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Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil annual festivities on livestream amidst lockdown

By K. Thirukumaran

Never been or witnessed the annual festival inside NallurKandaswamyKovil in my post teen years and in over four decades.

Within this annual event, Then-dayuthapani festival was held on the morning of September 3, celebrating Lord Murugan going to Palani.

Or there may have been inside festivals videoed or live-streamed in the recent past but I didn't see.

There has been video livestream in the past of the outside procession of the deity on this day, also called Mambazha-Thiruvilla (Mango festival)

Pazhaniyandavar however this year likely is the first year an inside Abhishekam was being live-streamed.

Apparently this abhishekam is held Fridays all year for Pazhaniyandavar and coincided with this festival day in 2021!

The Abhishekam is about 1 and half hours long, and so amazingly beautiful.

The priests performing the Abhishekam, this year with masks were soaking wet from the splashing materials of divine and distinct and common commodities used and also due to the humidity.

For an hour and half it is bliss seeing for example silver bowls and bowls of panchamirtham (a five fruit salad with honey) and showering over what appeared like silver coins while Then-dayuthapaniMurugan is accorded with a fuchsia outfit, known vasthiram.

Contd. on page 5...



FEDERAL ELECTION 2021

Liberals and Conservatives locked equally in battle for power at election 2021

By Siva Sivapragasam

As "Monsoon Journal" September 2021 issue goes to print, Canada's two major parties Liberals and Conservatives are locked in a bitter and close contest for power in the forthcoming election scheduled for September 20th.

Based on an election forecast of the number of seats by Vox Pops Labs, it appears that the Liberal Party is cruising towards a victory with few more seats than its opposing Conservative Party. However, with two more weeks of campaigning one never knows how the minds of the voters will turn which way.

Canada is heading for a federal election on September 20th, 2021. On 15th August 2021 Governor-General Mary Simon dissolved Parliament at Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's

request.

Among the key issues fought in this election are affordable housing, the need for an election, climate change, cost of living, healthcare, taxes, post-pandemic recovery, economic recovery, and childcare.

With around two more weeks of campaigning and the day of the election, the two leaders of the big parties, namely Justin Trudeau leader of the Liberal Party and Erin O' Toole leader of the Conservative Party are touring the country trying their best to convince the voters to give them the power to run the country for the next five years.



The current Pandemic and the steps that must be taken to control its infection, along with what measures should be adopted to get the Economy back towards normalcy and growth will of course be the key issues which voters will have in their minds when they cast their vote on September 20th.

CANADA VOTES 2021



With the next Federal election scheduled to be held on September 20th, this special feature article has been compiled to provide many useful information regarding the past general elections.

Canada Parliamentary Structure & Federal Elections

An in-depth analysis

By: Raymond Rajabalan

Full article at Pages 18 & 19

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Ontario to Require Proof of Vaccination in Select Settings

Province to launch enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app to stop the spread of COVID-19

September 01, 2021

Office of the Premier

TORONTO — To further protect Ontarians as the province continues to confront the Delta-driven fourth wave of the COVID-19, the government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, will require people to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status to access certain businesses and settings starting September 22, 2021. Requiring proof of vaccination in these settings reduces risk and is an important step to encourage every last eligible Ontarian to get their shot, which is critical to protecting the province's hospital capacity, while also supporting businesses with the tools they need to keep customers safe, stay open and minimize disruptions.

"As the world continues its fight against the Delta variant, our government will never waver in our commitment to do what's necessary to keep people safe, protect our hospitals and minimize disruptions to businesses," said Premier Ford. "Based on the latest evidence and best advice, COVID-19 vaccine certificates give us the best chance to slow the spread of this virus while helping us to avoid further lockdowns. If you haven't received your first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, please do so today."

As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. This approach focuses on higher-risk indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn and includes:

- Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios, as well as delivery and takeout);
- Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment);
- Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres;
- Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness



training, such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport;

- Sporting events;
- Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments;
- Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas;
- Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs;
- Racing venues (e.g., horse racing).

These mandatory requirements would not apply to outdoor settings where the risk of transmission is lower, including patios, with the exception of outdoor nightclub spaces given the risk associated with the setting. In addition, these requirements will not apply to settings where people receive medical care, food from grocery stores, medical supplies and the like. Aligned with public health measures currently in place, indoor masking policies will continue to remain in place.

"We know vaccines provide the best protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "To protect the health and well-being of Ontarians, our government will offer one more tool to encourage even more Ontarians to receive the vaccine and provide further protection to fully vaccinated Ontarians as they safely enjoy activities with their loved ones and support their local businesses."

Individuals who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical exemptions will

be permitted entry with a doctor's note until recognized medical exemptions can be integrated as part of a digital vaccine certificate. Children who are 11 years of age and younger and unable to be vaccinated will also be exempted from these requirements.

For the period between September 22 and October 12, 2021, it is intended that people attending wedding or funeral receptions at meeting or event spaces will be able to provide a negative rapid antigen COVID-19 test from no more than 48 hours before the event as an alternative to proof of vaccination. These rapid antigen tests would have to be privately purchased.

Ontario will develop and provide additional tools to improve user experience, efficiency and business supports in the coming weeks, including establishing alternative tools for people with no email, health card or ID. The government will work to support implementation of vaccine certificates for Indigenous communities whether or not they have opted to enter their data into COVaxON, while maintaining Indigenous data governance, control, access and possession principles.

Ontarians currently have access to a paper or PDF vaccine receipt that includes all relevant information to prove that they are fully vaccinated. As of September 22, Ontarians will be required to show their vaccine receipt when entering designated settings along with another piece of photo identification, such as a driver's licence

or health card. This is similar initial implementation approach announced in British Columbia.

Ontario will also introduce an enhanced digital vaccine receipt that features a QR code, which is safe, more secure and with you wherever you go. This digital vaccine receipt can be kept on a phone and easily used to show that you've been vaccinated if you need to. In addition, the province will launch a new app to make it easier and more convenient for businesses and organizations to read and verify that a digital vaccine receipt is valid, while protecting your privacy.

As the 2021-22 school year begins, it is critical to keep Ontario schools safe and students learning in-person. The province will work with trusted public health units to use the existing COVaxON system to safely and securely confirm the vaccination status of students. The province is committed to keeping parents informed about how their child's COVID-19 vaccine information and enrollment data is being used to keep schools safe. This will equip local public health units with the information they need to ensure rapid case and contact management if required to limit disruptions in the event of cases or outbreaks and keep kids in class.

"We are already seeing a rise in the number of cases of COVID-19 as we head into the fall," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "As we enter the last mile push to increase vaccination rates, the introduction of a vaccine certificate is an important step to give people the tools to limit further spread of the virus so that we can ensure the safety of all Ontarians while keeping the province open and operational."

"Combining the use of a QR code with a trusted, made in Ontario verifier app will help support the province's health measures," said Kaleed Rasheed, Associate Minister of Digital Government. "These tools will provide a simpler, faster, and better way to prove vaccination status that is both convenient and secure – while also supporting businesses with an easy validation process."

Via news.ontario.ca

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2021 Canadian Federal Election

Vote to not only ensure a smooth COVID-19 pandemic recovery, but for your own hopes and aspirations

By **Harrish Thirukumar**

On August 15, 2021, Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau called an early election for September 20. The rationale is that the current government of the day needs a new mandate to ensure voters approved of its plan to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This election is unique in that it is a campaign at the national level taking place during the ongoing pandemic.

While there is contention on holding an election now, it remains nonetheless important that you make yourself heard by voting as a Canadian on what you hope to see beyond just the pandemic. Election Day or E-Day will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021, later this month. It will be one of the shortest campaigns in political history at 36 days as the minimum length required by law.

Readers like yourselves are strongly urged to take the time out of your busy schedules to learn about your local candidates for Member of Parliament and their parties that are contesting. This can be easily done by checking out the platforms they are running on and how they align with your specific circumstances and aspirations as printed in this issue of the Monsoon Journal. This can be done along with tuning into all-candidate debates. A healthy democracy relies on a citizenry that makes an informed voting choice at the ballot box. Furthermore, you can visit the Elections Canada website or contact them at 1-800-463-6868 to ensure you are in fact registered to vote in your local riding as well as other voting information.

If you're registered, you should receive a voter information card in the mail by September 10. It tells you where and when you can vote. If the name and address on your card are correct and you meet the eligibility criteria stated on the card, you're ready to vote. Bring this card with you, along with accepted ID, to make the voting process

easier when you go to vote.

There are various options to cast your ballot. You can vote at your assigned polling station on election day, Monday, September 20, 2021. Polls will be open for 12 hours (hours vary by time zone). Voting can take place at your assigned polling station from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the advance polling period. This period will take place Friday, September 10; Saturday, September 11; Sunday, September 12; and Monday, September 13.

Also, Election workers, candidates and candidates' representatives will be required to wear masks at polling places and Elections Canada offices to lead by example and maintain the safest environment possible for electors and workers. Elections Canada will not require electors to provide proof of vaccination as well.

With COVID-19, it's no doubt that public health and safety is a top priority. In that sense, you can apply online or at any Elections Canada office across Canada to vote by mail. You must apply before Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. Voting in this case will be completed through a special ballot process.

Another option is voting at any Elections Canada office. There are over 500 Elections Canada offices open across Canada. Voting can take place anytime before Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. Similar to mail-in voting, your vote uses a special ballot process.

Offices are open seven days a week:

Monday to Friday:

9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Considering recent world events, this is both an opportunity and duty for you as a civically minded citizen of Canada to demonstrate the benefit of living in a democracy through the act of voting. Vote to not only ensure a smooth COVID-19 pandemic recovery, but for your own hopes and aspirations.

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Canada Historic Milestones

September 11, 2001

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"No day shall erase you from the memory of time."
- Virgil

- (Quote inscribed at the facade of 9/11 Memorial Museum, NY, USA)

Printing the Winds of Change around us All lands home, all men kin.

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Ontario Deploying Last Mile Strategy to Further Increase Vaccination Rates

75 per cent of Ontarians aged 12 and over are fully vaccinated

August 24, 2021

Health

TORONTO — With over 82 per cent of eligible Ontarians aged 12 and over having received one dose of the vaccine and 75 per cent having received both doses, the government is continuing its last mile strategy to reach eligible individuals who have yet to receive a first or second dose. These latest efforts continue to make vaccines readily and conveniently available, especially in lower-vaccinated areas, and include proactively contacting individuals who have not booked their accelerated second dose appointment.

“Vaccines are the best protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Working with our public health partners we are continuing make it easier and more convenient to receive the vaccine. If you haven’t been vaccinated yet and have questions, I encourage you to reach out to your pharmacy, family doctor or primary care provider.”

To support the province’s last mile strategy, the province and public health units are focusing on smaller, community-based and easy-to-access settings for vaccinations. This includes mobile clinics and community-based pop-ups, dedicated clinic days for families with people with disabilities, and townhall meetings in multiple languages. In addition, the province is working with public health units to target areas with low vaccination rates, as identified by postal codes, to support localized vaccination strategies as well as targeted marketing by the province in these areas.

To ensure all eligible Ontarians benefit from the strong protection offered by both doses of the vaccine as soon as possible, the provincial call centre is calling Ontarians to remind them to rebook their accelerated second dose appointments. Over 110,000 second



dose appointments have been successfully booked or rebooked through this initiative.

A key component of Ontario’s last mile strategy is bringing the vaccines directly to people, where they are located. To date, Ontario’s GO-VAXX bus clinic has administered 1,100 vaccine doses, 42 per cent of which were first doses.

“Ontario’s COVID-19 vaccination campaign has been a collective success. While we can certainly take pride in our immunization achievements, there is still work to be done to ensure everyone is protected,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “That’s why we are shifting focus in this last mile, from mass vaccination clinics to community-based settings using strategies such as mobile clinics and GO-VAXX buses to reach Ontarians who have yet to receive a first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.”

Public health units are also partnering with elementary and secondary school boards, colleges and universities to make vaccines readily available for all students returning to school. This includes youth who were born in 2009 and will turn 12 this year.

“This is my call to arms,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “It is vital for everyone who can to receive both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. We are implementing many community-based initiatives

so everyone can easily receive their vaccine, especially those who live in areas with lower vaccination rates. We will continue to monitor data to determine when it is safe to exit the Roadmap and get life back to normal.”

The success of Ontario’s vaccine roll-out, which has resulted in one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, is having an impact and continues to protect Ontarians against the virus. Between December 14, 2020 and August 7, 2021, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated cases accounted for the majority (99.4 per cent) of COVID-19 cases reported. Similarly, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated cases accounted

for 99.2 per cent of hospitalizations, and 98.8 per cent of deaths during the same time period.

In response to evolving data around the transmissibility of the Delta variant and based on the recent experiences of other jurisdictions, recently the government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, paused exiting the Roadmap to Reopen. This additional time will allow the province to further increase immunization rates by engaging in targeted strategies to make it easier and more convenient for individuals to get vaccinated.

Via news.ontario.ca

Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil annual festivities on livestream amidst lockdown

Contd. from page 1...

Also fascinating to see garlands in the colours of Abhishekam materials after they were used, such as white after milk, orange after oranges, green after sugarcane, red after pomegranates etc.

The livestream video available on the YouTube channel of Nallur-KandaswamyDevasthanam, begins minutes after 1 hour during which time the procession takes place and after that for 1 hour and 30 minutes is the Abhishekam. Great divine fete, partic-

ularly when watched on a big screen television.

Spectacular and unique than sapparam or chariot festival where only seeing a sea of people and glittering sapparam in the night or the enchantingly crafted chariot in the day.

Gone are the days of temples prohibiting camera inside temples; anyway that is probably a human made rule and COVID has necessitated that to be breached. All in the good name of divine!

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New Requirement for Proof of Vaccination in Certain Settings: Frequently Asked Questions

September 01, 2021

Office of the Premier

TORONTO — Beginning September 22, 2021, Ontario will require proof of vaccination focused on indoor public settings. All Ontarians who registered their vaccines are encouraged to download their vaccine receipt as proof of their vaccine status until an enhanced vaccine certificate with a QR code is available.

Who is considered fully vaccinated?

People are considered fully vaccinated after receiving the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine or combination of COVID-19 vaccines approved by World Health Organization (e.g., two doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series).

Does a previous COVID-19 infection allow you to attend these settings?

No, a previous infection is not a substitute for being fully vaccinated.

How can I get my proof of vaccination?

Currently, vaccine receipts are available in PDF form to be downloaded or printed to your computer, phone or tablet. Ontarians who received their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine out of province should contact their local public health unit to record their information and receive proper documentation. Both proof of identity along with proof of vaccination will be required. Individuals can provide proof of immunization by downloading or printing their vaccine receipt from the provincial booking portal, or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900.

What if a person has a red or white health card or does not have health card?

If a person has a red and white health card, they can call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900. The call centre agent can email you a copy of your receipt. If they don't have an OHIP number at all, they should contact their local public health unit, and they can help you obtain the receipt.

What if they don't have a phone or a computer?

Ontario will develop and provide additional tools to improve user experience, efficiency and business supports in the coming weeks, including establishing alternative tools for people with no email, health card or ID.

How do I prove I am fully vaccinated if I am from out of province or out of country?

Individuals visiting from outside the province or the country will be required to show their full vaccination status and identification to enter prescribed settings.

Ontario will develop and provide additional tools to improve user experience, efficiency, and business supports in the coming weeks, including ensuring verification of fully vaccinated individuals from outside of province

or country.

How does an individual prove they are fully vaccinated if they are an Indigenous person and haven't consented to providing their data to COVAX?

In the coming weeks Ontario will support implementation of vaccine certificates for Indigenous communities whether or not they have opted to enter their data into COVax, while maintaining Indigenous data governance, control, access and possession principles.

How does a person correct or change information on their vaccine credential?

Individuals should contact their local public health unit to make any changes to their vaccination record.

What will happen on September 22nd? What will happen on October 22nd?

As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination as well as proof of identity (such a driver's licence or health card) to access certain public settings and facilities.

An enhanced vaccine certificate, as well as a verification app to allow businesses to read the QR code, will be available beginning October 22.

What will the digital vaccine certificate look like?

Ontario will develop and implement an enhanced vaccine certificate with unique QR code and accompanying verification app that will allow users to securely and safely verify their vaccination status when scanned. This could be stored on a mobile device, such as Apple Wallet. The enhanced vaccine certificate, as well as a verification app to allow businesses to read the QR code, will be available beginning October 22.

What if I don't want to disclose my vaccination status?

It is the discretion of the individual to determine whether they would like to disclose their vaccination status. Should they make the decision not to divulge this information, they will not be permitted to access settings that require proof of vaccination.

In settings where you have to be vaccinated to attend, is recent negative test sufficient to attend if you are unvaccinated?

A negative COVID-19 test or recent COVID-19 infection will not entitle a person to enter these settings, with narrow time-limited exceptions for testing. For the period between September 22 and October 12, 2021, it is intended that people attending wedding or funeral receptions at meeting or event spaces will be able to provide a negative rapid antigen COVID-19 test from no more than 48 hours before the event as an alternative to proof of vaccination. These rapid antigen tests would have to be privately purchased. The only exemptions are for unvacci-



nated people with medical exemptions and people under 12 years old will also be permitted to enter these settings.

Will people with medical exemptions be allowed to access settings requiring proof of vaccination?

The only exemptions permitted to enter these settings are for unvaccinated people with medical exemptions and people under 12 years old. Individuals who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical exemptions will be permitted with a doctor's note until the medical exemption can be integrated as part of a digital vaccine certificate.

Will individuals aged 11 and under be allowed to access settings requiring proof of vaccination?

Individuals aged 11 and under will be eligible to access these settings. If they are accompanied by an adult, the adult must be vaccinated.

Will proof of vaccination be required to attend weddings and other organized events?

For the period between September 22nd and October 12th, 2021, people attending indoor wedding and funeral receptions at indoor meeting or event spaces will be able to provide a negative rapid antigen COVID-19 test from no more than 48 hours before the event, as an alternative to the vaccine certificate showing they are fully vaccinated. These rapid antigen tests must be privately purchased.

Will people need a phone to be able to access businesses that require proof of vaccination?

A vaccination certificate is a PDF that can be downloaded online or received in paper copy. It includes the same information in both printed and digital form. These certificates will be required to access certain businesses and settings starting on September 22, 2021 as part of the Ontario government's efforts to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. By October 22, an enhanced vaccination certificate will be available in a new digital format that will offer increased accessibility and privacy protection.

How will businesses verify digital vaccination certificates?

Ontario will develop and implement an enhanced vaccine certificate with unique QR code and accompanying verification app that will allow users to securely and safely verify their vaccination status when scanned. The enhanced vaccine certificate, as well as a verification app to allow businesses to read the QR code, will be available beginning October 22. Guidance will be provided to business ahead of September 22 to ensure they are prepared.

How long will a vaccine credential be in place?

Vaccine credentials are a temporary measure to address health and safety in the COVID-19 pandemic. How long they are necessary will be monitored and evaluated based on data and the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

How will the government enforce the requirement for proof of vaccination?

Consistent with current practices under the Reopening Ontario Act, enforcement will be conducted by by-law officers. Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development inspectors will begin with education and warnings visits.

Why isn't the province increasing capacity limits for the settings where proof of vaccination is required?

As Ontario continues to confront the Delta-driven fourth wave, the province has taken a cautious approach. This has included some of the highest vaccine thresholds required for re-opening, as well as maintaining indoor masking, a policy that other provinces are now re-introducing.

To avoid future lockdowns and protect hospitals, Ontario is maintaining this cautious approach. This includes not expanding capacity limits in any setting at this time. As we monitor the impact of opening schools and the growing number of people returning to workplaces, we will evaluate when it may be safe to consider expanding capacity limits in settings that are captured by the new vaccine certificate policy.

Via news.ontario.ca

Ontario Salutes Work of Province's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

Task force wraps up successful mandate to ensure a safer Ontario

August 27, 2021

Solicitor General

TORONTO — With over 75 per cent of eligible Ontarians fully vaccinated, Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Solicitor General Sylvia Jones are applauding the work and contributions of the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force as its mandate comes to a close on August 31. Working with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local public health units, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Solicitor General will continue to administer the province's vaccine program, including ongoing implementation of Ontario's last mile strategy. The province will monitor COVID-19 epidemiology and vaccination rates to adapt and evolve as needed.

