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Monsoon Journal

A parfaits media publication

VOL3

ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2008

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Ten Million Dollar New Funding for newcomers to Canada

**Immigration Minister makes
funding announcement for
Scarborough at opening of New
Settlement Service Center**

by Krishni Loganathan

A more than Ten Million Dollar funding will be made available towards providing essential settlement services necessary for a successful life for newcomers to Canada from the Scarborough area.

The above funding announcement was made by the Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration when she formally opened a new Settlement Service Center in Scarborough last week. The services include language training for students, referrals to community resources, and general information and employment related services to new comers. At a largely attended meeting of the Media and members of the new Settlement Center, Ms. Finley spelt out details of the new funding program.

In her speech to the Media, she remarked that "Canada believes in immigration and is committed to helping newcomers and their families succeed". She stated that the new funding of more than ten million

dollars will help new comers in Scarborough to integrate in Canada and help provide them a better life. The funds are being provided to a number of organizations that serve new comers. The new Immigrant Resource Centre will be one of the many places in the community where newcomers can get help they need to begin the process of building their new life in Canada, including learning one of the official languages, finding a job and settling into the community. The 2008 Budget also introduced changes to modernize the immigration system and to shorten the time it takes to bring new comers and their families to Canada.

Officials of the new Settlement Center were also associated with the Minister at the Media meeting. Two recent newcomers to Canada shared their experiences in Canada with the audience and stated how they built a successful life in the great country called Canada.



Canada's Immigration & Citizenship Minister Diane Finley displays to the audience the July issue of "Monsoon Journal" featuring Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the opening of the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Calgary, standing next to Finley is Siva Sivapragasam, Chief Editor of "Monsoon Journal", who presented the publication to the Hon. Minister.

Photographer: Ian Crysler

Maheisha Ravendra displays a dazzling performance in her Bharatanatyam Aranagetram



Maheisha Ravendra receiving her graduation diploma from Tiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam and her Guru Sureka Radhakrishnan. See Page 33 for more photos

Photo by S.G Shankar

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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2007-2008



Serving a community of close to one million people or approximately one-third of the GTA, The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) is Canada's largest urban community hospital. TSH has 3,700 staff, more than 700 physicians, and 800 volunteers working in two hospital sites and six satellites. The hospital provides a diverse range of services across nine patient care areas:

- Cardio-Respiratory & Critical Care
- Medicine & Specialized Geriatrics
- Emergency & Urgent Care
- Family Medicine & Community Services
- Surgery
- Maternal Newborn & Child Care Medicine
- Mental Health Services
- Nephrology & Dialysis
- Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation

In addition to providing a range of community-based health-care services, The Scarborough Hospital is a regional centre of excellence for dialysis, family maternity services, vascular surgery, pacemakers, corneal implants, sexual assault care and community-based mental health and crisis programs. TSH serves a diverse community and last year provided services in 48 different languages.

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Grace campus
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M1W 3W3
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www.tsh.to

A year of challenge... a year of change

This past year, 2007/08, will be remembered as one of the most challenging in the history of The Scarborough Hospital.

In July 2007, The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care appointed a Supervisor for The Scarborough Hospital following a series of court challenges involving the Board and members of the community.

The role of a Supervisor is to assume full responsibilities of the Board that governs the hospital, the hospital corporation and its officers. In taking on this role, it quickly became apparent that in addition to the governance issues, the Supervisor needed to deal with some other pressing issues.

This Report to the Community highlights some recent achievements at The Scarborough Hospital, as well as a number of important milestones to come. If you would like to learn more about the hospital, please visit our website (www.tsh.to) and sign up for our community newsletter.

HSMR third quarter results show dramatic improvement

The latest hospital standardized mortality ratio data shows The Scarborough Hospital's ratio has improved dramatically since the data was first made public last fall.

In November 2007, when the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) publicly released Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR) data for the first time, The Scarborough Hospital was one of the worst performers in the GTA with an overall ratio of 125. Today, that ratio is 70.

"If that data was released today, The Scarborough Hospital would be among the best performers in the country," explains Dr. John Wright, Interim CEO. "I fully expect The Scarborough Hospital will be the most improved hospital when CIHI releases the data again next fall."

The latest HSMR data for The Scarborough Hospital has been posted on the hospital's website at www.tsh.to.

Final report on community consultations released

Over 1,000 people participated in a comprehensive community consultation process to provide input on governance structure and priorities for the new Board of Directors.

The process, which was initiated by TSH Supervisor Rob Devitt, was intended to give community members an opportunity to provide input on future directions.

"We're very pleased with the participation level," explains Devitt. "The community has given TSH some

strong direction for the future and we intend to honour that."

The full community consultation report is posted on the hospital's website (www.tsh.to/accountability.aspx) under "Report on the Community Engagement Process."

Emergency and Critical Care Centre nears completion

Construction work on the new Emergency and Critical Care Centre (ECCC) at TSH is now more than 90 per cent complete, and we expect to fully open the new facility in early 2009. The ECCC will provide our patients, physicians and staff with a larger, modern Emergency Department designed to better accommodate the more than 90,000 emergency visits we receive each year.

Along with the Emergency Department, the new wing will include a new Intensive Care Unit/Coronary Care Unit and a new satellite Diagnostic Imaging area.



Community newsletter— a way to keep informed

In the coming weeks and months, there will be many new developments at The Scarborough Hospital, including a new Board of Directors, bylaws, a permanent CEO and an announcement regarding new programs and services. To get all the latest news, sign up for our electronic community newsletter at www.tsh.to



*Data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) Hospital Performance Report, 2006-07. The Scarborough Hospital's overall HSMR was 125.0. The average for Ontario hospitals was 100.0. The average for all Canadian hospitals was 97.0.

**Data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) Hospital Performance Report, 2007-08. The Scarborough Hospital's overall HSMR was 70.0. The average for Ontario hospitals was 97.0. The average for all Canadian hospitals was 97.0.

***Data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) Hospital Performance Report, 2007-08. The Scarborough Hospital's overall HSMR was 70.0. The average for Ontario hospitals was 97.0. The average for all Canadian hospitals was 97.0.

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Canada Newsline

Statement on Liberal partisanship surrounding the Komagata Maru apology

"On Sunday, Aug 3rd, Prime Minister Harper delivered a sincere apology for the Komagata Maru incident.

This moment of solemnity and commemoration was interrupted, however, by the activities of Jaswinder Toor, who took to the stage and tried to reject the apology on behalf of all Indo-Canadians.

But Mr Toor is no ordinary, non-partisan observer, and he certainly doesn't speak for his entire community. In 2004, he sought the Liberal nomination in Fleetwood-Port Kells, and was a Liberal riding president. Why would a partisan Liberal try to sabotage a Komagata Maru apology? Maybe because Mr Toor is embarrassed that for thirteen years-including when he sought the Liberal nomination-Liberals were refusing to apologise for the



Komagata Maru incident.

Liberal leader Stephane Dion needs today to assure Indo-Canadians that none of his party activists or MPs had advanced knowledge of Mr Toor's PR stunt, and condemn the disruptive, partisan actions of Mr Toor immediately."

Statement by the Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity)

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death of more than a hundred Indians attending a religious festival.

During this time of mourning, our Conservative government offers its condolences to the families of the deceased, both in Canada and in India.

They are in our prayers."



Canada funds Dairy Farmers Milk Collection Centre in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

A new milk collection facility will be open on 23 rd July, 2008 in Trincomalee in order to support rural dairy farmers in the district. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded World Concern Sri Lanka to build the centre at Uppuvelli, Trincomalee enabling dairy farmers along the Kuchchaveli coast to supply direct to the domestic market. MILCO, who own Highland milk products, will run the centre transporting milk daily to their upcountry processing plant. The centre can hold 3,000 litres in chilled milk at present and has the capacity to expand to 5,000 litres in future.

Representatives from the Department of Animal Production & Health, MILCO, the District/Divisional Secretariat and CIDA are expected to attend the

opening which marks a turning point for Trincomalee's dairy farming community. It has been over three years since farmers had a regular buyer for their milk. With powdered milk prices now at record highs, demand for fresh milk is increasing and both Nestle and MILCO are actively soliciting farmers in the district. Farmers can now make between Rs. 32 and Rs. 35 per litre, providing much needed income as they rebuild their lives after many years of economic hardship.

The Trincomalee facility is one of two MILCO run regional facilities built by World Concern Sri Lanka, an International NGO ? the other having recently opened at Vellavely in Batticaloa. CIDA and World Concern also built three smaller Community Chilling Centres with 500 and 1000 litre

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO PARTNER ON PAN AMERICAN GAMES BID

Joint funding commitment ensures Greater Golden Horseshoe Area will have competitive bid for prestigious international sporting event

OTTAWA - The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have agreed to partner in supporting the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area's bid for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games.

"The Greater Golden Horseshoe has a well-deserved reputation for being able to host major international events," said Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "By working together to bring the Pan/Parapan American Games to Southern Ontario, we are also bringing an economic boost to the province and shining a spotlight

on Canada 's outstanding athletes and fans."

"I'm very proud to make the case for hosting the Pan/Parapan American Games and we're pleased to have the support of the federal government. We're committed to working closely with local communities to put forward a strong proposal that highlights our diversity, enthusiastic sports fans and friendly people," said Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Investing in the Pan/Parapan American Games will provide the Greater Golden Horseshoe with a lasting legacy of new and improved athletic facilities that will help people engage in healthier, active living.

Premier McGuinty will travel to

the Beijing Olympics from August 13 to 15 to launch the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area's bid to host the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games.

QUICK FACTS

" The Pan/Parapan American Games are held every four years for competitors from all nations of the 42 countries of the Americas

" The Pan American Games could generate close to \$2 billion in economic activity, create 17,000 jobs and bring an estimated 250,000 tourists to the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

" In 2007, the Pan/Parapan American Games were held in Rio de Janeiro , Brazil . Over 5,000 athletes took part.

"Additional Immigration Staff needed at Canadian High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka to deal with Application Backlog"

Statement by the Honourable Jim Karygiannis, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt, July 18, 2008:

The internal situation in Sri Lanka is rapidly deteriorating. Innocent people are being killed. At the same time, immigration application processing times have increased by over twenty percent - it is taking up to three years to re-unite spouses.

The Conservative Government listed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a terrorist organization on April 8, 2006. Since then, the Harper Government has taken an oppressive approach to immigration applications from Tamil Sri Lankans. The listing of the World Tamil Movement (WTM) as a terrorist organization will only compound this problem.

Canada must make every effort to ensure that all the necessary security precautions are taken when assessing immigration applications. However, applicants from Sri Lanka are undergoing extraordinary background checks, which are taking an abnormal length of time; this has tanks through which farmers societies can keep their milk cold before transporting it to the regional centres.

Over the 15 month project World Concern Sri Lanka has supporting 580 farmers with technical training, the purchase of cows, micro credit facilities, insurance services and the provision of milk cans and cattle sheds ? all designed to improve the farmers productivity and to raise rural incomes. Ian McInnes - Country Director for World Concern Sri

increased wait times. Spousal sponsorships are mandated, by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, to be finalized within six to eight months; spousal applications from Sri Lanka are taking up to three years.

People are undergoing two or three interviews in order to be able to immigrate to Canada and join their families. In order to meet the Department mandated Standards of Operation, the High Commission in Colombo should be provided with additional staff in order that this 'need' for increased security does not increase wait times.

Canada does not deport those seeking refuge from countries which are being torn by apart by war. Unfortunately, the Harper Government is ignoring this time honoured tradition and is deporting people to Sri Lanka. The Harper Government is knowingly putting these people in harm's way.

Prior to the House of Commons rising for its summer break, Mr. Karygiannis introduced a Motion at the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration



and Immigration should immediately stop all deportations to Sri Lanka until the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration has completed its review and tabled a report, detailing the Committee's findings, in the House of Commons.

collection facilities in disrepair and that they have no access to a regular milk run. Once the cattle are reclaimed or new cows are purchased, the problem of replacing the milk run is easily solved as long as the chilled collection facilities can be rebuilt".

This project was possible thanks to a contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency.

Author: Ian McInnes, Country Director, World Concern Sri Lanka

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"When the flower blooms, the bees
come uninvited."
Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa

(1836 - 1886)

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From the Publisher's Desk ...

Remembering children around the world as 'back to school' approaches...

The ceremonial back-to-school rituals are in full swing - shopping for new clothes, book bags and school supplies.

Unfortunately, several kids around the world do not have this joy in their school lives.

On this eve if the beginning of the new school year and the upcoming International Literacy Day on September 8th, The Monsoon Journal joins the world humanitarian community in calling to address the needs of these children.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has set 6 goals towards, aiming to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015. They are Expand early childhood care

and education, Provide free and compulsory primary education for all, Promote learning and life skills for young people and adults, Increase adult literacy by 50 per cent, Achieve gender parity by 2005, gender equality by 2015 and Improve the quality of education.

The World Bank and its partners have called attention to the fact that despite tremendous gains in literacy in recent years, much remains to be done to ensure that people around the world, especially the poor, have access to basic education and lifelong learning opportunities.

While noble goals have been set, other progress made over the years are being lost to war and other politically related situations.

For example, Sri Lanka ranks high in many overall literacy rates among developing nations. However, significant sections of Sri Lanka's population face severe disparity within the country due to the ongoing war and government neglect in the North and East of the country. Displaced children attend school in crowded substitute locations. In the North, children do not attend school for fear of aerial bombings, recent news reports from Sri Lanka said.

Another group, children in central Sri Lanka's tea plantations also faces uphill difficulties in achieving full literacy and education levels. Sri Lanka's tea plantation areas are mostly populated by Tamils. These Tamils were disenfranchised in 1948 by Sri Lanka

which resulted in their political isolation and deprived them of the enjoyment of their fundamental rights. For these and other historical reasons, 'education' has never been the part of the culture of these people.

Several children of these areas in Sri Lanka live with malnutrition as well, according to a recent UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report.

Putting a premium on literacy and education of all children is a moral imperative.

The world powers and international organizations must address literacy and education continuously, but in the meantime not allow the gains to be lost either due to manmade disasters.

Letters to the Editor & Opinions

August 14, Pakistan Independence Day: a time to pay tribute to the freedom fighters

Independence Day reminds us the unforgettable contributions of our great leaders of Pakistan Movement who devoted their lives for acquiring an independent state where Muslims of Indo-pak subcontinent could live freely.

A prominent worker of Pakistan Movement Muhammad Khan Naqshbandi while sharing his experiences in an interview with APP told that one of the striking features of the Pakistan Movement was that the Muslims of undivided India achieved their cherished goal of acquiring an independent Islamic state within a short span of seven years.

Pakistan Movement was started in 1940, with the passage of the Lahore resolution, at the All India Muslim League's session in Lahore and Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947.

No Independence Movement during the last 2 or 3 centuries was achieved in such a short period and that too without any war or aggression, he said.

Naqshbandi said that the Muslim students in length and breadth of undivided India played a unique role in Pakistan Movement.

These students can be rightly called as the reign

guard of Pakistan Movement.

The basic objective of the establishment of Pakistan after achievement, he elaborated, was to set up an Islamic, democratic and a welfare state.

Youth must play its role in achieving these objectives through concrete efforts for setting up a social welfare state.

This is the real time, he said, for reviving the spirit of Pakistan Movement through forging unity, faith and discipline among the people living in various parts of the country as was witnessed during the freedom struggle.

It is to be noted that M K Naqshbandi was awarded a Tehreek-e-Pakistan Gold Medal on August 14, 1989 for his contribution to achieve the objectives of Muslims of Indo-Pak Subcontinent and would be looked with great reverence.

He was also awarded "Quaid-e-Azam Award" on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebrations by Quaid-e-Azam Welfare Society to commemorate his services in Pakistan movement.

M.K Naqshbandi is a veteran journalist retired from Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), National news Agency after performing 40 years of services.

Urgent Help for Kidney Transplantation

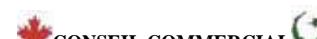
Mr.Nadarasa Sivanesan (42) of Monthipulam, Karainagar has been residing in Tricomalee, father of four school going children has been suffering very much as his both kidneys have been inactive. He could only be recovered by 'Kidney Transplantation'. To cover the cost of this surgery, a sum of Sri Lankan rupees Seventeen lacks is urgently needed. He is expecting help from relatives, friends and well-wishers, in this regard.

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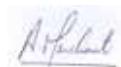
Dear fellow Pakistanis,

On behalf of Canada-Pakistan Business Council I would like to wish every Pakistani my heartfelt congratulations on the 61st Independence Day of Pakistan. It is a day of celebration and also a time to make a promise to ourselves to follow the teachings and the foot steps of the great Leader and Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Pakistan came into being after great sacrifices for a free, progressive and tolerant country. It is up to all of us whether we live in Pakistan or abroad to behave and serve the country as well as the fellow citizens in a manner that will bring us great pride and respect in the eyes of the world. Let us all make our best efforts to change Pakistan as one of the economic power houses of the 21st century with great moral and social values and a peaceful country.

Please join me in wishing Pakistan Happy Birthday.

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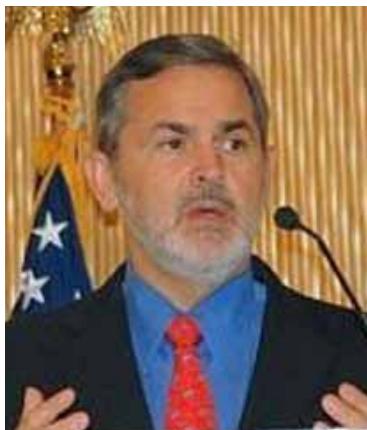
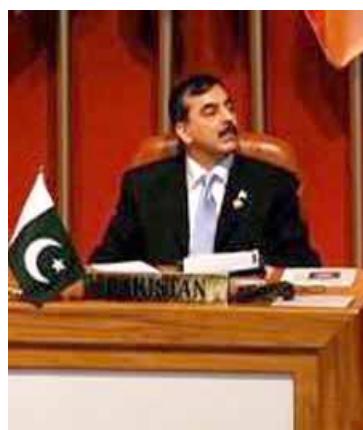
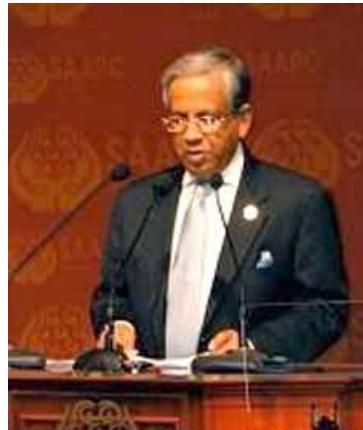
Terrorism Talks Overshadow South Asian Summit

By Steve Herman

South Asian leaders have agreed to work jointly to combat terrorism, eradicate poverty, ensure regional food security and enhance trade ties. The declaration was affirmed in Sri Lanka at the conclusion of 15th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, on Aug. 3.

As the SAARC summit concluded, Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed to devise a "common strategy" to deal with terrorism, including reducing the movement of extremists across their common border.

In a joint statement following



a meeting between Afghanistan's president Hamid Karzai and Pakistani prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, the neighbors agreed to coordinate efforts to halt cross-border terrorism.

Not mentioned in the statement was the July 7 bombing of the Indian Embassy in the Afghan capital, in which about 60 people died. Afghanistan and India have accused Pakistan's intelligence agency of masterminding the attack.

Mr. Gilani met Saturday with Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh. The Pakistani leader promised to conduct an independent investigation into the embassy blast and possible links to his country's intelligence service.

The sideline meetings - and the presence of high-profile observers, including Iran's foreign minister - took the spotlight off the actual summit.

The leaders of the association's eight nations pledged a

joint fight against terrorism through a convention on trading information in criminal matters, the establishment of a \$300-million fund to fight poverty, and the expedited opening of a regional food bank. They also pledged to improve cross-border trading by harmonizing quality standards.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state for the region, Richard Boucher, says such moves demonstrate the regional group is moving beyond the talking stage.

"I do not think any single organization or any single meeting is going to solve all these problems," said Boucher. "But I

India, China, US to emerge new geo-economic triad

Forecasting a new geo-economic reality in the world driven by markets of emerging nations, Dr. Jagdish Sheth, world renowned Marketing 'Guru' today asked India to look at issues in a "multi-centric" way instead of the present US-centric prism.

Delivering a lecture on "The Tectonic Shift: The New Geoeconomic Reality" at Observer Research Foundation here today, Dr. Sheth, Professor of Marketing in the Goizueta Business School, Atlanta, USA, said "India is now obsessed with too much US-centric outlook. It has to change, and adopt multi-centric approach".

Saying India and China along with the United States would form the "emerging geo-economic triad" replacing the US-Canada, European Union and Japan triad, Dr. Sheth predicted emergence of a new Asian currency.

Dr. Sheth, said the 21st century would certainly belong to 'Large Emerging Nations (LEN)' as the 19th century belonged to America and 18th century to Europe. He said LEN would consist of India, China, Russia, Brazil and other emerging countries.

Dr. Sheth, author of famous book 'Chindia Rising: How China and India will benefit your business', said the new geo-economic reality would lead to resources driven global expansion, resources driven global mergers and emergence of strange bedfel-

lows.

He said it would also lead to rise of scarcity driven profits (of commodities, scientific pool, industrial minerals, etc), shortage driven innovation like alternate energy, cloning of living organisms, manufactured materials, etc and raising resource life expectancy (green movement, public private partnerships and mandatory regulations).

This would lead to emergence of largest consumer markets (cell phone, steel, education), rise of Chindia's global enterprises (Mittal Steel, Haier, China Mobil) and R & D shifts to Chindia, Dr Sheth said. He noted that China has surpassed Japan in R & D while India's next BPO would be global R and D.

Dr. Sheth also argued that economics would drive global politics in the 21st century with it leading to resources driven politics (like in Bolivia, Venezuela,

Central Asia), market driven politics (Chindia, Russia, Brazil) and global trade and investment hubs like Dubai, Shanghai, Singapore, etc.

This would lead to rise of multilateral politics with emergence of trilateral politics of US, Europe and APEC, Chindia leadership in world bodies and agencies, emergency of new global currency and new Asian currency and trilateral currency wars, Dr. Sheth said.

Dr. Sheth predicted it would lead to redefining of capitalism and democracy with compassionate capitalism, disciplined democracy and worldwide rise of spiritualism.

