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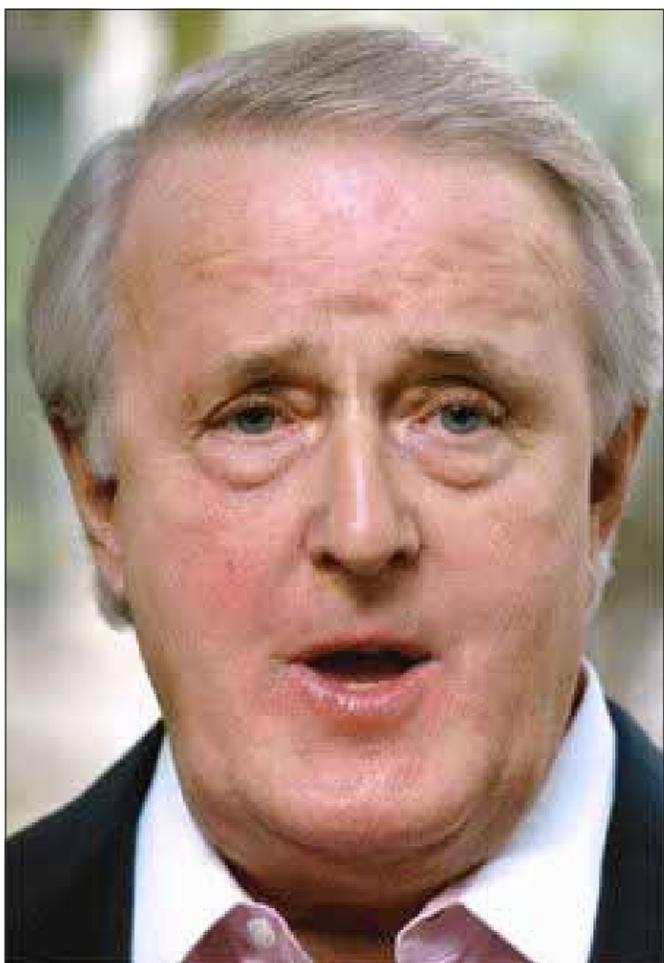
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“Children’s talent to endure stems from their ignorance of alternatives”. - Dr. Maya Angelou - (Apr 4, 1928 -) American Civil Rights Activist, Poet & Historian

20 years since arrival of Tamils in Newfoundland Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, beacons to Tamils in torment



By K.T. Kumaran

*Come Come away,
O human child!*

*To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,*

*For the world's more full of
weeping than you can
understand.*

William Butler Yeats, Irish Poet
(1865 – 1939)

Tamils fleeing their homeland amidst continuing ethnic pogroms of the Sri Lankan State remember with certainty, the gracious manner in which Canada’s 18th Prime Minister Brian Mulroney touched their lives, twenty years ago in August, 1986. We remember him affectionately for summoning the “True-North” for the purpose of accepting the Tamils who drifted ashore in Newfoundland.

(DETAILS ON PAGE 5)

Canadian Foreign Minister calls for cessation of hostilities between GoSL and LTTE

“Canada is concerned by the escalation of hostilities in Sri Lanka between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to negotiations”, said **Hon. Peter MacKay, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs in a press statement issued on August 15th**.

The minister emphasized the necessity to find peace through negotiations in his statement. He said, “Canada believes that there can be no military solution to this lengthy conflict. Peace can only be achieved when all parties desist from violence and intimidation and seek a resolution to the conflict through negotiation. Canada continues to actively support the efforts of the co-chairs of the Tokyo Donor Conference in support of the Sri Lankan peace process, as well as the indispensable work of the Norwegian facilitator”.



[Source: Foreign Affairs Media Relations Office, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada]

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TamilWeek

A Print View of Accents Found, Surfing -
Canadian Edition

All lands home, all men kin.

"Though the rice
(within the chaff) sprouts at first
It wouldn't grow when the chaff
is cast off.

Likewise, even when possessing
enormous strength
One cannot complete a task
without the help of others -

Auvaiyar, Sangam era Poetess

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UPCOMING EVENTS**South Asian Festival**

Date: September 2nd - 3rd, 2006

Venue: Toronto International Centre

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Canadian Multicultural Radio ("CMR") and
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cordially invite you to participate in the
"2006 South Asian Festival", on
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Festival of South Asia

Date: 19th & 20th
August, 2006

The 4th Annual TD Canada
Trust Festival of South Asia
takes place on
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From the Publisher's Desk**Children's Talent - Protect God's Angels on Earth**

Little wonders they are, children
grow up aspiring about their future,
a betterment that will dawn in the
world around them. Adversities are a
mountain climb -yet they don't get
deterred. A smile and confidence is their
trait. American Poet Maya Angelou
aptly captures this - "Children's talent to
endure stems from their ignorance of
alternatives".

Once more, the horror of death from the
air pounding the hearts of the young
came on Monday August 14th, near
Kilinochchi.

When children are plucked away
violently, hearts bleed in grief.

Our deep sorrow is with their loved
ones. A promise towards a better and
more peaceful tomorrow for other
children is the only glowing tribute to
those young hearts that are not among
us today.

This year fell upon us with horrific
execution of innocent youths on the
ocean front in the Eastern port city of
Trincomalee. The months followed after
have seen several violent incidents;
many of the fallen are youths and
children, also women and elders.

Many such wanton acts happened but
the international community seems
blind folded. Only when a few days ago,
humanity in service fighting hunger got
eradicated in Muthur louder voices were

heard. Several leaders around the
world, including former US leader,
President Bill Clinton called for an
independent inquiry. However, Sri
Lankan authorities are deliberately
hampering efforts to investigate the
murder of 17 aid workers, ranging from
ages 24 to 54. The chief truce monitor
retired Maj. Gen. Ulf Henricsson, who
heads the unarmed Sri Lanka
Monitoring Mission (SLMM) has said
that when independent observers are
not let in, it's a sign that there's
something they want to hide.

In the past few days tens of thousands
of people have been displaced in
Vakarai, Muthur areas in the East and
the Jaffna peninsula. Their basic
humanitarian needs are not being met
due to the embargos imposed by the
Government of Sri Lanka. Humanitarian
agencies which are in the island are
unable to render their service due to Sri
Lankan Government prevention.

It's a moment to show exceptional
courage and resilience and be of
assistance in this time of suffering and
tragedies. We have emerged with our
spirits intact from such physical and
emotional bludgeoning in the past.

The least we could do upholding our
humanitarian and civic responsibilities
is to contact our elected representatives
to persuade them to play a decisive and
meaningful role to safeguard the people

from the atrocities of the State
machinery of Sri Lanka. As called upon
by the international community after
the death of the aid workers, the
independent inquiry should proceed
without delay, the TamilWeek urges.
Those guilty should be punished with
no mercy shown.

The call from the international
community will be forgotten even
before the ink is dry, when tragedies
like Monday's mount. It's our duty to
contact our representatives and
international organizations by
Telephone, Email or in person and
express our concerns on a regular basis.
Even better, make an appointment with
your district offices and meet them with
your family - women/children and
friends.

The plights have to be brought to light,
one person, and one day at a time.

We need to endure the present
calamities just as the children would
have, in Maya Angelou's words, by an
"ignorance of alternatives". And
TamilWeek is here to reckon this course
too.

The TamilWeek, in your hands is the
third print issue and we take upon to
bring "news and views", with utmost
professionalism, adhering to the rich
and independent tenets of journalism.
Our devotion is to be a voice of
humanity and basic premises of
democracy.

We ask our readers to join us along this
path.



Review on page 26

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Canadian Edition

Palmyrah Parfait

A Print View of Accents found, Surfing

■ SURFCAST 1

■ LINEUP 3

■ AUGUST 2006

A PARFAIT MEDIA PUBLICATION

The Press in Sri Lanka

By Prof. K. Sivathamby

Those who are capable of fluent reading in both Sinhala and Tamil would be struck by the manner in which matters of ethnic interest, for instance those deal with incidents by militant and the military are presented to the respective readers.

Not only the language but the manner the incidents are depicted raises fundamental questions relating to the very concept and the practices of 'reportage'.

While it is true that any 'news' is also in a way, a comment, the reports are blatantly one sided! Worse still is the fact. The events chosen for reporting are very selective.

It is little realized that the vast majority of the people depend on the print medium to 'know' what is happening – that is they get the information from the press and form their opinions on the basis of those information. The print medium is the most trusted of all the media in Sri Lanka. News by radio and TV are generally taken as informative and discussions are and generally considered participatory. To this day the print medium plays pivotal role in the creation of public opinion.

The history of the press in Sri Lanka especially of the Sinhala press is intertwined with the rise of nationalism, which was largely detriment by

indigenous responses to Christianization and Westernization. (In fact, for some both were indistinguishable)

It is a feature of the Sri Lankan nationalism that the first expressions of it were through religion and language culture. Arumuganavalar was for Saivism in Tamil. Sidee Lebbe was for Islam and Arabic. And Angarika Dharmapala for Sinhala and Buddhism. The first indigeneous non Christian



Prof. K. Sivathamby

publications were invariably influenced by this fact.

It is generally accepted that the press had a decisive influence on the worsening of the ethnic relations. And when the politics of the country turned 'communal' understandably the print medium began to play the important role.

First major attempt at all Island level to make newspaper publications as a great business undertaking was achieved through the efforts of D.R. Wijewardane, of Lake House. He published newspapers in three languages – Sinhala, Tamil, English. There was the possibility of uniformity in the presentation of news. But those who are familiar with the history of the Lake House are also aware of the historical fact that even under the great Esmond Wickramasinghe, such uniformity was not possible. It was also realized that one of the basic causes for the variation was the expectation of the reading public.

Even in the best of times, The Daily News and The Sunday Observer could not equal. The Dinamina/Silumina in terms of the readership and the sales. The same is said of the Times groups., Lankadeepa soon emerged as their better selling newspaper. As for Tamil, there is an interesting difference. The Virakesari (1930) and the Thinakaran (1932).

The Thinakaran belongs to the Lake House group. Virakesari was financed by the by an Indian businessman. And as long as the importance of the Indian freedom movement continued, Virakesari was able to keep up the position as newspaper satisfying the Tamil readership.

However there was a regional newspaper in Jaffna satisfying the Tamil readership. A weekly by name of Ealakesari, which played an important role in the formulation of Sri Lankan Tamil literature and culture in the 1930s and 1940s.

Its is significant that in the mid 1950s Esmond Wickramasinghe very consciously encouraged the development of the national bourgeoisie and during that time especially in the 1950's, Thinakaran began to outdo Virakesari. The credit should go to primarily to Kailsapathy and also to M.S. Ratnam – the advertising manager for Thinakaran.

The take over of the press by the government dealt a severe blow to this trend. The Sinhaleseness of the SLFP led to a conscious concern for the Tamil Language among the Tamils. It is important to record the fact, that in 1961 the great Colombo Tamil Businessman K.C. Thangarajah started the fires of the regional Tamil dailies for Sri Lanka, in Jaffna. The name of the paper was 'Eelanau' and to this day it is

a very important newspaper.

As far as Muslims are concerned it has been the 'Thinakaran' from the Lake House which catered their needs than the Chettiyar run Virakesari; even after that proprietorship changed to Sri Lankan hands.

Thinakaran continued its position as a favorite newspaper among the Muslims. It may be of interest to non Tamil readers to note that besides Eelanadu, there are three regional dailies in Jaffna and one in Batticaloa. Managing proprietors of one of the most influential dailies of Jaffna, Uthayan – has started a Tamil Daily in Colombo. It is quite understandable that in the context of highly strained Sinhala – Tamil relationship, the influence of Sinhala Tamil dailies exhibit and ethic stance.

We should not miss the tragedy of the failure of the Alternative Press – 'Yukthiya', which championed the cause of inter ethnic amity, and 'Ravaya' once a popular alternate weekly, that is not doing well now. The fate of Yukthiya and the present condition of Ravaya are indicative of the fall in the political will of the people at large to go for alternate press.

Amidst the sharpening of this 'ethno' – political conscientization the Tamil dailies argue that it is their duty to tell their readers what is really happening.

The picture given above of the press is as gloomy as the political scene. But my point is that the political gloom is worsened by newspapers. One final word about the English dailies.

Internally their political usefulness is not very high. The English reading public though articulate politically – do not have a decisive place in the politics of the country.

[Sri Lanka Press Institute]

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Bill board advertising "Virakesari", Tamil Newspaper in Batticaloa, April 2005 [Picture:HA]



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“Humanitarian support to the needy”

Voices heard at the “People for Peace” demonstration, held at Lipton Circus in Colombo on August 8th 2006.



Peace is important for every country. I am a Canadian, currently living in Sri Lanka. It's sad to see what is happening in the East of the country” says Jennifer Poirier, Researcher of International Centre for Ethnic Studies

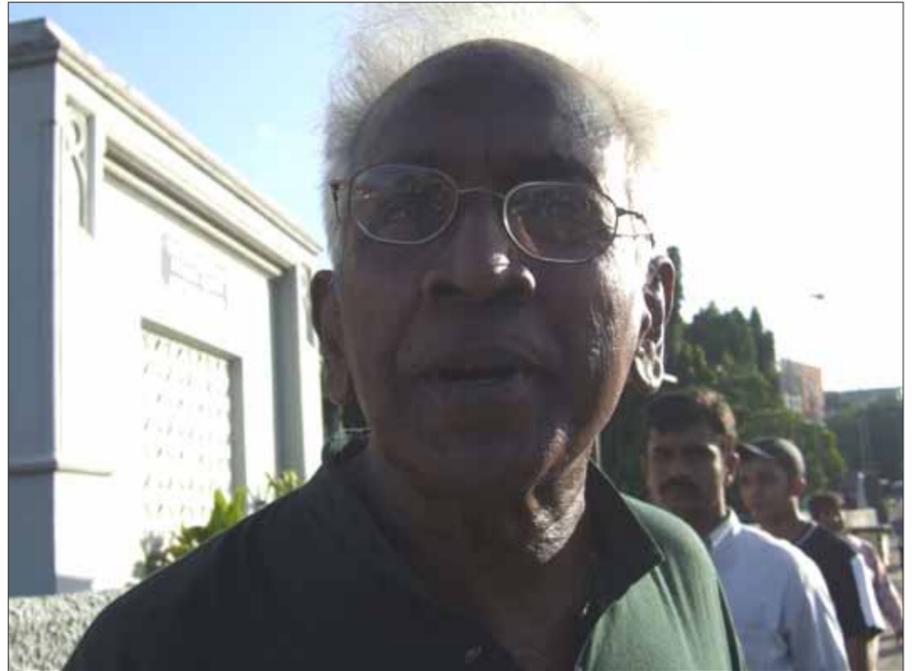


“The basic needs of people such as water, passage and food should be met. Humanitarian support must be extended to the needy. People have started to displace towards Verugal river bank, when the air strikes and naval attacks happened in the LTTE controlled areas three months ago. We are protesting here to bring the matter to the limelight” says Professor Chitraleka Maunaguru of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka.



The recent violence and killings build up towards war. It began in Mavilaru and continued to Muthur. There will be large scale war soon in Sri Lanka. People need peace, development and justice. We urge the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to refrain from violence and return to negotiations immediately. Executing seventeen aid workers in Muthur is an extremely serious matter” says Dr. Jayadeva Uyangoda of Social Scientists' Association of Sri Lanka

[Courtesy: peaceandwar-ha.blogspot.com]



“Any killing, particularly killing the civilians is disastrous. It should be stopped immediately, and the warring parties should go back to negotiations. There is no organised peace process in Sri Lanka. It has to start somewhere sooner than later” says Dr. Devanesan Nesaiah, Consultant of Centre for Policy Alternatives, and former Government Agent of Jaffna, Mannar and Batticaloa



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20 years since arrival of Tamils in Newfoundland - Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, beacons to Tamils in torment

By K.T. Kumaran

**Come away, O human child!
To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,
For the world's more full of
weeping than you can
understand.**

William Butler Yeats,
Irish Poet (1865 – 1939)

Tamils fleeing their homeland amidst continuing ethnic pogroms of the Sinhala State remember with certainty, the gracious manner in which Canada's 18th Prime Minister Brian Mulroney touched their lives, twenty years ago in August, 1986. We remember him affectionately for summoning the "True-North" for the purpose of accepting the Tamils who drifted ashore in Newfoundland.

"Cold, hungry and crowded into two lifeboats, men, women and children were spotted through the fog off Newfoundland yesterday and picked up by three Canadian fishing boats. They said they had been adrift for five days, the Canadian Coast Guard reported," Canadian newspapers said on August 12, 1986. They were rescued by North Atlantic cod fisherman Gus Dalton and his three-man crew. Dalton told the Canadian media then that the rescued thanked him profusely, saying they had been adrift for five days. The Newfoundland fishermen made a fairy tale ending possible to the ordeal of those Tamils, by giving them a hand in the deep blue waters. Dr. Robert J. Belton of University of British Columbia has recorded "Tamil refugees found drifting off the coast of Newfoundland on August 11, 1986," as an Important moment in Canadian History in his compilation dating from 1968.

The matter quickly became entangled from concern of their point of departure, whether it was Sri Lanka/India or a port in Europe to concerns about lack of background check and to violating Canadian Immigration laws. There were many letters from readers

to The Toronto Star on the issue for several weeks, if not months. There were views in support and against allowing the Tamils to stay.

