

# Monsoon Journal



■ SURFCAST 1    ■ LINEUP 6    ■ NOVEMBER 2006  
A PARFAIT MEDIA PUBLICATION

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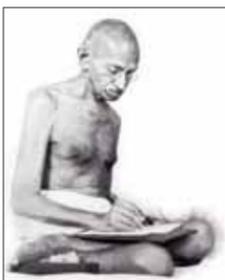
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Little Flower

A variety of shoe flower [Hibiscus rosa-sinensis] in Habarana, Sri Lanka. This particular shoe flower hangs down from the tree.

" Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower "

- Hans Christian Andersen [1805-1875], Danish Poet/Author

## Canada - as global leader working for Human Rights

(see Editorial on page 4)

### Slain MP Raviraj's final words an hour before being gunned down

Full Details on Page 15



Raviraj live Interview with Derana TV an hour before being gunned down

### Tamil Canadians elected in Municipal Election



Logan Kanapathi  
Markham, Ward 7



Neethan Shan  
Markham Ward 7&8

Two members of the Tamil community have been elected in the recently held local government elections in Ontario.

Logan Kanapathi will represent ward 7 of the Town of Markham and Neethan Shan has been elected as the Public School Trustee for Ward 8 and Ward 7 of Markham.

This is the first time Tamils have been elected to a public office in Canada through the electoral process. Other Tamils who contested many different positions on November 13th across GTA were unsuccessful in their bids to represent the people.

Nevertheless participation of the Tamil community in this election and in the democratic process increased significantly and its' being appreciated by many.

The success of two candidates at the polls and increased participation by the community overall is anticipated to generate more interest in local elections and enhance the Tamils to involve more in the Canadian democratic political stream in the future.

Monsoon Journal congratulates the elected representatives.

### Premier of Ontario McGuinty's Daughter Volunteers as aide worker in Sri Lanka

By Krishni Loganathan

While some people are fighting to decrease tuition fees in Ontario, others are fighting to obtain a basic education.

Carleen McGuinty, daughter of Dalton McGuinty, the Premier of

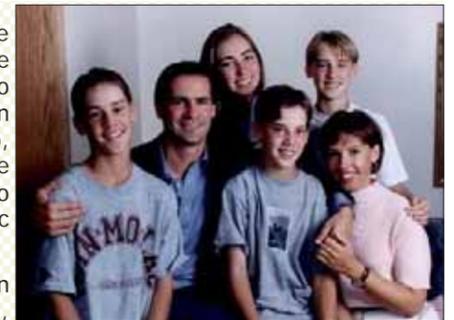
Ontario has been an aide worker with the World University Service of Canada for the last nine months in Sri Lanka. Carleen is currently in Sri Lanka helping youths in the war-torn country enabling them to become educated and obtain better jobs.

Since 1978, the WUSC's Student Refugee Program has allowed over 850 student refugees from countries such as Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, and Rwanda to continue their studies at Canadian universities and colleges. WUSC's main initiative is to educate people to lead to a more equitable world. "Our mission is to foster human development and global understanding through education and training".

Under an adverse environment, Carleen has been helping the youth find better jobs for themselves by starting with a better education. This is not an easy task as Sri Lanka is currently facing harsh conditions with conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Dalton McGuinty and wife Terri are both worried for their daughter's life and hope that she comes home safely. Every bad news they hear from the war-torn country of Sri Lanka makes them worry even more about their daughter's safety.

The article inside, found in the Ottawa Sun explains the McGuinty's emotions at this present time on page 7



Premier's family (from left to right) Liam, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Carleen, Connor, Dalton Jr. and wife of the Premier, Terri McGuinty

### Return Again to Lead the Cities



Monsoon Journal congratulates Hazel McCallion, Mayor City of Mississauga and David Miller, Mayor City of Toronto on their successful re-election to lead the cities.



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Details on Page 39

## WALK-IN DENTAL CLINIC

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# Chris Lobbezoo, Regional Vice President of RBC at Diwali-Eid Festival launch on October 19, 2006 in Gerrard India Bazaar

This year in Gerrard India Bazaar, Diwali-Eid Festival was presented by RBC Financial Group and the Gerrard street celebrations were held on October 20th, 21st and 22nd, 2006.

To kickstart this celebrations the organizers had a launch event on Thursday, October 19th, 2006 at 5.30 pm at Regency Restaurant.

address by RBC's Chris Lobbezoo at the launch event:

On behalf of RBC Financial Group I am delighted that we are able to celebrate two important festivals within the South Asian community together. RBC Financial group is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the Diwali-Eid festival at Gerrard India Bazaar, which we are launching today.



and events across the GTA. This speaks volumes of our commitment to your community and when we were invited to sponsor the festival we were delighted to do so.

Diwali and Eid are two important festivals of the South Asian community. These festivals have great religious and cultural significance.

Diwali "the festive of lights" signifies the victory of good over evil and is particularly important to the Hindu community as Lord Ram returned from 14 years of exile after defeating the demon King Ravan. It is equally important to the Sikh religion as this day commemorates the laying of the foundation stone of the Golden Temple,

I also view this festival as being of special significance to the community of the Bazaar. Gerrard India Bazaar is a prime example of the diversity of the South Asian community. Your members represent the Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangaladesi and Nepal communities. Every religious group is represented here. Most importantly the community that you do business with also includes not only these groups but also the broader Canadian Population.

The festival reflecting the diversity that exists is a celebration in a sense of what our Canada is today, a country that celebrates multiculturalism and the richness of its diversity. I would like to commend Mr. Mahtani and the entire



For the launch the Organizers invited few important VIPs. Some of the important people were, Peter Tabuns,,MPP, Paula Fletcher, Councillor, Sandra Bussin, Deputy Mayor.

Chris Lobbezoo, in his speech recognized these prominent VIPs and also recognized the Chairman of the Gerrard India Bazaar, Govind Mahatani and the members of the Board of Management.

Monsoon Journal also attended the function and pleased to give below

Thank you for joining us for this evening's reception and official launch. We are honored.

RBC has a long history with the Gerrard India Bazaar and the South Asian community. We opened our branch here in 1920 and we are the only schedule A bank continuing to serve the community with a local presence. Similarly RBC began its partnership with the South Asian community with our sponsorship of the Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce in 1993 which today extends over 25 organizations



the holiest of Sikh shrines and the return of Shri Hargobind Singh Ji from prison to Amritsar. This year Diwali falls on October 21st.

Eid ul Fitr is a holiday celebrated by the Muslim community to mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting. Fitr means "to break" and therefore symbolizes the breaking of the fasting period. Eid is expected to be celebrated on Monday October 23rd on the sighting of the moon.

While these festivals represent different religions they have some common themes, which are very important to all of us. They include

- Celebrations
- Coming together of communities
- Peace and prosperity
- Religious and spiritual significance

board for having the vision to organize such an important festival and including all of us in these celebrations.

Before I close I would like to recognize my colleagues who are both well known to you and work closely with you.

Imtiaz Seyid-Vice President, South Asian Markets

Mohan Sundaramohan-Branch Manager

On behalf of RBC Financial Group, I am pleased to have this opportunity to celebrate with you at this launch of the RBC Diwali Eid Festival. I would like to wish you all the best-as clients, as partners, and as members of the community.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the evening and the next three days of the festival.

(Photos by: Gnane Gnanendran)



## UN envoy Allan Rock: Sri Lankan security forces recruiting child soldiers



security forces are recruiting children to fight for the "Karuna" group.

"One very disturbing element that confronted us ... has to do with the complicity and participation of some elements of the government's security forces in the forcible abductions by Karuna of children [in the

east]," Rock told a news conference.

"We encountered both direct and indirect evidence of this complicity and participation."

Rock, the UN's special representative for children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka, said Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse had promised to investigate the allegations.

Sri Lanka's president has ordered an investigation into allegations government forces are recruiting children to fight the separatist Tamil Tigers, United Nations envoy Allan Rock said Monday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.

Speaking at a news conference in Colombo, Rock, a former federal health and justice minister, said elements within government

## "I thank God for the gift of every sunrise" – 38<sup>th</sup> US President Gerald Ford

President Gerald Ford has now become the oldest living president in U.S. history.

He surpassed the record held by the late President Reagan and have now lived 34,089 days - or put another way, 93 years, three months and 29 days, as of Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Even though Ford was born July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Neb., Michigan considers him one of its own. His family moved there when he was just 2 weeks old.

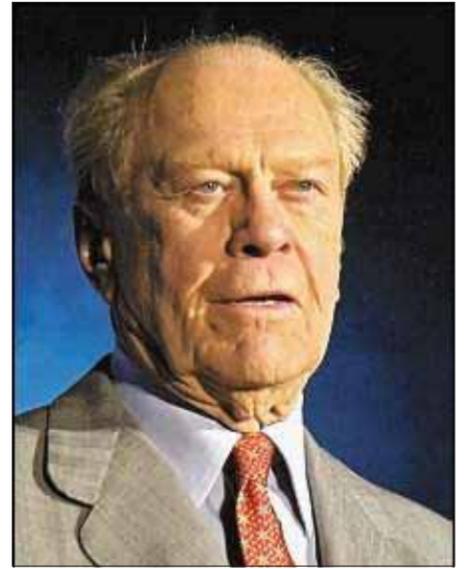
President Ford released the following statement in honor of surpassing the longevity record set by the late President Reagan:

"The length of one's days matters less than the love of one's family and friends.

"I thank God for the gift of every sunrise and, even more, for all the years He has blessed me with Betty and the children, with our extended family and the friends of a lifetime. That includes countless Americans

who, in recent months, have remembered me in their prayers.

"Your kindness touches me deeply. May God bless you all and may God bless America."



President Gerald Ford

## Universities reach out to Sri Lankan villages

By Barbara Aggerholm

Six villages in Sri Lanka that are still struggling to recover from the tsunami two years ago will get help from scientists at local universities.

University of Guelph is the lead partner in the \$2-million project, which also involves University of Waterloo, Queen's University in Kingston and University of Manitoba.

The four universities call themselves the RESTORE consortium.

The three-year project started in September, with \$1.75 million in funding from the Canadian International Development Agency and \$195,000 from the universities.

Scientists will focus on the environment and economy of the villages, said Brent Doberstein, a UW assistant professor of geography.

The villages, in the tsunami-affected districts of Matara/Hambantota, Ampara and Batticaloa in Sri Lanka, will be chosen by Sri Lankan partners according to need and other criteria, Doberstein said.

They'll serve as models for villages in other tsunami-affected regions.

In Sri Lanka, about 35,000 people died and hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless after the killer waves struck southern Asia in December 2004. In total, an estimated 300,000 people died.

Besides taking lives and sweeping away more than 80,000 homes, the tsunami caused significant damage to habitats, reefs and corals. Sea water contaminated surface water,

groundwater and soils. Rice crops and home gardens were destroyed.

Restoring the coral reefs mangroves, lagoons and beaches will be among the universities' goals, Doberstein.

They'll also help people get back to work in traditional livelihoods, such as fishing, and develop alternative livelihoods, such as small-scale industry.

For Doberstein, one of a small group of UW professors who will be involved in the project, it's a deeply satisfying chance to help people in need.

"For me, it's the best opportunity to take my knowledge and apply it to something that matters," said Doberstein, who is developing a new course at UW about natural hazards and hazard mitigation.

Professors will also review what Sri Lankan universities are teaching about natural hazards and risk-reduction. They'll train local staff and faculty and help establish Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing capabilities.

Members of two universities in Sri Lanka, representing the Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim cultures -- the three major socio-cultural and religious sectors -- are among the local partners on the project.

Doberstein, who was in Sri Lanka recently to meet with partners there, said he was taken aback by the amount of work that still needed to be done, even though a massive reconstruction effort is making a



**Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce**  
Invites the members to the  
**Progressive Planning Meeting**  
&  
**Networking Event**  
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Venue:  
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R.S.V.P. CTCC office at 416-335-9791 and leave a message for Raj Rajasri or Logan Velumallum at 416-410-1620 or Francis Joseph at 416-913-1534 by Monday November 20, 2006

large dent.

"I've been monitoring it for two years. I'm aware of the damage. What surprised me the most was how evident it was 22 months later."

Among other objectives, the Canadian universities will also help communities develop early-warning and emergency-response plans.

From UW, a group of about five professors in geography and peace and conflict studies are particularly interested in taking part in a project that has heavy Sri Lankan involvement, Doberstein said.

It was hoped that students would also

be involved, but the flare-up of conflict there has put that in doubt at the moment, he said. "We're not willing to put students in the middle of a conflict."

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada is advising against "non-essential travel to Sri Lanka," since "violence is not restricted to the north and east of Sri Lanka."

There has been a rise in the number of incidents of violence involving the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the Security Forces and other armed groups since late March 2006.

[Courtesy: The Record, Kitchener]

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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"Canada is a global leader in working for human rights and peace in the world" is what 57% of the worldwide respondents felt according to recent survey by Angus Reid Strategies for The Maclean's Magazine. The survey of 20 countries and their views on Canada and the world reveals what the world loves about Canada; besides being a global leader, quality of life (31 percent), geography/environment (30 percent) and social services/good system of government (10 per cent) are also among highly regarded aspects about Canada by respondents from around the world.

However, it's pointed out from members of our communities within Canada, that the country could do more with regards to the situation in Sri Lanka from its position as a global leader. A hopeful beacon for them should be seeing prominent Canadians voicing their concern on the prevailing conditions in Sri Lanka in the past few days.

Its' the people who make up a "Nation" and Canadians of many strides form the crucial role in working towards the revered pinnacle of global leadership position on Human Rights.

Ensuring Canada's position as global leader on Human Rights rests with every Canadian serving the humanity.

*The Monsoon Journal* salutes all Canadians on the forefront of this mission.

Highly respected humanitarian missions of Canadians around the globe, impacts how Canadian political leadership conducts the nation's foreign policy in the long run.

The headline news of the past few days is former Canadian UN Ambassador and Federal Justice Minister Hon. Allan Rock, as UN Advisor putting the Government of Sri Lanka on the dock for the first time in the international public eye for violating the rights of children. Rock's revelations are catching the attention of opinion makers in Canada

From the Publisher's Desk .....  
**Canada - as global leader working for Human Rights**

and around the globe.

Allan Rock was appointed recently as special adviser on Sri Lanka to Radhika Coomaraswamy, the special representative of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the role of children in armed conflict. Rock undertook a 10 day field trip to Sri Lanka from November 6 to 14.

"It is a feeling of fear and insecurity.... of grave concern," Rock said, adding, "institutions of society to protect (civilians) have deteriorated or diminished", said Allan Rock, of the plight of people in Vaaharai in Eastern Sri Lanka. In a press briefing in Colombo after concluding his 10 day fact finding trip, Mr. Rock urged the "eyes of the world" to see what is happening and improve the human rights conditions of the people in Eastern Sri Lanka.

Many other prominent Canadians too are on the path of influencing Canadian and world opinion - in shedding light on the plight of the people in the island, particularly of Tamils in North & East.

Canadian Parliamentarians, Albina Guarnieri, P.C., M.P., Member of Parliament, Mississauga East Cooksville, Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P. for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, and Omar Alghabra, Liberal Party Member of Parliament for Mississauga— Erindale recently wrote letters to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and issued press releases condemning the killings in Sri Lanka.

Carleen McGuinty daughter of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty is serving the humanity at grassroots level, and witnessing the events in Sri Lanka.

Liberal leadership contender Bob Rae visited Sri Lanka to advise on Federal-

ism. Former Prime Minister Paul Martin and several other Federal MPs and politicians too are among those who traveled to Sri Lanka on humanitarian missions in the recent past.

There are many more Canadians as staffers and volunteers in Non Governmental Organizations in Sri Lanka and around the world serving the humanity for the betterment of the lives of those people.

The findings of Allan Rock and his press briefing in Colombo accusing the Government of Sri Lanka in the involvement of recruitment of child soldiers is a pinnacle showing how missions of dedicated Canadians can make a difference in the world; a key factor in the deteriorating Sri Lankan situation was subdued by various propaganda mechanisms for the past few years by the Government of Sri Lanka. This was overcome by Mr. Allan Rock, Special Adviser to the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict on Sri Lanka. The UN envoy's findings are now being attacked as part of a "wider conspiracy against Sri Lanka", by sections of the Sri Lankan government and their extremist sympathizers.

Making a difference for a change, leading a change for the betterment in the lives of the masses in desperate need of assistance is what Canada is acclaimed for around the world, according to the recent Angus Reid Strategies poll.

Missions by UN Advisor Allan Rock are a testament to what is being and can be achieved by Canadians as individuals as well as in their respective official capacities - also making Canada a global leader along the way, and making all Canadians proud of Canada.

**Isaiku Eathu Illai-Music has no Boundaries**  
Classical Concert on November 19, 2006 at 6.00 pm  
At Armenian Youth Centre Hall Crown Place  
Victoria Park Ave & Consumers Road  
Vocal by the famous **O. S. Arun**  
Violin by Melakaveri Thyagarajan  
Mridangam by A. V. Manikandan  
Tabla by A. Kiran Kumar

**Annual Dinner 2006 Senior Tamils Society of Peel (STSP)**  
is pleased to invite you to take part in the Multi Cultural Diversity Program & Dinner on December 10, 2006 at 5:00 PM as a part of the "Annual Dinner" celebration. This event will be taking place at Older Adult Center (Square One, 100 City Center Drive, Mississauga). The event is held to enhance cultural diversity in our community. Please RSVP this invitation by contacting Sujee at STSP office 905 290 3000.

**TAMIL CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF WATERLOO REGION**  
(Kitchener - Waterloo - Cambridge - Guelph)  
Tamil Community invites you to be part of our **6th Annual Operation Christmas Child Volunteer Program**  
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Help wrap-up gifts in shoe boxes -sent to Developing countries.  
7.00-9.30 pm on Tuesday, November 21, 2006  
124 Bleams Road, Kitchener (Bleams & Manitou Dr.)  
Registered Members Only

On **Friday, November 24, 2006** join us at the **Holiday Inn - Yorkdale** for an informative breakfast session where you will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from all levels of government **to assist you in accessing government programs and services for your business :**  
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# Bollywood taking the Ottawa Community by Storm

By Joshan "Jimmy" Sehgal

**Jimmy:**

Welcome to MTV India! Today we are meeting with a dancer who is here to tell us about an exciting upcoming dance show. Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

**Manisha:**

Hi Jimmy, my name is Manisha and "Hothon pe aasi baat" hai, that I cannot keep it in any longer!!! I would like to invite you and your audience to one of the most exciting and entertaining dance shows to ever come to Ottawa! **At 7:30 pm on Saturday November 18th, our dance team will be presenting all the most popular Bollywood songs of the 1950s, 60's, etc. through to 2006 through a colourful mix of dancing, singing and acting!**

**Jimmy:**

Wow! Just the thought of it and my heart "Dhak dhak karne laga"! "Khabhi khabhi mere dil mein" I have this feeling that I was meant to be a Bollywood star!

**Manisha:**

Well "Jimmy Jimmy Jimmy aaja

aaja!"... come to the show, sing along, and be entertained! All proceeds to the show will be donated to the Ottawa based charity, Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation. The MSMF was established in Ottawa, Canada in 1989 as a registered non-profit charitable organization to help the rural poor, needy and downtrodden in India to become self-reliant. The Foundation conducts three major programs; an upper primary school, an eye hospital and an emergency relief operation.

**Jimmy:**

"Dehka hai Pehli baar" an idea like this! I encourage everyone to attend this show being held at the **Bronson Centre (211 Bronson Ave.)!** Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$35 and \$50 and can be purchased by calling or emailing **Manisha Paliwal at 647-999-3500/ manisha3@hotmail.com or Shivalee Paliwal at 613-868-3271 / shivalee@gmail.com.** It's as simple as "Ek do teen!"

**Manisha:**

Please pass the information to all your family and friends and I hope to see you all there :)

Saturday November 18, 2006  
The Bronson Centre  
(211 Bronson Avenue)  
7:30 p.m.

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All proceeds will be donated to the Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation (www.MSMF.ca)

## ONTARIANS MARK REMEMBRANCE DAY AT QUEEN'S PARK Inaugural Ceremony Honours Canada's Veterans



Hundreds of Ontario families, including Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and his wife Terri, honoured Canada's veterans at a Remembrance Day ceremony at Ontario's new Veterans' Memorial.

November 11, 2006:

QUEEN'S PARK — Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, today joined Ontarians in honouring Canada's military veterans by attending the first Ceremony of Remembrance at Ontario's new Veterans' Memorial.

"Today we honour the courage of all Canadian veterans," said Mr. Bartleman. "Those who fought and died, those who came home to build a great nation and those who still stand in harm's way."

"Our veterans represent the very best of Canada," said Premier McGuinty. "And while our debt to them can never fully be repaid, we express our everlasting gratitude to those whose sacrifice forged the peace and freedom we enjoy today."

The Lieutenant Governor and the Premier joined veterans, members of the Canadian Forces, police, cadets and Ontarians of all ages for the ceremony, where two minutes of silence were observed at 11 a.m. The traditional service also included a 21-gun salute, the reading of "In Flanders Fields" and the laying of wreaths at the memorial.

The Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception following the formal program.

Ontario's new Veterans' Memorial consists of a 30-metre-long granite wall, etched with scenes from Canada's military history. It commemorates the sacrifices of Canada's veterans who served and continue to serve their country in times of war and peace.

"From this inaugural time forward, the magnificent new Veterans' Memorial in its splendid setting of high honour on the front lawn of Queen's Park will be a central gathering place for all Ontario citizens on Remembrance Day," said Major-General Richard Rohmer.

On Friday, Premier McGuinty honoured the courage and sacrifice of Ontario's fallen soldiers by presenting their families with a new tribute. From 2002 forward, fallen military personnel, firefighters and police officers in Ontario will be honoured with the "Tribute to the Fallen" plaque.

"We gather here to renew our commitment to uphold the freedom and peace purchased by the sacrifice of our veterans," said Premier McGuinty. "And to never, ever forget."

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### AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER

# Some remarks on the International involvements, political solution, the issue of the merger, and Muslim factors

By Dr. A.R.M. Imtiaz - [Department of Political Science, Temple University, USA]

In modern state affairs, international elites play bigger role in deciding the fate and destination of local affairs. These elites usually devour liberal/neo-liberal agendas, and support all kind of political decisions including war and peace as well as endorse all kind of political actors including liberal and non-liberal as long as those local actors recognize agendas of the international elites. One may find somehow difficulties to accept this political science theory, but reality does not oppose my understanding.

In Sri Lanka, since end of the cold war, both west and India have been sharing common agendas, which oppose both separate state and Sinhala-Buddhist dominated unitary state. These actors including India have deep political, strategic and economic interests on Sri Lanka, which hangs in strategically important Asian region. Besides, China, rising Asian power, bundle its interests in the region.

Thus, to avoid rising China's influence in the region (with or without Pakistan support) and to consolidate their interests in war-torn Sri Lanka, these actors more likely choose compromise over confrontation with the Tamil Tigers who already had earned great deal of attention due to its policies. The Tamil Tigers who claim of the Sinhalese discrimination against the ethnic Tamils well know that there will not be another new state in the chunk of South Asia. The doors for the new state have already been closed in 1971 as East Pakistan produced linguistic based state-Bangladesh. So, practically, it is highly unlikely to witness another state in the region mainly due to current global and geo-political political environment. For that reason, to pacify the Tamil Tigers and to consolidate their interests, these elites including India would like to see political solution in the fork of power sharing both at center and regions as a solution to the ethnic civil in Sri Lanka.