To reengineer India for global competitiveness, Dr. Sheth said it would have to bring in ideology-free, innovative, quality reforms in business policy, industrial policy, infrastructure policy and trade policy.

[PTI]



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Monsoon Newsline

Tamil Nadu parties told to stop paying lip service over Katchatheevu

Only upon an assurance to honour the rights of India over Katchatheevu under agreements, the political parties in Tamil Nadu must lend support to the central government in India. Apart from this, all Tamil Nadu political parties, including Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIDMK), Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) are paying lip service and political posturing only on the issue, by just keep talking of Tamil, Tamils and welfare of Tamils.

In an Editorial on Friday July 18th, the leading Tamil Daily in Chennai, Dinamani chided the political parties of Tamil Nadu for the lack of any winning action on alleviating the plight of Tamil Nadu fishermen's safety and restoring rights over Katchatheevu.

Excerpts from the editorial:

Recently two Tamil Nadu fishermen were killed by the Sri Lanka Navy in the Palk Straits. The Sri Lankan forces have shot and killed over 800 fishermen in the past 25 years.

Over 250 have been killed just in the past 2 years only.

The attacks on the Tamil Nadu fishermen have been taking place over the last 35 years. The fishermen have been attacked, their boats and fishing gear destroyed and also arresting and dragging them to the Sri Lankan shores.

Ironically, the Sri Lankan Navy has entered our territories and beaten Tamil Nadu fishermen in the past. There have been incidents where the fishermen were attacked by Sri Lankan air force helicopters. It's deeply puzzling as to why there was not even one incident of the Indian forces taking any defensive action.

The watered-down agreement on handing over Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka took place in 1974.

Even then, today's Tamil Nadu Chief Minister was at the helm. It is true that there were no cordial relations between the Congress Party at the centre and DMK at that time. Yet, the DMK who had absolute majority in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly then, did not steadfastly fight for the rights of Tamil Nadu. But today DMK has stepped up in campaigning for Sethu, calling for hartals, protest marches and token fasts.

"The fishing rights enjoyed by the Indian fishermen thus far, right to sail in territorial waters of both countries and journeying to Katchatheevu - all these are guaranteed," assured the then External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh. Incidentally he was responding to a question and condemnation of the Katchatheevu agreement by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who later became the Prime Minister of India.

In 1976 the Departments of External Affairs of the two countries entered into another agreement. But the rights mentioned above by Sardar Swaran Singh were forgone at this juncture.

Katchatheevu is a small island, ten miles off the coast of Sri Lanka and 12 miles off the coast of India. It was a gigantic blunder to have heeded to the Sri Lanka demands of claiming rights to Katchatheevu, for having a close proximity just by a minuscule difference of 2 miles.

As a coalition partner of the central government in 1989, 1996 and 1999, if DMK had bargained hard enough for providing support for the collation, Indian government requirements may have yielded some changes in the way Sri Lanka functioned, even in the absence of a complete resolution to the matter.

All political parties forming coalitions at the centre in the past are answerable to the people, as

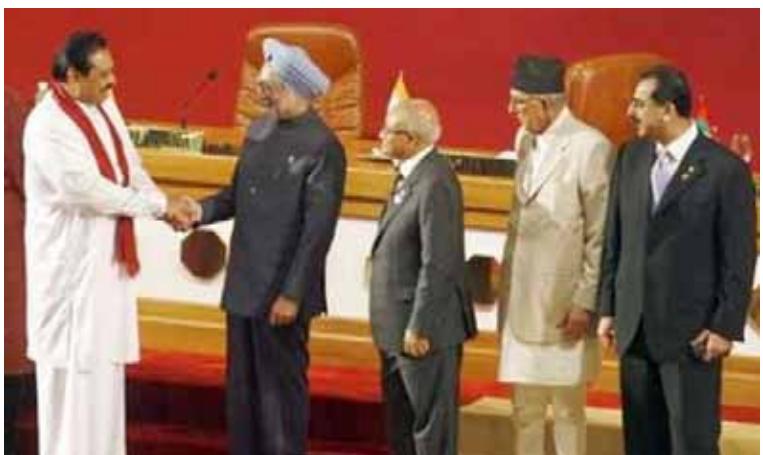
to why no attempts were made to bring about a solution to this matter. Those who have obtained concessions on various sectors and affairs couldn't make any headway on this issue relating to external affairs, need to give an explanation of their standing to the masses.

AIDMK leader Jayalalitha had suggested to take a lease on Katchatheevu, when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took office as the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition government was formed after the 2004 general elections. Chief Minister Karunanidhi now says the time has come to restore the rights over Katchatheevu and also wants a Tamil to be named as ambassador to Sri Lanka.

It is enigmatic to see the DMK leader not being bold enough to put forward a request asking to appoint one of his party stalwarts at the helm of Indian External affairs and say we will reclaim our rights to Katchatheevu. When Katchatheevu was watered-down in 1974 and in 1976 during the time it was let go completely, it is true that Chief Minister Karunanidhi did not have warm relations with the government at the centre. But he has that now. DMK glitters as a powerful ally at the centre today. Then why harbour a lukewarm attitude in the name of international consent?

Be it DMK, AIDMK, PMK or MDMK, these parties must support coalitions at the centre only if assurances are given to restore the rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen to roll out their nets in the waters around India and guarantee our rights to Katchatheevu.

If not, what all these parties do today are just lip service and political posturing.



(L-R) Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh shake hands as Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Pakistan Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani watch during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit opening ceremony in Colombo, August 2, 2008. The leaders of South Asia called for fighting terrorism together as a regional summit overshadowed by worsening ties between India and Pakistan, its biggest members, opened on Saturday.

REUTERS/Buddhika Weerasinghe

True Colours Bazaar



True Colours Bazaar

Celebrating vibrant communities of Ajax & Pickering

The Ajax-Pickering Federal Liberal Association presents "True Colours Bazaar", an international bazaar event celebrating the vibrant communities of Ajax and Pickering. It will be held on August 16, 12:00 to 7:00 PM at J. Clarke Richardson collegiate.

The event will have various vendors (including crafts, jewellery, clothing, food, décor, and more) and entertainers representing different cultural communities. There will be a multicultural show from 3 - 6 PM. A contest will be held for the "Best Country Display", in which each contestant submits and exhibits an original display reflecting themes of a

country of his or her choice. Judging will take place at 2 PM, with the winning entry announced at 6 PM.

All are welcome. Adult admission price is \$5 - children under 10 are free.

The goal of this event is to bring people together to experience and celebrate the vibrant communities of Ajax and Pickering, and to raise funds for Ajax-Pickering Federal Liberal Association. Event website is www.apfla.ca

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Monsoon Newsline

Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister moves court action over disputed island between India and Sri Lanka

Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and AIADMK leader Jayalalithaa Jeyaram has taken the legal route via the Indian Supreme Court on the validity of the 1974 Indo-Sri Lanka pact handing over Katchchathivu Island to Sri Lanka.

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam general secretary Jayalalithaa recently came to the support of Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi on the demand to retrieve Kachatheevelu. Describing Mr. Karunanidhi's demand as belated, Ms Jaya-lalithaa, however, said in a statement: "Political differences apart, I fully back this demand. And I shall do my utmost to ensure that Kachatheevelu reverts to its original status as a part of Indian territory."

"Monumental blunder"

Calling the ceding of the islet a "monumental blunder," the AIADMK leader said it had been her party's position that attacks on fishermen of the State would cease only if the country got back the islet from Sri Lanka.



She recalled that in September 2004, when she was Chief Minister, she had called on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and suggested that Kachatheevelu could be got from Sri Lanka on 'lease in perpetuity' for fishing, drying of nets and pilgrimage by Indian fishermen. "But then, the Prime Minister did not wish to be seen by his ally in Tamil Nadu, the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], as accepting a proposal put forth by me. So, he chose to put

the matter in cold storage."

The consequence of the "colossal neglect and indifference" was that the present DMK regime had to contend with the problem of Tamil fishermen being killed, going missing, being attacked and being abducted by the Sri Lankan authorities, she said. Demanding that Dr. Singh move the Supreme Court to test the validity of ceding Kachatheevelu to Sri Lanka, Ms Jayalalithaa said that if the Prime Minister was not willing, she would move the court for a direction to the Centre to do so or pray that the apex court set aside the ceding of Kachatheevelu to Sri Lanka in 1974.

She cited the Supreme Court's ruling in a case relating to the Indo-Pakistan agreement on Berubari Union and exchange of enclaves that any ceding of Indian territory to another country must be endorsed by Parliament through a constitutional amendment. In the case of Kachatheevelu, no such step was taken by the Indira Gandhi government.

India says ties with Pakistan lowest in 4 years

India's relations with Pakistan have hit their lowest point in years, India's foreign secretary said on Aug 1st, amid tensions over an attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul and clashes between the two sides in the disputed Kashmir region.

Shivshankar Menon told reporters that the recent violence was unfortunate and "affected the future of dialogue (with Pakistan)."

Pakistan and India have a long history of bitter relations and have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir - which is divided between them but claimed by both - since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

Their relations had been on the mend since the two sides entered a political dialogue to address their competing claims to the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

But progress in their dialogue has been slow and deep distrust remains between the nuclear-armed neighbors with New Delhi regularly blaming Islamabad for bombings and shootings that have plagued India in recent years.

That relationship came under renewed stress this month after India blamed Pakistani groups for the July 7 attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul that killed at least 41 people. Pakistan denies the charge.

The New York Times, citing unnamed U.S. government officials, reported on Aug 1 that American intelligence agencies have concluded that members of Pakistan's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence were involved in the embassy attack.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammed Sadiq

described the report as "total rubbish," denying any ISI involvement although Afghanistan has long accused the ISI of backing the Taliban-led insurgency wracking the country.

India has also accused Pakistan of violating a cease-fire accord along the boundary that divides Kashmir between them. Indian and Pakistani forces traded gunfire earlier this week along the heavily fortified frontier in the Himalayan region. Soldiers fired on each other for more than 12 hours between Monday night and Tuesday morning, the worst violation of a 2003 cease-fire agreement between the nuclear armed neighbors.

The relationship between India and Pakistan "is in a phase which it hasn't been in the last four years," Menon said.

[AP]

40 per cent of recent immigrants send money abroad: StatsCan

About four in ten immigrants who recently arrived in Canada have sent money to family and friends, with the average annual amount totaling about \$1,450, Statistics Canada said in a report released on July 23.

"On an annual basis, the average amount was approximately \$1,450, accounting for about six

per cent of personal and three per cent of family income before taxes," said the report, based on immigrants who arrived in 2000-01.

Immigrants from the Philippines and Haiti were the most likely to send money, with 60 per cent of people reporting doing so within two to four years

of arriving in Canada. About 40 per cent to 50 per cent of immigrants from Jamaica, Nigeria, Romania, Guyana and Ukraine sent remittances.

Meanwhile, immigrants from France, the United Kingdom and South Korea were the least likely to send money, the federal agency said.

ICICI Bank considering acquisitions in Britain, Canada or Germany

India's largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank, is looking at possible acquisitions in Britain, Canada or Germany to expand its overseas business.

"ICICI Bank is considering acquisitions to expand outside its home market at a time when many foreign rivals are struggling because of tight credit markets," the New York Times reported recently, quoting two senior executives of the bank.

ICICI Bank Executive Director Sonjoy Chatterjee, said, "The bank, which has about \$5 billion (about Rs 21,000 crore) on hand, could spend it on an international expansion that could include purchase of a 'large consumer franchise' in Britain, Canada or Germany."

The bank at present offers online saving accounts to non-Indian customers in these countries and is keen to build a global

brand as rising interest rates have taken a toll on its consumer lending at home, the report added.

"Even though banks are cheap now, they come with huge challenges and we need to see whether we want to take those or how to go about it," the report said quoting ICICI Bank Chief Executive K V Kamath.

The bank, however, is not considering acquisition of minority stakes in large financial institutions in the United States or Britain, as was done by some financial services firms and investors from China, Singapore or the Middle East.

"We are not interested in that as we would not be able to make a difference," Chatterjee added.

Kamath said India's strict regulatory framework turned out to be a blessing as it prevented banks from investing in subprime mortgage assets.

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Cardiac Catheterization Unit

For the Jaffna Teaching Hospital

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CMDA has committed to **Cdn. \$ 200,000** towards this project which has an anticipated cost of approximately US \$ 1,000,000.

Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Unit in the Northern Province when complete will add to the existing ten which operate successfully in Sri Lanka.

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Monsoon Health



The pains of pregnancy

The announcement of pregnancy in the family brings with it a flurry of emotional experiences. Excitement, fear, anxiety and joy are just a few of the feelings found on the spectrum of emotions. Once the initial shock wears off, the mother and her significant others then have to deal with the physical changes that occur. As her body and the baby evolve, they impact every part of her daily lifestyle, be it her diet, sleep patterns and her social life. While the physical and emotional changes may be apparent, what is often neglected but endured, are the musculoskeletal changes. Ultimately, a mother may carry 20-30 pounds. To support this change pregnant moms adjust their walk by tilting their pelvis forward and curving their lower spine. What results is that the pregnant mum's centre of gravity changes. This causes a new weight bearing stance and adds pressure to several body parts: knees, low back and feet. In other words...pain!

While the focus during the pregnancy can often be the child, it is important that the mother takes care of herself. As her body

By Mithura Anandarajah, PT

physically changes and she develops pain/discomfort, she is further limited by medication for pain relief. There are, however, alternatives that should be explored. Massage therapy for example, is a simple pain relief alternative that is safe for the child, and can promote pain relief and stress relief for the mother.

Musculoskeletal changes:

During pregnancy, joints become hypermobile as a result of hormonally induced ligamentous laxity. Because of this, there is a potential of joint injury especially for weight-bearing joints of the back, pelvis and lower extremities. Abdominal muscles are also stretched to their elastic limit by the end of pregnancy. Massage therapy can help relieve tension in these muscles to reduce the stress placed on joints. This especially impacts joints that are weight-bearing like the low back and pelvis. It is important to keep the muscles and ligaments of the body loose and relaxed to limit the stress and tension on the attachments of bone to muscle.

Posture:

During pregnancy, the body's centre of gravity shifts upward and forward due to fetal weight increase, with weight shifting to the heels. What results is called lumbar lordosis. Lordosis means that the curve in the spine of our low back becomes further accentuated. Shoulders become rounded due to breast enlargement with forward head posture which compensates for shoulder position. Massage helps corrects all of these problems. General massage or deep tissue techniques can be used to improve posture, spinal alignment, and circulation. Also it can decrease swelling due to weight increase and minimize pain that is experienced. If the muscles in the back are relieved, pressure will be taken off the shoulder blades and cervical spine (neck) thus releasing some of the pull which is causing the rounded back and forward head posture.

Cardiovascular System:

During pregnancy, blood volume increases, with increased

venous pressure to lower extremities. Swelling in the lower extremities develops, mainly in the latter part of pregnancy by the end of the second trimester. The enlarging uterus places pressure on the blood vessels in the pelvis and legs causing circulation to slow down and blood to pool in the lower extremity. Water retention may also occur because the body requires more fluid to regulate blood flow and provide liquid for the developing baby, including amniotic fluid. Edema increases at the end of the day and during warmer months. It can cause painful aching legs and feet. Foot massage and posterior leg massage can help move away blood and lymphatic flow that is trapped in the lower extremities. Massage therapy will help redistribute blood to other areas in the body so that blood will not pool in the legs and feet or hands and arms. Other simple suggestions include:

- a) Elevating your feet
- b) Wearing compression stockings and seamless cotton socks. A chiropodist can be consulted to facilitate this process.
- c) If driving for a long period of time, take regular breaks to stretch your legs and promote circulation
- d) Exercise regularly
- e) Drink plenty of water and



eat healthy. Avoid food high in salt-this can cause water retention

f) Wear correct and proper fitting footwear. You may benefit from custom fitted orthotics to support your feet and correctly align your posture. Custom made orthotics are made by your Chiropodist with plaster of paris while your feet are held in subtalar joint neutral, after a biomechanical assessment has been completed. These devices will provide you with arch support and support your feet to reduce the extra strain on any joints and ligaments. A custom made orthotic will prevent common foot problems such as plantar fascitis, heel spurs, metatarsalgia and any tendonitis.

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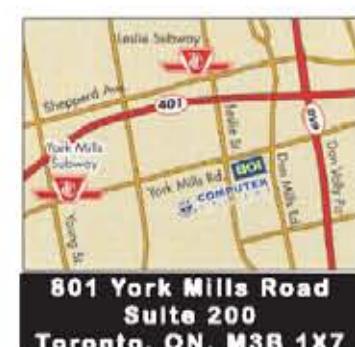
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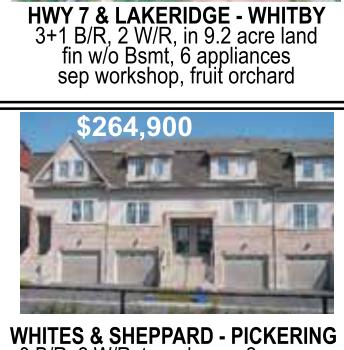
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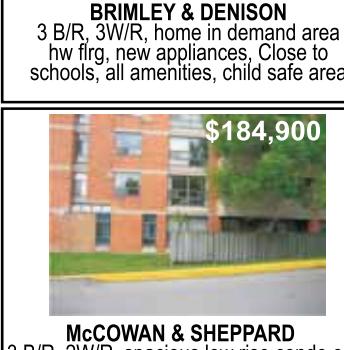
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Numbers don't lie: Girls as good at math as boys, study finds



The notion that boys are better at math simply doesn't add up, according to a study published recently in the journal Science.

An analysis of standardized test scores from more than 7.2 million U.S. students in grades 2 through 11 found no difference in math scores for girls and boys, contradicting a pervasive belief that most women aren't hard-wired for careers in science and technology.

The study also undermined the assumption - espoused by former Harvard University President Lawrence Summers in 2005 - that boys are more likely to be math geniuses. Girls scored in the top 5 percent almost as often as boys, the data showed.

"Both parents and teachers continue to hold the stereotype that boys are better

than girls," said psychologist Janet Hyde of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who led the study. "That's just not accurate."

The stereotype may have led to some differences in educational opportunity between the sexes, experts said. Though women are getting an equal number of math bachelor's degrees, fewer go on to get advanced math or engineering degrees.

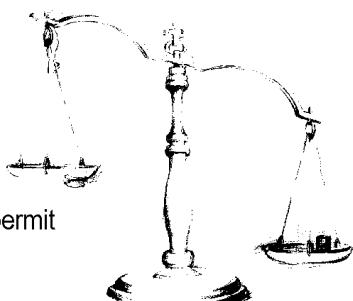
Women hold just 20 percent of engineering jobs nationwide and about a quarter of computer and math positions.

"Females ... are turned away from these fields by others, whether it be through discrimination or socialization toward 'female-friendly' fields," Christine Min Wotipka, a Stanford education professor, wrote in an e-mail.

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Monsoon Newsline

Excellence in Journalism Awards 2007

- K.S. Sivakumaran

Ninth awards ceremony for Excellence in Journalism

The ninth awards ceremony for Excellence in Journalism took place at the Mount Lavinia Hotel on Tuesday. Given below are winners at the Ceremony. The Panel of Judges said that they received 294 entries for the selection of 19 awards.

According to Panel of Judges Chairman Jayatilleke de Silva guidelines for them given by the Editors Guild reminded them of two concerns regarding the selection in previous years, viz. a distinct advantage of English language applicants over local language applicants and an unequal distribution of awards among media houses.

We were also told to take into consideration the overall perception of fairness that must permeate to all sections of the journalistic community, he further said.



Columnist of the Year - English
K S Sivakumaran of the Island

Eight Thousand Tamils Gather At Midland Shrine To Remember Canadian Martyrs

On Saturday, July 12, 2008, Tamils from Greater Toronto and from other regions as well as from neighbouring dioceses came together to honour the Holy Martyrs who were murdered around four hundred years ago in the Huron Valley. It was the twenty fifth anniversary of the consecration of His Lordship, Most Rev Dr Kingsley Swampillai, Catholic Bishop of Trincomalee - Batticaloa and also the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Toronto Catholic Community of Toronto. Most Rev Dr Kingsley Swampillai was the main celebrant at the Holy Eucharistic Service: concelebrating were four priests, Rev Dr Christie Joachimpillai, OMI, Rev Peter Gitendran, Rev A.C. Christopher and Rev Bharat Rayan OMI assisted by Deacon, Rev Mr Joseph Savundranayagam, the President of the Tamil Catholic Community of Toronto (TCCT).

The Tamil Catholic Community of Toronto has been organizing this pilgrimage for the last twenty years and it is blessing that Bishop Swampillai was able to grace the occasion. In his homily he lauded the grandeur of the celebrations and thanked the organizers and the people for their presence. He also thanked the TCCT for their generous assistance to many catholic charities as well as to the Tamil bish-



ops.

From a few hundred pilgrims twenty years ago, this year saw a gathering of about eight thousand Tamils, both Catholic and Hindus gathered in prayer and fellowship at this holy site. A visiting Australian Tamil observed that he had seen similar gatherings in Britain and Europe but nothing large, well organized and orderly as this one. He was impressed with the piety of the people but more with the fellowship that prevailed. Another pilgrim coming from New York for the first time said he was touched by the greeting and embracing of long lost friends and relatives, the generous sharing of food and the

camaraderie in general. Both visitors are taking back pleasant memories and hopefully encourage more visitors at next year's celebrations.

The organizers remained largely anonymous but deserve a thousand thanks for having found a place for fun and prayer, a place filled with joyous spirit where our people can celebrate their faith and likeness. It is commendable that the TCCT has been able to bring this pilgrimage from a few hundred people to be the second largest gathering at Midland, next to our Polish brethren in faith. To the organizers we can safely say "Congratulations, we are happy we came. We will come again."

International Appeal for Investigation in Muttur Aid Worker Massacre

Muttur drama in brief

On August 4th 2006, 17 ACF aid workers were murdered in the town of Muttur, located in the North East of Sri Lanka. This slaughter accounts for the most dramatic crime ever committed against a non-governmental organization. Shortly after, three investigation proceedings were launched in Sri Lanka and none came to an answer. Today, ACF wishes the opening of an international investigation in order to shed light on the circumstances and the criminals responsible of the Muttur slaughter.