Charles A Blum of Willowdale wrote, "I am absolutely furious over the Tamil situation. I am not upset at how these people came to Canada but that they find it necessary to deceive. As Canadians, we must be upset at ourselves and our government, which refuses to make entry to Canada easier, forcing people who wish to come here to resort to such nonsense."

Mendel Green of Toronto said in his letter, "Your review of Canadian newspapers' responses to the Tamil boat people demonstrates a serious lack of understanding of the terrible situation that these people face and the hardship they suffer in Sri Lanka. Even if they were in Germany first, they remain genuine refugees. Canada's borders must remain open to real refugees and these Tamils should be given a warm and supportive welcome by all Canadians."

D. Mason of Unionville echoed the sentiment of the naysayer. "The Tamil spokesman who accuses Canadians of being racist if they disapprove of the entry into Canada of 155 Sri Lankans is both arrogant and provocative. If having concern for the future of Canada and a respect for its laws makes me a racist, then I am happy and proud to be one", Mason wrote in the Toronto Star on Aug 23, 1986.

Since the refugees arrival, a public backlash grew. Even government backbenchers criticized the decision to let the Tamils in. But Prime Minister Mulroney was ready to receive the Tamils on humanitarian grounds. He said, "We don't want people jumping to the head of the line . . . (but) if we err, we will always err on the side of justice and on the side of compassion".

One may think that in a totally different global political climate such compassionate policy was easy to enact. The winds may have been blowing for Tamils' to sail in a less problematic way

in 1986, but that's not to say the sea of political trans currents were all in favour. The 1980's was a decade when North America was still coming to terms with accepting similar "boat people". Vietnam was fading out in the discussion, but the "Mariel boat lift" was still lingering. Thousands of Cubans swam the seas and sailed on crowded boats and rafts between April 1980 and October 1980 to reach Miami during the administration of President James Earl Carter Jr, the 39th President of the United States of America. The handling of this was the beginning of a domino effect that crumbled the Presidency of Carter at the end of his first term. The matter continued as a treacherous political issue in certain quarters throughout the decade in the 80'.

Making a decision to give a hand to the "boat people" was certainly a walk on the edges of the leader's political career.

And Toronto Tamils are in the midst of organizing events to commemorate the historic moment to thank the Canadian public, everyone who make it possible for Tamils to call Canada their "Home", all the political and community - social leaders and particularly to the kindness of Gus Dalton of Newfoundland, his three-man crew and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Prime Minister Mulroney elegantly invokes prose from his Irish heritage when delivering oratories that inspire and galvanize the audience spirited. He embodies the Canadian history and tradition in embracing multiculturalism. At the First Ministers' Conference on the Rights of Aboriginal Peoples in April 1985 he said, "I see the aboriginal peoples making their special contribution to Canadian society as Indians, Inuit and Métis. There is no need to sever one's roots."

When paying tribute to President Ronald Reagan, he brought lines from Thomas d'Arcy McGee, an Irish immigrant, Canadian Journalist and a Father of the Canadian Confederation. Prime Minister Mulroney said,

"In one of his poems, McGee, thinking of his birth place, wrote poignantly:

Am I remembered in Erin?

I charge you, speak me true!

Has my name a sound - a meaning,

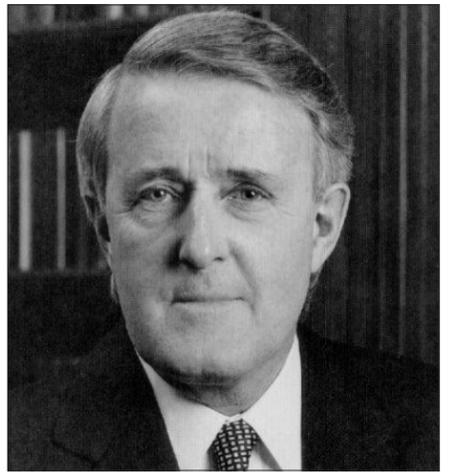
In the scenes my boyhood knew?"

Prime Minister Mulroney's glowing

salute to his fellow statesman and friend, 40th President of the United States Ronald Reagan was that he would be remembered well in Ireland, just like Thomas McGee.

For many Tamils living in Canada today, the scenes their childhood knew are in shambles. But in their hearts they remember Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as the Canadian Leader who has beacons new horizons for their children.

Looking back twenty years now, many Canucks will agree that Prime Minister Mulroney didn't 'err' with regards to accepting Tamils. It is very remarkable today to note that the Canadian Tamil community in many ways is entrenched in the land of the Maple Leaf and is enhancing the prosperity of the Greater Toronto Area with their diverse contributions towards the society.



"I want to thank the Tamil Community for their hard work and contribution made to the prosperity of Ontario in so many different ways, such as economically, socially and culturally. I think the province is stronger and prouder and is better off in many ways, for the contributions made by the Tamil community, particularly by the entrepreneurs of this community," Conservative Leader of the Province of Ontario John Tory stated at a community event in the spring. He spoke at the Canadian Tamil Chamber of Commerce's 9th annual gala award ceremony at the Hilton suites in Toronto on April 1st.

The kind deed of cod fisherman Gus Dalton, his three-man crew and Prime Minister Mulroney's landmark compassion have followed by two decades of numerous generousities and graciousness to Tamils by several political leaders, civic - social community members and the general public. It is very hard to imagine a Tamil diaspora minus Toronto, the "largest of city Tamils", and Tamils say a big "Thank you, Canada"



Colourful Thoughts [humanityashore.org]

"Colourful Thoughts", a Joint Exhibition of Paintings was held at the Harold Peiris Art Gallery (Lionel Went Memorial Art Gallery) in Colombo recently. R.Kouwshigan and his five students displayed their recent paintings. I have combined "Pen" and "Penn" (female in Tamil), and drawn a painting" says Mirna Yogeswaran.



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Hunger, is a way of life for those who endure it without a promise of the next meal.

Prolonged war, natural disaster and terror tangle many, firmly in the web of poverty. In those homes people go to sleep hungry, and within most families, women are the last to eat, and if food is scarce, they are likely to eat the least.

In Sri Lanka, within the society as a whole many confront an unconscionable situation of rampant hunger. But still it is not an issue to get an earnest state action or intervention.

The divine intervention comes to the hoi polloi in the form of "aid workers", particularly amidst a continuing conflict situation. Their benevolence rallies them in enchanting daily missions to help those in hunger. They function under extreme adversity, gazed under watchful eyes of Sri Lankan armed forces.

The workers anointed for the task of serving the deprived Muthur mass illustrate what courage ('thunnivu') is, as sung by Mahakavi Bharathiyar.

"Uchi meethu vaan idindhu veezhyu kinra pothillum achamillai !! achamillai !! achchamenbadu illaye!!"

"Even when the sky crashes down thundering, never we terrified"

17 such workers went on with their mission the same way on August 4th.

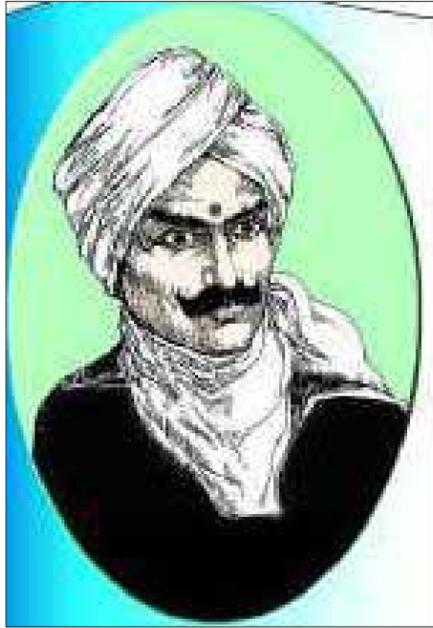
The aid workers, 13 men and 4 women, perished in the service to feed the hungry. They worked for French NGO, Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger, ACF).

They are:

Field officers: Richard Narmathan (24), Richard Arulraj (24), his mother is very ill, Thurairaj Partheeban (27), Mohanathas Ravichandran Risigesan

Giving life to fight hunger

by K.T.Kumaran



Mahakavi

Subramaniya Bharathiyar

"Even when the sky crashes down thundering, never we terrified"

(28), Yogarasa Kodeeswaran (31), Matahavarasa Ketheeswaran (36), Supervisor, married father of two children

Hygiene Promoters: Kanesaratnam Kovarthini (28), Ganesh Kavitha (27), Sivapragasam Rupila (25), Vairamuthu Kokilavathani (29), Ambigawathi Jaseelan (27)

Advanced Field Officer: Gangatharan Sriharan (36), Assistant Promotion Manager Singarasa Primus Anantharaj Anadaraja (32)

Drivers: Selliah Ganesh (54), his daughter was killed too in the same

venue, Dharmaratnam Muralitharan (35), Sakthivel Koneswaran (24).

Peon: Abdul Latif Mohamed Jauffer (31)

15 of them were residents of Trincomalee, Primas Anantharaj is from Vanni, Abdul Latif Mohamed Jauffer is from Muthur.

"Thani oruvanukku unavilaiyenil jagathinai azhithiduvom"

Legendary poet Subramaniya Bharathiyar envisioned, "if one is starved, we'll destroy the entire sphere".

The humanity in service to eradicate hunger lives in this bard's spirit and stateliness. They are his "lyrics lived" in serving the mankind.

"It is very rewarding to see with your own eyes how you can improve the lives of others with so little," writes an ACF volunteer serving in the poverty stricken African nation Congo in a letter that is published on the NGO's website. And these 17 souls in Muthur, made the ultimate sacrifice. The aid workers were found dead, lying face-down in their office compound.

A press release on August 7th says, the France based NGO's Human Resource Director is on the way to Sri Lanka. It adds that the priority for their teams in Sri Lanka is to have access to the area to recover the bodies and return them to their families for burial.

"The cause of most hunger stems from some disruption in a population's food distribution - whether resulting from poverty, war, or the deliberate denial of food to populations as a weapon or political tool", says ACF.

People in Trincomalee district have

experienced reservoir blockages on the Allai scheme in various locations for more than 20 years. This resulted in crop failure and hunger. The ongoing GoSL embargo on fuel, medicine and essential items including baby-milk-powder, worsened the humanitarian situation in the area. Around 30 villages, such as Kadatkarachenai, Senaiyoor, Sampoor, Ilakkanthai, Sudaikudah, Pattalipuram and Koonthivu are affected by GoSL restrictions.

Benoit Miribel, Director-General of the NGO described the death of 15 workers as the worst in Action Against Hunger's 27 years of existence. "The humanitarian values that are defended and promoted everywhere by Action Against Hunger . . . have been scorned," the group's President, Denis Metzger, said in Paris.

U.N. secretary general's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, President Bill Clinton, has said he is shocked and saddened by the killings.

ACF has hence suspended its programs in Sri Lanka and demanding an investigation into the apparent executions.

Sri Lankan minister Mahinda Samarasinghe addressed a press Conference in Colombo on the horror. "We will conduct a free and fair investigation and bring to book those responsible who ever they may be. This will show our democracy. I have no intention to protect anyone. We cannot let the name of our country be tarnished," the Minister said.

The world still waiting though, yet witnessing this democracy unravel, showing the innocent's blood soaked pillars it's formed on, to subject the culprits to verdict - from Trincomalee students killing, Vatharavathai, Manthuvil, Nellyadi, Allaipiddy to Vankalai!

UNICEF: "Bombing of innocent girls, shocking result of violence"

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Tuesday said that the bombing on Monday of a Vallipunam Senchulai compound in Mullaitivu district that reportedly killed dozens of girls and wounded many more is a "shocking result of the rising violence," in Sri Lanka and called on all parties to



A female cadre is trying to move a body of a girl, who was killed at Senchulai

respect international humanitarian law and ensure children and the places where they live, study and play are protected from harm. "These children are innocent victims of violence," said Ann M. Veneman, UNICEF Executive Director.

BBC Online reporting on statements by independent observers said, "Unicef and Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission officials who visited the site said the victims came from local schools," in a bulletin titled, "UN disputes Sri Lanka raid claims".

Sri Lankan authorities, particularly their spokesman Rambukwella and his Peace Secretariat cohort Kohona continued to issue statements on Monday and Tuesday with scant regard to loss human life, children.

Full text of the UNICEF press release as follows:

UNICEF: Children are victims of the conflict in Sri Lanka

Colombo, New York, Geneva, 15 August 2006 – The bombing on Monday of a Vallepunam compound in Mullaitivu district that reportedly killed dozens of girls and wounded many more is a shocking result of the rising violence in



A girl, who lost her friend mourns at the hospital

Sri Lanka, UNICEF said today.

"These children are innocent victims of violence," said Ann M. Veneman, UNICEF Executive Director. "We call on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and ensure children and the places where they live, study and play are protected from harm."

The compound in the northern part of the country was bombed, reportedly killing as many as 40 adolescent girls. Some 100 children were wounded, many critically. Girls from various schools in the nearby district of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi were staying overnight at the compound, attending a

two-day course in first-aid.

UNICEF staff from a nearby office immediately visited the compound to assess the situation and to provide fuel and supplies for the hospital as well as counseling support for the injured students and the bereaved families.

This latest incident comes amidst escalating hostilities in Sri Lanka in recent weeks, where tens of thousands of children were displaced from their homes. Hundreds of children have been injured, lost family members, and live in constant fear of the violence and continuous shelling of their communities.

The 'water war' in Mavil Aru and then in Muttur in the Trincomalee district has resulted in scores of deaths among combatants and civilians and the displacement of thousands of Muslim families. The continuing crisis also raises the risk of spreading hostilities between the government and the LTTE to other areas in the North and East. With this round of military confrontation, the cease-fire agreement has received another fatal blow. The Rajapakse administration has also got a greater crisis to deal with.

The Muttur battle is a totally unnecessary step in the wrong direction for which both the government and the LTTE are equally responsible. It all began with a dispute over the distribution of water in Mavil Aru in the Trincomalee district. For years, there has been a dispute between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities over the sharing water of the Mavil Aru river, particularly during the period of severe draught in July-September. In the on-going dispute, the Tamil community in the area under the LTTE's control has prevented the water from being distributed to the Sinhalese communities in the downstream. Reportedly, the LTTE has also backed this move by the Tamil villagers, ostensibly to highlight another grievance. Their grievance was about the government's delay to erect a water tank for their community, with ADB financial assistance.

When some political forces in Colombo linked to the government took the Mavil Aru dispute into their hand for obviously partisan political objectives, there were also attempts being made to resolve the dispute peacefully through negotiations. A leading Buddhist monk in the area was in the forefront of these peaceful attempts. When for some strange reason the government's Air Force began aerial strikes against the LTTE positions in Mavilaru, the Head of the SLMM was reportedly discussing the proposals for a solution with the local LTTE leadership.

Water is surely not negotiable. But it does not mean that a dispute over water is not negotiable and warrants military action.

Militarism

It appears that the government has failed to pursue adequately the non-military option that was available to resolve this water dispute. Perhaps, some leading sections of the government do not think it necessary or even useful to explore such options with 'terrorists.' There is a process of militarism developing fast within the government, despite President Mahinda Rajapakse's repeated insistence that war is not in his agenda of priorities.

The JVP, an influential partner of the present coalition regime, has begun to call for the abrogation of the CFA and seize the areas that are under LTTE control. The JHU, another coalition partner, has been calling upon the government to begin the final war against the LTTE. Some others want the Mavil Aru operation to be extended all the way to Kilinochchi. Meanwhile, the LTTE also wants the government to take military action so that they can retaliate

After Mavil Aru-Muttur: Let Diplomacy Play a Greater Role

By Jayadeva Uyangoda



at times and places of their choice. The escalation of militaristic violence by the LTTE has certainly reinforced the arguments in Colombo for all-out war.

Insecurity

These developments have also brought Sri Lanka to a new phase of insecurity. The spreading mass hysteria about extra-terrestrial aliens landing and the colourful Buddha statues emitting blue rays is just symptomatic of a spreading social disorder in the midst of both insecurity and uncertainty. Actually, there is now an overwhelming sense of uncertainty, generated by a lack of clear direction in governance under the new regime.

The problem with the present regime is perhaps not the absence of a direction as such, but the presence of many directions as mapped out by various power centres of the regime. A multi-directional coalition government seems to be seriously failing in governance. The recent spate of strikes in key and strategic sectors of the economy, launched by unions linked to the government's coalition partners, only reinforce the feeling that the regime, or those who run it, need to mature a little bit. Looking at it from a non-partisan perspective, one can describe the Mail

Aru-Muttur crisis only as a man-made tragedy that could have been avoided if the government and the LTTE had the patience to give diplomacy a greater chance.

Trap

Meanwhile, if we take the words of the SLMM chief, the government precipitated the crisis when the negotiations were progressing to settle the water dispute by non-military means. If that is the case, the government's decision to pursue a military solution to the Mavil Aru dispute has ended as a military-political misadventure with a huge cost. It also demonstrated the government's incapacity to assess the consequences of its own military decisions, particularly at a time when the LTTE had been waiting until the war was 'thrust upon them.' And the LTTE did retaliate as they have been warning earlier 'with ferocity.'

It appears that in Mavil Aru, the government simply walked into a major trap laid by the LTTE. The LTTE created a huge humanitarian crisis for the government, an outcome which no government strategic thinker would have predicted. One can only hope that President Rajapakse and his professional, not ideological, advisors make a critical and honest assessment of what went wrong in Mavil Aru.