Whether one may like or not, such a political package to devolve the powers should be based on wider power sharing for the Northeast. As we know, India would not support less than 13th amendment, which introduced temporary merger in 1988. India, rising economic elephant in the region, consistently has been opposing referendum on the fate of temporary merged, and will more likely to exercise the same against any such move from Colombo. Realistically, Sri Lanka political elites cannot afford to infuriate India. India has been cautiously observing the increasing Pakistan's military involvement in Sri Lanka against the Tamils Tigers, particularly in Air Force in ongoing military operations against the Tamil Tigers, and would not contentiously bless such cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Like wise, it is unlikely India would endorse any full scale military actions against the Tamils for some reasons (India's

Tamil constituencies, its own interests, etc). The bottom line is that India neither support separation nor approve military solution. So, to consolidate India's interests, India would pursue just political solution little beyond the 13th amendment of 1988 beyond the unitary state structure and within the limit of existing merged Northeast.

Will West, principally the US, go against India parameters on Sri Lanka? According accepted wisdom on Sri Lanka, one cannot think pessimistically. India is a regional power and In fact, nothing can be realistically done against its interests (even China knows this fact though it is trying to expand its influence through the parties like the JVP in Sri Lanka and Marxists actors in India and ruling elites in Bangladesh). But regional actors such as China know the reality and thus, have been trying to be on the board of the South Asia to expand its interests.

The Tamil Tigers who burned their fingers by killing Rajive Gandhi in 1990 seem to be regretting about their blunders, while Southern Sinhala-Buddhists have been doing their homework to engage India. Also, Muslim elites including the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) have been maintaining very good relations both with Western players and India. The SLMC contacts with India go back to 1988. The SLMC is recipient of India's generous help for a while and also has been enjoying the similar support from Western actors including Norway. The bottom-line is actors in Sri Lanka cannot go against the interest of India due to the global order.

So, it is impossible for political actors in Sri Lanka to close the eyes to India in their struggle to seek for a political solution de-linking the North-East merger. Any feasible political solution will come up or will have to with the merger. However, Sri Lanka's desperate Sinhala political elites who have been outbidding their opponents on the anti-Tamil or anti-minority issues since independence, would attempt to employ so-called Muslim factors to disturb such political moves for their electoral benefits. These Sinhalese elites have played reasonably considerable role in the past to disturb ethnic unity among Sri Lankans, particularly between the Tamils and Muslims and will continue to do so. The JVP and JHU have been playing strapping role to de-link the merger in the name of patriotism, and will do the same through their new organization to prevail the Sinhalese support to outbid their Sinhala opponents in the UNP and SLFP camp for electoral gains.

In my professional understanding, Sri Lanka conflict which victimized lives of more than 80,000 people requires political solution. The Tamil Tigers are the product of Sri Lanka's five decades old ethnic outbidding Sri Lanka's Sinhala political elites employed to win the Sinhalese votes.

Minorities in Sri Lanka have legitimate grievances and Sri Lanka polity should offer space for the political solution to bring back minorities trust. Such political environment can be realized through the political negotiations and engagements. I do not think ethnic civil war in Sri Lanka or elsewhere can be settled amicably through the language of war.

In fact, non-political solution such war and forceful assimilation will not anyway weaken politico-military movements including the LTTE, rather military confrontations, by and large triggers mass cooperation, support and ethnic/religious loyalty for the political movements. This had been clearly proved in the case of Hezbollah which had successfully resisted mighty Israel's 34 days failed military maneuver, which was made possible due to covert and overt help of the US. As a matter of fact, successive Sinhalese governments in Sri Lanka since 1983 controlled by the Southern Sinhalese elites have been trying to militarily neutralize the LTTE, but what history proves is that the more the state uses violence the the stronger the Tamil Tigers are.

In Sri Lanka, even after 25 years of conflict the Sinhalese political classes have not come to realized that minorities including Muslims have legitimate grievances that deserve honorary political solutions. As I always said, a final solution of Sri Lanka ethnic conflict requires reconstitution of the post-colonial unitary State. This may be a, in my understanding, good recipe to neutralize the Tamil Tigers. Also, such political solution would raise the minorities trust in the system. Sri Lanka more likely to continue to bleed and even would face political collapse as long as Sinhalese political elites refuse to seek a political solution beyond the current British introduced unitary system.

In this context, Muslim political actors who generally maintain cordial contests with the Sinhala elites to strengthen Muslim identity based on Islamic faith and to win their own shares in Sri Lanka polity need to formulate good strategies to win their cake. It seems their stratagem seems politically hurting Northeast Muslims. Muslims are at the cross roads and their elites would have to make their choices very carefully. They need to be aware of both international political environment and the pressures of the conflict on the progress of Sri Lanka as well as their fragmented reality both in the Northeast and South.

Northeast Muslims whether one likes it or not, need to live with the Tamils. They practically cannot think of life beyond the Tamils who have larger sayings in the entire region. That does not mean Muslims need to compromise their political choices, but my point is that Muslims need to make practical demands or make demands that do not go against the fundamental interests of

the Tamils. Also, Northeast Muslims need to begin negotiations with the Northeast Tamil leaderships. Northeast Muslims cannot afford to reject the Tamil leadership while innocently and completely trusting the Southern Sinhala elites who have been trying to play Muslim cards to destabilize the both Eastern region and political solution. Such situation would help the Tamil Tigers to actively pursue their agendas and to win more international legitimacy. Sadly, it seems Muslim politico-community and intellectuals do not understand this harsh reality.

Following demands from Muslim political and intellectuals circle may help to win Muslim share in the Sri Lanka polity:

- Pressure both the LTTE and the Sinhalese ruling elites for political solution that fulfill the needs of minorities.
- Demand the separate Muslim seat in the peace negotiations. This should be done through the international actors.
- Engage the Tamil leadership that has been politically and militarily confronting the Southern Sinhala leaderships since 1983. Muslims need such engagements both to win their demand and to successfully operate future Muslim unit in the east.
- Demand Muslim politico-administrative in the chunk of Northeast
- Pressure the Sinhalese ruling elites through the international actors to declare entire Muslim parts of East as peace zone that is literally free from the activities of Tamil paramilitary forces, i.e. Karuna.
- Pressure the Tamil Tigers through international actors including India to declare the EAST as peace zone. Muslim parts of the east should NOT be used by the Tamil Tigers for military purposes against the state forces or Tamil paramilitary forces.
- Urge the JVP and JHU NOT to play Muslim cards for their political gains.
- Muslim political parties, organizations needless to say Muslim scholars should form common agenda and platform to pursue these demands.

According to well received political science theories, political choices will generate consequences. Whether we like it or not, masses will have to pay prices for every choice elite and their friends as well as some politico organizations make in the name of masses. Therefore, let us hope these political forces make some good choices both to fulfill their own agendas and to give at least bit of peace to those masses who voted them to the political office.

[TamilWeek.com]



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# A storm of emotions

## McGuintys at once proud and fearful for aid worker daughter

An aide slipped into the cabinet room recently, quietly pulled Premier Dalton McGuinty aside and told him he was needed outside.

It was an urgent phone call from his wife, Terri, to let him know there had been a suicide bomb in Sri Lanka.

The news shook McGuinty to the core. Sri Lankan politics may have little to do with a cabinet meeting, but the premier and his wife have a personal reason to keep a close watch on the southeast Asian nation.

For the past nine months, their oldest child and only daughter, Carleen, 25, has been helping young people put their lives back together in the tsunami-ravaged southern region of the country. She's working with school leavers to help them find careers as part of a UNICEF program administered by World University Services Canada.

Carleen has had a turbulent time since arriving in the strife-torn nation. She has been very ill twice, and once was hospitalized with a parasitic disease her parents fear could leave her with permanent gastro-intestinal problems.

Her house had been broken into twice. Recently, she found a poisonous snake in her kitchen.

In an exclusive interview, Dalton and Terri McGuinty gave a rare and at times intensely emotional glimpse into their personal life -- and all its anxious moments over the past nine months. They have watched helplessly from afar as their brave young daughter has coped with everything from illness to suicide bombings.

(To protect Carleen's safety, the interview was conducted 10 days ago and embargoed until now, when Carleen will be safely out of the troubled region.)

"There has been the whole issue of illness and how do we treat that from 10,000 miles away," said her proud but worried dad. As premier, he had to maintain a stoic facade. Behind that mask is the ever-present fear he has had for his daughter's safety. At one point, he and Terri found themselves checking out the hospital and doctors who were treating Carleen -- from the other side of the globe.

Terri recounted how twice Carleen found intruders in her home. The first time, her terrified roommate woke to find someone in her bedroom. The second time, Carleen was alone in the house when she heard an intruder on another floor. She called a neighbour, who brought a hoe as a weapon to fight off the man. It was the same man -- and same hoe -- who dispatched the deadly snake.

McGuinty said he'd find it easier to deal with a break-in here than 10,000 km away.

"It's the sense of helplessness," he said. "She might as well be on the moon."

### Watched in agony

In recent weeks, the McGuintys

watched in agony as the political climate in Sri Lanka deteriorated.

"For the first time, 14 aid workers were executed in Sri Lanka," McGuinty pointed out. "Carleen is an aid worker."

Then there was the biggest-ever suicide bombing that killed 100 people in a naval base in a town next to the one where Carleen was staying. That bombing prompted Terri's frantic call.

"She goes to this town every weekend," said Terri. At the time of the interview, Carleen was stranded in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

Ironically, the McGuintys had urged her

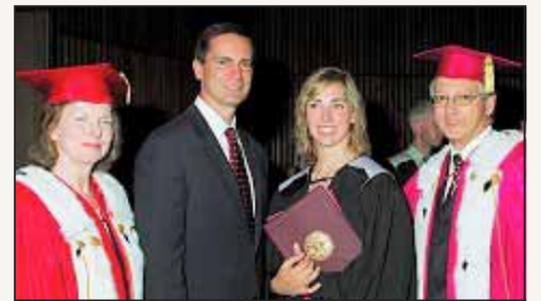
you.'

"The next thing you know they are out there and you are waiting for an e-mail or you are waiting for her to come into a cell zone so we can find out how things are going," he said.

"We will be very relieved when she comes back and if she never goes back to that part of the world again, that would be fine by us."

Her parents say Carleen has always had a passion for social justice and is especially concerned about the plight of women in under-developed countries.

A University of Ottawa graduate,



Distinguished visitor: Ontario Premier, Dalton McGuinty attended the convocation ceremony during which his daughter, Carleen, received her bachelor's degree with specialization in history. They are pictured here with University chancellor Huguette Labelle and rector Gilles Patry.

not to go there, fearing it was unsafe.

The proud parents are torn between pride in selfless dedication of their daughter to the welfare of children in one of the world's most destitute regions -- and fear for her safety.

"She's never complained. We are really proud of her, but she does cause us to lie awake at nights.

In an e-mail from Sri Lanka last week, Carleen wrote:

"Many Sri Lankan youth are more determined to educate themselves and gain employable skills than any youth I've known in Canada including myself ... Unfortunately, many are forced to leave school to find employment to support their families.

"The jobs they find with such little education provide little pay, stability, and satisfaction. These youth are forced to grow up quickly. I feel guilty thinking about what my priorities were as a teenager."

The premier and his wife are torn with misgivings about their daughter's dedication to humanitarian aid.

"On the one hand we are very proud of her. We come from a very privileged country. And we have always thought that with privilege comes responsibility," McGuinty explained.

"I half jokingly say to my friends, 'be careful about telling your kids that they can save the world, because there is a real danger they are going to believe

Carleen did her masters at the Peter Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto, where her thesis was on the Rwandan genocide.

McGuinty said his daughter plans to come home and work for a year, as she still has a tuition loan to pay off.

"She's broke," he said.

### 'A little bit in awe'

They say Carleen would eventually like to work for the UN -- and Terri would welcome a more stable home base for her daughter.

"I think that's fine. New York, Switzerland, that's great," she said.

The McGuintys said their three sons are impressed by -- and "a little bit in awe" -- of their big sister. McGuinty said he doesn't think they could hack the tough conditions.

Surrounded by so much poverty, Carleen has learned to view the world from a different perspective.

"We get caught up in issues that are really important to us, but over there it's life and death -- terrorist threats and different things," McGuinty said. "Here it might be the funding formula. There it might be the 60% drop-out rate. Here it might be wait times. There it might be safe drinking water -- and that puts a different perspective on things.

"That's why she feels she has a responsibility because we have so much going for us," he said.

All the same, the couple have begged their daughter to come home.

"I think we have told her to come home a dozen times," he said. "People say, 'have you told your daughter to come home?'"

"Well, she's 25. You don't tell 25-year-olds to come home."

His lovely daughter is never out of his thoughts.

"She is the last person I think about when I go to bed at night. She is the first person I think about when I get up in the morning," he said.

Carleen will be home for holidays. And you just know the best Christmas gift that Dalton and Terri McGuinty will get this year will be when they are finally able to hold their daughter in their loving arms once more.

[Courtesy: Ottawa Sun]

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A. J. Canakaratne, who passed away on 10 October 2006, has been endearingly described as Jaffna's Regi Siriwardene. AJ was a great admirer of Regi, would have even considered Regi to be his mentor and did go on to edit and publish Regi's writings, but in the circumstances of Jaffna the role that AJ played is beyond comparison.

For almost all his life, save for his university years at Peradeniya and his short stay at the Lake House in Colombo, AJ lived in Jaffna – in fair weather and foul, in sunshine and in rain, in the good times of yesteryears and through the traumas of the last twenty years. Jaffna is nothing without its premium on schools and students and AJ belonged to a generation when Jaffna students were encouraged to take to arts and humanities unlike the later generations who were stampeded into a narrow cramming of the sciences. It was this grounding that enabled AJ to be a unique resource as a literary and social critic in Jaffna.

After his early education at St. Patrick's College, a bastion of Catholic conservatism, AJ studied English (Honours) at Peradeniya under the likes of E.F.C. Ludowyk and Doric de Souza both effervescent and progressive intellectuals of their time and every time. From Peradeniya English, AJ took the by then well-trekked path to the Features page in the Ceylon Daily News. What might have turned out to be a lifelong career at the Lake House was cut short by AJ's inadvertent act of non-compliance with a directive from Esmond Wickremasinghe, then the Managing Editor of the Daily News.

This was the 1960s and the Minister of Education in the first Sirimavo Bandaranaike government, Badudin Mahmud, decided to open the admission to Royal Primary to all island competition rather than limit it to the children of Old Boys and other notables in Colombo. For reasons that are not difficult to surmise, Esmond Wickremasinghe wanted Mahmud's move criticized and asked the Features Editor to assign the task to one of the feature writers. The task fell on AJ, who did his research, spoke to sources at Royal College and concluded that the Minister's decision was a popular one and was welcomed by those who ran the school. AJ reported back to his

# A.J. Canakaratne

## (1932-2006)

### Jaffna's Literary Soul

By Rajan Philips

editor that there was nothing to criticize and the two decided not to write anything on the matter.

When AJ's finding came up at the editors' meeting, Esmond Wickremasinghe's face reportedly turned "crimson" although he kept his quiet. The fall out came not long after with the shoving of AJ from the Features section to the news room. AJ got the message and took the Mail Train to Jaffna, a rare return journey of the permanent kind. For over hundred years Jaffna has been an out-migration community – more people leaving the peninsula than coming in to earn a livelihood - with hardly any middle-class economic space except for teachers, who have been aplenty, and much fewer lawyers and doctors.

AJ's father was the well known Proctor Canakaratne of Jaffna. Of his two younger brothers – Selvam Canakaratne settled down in Colombo becoming the Managing Director of Ceylon Printers besides continuing his panache for free lance writing, and Dr. S. G. Canakaratne joined the academia first serving the Chemistry Department at Peradeniya and now a Professor in Ohio, USA.

Although not a place for careers, Jaffna offers, rather it used to offer, its unique charms, customs, challenges and complexities to anyone with patience, curiosity and commitment. The source of Jaffna's cultural and intellectual pride is its unique traditions of commentary on Tamil literature and in the practice of Hinduism both of which set Jaffna apart from the mass of Tamil speakers in South India. To its credit, the practice of Hinduism in Jaffna did not prevent the Christian and Muslim Tamils making their own contribution to Tamil literature and society, and to the creation of a truly secular political culture. Arumuga Navalar's precept – "English for the body and Saivism for the soul" - exemplifies the source and success of this ethos.

It is no exaggeration to say that AJ



created his own niche within this ethos and this tradition, and his role was well recognized during his lifetime even as he was respected and loved by everyone who came to know him. It will also be remembered and celebrated by future generations of Tamil literati. AJ's uniqueness stems from his academic and intellectual background that was almost entirely English and not at all in Tamil classics. This enabled him to develop his own personality in Tamil prose that was closer to common usage yet rigorous and substantive in content, rather than the alliterative embellishments that provide easy titillations but leave no lasting impact on the reader.

He began and continued to be Jaffna's main, if not the only, gateway between the outside intellectual world and its native players. His first book in Tamil, Mattu (churn-staff), a translation of well chosen English essays on literature, culture and politics, heralded his arrival on the Tamil literary scene. His later commentaries on contemporary Tamil literature created a following not only in Jaffna and Sri Lanka but also in Chennai and South India.

What made AJ lovable to his many friends and followers were his simplicity, humility and affability. He was a pedant to many and in more ways than one. In a society where those with 'little English' tend to think no end of themselves, AJ was the affable resource who needed help in English. AJ's resourcefulness was institutionalized when Jaffna was finally given a university of its own and AJ was given a teaching position in the University. His wit and humour became an integral part of Common Room conversations and university life itself.

He did not give up on journalism; rather journalism in Jaffna came to him for help. For years, he edited and published The Co-operator, the journal of Jaffna's once vibrant co-operative movement. When the Saturday Review

was started, AJ was once again an automatic resource for the new weekly. The now defunct weekly epitomized the limitations and defiance of Tamil politics and nationalism. Saturday Review was the face of Jaffna's defiance to its oppression and occupation by government forces that began in 1979 and has not been let up since.

AJ stuck with Jaffna through its years of trial and tribulation. He walked the fine line between the occupying army and the infighting militants, but without sacrificing his intellectual independence. He did not become a ghost writer or an apologist for any of the Tamil groups, as many others did. AJ was not brought up to be a supine fellow traveler of any group, although he had views – critically reflective views – on all of them. They were very well known in the grape vine of Jaffna. He dubbed the men of the cloth who slavishly support the LTTE – "white tigers." He equally poured scorn on the so called Tamil Democrats who religiously hold that the troubles of the Tamils only began with the LTTE and can only end with it. AJ called them "stark raving nuts."

I have known AJ for forty years, from my school days when AJ was editing the Co-operator, later trying to start a political periodical in Jaffna, and finally when I was on the Board of Governors of the Saturday Review. I last saw him in Jaffna in 2004, and previously in 2002, soon after the ceasefire, in the company of Rev. Paul Caspersz, Dr. Kumar David, Marshal Fernando, Dr. Vijaya Kumar, and Jayaratne Malliyagoda – some of us returning to Jaffna to commemorate our visit twenty three years earlier as part of the first fact finding the delegation of the Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) during the Emergency Rule of 1979. AJ had translated into Tamil the MIRJE publication: Emergency '79.

In 2002, he gave us the most penetrating analysis of the situation in Jaffna and the prospects for a permanent peace. As he put it, it called for a leap of faith for a Tamil to believe that the UNP that burnt the Jaffna Library in 1981 and burnt the PA's Constitutional Draft in Parliament in 2000 would deliver a lasting solution to the Tamil question. In the musical chairs that is Colombo politics, it really does not matter who is in power, and the echo from Colombo is anything but music in Jaffna.

AJ left Jaffna earlier this year for medical treatment in Colombo. That became his last journey out of the peninsula. He died and was buried in Colombo, but he will live in the collective memory of Jaffna's literati wherever they are.

[TamilWeek.com]

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The 42nd death anniversary of Rev. Fr. Dr. Peter A. Pillai, OMI fell on September 27, 2006. Peter Alcantara Pillai was born on 19th October, 1904 at Wennappuwa.

His parents Jacob and Anna Pillai, school teachers hailed from Kayts, Jaffna.

His schooling began in his mother tongue Tamil in the school where his parents were teachers. Later he joined St. Benedict's College, Kotahena, Colombo at the age of nine years. In 1918 he passed the Cambridge Junior with eight distinctions. He was then only 14 years.

He passed the Cambridge Senior at the age of 16 years in 1920 also with eight distinctions becoming the first in the whole of the British Empire. Subsequently he became an undergraduate of the then University College of Colombo and obtained the BSc degree with a first class in 1923. In the next year, 1924, he also got through the BSc Hons Mathematics in the first division.

Peter Pillai was most deservedly fortunate to win the annual government scholarship in science awarded to the best student and proceeded to the University of Cambridge where he obtained his BA and MA (Cantab). Thereafter he passed the MSc (London) quite easily. He would have entered the much lucrative CCS (Ceylon Civil Service) - the plum of government service got an academic part in the University.

## Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai Apostle of Social Justice

by Stanley E. Abeynayake



Rev. Fr. Dr. Peter A. Pillai, OMI

However, he opted to become a Catholic priest to serve his God and man. His elder brother Fr. Cadjetan Pillai, a teacher at St. Joseph's died of plague whilst administering to the sick.

His two other brothers too had already joined the clergy. Armed with PhD and DD (Doctorate in Divinity) - Rome he was ordained in 1934. On his return to the motherland, he was appointed to the staff of St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya and warden of Aquinas Hall, the University Student's Catholic Hall. No other Sri Lankan educationist had such high qualifications. To fight against the twin evils of the day - 1930s - namely, injustice and exploitation, he created two journals, 'Social Justice' (English) and 'Samaja Samaya' (Sinhala). His campaigns and untiring efforts resulted in the enacting of the Shop and Office Workers' Ordinance, Wages Boards Ordinance, Employees Provident Fund Act, Industrial Disputes Act etc. all in the field of Labour or Industrial Law.

He also advocated and expounded the theories of worker participation in management, profit-sharing, better housing and living conditions for the working class. In 1940 Rev. Fr. Dr. Pillai was appointed as the first Sri Lankan Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, the premier, Catholic Collegiate school in the island which post he held with great acceptance and distinction for 21 years till 1961.

Highly concerned with moulding the

character of youth besides serving in some government commissions, he was the president of the Headmasters' Union, member of the University of Ceylon Senate, founder of the Catholic Students' Federation, the Graduate Federation, the Catechetical Institute, the Xaverian Movement - and the Aquinas College of Higher Studies.

Further, as a result of his championing social reforms, it resulted in bringing to statute books such welfare legislation as the National Housing Act, Debt Conciliation Board Ordinance and Land Redemption Act.

An extrovert, a great trait of his character was that he was not at all a racist or communal minded - in that he treated Sinhala, Tamil, Moor, Malay, Burgher students alike. He was not only a tower of strength to Catholic students, specially Josephians but also equally to Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic (Muslim) students aspiring for higher studies.

When he passed away untimely in 1964, he was only 60 years of age, 10 years short of the psalmists span of life - three score and ten, which means 70 years. He lived exactly like three score years - 60 years due to ceaseless, unflagging exertion of his strength in the service of humanity. His excellent services to the country are immemorial.

May Rev. Fr. Dr. Peter A. Pillai Rest in Peace!