We are asking that you sign a petition to show your support for Action Contra La Faim's quest for Justice for the families of those slaughtered.

Please visit www.JusticeforMuttur.org/en/muttur/

This site is provided by Action Contra La Faim to collect your signatures and provide you with an unbiased, objectionable view of the situation.

Muttur Mandate

The first legal procedure instituted following the incident was the one presented before the Magistrate Court, the common law's court of first instance. The magistrates are responsible for assisting and directing the conduct of preliminary investigations led by the criminal police following a complaint. The aim of this procedure is to ensure the judicial monitoring of the enquiry, led by the police. An attorney representing the prejudiced parties was hired by ACF and representatives of the organisation were equally in attendance during all the stages, in order to monitor the proceedings.

Although the procedures before the Magistrate Court promptly exhibited troubling irregularities, ACF decided to monitor the case with the utmost respect in order to assist the judicial process.

However, months have gone

by and the case is still at the initial phase of the investigation. ACF has identified an important number of breaches and flaws; specifically relating to interferences of officials in the judicial process and in the police enquiry; and the witness protection procedures. These irregularities have directly affected the inquiry and reduced the chances of success of such a procedure.

According to the rules of international law, the State has an obligation to properly investigate serious violations of human rights. The absence of any progress, the probability that these proceedings in front of the Magistrate court lead somewhere is extremely weak. ACF is concluding that this proceeding is exhausted and that, consequently, the perpetrators will probably not be brought to justice by the Sri Lankan authorities. ACF considers therefore that all attempts to obtain legal remedy have been exhausted.

During its mission in Sri Lanka, the ICJ released two reports, and both came to the same conclusions as those of ACF: they identify numerous irregularities concerning the manner in which the enquiry was conducted by the police department, as well as the judicial process conducted by the different judges.

The Sri Lankan government has therefore failed in its obligation to conduct an efficient inquiry into the murder of the 17 aid workers; and to search for the perpetrators as prescribed by the norms and standards of law.

ACF will henceforth continue to work to uncover the truth behind the killings from outside of the country. The identification and sentencing of the perpetrators of the crime of the 17 ACF employees in Muttur remain ACF's priority; however new measures must be taken in order to shed the light on the circumstances, and identify the perpetrators, of the Muttur massacre.

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Monsoon Newsline

Praise for Navanethem Pillay as New UN Human Rights Chief

Praise for Navanethem Pillay as New UN Human Rights Chief

By Joe De Capua

Reaction in South Africa has been positive to Navi Pillay's appointment as the next UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. For example, a former colleague, Durban attorney Zubeda Seedat, talks about Pillay's early years as a practicing human rights attorney.

"She used to go regularly to Robben Island (prison) to meet with (Nelson) Mandela and the other people that were incarcerated there. And won some landmark cases on human rights matters. She was always very involved in human rights matters.... We were all subjected to separate laws and all the apartheid machinery. And so that must have had a profound impact on her. And I think she is ideally suited for the job that she is now going to take after she finishes at ...the International Criminal Court at The Hague," Seedat says.

Asked what the early years as an attorney might have taught Pillay, she says, "I think it must have left an indelible imprint on

her mind of how important it was to pursue these laws and to pursue justice and to fight for justice.... The other thing that she was very involved was in the pursuit of gender crimes.... At a local level she was involved in starting a desk for abused women and giving them advice.... We didn't have domestic violence laws at that time, but she was quick enough to see that there was a great need to assist women."

Both Pillay and Seedat are women of color, adding another obstacle during the apartheid years. "It was difficult, but we doggedly went on with it because we knew that our leaders were incarcerated and there was work to be done. So we just went on doing it. It was difficult. We had the security branch...against us, but there was a commitment to see it through. And she indeed has that commitment. And I can see her in this role now and not shying away from matters that are important. She will be very forthright and able to take a stand on issues," says Seedat.

She says Judge Pillay has a very dry sense of humor and is gracious but is also a no non-

sense, no frills individual.

Also praising Pillay is Jody Kollapen, the head of South Africa's Human Rights Commission.

"As a South African I'm very excited and honored that a South African will hold the position. But as a human rights activist and at the head of the South African Human Rights Commission, I am deeply excited that someone with a commitment to human rights, with a commitment to equality, will be holding that post as well. So, yes, I think that we're all quite pleased," he says.

Kollapen comments on whether it matters if the UN human rights chief is a person of color.

"I think in the broader scheme of things it doesn't make such a big difference because she is going to be really doing the work at an international level. And I think her color and agenda shouldn't be a factor insofar as her work over the years and her current commitment have demonstrated an ability on her part certainly to be able to relate to human rights in the broadest possible sense. But at the same time



I think many South Africans of color would be pleased even more so in that it's a demonstration that our own transformation as a nation on attempts to deal with the legacy of our own past is playing itself out in this wonderful way," he says.

The head of South Africa's Human Rights Commission says he expects Pillay take on such issues as Darfur, Sri Lanka and the Middle East. He also expects her to address the food crisis and global warming and how they may affect human rights.

Navanethem Pillay, The daughter of a Tamil bus driver in Durban, she experienced human rights violations first-hand. Pillay earned a law degree at Harvard, but for 28 years during apartheid, she was not allowed to set foot in a judge's chambers as a lawyer because of her South Asian origins. In 1995 she became the first woman of color to become a judge on the High Court.

[LA Times/AP Photo]



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Monsoon Arts



Ganeshism: a celebration of Lord Ganesh in art

By Dushyanthini Kanagasabapathyillai

Mahen Chanmugam has been painting for over thirty five years, and has devoted the last twelve to portraying Lord Ganesh. His art attempts to present the complex symbolism and iconography surrounding Lord Ganesh in a colourful, contemporary form.

The combination of his elephant-like head and a quick moving vahana (vehicle) represents tremendous wisdom, intelligence and presence of mind.

With his paintings, Mahen tries to reach back to the past, while looking forward, balancing the challenges between the spirit of modernism and the need to capture the essence of a traditional art form, undiluted.

Drawing inspirations from the mythology and philosophies of Hinduism, his canvases are saturated with intense colour, evocative of the bright powdery pigments that decorate the entrance to Hindu temples. Bright fluorescent pink cells sit alongside lime-green lotus petals and multi coloured Chakras float across saffron skies, with tiny mirrors shimmering around silvery Ganeshas. His forms are uniquely constructed and set in luminous coloured spaces that defy being tied down to any spatial context. The ever present images of the lotus heart and petals splashed across his life-sized canvases act as an eloquent metaphor for the regeneration of the soul.

He has worked with all types of media, having mastered, then abandoned, oil painting for the brilliant hues, he now works on materials are varied as canvas, wood, sackcloth, and even concrete and stone. He currently lives in Sri Lanka with his fiancé and cats amongst the water monitors in Colombo.

"Lord Ganesh is universal, and the philosophy surrounding him is Buddhist as much as it is Hindu. I subscribe to these philosophies, but I was always more compelled to create something rather than represent something" says Mahen Chanmugam (43). He was born in Sri Lanka. His family converted to Christianity three generations ago. His first memories of Ganesh imagery were the dark earthy pigments of the temples he visited with his father as a child. While he has been painting since childhood Mahen has no formal schooling. At the age of 16 he started working in printing, quickly moved on to graphic design and left Sri Lanka to work in Hong Kong and Singapore. As he says, "I have always had this amazing determination that I wanted to be an artist".



The combination of his elephant-like head and a quick moving vahana (vehicle) represents tremendous wisdom, intelligence and presence of mind [more photos on: <http://humanityashore.com/ha/archives/58>]

Fundraising ballet held for Colombo Hindu Girls School

The students of the Fine Arts Society of the Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam known for their talents and commitment presented the unique story of "Kaaraikaal Ammaiyaar" as a ballet, at Kathiresan hall in Bambalapitiy, Sri Lanka on July 26th 2008 at dusk.

For Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam, as a girls' school, it is ideal to perform Kaaraikaal Ammaiyaar's story, and set her as a role model for the growing young generation.

The funds collected through the ballet will go towards upgrading the education of information technology, multi media skills and English of more displaced children from North and East. Due to the conflict situation in the North and east, the children live with a sense of fear and need to have an education in a peaceful atmosphere.

The Saiva Mangaiyar Kazhagam is today, the only private assisted Hindu school in Sri Lanka and with great difficulty, it presents imparting skills to these children who are already with the school from the conflict areas together with the children from Colombo, plantation areas and greater Colombo areas. More children are seeking admission, and the requirements need to be met.

In this endeavour, Kazhagam has joined hands with the California based Visions Learning Centre, and has formed a Kazhagam Visions Learning



Bargavi Baskaran dances as little Punithavathy.

Center in the school premises. The students danced dedicated in this ballet to collect funds to give an opportunity to learn by the future students of the school.

"Kaaraikaal Ammaiyaar"-the sixth century poetess is an embodiment of prayer and devotion; she is one of the early Saints of the Hindu Thirumurai, who was acclaimed by the Lord himself as "Ammaiye"-O Mother!

"Kaaraikaal Ammaiyaar" was born in Kaaraikaal, which is situated on the Eastern littoral of Tamil Nadu. Today it is one of the four regions of the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

"Kaaraikaal Ammaiyaar" means the mother of Kaaraikaal. Her childhood name is Punithavathy, meaning a pure one. She is called "Kaaraikaal Ammaiyaar" due to her exceptional devotion to Lord Siva.

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Mounting Sri Lanka bombing campaigns curtail school attendance in Kilinochchi

The environment of war and hostilities is drastically reducing the school and education activities in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts, reports premier Colombo Tamil daily Virakesari.

The newspaper quotes the education officers in the region, saying that the attendance in schools have fallen substantially.

Virakesari report further says:

Many reasons including displacement are attributed to the falling attendance in schools. However, fear of the continuing aerial bombardments in the region seems to be the driving reason of parents and students for keeping away from schools, according to T. Kurukularajah, Director of education in Kilinochchi.

The Sri Lanka government enforced fuel embargo on the Vanni region, along with occurrences of claymore blasts in the areas adjoining the battlefield, including Poonaryn has also created a situation where teachers are unable to commute to their respective teaching positions at the schools, from far-flung areas.

5 out of the 29 schools in the Poonaryn region have become completely dysfunctional due to displacement of people from the surrounding areas amidst intense aerial bombings and shelling. 12



File photo of students at a Kilinochchi school, pic: puthinam

schools have relocated to temporary facilities to the Jeyapuram area of Kilinochchi and only the 12 remaining schools are functioning at the original locations, added T. Kurukularajah, Director of education in Kilinochchi.

As the intense shelling continues in areas surrounding Poonaryn, teaching staff are in fear to serve even in bordering areas where displaced persons have taken refuge. Teachers in these areas are seeking transfers and new appointees show reluctance or outright refusal to serve there. T. Kurukularajah, Director of education in Kilinochchi has further said to Virakesari, that teachers continue to point out and lament on the life threatening situation in the area.

Claymore attacks along the

main roads of Poonaryn, have curtailed the administrative functions of the Education Department officials. Just as the teachers, they too are unable to travel to schools; on their assigned curricular supervising and external duties, said the Director of education in Kilinochchi.

The sudden and indiscriminate aerial bombing and shelling without any regard to time and place are tormenting the students. And parents are refusing to send their children to schools in this climate of hostilities. According to Kilinochchi Director of Education T. Kurukularajah, 30 percent of the students in Kilinochchi are not attending the schools now due to fear of bombing and shelling.

White van' abductions on the increase, says Sri Lanka parliamentarian

'180 people have been abducted by 'white van' squads, since January 1st 2008 thru July 20th 2008 says P. Radhakrishnan MP, a parliamentarian of the Up Country People's Front (UPF).

Mr. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Minister of Vocational Training in the present United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA) government of Sri Lanka also says, within the last six months the pace of abductions have increased compared to 2006 and 2007. The deputy minister regretting the increase said it's a disturbing trend that is affecting all parts of the country including capital Colombo, in a recent report published in the premier Tamil daily of Sri Lanka - Virakesari.

In the past few days three

abductions have been reported to Deputy Minister P. Radhakrishnan MP, the Police and the Committee to investigate disappearances.

Recently, the new Inspector General of Police in Sri Lanka, Jayantha Wickremaratne mocked the whole 'white van' kidnappings by requesting journalists to identify the so called white vans.

"I have not seen the dreaded white van. I have only heard about it. Please help me to find one," he said at a media briefing.

Responding, Convener, Civil Monitoring Committee (CMC) and MP Mano Ganesan said that this issue concerned the blood and tears of the families of the abducted and it was not a matter for amusement.

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Monsoon Features

"Save a Heart"

Improved heart treatment for the Northern Province residence by establishing a Cardiac Catheterization Unit at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital

Project to be Co-ordinated by the Jaffna Hospital

Development Association

Few important points provided by Dr. Raviraj about Jaffna Teaching Hospital, during his visit to Toronto recently.

It is well known to everyone that Jaffna Hospital is the only Tertiary Hospital in the Northern Province. Jaffna Hospital serves about 1.6 million residents. The Hospital also functions as a Teaching Hospital for Medical and Nursing Students. There is no doubt that inspite of many difficulties, Jaffna Hospital staff delivers their best services at all times. Everyone knows that northern

residents were made refugees many times. It is true that during the last decades even the Jaffna Hospital too was made refuge. The Hospital was once transferred to Manipay and on another occasion to Point Pedro.

It is the duty of all Tamils to help for the healthcare of Northern people as they are undergoing great difficulties due to the current situation brought about by the civil war and lack of Transport. At present there are 21 Specialists and 200 Doctors serving at the Jaffna Hospital. We have to be proud of the fact that 18 out 21 Specialists were produced by the Jaffna Medical

College.

There are no facilities for specialization in certain fields of Medicine at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. To name a few, Neuro Division, Pathology Department, etc. In certain departments even though we have specialists, but due to lack of equipment we are unable to serve the patients. One of the example is Cardiology Unit. Due to this problem, Jaffna Teaching Hospital requested Canadian Medical Dental Development Association to help by providing Cath Lab equipments. By having this we would be able to treat patients in Jaffna Hospital and save lives and avoid

those having to incur many difficulties of going to Colombo for treatment. Every week at least 7-10 patients are transferred to Colombo for treatment by plane with the help of the Red Cross. Few patients refuse to go to Colombo due to many reasons such as language barrier, safety, lack of help and finance, etc. To avoid all this it would be a great practical idea and help to establish a Cardiac Investigation Unit at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. There is no doubt that assistance from our fellow Tamils abroad will save the lives of your relatives, patients, and the people in Jaffna.

We promise to undertake the

responsibility to set up and commission the equipment with the co-operation of all those associated with this project and the Health Ministry in Sri Lanka. There are already 2 Heart specialists ready to serve and seeking your help for this equipment. The Ministry of Health has assured to continue to provide the support and maintenance.

Dr. Raviraj has been serving the Jaffna Hospital for the last 20 years and requests any help you could provide for this Save a Heart Project.

Thank you for your support. Your continuous support helps saves the health and life of the Jaffna people.

Dr Raviraj - Specialist Surgeon and Lecturer at the Jaffna Medical College.



CMDDA Group



CMDDA Members



Dr Raviraj at CMDDA Event

Commemorating a Tragedy: Black July 25 years later

The July 25th weekend was a painful reminder to Tamil Canadians of violence that took place 25 years ago in their homeland. Black July, as it has come to be known as, refers to the State sponsored anti-Tamil violence that occurred between July 23rd and July 29th in Sri Lanka. Angry mobs of Sinhalese armed with voters lists and makeshift weapons, brutally attacked Tamil homes and business in Colombo. Like wildfire, the violence quickly spread to other parts of the island. Black July has left a permanent scar in the hearts of Tamils across the globe. It was the events of Black July that sparked not only the start of the full-blown armed conflict, but also triggered the mass exodus of Tamil refugees out of Sri Lanka and seeking asylum in Western countries, such as Canada.

Tamil Canadians commemorated the 25th anniversary of Black July through a combination of art, music, drama and storytelling in a weekend of events organized by the Canadian Tamil Congress in partnership with various community organizations. "It is important to remember the tragedy of Black July, but also to recognize that this is an ongoing conflict," said David Poopalapillai, the national spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress.

The mood for the weekend was set during a vigil that took place on Friday, July 24 at Albert Campbell Square in front of Scarborough Civic Centre. The vigil provided members of the Tamil Canadian community an opportunity to collectively remember the deaths, displacement and destruction that occurred twenty-five years ago. Several hundreds gathered to listen to the speeches by Tamil community members, survivors of Black July and representatives of non-Tamil community organizations such as Amnesty International (Toronto), the Canadian Federation of Students and the United Steel Workers Union.

On Saturday, two signature events took place at the Distillery Historic District, a premier venue in downtown Toronto. Over the course of the day, hundreds of patrons walked through an exhibition that vividly portrayed the historical timeline of the events that lead up to Black July. The collection incorporated the work of local artists, archival footage from international press, haunting survivor stories and inspirational testimonials on the Tamil Canadian immigrant experience. The exhibit also featured a documentary outlining the events of Black July and included powerful narratives

from survivors of Black July. A key attraction of the exhibit included the work of two young emerging artists, a photographer and a painter, who have chosen to express their thoughts on Black July through their art.

Also at the Distillery Historic District on Saturday afternoon was a play "What if the Rain Fails" written by R. Cheran and directed by Dushy Gnanapragasam. All three matinee shows were sold out performances. The play chronicled the life of a Tamil refugee from Sri Lanka who escaped the anti-Tamil violence in 1983 and sought refuge in Canada. Employing testimonies, poems and multimedia, the play vividly portrays the moral and material challenges that Tamil refugees encounter in the Diaspora. There was not a dry eye in the theater at the end of each show and the play received rave reviews from the audience. "It really brought back the tragic memories of this disastrous time of our Tamil people's history," said an individual who attended the play along with his children who were born in Canada.

An important part of this weekend's event was to create awareness about the tragedy of Black July, and the ensuing armed conflict that continues to rage in Sri Lanka for the past 25 years.



Picture taken during Vigil

This awareness must also be directed at the younger generation of Tamils, many of whom were born in Canada and have never been to their homeland. In order to engage young Tamil Canadians, "In Search of our Roots" a youth conference, was held on Sunday July 27th at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. Over 200 Tamil Canadian youth attended interactive workshops on a variety of themes such as: Tamil Canadian Identity, Tamil Language, Tamil Cinema, The Role of Tamil Women, Negative Portrayal of Tamil Canadian Youth, and Notable Leaders in the World Tamil community.

These events were highly successful and the organizers were amazed with the overwhelmingly

positive response by not only the Tamil Canadian community, but the larger community as well. In addition to the Black July events, the Tamil Canadian community will continue to commemorate the arrival of Tamils to Canada by giving the gift of life back to Canadians. The Tamil Canadian community has pledged to collect 5000 units of blood throughout the year, and several Blood Donor Clinics will be held from coast to coast.

For more information about Black July, or to see event coverage, please visit www.blackjuly83.com

For more information about the Blood Donation drive please visit www.canadiantamilcongress.com

Monsoon Newsline

Patients enduring immense hardship at Jaffna Hospital, in Sri Lanka's Northern Province

Patients seeking care at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital are facing immense hardship, due in from lack of proper facilities to staff shortage and gross neglect, according to a news report on July 29th, in Jaffna Tamil Daily Uthayan.

The newspaper says, the residents are looking forward to a much more caring and peaceful environment at the only Teaching Hospital in the peninsula and urge proper corrective measures.

Excerpts from the Uthayan Report:

For patients suffering from ailments, the primary necessity for the healing process to begin is a peaceful atmosphere at the hospitals. The patient care, guidance and aftercare take precedence than the medicines.

The principal duty of the hospital is ensuring everyone, be it a patient needing routine check up or the terminally ill needing long term care is able to receive adequate care without any hardship.

We may not anticipate all

these services in many hospitals. The situations in them are unavoidable.

Likewise the conditions prevailing at the only Teaching Hospital in Jaffna, The Jaffna General Hospital is sorrowful. High quality services rendered by medical professionals there is being eclipsed due to lack of dedicated performance at other levels it is feared.

The hardships faced by those seeking care at the outpatient clinic seem a continuing saga. It is extremely sad to see the immense difficulties they endure, from obtaining the appointment to finally receiving treatment.

The situation of the seniors needing care is particularly deplorable. A special division for senior care that opened a few years ago now remains closed. The seniors have to be in the midst of all the other patients to receive care. This makes it unable for them to obtain timely appointments and care. It is a painful scene seeing seniors stand in long

queues to obtain medical services in their golden years.

At the medical dispensaries too the seniors are not being given preference over other patients.

Even when dispensaries are adequately staffed, the seniors have to wait for long hours to obtain their medicines. The seniors lament the long waits are exacerbating health problems.

The community outreach division seems to be not operating for the past few months and the glass walled office well designed for this purpose remains shut too.

In these days of sudden problems arising in the free movement for people in Jaffna, patients miss their appointments due to matters beyond their control, such as restricted transportation. At times the patients will show up but the medical professionals may be unavailable due to prevailing tensed situations. Shortages of medical doctors also contribute to this dismal state. Adding to patient difficulties are



careless support staff giving out appointments on days the outpatient clinic is closed. And the patients complain of struggling again to obtain a timely appointment.

Inpatient care patients too suffer immensely due to lack of proper facilities. The beds lack secure locker facilities. Increased menace of stray dogs and cats at the hospital premises are adding to the hardships. Food kept overnight is dragged away by cats. Patients are forced to carry on hungry overnight without a meal. Incidents of patients, staff and visitors being bitten by dogs

are on the rise. 15 support staff was treated for dog bites within the last month only.

Amidst all the hardships, a few support staff is reportedly forcing to pay for unauthorized charges for services such as wheel chair services during patient discharging.

The residents of Jaffna peninsula look forward to a much more caring and peaceful environment at their only Teaching Hospital. They eagerly anticipate for relevant authorities and others to make steps to improve the conditions at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital in the near future.

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Monsoon Food Court



Tandoori Cuisine

A tandoor is a cylindrical clay oven used in cooking and baking. The Tandoor originated from Afghanistan and was introduced by the ruling Moguls the Indian sub-continent .The Tandoor is used in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. The food is cooked over a hot charcoal fire or wooden fire. Temperatures in a tandoor can approach 480°C (900°F), and it is common for tandoor ovens to remain lit for long periods of time to maintain the high cooking temperature.