Lessons

There are some crucial lessons to be learned from the Mavil Aru-Muttur tragedy. The first is that President Rajapakse should not allow the decisions about war to be taken to serve short-term political or ideological agendas. War with the LTTE is too serious a business to be guided by the considerations of regime survival. As we saw a week ago, even a limited military confrontation with the LTTE in the

current conjuncture can take unpredictable and highly dangerous directions.

Second, it is probably easy to take decisions to attack and inflict a lot of damage on the LTTE, but the military option is extremely costly in both military and humanitarian terms. The government should not rush into high-cost options, but explore to the end low-cost options, in disputes that can trigger off war.

Third, tit-for-tat military actions are not the way a mature ruling class should handle conflicts with an anti-state force that has the capacity to retaliate with no accountability either to the people or the international community.

Fourth, in the absence of a working ceasefire agreement, the government should re-double its efforts to use diplomacy to resolve disputes with the LTTE through non-military options. This is where there is a greater role for India, along with Norway.

The period ahead appears to be quite bad for Sri Lanka. When the government and the LTTE are poised to attack each other on any pretext, such attacks will certainly run the risk of



escalating into major battles, precipitating political and humanitarian crises of huge magnitude. One can only hope that the Rajapakse administration will not take the country in a path of military misadventures as repeatedly proposed by his junior political partners and ideological advisors. [focuslanka.org]

Peace Rally ends with a brawl



**Radhika Coomarasamy
condemns
Mullaitivu incident...**

Dr. Radhika Coomarasamy, U.N. Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict has condemned the recent Mullaitivu incident in which over 60 school children were killed in an air-attack.

In a statement issued by her she has stated that children continue to be affected in the war and has called upon both parties involved in the war to stop fighting and return to the table for negotiations.



National Anti War Front organised a peace rally in Colombo on August 17th 2006. The peace rally started from Hyde Park in Colombo 2 and went onto Viharamahadevi open air after an hour. The organisers say that, around 1,000 peace loving people and politicians participated along with religious dignitaries. After the peace rally, a meeting was held. Few Buddhist monks got onto the stage and asked the organisers to go to Vanni and have the peace rally and meeting, following which it ended in a brawl [Picture by Dushiyanthini Kanagasabathipillai]



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The land where Mahaveli flowing is “our” Country

By K.T. Kumaran

“There was a time when Sri Lankan Tamil poets like Somasundarappulavar of Navaly sang Mavali Sool Ilangai Naadengal Naade (This land where the Mahaveli flows is our country).

This spirit was not reciprocated and Sinhala poets like Mahagamasekera sang only of a Sinhala preserve Me Sinhale Apagey Ratai, Api Ipadune Marana Ratai (This Sinhala is our land, A land where we are born and die).

The reaction from the Tamil side was predictable. Kasi Anandan, the foremost Sri Lankan Tamil nationalist poet wrote thus Engal Arunthamil mannai... Angulamum ini naangal ayal veriyar Aalavida mattom... Thangathamil Eelam Thamilanukke, Thamilanukke (We will not allow alien fanatics to rule an inch of our beloved Tamil soil. Golden Tamil Eelam is for the Tamils”).

These lines were wrote by journalist DBS Jeyaraj in “The Historical Quest to Restore Tamil Rights”, an article responding to then US Ambassador Ashley Wills when he spoke in Jaffna in March 2001, questioning the logic of separation in the age of globalization.

The poets sang praise of the free flowing water, then ethnic pride and more pride!

In the many wars between LTTE and Sri Lankan armed forces, a river nor water has never been the precise factor for fighting. Nevertheless, the scorching heat and dehydration of the fighting forces had worked to the advantage of LTTE, in places like the Elephant Pass.

But on July 26th, Israeli made Kfir jets belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF) wounded 2 civilians in a bombing campaign near Verukal river, a branch of Sri Lanka’s longest river Mahaveli. It was the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) response to a protest over water and irrigation at the Mavilaru site in Vakara, where Tamil civilians had closed water supply running through LTTE controlled area towards the GoSL controlled area.

The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) held discussion with the LTTE and GoSL regarding the removal of water blockade, but President Rajapakse’s “Chintanaya” seem to have gone over board with an “overwhelming” response to appease his

நவாலியூர் சோமசுந்தரப்புவர்



June 28, 2006 was Navaliyoor Somasundara Pulavar’s 130th Birth Anniversary

constituents. There were no reports of any senior representative of GoSL visiting the area for any negotiations. However, once again the pictures of a few monks and mobs at the site hit the wire services. They were causing “appe Mahinda” to act, and for their appeasement, a “humanitarian operation” with bombing is now underway.

The government Defense Spokesman, Keheliya Rambukwela, told Hindustan Times “It is a humanitarian operation and not a military operation.”

GoSL sources say the blockade has resulted in about 1500 families and 30,000 acres of land being affected on their side.

Government spokespersons have pointed out that the LTTE blockade violates the Geneva Conventions which prohibit military action that is solely targeted against civilian life supporting infrastructure.

Geneva conventions which sovereign nation states are bound to be recognized by the GoSL spokespeople in the context of the current “humanitarian operation!” Perhaps the GoSL spokespersons now accept the unitary state is in paper and two states are a reality in the island?

“The LTTE wanted such a reaction from the government,” Major General Ulf Henricsson said referring to GoSL dispatching the SLAF to bomb the area for the blockade. The flow of water from the Mavil Aaru dam in Trincomalee district on July 20 was shut to press the government for attention. SLAF bombs fell 6 days later.

The head of the SLMM, Major General Ulf Henricsson, talked to journalists at a Sri Lanka Foreign Correspondents Association event on Monday. He said that water might not be the real issue behind the on-going military clash between GoSL and the LTTE in North Eastern Sri Lanka. However, he would not answer the question as to what the two sides were really wanting.

The two sides may have been waiting to ignite a brush fire in the ongoing low intensity conflict. There are no water canons to disperse the protestors demanding military action, instead GoSL chose the fiery canons.

Somasundarappulavar’s lyrics revoke the waiting and hope of the people in Pattalipuram, Pallikudiruppu, Malaimunthal and other remote hamlets which are suffering without proper drinking water facilities. The free flowing river will stream through their arid lands as well they believed.

But the “Chintanaya” let looses a mob to protest and agitate in tune with Mahagamasekera verses. Sri Lanka Army Chief of Staff Major General Nandha Mallowarchchi was seen with Athuraliye Rathana Thera, a monk and parliamentary group leader for the National Heritage Party (JHU) at the protest. It is being reported that the Army Chief was there to stop demonstrators on a protest march towards a sluice gate in Mavilaru.

The lines in response to the mob protest are from Kasi Anandan, “We will not allow alien fanatics to rule an inch of our beloved Tamil soil. Golden Tamil Eelam is for the Tamils”.

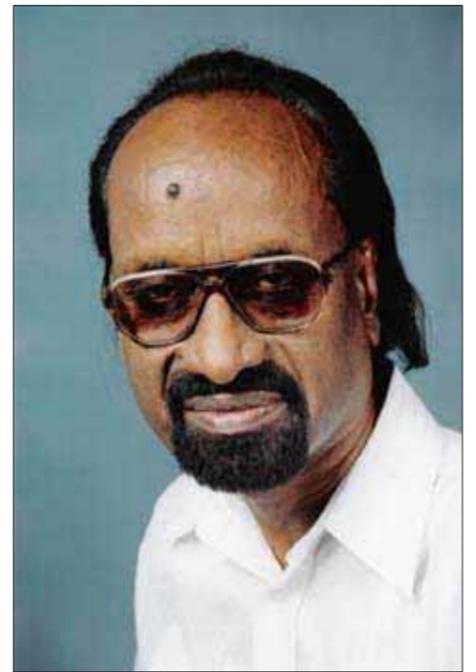
The works of these poets are being enacted!

The arid lands of the North-East depend on vital irrigation projects for bumper harvests. The river less Jaffna peninsula however is home to farming that is fully depended on Mother Nature and monsoon and backbreaking hard work of the farmers. Many of such peninsula farms now linger under the High Security Zones (HSZ) in violation of the 2002 CFA, and farmers languish as IDPs.

The tragedy of humanity, is that the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North and East have been treading water without access to their lands and homes for several years. Even in GoSL controlled Jaffna, there is periodic shortage of essentials such as “Anchor” milk powder. None of these are heeded by the “Chintanaya”.

War and water have always been inextricably linked

Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, once said that “if we solve every other problem in the Middle East, but do not satisfactorily resolve the water problem, our region will explode”.



Poet Kasi Anandan

This Middle East with stark water problems too may have encouraged the GoSL action according to a columnist and NGO activist. Writing in a Colombo daily on July 31st, he says “Governmental confidence may be coming from the observation of the Israeli retaliation in Lebanon against the Hezbollah militancy.”

It’s a hopeless situation where no country has come forward so far to man the much talked about “outside” force to monitor the war torn Southern Lebanon.

“Chintanaya” may be inclined to follow the new Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, but LTTE is unlike Hezbollah and certainly Sri Lanka is no Israel.

Either way, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s words on July 31st are more akin to what Poet Kasi Anandan said about “Golden Tamil Eelam”. Omert said, “Citizens of Lebanon, we are sorry for the pain caused to you, and the fact that you had to pick up and flee your homes, and also the casualties caused among innocents. But we will not apologize to those who put a question mark on the right of Israel to exist.”

Many polls in the US indicate that Americans now believe that Arabs and Israelis are never going to be able to solve their problems. Is this the path “Chintanaya” wants to take too?

“Break the cycle of hate and vengeance”, wrote a reader when commenting on TamilWeek online, regarding GoSL taking a cue from the Middle East. He wrote, “Is there no commitment to honesty? Every killing, whether precise and targeted, or crude and general is met with claim and counterclaim, but not with an adequate investigation. It is both a sham and a shame — a cruel effort to mislead the world, as innocents die, lose all hope for the future, and risk their lives to escape. When we learn to break the cycle of hate and vengeance transmitted thru generations?” Amen to that!

Building bridges through drama

Theatre of the People staged “Charandas” at Namel-Manel Puchi Theatre in Colombo on July 3rd 2006. “Charandas” was awarded the best Tamil adaption drama in recently concluded State Literary Festival. The mobile theatre troupe travels from Colombo to Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Jaffna, Mullithivu, Mannar, Puttalam, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Badulla, Monaragala, Matale, Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Kurunegala, Gampaha, Negombo, Chilaw, Kegalle, Ratnapura, Kalutara, Galle, Matara and Hamnatota. They stay in a place for maximum one month and stage dramas.



Dramatists and drama lovers believe that, it is timely to have more multi ethnic oriented drama around the country to create awareness about the other communities in Sri Lanka, and make a better understanding amongst them, and live in harmony. [humanityashore.org]



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Indian Independence Day Supplement

**MESSAGE FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER
SHYAMALA B. COWSIK OF INDIA
FOR THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT OF *TAMILWEEK*
TO COMMEMORATE THE
59TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA**

On the happy and auspicious occasion of the 59th anniversary of the Independence of India, on August 15, 2006, it gives me great pleasure to send all the readers of TamilWeek my warm good wishes for the celebrations that they will be organizing on this occasion, as also for the personal health and happiness of their families and themselves during the year ahead.

It was at the stroke of midnight on August 14/15, 1947, that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India, in his eloquent and oft-quoted "Tryst with Destiny" speech to the joint session of both Houses of Parliament, said "Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment, we take a pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity". Over the nearly six decades since that memorable midnight hour, India has striven to live up to the ideals of the founding fathers of our nation.

In recent years, India has also become a major economic power, today the fourth largest in the world, with a booming hi-tech sector that bids fair to make India not just the services capital of the world but also a major centre for sophisticated engineering R&D and cutting edge tech-related manufacturing. All this, backed up by a highly skilled and motivated technical work force, leads to the "India Advantage", of which many countries and their business sectors have been quick to take advantage, to improve their global competitive edge. We are happy that this trend is also gaining strength in Canada. In this process, we see the Indo-Canadian community, as also the other friends of India in Canada, as an active and effective interface between Canada and India, which can help strengthen and expand this process for the benefit of both countries and peoples.

Once again, I send all the readers of TamilWeek and their families my very best wishes for a happy Indian Independence Day, and for prosperity and fulfillment in the months and years ahead.

(Shyamala B. Cowsik)



Nehru, India's First Prime Minister with Mahatma Gandhi

President Abdul Kalam Addresses the Nation



CLARION CALL: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressing the nation on the eve of 60th Independence Day from the state-of-the-art multi media studio at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. — Photo: Rajeev Bhatt

NEW DELHI: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Monday exhorted the citizens and officials to pool national energies to achieve "comprehensive national security" to defeat "challenges to peace from across our geographical borders, from terrorism and violence and from scarcities created by rapidly depleting natural resources."

In a message to the nation on the eve of the 60th Independence Day, Mr. Kalam identified four major components: territorial security, internal security, energy security and economic security. "While we have the basic structure in the form of law, police cadres, intelligence agencies and judicial system, we need to reinforce them with required updates with a code of conduct. Every citizen, every group, every religion and every political and executive system should

allow the law to function without interference," he said.

Recalling his visit to Mumbai after the July 11 bomb blasts, Mr. Kalam noted how "the whole city of Mumbai expressed its deep sorrow and determination to combat terrorism with unity of minds. We must do this with a great sense of urgency for when evil minds combine, good minds have to work together and combat."

Spelling out what it would take to mount a National Campaign to Eradicate Terrorism (NCET), the President said: "I believe the time has come to synergise our multiple agencies for forecasting and dealing with terrorist activities." Asking for "working together of the intelligence and security machinery both at the

(Continued on page 10)

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**Indo-Canada
Chamber of Commerce**

August 9, 2006

Message

On behalf of the members of Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), I wish to congratulate the publishers for their initiative for bringing out a special supplement of Canadian Edition of Tamil Week-Toronto to coincide with India's Independence Day.

I am glad that the supplement will feature news about contemporary India and spectacular growth of Indian economy. Our membership base is as diverse as India is. The current focus of ICCC is to facilitate trade between Canada and India, increase the business networking opportunities for its members, partners and sponsors and showcase the talent of Indo-Canadians including the wide readership of Canadian edition of Tamil-Week.

Our website www.iccc.org contains important information about our mission and objectives. We have also entered into M.O.U's with leading organizations in India such as Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and NASSCOM. ICCC also has taken delegations to India on the annual occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. It has concluded M.O.U's with Indian Diaspora organizations in several countries with sizeable population of Tamil speaking members of Indian Community such as Malaysia, South Africa.

I wish all your readers a happy Independence Day. I invite them to share our core values of GROW, ENGAGE and PROSPER and join us in our present quest of "Tapping Roots: Seizing Opportunities".

Yours truly

Ajit Khanna
President



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(Continued from page 9)

President Addresses.....

State and the Central levels," he said such "alert and dynamic movement would prevent hotels and homes being used as a shelter by terrorists and extremists."

Pointing out that "there is a floating population in transition through residential areas, hotels and other similar places that could unknowingly be used for wrong purposes," Mr. Kalam proposed "national ID cards" and stressed the creation of "special monitoring methodology for unusual and abnormal banking transactions."

Noting that true security meant energy security, the President briefly touched upon the topic of nuclear fuel. "The vast thorium resources of the nation should be harnessed by our scientists and technologists," he said. "I am confident that we have the capability to build our own thorium-based reactors."

Asking the political, administrative, scientific and industrial communities to "cooperate intensely with each other," Mr. Kalam wanted formulation of a "vision, integrated missions, policies, plans and programmes for such comprehensive security for the nation to be safe, prosperous and happy." He told the country that he would be asking the Government and Parliament to (i) formulate a Citizens Security Bill, (ii) formulate an Energy Independence Bill, and (iii) adopt a resolution that "India will be transformed into a safe, prosperous, happy and socio-economically developed nation before the year 2020."

National awakening

At the outset, the President invoked the theme of "national awakening" and catalogued his experiences from travelling within India. He saluted "the existence of an indomitable spirit to succeed with the confidence that 'we can do it' across the length and breadth of India."

Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Nirupama Menon Rao



Nirupama Menon Rao was born in Kerala and raised in army cantonments away from her native state.

She has been a career diplomat since the age of twenty two and has served in Austria, Sri Lanka, USA, Peru and Russia.

She is the first woman to serve as spokesperson of the Indian Foreign Office. She has been a fellow of the

Harvard University, and her interests include Sinology, the study of frontiers, poetry and classical music.

Creative impulses

Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Nirupama Menon Rao's soul-searching poems in her first volume of poetry rain rising have been neatly slotted into three sections: Remembrance, Reflection, and Exploration.

Here are some of the poems found in the Second section Reflection:

gandhari

We went to your play today
Where you spoke
Through
the voices of five women
chorused grief
and impotence
drawing shadows
on crimson earth.
You dissected
the cause of war
and
your collaboration in it.
You questioned
your own silence
the stoniness that drew
dry sobs
scattering the gizzards
of carrion in inkpots.
You wished for
a dam of containment
that could see
your children play
and not lie unfeeling
in silent slaughterhouses
that you would admire
the perfection
of their creation
and not wear
this visor
of pulverising grief
emptying your embrace
of all encumbrance,
you are stone,
caked earth
and
pointed, shattered glass.

