. He was the Editor of the Diocesan Catholic Paper "Vettappu" and the Diocesan Bulletin. As a Spiritual Director he assisted the Legion of



Bishop Kingsley Swampillai



Bishop Joseph Ponniah

Mary and Divine Mercy Apostolates.

He was appointed as the Vicar General of the Diocese of Trincomalee-Batticaloa on 19th February 2006 and

beside the commitments in the Diocese, he has been lecturing at the Eastern University, Vanthaarumoolai, Batticaloa.

## Meditation - a Path towards utter Freedom

Saran Ghai

### Who am I?

My last month's article I ended inviting your attention towards a question, which you need to ask to your own self - "Who am I?" This question is the base of the whole process of meditation. The moment, you will come to know, who you are, believe me, there will not remain any difference between you and God.

I suggest you two different ways to find out the answer of the question, "Who am I?"

The first way out is to sit in an easy posture at a calm place at your home. Stop thinking about everything whatsoever going on in your mind. Just concentrate on one point - asking from your own self - "Who am I?" Keep on repeating the question again and again, again and again - who am I, who am I, who am I, as same as a blacksmith continuously hammers on an object. Continue the process till you reach a state of mind when you start getting your answer in the form of different options from your brain. In reply to your question - Who am I, you will see the first option your mind suggests is - 'your name.' Your brain will suggest - your name is you. People know you by your name. Your name is your recognition. So, you are what your name is.

A question arises here - are you sure your name is your recognition? The answer is - No. Reason - suppose your name is John. Could it not be Abraham or Charles depending upon the choice of your parents or the person who gave you that name? Besides this, during your life time, any day you can change your name. So, name is not your

recognition even though the world knows you by it. As a matter of fact your name is your recognition as a worldly person. It is not the recognition of your inner self. What meditation is about, to make you acquainted with your inner self. In other words, your name is not you. If not the first name, is your last name or your family name your recognition? No, your family name is the recognition of your family but not yours. In some communities they add the name of father/mother and the name of their place of birth with the first name of an individual. Is that whole information establishes your recognition as an individual? Again the answer is very much same - No.

If your inner self can not be recognized by your first name, family name, name of parents and family then how would you be recognized?

"When I was in the womb of my mother,  
Before incarnating on this earth,

One night when my mom was sleeping alone,  
I woke her up and asked her,  
Mom, when I take birth,  
And open my eyes in your world,

Upon my first breath and first cry,

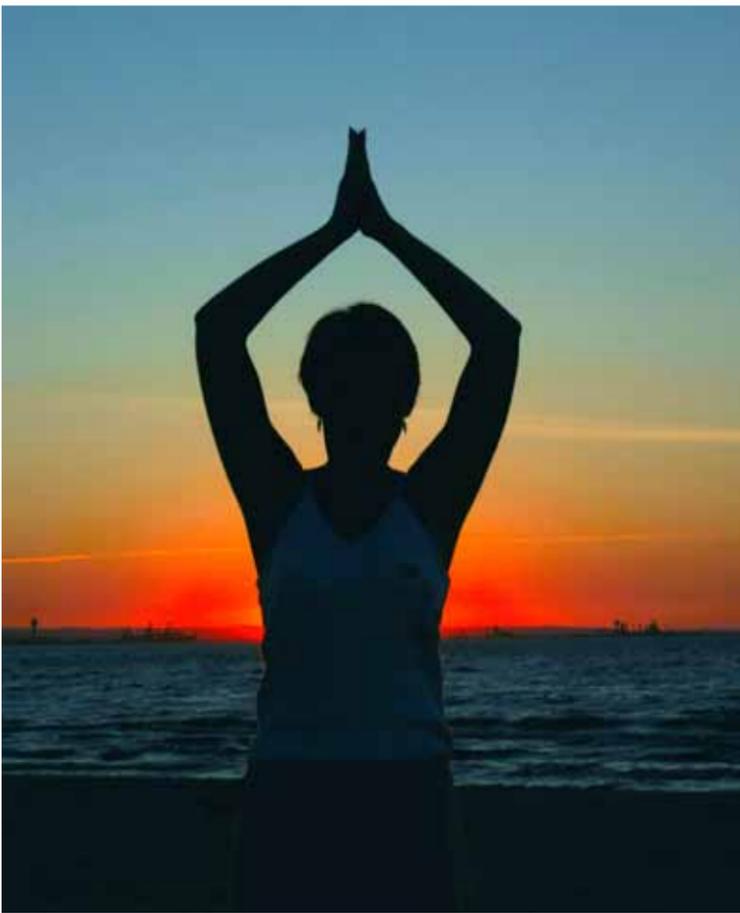
Your family will tie me up giving names to my relationship with them,

People will recognize me as your son,

People will recognize me as my father's son,

People will recognize me as my brother's brother,

People will recognize me as my sister's brother,



You will give me a name,  
The world will recognize me by that name,

But my question remained unanswered,

"Who am I?  
Am I my name?  
Am I a relation?"

Mom, tell me, "Who am I?"

Mom thought over my question but could not find a reply,

She went to sleep and got lost in her own world.

And the day arrived when I took birth,

I took my first breath and made my first cry,

Everybody was happy, they cheered and loved me,

They hugged each other and got busy in their own things thereafter,

But, my question still

remained unanswered,  
Ultimately I asked to myself - "Who am I?"

And I found, even I had no answer."

Popeye said, "I am what I am and that's all what I am."

The priest of the church says, "You are the son of the highest supreme father. Even before your mother knew that you are in her womb, the supreme authority so loved you that he gave you life and nourished you. Before you took your first breath, he demonstrated his concern about you and provided all you needed to survive and grow. Your real self went from the womb of flesh to the womb of cosmos. It is for you to decide to be conscious of the cosmos and embrace your infinite, eternal identity."

At the start of this article, I told you that there are two possible ways out in order to know yourself. Let us also give a try to the second way to find out who we are.

For the second way out, you have to go to a valley surrounded by mountains all over. Find a place where you can hear echo of your own voice. Applying all your strength, shout as loud as you can and ask the nature - "Who am I? Keep screaming until your voice and the echo of your voice coincide. You start feeling the resonance of the sound created by your self. That is the moment when you become a part of that environment. You become one with those mountains, trees, stones, plants, grass, animals and insects present there. You become a small fragment of the mother nature. To me and many others, mother nature is God. You being a small fragment of mother nature, become a small fragment of God. At that moment, there is no third person present there. One person is you and the other is God. Ask him, who am I? God will tell you, you are me, you are mine. I sent you as one of billions of my representatives on the earth to do your part of duty and when you are done, come back. You come back and become my part again. And then you realize - that is you.

Continued...

(Prof. Saran Ghai is an author, editor and publisher. He is also a Palm Reader and a Numerologist. Readers of "Monsoon Journal" can contact Prof. Saran Ghai at (416) 816-5559 or e-mail: goodbyeworries@yahoo.ca for further information about Meditation Sessions or for Palm Reading)

# Monsoon Features

## The Student Volunteer Programme

The Student Volunteer Programme - Le Programme des Étudiants Volontaires (TSVP-LPEV) is an international youth volunteer programme that offers students and young professionals, summer internship opportunities in South Asia across various sectors including Information and Communication Technologies, Education, Health, and Peace and Conflict Resolution.

As part of its Sri Lanka country programme, TSVP-LPEV has proactively worked to engage Sri Lanka's large and active diaspora community in Canada and Canadian civil society to work towards optimizing the peace dividend yield, however limited it may now be, from the ceasefire agreement in 2002. To complement and support the actualization of this goal, it regularly facilitates public dialogue on power-sharing models of governance, human rights, redevelopment and rehabilitation, and other salient issues for conflict mitigation and resolution. TSVP-LPEV's work continues to elicit considerable broad-based support in Canada and Sri

Lanka.

As part of this dialogue process, TSVP-LPEV organized a lecture on May 18, 2008 at the University of Toronto on "Constitutional Contradictions: Enforcing International Human Rights Law in Sri Lanka", featuring Rohan Edrisinha, Director and Head, Legal Unit, Centre for Policy Alternatives (Colombo). Mr. Edrisinha's lecture specifically focused on constitutional reform vis-à-vis the implementation of international human rights law instruments, which Sri Lanka is a signatory to, as a necessary precursor to any negotiations on potential models for devolution of power. Mr. Edrisinha also highlighted the recent spike in human rights violations specifically that of the Government of Sri Lanka and its paramilitary groups against civilian populations in Colombo and the North and East of the country, and the general breakdown of the Rule of Law. The session was expertly moderated by Professor David R. Cameron, Chair, Dept. of Political Science, University of Toronto

## Survivors Come Forward to Tell Stories of Black July



This year, 2008, is the 25th anniversary of the July 1983 anti-Tamil violence in Sri Lanka, which marked the beginning of escalated conflict in the island. As a result of the widespread, destruction, death and displacement, this time period has become known as Black July. It also signifies the beginning of the large scale exodus of Tamils who were caught in harm's way. Over the years, waves of Tamils left their homes and emigrated to safer countries such as Canada. Currently, Canada is home to over 250,000 Tamil Canadians, the vast majority of whom came here as refugees fleeing violence and persecution by the Sri Lankan government.

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) will be commemorating the 25th anniversary of Black July "in a way that will begin to bring solace and public understanding." Several events, including a vigil, exhibition, youth conference and other events marking the moment are planned to take place throughout the month of July. The purpose of the events is not only to remember the tragedy that happened in July 1983, but also to document our collective memories to transmit to future generations.

Much of the information documented about Black July is scarce. Telephone and fax machine transmissions were cut during the worst of the violence. Much of the information that survives in the West comes from the few foreign journalists who witnessed the atrocities. It is against this backdrop that CTC is engaging in a campaign to document the testimonies and stories of survivors and witnesses in a permanent database. Already, many people have come forward to tell their stories.

One such example is S.

Nithianathan. In his testimony, specific details describe the situation vividly beyond what the news articles of the time can provide. Mr. Nithianathan's story is a typical one that chronicles the devastation that surrounded Tamil families in Colombo during July, 1983. At the time, Mr. Nithianathan was 29 years old and had two small children. His family lived in Mt. Lavana, a suburb of Colombo that is predominately Sinhalese. He vividly recalls the night of July 25th. Mr. Nithianathan was aware of the troubles that were brewing in the South, and stayed home from work that day. That night an angry mob surrounded his house making threats and yelling in Sinhala that 'All the Tamils should leave this city'. Trapped in their own home with the curtains drawn, Mr. Nithianathan states that the experience was like living in a prison cell. They did not want anyone to know that they were Tamils living there. Their young daughter was asking so many questions wondering why their family had to hide out that at times they had to close her mouth so she would not shout in Tamil. Mr. Nithianathan stated that, "At the time we were scared to speak in Tamil also. We were scared to use our own mother tongue."

Fearing for the lives of himself and his children, he decided to move on the 26th morning to a refugee camp to protect themselves. With the help of some kind neighbors he managed to reach one of the makeshift refugee camps set up in a Hindu temple in Bambalapitiya, Colombo. When he arrived at the refugee camp, Mr. Nithianathan was horrified at the sight he saw, stating that "we were terrified to see all of our friends and our community, mostly all Tamils, were injured and crying." For six days Mr.

Nithianathan and his family lived in the refugee camp. Aware of the deteriorating situation in Colombo, he did not want to leave the refugee camp with his small children. Mr. Nithianathan recalls others who left the refugee to buy food and stated that "as a precaution I didn't want to leave far. But those who left on Black Friday, they never returned." Mr. Nithianathan and this family endured much hardships at the refugee camp. There were no toilets, or running water at the refugee camp and at nights, he and the children has to sleep outside under a tree. On the sixth day, they were among the thousands who were shipped by a 40 hour cargo ship journey to the Northern area of Jaffna. In 1986, Mr. Nithianathan and this family came to Canada to begin a new life. Yet the scars of his experiences during Black July still remain with him.

Mr. Nithianathan's story is one of many that are out there. Many others have also been providing the stories of their experiences to this documentation project. "Every story is important in constructing an accurate picture of what happened all across Sri Lanka during this period. There is no such thing as 'my story is not tragic enough', and the more stories that are given, the more powerful all of this evidence will become," said Piragal Thiru, CTC official. As Mr. Nithianathan said, "Now I could request all the young Tamils and other friends to think about our community that still suffers ... to help our community in whatever possible ways."

To share your story or to find more information about Black July, please visit [www.blackjuly83.com](http://www.blackjuly83.com) or contact Canadian Tamil Congress at 416-240-0078.



Rohan Edrisinha speaking



Prof. David R. Cameron & Rohan Edrisinha



L to R: Prof. David R. Cameron, Rohan Edrisinha, Kumaran Nadesan, Director-at-Large, TSVP-LPEV Skandha Sunderasen, Director, TSVP-LPEV and Dr. Darshan Ambalavanar, Visiting Fellow, Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto

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# Monsoon Newsline

## Singapore's J.B Jeyaretnam:

Mercy of his own force of personality, certain of his principles, uninhibited and seemingly immune to intimidation

by Seth Mydans

IT might seem late for a fresh start, but that is the story of J. B. Jeyaretnam's life, a political intruder who refuses to stay away.

Last month he was back after six years of political banishment, the grand old man of political opposition ready to joust again with Singapore's immovable political establishment.

"We are just beginning!" he exclaimed at a small news conference announcing the formation of a new party, the Reform Party.

It was an unusual phrase to hear from an 82-year-old man who has been running for office - when the courts would allow him - since 1971.

But Mr. Jeyaretnam seems unable to stop pushing, a man at the mercy of his own force of personality, certain of his principles, uninhibited and seemingly immune to intimidation.

He paid his way out of bankruptcy a year ago, after having been convicted in 2001 of defaming members of the ruling party; ordered to pay damages; barred from the practice of law; and expelled for the second time from Parliament.

He says he has lost count of the number of times he has been sued for defamation for his political statements.

"We in Singapore are denied the rights to speak up, to tell the government to change course," he said at the news conference.

He widened his eyes and smiled a puckish smile, displaying three large, widely spaced teeth, and rededicated himself to the rescue of his nation.

"The most important thing," he said, "is that what we have to bring about - and I'm saying it quite seriously - is the liberation of our people, the empowerment of our people."

It seemed an outsize vision for this lone crusader at this late stage. He said 10 people had enrolled in his party; others had declined to step out into the cold

light of open opposition.

But it is not so much his mission or his party that drew reporters, but the phenomenon of Mr. Jeyaretnam himself.

His persistence and his defeats are woven through Singapore's history as a sort of counterpoint to its steady rise to affluence and economic success. In its 42 years, this city-state of 4.5 million people has built what its founder, former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, in a recent interview called "a first world oasis in a third world region."

Most people accept restrictions on civil liberties and free speech as the price of their material well-being. Few people, even the discontents, call for fundamental change as Mr. Jeyaretnam does.

"We are quite narrow minded," a 16-year-old high school student said, asking that her name not be used when talking about Mr. Jeyaretnam. "We think about getting a degree, getting a good job, that's all. There aren't any political discussions. It's not really our culture. We just study and that's it."

WHATEVER his support, and whether or not he held a seat, Mr. Jeyaretnam has represented the idea of an opposition in a system that offers little role for one.

For Singapore's first 16 years as an independent nation, since 1965, Parliament did just fine as a monopoly of the People's Action Party of Mr. Lee. In 1981, after what he says were half a dozen attempts to win a seat, Mr. Jeyaretnam crashed Parliament's gate in a special election as its first, and noisiest, opposition member.