"On behalf of our province, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force and its members," said Premier Doug Ford. "We are grateful for your work, expertise and contribution to the success of our province's COVID-19 vaccination campaign, the largest in Ontario's history. Your leadership has been instrumental in spearheading our collective

vaccination efforts, and you leave the province well-positioned for the future. I have every confidence in the Chief Medical Officer of Health and our officials as we continue to make every effort to get as many people vaccinated as possible."

The task force was created in November 2020 to advise on the development of Ontario's immunization program, including the ethical, timely and effective distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Solicitor General. With the members' expertise in operations and logistics, federal-provincial relations, health and clinical domains, public health and immunization, ethics, and information technology and data, the task force helped ensure Ontarians could be immunized as quickly and safely as possible once vaccine supply became available. The final meeting of the task force will take place on August 30.

To date, the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force's achievements include:

- Developing guiding principles and prioritization to distribute initial doses to the most vulnerable as well as an ethical framework for subsequent



vaccine distribution;

- Facilitating the administration of a first dose to over 80 per cent of eligible Ontarians aged 12+ and full vaccination of over 75 per cent of eligible Ontarians;
- Successfully operationalizing first and second doses across northern remote Indigenous communities, long-term care homes and senior homes;
- Working with Public Health Units to identify communities of greatest need and making it easier and more convenient for individuals to get vaccinated through multiple targeted strategies, including community-based and employer-led clinics, mobile clinics

such as the GO-VAXX buses and deploying health and human resources to support these delivery channels;

- Providing the technical and logistical expertise to ensure vaccines were stored and transported securely to communities across the province and that vaccine distribution processes were seamless and effective.

"Our government is grateful for the contributions of the Ontario Vaccine Distribution Task Force and its work to help Ontarians protect themselves and their communities," said Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General. "The knowledge, expertise and experience of the taskforce members placed our province in a leading position as we continue to provide seamless access to COVID-19 vaccines through Ontario's last mile strategy."

"The collective knowledge and advice of Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force has enabled Ontario to be a leading jurisdiction in first and second doses administered," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "We are incredibly thankful for their expertise which has put the province on solid footing as we continue our last mile strategy to offer the vaccine to all eligible Ontarians."

Via news.ontario.ca

Province Seeking Public Feedback on Ontario Place Redevelopment

Input will be critical to support the planning and development of the site

August 30, 2021

Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

TORONTO — As the Ontario government proceeds with the revitalization of Ontario Place into a world-class, year-round destination, the province is launching the next phase of engagement, which will include both an online survey and virtual public information sessions. Starting today, all Ontarians will have the opportunity to share their views on how they would like to experience a redeveloped Ontario Place.

"Ontario Place holds a special place in the hearts and minds of Ontarians for the many family-friendly events and activities that have been enjoyed by millions over the past 50 years," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "That's why our government is launching a provincewide digital engagement process – we want to hear how Ontarians see themselves using a redeveloped Ontario Place and what



features are important to them."

The public survey is available online through Ontario.ca/OntarioPlace, along with information about the Ontario Place site and the redevelopment process, including the three successful participants. The survey will be open for nine weeks, closing in late October.

In addition to the survey, there will be two provincewide virtual public information sessions on October 13 and 27, which will provide additional opportunities for the public to learn

about the planned redevelopment and provide input. More information about the virtual sessions, including how to pre-register, is available through Ontario.ca/OntarioPlace.

As the project continues, Mark Saunders, Special Advisor for Ontario Place, will provide strategic, expert advice to the Premier and Minister MacLeod, and support them in discussions with key collaborators, such as the City of Toronto and Indigenous communities, to make this vision a

reality and to guide collaboration and future development of the Ontario Place and Exhibition Place sites. The ministry is engaging with Indigenous communities and will continue to seek their input and ensure their rights and interests are respected.

"When Ontario Place opened in 1971, it was designed to reflect all that we, as Ontarians, embodied: our heritage, our diversity, our creativity and our future potential. Now, as we move forward with the redevelopment of the site, the people of Ontario have several upcoming opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas for a modern Ontario Place," said Minister MacLeod. "A redeveloped Ontario Place will be a true reflection of our diversity and multiculturalism, and will show respect for the rich traditions, cultures and heritage of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples, while at the same time showcasing Ontario as the world in one province. Ensuring the public has the opportunity to participate in that process is critical for making our vision a reality."

Via news.ontario.ca



Erin O'Toole releases Canada's Recovery Plan



August 16, 2021

Ottawa, ON – Today, the Hon. Erin O'Toole, Leader of Canada's Conservatives, released Canada's Recovery Plan, the Conservative plan to secure the future.

"This election is about who you think can get us out of the recession and rebuild the economy," said O'Toole. "While the Liberals, NDP, Bloc, and Greens have no plan for Canada's recovery after the pandemic, Canada's Conservatives are relentlessly focused on creating jobs, increasing wages, and getting Canada's economy back on track as quickly as possible."

Only Canada's Conservatives, with Canada's Recovery Plan, will get Canada back on track with their plan that will:

- Secure Jobs by recovering the one million jobs lost during the pandemic in one year.
- Secure Accountability by enacting a new anti-corruption law to clean up the mess in Ottawa.
- Secure Mental Health by delivering our Canada Mental Health Action



Plan.

- Secure the Country by building capacity here at home to handle any future pandemic or crisis.
- Secure our Economy by balancing the budget over the next decade.

"In this election, Canadians have just two choices: more of the same with millions of Canadians getting left behind, or a real plan for recovery that will get Canada surging in the right direction and ensure no Canadian is left behind," said O'Toole. "Canada's Recovery Plan will secure the future for all Canadians."

Full platform here: [Canada's Recovery Plan](#)

Green Party of Canada concerned over cancellation of campus voting programs



August 28, 2021

OTTAWA - The Green Party of Canada is concerned that the recent cancellations of campus voting programs will inhibit student and youth participation.

Green Party youth critic Kayne Alleyne-Adams said: "Now, more than ever, our democratic process must foster student voices; instead we are seeing the voting process grow ever-more difficult with the cancellation of Elections Canada campus voting programs. "The effects of the climate crisis are more pronounced than ever before, with fires raging across the country and heat waves taking a serious health toll. COVID-19 is not behind us, with many parts of the country now entering into a fourth wave. Housing prices are continuously rising. Living costs are incredibly

unaffordable. Given that an election was called, despite these crises, we must ensure that Canadian voters are empowered, not inhibited.

"The statements made by Elections Canada, arguing that a major cause for the lack of this programming is 'the minority government situation', only serves to highlight the pragmatic and self-serving nature of this snap election. This patented lack of foresight has fostered a situation which could only be described as voter suppression.

"The Green Party of Canada echoes the calls made by student leaders across the country, and implores Elections Canada to revisit the decision to cancel campus voting programs," said Green Party Leader Annamie Paul.

"As Canadians, we believe in the value of every voice and every voter.

Canada Elections 2021



Team Trudeau delivers a real plan to move Canada forward – for everyone

September 1, 2021

Toronto, Ontario – Today, the Liberal Party of Canada unveiled their plan to move Canada forward – for everyone. Over the past 18 months, Canadians have faced the crisis of a century. They have worn a mask and stayed home to keep each other safe. They have juggled working from home while their kids did virtual school at the same kitchen table. And now, they're rolling up their sleeves to get vaccinated so we can get back to normal. Canadians have been resilient and determined in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and they deserve a real plan that will create jobs, grow the middle class, and build a better path forward. Forward. For Everyone. is that plan, and only the Liberal Party has the team that can finish the fight against COVID-19 and build back a better Canada that leaves no one behind.

"Canadians pulled together in this challenging year. They were there for one another – and so was our Liberal government," said Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. "Now, as more people roll up their sleeves to get vaccinated, Canadians have a choice to make about our future. We either move forward with our real plan to finish the fight against COVID-19 and build a better Canada for everyone, or we let Erin O'Toole's Conservatives take us backward with cuts to services that Canadians rely on. I believe this is our moment to think bigger and bolder. I believe in moving forward – for everyone."

The Liberal platform will continue to get Canadians through the pandemic and build a better Canada for all Canadians. Together we will:

- Finish the fight against COVID-19 by supporting proof-of-vaccination credentials and mandatory vaccines for people travelling on planes and trains;
- Keep Canadians healthy with transformative investments in the strength of our universal, public health care system, in primary care, long term care, and mental health;
- Accelerate climate action by creating new green jobs, cutting pollution in the oil and gas sector, and making our communities cleaner with zero-emission vehicles;
- Make everyone pay their fair share, including big banks and the wealthiest Canadians;
- Create safer communities by toughening our laws on banned assault weapons and supporting prov-

As Greens, we will continue to advocate for electoral reform, to ensure that necessary voting options such as campus voting programs are not held in precarious positions in the future."

Green Party youth critic Clément Badra added: "We often hear from political parties and leaders how unfortunate it is that youth and students don't vote as much as they



inches and territories that implement a ban on handguns;

- Help Canadians find a home of their own by saving first time homebuyers up to \$30,000, helping 1.4 million families find a home, and protecting the rights of Canadians and taking action against speculators;
- Deliver \$10 a day child care and create more childcare spaces in Quebec;
- Build a fairer Canada by fighting systemic racism and discrimination, and combatting hate in all its forms; and
- Walk the shared path of reconciliation by addressing the legacy of colonialism and Residential schools, continuing to work to eliminate all clean long-term drinking water advisories, and taking action to confront systemic racism against Indigenous peoples, including in health care.

"The decisions we make right now matter," said Mr. Trudeau. "For parents like me with a kid in school who's too young to get his shot, it matters if we stand up for vaccines. If you're waiting to see a doctor or nurse, or if your surgery's been delayed by the pandemic, it matters whether we fight for public, universal healthcare. And for our kids and grandkids who will inherit this planet, it matters whether we reduce pollution to get to net zero. But Erin O'Toole can't offer the leadership we need. He can't even get his own candidates vaccinated. We can't go backward. We have to keep moving forward. And together, we have to do the hard work to build a better Canada – for everyone."

Full platform: [Forward for Everyone](#)
[Via liberal.ca](#)

should yet when it's time to make sure the conditions are met to foster youth involvement the easy solutions are not implemented.

"Youth and students are part of the biggest demographic of voters. Not making sure the conditions for voting are easy is unacceptable," concluded Mr. Badra

[Via greenparty.ca](#)



Canada Elections 2021

Ready for Better:

New Democrats' Commitments to You



In every corner of the country, families are worried about jobs, the health of our loved ones, and the public services that everyone counts on. The past 18 months have shown that Canadians can confront any challenge – when we have to, when we choose to, and when we come together. It's also shown us that thanks to the decisions of Liberal and Conservative governments, many of the supports that we rely on just aren't there when we need them. If we want different results, we

need to make different choices. What we need now is the courage to act together. And that is exactly what New Democrats offer to Canadians. Ready for Better is our vision for what we believe is possible. And it is our commitment to the real results that we're going to deliver for Canadians. Full platform: Ready for Better NEW DEMOCRATS' COMMITMENTS TO YOU **Via ndp.ca**

STRONG COMMITMENTS FOR AND BY QUEBECERS!

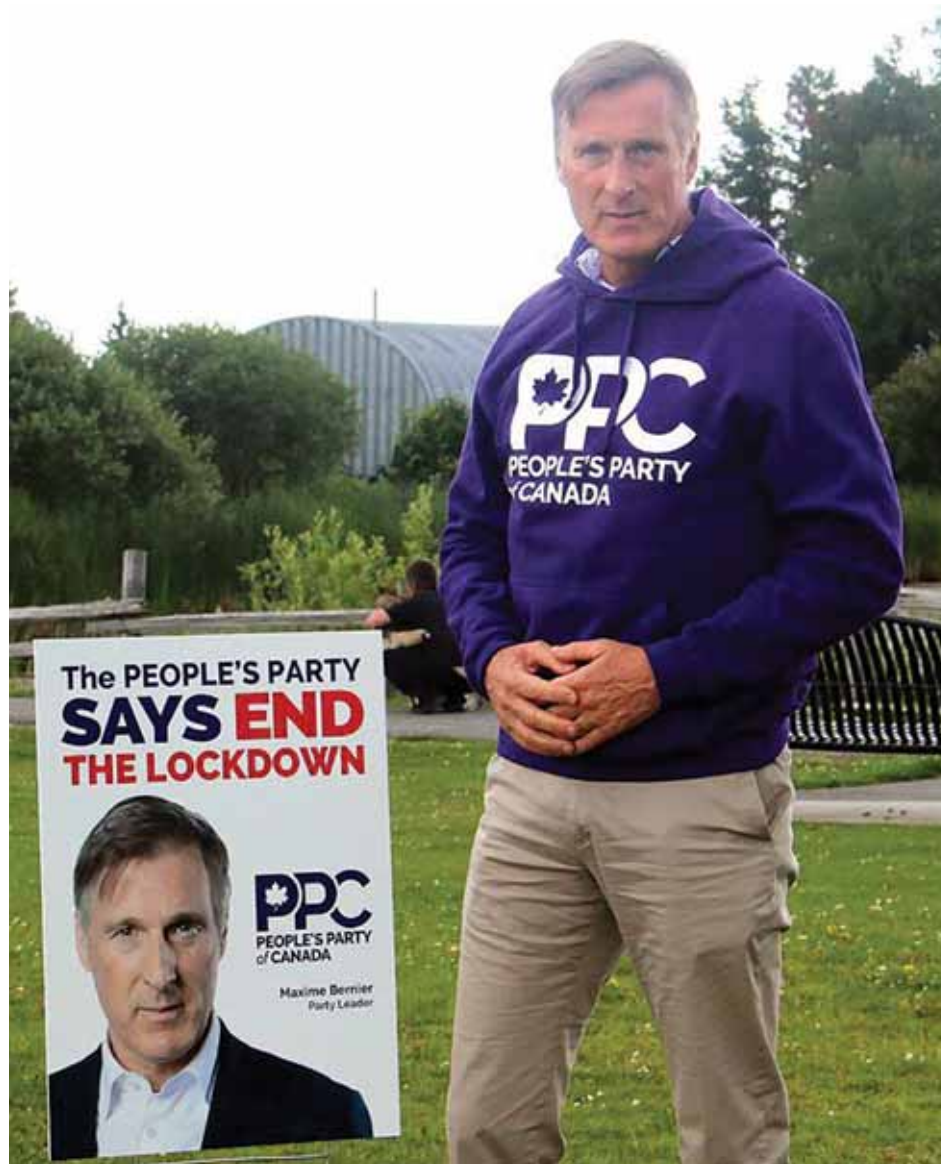
The new electoral platform of the Bloc Québécois has just been adopted on the occasion of the electoral council and we are proud to present it to you! The result of a team effort that involved the leader and candidates of the Bloc as well as its members and supporters, enriched by contact on the ground with Quebecers from all regions and all generations, this platform presents 38 concrete proposals that the Bloc is committed to advancing in Ottawa. Serving Quebecers.

These resolutions aim to end the pandemic as quickly as possible, but also see much further. It's a real program inspired by all we are and all we want. Come see it for yourself! You will see how much Quebec has to gain from voting for the Bloc. Because we are the Bloc Québécois. Full platform: <https://www.blocquebecois.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/blocqc-Plateforme-2021-planche.pdf>



CANADA NEWS

A LEADER FOR BEAUCE



St-Georges-de-Beauce, QUEBEC, August 20, 2021 – The leader of the People's Party of Canada, Maxime Bernier, officially launched his campaign this morning in his riding of Beauce. During a press conference, he asked his fellow citizens to renew the trust they have placed in it for 13 years as a member of Parliament for Beauce.

This is an excerpt from Maxime Bernier's statement, which can be read in its entirety here:

"Have you heard Erin O'Toole take a stand on all of these issues? No, he almost entirely agrees with Trudeau. Have you heard the Beauce Conservative MP Richard Lehoux take a position on these subjects? No, he followed his leader and was completely silent.

I'm the only one who's been talking about all this for 18 months. I am like the typical Beauceron. It doesn't scare me to row against the tide and say what I think, even if the majority

don't agree. The People's Party represents an important and growing current of thought in Canada. We want to bring back common sense. Even without a seat in Parliament, the People's Party has grown, it provokes debates and forces other parties to position themselves. It has become one of the main players in the Canadian political landscape.

Today I say to the Beaucerons: Do you want a silent follower as your MP, or someone who shakes things up? Do you want a leader who will not only represent you with diligence and honesty as he has for 13 years, but also spark crucial democratic debates across Canada?

I am the leader of a federal party. Today, I am asking the Beaucerons to grant me the privilege of being a leader for the Beauce as well."

Full platform: <https://www.peoplespartyofcanada.ca/platformI>





WORLD NEWS

Pragas Gnanapragasam, 26-year-old Tamil journalist, dies from coronavirus

PragasGnanapragasam, a 26-year-old Tamil journalist from Jaffna, passed away due to coronavirus on September 2.

Pragas, a native of Kodikamam, was an independent journalist writing for magazines and newspapers in the North-East. His death comes just one day after he publicly tweeted about contracting the coronavirus. Despite being a muscular dystrophy patient, he remained unvaccinated. Pragas was reportedly told by officials that he was not yet eligible to be vaccinated.

Tributes have been pouring in for Pragas Gnanapragasam on social media.

Meera Srinivasan, correspondent of The Hindu said on Twitter:

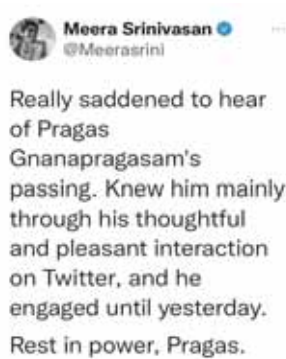
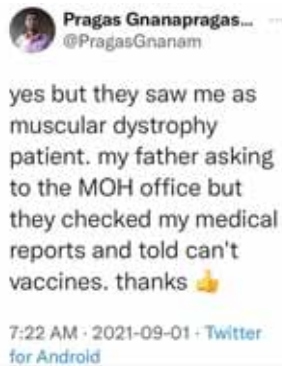
“Really saddened to hear of PragasGnanapragasam’s passing. Knew him mainly through his thoughtful and pleasant interaction on Twitter,



and he engaged until yesterday.

Rest in power, Pragas.”

Reports also said in 2020 PragasGnanapragasam pledged cadaver donation to Medical faculty- University of Jaffna because he wanted to be an impact with change and dedication to humanity.



Sri Lanka declares emergency due to food shortages

Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency over food shortages as private banks are running out of foreign exchange to finance imports and to prevent traders hoarding essential food items.

With the country suffering a hard-hitting economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice and other essential foods.

Rajapaksa has named a top army officer as “Commissioner General of Essential Services to coordinate the supply of paddy, rice, sugar and other consumer goods”.

Shortages of goods including kerosene oil, milk and cooking gas have led to long queues forming outside stores in Sri Lanka. The move followed sharp price rises for sugar, rice, onions, and potatoes, while long queues have formed outside stores because of shortages of milk powder, kerosene oil and cooking gas.

The government has increased penalties for food hoarding, but the shortages come as the country of 21 million battles a fierce coronavirus wave that is claiming more than 200 lives a day.

The economy shrank by a record 3.6 percent in 2020 because of the pandemic and in March last year the

government banned imports of vehicles and other items, including edible oils and turmeric, an essential spice in local cooking, in a bid to save foreign exchange.

Importers still say they have been unable to source dollars to pay for the food and medicines they are allowed to buy.

Two weeks ago, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka increased interest rates in a bid to shore up the local currency.

Sri Lanka’s foreign reserves fell to \$2.8 billion at the end of July, from \$7.5 billion in November 2019 when the government took office and the rupee has lost more than 20 percent of its value against the US dollar in that time, according to bank data.

Energy minister Udaya Gammanpila has appealed to motorists to use fuel sparingly so that the country can use its foreign exchange to buy essential medicines and vaccines.