[DailyNews Sep 30, 2003, Article was written to commemorate the 39th death anniversary of Rev. Fr. Dr. Peter A. Pillai, OMI which fell on September 27, 2003 ]

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**"Give space for life - Not for violence"**

"An annual commemorative service was held for the disappeared - It is being held annually on October 27th. It was held on Raddoluwa junction in Seeduwa on October 27th 2006.

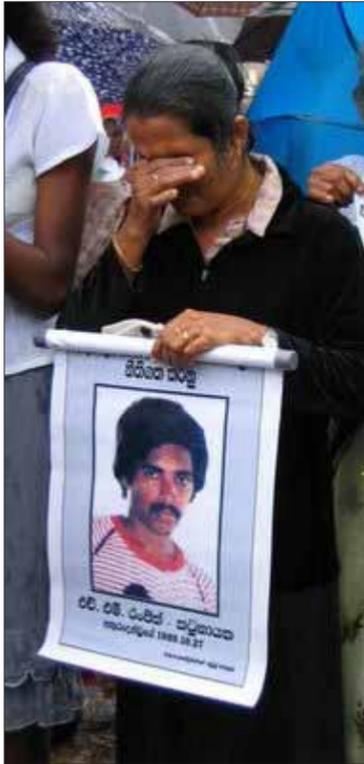
It was organized by the Friends and Relatives of the Disappeared.

Friends and Relatives of the Disappeared commemorates October 27th as a day of the disappeared; the day when Ranjith Herath and his friend M. Lionel were abducted and found dead on October 27th 1989 in Raddoluwa junction, Seeduwa.

There are almost 1,000 missing people registered with Friends and Relatives of the Disappeared from 1989 to 1994, according to the organizers.

They carried signs, saying "Give space for life - Not for violence"

Jayanthi Dandenya bursts into tears, while demonstrating. Her fiancé Ranjith Herath and his friend M. Lionel were abducted and found dead on October 27th 1989 in Raddoluwa junction, Seeduwa



**Food supplies run low for Sri Lankan families displaced by violence**

By Francis Mead

Sri Lanka's Jaffna Peninsula has already seen decades of conflict. Now its population of 600,000 is feeling the effects of the recent upsurge in fighting between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and government forces.

Apart from the sound of occasional shelling in the distance, the streets of Jaffna town are quiet. Because of fuel shortages there are few motorized vehicles on the road, and due to security concerns few businesses are operating at all. Many people have no work, and transportation into Jaffna is currently limited to air and sea.

In the town, queues form outside food shops. Although the government is continuing to bring in supplies by ship and has set up a rationing system, almost everyone talks about shortages of flour, rice, sugar and lentils. On the black market, sugar and petrol now cost about four times their normal prices.

More than 50,000 people are displaced across the peninsula. The majority have squeezed into the houses of relatives and friends. Others have gathered at temporary accommodation centres.

**'Noises in the night'**

In Jaffna town, over 1,300 people are living in school buildings on the grounds of Our Lady of Refuge Church. The families here have clustered their few belongings - some clothes, mattresses, blankets, pots and pans - on the stone floors.

They fled from two villages, Allaipiddy and Mandaithevu, on the islands to the west of Jaffna. The residents of Allaipiddy have been forced to leave their village twice this year - once in May, after the killing of 13 civilians, and again in August, when fighting broke out in the area.

"A shell landed on our village and I was wounded in the leg," recalls Jeyapiria Jeyaratnam, 10. "I've seen a lot of fighting. I hear noises in the night and I'm very scared. I feel that a shell is going to fall here, and I get frightened when I hear about fighting on the radio."



Jeyapiria Jeyaratnam, 10, was wounded in recent fighting near Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Her mother, Mary Angaleena, says the family decided to sleep in a church when the shelling started. She was wounded as well, and the family was evacuated by ambulance. "We lost everything, even our clothes," she says.

Jeyapira now spends her time with other children at Our Lady of Refuge. She also helps fetch water when her mother cooks. She is in Grade 5 and says she's disappointed she had to miss her exams because of the conflict.

**Living with host families**

Children like Jeyapira are registering for school and hope to start lessons soon. UNICEF has been working with the government and other partners to support the families at the church and additional centres in the area, creating spaces for children to play and take informal lessons.

The parish priest at Our Lady of Refuge worries that poor sanitary conditions might lead to the spread of disease at the site, and says he is trying to find another location for the people staying there. Meanwhile, UNICEF and its partners have supplied water tanks, toilets, washing areas and wells to accommodation centres across Jaffna.

Northeast of Jaffna town, in the Karaveddy area, about 7,000 people are displaced - two thirds of them living with host families. They fled from fighting on the front line in the east. In one small village, four families with 11 children between them are living together in a single-storey house.

"Food is the main problem," says the owner of the house. "There's not enough flour and rice, but everyone will stay here until the problem is solved." Because of the security situation, the families are afraid to return to their village.

At a temporary accommodation centre nearby, another 36 families are staying at a school. They have received three rounds of rations but supplies are running low. Mothers at the centre say they cook rice porridge for breakfast. They can sometimes buy vegetables in the market, but in the evenings they skip meals so that they can feed their children. [unicef.org]



Four families with a total of 11 children are staying at Yogaraja Vijeyabarathy's house following an upsurge in fighting in Sri Lanka's Jaffna Peninsula.

**"We have to get together and stop the disappearance" - Sunila Abeysekera**



"We lost our loved ones in all parts of the country earlier. When people disappeared in Jaffna in 1982, we all kept quiet. We did not experience it until disappearance happened in 1989 in the South of Sri Lanka. Now Tamil people are disappeared in Jaffna and Colombo. We should not keep quiet about it. We have to get together and stop the disappearance" says Sunila Abeysekera, Executive Director of INFORM, human rights centre in Sri Lanka

[Courtesy: <http://www.peaceandwar-ha.blogspot.com/>, HumanityAshore.org]

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I am indeed delighted to visit the Sualkuchi village famous for embroidery. My greetings to the weavers, craftsmen, members of the cooperative society and the people of this region. I am happy to note that the more than 5000 households having the population of about 30,000 residents at Sualkuchi has the pride of embroidering the name of Assam first in the national and recently in the international markets by its excellent and two of the finest silk fabrics hitherto available in the world: Muga and Mulberry silks.

I understand that Sualkuchi presently possesses nearly 17,000 handlooms for both Muga and Mulberry silk fabrics. It now produces mulberry silk fabrics of 2 lakhs KG mulberry silk and Muga fabrics of 98,000 KG annually against the total consumption of 4,38,870 K.G Silk yarns in Assam. The total value of 31 lakhs linear meter Sualkuchi will be approximately Rs 7800 lakhs annually.

Presently A weaver earns Rs. 3500 to Rs. 5000 as his/her wage besides free food and lodging. I am happy to see that nearly 22,000 people are employed in the handloom and its associated sectors. Once an agriculture village, Sualkuchi has been emerging gradually into a township with modern infrastructure. I call a town in the making in the rural atmosphere.

Here, I would like to share one successful experience of silk industry in Kancheepuram where technology, training, partnership and marketing have produced spectacular results.

**Kancheepuram Story**

The silk industry in Kancheepuram is one of the fastest growing industries in India. The industry currently employs

**“Dress that a man wears makes half the man”**

Address at the Village Citizens of Sualkuchi, Assam by President of India His Excellency A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



Rural Areas) complex in this region and prepare the product for sale in international market. PURA envisages a rural transformation through a sustainable development in the 20-30 villages as cluster.

**Conclusion**

Craft persons and weavers are an important component for our upliftment of rural economy. Over 12 million people are earning their livelihood from this industry. For example, in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh every house weaves, knits and produces gadgets using the animal horns and other natural inputs and become a family craft centres. Most of the items are used by themselves and rest of them they sell in the barter basis in the local markets. We have seen some of island of success and number problems faced by the industry as a whole. Concerted action is needed to promote this industry into a thriving wealth generator bringing prosperity to rural craftsman and weavers.

I am reminded of a Tamil saying: “All pathi, aadai paathi”.

designs. Though the materials and the techniques are changing with the market demand, the motifs are still conventional to hold the custom and tradition of the Kancheepuram saree. The silk industry in Kancheepuram has transformed into a high growth industry by opening up new avenues for the traditional weavers. The example illustrates that computer aided design can help renewal of a traditional industry provided the new technology is simple to use and users are trained properly.



more than 30,000 weavers in the art of saree making. The industry had to compete with the synthetic fiber industry in many aspects. The industry was on the brink of extinction due to the obsolescence of the designs and design making procedures. This is because, design adds splendor to a saree and forms an integral part of its exquisiteness. Introduction of computerized Jacquard borders in Kancheepuram silk saree has helped in the revival of the industry. The use of ICT has not only helped in creating new and complex designs but also reduced the time involved in the design. There has been an increase in the exports. The acceptance of these silk sarees by the consumers has also increased with the automation of designing process. Visualization of saree designs ahead of its production and the ability to create new color combination at the click of a mouse has increased the flexibility and reduced the time for realizing new

**One Village One Product**

I would like to mention the handicraft promotion work taking place at Chhindwara and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh with governmental and JETRO of Japan, cooperation for the promotion of “One Village, One Product?”. Here the development of interior life style articles is taking place with the suggestions from JETRO technical experts. After prototypes are made, the product is being sent to Tokyo market for presentation in exhibitions for getting a feedback from the users. The

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feedback is used to further improve the product for making it acceptable for sale in the international market. A similar model has been followed between Thailand and Japan which has resulted in the development of 26 products being produced in 26 villages with an annual turn-over of Rs. 300 crores.

What is needed is application of technology for quantity, quality and variety production of these products for servicing in the national and international markets with management stewardship. You may select one life style product from each PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in

Which means that the dress that a man wears makes half the man - Thus if you create good garments and not stop with just weaving only cloth, you will make half of our Nation - Then we can go on to capture half of the world.

I am sure that these initiatives by the state and central governments and also successful entrepreneurs will bring prosperity and happiness to our traditional weavers, craftsman, and artisans and give a thrust to the rural economy.

My best wishes to the people of Sualkuchi.

May God Bless you.

# Mumbai activists urge Indian engagement for peace in Sri Lanka

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai

*"We can help people to contribute to peace and humanity" – Mumbai Peace Activists in Colombo*

"India should lift ban on LTTE. I am of the view that, the ban should be lifted. I am against the ban" said Kudlip Nayar, a well known political analyst, and head of Indian Peace Mission- Mumbai Peace Mission.

Mumbai Peace Mission, consists of five members visited Sri Lanka from October 29th 2006 to November 2nd 2006. They met politicians, and civil society members during their stay in



[Jatin Desai, Trade unionist]

settlement. India should lift the ban on LTTE, and engage them politically



[Women's rights activist, Jayasree Velankar]

We believe that, we can help people to contribute to peace and humanity. We are convinced after coming here.

Mistrust between the Tamil and Sinhala communities has increased. We have noticed some incidents of abductions in Sri Lanka. Disappearances and abductions are intolerable, undemocratic and cruel. This causes a great worry. Human rights really relate to the minorities in a country. Human rights issues have to be addressed immediately. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are the worst offenders in the South Asia region in terms of human rights violations. We are assured that, a commission would be announced soon.

Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights informed us that, Government of Sri Lanka has invited the former Chief Justice of India P.N. Bhagwati to be a member of a new commission,

which will look into human rights violations in Sri Lanka."

Jatin Desai, a trade unionist said that, "We are against ban. When an organization is banned, it is not possible to get that organisation politically involved

Team-mate of Mumbai Peace Mission, and labour and human rights advocate, and feminist, Gayatri Singh said that, "India should intervene in Sri Lankan problem. But not militarily. We oppose for the military intervention. India should be able to put pressure on both parties. Both the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE have had a good relationship with India earlier. It has to take a positive view, with regard to Sri Lankan ethnic conflict."

Another team-mate, and a women's rights activist Jayasree Velankar said that, "We are very worried and concerned. The situation is very very grave. We all believe that, the military solution is not possible, political solution is necessary. All want a solution, but how far is the



[Kudlip Nayar a well known political analyst at a press conference in Colombo]



[Gayatri Singh, Labour, human rights advocate and feminist]

Sri Lanka, except the LTTE. This was the first visit of the Mumbai Peace Mission, outside India. They held a press conference at the end of their visit in Colombo on Thursday.

Kudlip Nayar further said that, "banning of organizations will never solve a problem. It should be solved through negotiated political

in order to bring an everlasting peace to Sri Lanka. The issue would be taken up in a meeting.

The A9 highway should be re-opened immediately. Almost all parties said that, India should do something. We should not keep a distance as we are. We are wanting to communicate with people, and see that we can pursue.



[Professor Kamar Agar]

question."

"We do not want the war to break. Media in every country should be free" said Kamar Agar, Professor, Journalist and a peace activist.

[Courtesy: HumanityAshore.org]

**Pictures taken at the Drama Festival staged at Kalaingar Kegayalingam Auditorium Presented by Kalaiventhan Kanapathy Ravindran & Ruby Yogathasan**

On Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 6.00 pm at Winston Churchill CI 2239 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto (Kennedy & Lawrence)



Kalaingar Kegayalingam and his wife & grand children on stage



Kalaingar Kegayalingam and his wife on stage



Kalaiventhan Kanapathy Ravindran getting blessings from Kalaingar kegayalingam



One of the Drama group being recognized and awarded



Kalaingar Kegayalingam family staged one of the drama and being recognized



Section of the Audience

## Humanitarian Crisis in Sri Lanka: Operation USA Responds

Operation USA is collecting funds and pushing the US Government and the UN to take firm action to help re-open humanitarian corridors, enabling our partners on the ground to provide goods and services to the affected Internally Displaced People (IDP's) and to ensure the safety of tsunami development programs.

Please contact us if you are able to donate medical supplies/nutritional supplements, are interested in sponsoring children in our Schools and Orphanages program, or are looking for ways to assist the tsunami-affected populations in Sri Lanka who have recently been displaced by political violence.

### Why respond NOW:

A contributing factor to the current tension between the Sinhalese and Tamils is the inequitable distribution of tsunami relief aid by the Government of Sri Lanka. A recent survey found that in the predominately Sinhalese South 75% of temporary shelters have been dismantled and the families moved into permanent housing. In contrast, 23 % of temporary shelters in the NorthEast are still temporary and rapidly becoming dilapidated.

Due to an increase in violence between the Government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, since May of 2006, 201,800 civilians have joined the existing population of 312,000 IDP's. 15,000 civilians have

made the dangerous journey across the Palk Strait into Tamil Nadu, India. 600,000 people in the Jaffna peninsula do not have access to food and medication due to the closure of a key access road.

43,000 civilians (9,000 families) from the tsunami-affected regions of Muttur, Sampur, Eechalampattai, and Trincomalee Districts are currently in Vaharai, with minimal access to the region for humanitarian relief.

There is an immediate need for food, nutritional supplements, medication, relief supplies, and funds to support the growing refugee population in the NorthEast. Despite Operation USA's advocacy efforts, led by Nimmi Gowrinathan, this aid is not reaching the refugees. This is because the Government of Sri Lanka is not allowing humanitarian access to affected regions.

For more information and to help, please contact:

ngowrinathan@opusa.org – Nimmi Gowrinathan

sfassig@opusa.org – Susan Fassig

Operation USA, 3617 Hayden Avenue, Suite A

Culver City, California 90232

Phone: 310.838.3455, Fax: 310.838.3477, Toll free: 800.678.7255

Email: info@opusa.org

## Ambassador Allan Rock visits Kilinochchi

Ambassador Allan Rock, Special Advisor to the Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict for UN Secretary General, visited Kilinochchi today as part of his study visit to Sri Lanka.

He met the Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services, Dr Sathanathan, and the two Zonal Directors of Education, T Kurukularajah and P Ariyaratnam at 8.30am. Ambassador Rock was briefed of the plight of children when Sri Lankan Air Force bombers circle the area especially after three devastating bombing raids in which scores of children have been killed. Several other educational and health related issues especially following the economic blockade were also raised with Ambassador Allan Rock.

Following this meeting, Ambassador Rock held an hour long meeting with the Child Protection Authority. The new child protection law was appreciated by

the Ambassador and he urged its full implementation and vigorous training about it to all LTTE officers.

Ambassador met with the Leader of the Political Wing, S P Tamilselvan, after this and discussed the situation of children in the Tamil homeland including underage recruitment.

In the afternoon he visited the Education and Skill Development Centre for war affected children run by TRO with funding from ILO and observed the training courses. The children at ESDC provided an enthusiastic welcome to the visiting Ambassadors.

Ambassador visited NESOHR (North East Secretariat On Human Rights) and held discussions with its chairperson, Rev Fr Karunaratnam, who further explained the conditions of the children in the Tamil homeland.

Ambassador also visited a school in Kilinochchi and spoke to the staff and children. [LTTEPS.org]



Visiting the Education and Skill Development Centre for war affected children

## An appeal to avert a major humanitarian catastrophe in North East Sri Lanka

### Press Release by World Saiva Council

**November 12, 2006:** The World Saiva Council together with Hindu Temples and Saiva/ Hindu Organizations in Toronto express their distress at the widespread human sufferings and killing that continue unabated in the North East Sri Lanka and writing to seek urgent intervention to force the government of Sri Lanka to take immediate measures to stop the carnage and human rights abuses perpetrated against innocent civilians and bring much needed relief to the starving and persecuted people of the North East.

Appeals are being sent to United Nations, Amnesty International, Prime Minister, Canada, Leader of Opposition, House of Commons, Ottawa, Premier of Ontario, Prime Minister of India, Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha, President of USA, Head of European Union, President of Sri Lanka, etc.

World Saiva Council was established on Feb 29, 1992 at a public meeting of international delegates in Chennai, India. The council operates with headquarters in London, England and 10 branches around the globe. Council aims are to preserve, foster and promote Saivism, Saiva Siddhanta and the welfare and progress of Saivite Hindus through out the world.

The name of other organizations and temples working together with WSC are:

- 1.WSC, Canada
- 2.Hindu Religious Society of Ontario
- 3.Canada Hindu Maamatram
- 4.Canada Hindu Cultural Council
- 5.Saiva Siddhanta Manram
- 6.Ramakrishna Sevashramam of Canada
- 7.Sri Sivayogaswamy Sivathodan Centre
- 8.Richmond Hill Hindu Temple
- 9.Jeyadhurga Debasthanan
10. Canada Sri Aiyappan Temple
11. Canada Kanthasamy Temple
12. Nainatheevu Nagamal Kovil of Canada

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www.saivaworld.org/appeal

## Canada condemns killing of Vakarai IDPs

**Mr. Peter MacKay**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Friday condemned the shelling of civilians in a camp for internally displaced persons near the town of Vakarai in eastern Sri Lanka on November 8, 2006.

"This incident demonstrates once again the heavy price paid by civilians caught in this long-standing conflict," said Minister MacKay.

"Canada urges both sides to immediately cease hostilities and return to negotiations.

"The Government of Canada continues to believe that there can be no military solution to this lengthy conflict. The targeting of non-combatants is never acceptable and is a clear violation of international humanitarian law.

"Canada calls on all parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka to strictly adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and the facilitation of safe and unhindered access for humanitarian agencies to reach civilians in need," statement issued by the Minister said.

Meanwhile, Canadian Parliamentarians, Albina Guarnieri, P.C., M.P., Member of Parliament, Mississauga East Cooksville, Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P. for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, and Omar Alghabra, Liberal Party Member of Parliament for Mississauga— Erindale, have written letters to the Minister of Foreign Service and issued press releases condemning the killings in Sri Lanka.

[TamilNet]

## 'My father was my role model...'

Raviraj's daughter says he loved all Sri Lankans

By Ayesha Zuhair

Praveena Raviraj, daughter of slain Jaffna district MP, Nadaraja Raviraj yesterday described her father as a strong proponent of peace who had not just loved members of his own ethnicity, but all Sri Lankans irrespective of race and religion.

"I can't believe that this has happened. Words are not going to bring my father back; his name will be buried with him. For a few days, everyone will speak about him and then he will be forgotten. It is we who are going to suffer... Why us?" she queried, her eyes full of emotion.

Speaking to the Daily Mirror from a neighbours' home in the Manning Town flats, Raviraj's grieving daughter said her father's death was completely unexpected, and its location even more astounding.

"My father never feared death, but he would have never thought that he'd be killed in Colombo, just near our home. He thought the Sinhalese loved him and he loved them in turn. He didn't see ethnic differences, but he saw that it was red blood which unites us all," the late Parliamentarian's daughter said.

Speaking further, she said, "I'm just fifteen but I've seen life through his eyes. He was my role model, even though we may not necessarily have agreed on everything. Politics was his life; he lived for the humble people. He fought for peace and he was killed for no reason."

Praveena, who is a student of Bishops College, Colombo had last seen her father alive before leaving to school in the morning. At around 8.45 a.m. the school Principal and Vice Principal had informed her that her father had been shot at.

Asked how she felt on being informed of the incident, Praveena said, "It didn't sound so serious at



Raviraj's daughter Praveena Raviraj at the funeral parlour in Colombo  
(Photo by TamilNet)

that point but I was praying that he would be alright. When I heard that he had passed away, I think I just went blank."

Raviraj's wife who also spoke to the Daily Mirror said that he was a "genuine, open person with a good heart who had close ties with people of all backgrounds." A relative of Raviraj, A. S. Sinnadurai added, "This was most unexpected. He was an outspoken but moderate leader who mixed with people of all ethnic communities."

The Jaffna district parliamentarian also leaves behind a son, Udishram whose tenth birthday falls on November 27. "My father won't be there for his birthday," she said dejectedly. "It was his wish to have his funeral in Jaffna but it is pathetic that we can't have it there because the A9 is closed," she added. [DailyMirror.lk]

deep wells. Rainfall is His direct manifestation benefiting humanity; those who set out in search of Him are similar to the waterfall; however, the preceptors who live close to us as one of us and help us are like the well in the backyard, easily accessible.

It is with this last approach that Vallalar made a difference to the people. Aware of the seven layers of ego that cloud a person's true appreciation of ever-lasting values, he expelled ignorance by way of readily recognisable analogies. Highlighting the need for everyone of us to switch on the inherent glow of the Self, Vallalar attributed the rainbow colours to each aspect of life. Maya, the veil which blinds one to truth is black. While blue stands for a lack of awareness of what one is doing, green symbolises the

## Situation in Jaffna grim, say Sri Lankan refugees in India

Ramanathapuram, With the renewed violence in Sri Lanka after the failure of the Geneva talks, the arrival of refugees has again gained momentum. Over 70 refugees have sought asylum in Tamil Nadu in the last three days alone. Most of them are from Vavuniya and Jaffna peninsula, which are cut off from rest of the country after the closure of the A 9 Highway.

"The situation in Jaffna is very grim," said one of the refugees who reached Rameswaram by ferry after paying Rs. 6000. "The Jaffna peninsula has been cut off for the last three months ever since the closure of the Highway. The supply of essential commodities such as rice, wheat, petrol, kerosene and milk powder has stopped totally, forcing the people to flee from Jaffna."

"The situation is worsening every

day and the stocks of essential commodities are fast depleting. Prices of several items that come from Colombo and other areas have skyrocketed. The price of a kilo of rice is now Rs.150, against the normal price of Rs.35. Kerosene and petrol are sold at Rs.150 and Rs. 500 respectively. People are not getting essential items even if they are ready to pay the price," said Mohanaraju (25), a final year BA student of the Jaffna University who came here as a refugee.