The tandoor design is some-

thing of a transitional form between a makeshift earth oven and the horizontal-plan masonry oven, and is used almost exclusively for live-fire, radiant heat cooking.

Tandoor is used for cooking certain types of, food such as tandoori chicken, chicken tikka and bread varieties like naan.

The tandoor is currently a very important fixture in many Indian restaurants around the world. Some modern day tandoors use electricity or gas instead of charcoal.



Chicken tikka

Chicken tikka is a South Asian dish made by grilling small pieces of chicken which have been marinated in spices and yogurt. It is traditionally cooked upon skewers in a tandoor and is usually boneless. It is normally served and eaten with green coriander chutney, or used in preparing the curry chicken tikka masala.

1 pint of live natural yogurt
1 Tablespoon Cumin powder
1 Tablespoon garam massala
1 Teaspoon Coriander powder
1 Teaspoon Turmeric powder
1 Teaspoon chilli powder
Juice 1 lemon
8 cloves garlic - crushed
1 inch grated ginger

Red food colouring
4 Chicken Breasts Cubed
Mix the spices, colouring, lemon juice, ginger and garlic up into a paste with a little water and stir in well with the yogurt to make a tandoori marinade. Marinate the chicken in the marinade for 2-60 hours. Preheat the oven to its highest heat for at least 20 minutes. Shake off excess marinade and place chicken pieces on skewers on a wire rack in the oven. Cook for 15-20 minutes and check the chicken is cooked by piercing the thickest piece with a skewer, if the juices run clear it's cooked, serve with a wedge of lemon.



Tandoori Chicken

Tandoori chicken Punjabi dish dating back to the time of the Moghal Empire in Central and Southern Asia, it is still popular throughout that area. The chicken is marinated in a yogurt seasoned with garam masala, garlic, ginger, cumin, cayenne pepper, and other spices depending on the recipe. Cayenne, red chili powder, or other spices give the typical red color. Tumeric produces a yellow-orange color. In some modern versions red and yellow food coloring is used instead. It is traditionally cooked at high temperatures in an earthen oven (i.e. tandoor), but can also be prepared on a traditional grill.

In many Indian restaurants red Tandoori chicken is served with sliced onions and wedges of fresh lemon or lime. India's version of barbecued chicken, Tandoori chicken is one of the most popular delicacies stemming from the North of

India and has undergone years of perfection.

(Place a Tandoori chicken pic)
4 lbs Chicken Legs
1/2 cup plain yogurt
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice or malt vinegar
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 tablespoon peeled and grated or crushed ginger root
1 tablespoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/4 teaspoon fresh-ground black pepper
2 teaspoons salt, or to taste
Vegetable oil, for brushing
Fresh cilantro sprigs for garnish
Slices of cucumber, red (Spanish) onion, tomato and lemon, for garnish



By: Nate. V - Comments to: chef@monsoonjournal.com

Indian Independence Anniversary

25th July 2008MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Monsoon Journal, with a wide readership among the Indo-Canadian community, is bringing out a special Supplement to mark India's 62nd Independence Day. It is my pleasure to extend to all Indians, people of India origin and friends of India my good wishes on this auspicious occasion.

India's progress in recent years has made it a major global economy. Our hi-tech sectors like IT and biotech are considered amongst the best and fastest growing in the world. Others seek inspiration from our hi-tech prowess and many want to emulate us. We are a living testimony that democracy and development are mutually supportive and reinforcing.

India is proud of the achievements of Indo-Canadians who have excelled in every sphere of Canadian life: in politics, academic, business, industry and art and culture professions. They are also making an invaluable contribution to promote and strengthen India-Canada relations.

India's rapidly growing economy is opening new avenues for the Indian community in Canada to add another dimension to their links with India – the dimension of trade, investments and technology collaborations. I encourage and welcome the Indo-Canadian community to increase and expand their participation in the Indian economy.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Monsoon Journal for promoting and spreading knowledge and information about India and for enthusiastically celebrating India's Independence Day. I also wish your readers happy Independence Day.

(Satish C. Mehta)

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July 17, 2008

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 61st anniversary of India's Independence Day, I have great pleasure in sending my warm greetings and best wishes to all the readers, as well as to the Editorial Board, of Monsoon Journal.

On the 15th of August every year, we rededicate ourselves to the ideals, values and objectives of the founding fathers of our Republic and remember afresh their sacrifice and struggle which has made it possible for us to live in an independent country. It is thus an occasion both for remembering the past and for looking forward to the future. Today, we can look back on our history as an independent, sovereign and democratic nation with a sense of pride and also look forward to the future with optimism and confidence. Equally, we celebrate the achievements of the Indo-Canadian community and the contribution which it has made over the decades to the development of Canada's multicultural society.

The Monsoon Journal continues to play an important role in informing its readers about ongoing developments in India and in acting as a bridge between India and Canada. We greatly value your contribution to the development of our ties with Canada. I wish you all success in the future.

[R. L. Narayan
High Commissioner for India to Canada]

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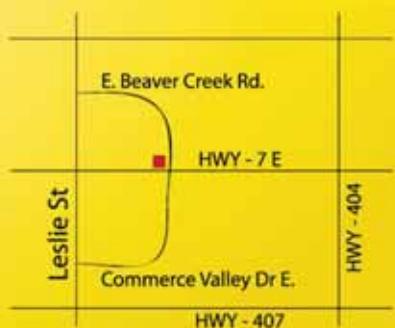
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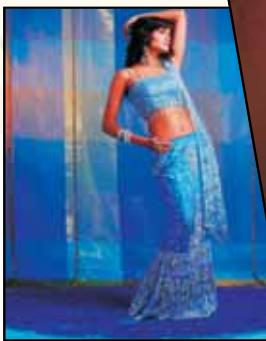
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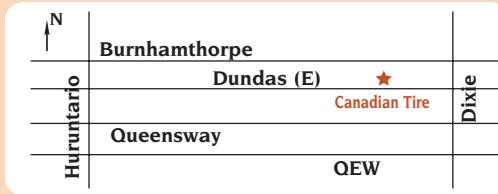
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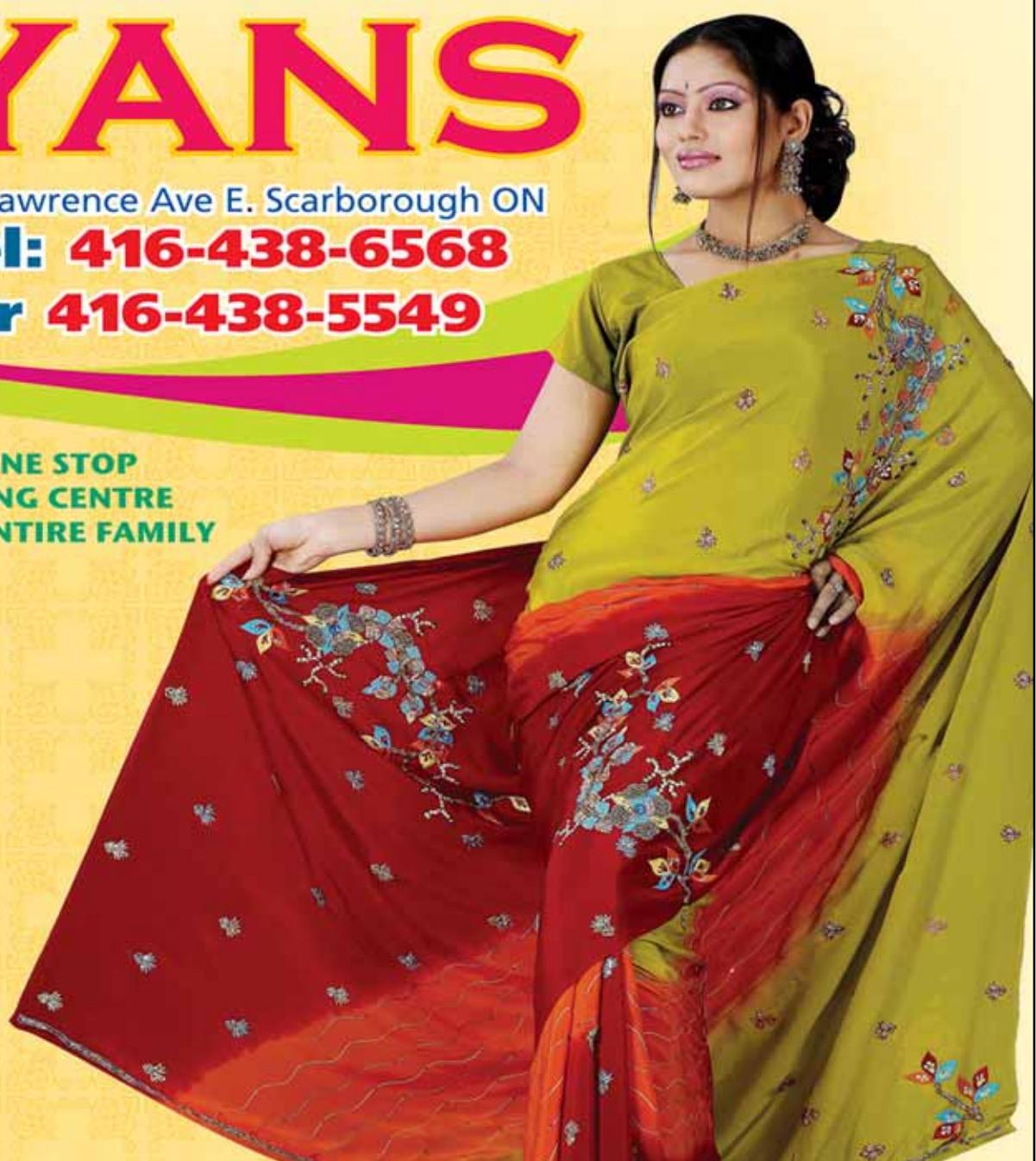
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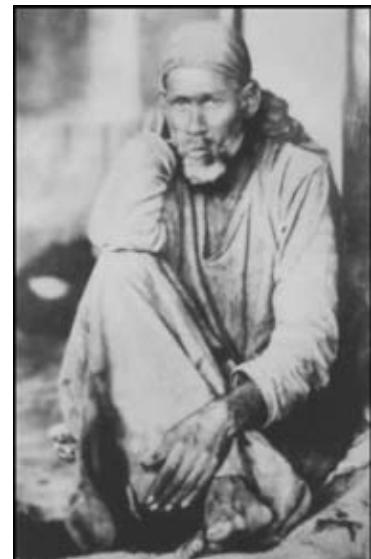
UDI PRASAAD is also available (only if the request is confirmed in advance) at the Satsang between 7:00 to 8:30 pm every Thursday at GURMANDIR .

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India and Sri Lanka to sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

India and Sri Lanka has agreed to sign the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

This would mark the end of the over three years of discussions to boost trade and investment between the two countries with focus on developing Sri Lanka's economy.

"It is a win-win situations to both the countries and we both have agreed to reduce the negative lists to give a boost to trade and investment," the Indian

Commerce Secretary G K Pillai told reporters.

The major issues regarding trade in services and value addition by Sri Lankan industry were sorted out to the mutual satisfaction, Pillai said.

A decision to set up a Joint Study Group for making recommendations for CEPA was first announced in April 2003 following which the report was submitted in October 2003.

While the first round of talks on CEPA were held between

Commerce Secretaries in Colombo in August, 2004, the next round was held at New Delhi in February, 2004.

Both countries have agreed to undertake a review at the secretaries level every six months and at ministers level every year, Pillai said.

Several nationalistic parties in Sri Lanka are opposing the Government initiative but the main opposition United National Party and a major Tamil political party, Tamil National Alliance have expressed support.

Colombo district MP of the main opposition United National Party (UNP) Ravi Karunanayake has hailed the CEPA as one that "would help Sri Lanka tremendously", but stressed the need for

consultation with the country's chamber of commerce to accommodate their views.

Parliamentarian from Trincomalee, R Sampanthan MP of Tamil National Alliance (TNA) claimed that the country "is in a terrible situation with regard to economy and national problem" and stressed that the CEPA should be signed considering the economic benefits to both the countries.

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) criticised the political elements averse from this agreement and said that the government should go ahead without succumbing to their influence.

TNA leader MP R. Sampanthan said that some elements got xenophobia when it



G K Pillai

came to anything foreign, and said that it was the fundamental reason for them to build hostility against such moves and make harsh criticism.

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Indian Independence Anniversary

"If I die today, every drop of my blood will invigorate the Nation" - Indira Gandhi, a few days before her assassination

Remembering Indira Gandhi

When Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India in 1966 she was described as a "Dumb Doll", obviously referring to her possible inability then to tackle the domestic and international issues of a great country like India.. But barely four years later she was hailed as an invincible goddess when India won her war against Pakistan.

This writer had the opportunity of interviewing her father the First Prime Minister of India - the Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru somewhere around the 1960s when he visited Sri Lanka for the Non-Aligned Conference at the height of the Indo-China war. One of the questions put to him by the writer was about his successor and whether he was grooming his daughter to succeed him. With a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face Nehru said 'this is a not a matter for me to decide but a decision the people of India have to take.' The people of India did decide on her later when they made her the Prime Minister of the World's largest Democracy.

Diverse Personality

Indira Gandhi was certainly a person with a diverse personality when she took decisions for her country. From the Olympian heights of victory after the

by Siva Sivapragasam

Pakistan war she plummeted down into the abyss of electoral defeat. The last Prime Minister of India Atal Behari Vajpayee even referred to her as a person who has been 'consigned to the dustbin of history'. But he was wrong. Within two years the Indian people brought her back with pride to lead their country and the Janatha party became history. But unfortunately the decisions she took for her country were mixed and thereby created a sense of bitterness among sections of her people. Even today people remember her as a person who introduced nineteen months of nightmarish emergency in the country. Such acts clouded the benefits she bequeathed to her country. Sometimes referred to as the 'man in the Cabinet' she took bold decisions in the interest of her country. When she ordered Lieutenant Colonel Sunderji of the Southern Command to invade the Golden Temple in Punjab she did this not because she loved the Sikhs less but because she loved India more. For this act of hers she made the supreme sacrifice with her life when she was gunned down by her own trusted

Sikh body-guards. In later life her son Rajiv too had to lay down his life for politics.

Concentration of Power

Critics of Indira always dub her as a person who wishes to have an iron grip with concentration of power in her hands. Some say that this was due to the large influence that her playboyish younger son Sanjay had on the mother and perhaps her love to ensure dynastic succession. But unfortunately she could not achieve this due to the untimely death of Sanjay who died in a helicopter crash.

Her pride of achievements was of course the liberation of Bangla Desh in 1971 and Indians are so proud of this that she was looked upon as an incarnation of Shakthi, the Goddess of Power. Her interest for the Tamils in Sri Lanka was no less. During the July 1983 riots when Tamils in the country specially those of Indian origin were being burnt, massacred and their belongings looted there was an uproar in the Indian Parliament. Members were questioning her as to why India was silent. It is said that she walked out of the Lok Sabha pro-

ceedings, went into her room, telephoned the Sri Lankan President Jayawardene and told him that if the rioting is not controlled within the next 48 hours Indian troops will fly down to Sri Lanka to stop it. She was perhaps determined to invade Sri Lanka if the necessity arose. Jayawardene knew the seriousness of it and assured her that the rioting will stop. Both he and his Prime Minister immediately took steps to curb the violence. Gandhi also flew her Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao to Sri Lanka to ensure that Jayawardene kept his word. Thus another Bangla Desh type invasion of Sri Lanka was averted. She did not end her interest in the Tamils with this.

When Appapillai Amirthalingam, the leader of the Tamil United Front was in exile in India soon after the July riots she called him to New Delhi from Madras to attend India's Independence Day celebrations and introduced him for international exposure to the top-notch diplomats from all over the world as the Elected Leader of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. In fact she had requested Amirthalingam to purposely come a little late for the function so that he would be the cynosure of all eyes present.



A secular country

If History is to analyze the merits and demerits of Indira Gandhi both her faults and flaws may be long but at the same time her achievements and victories are even longer and impressive. The poison that was embedded in the form of the Emergency rule is now a thing of the past and the present younger generation knows little about this and cares little about it.

Continued in Next Page

Tour of Embraces Makes a Stop in Manhattan

By April Dembosky

The line started outside on 34th Street, entered the lobby and snaked up the stairs to the balcony. It veered left at the aisle, then downstairs again to the rear orchestra section.

"Stay to the right-hand side," one of the line controllers said, kindly but firmly.

Those at the head of the line received a numbered token, a place holder for another line. Some waited up to seven hours for their turn. When that moment finally came, they all got what they came for: a hug.

More than 8,000 people were hugged on July 8th and 9th, and one person was doing all the hugging: Mata Amritanandamayi, 54, known to her followers as Amma, or Mother.

She began hugging strangers in her teens, first on the streets of her village in Kerala, India, then later in living rooms in Madison, Wis., and Dallas. Word spread about her message of unconditional love and, as many of her followers believe, the healing power of her embrace.

Now she draws crowds of thousands to ashrams and conference rooms around the globe, including the Manhattan Center, the performance venue where she is holding a three-day hugathon that is to end Thursday. Her followers estimate that she has hugged 27 million people in her lifetime.

"The feeling is like sunshine or

moonlight shining on me," said Zhen Joy Lin, 45, of Manhattan, who has been hugged at several of Amma's earlier visits to New York. "I feel the best part of humankind."

The scale of Amma's hugging operation is such that it has become an assembly line of love, whose efficiency depends on hundreds of sari-clad volunteers.

Before receiving a hug from Amma, the devotees were helped by at least 10 volunteers. Three collected the numbered tokens and ushered groups of 30 at a time to a double row of conference chairs leading to Amma. Four more guided the devotees forward from seat to seat as the line advanced; another wiped their faces with a tissue, removing sweat and urban grit before it could stain Amma's white sari.

At the front of the line, a volunteer helped one woman from the chair to her knees. She held her ponytail and pushed her forward into Amma's lap. No seconds were wasted, no energy squandered on Amma's reaching forward.

Amma held the woman, first lightly with one arm, then tightly with two. Volunteers to Amma's left prepared a parting gift, a Hershey's kiss and a couple of flower petals, that they slipped into Amma's hand.

"Everybody wants to do that job," said Kelly Flynn, 36, a slow-blinking, slow-talking devotee who has accom-

panied Amma on her last four world tours. "If staff people fight over anything, it's over that."

As Amma pulled away, she handed the woman her gift, and another volunteer steadied her to her feet and guided her away. The encounter lasted about 30 seconds.

Ms. Flynn met Amma while she was a student at the Berkeley Psychic Institute in California.

"I was developing my abilities, but not becoming open-hearted," Ms. Flynn said. "That's why I switched to Amma." Ms. Flynn left the institute and sold her half of a plant nursery business to join Amma's group of about 150 full-time volunteers on tour. They are paid nothing and cover their own transportation, food, and housing expenses.

Ms. Flynn rode a bus Monday night from Chicago to New York, then slept just two hours on the floor of a nearby gymnasium before reporting for duty to help cook vats of lentil soup and prepare bins of garden salad to be sold to Amma's devotees.

The hugs are free, but during the long wait the visitors can shop at the traveling store for items like scented eye pillows, chanting CDs and acupuncture treatments. The proceeds help to finance Amma's hospitals, orphanages, housing projects and disaster relief efforts, most of which are in India, the volunteers said.



Mata Amritanandamayi, 54, known to her followers as Amma, or Mother, has hugged 27 million people so far. A native of India, Amma is now on a three-day hugathon in New York. Photo: Ozier Muhammad - NYTimes.com

Hugging up to 50,000 people in a 20-hour session, a frequent occurrence in India, would seem to leave no time for her to direct those projects. So sometimes she does it all at once; often, when she is in India, she will speak with her hospital and orphanage directors while the devotees cycle through her arms.

At the Manhattan Center, she was interviewed while engaged in a triple hug, cradling a man in her left arm, his wife and son in her right.

"For me there is no difference

between materialism and spirituality; they are one and the same," she said. "For example, if your left hand is in pain, the right hand will spontaneously console the left."

She squeezed the family again, then released them into the crowd. She looked up as she lifted her arm around the next person. "If you ask a river, 'How do you flow?' it can only say, 'I just flow.' So likewise, I just flow."

[NYTimes.com]

Indian Independence Anniversary

Recalling the historic midnight scene

H.V.R. IENGAR

August 15, 1947: The scene at Raisina Hill in New Delhi.

THE midnight hour of the 14th-15th August 1947, was, without doubt, a most momentous event in the history of our country. In fact, it marked the birth of a free India and, thus, the culmination of the hopes, the dreams of many dedicated people, some of whom had laid down their lives in the cause of freedom. But the hour combined not merely the solemnity of a historic occasion, but the bizarre contradictions in our society; the surge for daring thinking as well as subservience to superstition, a sense of high integrity as well as a capacity for corruption, intensive individuality as well as a feeling for co-operative adventure, in fact, the whole spectrum of our national personality.

The British Government had decided that the transfer of power to India, as represented by the Constituent Assembly should take place on the 15th of August. The British do not consult astrologers when they take political decisions, but there were quite a few eminent personages in Delhi who believed (many of them still do) in the effect of stellar combinations on human affairs and some of them began consulting astrologers as to whether the 15th was an auspicious day for the occasion. The advice was that it was not; a far more auspicious day was the 14th. But this was the day fixed for the renunciation of British authority over Pakistan and in fact, Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy, was in Karachi that morning formally to announce the transfer of power to that country and he flew back to Delhi the same afternoon. A solution for the problem was discovered, to the best of my recollection, by the agile brain of Sardar K. M. Panikkar, a brilliant writer of history in the English language, a scholar in Malayalam, also a deep student of the more recondite features of Hindu religion, and withal a great wit. He said he had discovered a formula which would appease the stars as well as make it unnecessary for the British government to change the date which had been announced in Parliament. The members of the Constituent Assembly would meet on the 14th, about half-an-hour or so before midnight; this would propitiate the stars. They would, however, take the oath of allegiance to Free India after the stroke of midnight which, according to British recognition, would be the 15th. Everybody seemed satisfied and arrangements were made accordingly.