A presidential aide has warned that fuel rationing may be introduced by the end of the year unless consumption was reduced.

(Source: AFP)

Sunil Perera, one of the stalwarts of Sri Lanka’s baila genre, died on September 4

Along with his band The Gypsies, Sunil Perera wrote and performed songs with catchy tunes and clever words, often about Sri Lankan life and politics

By Ranga Sirilal and Ayeshea Perera

Sunil Perera, one of the stalwarts of Sri Lanka’s baila genre – a memento of Portuguese colonisation – died on September 4, aged 68, his family said.

He is believed to have died of Covid-related complications.

Along with his band The Gypsies, Sunil wrote and performed songs with catchy tunes and clever lyrics, often about Sri Lankan life and politics.

His song Uncle Johnson from 1987 related a hilarious tale of a ruined wedding anniversary party, while Signore focused on the laments of a defeated politician berating his ungrateful voters. Saima Cut Vela gave advice to a hysterical young woman convinced her husband was fatally ill when in fact he was just drunk.

“It was his presence on stage, the character of the man, the rhythms, text and musicality that The Gypsies bring to us that has appealed to many a fan, spanning well over 50+ years,” Rohan de Lannerole, a prominent singer and choral conductor, said of his broad appeal to audiences.

“It’s also adaptability to different audiences. I recall once, how minutes prior to an event, he changed his set list after taking a good look at the audience.”

Sunil Perera was born in 1952 and was one of 10 children.

His father, an ex-soldier, was the original founder of The Gypsies. Sunil later joined along with his brothers, eventually taking over. Together, they released hit after hit, becoming Sri Lanka’s biggest music franchise.

On stage and in his recordings, Sunil was a dynamic figure, full of high energy. Off-stage, he was as vocal, opinionated and colourful, often expressing things that were quite out of character for the industry. Most Sri Lankan artists before him and even after have preferred to keep a low profile outside their music.

He spoke openly about topics like sex – often taboo subjects in conservative Sri Lanka. In one interview, he said: “People come and ask me ‘Do you read any books?’. I say, ‘Yes, I have some books. You might be interested, but the thing is – I read mainly about sex’.”

He was also vocally against Sri Lanka’s current administration, particularly President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa and his brother former President Ma-



hinda Rajapaksa. In 2015, when the family was briefly voted out of power, he said that he feared he would be killed if Mahinda was elected again. He had equally scathing words for the opposition calling both the country’s major political parties the “bane of the country”.

He has also spoken out against high-profile murders – like that of journalist Lasantha Wickramatunga – and criticised political interference against the police.

“Sunil Perera has been honest and truthful when expressing his views and opinions. But it is also evident that his opinions and viewpoints were contradictory from time to time. I guess people change the way they think with their age, experiences and even illnesses. That is acceptable,” said UpulShanthaSannasgala, a social critic and teacher.

“However, in a country like Sri Lanka if a person is not biased towards a particular race, religion or class I have immense respect for that person. I see that quality in Sunil Perera and I respect him for that,” MrSannasgala added.

Tributes have been pouring in for the singer on social media.

Among them was former Sri Lankan cricket captain Kumar Sangakkara who tweeted, “A kind, gentle and generous man who moved us with song and rhythm. Small made but giant in influence and heart”.

- via: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)

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SPECIAL FEATURE

GARY ANANDASANGAREE SEEKS RE-ELECTION FOR THE SCARBOROUGH - ROUGE PARK RIDING

By Siva Sivapragasam

Gary graduated with an Honours degree in Political Science in 1996 from Carleton University and was awarded the Henry Marshall Tory Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the University while attaining a high academic standing. He graduated in 2005 from Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the Bar in Ontario in 2006. Gary ventured on his own, initially as a sole practitioner, and then established Gary Anandasangaree and Associates Professional Corporation.

Throughout his career, Mr. Anandasangaree has been a passionate champion of local businesses and communities in the Scarborough area. He has used his legal work to advocate justice, education and human rights, and has appeared before the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. He was also the President of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC). CTCC is the representative body of the Tamil Business

community in Canada.

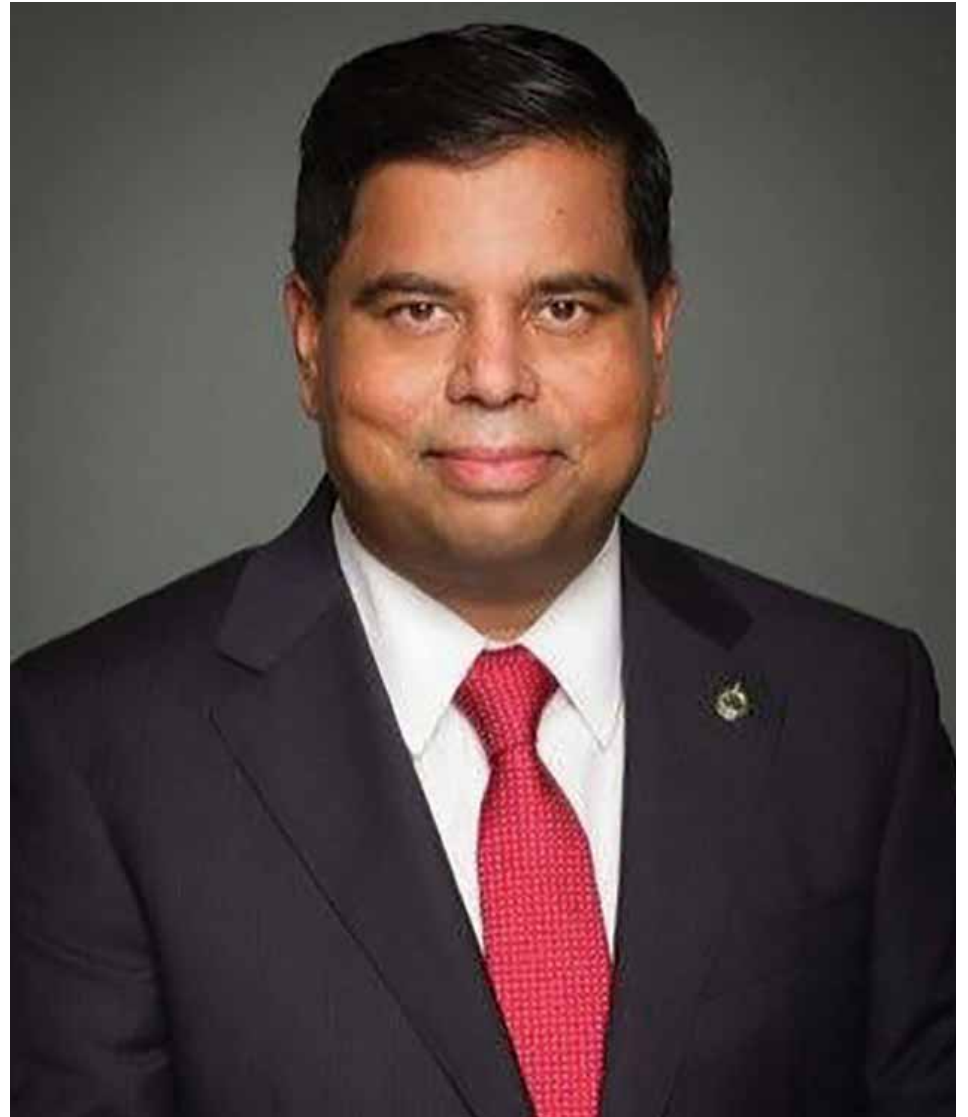
During the past, Gary has worked to bring issues that are of great importance to the Tamil community to the forefront and has worked to find a constructive solution forward. He has during the last twenty years, been a tireless advocate in the areas of youth issues, social justice and human rights.

Gary has also been a Board member of the Youth Challenge Fund, Member of the Police Chief's Advisory Board, member of the United Way Newcomers Grants program and is also past chair of the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre.

Gary is also a firm believer and supporter of youth initiatives to make them become leaders of tomorrow.

Gary is looking forward to receive support from all communities in the riding of Scarborough-Rouge Park at the coming Federal election to build up a strong Liberal vision.

Gary is married to Harini and they have two young girls, Bairavi and Sahanah.



Gary is a Scarborough-based lawyer and social activist who was elected at the last election as an MP for the riding of "Scarborough-Rouge Park."

Gary Anandasangaree is seeking re-election for the Scarborough - Rouge Park riding in the coming Federal election

'Meaningful support for Ontario's vibrant Tamil community'

On July 16th Governments of Canada, Ontario and City of Toronto along with partners announced the investment of over \$35.9 million for the Tamil Community Centre in Scarborough.

Speaking at the event parliamentarian Gary Anandasangaree said:

"Our government continues to invest in Scarborough and provide meaningful support for Ontario's vibrant Tamil community. Local and accessible recreational opportunities are important to personal, family and community health. The Tamil Community Centre will be a new space for members of our Tamil community to connect and be active, and it will also provide much needed recreational and community infrastructure for residents in the community to enjoy for years to come."

He also stated,

"The Tamil Community Centre is a result of generations of advocacy, hopes and aspiration of Tamil-Canadians to have a space that will bring the community together - a space to learn, to showcase, gather and reflect. Today's announcement is a result of all governments working together to

make this space a reality. Generations of Tamil-Canadians, Scarborough residents and Canadians of all backgrounds will be well-served by the centre for generations to come."

In a social media post Gary Anandasangaree said:

"We start a new chapter in the Tamil-Canadian story with the construction of the Tamil Community Centre, a story that originated back in the 1950s.

Thanks to the leadership of the Tamil Community Centre, and all three levels of government in Canada, the community centre has secured over \$26.3 million and land for the site. The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance announced that the Federal Government is investing \$14.3 million in the centre.

Over six decades later, our community has a space where we can teach our language, nurture the culture, support the needs of the community, and provide a safe and inclusive space for all Canadians to remember, reflect, and unify. "



Gary Anandasangaree at the Tamil Community Centre inaugural announcement



City of Brampton recognized as one of Canada's Best Locations to invest by Site Selection Magazine

Sep 03 2021

BRAMPTON, ON (September 3, 2021) – Yesterday, Site Selection Magazine, an internationally circulated business publication covering corporate real estate and economic development, announced its list of Canada's Best Locations, with the City of Brampton landing in the top 20.

With this ranking, the City's Economic Development Office has been recognized by Site Selection Magazine as one of Canada's best locations to invest. The City continues to focus its economic development efforts on the City's key sectors: Innovation and Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Food and Beverage Processing and Health and Life Sciences. In 2020, there was an added emphasis on Business Retention and Expansion as part of the City's FDI Strategy. Brampton is the second fastest-growing city in Canada with a population close to 700,000. With a median age of 36, Brampton's young, educated, and diverse labour force of 320,000 represents over 234 cultures speaking 115 languages.

Investment is a key cornerstone of the City's Economic Recovery Strategy, approved by Brampton City Council in May, 2020. The continued evolution of the City's Innovation District is another key piece of the strategy. The Economic Recovery Strategy aims to bring resiliency and competitive advantage to the Brampton economy, and will help the City move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brampton continues to attract sig-

nificant investment in the city, with the following notable projects being announced recently:

- **Alectra:** in June, Alectra announced its plan for the construction of a brand-new sustainable operations centre located at 200 Kennedy Road South in Brampton.

Within one kilometre of the new location are 78 businesses in the retail sector and 55 in accommodation and food services. In bringing 400 employees to the area – two and a half times the number of jobs at the current site – Alectra will help strengthen Brampton's retail and food businesses in near distance of the operations centre, supporting the city's local economic recovery and growth in the future.

- **Coke Canada Bottling:** In December 2020, Coke Canada Bottling announced new investment of \$12.8 million in the Coke Canada Bottling Brampton facility. This investment will be used to convert existing line manufacturing capabilities to meet the need for more product innovation for consumers.

- **Maple Lodge Farms:** Earlier this year, Maple Lodge Farms announced that they plan to expand their Brampton plant by 250,000 square feet, creating an additional 300 jobs. They also have plans for a new site for the Chicken Shop retail location, creating 100 more jobs.

The full results and more information about the rankings are available here.

Via brampton.ca

Brampton Professional Fire Fighters contribute \$150,000 towards new fire campus memorial

BRAMPTON, ON (September 2, 2021) – Today, the Brampton Professional Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 1068 presented the City of Brampton with a cheque for \$150,000 to contribute to a new memorial that will honour Brampton's fallen firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The association members voted in favour of contributing these funds adding to the \$150,000 already provided by the City, totaling \$300,000 for the art piece.

This memorial will be located at the new Fire Headquarters and Training Centre on Williams Parkway, scheduled for completion in the spring of 2023. The state-of-the-art, centralized facility will be home to Brampton's Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters, Prevention Division, new Fire Station 203, an Emergency Operations Centre, Emergency Measures Office, and indoor and outdoor fire training facilities.

Call for Artists

The City of Brampton invites professional artists and artist-led teams to submit expressions of interest to create a new Brampton Fire and Emergency Services Memorial. Artists must reside in and be legally permitted to work in Canada.

This Call to Artists for Expressions of Interest is the first stage of a two-stage competitive process.

- **Stage One:** A review of expressions of interest by a selection panel of project stakeholders.

- **Stage Two:** Invitations to a shortlist of eligible artists to submit a design proposal. The successful artist will be selected at this stage.

The submission period for stage one will be open from September 2 to October 14, 2021, at 2 pm. For more information and to download the Call to Artists document, visit brampton.ca/publicart

Via brampton.ca

Discover Brampton's Natural Heritage System!

Aug 30 2021

BRAMPTON, ON (August 30, 2021) – Brampton is full of nature for all to explore – but what on Earth is a Natural Heritage System (NHS)? When you visit parks or greenspaces with natural features in Brampton, you are in our city's NHS!

Brampton's NHS is a network of naturalized lands and waters, including woodlands, valleys, wetlands, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and meadows. These features, linked by natural and restored corridors, make up our beautiful city's natural landscape.

The NHS provides benefits and vital services to our community, such as keeping our air and water clean, maintaining biodiversity, reducing flooding, providing recreational opportunities and beautiful places to visit, and absorbing and storing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Discover Brampton's NHS today! Brampton's NHS is widely accessible through trails and parks where you can enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of connecting with nature. Learn more about our NHS and

see a map at www.brampton.ca/NHS.

The Natural Heritage System and Stormwater Survey and the Natural Heritage System Photo Contest are now open! Complete the survey and share your photos of Brampton's NHS and you could win a prize.

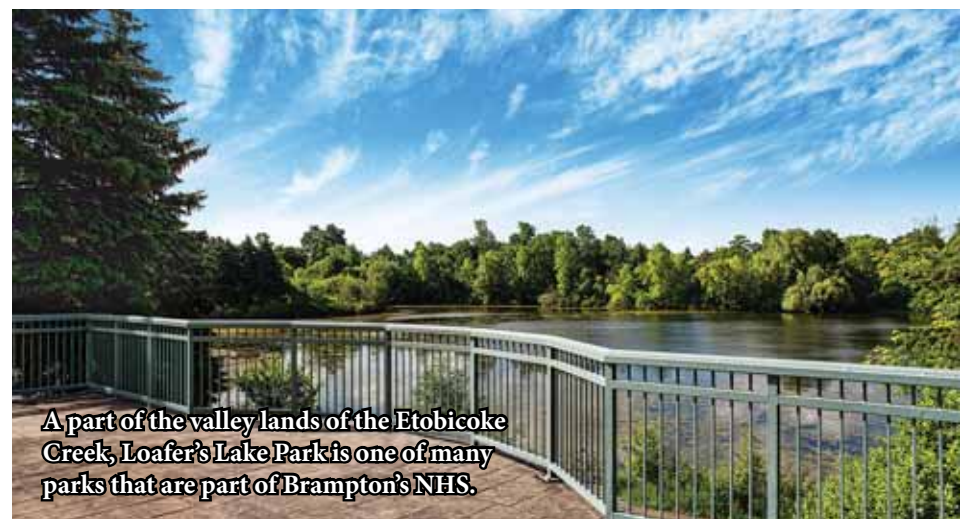
Natural Heritage System and Stormwater Survey

What on earth is a "Natural Heritage System?" Take our brief survey about the City's natural features and stormwater system. Share your experiences with our natural areas and how you think we can improve them. Complete the survey and you will be entered to win a prize! Click here to take the survey.

Natural Heritage System Photo Contest

Share your photos of Brampton's NHS with us for a chance to win a 13-piece BBQ set! Winners will be announced in September. Submit a photo to growgreen@brampton.ca or post to social media using the hashtag #BramptonNHS. Be sure to include your name and photo location. Click here for full contest details.

viabrampton.ca



A part of the valley lands of the Etobicoke Creek, Loafer's Lake Park is one of many parks that are part of Brampton's NHS.



Creditview Sandalwood Park is a part of Brampton's NHS, featuring woodlands and wetlands.



Andrew McCandless Park is another park that is connected to Brampton's NHS, featuring trails along a wetland, naturalized bioswales and stormwater pond.



HEALTH & WELLNESS



5 Questions With... Tobi Odueke

Manager, SHN COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics



Our Scarborough community has been significantly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with our SHN hospitals seeing the second-highest number of cases throughout the province. SHN has also been leading the way in delivering vaccines to our neighbours and has surpassed the 500,000 doses milestone!

We sat down with Tobi Odueke, the Interim Manager of our COVID-19 vaccine clinics, to talk about the challenges and successes of our clinics.

1. You've been the Manager of our COVID-19 vaccine clinics since the beginning of 2021. What was your role prior to this, and how has the shift impacted you?

Prior to the onset of the Vaccine Clinics, I was the Medical Affairs Advisor and oversaw physician recruitment and credentialing in the Medical Administration department. I worked closely with our Professional Staff and Medical Leaders, so working in the vaccine clinics alongside many of them was rewarding.

Being able to shift my focus to the vaccine clinics was a glimmer of hope and reinforced my passion for health care during a difficult time. Taking a step back from the day-to-day office work and be more involved with the hospital operations allowed me to see the bigger picture and see how important inclusive, equitable and accessible health care is for Scarborough.

It was a challenge, of course, not only because I didn't have any clinical experience but because our vaccine clinics exploded in a very short time. We started with a small clinic at the Centenary hospital with about 60 staff & physicians and then it seems overnight we shifted to having 5 clinics, including our mass vaccination clinic at Centennial College. Going from approximately 60 team members to over 1200 in under 2 months is no easy feat!

However, it has been extremely rewarding because we've been able to hire many people who are just starting in their health care careers and are so passionate about helping people. We also saw physicians from all over the GTA coming to help support our vaccination efforts.

2. Our Scarborough vaccine clinics have administered the most doses throughout the city of Toronto. What does this achievement mean for you, your team and the entire Scarborough community?

It's an amazing accomplishment. From the very beginning, we set up a culture of helping the people of Scarborough. Especially because COVID-19 hit Scarborough so much harder than many other neighbourhoods in the GTA, it's the driving force for us to work hard every day to vaccinate our community.

It was a challenge initially because Scarborough wasn't allocated an equitable amount of doses compared to how many people we have here and how much COVID-19 has impacted us. But that didn't deter us – we still dedicated ourselves to our community and used our drive and passion for instilling a culture of resilience in our clinics.

We weren't trying to be the best or thinking about administering the most doses – it just happened organically because we're so committed to getting as many people in our community protected as possible. The achievements were just a bonus!

It shows that when you lead with engagement, instill a sense of purpose and work to protect and support the community, putting patients and their families first – the possibilities are endless. Our team is fantastic, and our culture at the clinics comes from the top down. Our SHN executive leadership has been outstanding and constantly demonstrates their passion for and unwavering dedication to our Scarborough community.

3. Our SHN hospitals saw the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases in Ontario. How important is it to get our Scarborough community vaccinated and ensure equitable access to the vaccine?

First and foremost, we always put our patients and community first. Knowing that the people in Scarborough were most affected in terms of infection rates and hospitalization numbers pushed us to fight for equitable distribution of the vaccine.