S. Dhanalakshmi (24) of Nagaliruppaikulam in Vavuniya, who landed Rameswaram with her 3-month-old baby, said infants and poor Tamils were the worst hit. "Nearly half a million Tamils in Jaffna are poor. Is it possible for them to buy a kilo of rice at Rs.150 ? [Hinduonnet.com]



A batch of Sri Lankan refugees from Jaffna and Vavuniya who came to Mandapam in Ramanathapuram district.

prevalent power and red epitomises desire; yellow stands for knowledge, but mere knowledge without awareness of the Supreme is but half-knowledge. The curtains of ignorance should be removed by the aspirant, by his own efforts, in order to appreciate the resplendent glory of the Lord. Human beings should carry the thought of God every moment of their life. We make many

offerings to God, and lighting a lamp or offering incense are two such acts. When incense is burnt, we still find ashes; similarly, the wick is a residual presence when the light in the lamp goes out. But the quality of camphor is such that it possesses no discernible identity after burning. Similarly, a true devotee should blend his thoughts with the Supreme. The golden key to unlocking the gates of heaven lie with every individual – through the symphony of the mind, the intellect and the body. When the right kind of food is consumed, desirable thoughts are unleashed which, in turn, help the intellect focus on the perennials which fructify. [hinduonnet.com]



## Vallalar's Path

Ordinary people, caught in the humdrum of life, often wonder whether they can ever balance the material needs with their spiritual quest. The lives of great men are enduring proof, if one were needed, that this is possible. Ramalinga Vallalar, a Tamil saint, was one such sterling example, who proved one need not wear the garb of an ascetic and seek out inaccessible forests, but live among ordinary people, and pursue the spiritual path.

In his tribute to the 19th century saint, Sri Ma. Ki. Ramanan said that Vallalar offered a sustainable approach to attaining God. God extends His grace through the three sources of water – rain, waterfall or



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Following is the complete text of the last live programme Mr. N. Raviraj attended on Derana TV on November 10th, 2006. Mr. Raviraj was invited for the Derana Aruna programme last morning from 7.30 am to 8.00 am to discuss the A-9 closure and recent attacks on civilians. He was in the Derana studio in Nugegoda for about 45 minutes before being attacked by an unidentified gunman in Narahenpita within two hours after the interview.

**Q:** Hon Member, Your party launched a massive protest in parliament against the de-merger of the North and the East following the recent Supreme Court judgment. What was the reason for these protests?

**A:** We in the TNA started agitations demanding the reopening of the A9 Road... Meanwhile on Oct.16th, the Supreme Court passed the judgment on de-merger of the two provinces. However, we do not have a problem with the judgment... we have a political problem. The people in the north-east aspire to live together. They aspire for the merger of the two provinces, it is a basic human right of those people. In the ancient times, there were Sinhala and Tamil kingdoms in Sri Lanka. It is not new to our people. That is mainly an area of Tamils from ancient times. It does not mean that we want to divide the country. We believe that North and east be considered as a one unit. That should be the base if to find a solution to the ethnic crisis.

In fact, the Sinhala or the Tamil people do not want to see a military struggle and bloodshed in the country. They are prepared to live in peace. When the tsunami hit Mullaithivu area, it was the Sinhala people who helped the Tamils. They do not want war. I am for a negotiated settlement. This was not only what I say. The first such example was set by the Emperor Ashoka after Kalinga war. First of all the people who are starved should be given food and build confidence. The TNA is committed to support any such endeavour.



**Q:** Why do you insist on the de merger of the two provinces, and what special privilege will the Tamil community have by that or in what manner does the merger benefit them?

**A:** Why do you people say that this country should not be divided? Because, then only people feel more strong and powerful. Likewise, Tamils will feel more powerful when they are together. The merger will enhance their strength and provide them the opportunity to look into their affairs well. It is their aspiration. The two provinces are prominently Tamil areas.

**Q:** If you are accepting that living in unity will make people more powerful, why don't you support the unitary state concept?

**A:** Unitary state concept is no longer acceptable now. It is an old system and

## Slain MP Raviraj's final words an hour before being gunned down

has no validity today. When we achieved independence in 1948, not a single Tamil leader talked about a separate state or a federal state. Who forced us to the present situation?

**Q:** You say that Tamil leaders did not demand a separate state. But, Wasn't Mr.Ponnambalam's 50-50 demand the origin of this crisis?

**A:** In 1947 when India achieved independence, Mohamed Ali Jinnah demanded Pakistan to be separated. We asked for 50-50 and then a Federal system and now the LTTE is fighting for separate state. However, as politicians we still believe in a united country. Who is responsible for this state? Since independence, we were being discriminated. First, they abolished the clauses in Soulbury Commission, which provided safeguards for the minorities, and then they brought Sinhala Only Act. Thus, who pushed us to this state? India that gained independence in 1947 has 22 states now. Yet, it is a united country today, because they implemented the



right administrative system. Some fear federal system would divide the country. But the best example we can get is from India. In 1965, Tamil Nadu demanded separate powers. But today if you ask a Tamil in Tamilnadu, they will say we are all Indians..! Jaffna people are starving due to the closure of the A9.

We are one family. In a family, mothers generally tend to love or treat a disabled child or the youngest more than others. What we do is taking all the facilities including food from that child. That is what they did exactly by closing the A-9. In 1995, government launched operation Jaya Sikuru to open the A-9. Vice-versa, this government says it cannot open it, giving the impression that those people do not belong to our country. Thus, we will provide them goods in ships. What is this all about?

**Q:** The issue of the A9 road is an outcome of terrorist activities... everybody is aware that LTTE take ransoms and tax people on the A9 road?

**A:** They say LTTE taking ransom. What a lie.... A9 was opened only in 2002. how did the LTTE survive so far? Didn't they earn before? Didn't they have enough food and other facilities? This was a downright lie of the government. I returned from Jaffna only yesterday. I accept that LTTE tax people.

**Q:** But didn't the LTTE attack the military checkpoint?

**A:** Ok let me finish on the tax affair. Goods were sent in ships even when I was the Jaffna Mayor since 1995. A petrol litre was sold at Rs 1000. To whom those taxes

went? I want to emphasize one thing. The LTTE never ever imposed tax on essential items sent by the government to be distributed freely among poor people in the area through Divisional Secretariats and on items related to education. Also who are paying taxes for the LTTE. Not the people here, not Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, not Keheliya Rambukwella,



not even Raviraj... it's the people of those areas. When A9 was opened, the difference of a Petrol litre in Jaffna was only Rs 10 including LTTE taxes.

**Q:** Why are you opposing an alternative route?

**A:** Is not the Pooneryn route also going through Kilinochchi. Will there be no taxing then. Moreover, it is a more distant and difficult road and only two kilometres away from the sea. Besides, what happened to the people who went to observe the road yesterday? SLMM chief managed a narrow escape from an attack and had to hide in a bunker.

Let me tell one thing to Mr. Rajapaksa. Let's close the main road to Hambantota and send all goods in ships from Colombo.

**Q:** But there is no terrorist issue in Hambantota?

**A:** Why are you always talking about a terrorist issue? If there is terrorism it should be suppressed using similar methods. In 1.1 clause, it's clearly mentioned in the CFA that the A9 should be opened. If the government is not willing to do so, what they should do is to say that they do not accept the CFA, CFA is over and that they have started war. It has nothing to do with the innocent people of the area. Now the A9 road is closed causing innumerable hardships to the innocent people. Even the animals in the area are starved to death. We have to obtain visas from the Army camp in the area to come to Colombo. Do you know that?

**Q:** Wasn't it the LTTE who closed the A9 in their areas?

**A:** What nonsense! I even went to Kilinochchi and Pallai recently. I barely escaped a shell attack.

**Q:** From which side?

**A:** Obviously.... You do not look up to see from which side you have been attacked during a war. When I was in Jaffna, there were 50-60 shells from this side to retaliate one or two shells from the LTTE side. Situation is such that people of the area could not sleep in peace when there are no shell attacks. The LTTE is willing to reopen the road in their area with the intervention of international observers.



**Q:** These are happening because the LTTE attacked a ship carrying civilians. What are your comments on such terrorist activities?

**A:** Why does the government ferry civilians by sea? Let me explain. In one ship, have more than 1000 travellers aboard. Who are they? Only 300 of them are civilians and others are security personnel. I do not say that the security personnel should not come to see their kith and kin. But the government is only providing a civilian cover to ferry soldiers. You will understand that if the A9 road is open, these problems will not crop up. In 1995 the government launched Jaya Sikuru operation to open A9 road. Thousands of our youths were killed. Now the government has closed the same road.

**Q:** What solution do you proposed to overcome this problem?

**A:** There are many personal problems. My good friend J.VP Leader Somawansa Amarasinghe has problems. The JHU has problems and even general Fonseka has problems... The Buddha preached the benefits of alms giving. Buddhists say that we must help others. However, the monks who follow Buddha are opposed to the opening of A9 road to supply food to the people in Jaffna. Wimal Weerawansa said that if the UNO intervenes in the problems it will be a violation of the country's sovereignty. What right does he have to talk about sovereignty? It was them who took up arms against the democratically elected government in 1971. In 1988/89 period, they did not allow us to light even a kerosene lamp. So how can they talk about sovereignty today.

**Q:** Several solutions have been proposed to the national problem. Indian Panchayath system is one such. What is your opinion in this regard?

**A:** Indian Panchayath system is a system in a village administrative system. After devolution of powers at higher level, some measure of autonomy is given to the village level. However, I have not yet heard that this system is to be implemented in Sri Lanka.

**Q:** Hon. Member, what measures do you proposed do you propose to resolve this problem

**A:** In fact, the Sinhala or the Tamil people do not want to see a military struggle and bloodshed in the country. They are prepared to live in peace. When the tsunami hit Mullaithivu area, it was the Sinhala people who helped the Tamils. They do not want war. I am for a negotiated settlement.

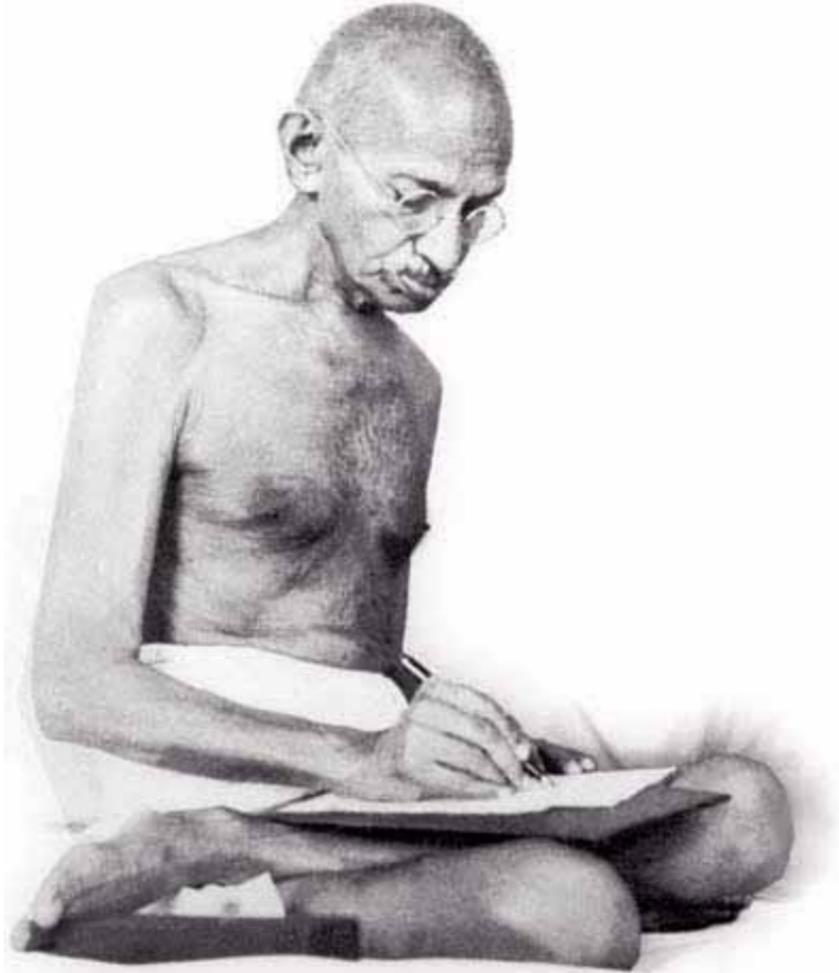
This was not only what I say. The first such example was set by the Emperor Ashoka after Kalinga war. First of all the people who are starved should be given food and build confidence. The TNA is committed to support any such endeavour.

**My newspapers became for me a training ground in self-restraint and a means for studying human nature in all its shades and variations. Without the newspapers a movement like Satyagraha could not have been possible.**

**Mahatma Gandhi**

# Mahatma Gandhi as a journalist

By V. Sundaram



A few days ago Nobel laureate V S Naipaul spoke to media persons at the Centre for Fine Arts, Bozar, in Belgium. He said: 'People in cities are turning their backs to Indian civilization. They want green cards. They want to migrate. They want to go to England. They want to get to the US. There is a fracture at this moment of great hope for India. It is possibly quiet dangerous at the moment. The consequences could be a very radical kind of revolution. village against city'. At the same time, Naipaul also said that India is a very dynamic, moving culture. During the course of his interview, he dismissed Mahatma Gandhi's book, 'Indian Home Rule' (Hind Swaraj) published in 1909 as an 'absurdity'. I was shocked by this observation and therefore I went back to the writings of Gandhiji, not only as a politician but also as a journalist, starting from 1903 till his assassination on 30 January, 1948.

As a powerful mass communicator and as a fearless journalist, Mahatma Gandhi was unrivalled. Almost everyone knows that Mahatma Gandhi was a Political Leader, but very few know that Gandhi was also a journalist! Yes, Gandhi was an outstanding journalist. For 45 years, starting from 1903, he edited and published weekly newspapers. Journalism was the factor that transformed ordinary Gandhi into Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi's work in the field of journalism had a strong influence not only on every newspaper in India but also on the entire literary world of every language in India!!!

Even when he was studying for the Bar in London, Gandhiji wrote articles for the 'Vegetarian'. When his political career in South Africa started in 1893, he wrote letters to the editors of the South African news papers and also of some news papers in India. That is how he came into contact with G A Natesan,

the Editor of Indian Review in Madras. G A Natesan became a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi and Gandhiji always stayed at the residence of G A Natesan during his several visits to Madras till the late 1930s.

After a few months' stay in South Africa in 1893, Gandhi realized the paramount public need to become a journalist to fight for the rights of the Indian community. And he brought the highest qualities of the journalistic profession, 'courage in the face of adversity, unswerving adherence to truth, pursuit of public causes, and objectivity in presentation', in all his letters, representations and memorials, not only to the government of the day but also to the leading newspapers of the time.

His letters to the editors of South African dailies can serve as a lesson to all journalists even today on how to fight injustice in any country or any public system where the laws are loaded against one section of the people, without giving offence to the rulers themselves. Gandhiji's only aim as a journalist was to achieve illuminating candour in print and to strip away cant. In short he was totally committed to the sacred pursuit of and the heroic effort to state the truth. Gandhiji was fully aware of the fact that the pursuit of the truth and the articulation of it was the most delicate, hazardous, exacting, and inexact of tasks. He was totally committed to the cause of the pursuit of truth, information and enlightenment. A telling example of this trait can be seen from his letter dated 25 October, 1894 to the Times of Natal, which had carried a contemptuously worded editorial titled 'Rammysammy'

Gandhi wrote: 'You would not allow the Indian or the native the precious privilege (of voting) under any circumstances, because they have a dark

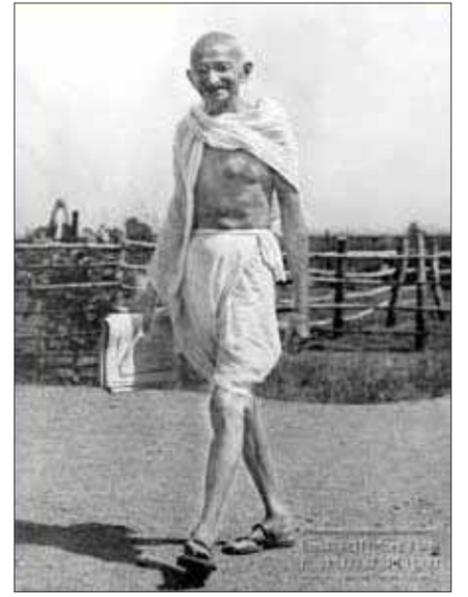
skin. You would look the exterior only. So long as the skin is white it would not matter to you whether it conceals beneath it poison or nectar. To you the lip-prayer of the Pharisee, because he is one, is more acceptable than the sincere repentance of the publican, and this, I presume, you would call Christianity. You may; it is not Christ's. Sir, may I venture to offer a suggestion? Will you re-read your New Testament? Will you ponder over your attitude towards the coloured population of the Colony? Will you then say you can reconcile it with the Bible teachings or the best British traditions? If you have washed your hands clean of both Christ and the British tradition, I can have nothing to say; I gladly withdraw what I have written. Only, it will then be a sad day for British and for India if you have many followers.'

After 10 years of relentless struggle, Gandhi realised that the twin tasks of mobilizing public opinion and influencing official decisions required a regular newspaper. Thus was born Indian Opinion in June 1903. He was clear about the nature and content of his newspaper. It would not carry any advertisements nor try to make money.

Instead, he sought subscribers who would give donations. It was while writing in Indian Opinion that Gandhi stumbled on the concept of satyagraha. Indian Opinion became certainly a most useful and potent weapon in the struggle for the rights of Indians in South Africa. In South Africa his writings often made the white racists look ridiculous: 'The white barber refused to cut my black hair, extending his colour prejudice to not only non-Christian skin but non-Christian hair as well.'

Gandhi served as Editor of Indian Opinion for 12 years from 1903 to 1915. Gandhi often declared that journalism was not a profession or business for him, but an effective medium of communicating with the common people. For this reason he wrote more and more in the Indian languages and spoke to the masses directly. It is not therefore surprising that Indian Opinion was bi-lingual (English and Gujarati) right from the beginning. Later for sometime it had also Hindi and Tamil sections. Indian Opinion more or less forced the South African provincial regimes to modify their repressive laws against Indians. Gandhi himself has confirmed this fact. He says of his Indian Opinion articles: 'There was no padding, no essays given to the readers. I used to reason out for them their difficulties. I had no time to discuss theories. They had weekly instructions as to what they were to do. I have no doubt that Indian Opinion had a vital part to play in moulding and guiding the Satyagrahis.' (1-7-1940)

Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in January 1915. In 1917 he got a call from the Indigo farmers of Champaran in Bihar that they were being subjected to the same forms of indignity and exploitation as the indentured labourers in South Africa. Gandhi rushed to Champaran and conducted an investigation and wrote a detailed report. It was a masterpiece of journalism at its truest and noblest. After Champaran it was only a matter of



time before the Mahatma took to journalism as his most potent weapon of satyagraha in India till the attainment of our independence on 15 August, 1947.

Gandhi was the Editor of Young India from 1919 to 1931. Young India had a Gujarati edition called Navajivan. Young India, like Indian Opinion in South Africa, was the mouthpiece of the civil disobedience movement during the 1920s. Issue after issue of Young India and Navajivan carried samples of the Mahatma's journalistic genius which blended seemingly earnest appeals to the government to do what was 'just and righteous'. Gandhi was Editor of Harijan from 1933 to 1942 and again from 1946 to 1948. Harijan was the organ of the Harijan Sevak Sangh in the fight against untouchability. Like Young India, Harijan too had both Gujarati and Hindi editions.

In Gandhi's conception of journalism, there was no room for sensational scoops. He said, 'there are occasions when a journalist serves his profession best by his silence'.

His writing was simple, direct and forthright. He was economical and effective in his choice of words and studiously precise in his expressions. His captions would repay careful study. Here are a few samples:

**'How Not to Do it'**

**'Terrorism Run Mad'**

**'Legalized Pillage'**

**'The Crime of Cast'**

**'Our Time a Trust'**

**'A Travesty of Civilization'**

Professor K Swaminathan, who edited the collected writings of Mahatma Gandhi in 100 volumes said about Gandhiji as a journalist: 'The lesson we learn from Gandhiji as a journalist can be formulated in two ways. To those who love the Ramayana as he did, the lesson is: As you go about your daily task, remember the two monkey messengers, Angada and Hanuman, and carry good tidings from good masters. To those who do not care for poetry, it is Journalism, when practised with a sense of mission, proves readily available means of service to society and an excellent sadhana for self-improvement.'

On the eve of our independence, Gandhiji was anguished to find that all the main-line English and language newspapers were commercial, afraid of the Government and not truthful in reporting. His last word on the Indian newspapers came at a prayer meeting in Delhi on 19 June, 1946. He said: 'If I were appointed dictator for a day in the place of the Viceroy, I would stop all newspapers.' He paused and added with a mischievous wink: 'With the exception of Harijan, of course.' I can only say that there was no politician more human and no human being more political than Mahatma Gandhi. [newstodaynet.com]

(The writer is a retired IAS officer)

## Tribute to Actress Srividya

By Anand. J

Actress and daughter of popular singer M.L.Vasantha Kumari, actress Srividhya passed away on 19th October, following her hospitalization due to cancer. She was 53. She mesmerized people with her pretty looks and acting skill. Mostly seen in character roles, the actress recently entered the small screen with the Malayalam serial Amma Thampurati, during the shooting of which she was hospitalized.



Born on July 24, 1953, Srividya acted in over 800 films over a 35-year period. Srividya has acted in more than 50 Tamil films. Starting her film career at the age of 13, Srividya made her debut in Thiruvurul Selvar, in which thespian Sivaji Ganesan adorns the role of 'appar,' a leading Shaivite of 8th century. Kamal Haasan and hers were considered a hit pair in 1980s. They had acted together in several films. Kamal Haasan, in a message, said Srividya battled cancer with valour and dignity.

The actress reached her peak when renowned director K Balachander picked her as heroine for his best known movie Apoorva Ragangal, which won many laurels in the Indian panorama. Some of her prominent films in Telugu are - Toorupu Padamara, Kathanayakuni Katha, Indrudu Chandrudu, Chinnabbayi, Dalapathi (dubbed film).

She had also sung for some Tamil films. She also inherited a good sense of humor from her mimicry artist father Krishnamoorthy. She also won Tamil Nadu government's best actress award many times.

"Dance is a spiritual experience for me. Dancing helps me in acting as well. It is an added advantage for me. I enjoy playing the character of a dancer in the films. I am very passionate about dancing. I take time off to dance during my shooting schedules. There is a lot more to be learnt in dancing. Dancing is my first love. Dancing gives me great pleasure.

I started to dance at the age of five. My arangetram was held at Thiruvangad Temple in Thalassery. I learnt Bharatanatyam from Kalamandalam Saraswathy, (M. T. Vasudevan Nair's wife). M.T.Vasudevan is a novelist and film maker. I am now a student of

## "Dance is a spiritual experience for me" - Vineeth

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai

Padmabhushan, Dr. Padma Subramaniam. I am also trained in "Kuchipudi" and "Mohiniyattam", two other South Indian styles of dances" says classical dancer and South Indian Film Star, Vineeth.

He has come to Sri Lanka to grace "Paadha Laalithyam". Dance compositions of Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran will be unveiled in



Vineeth at Global Towers, Wellawatte on Oct 13, 2006

## Tribute to Actress E.V. Saroja

By Anand. J

Popular actress of yesteryears, E V Saroja, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in Chennai on November 3. Saroja, 71, was survived by a son and a daughter. She had over seventy films to her credit and was paired with the late M G Ramachandran and late Sivaji Ganesan in many films in the 1960s.