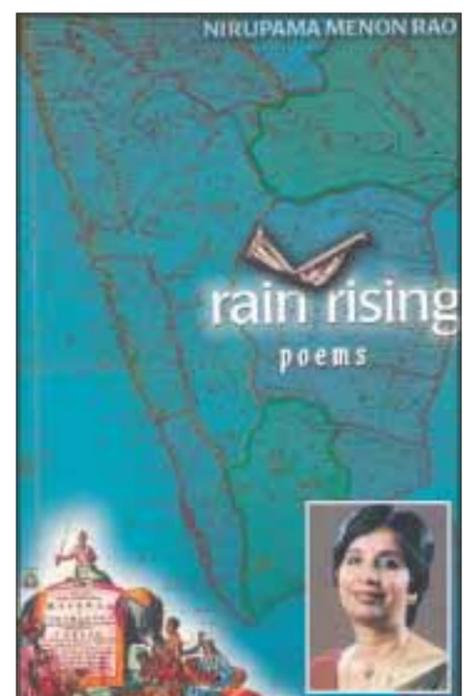
the ending

the light shone too brightly,
but it was clean and quick,
afterwards, she walked away
secure in the emptiness
to which she returned.
Years later,
she felt the loss again,
remembering
the life ebbing out of her
putting everything
together,
she knew
that it would not
be hers to ever grasp
even
if she cried that they must stop
this exercise of careful choice.

internal emigration

A phenomenon
identified newly
where escape is not
some exotic destination
not a voyage of listless faces
old, gnarled
or of youthful exuberance
and tendrils of hair
soaked with
the salt of the sea
but a tunnelling
many leagues under
vast reaches, scouting
eyes squinting in
darkness
of unspoken urges.
You are
the woman

singing under water
imagining the fishes
entering her
as she watches
her murderous lover
sing a little water song
to her drowning
knowing she will live in spaces
unseen to all
but her,
a complete celebration
of her sovereign state.



India's fourteenth Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh is rightly acclaimed as a thinker and a scholar. He is well regarded for his diligence and his academic approach to work, as well as his accessibility and his unassuming demeanour.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was born on September 26, 1932, in a



village in the Punjab province of undivided India. Dr. Singh completed his Matriculation examinations from the Panjab University in 1948. His academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics in 1957. Dr. Singh followed this with a D.Phil in Economics from Nuffield College at Oxford University in 1962. His book, "India's Export Trends and Prospects for Self-Sustained Growth" [Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1964] was an early

Dr. Manmohan Singh, the 14th Prime Minister of India

critique of India's inward-oriented trade policy.

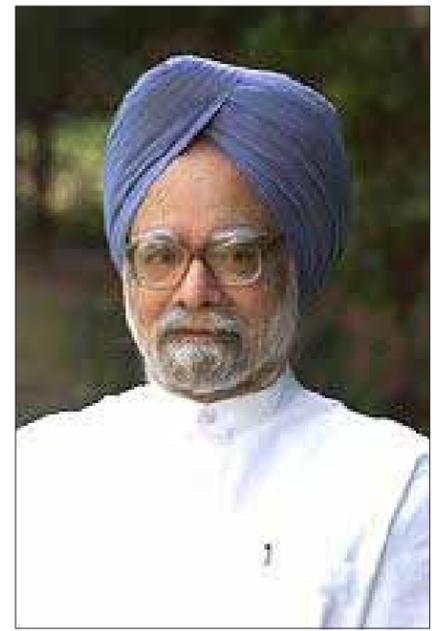
Dr. Singh's academic credentials were burnished by the years he spent on the faculty of Punjab University and the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He had a brief stint at the UNCTAD Secretariat as well, during these years. This presaged a subsequent appointment as Secretary General of the South Commission in Geneva between 1987 and 1990.

In 1971, Dr. Singh joined the Government of India as Economic Advisor in the Commerce Ministry. This was soon followed by his appointment as Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance in 1972. Among the many Governmental positions that Dr. Singh has occupied are Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission; Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Advisor of the Prime Minister; and Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

In what was to become the turning point in the economic history of independent India, Dr. Singh spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as India's Finance Minister. His role in ushering in a comprehensive policy of economic reforms is now recognized worldwide. In the popular view of those years in India, that period is inextricably associated with the persona of Dr. Singh.

Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Dr. Singh in his public career, the most prominent are India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987); the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress (1995); the Asia Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993 and 1994); the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993), the Adam Smith Prize of the University of Cambridge (1956); and the Wright's Prize for Distinguished Performance at St. John's College in Cambridge (1955). Dr. Singh has also been honoured by a number of other associations including by the Japanese Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

Dr. Singh has represented India at many international conferences and in several international organizations. He has led Indian Delegations to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus (1993) and to the



Dr. Manmohan Singh

World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.

In his political career, Dr. Singh has been a Member of India's Upper House of Parliament (the Rajya Sabha) since 1991, where he was Leader of the Opposition between 1998 and 2004.

Dr. Singh and his wife Mrs. Gursharan Kaur have three daughters.

Indian leader's youngest daughter, Amrit Singh (36), is a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union. A graduate of the Yale Law School, she was part of a team that won a decision in New York City ordering the release of photographs from the Pentagon last year.

August 1st week it's been a unique way of celebrating the friendship day week by the government of TamilNadu. Kalaivanar Arangam was the venue the festival is being held, the state ministry of I&B working in tandem with Union Government Ministry of I&B, Children's Film Society of India (CFSI), established in 1955, organized a week long children film festival.

School children from Chennai were brought to Kalaivanar Arangam where every day 3 film shows being held till 9th august. Smile and laughter was written large in the face of children who had come to witness a rare program meant for them.

The highlight of the film festival was the screening of Malli, Malli (1998) is a Tamil feature film directed by Santosh Sivan. The film met with widespread critical acclaim upon release, and has been shown at many film festivals including the Toronto International Film Festival and the New York International Children's Film Festival. child artist P. Shwetha had won acclaims for her anchor role in the film. Some cartoons where the bottom line was a clear message and a moral.

Another highlight is the film "KALVETTU" written and directed by children belonging to the "Krishnagiri" district. Kudos to them. UNICEF made its presence during the festival by

TN Government Strikes Friendship Chord with Little Hearts

providing the snacks to the students.

Children were seen laughing and splitting the auditorium with loud laugh was the most pleasant site one could wish. Organizers, volunteers from various schools were satisfied to the

core when they were able to see the smile and laughter on the face of the little hearts-children. CFSI has taken pains to get films that would be a treat to children and kudos for them as well as the state govt.



Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai, India

The first of the initiative from the CFSI and the state government has been a huge success bringing in 3000 children every day and the organizers expect the total visitors to be in excess of 21000 over the period of 7 days. One should appreciate the organizers for showing concern on children this festival is planned during the week and Saturday and Sunday has been excluded. Good thinking. Every day 3000 students from different schools through the venue in school as well as government buses and 1 film is shown on 3 timings. Seven days is expected to bring a minimum of 21000 children. The auditorium was packed by children and they were seen and heard laughing clearly indicating they enjoyed themselves.

Most of the government school and corporation school kids for whom, even TV is a treat, this festival was the best they could wish. The children never even realized there's a friendship day being celebrated.(its a pity we have extreme societies one end celebrates all the 365 days for various reasons and the other whom don't even know what sort of celebrations the other world goes through)

Any way the organizers and the state government can pat themselves for having given a real treat of a film festival to the little hearts especially during the friendship day week and the occasion will be remembered. [chennaiist.com]

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Make Impossible is Impossible

By His Excellency Dr. AP.J Abdul Kalam

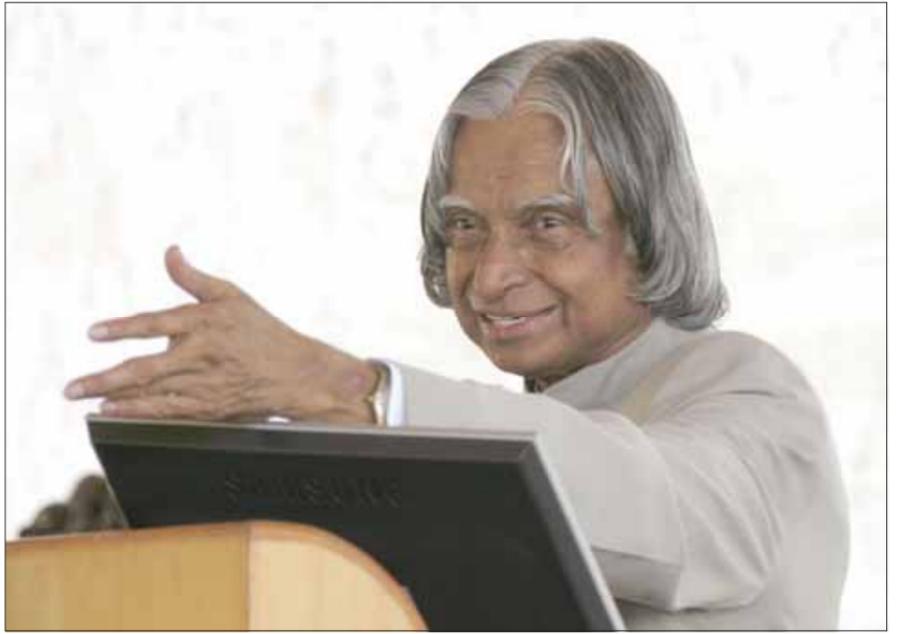
I am delighted to interact with the students of Srinagar schools. My greetings to all of you. During my interaction with six hundred thousand children in different parts of the country both urban and rural areas and e-mails and letters received from many citizens of our nation, I realize our children have a dream. Their dream is to live in a prosperous, happy and safe

My message

Dear Children, you are all in the mission of learning. What learning will give?

"When learning is purposeful, creativity blossoms.

When the creativity blossoms, thinking



Assumption by then was that the earth is flat. What a scientific struggle had to take place to prove that the earth is spherical in shape orbiting around the sun. The three great astronomers Copernicus, Galileo and Kepler had to give a new dimension to the world of astronomy. Today we take it for granted that earth is a globe, orbiting around the sun, and the sun orbits in the Milky Way. All the technological advancements we have today are the outcome of scientific exploration of scientists of earlier centuries. At no time, man was beaten by problems. He strives continuously to subjugate impossibility and then succeeds.

According to the laws of aerodynamics the bumblebee should never be able to fly. Because of the size, weight, and shape of its body in relationship to the total wing span, flying is scientifically impossible. The bumblebee, being ignorant of scientific theory, goes ahead and flies anyway. I would like the youth assembled here to take a lesson from these examples and work to make everything possible.

Diverting Asteroids

A few days back one important event took place in space. That was the impact of the NASA spacecraft called deep impact smashing into the comet Tempel-I, with enough force to create football stadium sized crater with a depth of a 14 storey building. The spacecraft was navigated by an Indian Shyam Bhaskaran ? the deep impact traveled 431 million kms in 172 days escaping from the earth orbit and intercepted the comet at a straight distance from earth at 134 million km. the comet was orbiting around the Sun

every five and half years. This is a landmark in space exploration.

This event is important to divert asteroids which may hit the earth in future. One such large asteroid 1950 AD is expected to hit the earth on March 16, 2880 AD and nearly one third of the earth will be damaged. Like the "Deep Impact" one spacecraft is required to be sent with high energy material to divert or break the asteroid to move it out of the present orbit.

Conclusion

Now, I would like to administer a Six point oath to the students. Are you ready?

Six Point Oath

1. I will pursue my education with dedication and I will excel in it.
2. I will plant at least 5 saplings and shall ensure their growth through constant care.
3. I will constantly endeavor to remove the pain of my suffering brethren.
4. I will work for becoming an enlightened citizen and make my family righteous.
5. I will always be a friend of the mentally and physically challenged and will work hard to make them feel normal, like the rest of us.
6. We the children of India promise that we will work hard with honesty to transform our nation into a developed country.

[Text of Speech delivered to school children in Srinagar by His Excellency Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, President of India, on July 29th, 2006]



India. How do we build a new India of their dream? To realize this dream certain unique qualities are essential. Now I would like to talk to you on the topic "Make Impossible is Impossible".

emanates.

When thinking emanates, knowledge is fully lit.

When knowledge is lit, economy flourishes."

Nothing is impossible?

Human flight is nothing but creativity of human mind and it undergoes several struggles to achieve excellence. In 1895, a great well-known scientist Lord Kelvin, who was the President of Royal Society of London said, "any thing heavier than air cannot fly, and cannot be flown." Within a decade, Wright Brothers proved man could fly of course at heavy risk and cost.

On the successful completion of Moon Mission in 1969, Von Braun, a very famous rocket designer, who built Saturn-V, to launch the capsule with astronauts and made moon walk a reality, in 1975 said "If I am authorized, I will remove the word impossible".

In ancient days, Ptolemaic astronomy is a widely used system in calculating the dynamics of various stars and planets.



"Do you believe in god?"

"Earth is orbiting the Sun, the Sun orbits the galaxy. Ours' is a small galaxy out of many in this universe. Even in our own galaxy, sun is a small star.

There are several stars that are bigger in our galaxy. Around our star Sun as well, there are nine planets.

Compared to Jupiter and Mars, Earth is a minuscule planet.

Just look at the thousands and thousands of stars. These could have been created only by a Creator.

That's why I believe in God "

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam,
President of India



[Speaking at FETNA 2003 Opening Ceremony, quoting his response to an earlier query by a 10th Grade student whether he believes in god]



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Chennai Indian Institute of Technology student wins internship to work directly with Bill Gates

By R Rangaraj

Chennai, August 2: Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd announced on August 2nd that Abishek Kumarasubramanian from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, has been selected for a one-year internship with Bill Gates and will work directly with his technical assistant's team in Redmond.

This team comprises the world's best technologists who formulate and drive Microsoft's technical strategy. Abishek was selected after seven months of rigorous competition under an initiative named Code4Bill, which was announced by Bill Gates during his last visit to India.

Over 20,000 students registered for the contest, which included three online technical challenges, and two rounds of one-to-one interviews. The last of these 19 students also interned with Microsoft India for a period of two months.

Commenting on his win, Abishek Kumarasubramanian said, "Today technology touches the lives of billions of people around the world, and it's amazing to think that I will be working with Microsoft, where I have an opportunity to impact each of these lives."

"Participating in Code4Bill has been an exhilarating experience - the competition has been tough and challenging and has provided me an insight into cutting-edge product development and innovation. Even though it will take some time for me to completely believe that I have been

chosen to work with Bill Gates himself - I think that this is an unmatched opportunity, and am really excited about it," he added.

The final 19 students who interned at Microsoft India are from India's premier technical institutes including IIT-Madras, IIT-Rourkee, Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology, New Delhi, and Army Institute of Technology, Pune.

During their internship, the students worked on next-generation technologies to develop solutions that address current day challenges - an application developed by Udayan Khurana from Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, that helps in the search for geographically-tagged information, and a web application developed by Pratik Stephen from Army Institute of Technology, Pune, that builds on MSN Virtual Earth and allows users to zoom in and see minute details of a particular area.

"India is very clearly a global innovator in the field of IT, and the Indian student community has also made a significant contribution in this area. Through Code4Bill, we have met some of the most promising technologists in the world, and are looking forward to one of them joining us to infuse creativity and a fresh perspective into our future technology strategy," said Alexander Gounares, corporate vice-president, Corporate Strategy, Microsoft. Gounares has been the technical assistant to Bill Gates for three years, and was in Hyderabad to conduct the final round of selection.



In the first stage of the contest, participants were given three online technical challenges. The top 10 per cent based on the cumulative scores at the end of this round then moved to the next stage.

In stage two, the students underwent a round of one-to-one interviews with a technical interview panel. The next round required the 19 selected students to intern with Microsoft Research, Bangalore, and Microsoft India Development Centre, Hyderabad.

In the last round, the top five participants faced a series of challenges administered by Bill Gates' former technical assistant.

Code4Bill was initiated as recognition of India's leadership in nurturing world-class technical talent and was aimed at pre-final and final-year students pursuing various technical streams across India. India is the first country where students have got this opportunity. The registrations for the contest opened in January 2006 and more than 24,000 students from remote locations like Guwahati, Dhanbad and Warangal registered into

it. Over the last seven months, the Code4Bill site (www.code4bill.com) has received more than 8,00,000 page views.

The Indian student developer community is of strategic importance in India's emergence as the world's IT capital, and Microsoft has a comprehensive programme to provide them access to next-generation technologies, build on their software skills, and showcase these to a global audience.

Besides Code4Bill, Microsoft runs a sustained university relations programme, under which it partners with technical institutes and colleges, conducts the Academic Projects Programme - to help university students complete their annual projects, and hosts the Imagine Cup - a premier global competition for technology students.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq MSFT) is the worldwide leader in software for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software-any time, any place and on any device.

Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd is a subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation USA. It has had its presence in India since 1990 and currently has offices in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Pune.

[Chennaionline.com]

RmKV launches reversible silk sari

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI:

RmKV silks has launched a 'reversible silk sari', which can be worn in four ways and which looks different whichever way it's worn.

The price: Rs.68,000.

K. Sivakumar, Partner, Rm.K. Visvanatha Pillai and Sons, told reporters

on Wednesday that the sari had four pallus and four matching borders

with two body colours. More than 50 silk workers spent more than six

months in weaving the sari. The weaving technique is new, and RmKV has applied for a patent.