His wife, Margaret, whom he had met when they were law students in Britain, died of breast cancer a year before the election, and it is one of Mr. Jeyaretnam's regrets that she did not live to see him win.

Mr. Jeyaretnam's relationship with the legislature since then has been defined by the establishment's moves to eject him and his

own attempts to get back in.

He lost his first parliamentary seat in 1986 after being fined and jailed for a month, when he was convicted of making a false declaration of his party's accounts, a charge he says was politically motivated.

Of the five general elections since then he has been legally permitted to run in only one, in 1997. Though he did not win, he earned a special nonconstituency seat as "top loser" under election laws.

He held that seat until his latest conviction for defamation in a suit whose plaintiffs included Goh Chok Tong, who was prime minister at the time.

The next election is due by 2011 and Mr. Jeyaretnam plans to run again "if I'm still here." He added, in his commanding voice, "I'm 82 and still fit."

The People's Action Party is a brilliantly successful political meritocracy that has all but monopolized the political talent here.

And that, says Mr. Lee, is the only way it can be.

"We do not have the numbers to ensure that we'll always have an A Team and an alternative A Team," he said once, when asked why Singapore did not have a vigorous opposition. "I've tried it. It's just not possible."

Since Mr. Jeyaretnam opened the door, there have never been more than four opposition members of Parliament. Today, only two of the chamber's 84 members represent opposition parties, and unlike Mr. Jeyaretnam, they take a decorous and cooperative approach.

Mr. Jeyaretnam's flamboyance has clearly irritated Mr. Lee over the years, and the government-friendly newspaper Today recently called their relationship one of the world's longest-running political feuds. "His weakness was his sloppiness," Mr. Lee wrote in his autobiography, "From Third World to First." "He rambled on and on, his speeches apparently unprepared. When challenged on the detailed facts, he crumbled.



"Jeyaretnam," he writes, "is a poseur, always seeking publicity, good or bad."

HE does indeed love the limelight, but it is far more than a pose. Like with some dissidents in other nations, Mr. Jeyaretnam's single-minded pursuit of a moral vision seems to be a compulsion.

"Funnily enough, I enjoy the fight," he said in an interview. "It's true. And if I had to give it up I wouldn't know what to do." A practicing Anglican Christian of Sri Lankan descent, Joshua Benjamin Jeyaretnam was born in 1926, was raised partly in what is now Malaysia and received his law degree from University College in London in 1951.

His son Philip has followed him into law and is president of the Law Society of Singapore. His other son, Kenneth, is an economist in London. Mr. Jeyaretnam says they were among the benefactors who helped pay his way out of bankruptcy.

Back in Singapore with his

British law degree, Mr. Jeyaretnam rose quickly in the legal establishment, serving as a magistrate, district judge, prosecuting counsel, registrar of the Supreme Court and chief of the Subordinate Judiciary, a position of status and influence.

He resigned in 1963 at the age of 37 and went into private practice because, he said, "I was disillusioned, completely." In 1971, he made the first of his many unsuccessful runs for Parliament.

At the news conference he was asked the question that lies at the heart of people's fascination with him: why he continues after all these years of what seems like futility.

"I am concerned with reform and with people's thinking about the real values in life," he said. "Why are we here? What is the purpose of our being?"

Courtesy: NYTimes.com

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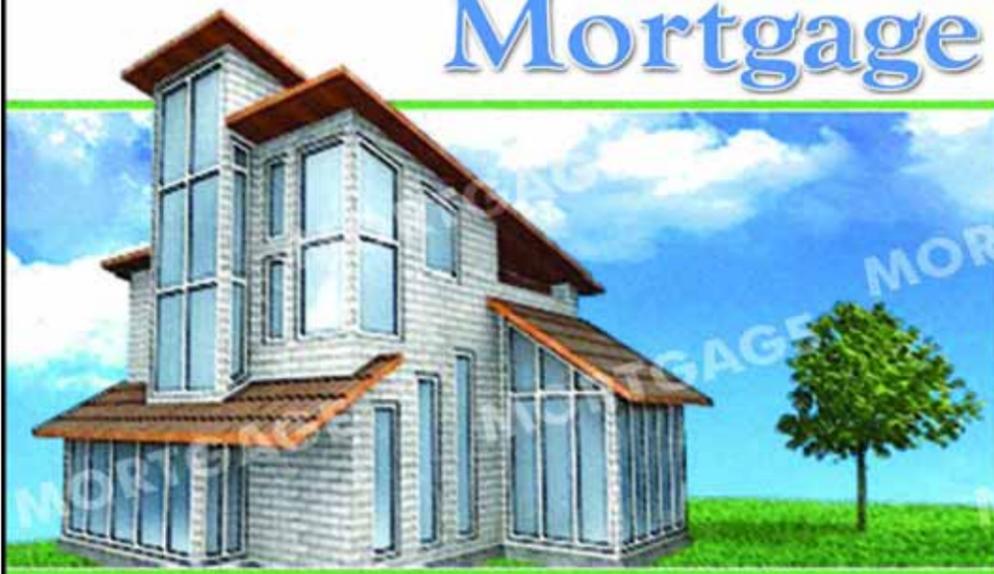
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# CTCC Walkathon-2008, Messages of Appreciation & Event Photos

# Co-Chairs



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June 9, 2008

To the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce & CTCC Participants and Sponsors:

On behalf of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation I would like to extend our congratulations to the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce on the huge success of their 2008 Walkathon! The Scarborough Hospital Foundation was proud to be a part of this incredible event! It was tremendous to see all of our community come together in support of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation and Providence Healthcare Foundation.

The Scarborough Hospital (TSH), which includes both the Grace and General Campuses, is the community hospital for a large portion of the Tamil Community. They use the facilities and services of TSH and many of their children are born here. Tamil community support and contribution through volunteerism, donations, sponsorship and participation in special events assist the hospital in providing the best care for our vibrant community.

The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) has shown their support by taking the initiative to organize the CTCC Annual Charity Walk-A-Thon, since 1999 raising over \$126,000 for TSH! And after Sunday's event, this amount will be even larger!

All proceeds for The Scarborough Golf Classic will go towards specialized and critical care equipment for our new Emergency and Critical Care Centre. A commitment to leadership in meeting the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse community is the basis for all that is achieved at TSH. With the expansion of TSH's General Campus Emergency Department, we will be better equipped to handle increasing patient volumes. This multi-level centre, planned to open in Spring 2009, will greatly enhance our existing services.

A great big thank you to the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce, all of the CTCC Walkathon participants and generous sponsors! Your active participation plays a key role in helping us to build a BIGGER, BETTER and FASTER Emergency and Critical Care Centre!

**Brian Dawe, President**  
The Scarborough Hospital Foundation



To the readers of the Monsoon Journal,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Monsoon Journal for highlighting the 2008 Walkathon in support of Providence Healthcare Foundation and The Scarborough Hospital Foundation in its newspaper supplement.

Hosted by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC), the Walkathon raised almost \$20,000 for Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project in 2006 and 2007. We hope for similar results at the 2008 event!

We at Providence Healthcare are thankful that the Monsoon Journal will build public awareness of the importance of community events like the Walkathon. The foresight and generosity of event organizers like the CTCC and publications such as the Monsoon Journal is very much appreciated in helping us 'spread the word' about the innovative services provided through the Tamil Caregiver Project.

The Walkathon is a unique opportunity for people in the community, like you, to play a significant role in securing the future of the Tamil Caregiver Project and ensuring it continues to serve the unique needs of Toronto's Tamil population.

On behalf of Providence Healthcare, I would like to extend a special thank you to the CTCC planning committee for spearheading the Walkathon fundraiser. A big thank you to the sponsors, walkers, and volunteers, too!

The CTCC Walkathon is a true example of the power of community to make a significant difference. With your support, Providence Healthcare will continue to meet the needs of thousands of Tamil caregivers who will access the service in the future.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer C. Stewart, CFRE**  
President  
Providence Healthcare Foundation



To the Readers of Monsoon Journal

Re: CTCC annual Walk-a-thon raises \$25,000

The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce held its 9th annual walk-a-thon on June 8, 2008. Over 500 members of the community participated in the walk-a-thon to raise money for two very worthwhile organizations that serve the healthcare needs in the Scarborough community. This year's walk-a-thon was more successful than ever and raised \$25,000 in support of the Scarborough Hospital Foundation and Providence Healthcare Foundation.

A cross-section of the community, including small children, youth and seniors, turned up on one of the hottest days of the summer to participate in the 4km walk in Scarborough. Jim Karyglannis, MP for Scarborough-Agincourt, Gerry Phillips, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, Minister of Energy, Bas Balkissoon, MPP Scarborough-Rouge River were in attendance to greet the walkers as they returned.

"This walk-a-thon is an important event for the Chamber and for the Tamil-Canadian community", said Sritharan Thurairajah, co-Chair of this year's walkathon from the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce. "This is our way of giving back to wonderful organizations that provide our community with essential services in the healthcare field."

Since 1999 the Walk-a-thon has raised approximately \$170,000 for the Scarborough hospitals (General and Grace Divisions) and Providence Healthcare.

"We could not have pulled off this event without the support of our members, our community partners, our sponsors, and of course all those who collected pledges and participated in the walk," said Jeganathan Balasundaram, co-Chair of this year's walk-a-thon. This year's main event sponsors were TD Bank Canada Trust, RBC Royal Bank of Canada, and Scotiabank.

"We would especially like to thank our wonderful volunteers who worked hard to plan the event throughout the year."

Next year's walk-a-thon will be the 10th annual walk and the Chamber is planning on a bigger and better than ever. The Chamber hopes to have even greater participation from supports and the Tamil-Canadian community.

Best Wishes

**Gary Anandasangaree**  
President



**Sritharan Thurairajah**



**Bala Jeganathan**



**Mohan Sundaramohan**

Co-Chair Jeganathan Balasundaram thanked the participants, fund raisers, sponsors and co-chairs for making the event a grand success once again. He commended the spirit of the Scarborough Rangers Soccer Club for their participation during the past seven years in being a core leader of the fundraising drive for the CTCC Walkathon. They won the first prize sponsored by Air Link Travel (Sponsored the first prize since the inception) and two special prizes were awarded for their top 2 fundraisers sponsored by the other Co-Chair Sritharan Thurairajah. Another Co-Chair Mohan Sundaramohan organized the RBC Mascot Leo the Lion to entertain the participants.

"Year after year the numbers of enthusiastic participants are increasing", says Logan Velumailum. Logan was President of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce in 1999, when as a pioneering community charity event - the 1st Annual Walkathon was held to raise funds for The Scarborough Grace Hospital. He added that "the participation and contributions mark the spirit of giving in the community, the duty to give back and appreciation for the country we now call home."



Pictures show participants, sponsors, fundraisers, prize winners, community members and supporting organization members at the CTCC Walkathon.

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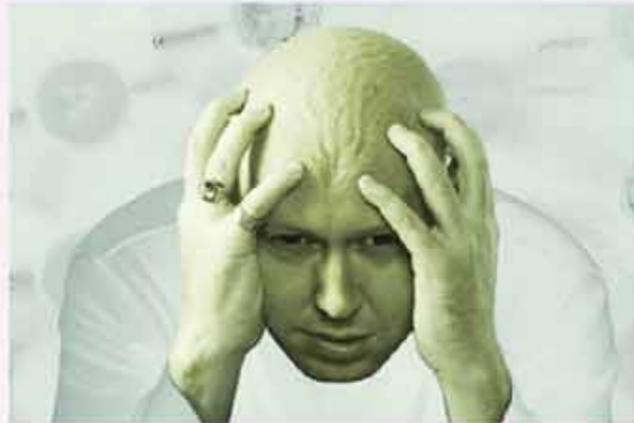
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# Monsoon Features

## CIBC employees celebrate their diversity, and contributions to the workplace and their communities

TORONTO, June 2nd marks the beginning of CIBC's 16th annual Diversity Month during which its 40,000 employees celebrate the increasing representation, participation and advancement of employees from groups which have historically faced barriers in employment.

"We are proud of the achievements we have made at CIBC over the past two decades in creating and fostering a fair and inclusive work environment where all employees can reach their full potential," said Richard Venn, Senior Executive Vice-President of Corporate Development and CIBC's Diversity Champion. "We are committed to building on our successes and building a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we serve."

Throughout the month of June, employees from across the country will celebrate diversity at more than 150 events and celebrations, including cultural performances, pot lucks, receptions and speeches given to raise awareness of diversity. Eight affinity groups will be actively involved in many of these events and will continue to focus throughout the year on providing avenues for professional networking, mentoring and awareness-raising. CIBC's affinity groups link together employees and their supporters from varying backgrounds.

Over the past year, some of CIBC's diversity highlights include:

- Being recognized as one of Canada's "Top Employers for Workplace Diversity" by Canadian Immigrant Magazine, which acknowledged CIBC's lengthy record on diversity and employment equity and for its inclusive work environment.

- Being selected as one of Canada's "Best Employers for New Canadians for 2008" for leading its peers in creating a workplace that welcomes new Canadians and allows them to make the most of their skills, education and talents. The winners were selected by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers and the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC).

- Building on our workplace diversity, CIBC has enhanced its Newcomers to Canada page on our web site where new immigrants can find information on careers with CIBC. We have also hired more than 20 individuals from diverse backgrounds over the past year through a unique internship program for newcomers through Career Bridge, and CIBC's Career Access Program(TM) that provides job readiness training to Aboriginal peoples and people with disabilities.

- CIBC was also the first Canadian



organization to integrate Skills International, a web-based database of pre-screened, internationally trained individuals, into the recruiting process to assist new Canadians in finding gainful employment.

CIBC is a leading North American financial institution with nearly 11 million personal banking and business clients. CIBC offers a full range of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches and offices across Canada, in the United States and around the world.

You can find other news releases and information about CIBC in our Press Centre on our corporate website at [www.cibc.com](http://www.cibc.com).

For further information: contact Doug Maybee, Director, External Communications and Media Relations, CIBC,

Tel: (416) 980-7458  
[doug.maybee@cibc.com](mailto:doug.maybee@cibc.com)

## Rouge Valley names new Chief of Family Practice

Chief committed to greater engagement of family physicians with hospital

Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) warmly welcomes its new Chief of Family Practice, Dr. Jawad B. Khokhar. Dr. Khokhar has been a hospitalist at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering since 2005 and brings a wealth of experience, skills and enthusiasm to the leadership role.

"At Rouge Valley, our priority is always to deliver the highest quality patient care. As chief of family practice, Dr. Khokhar will help us to continue to deliver on that commitment," says Vice President, Medical Affairs and Clinical Support Sonia Peczeniuk.

Dr. Khokhar says he is looking forward to his new role. One of his first priorities is to get community physicians more engaged within the hospi-

tal. "One of my goals is to make community physicians more aware of new developments taking place within the hospital. We'd also like to make it easier for our community physicians to access hospital resources and consultations within the hospital."

Among Dr. Khokhar's priorities are developing systems which will inform family physicians of when their patients are admitted and discharged in real time, and creating better communications with patients, their families and caregivers.

Dr. Khokhar brings with him an impressive background in family medicine. Some of his experience includes his work as an assistant professor in the department of family medicine at the University of Manitoba and McMaster University, and as an emergency physician at Seven Oaks



General Hospital in Winnipeg.