Concern and surprise

I was the Secretary pro-tem of the Constituent Assembly. Several months previously I had been Secretary of the Department of Planning and Development of the old Government of India. I woke up one morning to read in the newspapers that the Governor-General had been pleased to abolish the Department. I went across after breakfast to see my Member, Sir Akbar Hydari, and expressed both concern, at the fact that my job had been abolished, and surprise that this had been done without any previous intimation to me. Sir Akbar said he was sorry, but events had been moving rather fast. Mr. Jinnah had seen the then Viceroy, Lord Wavell, and asked him whether the Department of Planning and Development had been planning for one country or two. If it was for the former, that would amount, in his view, to prejudicing the whole issue of Pakistan and he would break off all further negotiations with the British authorities. Lord Wavell had decided that the simplest solution would be to abolish the Department altogether. Sir Akbar stated that it would take a couple of days to settle on a new job for me; and he informed me, after two or three days, that an office had been set up to make arrangements for the inauguration of the Constituent Assembly which would both frame, a new Constitution and function as a legislative body till such a Constitution was enacted. I was to be in charge of all the administrative arrangements.

There would be a separate Constitutional Adviser who would prepare the necessary constitutional groundwork. For this latter post Sir B. N. Rau was appointed - a distinguished jurist, shy and retiring and completely dedicated to his work. The Assembly was to be completely free to appoint its own staff, but somebody had to take the necessary preparatory steps, and so both Sir B.N. Rau and I were pro-tem.

The midnight session was held in the Chamber which is now the Lok Sabha and the question arose as to how to accommodate the thousands of persons who were anxious to be present on so momentous an occasion.

Accommodation

The accommodation in the galleries was very limited and could not, at the best, accommodate more than a few hundred people. It was decided by me, in consultation with Dr. Rajendra Prasad who was the President of the Assembly, as well as Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel that an



invitation would be issued to each member for one relative of his choice. Dr. Rajendra Prasad strictly adhered to this formula. Pandit Nehru asked for just one ticket for Indira Gandhi; and Sardar Patel similarly asked for just one ticket for his daughter, Maniben. I know that dozens of people begged all of them to "put in a word" with me, but they refused. One member of the Cabinet sent his wife to see me; and I recall her walking out in a huff because I refused to oblige her husband by issuing more than one pass. A distinguished journalist also called on me and asked for half-a-dozen passes. I similarly refused; and I well recall his meeting me in the corridor a few days later to tell me he had "Fixed things up" at lower levels in my office. "I realise," I remember his saying, "that it is a mistake sometimes to go to the top for favours, particularly when the top consists of rigid bureaucrats like yourself."

There were a few diplomatic missions in Delhi at the time and the heads of these missions were invited for a cup of coffee at 11-30 p.m. I remember an I.C.S. officer who was working in the External Affairs Ministry arriving for the function wearing a dinner jacket with black bow tie. Some eyebrows were raised at this but, next day, I met the same officer wearing our national dress at a formal function. He subsequently held various diplomatic posts and turned out to be a dedicated officer of free India who enjoyed the confidence of Pandit Nehru.

We had a special clock which I had checked personally for accuracy, and exactly at midnight it chimed twelve beats. I went up to the microphone and started calling up names, I forgot in what order. The whole ceremony was broadcast and some of my friends in far off Bombay and Madras told

me subsequently that there was an emotional tremor in my voice when I called the names of some of the leaders who had led the fight for independence.

Enthusiastic Indiscipline

It was, indeed, an emotional moment, as I discovered when I came out with Pandit Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad. They were both to go to Government House - in a millionth fraction of a second the Viceroy's House had been metamorphosed by Destiny to the Governor-General's House, for one of the first acts of the new government was to request Lord Mountbatten to become the first Governor-General of India. The procedure had been laid down in advance, and he was waiting to receive them. But there was delay because there was an enormous crowd outside Parliament House, so enormous that all police arrangements broke down and it took quite a while to fetch the car to take the two leaders to Government House. The moment of Destiny had arrived, with a tremendous crowd jostling in good humour and enthusiastic indiscipline, and with Pandit Nehru as the Prime Minister of India symbolically offering the hand of friendship to a representative of the British Crown which had imprisoned him for several long years. This gesture was due, in part, to the manner in which

Lord Mountbatten conducted the operation of withdrawal of British power; but it was largely due to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi who had repeatedly stated that he had nothing but affection for the British people as human beings although he hated their regime in India. It was significant that this great messenger of compassion was absent from the great ceremony for which he had fought over the years. One of the main reasons, in fact, the main

reason for his absence was that he thought partition was wrong and disastrous. And who, looking back with the advantage of hindsight, over this strife-torn quarter of a century, would deny that there was something in what he said? For although Pakistan was born at an astrologically auspicious moment, it has been torn into two separate pieces, and with this tearing apart has been shattered the theory of two nations on which the whole concept of Pakistan was based.

- from The Hindu, August 15, 1972.

H.V.R. Iengar, ICS, was Secretary to the Constituent Assembly, Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary and Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Remembering Indira Gandhi

Continued...

In an irony of fate and paradox it has done some good to the Indians to realize that India has to be a secular country with its multi ethnic, diverse nationalities and has to be governed democratically. Some say that she left a legacy of corrupt governance and political chicanery. It is also said that her political interests came before the poverty-stricken and long-suffering nation.

India's rise under Indira was dazzling and in a way meteoric. Her rise had even surpassed that of her predecessors including that of her father who was a man of great vision and wisdom. Her sudden and tragic removal from the scene of politics like Shakespeare's Julius Caesar was indeed a great loss to the Indians and was perhaps a greater loss to the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Monsoon Features

WORDS OF PEACE

Freedom to Understand

"I can free you so you can taste what real freedom is," says , a prominent voice for peace-but first, he says, people need to understand what freedom is.

If a bird is raised in a cage, he says, its definition of freedom will be a bigger cage. "This is what happens in our lives," he says. "Our definition of freedom becomes a better cage. 'Yes, I've got the fanciest cage, with the latest plasma TV in it.'

"The world says 'Hey! Flash your freedom! Let everybody know of your status.' I'm saying, think outside the cage. A bigger cage is not freedom. Freedom is when you feel free."

Freedom, he says is a feeling, not something that can be given by someone else.

"It's not when somebody comes along to you and says, 'You are free!'" he says. "People say, 'This is true, because I saw it on TV.' It's true because I read it in a book.' Why can't I decipher for myself what it is that I feel in my life? Do I feel free?"

"Understand by feeling, not by guessing, not by taking somebody else's word for it," "When you truly understand something, it's beyond questions.

"Don't take my word for it. When you feel freedom in your life, then and then alone will you be free-when you actually experience it."

Prem Rawat widely known as Maharaji frequently answers questions posed to him by those with an interest in what he offers.

Q: Is there any way that I can ensure that I will always have good times in my life?

A: First of all, good luck to you, because it's not going to happen. Good times, bad times...it's like the seasons. There will be summer, then there will be

fall, then winter, and then spring. This is how it is.

It's not a question of good or bad. This is what you have been placed in, but understanding gives you the power, the courage to go beyond that. Whether a day is good or bad, whatever the issue may be, you can be above it. Rather than being swept out into the ocean with the tide, you can stand on firm footing.

Q: Sometimes I feel like just a speck of dust in the universe, and

A: It's within you. The source of understanding is within you. The source of all the faith in this world is within you. The source of all joy is within you. The source of all wisdom is within you-and it's wonderful because, if you can free up that possibility, you can taste what real freedom is.

You need to understand what real freedom is. Being able to turn left or right at will is not real freedom. Real freedom comes from a true understanding of what free-



I am afraid. How can I overcome my fear?

A: In everything in life, you have an option. You can be afraid-and fear is what most people opt for. Or you can understand that all of this that you see as bad will eventually turn. Why? That's its nature.

Don't be afraid. Fear is crippling; understanding isn't. Yes, I know people say, "Oh, I'm a speck of dust." Maybe you are-but what an incredible speck of dust you are! There is a light, an energy, within you, and the possibility of walking in that light. Choose that.

Q: Where will I find this understanding?

dom is all about.

What is presented by Maharaji is not about a lifestyle, philosophy, religion, or beliefs. It is also not about following someone, except perhaps your own self, in the nicest way possible.

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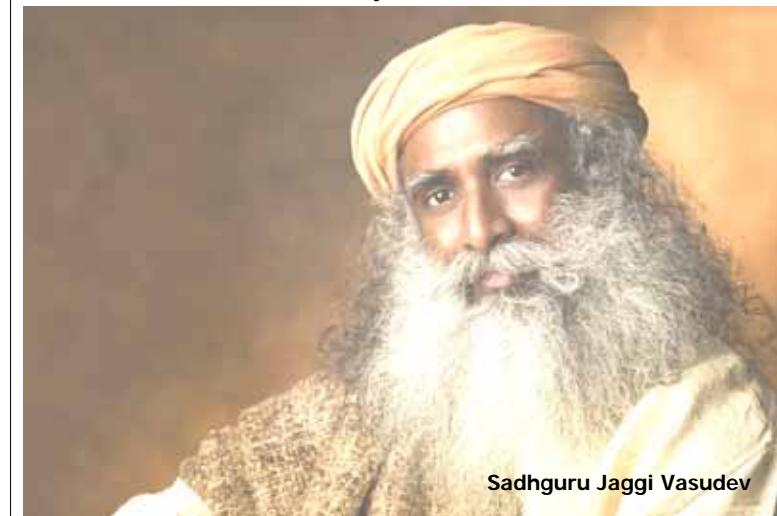
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Desire

I was interviewing some people for Brahmacharya (monk hood) recently. One of them said "I want enlightenment". It was a good answer but if enlightenment was what he wanted, there were so many other easy alternatives available. Why Brahmacharya? He replied, "I want the shortest route."

It is nice that he has such lofty



Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

goals, but enlightenment isn't such a simple thing. If you look at it one way, you'll have to conquer the entire world. If you look at it from a different point of view, enlightenment is available right where you're sitting now. The simple trick is to observe how life, mind and existence interact with each other.

Every human being has a 'past' and he yearns for a 'future'. But how many really understand that the past and future are simply creations of our own desire? It is only because you desire something that you see a future. Once you project a future in your mind, your past will automatically acquire an enormous size, just to balance your aspirations for a future.

And you sit in the fulcrum which is the present without even realizing it. As your mind is swayed by a see-saw of the past and future, you completely miss out on reality. Now don't get me wrong, I am not against desires, because without desire you would never know how to move. But at the same time, the minute you have a desire, you create a future, and all sorts of projections along with it.

Let me explain: In the present limitations of your mind, you can never really have a vision of what your true future will be. You know it, but still you are overwhelmed by your desire into creating flimsy projections. Your mind, which is capable of endless possibilities, now becomes a mere mirror, a distorted one at that. Each part of this mirror projects different visions of the directions your future will take, so you can imagine how chaotic the overall picture will be!

When your mind is in a mess, all the sadhana (spiritual practice) that you do becomes pointless it cannot fix the mind, it cannot make a virtue out of something that is a total mess.

Innumerable people chant 'Ram, Ram' for days on end and claim that they have a pure mind. But no, their minds are just garbage bins; there is no question of purity in them.

This reminds me of an incident. Once there was a certain you ascetic who was very eager for enlightenment. He rigorously chanted whatever mantra was taught to him, say for example 'Ram, Ram', in the hope that it would liberate and enlighten him. One day, the Master who had been watching him for a while, took a brick and started rub-

bing it on the wall in the same rhythm that the disciple chanted 'Ram, Ram'. The young man was completely disturbed. Every time he chanted the mantra the brick would go, 'Jhr, Jhr..'. He finally opened his eyes and confronted his Master, 'What is it that you are trying to do?' his master asked him. The disciple replied, 'I am trying to clear my mind, make it a still, reflecting pool'. The Master said, 'That is exactly what I am trying to do with this brick; I want to polish it so that it turns into a mirror. Now, both of us have been at it for quite some time but with no result. So what is the point?' That was when the disciple understood.

Indeed, what was the point of all his sadhana? Without sadhana there is no way, but sadhana is never the way. Without desire, there is no movement but desire is never the liberation.

The next logical question that any reader would ask me is, 'So Sadhguru, what is the right thing to do?' Why do people always look for the right thing that has to be done? There is no such thing at all. The only solution is to do whatever you are doing now the right way. Simply give yourself in totality to whatever you have chosen to do. This will get you past all the tricks your mind plays. It will also help you break the shackles of time that confine people who nourish desires.

In fact, your main desire should be to live in the present, to be completely involved in whatever you are doing right now. Any other desire will entangle you in the shackles of time - the past and the future.

Sadhguru is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being. For world-wide program information, visit www.ishafoundation.org. Toronto local contact 416 300 3010 or email Toronto@ishafoundation.org

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Monsoon Features

Martyrs shrine of the City of Midland

Raymond Rajabalan

Three hundred and fifty years ago in the early summer of 1639, the Jesuits black robes of old Huronia villages near Midland city in Ontario made the momentous decision to build a central residence in a nearby place named Sainte-Marie apart from the villages in the area. For several years the Jesuits had worked and lived in scattered Huron settlements, but now they decided that their life in the crowded Huron villages was too hemmed in to allow the freedom needed for apostolic action.

Apostolic activity

It is interesting to recall the growth of the French community at Sainte-Marie from 28 people in 1640 to 66 in 1648. Among these were Jesuit priests and brothers, lay volunteers, youths, workmen and a few soldiers.

Using Sainte-Marie as the centre of apostolic endeavours, the Jesuit missionaries fanned out in all directions to maintain contact with the Huron villages and proclaim the liberating message of the gospel. Gradually Sainte-Marie, spiritually and materially became the "House of peace", a little Christendom in the service of Huronia and its people. Hundreds of people got baptized and by 1648, nearly two-thirds of the 12,000 Hurons had become Christian and given witness of admirable Christian life.

The Unending struggle

The years of Sainte-Marie, 1639-1649, full of growth for the mission, were also the years of Huron supremacy as the middlemen in the lucrative fur trade. But these years also marked the relentless struggle between the Hurons and Iroquois, the two indigenous groups of people in North America for the control of this fur trade. In the end Hurons were defeated and disaster finally overwhelmed the Huron Nation and spelled the end of it and of Sainte-Marie.

It was at this time Jesuits such as Antoine Daniel (1648), Jean de Bre'beuf and Gabriel Lalement (March 1649), were put

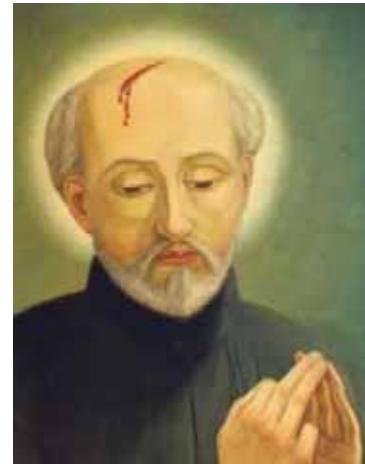
to death along with hundreds of their Huron brothers and sisters. Charles Garnier and Noel Chapnel also met a similar fate in December 1949. Along with Issac Joques and two of his lay volunteers Rene Goupil and Jean de la Lande who had perished earlier in "New York State", Bre'beuf and his fellow Jesuits constitute revered martyrs of North America along with Joseph Chiwetehwa, his wife Aonetta and hundreds of other unknown and unsung heroines, faithful companions of the black robes of Huronia



St. Charles Garnier



St. Rene' Goupil



St. Isaac Jogues

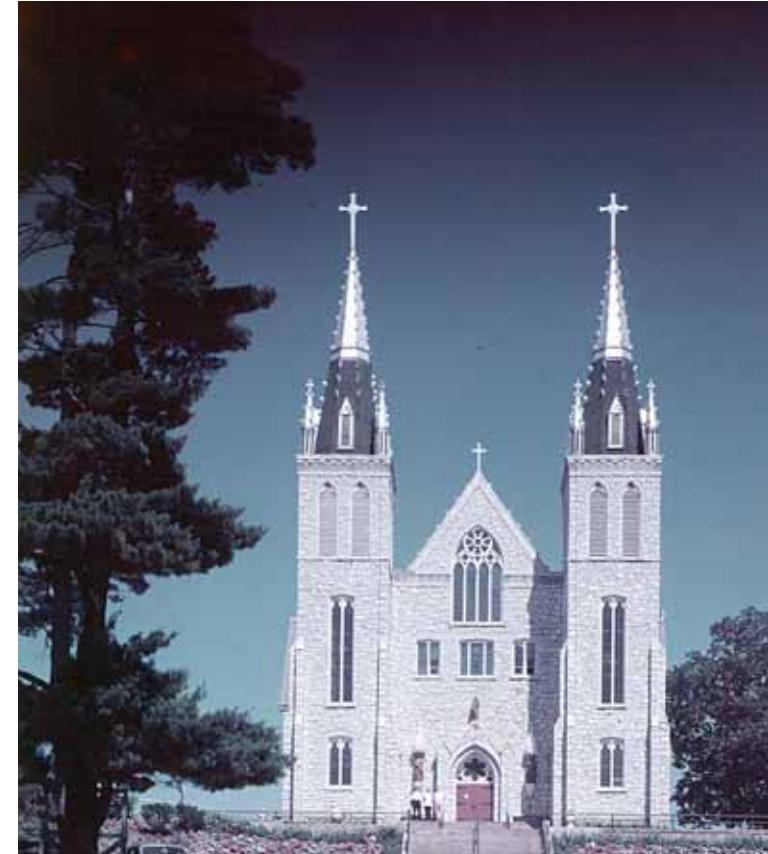


St. Jean de la Lande

would be nearly 200 years before the Jesuits themselves would revisit the ruins of Sainte-Marie. In 1926 Martyrs Shrine, the spiritual inheritor of Sainte-Marie was built and inaugurated by Jesuits

History Unfolds

On June 29, 1930 Jean de Bre'beuf, Antoine Daniel, Gabriel Lalement, Charles Garnier, Issac Joques and Noel Chapnel along



Martyrs Shrine



St. Jean de Bre'beuf



St. Noel Chabanel

with two volunteers Rene' Goupil and Jean de la Lande were declared martyr saints by Pope Pius X

This place was at the beginning a mission field, and the holy men came who came here believed so deeply in God that they were willing to love and serve in an incredibly difficult mission. They were a Society formed for the following of Jesus, the redeemer. Their love was so much that they were willing and glad to offer their lives in order that it be known their Lord lived in his fol-

lows forever.

Today each year thousands of devotees flock to the Martyr's Shrine located atop the hill which slopes gently up from the little Wye River below. It rests there - something that draws the lonely heart and gives it peace.

The pilgrims visiting the shrine seek peace and they find courage and strength to live with a cross, to accept difficult and seemingly impossible situations and return home with peace of mind.

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MAYOR'S SENIORS HALL OF FAME

Every year during the month of June, designated Seniors month by the Province, The Mayor of Markham honors the Seniors who have made outstanding contributions and community service, with awards called MAYOR'S SENIORS HALL OF FAME. This year

Mr. Manickampillai Velauthapillai is one of the six recipients of this award. Here he is seen receiving the award from His worship Frank Scarpitti the Mayor of Markham.



Left: His Worship mayor, Frank Scarpitti



Middle: Manickampillai Velauthapillai
Right: Tony Murphy Chairman (Senior's Award Committee)



Award Recipients from left to right: Gordon MacRae, Bert Harris, Margaret Bibby, John Milligan, Barbara Taverner and Manickampillai Velauthapillai.

Malaysian Ceylonese Congress turns 50 with glitter

By RAJESWARI KANDIAH

SOME of the women came sedately dressed while some were dressed to the nines. The men-folk, not to be outdone, came in their suits or dressed in colourful and rich prints.

The 1,000-odd guests were at the ballroom of Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress (MCC).

The celebration included a potpourri of songs, modern and cultural dances by local artistes, a dose of humour by Comedy Court duo Indi Nadarajah and Alan

Pereira, the evergreen D.J. Dave and Ananda of THR Raaga fame.

Organising chairman Dr S.S. Lingam, who was also co-emcee for the night, was in his element, spouting poetry and rhyming verses in Tamil and the appreciative guests were generous with their applause.

Dr Lingam said part of the proceeds from the dinner would be donated to the Sensholai Orphanage in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, as well as the Anbu Karangal orphanage in Malaysia.

"While we celebrate, we also want to do what we can to ease

the plight of the needy," he said.

MCC president Datuk Dr NKS Tharmaseelan said he was happy to see so many people of Ceylonese origin celebrating together.

"The time has come to strengthen MCC in terms of numbers and grow to greater heights," he said.

Before the night drew to a close, the guests took to the dance floor, some with their newfound friends.

With a lot of food, fun and laughter, the celebration was truly an evening to remember.



Wowing the crowd:
Alan and Indi (front) of
Comedy Court fame in
action during the event.



Eloquent: Dr Lingam
was also a hit with the
crowd.



Some of the guests present at the dinner

ManithaNeyam Canada launched

By: Kumar Punithavel

ManithaNeyam, a unique Non-Governmental Organization that was established in Sri Lanka in 1999 by the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora working in collaboration with volunteers at the grass roots launched its latest international branch in Canada July 11, 2008 in Toronto. There were about one hundred ManithaNeyam enthusiasts and guests in attendance for the evening's event.

Since 1990 branches have been established in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia and considerable pioneering work have been begun to support and erase the sufferings of destitute, mentally affected and physically challenged and elders who needed care. Many of them are victims of the continuing civil strife in Sri Lanka and some in urgent need of care are those



Committee lighting traditional lamp

who have lost their entire family members.

Currently, among the ManithaNeyam supported projects are Children's hostel for orphans and the destitute such as the Sakthi Illam, Selva Illam & Boys Home, Ratmalana, Mahadeva Ashram for Girls and Boys, Killinochchi and Boys Home, Batticaloa. There are also the Home for the mentally and physically challenged the Association



for the Rehabilitation of the physically & mentally challenged, Killinochchi and Sivapoomi School, Jaffna

ManithaNeyam has a Home for visual and hearing impaired, the Iniya Valvu Illam, a Home for elders, .Sivapoomi Elders Home, Jaffna and the Yogar Swamigal Thiruvadi Nilayam, Killinochchi and a Vocational training centre, Sithy Vinayagar College Hostel and Vocational Training Centre.