Participating in a function to unveil the sari, T.H. Somashekar,

Director of the Central Silk Technical

It can be worn in four ways and still look different each time

Research Institute, acknowledging the record-making effort, said that the creation of a double cloth silk sari involved a difficult weaving process. "This is technically stupendous, as it calls for an application of knowledge," he said, pointing out

that the reversible sari will give a boost to silk handlooms, which face competition from power looms.

N. Murali, Managing Director of The Hindu, called the sari a

technological breakthrough. While

eliminating child labour, it has also set a trend in marketing, he said, complementing the weavers on the feat.

Mr. Sivakumar said the vision of K. Viswanathan, who till recently

headed RmKV, was to make the life of the weaver easier by setting up a less

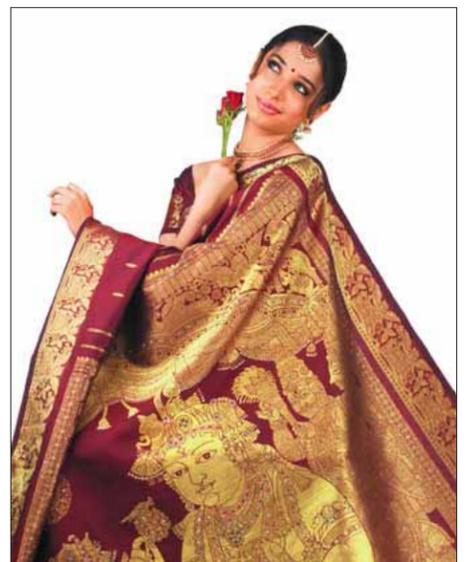
cumbersome technique of weaving the Korvai effect (the contrast between border and body of the sari). After two years of work, the RmKV's R and

D team has made this possible, he said. The technology used could help

weave the most complicated of designs in considerably lesser time than

usual. The innovation has been named the KV Technique.

Courtesy: The Hindu



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Chennai born Nooyi becomes CEO of Pepsi Worldwide

Indra Nooyi is among the leading women in corporate America

Soft drink and snack company PepsiCo Inc. announces on August 14 that chief financial officer Indra Nooyi will take over from Chairman and CEO Steve Reinemund this October. She becomes the first woman to hold the post and enters the list of leading women in corporate America.

Chennai born Nooyi, who was ranked No. 11 in Fortune's list of the most powerful women in business, joined the company in 1994 and was named CFO in 2001.

She becomes the fifth CEO in PepsiCo's 41-year history. As CFO, analysts credited her with transforming the company's global strategy at a time when both Coke and Pepsi face a challenging sales environment in their core domestic market for core carbonated soft drinks as more health-conscious consumers buy more juices and water.

Born in Chennai, India, she graduated in science from the Madras Christian College. After doing her MBA from Indian Institute of Management - Calcutta, she did her graduation in management at Yale University.



Fortune magazine had named her among the "50 most powerful women in America". In 2005, Wall Street Journal named her in its list of 50 women to watch.

Nooyi also serves on the boards Motorola, the International Rescue Committee, and the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

She lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, with her husband, Raj, and their two daughters.

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India Today

Siva Sivapragasam

are therefore safe- to both, the local investor and the foreign entrepreneur.

The country has also made it's name in foreign countries. In Sri Lanka last December the writer witnessed that almost ninety-per cent of occupancy at the Hotel Taj (Indian owned) was by Indian businessmen and entrepreneurs seeking investment potentials in the country. The economy spurted out when the Oxford educated Manmohan



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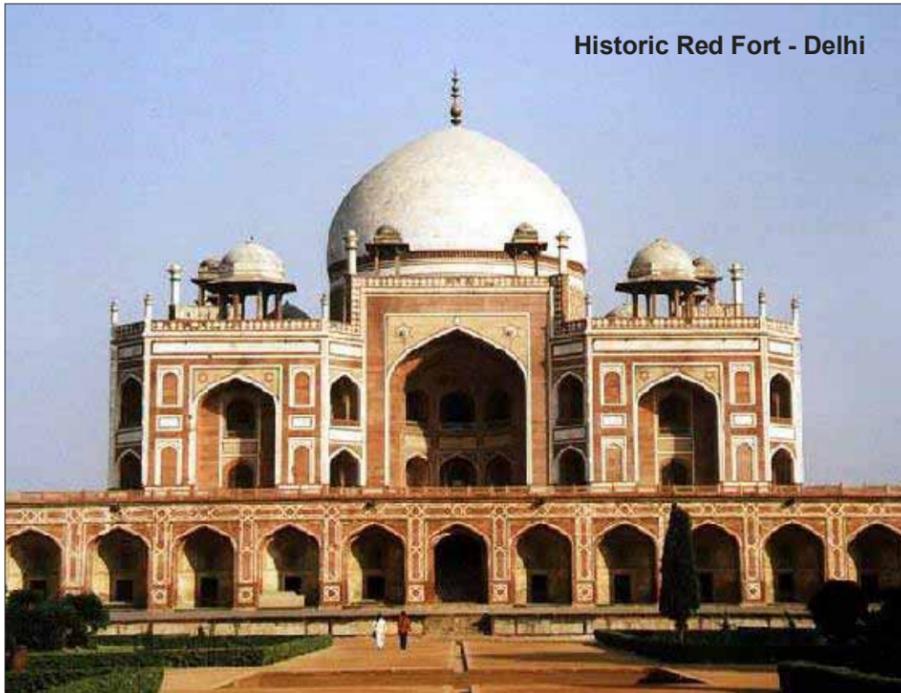
It has been a long journey!
A journey both incredible and remarkable

The world's largest democracy is becoming a global power with it's GDP topping a whopping 8 per cent growth for 2005, the second fastest rate in the world. In spite of the scams, scandals, and disasters over the past 30 years India has survived as a democracy and the economy has thrived by growing four-and-half times over this period.

**Is the Asian tiger slowly
rising above the
Chinese Dragon?
Only Time will tell!**

During my last visit to India in December I was told that on the previous day Microsoft owner Billionaire Bill Gates had promised to invest billions of U.S. Dollars in Tamilnadu while sipping Madras coffee at New Woodlands Hotel . Gates was touring India at the invitation of the dynamic Information Technology Minister Dayanithi Maran, the grandson of Tamilnadu Chief Minister Muthuvelu Karunanithi.

As one journeys through Bombay in the North, or Madras in the South you can see development written all over-whether it be in hi-tech, building or in bollywood. India's information technology industry with it's outsourcing services has had a boom-time generating revenues up to \$ 35 billion in 2005. India now boasts that it's billionaires have reached 23 in number with



Historic Red Fort - Delhi

assets totaling nearly \$ 100 million. Apart from serious businesses even in the entertainment industry Bollywood takes the cake by producing nearly 1,000 movies for an year- five times Hollywood's total! Tourism has increased five times over the past two years. In 1975 India had only one TV channel but today they have nearly 300. They had 1.6 million telephone connections then but now with cell phones the number had risen to 116 million.

How did India get rich in a hurry?

Fortune seekers and cocky entrepreneurs have made the country the largest commercial center between Europe and the Far East. Foreign investors poured \$ 30 billion into the Indian market in three years. Successive Governments whatever Party that came into power have followed a consistent economic policy giving confidence to investors and businessmen. Threats of state-takeover or nationalization are minimal. Investment and assets

Singh, then Finance Minister and now Prime Minister, liberalized the economy and put India on the path to Globalization. He abolished the license raj and did away with a host of other controls. For India the barriers erected against foreign competition served to develop domestic enterprise. Since independence, the public sector has played a pivotal role in the growth and development of the Indian economy. It

has served as the bedrock of nation building.

The Indian economy has had a roller-coaster ride ranging from an IT boom to a stock-market bust. The economy has traveled three decades -fast and furious. In 1983 when the first Maruti car hit the roads it was considered a babe in the car market. But in two years the Swadeshi effort made Maruti the fastest selling car in the country competing with the Fords, Toyotas, Hondas and the Hyundais. Infosys Technologies' Narayanmurthi's dream became a reality and the IT boom began generating thousands of jobs and taking India to the top in soft-ware technology. The economic boom is evident even in the light-manufacturing industry. After a modest beginning of 7,500 bicycles an year the annual output of Hero cycles spiraled to 5.2 million.

The country is not without it's shortcomings. With an over-populated nation India still struggles with poverty. Infra structure like Transportation. Electrical power still lags behind modern industry standards. A weak infra structure, bureaucracy and poverty still loom large in many states. But the country is leaping forward to become another great economic super power in the world arena.



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The first reaction of hearing saxophonist Kadri Gopalnath is amazement that sax could produce that kind of Carnatic music. It's a common reaction to Gopalnath, who has been a revolutionary in playing Indian classical music on that most Western of instruments, the sax.

In 1994, legendary film director K. Balachandar collaborated with Gopalnath on a movie built around the character of a classical saxophonist,



Illaya Thilakam Pirabhu

staring **Illaya Thilakam Pirabhu**. Prior to filming, Gopalnath sat down with music director A.R. Rahman and recorded brief solos with broad emotional content.

The resulting picture, titled *Duet*, begins as a love triangle involving two brothers and the girl next door. After almost three hours, the film evolves into an action movie in which the saxophone-playing brother must save the girl from a megalomaniac film actor she has spurned. *Duet* was a huge hit and sales of Gopalnath's classical tapes and CDs instantly spiked.

In a review of Kadri Gopalnath's concert, Sri Lanka's Daily News said, "Kadri's prowess and skill in handling the saxophone to convey the nuances of Carnatic music was really encouraging to watch. Despite the fact that the

Kadri Gopalnath: Ragas with a jazzy accent

saxophone is a brass instrument and lacks the mellifluous timbre of the traditional nadaswaram. Kadri was able to produce such a rich variety of musical cadences."

Here's what critic Robert Palmer had to say about a 1987 concert he heard by the alto saxophonist, in the New York Times.

"He originally played the nadaswaram, a large, throaty South Indian reed instrument, and has been able to transfer the bends, slurs and quavers of the traditional instrument to the Western one with remarkable thoroughness," Palmer wrote in the New York Times. "He is more or less reinventing the alto saxophone, using it to do things neither its Western classical exponents nor the jazz players who have perfected it as an expressive instrument could have imagined."

The saxophone's emergence as an accepted Carnatic instrument is a very recent development, the responsibility for which resides almost exclusively with Kadri Gopalnath.

From 1977, when he gave his first public recital in Madras, until only a few years ago, Gopalnath was considered the lone Carnatic master of the saxophone. Within the last decade, however, there has been an explosion of regional interest in the instrument. Saxophonists can now be found performing sacred pujas without restriction at Hindu temples across South India. The ebullient master saxophonist, Gopalnath, explains that he has nearly 300 students, including a number who have already become recording artists.

Born the son of a nadaswaram player, the 15-year-old Gopalnath was in the process of learning the long, oboe-esque, double-reed instrument when, on a school trip to the Mysore Palace, he heard his first saxophone in the palace's fanfare band. He talked his father into

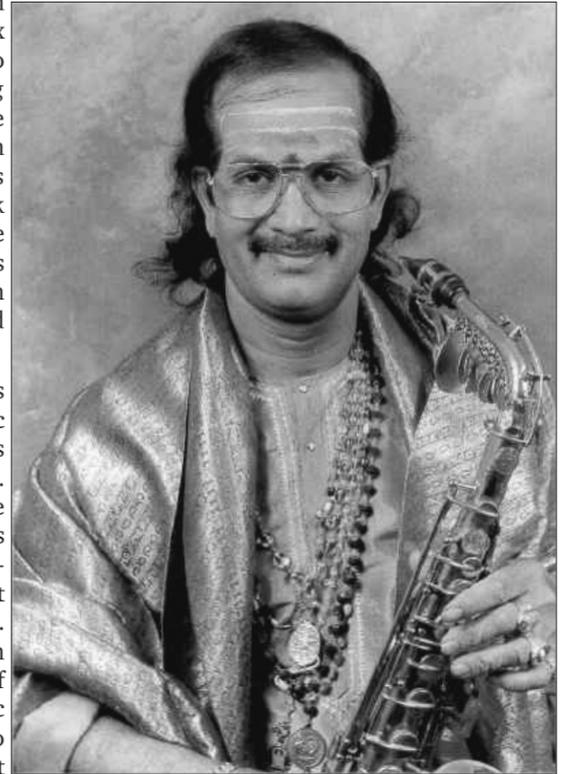
buying him one and began spending a minimum of six hours a day attempting to conjure the shuddering oscillations and note embellishments that give South India's vocally derived music its distinctive character. It took another two years and some alterations to the keypads before he began producing forth the sound he'd always intended for the instrument.

In 1975 he moved to Madras where he continued Carnatic music studies under the famous percussionist T.V. Gopalakrishnan. After two more years of constant practice, his new guru judged the 27-year-old ready to perform his first public saxophone recital. Though Kadri speaks of an initial resistance on the part of certain members of the Carnatic music establishment, it seems to have melted away almost instantly.

While the saxophonist concedes that "there is a limit to how far any instrument can reproduce [the nuances of] a singer," his playing has won him nearly universal praise from the most discerning of rasikas -- experts whose judgments determine the fate of a musician's career. Over the last 25 years, Gopalnath has recorded dozens of CDs and been honored with a constant stream of awards and titles including some that seem to have been created specifically for him such as Saxophone Chakravarthy -- The Emperor of Saxophone.

Though Gopalnath's background is hardly influenced by Western and jazz sources, he was invited to perform at a Bombay jazz festival, in 1980, where Charles Mingus alumnus John Handy was so stunned by the Indian's music

that he ran off for his saxophone and joined him on stage. This brief meeting led to further collaborations between the two as well as appearances at a series of European jazz festivals. More recently Gopalnath has recorded with the



Saxophonist Kadri Gopalnath

American flutist James Newton and toured England with British free improvisation legend Evan Parker.

Gopalnath is part of a long line of Indian musicians who have found crossover popularity, ranging from Ravi Shankar, the sitar player made famous when his student, George Harrison, played the instrument on the Beatles' Norwegian Wood, to percussionist Zakir Hussain, who won a Grammy for his collaboration with Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart on the album Planet Drum.

To listen on the web: Kadri Gopalnath: <http://www.musicindiaonline.com/1/3/s/artist.176/>

Sax & Songs from "Duet": http://www.musicindiaonline.com/1/26/s/movie_name.4345/



Writer/director M. Night Shyamalan on the set of Warner Bros. Pictures' *Lady in the Water*

Lady in the water: Springing another surprise is Shyamalan

The Sixth Sense brought to the fore the creative prowess of writer-director **Manoj Night Shyamalan**. His prolific ways continued in *Unbreakable*, *Signs* and *The Village*. Traversing a different path, Shyamalan is able to see further than what his instincts did in the debut venture.

Keeping his promise of being honest with his audience, Shyamalan leaves his signature here too, getting skin deep into the nymph-like character.

On a balmy night, Cleveland has reasons to feel the presence of a mysterious young woman hidden in the building. She is being stalked by vicious crea-

tures determined to prevent her from making the treacherous journey from our world back to hers.

Along with his fellow tenants, Cleveland deciphers a series of codes coming in the way of her freedom.

Left with no choice, Cleveland has to face the demons that followed him hoping desperately that the fellow tenants able to connect with the other world.

Such happenings need not be confined to be bedtime stories you share with the children.

Precisely, that is what Shyamalan strives to achieve in that distinct style of his.

[newstodaynet.com]



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The Healthy Way...It's the way...It is your path to good health.....

All of us understand and follow, this one routine, very regularly? ...Can you guess what it is? Well, let me help you find it.

Well, we all drive cars and we all take our cars for regular oil changes. Is it right or not? It is a simple truth and we all follow it without questioning it. We all know subconsciously that if we do not go for the oil change the "Engine of the Car" will not remain efficient, will start faltering and in the end we will end up visiting a mechanic.

Now let us take this analogy to our life and our body.....

We eat every day, drink once in a while and do spoil our selves eating spicy and fried foods and do many unhealthy things. Our body has six engines, which do different functions, unlike the car, which has just one engine.

These engines of our body...like The Liver, The kidneys, The heart, The lungs, The Intestine and The blood, continue working hard to keep our body running like our car?

Le us ask our selves this question...DO WE CHANGE OUR BODY OILS?? DO WE GREASE THESE SIX IMPORTANT ENGINES? I AM SURE THE ANSWER IS A BIG "no"

THE RESULT IS WE END UP WITH A DOCTOR (CAR MECHANIC)...sooner than many other people or races. By the time we are in our late forties, early

The Path to good Health by Salvi & Naresh Verma

fifties, we start having problems; we get heart attack, kidney dysfunction, Liver fatigue, asthmatic problems and many such things...

So, let us ask ourselves this question? Is it not important to do some oil change for the body too, from time to time? There is not much difference between body oil change and engine oil change... both are not paid by health Canada, and both are important for the continuous smooth functioning of our lives...but that does not mean these oil changes and maintenances are not important.

I urge one and all of us to take this challenge and start taking care of our bodies by taking care of these engines of life so that we can live healthy and live longer without problems.

Besides the above analogy, one more comparison comes to mind, which faces starkly into our faces. We see many Caucasian Canadians driving cars and moving around on their own till their mid eighties, whereas we Asian Canadians start feeling old and worn out by our early and mid fifties. There has to be some reason for that. Yes - one reason is obvious that we work harder, longer hours and many of us start from a disadvantageous position in this country, but is that all to it?