He was previously a director of Continuing Medical Education Family Practice, urban program at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Khokhar is fluent in a number of languages, including English, Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi.

Other physicians who have joined Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP) so far this year include:

- o Dr. Sultana Alkon-Mintsopoulos (Paediatrician), RVC
- o Dr. Zareen Syed (Internist), RVC
- o Dr. George Xeroulis (General Surgery), RVC
- o Dr. Shehla Sadiq (Internist), RVC
- o Dr. Lily Liang (Anaesthetist), RVAP
- o Dr. Li Liu (Family Practice), RVAP
- o Dr. Hendrick Scholeman (Family Practice), RVC

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## HELPING HANDS SENIOR CARE

Celebrates it's 5th year in the community amid well wishers

On May 10, 2008, amid more than 300 supporters and well wishers, HELPING HANDS SENIOR CARE celebrated completion of its 5th year in the community. The celebration took place at New Jaasmin Banquet Hall in Markham.

Founder Mrs. Indrani Nagenthram started this pioneer project to fill a gap in community health care support services in Greater Toronto Area, especially, for Sri Lankan seniors. After the humble beginning of her business endeavor, she was able to extend her services by opening a much-needed seniors' home - Villa Karuna (named after her mother).

With the help of her caring staff, she provides quality care for the residents in a homely setting, along with the support from health care professionals.

Mr. Esa Para Esananda who is a prominent real estate agent by profession, and a truly caring and dedicated person who is involved in very many community projects all over GTA, officially introduced Mrs. Nagenthram. Mrs. Renu Minhas, President - Indian Rainbow Community Services of Peel, Mr. Jeyasingh David, President of SACEM and Dr. Thambirajah Vasanthakumar, Director of CompuTek College were the speakers for the occasion.

While enjoying with the crowd, the 5th year Gala Dinner Dance gave the opportunity for Mrs. Nagenthram to acknowledge the people who were supporting her in numerous ways. Among the Service Award recipients were her long-time dedicated staff. Also, few others who help her voluntarily, with maintaining her web site ([www.hhseniorcare.com](http://www.hhseniorcare.com)) and other needed services, received Outstanding Support Awards as recognition of their contributions to the establishment.

The children's presentations were a delight to the crowd. The video presentation of testimonies from the residents' emphasized the importance of having such an establishment in the community.

Everybody enjoyed the location, the good food, and fabulous selection of music and quality presentations from the energetic MC. It was delightful to see the crowd dancing to the familiar Sri Lankan beats with such vigor. According to the attendees, this Gala Dinner Dance was a huge success.



Photos: Gnane Gnanendran

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## RBC Increases Number of Scholarship Awards for New Canadians

Application Deadline June 9th, 2008

With the June 9th deadline approaching, RBC is calling for entries for its second annual Scholarship for New Canadians Program. RBC has added five more scholarships this year, bringing the total number to 12, giving more students the opportunity to benefit from the program.

Twelve scholarships, each worth \$2,000, will be awarded to individuals who have been through the immigration experience, graduated high school or CEGEP and are planning to pursue full-time studies at an accredited Canadian college or university this fall. The winners will be invited to an all-expense paid awards dinner in their honour, in Toronto later this year.

"In the first year of the program, we received over 700 applications and were impressed by the willingness of the applicants to share their personal experiences as newcomers to Canada and how they persevered during a significant time of change," said Mark Whitmell, director, Cultural Markets. "We are looking forward to continuing this tradition by recognizing and lending support to more new Canadians who intend to realize their dream through advanced education."

To be eligible for the scholarships, applicants must have been born outside of Canada, and be either permanent residents or citizens of Canada. Applicants must have also achieved at least a 70 per cent average in their previous year of study. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic



achievement and responses to three, 250-word essay questions on how immigration has helped shape Canada today.

Last year's scholarship winners, who have career aspirations in medicine, finance and the arts, originally came from China, South Africa and India. For more information about RBC Royal Bank Scholarship for New Canadians, including the application forms, please visit: [www.rbcroyalbank.com/scholarships/newcanadians](http://www.rbcroyalbank.com/scholarships/newcanadians).

RBC's Scholarship Awards Program offers a diverse range of scholarship awards to help address the critical need for student funding across Canada. Scholarships are available for students studying in high school, pursuing undergraduate studies at college or university, and those entering professional programs in medicine or dentistry. Specialized scholarships are also available to New Canadians, Junior A hockey players, and Aboriginal students. For more information about RBC's Scholarship Program, please visit [www.rbcroyalbank.com/scholarships](http://www.rbcroyalbank.com/scholarships).

## RBC Royal Bank- South Asian Heritage Celebrations 2008

RBC Royal Bank Financial Group in Toronto East celebrated the South Asian Heritage month recently at a well attended cocktail Reception at their Grange Avenue office in Scarborough.

Among the senior executives present at the event from RBC were Ms. Lisa Gallacher-Regional Vice President, Scarborough/Pickering/Ajax, Mr. Wally Coghlan, Vice-President, Commercial Banking-Toronto East, Mr. Imtiaz Seyid-Vice President (South Asian Market), Mr. Mohan Sundaramohan-Branch Manager, Morningside & Milner Branch.

Ms. Lisa Gallacher, in her address to the guests referred to Royal Bank's association with the South Asian community and their organizations. She remarked that Royal Bank has sponsored many major events organized by these organizations. She also mentioned that the Bank has a large team of South Asian officials in it's staff who are always available to service the South Asian community. Mr. Wally Coghlan, Vice-President, Commercial Banking-Toronto East proposed a vote of thanks and thanked all the guests for their attendance at the function. Mr. Mohan Sundaramohan, Branch Manager of the Morningside & Milner Branch functioned as the M.C. for the event and welcomed the guests.

Seen here are some pictures taken at the event.



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# Immigration Minister's speech at the AWIC Community & Social Services Gala Dinner

The script of the speech made by the Honourable Diane Finley, P.C., M.P. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, at the AWIC Community & Social Services Gala Dinner held at Woodbine Banquet and Convention Hall in Toronto, Ontario on June 1, 2008.

Thank you for that kind introduction. Good evening, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

mutual and inter-cultural understanding among newcomer families, and help to establish a support structure for them. So I am truly honoured to join you in celebration tonight.

Long before I became Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, I talked to various newcomers to Canada whose stories were often the same. Many newcomers found Canada to be a land of opportunity, where it was

they'll need before they arrive-so that when they get here, they stand a better chance of getting a job in their chosen field. And of getting it sooner. It's a common-sense approach that,



The Hon. Diane Finley with the evening's bhangra performers

frankly, Canada should have followed a long time ago and I'm proud that it's my government that's getting this done. I also had the opportunity to meet some of the people who have benefited from these orientation sessions.

It's been a year since we launched the FCRO, and I can tell you it has certainly demonstrated its value, both inside Canada and overseas. Newcomers in Canada can now access information through a toll-free telephone line and in-person services at 320 Service Canada Centres across the country. The FCRO is also communicating with prospective immigrants through its Web site. Using the "Working in Canada" tool, immigrants are finding an expanded online service that helps them identify occupations in Canada for which they may be qualified. This tool provides them with detailed labour-market information, and refers them to the appropriate provincial regulatory body. They've also been finding information on Canada's education system, our culture, regions and communities, as well as international credential assessment, job search, language training and more. This tool has already reached over 400,000 visitors, the majority from people overseas. And as we enter our second year, we will focus on expanding our overseas services and continue to ensure that internationally trained individuals get the information that they need to put their skills to work when they arrive in Canada.

I'm very grateful that my trip allowed me to experience some of the traditions within regions of India, and, of course, the connection between our two countries. This bond is not accidental. We share a heritage through the Commonwealth, through our parliamentary traditions, and through the diversity of our people. More than 900,000 people of Indian heritage call Canada home. Think of how we benefit from the millions of daily exchanges between India and Canada-the family connections and the business links. Both countries benefit from these connections. And with India's fast growth, there will be even greater opportunities for cooper-

ation. Immigration is, of course, one of these areas. Immigration is very important to Canada's development as a country. Last year, we welcomed close to 430,000 new permanent residents, international students, and temporary foreign workers-surpassing the previous high set in 1911. In the past five years, our population has grown by 1.6 million-with 1.1 million being the result of immigration. In fact, by 2012, immigration will account for all net growth in our labour force. When we first came to office in 2006, our Government took a number of steps to support newcomers and their families.

We invested an additional \$1.4

izens or fellow future citizens fall behind.

As Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, I'd like to point out that South Asian countries are the source of the majority of newcomers to the Toronto area. And India is now the top source country of newcomers to Toronto-and Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the third and fifth respectively. The success of newcomers will translate, in part, to the success of Canada's South Asian community. And, more broadly, I also believe that the success of newcomers is the success of all Canadians. So we're proposing changes to our immigration system-changes that will enable us to more closely align newcomers' skills with the job vacancies in our economy. Changes that would also help reduce the backlog of more than 900,000 people waiting to enter Canada. Did you know it can take as long as six years just to have an immigration application looked at? If we don't change the system, by 2012 it will take 10 years. Six years is a long time to ask potential immigrants to wait, and it's not fair to Canadian employers who want to hire them. By contrast, it takes only six months to review an application in Australia and New Zealand. Not only is it taking too long for immigrants to successfully enter Canada, but when they do



(L-R) Prem Mann, President of AWIC; Priti Mehta, Wife of Consul-General of India; the Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Hon. Satish Mehta, Consul General of India; Ranju Bakshi Advani, Past President of AWIC; Geeta Udhwan, Joint Secretary

Namasthey, Sat Sri Akal, and Salaam. (Hello.) I bring you greetings from the Government of Canada and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

I'd like to thank the President of AWIC Community and Social Services, Prem Mann, for the invitation to this gala. Tonight is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the many achievements of your organization over the past year. Indeed, your staff and settlement counselors can be very proud of the work they carry out on a daily basis. For the last three decades, AWIC has provided settlement services, employment, educational and outreach activities for newcomer families, youth, and seniors. Through your success in serving the needs of newcom-

possible to integrate successfully, to take advantage of the best that Canada had to offer. But there were challenges-chief among them the difficulty that skilled trades people and professionals had in getting their credentials recognized once in Canada. Many times I heard from newcomers that if they'd only understood better what qualifications they needed before they got here, they could have used that time waiting to get better credentialed. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the Government of Canada listened, and we have acted on those concerns.

I traveled to India last November, and I'd like to share with you a few observations. I went there for many



The Hon. Diane Finley presents an award to Lata Champsee (Past President of AWIC) in honour of her outstanding volunteer work. To Lata's left is Prem Mann, President of AWIC

ers from India, you have expanded your services to reach out to newcomers from all parts of South Asia and beyond. And I commend you for your vision and initiative in doing so. Today, AWIC serves newcomers from over 44 countries speaking 28 different languages. You not only provide newcomers with essential services that they need upon arrival in their local community, but you also promote

reasons. But a key one was to promote the launch of our Foreign Credentials Referral Office-also known as the FCRO-while touring our overseas operations. I announced the opening of a new office of the Canadian Immigration Integration Project in New Delhi. There was one simple point to the opening of this new office-to help those who want to come to Canada with the credentialing



The Hon. Diane Finley with the evening's performing models of the Sama Modelling Agency

billion in settlement funding over five years. We streamlined the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, opened offices for this program in five Canadian cities, and helped employers to bring in workers more quickly. This summer we will be launching the Canadian Experience Class, to allow certain skilled workers and international students with Canadian degrees and work experience to remain in Canada while they apply for permanent residence. We want families to be reunited faster, so we reduced processing times for many family members by up to 40 percent, and cut the Right of Permanent Resident Fee in half, saving a family of four almost \$2,000. We want to protect people who are vulnerable, so we doubled the number of Iraqi refugees that we will accept this year, and we've made commitments to bring refugees from Burma and Bhutan.

Ladies and gentlemen, newcomers contribute the talent, commitment and diversity that we need to build strong communities and a stronger Canada. But in today's world, it's no longer good enough to simply open our doors, invite newcomers in, and then let them fend for themselves. Today we have a more complicated society-and a more demanding labour market. Statistics Canada recently reported that immigrants who arrived over the past 10 years are not doing as well as those who arrived previously. We have to change that. It's simply not acceptable to watch our fellow cit-

come, they have been doing less and less well compared to those who came before. That is unacceptable to my government. That is why we have proposed changes to the Immigration Act.

Our goal is simple - to help more immigrants come to Canada and to help them find good jobs so that they can benefit from life in Canada as much as those who came before. And to do it faster. Under the proposed changes to the Immigration Act, the government will issue instructions to immigration officers related to the processing of applications, including in relation to the jobs available in Canada, so that people with those skills can be brought into the country more quickly. These changes will comply fully with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and must be approved by Cabinet and made public. We do not intend to impact negatively on family reunification.

Canada is a wonderful country. We need more immigrants to come. We need more newcomers to do well. Because when newcomers do well, we all do well. You are all making a tremendous difference in newcomers' lives. Tonight's gala is a tribute to your endeavors. So let me wish you continued success-and please accept my gratitude and congratulations.

Je vous souhaite une excellente soirée! Shukriya, Dhanevaad. (Thank you.) Enjoy your evening!

# Monsoon Features

## WORDS OF PEACE

### Find Your Real Strength

"We all have our strengths that we like to feel can be useful to us in life. We want to be able to depend on those strengths," says Prem Rawat widely known as Maharaji, an internationally recognized voice for peace. "Yet, for a human being—just a being in this world who breathes, who lives, who exists—what is real strength?"

"Some people are proud of their physical strength, while others rely on their mental strength or their intellect. Some people rely on friends, and others rely on their family."

Maharaji has spent his life traveling the world asking people to consider another perspective—that a human being already has something indestructible to rely on within themselves.

"What is the description of this thing within you? Eternal, immortal, and everlasting," he says. "You will not easily find a description like that in this world, because there's nothing in this world to be bought or sold that can be described as indestructible."

True strength, Maharaji says, is relying on an experience of fulfillment and peace within that will not diminish with age or circumstances. He has personally addressed more than 10 million people on nearly every continent, and has made his message available in more than 70 languages.

"People exercise first thing in the morning to build their muscles," Maharaji says. "We are proud of our physical strength. Have we forgotten that a day will come when these things will not work, no matter how strong a person is or how many huge muscles they have developed? Some people get so weak they can hardly lift a glass. It's just a question of time."

Mental strength too passes away, he says. "We have pride in

our achievements. If someone relies on being very clever, one day somebody will turn up who is even cleverer. There are people who can't even remember their names. They can't remember anything. You can't rely on intellect.

"Family? Sooner or later, it has to go its own way. Friends? As long as you keep reciprocating, they may be around—but if one day you stop reciprocating, they will go away, too. These things happen.

have the strength of spiritual attainment, we have our physical strength, and the fourth strength is the strength of wealth.

Once a person has pride in his achievements, in his ego, in his physical strength, in his wealth, then he thinks, "Oh, I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that." He becomes like a spoiled brat.

The joy that I have found in my heart—that's the degree the human being needs, and that degree cannot be received in any college.

"What should be my goal? What is it that every person wants? Joy. This thirst for joy is not just a simple little thing. Even when you're eating food, you want to enjoy it. When you're drinking water, you want to enjoy it. Our nature is to go towards joy. Without joy, we cannot live.

"As for things that other people can or can't do, some you'll be able to do and some you will fail at—but you can fulfill this goal of having joy in your life."