Because of several socio-economic factors and determinants of health in Scarborough, COVID-18 highlighted inequities in the health care system as a whole and the community. SHN's leadership recognized this and continuously advocated for more vaccines – fair and equitable distribution.

Even though we had the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases, we weren't getting the second-highest number of vaccines.

With the support of our leadership and advocacy at the city and provincial levels, we've been able to distribute vaccines throughout Scarborough strategically. We started to see a change in how vaccines were distributed and know it was a direct result of our advocacy for our community. It also allowed us to start doing pop-up clinics in multiple Scarborough neighbourhoods and break down barriers to getting vaccinated.

For us to lead the GTA in vaccines, it's changing the narrative that community hospitals aren't at the same levels as the downtown hospitals and that we're not up to the task. We've shown that our hospitals and our resilient Scarborough community can accomplish so much.

4. You've been with SHN for almost seven years. What is your favourite thing about the community we serve, and what makes Scarborough so special?

I grew up in Pickering, but I've worked in Scarborough for most of my professional life and even prior to that. My mom has worked in Scarborough since I was in elementary school, and I spent countless hours at her office during summer breaks, so Scarborough has been my second home for as long as I remember. I love the diversity of Scarborough, many of the families here are 1st generation immigrants like my own. Being able to interact with and learn from people from so many different cultures is what truly makes Scarborough special.

I'm also a foodie – whether it's roti, suya, samosas or Hakka food, you can find anything you want in Scarborough and know it's authentic!

5. There may be some people who are still hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine. What would you tell people to encourage them to get vaccinated?

I would encourage them to reach out and connect with SHN's VaxFacts Clinic. Drs. Latif Murji and Reena Lovinsky have been leading this initiative with some other SHN team members to inform our community and answer any questions about the vaccine.

It's essential to get as much information as you can from reputable sources, especially with kids going back to school in September and with the Delta variant spreading rapidly.

The most powerful tool we have is knowledge, and it's important to think about where your information is coming from. VaxFacts can speak with anyone and everyone in our community, considering cultural sensitivities and multiple languages. Our SHN team members reflect our community, so there's a sense of comfort when you have someone who looks like you or speaks your language to provide information. We're extremely grateful to Tobi and the entire SHN team who have been working tirelessly to get Scarborough vaccinated. To view a list of upcoming pop-up clinics visit ScarbVaccine.ca.

SHN Foundation donor David Maung on why he continues to give back



SHN Foundation donor David Maung on why he continues to give back

When it comes to giving back, SHN Foundation donor and Floors @ Work Founder and CEO David Maung knows it's our duty as citizens.

"I help wherever the needs arise," David tells us. "Helping people is a universal concept and it's our duty as Canadians to give back to our communities."

David came to Canada from Malaysia 31 years ago with his wife and daughter. They didn't know a single soul and had no other family to rely on. So, David got to work building a life for him and his family in Toronto.

"I started Floors @ Work in 2007, and am fortunate that it's become a very successful business," David continues. "So, after I did my share of hard work and I'm comfortable, I thought I should help others."

David has certainly helped others. Since 2019, David has been a dedicated supporter of SHN Foundation. Giving back by not only purchasing and delivering hot meals to our frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, he recently made an incredible gift of \$200,000 help create the new Medical Imaging & Vascular Centre at the General hospital.

David's support of the new Medical Imaging & Vascular Centre will allow our talented health care teams to work collaboratively with modern, state-of-the-art equipment that will improve the patient experience. The new Centre will increase capacity, reduce wait times and provide an accessible, comfortable space for patients and families. To learn more about diagnostic imaging at SHN.

Although David lives and works in Mississauga, he doesn't think giving should be limited to your postal code.

"To me, Canada is one in the same. By helping out one community in Canada, you're helping all of them," says David. "I don't just limit my support to Mississauga, Scarborough or any particular neighbourhood. Especially when it comes to health care, which is something every Canadian depends on."

All of us at SHN Foundation are extremely grateful for generous donors and supporters like David. Donors who recognize that equitable and compassionate health care shouldn't depend on your postal code, and that everyone deserves access to world-class health care.

If you would like to join David and support us, visit SHNFoundation.ca/Donate today.



BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM

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Individual choice and we shouldn't shame people for it.

The issue is that there are many women - and even more men given what I see of child abandonment around me - having children for societal prestige and then abusing them.

Is that what you consider ideal? Kids - especially girls and even adult women in our culture - do not decide what they want when society keeps pushing marriage and children on them continuously.

Advocating for them to have the choice to decide for themselves is what we're doing here.

Some people just don't want children - it's best they become aware of that BEFORE having children.

If you truly cared about the rights and wellbeing of children, you'd see the merit in this.

There are many people in Sri Lanka with mental problems too. They are just not as open about it as in the West.

And they take out their anger

and rage if they can on vulnerable segments of the population - often hapless children behind closed doors.

Why is it of surprise that some people don't like children? It's quite common.

What these people should do is acknowledge it and not parent or work with children. Unfortunately because society makes it taboo, many are parents, teachers, orphanage workers etc etc from where I've seen them massively bully children - but somehow society prefers to keep quiet about that.

I also believe that lessons have to be learnt from the past to have a good future.

We can identify several key things wrong with society right now - that ought to be addressed if future generations are not to suffer.

Absolutely.

And also - in reading back my comments- I don't mean to say people who don't want children are bad.

Quite the opposite but then I got sidetracked into defensiveness.

There are some parents I know who realized too late they didn't want kids but still do a stellar job of raising those kids.

Or people who don't want children of their own, but still work great with children in a professional capacity.

There are many valid reasons for not wanting children. It's an individual choice and we shouldn't shame people for it.

That's the main point of the post.



Gender identity ideology

Seen on twitter:
 "If someone gave me a million pounds to come up with a way to completely destroy women's rights I would not in a million years devise something as perfect as gender identity ideology. In less than a decade we have feminists being fired, arrested, hounded and slurred. Astonishing."
 So true

In the name of trans rights

From Mexico to Japan, women's rights are being railroaded in the name of trans rights.

All the benefits women's rights won for safer spaces for women are being erased.

I've noticed some liberal feminists sharing Gotcha memes of how the people we 'transphobes' fear infiltrating women's spaces are perverts and not actual trans people.

Yeah OK, never thought of that, thank you for correcting our bigoted views. Some of us campaigning for trans rights for years just got up and decided to be transphobes one day and you needed to come along and set us straight.

Now that that's settled, just what are you doing to ensure that perverts don't infiltrate safe sex spaces?

Last I checked you were disabling every safeguard women had put in place to safeguard themselves.



Afflicted in Afghanistan

May all the hopes and dreams of this skipping little girl come true. May all such little girls and others afflicted in Afghanistan yet have space for safety, stability and dreams.

Homes for them

Four tiny puppies dumped WITHIN my boundary wall just now.

Why are people so irresponsible? If they can go to the extent of dumping puppies at animal lovers' homes, they can take the effort to spay the mother dogs?

Why is finding homes for them our responsibility? Why oh why are people like this here?

One puppy is already adopted out to a labourer doing road work outside.

It's not easy to get to my house right now due to the road work directly outside my house - but someone had still taken the trouble.

The labourers said they saw someone ride up on a motorcycle and dump the box inside - they didn't realise quickly enough what was happening.

Now, unless I get CCTV cameras, I suppose this party is going to dump at my place every six months

as their female dog they can't bother to spay, litters. If anyone in Jaffna wants a puppy, please let me know. One male and two females.

I'll take responsibility for spaying the females at 6 months.





SPECIAL FEATURE

CANADA VOTES 2021

Canada Parliamentary Structure & Federal Elections

An in-depth analysis

With the next Federal election scheduled to be held on September 20th, this special feature article has been compiled to provide many useful information regarding the past general elections

by **Raymond Rajabalan**

Canadian Parliamentary Structure is made up of the following,

A) Queen of Canada

The Queen of England is repre-

In the first election held in 1867, Sir John A. Macdonald, the leader of the Conservative Party won a working majority and became the first Prime Minister.



sented in Canada by the Governor General.

The incumbent Governor General is, Her Excellency the Right Honourable. Mary Sharon was appointed on July 06 2021

B) Senate

Members of the Senate are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

C) House of Commons

Members of the House of Commons are chosen by eligible citizens through federal elections.

• Formation of Canada

On March 29, 1867, Queen Victoria signed the British North American Act and in July 1st the same year, it came into effect. A new nation was born, Canada consisting of 3.5 million people and four provinces.

The Original four charter members of Confederation were as follows:

- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Quebec

On the 16th of 1867 this new country was named the Dominion of Canada.



• The Number of General Elections.

The general election to be held on September 20 th, 2021 will be the 44th election within the past 154 years since the formation of Canada.

The growth of the number of Electorates

At the first election after the confederation in 1867, Canada had 181 members in the House of Commons. The number increased to 301 during the Federal elections in 2000. Since then the number was increased to 338 during 2015 October elections.

Province with the most number



of electorates

The Province of Ontario has 121 electorates, which is the largest number for any of the provinces, territories in the whole of Canada. Only the party which obtains the most number of electorates will be able to form the Federal Government.

Electorates with the least geographical and most geographical areas.

Laurie-Sainte-Marie electorate in Quebec has an area of only 9 square kilo meters.

Agnes Macphail of the progressive Party in 1921.

Change in the voting age

In 1970, a newly revised Canada election Act, lowered the voting age and the minimum age to be candidate from 21 years to 18.

Voter Turnout

Voter turnout at the 2004 June Federal election was (60.9%) percent which was the lowest since 1896.

The highest turnout in Canadian history was (79.4%) percent, that was received at the General elections of 1958, when John A Diefenbaker's Government was re-elected.

Closest Results of any Federal election in Canada

One of the closest election results of any federal election in Canada occurred in 1972, when the Liberals led by Pierre Eliot Trudeau won 109 seats and the progressive Conservatives led by Robert Stanefield obtained 107 seats.

Provinces and Territories of Canada

- Province of Ontario
- Province of Quebec
- Western Canada:

4 Provinces and 3 Territories

Four Provinces

British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatoon
Manitoba

North West Territories

West Arctic
Nunavut
Yukon

• Atlantic Canada

New Brunswick
Nova Scotia

The electorate with the largest geographical area in Nunavut. This electorate in the North West Territories region has area of 3,111, 463 square kilometers.

Voting rights for women

In 1918, the franchise at Federal elections was extended to all women of 21 years of age and over. During the following year women became eligible for elections to the House of Commons. The first woman Member elected was



SPECIAL FEATURE



CANADA VOTES 2021

Canada Parliamentary Structure & Federal Elections



Prince Edward Islands.
New Foundland and Labrador

Ontario, Quebec, Western Canada and Atlantic Canada -Facts & Figures

- **Ontario**
Long serving Ontario MP
John Graham Haggard (Conservative) served 41 years from 1872 to 1913.
Youngest Ontario MP
Patrick O'Sullivan (Progressive Conservative) elected 1972 at the age of 20 years.
Ontario's first female MP.
Agnes MacPhail (Progressive United Farmer's of Ontario elected 1921.
Ontario's Prime Ministers
Lester Pearson (Liberal) 1963 to 1968
William Lyon McKenzie King (Liberal) 1921 to 1930, 1935 to 1948.
Sir John A McDonald (Liberal, Conservative) 1867, 1873, 1878, 1891.
Alexander McKenzie (Liberal) 1873 to 1878
- **Quebec**
Longest serving Quebec MP

Wilfred Laurier (Liberal)
Served 45 years from (1874 to 1919)
Youngest Quebec MP
Claude Andre' Lachance (Liberal)
Elected 1974 at the age of 20 years
First female MP of Quebec
Monique Begin (Liberal)
Elected 1972
Quebec Prime Ministers
Paul Martin (Liberal) 2003 to 2005
Jean Chrétien (Liberal) 1993 to 2003
Brian Mulroney (Conservative) 1984 to 1993
Pierre Elliot Trudeau (Liberal) 1968-1979, 1980-1984.
Louis St.Laurent. (Liberal) 1948 to 1957
Wilfred Laurier (Liberal) 1896 to 1911.
Justin Trudeau 2015-2019.2019-2021

- **Western Canada**
Longest serving Western MP
John Diefenbaker (Conservative, Progressive Conservative.)
Served 39 years from 1940 to 1979
Youngest MP from West
Lorne Nostrum (NDP)



Elected 1968 at the age of 22 years.
First Western female MP
Doris Winifred Nielson (Unity Party) Elected 1940
Western Prime Ministers
Kim Campbell (Progressive Conservative) 1993 to 1993.
John Turner (Liberal) 1964 to 1984
Joe Clarke (Progressive Conservative) 1979 to 1980
John Diefenbaker (Progressive Conservative) 1957 to 1963
Stephen Harper (Conservative) 2006 to 2015

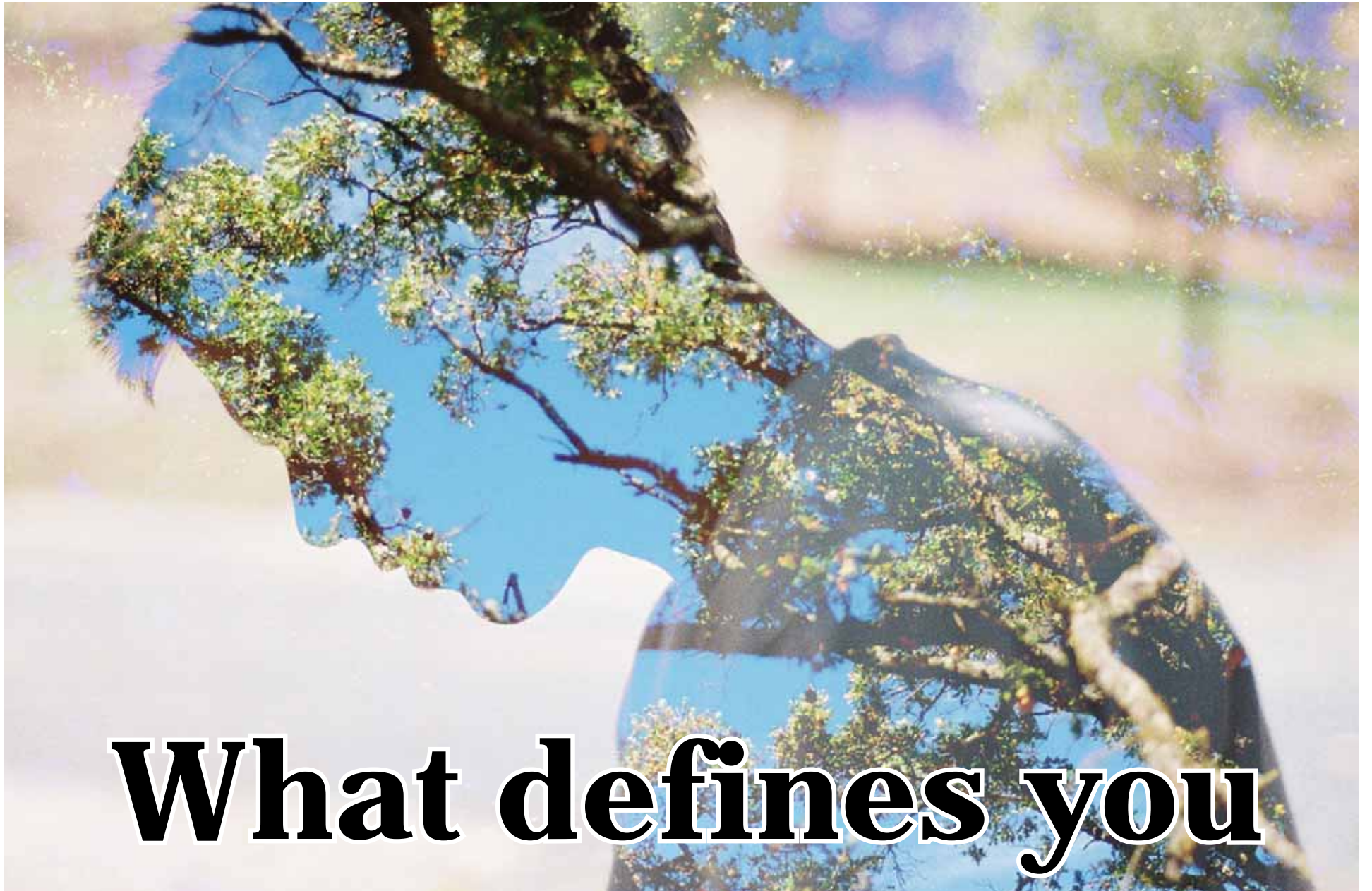
- **Atlantic Canada (Eastern Canada)**
Longest serving Eastern MP

(Liberal, Conservative, Liberal)
John Costigan
Served 40 years from 1867 to 1907
First Eastern Woman MP
Margaret Mary Macdonald (Progressive Conservative)
Elected 1961.
Eastern Prime Ministers
Robert Laird Borden (Conservative, Unionist) 1911 to 1920
Charles Tupper (Conservative). 1896 to 1896

Compiled by:
Raymond Rajabalan



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What defines you

“How focused are you in your existence?” Most of us, we’re all over the place—and you know, “This is important; that’s important, we’ve got to get to this. We’ve got to get to that; we’ve got to do this; we’ve got to do that.” And all the sense of responsibilities that we create for ourselves.

And I have to put this in context. Because what is the context? “There are these three things, these three elements.”

And I know the definition of the infinite—or as I would describe the infinite, because I’m not the only one; there are many, many, many before me, have actually described what that infinite is like.

And one very simple way of looking it—of course, the infinite is beyond description, beyond definition. But most importantly, that that infinite was—is—and will be.

That whenever this universe began and however this universe began, that that energy was there to make this universe. And while this universe is there, that that energy is sustaining it, making things happen. And it is entirely possible that the whole thing might fold. And if it does, that that energy will still be there; it cannot be created; it cannot be destroyed (as Einstein put it).

So, there is this one element you have, or this one thing you have which was, is, and will be. Then there is you. You weren’t—that’s obvious that at one point, we weren’t; I wasn’t. Now I am. And it is also imminent that one day I won’t be.

So, my bit is now, “I wasn’t; I am,

and I won’t be.” Now it comes to this third thing—and this is where everything goes crazy. I mean, the first two, easy enough. Right?

Those who defined the first one, (was, is, and will be), they also defined this third element, this third thing. And it’s this world that we have created. The world that we have created, the systems, the.... Another word for it which you might have heard: “maya, maya, the great illusion, the world” that we have created.

And what they’re saying is, is “It wasn’t”—which is obvious. And here is where it goes nuts—“It isn’t.” And everybody is like, “Yikes, what are you talking about? How can that be? It’s, this is reality.” You know, if you own a Ford, “That that’s reality; that’s my car; that’s a reality. What are you talking about? This house that I live in—is a reality!”

And that’s very, very interesting. And why is it interesting? Because something happens and boof! The house is gone. You know, there are sinkholes and cars disappear. And sinkholes—houses disappear. So, they’re saying, “Wasn’t, isn’t, and won’t be.” That that’s why it is an illusion. It looks like it’s there—but it isn’t.

And so, we’ve created a world for ourselves. In this, we have the technologies, the conveniences—and I’m, you know, I’m not being judgmental about this. I’m just saying “perspective”; it’s perspective. It’s really all about perspective.

If you’re sitting on a flight; you’re sitting in a chair, on the airplane, and the flight is only forty-five min-

utes. Maybe you won’t arrange anything. And well, however it is, you will accept it, because you know that very soon it’s going to be all “climb-climb-climb,” very short cruise, then “descend-descend-descend” and “landing-landing-landing.”

So, there’s no point to, you know, “get this sorted out; put a blanket here; get a pillow here; get a this here; get a that here.” But if the flight is eleven hours long, twelve hours long, thirteen hours long, then you may want to get as comfortable as possible.

So, how is it that we try to “become as comfortable”—because we think, you know, “This all goes on for a really, really long time.”

So, imagine that you are in a forty-five-minute flight, but somewhere in your imagination it’s really a fourteen-hour flight, and so you’re asking for blankets, and you’re asking for pillows, and everybody is trying to bring you those pillows, and you’re trying to make yourself as comfortable as possible....