One thing that comes to my mind is the difference in attitude and the way of life. Many Caucasians take these body

cleansing and lubricating concepts very seriously whereas we Asians are entrenched in the feeling that why service some thing that is still working, May be we have to start thinking differently when it comes to our own body. We need to maintain and service our essential engines like the liver, the heart, the kidneys and the lungs etc so that we do not end up with sudden troubles early in our lives.

The saying amongst the Health Food and Supplement specialists is that by taking care and maintaining our internal organs we are trying to push back our physical incapacities to later age say between 80 to 90 years of age while living comfortably till that age.

As such it makes good sense to start early, do some cleansing and oil the necessary parts like the Liver and the kidneys and the heart so that these can function well till 80/90 years of age. May be take care of our body weight, the sugar and glucose content and the parts of the body that process these ingredients. We even need to think of managing stress by taking some vitamins so that the chances of blood pressure and related kidney problems are reduced and taking medication are reduced and postponed to much later years of our lives.

I hear time and again from friends that some friend passed away because of kidney failure or heart attack and he

was only 48 or even 45/46 years of age. I hear many people get some serious illness like cancer and immediately lose hope. But there are supplements available that can help us recover and improve our health. Even with Leukaemia, there are many ways to support ourselves. Women get Breast Cancer and many associated problems, but there are many herbal remedies that can help our women to take care of themselves.

We are willing to answer your questions, service every one to our best capabilities and suggest best choices available in the health supplements and herbal remedies and also what best vitamins will be suitable for different purposes, just as we did in our cell phone business when we served all the Sri Lankan Customers. (Many of you will remember us from the Cell Phone Specialist store, Salvi Akka & Naresh).

We left that business, as our son fell sick last year in March, and while he has now recovered fully, we learnt a lot, while taking care of him. We now want to share all that we learnt and help all of you. We have therefore started this Health food and supplements store, "The Healthy Way" to help in our small way to all our friends and to tell every one that we all should take care of our selves by way of timely oil changes for the engines of our bodies.

Please call us at 416 913 2224 or visit us at The Healthy Way, 870 Broadview Ave. Toronto, M4K 2R1 (North of Danforth and Broadview Ave)



Valmiki

Valmiki (14th - 15th century B.C.), the author of the epic Ramayana, bears comparison with Homer.

According to Sri Aurobindo, Valmiki, Vyasa and Kalidasa are the Indian equivalents of Homer, Dante and Shakespeare.

The story of Rama, the ideal son and ruler, Sita, the ideal wife, Bharata and Lakshmana, the ideal brothers and Hanuman, the ideal devotee, has been so beautifully stated in the epic poem of Ramayana that even in the remotest village of India, even the most illiterate man, woman or child is familiar with the characters and situations in the story.

The credit for this goes to the poetic and dramatic genius of Valmiki.

Inspiration

Though the subsequent poets like Tulsidas and Kamban have restated the story in their own style, their inspiration has been Valmiki.

No poem in the world is superior to the Ramayana of Valmiki, says Aurobindo.

How Ratnakar, the bandit, became the poet Valmiki is well known. Once when he tried to rob a sage, of his meagre belongings, he was told that no one else but he would suffer the consequences of his misdeeds. Repentant and reformed, he asked the sage for the way out of sin. He was told to recite Mara, mar (reverse of Rama). The bandit sat in penance and recited the mantra and forgot the world. An anthill enveloped him. When he was dug out, he was a realised soul and called Valmiki (one who came out of Valmike — Sanskrit for anthill).

The urge to write Ramayana was triggered by Valmiki's sensitive reaction to the wailing of a bird, whose mate was killed by a hunter.

The ideal society portrayed so realistically in the Ramayana by Valmiki made Gandhiji name the Utopia he envisaged for India: Rama Rajya!

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**West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee:
“India use diplomatic channels to
help restore peace in Sri Lanka”**

"We are in the midst of an economic, political and foreign policy crisis"

India need not intervene directly in the battle between Tamil Tigers and Sri Lankan forces but should use diplomatic channels to help restore peace in the island nation, senior CPI-M leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee said today.

"Our stand is that India should closely observe the situation and try diplomatic channels to restore peace. We are against direct intervention," he told reporters at the CPI-M headquarters here.

Asked about the situation in Sri Lanka, he said his party favoured full autonomy for Tamils but within the framework of the Sri Lankan Constitution.

While any form of violence was condemnable, "we are for peaceful negotiations in Sri Lanka on an acceptable formula", he said.

On remarks by some Left leaders that the Central government was "weak" as far as foreign policy is concerned, he said his party wanted the Centre to follow an independent foreign policy.

"We are criticising the government for succumbing to the pressure from the US. We are saying India should follow an independent foreign policy and not be a junior partner to the US. But they (the Centre) are vacillating on several issues," Bhattacharjee said.

On the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, he said India should condemn Israel strongly and stop buying weapons from that country. "The criticism of Israel must be more direct."



The Israeli attack on Lebanon and the Sri Lankan issue were not comparable as Israel was backed by the US, he said.

Asking the Centre to pursue an independent foreign policy, West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Aug 12th warned against succumbing to pressure by the United States on the nuclear deal.

Addressing a public meeting organised by the State Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Mr. Bhattacharjee said Americans wanted India under their umbrella. "Our country is passing through a very difficult situation on all fronts — economic, political and foreign policy. We are in the midst of a crisis."

[PTI, Hindu]

**“Peace Journalism lacks interest
as peace is often boring”**

by Zacki Jabbar

"There is a lack of interest in Peace Journalism because peace is often boring, while wars and conflicts offer fascinating drama and vivid images", the Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Dr Rifat S. Hussein said.

Reviewing the book "Peace Journalism", launched by the Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum (SLMMF), Dr. Hussein queried as to why there was a lack of interest in the 'Peace Journalist', if Peace Journalism is so critical for promoting the cause of peace in our war ravaged planet. "The answer to this question is very simple. Peace is often boring, while wars and conflict offer fascinating drama and vivid images - that is an unfortunate, but widely accepted truism."

The book authored by Jake Lynch and Annabel McGoldrick, two journalists with rich experiences from conflict reporting around the world, has been translated into Sinhala and Tamil by the SLMMF, with the assistance of Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies.

Hussein, said that Peace Journalism has become a buzz word and like all buzz words it means many different things to different people. "In its essence Peace Journalism is opposed to War Journalism which views conflict through the lens of Us vs Them perspective."

"The authors have defined Peace Journalism as a broader, fairer and more accurate way of framing stories, drawing on the insights of conflict analysis and transformation. The PJ approach, according to the authors, provides a new road map tracing the connection between journalists, their sources, stories they cover and consequences of their reporting — the ethics of journalist intervention. It opens up a literacy of non violence and creativity as applied to the practical job of everyday reporting.

Hussein, said that as a vocation, Peace Journalism consciously adopts an agenda for peace believing it to be the only genuine alternative to an agenda for war.

"A peace journalist humanizes all sides of the conflict and is prepared to document deceit and suffering as well as peace initiatives from all parties. Peace Journalism also considers that

there are more than two parties to a conflict. What is the central idea underlying the book? It is the simple but very powerful notion that words not only have meanings but also consequences. As remarked by Kim Sengupta of the London Independent - conflicts today are influenced by the way they are reported in the media."

If peace equals non violence plus creativity then Peace Journalism must adopt non violence and creativity as its cardinal principles. Seen from the perspective of Peace Journalism all journalism is an intervention, Hussein



Children from Elpitiya, a “Voice for peace and against war”, held at the Lipton Circus in Colombo on May 29th 2006. [humanityashore.org]

observed.

"In Peace Journalism the authors have tried to translate the principles of PJ into concrete tools that can be rehearsed and applied. Using simple exercises, they have tried to illustrate the complex and multi dimensional interplay between different actors and their interests, as well as the difference between War Journalism and Peace Journalism approaches"

Peace Journalism, he said, was not just a book expounding the philosophy of PJ. "It is packed with sensible, easily understood, practical exercises in understanding Peace Journalism. The chapters are followed by exercises that help the reader to a higher level of reflection. The exercises contained in the book make it a very useful tool for educating journalists and media students." [island.lk]

Thiru Murai Mahanadu held in Toronto



Swami Santhalinga Ramasami Adikalar from Perur, India, visited as a Chief Guest for the Thiru Murai Mahanadu held at Canada Kantha Swami Temple on 29, July, 2006. He was received by the Chief Priests of Varasithy Vinayagar and Canada Kantha Swami Temple at the entrance.

Photo by Photo Pro Camal

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Cubans and Cuban exiles have spent the week adjusting to the announcement that Fidel Castro has undergone stomach surgery and temporarily ceded power to his brother, Raul.

In Cuba, life appears to be continuing as normal, while in Miami many Cuban exiles have been celebrating the news. The BBC News website spoke to a Cuban in Havana and a Cuban exile in Miami about how their communities have reacted.

JORGE CASTELLANOS NUNEZ, HAVANA, CUBA

Here in Cuba, nothing has changed this week and nothing is going to change. We are too organised and strong a



Jorge says nothing will change in Cuba, for now

Castro illness: Views from Cuba and Miami



Cubans in Havana showed their support when the news emerged

people for that.

We expect our commandant Fidel Castro to continue with the strength of mind he has always had because it is his stomach that is the problem.

If Raul, or anyone else, does eventually take charge, nothing will remain the same.

No-one has the charisma, the intelligence, the resilience or the international recognition that Fidel has.

Leaders like Fidel are only born once in a century.

For now we remain calm and we know that nothing is going to happen because, in spite of everything, all the Cubans are "Fidelistas" and we are united in this.

We don't want any Americans here because they will not solve anything. They did nothing in

Grenada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, or Panama.

Anyway, our problems belong to us and with the Americans here it will not get any better.

They have lost all their battles with Fidel. How many times has Fidel told the United States a million truths about what happens in their own land?

Fidel is respected and people listen to him, which is something you can't say about other presidents.

Cuba's future is secure for now, under Fidel's rule. We will have to wait at least one more generation to see any change.

ANSELMO ALLIEGRO, MIAMI, FLORIDA, USA

There was a lot of jubilation here in Miami when news of Fidel's illness emerged.

I am not usually one for public displays of emotion but I did have a bottle of champagne put aside for a day like that.

We were initially unsure whether he was alive or dead, thinking his aides may just be delaying news of his death. But it looks like he is definitely incapacitated.

I don't think we will see him in power again. So what next? A transitional government headed up by Raul Castro, but I don't see that lasting longer than



Anselmo Alliegro does not think Fidel Castro will return to power

two years or so.

I then expect a coup from within, orchestrated by the more moderate elements within the transitional government.

Whether or not this will be a bloodless coup remains to be seen but I don't see any large-scale violence taking place in Cuba.

There are too many people that wish to see change take place.

I think it will be difficult to introduce democracy to Cuba, as there is no groundwork there for the introduction of political parties and a free press.

It may even take many more years than people would hope.

I left Havana in 1959 when my family fled during the Revolution.

My father was president of the Cuban congress and a member of the Batista government. We were all threatened with being shot by the firing squads so we had to leave.

I have never been able to return, unlike some exiles who have returned to see their family and friends, and my name remains on a black list.

I would love to be able to return if the right conditions are in place.

My 15-year-old granddaughter, who celebrated the news of Castro's illness, asked if I would bring her to Cuba one day. I would really like to be able to do that.

British intelligence and investigation saved thousands of lives last week when an attempt to blow up 10 planes was foiled. The arrest of an alleged terrorist in Pakistan helped British police to uncover a plot which would have caused death and destruction in an unimaginable scale. The plan was to smuggle in liquid bombs into the aircraft in innocent looking lotions through the security barrier and detonate them inside the aircraft using electronic devices like cell-phones. The planes targeted for this terror plot were aircraft flying to U.S cities like New York, Washington and Los Angeles.



Mass Murder in Mid-Air !

British Intelligence thwarts Bomb Plot.....

Over twenty persons considered as master-minds of this deadly plot were arrested in London by the British police. Most of them are believed to be British citizens of Pakistani origin and were between the ages of 17 and 35. Bank assets of those arrested were frozen by the Bank of England and the names released. One of them is supposed to be a woman with an infant child. No sooner the initial arrests were made in Pakistan, a message had been sent to the London plotters "do the act now". British police were able to intercept, decode the message and spring into action immediately to arrest those in London.

No more Hand Luggage

World's busiest airport - London's Heathrow, saw

thousands of passengers stranded due to flight cancellations and delays. Airport and flight security were tightened with passengers being denied carrying hand luggage and liquids aboard the aircraft. Mothers with babies were asked to taste baby formula and milk before being allowed to take them in. British terror threat level remained critical although the plot was uncovered.

The alleged terrorists have been planning to blow up the planes over the last few months and intended to even do a test-run before the actual incident was to take place. But unfortunately luck was not on their side.

British security with the help of Pakistani police was able to uncover the plot in time and arrest the plotters. The close co-operation and assistance given by the Pakistani police helped British intelligence to intervene immediately and take timely action. British Home Secretary John Reid has complimented the British police and intelligence personnel for their success in preventing what he termed as "mass murder". British and U.S. security are probing the possibility of any Al-Qaida link-up in the terror plot.



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The plight of the Tamil community under GoSL oppression

LTTE Peace Secretariat Press release

The Government of Sri Lanka's (GoSL) actions against the displacing civilian population of Trincomalee are considered a major violation of the Ceasefire Agreement and also places the peace process in grave danger. Immediate action must be taken to address the needs of civilians trapped in the LTTE administered areas of Trincomalee district.

Close to 42,000 civilians are trapped and displaced, with no proper food, water, or medical assistance in LTTE areas of Eachchilampattu, Sampoor, Verugal, Kathiraveli, Vaharai and surrounding villages.

GoSL military strikes and embargo against displaced civilians

For the last three months the GoSL imposed an undeclared embargo on food and other essential items to the LTTE areas. For the last three weeks the GoSL has imposed an even more severe embargo on relief items sent by ICRC, UN and international aid

agencies, aggravating the humanitarian situation in LTTE areas. While attempting to escape from this dire situation again, civilians were targeted by GoSL's shelling and aerial bombardment. Displaced civilians who have reached safer areas in Vaharai continue to be without food and water due to the continued GoSL military offensive and embargo on food items coming from Batticaloa district.

The blockage of relief coupled with the GoSL military strikes have made it impossible for civilians to seek any safety or normalcy.

ICRC, UN and international agencies' attempts

ICRC relief has been blocked at the Mankerni checkpoint and the Panichchankerni checkpoint for the last two days, leaving displaced civilians in and around Vaharai with close to nothing.

UN agency officers in a meeting in Kilinochchi on 7 August expressed their concern over the aid being blocked to civilians in LTTE areas by

SLA checkpoints in Somapura and Kiliveddi.

A UNHCR statement on 8 August revealed that they did "not have access to Mutur, where 4,000 people are said to be trapped, or to Eachchilampattu, where some 11,000 people are said to be in dire need of humanitarian help."

UNICEF estimated that of the 40,000 civilians displaced half are women and children. UNICEF also stated, "There are two areas we haven't had access to, but we believe the number of displaced in those areas to be up to an additional 25,000."

International news services reported from Trincomalee that "no international agency has reached 'Tiger' territory."

The GoSL is making full efforts to provide relief and shelter to the 21,000 civilians that have displaced from Mutur East to the government controlled area of Kantalai, consisting of mainly Sinhala and Muslim civilians. However no attempts are being made by the GoSL civil authorities to address

the needs of the Tamil population trapped in and displacing from LTTE areas.

GoSL's duplicity

We hope the international community can understand the duplicitious actions of the GoSL in their efforts in trying to cover up this humanitarian disaster that was created by their unwarranted military strikes. In recent discussions with Special Peace Envoy Mr Jon Hanssen-Bauer and per the request of International Development Minister Mr Erik Solheim, the LTTE was focused on taking a peaceful route to solve humanitarian issues of the civilians by opening the Mavilaru water sluice gate without any conditions. However, the GoSL has made clear by their military actions that they are operating with a different agenda.

The plight of the Tamil civilians in Trincomalee clearly shows that the Tamil people are unable to survive under an oppressive Sinhala regime. [lkteps.org]

How wonderful to be 'in Sri Lanka at a time like this! Forget the bombs and the death-squads, just rejoice in the record-breaking feats of our batsmen. We may be experiencing yet another drought and soaring electricity prices, but let's be grateful that we can watch flood-lit cricket on carefully manicured grounds in Colombo. Half our



[Splashing waves, in Galle]

children may be malnourished, our roads and public services in ruins, but no matter. Do not our hearts swell with national pride when we see those' luxury condominiums sprouting up all over the city? Surely we are a fast-developing nation.

We have many 'firsts' to our credit. We are the first nation in the history of the world that has not had a single government minister sacked for lying, corruption, uption, nepotism, thuggery, and all those other ugly things that

Sri Lanka - Living in Paradise

by Dr. Vinoth Ramachandra

politicians in other countries get caught for. As for our armed forces, they have managed to prosecute a war for twenty five years without inflicting death or injury on a single civilian. Unlike the US, Israel, and other armies around the world that we love to denounce, our army enjoy's a flawless record of precision bombardment and loving care of prisoners. Which nation can boast of never having to bring army and police officers before war crimes tribunals, because we have no war crimes to talk about?