Maharaji often answers questions related to the joy he talks about.

Q: How can we find our real strength?

A: To find the strength of a human being, you can't turn outside. You have to turn within. It has been said that a human being has four strengths. We have the strength of our achievements, we

Q: Are you saying I can rely on joy?

A: Yes. I am talking about this joy because it is possible. If it were not possible, I would not say it. To take full advantage of this life is possible. This is your real strength—that in this life, living in this world, it is possible to experience joy. 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.

To receive a free DVD to know more about what Maharaji offers,

call 416 657 2124  
1 877 707 3223 Toll Free  
e-mail wordsofpeace@sympatico.ca  
To Learn More visit  
www.tprf.org  
www.wordsofpeace.ca

### World Renowned Yogi Introduces Ancient "Kriya" for Human Fulfillment

#### Isha Yoga Teacher Visits Toronto to Offer Inner Engineering

Toronto, ONT-May 26, 2008—Self-realized yogi and founder of Isha Foundation, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, has designed an Isha Yoga program called "Inner Engineering" that will be

meditation is needed to participate.) Through the Inner Engineering program, Sadhguru introduces to the public for the first time Shambhavi Maha Mudra, an ancient yogic "kriya" (inner energy process) devised by legendary yogis to attain to an unwavering state of inner calm and precision



Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

offered in Toronto this spring. The class will be offered by a trained Isha Yoga teacher from June 11th to June 17th at The Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, (Lawrence & Leslie intersection) Toronto, ONT, M3C 1P2.

Isha Yoga programs are a 'live' process—an inner exploration of the very essence of life. Sadhguru's Inner Engineering class introduces to the public Shambhavi Maha Mudra, an ancient yogic "kriya" (inner energy process) devised by legendary yogis to attain to an unwavering state of inner calm and precision clarity.

According to Sadhguru, the ancient yogic discipline is largely misunderstood. As Sadhguru explains it, the types of yoga we are now so familiar with in the West are each just a small part of an extensive science gleaned from thousands of years of rigorous inner observation. In fact, the asanas, or physical postures of yoga, were traditionally just a preparatory practice for subtler, more potent techniques. These more potent techniques impart a deep understanding of one's own body, mind and emotions and confer keen perception and control over even the subtlest aspects of one's own life, including the complex energy system of the human form. This discrete mastery gives a self-realized yogi a moment-to-moment conscious choice of his inner experience of life.

"Everything you go through is just a certain expression of your energy," Sadhguru explained in a recent talk. "Right now you're angry—it's a certain expression of your energy. You're happy—it's another expression of your energy. You're loving—it's another expression of the same energy. If you have some mastery over your own energies...you will see, you will naturally become a joyous being because now your energies find a conscious expression."

Sadhguru's Inner Engineering class features interactive discussion, meditation, and a balanced set of simple, but powerful yoga practices. (No agility or prior experience with yoga or

clarity. Together the program and practice create a foundation of total wellbeing allowing one to tap the wealth of vibrant life within.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is a yogi and mystic with profound mastery of the ancient science of yoga. He is one of few yogis capable of transmitting the subtlest aspects of yoga, enabling every person to explore and experience the deepest dimensions of life. He is a visionary and humanitarian who works with the world's foremost social, economic, and political leaders to engender a more peaceful and prosperous global community. At his home in southern India, Sadhguru oversees Isha Foundation, an entirely volunteer-run, nonprofit service organization dedicated to cultivating human potential through yogic science.

Set in the lush rainforest at the base of the Velliangiri Mountains, Isha Foundation operates Isha Yoga Center, which includes an ashram, program facility, Dhyanalina (a powerful meditation shrine), Isha Rejuvenation Wellness Center, and the headquarters for three large-scale human service projects. These projects include: Action for Rural Rejuvenation ([www.ruralrejuvenation.org](http://www.ruralrejuvenation.org)), a program for health and human upliftment serving 2,500 destitute villages in rural southern India; Isha Vidhya ([www.ishavidhya.org](http://www.ishavidhya.org)), a rural education program establishing 206 computer-based schools by 2014 for children in grades k-12; and Project Green Hands ([www.projectgreenhands.org](http://www.projectgreenhands.org)), a ten-year reforestation initiative kicked-off in October 2006 with the Guinness Record mass plantation of 852,587 indigenous varieties of trees across 57 districts in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, India.

Toll free nationwide, call 1-866-424-ISHA (4742) or local contact 416 300 3010. Email: [Toronto@ishafoundation.org](mailto:Toronto@ishafoundation.org) To register online visit [www.ishayoga.org](http://www.ishayoga.org). For more detailed news and information on Sadhguru and Isha Foundation, Inc. visit [www.ishafoundation.org](http://www.ishafoundation.org).

## NATIONAL DRIVING SCHOOL



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# Monsoon Features

## Heavenly Father Father's Day

Father's Day - Sunday, 15th June 2008

We celebrate Father's day this month, honouring the fathers throughout the globe.

The following collection of verses from the books of Holy Bible from Genesis to Revelation, titled a "Letter from the heavenly Father" illustrates the profound love of God almighty for the



mankind.

HE chose to send his only son Jesus Christ to this world as the sacrificial lamb to be crucified to death so the sinful humanity can be redeemed, thus proving HIS unlimited love for the mankind.

### A Letter from the heavenly father

" You may not know me, but I know everything about you.

#### Psalm 139:1

" I know when you sit down and when you rise up.

#### Psalm 139:2

" I am familiar with all your ways.

#### Psalm 139:3

" Even the very hairs on your head are numbered.

#### Matthew 10:29-31

" For you were made in my image.

#### Genesis 1:27

" In me you live and move and have your being.

#### Acts 17:28

" For you are my offspring.

#### Acts 17:28

" I knew you even before you were conceived.

#### Jeremiah 1:4-5

" I chose you when I planned creation.

#### Ephesians 1:11-12

" You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book.

#### Psalm 139:15-16

" I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live.

#### Acts 17:26

" You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

#### Psalm 139:14

" I knit you together in your mother's womb.

#### Psalm 139:13

" And brought you forth on the day you were born.

#### Psalm 71:6

" I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me.

#### John 8:41-44

" I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love.

#### 1 John 4:16

" And it is my desire to lavish my love on you.

#### 1 John 3:1

" Simply because you are my child and I am your Father.

#### 1 John 3:1

" I offer you more than your earthly father ever could.

#### Matthew 7:11

" For I am the perfect father.

#### Matthew 5:48

" Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand.

#### James 1:17

" For I am your provider and I meet all your needs.

#### Matthew 6:31-33

" My plan for your future has always been filled with hope.

#### Jeremiah 29:11

" Because I love you with an everlasting love.

#### Jeremiah 31:3

" My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore.

#### Psalm 139:17-18

" And I rejoice over you with singing.

#### Zephaniah 3:17

" I will never stop doing good to you.

#### Jeremiah 32:40

" For you are my treasured pos-

### Raymond Rajabalan

Father's Day is a secular celebration inaugurated in the early twentieth century to complement Mother's Day in celebrating fatherhood and parenting by males, and to honour and commemorate fathers and forefathers. Father's Day is celebrated on a variety of dates worldwide and typically involves gift-giving to fathers and fam-

males-only hiking tour with one or more smaller wagons, Bollerwagen, pulled by manpower. In the wagons are wine or beer and traditional regional food, Hausmaanskost, which could be Saumagen, Liverwurst, Blutwurst (Blood Sausage), vegetables, eggs, etc.

#### Roman Catholic tradition

In the Roman Catholic tradition, Father's Day is celebrated on Saint



ily-oriented activities.

### International history and traditions

#### Germany

In Germany there is no such thing as Father's Day as celebrated throughout the western world. There are two terms and/or events of an older origin that while similar in name, have entirely different meanings.

" Männertag, is always celebrated on Ascension Day (the Thursday forty days after Easter), which is a federal holiday.

" Regionally, it is also called men's day, Männertag, or gentlemen's day, Herrentag. It is tradition to do a

session.

#### Exodus 19:5

" I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul.

#### Jeremiah 32:41

" And I want to show you great and marvelous things.

#### Jeremiah 33:3

" If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me.

#### Deuteronomy 4:29

" Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart.

#### Psalm 37:4

" For it is I who gave you those desires.

#### Phillippians 2:13

" I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine.

#### Ephesians 3:20

" For I am your greatest encourager.

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

" I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles.

#### 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

" When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you.

#### Psalm 34:18

Joseph's Day, March 19, though in most countries Father's Day is a secular celebration.

#### Taiwan

Father's Day in Taiwan is not an official holiday but is widely observed on August 8 which is the eighth day of the eighth month of the year

#### Thailand

In Thailand, Father Day is set as the birthday of the king. December 5 is the birthday of current king, Bhumibol Adulyadej.

#### United States of America (USA)

In United States, the first modern Father's Day celebration was held on July 05, 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia. It was first celebrated as a church service at Williams Memorial

" As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart.

#### Isaiah 40:11

" One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes.

#### Revelation 21:3-4

" And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth.

#### Revelation 21:3-4

" I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus.

#### John 17:23

" For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed.

#### John 17:26

" He is the exact representation of my being.

#### Hebrews 1:3

" He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you.

#### Romans 8:31

" And to tell you that I am not counting your sins.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

" Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

" His death was the ultimate

Methodist Episcopal Church South, now known as Central United Methodist Church. Grace Golden Clayton, who is believed to have suggested the service to the pastor, is believed to have been inspired to celebrate fathers after the deadly mine explosion in nearby town of Monongah in the December of the previous year. This explosion killed 361 men, many of them fathers and recent immigrants to the United States from Italy.

Another possible inspiration for the service was Mothers' Day, which had been celebrated for the first time two months earlier in Grafton, West Virginia, a town about 15 miles (24 km) away.

Another driving force behind the establishment of the integration of Father's Day was Mrs. Sonars Smart Dodd, born in Creston, Washington. Her father, the Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, as a single parent reared his six children in Spokane, Washington. His daughter Mrs. Dodde was inspired by Anna Jarvis's efforts to establish Mother's Day. Although she initially suggested June 5, the anniversary of her father's death, she did not provide the organizers with enough time to make arrangements, and the celebration was deferred to the third Sunday of June. The first June Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, WA.

Unofficial support from such figures as William Jennings Bryan a three times nominee for President of USA was immediate and widespread. President Woodrow Wilson was personally feted by his family in 1916. President Calvin Coolidge recommended it as a national holiday in 1924. In 1966, President Lyndon Jhonson made Father's Day a holiday to be celebrated on the third Sunday of June. The holiday was not officially recognized until 1972, during the presidency of Richard Nixon.

expression of my love for you.

#### 1 John 4:10

" I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love.

#### Romans 8:31-32

" If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me.

#### 1 John 2:23

" And nothing will ever separate you from my love again.

#### Romans 8:38-39

" Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen.

#### Luke 15:7

" I have always been Father, and will always be Father.

#### Ephesians 3:14-15

" My question is...Will you be my child?

#### John 1:12-13

" I am waiting for you.

#### Luke 15:11-12

Love, Your Dad.

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www.FathersLoveLetter.com

# Monsoon Features

## Humans and animals- Is there any equality?

The emotional bond between humans and animals is to be easily accepted. With its uncomplicated nature and unconditional love, an animal can expand the boundaries of the human heart. But are animals also deeply connected to the human soul? Like many philosophical systems, Hinduism gives animal's prime of place. But do animals necessarily gain a position of equality with human beings?

Beginning perhaps with the Epic of Gilgamesh and the earliest written documents known to humankind, mythic and other elements that would eventually come to define fantasy and its various subgenres have been a part of some of the grandest and most celebrated works of literature. From The Odyssey to Beowulf, from the Mahabharata to The Book of One Thousand and One Nights, from the Ramayana to the Journey to the West, and from the Arthurian legend and medieval romance to the epic poetry of the Divine Comedy, fantastical adventures featuring brave heroes



whose personality traits match those of its human. This symbolises the shift from childish innocence to adult reconciliation and knowledge. In Pullman's work, the spiritual link between animals and humans is complete. Why do many philosophies deem animals to be alter egos of humans?

Anyone who has ever cared for a

amazing transformation of egg, larvae and pupae. Our dinosaur relatives, the reptiles, lay eggs, just like birds.

In ancient Egypt, animals were considered reincarnations of gods and were worshipped. Native American religious traditions assign one of nine animal guides to every person to provide spiritual direction in this life and the next. In Christianity, traditionally, no spiritual link is created between animals and humans. Therefore, it is interesting to consider contemporary fantasy writer Philip Pullman's trilogy titled His Dark Materials, which is usually read as a reinterpretation of Milton's Paradise Lost.

The physical interdependence among humans, animals, plants, and minerals is amply demonstrated by science. But an emotional and spiritual symbiosis, less obvious perhaps to those living in a largely man-made world, exists as well. In Chief Seattle's words "What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts soon happens to man. All things are connected." These connections arise from the spiritual unity underlying the universe: from the same unknowable divine source all come forth together into apparent separateness as god-sparks, which gradually develop more and more of their potential. In so doing, each expresses many different aspects of itself, through bodies appropriate to its changing needs. These centers of consciousness are not indivisible; they are composed of other similar centers. Just as with the structure of physical matter, the ultimate particles of consciousness elude our perception.

People living close to nature, like the American Indians, were aware of the outer and inner links among the kingdoms. They viewed animals as spiritually important, and so thanked, praised, or asked forgiveness of the spirit of the animals they used to sustain themselves. Such fellow-feeling contrasts with traditional Western beliefs that deny animals not only souls but any spiritual reality and significance. Many current attitudes toward animals grow directly from such ideas:

Descartes, for instance, argued for



the practice of vivisection on the grounds that animals, being soulless, could feel no pain and therefore could not suffer whatever the appearance to the contrary. Generally speaking, science has not recognized the reality of the soul even in man, and everything is judged from an anthropocentric view, echoing the Biblical statement that animals, like the rest of creation, were made for the use of man.

Like all other beings, however, animals are spiritual individuals in their own right, sprung from the same divine source as we are, not material objects existing primarily for human convenience and exploitation. Though less evolved, the spiritual centers now expressing themselves as animals are destined to accompany us through countless evolutionary cycles. In future eons these monads will have perfected their beast aspects and will be ready to bring forth human qualities. They will then manifest as human beings.

One of its chief gods in Hinduism is elephant-headed and another is a monkey. Shiva and Vishnu have several animal incarnations. Anthropologically, animals were useful to humans; they were likely given the status of gods to impress their importance upon the general people. Moreover, since all creatures are considered manifestations of the same paramatma, animals necessarily gain a position of equality with human beings.

Hinduism's approach towards animals is not simply utilitarian and rational. Animals occupy a spiritual space that seems to originate in feel-

ings of companionship, affinity and kinship. Take for instance the relationship between Rama and Hanuman.

Similar 'pairings' of gods and animals pervade Hindu mythology. Every deity has a vehicle or vahana: the eagle Garuda for Vishnu, the mouse for Ganesha, the Nandi bull for Shiva, the lion for Durga, and many more. The animal associated with each deity represents both the positive qualities of the deity - like the bullish strength and virility of Shiva - as well as the energies and qualities that the deity vanquishes, like the vanity reined in by Skanda while riding his peacock.