Her husband T R Ramanna, a popular film director, died a couple of years ago. Meanwhile, AIADMK supremo Jayalalithaa, in a statement, said she was deeply saddened to hear about the death of Saroja. Her death is a great loss to the Tamil film world, she said and extended her condolences to members of the bereaved family. Her popular Tamil hits include En Thangai, Bakiyalakshmi, Koduthu Vaithaval, Pillai Kaniyamuthe, Padikatha Methai and Gule Bahavali



"Paadha Laalithyam" at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall on October 14 th 2006, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Natya Kala Mandhir.

He was born in 1969 in Kannur, Kerala. He is a nephew of world class classical dancer and film star Late Padmini. He has performed in Gulf and Europe in

an actor. Dancing has been Vineeth's childhood passion.

Following are the excerpts of an exclusive chat with Vineeth at the Global Towers in Wellawatte:-

"Padmini Periyamma (My father's elder brother's wife) is a legend. She was an excellent classical dancer and actress. I used to admire her dancing. Padmasri Kamalhasan is an excellent classical dancer. I have watched his films, and enjoyed as a young upcoming dancer. There have been many young boys, who have watched his films and learnt dancing.

"Chandramugi" was a turning point in my career. This brought me new opportunities to act in Tamil films. I have got more offers. I have acted in 95 films in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and English. Quantity does not matter to me, always quality matters to me a lot.

My latest film is "Rathrimazha" in Malayalam by Lenin Rajendran. I am playing a role of a dancer (Harikrishnan) who becomes physically challenging after an accident. However I retain my passion for dance. He is confined to a wheel chair. And from the wheel chair he tries to create a unique dance-art production. I am a trained Bharathanatyam dancer. It is the first time that, I am doing a contemporary style of dance, a fusion of Kalari, Chhau, and others. But it's challenging. It's a new experience for me. It's another opportunity to show my talent.

It's a great opportunity to meet reputed artistes. I admire all the directors. All are great in different ways. All characters I portray, whether big or small are close to my heart. I treasure them all.

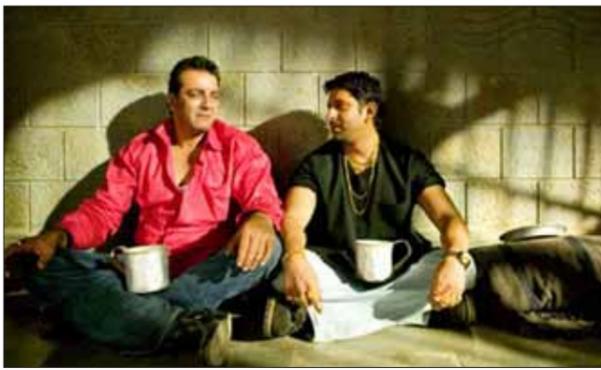
It gives me a great pleasure to grace an occasion, where great dancers of Sri Lanka will be performing on a stage. I will be honoured to perform on a stage in Sri Lanka next time. I am looking forward to it".

(Continued from page 20)

pictures to their co workers and actors and team. Director Shankar who produced 'Imsai Arasan 23am Pulikesi' with a shoe string budget of 3 crores, nobody expected it to collect 22 crores. The movie is still successfully running to packed houses earning still more money. Shankar has reportedly given away the profit share to each of his team member according to their salaries and this is one of a unique gesture in film industry. With back to back hits like 'Kadhal' and 'Imsai Arasan', we predict that Director Shankar will become Number One Producer soon.

### 5 CRORE DIRECTOR

Actor Silambarasan touted as the youngest director at his age 22, has openly made statements in public that his position as Director will grow high with his movie 'Vallavan' and he will start demanding 5 crore rupees for his forthcoming movies. But after the release of Vallavan and seeing its response, he has changed his plans and he now wants to concentrate only in acting since he loses a lot of time being a Director. His ultimate plan is to become a big Director demanding 5 crores in the likes of Shankar and Maniratnam.



Bollywood blockbuster *Lage Raho Munnabhai*, which resurrected Mahatma Gandhi's ideals through 'Gandhigiri', has become the first full length Indian movie to be shown in the United Nations auditorium and has won praise from diplomats, staff and journalists alike. The Sanjay Dutt starrer, produced by Vinod Chopra and directed by Rajkumar Hirani, was shown on Friday evening as a part centennial observation of the first Satyagraha launched by Mahatma Gandhi. Besides providing fun, the 145-minute blockbuster has renewed interest in the philosophy of Gandhi at a time when it is needed most in the conflict ridden world.

In a major casting coup, director Pradeep Sarkar and Yashraj Films have cast Amitabh Bachchan, his wife Jaya and son Abhishek in their forthcoming film—the first time the trio will be seen together in a movie. "My wife Jaya, Abhishek and I will act in Pradeep Sarkar's



next film," Bachchan said in an interview on Wednesday. Though Amitabh and Abhishek have appeared together in several films, as have Amitabh and Jaya, the trio has never been seen together in a movie. Sarkar's movie, which is as yet untitled and is being produced by Yashraj Films, is scheduled to go on the floors in the next few days. Its first schedule will be shot shortly in the holy city of Varanasi. The film also stars other big Bollywood stars like Rani Mukherjee and Shabana Azmi, industry sources said in Mumbai. Sarkar's debut film *Parineeta* (2005), which starred Vidya Balan and Saif Ali Khan, was a huge hit with

both audiences and critics. The new film is expected to be released late next year.

According to a latest press release, *Don* is slated to become one of the Top 3 grossers of all time in Hindi cinema overseas with the highest opening weekend ever for a Diwali release. In just the first weekend of its release, *Don* has notched up some staggering numbers. In the UK, the film grossed an incredible GBP 5, 37,000 (a little more than USD 1 million) in the opening 5



days along with the preview, which is the highest Diwali opening weekend ever for a Hindi film. In the US, the film grossed USD 1.2 million USD in the opening 5 days. In the period of just 9 days, *Don* has grossed above 3.45 million Dirham in Gulf which is highest ever for a Hindi film. In Australia and South Africa, the weeks collections were the highest ever for a Hindi film. The worldwide collections for *Don* in the first week sum up to Rs 75 crores, which includes exploitation of all rights for the film.

Mani Ratnam's *Guru* is the current talk of town. AR Rahman who started off with Mani Ratnam's *Roja* has given some of his best tunes to the director's film. No doubt the music of *Guru* that released recently has raised huge expectations about the movie. It has been reported that Bappi Lahiri will be singing a song in the film. That is a unique combination. Apart from that another interesting fact about the music of *Guru* is that a Toronto based singer Mariam Taller has sung a number. The track is called *Mayya Mayya*. Mariam Taller has an Arabic feel to her voice. She had earlier done background vocals for *Rang De Basanti*.

## VATTARAM-A film review

By Anand. J

*GEMINI* an AVM film in which Director Saran has given a famous song 'O Podu' with actor Vikram and in his another directoral venture of Kamal's *VASSOOLRAJA* m.b.b.s. he again gave a much applauded song 'Seena Thana Doi' has finally taken away the name



'*GEMINI*' for his film production. But now the star cast in his own film *VATTARAM* is not equivalent to his earlier heroes or other important stars but has *ARYA* and *NEPOLAN* as main characters. The story has neither comedy nor a good message. Being a protégé of veteran director K Balachander, Saran has not lived up to the expectations.

The story is about Burma (Arya) who is the son of a driver (Nassar) in a rich man Gurupadom's (Napoleon) house. Gurupadom is Burma's role model and his dream is to be like him. But soon his father is framed by Ira (Kadhal Dandapani) the right-hand man of Gurupadom, and unable to bear the humiliation, he commits suicide. Burma grows up in the mean streets to be a

gun dealer and waits for an opportunity to enter Gurupadom's house and take revenge. Soon he wins over Gurupadom and his only daughter Sangeetha (Kirat Bhattal). But Ira and Veeravel, Gurupadom's elder son are tooth and nail opposed to him and fear that he will take over their empire. However Burma uses tact and cunningness to overcome their resentment and wins over Gurupadom's trust. Slowly, he starts to understand the machinations of the power play in the underworld. He uses Gurupadom's bitter foe A . K . S w a m y (Avinash)

Arya as Burma is good. Kirat is yet another typical beauty that Saran is so capable of unearthing. She looks good, but has limited scope to perform. But it is Napoleon who has made this film all his. Napoleon has kind of re-invented himself in a new matrix. He is very composed and comes up with an assuring performance.

The Bharadwaj-Saran combination is part of modern film folklore. But here the magic goes awry. Yaar Kodupar Indha Ariyasanam is the only hummable number. The camera is ok. The nadippu vattaram is better for Napoleon and Arya is next only. It will be good for Arya's future if he improves his dialogue delivery and body language.

To sum up *VATTARAM* IS ONLY *NASHTARAM* TO MANY.

## DHARMAPURI- Film Review

By Anand. J

The Deepawali release of *PURATCHI KALAINGAR* Vijayakanth was filmed after the actor became an M.L.A. Produced by A M Rathnam and directed by entertaining director Perarasu. The Director has earlier given hit pictures *SIVAKASI* and *TIRUPPATHI*. After becoming a politician what Vijayakanth wants to convey to the general public was highly expected by one and all through this movie. In short, although he might have let down a lot of general cinegoers, he has satisfied his fans and his political followers in this movie.

It has a terrific introduction scene aimed at B and C audiences to prove that Captain is invincible. A thug fires a bullet straight at the hero's chest, the bullet bounces back and hits the gunman injuring him- our hero has a metal plate to protect himself! In the climax of the film, the hero sorts out all issues himself and delivers punch lines dialogues that clearly indicates that he wants to capture power in Tamilnadu.

The story, situations and dialogues are all created to give a superman image to Captain plus profiling him as the man who gets things done! It is a simple, straight forward story of Sivaram (Vijayakanth) who along with his mother is living in exile in Rameswaram as his father Meiyappan (Vijaykumar) had left their village in Dharmapuri in a huff.

Meiyappan an honest farmer and village chieftain believed that the villagers should follow traditional industry like making clay pots and artifacts instead of giving sand and clay to big city based builders. Meiyappan gifts his 200 acres of land to the villagers but it is soon taken away by his brother, Mokkayan (Manivannan) and his two evil sons Peruchalickaruppu (Bobby) and Silanthikaruppu (Raj Kapoor). The director proves that he has the best of wild imaginations in selecting names for his characters in the movie.



Humiliated and agitated, the villagers decide to put an end to their shenanigans. They set in search of Sivaraman, son of Meiyappan (Vijayakumar), who once strived for the welfare of the village and later forced to flee the village due to Mokkaiyan's family.

They finally spot Sivaraman (Vijayakanth) in Rameshwaram, where he works tirelessly for the uplift of the people. They convince him to return to the village and teach Mokkaiyan and his family a lesson. Enters Sivaraman on a mission. He comes across Valarmathy (Lakshmi Rai) and falls in love with her. Meanwhile, he also embarks on a mission to teach the baddies a lesson. Did he achieve success forms the crux.

The movie has songs boasting Vijayakanth and hard-hitting dialogues at several sequences which revolve around the current political situation in the State. Vijayakanth fits in the mass-hero role quite well. He is at his best mouthing those dialogues which are targeted at the politicians. The movie has a huge star cast including Peeli Sivam, Anu Mohan, Rajesh and Mano Bala among others. The heroine Lakshmi Roy has no important work. The comedy side is very weak and infact it is NIL.

*DHARMAPURI* is not having any logic Dharmam but Purigiravargalukku indha dharmapuri puriya vaikukum. OK?

There's pomegranate juice, vodka, salad dressing, ice cream, salsa, lollipops and gummy bears. You can put pomegranate essence in your hair (conditioning rinse) or on your skin (cream and perfume). In the last few years, hundreds of new pomegranate products have come on the market.

The pomegranate is an ancient fruit with a rich history in myth, symbol, art, medicine and religion. It has always been an important part of the Middle Eastern diet. Until recently, however,

**A versatile fruit well known in Sri Lanka ,  
India gains popularity in the West:**

## Pomegranates Jewels in the Fruit Crown

The pomegranate is the fruit du jour.

By David S. Deutsch

but not dry and then whisk in a half-cup of sugar before putting bowl aside.

Add the remaining cup of sugar and zest to the yolks and beat until the mixture is light and airy, then beat in the ground almonds. This will be very thick and heavy, so lighten it with a good dollop of whisked egg whites before folding the rest of them into the thick, yellow almond mixture. It's easiest to fold in the remaining egg whites in thirds. You need to work firmly, but gently, so everything is



Scientists say the leathery-skinned fruit with the sweet-tart juice may help with heart disease, cancer and problems associated with aging. Scroll down for tasty ways to enjoy the new superfood.

pomegranates were something of a seasonal novelty in the West. Then medical studies suggested what the ancients believed and Middle Easterners probably take for granted: Pomegranates are really good for you. And thus, instant celebrity.

Scientists say the leathery-skinned, orange-sized fruit with the sweet-tart juice may help with heart disease, cancer and problems associated with aging. It's loaded with antioxidants, vitamins, potassium, folic acid and iron. Pomegranates are the new superfood. Green tea and red wine, which have fewer antioxidants than pomegranates, are yesterday's health news.

The popularity of pomegranates, which are native to Iran, may have been delayed in the West because it is such a labor-intensive fruit. Beneath its tough but thin skin, each pomegranate holds hundreds of tiny seeds encased in translucent ruby pulp. Bitter, inedible membranes hold the seeds, and getting the seeds out can be a struggle -- although it doesn't have to be (see left).

Since the pomegranate's health profile has risen, though, more people are willing to make the effort. And what they find is a fruit with many uses. The seeds can be sprinkled into a green salad for color and crunch, or used in baked goods, soups, sauces and ice cream. You also can just put a bunch of them in a bowl to use as a centerpiece.

Most U.S. pomegranates are grown in California, and they're in season right now. Look for fruit that is heavy for its size and has bright, unblemished skin. Pomegranates can be kept in the refrigerator for up to two months, or in a cool, dark place for up to a month.

Pomegranates are the fruit of a small, bushy tree and are used extensively in Middle Eastern cooking. One of the most famous pomegranate dishes is the traditional Persian fesenjan, a stew of duck or chicken, pomegranates and walnuts. Like many Middle Eastern dishes, fesenjan calls for pomegranate juice or syrup. Once available only in ethnic markets, such products now are found in more mainstream markets.

In her book *In a Persian Kitchen*, Maida Mazdeh writes, "I always connect fesenjan with the winter season. Grandmother used to say, 'Fesenjan is hot, therefore one shouldn't eat it in summer time.' Persians divide food into two categories ... some foods should be eaten in summer time because they have a cooling effect and others should be eaten in winter because they have a warming effect."

Pomegranate soup is one way to enjoy the fruit's warming effects; it uses either the juice or seeds.

One of the earliest cultivated fruits, the pomegranate has been traced back as far as 3,000 B.C. Some scholars even suggest that it was a pomegranate, not an apple, that tempted Eve.

In their long history, pomegranates have been linked to health, fertility and rebirth. They figure prominently in many religions and are found in art and literature.

King Tut and other ancient Egyptians, for example, were buried with pomegranates in hopes of a second life. The fruits are said to have been a favorite of the prophet Muhammad, and in Islam, the gardens of paradise hold pomegranates.

In the Judeo-Christian Bible, Moses tells the Israelites they are going to a land of pomegranates (among other things.) Paintings often show the Virgin Mary or the infant Jesus holding a pomegranate. The Greek goddess Persephone's taste for the pomegranate resigned her to several months a year in the underworld.



Pomegranate Jewel Cake

Pomegranates are mentioned in Homer's *Odyssey*, and Juliet tells Romeo the night is young since it is the nightingale -- and not the lark -- that is "singing in yon pomegranate tree."

### Recipe: Pomegranate Jewel Cake

This recipe is adapted from Nigella Lawson's *Feast* (Hyperion 2004). She calls it "an open jewel-case of a cake." This beautiful, flourless cake uses ground almonds, so the texture is somewhat rough.

Serves 10

8 eggs, Pinch of salt, 1 1/2 cups superfine sugar, Zest of 1 lemon, Zest of 1 orange, 3 cups ground almonds, 2 pomegranates, 1 juiced and 1 seeded

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and line with parchment paper a 9-inch spring form pan.

Separate the eggs, putting the whites into a large bowl, and the yolks into a separate bowl. Whisk the egg whites with a pinch of salt until they are stiff

combined without the mixture losing its air.

Pour into the lined and greased pan and bake about 40 minutes, though check at 30 minutes, as you don't want this to scorch. If the cake is brown enough, but still gooey in the middle, loosely cover with a sheet of aluminum foil.

When the cake comes out of the oven, pour the juice of one pomegranate over the cake while it is still hot and in the pan. Let the cake cool and absorb the pomegranate juice and leave until cold before removing the sides of the pan. Place the cake on a serving plate and cover with pomegranate seeds.

No wonder the pomegranate wears its own little crown.

[Courtesy: Kitchen Window,

By Bonny Wolf, © National Public Radio, www.npr.org]

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**Director Maniratnam** is undoubtedly one of few ace directors in India. He is one of the best directors who has given Silver jubilee hits like Mouna Ragam, Agni Natchathiram, Thalapathi, Nayagan, Iruvar, Alai Payudhey, Kannathil Muthamittal and Ayutha Ezhuthu. But now a days he is quite silent and passing his time in readying his Hindi film 'Guru' starring Abhishek Bachchan and Aiswarya Rai. Now the big question is when will he return to Tamil Films ? He commands respect from all the top actors of India. Maniratnam is reportedly searching for a suitable story to suit a big budget movie which he has in mind. He is very good at giving commercial touch to real life stories and his latest film 'Guru' is supposed to be based on the life of leading Industrialist Ambani. Hopefully he finds a story soon and thrill tamil viewers.

**MY SON WILL BECOME DIRECTOR;**

**Director BharathiRaja** who is famous for his love story cinemas was



asked about his son Manoj's love. Manoj is loving an actress called Nandana. BharathiRaja mentioned that he knew about his son's love long time back and he just wanted to give some time to the real life lovers to test their true love. According to BharatiRaja his son Manoj passed the love test in flying colors by patiently waiting until both the families agreed to the marriage. After marriage Manoj will follow his father's footsteps and step into direction

**THE LIE MAKER**

**Director Balachander** who in his seventies was offered a film by his one of his Shishya Actor Prakashraj. He has



completed his venture "POI" with full of new faces and music of Vidyasagar. A one time maker of Superstar and Super Actor and Super Villain, now became 'LIE MAKER' with his movie 'POI'. He boldly says that 'Lies' are beautiful for youth although he doesn't recommend

**Tidbitz**  
Anand. J

lies. After 'Vaaname Ellai', Balachander has tried to make a movie with all the leading actors being new faces which includes an Australian tamil fresh face Vimala Raman. Let us see how well his lies are received by public.

**SEARCH FOR HERO GOD**

**Director Bala** who has given good pictures like Sethu, Nanda, Pithamagan with Vikram and Surya is unable to cope up with Ajit and Arya it seems.



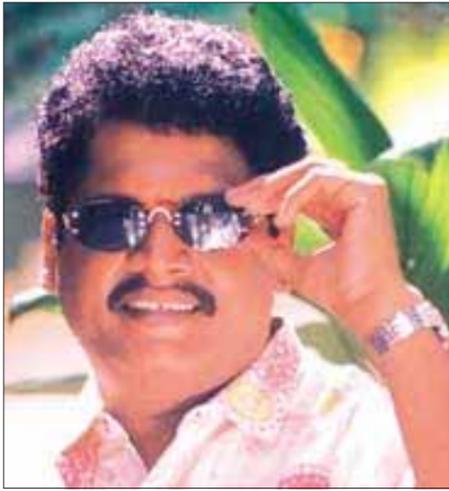
The Director has reportedly dropped both the actors from his picture 'Nan Kadavul' and is now thinking to turn up to his lucky mascot and good friend Vikram. It is however not known whether Vikram has accepted his offer. Once upon a time both Bala and Vikram were close freinds and

after the completion of the film 'Pitha Magan', they both had some difference of opinion but later patched up. Let us see if 'Nan Kadavul' brings the old friends together.

**WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF**

**Director K.S.Ravikumar** who was a bit dull due to the cancellation of his film 'Jaggubhai' with Super Star Rajinikanth. But he is very happy with the results of his latest film 'Varalaaru' with actor Ajith..Now the Director is hopeful that the history would repeat itself like those days of 'Padayappa', 'Muthu' and 'Avvai Shanmughi'.

He has opined that the handling of three roles by actor Ajith was a challenge since he was haunted by the



success of great movies like 'Thirisulam' and 'Moondru Mugham'. Thirisulam starred the Stellar Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan in three roles and Moondru Mugham starred Super Star Rajinikanth in three roles. He finally is a relieved man now since the verdict on 'Varalaaru' is good.

**SOCIETY REFORMER**

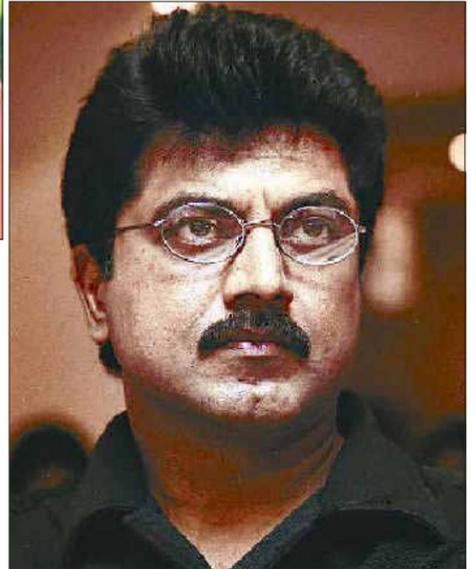
The upcoming and successful **Director A.R.Murugadoss** has given a stunning and stupendous hit telugu movie 'Stalin' with actor Chiranjeevi. The movie has a social reforming message and it has been received well by the audience. He is a good friend of actor Surya with whom he gave the super hit 'Ghajini'. He is currently busy



planning the hindi remake of 'Ghajini' with Bollywood actor Aamir Khan. The director has supposedly advised actor Surya to reduce his commercial advertisement campaign since it will spoil the actor's image. Actors Surya and Asin are the big players in a lot of commercial ads. Apart from reforming the society through his message oriented movies, he has also started reforming actors to make them click.

**AIDMK OR NADIGAR SANGAM**

**Actor Sarath Kumar** turned to Direction with his 100<sup>th</sup> movie 'Thalai Magan'. He recently got elected as the Nadigar Sangam President and also joined the ADMK party amidst controversies. Now he has resigned



from ADMK stating reasons that he wants to concentrate in Nadigar Sangam and that he doesn't want to involve himself with politics. But the truth seems to be something else. His wife Radhika has been dispelled from ADMK party since she is a well known DMK supporter. Moreover the movie 'Thalai Magan' has fallen out with the masses and has turned out to be a damp squib. We wish that Sarath Kumar comes up with a better movie next time to regain his position.

**THE NUMBER ONE PRODUCER**

**Director Shankar** who has started producing movies under his banner "S" films is likely to become number One Producer very soon. One may wonder How ? Big producers like Sivaji films, AVM and R B Chowdhry are still big. But none of them offered the profit share of their



continued on page 17

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## A service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the late S. Thanapalan, Emeritus Principal, St. John's college, Jaffna



are ample proof. Thanapalan always put St. John's in front of everything else in his life and even at the end of his career, he returned to his college to retire after a trip to Colombo for a medical treatment. Mr. Sithamparapillai spoke on behalf of the family and related the devotion and dedication that he had shown in his service to his school where he has spent most of his life. Mrs. Malar Sithamparapillai depicted the personality of Thanapalan in a well written Tamil poem that was very pleasing to the audience who listened to it in pin-drop silence.