In May 2008 ManithaNeyam was registered as a licensed NGO in Canada with the approval of the Canadian Ministry of Government Services.

During the evening of the Canadian branch launch, the members of the Board of Directors

the Canadian Medical Dental Development Association.

Dr Raviraj, during the course of explaining the ground realities in Jaffna especially its medical needs, observed the many shortcomings in the hospital and the need for committed and continuous benevolence from the Tamil Diaspora. He specifically referred to the gesture of the DTA raising funds and making available \$10, 000 towards the procurement of an anesthetic machine to the hospital.

The DTA President Kalyani Nathan, in response, informed Dr Raviraj that the association has a further \$9,000 already collected and this would be forwarded to the hospital once the anesthetic machine is delivered. She also assured Dr Raviraj that the DTA would be glad to help in the future as well raising funds for whatever help they may need.



K Kangatharan, a committee member of the DTA, Dr K Kulanayagam, Liaison Officer co-ordinating with the Jaffna Hospital & the DTA, DR S Raviraj, Consulting Surgeon and an active member of the Development Association of the Teaching Hospital in Jaffna Dr V Shanthakumar, the chairman of the Canadian Medical Dental Development Association & The DTA President Kalyani Nathan

were introduced to the guests and it was followed by an introduction to the work of ManithaNeyam by Mrs Bubby Mohan, who is one of the founder members of this NGO. Mrs. Kathy Knowles who had done volunteer work in Ghana among the needy was the guest of honour and she addressed those gathered on how such a work could be done if we are committed to service among our fellow beings.

More information about the organization may be learnt from. WWW.MANITHANEYAM.ORG, and they may be contacted in: cab-trust@manithaneyam.org

Monsoon Journal wishes this new organization all the best.

Waterloo News



Degree-holding immigrants less likely to find work than native-born Canadians: study

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - Some university-educated immigrants were less likely to be employed in 2007 than their Canadian-born counterparts, a new study shows.

Statistics Canada said university-educated immigrants between the ages of 25 and 54, who arrived in Canada in the last five years, had a more difficult time finding work than native-born Canadians.

Native-born Canadians holding a university degree had an employment rate of 90.7 per cent. The study found that immigrants who were educated in western countries were more likely to find work than those educated elsewhere. Immigrants' employment rate varied depending on their country of origin:

United States: 77.8 per cent

Europe: 73.8 per cent

Asia: 65.5 per cent

Latin America: 59.7 per cent

Africa: 50.9 per cent

But even immigrants who

received their degree at a Canadian university had lower employment rates than native-born Canadians.

Between 2002 and 2007, about 28,000 core-working-age immigrants received a degree in Canada.

Despite their Canadian education, their employment rate in 2007 was 75.3 per cent - lower than the 90.7 per cent average among their Canadian born, university-educated counterparts.

The study also found that the employment gap between degree-holding immigrants and the Canadian-born narrowed the longer an immigrant has been in Canada. University-educated immigrants who have been in Canada for more than a decade had employment rates comparable to native-born Canadians, Statistics Canada says.

Studies have shown that it is often difficult for newcomers to Canada to find work because of language barriers and their for-

ign credentials not being recognized.

The study also looked at employment rates in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec - the three provinces where most immigrants choose to settle.

Quebec had the most immigrants holding a Canadian university degree. British Columbia had the most Asian immigrants and the most immigrants holding a degree from an Asian university. Immigrants in Ontario most commonly held Asian or Canadian degrees.

The study found immigrants with Canadian degrees in Ontario and B.C. had employment rates similar to those of Canadian-born graduates, regardless of their landing period. But in Quebec, immigrants who have been in Canada since 1997 had an employment rate below native-born Canadians.

The employment rate among degree-holding immigrants who landed in Canada before 1997



was close to that of their Canadian-born counterparts,

Statistics Canada said. The only exception was the 61,000 Asian-educated immigrants in Ontario who arrived prior to 1997, who had a lower employment rate

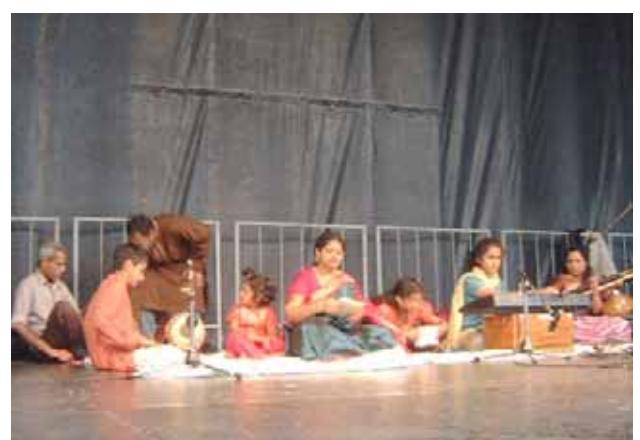
than native-born Canadians.

Meanwhile, the study found that immigrants aged 25 to 54 who held a post-secondary certificate or diploma were less likely to be employed than a similarly-educated Canadian born at home.

Diversity Celebrations during Tapestry festival

Kitchener: The Tamil community was part of the annual KW Multicultural festival. This month long celebration is part of the City of Kitchener - Tapestry celebrations.

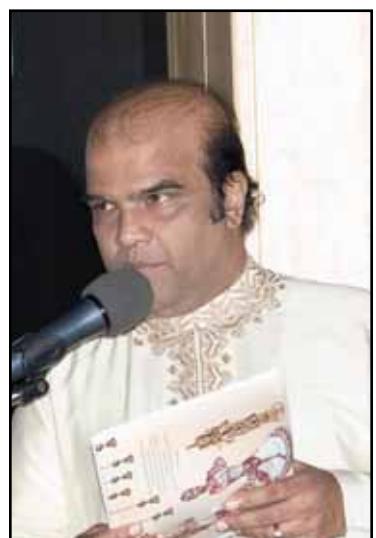
The Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region organised a South Indian Dance and Tamil Music evening at the Victoria Park in Kitchener. The colourful dance and the costumes attracted most of the guests in hand. The young dancers got a loud applause when it came to an end. The Tamil Song and Music was provided by local artists Shyamala, Prakash and students.



Maheisha Ravendra displays a dazzling performance in her Bharatanatyam Aranagetram held on August 9 2008



Accompanying Star Artists at the Bharatha Natya Arangetram of Maheisha Ravendra
From left to right: Yadavan, Gowryshankar, Sureka Radhakrishnan, Abhiramy Vivekananthan, V.K. Raman, Jayshankar



One of Maheisha's dance pieces

Tiruvaarur Bakthavalsalam, the chief guest, addressing his speech

Abdul Hameed, MC

Monsoon Opinion

Indian Regional Interests and Its Impact on Sri Lankan Tamils, Tamils of Indian Origin and Tamil Nadu Fishermen

Arun Senathirajah

Sri Lankan Tamils

India understands the sufferings of the human beings. On February 11, 2008, India condemned Israel for using force against Palestinians in Gaza. It said that the misery and hardship faced by Palestinians in Gaza is deplorable. It further added that it would provide relief supplies to Gaza civilians blockaded and denied basic amenities. It could see the sufferings of the people thousands of miles away.

India sheds crocodile tears for Palestinians but shows no concern for Sri Lankan Tamils. Since Sri Lankan Tamils are just a few miles away and even the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, his high level officials and security personnel had landed in the soil of Sri Lanka for SAARC conference; even then they cannot see the sufferings of Sri Lankan Tamils. It acted in the same manner by blocking Indian Red Cross to take the food and medicine to Sri Lankan Tamils as Sri Lanka closed the main supply route of A9 against Tamils. In fact food and medicine supplies were blocked by the Sri Lankan government by closing the main supply route. Since the Indian government was not doing anything, people from Tamil Nadu donated monies and purchased food and medicine to send to fellow Tamils in Sri Lanka through the Red Cross. Indian government did not provide any humanistic aid; it went further and blocked those who tried to help Sri Lankan Tamils. That is the kindness India shows towards Sri Lankan Tamils. Many countries have criticized the gross human rights violations perpetrated by Sri Lankan military, para-military and police against minority Tamils. India does not want to condemn Sri Lanka since Tamils are not human beings for Indian rulers. People say this is the country where Mahatma Gandhi once lived.

It is not a surprise to analysts who understand how was India's attitude towards its own current citizens – Tamil Nadu fishermen and one time Indian citizens of Indian origin Tamils in Sri Lanka. It is not a lack of positive thinking, but a purposeful inaction. A perception of Indian rulers overrules the human sympathy towards Tamils either from India or Sri Lanka. India was a mere observer in anti-Tamil pogrom of 1958 and 1983, and when Sri Lanka government declared Sri Lanka as a Sinhala-Buddhist country in 1972.

Not on words but in deeds, India well understood the Sri Lankan Tamils pity of facing genocide at the hands of continuous

chauvinistic Sinhala regimes. Well planned riots against Tamil minorities by Sinhalese leaders in 1958 and 1983 were examples of the genocidal manner of Sri Lankan rulers irrespective of the political party they belonged to. Sri Lankan Tamils fear that India will intervene only to prevent the Tamils from getting an independent "Tamil Eelam" and to crush the Liberation Tigers (LTTE). The Tamils also believe that India will not allow the North East Province to get more devolved power than what is enjoyed by Tamil Nadu in India. The theory is that India helped the Sri Lankan Tamils in the early 1980s not to liberate them but to keep the pro-West JR Jayewardene government in check and establish its hegemony over the region. India did promote Tamil militancy but it kept the militants divided in order to control them and make them mere instruments of its Sri Lanka policy. Till the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in 1990, India had tried hard to get the Sri Lankan government to devolve the promised amount of power to the Tamils but this is not recognized at all. So, India should accept the fact that emergence of Tamil militancy is not an overnight development in Sri Lanka to fight for their freedom. Even when lately when North and East was demerged in a internal court of law, breaking a two nations agreement, but India kept silent although it was a party to it.

The fact that India is home to 75 million Tamils is a major consideration in this regard. India knows that a dissatisfied Sri Lankan Tamil community could be a major destabilizing factor in the region. "Central Government Policy is Tamil Nadu government's Policy" stated chief minister It is well clear India's military weapons supply, financial package for Sri Lanka to acquire more military weapons and equipments to be used against Eelam Tamils as it was done in Eastern province and currently being carried out in Vanni to disperse them from their villages, damaging their houses and killing them using the fire-power, even some of those might have been supplied by India. If this is the policy of Indian government Chief Minister Karunanidhi's policy also would be the same to destroy Eelam Tamils and make them as refugees.

But at the same time it knows that the alienation of the Sinhalese or Muslims may lead to other problems. As it will destabilize India's southern flank, and may result in the entry of other powers wanting to fish in troubled waters. It is for this reason that India re-oriented its Sri Lanka pol-



icy in the post IPKF era in the 1990s. Though this has been to the dismay of the Tamils, India has begun to say that a solution to the ethnic problem in the island should be such that it satisfies "all communities" living in it and not just the Tamils. A solution should be within a united Sri Lanka and that should ensure democracy, pluralism and human rights.

Contrary to what many Sinhalese and Tamils think, India has no preferences in regard to the degree of devolution to the Tamils. The degree of devolution is something to be decided entirely by the two parties in conflict in the process of negotiations. Again, contrary to the popular view in Sri Lanka, India does not think that a greater amount of devolution to the Sri Lankan Tamils will necessarily trigger a separatist movement in Tamil Nadu. It is well recognized in India that the problems of the Tamils in Sri Lanka are different from the problems of the Tamils of Tamil Nadu. The Indian state had a secessionist movement, but it died a natural death following changes in the Indian political system, its inherent adjustability and the belief that diversity is not necessarily a danger to unity.

Sri Lanka may become another State of India

After bitter war on Tamils by IPKF Tamil minorities are antagonistic views on the Indian intervention. Majority Sinhalese are divided in their opinion. Although Sri Lanka said time to time, India to play a lead role, it is urging caution on the grounds that it could thrust its hegemony on the islanders which is more unwelcome than a partition of the country into two independent states for Sinhalese and Tamils. In 2000, when Jaffna had fallen to the LTTE and 30,000 Sri Lankan soldiers were under threat of annihilation, all that India did was to offer to evacuate the troops, the paper pointed out. So, that means India will not allow LTTE to succeed Sri Lankan military. It was India which exacerbated the

become a country in name, but in reality as another state of India with enforced solution to the long waiting ethnic question of Sri Lankan Tamils.

At a time when the Indian economy is booming and is looking for places to invest and trade in, India is anxious that Sri Lanka becomes stable and prosperous so that it can attract Indian capital. India, therefore, has a vested interest in an amicable resolution of the ethnic and other conflicts plaguing the island. Despite continuing failure on the part of Sri Lanka in finding a justifiable solution to Tamils, India so far did not antagonize Sri Lanka merely because it wants a friendly neighbor without outside influence. Realizing this Sri Lanka plays adversary roles against Indian interests. Sri Lanka is well aware its dealing with China and Pakistan would never be welcome by any Indian government or political party. But they still went ahead and got military aids from these countries despite Indian leaders' objections. But India now thinks the time has come to check it. That is reflected in the recent top bureaucratic visit and dialogues.

Tamils of Indian Origin

In the 1870s Indian Tamils from south India were brought to Sri Lanka to work in the tea plantations as cheap labour by the British, when tea became main cash crop of Sri Lanka. Tamils who have worked hard to build the Sri Lankan economy for more than 100 years, by developing malaria infested hill slopes of Sri Lanka. First prime minister of Sri Lanka brought the ethnic bias by enacting Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948. the Indian-Pakistani Citizenship Act of 1949 and amended the Parliamentary Elections Act and disfranchised the Indian Tamils. India gave silent consent to disenfranchisement of the Tamils of Indian origin. They forgotten political masses between 1948 and 1968.

Under two bilateral agreements signed in 1954, 1964 and 1975 India was to take back about a half a million stateless Tamils from Sri Lanka. India, Ceylon Indian Congress president S Thondaman opposed the Srima-Shastri Indo-Ceylon Act of 1964. Under Srima-Shastri Indo-Ceylon Act of 1964 and its 1974 agreement paved way for repatriation of almost 50% of the Indian origins – 600,000 to India. Around 375,000 accepted Sri Lanka citizenship in 1974. Indian origin of Tamils marked to go to India started resisting repatriation to India.

Continued in Page 44

Planning your Investments systematically and sensibly

In today's financial world, the ever-expanding variety of investment products available, combined with the technological sophistication to execute orders and retrieve information -- often within seconds -- has made investing relatively easy. However, investing wisely is anything but. Investment opportunities have multiplied, but so has the time required to research them adequately. As a result, many investors may end up with an unfocused approach to investing.

Many people know in a general way what they want to accomplish through investing: send children to college or university, provide for retirement, or increase current income. But knowing what your financial objectives are is not helpful unless you can qualify them. For example, you might want to accumulate \$50,000 for a university education by 2010, retire on \$5,000 per month in 10 years or increase current investment income from \$750 to \$1,000 per month. Without these types of numerical goals, you won't be able to sort through the investment choices or measure your progress.

However, quantifying your goals is not simply a matter of wishful thinking. The numbers must be realistic, which means you need to have a fairly good idea of your financial resources as well as your attitude towards risk. Only then can you decide on realistic goals. For one family, the goal of amassing \$50,000 for a university education by 2010 might be entirely achievable, while another family with fewer assets, less current income or a lower tolerance for risk, a figure of \$30,000 might be more reasonable.

You may think you know what your present financial position is, but many people turn out to have only the vaguest idea. The best starting point is to determine your family's net worth. Though that's a term that confuses many people,

the process of figuring it out is quite simple. First add up all your assets, including the value of your home; cash assets, like chequing, savings and money-market accounts; other investments, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds; and the present value of your pension or profit-sharing plan. Then subtract your liabilities -- mortgage, loans and other debts, including such obligations as alimony and child support. The result is your net worth.

Even if you calculate your net worth yourself, you may need the help of an expert to determine how much you can regularly invest and in what specific investments. You may go to a professional money manager if you have substantial capital to invest, or to an independent financial planner (who may charge from several hundred for a detailed plan) or to a bank, insurance company or brokerage firm, which will charge less. ScotiaMcLeod provides investment planning assistance at no charge and continuing guidance by your own advisor.

Investment planning programs, such as the Personal Investment Review, ask you to provide detailed financial information, which is then analyzed by investment specialists, who alert you to possible problems -- and potential opportunities. This analysis takes into account your current and prospective income, spending patterns, insurance requirements, and retirement and estate planning considerations.

Moreover, with ever-changing tax laws, investments that, at one time, were appropriate from a tax-saving viewpoint have to be constantly reviewed to see if they will still make sense under new legislation. However you determine your financial plan, it is important to realistically assess your financial resources and apply them, systematically and sensibly, to your investment goals.



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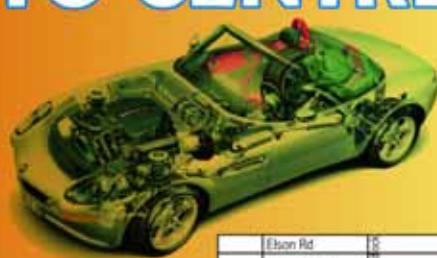
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Monsoon Features

Meditation - a path towards utter freedom

Prof. Saran Ghai

There are two types of Meditation - Stabilizing and Analytical. There is a lot more to meditation than just learning the techniques. It is an entire state of mind and a whole different way of looking at the world. Meditation is used by many people as a tool for relaxation of body and to reduce stress. Meditation has been practiced for thousands of years. At the very start, meditation was meant to help people deepen their understanding about the sacred and mystical forces of life. The current world uses meditation for relaxation, stress reduction and of course to achieve spiritual heights.

Meditation is very useful in a number of medical diseases or conditions, especially when the medical disorder is due to stress. Even the scientists have agreed and accepted the application of meditation for early healing. Scientific researches are on to have better impact on the patients by applying medication and meditation together.

Meditation is far above in its benefits than just relaxation. The nature of the mind is to offer judgement, criticism and analysis. When we are constantly judging things, it is difficult to have peace of mind. The nature of the mind is to feel a sense of self identity. Meditation enables us to go beyond the intellectual mind and enter into the spiritual heart. The spiritual heart is a term we can use for where our inner self or soul resides. The heart identifies and feels a sense of oneness with other people and other things. Real meditation allows us to identify our inner self. We feel an expansion in our consciousness where we feel peace and joy within us. The unusual feature of this kind of happiness is that it does not depend upon outer circumstances; this happiness is self generated, it comes from our own souls. This is that state of bliss which we crave for and it is meditation that takes us to that stage.

In our previous article we discussed about the benefits of meditation for common people, patients, students, pregnant women and our sex and love life. The benefits of meditation are endless and certainly deserve lots of contemplation. Many successful business people, celebrities and sports professionals practice and enjoy the benefits of meditation. Numerous businesses promote and provide help and assistance to their staff with the benefits of meditation courses and because of this they gain an advantage over their competitors and establish their supremacy

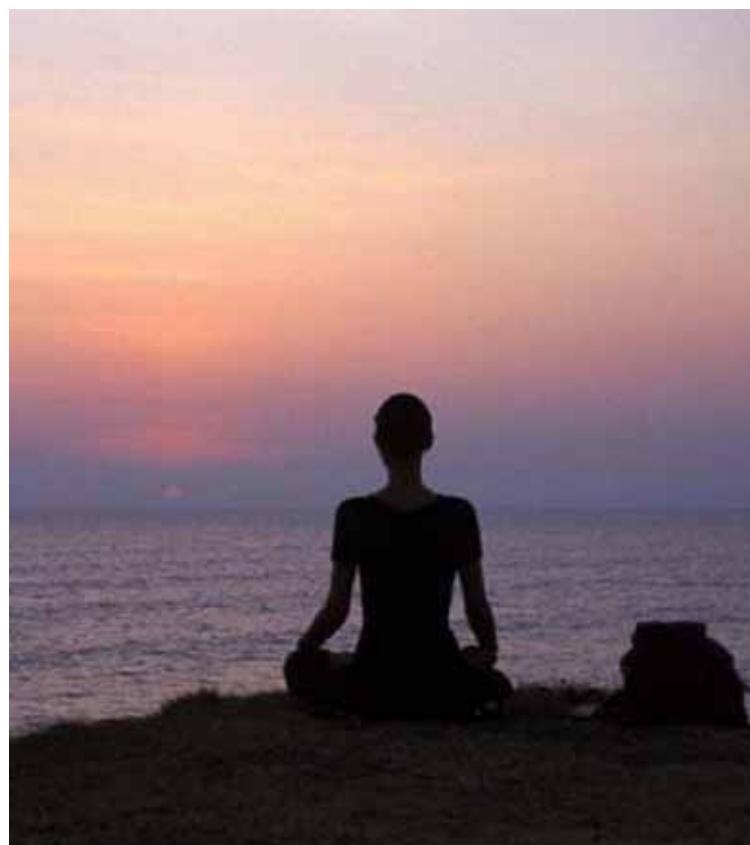
BENEFITS OF MEDITATION

over others.

Studies have shown that meditation has health benefits too. Many of the benefits are related to the decrease in stress that occurs through meditation. It is found even the probability of heart disease diminishes significantly if meditation is practiced regularly. It is important to keep in mind that meditation does not guarantee you good health. But, there is a growing awareness of the link between our state of mind and physical health. Quite often physical ailments are symptoms of inner system disturbance. Meditation can give us peace of mind, and this can be a helpful step in avoiding many stress related ailments. Meditation has also been proved helpful to get a relief from pain caused by certain illnesses.

Man has conquered space and numerous other challenges; but, could not conquer his own mind? Many people are of the opinion that it is impossible to have a control over the thoughts. Thanks to meditation which has made it possible. Meditation teaches that, not only it is possible to control the thoughts but also to rule over them. Through meditation we can bring our unruly mind under control. This creates peace of mind and enables us to achieve what we want to. For example, when we talk about our sex life, during sexual intercourse all of a sudden men find helpless and ejaculate. They have no control and even before reaching the peak of pleasure. Everything goes out of control and the result is unhappiness for both the partners. A meditating mind can concentrate and even control his sex strength up to a very good extent and can continue having sex pleasure for an extended time. Not only that, most men and women while having sex keep on thinking about their day to day worries and problems, thus do not concentrate on their sexual activity. This diminishes the whole pleasure. Meditating minds will enjoy sex better as they are able to concentrate their minds and have the best pleasure nature has provided to all living beings.