Do animals thus function as spiritual doppelgangers? The idea is evident when Yudhishthira is accompanied to heaven by a faithful dog at the end of the Mahabharata. The dog, it turns out, is a physical embodiment of Dharma, the virtue Yudhishthira kept close to him through his life.

Is it because the uncomplicated natures of animals lend themselves easily to being typecast and so function effectively as symbols? Or because animistic traditions attach spiritual significance to all natural forces? Perhaps the faithfulness of animals allows poets to use them as metaphors in the image of god and devotee.

Is there any rational, intellectual explanation, an emotional bond or really a spiritual connection between humans and animals?

**Kanayalal Raina**

(A Brompton based engineer by training, project consultant by profession and free lance writer by passion)



and heroines, animals, and secret arcane realms have inspired many audiences. In this sense, the history of fantasy and the history of literature are inextricably intertwined.

In Philip Pullman's fantastical reality, every human has an animal companion called a 'daemon' who is actually the human's externalised soul. Trying to distance humans from their daemons causes unbearable physical pain and is nearly impossible. The daemons of children keep changing their forms. After puberty, a daemon takes the unchanging form of one animal,

pet dog, neighbourhood cow, kitchen cat or horse at the riding club will verify French writer, a 1921 Nobel Laureate in Literature, Anatole France's statement that "Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened". The animals that inhabit our planet are all amazing creatures. Each has their own behaviours and life cycles that continue to create fascinating animal, bird, reptile and insect life. Discover the mammals that nurture their young as we humans do, insects that go through the process of metamorphosis, an

# Waterloo News



## Sri Abiramy Dance Academy Wins Silver Medal in Ontario Dance Festival 2008

The Ontario International Development Agency assisted in hosting this annual Dance Festival which was held on Saturday May 3, 2008, at the Lester B Pearson Theatre, 150 Central Park Dr, Brampton, Ontario.

At this year's competition, the board of judges was comprised of: Dr. Bhushan Sood, Melissa Bhagat and Mrs. Nievel Regis Kankam. This year's Gold Medal was won by Cracovia Company B

& C (Polish Dance School), Silver was won by our Local Dance Group Scarborough division Sri Abiramy Dance Academy and the Bronze was won by D-Maattrick Dance Group from Bangladesh. Best Costume Design also won by Cracovia Dance Company. It was a very energetic night and the high quality of the presentations were very notable.

This was the second year the Sri Abiramy Academy participated

in this competition. Last year the Academy won Silver medal on this same stage. Furthermore, the Waterloo and Mississauga students of the Sri Abiramy Dance Academy danced together and finished in a respectable fourth place in this year's competition. The following is a list of the schools that had entered the competition this year" Nupura School of Music and Dance, Bharatha Shethira School of

Dance, Sri Abiramy Dance Academy -2 entries, Cracovia Company of Dance - 6 entries, Nilanthi's Rangana Creations.

Sri Abiramy Dance Academy Director Senthil Selvi Sureswaran choreographed the competition items in this year's festival. The Academy also gave two solo performances on Classical Bharathanatyam programs to promote its rich heritage to the multicultural audience.

Following pictures were taken during the festival by Gnanams Studio, Scarborough.

**Suresh Sinnadurai**

Event Coordinator  
Sri Abiramy Dance Academy  
Waterloo-Mississauga-Scarborough  
519-745-2522 (h)  
519-591-6366 (c)  
647-407-1961 (c)



Sri Abiramy Dance Academy Waterloo Students - 4th Place finish Ontario Dance Festival 2008



Sri Abiramy Mississauga Students - 4th Place Finish Ontario Dance Festival 2008



Sri Abiramy Dance Academy Mississauga - Waterloo Student Ontario Dance Festival 2008



Sri Abiramy Dance Academy Scarborough Students Ontario Dance Festival 2008 - 2nd Place finish



Sri Abiramy Dance Academy Scarborough Students Ontario Dance Festival 2008 - 2nd Place finish



4th Place Finish Mississauga Waterloo Students - Medals



2nd Place Winners Ontario Dance Festival 2008 - Receiving Trophy and medals



Gold medal 1st place winners of Ontario Dance Festival 2008- Crocavia-Polish Dance Group



All the participants on stage

## Recognition for Volunteerism

Tamil community member from the Waterloo region has been recognised for Volunteerism at the 2nd annual Salute to Seniors program organised by the City of Kitchener.

Mrs. Mrinalini Ramachandran has been actively helping the Canadian community for a long time and has been well recognised by the Govt. of Ontario. She is a recipient of the Ontario volunteer service award 2007. She has been volunteering her service with the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region for many years and has been one

of our role models.

Salute to seniors will take place on Thursday, June 19th 2008 at 7.00pm at Kitchener City Hall, Rotunda. The event and Parking is Free. Please, RSVP to Jean Durnin at 519-741-2507. We need your presence to show your support to our Tamil community member.

Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region has been promoting local Artists and Volunteers over the years. This is another volunteer recommended by the association.



Mrs. Elizabeth Witmer, MPP - Kitchener with Mrinalini Ramachandran

## Region's Top Students

Every year The Record asks teachers at each high school to choose two students who have not only achieved solid marks, but who have also devoted time, skill and enthusiasm to community-building. Every year, the lists of accomplishments are astounding. Congratulations

**KRISTINA MAHENDRAN**, 18 from BLUEVALE COLLEGIATE

Kristina was the driving force behind a number of very successful school initiatives: AIDS awareness, anti-bullying, Think Green recycling and Earth Week.

Kristina is one of the top Grade 12 students at BCI.

Kristina will be attending the University of Waterloo in the fall to



pursue studies in accounting and financial management.

Parents: Mahendran Sangar and Malathy Mahendran, Waterloo.

# Waterloo News



## Sri Abiramy Dance Academy Bharathanatyam Workshop "Spotlight" Event in Kitchener City Hall June 7th 2008

Sri Abiramy Dance Academy performed a workshop about the theory aspects of Bharathanatyam and special fusion & modern contemporary Dancers for the Spotlight event at Kitchener City Hall on June 7, 2008. This event was requested by Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region on behalf of Ontario Arts Council.

Spot Light was a weekend of festival of free arts events including behind the scenes tours, workshops, arts talk and activities to celebrate the artist who live in our communities. More than 100 free activities were held in city of Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Stratford and Waterloo.

Miss Abira Sivakumar MC this event beautifully and conducted the workshop with the help of Sri Abiramy Waterloo - Mississauga Students. The structure of Bharathanatyam and the concept of modern now a day Dance in main stream art society also were shown through Selvi Sureswaran innovative choreography.



Mississauga Waterloo Students



Waterloo Students Viveka & Rakavi



Contemporary Dance Waterloo Students



Spot light 2008 Sri Abiramy Performers



Mississauga Students Abina, Suruthika, Shawmya



Selvi Sureswaran & MC Abira Sivakumaran

# Canada Newsline

## Ontario Continues to Open More Doors for Internationally Trained Doctors

### McGuinty Government Takes Next Steps to Help More Families Get Access to Physicians

Ontarians looking for a family doctor will benefit from the government's initiatives to create more opportunities for internationally trained doctors to enter medical practice in the province.

Swift action to provide more opportunities for internationally trained doctors in the province, delivering more physicians to Ontarians and improving access to health care are the focus of Etobicoke-Lakeshore MPP Laurel Broten's Report on International Medical Doctors. Released on June 6th, it complements the significant progress Ontario has made for International Medical Graduate (IMG) doctors since 2004, when the number of residency training positions more

than doubled, from 90 to 200 annually. Currently, 630 IMG doctors are in residency training in Ontario.

In her report, Broten, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, includes five key recommendations on how to further increase the number of IMG doctors in Ontario to help improve access to health care for Ontario families:

1. Fast track, simplify and streamline the registration process for doctors already practicing elsewhere in Canada, the U.S. or any other country with a comparable healthcare system to our own;

2. Help internationally trained

doctors enter into medical practice in Ontario with the creation of a transitional license which will allow them to practice under supervision while they complete required education or gain specific practical experience;

3. Undertake assessments more efficiently to allow internationally trained doctors to get on with their education and integrate into Ontario's medical system;

4. Provide individualized bridging support which would include cultural and language education, mentorship and hands on training;

5. Develop individualized assistance for those seeking to transfer their international medical skills and knowledge into



another area of the health profession or a related career.

These recommendations will help form the basis of new legislation to further reduce barriers for IMGs. The announcement on June 6th was made at a celebra-

tion honouring newly minted IMG doctors who are heading off to independent practices throughout Ontario.

**[Press Release by Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care]**

# Waterloo News



## "Vaanaivil" Multicultural Painting Exhibition in Kitchener

The Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region organised "Vaanaivil" (Rainbow), a colourful Multicultural Painting Exhibition in Kitchener. It was held at the Kitchener City Hall Rotunda as part of the Tapestry Festival and Spotlight celebration of Arts weekend. Local artist, Sheila Diemert displayed paintings that reflect the diversity of the Region of Waterloo. A large crowd attended the gallery. The event was supported by the Ontario Arts Council and City of Kitchener.



## Celebration of Arts Festival discovers young talent

Kitchener: Discover and celebrate over 100 free activities and events for people of all ages in Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Stratford and Waterloo from Friday June 6 to Sunday June 8. That was the kick off of Ontario's first Discover the arts in you and your community weekend celebration in the region. The weekend festival gave the public an opportunity to meet and engage directly with local artists and arts organizations within their communities. The abundance of arts activity in this region made it an ideal location for this year's pilot weekend.

Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region was part of the spotlight festival and organised Fusion of Rhythm, A South Indian classical dance interactive Cultural exchange event at the Kitchener City Hall on Saturday, June 7. The students from Sri Abiramy Dance Academy of Waterloo and Toronto participated in this first ever workshop cum dance festival. The event was introduced by Mrs. Rajivi Nadarajah, the secretary of the association. She welcomed all guests and was delighted to be part of the Tamil community that

thrive in promoting our culture within the Canadian Mosaic. The master of ceremony was Miss Abira Sivakumar, who introduced the Dance academy and the teacher Mrs. Selvi Sureshwaren to the general public. She took the audience back to the history of Bharatha Natyam (South Indian Classical Dance) explaining that the dance was dedicated to Hindu Gods in ancient times and how it has changed over the years. She along with two students explained the dance formation, eye, neck, feet movements and what each Muthirai and face expression means to the Canadian public. Artists from young to middle-aged showcased their talent. A friendly competition of classical dance Vs. modern by the students from Toronto and Waterloo was the highlight of the day.

This festival gave a very good exposure of the dance and local artists. The artists learnt how interact and be a link with other organisations to expand their horizon. The event was supported by the Ontario Arts Council, City of Kitchener, Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region and Monsoon Journal.



# Monsoon Food Court



## Turkish Cuisine

Turkish cuisine is largely the heritage of Ottoman cuisine, which can be described as a fusion and refinement of Central Asian, Middle Eastern and Balkan cuisines. Turkish cuisine also influenced these cuisines and other neighboring cuisines, as



well as western European cuisines. The Ottomans fused various culinary traditions of their realm with influences from Middle Eastern cuisines, along with tradi-

tional Turkic elements from Central Asia such as yogurt. The Ottoman Empire indeed created a vast array of technical specialties. It can be observed that various regions of the Ottoman Empire contain varying selections from the vast array of Ottoman dishes.

Taken as a whole, Turkish cuisine is not homogeneous. Aside from common Turkish specialties that can be found throughout the country, there are also many

region-specific specialties. The Black Sea region's cuisine (northern Turkey) is based on corn and anchovies. The southeast-Urfa, Gaziantep and Adana-is famous for its kebabs, mezes and dough-based desserts such as baklava, kaday?f and künefe. Especially in the western parts of Turkey, where olive trees are grown abundantly, olive oil is the major type of oil used for cooking. The cuisines of the Aegean, Marmara and Mediterranean regions display basic characteristics of Mediterranean cuisine as they are rich in vegetables, herbs, and fish. Central Anatolia is famous for its pastry specialties such as kashkak, mant? (especially of Kayseri) and gözleme.

The name of specialties sometimes includes the name of a city or a region (either in Turkey or outside). This suggests that a dish is a specialty of that area, or may refer to the specific technique or ingredients used in that area. For example, the difference between Urfa kebab and Adana kebab is the use of garlic instead of onion and the larger amount of hot pepper that kebab contains.

Frequently-used ingredients in Turkish specialties include: meat,



eggplants, green peppers, onions, garlic, lentils, beans, tomatoes. Nuts, especially pistachios, pine nuts, almonds, hazelnuts, and walnuts, together with spices, have a special place in Turkish cuisine. A great variety of spices are sold at the Spice Bazaar. Preferred spices and herbs include parsley, cumin, black pepper, paprika, mint, oregano and thyme.

The Turkish Kitchen is without doubt one of the richest and most varied in the world. Turkey is self sufficient, and a net exporter of food. The range of vegetables and fruits available throughout the year provides a constant source of fresh produce. The taste and preparation of the wide

variety of dishes therefore changes with the seasons. There is never a reason to use tinned, preserved or frozen produce, unless it is to achieve a specific taste. The style of Turkish food owes some of its origins from the nomadic lifestyle of the people of this region during the reign of the Sultans. Even today the evening meal is often the evening's entertainment.

As a general rule, in most Turkish restaurants you will automatically be given a basket of bread (whether you have asked for it or not!) - Very occasionally, the more "sophisticated" restaurants may charge for this.

## Spicy Kofta Shish Kebab



4 slices white bread, crusts removed  
2 lb. ground lamb  
1/2 red onion, grated  
4 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
2 eggs  
1 tsp ground cumin  
1 tsp Turkish red pepper  
1 tsp ground sumac  
1 tsp paprika  
1/4 cup parsley, finely chopped  
Salt and black pepper to taste  
Cook time does not include chill time

Soak 6 skewers if using wood for 20 minutes  
Soak bread in cold water until wet  
Squeeze out excess water  
Add remaining ingredients and mix together  
Refrigerate 30 minutes.  
Divide meat into 6 portions and form into oval shape  
Skewers patties  
Grill 3-4 minutes and flip  
Grill another 3-4 minutes

## ISTANBUL PILAF



### Ingredients

1 Large Size Chicken  
4 Cup Water  
2 1/2 Teaspoon Salt  
2 Piece Chicken Lives  
1/3 Cup Almond (Blanched)  
6 Tablespoon Margarine  
2 Cup Rice  
1 1/2 Teaspoon Saffron or Safflower  
1/2 Cup Fresh Peas  
1/3 Cup Pistachio Nuts

Simmer chicken breast in salted water for 35 minutes or until tender. Remove from liquid; drain. Cut into shreds. Set

aside. Complete volume of broth to 3 1/3 cups; reserve. Cut chicken liver into 1 cm (1/2 inch) cubes. Sauté with almonds in margarine until light brown: Stir in rice; mix well. Sauté for a few minutes. Add hot broth, salt and saffron; mix well. Cover simmer for 15 minutes. Add chicken meat and peas. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes or until rice is tender; drain. Remove from heat. Let stand covered for 20 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with pistachio nuts. Toss slightly. Serve hot.

by Chef Nate  
chef@monsoonjournal.com

# Business Succession Planning: Why plan now?

A business often represents a lifetime of work and vision. However, despite almost three-quarters of business owners wanting to transfer control or exit ownership within the next decade, barely a third have a formal succession plan in place. Lack of a plan is also the most common reason family businesses fail to survive first-to-second generation ownership. Leaving business succession to chance could allow someone else to decide what happens to your business, and potentially at significant cost. Planning early also helps reduce the tax impact of ownership changes, as well as ensure a smooth and successful transition of the business to the new owner or owners. A successful plan will also help the overall value of your business today.