And you’re like, “Well, this is going to be okay because now I’m really comfortable and,” you know, and you want to know what the food service is going to be, and you’re—you know, it’s almost kind of getting to the edge of excitement.

So, you finally get all comfortable and everything is good—and the plane starts to descend. And you’re like, “Wait a minute; this is all too short!” That vaguely sounds familiar—you know, we finally get everything right, and “everything is this way and everything is that way, and we’re all really nice and comfortable”

and it’s like, “Well, it’s time to go. It’s time to pack up.”

And that’s like, “Well, how can that be?” Oh, and the—you know, and what people say is like, “Oh, that person died way too young.” You want to try it; you want to talk to Death about it? Because this Death doesn’t care if it’s young; it’s old; it’s—whatever! When the time is up, the time is up.

So, anyways, it really becomes very, very important that we pay attention to that one thing that can put this equation right for us. So, and that necessarily doesn’t mean that, just because it isn’t, we can’t extract some good things out of it—we can. This illusion may be very enjoyable: enjoy it! But don’t forget your own vulnerability—and don’t forget the vastness.

You’re going to—who are you going to—in which state are you going to spend the most of your time? If there is most of your time.... I mean, one, if you can be on the side of that infinite, it’ll be forever. You’re on the side of the world? And like some have said, “It wasn’t; it isn’t, and it won’t be.” And everything comes to a grinding halt because of that.

And you’ve got to turn around; you’ve got to look at the reality. You know, people are fine; they’re just like, “Okay, you know, I’m mad at that person and I’m mad at that person,” and sometimes in different situations, truly, we are mad at this; we are mad at that; we’re not happy with this; we’re not happy with that.

Somebody takes our parking spot—and we’re like, “Uuughah!” But there’s the earth; you’re on plan-

SPECIAL FEATURE



et Earth. And it's huge. (For you, it's huge.) So, if somebody takes your parking spot, find another one. It's up to you what you make of it. You can get angry; you can get mad—and what, will that affect anything in your life? No, absolutely none.

And if you did show that generosity to someone—in some positive way, that's going to touch you. That, "Yeah, I did that. And that felt good." That that felt good. And that's what I'm talking about.

So, let me, let me introduce to you that there's this thing—and I came across it, and so I thought it would be appropriate. And it's called "Dunning-Kruger Effect." So, how did this actually start? Well, it started like this. There was a guy—and he wanted to rob a bank. Of course, the problem with robbing a bank—is if you get caught, you're in trouble.

So, he didn't want to be caught—but he still wanted to rob a bank. So he had to figure out, "What is it that I can do to rob a bank and not get caught?" So he had a brilliant epiphany—and his brilliant epiphany was, "If I could be invisible, then nobody will see me doing it and I can get away with it." Then the question, of course, was, "How do you become invisible?"

So he came across this thing where people in the old days used to write sometimes, (when they wanted to send a secret message; they didn't want anybody to see it), they'd write it with lemon juice. And so they wrote a message with lemon juice—and nobody could see it; it would be invisible. And the person who wanted to read it could use, you know, a candle and heat it up and look at it.

So, he was like, "That's it." So, he took lemon juice and he put it all over his face, all over his body. And he just wanted to make sure that that actually worked—so he set up a camera, (his mobile phone camera), and he took a little shot, took a little footage of it—except the camera was pointing in a direction where he wasn't standing.

So when he looked at it, it really confirmed exactly what he wanted to see—which was, he's invisible. He proceeded to go to the bank, and rob the bank. Well, he is even looking at the camera—and flaunting the camera because he knows he's invisible. (In his mind, this is what he believes, that he is invisible. He's not invisible, but he believes he's invisible.)

So, they, of course, looked at the footage and caught him. And when they showed him the footage, he said, "It is fake." Because there's no way this camera could have picked up his reflection—because he was invisible.

Now, I know this is hilarious, right? But then Dunning and Kruger started looking at it and they came up with this, that it's like a—it's a, it's like a cognitive bias—in which people believe they are smarter and more capable than they really are.

So, the way it works is that people

who are in this thing have very little knowledge, and the amount of confidence.... So, if you were to look at one axis—the vertical axis and the horizontal axis, and have a graph—and the bottom is knowledge, and the other axis is confidence, their confidence is really.... As, because they have very little knowledge, their confidence is really high.

So it's a cognitive bias in which people believe that they are smarter and more capable than they really are! And in fact, Charles Darwin once wrote, "Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge."

So, when I came across this, it was like, "Whoa, this is interesting. So, the combination of poor self-awareness and low cognitive ability leads them to overestimate their own capabilities." And I started thinking about this—it's like, "Wow! This is—I mean, not only is it hilarious—but this is really, really dangerous."

So, I just started thinking and thinking and thinking. And I had a really scary thought. And the scary thought that I had was of "This world has been created by people who were incapable, (and still are incapable) of realizing their incompetence—because they have very little knowledge of what they're actually doing.... And we are all going along for the ride."

And it becomes even more imperative that we understand what it means to know yourself. That we understand what it means to live this life consciously. That we actually understand to have this heart full of gratitude.

It's more imperative now than ever before—where it is obvious that, that if somebody says to us, "Okay, you know, just stay in your room. Don't—or in your home; don't go out"—and it drives us crazy. It drives us crazy.

Where there is no recognition of the self; there's no companionship value of the self. There is no mode; there is no way for people to be able to extract companionship just from themselves.

To be in the company of that that was, is, and will be—how wonderful, how beautiful, that that that wasn't, now is, and won't be, is experiencing that which was, is, and will be. Because if that which wasn't, is, and won't be, is only plugged into that that wasn't, isn't and won't be, then that that wasn't, is, and won't be, is wasting his or her time.

So, either side, you have two. And one: nothing—and the other one: forever. And that is your choice—is your choice, how much you extract from this, and how much you extract from this. And to me, somewhere where most of the extracting is happening from that which was, is, and will be—and sufficient extracting happening from that that wasn't, isn't, and won't be.... And this that wasn't, is, and won't be, is filling him or herself to the brim with reality, with simplicity, with

beauty, with contentment, with joy, with understanding—then I think it works—it works! It actually works. But it doesn't work if you miss the point—and the point is a very powerful point.

And these relationships that you have? You have them; now you have them. Will they happen again? No! "So, what does that mean?" Well, it means you get with it, and get with those relationships. Make them count; make them really count. Extract everything you can out of them.

Not be frayed by all these ideas of "Oh, I don't like that in that person; I don't like that in that person."

I mean, this is what I say to people. And I get it all the time; you know, it's like, I've got some people saying, "Oh no, but that person didn't treat me right; that person didn't treat me right; that person didn't treat me right."

And all I can say to you—"My friends, shake it. Just shake it off." It's like these claws that come and just dig into your shoulders—and produce a tremendous amount of pain, tremendous amount of concern, tremendous amount of anguish. And then fear and everything else. But it doesn't need to be like that. It's like a dog—and it comes out from being wet; it just gives it a shake. And back and forth and back and forth, and all that water just goes flying off.

Shake it; shake it off—and look at the reality. Look at the beauty. Look at the understanding. Nothing is simple in this world—but nothing is complicated either. And if something is complicated, it's because we have made it complicated. And if something is simple, then most likely we left it alone—and so it is.

You know, I think about it sometimes, and it's like, I think about a strawberry. I think about wheat growing, or rice growing, or sugarcane growing.

When I was a little boy, we used to have a farm and I used to go there quite frequently—and watch, watch and help out with planting and—and sugarcane is very labor-intensive; so is rice. Because for sugarcane, you know, you throw the little pieces, and then you have to straighten them out so that the sugarcane grows straight and not crooked.

And you look at how complicated this world is. If you want, if you want to go.... If you want a strawberry, I mean, you've got to go to the supermarket; you've got to go down one of the aisles where you can find where the fresh fruits and vegetables are—and then look at the strawberry, and they all look the same. And you, of course, want to get the best one.

But the way strawberries actually come forth has not changed. You need to sow a seed; you need to water them; you need to take care of them. And out of the ground, "Ah, for free?" Yeah, for free, they come up. Same thing with the rice, same

thing with the corn, same thing with wheat, same thing with all the vegetables.

That nature that had been supplying all of that all along is still the grand manufacturer—of that okra, that avocado, that carrot, that onion, that celery.... And it hasn't changed—the trucks that it is transported in, they have changed. And the watch that the Farmer John wears has changed. And now he has his cell phone; he doesn't need to go running to his house to make a phone call. All that has changed. And the flowers that come—that grow in India, grow in Pakistan, grow in Africa, that are brought over in 747s, in cargo airplanes—they're flown so that the freshness can be preserved. All that has changed.

But the way a rose grows has not changed. The way a river flows from a drop—to a drop, to a drop, has not changed. How it is dammed, and what the electricity is used for, perhaps has changed. But the properties of water remain the same. Ten thousand years ago, if you were thirsty, water could quench your thirst. Here we are, twenty-twenty and the water still can quench our thirst.

And you're a human being. You're a human being. It is your existence and your life, your joy, your understanding, your knowledge that defines you—that defines you as a human being.

This is a message—and I don't know how many times this message has echoed in this world, generation after generation after generation after generation. A few, very few pay heed to it. Because most of us are too busy trying to extract something from that which wasn't, isn't, and won't be.

When on the other side of us, very much so in the inside of us, resides that which was, is, and will be—and that's a powerful thing. And why should you do it? Because you weren't; you are, and one day you won't be. Is that sad; is that bad? No, it's neither sad nor is it bad. Be an opportunist and grab as much as you can.

Going around walking on a road, it pays to know what a diamond looks like. Hone in that skill; hone in that skill because someday, someday it may come in use. And that would be certainly your lucky day. Because that is the day you will realize that every day is that diamond; every moment is that diamond; every breath is that diamond. You can do something with it.

One day it won't be. All that will be gone. But it's not about that day. It is about the day you discover yourself. It is about the day you discover joy in your heart. It is about the day you discover that goodness that is inside of you.

So, I hope you stay well, stay healthy.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

ATHIYAMAN AND AVVAIYAR

By: Kumar Punithavel

The word Avvaiyar literally means a respectable woman, was a title given to more than one female poet who had lived at different periods in ancient times in Tamilian world. The earliest was during the Sangam era, which is between 6th Century BCE and 2nd century CE. She is said to have had great cordial friendship with two philanthropic kings, Vel Pari and Athiyaman. It is told King Athiyaman gave her the rare goose berry which is said to be endows immortality! She is credited with composing 59 poems in the Purananooru, an anthology of poems in that era. These poems are the prisms through which we can get a glimpse of the ancient Tamil civilization.

After the demise of the benevolent king Athiyaman, many righteous persons gathered and paid homage to his benevolence. Avvaiyar was very close to Athiyaman and knew his generosity very much. In a poem which is in Purananooru she spells out all his noble qualities in twenty lines. Mentioning many acts of kindness, she expresses her regret that with his death such philanthropy is no more going to happen.

Avvaiyar starts stating that if the king had only a little toddy, he would be magnanimous and give all to others around him. However, if he did have plenty, he would give first to the others, and when they drink it and sing, he would join them and partake of the remainder. These lines point out two things. First, of course, they portray the benevolent heart of the king Athiyaman. Second, two thousand years ago, it was customary to drink toddy in gatherings. Another foot note must be added that it was the custom of Tamil women folk to join in the merriment of drinking toddy and singing. The poet ends each statement lamenting the fact that such generosity is there no more, expressed by a sigh of distress.

*If he had just a little toddy, he would offer it all to us,
If he had an abundance of toddy - never to be again!
He would gladly consume the excess, while we sing
- Oh never to be again!*

சிறிய கள் பெறினே எமக்கு ஈயும் மன்னே,
பெரிய கள் பெறினே
யாம் பாடத் தான் மகிழ்ந்து உண்ணும் மன்னே,

Next, Avvaiyar refers to the food. She states that if the food available were scarce he would gladly give it all for us to eat. And when it is plentiful, he would still serve us first. In sadness she sighs again. These lines hark back to the lines of the couplet # 85 in Thirukkural on the subject of hospitality, implying that the fields of the man who feeds others before himself will flourish even without sowing:

Should his field be sown who first
Feeds the guests and eats the rest?

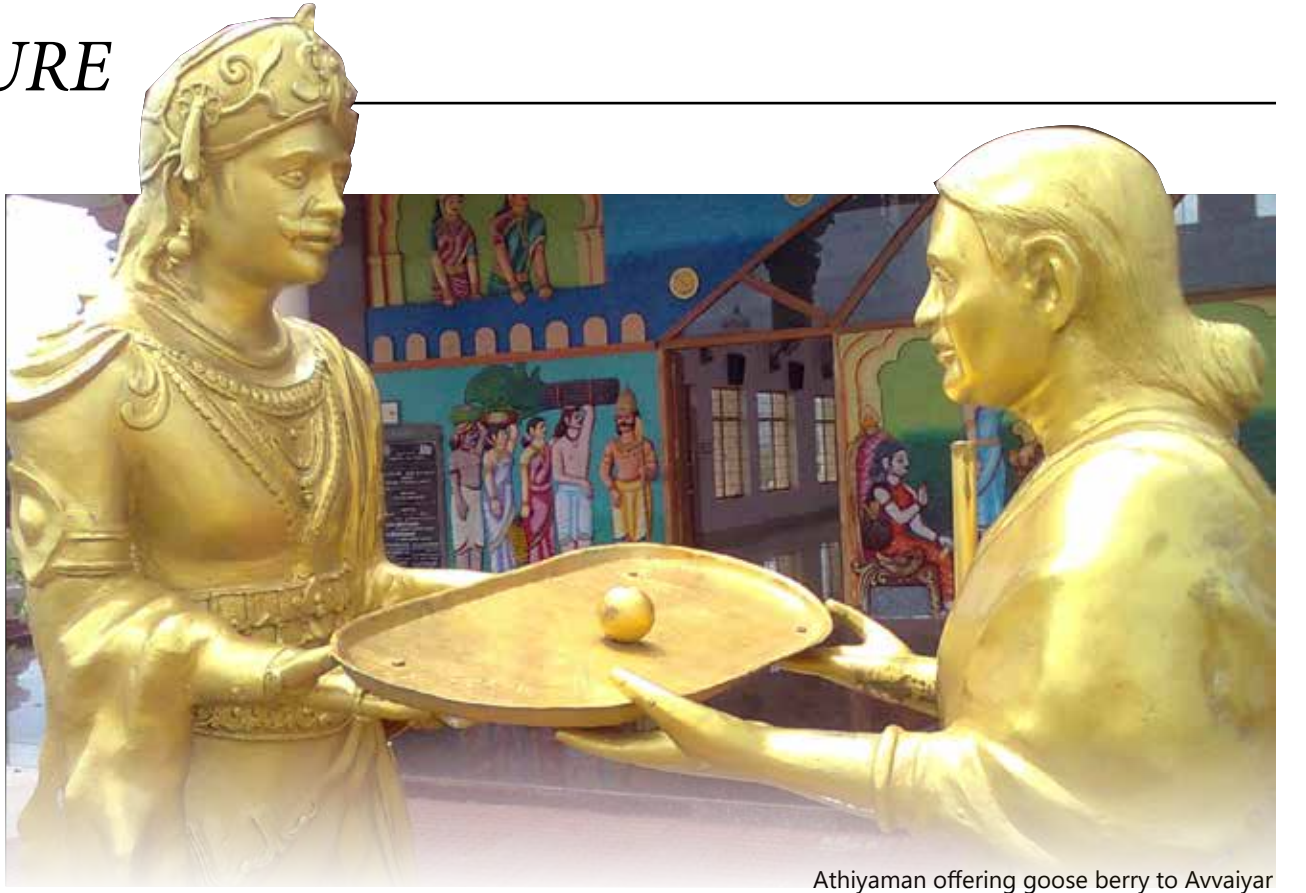
வித்தும் இடல்வேண்டும் கொல்லோ விருந்தோம்பி
மிச்சில் மிசைவான் புலம்

The poet observes that rice being the staple food when the quantity of rice available is small, the King shares it to all, may be in smaller portion, as all need to eat. But if the supply is large, he will give larger portion to all. Thus, she says;

*If rice is scarce, gladly he shares in many bowls - never again.
If rice is plentiful too, he shares in many bowls - never again.*

சிறு சோற்றானும் நனி பல கலத்தன் மன்னே,
பெருஞ் சோற்றானும் நனி பல கலத்தன் மன்னே

The poet next makes an interesting observation, which provides an insight into the type of food that was consumed in the Sangam era. The Tamilian society must have been omnivores. After all, the human race began as hunters, then were gatherers, followed by breeding animal herds, and



Athiyaman offering goose berry to Avvaiyar

thereafter as farmers. Hence in the early days certainly meat eating must have been common. Here too she ends her observation with a cry of sighs.

Serving us all the meat with bones too - never again!

என்பொடு தடிபடு வழி எல்லாம் எமக்கு ஈயும் மன்னே,

Avvaiyar next talks about the gallantry of Athiyaman. He was courageous to face the arrows and lances himself instead of allowing the soldiers to face the brunt. It will never happen again she sighs.

He confronted the arrows and spears in battle - never again!

அம்பொடு வேல் நுழை வழி எல்லாம் தான் நிற்கும்
மன்னே,

Avvaiyar goes on to say that with his orange scented palm he strokes her hair smelling of meat! There won't be any one to stroke her head again, she sighs.

His hands redolent of oranges would stroke my hair

With its odour of meat - never again!

நரந்தம் நாறும் தன் கையால்
புலவு நாறும் என் தலை தைவரும் மன்னே,

In the next few lines, the poet expresses the consequences of the spear that penetrated the heart of the gallant hero Athiyaman. It not only killed the hero, but also pierced many a valuable part of life. As she says.

*It pierced holes through great numbers of bowls of poets,
10*

*Pierced through the hands of those who came in need,
Blurred the vision of dependent kith and kin,
Penetrated the tongue of poets who delved into the
wonderful language of Tamil -*

The lance that pierced his valiant chest.

அருந்தலை இரும் பாணர் அகன் மண்டைத் துளை
உரீஇ, 10

இரப்போர் கையுளும் போகி,
புரப்போர் புன்கண் பாவை சோர,
அம் சொல் நுண் தேர்ச்சிப் புலவர் நாவில்
சென்று வீழ்ந்தன்று, அவன்

Following this, in the last five lines Avvaiyar goes on to list what the future holds by the effects of this cruel killing of the benevolent king. First, she states that the patriarchal protection will be lost. There won't be any poets composing songs or vocalists singing songs in the future. She goes on to mention that there won't be happy damsels adorning Pakandarai garlands and the flowers will go to waste and wither away.

Where is our benevolent patron?

15

*No more minstrels now on,
No benefactor for the singers too,
On cool watered harbour the Pakandarai (Crotalaria) flowers
Unworn, with sweet honey gone,
Wither away without bringing forth more.*

அரு நிறத்து இயங்கிய வேலே! 15

ஆசு ஆசு எந்தை யாண்டு உளன் கொல்லோ?

இனிப் பாடுநரும் இல்லை, பாடுநர்க்கு ஒன்று ஈகுநரும்
இல்லை,

பனித் துறைப் பகன்றை நறைக் கொள் மா மலர்
சூடாது வைகியாங்குப் பிறர்க்கு ஒன்று
ஈயாது வீயும் உயிர்தவப் பலவே. 20

Ancient Sangam Tamil poetry is a treasure chest of pleasure to read and a prism through which one can learn much life in those days. It is there for you to know and enjoy. Let us read the whole poem again.