Meditation takes us to the source of happiness, which lies in our own mind. If we have no peace of mind and are constantly attacked by negative thoughts, happiness will remain elusive, no matter how successful we are. For some it is hard to believe that happiness can occur from the simple act of meditation. But, if we meditate with a still mind, we will discover an unexpected



source of happiness within our own self. Meditation shows us that happiness is not dependent on outer circumstances, but on our inner way of thinking.

When we live in the thinking mind, we are usually preoccupied with the present, past and future. We may feel we have neither creativity nor spontaneity. But, if we can learn to control our mind, we realize that we have far more potential than we believe we have. To access this source of inspiration we need to take our mind to the state of concentration. Great thinkers and scientists could make important discoveries only because they could absorb themselves in their work. Meditation helps everyone to live in the current moment, and thus makes our worldly and spiritual journey most successful.

Be it work, sport or music, concentration is essential to take us to our goal. Concentrated mind is a great power. If we concentrate we can do more in less time. Through meditation we better our focus and win over the situations and circumstances easier than others.

The benefits of meditation are real, but, it also requires perseverance. It is mistake to expect all these benefits in the first few attempts; the mind takes time to tame. Also, it is difficult to explain all the benefits of meditation, because it involves a state of consciousness that cannot be expressed by words.

We can pursue meditation as far as we can. Many people become satisfied with meditating just for relaxation and peace of mind. But, meditation can be part

by hiding behind their several religions and thoughts. They are using their art of speech to misguide people and distract them from their normal life. Current need of the world is love and peace. If peace will not prevail, nothing will be left behind. Time has come that each one of us has to think about it and do something to save the world. Each one of us has to meditate and find out a way to establish the supremacy of peace over the war. War and hatred begets nothing but worsens the situation and circumstances further. This is only possible if each one of us sit down and meditate, how can love rule over hatred, how can peace rule over war, how can a common man become a super human. Meditation can make it possible, results can be found. What we need is determination. Determination to make the world peaceful and beautiful. Meditation can beget results, let's meditate together.

Continued.

(Prof. Saran Ghai is an author, editor and publisher of a number of books, magazines and newspapers. He is also a palm reader and a numerologist. Readers of Monsoon Journal can contact Prof. Ghai at (416) 816-5559 or e-mail: muktipath@muktipathmeditation.com or visit his web site: www.muktipathmeditation.com.



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Monsoon Features

THE MASS EXODUS OF TAMILS

I was at the Victoria Day celebration at the lakeshore in downtown Toronto on the Monday night of the long weekend in May. That warm and pleasant evening the sky was covered with bright blue clouds, and the shining rays of the setting sun lent a special atmosphere to the festive evening. The cool breeze from Lake Ontario embraced the crowd that eagerly awaited the beginning of the multi-coloured fireworks.

Everyone seemed to be celebrating the arrival of spring. People had shed the layers of winter and were dressed in light spring clothing. Seeing them there, a multitude of different faces and different styles of dress, was like seeing a world in miniature. So many ethnic groups were represented that I soon lost count. Nevertheless, everyone who was there, irrespective of his or her socio-ethnic background even those who had no idea of whom the mighty Queen Victoria was in a celebratory mood.

As the clock struck nine, the long-awaited fireworks began. Everyone looked skyward in anticipation except the young girl beside me. She was a Tamil teenager, and, as the fireworks began, her eyes filled with tears, and slowly they streamed down her lovely face.

The young girl appeared to be severely troubled, and I took the liberty of approaching her to see if I could be of help. At the same time, it occurred to me that something had touched her heart and that she was recalling a memory from her bitter past. I smiled and said to her, "Are you not comfortable with the fireworks, or are you allergic to anything here?"

By this time she was weeping and was not in a position to reply to me. A few seconds later I rephrased my question. Slowly she wiped her tears, and, in a halting voice, responded.

"When I heard that crackling sound in the sky I recalled what happened to my sister and my mother in small village where we lived in the northern province of Sri Lanka when war broke out. We had been living as a loving family and were never involved in any type of violent activity. We were peace-loving people."

"Suddenly, out of nowhere on that sunny afternoon, a war plane targeted us and the bombs rained down. Right in front of me, my mother and older sister were instantly killed. Tragically, it did not end there. A few days later, the army entered our village in search of rebels. However, instead of searching as a group,

Samy Appadurai

they brutally raped my other sister. I cannot wipe the pain of it from my heart!"

I commiserated with the young lady and tried to comfort her as best I could. Then I bought her an ice-cream cone, which she shyly accepted. Slowly she regained her composure, thanked me and left the scene.

Truth be told, however, I cannot wipe the memory of this incident from my heart. There are countless stories like this among the Tamil victims of Sri Lanka. Innumerable tales of the suffering of innocents tell of torture, rape, looting, oppression, persecution and abuse of all kinds. The Tamil people have stored these memories in their hearts, where they will always reside, no matter how good the lives they may build in Canada and elsewhere. It is well documented that not only the survivors of genocide suffer. Their trauma is somehow transmuted and passed onto the second and third generations; this has been amply documented among the children and grandchildren of those who survived the Nazi Holocaust.

Some Historic Facts on the Various Tamil Migrations

The mass exodus of Tamils dates back to prehistory. The Tamils are one of the oldest races, and it was they who produced the first advanced civilization on the continent known as Lamuria, which was, in ancient times, a land mass attached to the sub-continent we now know as India.

As a result of continental drift in the Indian Ocean, this land mass eventually sank. According to historians, this happened far before 5,000 B.C.E. On account of this and other natural calamities, as well as the many wars fought among the various Tamil kingdoms and the invasion of foreign powers, the Tamil people dispersed. However, large settlements were established in what is now India's Tamil Nadu and in the former Ceylon, now, of course, known as Sri Lanka.

The glory and wealth of the Lamurian civilization expanded greatly, and its traders worked in an international sphere throughout the then-known world. It was this international trade that led to a second wave of the exodus of Tamils from the areas in which they had become established. Incredibly, they eventually found their way to Japan in the east and traveled also to the Middle East in the west, via the southern tip of Africa up to the Mediterranean Sea. On their travels they became

intermingled with the people of the civilizations they encountered and subsequently lost their Tamil identity.

The third wave of Tamil exodus came somewhat later. It was made up primarily of members of the intellectual class, who became advisors to the southeastern monarchies at the invitation of their kings. Indeed, bringing in Tamil philosophers and visionaries was among the best decisions the Tamil kings made. Under the principle of the Divine Right of Kings, the rulers believed they were the true representatives of God on earth. As such, they wielded absolute power over the three main divisions of government: the legislative, executive and judiciary branches. The Tamil advisors who were the right-hand men of these kings were very knowledgeable, multi-talented and perceptive, and their counsel was considered invaluable.

The fourth wave of exodus included the movement of many warriors to certain countries in Southeast Asia during the expansion of the Tamil empire of Sola. This was a peak time in Tamil history. It was a golden era like that of Queen Victoria at the height of the British Empire. Those warriors eventually intermarried with the local women and settled down. They became acculturated and contributed much of their own language and culture to those living in their new home. A good example of this is the Indonesian language. It was a spoken language only before the Indonesians intermingled with the Tamils, and it was they who helped make the local language a written one. Indeed, almost 40% of Indonesian words have their roots in Tamil. In Japanese there are more than 800 Tamil words, and there are approximately 500 Tamil words in Korean.

An additional wave of mass exodus, at the grassroots level, occurred during British colonial rule. Those leaving included countless unskilled labourers from Indian villages who had been falsely given high hopes for a better economic future. They were told, for example, that they would be working in gold mines in various locations around the world, and that they would be given high wages. They were taken to Fiji, South Africa, East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar), the West Indian Islands, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Burma. Some of the Sri Lankan Tamils who could read and write were taken to Malaysia, where they were installed in clerical jobs.



In this regard, it is informative to look at the word "coolie". One thought on its origins is that it is derived from a South American language that refers to the name of a specific tribe. The second and most accepted one is that it comes from the Tamil word that means manual labor. And, as everybody knows, "coolie" is not a very nice word.

The next wave of emigration from established Tamil areas was characterized by a brain drain to developed countries, particularly the United Kingdom.

This occurred during the 1950s. At that time, in India and Sri Lanka, there was not much opportunity for educated people. They were the cream of the crop, and, with the blessing of the British, they migrated to the land of their former colonizers.

Yet another wave of Tamil migration hit Sri Lanka when the official language was switched from English to Sinhalese, the language of the majority on the island. It was this move to establish Sinhalese as the official language that paved the way for Sinhalese dominance over the Tamil minority.

The recent mass exodus of Tamils occurred when civil strife broke out in Sri Lanka in 1983. During that year and the many years that came afterwards, countless Tamils became refugees and sought protection under the Geneva Conventions all over the world. Of all the migrations of Tamils from their homeland, the creation of thousands upon thousands of refugees was the worst and most compelling that the Tamil people have ever had to face. Simply put, this exodus was the result of systematic human rights violations on the part of the Sinhalese government. Massacre has followed massacre. Human rights have been violated repeatedly. People are arrested at random and are incarcerated without being charged. Women have been raped and children mutilated.

beyond recognition. Respect for the basic humanity of others has evaporated on that beautiful tear-shaped island in the tropical sea.

From the depths of my heart, I thank Canada on behalf of the refugees who came from Sri Lanka with no status and have been given safe haven on these shores. Their gratitude to the government and the people of this country knows no bounds.

The Preservation of Tamil Identity in Canada

For second- and third-generation Tamils in Canada, the issue of identity is not an easy one. There is a tug at the heartstrings between traditional Tamil culture and that of the mainstream. When the British Empire brought indentured workers to various international locations, they systematically paved the way for assimilating the migrants within the majority culture. This is far from the case in Canada today, where multiculturalism is respected, and, indeed, cherished as official government policy.

Second and Third Generations in Canada

Many of the second generation were born in Sri Lanka and came to Canada in early childhood. They derive their primary values from their parents' home, which, for them, is the dominant environment-with the exception of those children enrolled in daycare after their mother completes her maternity leave. In such instances, the daycare and the elementary school usually turn out to be the primary cultural influences. Upon entering school, whether or not the child has gone to daycare, mainstream values tend to take precedence over those of the home. In most cases, Tamil children are the product of two worlds, as are the second-generation children of all immigrants and refugees.

Continued in Next Page

Monsoon Features

Annual Nallur Kumaran festival begins

The annual festival of the historic Nallur Kandaswamy kovil in Jaffna began on August 6th with the flag-hoisting ceremony.

The festival will take place for twenty-five days with the Chariot festival on August 29 followed by the water-cutting ceremony on August 28.



The Mass Exodus of Tamils

Continued from previous page

The third generation primarily holds Canadian values while retaining many of their heritage values. Their dance, cultural regalia, food habits and spoken language are like the decoration on a cake. In appearance, third-generation Tamils are readily identified as such, but their lifestyle and attitudes, their taste in terms of food, music and dress, are heavily influenced by the dominant culture. Africans, for example, have been known to speak of their own people as white people in black skin, and many young Tamils today would fit into this category.

The Status of the Tamil Language

The unique quality of the Tamil race is that they are united not by region or religion. Nevertheless, over 90% are Hindu. Unfortunately, only 30% of the second generation is learning to read and write Tamil at a functional level of literacy. This statistic is comparative to that of other newcomers to Canada. This means that over two-thirds of the second generation have their heritage language as a spoken language, not a written language.

Some other ethnic groups, on the other hand, give much more priority to their religion than to language. Muslims are a primary example of this. The Jewish people, for example, number almost 20 million worldwide. Indeed,

there are more Jews living in New York State than in Israel. The renaissance of the Hebrew language is getting more and more resources and support all over the world, and countless young Jews in the Diaspora are becoming Hebrew speakers because their community considers it important.

In this regard, I am concerned that those who seek to be truly literate should have a good command of their first language. By learning a second language one grows both linguistically and culturally. And, indeed, neuro-psychologists have demonstrated that, with each additional language one speaks, new blood vessels are developed in the brain and one's competence in one's first language is strengthened. Therefore, the enrolment of Tamil youth in Tamil classes is a very positive step.

As everyone knows, Canada is bilingual and multicultural. This offers all of us the freedom to choose what we want to keep and what we decide to adopt into our traditional culture. As opposed to the American notion of the melting pot, where assimilation is favoured, this country is way ahead in terms of respecting its linguistic and cultural minorities.

It is heartening to see Tamils becoming integrated into the Canadian mainstream while preserving their heritage values. One can have the best of both worlds.

"SITPI" - a pioneer in promoting Lankan Tamil Literature

K.S. Sivakumaran

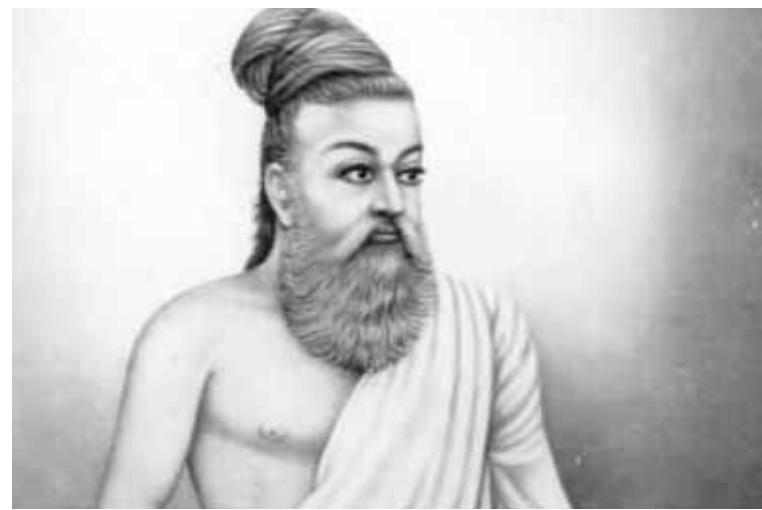
Among the pioneers who evoked a Lankan consciousness in the writing of Thamil and Muslim writers in the country was a writer himself and an editor of a short-lived literary magazine called KalaiChelvi (1958-1996). His name is Siva Saravana Bhavan a.k.a "Sitpi". He is now in his 75th year healthy and active. He belongs to the Kurukkal sect of Brahmanism hailing from Kaarainagar and living in Kantharodai in Yaalpaanam. He has a Masters Degree from Yaalpaanam University. He retired as the Principal of Usan Maha Vidyalayam.

To honour Sivasaravanabhanav, a Colombo based Thamil literary magazine called Gnanam edited by T.Gnanasekeran brought out a special issue on him last month.

What his achievements could be underlined as follows: Sitpi was the first to compile a collection of short stories in Thamil by Lankans; he may be considered as one of the pioneers to spotlight on Lankan writers in his magazine; he introduced several writers in Thamil who later came to the limelight in Lankan Thamil Writing; he continues to write even now since the 1950s; He has brought out recently a collection of his own short stories.

His other publications include Nilavum Ninaivum, Sathy Darishanam and Ninaivuhal Madivathillai (all short story collections) and a novel called Unakaaha Kannae.

He has won several prizes for his writing and special awards given away by the then North East Provincial Council, Kolumbu



Kamban Kalagam and Valigamam South Regional Saba.

unnoticed.

Who are the writers introduced by Sitpi who became noticed? According to T Gnanasekeran, they are Sengai Aaliyaan, Chempian Chelvan, S Yoganathan, Yarl Nangai, S V Panchadcharam, Benedict Balan, Saanthan, V. Kumarasamy, Mayilan, Shanmuganathan, M Ponambalam, T. Gnanasekeran, M Kanagarajan, P. Sathiaseelan, Madduvilan, Kavitha, Bhaama Rajagopal, Kaanmyilnathan, T Vythilingam, V K Ratnasabapathy, Ilaiyavan, S Kathirgamanathan, Muniappadaan, K Pararajasingham, Maniyam, Muhiyan, P Shanmuganathan.

I gave these names with a purpose: non Thamil readers should know at least the names of Lankan Thamil writers if we were to consider that they also belong to participants in the Lankan literary scene,

The trouble is that a handful of people try to give a picture that even when referring to Lankan cultural activities it is only anything Sinhala and not the 'others'. What a deceit is this?

sivakumaranks@yahoo.com

Information on Kings of Jaffna and some statistics

Given below are the Kings of the Tamil Kingdom from the 15th century. Earlier records are not available, though Sangam literature of a few thousand years earlier, recorded the existence of Tamil Kingdoms in the Island.

1.Kanagasooriyan	1467 to 1478
2.Pararajasegaram	1478 to 1519
3. Sankili Segarajasegaram	1519 to 1561 (born to the third wife of 2)
4. Pararasa Pandaram Pararasasegaran	1561 to 1565 (son of 3)
5.Kuruni Nainar	1565 to 1570
6. Periapillai Samaras Sekaran	1570 to 1582
7. Puvirasa Pandaram II	1582 to 1591
8. Ethirimana Singa Pararajasekaran	1591 to 1615
9.Sankili Kumaran	1615 to 1619

Tamil Kingdoms existed during the last 403 years before Portuguese took it over.

Portuguese captured the Maritime Sinhalese Kingdom in 1505

Statistics of Tamil Speaking People in Public Service.

While Sinhalese make up 76 % and Tamil speaking people 24%, only 8.3% of Tamil speakers are in Public Service.

Armed forces are 99% Sinhalese .At one time, of the total police employees of 36,031, only 231 were Tamils and 246 were Muslims. The proportions have not changed since.

The senior positions in public service are invariably given to Sinhalese. Sinhalese officers are posted to Tamil areas, making communications with the local people very difficult. Eg. In Wellawatte, a suburb of Colombo, where the total population is 29302 of which 21,417 are Tamil speaking, there are 156 police officials of which, only 6 are Tamil speaking.

25th Death Anniversary of Navam Appadurai - 'strived for a better world'

By: J.J. Atputharajah

The 25th anniversary of the demise of the late Navam Appadurai fell on the 9th of July 2008. He was an old boy of Jaffna College, Vaddukkoddai and both his parents were former teachers at this revered institution founded by American missionaries. Having been a social service officer, he retired and worked for Service Civil International until his demise in 1983. In early 1960s, while working in Jaffna, he was concerned with the welfare of the poor and needy. The same interest made him to join the Service Civil International when he was at Anuradhapura. He retired early from the Department of Social services and took up position as Asian Secretary of the SCI. He later worked for the national christian council of Srilanka and the Marga Institute where he focused on community development projects. In fact he died while writing papers for the Marga institute. He died on the 9th of July. On the eighth, he was writing a paper for the Marga Institute detailing the volatility of the situation in the island and the escalation of the tension between the Sinhalese and the Tamils. He seemed beset by a sense of urgency because he did not leave

his desk. he could not complete the concluding paragraphs. He suffered a massive heart attack and by the early hours of the next day he was dead. He was working towards his goal of bringing about peace trough social justice even at the time of his death. The vocations he undertook showed his dedication for the betterment of the down trodden and his fervent efforts to herald a better world.

Navam Appadurai had the trite character traits suitable for his vocation. He had a quiet, unassuming, cool and confident temperament which enabled him to realize his goals. Nava 'never said a mumbling word' even when he was unduly provoked. During his younger days he showed tremendous interests in the Federal Solution to the ethnic problems in Sri Lanka. He believed in the political philosophy of the late S.J.V. Selvanayagam. Later, he took a full interest in the betterment of the human kind which impelled him to shun politics and take up to community service in Sri Lanka and abroad. At international work camps he learnt and experienced richness of multicultural living. SCI meetings and camps enabled him to understand the hardships endured by the less privileged members of the society. At inter-

national work-camps they sang the favourite songs of different nations as those of Bengali, Japanese, Malay, Hindi and Indonesian.

Family was the crux of his social activities. He involved all the members of his family in social service projects and took them with him wherever he went. Navam's wife Rubina and the four daughters gave him all the support and cooperation to achieve his goals. All his daughters became well-educated and well accomplished girls. All of them are happily married and two of them (The Canagaratnams and Radhakrishnans) are living with their families in Toronto. The other two Mrs. Lilani Jayatillaka and Shirani Nagarajah are living in Srilanka and Australia respectively. Ms. Pauline Mayer who worked with him at the Asian Secretariat of the SCI refers to him as a man who radiated 'goodness'. He cared deeply and passionately about the plight of the poor and oppressed and hated injustice. Navam proves to be a shining example to the type of stalwarts who are needed to herald a better world. We remember with gratitude to God for such a valuable life on the 25th year anniversary of his home call.

UNHCR says Vanni relief efforts hindered by Sri Lanka restrictions

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed deep concern over civilian displacement in Vanni.

The UNHCR says efforts by humanitarian agencies to replenish the stocks are hindered by the strict restrictions on the transport of goods into Vanni.

UNHCR spokesperson Ron Redmond at a press briefing, on 8 August 2008, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva said, "Allow humanitarian access to the affected population so they can be provided with much-needed assistance in a timely manner and in line with international humanitarian law and practices".



[The displaced families are being accommodated in several areas in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts. A majority are staying out in the open, UNHCR press statement said]



"Virakesari", Sri Lanka's Premier Tamil Daily enters its 78th Year of Publication...

- Siva Sivapragasam

"Virakesari", Sri Lanka's leading Tamil Newspaper which began publication of its first issue in August 1930 has entered its seventy-eighth year of publication this month.

The newspaper was started by Mr.P.P.R.S. Chettiar, an Indian businessman from Ramnad District in South India. The newspaper was originally meant as a voice of persons of Indian origin. However, gradually "Virakesari" became popular among all Tamil speaking people in Sri Lanka and was looked upon as the voice of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

In keeping with modern trends in Print Technology, the newspaper switched to off-set printing and today has even won an Award for the best designed Newspaper in Sri Lanka. Express Newspapers (Ceylon) Ltd. are the Publishers of "Virakesari" and has added more publications to its list to include "Mithran Vaaramalar", a family magazine, an English Newspaper - "Metro News", along with an Astrological Magazine and a publication on Music to cater to readers of cultural interest.