## The Succession Planning Process

The process of planning and enacting a successful transition consists of several steps, each of which are equally important. These steps include:

### Identify and Review Priorities

The first step of the process starts with identifying your priorities. Business owners should ask themselves, "What do I want for my future, my family, and my business?"

### Identify a Buyer or Successor

Who will run the business when you are no longer doing so?

### Develop a Succession Plan

Since a variety of expertise is needed, it is important that you work with an appropriate team of experts to help you develop your business succession plan.

### Integrate with Personal Financial Planning

Ensure that your personal retirement

and estate goals are integrated with your overall financial plan.

### Monitor Plan Implementation

It is important to monitor and review your plan during the implementation period to ensure that you are on track in terms of timing and deliverables.

### Elements of a Succession Plan

Succession planning does not take place in isolation from the larger issue of your overall financial security. An effective succession plan will examine all aspects of your financial situation.

### Distribution of Ownership

If you are transferring ownership of your business, a shareholder agreement is a key tool that should be considered.

### Selecting and Grooming Your Successor

Identifying the right person to take over the reins when you leave is a process that requires careful thought and planning.

### Business Maximization Strategies

There are many strategies you should consider to increase the value of your business prior to sale or transfer of ownership.

### The Role of Key Employees

Key employees are vital to the success of ownership transition, and can offer real help in the planning process.

### Business Valuation

While you may have a good idea of what your business is worth, you should still consult with a professional business valuator to confirm or determine this crucial figure.

### Financing and the Mechanics of Sale

Financing the change of ownership should be a key part of your succession

plan.

### Taxation and Legal Considerations

It is important that you consult with your tax and legal advisors early in the process to make sure that your plan achieves your objectives.

### Retirement and Estate Considerations

Since your investment in your business is probably your most significant asset, there are a number of important retirement and estate planning issues that should be addressed.

### Timetable

When you develop your plan, you should ensure that there is a clear timetable, so those involved know exactly what will be expected of them, and when.

### Monitoring Process

Be sure to update and adjust your plan as necessary if and when there are changes to your business and/or personal situation.

### Contingency Considerations and Risk Management

If illness or death meant that you were suddenly unavailable to manage the business, who would take over your responsibilities?

Finding the right approach to exiting your business will depend on your own expertise, the complexity of your personal financial situation and the time and desire you have to manage your transition. Whatever you do, don't go it alone. It's important to get the right team working for you. Working with our professionals from across the Scotiabank Group, we can help get you take the first step in developing a plan that is right for you.



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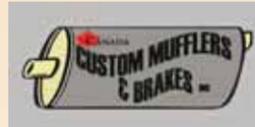
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# Lifetime Achievement Award to Lakshmi Holmström

By: A. Muttulingam

The 7th annual Lifetime Achievement Award took place on Sunday, 18th May 2008 at 6.00 PM at Seeley Hall, University of Toronto. As in the previous years the award (also known as Iyal Virudhu) which includes a plaque and a cash prize of C\$1500.00 was given by the Tamil Literary Garden to a writer who has made significant contributions to the promotion of Tamil. The recipient this year was Lakshmi Holmström of UK who is a writer and translator and who has authored about twenty books. She is the author of Indian Fiction in English: the Novels of R. K. Narayan, editor of The Inner Courtyard: Short Stories by Indian Women and co-editor of Writing from India, a collection of stories from India for readers aged 14-16. Her retelling of the fifth-century Tamil narrative poems Silappadikaram and Manimekalai was published in 1996. Her main work has been in translating the short stories and novels of the major contemporary writers in Tamil: Mauni, Pudumaippittan, Ashokamitran, Sundara Ramaswamy, Ambai, Baama and Iyayam. In 2000 she received the Crossword Book Award in India, for translation of

Karukku by Bama.

The annual award that is given by the Tamil Literary Garden on an international level has rapidly gained prestige within the Tamil studies space. The Tamil Literary Garden is a non profit organization founded in 2001 and is committed to raising awareness and promoting Tamil Literary studies at a global level. As part of its mission, the Tamil Literary Garden organizes various workshops, lectures and seminars designed to encourage and explore creative writing and translation techniques.

Lakshmi in her acceptance speech of the award said that it was for the pleasure of engaging with a text closely that she entered the world of translation. 'In order to translate a text, you have to understand, first of all, its structures, its tensions, its language; how it is functioning, in short. And also its place in a cultural context and a literary history,' she said. "Most importantly" she said "because of the challenge and excitement of moving between two languages, because of the play aspect of translation, of exploring what is sayable in one language, and whether it can or cannot be carried over into

another." It was Lakshmi's dream that many more of our Tamil writers, who were among the finest in the world, would be better known in the future outside Sri Lanka and India. A young person riffling through a bookstore in London or Toronto should as a matter of course, find books by our great Tamil writers translated in English on their shelves.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award the following awards were presented:

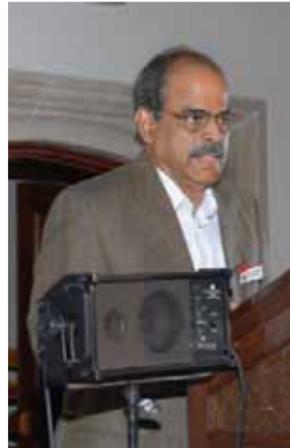
Fiction Award to S. Ramakrishnan for his novel 'Yamam.'

Non-fiction Award to Nanjil Nadan for his collection of essays 'Nathiyin Pizaiyanru Narumpunal Inmai.'

Poetry Award to K. Vasudevan for his collection of poems 'Tholaivil.'

Information Technology in Tamil Award to Dr. K. Kalyanasundaram for his long time contribution to Tamil computing.

The award ceremony was presided over by Professor Chelva Kanaganayakam and the invitees included writer Bama from India, Dr George Hart of Berkeley University, Dr. Brenda Beck and the artist T. Sanathanan from Sri Lanka.



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# Monsoon Features

## MY CANADA

by Samy Appadurai

I was once asked to be the guest speaker at a Canada Day celebration in downtown Toronto, and readily obliged. Many new immigrants, along with their Canadian-born children, were in attendance.

While delivering my speech, I called on some members of the audience at random and asked them to make a few brief remarks on the significance of the occasion. Each person who spoke had something nice to say about his or her country of origin. Even those who had been born in Canada spoke glowingly about the homeland of their forefathers. I noticed a few Canadian flags being waved by little children, and many of those in attendance were wearing T-shirts that proclaimed them to be proud Canadians. This did not surprise me, but I was quite disappointed that none of the young people born in Canada said anything about living in this great country of ours. Indeed, none of the audience members who spoke said one word about Canada!

The interesting part of the background of these young people goes way beyond the Canada Day celebration. In the past, I had seen some of these teenagers carrying the flag of the nation of their ancestors and expressing their support of those countries when the World Cup matches, played elsewhere, drove much of the world into a frenzy of excitement. Indeed, at the time I wondered whether the heated competition and its reverberations around the globe might have added to global warming! I also wondered if such a match were to be played by a Canadian team against competitors of their ancestral heritage where these young people would stand and which flag they would wave. In the end, I could not come up with an answer.

The issue of divided loyalty is not a new phenomenon but is deeply rooted in Canadian soil. The Father of Confederation, the first prime minister of Canada, Sir

John A. Macdonald, shared his love for Canada with that of his country of origin, Scotland. Sir John A., as he is affectionately known even today, was born in 1815 and was brought to Upper Canada (now Ontario) at the age of five. As an older teenager, he went back to Scotland, where he fell in love with his cousin, Isabella Clark. They soon married, and the young couple came to Canada in 1845 to build a new life. Although Sir John A. spent most of his life in this country and made many personal sacrifices in order to bring progress and prosperity to this land, he never lost his emotional tie to his country of origin.

Indeed, Macdonald was British to the core. Although he served as Canada's prime minister for 18 years, his loyalty to his ancestral homeland was profound. This is what he had to say on the subject: "As for myself, my course is clear. A British subject I was born; a British subject I will die. With my latest breath, I will oppose the 'veiled treason' which attempts by sordid means and mercenary proffers to lure our people from their allegiance."

When the 13 colonies in America revolted against the British Empire, at that point in time the sun had never before set on that empire. Those who fought for independence in the American Revolution were considered anathema by the British loyalists who chose to migrate to Canada rather than live in a land they considered treasonous to Mother England.

Although the Americans did away with the constitutional monarchy and became a republic, Canada continues to maintain the same system that remains in place in the United Kingdom, and the Queen of Britain is the Queen of Canada as well. I am deeply privileged and honoured to hold the Golden Jubilee Gold Medal of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Canada is a word derived from one or more of our native languages. In the Iroquois tongue, kanata means "town." In the Mohawk language, a town is

called nekanata. Indeed, many other names were used to refer to this great country of ours before the name Canada was given, and the name of our country is said to have Spanish and Portuguese origins as well.

It is also reported that the first French settlers in this country demanded a "can a day" of beer; this is an interesting hypothesis of the origin of our country's name! Essentially, however, the consensus is that the native Indians' use of the term Canada gave our country its name. On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act proclaimed Canada as the name of the new dominion.

Just as Sir John A. Macdonald was fiercely loyal to his roots although he led the new Dominion of Canada for so long, so, too, is William Jefferson Clinton, known by all and sundry as Bill, the former president of the United States of America. Although he was not reared on Irish soil, Bill Clinton has always had strong feelings for Ireland and, many years ago, did considerable research on his Irish roots. While in office, he made sure that everyone knew that he always celebrated the most famous of Irish festivals, St. Patrick's Day, and that he regularly received special guests from Ireland.

The issue of heritage can be a very complex one, and feathers are sometimes ruffled when people hold different views on the subject. Governor General Michaele Jean recently paid a visit to France while Quebecers began their year-long celebration of the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the City of Quebec by Samuel de Champlain. In her speech, Madame Jean made mention, in a patriotic manner, of the significance of the event. It is more than a celebration of Quebecers, she declared; rather, the 400th anniversary of Quebec's founding is, as well, a celebration of all the descendants of the French who came to Canada's shores. Indeed, she said, more than a million of them currently reside in provinces other than Quebec.

The reaction to Madame Jean's comment by some members of the Bloc Quebecois was not encouraging, to put it mildly. Quite a few people were unhappy



Canada Day - July 1st

about her remarks. In this regard, it is noteworthy that when a former French president, Charles de Gaulle, visited Canada a few decades ago, he decided to promote of the French heritage of our country in a very different way.

Where are we heading? Who is a true Canadian, and who is a Canadian in name only? Who is a patriotic Canadian? Various interpretations exist, some objective, some subjective: Anyone who was born in Canada or was born abroad to one or both Canadian parents. Anyone who has chosen Canada as his new home and has attained naturalized citizenship.

It is understandable that it is very hard to uproot the deeply held sentiments that many people feel for the place they were born. Sometimes I wonder where the hearts of those who hold dual citizenship truly lie. Such people are truly people of two worlds-or more-as the intricacies of international law sometimes permit people to hold three or more citizenships simultaneously.

I have had the privilege of seeing life on three different continents. I was born and brought up in Asia, I spent most of my middle years in Africa.. I have made several trips to Europe, and have visited many places across North America. I have now had the good fortune of residing in Canada for more than two decades. Here I have been privileged to find a unique society that I have not seen anywhere else.

Officially, Canada is a multicultural, bilingual nation. It does not discourage new immigrants from pursuing their traditional activities; indeed, Canada supports multiculturalism. While expres-

sions of prejudice and discrimination are seen here, they are relatively few and far between. As the great Montreal poet Irving Layton wrote, "We do not kill each other here as they do in the more civilized countries of the world."

Our government does not tolerate discrimination or the promotion of hatred in any form, and anyone who is a victim of such treatment has the right to report it to the authorities, who will take appropriate action.

Some friends who migrated to other parts of the world at around the same time as I came to Canada, recently visited my wife and me. While reiterating that we are incredibly fortunate to live here, they told us that what we have in this country cannot be bought for any money. Indeed, they remarked on what everyone living in the Greater Toronto Area already knows: In this city one can visit many parts of the world on the same day. There are Chinatowns both downtown and uptown, Little India on Gerrard Street, Sri Lankan enclaves in Scarborough and Markham, Korean communities at Bloor and Christie and Sheppard and Yonge, Italian and Portuguese neighbourhoods downtown, midtown and up north. Likewise, in many parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec, it is easy to feel that one is not in Canada but abroad on account of the large pockets of immigrants from other places who have brought the best of their respective cultures with them to our shores.

Canada is the land of promise for everyone who migrates here. The foreign-born can become naturalized citizens, and such people face absolutely no restric-

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# Monsoon Features

tions in climbing to the very top of the ladder. Indeed, they can serve at the highest levels of government, which is not the case in most other countries of the world.

In this regard, Canada has virtually no parallel. In this country, a person's talents, skills, education and experience speak louder than his socio-economic or ethnic background. There are countless stories of people who came to Canada as refugees, with little or no money, who worked hard and became millionaires. Some have

implies a state of merely putting up with something. The overall acceptance of the mutuality and intrinsic worthiness of one another's cultures is a very positive force in Canadian life.

When it comes to Canadian foreign policy, we try to carry over our acceptance of others into the international sphere. Canada, a major world power located in the north, receives 80% of its revenues from export income. It would therefore be most unwise for us to antagonize our neigh-

sheiks in supplying our southern neighbours.) Furthermore, the Hibernia Oil Sands, off the shores of Newfoundland, have become a gold mine of new opportunity for Canada in terms of oil reserves.

The major issue in terms of our foreign policy vis-à-vis the United States concerns maintaining the sovereignty and unique identity of Canada. Our legislated borders cannot be called into question, and we must be particularly vigilant regarding the protection and sovereignty of our Far

being perpetrated in China and Sri Lanka.

It is particularly noteworthy that Canada always stands up for the rights of the poor and disenfranchised around the world. Our immigration policy is very generous, particularly with regard to refugee claimants. Canada has been honoured by various world bodies, including the United Nations, for its acceptance and treatment of those who have had to flee their country of origin on account of famine, natural disas-

Canada is in need of qualitative and quantitative human capital for purely economic reasons, so immigrants of the economic class are encouraged to move here. Their contributions will help alleviate the shortage of workers caused by the expansion of the economy, the low natural increase of population and the high number of retiring baby boomers. In fact, economic-class immigrants account for more than half of total immigration. I applaud the decision of the Honourable Diane

The following chart is most illuminating: Permanent residents - Canada

Year	Family class	%	Economic immigrants	%	Refugees	%	Other	%	Catag not stated	%	Total	%
2006	70,506	28	138,257	54.9	32,492	12.9	10,382	4.1	120	0	251,649	100
1997	59,979	27.8	128,351	59.4	24,308	11.3	3,400	1.6	0	0	216,038	100

even attained billionaire status.

Let us look at the backgrounds of Canada's current governor general, Madame Michaele Jean, and her predecessor, Madame Adrienne Clarkson. Each of these outstanding women came to Canada as refugees (from Haiti and China respectively), and made significant contributions to our society before attaining this country's highest post. In the corporate and non-profit sectors, too, there are a great many successful people. While some socio-cultural barriers still exist, these barriers are not part of Canada's official policy; they are, in fact, officially frowned on.