*If he had just a little toddy, he would offer it all to us,
If he had an abundance of toddy - never to be again!
He would gladly consume the excess, while we sing - Oh
never to be again!*

*If rice is scarce, gladly he shares in many bowls - never again.
If rice is plentiful too, he shares in many bowls - never again.*

*Serving us all the meat with bones too - never again!
He intercepted the arrows and spears in battle, never again!
His hands redolent of oranges would stroke my hair
With its odour of meat - never again!*

*It pierced holes through great numbers of bowls of poets,
10*

*Pierced through the hands of those who came in need,
Blurred the vision of dependent kith and kin,
Penetrated the tongue of poets who delved into the
wonderful language of Tamil -*

*The lance that pierced his valiant chest.
Where is our benevolent pater?*

15

*No more songster now on,
There is no benefactor for the singers too,
On cool watered harbour the Pakandarai (Crotalaria) with
Sweet honey gone unworn, many lives
Wither away without yielding to others.
20*

புறநானூறு 235, பாடியவர்: ஓளவையார்,

பாடப்பட்டோன்: அதியமான் நெடுமான் அஞ்சி, திணை:

பொதுவியல், துறை: கையறு நிலை

சிறிய கள் பெறினே எமக்கு ஈயும் மன்னே,

பெரிய கள் பெறினே

யாம் பாடத் தான் மகிழ்ந்து உண்ணும் மன்னே,

சிறு சோற்றானும் நனி பல கலத்தன் மன்னே,

பெருஞ் சோற்றானும் நனி பல கலத்தன் மன்னே, 5

என்பொடு தடிபடு வழி எல்லாம் எமக்கு ஈயும் மன்னே,

அம்பொடு வேல் நுழை வழி எல்லாம் தான் நிற்கும்

மன்னே,

நரந்தம் நாறும் தன் கையால்

புலவு நாறும் என் தலை தைவரும் மன்னே,

அருந்தலை இரும் பாணர் அகன் மண்டைத் துளை

உரீஇ, 10

இரப்போர் கையுளும் போகி,

புரப்போர் புன்கண் பாவை சோர,

அம் சொல் நுண் தேர்ச்சிப் புலவர் நாவில்

சென்று வீழ்ந்தன்று, அவன்

அரு நிறத்து இயங்கிய வேலே! 15

ஆசு ஆசு எந்தை யாண்டு உளன் கொல்லோ?

இனிப் பாடுநரும் இல்லை, பாடுநர்க்கு ஒன்று ஈகுநரும்

இல்லை,

பனித் துறைப் பகன்றை நறைக் கொள் மா மலர்

சூடாது வைகியாங்குப் பிறர்க்கு ஒன்று

ஈயாது வீயும் உயிர்தவப் பலவே. 20

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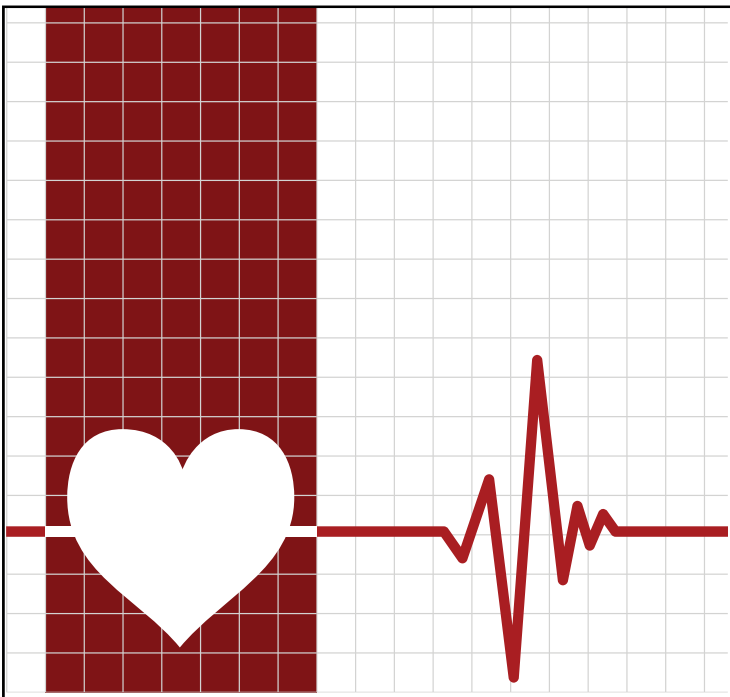
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LOCKDOWN



The Jaffna Town

C. Kamalaharan

The entire country in lockdown
 And all establishments shutdown
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 And per capita income cut down
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 And farming activities slackened down
 When COVID-19 struck down
 All entertainments closed down
 When the country's economy crashed down
 People held responsible for the break down
 Not heeding health authorities crack down
 The common man has been badly let down
 Now when everything turned upside down
 The country's future seems totally down



Fortitude in the face of Adversity



- dailycaring.com

By: J.A. Rajah

*“Idukkan Varunkaal Nakkuka Athanu
Authu uruvathu Ahuthu Oppathu Ill”*

The ability to laugh at adversity is the best of all strategies to overcome it. ‘Wondrous is the spirit of cheerfulness and its power of endurance’-Carlyle. Even if all misfortunes come in a deluge, a wise man may overcome it by the strength of right thinking. Those who are not worried in the least by trouble, will be capable of harassing and overcoming it. Man is born to be the target of misfortune. It is wise to know this and be unperturbed. The one who does not care for pleasure and realize that adversity is life[s] natural concomitant, will face trouble without flinching and with equanimity.

*“Inpathul inpam vilayathan thunpathul,
Thunpam uruthal illam”*

If a man is not excited when enjoying good fortune, he will not be overwhelmed by grief when facing misfortune. Those who find satisfaction in adversity and so sharpen his environment, will invoke the praise even from his enemies. ‘Great men rejoice in adversity, just as brave men triumph in war’.
(Kural: 621-60).



Valluvar's Views



General Workers - who often call at Jaffna Homes



By: J.A. Rajah

The general callers at Jaffna homes made life interesting in those days. Otherwise, life would have been monotonous. In those days, there were no television or telephones. Few people owned radio sets and newspapers are few and far between. It was the interaction with these callers that made life lively and engaging. One need not go out of home to get whatever they need. Most of the things needed were brought home to them.

A. Personal Grooming and Ancillary Needs:-

In those days, barbers come home and cut the hair. We used to put a chair in the backyard and the barber cuts the hair telling all local news. While cutting the hair he will convey all local gossip he had collected while on his rounds. There were no hair-dressing saloons for women. Plaiting hair styles were limited to the house with experienced ladies helping out. There were no laundries. Dhobies used to come home, collect the worn, unclean clothes and bring them back washed and ironed on a monthly basis. We used to call him 'kaddadi' in Tamil and remember him as an ever clean, cheerful person. Incidentally, they sometimes use their home visits in helping to arrange marriages between known parties. Drum beaters show up on new year days just to get some money and special eats called 'palakaram'. They are used during funerals and weddings. The funeral drum-beaters were called 'parayar'. All sorts of beggars come by to get food as well money. Vegetable vendors mainly women come with a variety of vegetables in 'ola' baskets to sell the

much-needed curry source. Fish sellers come with a variety of fish filled in wooden boxes tied on to their bikes. Women also sell fish heaped in big 'ola' baskets called 'kadkam'. In those days there were Chinese men who go from house to house selling clothing. They used to tie the clothing in a big piece of cloth and go round shouting - 'Seelai pudavai'.

B. Religious Activities:-

Church workers come home to pray and talk to the people who attend their churches. They pray for the sick and the suffering and also give moral guidance to their church members. In those days, I could remember Somasunderam Pothagar of the Anglican church visiting us and praying with an invocation lyric: "Theva pitha enthan meyppar allo" (Father God is my Sheppard). CPM brothers and sisters also visit homes to conduct prayers. As a youth I received religious pep talks from two Sinhalese Pentecostal brothers-Bro. Hector de Silva and Bro. Sam Wickremaratne. They were so kind and adoringly graceful. I vividly remember a chorus they taught me. 'And for what the Lord has done for me, has done for me, has done for me, I will praise Him through eternity'.

C. Ancillary Needs:-

The milk man brings milk in bottles on a regular basis. They were always prompt and never failed in their tasks. Coolies or errand workers used to drop in to help with fencing, watering plants or clearing weeds. Carpenters and masons do come in to help with repairs to houses or building new ones. They were specialists and they did their

work with expertise. In those days we had coconut pals in our compound and we get the puckers to climb and pluck them for us periodically. Dried leaves in the compound are swept together and kept for farmers come and buy them to use as fertilisers for their tobacco or vegetable plantations. They come in bullock carts to fetch them. In those days old people used to go about in Rickshaws. My grand-father used the rickshaw to go to the grand-bazaar in Jaffna. Some house owners used to rent their palmyra and coconut trees to toddy tappers. Toddy tappers used to come to compounds to do their work. They tie a pot at the top of the tree to collect the nectar which is sold at toddy booths. Dealers in fruits like jak and mangoes used to come and buy them and trade with them. Jak trees and mango trees are commonly grown in many Jaffna homes.

D. Changing Life-Style:-

Thus, the interactions of the residents with the people who live around them and their associates reflect the life-style of the people in yesteryears. Now there are several changes in the life-style of the Jaffna people. Many of them have relatives who have settled in counties like Canada, Australia, U.K and the U.S. There is a lot money and foreign goods flowing into Jaffna. The Jaffna town is bustling with lot of commercial activity. A large number of them are using vehicles like the motor-bikes and even cars. In spite of the former civil strife and the effects of the pandemic lockdown, Jaffna is changing. Multi storied buildings are coming up. The effects of globalization is evident in Jaffna.



Qualities of a Good Parent

Mithusha Partheepan

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Being a good parent is not as simple as perfecting a math question. Good parenting takes time and patience, and is not a quality that can be developed overnight. People often think that to be a good parent is to provide their children with basic necessities and increased opportunities in life, but many adolescents would disagree. Most adolescents associate good parenting with love, care, and strong morals that are passed down. There are three qualities that are vital to good parenting. These qualities are effective communication, supportiveness, and being a good role model. Teenagers and children are more willing to let good parents be involved in their daily activities. Good parents are entrusted to listen to their child's problems and struggles that they are experiencing.

Communication is a skill that is used daily by everyone, everywhere. It is important that a parent has effective communication with their child. Effective communication will build a stronger bond between child and parent. It creates understanding and trust. When a parent and child have a healthy conversation without the presence of yelling and judgment, it ensures the child that talking to their parent is a safe outlet for sharing their daily struggles and development. Some may find that effective communication is a more helpful way to resolve behavior problems occurring at home or school. This is why effective communication is crucial to establishing a healthy relationship between parent and child. Being a supportive parent is known to motivate children to perform their best at school, both academically and with extracurricular activities. It is another quality that good parents possess. It is important for parents to support their children in their passions, hobbies, and aspirations, and to continue encouraging them even when they are not successful. Some ways to show support are to attend their child's events and cheer them on, or appreciate their art on display at a local



fair. It is important for parents to be motivated to try new activities outside of their comfort zone to expand their skills, as well as continue to strive for improvement to better their self for their child. As a parent, it is crucial to ensure that your child is happy and doing the best they can.

Young teens need strong role models as this is the age where they are the most impressionable. Parents need to set a good example by possessing good character traits such as honesty, kindness, responsibility, and confidence. Children are largely influenced by adults' actions, absorbing and copying everything they do and say. As such, adults must behave appropriately in front of children, especially their own. Discipline is a big responsibility for parents to enact as it impacts how their child will behave throughout their life. It is important for parents to teach basic manners and ensure that it is ingrained in their lifestyle.

Good parenting is a lot of work because there is a monumental effort that goes into making sure that the three most important qualities of good parenting are present. The three qualities are proper communication, supportiveness, and being a good role model. It is also important to ensure your child's happiness. Additionally,

parents need to provide basic necessities as well. Good parenting takes time to learn.

There will be a lot of trial and error before parents find out what works best in their households.



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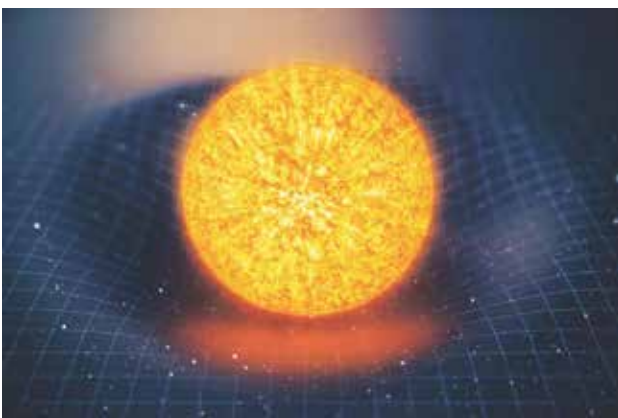
Stephen Hawking is No More but Remains One of the Greatest Minds in Science

By OUE Research Institute



Stephen Hawking received his Ph.D. in 1966. Despite being diagnosed with motor neuron disease at 21, he was able to handwrite that “this dissertation is my original work.” and completed it when he was 24 yrs old. In October 2017, Stephen Hawking allowed his Ph.D. thesis (Properties of Expanding Universes) to be available online through the Cambridge university portal. It was downloaded nearly 50,000 times in the first 24 hours. Therefore, the website crashed immediately under heavy traffic.

Space and Time

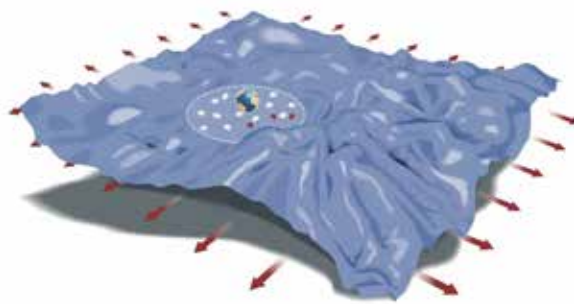


Hawking’s Ph.D. thesis links to Albert Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity. The more precise theory of gravity succeeded Isaac Newton’s original ideas. Newton said gravity was a pull between two objects. Einstein said that gravity results from massive objects warping the fabric of space and time around them. According to Einstein, Earth orbits the sun because we are caught in the depression our star makes in space-time. The sun’s mass bends space-time, binding us to our orbit around it. Hawking applies the mathematics of general relativity to models of the birth of our universe. The earliest cosmologies had our universe as a static entity that had existed forever. This idea was so ingrained that when Einstein’s original calculations suggested a static universe was unbelievable, he added a “cosmological constant” to the math to keep the universe stationary. He would later reportedly call it his “greatest mistake.”

Our Expanding Universe

Things began to improve when Edwin Hubble made an important discovery. Hawking writes: “the discovery of the recession of the galaxies by Hubble led to the abandonment of static models in favor of ones in which we are expanding.” Edwin Hubble introduced the idea of an expanding universe in 1929. Some scientists seized the concept of an expanding universe to argue that the universe must

have had a beginning called Big Bang. Hawking spends chapter one of his thesis taking down the basis, formally encapsulated in the Hoyle-Narlikar theory model. Hawking regrets that although the General Theory of Relativity is influential, it allows for many different solutions to its equations. Which means many different models can be consistent with it. He says that’s “one of the weaknesses of the Einstein theory.” The famous physicist then shows that a requirement of Hoyle-Narlikar’s theory appears to “exclude those models that seem to agree to the actual universe.” In short, the Steady State Model fails to match observation.



Gravitational Waves

Gravitational waves do not disappear, and it from colliding neutron stars that were detected on Earth in October 2017. Hawking was wrong on galaxies, and he was right on gravitational waves. The ripples in the framework of space-time that move outwards through the universe. Einstein predicted them when he first devised his Theory of General Relativity back in 1915, and in Hawking’s time were also known as gravitational radiation. Hawking uses Einstein’s equations to show that gravitational waves are not absorbed by matter in the universe as they travel through it, assuming the universe is primarily made of dust. Hawking says that “gravitational radiation behaves much like other radiation like light.” It would take physicists until September 2015 to detect gravitational waves for the first time using the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

The Universe is Flat

The Milky Way can be seen on a clear night. Hawking then links the idea of open and closed universes to Cauchy surfaces, named after the French mathematician and physicist Augustin-Louis Cauchy (1789—1857). A Cauchy character is a slice through space-time, the equivalent of an instant of time. All points on the surface are connected in time. A path along a Cauchy surface cannot see you revisit a previous moment. In Hawking’s own words: “A Cauchy surface will be taken to mean a complete, connected space-like surface that intersects every time-like and null line once and once only.” He then says that closed universes are known as “compact” Cauchy surfaces and open universes as “non-compact” ones. The former example is said to have “positive” curvature, the latter “negative” curvature.



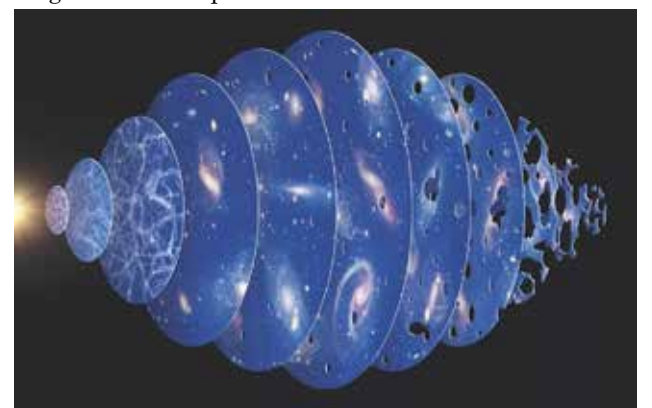
A flat universe has zero curvature. Modern astronomers believe the universe is flat, meaning it is zero curvature satisfies Hawking’s conditions.

Hawking Drops a Bombshell

Hawking believes that the universe begins and ends at a single point. Most of the early chapters of Hawking’s thesis are unremarkable — they don’t offer anything particularly revolutionary, and he even gets a few things wrong. However,



in his final chapter, the physicist drops a bombshell that will make his name and ignite a stellar career, during which he will become one of the most famous scientists on the planet. He says that space-time can begin and end at a singularity, and what’s more, he can prove it. A singularity is an infinitely small and infinitely dense point. It has zero sizes, and space and time both end (or begin) at a singularity. They had been predicted for decades, mainly when physicists started to apply Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity to the picture of an expanding universe. If the universe is expanding than today, it was smaller yesterday. Keep working back, and you find all matter in the universe condensed into a tiny, hot point — the moment of creation, a Big Bang. But how do you prove that you can indeed get singularities in space-time?



Hawking’s proof the Big Bang

Hawking’s proof leans on an ancient method for proving a mathematical theory: Proof by contradiction. First, you assume the thing you are trying to prove isn’t true, then show that the resulting conclusions are demonstrably false. Hawking’s most important section begins with the words “assume that space-time is singularity-free.” they then follow some very complicated maths to show that such a universe would be simultaneously open and closed — compact and non-compact at the same time. “This is a contradiction,” Hawking said. “Thus, the assumption that space-time is non-singular must be false.” Hawking had proven that space-time could begin as a singularity in one jump — that space and time in our universe could have had an origin. The Big Bang theory had just received a significant shot in the arm. Hawking started to write his Ph.D. in October 1965, just 17 months after discovering the Cosmic Microwave Background— the excess energy from the Big Bang. Together, these discoveries buried the Steady State Model.



Estate Planning Strategies

- The basics and beyond

David Joseph, M.A.(Economics), CFP®, CLU

None of us likes to think about our end of days, but we should if we want our legacy to be passed on as we wish, to ensure our family is protected, and to limit the taxes levied against our estate. Good financial planning must include providing for your loved ones and ensuring they are taken care of after your death. It should also include taking the right steps to ensure that your wishes for your finances and medical treatment will be respected even if you become incapacitated. That's why estate planning is so important.

The basics:

A Will is the foundation of any estate plan. It designates how your estate should be distributed according to your documented wishes. If you die without a will (i.e. intestate), provincial legislation will determine how your estate is distributed amongst your heirs, which may not be consistent with your intentions. Suitable arrangements for minor children and other dependents could be made in a Will and in particular guardians could be named for them. Having a properly drafted will minimizes delays, costs and the complexities of passing on your estate. It reduces taxes to the extent possible, in some cases by creating Testamentary trusts for beneficiaries who are in higher tax brackets.

It is not absolutely necessary to have a lawyer prepare your Will, but it is highly recommended. You should also create a Living Will and a Power of Attorney that designates person(s) of your choice to make financial and health related decisions on your behalf should you become too ill to do so on your own. Generally speaking the purchase of Will kits and Power of Attorney kits at various retail stores or on line is NOT recommended, as it is easy to make mistakes. A holograph Will is one prepared by you in your own handwriting and signed by you without witnesses. Such a Will can raise many problems and should be avoided except in an emergency. The bottom line: When it comes to Wills, professional advice is well worth the cost.