Even our prisons are not really prisons. They have all the amenities of five-star hotels, and serve as 'leisure breaks' for overworked business executives provided by the kindness of local taxpayers. The only condition for enjoying these facilities is that, apart from being rich, you must have a friend in parliament.

Our newspaper editors and journalists are also a cause for pride. So knowledgeable are they that the moment an assassination takes place in any part of the country, they can immediately inform us that the LTTE were behind it.

Why do we need the expensive and cumbersome apparatus of forensic investigations and judicial courts, when our newspapers can tell us who is guilty straightaway? And the best of our journalists can report on incidents as far afield as Mannar or Muttur, without stepping out of their air-conditioned offices.

Sri Lanka can also boast an academic community second to none. We have numerous policy think-tanks that chum out erudite publications, year after year. Both locally and abroad, Sri Lankan academics are noted for clever research papers on poverty, development, conflict resolution, war, and a host of other relevant issues. It doesn't really matter that no one reads them, least of all our policy makers. It gives those who write them opportunities to travel to conferences abroad; and poverty and war can be stepping-stones to academic tenure and status. So why complain if such folk inhabit a 'parallel universe' to that in which the rest of us live?

It is this marvellous diversity of Sri Lankan life, after all, that is a source of wonder to tourists. The police have

recently started distributing bulky questionnaires to residents in Colombo, asking us all to state our 'ethnicity', 'religion', and other vital statistics. It 'may be unfair to complain that this contradicts the government's exhortations to us to consider ourselves 'Sri Lankans' and so I put Sri Lanka first'.

It may even be silly for champions of civil liberties to grumble that this is not only an invasion of our privacy but an attempt to create an apartheid-like state. Can't they see the brilliance of what is being hatched? This is an official Census. We need not employ census takers and statisticians anymore; we can even close down the Census Department entirely. Just teach our police officers who have little to do with their time (now that crime in Sri Lanka is almost non-existent) how to multi-task.

What brilliance!

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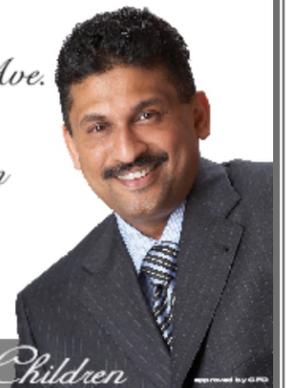
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Jaffna, situated in the Northern part of Sri Lanka has been completely destroyed during the two decades of civil war between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Although the community is supposedly in peace, the possibilities of violent conflict remains an ongoing possibility. A journey to this island reveals that the population is highly vulnerable to HIV, yet civic infrastructure is almost non-existent.

According to a survey conducted by Jaffna Kachcheri in 2004 the total population of the Jaffna District is 584,667 of which 277,973 are men and 306,694 women. The number of women is more because of the presence of a large number of war widows.

According to recent reports, Jaffna district has the second highest number of people living with HIV after Colombo district. The first case of HIV was detected in 1993. Till date the accumulated number of people living with HIV and AIDS is 38, while those living with HIV is 16. Out of these two are children. There are more number of females than males living with HIV/AIDS. The community is conservative. Cultural restrictions inhibit a frank discussion on sex, sexuality and HIV/AIDS. Interviews revealed that community members are in a stage of denial on the existence of HIV in their community. One community member informed, "HIV/AIDS is not a problem in our society, it is a Western disease. We do not misbehave like others". Yet AIDS is the leading cause of death in Jaffna, followed by cancer and rabies.

There are a large number of Sri Lankan refugees in the peninsula who have returned from refugee camps in India. The cramped living conditions and poverty make many in the refugee camp vulnerable to HIV. There are number of sex workers in Jaffna. Majority of these women are from below the poverty line. One sex worker informs, "sex work fetches us more than a vegetable seller in a market per day. Therefore, many women are entering this trade." They get arrested and are produced before the courts, but go back to the same business. Though no baseline study has been conducted on the prevalence of sex work in the area anecdotal records reveal that the number of sex workers are rising in certain areas. A community member informs, "It is estimated that there are 36,000 war widows in Jaffna district.

Report on HIV in Jaffna

A Journey to Jaffna
By Yenmozhi

Where do they go to satisfy their sexual needs? This is one of the other reasons for the sex workers on the increase in the district. There are forty thousand military personnel from the Government of Sri Lanka currently stationed in Jaffna peninsula. Jaffna is the first posting for a young officer who joins the army and he cannot take leave for a period of one year while on duty in Jaffna.

There is only one STD clinic, responsible for HIV prevention and control activities at the Jaffna Teaching hospital.

With the advances in technology, the sex workers are easily accessible on the mobile. Almost all have mobile telephones and communicate with their clients on mobiles. A community member informs, "Young people in the age group of 20 years to 24 years in the coastal belt from Kozhumbuthurai to Navanthurai move around a lot." Stigma and discrimination against those living with HIV is very high inhibiting PLWHA's access to services.

The governmental response is still weak as infrastructure is being rebuilt. The Jaffna Teaching Hospital is the only teaching hospital in Jaffna. There are four base hospitals, namely Manthikai, Chavakachcheri, Sankanai and Kayts. Apart from these there are rural hospitals, central dispensaries and private hospitals. Though the concentration of the private hospitals is high, and the government hospitals lack many facilities, patients prefer to access government hospitals, because of free service. Patients report that the needs of those with clout are met easily while others have to wait for a long time. The patients from the lower income groups and the sex workers are treated with disdain. All these factors force those who can afford to access the private hospitals or go to Colombo.

Currently there is no doctor in the clinic. A doctor who was posted to the clinic left as there was no infrastructure and support available. There is also no Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) at the STD clinic. The MLT from the

blood bank conducts the necessary tests for HIV. But it takes two months to get the results, because the confirmatory test can only be done at the National Hospital in Colombo. Although he is not qualified, the PHI is forced to play the doctor's role.

The STD clinic is situated far from the main entrance. People who have visited the clinic report that they are ashamed to come to the STD clinic even to test their blood. If a patient is visiting the clinic for the first time they are stopped at the gate and a number of questions are asked. Many report of not proceeding with the treatment unless the issue is urgent. Those who do decide to proceed to the STD clinic have no privacy. They are followed by people. Further, there are long queues. There have been several requests to move the STD clinic near the main entrance, so that the patient has privacy in accessing the clinic. There is a new building under construction right now for the STD clinic. The nurse, and other lower rung staff at the clinic believe that, once the new building is operational, there will be a permanent doctor for the STD clinic, and other facilities will be available for the patients. Those who are living outside Jaffna have to spend a considerable amount of time and resources to access

the clinic. Many report that they do not access the clinic because of the long distance and the negative attitudes of the staff at the clinic.

A person can also go to the private hospital in Jaffna to get a test for HIV. Private hospitals /clinics charge anywhere between Rupees 9,000/ (USD 90) to Rupees 12,000 (USD 120) for a HIV test. The clinics report that these charges are to send the blood specimen by flight to Colombo. Interviews with some females revealed that in some clinics the staff asks those who have no money to pay for to have sex instead.

A large number of NGOs implement prevention and control activities in the area. According to the NGO workers the community is aware of HIV/AIDS, but there is no responsible behaviour. As one worker remarked, "Most sex workers are aware of HIV and are willing to use condoms. But many do not use as they can't afford to lose a client, if he is not willing to wear a condom"

There is a feeling among the people of Jaffna that, even if the war ends and they enjoy permanent peace, the scars of the war will not disappear from the society for a long years to come.

(The above report is written on the research carried out in April 2006 in Jaffna)



[STD clinic in Jaffna Teaching hospital]

Colourful Thoughts

"Colourful Thoughts", a Joint Exhibition of Paintings was held at the Harold Peiris Art Gallery (Lionel Went Memorial Art Gallery) in Colombo recently. R. Kouwshigan and his five students displayed their recent paintings. Kouwshigan is a native of Badulla, in Sri Lanka's hill country.



- courtesy: humanityashore.org

Colombo Tamil Radio assists in locating loved ones

A Colombo Tamil radio has opened its phone lines and airwaves to help people find each other in the aftermath of the recent upsurge in fighting and displacement in Jaffna.

The popular FM station announced today to call Sooriyan FM 00 94 112346444, and leave names and place(s) of living in Jaffna, if someone is unable to locate loved ones in Jaffna due to current situation. The Dialog mobile phones are not working in Jaffna peninsula since Saturday Aug 12th, morning. Land lines are not working either, except for a few in the town area. If unable to reach the main number, dial 00 94 114799776- Sooriyan FM Newsroom, and leave the details.

All the commercial flights to Jaffna have been cancelled from Saturday. A9-Jaffna-Kandy highway is closed from Muhamalai to Omanthai. Nobody is allowed to travel, except for the Government officers to travel during certain hours.

There is no power in Jaffna since Saturday, Aug 12th.



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“If Nadodi Mannan becomes a hit I will be a king”



Makkal Thilagam MGR in his 1957 super hit 'Nadodi Mannan', now re-released all over Tamil Nadu, is a huge crowd-puller.

This quote of one of the legends of Indian commercial cinema, late Tamil actor M G Ramachandran, who still lives in the hearts of his innumerable fans is not apocryphal.

When he made one of his several box-office hits of the folklore genre, "Nadodi Mannan" in 1957, MGR had said, "If Nadodi Mannan becomes a hit I will be a king, if it flops I will be wandering in

the streets like a nomad" The evergreen MGR- for the first time in double role in Nadodi Mannan, was directed by himself.

The film indeed became a big hit, and MGR became the Chief Minister. 'Nadodi Mannan' was released in five theatres in and around Chennai. All the theatres reported houseful shows for the past fortnight, prompting them to run the movie for another two weeks, film industry sources and news reports say.

What's more, distributors holding the rights are also contemplating to release another of MGR's mega hits 'Adimai Penn', also written and directed by the late matinee idol.

Likewise, another old film 'Parasakthi', which is also starring Sivaji Ganesan may also be released. Surely, even in death, the great matinee idol he was, MGR is giving the current films, a run for the money!

Enthused by the success, several producers are planning to release afresh other films of MGR and his contemporary Sivaji Ganesan. Efforts are on to release the sociological satire 'Parasakthi', penned by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi, starring Sivaji Ganesan.

Top Bollywood heroine in next Kamal film



Mallika Sherawat

has been signed to play one of the leads in a Tamil film titled Dasavaharam starring Kamal Hassan. The film will have

Kamal Hassan playing 10 different roles. The film also stars popular south Indian actress Asin. The movie is being produced by Oscar Ravichandran. Mallika will be seen playing a grey character in the film, who masterminds conspiracies leading to conflicts.

Some of the Bollywood girls gave a not so easy time to Kamal Hassan. Tabu who had worked with him Chachi 420 agreed verbally do a film and then refused to take his calls.

Kamal laughs about it, "I'd rather not think about the hard times. I've no clue why some of these heroines have been hard on me. But Mallika was a delight. She called to take an appointment.

In an interview to The Hindu Mallika said, "Today I am approached by all kinds of people," in an obvious reference to having managed to attain the top slot. But more that that are her provocative statements that

have got feminists hot under their collars. Not one to give a damn, Sherawat is only too happy to be the cynosure of all eyes. Proclaims the star, "This is only the beginning. I'm going to give my roles everything they demand. I just love it."

Some Bollywood circles describe Mallika Sherawat is bigger than Aishwarya Rai in the Hindi film trade. The consensus is that Mallika is a bigger draw at the box-office than Ash, as all her films have been successful.



Happy script indeed for 'em

It is the perfect script. A young and extremely beautiful couple. One a robust and handsome man. The other a vivacious and chirpy woman. Both at the peak of their profession. Both quiet and dignified in their own sort of way. They fall in love. But will they marry? Or will it be a fling for fun?

Well, as we said this story is one with a happy ending and the duo is indeed set to get married.

We are talking about Suriya and Jothika, the beautiful couple in reference here. The two will get married on September 11.



The official word came from Sivakumar, Suriya's father himself recently.

With typical brevity, Sivakumar, said in the press release cum invite: 'With profound happiness, we inform you the marriage of our eldest son Mr Suriya with Miss Jothika daughter of Mrs & Mr Chander Sadanah on Monday September 11, 2006'.

The brief note, however, did not specify where the marriage will be solemnized. But a gala reception is slated for 12 September at the Mayor Sri Ramanathan Chettiyar Centre, R A Puram.

The official announcement will hopefully bring the curtains down on the biggest guessing game that was on in the industry for a long, long time.

The happy couple flew back from Switzerland, before you let your imagination run wild, it should be clarified that they were out for the shoot of a song in the their latest film (appropriately) titled Sillunu Oru

Kadhal.

The Suriya-Jothika romance is the stuff of modern-day Kollywood lore. It has been steady but a easy affair as the two started almost together with the movie Poovellam Kettupaar about half-a-decades ago.

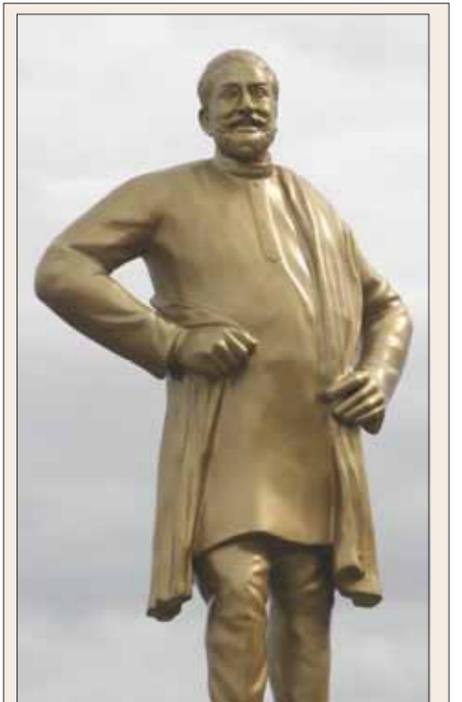
Then followed a slew of films like Uyirile Kalandhadhu, Kakka, Kakka, Perazhagan, June R and Mayavi.

Acknowledged as the hottest pair in Kollywood, they share a good on-screen chemistry. As it is now confirmed, the chemistry was off it, too.

On several occasions before, taking part in public functions, both acknowledged each other's contributions in their successful career in filmdom.

In the last few months, the talk of Suriya's impending wedding with Jothika became more insistent as the actress had reportedly started to cut down on her assignments. Famously, she opted out of director Selvaraghavan's Telugu film.

Now that the marriage is announced, only the other fairy-tale idea is left ? living happily ever after, that is. [newstoday.net]



Statue of Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan recently opened by Tamilnadu Chief Minister Mu. Karunanidhi at Marina Beach in Chennai. Our own photographer from Toronto (Ken Photo) captured this during his recent visit to Chennai.



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Review

Reflections 2005

(Jaffna College Jubilee Publication)

By: S. Raymond Rajabalan B.Sc (Hons) Cey

Recently I had the privilege of receiving a copy of the Jubilee souvenir of Jaffna College with a request to review it. Pausing for a moment, I hesitatingly agreed knowing very

Well that it was going to be an uphill task to attempt to review the great historical account of my alma mater.

At first, I was mesmerized by the elegantly designed cover illustrated with variety of views of the college buildings attractively juxtaposed together with the beautiful photograph of a Palmyra grove. When I flipped opened the cover, little did I realize that I was about to wade through a goldmine of informative articles authored by distinguished old students.

Aptly titled REFLECTIONS 2005, this souvenir has really done justice in capturing the salient events associated with Jaffna College in the early 20th century. When I began to go through the articles, I became so absorbed that a variety of pleasant memories of my student days at this hallowed institution began to flood my mind.

Reflections 2005 marks the 125th year of publication of the College magazine **Miscellany**, is choc-full of interesting but little known facets of some of the academic colossal who shaped this prestigious college and consequently the future of the thousands of students who had the opportunity of having their education in this great institution.

While the souvenir is dedicated to **Rev. Sydney K Bunker** and **Mr. K.A. Selliah**, yet this colorful publication has not failed to mention the services provided by the administrative and service staff. The collective efforts of every one of them effectively complemented

the efforts of Rev. Bunker and Mr. Selliah and contributed to the success and fame of the college.

This great publication is interspersed with a myriad of anecdotes, snippets and vignettes that reflect the lighter side of these men who served the college with unfailing loyalty and unflinching dedication. Footnotes beneath every article are a unique feature of this souvenir and certainly has added much greater value to them.

When I became aware of those who were responsible for compiling all these valuable information, it became obvious to me as how this masterpiece was crafted so well. The co-authors of the publication, Satha Wijayanayagam (Editor) and Karuna Wijayanayagam (Associate Editor) had spared no efforts

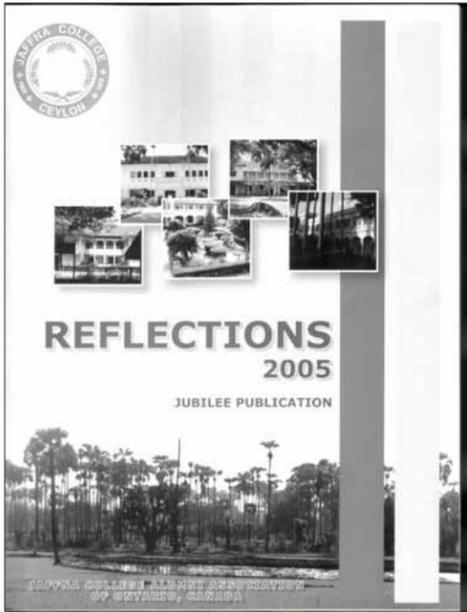
in collecting and compiling the valuable data needed for such a memorable publication. It must have been a Herculean task to gather such editorial content spread over a long period of time from different sources. They have been ably assisted by a veteran journalist Siva Sivapragasam, former journalist of the Ceylon Daily News and marketing manager of the Tamil newspaper "Virakesari". He had made the best use of his journalistic expertise and encyclopedic knowledge to produce this excellent publication.. Graphic experts Gname Gnanendran of Digital Touch and Myuran Ramachandran of Mr. Creations along with scores of others who worked behind the scenes have contributed their talent in making the Publication both colorful and easily

readable. The authors, Mr. Siva and their talented team deserve a lifetime achievement for doing such a great job.

