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Liberals win most seats at Canadian Federal Election

By Siva Sivapragasam

The Liberal Party won most seats at the recently held Canadian Federal election with Prime Minister Trudeau winning a third term as Prime Minister.

The Liberal Party will now form a minority government since the party fell short of the 170 seats needed for a majority in the House of Commons.

The Conservatives, led by Erin O'Toole, maintained 119 seats and will continue as the Official Opposition. The Bloc Québécois, led by Yves-François Blanchet, won 33 seats. The New Democratic Party, led by Jagmeet Singh, won 25 seats while the Green Party maintained 2 seats.

Trudeau won a third term as prime minister with the Liberal party forming the second minority government.

Though the Liberals hoped to form a majority government to govern alone, the results were mostly unchanged from the 2019 Canadian federal election. The 2021 Federal election was a keen contest between the two major parties, namely the Liberals and the Conservatives. Both parties were locked equally in the battle for power at this year's election.

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

"What we've seen tonight is that millions of Canadians have chosen a progressive plan, and some have talked about the division, but that's not what I see, I see Canadians standing together", stated Prime Minister Trudeau in his victory speech.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, accompanied by his wife Sophie Gregoire and their children Ella-Grace and Xavier, waves to supporters during the Liberal election night party in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, September 21, 2021. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio

Gary Anandasangaree re-elected Scarborough-Rouge River Federal MP for third time

By Siva Sivapragasam

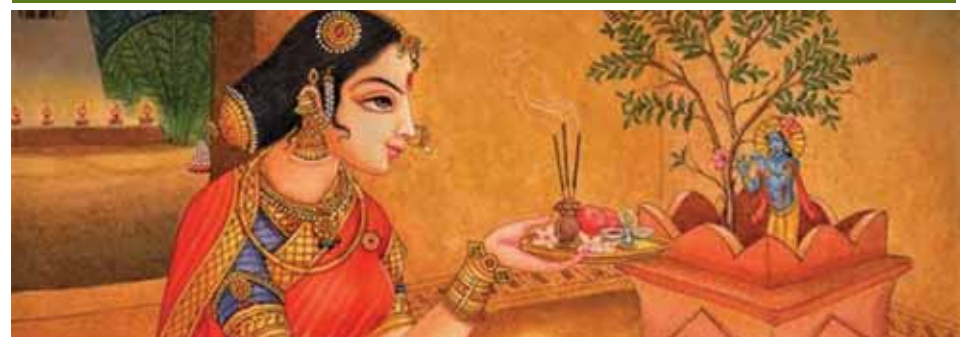
Gary Anandasangaree, a Human Rights lawyer and a well-known community activist was re-elected as member of Parliament for the third time for the Scarborough-Rouge River riding at the recently held Federal elections obtaining a 63 per-cent voter strength. Anandasangaree most recently held the post of parliamentary secretary to the minister of Crown-Indigenous relations. Gary has identified public transit, affordable housing, and policies aimed at seniors and students as his priorities.

Full details on pg 7...



SIGNIFICANCE & IMPORTANCE OF TULASI FOR HINDUS

COMPILED BY KIDAMBI RAJ




Introduction

Tulasi is a divine plant, is a household name among Hindus regarded as the ultimate symbol of purity. Tulasi is a Sanskrit word and literally means the one that has no equals, the one which has no comparison, matchless and the one whose merits are invaluable. Tulasi is considered as very

sacred and divine plant that has both physical and spiritually healing properties. It is worshipped as a Deity in Hindu religion, since time immemorial. In olden days the presence of Tulasi in a house was considered as a symbol of religious and spiritual leaning of that family.

... full article in pages 42 & 43

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Message from the Governor General of Canada on the Occasion of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 29, 2021

OTTAWA, Ontario—As we mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I think back to how my childhood shaped me. How so many in our community, and thousands more Indigenous children across Canada, were ripped away from their homes, separated from their families and sent to residential schools, where they were not allowed to speak their languages or honour their cultures, and were punished if they did.

As the child of a white father and an Inuk mother, I was not allowed to attend. I stayed behind, home-schooled, and visited families where there was a palpable void. I was a stand-in, a well-loved substitute, for mothers and fathers who desperately missed their children.

We all felt it. The sorrow of missing a part of our community.

Since the launch of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the publication of Calls to Action—and more recently, with the discoveries of unmarked graves of residential school children—Canada's real

history has been laid bare. The legacy of colonization has had devastating repercussions for Indigenous peoples, including the loss of language, culture and heritage. This pain has been felt from generation to generation, and it continues today.

These are uncomfortable truths, and often hard to accept. But the truth also unites us as a nation, brings us together to dispel anger and despair, and embrace justice, harmony and trust instead.

Reconciliation is a way of life, continuous, with no end date. It is learning from our lived experiences and understanding one another. It is creating the necessary space for us to heal. It is planting seeds of hope and respect so that our garden blooms for our children.

As we strive to acknowledge the horrors of the past, the suffering inflicted on Indigenous peoples, let us all stand side-by-side with grace and humility, and work together to build a better future for all.

Mary May Simon
via www.gg.ca



Statement by the Prime Minister on Women's History Month

October 1, 2021
Ottawa, Ontario

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on Women's History Month:

"Women have long been trailblazers in creating a better, more inclusive, and equal Canada. During Women's History Month, we celebrate Canadian women's contributions to building the country we know today.