I have heard from many immigrants of diverse ethnic origins that Canada has cultivated a very high level of tolerance. While the word "tolerance" is in popular use, I do not find it a particularly positive word. In place of the word "tolerance" I would use the word "acceptance." Acceptance reflects an appreciation of one another's cultures while tolerance

bour to the south. This, whether we like it or not, is our reality. Historically speaking, when Canada had very close ties with Great Britain, both economically and otherwise, it was, perhaps, less important for us to concern ourselves regarding how the United States felt about us or how the decisions taken in Washington affected us.

Nowadays the European Union has attained the level of a single economic bloc while the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is not working out as well as its signatories (Canada, the United States and Mexico) had hoped. Both Democratic presidential candidates for the upcoming U.S. election have clearly indicated that they want to see some basic, drastic changes to the policy and framework of NAFTA. Fortunately, the United States depends on Canada for most of its natural gas and petroleum. (Until lately, the U.S. got most of its oil from Saudi Arabia. However, Canada has now surpassed the oil

North. Under no circumstance will Canada ever become the 51st state of the United States of America, as some cynics sarcastically comment.

In this regard, our government has increased Canada's presence in the Far North and assures us that our presence there will remain strong. The creation of the Territory of Nunavut some years ago continues to strengthen the social fabric of the Far North while validating and promoting the flourishing Inuit culture that exists there.

With further reference to Canada's foreign policy, it is important to understand Canada's role in the British Commonwealth of Nations, the North American Treaty Alliance (NATO) and the United Nations (UN). In each of these institutions, Canada takes its own, independent stand. For example, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, at the recent Commonwealth meetings, condemned the undemocratic activities going on in Pakistan, and the flagrant human rights' violations

ter or armed conflict. The acceptance ratio compared with other Western countries is relatively high. Although most of the refugee-receiving countries base their acceptance or rejection of refugees on the Geneva Conventions of the United Nations, the yardstick by which the refugees are judged varies from country to country, to a certain degree. Some refugees, in fact, have been accepted by one country after having been rejected by another. This is one reason why many refugees have knocked and continue to knock at Canada's door from south of the border.

Let us turn now to the issue of family-class sponsorship. The reunification of family members of permanent residents and citizens of Canada holds high priority on account of the family values this nation holds.

Immigrants of the independent class make significant contributions to life in Canada. This group primarily encompasses skilled workers and investors.

Finlay, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, for making significant changes in policy to reduce the backlog of applications for members of the potential independent class.

The number of new immigrants who were born outside Canada has reached almost 20% of the total population, a relatively high percentage. After a period of adjustment, most new immigrants participate fully in Canadian life and enjoy the many benefits it offers.

All in all, as virtually every newcomer will attest, Canada is the land of opportunity, not only for us, but for those who will come after us. Happy 141st birthday, Canada! Many happy returns to all Canadians and Canadian residents!

**Samy Appadurai is a renowned broadcast journalist, author, educator and public speaker who makes his home in Toronto.**

## Baby Steps Walkathon-2008

The Annual Baby Steps Walkathon for fund raising for the new Regional Birthing Centre now under construction at the Centenary Hospital, Scarborough was held on Sunday 25th May.

The Walk commenced from the Malvern Town Centre and wound its way to the Centenary Hospital where a function was held to celebrate the event. Mr. Kula Sellathurai, Chair of the Walkathon Event welcomed the participants and remarked "We are very committed to helping to raise funds for the building of this new centre." He also thanked TD Canada Trust for being the event sponsor for the second year of this event.

Seen here are some pictures taken at the event.



# Monsoon Appreciations

Former Mayor of Jaffna Sinnathamby Nagarajah passes away



**Former Mayor of Jaffna Sinnathamby Nagarajah**  
(28 February 1931-May 8th 2008)

Mr. Sinnathamby Nagarajah, who served as Mayor of Jaffna twice in the late 60's, passed away in New Jersey, USA, on Thursday May 8th at the age of 77. Mr. Nagarajah was a Tamil nationalist, and an active member of the Tamil diaspora in lobbying in the United States for political support for Tamil struggle of self determination.

Mr. Nagarajah, born on 28 February 1931, was an old boy of Jaffna Hindu College. Later he attended Madras Christian College, Chennai to complete Bachelor's degree and Masters degree in English Literature. Upon returning to Sri Lanka, he became an Attorney-at-Law and practiced law in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

In 1982, Mr. Nagarajah resigned from his position as Vice Chairman of the then proposed District Development Council, realizing that the body was not empowered to help Tamil people. He continued to be active in the politics, and remained as a resident of Jaffna until late 90s.

In 1989, when Indian Army was occupying north-East of Sri Lanka, he traveled to Vanni, stayed at the LTTE political head quarters, and participated in polit-

ical activities and constitutional matters.

Later, he taught at the Tamil Eelam Judiciary Department, which was newly inaugurated by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the early 90's. He gave lectures at the Law School of the Tamil Eelam Judiciary Department to the judges and attorneys.

In the late 90s, he moved permanently to New Jersey, USA to live with his children. In New Jersey, he mobilized and took part in all Tamil activities. He frequently met several congressmen and officials to convey the plight of Tamils living in Sri Lanka.

"We are neither terrorists nor separatists, we are only fighting back to regain our lost freedom," he said in the welcoming speech. "Tamils have the right to reclaim freedom for their traditional homeland and restore the sovereignty to Tamil people," he said during his address at the Tamil Memorial day of USA, held in November 2007.

Mr. Nagarajah is survived by his wife and five children.

The cremation was held in New Jersey, on May 10th, 2008.

[TamilNet]

## AT Moorthy. A Sri Lankan diplomat, he resigned his post over Tamil conflict

By Tom Farrell

In 1981 Arambamoorthy Thedchana "AT" Moorthy, who has died aged 79, became high commissioner for Sri Lanka to the Court of St James, a post normally reserved for senior politicians. That same year, Sinhalese thugs burnt down the Jaffna municipal library, one of the largest in Asia, with the apparent connivance of the police, destroying more than 97,000 Tamil volumes. Moorthy, who came from a Tamil background, believed in a common Sri Lankan identity and resisted the ethnocentric politics that would tear his island nation apart. Yet, in May 1983, a state of emergency was declared and that July, following the massacre of an army patrol in Jaffna, anti-Tamil riots erupted across Sri Lanka, killing hundreds of Tamils and forcing thousands abroad.

Moorthy knew that his position had become untenable. He belonged to a generation whose politics had not been corrupted by narrow, murderous nationalism. In early 1984, with the Tamil Tigers' remorseless campaign underway, he stepped down as high commissioner. He had refused to declare that his position was evidence that no serious discrimination existed against Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. Thus ended a career that could probably have culminated with a United Nations post.

Yet when he graduated in economics from the then University of Ceylon in 1948 - the year of independence from Britain - educated Ceylonese of Moorthy's generation did not define themselves along ethnic or religious lines. Having avoided the bloody birth pangs experienced by India, there was every reason to believe that Ceylon - which became Sri Lanka in 1972 - could be a model for newly independent nations. And if he refused to be defined by

racial allegiances at home, on the world stage Moorthy was determined that his country would not be defined by cold war ideological allegiances.

Moorthy was born in the eastern Batticaloa district, an area of the island mainly populated by Tamils, a predominantly Hindu minority, making up around 10% of the population. Having completed his primary education at the Sivananda Vidyalayam national school in Batticaloa, and Jaffna college, he moved to the capital, Colombo, and the university, in the 1940s.

Moorthy entered the foreign service in 1953, a year before the Colombo conference at which India's prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, laid out the principles of non-alignment supported by many newly independent nations. His first diplomatic posting to Jakarta, Indonesia, coincided with the 1955 Bandung conference, hosted by the President Sukarno with the aim of promoting Afro-Asian economic and political co-operation and opposing colonialism.

In 1957 he became chargé d'affaires to Beijing, meeting such leaders as Mao Zedong and Zhou En-Lai. Bilateral trade and economic agreements with China were integral to the policies being pursued by Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first female prime minister, and Moorthy made many friends among the Beijing diplomatic community, including the British chargé d'affaires Sir Duncan Wilson. In 1959, he married Suseela, the daughter of a supreme court judge.

From 1961 to 1963 he served as first secretary in London - and he and Suseela also studied for the bar at Gray's Inn, being called in 1965. He then served as first secretary in West Germany (1964-66) and as chargé d'affaires in Thailand (1969-70) and also per-

manent representative to the Economic Commission for Asia and the far east. In 1970, he was posted as chargé d'affaires to Iraq, shortly after the revolution.

In 1974, Moorthy returned to Colombo to help coordinate the fifth non-aligned summit, held two years later, Bandaranaike having become chair of the non-aligned movement. But by now, the island's ethnic fault lines were fraying at the edges, since Bandaranaike had continued the populist policies of her husband Solomon, assassinated in 1959, designed to appeal to chauvinistic impulses among the island's Sinhalese Buddhist majority, who made up around 80% of the population. Bandaranaike's government fell in 1977, but her successor Junius Jayawardene took an even harder line against Tamil militancy. His pro-western foreign policy antagonised New Delhi to the extent that India began arming and training guerrilla groups such as the Tamil Tigers.

In 1978 Moorthy was posted as ambassador to Pakistan, concurrent with Iran. In the aftermath of the 1979 revolution, he played a key role in Sri Lankan government efforts to free US hostages in Iran, one of several special missions during his diplomatic career. Then came the appointment to London.

In the years that followed his resignation, he devoted himself to voluntary work and the upbringing of his three beloved grandchildren.

Having lived quietly in London for many years, he was deeply affected by Suseela's death in 2005. He is survived by his three children and three grandchildren.

**A r a m b a m o o r t h y**  
**Thedchana Moorthy, diplomat, born August 10 1928; died April 1 2008**

[Courtesy: The Guardian, UK]

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Book Review

# Love Marriage

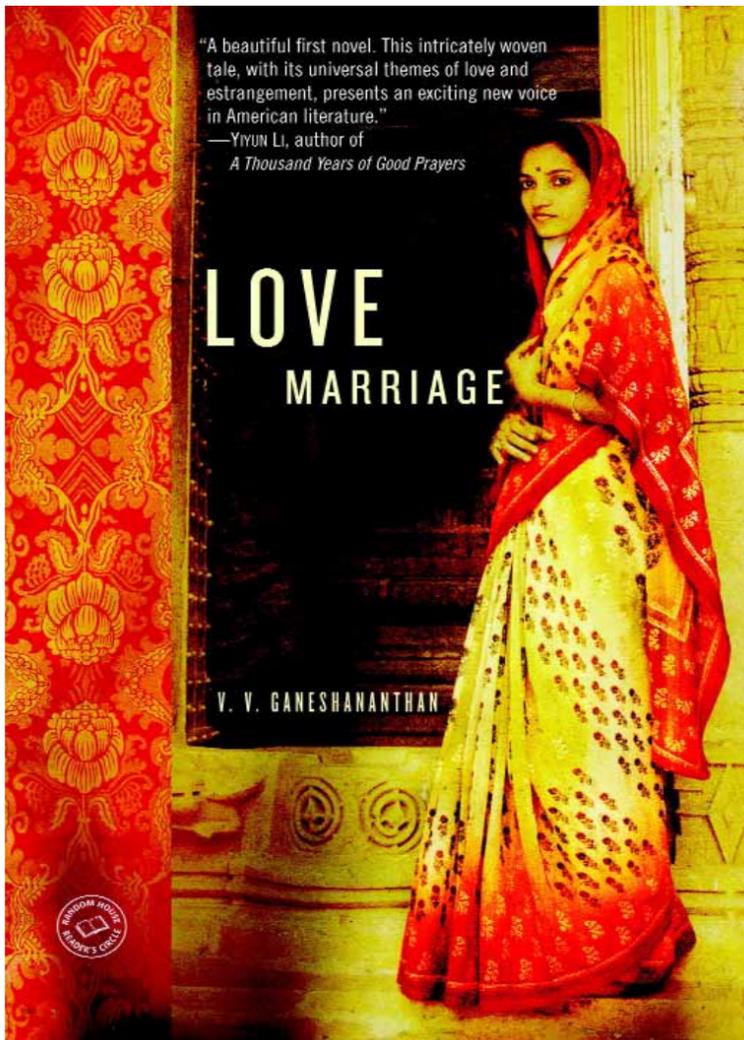
By Vasugi (V.V) Ganeshanandan

(Published by Random House)



"Love Marriage" is an intricately woven story between love, marriage and war, authored by Vasugi (V.V) Ganeshanandan who is of Sri Lankan origin living in New York.

The story centers around Yalini, the daughter of an immigrant Sri Lankan couple, married in America and caught up between the age old traditions of her ancestors and the modern ways of the world in which she lives. The book gives an insight into the fratricidal war and conflict in Sri Lanka. The main players in the novel are the extended family members of Yalini. The contents of the novel go deep into Sri Lankan Tamil culture, customs, rituals and traditions. Obviously the author has done some intensive research into these aspects reflecting Tamil traditions. The book is an ideal source for those who would like to know some of the Tamil customs and traditions. The book also has insights into the extremely complicated Sri Lankan politics beginning from the 1983 Racial riots (incidentally, the heroine in the novel was born during Black July). But the author's reference to politics, she herself admits "is not in the voice of an activist but in the voice of an artist". The novel also has touch-



es of a family history and perhaps the author was inspired by the path that her family took in their own life. Two different aspects of a marriage within the Tamil community -Love marriages and Arranged marriages, are woven as the central theme into the novel. In her debut novel, the author has knitted together universal themes of Love, Marriage, Duty, Honor etc.

Ms.Ganeshanandan was in Toronto recently and participated in the International Readings at the Harbourfront. Her book has received international reviews to make the novel a book-club favorite. The Book is available at Chapters Bookshops in Canada.

"Love Marriage" is more than a novel!

Siva Sivapragasam

## Second Annual RBC desiFEST Enjoys National Success, Surpasses 2007 Attendance



South Asian Heritage Month ended with an explosive grand finale at Yonge-Dundas Square this weekend with the 2nd annual RBC desiFEST. On Saturday, May 31 Toronto's number one visitor destination came alive with the spirit of South Asia. RBC desiFEST, Canada's first and only Canadian South Asian music festival, returned to Yonge-Dundas Square with a 12-hour concert after national successes in Montreal and Vancouver, showcasing the very best in South Asian music and dance from classical and contemporary indo-jazz fusion to pop, rock, hip-hop and reggae along with cutting edge DJs.

Despite uncooperative weather, a crowd of 17,000 strong enjoyed incredible performances by over 30 artists including Juno award nominated fusion band Autorickshaw, legendary Qawwali singer Shahid Ali Khan, Canadian Radio Star national winner Shobha, Bollywood sensation IshQ Bector, Ottawa rock artist Parul Sharma, RBC desiFEST Vancouver artist ambassador Jagua, and international bhangramuffin star Apache Indian among many others.

This year RBC desiFEST Toronto also became the first South Asian Canadian music festival to broadcast live over the internet, with 5000 plus viewers from around the world enjoying over 10 hours of music at [www.desifest.ca](http://www.desifest.ca) . Many of

Canada's top South Asian celebrities from a variety of fields also took the stage as guest MC's during the festival, including actress Sitara Hewitt, playwright Anita Majumdar, director Richie Mehta, author Devyani Saltzman, and a variety of media personalities.