**A** service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the late S. Thanapalan, emeritus principal, St. John's college, Jaffna was held at St. Ninian's Church, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada on the 29th of October 2006 at 7p.m. It was organized by the Past Pupils' Association of St. John's College and Chundikuli Girls' College. The main tributes were paid by Dr. Karuniyan Arulanantham (at the last minute he was unable to come but his speech was read by his friend, Mr. S. Nathan), Mr. Sithamparapillai (his cousin) and Mrs. Malar Sithamparapillai (in the form of a poem). In the tribute that was read Karuniyan had asserted that Thanapalan was one of the outstanding principals who had occupied the office of the principal in the 183 years of the history of St. John's. He clung to St. John's through thick and thin and preserved the traditions of the College during turbulent times when the school's work had to be shifted to various sites like Vaddokkoddai and Killinocchi. He offered his life as a sacrifice in the altar of service and found utmost solace in the service of his Alma mater. The new buildings and quality of education constructed and achieved during his period of leadership

There were a good mixture of English and Tamil hymns/lyrics sung at the service reflecting the interests that Thanapalan had in his vocation where he taught both Tamil and English with equal acceptance. The choir was led by Mr. Joel Joseph of the Eagle Chorus and his daughter Shiyomi sang a very well rendered solo- 'the Holy City'. Rev. Selvaratnam who preached the homily proclaimed that those who toil for the welfare of others in this life has no fear of death. "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever." Psalm 125:1. The poignant and well-organized service was indeed a glorious tribute to Thanapalan who once said that the Past Pupils' Association of Canada was the best in the world. The service was well attended with a large number of old pupils and friends from all over a Toronto and its conurbations flocking in to respect the late emeritus Principal of their Alma Mater.

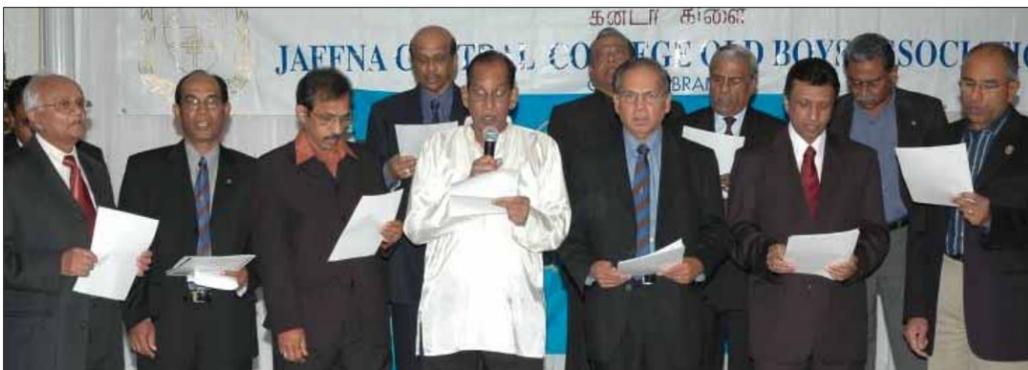


Some of the Pictures taken at Service held in Toronto on October 29, 2006

### Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association Canada Central Nite 2006

Above event was held on Saturday October 28, 2006 at the Eastown banquet hall in Scarborough. A prominent old boy of JCC Mr Manoharan graced the occasion as the chief guest and presented the trophies and awards to several recipients. Prof. Dr Theiventhirarajah presided the function.

Photos: Gnane Gnanendran



**Ayanar** was a great sculptor. He was well known in the Pallava kingdom, as he was the chief architect of the great sculptures of Mahabalipuram. Under his direction the dream of turning each and every boulder and rock in the shows of Mahabalipuram to an image by the mighty emperor Maamalla became reality. His ability was known far and near. People called him a divine sculptor.

As he was getting older he had a nagging desire to make an image of God. He had sculptured many images of deities. But his intuition made him believe they were all not complete. Even at best what ever he made was only a clever replica of an existing image. His hair was slowly turning gray and the gray streak around his ears was a sinister reminder that the time is running out and he had lesser and lesser time every day to realize his dream to sculpture an authentic image of God.

Ayanar finally decided he has to do something about his hearts desire, to make an original image God as a monument for ever. The excellent sculptor stared roaming around far and near, seeing every sage and hermit, asking them have they seen God. Either there was silence or a negative answer. Or there were others who bluffed an answer. Finally Ayanar decided that those who spoke never saw and those who saw never spoke.

After several months of futile efforts he decided to withdraw back to his birth village Aruvithottam in the foothills of Pothikai Mountains. It was a beautiful village with lush green jungles surrounding a small hamlet called Aruvithotam. He liked the quite surroundings of the village and people looked upon him as a fellow countryman and not an awe-inspiring sculptor.

On the first day of Navarathiri festival, early morning he took a long walk. Looking at the hill, which very rarely the villagers ventured to climb, he was reminded of his young days. He wandered what was there in the cave high up, where he used to hike when he was small boy. He remembered he drew a picture of a dame of his hearts desire with charcoal and scribbled his name below that. The human nature of inquisitiveness wanted to go and see what has happened to it. He slowly climbed up the hill. He was in no hurry.

It took him nearly an hour to reach the cave. It was a small cave among clusters of boulders. The cave appeared so

## Cosmic Dancer

By: Kumar Punithavel



small, compared to the imagination he had about it. Ayanar thought 'when you are small what appears big will appear much smaller as you grow up'. He looked into the cave and he saw the drawing though little worn but the beauty was still conceivable. His name was there in the childish writing. The whole drawing suddenly became blurred. His eyes stared tearing. None of the drawings and sculptures he had done in the past could come near to what he was seeing through the tearing eyes.

Suddenly he felt like shouting and proclaim to the whole world to come and see the mighty Ayanars first painting. He sat on a boulder and thought of those wonderful days when he used to play with Raju and Somu. He wandered what has happened to his childhood admire Seetha. Is she still living? It was Seetha that had he had drawn on the wall of the cave. It was a sad sweet reminiscence of the past.

Suddenly his yearning to make an original image of God came with utter urgency. He meditated deeply on this matter. His concentration was disturbed by the sound of ruffling of leaves. Who could come to this lonesome place Ayanar thought? A young lad about ten years came in front of him.

The lad asked "Thatha, what are you doing here? No one comes here but me". In reply Ayanar asked, "Who are you? And what brought you here?" The young boy laughed which sounded like the tingling of a temple bell. "I asked you first, but as you are older I will answer you, I am Saamy from the village on the other side of the hill. Some days I like to roam around in the hills". He continued 'A penny for your

thought'. May I know what you are thinking so intently about?"

Ayanar in reply said, "You are a small boy you wont understand, so if you are done leave me alone for me to browse on my thought". Saamy was not done yet indeed. He said, "Thatha, some times small children might have the answer when elders don't know. Haven't you heard about Lord Murugan giving the answer when the mighty Lord of creation did not know the answer?"

Ayanar thought for a second. He liked this small boy who is fresh and full of enthusiasm. The sparking glow in the eyes attracted him like a magnet. He also thought if life is about going forward isn't children are the souls of tomorrow, which he cannot visit even in his dreams. He thought why not shed off the ego and follow the child and not expect the kid to follow him. He said "Son I am a sculptor. I wanted make an image of God. But I did not find any one who could describe God to me, and I too haven't seen him. I will die without seeing my desire fulfilled".

Saamy laughed, his innocent chiming laughter, and said, "Thatha that is the easiest to achieve. Think of all things your God does and make an image showing those aspects. Hey presto and the image will be there".

Ayanar felt that this boy has some sense in what he says, and thought to seek his advice further. So the old sculptor asked the young boy to suggest some idea to start from. The boy agreed on the condition he should make the statue on the boulder that was there and allow him to come and see the work in progress.

Agreeing to the condition the elderly sculptor too laid a condition that the boy should not ask any questions while working and disturb him. The boy then to help the sculptor to imagine the form of God started to ask pointing questions. This way the artist could ascertain how the Gods image should look like. Does your God do the creation? The lad asked. Agreeing on this aspect the boy asked the Sculptor to scribble on the wall the word **creates**. Next he asked who does the destruction. Ayanar said it was the God who does it too. So the boy asked him to scribble next the word **deconstructs**. The lad next asked who protects all beings of the world. Of course it is the God who protects us all said the old sculptor. And the boy asked him to add the word **protects**.

Saamy said, 'see you are already getting there. Now tell me does God bestow grace on the devotees? For which of course Ayanar answered in the affirmative. The lad suggested he should note on the wall **bestow grace**. Following this the lad observed that to that day the God was not visible though he is said to be everywhere. Why not add the word **Obscure** to the list which the sculptor agreed and added to the list.

"What sex is God?" was the lad's next question. If it is male then it would be male chauvinistic, If we make it female we will be accused female chauvinistic. After a little discussion the young lad and the old man agreed that the image should be **representing both male and female**. With this the lad raised a question what stand will God take if anyone defy him and abuse him.

Without hesitation Ayanar agreed he would expect the God to **trample the evil person on his feet**. It was agreed immediately. The question following this was of course what god will do if a devotee surrenders on his feet. It was agreed he will **protect and raise the surrendering devotee**.

When some one nears God will there be peace or enmity. There will be **harmony** said the elderly sculptor. Now Thatha, don't you think the image you make must also show that he is the one that holds not only this wonderful planet of ours but **cause the whole universe to be**. Yes I agree, may be the image should also carry the message that **if God stops everything stops** too. Saamy with the same chiming laughter said why you are waiting, go ahead and start working on your carving. Let us first read the list of things you have to show in the sculpture of God.

They read the list;

Creates.

Destructs.

Protects.

Bestow grace.

Obscure.

Represents both male and female.

Tramples the evil person on his feet.

Protects and raise the surrendering devotee.

There will be harmony.

Cause the whole universe to be.

If he stops the universe stop.

The young Saamy said now you should have a rough idea how God will look. What ever image you cast must show all the eleven aspects you have noted. Go-ahead and carve an image to show all the above aspects of God and I am sure you would have got some real replica of God. The elderly Ayanar promised to start the next day, after digesting all that he had learnt that day. He told the young lad that he was his Guru. With you near me I dispel all fears and am sure to gain my life's dream. The youngster laughed loudly and said "Thatha then call me 'Gurusaamy', When the elderly sculptor suggested that he will bring the tools the next day the lad observed, "Thatha, don't worry about your tools. I have got some excellent tools which are like new; my father gave it for my birthday. I never use it. You could have it. I will bring it to you to-morrow morning". The boy realizing that he is getting late ran away saying he will be back at the same time the following day with the tools.

Ayanar sat on a boulder for a long time and thought of the day's events. He felt some divine peace in his mind. He couldn't stop wandering who this bright youngster was. Though looks like a simple village lad he illustrates the truth which was absconding all these days. He knew with this boys help he will realize his life's dream. He slowly got up and walked home.

The following day Ayanar got up early had a bath and break-fast. He told the family that he wanted to do some sculpturing among the rocks in the adjoining mountains and not to disturb him at his work. When he reached the cave the boy was already waiting for him. The elderly sculptor arranged all the tools inside the cave and prostrated and prayed. The young boy watched him with a broad smile and said "Thatha, as you say I am the guru,

(Continued on page 25)



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(Continued from page 24)

shouldn't you get my blessings". With tears in his eyes and with no hesitation he prostrated on the feet of the young lad. The boy picked him up and said your sculptor will be there for eternity.

Ayanar started working on the image immediately. And the boy sat on a boulder and watched him intently. Occasionally they exchange words. The work proceeded slowly as it was sculpturing on stone one cannot repair if he made even one small mistake.

One day in the morning as Ayanar started working it started to drizzle. Ayanar sat inside the cave. The young lad too came in running holding a banana leaf for shade like an umbrella. They sat down and started talking, the old man telling about his experiences. Saamy asked how much longer he has to work to complete the sculpture. The weary old sculptor with a shi of breath said "Son I have no patent of immortality, and the work would take very long". The boy looked at the silver hair and wary face of the old man with compassion and laid his hand upon Ayanar's shoulder and kindly said "Thatha to have a great work in progress is the way to live long. You will live till you finish it".

Finally on the Shivarathiri day the sculpture was done. The young lad asked permission to ask questions and clear his doubts, and was given by Ayanar. "Thatha, tell me how are you showing that he is doing the creation?"

"Son in the beginning there was the big bang which started the present evolution process which we call creation. I say present evolution because there was never a time without creation. Because of the Aum sound the drum emanates, the creation is represented by the drum in the right upper hand". "That is a wonderful way of expression, but if it is a process of evolution then everything must have been always there. If that is the case where was it, and how are you showing it? Ayanar looked straight into the eyes of the boy and said "As God is omnipresent he is everywhere, so everything is within him. I have given the colour of red corral pointing the life giving red bloods colour" If so what signifies the destruction aspect of God? And where does everything goes on destruction?"

The old sculptor replied "I would say it is better to call involution. For nothing is created or destroyed. As creation was

evolution from the God it also involutes into the God. As involution should balance the creation the left upper hand carries a burning fire signifying involution. By this there is a balance of creation and destruction. The white colour ash smeared on the body of the sculpture signifies that everything finally ends up a hand full of ash which again goes back to the God. Before the lad could raise the next question the old man continued.

The right lower arm showing the abaya mudra signifies the protective aspect of the God. That's wonderful, but how do you show that the bestowment of Grace of the Lord. The old sculptor smiled and said where else but in the feet of the God you will find the grace. The lower left arm pointing the raised left leg points to the devotee where the grace is. This is called the Gajahasta mudra in dancing, for it looks like a trunk of an elephant.

You have certainly done a wonderful job so far depicting the first four aspects of God in this image, what about the fifth? He asked. To show the obscuration I point to the demon trampled by the right foot said the sculptor. This action represents two of the Gods aspects. First is of course the obscuration and the other is his reaction towards one who defies him. Samy asked what does that got to do with God reaction. Ayanar replied "Son, haven't you heard about Mukalan the demon sent to attack the all mighty Shiva. He trampled the demon under his right feet. The young boy was indeed surprised the ability of this experienced artist in bringing out different aspects so easily.

For a casual observer it may appear a multi limbed statue. But the boy insisted in asking isn't it unusual that normal human has only two hands, why four for the God? The old sculptor smiled and said of course it is to differentiate this is different from what he created. Isn't he a little above than human? Didn't you notice the image had three eyes? He asked. Without waiting for an answer he mentioned that humans have two eyes to gain the knowledge of the present, but God has a third eye of wisdom, which can see into the past and the future. May I remind you God created man; here a man is endeavoring to create an image of God. It would be stupid to believe God had the limbs like man for he need not breathe or eat or have any bodily function. With apologies to him here a

mortal is venturing to give a form to one who has no form.

The lad observed there was only a male figure to be seen, and how do you say both the genders are represented in the statue he asked. The sculptor pointed to the two ears on the statue. On the right was a *Kundalam*, an ear stud worn by men and on the left a *thodu* which is worn by women. The young boy chuckled and said you are really smart. You had covered the left breast with the left hand there by keeping the modesty of God.

Ayanar smiled and observed that the punishing is done by the right leg which is the male half, and the salvation is on the left leg which of course the female side. This I thought more appropriate as it is the male parent who does the discipline and the female parent who does the nurturing and adoration. "Wow!" said the boy.

The boy next said, "Thatha you already showed me what happens to a person who defies the God in the image, can you show me what happens to one who surrenders on his feet.

Haven't you heard about the purana where the moon was persecuted by the serpent Vasuki and the moon went and surrendered on the feet of the Lord. He gave him asylum in his matted locks on his head. As you could see the crescent moon is on the matted locks of his hair. These puranas are metaphorical stories to help the sadhana's to understand the veiled truth. Some teachers of course use parables.

The boy was greatly impressed on the ingenuity of the elderly sculptor. He raised the next question of how he is going to show that there will be peace and harmony when the devotees reach the God. Ayanar observed, didn't you

see the two adversaries the serpent Vasugi and the moon in harmony, one on the neck and the other on the head? Indeed it was so, and what a wonderful way to proclaim to the world that in the presence of God there will be peace and serenity thought Samy.

The next aspect was that not only the God cause of the creation, but he is the one holds all the planets galaxies, and the universe in their position. The arch thiruvasi with flames emitting representing the various planets and the whole universe is held in position by the dancing Lords matted locks and the swinging arms.

But why you made him dancing, the boy asked. In reply the sculptor said the cosmic dance of the God that keeps the universe going. The moment he stops everything will collapse. His dance is the dance within the atoms among minute particles and the dance of the universe.

The lad observed we could call him Nadarajah (the king of dancers). Finally boy said "Thatha, like your **cosmic dancer** the God your fame will live for ever. By this you have become eternal. Now you look who is standing inside the cave" The elderly sculptor turned around to see what was in the cave. He saw Lord Murugan with his two consorts Valli and Theivanai, blessing him. The old man turned back to see where the boy was. He was not there.

Ayanar with eyes filled with tears and clasped hand started sobbing. Lord Murugan said "Ayanare, I wanted to give a permanent point to focus for the human to focus; there is no form or name for God. By your magnificent work you have given to the world a symbol of God. May you live to a ripe old age and come to me.

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# BIRD WATCHING GOOD FOR HEALTH

By: RAM NAMBIAR

One doesn't have to be another Salim Ali or Roger Tory Peterson, to fully enjoy watching our feathered friends. Bird watching is a healthy, nature lovers favourite past time now. No undue physical exertion. By outdoor birding one is truly getting back to nature. We learn to appreciate the beauty and serenity of the world around us and also realize the need to preserve this natural heritage.

Bird watching is virtually an inexpensive hobby to start. The past time is a faster growing and most popular in the U.S and Canada now. An estimated 54 million Americans are into bird watching today. Among them 20,000 are believed to be seriously involved. These enthusiasts travel to the far corners of the world to see a particular species of bird in its natural habitat.

Why this passion? Yes, "Biophilia". Renowned sociologist- E.O. Wilson, a while back, put forward in his book the theory, he called " Biophilia". The abstract of it all was that we the humans subconsciously form a fondness to flora and fauna, which surround us.

Conventional medications simply failed on patients with certain unexplainable health problems. The doctors then suggested 'wilderness therapy'. When these patients were exposed to birds' activities on trees in blossom, green floral gardens, bushes and wilderness, the same patients showed dramatic improvement in their general health. Incurable cases became curable. Patients' blood pressure was reduced to normal. So was the bad LDL cholesterol and triglycerides. Arthritic and muscular dystrophy patients had a substantial easing of pain.

Birds are unique and fascinating. They have much to offer to us. They are colourful. Examples : the North American male Wood Duck, male Blackburnian Warbler. Birds in general fly in fashion. Canada geese form a ' V' across the sky in flight, a pleasing spectacle.

Many of birds migrate long distances. Our stunningly beautiful Scarlet Tanager, travels from High Park woods of Toronto to Peru in Fall and returns to the same in Spring to breed here. Wood Thrush, Canada warbler, are prolific songsters.

Birds court and dance. For instance, the male Mute Swan (cob) and the female (pen) of Granadier Pond in Toronto, in the mating season, indulge in a spectacular synchronized pair formation dance.

Song birds like Baltimore Oriole in Toronto, build intricate hanging nests on high trees, truly an engineering marvel.

Most birds are devoted parents too. They give their young undivided attention and tender loving care. Watching all these in their natural habitats can be eye-soothing, amusing and most accelerating. No room for worrisome thoughts and depression.

## WHERE DO WE START?

The equipments for bird watching are simple and easy to carry around. Two important ones are:

- 1: A pair of binoculars( price ranging from \$30 to \$70 dollars.)
- 2 : A Bird identification book (A guide to the most familiar North American Birds: Price \$ 5). Can easily fit in the back pocket.

As a beginner, a bird watcher should

start from seeing and identifying waterfowl species (Swans, Geese and Ducks). They are large in size compared to song birds and thus makes it easy to study, at times, even without binoculars. Our year round residents in Toronto, -the Mute Swans, Canada Geese, Mallard ducks are those. They are in decreasing orders in size. Male and female swans and geese are almost same in size, shape an colouration (Monomorphic). The male ducks (drake) in general though, are brightly coloured and patterned. The females are drab. The ducks, therefore, are essentially dimorphic species

Etobicoke Creek, Humber River marsh, Granadier Pond, Ashbridge's Bay, Mimico Creek in Toronto are the areas where one can go to see these large waterfowl species. There are other locations as well depending on the



photo by Ram



photo by Ram



photo by Ram

suburbs one lives.

In spring and early summer, however, one will be seeing diverse group of migrant ducks coming from south to splash down in our waters. They are in transit. They stop over here, rest and feed for a while before heading north of our Province, and even beyond, to breed. Some of these ducks are surface feeders (dabbling ducks) while the others frequently dive to make a living. The latter can be seen submerging and resurfacing in our bays, creeks and lake waters. Fish and zebra mussels make up their main diet. Swans and geese and essentially vegetarians.

Ducks come in varieties of colours 'Discovery trail' along the shores of Granadier Pond in the lower valley of High Park, Etobicoke Creek at the lake mouth and Credit River in Mississauga are good locations for waterfowl watch.

Some birds do not go south in winter. These hardy ones stay put right in our area here. These permanent residents are:

- Blue Jays
- Starlings
- House Finches
- English Sparrows
- Cardinals
- Chickadees
- Mourning Doves
- Rock Doves
- Gulls.

Among reluctant migrators, -the Great Blue Heron, Canada Geese and a bird of prey like the Red-tailed Hawk, seem to stick around in our area in certain winters. Even -35 degree Celsius doesn't seem to bother them. Their feather are excellent blankets.

Now that you are graduated from the basics, it is time to buy a better and more powerful pair of binoculars, may be a 12X50 magnification. A digital Camera with a good zoom lense will be handy. Also, time to buy another

slightly advanced book on identification of Ontario Birds. Most book stores in Toronto, Mississauga and elsewhere carry them.

Starting from March, till the end of May, is spring migration time. Several species of migratory birds will be pouring into our city. Many colourful

ducks, wading birds such as Night heron, Shore birds like Killdeer, Sandpipers, Terns will show up in our waters and shore lines. Belted King fisher and Woodpeckers appear almost at the same time.

By April many song Birds such as Flycatchers, Swallows, Nut hatches Kinglets, Robins, Vireos, Warblers, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Sparrows, Meadowlark, Blackbirds, Orioles, and Finches arrive. Their songs reverberate in the woodlands, marshes

and meadows. Toronto ornithologist, - the late Murry Speirs, had recorded 400 species of birds in the Province of Ontario.

Bird watching, to some extent, can be done from your windows. Make your backyard 'bird-friendly'. Avoid using pesticides or other chemicals. Fruit trees, flowers, flower beds attract insects and most birds being insect eaters will be visiting our garden frequently. With a binocular you can study them in detail through the window. Another way to attract birds into the backyard is by placing a Bird feeder and a bird bath.

Most common are the hanging tube (my back yard photo) and the Bin feeder (box atop a pole). The writer used both these in his backyard in Mississauga and later in Milton (Photographs). Visit a pet shop. They have all kinds of bird feeders. There are so many different seeds one can buy to put in the feeder

- Suet seeds
- Whole Sunflower seeds
- Crushed corn mixed with crushed sunflower seeds.
- Thistle or niger seeds

From the writers experience, these items worked well with Cardinals, Mourning doves, Finches (yellow F and House F) Blue Jays, Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds and Baltimore orioles. It is worthwhile watching the bullying and fights among these birds for food.