Every alumni of Jaffna College will certainly treasure this souvenir not only for their reading pleasure but also to hand it over to the future generation so that they too will understand and appreciate the services of the great scholars of the yester years.

In my opinion, this souvenir has succeeded in artfully combining history and facts taking extreme care not to dilute the achievements of all who toiled to shape the destiny of this college during the regime of Rev. Bunker and Mr. Selliah.

In closing, I wish to quote the words from the president of the old boys that '**this is not a souvenir but a miniature history book of Jaffna College that should be treated as a memento.**' Copies of the Publication are available with Mr. Karuna Wijayanayagam – (Treasurer of the J/C Alumni- Toronto) who could be reached at 416 332 1026.



SAI BAJAN FOR WORLD PEACE



12 Hours Sai Baba's Bajan was grandly celebrated by the Markham and Kingston Devotional group with the help of Toronto East Region Bajan Groups at Markham and Kingston Community Village Hall for World Peace. We are thanking the devotees who has participated in all occasions.

Photo by :Photo Pro Camal - (416)-269-1612)

YALINI'S BHARATHANATYA ARANGETRAM AT TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

It was on 29th July 2006, Saturday evening, at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, that Yalini, daughter of Rajakulasingham (Babu) and Manimekalai rendered her maiden performance (*Arangetram*). Sweet and suave young Yalini has kept the audience spellbound for almost four hours. A representative gathering of over 1500 guests from the Tamil community in Canada, had filled out every nook and cranny of the auditorium.

Yalini's brilliant performance was the fruit of her Guru's labour. Nattuvangam and choreography by her Guru Ms. Nirainjana Chantru have chiselled, defined and perfected Yalini's presentation. Her Guru has imaginatively blended the dance forms and the musical systems.

Yalini's dance recital commenced with *Pushpanjali*, floral tribute and continued through *Alarippu*, *Jatheeswaram*, *Navarasam*, *Padavarnam*, *Keerthanam*, *Padam*, in that order. The sequence of the process was as if evolving a theme, step by step. Until the debutant started with *Padavarnam*, it was a pattern of fast-paced movement. The theme that is in the repertoire of *Padavarnam* depicted a drama with a narrative flow. If rounds of applause are any indicators, evidently, *Alarippu*, *Navarasam*, *Jatheeswaram* and *Thillana* have topped the list and captured the fascinated attention of the audience. *Mangalam*, the last piece has concluded the performance on an auspicious note.

Compere Sutharshan Duraiappah

(Master of the Ceremony) is a maestro, who has mastered and perfected the art. One cannot help but believe that he is made-to-measure for the role. His knowledge and manner of articulation are amazing.

Sri Y. Yadavan, a young musician has provided the vocal support. Yadavan is the scion of a reputed family in Jaffna. His mother Thiripurasundari Yoganathan is a well-known Barathanatyam dance teacher and his maternal uncle Ram Cumarasamy is a renowned Carnatic musician. Incidentally, I understand that, Yalini's mother Manimekalai herself had, decades ago, learnt Bharatha Natyam under Thirupurasundari. Given his background, no wonder that some people among the audience mistook him for the Carnatic musician Unnikrishnan.

Other members of the orchestra included Bangalore S.V. Balakrishna (Mridangam), Thanathevi Mithratheva (Violin) and Kalyani Sutharsan (Veena).

Mr. Thol. Thirumavalavan, from Tamil Nadu, was the Chief Guest and Rev. Fr. Chandrakanthan and Musician Pon. Sundaralingam were the other guests of Honour.

While congratulating Yalini for her flawless performance which was a rewarding experience for the spectators, her parents and Guru also deserve to be congratulated for their motivation and commitment.

- Nava

(Photos on Page 2)



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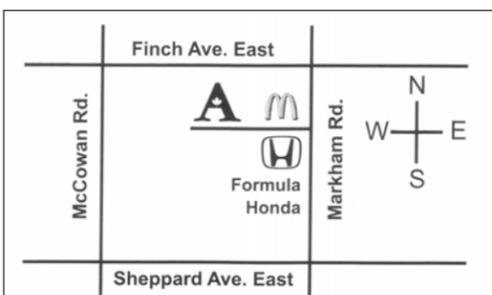
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South Africa returns home without playing in Sri Lanka

South African cricket team is flying home from the triangular one-day series in Sri Lanka after the fatal bombing in Colombo on Monday, August 14th. The decision was made after an independent security review said the team's safety could not be guaranteed following Monday's blast.

According to a BBC online report, South Africa Cricket chief executive Gerald Majola said the risk to the team was at an "unacceptable level". Majola added: "The report says there is a real situational threat to the team. The Sri Lankan Government is unable to

guarantee the physical security of the team given the current security situation in Colombo."

"South Africa has told us they want to pull out. It is unfortunate but true," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) media manager Samantha Algama told.

A South African source said earlier: "The players are in no mood to play the series. We are just waiting for the green signal to fly home."

India decided not to cancel their tour following increased security and positive indications from New Delhi's diplomatic mission.

A salute to Loganathan

By Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu

For almost three decades, Kethesh Loganathan worked for a just and democratic Sri Lanka in which the rights and aspirations of all its peoples would be protected and advanced. His slaying is a terrible loss to that cause and whilst we mourn his death, it is now more important than ever that we reaffirm the values he represented in his life and work. In honour of his memory, this column reproduces the statement released by the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) on his murder.

Kethesh Loganathan was a valued colleague, a former director of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and the first head of its Peace and Conflict Studies Unit. He was a passionate advocate of human rights, an unflinching champion of the rights of the Tamil people and of an end to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka with democracy, justice and dignity for all.

For power sharing

CPA condemns his murder and extends our sincere condolences to his widow Bhavani and members of his family for their and our tragic loss. Whilst Kethesh was an ardent and proud nationalist, he brought the same fervour, passion and commitment to the cause of unity in diversity, multi-culturalism and a settlement of the ethnic conflict based on meaningful power sharing. He uncompromisingly believed that the liberation of a people could not be founded on fear, the celebration of death, the negation or even suspension of basic democratic values. This made him a stringent and fearless critic of the LTTE for their insistence on being the sole representatives of the Tamil people and for their reliance on terror, repression and violence.

Kethesh never failed to criticise successive governments of Sri Lanka for their espousal of majoritarian democracy and insensitivity to the rights and aspirations of all the people who inhabit our island. As he believed in the liberation of the Tamil people



through the espousal of democratic values, he believed in the reform of the state through a social contract based on human dignity and mutual self respect.

Killers

Whilst the identity of his killers has not been established and no single organisation or actor has the monopoly of political killing in the current climate of division and violence in our country, the LTTE's record of assassinations of political opponents and Kethesh's public profile as one of their most trenchant critics, invariably marks them out as prime suspects.

We call on the LTTE to refute this by unequivocally condemning his murder. We call on the Government of Sri Lanka to conduct a speedy and impartial investigation into Kethesh's murder and to ensure that the perpetrators are apprehended and brought to justice.

His killers have senselessly taken a life. They have not destroyed the values that life championed and upheld. Those values live on and will be enshrined in a peace settlement with justice and democracy for all.

Kethesh we salute you, for your courage, independence and integrity, passion and commitment in the advancement of this cause.

[The Morning Leader]

Jaffna under curfew, food shortage looming

The Sri Lankan government clamped down continuous curfew in Jaffna on Wednesday August 16th. The curfew was lifted for three hours on Tuesday but not lifted at all on Wednesday. People are unable to bring the injured civilians from areas around where there has been severe fighting recently such as Mandaithhevu, etc to Jaffna hospital, according to NGO sources.

Nearly 50,000 people have sought sanctuary already in churches in the Jaffna area fearing for their safety. Jaffna Government Agent S.Ganesh has requested the Government of Sri Lanka to send 5,000 metric tons of essential items to the peninsula. The stock in hand will last only for a week according to Jaffna Trader's Federation.

Obituary

Death of Principal of St. John's College Jaffna



Mr N.S. Thanapalan, principal of St. John's college Jaffna passed away in Jaffna on Tuesday 15th August after suffering from a brief illness. The funeral will take place in Jaffna on Thursday 17th August.

Mr Thanapalan's entire life was at St. John's as a student, teacher, Vice Principal, and Principal. He served as Principal for 14 years.

His tenure as Principal was during most difficult time of civil war, height of disturbances and uncertainty in Jaffna. He overcame all challenges and brought fame and pride to his school.

Sir, we salute you for your courage, dedication, handwork, sincerity and loyalty towards your Alma Mater.

By Old boys of St John's college Jaffna Canada

Send MPs' team to Sri Lanka: Vaiko to PM

Tiruchirappalli, Aug. 16, Describing as "a total lie" the Sri Lankan Government's statement that the air-strike which killed many children only targeted an LTTE training camp, MDMK leader Vaiko wanted Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to send a delegation of MPs from India to find out the fact and situation in the neighbouring country.

The UNICEF team and the peace monitoring committee had come out with statements that the air-strike was on a school and innocent children had been killed, he told reporters here.

The Sri Lankan Army had also killed

the family of a doctor who was helping the Tamils and treating them, he charged.

Vaiko said he had discussed the Sri Lankan Tamils problem with the Prime Minister and he had agreed to consider his request to send an MPs team to Sri Lanka favourably.

The Prime Minister could also invite a Sri Lankan Tamil MPs delegation and know about the ground realities.

While the Indian Government could help the Norwegian peace process, it should not help the island nation government in any manner, he said. [PTI]



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UNHCR: Heavy fighting causes more displacement

Aug 15: Continued heavy fighting in the north and east of Sri Lanka has sent several thousand more civilians fleeing their homes in search of safety in the last few days. Freedom of movement is heavily restricted in many areas, making it difficult both for civilians to move and for us to deliver much needed aid to them.

Since April we have recorded 128,850 people newly displaced within Sri Lanka, including more than 50,000 who fled since the flare-up of violence in Muttur and its surrounding areas in Trincomalee District on 3 August. A further 6,672 Sri Lankans have become refugees in Tamil Nadu in India since the beginning of the year.

For the last few days, because of strict local curfews, civilians in the northern Jaffna District have not been able to travel long distances to safer areas, but have been moving a short distance away from the coast to avoid the worst of the fighting. However, thousands of families are still trapped on the islands off Jaffna Peninsula and are unable to move freely.

UNHCR, together with other UN agencies, is preparing an assessment mission to Jaffna District to see exactly what people's needs are. Our offices are ready to distribute emergency packs, additional water jerry cans, water bladders and lanterns if required.

Many of the people who could get out of Jaffna District have begun making their way south to Killinochchi District,

an area controlled by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE or the Tamil Tigers, as they are commonly known), where the displaced are being assisted in schools and other communal centres.

While air strikes in Batticaloa District have hindered access to many affected areas UNHCR, ICRC and other partners have worked closely with the military and local authorities to secure safe passage to the LTTE-controlled area of Vaharai Division. This much-needed positive development allowed agencies last Friday (11 August) to deliver truckloads of food and medicine to civilians affected by the fighting. The next day, further food and water supplies were permitted into the area, as well as tarpaulins, hygiene items and jerry cans provided by UNHCR.

Access to Muttur and Eachchilampattu in Trincomalee District is still blocked. We and our partners are deeply concerned about the well-being of those still trapped in these areas, estimated to number around 15,000.

Meanwhile, resources in Kantale – a small town to the south of Trincomalee which has received many of the district's 50,000-plus displaced people – are coming under enormous strain. Local authorities are searching for new sites to accommodate the newly displaced and decongest the overcrowded communal shelters, where fears for health and sanitation remain high. [UNHCR News]

CPI condemns killing of schoolchildren in Sri Lanka

The Communist Party of India has condemned the killing of 61 school girls in strikes by Sri Lankan Air Force jets in Mullaitivu village on Monday, Aug 14th and demanded immediate resumption of ceasefire.

"It is outrageous. Targeting children and killing children is the most horrendous crime and is against all norms of any military conflict," CPI National Secretary D Raja said in his

reaction.

The situation in Sri Lanka was heading for a full-scale conflict in which the main sufferers were civilians, particularly women and children, in the Tamil areas, he said.

Raja demanded that the ceasefire agreement between the government and the LTTE must be honoured by both the sides and they should immediately resume peace talks. [PTI]



Canadian Tamils in Toronto on Aug 15, 2006

NGOs wary after Sri Lanka slayings

Swiss aid agencies in Sri Lanka have expressed concern following the shooting of 17 workers of a French relief organisation at the weekend.

Some projects have been disrupted or postponed in the worst affected areas of the country, but NGOs have vowed not to withdraw despite a steady escalation in violence between government troops and Tamil rebels.



This is the first time NGO staff have been targeted in the growing conflict

The murder of 17 Action Against Hunger workers is the first time NGO staff have been targeted in the growing conflict and has provoked widespread condemnation.

On Sunday, 15 of the victims were found shot at close range in the Sri Lankan town of Mutur and two others were discovered on Tuesday. Mutur is close to a flashpoint area in the northeastern district of Trincomalee that has seen recent fighting to gain control of a reservoir.

"Our staff are quite afraid at the moment because there has never been a violent incident like this against NGOs," Terre des Hommes Switzerland spokeswoman Anja Bouerdick told swissinfo.

"In some areas we have had to stop our activities and re-evaluate because it is too dangerous - we put the security of our staff first.

"But we will not simply go away because we know the situation can change quite rapidly. We prefer to hibernate in these areas and wait for the situation to calm down."

Lausanne-based Terre des Hommes

Switzerland has some 200 workers, including 12 expatriate staff, and a further 100 volunteers in the Ampara and Batticaloa provinces of Sri Lanka.

A mother-and-child health programme has been forced to stop temporarily, while work at a social centre for children has been disrupted.

Security

Zurich-based NGO Swiss Labour Assistance has hired a security officer to safeguard its 70 staff in the country, but conducts its operations away from the trouble spots.

"If we see military aircraft in the skies then we call our people back from the field. This has only happened once in the past ten days," said spokeswoman Ruth Dällenbach.

"Our security officer has had morning briefings with UN and Red Cross officials since the tensions began. But the latest violence has not had a direct impact on our work in this region."

Violence has been escalating since April of this year despite both sides declaring their respect for a 2002 peace deal during February talks in Geneva.

Swiss government

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) – a government organisation – has been active in Sri Lanka for many years trying to promote peace. Activities were stepped up following the devastating tsunami in December 2004.

SDC spokesman Jean-Philippe Jutzi told swissinfo that the latest bloodshed would have no immediate material effect on the way its staff conduct their work.

"We had very strict security regulations in place even before these murders and they will stay in place," he said.

"All transport and placement of staff has been kept to a strict minimum in Trincomalee for weeks. But, of course such a crime has consequences because we now have to be even more careful." [swissinfo, Matthew Allen]

Canadian Tamils protest against the killing of school children...

Canadian Tamils staged protests in Toronto and Ottawa against the killing of school children in Mullaitivu when Sri Lankan Air-force jets bombed a building where school children had gathered to follow a training course in First-Aid. In Toronto several hundreds of persons from all walks of life staged

a twelve – hour fasting campaign to demonstrate their protest against the killing. Several speakers denounced the incident and called upon the international community and U.N. affiliated agencies to voice their protests to the Sri Lankan Government and take steps to put an end to such barbaric acts.



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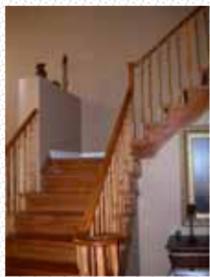
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Saturday, Aug 19, 2006: 2-5 p.m.

Sunday, Aug 20, 2006: 2-5 p.m.



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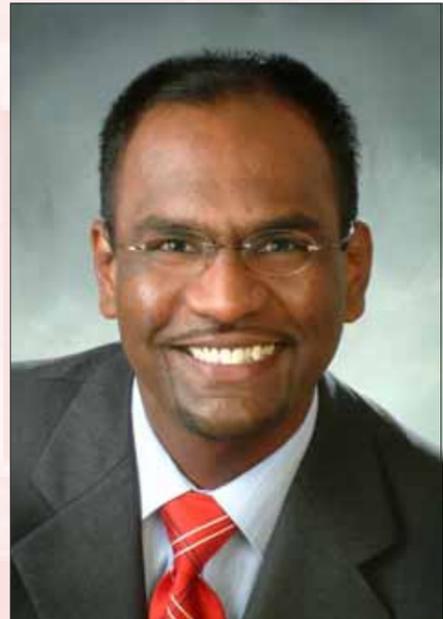
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