Thrilled with the overwhelming success of the second annual RBC desiFEST, festival founder and CEO Sathish Bala had this to say about this year's big event: "This year's festival was a tremendous success despite the rain delays. The turnout surpassed last year's attendance and confirmed Toronto's passion and support of its arts and artists regardless of the obstacles. I am very proud of our community and city and am also very happy for the artists. We look forward to 2009 and continuing our mandate to promote South Asian music and artists within Canada."

RBC desiFEST became the first Canadian South Asian music festival to go national this year, with a club night at the legendary Just For Laughs Museum in Montreal on March 29 and an outdoor festival in Vancouver's historic Gastown District on May 3. Mr. Bala is looking forward to continuing RBC desiFEST's national presence and opening in additional Canadian cities in 2009.

## Monsoon Kids Corner

### Color Me Competition - 4

Dead Line for entries:  
June 25, 2008

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

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

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



Winner for May 2008  
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# Monsoon Events



## Centre for Information and Community Services Immigrant Resource Centre (IRC)

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**Location: CICS Immigration Resource Centre (IRC):  
2330 Midland Ave (Midland/401)**

Speaker: Bill Redwood: Director of Marketing and Public Relations  
at Concordia College of Canada

Language: English

For Registration: Call 416-292-7510 ext "0" or Register in  
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## Meet Attorney Bruce Fein in Toronto

Attorney Bruce Fein (pronounced "Fine") who has been retained by the US based human rights organization "Tamils For Justice" is visiting Toronto from Tuesday 17th June to Sunday 22nd June 2008 to brief the Canadian Tamil public and non-Tamil Canadians including politicians, church leaders, academics, accountants, lawyers, doctors, engineers and other professionals and representatives of the media and students about his work which among other things involves:

**Exploring modalities for organizing and conducting a Referendum**  
(Under United Nations Security Council supervision)

On Tamil Statehood in the island of Sri Lanka thereby ascertaining directly and democratically from the affected Tamil people what the majority of them want with a view to facilitating a just and lasting peace.

In addition to his various live radio and TV appearances with phone-in facilities to have your questions answered, he is also meeting in person with the Tamil and non-Tamil public on the following three (3) occasions.

1. On Thursday 19th June 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall, Radisson Hotel Toronto

East, 55, Hallcrown Place (Hwy 401 and Victoria Park Ave.) North York, Ontario 2. On Friday 20th June 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Canada Kanthaswamy Kovil Hall, 733 Birchmount Road (South of Eglinton Ave. East), Scarborough, Ontario

3. And once again on Saturday 21st June 2008 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Canada Kanthaswamy Kovil Hall, 733 Birchmount Road (South of Eglinton Ave. East), Scarborough.

On all three occasions Bruce Fein will speak to the audience to explain the work he is doing and then respond to written questions. English-Tamil-English translation will be available so as to enable both Tamils and non-Tamils to understand Bruce Fein's speech and the questions asked and answers given. As you would no doubt see from the attached profile of Bruce Fein that he is a man of glittering credentials and impressive reputation. As such we need persons of your stature and caliber to support Bruce Fein's efforts that promise to bring peace to the island of Sri Lanka to benefit not only Tamils who are living, but also promises to honor Tamils who have died and safeguard Tamils

yet to be born! As you will be aware even Nobel Laureates have spoken up to openly condemn Sri Lanka for its odious human rights record and have succeeded in having Sri Lanka voted off the UN Human Rights Council. As such there never has been a better and more auspicious time for the Tamils to utilize the unsurpassed charisma and sleepless energy of persons like Bruce Fein to achieve their legitimate aspirations and ultimate goal. In this connection I need your help to organize a successful visit for Bruce Fein by enabling more of our fellow citizens to attend meetings of this nature towards enabling them to better understand what is really happening in Sri Lanka.

Kindly help by inviting and ensuring attendance of leading politicians (of all parties), church leaders, academics, accountants, doctors, engineers, lawyers and other professionals, representatives of the media and student leaders and other Tamil and non-Tamil community leaders of distinction. Your generous help and untiring support to ensure success of this special opportunity to encourage Canada's involvement in bringing about a just peace to benefit both the Sinhalese and the Tamils alike is hereby humbly and earnestly solicited.

Hospital employees compete for

### 'Biggest Loser' status

The winning team of The Scarborough Hospital's first-ever 'Biggest Loser' contest will be revealed Wed., June 11 in Thomson Park, behind the General site, as 60 staff members complete a 16-week health and fitness regime.

**WHAT: 'The Biggest Loser' contest**

**WHERE: The Scarborough Hospital, General campus**

**WHEN: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.**

Inspired by the TV reality show of the same name, 12 teams from the General and Grace sites of TSH competed for \$2,500 in cash and a complimentary one-year member to the TSH fitness centre.

While the team with the largest collective percentage of weight loss triumphs, the real prize is the switch to a healthier lifestyle, says contest organizer Lori Irvine, TSH's Healthy Workplace Coordinator.

There will be refreshments, music and entertainment following the announcement of the winning team.

For more information:

Dave Bourne

Manager, Corporate Communications

**The Scarborough Hospital**

**416-438-2911 ext. 6836**

**dbourne@tsh.to**

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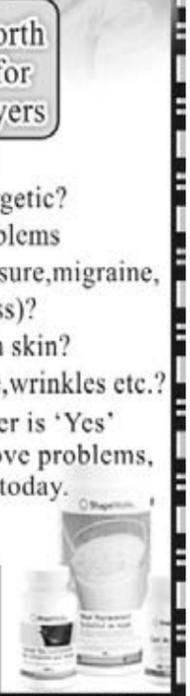
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## Charity car wash raises \$4900 and awareness



**(Markham-Unionville)** It was a beautiful day during May 2008 to have the family car washed and many did as the Duncan Fletcher Team along with friends like Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney and members of the Chinese Canadian Conservative Association (CCCA) among others raised money for Chinese earthquake relief. "We were blessed to have great weather, fantastic volunteers and many generous people come by today" said Conservative M.P. Candidate Duncan Fletcher. "The devastation caused by the earthquake hits close to home for people of our community as many have friends and family directly affected by it. We felt we had to do something and were happy to contribute" he offers.

The management of New Kennedy Square, where the event

was hosted and Power King restaurant contributed their parking lot and water. Others pitched in and donated all supplies used so one hundred percent of all funds will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross - who had officials on site throughout the day. As a result, the day's total earnings of \$4900 will be matched by the Conservative government's assistance program. "As happy as I am with our results, I hope our efforts will inspire others to do whatever they can too" concludes Fletcher.

For further comment, information on Duncan Fletcher or the Conservative Party of Markham-Unionville, please contact;  
Ben Seto-Campaign Manager; 416-720-1307,  
Duncan Fletcher-Candidate; 416-859-6868

## 15th Anniversary of Rajaguru Martial Arts Academy In Canada

Rajaguru Martial Arts Academy, Shotokan Karate Do - Canada, located on Markham and McNicoll centre in Scarborough, Ontario, recently celebrated its 15th Anniversary and the 5th Advanced Martial Arts Training Camp.

In this Advanced Martial Arts Training Camp, the students were taught, Karate, Silambam, Weapons Training, Yoga and Meditation. After 10 hours of training every day, the students attended the grading for their respective belts.

All the parents of the students attend this ceremony and the students who passed their grading received their Belts and certificates from its Founder and Grand Master, So Shihan, Rajaguru T Ravindran.

This camp and the function was organized by Shihan Sriram Rangan, International Chief Instructor and the Senior Instructor of Rajaguru Martial Arts Academy Canada.

In his speech, Grand Master So Shihan Rajaguru T Ravindran said "Today 8 years to 14 years old boys and girls, who have been training Karate for the last

5-6 years have through their hard work and dedication, not only proved that they have developed good character but also won their Black Belt in Karate by training their Mind, Body and spirit and proved that Karate Training develops once Physical, Mental and Spiritual life and make all of these students a responsible Citizen of our Country.

The students who won their Black belts are as follows.

### PROVISIONAL 1ST DEGREE BLACK BELT.

- ARGUN GERARD (8 YEARS)
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- GANESH RAVEENTRANATHAN (12 YEARS)
- BAVITHRAN KATHIRGAMANATHAN (13 YEARS)
- JONATHAN JEYARAJAH (13 YEARS)
- PRAHASH MAYOORAN (13 YEARS)
- MOHESHAN SRIKULADEVAN (13 YEARS)
- YADAVAN PATHMANATHAN (14 YEARS)
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- JOHAN YOGARENTNAM (18 YEARS)



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## Yoga-thon-2008

This was the 3rd annual Yoga-thon and funds raised approx \$32000 net. The expenses were covered by sponsors so 100% of the funds raised from participants were given to the early intervention to help youth at risk of mental illness programme. Apart from \$, the organizers said that they were very happy to raise awareness of this illness with the yoga community of Toronto and grateful for their support.



Picture shows the Organisers, Instructors and Volunteers taken on 3rd Annual Yoga-thon held on May 10th, 2008 at Distillery District, Toronto. This union of karma and hatha yoga was held to raise funds for the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario's Early Intervention Program. Several participants enjoyed the day learning the importance of meditation, took part in Yoga postures like Ashtanga style, etc. Also participants enjoyed a unique Kathakali dance performance and special head and neck massage therapy.

# Kollywood Film Review



by Anand. J  
**PANDI**

With its simple story woven into the texture of the movie, Pandi proves to be an average entertainer that seems tailor-made for frontbenchers. A commercial entertainer targetting front-bencher is 'Pandi'. It has



comedy, action and romance to lure the B and C audience. With Lawrence oozing the right energy and Sneha and Namitha filling up the glamour quotient, 'Pandi' turns out to be an entertainer that is worth a watch. However the story line is wafer thin. It is a cliched and oft-repeated in Tamil



cinema. A youth, who is ridiculed by his family for being callous and not caring, eventually turns out to be a responsible son taking care of the entire family.

Raghava Lawrence and Sreeman, sons of the couple Nasser and Saranya, are two extremes. While Sreeman is the perfect example (note, only example) of an ideal son, Lawrence figures in the danger-

ously-short-tempered-son-who-is-of-less-value-to-the-family category. For these reasons, his entire family, except mother Saranya, hates him with their whole heart. Meanwhile, Lawrence meets Sneha and falls in love.

A crucial gridlock in the family brings to light Sreeman's ugly side and he elopes with his

father's hard-earned money saved for his sister's wedding. Lawrence takes over from this point and shoulders his family's responsibility. In the process, he moves to Dubai for greener pastures.

Sneha is the show-stealer and announces the arrival of a siren. So much for her good girl next door image. She gyrates hard for the three songs in her designer outfits - of course, scantier than her earlier movies. The songs Kuthu madhippa and the Maasi Maasam remix song (done shoddily, making you wonder what the point was in brutally butchering the lovely original) provide ample scope for Sneha's dancing skills. Sneha's sexy dance moves also makes poor Namitha's item numbers look lackluster. Interestingly Tamil cinema has seen such storyline in the early 1980s itself. Madhuravan has taken one such and treated it with a swift screenplay. Lawrence carries the entire burden in his shoulders and deliver his best. He dances, romances

and does comedy with style.

While Nasser, Saranya, and Sreeman score with their performances, Lawrence looks as if he definitely needs acting lessons. Or is it just that director Raasu Maduravan felt a hero need not bend backwards to make himself look credible? That apart, U.K. Senthilkumar's camera feasts on Namitha big time and Suresh Urs' neat editing flows with the course of it. Srikanth Deva's songs are loud and the remix Masimasam Alanna...is picturised in a glamorous way on Sneha and Lawrence.

All said, 'Pandi' is a masala entertainer that keeps the audience engaged.

## SILANDHI



While thriller as a genre finds few takers in Tamil cinema, Silandhi is an attempt to reopen the topic. In today's booming IT culture, for every woman, character is more important than her career. Journalist-turned-director Aathirajan has taken this serious theme and churned out 'Silandhi'. The movie defies the rules of Tamil cinema, running only to 100 minutes (although not without songs). A commendable attempt, though. However, there are no excuses for trying an over-used and tawdry storyline. Besides, using contemporary

issues (that seem forced and biased) to give the story a new-look is barely justification enough.

Monicka, hitherto playing conservative girl in movies like 'Azhagi', has taken to glamour with 'Silandhi'. She plays a newly-married girl, who runs for her life. Munna is cast as her lovable husband, who helps her overcome her troubles. Though the first half lags as it simply revolves around



two characters ( Munna and Monica), Aathirajan has made the second half more crispy and racy.

the worst of her fears are realized when the stalker's identification is revealed.

Fowzia's cinematography and Sathish Kurasowa's editing lends solidity to the film. Fowzia's lens captures the runs and chases well and is equally complimented by the music composer's thrilling background music. Silandhi could have been one of the creepiest thrillers, however, the director's conviction in portraying the lifestyle of young girls (IT professionals, it is told) as sex-maniacs seems contrived and lacks credibility. And the movie falls flat on its nose when the stalker delivers a two-page dialogue about how his dreams of marrying off his sister and taking care of his elderly mother were shattered owing to these girls' crude sexual desires.

Director Aathiraj quit his more-than-a-decade old job as a journalist for an evening daily to direct Silandhi and it is easy to decipher the source of his inspiration. The movie is shot using HDD camera and the clear winner is Fausia's cinematography and the goose-flesh inducing angles. So it is M. Karthick's background score that deserves a special mention.

Monicka has tried her best to shed the good-girl-next-door image and struts around scantily clad with a near-innocent face. Chandru - the erstwhile PRO - plays the villain and shoulders the responsibility with considerable ease. Monica has acted well. But at many places, she oozes glamour aimed at enthralling youngsters. Munna has performed with calm and ease.

Though the movie could be enjoyed only in parts, congrats Aathirajan for dealing with an issue which is relevant to the society.

And, before we forget, the movie has an A certificate.

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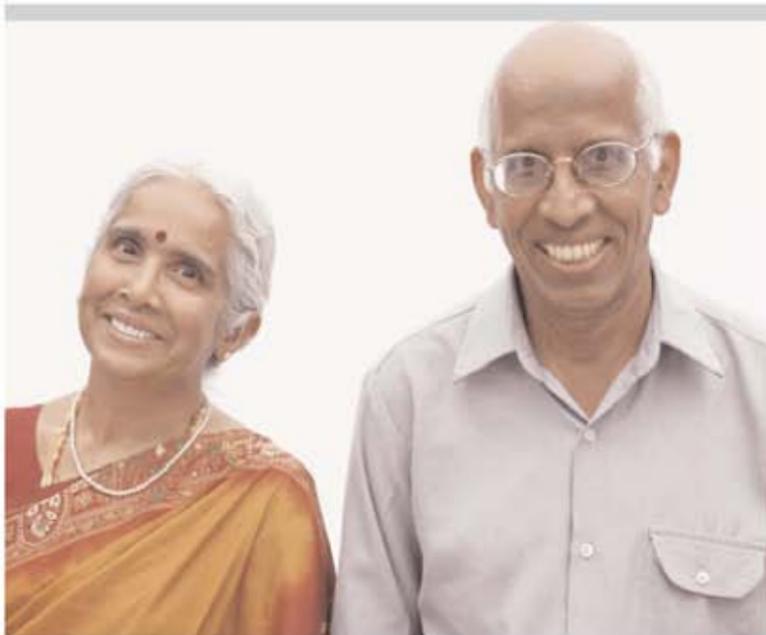
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