Bird Bath: Birds need water to drink and also to have bath in the hot summer days. As you can see (photo of my back Yard) I had the pedestal type. Cleaning it and adding fresh water in it regularly are important.

## Red-Crested Pochard (Netta rufina)

Almost the size of a Mallard but more

colorful is this bay duck, -the Red-crested Pochard of Eurasia. They are divers that breed, predominantly, by reedy lakes and reservoirs of Eastern Europe, Siberia and Mediterranean.

I have been able to get a full frame with my Nikon F-3 body and 100-500 Carl Zeiss Jena zoom(1.56-8). Pochards were in a large jheel near Anushakti Nagar on the outskirts of Bombay.

Once seen, this high profiled Anatid cannot easily be forgotten. However, owing to the fact the male carries a bright, pink to rosy high crown, bird watchers, from a distance, often mistake it for the Pink-headed Duck of India which is reported to have become extremely rare or even extinct.

Of 12 pochards 5 were males. Shy of a long lens, two of them disappeared under water to reappear farther away. The remainder, however, behaved like dabblers. Although the female had a chestnut crown it was no match to that of the male. Her neck was white in colour. The base of her bill showed black but its tip was somewhat pinkish.

Rivers, lagoons, reservoirs or similar ecosystem of central and Northern India are preferred winter habitats of these Pochards. The Red-crest, like other Pochards, lives mainly on vegetable matter such as algae, other aquatic plants, leaves and stems either by diving under water or by dabbling. The male's call is somewhat similar to the wheezing of an Asthma patient.

## Courting Swans

It is not too often that we come across Mute Swans indulging in mating, pre-mating or post-mating displays as the one in this incredibly graceful scene. It appeared as though they were simply posing for me. The picture was captured a while back at one of the three ponds on Spring Road in the west end of Toronto. Some courting displays seem to strengthen the pair bond.

## The Canada Family

Once, not too long ago, there was a clear shallow water pond close to Winston Churchill Blvd and North Sheridan Way Rd, just two blocks north of Q.E.W, in Mississauga. The pond, only a walking distance from my home, had a rare beauty. Not being aware of a developer's scheme to convert the pond area for commercial purposes, a pair of Canada Geese had already chosen it to raise a small family. See the mother to be goose sitting. Only two young were brought on to this world as though the parents have been following a strict family planning scheme all along.

Few days after I captured the beautiful sight of this 4 member family on my film, the bulldozers moved in and started filling up the pond with gravel and dirt. Soon, not even a trace of the pond was there. What happened to those only few days old goslings?. I didn't want to find out. Today in the place where these geese swam, lies a large grassy mound and two buildings nearby. I got the picture blown out into 20"X30" and has been hanging on my wall ever since.



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The Canadian Medical Dental Development Association (CMDDA) is thrilled to have hosted a very successful *Lights of Healing* gala on Saturday, October 21, 2006. A grand total of \$50,000 (net) was raised to directly support the relocation of Providence Healthcare's Alzheimer Day Program.

It was a great pleasure to see 350 donors, sponsors, and guests gathered in the Grand Richmond Ballroom of the Sheraton Parkway Hotel for the *Lights of Healing* gala. As Ms. Suboshana Ravendraraj of lead sponsor Investors Group alluded to in her special presentation, the butterfly effect of this community's generosity has the power to grow exponentially - which is why the CMDDA was able to achieve its fundraising goal. Providence Healthcare is extremely grateful for being selected as the recipient for this year's funding.

There was no better way to celebrate Diwali than in such a grand fashion. As many guests commented, the evening really had a little something for



will directly contribute to the creation of a Den as part of the essential relocation of Providence Healthcare's Alzheimer Day Program. As you may know, Providence Healthcare has been

## "Lights of Healing" Gala Celebrates Diwali and Benefits Worthy Cause

Tours conducted for international health professionals seeking information on the ADP model.

### CMDDA Plays a Significant Role

By selecting Providence Healthcare



recognized that caring for a loved one was not confined to the 9-to-5 day.

Providence Healthcare has built its reputation in Toronto as an organization that embraces its diverse community and effectively supports its needs with compassion and understanding. Each year, the ADP receives 16,000 client service visits. The program's club members represent 27 different nations, and over 16 different languages are spoken.

There is no question that the ADP is providing a valuable, and essential, service in the community.

to receive the proceeds of the second annual *Lights of Healing* gala, the CMDDA has made an outstanding commitment to donate \$50,000 towards the creation of a home-like Den in the new Alzheimer's Day Program.

The Den will be an innovative room, furnished to offer nuances of home yet practical enough to offer space for creative programming, such as one-on-one activities and computer access to develop and stimulate hand-eye coordination. Most importantly, though, the Den will be a place of serenity and comfort.

Providence Healthcare expresses its deepest gratitude to the CMDDA for believing in this essential project and for hosting such a special event on our behalf.

### Relocating the Alzheimer Day Program

Despite its success, the Alzheimer Day Program is currently located in an isolated wing of Providence Hospital. The space is cramped and inadequate for people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and will not be able to meet the growing demands of this program. Providence Healthcare is scheduled to relocate the ADP to a new outpatient

### Providence Healthcare Serves the Tamil Community

In addition to its acclaimed Tamil Caregiver Project - which has served more than 6,000 Tamil-speaking



everyone!

The evening began with a riveting performance of the Canadian national anthem. From there, the excitement built as the captivating keynote speaker, Dr. Mumta Gautam, took the stage. Dr. Gautam shared her extensive knowledge with the crowd as she discussed ways to relieve stress and improve the work-life balance of busy working professionals.

The evening culminated with a beautiful bharatanatyam dance performance, a delicious Thai-inspired menu, and an array of must-have items from the silent auction. Of course, the evening ended in style as the lingering guests hit the dance floor and danced the night away!

The CMDDA was also pleased to announce that the unveiling of the first issue of "Nalamthana" Health Magazine was a great success.

The funds raised from *Lights of Healing*

undergoing necessary renovations since 2002 to fulfill much-needed modernization in the facility including the relocation of its Alzheimer Day Program. This is a \$2.5 million dollar project that **relies 100% on donor funding.**

The support of the CMDDA will play a key role in helping Providence Healthcare meet its fundraising needs.

### About Providence Healthcare's Alzheimer Day Program

The Alzheimer Day Program (ADP) is a nationally-acclaimed program that offers therapeutic activities for its clients, known as 'club members,' and caregiver education and support to families. Clients have a choice of three clubs - day, evening or overnight. The ADP was the first in Ontario to provide 24/7 service, a significant move as it



care area within the Hospital. It is an opportunity to expand and *custom design* the new space with innovative features, carefully selected to provide creative therapy to ease the mind, body and soul of people with Alzheimer's disease.

### Alzheimer Day Program Highlights

- Featured in *Healing Gardens; Therapeutic Benefits and Design Recommendations*
- Featured in CBC two-part documentary, *Forget Me Not*
- Full-page feature in *Hospital News*, July 2005

caregivers since 2000 - the Alzheimer Day Program provides access to services in the Tamil language, and offers special educational opportunities to Tamils. Providence Healthcare recognizes that Scarborough houses a large Tamil community (approximately 200,000) and has therefore strengthened its link to this vital population.

If you have any questions about the Alzheimer Day Program, please contact Elizabeth Davison at (416) 285-3666, ext. 4312.

Photos by: Shankar



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Providence Healthcare is proud to announce that its community partners involved in the third annual Autumn Bowlathon organized and hosted a very special community-organized fundraising event in support of Providence Healthcare's Tamil Caregiver Project! The 2006 Autumn Bowlathon, held on October 14, 2006, successfully raised \$70,000 (net) to directly benefit the unique Tamil Caregiver Project, sponsored by RJ Multi Litho, Inc.

Over its three-year history, the Autumn Bowlathon has raised over \$200,000 (net) to sustain the vital Tamil Caregiver Project. This event truly demonstrates the power of the community and support from our friends was a key factor in helping

## Autumn Bowlathon "Strikes" Big in Support of Providence Healthcare

have the Tamil Community rallying together on these fundraising initiatives. Every donation makes a difference."

### About the Tamil Caregiver Project

In 2000, the Tamil Caregiver Project opened its doors to the Tamil community in Toronto. Since its inception, more than 6,000 individuals have accessed our services over a three-

year period. It is a unique and successful Project, and subsequently, it is being used as a model for other culture-specific communities to follow.

for family members. For Toronto's large Tamil population, differences in cultural traditions and language make it even more challenging."

The Tamil Caregiver Project facilitates respite for caregivers, surveys and documents their ongoing needs, provides information and education (translated in the Tamil language) on the impact of diseases, and offers referrals to community agencies. All of

the materials created are translated into the Tamil language to ensure that they are well received and utilized by the Tamil community. Great care has been taken to build a Project that is culturally and language sensitive and responsive.

The feedback of Tamil caregivers in the community speaks volumes for the type of services that are crucial to the well-being of caregivers, particularly those who are new to the country. Many caregivers reported that just being able to gather together with other caregivers through the Tamil Caregiver Project, to discuss common issues in their mother tongue, helped to break their feelings of isolation.

Some of the services offered through the Tamil Caregiver Project include:

Some of the services offered through the Tamil Caregiver Project include:

### Caregiver Support Groups

An educator and a social service professional travel into the community offering unique, mobile support groups. Caregivers learn about relevant caregiving topics and care receiver

issues, while sharing their experiences in an environment of mutual support.

### Caregiver Intervention and Assistance Service

This one-on-one confidential service, offers Tamil caregivers ready access to information and referrals to programs, social services, and health clinics in the community. Caregivers receive a quarterly publications and personal invitations to support groups, seminars, and social events.

### Meditation and Fitness Classes and Games Centre

Meditation and fitness classes offer caregivers release from the build up of emotional and physical stress. Meditation continues to be one of the highest rated sessions by participants.



achieve this success. Spearheaded by Kanish A. Thevarasa, CA, the event continues to grow in popularity as more and more people recognize its importance: "Together as a community, we can play an integral role in ensuring that services like the Tamil Caregiver Project remain sustainable," says Kanish.

Almost 300 bowlers took to the lanes at Thorncliffe Bowlerama in an evening of revelry and community spirit, all for Providence Healthcare, a most-worthy cause.

After the key sponsors were acknowledged and thanked, the teams of bowlers started the 10-pin action. Featuring great bowling, exciting live and silent auctions, and delicious Tamil cuisine, the Autumn Bowlathon was a hit with everybody!

### Much-needed Funding from the Community

The funds raised at the Autumn Bowlathon will benefit the Tamil Caregiver Project, a unique project in Canada that has been developed to provide targeted healthcare education and support to Tamil speaking caregivers within the community.

One hundred percent (100%) of the funding needed to operate the Tamil Caregiver Project comes from the community through events like the Autumn Bowlathon and the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce walk-athon that happened in June 2006. Jennifer Stewart, Vice President, Foundation and Chief Development Officer, says "We are truly fortunate to

year period. It is a unique and successful Project, and subsequently, it is being used as a model for other culture-specific communities to follow.

Operated by Providence Healthcare, the Tamil Caregiver Project brings together Tamil caregivers in Toronto in a supportive environment, and provides information on how to access available health care services. It is estimated that there are more than 200,000 people in the Tamil community in Toronto. The Tamil Caregiver Project recognizes that Tamil caregivers are balancing both cultural pressures, as well as social pressures. In addition, many are adjusting to living in Toronto as newcomers to Canada.

Tamil caregivers are a unique cultural group, and should be recognized as such by community support services. Not only are Tamil caregivers balancing the pressures of caring for a loved one, but they often feel isolated, and moreover, without the advantage of having English as a first language.

As Kanish explains, "In today's fast-paced, demanding world, many caregivers are having difficulties caring





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**Press Release**

**Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting- 14 October 2006**

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006: 15th Annual General Meeting of Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce was held at Embassy Banquet Hall. There were many prominent businessmen and long standing members were present.

Mr. Sam Thiruvarudchelvam welcomed all and gave an opening speech which was followed by Mr. Logan Velumailum's President's message. In his speech not only he talked about the highlights of the year and thanked all members but also, he recognized the sponsors for their full support. Mr. Raj Rajasri the Treasurer presented the auditors report.

Some of the highlights included were the Phase 1 of the Data Base project, which was initiated by Mr. Mano Thillainathan who was the past president of the association. As the project consultant has left the country, currently Chamber is looking for a consultant who could complete the Phase 2 at a reasonable cost.

Last year Chamber conducted its first Business Convention which was comparable with any mainstream Conventions. This event was organized in a Hotel with booths and seminars. This event helped many new businesses to get the basic help and ideas about Canadian business environment. There were many positive feedbacks about this event.

Through its annual walkathons, Chamber has donated more than \$100,000 and placed its name in the donors list at the Scarborough Hospital Foundation. Also, Last year Chamber has donated monies to Providence Healthcare Foundation.

In the past year, there were many other events such as annual awards gala, business labs and progressive planning meeting also conducted by the chamber.

Mr. Kingsley Ariaratnam was appointed as the

interim Chairman to conduct the elections for the coming year and Mr. Gnana Gnanachandran & Mr. Thangavel Kesavan were the nomination committee members.

Following members were elected without contest for the year 2007:

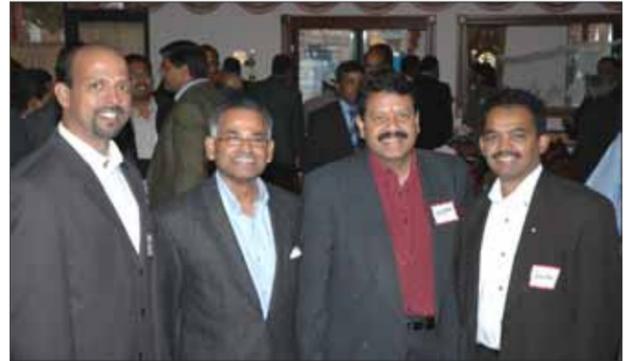
- President :** Logan Velumailum
- Vice President:** Yaso Sinnadurai
- Secretary:** Raj Rajasri
- Treasurer:** Francis Joseph
- Directors:** Sylvester Rajaratnam, Ken Kirupa, Bala. J. Balasundaram, Dr. S. Sivanesan, Vernu Sivakkolunthu

- Internal Auditors:** Stanley Jeyakumar & Sriharan Thurairajah
- External Auditors:** Kanish & Partners Chartered Accountants

Chamber welcomes all business and self-employed professionals to become a member and to support their activities. Following are some of the highlights and the pictures taken at the AGM.



Top Left: President Logan Velumailum addressing. Left: Secretary Raj Rajasri addressing. Above: Past presidents Mohan Sundaramohan & Mano Thillainathan



Above: Few photos taken at the AGM. Photos by: Gnane Gnanendran



New Committee

**Melody Princess Elisabeth Malini Luckumananathan's "Nilalhal" Album Release**

Sankkamam Party Hall, October 29, 2006



Elisabeth Malini Luckumananathan's music album titled NILALHAL, containing 22 of her songs in two CDs was released on October 29, 2006 at the Sankkamam Party Hall. A leading lawyer from the Sri Lankan community Mr. Manuel Jesudasan received the first copy from Veenai maestro Sridas. Prominent music/art/media personnel, business entrepreneurs, friends and many of her well-wishers graced the packed house occasion. Photos: Gnane Gnanendran



The Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region (Kitchener – Waterloo – Cambridge) celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Tamil Fine Arts festival at the Humanities Theatre, University of

## Tamil Cultural Nite Celebration in Waterloo Region



Welcome Speech by President Mr. Suresh Abraham



Award Presentation by the Chief Guest, Mr. Ken Seiling, The Chairman of Waterloo Region to Mr. Suresh Abraham, the President of Tamil Cultural Association.

preserving the Tamil language, Arts and Cultural in this multicultural Society. The light music was provided by Shyamala and Prakash Venketraman.



Tamil Issai by Students of Mrs. Vijalakshmi of Waterloo

The students of Mrs. Viyalakshmi of Waterloo provided the Classical and Semi-classical Music. The large audience showed their appreciation for these young artists of the region in preserving their culture. The students of Mrs. Suneetha of Laya Lasya Dance Studio of Cambridge performed the traditional Indian dance. The Tala Vadya performance by Miruthanga Jothi Ramana Indrakumar's group provided with Miruthangam, Violin, Ghatam, Kangira and Morsing.

preserving our culture and roots. Mrs.



Tribute song for Tamil language by local children



Fusion Dance, A combination of Chinese and Indian classical dance

Waterloo on 14<sup>th</sup> of October. The chief guest was Mr. Ken Seiling, the Chairman of the Region of Waterloo. The special guests include Hon. Karen Redman, Kitchener MP, Mr. T. Sripathy of Thamil Isai Kalaamanram of Ontario, City councillors from Kitchener, Members from the KW Multicultural Center and staff of City of Waterloo.

The festival was introduced by Mrs. Dharini Sivakumar the Secretary. The local students of Mrs. Selvi Sureshwaren of Sri Abiramy Dance Academy performed the inaugural program with a Malaari dance. The President of the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region Mr. Suresh Abraham delivered the Welcome speech. He stressed the importance of



South Asian Fashion Show by members of the Tamil Cultural Association

"Aandaal Thiruppavai", Barathanatyam Dance was performed by Selvi. Pavithra Logeswaren of Toronto.

A total of 20 students of Mrs. Selvi Sureshwaren of Sri Abiramy Dance Academy from Toronto and Waterloo combined and performed a fusion dance. It was a combination of Bharathnatyam and Chinese Dance. The Waterloo students also performed Keerthanam Dance. It was very colourful and well choreographed. This was one of the highlighting performances. Every year, the association encourages artists from Toronto to perform at their festival to give an exposure to Tamil Artists.

The Chief Guest Mr. Ken Seiling and Hon. Keran Redman, Kitchener MP delivered speeches and gave away the awards to young artists. They praised the achievement of the local Tamil Community for the fundraising during the Tsunami crises to help the victims back in Srilanka and the balance approach taken to promote Arts and culture in this Multicultural society. Mr. Sripathy was the guest of honour and stressed the importance of

Indra Logendran of Cambridge staged a Folk dance and Drama. "Issaium Kathaium" Narration of a story with support of songs brought the true local artistic talent. It was a carbon copy of the programs by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Tamil Service, but live to audience. Mr. Dennis Iyala and Mrs. Raji Nadarajah ended the festival with a colourful south Asian Fashion show.

A very large audience stayed till the end to watch the festival. It was indeed a quality festival with a wider choice. The festival was sponsored by City of Waterloo, City of Kitchener, Delta Hotels and Sri Lankan Airlines.



Barathanatyam Dance by the Students of Mrs. Selvi Sureshwaren, Sri Abiramy Dance Academy of Waterloo



"Aandaal Thiruppavai" by Selvi. Pavithra Logeswaren of Toronto

In order to help the high school children, particularly of Sri Lankan heritage, the Association of Sri Lankan Graduates (ASGC) and the Canada

## Successful Career Counseling Workshop for High School Children



A Section of the Attendees

Tamil Parents' Association (CTPA) conducted a Career Counseling Workshop this year also from 9:30 am on Saturday September 30, 2006 at the David & Mary Thompson Collegiate Institute in Scarborough. Both these Associations conducted the event free of charge and provided free lunch to the students and their parents. The primary aim of the workshop was to provide information

children and parents attending the workshop and assured TDSB's support for similar events aimed at assisting the high school children and parents in the future. These were followed by an address by Mr. Emil Boychuk, Guidance



Dr. V. Manivannan discussing during break



Dr. V. Manivannan discussing during break



Professor Joseph A. Chandrakanthan delivering his keynote address



Ms Michelle Munro, Central Coordinator at the TDSB headquarters



Section of the Panel members

and strategies related to career selection by the students.

The ASGC's Vice President Mr. B. Surendran in his welcome address mentioned that it was the annual event the Association has been conducting for more than 15 years with the aim of elevating the educational standard of the Tamil community. He also thanked the Toronto District School Board for supporting the event. Following the welcome speech the CTPA's President Mr. Ram Ramanathan in his speech assured that the CTPA also is prepared to help parents and the children on matters related to education and school system.

Speeches were delivered by Ms Phyllis Hill, Superintendent of Education, TDSB and Ms Michelle Munro, Central Coordinator at the TDSB headquarters. In their speech both of them expressed their happiness seeing the enthusiastic

Instructional of the TDSB, who explained to the students and parents the available career options and the strategies for career selection.

Thereafter, Professor Joseph A. Chandrakanthan of the University of Toronto in his keynote address inspired the students with his positive experiences of applying the principles of time management, systematic work, extensive reading and proper decision making. Before starting the workshop, Dr. V. Manivannan, the workshop coordinator explained the format and the agenda of the workshop. The students were divided into four groups namely Life Science, Applied Science, Information Technology and Social & Business Studies, selected in terms of their aptitude strong preferences at schools. While the children enthusiastically participated in the workshops, their parents gladly attended a specially designed workshop which was coordinated and presided over by Dr. K. Theivendirarajah.

Young graduates from the Tamil community shared their university experiences, career selection strategies and specific requirements for each profession with the high school students in the students' workshops. Similarly the parents received very

useful information from a panel of experienced educators, teachers and others knowledgeable in various areas of concern to the parents and students. In addition to Dr. K. Theivendirarajah, Mr. Emil Boychuk, Mr. Kuna S. Kunasegkaran, Mr. Ram C. Ramanathan, Mr. Pradeep Rajah and Dr. S. Sivanayagamoorthy provided very useful information to the parents. Parents and children asked many questions and received appropriate answers at these workshops.

A light lunch was provided to the children, parents and the presenters.



Yaso Somalingam, Director, Cantam Group Ltd with Secretary Ram C. Ramanathan

Before ending the workshop, the ASGC as an appreciation of the volunteer



Students and Attendees during lunch

After lunch, another round of workshops was conducted for the children and the parents separately. During this afternoon session for the parents, Dr. E. Balasunderam and Mr. Raj Thavaratnasingam presented more information to the parents and answered their questions too.

As the peak occasion of the event, all the children and parents gathered in the main auditorium for summary and a recap of the discussions. The moderators for each group presented their summary and the discussions continued. The panel of presenters and moderators happily answered the questions raised by the participants.

service, presented volunteer certificates to each of the presenters, moderators and the volunteer students.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Ram C. Ramanathan, Secretary of the Association of Sri Lankan Graduates of Canada. The photographs show the scene at the students' workshops, some of the participants and some of the presenters.

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**(Hong Kong)** A recent report on the state of the Asia Pacific region predicts a modest economic slowdown and warns that APEC is at risk of becoming irrelevant.

The *State of the Region* report, which is prepared by the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), forecasts real GDP growth of 4.3 percent in 2007 for the region as a whole, down from an expected 5.0 percent this year. The slowdown will be led by the United States, due to the cumulative effect of higher oil prices and rising interest rates over the last two years. The report can be accessed at: [http://www.asiapacificbusiness.ca/peo/SOTR/SOTR2006\\_2007.pdf](http://www.asiapacificbusiness.ca/peo/SOTR/SOTR2006_2007.pdf)

Yuen Pau Woo, President of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and Coordinator of the *State of the Region* report said the slowdown has been widely anticipated and that overall growth in the region remains healthy, especially in East Asia. China will provide an important source of alternate demand for the region with real GDP growth expected to be in the double digits for this year and the next. The Japanese economy will expand by 2.2 percent in 2007, led by robust private consumption.