Mr. Kumar Nadesan, who is a Barrister is the current Managing Director of Express Newspapers (Ceylon) Ltd, Publishers of "Virakesari". He succeeded Mr.M.G. Wenceslaus who was the earlier Managing Director. Mr.Wenceslaus had a dedicated and experienced team of Executives who ran the Company - Mr. K. Sivapragasam (Chief Editor), Mr.T. Sivapragasam



Mr. Kumar Nadesan
- Managing Director of Express Newspapers(Ceylon) Ltd., Publishers of "Virakesari"

(Circulation & Advertising Manager), Mr. S.Balachandran (General Manager). The three of them had a wide knowledge and experience in Publishing, having worked at Lake House, a large Newspaper organization for many years. "Virakesari" has been making steady and remarkable progress in editorial content, design and lay out during recent years under the stewardship of Mr. Kumar Nadesan. He has added many new Publications to "Virakesari" and opened Branches of the Company in leading towns. With his interest in online technology he has made "Virakesari" available all over the world through the internet. The web version of the Newspaper carries special features such as English and Cinema News, Music Box, Video Presentations, Business Directory etc.

No doubt "Virakesari" stands out as the premier Tamil Daily in Sri Lanka today sought after by both readers and advertisers.

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Ajax

We have selected 5 winners as this is a special Indian Independence Issue



SAARC and the Tamil National Question

by P Shantikumar

Sri Lanka is obviously drifting towards a two state solution. The easiest way to tell that is by looking at the manner in which successive governments had unleashed brutal military terror against hapless Tamil civilians to what is essentially a political problem. If war is said to be the extension of politics then it follows, at least in the Sri Lankan context, eventual solution is inevitable secession. To try and impose any other solution would only result in continuation of the war - which means a very resourceful island continuing to burn itself - because of the Sinhala Political Establishment's ineptitude and selfishness. Only the Sinhalese can settle this conflict amicably. The Tamils do not possess the political clout to do so - especially when the Tamil community itself is deliberately divided by the Sinhalese by the use of Tamil political mercenaries and military-adjuncts. Tamils can only rebel against State terrorism, oppression and persecution unleashed against them. The Sinhalese are the ones who should demilitarise occupied Tamil homeland, decolonise land grabbed by stealth from the Tamils only to be colonised with criminals, ex-convicts, rapists and murderers. Now they are even represented in Parliament - talk about no taxation without representation!

Although, Tamils do not have the political clout to settle this conflict on their own, they can offer a unilateral ceasefire as a gesture of goodwill to welcome our neighbours to Sri Lanka; wish them a very happy stay; and a very successful summit too. Tamils hope that their neighbouring nations would at some point in the not too distant future prevail upon the Sinhala government of Sri Lanka to put an end to what had come to be commonly known as an unending war. It was

wise of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) to declare a unilateral ceasefire and extend a warm welcome to the leaders of the SAARC nations to Sri Lanka.

Historically, Tamils and Sinhalese have made the island their home for millennia. To quarrel about who occupied the land first and to whom does the island belong is a ridiculous argument to pursue. Both communities have to endeavour to live as harmoniously as possible with other communities, such as the Muslims. Broadly, what probably had caused the present conflict could have been the fact that the colonial yoke was lifted suddenly when the island was not adequately prepared to govern itself. There are many who believe that had Sri Lanka emulated Mahatma Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign against the British colonialists, Sri Lanka too would have forged a common identity, which would have led to a more equitable society, devoid of such brutal civil wars. Singapore may still have been clamouring, as it did once upon a time, despite its advances in politics and economics, to emulate Sri Lanka, had Sri Lanka got its post-independence politics right. But, as it happened, Sri Lankan politics declined inexorably, not to put too fine a point on it. Alas, the fact that the British colonialists united Sri Lanka for administrative convenience did not help! One hundred and fifty years after such an unwise unification, it had set off a brutal civil war as a direct consequence, in a bid to separate to be the component entities they always were.

The British colonialists left the Tamils heavily dependent on the Sinhalese in political and economic terms. What did Sinhala Political Establishment do since independence? They even robbed the Tamils politically and economically of what little they had acquired through pure hard work and ingenuity,



[Sri Lankan motorists drive under a billboard depicting eight heads of South Asian nations in Colombo-
pic: via Yahoo! News-Ishara S. Kodikara]

Tamils have lived under State terrorism, oppression, and persecution for the first thirty five years and since 1983 a civil war between Tamils and Sinhalese broke out, following worst ever race riot in which thousands of Tamils were murdered, their properties looted and destroyed. Even before 1983 there have been race riots which murdered, plundered and raped Tamil women. Racial tension had always existed and it still does exist.

It is twenty-five years since the July 83 pogrom claimed the lives of thousands of ordinary Tamil men, women and children. The sad thing about that pogrom was that it was violence unleashed by Sinhala mobs instigated by Sinhala politicians that claimed the lives of thousands of Tamils. There is the claim that the Tamils live peacefully with the Sinhalese in the south. But, the fact remains the Tamils are made eco-

nomic dependent on the south. And, they live in constant fear in the south. These facts are not openly acknowledged by the Sinhala Political Establishment. There is discrimination against Tamils at all levels in society.

A recent survey commissioned by Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) shows how the gullible Sinhala public are being easily swayed by anti-Tamil propaganda. The two communities are as far apart as they were twenty-five years ago. What this really shows is the need for political education; instead what public are exposed to is constant propaganda barrage of war rhetoric, which causes the Sinhala public's attitude to harden towards Tamils - clearly highlighting the fact that successive governments have been misleading the Sinhala public with anti-Tamil rhetoric. Nevertheless, a word of appreci-

ation is in order to those who abhor racism, and those who have risked their lives to save the Tamils from the mobs, during anti-Tamil riots.

Whichever way one looks at it, Tamils and Sinhalese have come to a point to part company, in the interest of both communities as well as others in the island. Neighbouring SAARC nations should recognise these facts and help bring about a permanent solution based on two states in the island. It is also important to remember that the little island of Sri Lanka does have a long history of civilisation and culture, as such Sri Lankan are very much naturally resourceful people. It would be a great pity to let their resourcefulness to continue burn for over quarter of a century, without an end in sight.

Monsoon Features

The Scarborough Hospital announces new Board of Directors

Addressing community's priorities a top concern for new Board

At a press conference held Monday, community member Lai Chu and Supervisor Rob Devitt introduced The Scarborough Hospital's 12 new citizen Board members, who will assume their governance role at the hospital later this summer.

"I am very impressed with the quality of the Board members," said Chu, pictured in the photo here, along with CE LHIN Board member Ron Francis. "It takes courage and commitment to volunteer your time for a hospital Board, especially after the challenges the hospital faced in recent years. These individuals are ready for the challenge."

"This new Board marks the beginning of a new relationship between The Scarborough Hospital and the community," she added.

The members, who represent a wide range of industry sectors, were chosen by a Selection Committee following an extensive recruitment process spanning several months. Selection Committee members included TSH supervisor Rob Devitt,

former Ontario Speaker of the House Alvin Curling, community member Lai Chu, TSH Chief of Staff Dr. Steven Jackson, and TSH physicians Dr. Abdollah Behzadi and Dr. Dhun Noria. The committee had the daunting task of narrowing down the hundreds of applicants to the 12 finally selected.

The new Board includes Vicki Bismilla, Jagdish Butany, Angela Coke, William (Bill) Greenhalgh, Michael Jordan, Warren Law, Lyn McDonell, Patrick McGrade, Isabel Meharry, Michael Mueller, Stephen Smith and Himanshu Sudan.

Michael Mueller, the designated Chair of the Board of Directors, says the group is looking forward to building bridges with the community and tacking priority issues for the hospital.

"We are mindful of the importance of having an excellent relationship with the community, and we share the community's response to a recent survey where quality of care and safety of patients were the top priorities," Mueller says.

Devitt, who is in the process of finalizing the Board's by-laws, agrees that building strong relation-



L to R: Steven Smith, Lyn McDonell, Himanshu Sudan, Michael Mueller and William Greenhalgh.

ships with the community is important, and says he is confident the new Board will continue TSH's renewed commitment to transparency and consultation.

"The community consultation process we undertook earlier this year, which was the largest ever by a community hospital in Ontario, was just the first step in what I know will be an ongoing dialogue," Devitt says. "Much of the feedback we received from community members and agencies has guided our Board selection process, and will be reflected in the new by-laws."

Why he did not threaten the ruling coalition government on the issue of inaction of Indian government against the killing of Tamil Nadu Fishermen by Sri Lankan navy by withdrawing his support to Indira Congress Party when the no confidence motion was brought in?

Indian government spends over 250 million Rupees annually for patrolling the Tamil Nadu coast to prevent the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) boats entering Tamil Nadu. Where are all these Indian navy ships when the Sri Lankan navy is killing Tamil Nadu fishermen? In these past few years, when more than 400 fishermen were killed and many more were seriously injured, in a few hundred separate incidents, never once had the Indian navy come to protect the Tamil Nadu fishermen. Is it because their orders were just to pursue LTTE boats entering Indian waters and not to be concerned with protecting Tamil Nadu fishermen from the Sri Lankan navy? Instead of taking actions on attackers and protecting the fishermen, in June of 1997 the Indian Coastal Patrol commander warned that Tamil Nadu fishermen straying into Sri Lankan waters would have their fishing license revoked. On the one side is the Sri Lankan Navy shooting and killing them, on the other side is the Indian Coastal Patrol threatening to revoke their fishing license.

With the continued killings and the Indian government's step-motherly indifference, matters warmed up in August 1997. Tamil Nadu Meenavar Peravai (Tamil Nadu Fishermen's Association) planned a protest sail to Kachchathivu island

Emergency and Critical Care Centre at The Scarborough Hospital receives provincial boost

Capital grant of up to \$6.52 million will help redevelop Diagnostic Imaging department and complete concourse level in new wing

Shorter wait times and improved, easier access to healthcare will be major benefits to patients at The Scarborough Hospital thanks to a capital grant of up to \$6.52 million announced in July 2008 by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The grant will help fund the future redevelopment of the Diagnostic Imaging department (DI) and the completion of the concourse level in the new Emergency and Critical Care Centre (ECCC), which is now under construction at the hospital's General campus.

The ECCC, which will provide a bigger, state-of-the-art Emergency Department to accommodate the more than 90,000 patient visits the hospital receives each year, is expected to open in early 2009. The construction of the DI area and concourse level will follow later in the year.

The redeveloped DI area will include services for cardiac diagnosis

tic services, radiography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, interventional radiology and computed tomography.

"This announcement is welcome news here at TSH, and it will certainly benefit our patients," says Dr. John Wright, Interim President and CEO of The Scarborough Hospital. "The redeveloped Diagnostic Imaging department will also provide an invaluable support for all of our physicians. We are very pleased the government is making this investment, and we are keen to move ahead with this significant addition to our ECCC project."

The Scarborough Hospital (TSH), Canada's largest urban community hospital, delivers innovative, high quality patient care, advocates for our community's health and wellness issues, and is a leader in research, teaching and learning. TSH is a regional treatment centre for dialysis and is renowned for its sexual assault care centre and mental health programs. Affiliated with the University of Toronto, TSH is also a referral centre for vascular surgery, pacemakers and corneal implants.

Lankan navy could continue to shoot and kill Tamil Nadu fishermen and blame the LTTE; it will take the pressure off the Indian government to take action against the Sri Lankan navy. It is very easy for the Sri Lankan government to stage this drama. Let us get back to Indian government's response to the killings of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy. All that would take for the Indian government to put an end to the killings is for the Indian government to warn the Sri Lankan navy that if it shoots at Tamil Nadu fishermen again, Indian navy would attack them in retaliation. Sri Lankan navy is no match to the well-equipped, modern Indian navy. All that would take is one warning from the Indian government. But the Indian government never warned Sri Lanka. Why? India is more interested in becoming a regional superpower than in protecting the lives of its Tamil citizens. Under its geo-political considerations, India does not want to offend Sri Lanka. It wants a friendly and preferably subservient neighbor in the south. If some Tamil Nadu fishermen are killed, so be it. After all, these are only Tamils. The situation would have been different if Hindi-speaking fishermen were to be killed by a neighboring country. Let us face it. Anyone else is expendable, particularly those in the south. So Tamil Nadu fishermen better learn to live with the political realities. They are not going to get any protection from the Indian government. Fish in the deep seas and risk life to the Sri Lankan naval guns or stay home and do some other work.

Indian Regional Interests... Continued from page 34

In the general election they were able to elect 11 candidates. Communal violence erupted by Sinhalese in 1977. There were more of such violence in 1983 and 2000. Then president J R Jayewardene (1984) fearing Indian intervention granted citizenship to all stateless persons. Mr Savumiamoorthy Thondaman was instrumental for this result not India. India already agreed to take them back. But Mr Thondaman fought for it.

Why India did not object it? India wants to maintain good relationship in order to maintain its regional superpower interest. During 1971 war with Pakistan related Bangladesh freedom fighting Sri Lanka provided landing and fueling facilities to Pakistan air forces. When protested by these arrangements by India Sri Lanka bargained on Tamils of Indian origins and demanded Kachchathivu as a part of Sri Lankan territory. India acted against the will of Tamils of Indian origins and Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu Fishermen

Tamil Nadu Fishermen are Indian Citizens or Enemies of India? Which country in the world let its people be shot and killed by another friendly country, without any condemnation or actions and further reasoning out attackers are justified and covering the truths from victims? India has achieved that merit. What did these fishermen do to become targets for the Sri Lankan

navy? According to Sri Lanka, these fishermen had entered Sri Lankan waters. It is quite possible that some or all of these fishermen did cross into Sri Lankan waters by mistake. There are no boundary markers or walls to demarcate the Indian waters from Sri Lankan waters. In spite of navigational aids, fishermen do stray into Sri Lankan waters. There is no international norm or law that allows the Sri Lankan navy to shoot and kill straying Tamil Nadu fishermen.

Issue of Kachchathivu

When Karunanidhi was in power in 1974 he did not take any proactive action to prevent the handing over of Kachchathivu to Sri Lanka by Then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi also did not consider Tamil Nadu opinion when she decided to hand over this island. For India's demand for not to allow any Pakistani air force stop over and refueling of air crafts during Pakistan - Bangladesh war in Sri Lankan air ports then Sri Lankan prime minister Srimavo Bandaranayake requested Kachchathivu to be a Sri Lankan territory. For the national interest Indira Gandhi was prepared to hand over and singed the pact without much worrying about Tamil Nadu opinion on it. It is alleged chief minister Karunanidhi is cheating Tamil Nadu public by organizing fasting demonstration at the same time conniving with Indian rulers.

Chief Minister Karunanidhi might have asked the Indian Prime Minister I. K. Gujral in the strongest terms to put an end to the killings of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy. On August 14, 1997, Gujral made a public statement that it was not clear whether it was the Sri Lankan navy or the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) that was shooting and killing the fishermen. It is an outrageous statement and shows the callous attitude of the Indian Prime Minister towards the lives of Tamil Nadu fishermen. There is absolutely no doubt that the Sri Lankan navy was killing the Tamil Nadu fishermen. Never once had the fishermen who were injured in these killings and lived tell about it say that they were shot at by LTTE boats. Sri Lankan navy ships are distinct and different from the powerboats used by LTTE to go between Sri Lanka and India. Tamil Nadu fishermen are not fools.

After few days Gujral made another statement, "LTTE" kidnapped some Tamil Nadu fishermen and sent a few back to Tamil Nadu with a ransom demand that the remaining will be released in exchange for diesel". Then the Sri

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11 ஆவது ஆண்டாக மேற்கொண்டிருக்கின்ற மேரிலேக் கோவிலில் ரோரன்றோ தமிழ் கத்தோலிக்க சமூகம் (TCCST) கொண்டாடும்

மருதமடு அன்னைக்குப் பசுகுழும்

ஆவனி மாதம் 23ஆம் நாள் 2008 சனிக்கிழமை (23.08.2008)

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அன்னையின் பரிந்துரையில் ஆண்டவரின் ஆண்டவரின் கிரக்கத்தையும் அருளையும் அதிகமாக பெற்றிட அனைவரையும் அன்பும் அமைக்கின்றோம்.

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Kollywood Film Review

by Anand. J
Kuselan

Director P. Vasu's take on Srinivasan's Kathaparyumbol attempts to show Rajini in a different light, only with a different screen name. Forty minutes into the movie, Rajini appears, bringing with him the glitz and glamour of movie making. He does everything he does best including duets with Nayanthara, and shows that he can still pull in a crowd by playing himself without having to hype up his image. How many times have you walked out of a theatre emotionally choked up after watching a Rajinikanth film? How many times have you seen Rajinikanth not uttering a punch dialogue in his films? How many times have you not seen Rajinikanth flexing his muscles and bashing the baddies in his

itics? Why the superstar often goes to the Himalayas? Why the actor still prefers to work in run-of-the-mill stuff?

Kuselan follows the story of Balu, played by Pasupathy, who is more often than not addressed cynically as Barber Balu by his village men. He is down in the dumps because his business is going downhill and is in an attempt to revive it from slumping by applying for a bank loan. His short term goal, however, is to buy a new wooden chair and get rid of his dilapidating old one.

In the mean time, there is hullabaloo in the village owing to a shooting unit that has camped in the neighborhood. Balu gets to know that his childhood friend Ashok Kumar is part of the cast. When the news about Balu's friendship with Ashok Kumar is let out by his wife Sridevi, played by Meena, the reluctant Balu is bur-

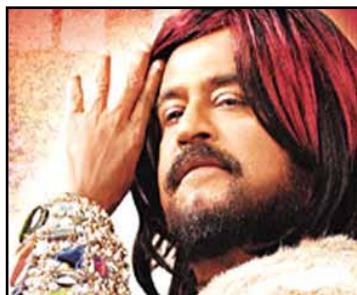


movie?

Watch 'Kuselan', where one can find a completely different Rajinikanth – the real Rajinikanth, the human being. The movie is perhaps an answer to his critics who have been criticizing the actor for doing routine 'commercial masalas'. Thanks to P Vasu, Rajinikanth reinvents himself bringing out the actor within him through this film. One thing is very clear. He has not acted to commercial compulsions. The movie throws light on the real Rajinikanth, who has been quite a puzzle with millions of his fans. And the star himself answers questions that have been plaguing the minds of millions of his fans. Want to know the answers to why Rajini has not entered pol-

dened with requests from many sections of the village. They want to use Balu's friendship as a ticket to get near Ashok Kumar for reasons ranging from meeting him in close proximity to inviting him for the village school's silver jubilee anniversary. A man with tremendous self dignity, Bala fears to meet Ashok Kumar thinking that he may not identify him. But, when the two meet after a long gap, the emotional drama between the pals, sets up an emotional 20-minute climax.

With Rajinikanth by his side, P Vasu has come out with a message that is quite though provoking. The usual adage is 'Matha Pitha Guru Deivam'. With 'Kuselan' the adage gets an addition - 'Matha Pitha Guru Nanban



Deivam'. He plays the 'Super Star' himself and does not at any time impose himself on screen. Watching Rajinikanth play the role with consummate ease is like watching Sachin Tendulkar on song at the middle of the crease. It's like listening to Beethoven's symphony sitting under the moonlight. Though the story doesn't revolve around Rajinikanth, he manages to leave his indelible presence on screen. Especially towards the climax, an emotional Rajinikanth identifies his friend recalling their good old innocent days. These are sequences that evoke tears to our eyes bring the human side of each of us to the forefront.

It is a tough task for an actor like Pasupathy to carry the entire

burden on his shoulders acting alongside a scene stealer like Rajinikanth. As a poor barber, fighting for survival, he evokes all the sympathy. Seemingly an extension of his role in 'Veyill', Pasupathy passes out with flying colors. Hats off to him! Although Rajini remains the main focus of the movie, Pasupathy wells many eyes with tears often. His inability to express his family about his unwillingness to visit Ashok Kumar, his helplessness when he could not pay his daughter's school fees, and his emotional turmoil when encountered by his friend's speech – Pasupathy proves his worth in the movie at times. Meena as his caring wife is more of a realistic portrayal. She understands the emotional strug-



gles of her husband and gives him the much needed solace and comfort. She sure manages to get under the skin of her character and has done an extremely good job. Nayanthara plays herself in the film and executes the job entrusted to her quite well. She plays a heroine in films, who shoots for a movie alongside Rajinikanth. She fulfills the glamour quotient and serves the purpose indeed well. Vadivelu's comedy compliments the script well. His trick to get an audition with Rajinikanth, who is shooting in the village brings down the roof with laughter.

The movie boasts of a huge star cast including Livingston, M S Baskar, Sona, Geetha, Fathima Babu, Brahmanandham, Chinni Jayanth. All have significant parts to play in the film. Prabhu plays a cameo while a host of stars including Sneha, Soundarya Rajinikanth, Suriya among others appear for the 'Cinema Cinema' song.

Complimenting Vasu's hard work are Arvindh Krishna's excellent cinematography and the brilliant musical score by G V Prakash Kumar. The catchy numbers 'Om zarerare' and 'Cinema Cinema' have especially been captured in an attractive manner by Aravindh Krishna. The background score towards the climax sets up the momentum.

Hats off to director P Vasu! The film-maker, who knows the knack of remaking a Malayalam hit in Tamil, has rendered a movie that has the right packaging of emotions. He has intelligently packaged the movie with commercial elements that a hardcore Rajinikanth fan would love without spoiling the crux.

Produced by Pushpa Kandaswamy and Vijayakumar, 'Kuselan' is a movie that would go down well with Rajinikanth fans and this is a great opportunity to see the real side of this spectacular actor though on celluloid.

Verdict – A neat family entertainer.

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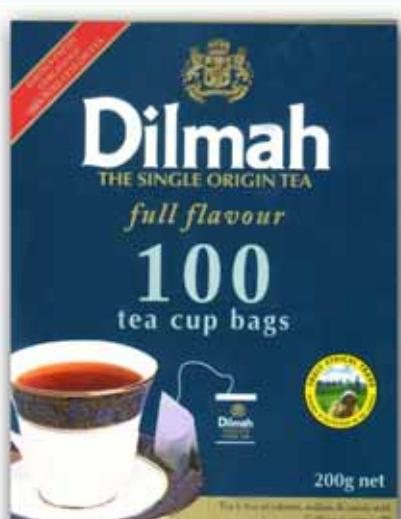
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