Beyond basics:

Probate or not? Probate is the process by which your will is validated by a court with fees paid to your provincial government usually calculated on the net fair market value of the assets in your estate. Although reducing probate fees may be desirable, avoiding probate through the use of strategies such as beneficiary designations and joint ownerships can lead to other problems.

Set up a trust: A trust specifies a trustee who will manage the assets

so long as the assets are held by the trust. Although it is possible to set up a trust during your lifetime, most people set up trusts in their Wills. A trust set up in your Will is known as a Testamentary trust, and it can serve several purposes, including maintaining control over the assets until certain beneficiaries are mature enough to manage them, and providing certain tax benefits to high income beneficiaries.

You should review and revise your Will when:

- your marital status has changed;
- there has been a major tax change;
- birth of a child;
- a beneficiary dies or becomes disabled;
- your business succession plan has changed;
- you move to a different province, territory or country;
- your financial position changes significantly;

- you want to change your Executor(s) or Guardian (s)

Your personal estate plan strategies depend on your financial situation and the rules in your province. Wills become more complex if you own a business, are in a blended family, want to set up trust, have specific bequest objectives, or want to structure your assets to minimize taxes and probate fees. A qualified financial advisor and lawyer can help ensure your legacy is left as you wish while limiting probate costs and taxes.

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Can I get OSAP While in Bankruptcy or Consumer Proposal?



It is very common for people that when they filled a bankruptcy or consumer proposal. That many people have filled the bankruptcy and after that, return to finish their studies. If a person when files a bankruptcy or consumer proposal and getting funding through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Then they have to provide some additional details in order to apply for the OSAP scholarship. So, there is nothing such case that stops anyone from applying OSAP scholarship. After filling the bankruptcy or consumer proposal, they just need to provide additional details for the purpose of application review process.

And if a person doesn't provide the additional details, then their application will be considered incomplete. No further actions will be taken on that application. So, it is better to fill out all the application form

very carefully and provide all the necessary documents with it. And also, the additional details of filing the bankruptcy or consumer proposal. In order to get the loan. Only those applications will be considered whose applications are complete and provided all the necessary documents.

The situation is an important thing in the approval of the loan

The situation plays a vital role in the approval of the loan. The committee will decide the students of whom they want to give the loan. And the basic thing is first they will look for a complete application. And after that they will look up to the situation of the student. So, if the student is applying for the first time then their chances are high that they will get the loan. And if someone has some default loans which are not being paid. Then the chances are

less of getting the loan.

Provide all the documents about bankruptcy or consumer proposal

It is a very important thing in order to get the loan approved. And in section 610, the application asks the applicant that "Have you ever filed for bankruptcy or initiated a relevant event?" so, it becomes important for all the students to mention it correctly. And if the answer is yes then enclosing all the documents with it needed.

Take the help of professionals

Many companies in the market can help students in such cases. Just ask for their help, and they will give the best advice on such topics, and get relief from such problems are prevailing.

In case of you have credit or debt issues
 visit www.gtacredit.com
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COMMUNITY WATCH

Appointments

Professor Nishan Canagarajah of Sri Lankan origin appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester

The University of Leicester has appointed Professor Nishan Canagarajah as the new Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Nishan Canagarajah is joining from the University of Bristol where he has been serving as research and enterprise pro-vice chancellor. He will take up the new post in November.

Prof Canagarajah had been chosen from a field of strong candidates following a very competitive recruitment process.

Sri Lankan-born Prof Canagarajah has worked at Bristol since 1993 becoming professor of multimedia signal processing in 2004. Prof Canagarajah said: "I am both honoured and delighted to take up this role at the University of Leicester."



Daisy Veerasingham of Sri Lankan descent named CEO of Associated Press

Daisy Veerasingham has been named the new president and CEO of the well-known news organization Associated Press. The appointment is history-making since Veerasingham will be the first woman, first person of color and first international citizen to lead the organization.

Veerasingham, a 51-year-old first-generation British national of Sri Lankan descent, has been with The Associated Press for 17 years. She will succeed retiring AP president and CEO Gary Pruitt and will start on Jan. 1, 2022. She joined AP in 2004 as sales director for AP Television News in London, later becoming vice president of sales for Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Australia.



Aroshi Nanayakkara Rotary Club of Colombo's new President

Rotary Club of Colombo's new President is Aroshi Nanayakkara.

Founded in 1929, making it the oldest and the largest Rotary Club in Sri Lanka, the Rotary Club of Colombo held a virtual installation to induct its 93rd club president, Rtn. Aroshi Nanayakkara.

Aroshi Nanayakkara is the CEO of the Global Consulting Company and an Independent Non-Executive Director, Sampath Bank PLC, Asian Hotels & Properties PLC (John Keells Group), Hela Clothing (Pvt) Ltd, Foundation Garments (Pvt) Ltd, Vice Chairman & Board Director, Sri Lanka Institute of Directors and Chairperson, Women Director's Forum. Aroshi has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Colombo for over 25 years and has held the post of Hony. Secretary.



K.E.D Sumanasiri appointed General Manager of Bank of Ceylon

K.E. D Sumanasiri has assumed duties as the General Manager of Bank of Ceylon, (BoC). Sumanasiri assumed duties as the General Manager of the bank commencing from 16th August 2021. Sumanasiri who joined the bank in 1990 rose in the different grades as a career banker and has been a Deputy General Manager. His experience and industry acumen as a banker range across many key areas of banking

After his Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Degree in Business Administration from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ) Sri Lanka, Sumanasiri persevered in his efforts to be an effective professional banker gaining the Associate Membership of the Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka and the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management Sri Lanka.



Quotable Quotes - 2021

By: Siva Sivapragasam

“They said it”



“From climate disasters to political crisis and a still - raging pandemic, America is in flames - and some want to let it burn.”

- Edward Keenan, Toronto Star Washington Bureau Chief



“Canada has no plans to recognize the Taliban as the Government of Afghanistan”

- Canadian Premier Justin Trudeau



“COVID 19 numbers are on the rise again. They threaten fourth wave of sickness, death, lockdowns and layoffs. They have already begun to dampen hopes of a long-awaited economic recovery”

- David Olive, Toronto Star columnist



“We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay”

- US President Joe Biden after attack on Kabul Airport



“The Taliban have no more capacity to control such a vast country, with its multiple ethnic and religious factions, its tribal divisions, its warlords, than did the coalition”

- Rosie Dimano, Toronto Star columnist



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Welcome to our recipe corner! We sisters will entice you with recipes that we have fallen in love with and teach you a little Tamil along the way, as all the ingredients will have their Tamil names. Both of us love to cook and we have developed very different styles. Niranjini has a very refined palate and cooks more contemporary world cuisine with an Asian touch. Rajini is a seasoned homemaker who loves making traditional dishes for her friends and family. Follow us on Instagram: @ninjaeatsfood and @tamil_food
Eat more, learn more!

Sisters Niranjini Mandalia and Rajini Nathan are both food enthusiasts from England. Niranjini, who lives in London, has a degree in Human Biology and is a trained chef. She makes it her business to know everything about what she eats, from nutritional value to source producers. Follow her food obsession on Instagram @ninjaeatsfood. Rajini, lives in Toronto and has a background in psychology. Her speciality is in Tamil food from around the world, catch up on her meal ideas on Instagram @tamil_food.

Inippu ragi kanji

Ragi, otherwise known as finger millet, is an ancient wholegrain which has seen a resurgence in popularity recently. It is easy to grow and has a plethora of amazing nutritional benefits, including being one of the best non-dairy sources of calcium, helping the control of diabetes and being an excellent source of natural iron. This recipe is a simple way to incorporate ragi into your life.

Ingredients:

- ✓ 3 tbsp ragi flour
- ✓ 2 tbsp ghee
- ✓ 1 tbsp honey
(or substitute for any amount of your desired sweetener, to your taste)
- ✓ 1-2 cups hot water (dependent on the consistency you prefer)
- ✓ Pinch of cardamom powder
- ✓ Pinch of dry ginger powder
- ✓ Optional:
- ✓ Sliced nuts

Method:

On medium heat, add ghee to a saucepan. Add in ragi flour and whisk until well incorporated and bubble for around 3 minutes. Whisk in the hot water, a little at a time, until it has the consistency you prefer. Turn off the heat, then add cardamom powder and dry ginger powder. Mix well, serve in a bowl and top with honey/your choice of sweetener and sliced nuts, if using.

Try making this recipe this month and hashtag #monsoonjournal on Instagram and send us your pics, comments and feedback. Spread the love (and recipe!)



At the Monsoon Kitchen,
Samayal Santhai

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world welcome 😊

To apply kindly send in the title of your
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Mrs. Buvaneswary Thuraisamy

1939 May 02 - 2021 Sep 01

It gives immense pain to think of our friend **Muralee's mother, Mrs. Buvaneswary Thuraisamy** passing away at home in Colombo early this morning, September 1, 2021 with her son Muralee by her side.

Thuraisamy Muraleekaran is our classmate from D.S.Senanayake College. We remember the days like it were yesterday when the "Dorai Sons" siblings were dropped off and picked up at school. "Dorai Sons" is the establishment of Muralee's paternal roots; established and elevated to esteemed presence in Badulla and Pettah by Muralee's father, late Mr. Sinnathamby Thuraisamy.

Sympathies and condolences are in order to all of them, but particularly to Muralee who has been at his mother's side continuously over the past quarter century or so. Apart from everyday life in Colombo, the most loved aspect of Amma is her traveling all across Sri Lanka with Muralee. Since Amma returned to reside in Sri Lanka from overseas, Muralee spent extensive periods of time with Amma sightseeing, in ancestral North, and pilgrimaging to temples in the North, South, East, and West of Sri Lanka.

She looked forward to traveling to the Murugan abodes at Nallur in the North and Kathirgamam in the South.

Though I have not met Muralee's Amma directly, Muralee dispenses the regnant values of both his parents. The matriarch of the "Dorai sons" family has given her son Muralee not only a will of steadfast adherence to traditions for him to follow, but also a charisma to share and guide others to delve in them for their own purposes and enrichment.

As a resilient entrepreneur in the foot steps of his father, Muralee always couples those parental values. Muralee, the holder of generationally passed traditions and commerce, set sail in an environment of piety, which can be felt by anyone who interacts with him.

As his Amma reaches the lotus feet of the divine, wishes are in abundance to Muralee to stay strong in withstanding this unbearable loss.



- by K. Thirukumaran



OBITUARY



Mr. Daventhiran Jesudason

Mr. Daventhiran James Jesudason recently passed away at his family residence in Wallington.

He was husband to Rose Pathmini Jesudason, father of Christine Leonard, and Christy Jesudason.

He was brother to Mr John Atputharajah and the late Mrs Savithiri Ethirveerasingam.

The funeral is scheduled for Monday 6th September at 10:30am at

St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Northey Avenue, Cheam, Sutton SM2 7HF.

With a lunch to follow at 12:30pm in The Grange restaurant in,

Beddington Park, London Road, Wallington SM6 7BT.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate Mr. Daventhiran Jesudason's life.

We request if you are planning to give flowers then please give a donation instead.

This money will be donated to the Vanni Hope Charity, that helps underprivileged Tamil communities in Sri Lanka. We have set up a 'gofundme' page that you can donate to.

The link is <https://gofund.me/764bb37f>

Liberty, Equality and Fraternity



By: J A Rajah

In the warrior's grave, the emblems stand,
Displaying details of freedom fighters,
Who gave up their lives,
For their people's rights,
They went through,
Times of continuous struggles;
Their burning desire,
Were the language rights for their people,
Who were denied high positions in government;
The brave young men took up the cause,
Of minorities following the methods of Che Guevara;
They fought the good fight,
And now resting in their graves,
At Kopay with glory and fame.



Mrs. Jeeva Rasadurai

(Jeeva)

(1944 - 2021 Aug 20th)



I NEVER SAID GOOD-BYE

I never got the chance to say I love you,
I never got the chance to say I'll miss you
Nobody told me that you were going to die,
It hurts, I never said **Good-Bye**

Where are you now, please talk to me,
Show yourself and let me see.
I know that can't happen no matter how much I try,
All I wanted to do is say **Good-Bye**

I hope that you are happy wherever you are,
I have you in my heart no matter how far.
To the heavens above, I wish I could fly,
Only to give you a warm **Good-Bye**.

I will remember you each day that I live,
You were such a good person with so much to give.
Such a privilege to have known you, no one can deny,
I think it might be time to say **Good-Bye**.

I will keep with me the good times that we shared,
I want you to know just how much I really cared.
Till we meet again, on God we must rely,
I love you, I miss you and for now, **Good-Bye**.

By - Rasadurai Surendran
Editor Info-graphics (Freelance)
(Colombo, SL)

“ தன் உடலில் சுமந்து உயிரை பகிர்ந்து
உருவம் தந்தாய் நீயே.....
விண்ணை படைத்தான் மண்ணை படைத்தான்
காற்றும் மழையும் ஓலியும் படைத்தான்
பூமிக்கு அதனால் நிம்மதி இல்லை.....
சாமி தவித்தான் தாயை படைத்தான்...
உன்காலடி மட்டும் பகிர்வாய் தாயே...
செர்க்கம் என்பது பொய்யே..... ”





Tamil Association raises funds for Sri Lanka's Plantation communities

Waterloo, Ontario: Sri Lanka's upcountry Tamils live in pictures tea plantation Hill Country. They are the back bone of the economy but under plays the role of socio-economic marginalisation for over 100 years. They arrived from South India to work in the Tea and Rubber plantation during British colonial rule. They live in the hill region and termed as "Upcountry Tamils", a translation of Malaiyaka Tamils. They are considered as forgotten people of the country.

The community solely depends in plucking tea leaves. Majority of them are women and day to day wage earners. Each family is provided with one bed room galvanised roof house by the estate. They live in poverty and squalor. Covid19 and continues lockdown have made their lives extremely diffi-

cult. A sum of SL Rs.2000 (Canadian \$13.00) is given as monthly lockdown, covid19 relief.

Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region (TCA) through its Global Relief fund appealed to the community for donation to support the plantation community in Sri Lanka. Within ten days, a sum of \$3350 was collected. It will be channelled through Vanni Hope in Sri Lanka to packet and distribute dry food. The kit will include Rice, Flour, Dhal, Sugar, Tin fish, Potatoes, Onion, Sugar, Soya Meat. Also, masks and ladies personal hygiene kits will be included. This provision is expected to help a family of four for a week.

TCA Executive member Siva kumar said "Waterloo region and Toronto area Sri Lankan and Indian communi-

ty opened up their wallet without any hesitation. That's the humanitarian way to help fellow countrymen. I am glad to be part of it". The president of the association Yoga Arumugam said " We are lucky to be in Canada during this period of challenging times. Now, it feels good to help people around the globe. TCA's global relief fund was created to help under privileged and marginalised families and children outside of Canada."

Vanni Hope, a registered NGO in Australia and Sri Lanka was selected as the main co-ordinator for this project. Thayan Siva said TCA project will be a great benefit for the people during these tough economic times. We along with Upcountry Social Development Forum (USDF) have done the ground work in distributing the packages.

Following beneficiaries have been selected by TCA.

1. Agra Estate, Agarapathana – 40 families (160 people)
2. Engoya Estate, Kithulgalla, Kegalle District – 40 families (160 people)
3. Mochcha Estate, Maskeliya - 40 families (160 people)
4. Nuwara Eliya District: Edinburg estate, Glassaugh estate, Radella estate and Caralibeck estate. Total 120 families (450 people).

Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region extends its gratitude to the donors, staff of Vanni Hope and volunteers for making this project a success. TCA is a registered non profit association. It was established in 1989 in the region of Waterloo, Ontario.





SPECIAL FEATURE

TWELVE JYOTILINGESHWAR TEMPLES IN INDIA

Compiled by : KIDAMBI RAJ

INTRODUCTION

A **Jyotirlinga** or **Jyotirlingam**, is a devotional representation of the Hindu god Siva. The word is a Sanskrit compound of **jyotis** 'radiance' and **linga**. There are twelve traditional Jyotirlinga shrines in India.

According to **Siva Mahapurana**, once **Brahma** (the god of creation) and **Vishnu** (the form of God during preservation) had an argument over supremacy of creation. To settle the debate, Supreme God Siva pierced the three worlds appearing as a huge infinite pillar of light, the **Jyotirlinga** which later cooled into the holy **mountain Annamalai** (on which the Temple of **Arunachaleswara** is located).

Vishnu and Brahma split their ways to downwards and upwards respectively to find the end of the light in either direction. Brahma lied that he found out the end, while Vishnu conceded his defeat. This lie of Brahma angered Siva making him curse Brahma that even though he is the creator of the universe he would not be worshipped. The **jyotirlinga** is the Supreme Siva, partless reality, out of which Siva appeared in another form, **Lingodbhava**. The **jyotirlinga** shrines are temples where Siva appeared as a fiery column of light.

Originally there were believed to be 64 **jyotirlingas** while twelve of them are considered to be very auspicious and holy. Each of the twelve **jyotirlinga** sites take the name of the presiding deity, each considered a different manifestation of Siva. At all these sites, the primary image is lingam, representing the beginningless and endless Sthambha pillar, symbolizing the infinite nature of Siva.

The 12 Jyotirlingas with names and places in sequence

- Somnath Jyotirlinga in Gir, Somnath, Gujarat
- Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga in Srisailem, Andhra Pradesh
- Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
- Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh
- Vaidyanath Jyotirlinga in Deoghar, Jharkhand
- Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga in Pune, Maharashtra
- Rameswar Jyotirlinga in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
- Nageswar Jyotirling in Dwaraka, Gujarat
- Viswanath Jyotirlinga in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Trayambhakeshwar Jyotirlinga in Nasik, Maharashtra
- Kedarnath Jyotirlinga in Rudraprayag, Uttarkhand
- Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga in Aurangabad, Maharashtra

1. Somnath Jyotirlinga- The Temple with a Rich History

Place: Veraval, Gujarat

Somanth is traditionally considered the first pilgrimage centres amongst the Dwadash (Twelve) Jyotirlinga sites. This temple is built



in the Chalukya style of temple architecture. This pious temple is built at the shore of the Arabian ocean on the western corner of the Indian subcontinent. According to Hindu mythology, the temple was primarily created by the moon in pure gold and later rebuilt by Ravana in silver and later it was built by Krishna in sandalwood and lastly by Bhimadeva in stone. This temple was destroyed and re-built sixteen times is held in reverence throughout India.

2. Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga – Known as Srisailem Temple

Place: Srisailem, Andhra Pradesh



Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga in Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh is known as Kashi of the South. It is located on a mountain in Kurnool District in Rayalaseema. According to the Shiv Puran, the Mallikarjuna jyotirlinga is the united form of both Shiva and Parvati. The word Mallika introduces Goddess Parvati whereas Arjun refers to God Shiv. The temple is also called Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Temple. The beautiful architecture of the temple is marked with carvings, the colored pillars known as gopurams, and Mukha Mandapa Hall. It is a place where **Shakthi Peeta** and **Jyotirlingam** are together. **Sri Adi Sankara** composed his **Sivananda Lahari** here.

3. Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga- The Destroyer of All Elements

Place: Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh



Located by the banks of the Kshipra River, the Mahakaleswar in Ujjain is the most powerful jyotirlinga and divine among the 12 Jyotirlingas. This Lingam is believed to be the only **Swayambhu** (appearing by itself). It is also the only one facing south and also the temple to have Sri Rudra Yantra perched upside down at the ceiling of the Garbhagraha (where Siva Lingam sits). Mahakaleshwar jyotirlinga is also among the seven Mukti-Sthal (Place) in India. According to Hindu mythology, Mahakaal is an avatar of Lord Siva, and devotees from various regions of India visit here to praise the lord Mahakaleshwar. The word Mahakaal is a combination of two words **Maha** (virtue of Lord Siva) and **Kaal** (time). The power of Lord Siva is considered to be more prominent than the time itself and the theory of mortality and time does not affect him. It is believed that the **Mahakaleshwar** shrine was established by a five-year-old boy named **Srikar**.

4. Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga- Perched on an Enticing Island

Place: Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh



Resided on an Om shaped island called Sivapuri on the banks of Narmada River, Madhya Pradesh. Denoting the Lord of the Om Sound. Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga is a revered Hindu temple, which is the center of intense faith. The Omkareshwar temple is a magnificent three-storied temple supported by large pillars made up of carved granite stone. There are two main temples of Lord Siva here, one to Omkareshwar located on the island and one to Mameshwar located on the south bank of Narmada River on the mainland. Mameshwar here is linked to the lord of the immortals.

5. Vaidyanath Jyotirlinga- Renowned for the Shrawan's Mela

Place: Deoghar, Jharkhand

Vaidyanath Dham or **Baba Baidyanath Temple** is one of the most famous Jyotirlingas in India and also known as Baba Dham. The



SPECIAL FEATURE



temple is located in Deoghar, Jharkhand, India. According to Hindu mythology, Once Ravana praised Siva and asked him to visit Lanka. Siva showed himself in the form of a Sivlingam and ordered Ravana not to put it down anywhere until he reached Lanka. Ravana accepted the condition and started his journey to Sri Lanka. On his way, Lord Vishnu interrupted Ravana in the form of Jaldevta and influenced Ravana to keep the Sivlingm at rest. Hence, Ravana forgot the condition and kept the Sivlingam down. So, from then on Siva dwells as Vaidyanath, in Deoghar town.

6. Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga- Spirituality amidst Nature

Place: Pune, Maharashtra



According to **Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Stotram**, Bhimashankar is the sixth jyotirlinga among the 12 Jyotirlingas in India. Located on the banks of River Bhima, this black rock structure temple holds a major religious significance among Hindus. According to Hindu mythology, once Lord Siva became angry and destroyed the brutal devil Bhima to ashes, and resided here in the form of a jyotirlinga. The temple has a Nagara architectural pattern, which belongs to the Maratha style of architecture. Apart from its religious significance the area also offers several spectacular views.

7. Rameshwaram Jyotirlinga- The Southernmost Jyotirlinga of India

Place: Rameswaram Island, Tamil Nadu



Rameshwaram owns the 7th position among the sequence of 12 jyotirlingas. The temple has a magnificent Dravidian style of architecture. Rameshwaram temple is located in a small town, which is situated in **Pamban Island** in Tamil Nadu. The special thing about the Rameshwaram temple is that there are twenty-two water bodies present in the temple complex. According to the common belief, to show respect to Lord Siva, devotees take a holy bath at these water bodies before Darshan. The Temple has two jyotirlingas, one made by Lord Rama and another brought by Hanuman from Kashi. It is said that the jyotirlinga brought by Hanuman is a replica of the Kashi Vishwanath It is also one of the **Paadal Petra Sthalam** of mentioned in **Thevaaram**.

8. Nageshwar Jyotirlinga- Known for the Huge Statue of Shiva

Place: Dwaraka in Gujarat



On the coast of Saurashtra in Gujarat, between Gomati Dwarka and Bet Dwarka. Nageshwar is one of the most famous Jyotirlinga temples in India as it signifies the power of protection from all types of poisons. The temple is built with pink stone and the idol is **Dakshinamurti**. Only Hindu devotees are allowed to visit inside the Sanctorum to worship or perform Abhishek. The permission to a devotee is given by the local priest in traditional attire. According to Siva Purana, Lord Siva smeared a demon named **Daruka** and his army to rescue his imprisoned devotee named **Supriya**. Lord Siva's body was covered with snakes thus named Nageshwar. There is also a large statue of a Siva in a sitting position, which can be seen from far away.

9. Kasi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga- Also Known as Shi Visweswar Temple

Place: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



Kashi Vishwanath is one of the most important Jyotirlingas in India among the rest. Millions of Devotees visit here every year to seek the blessing of the Almighty. According to the history of India, the temple was plundered several times as it was made up of absolute gold. In the story in the Siva Purana, once Brahma and Vishnu disputed about their domination. To test them, Lord Shiva converted himself as an endless pillar of light and asked them to find its end. While Lord Brahma lied to have found the end, Lord Vishnu admitted his defeat. It is also one of the **Paadal Ptetra Sthalam** of **Vada Nadu** mentioned in **Thevaaram**.

10. Trayambakeshwar- Jyotirlinga with Three Faces

Place: Nasik, Maharashtra



Located on the banks of the River Godavari, near Brahmagiri Mountain, Nasik. Trayambakeshwar holds an eminent spiritual importance as it is among the four Hindu cities where the Kumbh Mela is held every 12 years. The temple has a very unique shape and is famous all over the

world. The three pillars placed inside the temple represent the three powerful and supreme Gods, namely, **Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva**. It is said that there is a temple built at the site where Lord Rama performed the shraddha ceremony of his forefathers. According to Hindu mythology, a rishi named Gautam and his wife had a boon that they would not ever suffer from famine. This made other rishis jealous of him. To ruin his reputation, they planned a conspiracy and sent a cow to his barn. After some time, the cow died and the rishis labeled him as a cow murderer. To get free from the false allegation, he started a penance and asked Lord Siva to let the river Ganga flow through his ashram to purify it. Lord Siva granted the wish. Rishi Gautam then requested Lord Siva to stay there and hence God emerged in the form of Trayambakeshwar.

11. Kedarnath – The Northernmost Jyotirlinga of India

Place: Kedarnath, Uttarakhand



Located on the Garhwal Himalayan range near the Mandakini River in Uttarakhand; Kedarnath is important among all the Jyotirlingas and also the closest Jyotirlinga to Lord Siva's eternal abode of Mount Kailas. It is also one of the major Dham in Chardham that is Gangotri Ysamutori and Badrinath. It is believed that it was built by the five Pandava brothers of the Mahabharata. There is no confirmation about the temple in ancient literature that when it was built, but it is believed to be 3,000 years old. The temple remains closed for 6 months as it is located at a high altitude and suffers from severe climatic conditions. The **Samadhi** of the famous Hindu saint, **Sri Adi Shankaracharya** is located just behind the main Kedarnath temple. This also one of the **Paadal Petra Sthalam** of **Vada Nadu** mentioned in **Thevaaram**.

12. Grishneshwar – The Last as per Dwadasha Jyotirlinga Stotram

Place: Aurangabad, Maharashtra



Grishneshwar jyotirlinga is referred to as the lord of compassion. It is the last jyotirlinga among the 12 jyotirlingas in India. The temple is splendidly constructed with red and black stones. The temple has 5 storied Shikhara style construction, which is the mountain peak style of architecture. The temple has beautiful carvings of **Vishnu's Dasavatarams** on the walls of the temple. In the main court hall of the temple, there is a huge Nandi Bull, which signifies purity and justice. The temple is located close to **Ellora Caves**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The temple is also called Dhushmeshwar Temple.



DURHAM TAMIL ASSOCIATION

Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Community



DTA SERVING DURHAM TAMILS DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED AND CHALLENGING TIMES

Durham Tamils Association is always looking for ways to help our members, youth, and

our seniors. During this pandemic period, we are continuing to provide free virtual activities almost every day. Thank you to our fantastic volunteers who do not expect anything and are serving the community voluntarily. DTA is truly grateful for your continued support. Also, DTA's Tamil school continues to provide virtual Tamil classes for our students.

20th ANNUAL YOUTH FESTIVAL 2021



Durham Tamil Association is excited to present our 20th Annual Youth Festival! Our tradition of celebrating our youth continues with a live broadcast of our talented youth. Fantastic programs are lined up for you by our talented Durham youth.

Date: Saturday, September 11th, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm - Pre-show will begin at 5:00 pm

DTA Seniors Safe Social Gathering



Summer gathering! Fun and fellowship for seniors! DTA invited all senior members to a Koozh gathering on August 8th, 2021. The event started with breakfast Uppuma, Coffee/Tea & Vaddai.

We had a chiropractor doctor, Laughing Yoga, followed by hot seafood Koozh, vegetarian Koozh, and lunch for the senior members. The event went very well.

Grade 12 Graduation Celebration & Volunteer Award Ceremony

Durham Tamil Association celebrated our DTA Youth Volunteers who graduated from Grade 12 in 2021 & the achievements of our wonderful volunteers on August 14, 2021.

A huge thanks to all our dignitaries who attended! Your attendance was greatly appreciated and really made our celebration special in the eyes of our graduates and volunteers!

The following awards were given:

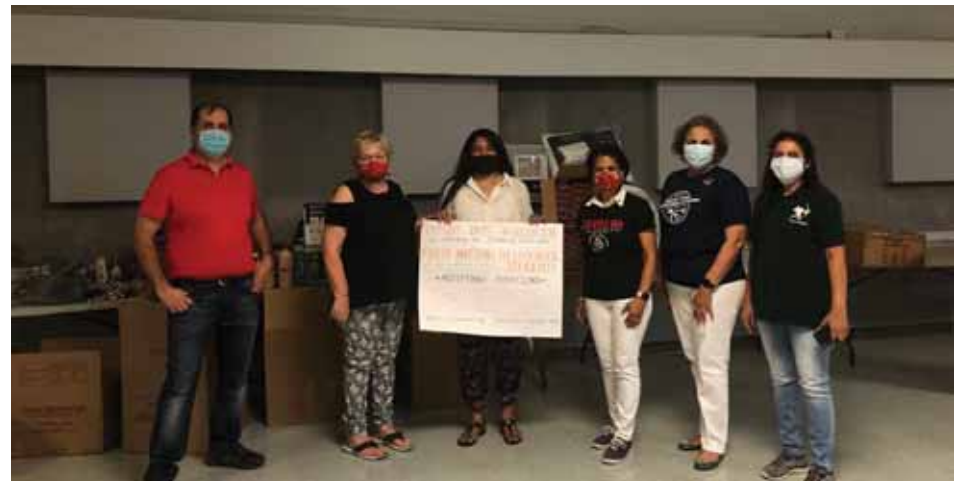
1. Grade 12 Graduating Class of 2021
2. Volunteers Appreciation & Award - 2021
3. Youth Leadership Club of DTA Completion of ten Speech Projects - Competent Communicator (CC) award

A huge thank you to our sponsor: Ahilan Balachandran, CFP - LIFEPLAN Investments

who sponsored our graduates' gifts. Thank you for your continued support for our youth. Finally, thank you to our all our sponsors! Our volunteer recognition event and all DTA events were made possible by all our sponsors.

Honoured Guests who attended:

- Mark Holland, MP for Ajax, and Chief Government Whip
- Jennifer O'Connell, MP for Pickering-Uxbridge, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.
- Ryan Turnbull, MP Whitby
- Kevin Ash, Regional Councillor City of Pickering
- Deputy Mayor Leahy, Town of Whitby



- Maleeha Shahid, Councillor Town of Whitby
- Deidre Newman, Whitby Councillor
- Tharma Jude, Funeral director from Ajax Crematorium and visitation centre
- Annual Sponsor
- Donald Igbokwe and Farah Eshraghi, Durham Bahá'í Community
- Matthew Stevens, Cultural Advisor, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation Bear Clan
- Elder Mary Kelly of Oniigaming First Nation
- Akil Ahilan Balachandran, CFP - LIFEPLAN Investments

School Supplies for Indigenous Students

A great big thank you to everyone who contributed cash donations to purchase the school supplies and to whoever donated supplies. We collected \$625 in cash donations. All donations were delivered to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch's 606 in Pickering. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 606 and the Pickering Rotary Club are planning to deliver the items to DFCHS (First Nations high school).

Padimurai Tamil - Proven Learning Method

New Tamil Classes are starting in September 2021, including Tamil credit courses. If you have not registered, please do so ASAP.

- JK to Gr. 8
- Gr. 9 to Gr. 12 (Tamil Credit Course)
- Adults
- Those who never learned the Tamil Language are welcome to join! Even if you do not know how to speak Tamil, we will teach you to read, write, and speak. Make sure to register online or contact us.

DTA's Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the fiscal years 2019 and 2020 was held on August 29th, 2021 at 10 am. It was held at Paulynn park in Ajax.

DTA's Seniors

DTA is keeping our seniors fully occupied with multiple free virtual classes and programs. DTA runs Seniors Chair Yoga Class, Mind Exercises, Mat Yoga Class, Cooking Classes, Health Seminars, Chess Club, Virtual Game Nights, Travel Around the World from Armchair, Crafting Classes (including free craft items), and much more for our seniors. DTA is here to support you in any way. If you want to participate in our programs, please check our monthly calendars. Please register for virtual Seniors programs at durhamtamils.org

Thank you to DTA's Annual Sponsors

DTA thanks our annual sponsors Nava Wilson Law, Computek, TSN Express, Chapel Ridge Funeral Home, ShowthaThushijanthan-RE/MAX, Ajax Crematorium, and Visitation Ctr, and all our sponsors for your continued support throughout the year.

For more information on all DTA's Community Support Programs and Sponsor contacts please visit www.durhamtamils.org Tel 905.428.7007

COMMUNITY WATCH



Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Community



DTA SERVING DURHAM TAMILS DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED AND CHALLENGING TIMES





Durham Tamil Association



தமிழ் மொழி வகுப்புகள்

Padimurai Tamil
Proven Learning
Method
Read, Write & Speak

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- ✓ Gr. 9 to Gr. 12
(Tamil Credit Course)
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- ✓ Adults

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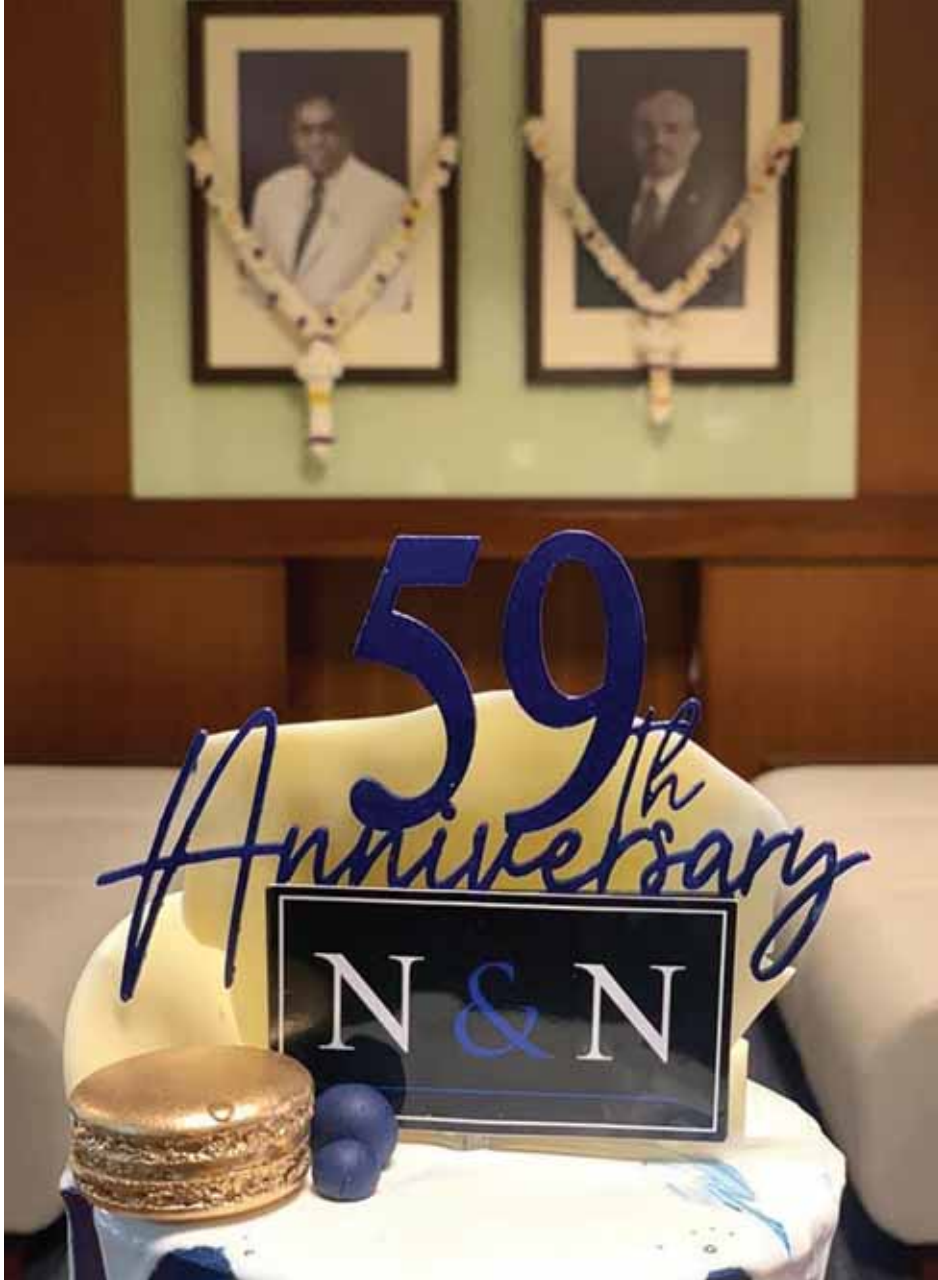
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durhamtamils.org

For additional details
 Call 905-428-7007

COMMUNITY WATCH

One of Sri Lanka's leading legal firms Messrs. Neelakandan & Neelakandan celebrate 59th Anniversary



By Siva Sivapragasam

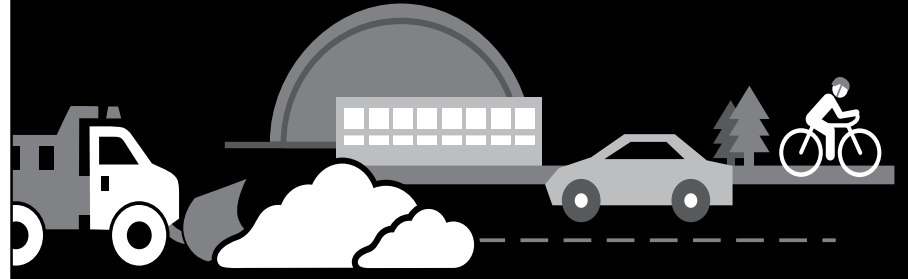
One of Sri Lanka's leading legal firms Messrs. Neelakandan & Neelakandan celebrates its 59th Anniversary this month under the leadership and guidance of its Precedent Partner Mrs. Sashidevi Neelakandan.

On 6th September 1962, Mr. Velupillai Murugesu founded the firm as "Murugesu". In 1978 he was joined in this journey by Mr. Kandiah Neelakandan who together built "Neelakandan & Neelakandan" (formerly "Murugesu & Neelakandan") to be one of the foremost Legal firms in Sri Lanka.

Over the years, through many challenges and upheavals in the Sri Lankan socio economic and legal landscape, the firm has endured and thrived. "Neelakandan & Neelakan-

dan" marks its 59th Anniversary this month.

With a large base of well-known companies as its clients the firm serves its clients with the same dedication, commitment and integrity that has been inculcated into the firm's culture by its illustrious history. The Firm was founded in 1962 by the late Mr. Velupillai Murugesu and built to be recognized as one of the most efficient and leading professional law firms of an international repute by the late Mr. Kandiah Neelakandan. The Firm is currently headed by the Precedent Partner Ms. Sashidevi Neelakandan who has been an integral part of the Firm for over 40 years. Other Partners of the firm are Pranavan Neelakandan, S. Thurai Raja and Janani Rajeswara.



நீங்கள் செலுத்தும் வரிப்பணத்தின் மதிப்பினை Mississauga வுக்கு கொண்டு வருவதை உறுதி செய்யும் விதமாக சாலைகள் அமைத்தல், பனி அகற்றுதல் மற்றும் பேருந்து போக்குவரத்து போன்ற சேவைகளில் நாங்கள் தொடர்ந்து புத்திசாலித்தனமாகவே முதலீடு செய்து வருகிறோம்.

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