The report includes findings from a survey of 370 regional opinion-leaders and commentary on key risks and challenges facing the region. Charles E. Morrison, PECC International Chair, noted that this survey is the first of its kind and that it provides unique insight to the views of government officials, scholars, and businesspeople from 21 economies.

Survey respondents are in broad agreement with PECC's forecasting panel. Whereas a majority of respondents believe that the Chinese and Japanese economies will improve in the short and medium term, only 18 percent are optimistic about the U.S. economy over a 1-2 year time frame and 27 percent over a 3-5 year outlook.

The survey included questions on the effectiveness of regional institutions and the challenges facing these institutions.

## State of the Region Report Points to Economic Slowdown and Concerns about APEC

The results for ASEAN and APEC were very similar, with ASEAN rated slightly higher than APEC on trade liberalization and political and security dialogue, but less well on economic cooperation and in meeting the needs of the business community. The two organizations were tied in terms of effectiveness as a forum for discussing economic issues facing the region. Respondents were generally unimpressed by the East Asia Summit, which met for the first time in 2005.

Regional opinion leaders expressed concern about the viability of APEC. Only 42 percent of respondents agreed with the statement "APEC is as important today as it was in 1989". Respondents from NAFTA economies were the most skeptical, with only 31 percent agreeing with the statement. Across the region, a majority of respondents identified "weak commitment from member economies" and "lack of focus" as key challenges facing the regional forum.

Dr Morrison said, "The survey findings should serve as a wake-up call for APEC leaders meeting in Hanoi later this week. APEC is in danger of become irrelevant to the needs of the region."

Opinion leaders in the region also identified high energy prices, financial market volatility, and terrorist acts and policy responses to those acts as key risks to the short term economic outlook. Over the longer term, water pollution and shortages were singled out as major worries, but somewhat surprisingly, political risks such as the Korean crisis or a Taiwan Strait flare-up were not as high on the list of perceived threats to the economic outlook.

PECC forecasters are projecting that the U.S. current account deficit will peak at 6.3 percent of GDP this year, falling to

6.0 percent in 2007. However, according to Mr Woo, "the dollar value of the deficit (projected at US\$841b in 2007) will remain enormous for years to come. Improvement in regional trade imbalances may not be swift enough for the liking of financial markets or for beleaguered industries in the United States, which could result in a sharp correction of the US dollar, an increase in protectionism, or both."

The report notes that relationships among the major powers of the Asia Pacific region have improved recently. Dr Morrison said, "American perceptions of China's rise and China's perceptions of U.S. responses will be critical to the future of trans-Pacific relations." The report warns that while the two economies have strong economic and political relations, there are nationalist instincts on both sides that will jump at any opportunity to advance a narrow domestic agenda, at the expense of diplomatic and economic ties. Although other economies have little influence over this relationship, there is a role for regional institutions to make space for the deepening and broadening of Sino-American ties.

Despite a historical chariness about the role of India in Asia Pacific institutions, a robust majority of respondents (66 percent) now believes that the emerging South Asian giant should become a member of APEC. India has been knocking at the door of APEC since the early 1990s and was turned down at least three times, most recently in 1997. The findings of this survey suggest that the question of Indian membership deserves fresh attention.

The State of the Region report was a collaborative venture involving forecasters and other experts from all member economies. It was led by an editorial committee which consisted of

Yuen Pau Woo (President and Co-CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada), Gary Hawke (Head, School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand); Charles E. Morrison (PECC Chair and President of the East West Center, USA); Soogil Young (President, National Strategy Institute, Korea), and Jusuf Wanandi (Member, Board of Trustees, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia). Other contributors include Mark Borthwick (Director, US Asia Pacific Council); Masahiro Kawai (Head, Office of Regional Integration, Asian Development Bank); Eduardo Pedrosa (Secretary General, PECC International Secretariat); Robert Scollay (Head, APEC Study Centre, University of Auckland); and Hadi Soesastro (Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies). The views expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect those of the member committees of PECC or their individual members.

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### Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) is an independent non-government international organization committed to the promotion of cooperation and dialogue in the Asia Pacific. Founded in 1980, PECC is a network of member committees composed of individuals and institutions dedicated to this mission. The Council is one of the three official observers of the APEC process.

## Winners of Akkini Kunchukal-2006

### Best Lyrics - K. Selvakumar



### Best Song - S.V.Varman



### Best Vocal - Aathirai Sivapalan

The closing date for the submission of songs for the contest of Akkini Kunchukal 2007 is July 31st, 2007.

Info:

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### Best Melody - G. Gritharan



## Digging in for the future at Rouge Valley



Photo by William Meijer

**Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services and Scarborough East MPP Mary Anne Chambers was delighted to turn the soil at the groundbreaking for the Regional Birthing and Newborn Centre at Rouge Valley Centenary hospital, on Friday, Oct. 27. Helping her carry out the official task were children Sofia and Sanjay Sugumar, who collected \$3,000 to donate to the centre, set to open in 2008. Support is also coming in from hospital volunteers, who have pledged \$1 million, and from the hospital Foundation, which is committed to contribute \$10 million toward new equipment.**

The centre will offer a modern birthing experience, allowing a mother and her family to remain in the same private room for labour, delivery, recovery and post-partum care. The facility will place the hospital's Maternal Newborn and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit adjacent to each other, providing for an integrated, family-centred birthing experience. Chambers says, "Residents of Scarborough can feel proud of the outstanding commitment and professional skills of the nurses, physicians and other medical, technical, administrative and support staff who provide exceptional care for patients here at Rouge Valley." Visit [www.rougevalley.ca/27\\_10\\_06nr/](http://www.rougevalley.ca/27_10_06nr/) for more information.

### Children's donation gets standing ovation at birthing centre groundbreaking ceremony

October 27, 2006—It took more than a decade, and thousands of coins, but Sanjay Sugumar's diligence proved to be a highlight of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Regional Birthing and Newborn Centre at Rouge Valley Centenary.

The 11-year-old and his sister Sofia, 9, presented the Foundation with a large baby bottle shaped bank filled with well over \$2,000 to support the Labour of Love campaign.

Sanjay's parents gave him the bottle when he was just a toddler, and encouraged him to begin saving money. When the bottle became filled to capacity recently, he and his sister decided they wanted the money to go to Rouge Valley.

"It makes me very proud," he said of the donation. "Our mom had surgery here, and the doctors and nurses were very nice."

Both Sanjay and Sofia were born and Rouge Valley Centenary, and say they feel they have a connection to the hospital.

They received a standing ovation for their heartfelt presentation during the formal groundbreaking ceremony. Both children plan to continue raising money to support charities.



**Sofia and Sanjay Sugumar presented this baby bottle bank to the Labour of Campaign. The bottle contained more than \$2,000.**

## Groundbreaking enhances Rouge Valley's neonatal care

Most modern birthing facility in Scarborough to open in 2008



**An architectural rendering of the Regional Birthing and Newborn Centre at Rouge Valley Centenary.**

Oct. 27, 2006

Rouge Valley Health System has cemented its standing as the only Advanced Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the east Greater Toronto Area with a groundbreaking of a new birthing centre.

The modern facilities of our Regional Birthing and Newborn Centre will bring the latest in labour and delivery to our community in Scarborough and Durham. In keeping with our daily mission of providing quality Family Centred Care, the centre has much to offer our growing community," says Tom Atkins, Chair of the Rouge Valley Board of Directors.

The centre, to be constructed at Rouge Valley Centenary hospital, celebrates its start at a groundbreaking ceremony today, Friday, Oct. 27. The centre is expected to open to mothers, babies and families in 2008.

Atkins adds, The birthing centre will provide us with the infrastructure to meet our obligations as the only hospital in the east Greater Toronto Area (GTA) offering an Advanced Level II NICU.

Many partners have been involved in making the groundbreaking possible, says Hume Martin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Rouge Valley. He thanks the Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services and MPP for Scarborough East, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and its Minister the Honourable George Smitherman. Martin adds, would also like to thank hospital volunteers for

pledging to raise \$1 million and the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation for its ongoing fundraising campaign, as chaired by Canada AM's Beverly Thomson.

The modern centre will greatly enhance Rouge Valley's role as the Regional Perinatal and Paediatric Centre in the east GTA. The birthing centre will include:

16 Labour, Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum rooms;

New Advanced Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

21 additional postpartum beds for longer stays;

Four private care-by-parent rooms;

Family Lounge;

Two overnight hostel rooms.

Please visit [www.rougevalley.ca/growth/birthing](http://www.rougevalley.ca/growth/birthing) for details.

Rouge Valley Health System is an innovative leader in quality family centred care, with regional programs in cardiac care, mental health and paediatrics. Rouge Valley consists of several health sites, including two hospitals: Rouge Valley Centenary, in east Scarborough; Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering, in the west Durham Region. Together a team of doctors including 224 general practitioners and 325 specialists, more than 1,000 nurses and many other professionals, care for a broad spectrum of health conditions. In consultation and partnership with community members, other hospitals, healthcare organizations and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Rouge Valley continues to improve its programs and create new ones catering to the needs of the growing communities of Scarborough, Ajax, Pickering and Whitby. It's in our nature to care.

[www.rougevalley.ca](http://www.rougevalley.ca).

For more information, please contact:

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**Hume Martin, Rouge Valley Health System President and CEO, turns the sod officially marking the start of the Regional Birthing and Newborn Centre. Joining him are, from left: Tom Atkins, Chair, RVHS; Beverly Thomson, Chair of the Labour of Love campaign; MPP Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and: Dr. Rosemary Moodie, Rouge Valley's Chief of Paediatrics.**

Etiha Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is celebrating the first anniversary of its Brussels and Toronto service, which has proved immensely successful with its business and leisure travellers.

Celebrations took place in Abu Dhabi, Toronto.

Launched in October 2005 the three times-a-week service to Toronto, via the Belgian capital, has established itself as one of the Abu Dhabi-based airline's most popular routes with an average passenger load factor of more than 72 percent.

The outstanding results come as Etihad launches second North American destination, New York City, on 26 October, continuing the impressive expansion of its global network of flights.

"The success of Etihad's Brussels and Toronto service demonstrates that our Guests really value the superior levels of hospitality and comfort they receive with when flying with Etihad," said James Hogan, Etihad's new CEO. "One of Etihad's key ambitions is to link the world's major commercial destinations, and this has been achieved with many Guests travelling from Toronto or Brussels to our Asian destinations such as Bangkok or Jakarta."

Etihad's successful Guest numbers on the Brussels – Toronto route extends throughout all three zones on the luxuriously appointed Airbus A330-200 which is in operation on the route and configured in two zones 22 Guests in Pearl, and 240 Guests in Coral zone. "When travelling long haul its vital that Guests arrive at their destination feeling relaxed and refreshed which is why Etihad offers all our Guests, regardless of the zone they are travelling in, the most advanced in-flight product available," continued Hogan.

Etihad is proud to have established a loyal network of Guests on this sector, whether they are travelling in Pearl or Coral zone.

### Etihad triumphant as the world's leading new airline

Following on from their recent win at the World Travel Awards and one year anniversary, Etihad has been celebrating the success of its recent product launches.

Despite being one of the youngest airlines in the world, Etihad has achieved impressive milestones. These include the launch of 35 new routes in just 35 months, with the highlight of 2006 due to be the launch of its services to New York in October.

With one million Guests flying on Etihad between July and September 2006, and four million anticipated for 2007, the world's leading new airline is continuing to make headlines across the globe.

The airline's reputation within the industry as one of the most innovative and dynamic newcomers has been boosted by recent achievements, including:

#### ETIHAD GUEST PROGRAMME

*Etihad Guest*, the new loyalty programme from Etihad Airways, has been hugely popular since its worldwide launch at the end of August, with more than 60,000 application requests in the first week.

Since Etihad first took to the skies in November 2003 it has received critical

## Etihad Celebrates First Anniversary of Brussels Toronto Route

acclaim for its innovative philosophy of treating passengers as distinguished Guests.

The programme, which allows members to redeem a reward regardless of how many miles they fly, has been praised by industry specialists, including Randy Petersen, Editor of InsideFlyer Magazine.

#### NEW IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT (IFE)

Etihad's carriers are now fitted with the Thales TopSeries i4000 system and an audio and video on demand (AVOD) feature.

This new technology offers Guests more than two weeks of continuous entertainment covering a wealth of languages and cultures, with the opportunity to create a personal 'video favourites' list.

#### DIAMOND ZONE SEAT

The Diamond Zone seat, which set new industry benchmarks, can rotate 180 degrees, enabling Guests to hold meetings, dine and converse with one another in the Diamond Zone's luxurious surroundings.

The seat also features a 23" personal LCD video screen.

#### PEARL ZONE BUSINESS BED

*The world's leading flat-bed seat* is available across Etihad's new fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft.

Guests travelling in Pearl Zone on an Etihad Boeing 777-300ER can also stay connected through *wi-Fli*, the high-speed in-flight internet access system.

#### CRYSTAL CARGO

Etihad's cargo division continues to grow at an impressive rate since its creation in 2004.

In its first full year of operation, Crystal Cargo transported almost 20,000 tonnes of cargo, which is set to reach 100,000 tonnes by the end of 2006 and 200,000 tonnes in 2007.

#### ETIHAD HOLIDAYS

The holidays' division, Etihad Holidays, has also expanded at an incredible rate, offering an extensive choice of quality hotels to more than 82 global destinations.

With 50 per cent more holidays available this year, Etihad Holidays' call centres have been inundated with bookings.

With new routes on the horizon, including Shanghai and Tehran, Guests will soon have an even more impressive choice of destinations to visit.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saif Al Nahyan, Chairman of Etihad Airways, said: "Being a world-class airline is more than just the destinations we fly to, and Etihad has gone to great lengths to ensure our Guests receive the very finest hospitality and service, whether travelling in Diamond, Pearl or Coral Zones."

Etihad Airways flight EY 501 departs from Abu Dhabi to Brussels at 13.20 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday arriving at 18.25. After landing in Brussels the aircraft then departs for Toronto at 19.40, arriving in Canada at 22.10.

Returning Etihad flight EY 502 departs from Toronto at 23.40 hours arriving in

Brussels at 13.10. The aircraft departs Brussels for Abu Dhabi at 14.25 (the next day), arriving in the UAE at 23.10.

#### About Etihad Airways

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is the world's leading new airline and currently offers flights for Guests and cargo to 45 destinations in the Middle East, Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.

**Etihad Crystal Cargo** – [www.crystalcargo.ae](http://www.crystalcargo.ae) – offers a comprehensive range of cargo services throughout Etihad's network, and services its many all-cargo destinations and world-wide charters with a fleet of modern regional freighter aircraft.

**Etihad Holidays** [www.etihadholidays.com](http://www.etihadholidays.com) - offers a range of innovative holiday options in 82 destinations including skiing, fly-drives, cruises, tours, stopovers, inbound programmes and city breaks.

Through these exciting divisions, Etihad Airways is changing the way people see the world.

Etihad Airways has been awarded the titles of *the world's leading new airline* in 2004, 2005 and 2006, and *the world's leading flat-bed seat* in 2006 by the World Travel Awards.

#### Pauli Karbach

Area Manager Canada

#### Etihad Airways

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#### The National Airline of the United Arab Emirates



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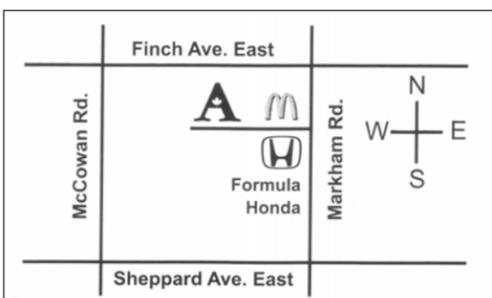
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**EDUCATION AND SKILLS:**

- University or community college education and minimum three years experience in *Teraview*, *Conveyancer* and *PCLaw*, *Word* and *Excel*;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English;
- Ability to converse in Tamil is an asset;
- Pleasant telephone manner and good interpersonal skills with neat working habits;

Please fax your résumé with a simple *handwritten* cover letter to the administrator at 416-265-6985.

Previous applicants will automatically be considered.

We thank all our applicants. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. (10020061114).



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**Position: Medical Office Assistant**

Location: Newmarket  
Salary: 12hr-13hr

Must at least one-to-two years' recent work experience in a medical office. A strong personal interest in healthy living is desired. Exceptional fluency in written and verbal English. High level of professionalism in appearance and communication. Ability to maintain a positive outlook and accuracy while under pressure. Ability to establish priorities and excel at tasks, working both independently and with others. Must be able to be active on feet most of the day. Familiarity with PC and Windows XP.

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**Cognos Developer - 3KC**

Position: COGNOS (V.8) Developer  
Location: Toronto  
Contract: 4.5 Months  
Rate: 60hr

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Regards

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3K Consulting  
Derek Edwards  
HR Recruiting Consultant  
Phone: 905 953 0008  
Fax: 905 953 4162  
Email: [3k.consulting@rogers.com](mailto:3k.consulting@rogers.com)

**Position: Divisional Accountant**

Location: Toronto  
Salary: 35k-45k

This position is responsible for performing a variety of accounting, planning and management functions related to the overall operation of the zone and/or division and reporting the results of these activities to management as requested from time to time. It is expected that this will be accomplished by working with Plant Managers and their staff to gather the required information on a timely basis by the use of normal business processes and the tools provided by the corporation. Key goals will involve timely reporting, accurate results and solutions to issues that reflect the goals of the corporation.

**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Full charge of all accounting functions including: income statement, balance sheet, cash flow projections, accruals, prepaid, etc.
- Reconciliation and balancing of Bank, Accounts Receivable and Payable and all other General Ledger Accounts.
- Control of check processing and signing as well as management of the line of credit and other Bank accounts.
- Accounts payable and receivable process management
- Facilitate month end, quarterly, and year-end reports for local and corporate management
- Analyze operating and financial statement information and prepare analysis as required
- Work collectively with other management staff and immediate manager for information needs, planning, reporting and budget preparation
- Compare monthly results to budget
- Review and analyze all financial statements

**Education:**

Knowledge of ACC PAC, Excel, and Word software  
Formal Accounting training Designation or Degree

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**Position: In Store Product Demonstrator**

Location: GTA  
Salary: \$9hr + Bonus

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**Position: Clinical Trial Assistant**

Location: Newmarket  
Salary: 12hr-13hr

**Description:**

Support physicians and scientists in gathering records, processing data, monitoring progress and other activities related to clinical trials. Compile detailed reports. Respond to requests for information. Communicate and coordinate with staff at trial sites.

**Requirements:**

Bachelors or Associates degree in life sciences or related field. Excellent verbal and written communication skills. Strong computer skills in word processing, spreadsheet and database programs and ability to learn new software. Ability to learn regulations and standards. Experience in medical or other professional office environment required; knowledge of medical terminology strongly desired.

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**Position: Plumbing Estimator**

Location: North York  
Salary: 50-65k

MUST have experience as a Plumbing Estimator

We are looking for a strong, Plumbing Estimator, someone with a proven track record of successful, competitive bidding for commercial and industrial projects. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience working as an Estimator in the plumbing construction/contracting industry Residential Plumbing, and for a Construction Contractor. Estimating projects, submitting proposals and project management once jobs are started. Work with existing customers and solicitation of new customers. Good computer skills are required, particularly with Word, Excel, and Outlook.

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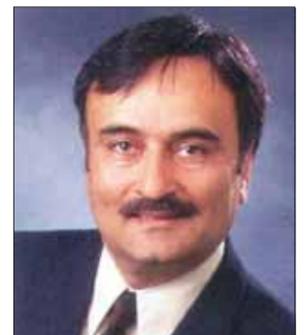
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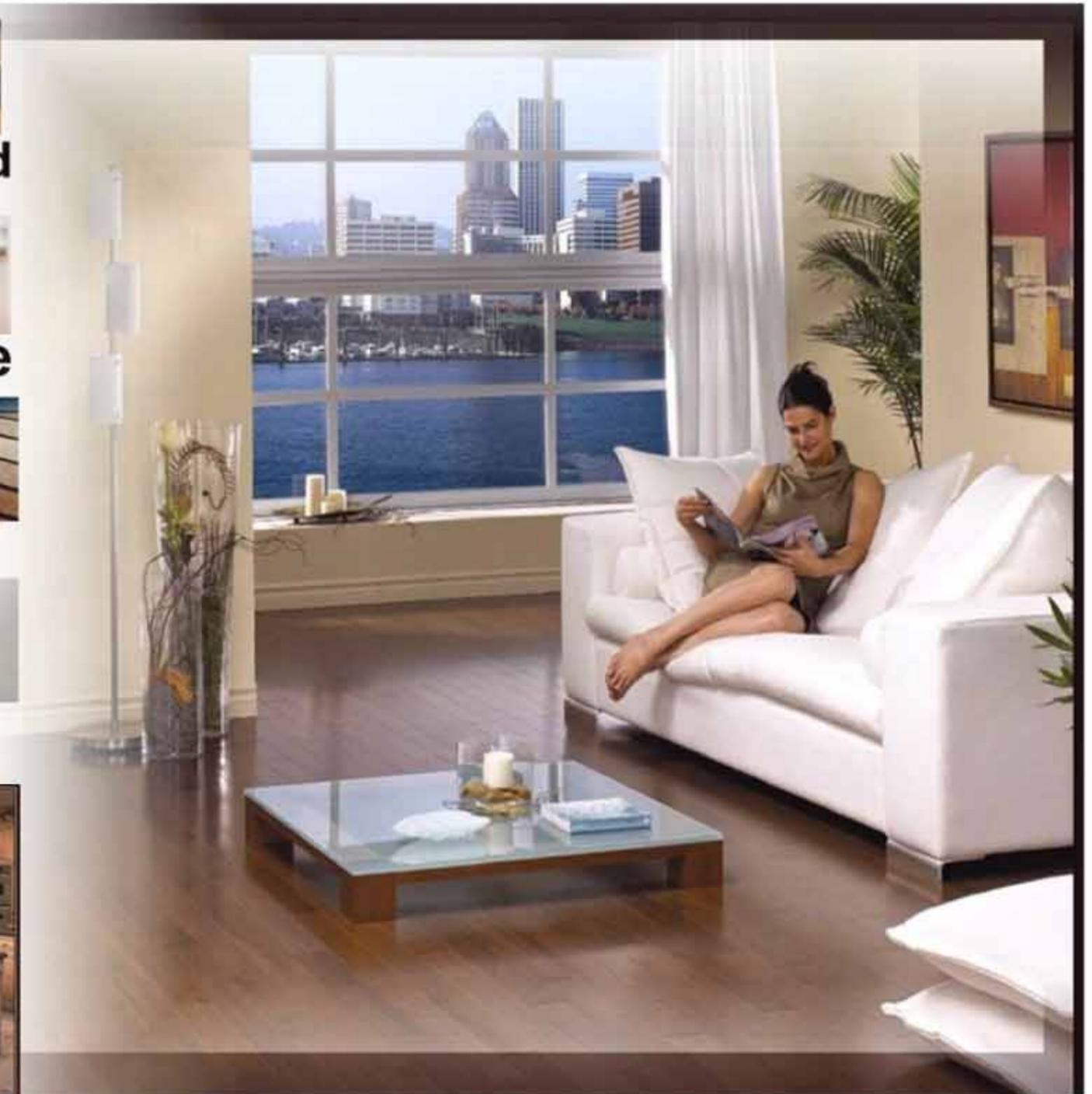
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