"This year's theme – Women Making History Now – recognizes the women who are making a lasting impact for our country today, including in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and moving us forward on the path of reconciliation. From mental health care providers, nurses, and doctors, to teachers, scientists, and members of the Canadian Armed Forces, women of all backgrounds continue to act as powerful agents of change and inspire future generations to fight for an equal world. This summer, Canadians also watched proudly as our women Paralympians and Olympians made history with their many athletic accomplishments in Tokyo.

"Over the past year and a half, the pandemic threatened to stall some of the progress women have made over the past few decades. Many women have faced job losses and reduced hours of work. In communities across the country, an increase in unpaid care work at home has weighed heavily on women, leading some to leave their jobs to look after their families. This resulted in a she-cession, which exacerbated the inequalities and injustices faced by women in our society, particularly among marginalized individuals and groups. We must take lessons learned from this pandemic and work together toward a more robust and inclusive recovery.

"The Government of Canada is deeply committed to making our economy and labour market more resilient and protecting parents – especially mothers – from these effects in the future. We are investing up to \$30 billion over the next five years to help families access affordable child care through the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan. This



plan offers women the opportunity to jump back into the workforce while being assured that their children are receiving high-quality care. We are also addressing issues of gender equality through the Task Force on Women in the Economy. This diverse group of Canadian women provides advice on the tangible ways the Government of Canada can better support women's participation in the economy. Their ideas and expertise are helping us to address systemic barriers and inequities faced by women in the job market.

"On the international stage, Canada continues to champion gender equality and women's empowerment through our Feminist International Assistance Policy. Earlier this year, we announced new commitments and funding to tackle persistent barriers to gender equality around the world. This includes addressing inequalities in unpaid and paid care work in low- and middle-income countries, to help increase women's ability to more fully participate in the economy, education, and public life. We will continue to support and advance initiatives that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

"On behalf of the Government of Canada, Sophie and I invite Canadians to use the hashtag #WomensHistoryMonth to learn more about and celebrate the significant contributions that women have made, and continue to make, in shaping our society. Let us continue to work together to make Canada a better, fairer, and more diverse place to live."

Via pm.gc.ca

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PUBLISHER'S DESK

PUBLISHING TEAM

Managing Editor & Publisher	: Logan Velumailum, B. Sc. - editor4mj@gmail.com
Editorial & Marketing Consultant	: Siva Sivapragasam - tsivapragasam31@gmail.com
Executive Editorial Board	: Tashvir Narine - tashvir.narine@gmail.com Krishni Narine - krishni31@gmail.com K. Thirukumar
Graphics & Layout Design	: Santosh Kumar - kasantosh@gmail.com
Graphic Support	: Suren Rasadurai
Photo Journalists	: Gnane B. Gnanendran - digitalgnane@yahoo.ca, Rudy Ruthran - rudy@ruthran.com
Health & Care	: Jeavana Sritharan, Andrea Shanmugarajah, Dr. Nuwan Fonseka, Dr. Shiyam Loganathan, Dr. Harshini Sriskanda
Special Feature	: Raymond Rajabalan, J.J. Atputharajah, C. Kamalaharan, Sivanesan Sinniah, Kumar Punithavel, Nate Velumailum, Harrish Thirukumar
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INDEX OCTOBER 2021

Main News	1
Ads	2
Canada News	3 - 7
Publisher's Info	4
World News	8 - 10
Health & Care	16 - 17
Special Feature	14 - 29
Education	30
Science & Technology	31
Business & Finance	32 - 33
Food	36
Community Watch	34 - 46
Ads	47-48

Monsoon Journal wishes
Readers, advertisers, distribution outlets, friends and
well-wishers a happy Fall Festive season:

- Navarathri, Oct 6th - 14th
- Thanksgiving - Canada: Oct 11th
- Deepavali-Diwali, Nov 3rd
- Skanda Shashti - Nov 5th - Nov 10th
- Thanksgiving - USA, Nov 25th

World Teachers Day 2021: As Ontario resumes in-person learning, let's ensure teachers are at the heart of the education recovery from the fourth wave of COVID-19

By Harrish Thirukumar

After some time living in the COVID-19 pandemic, students across the Province of Ontario have been given the option to return to schools in person for their education. At the same time, it will likely do wonders for their social and mental wellbeing as seen from numerous studies, articles and discussion on the pandemic's effect on the wellbeing of children, youth and students. It has offered some sort of normality as we must isolate ourselves from each other. Time will tell how this scenario along with the option of online learning will unfold as efforts in continue the province to combat its fourth wave of this global pandemic. Regarding students' education and wellbeing, teachers in the province and globally will need to continue to play a critical role in shaping the development of the next generations as they find their place in a post-pandemic world.

Annually on October 5, the United Nations has commemorated World Teachers' Day. World Teachers' Day is held annually October 5 to celebrate all teachers around the globe. World Teachers' Day is co-convened in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and Education International (EI). It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions. The Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966

Recommendation by covering teaching personnel in higher education. World Teachers' Day has been celebrated since 1994.

One and a half years into the COVID-19 crisis, the 2021 World Teachers' Day will focus on the support teachers need to fully contribute to the recovery process under the theme "Teachers at the heart of education recovery".

A five-day series of global and regional events will showcase the effect that the pandemic has had on the teaching profession and highlight effective and promising policy responses. It aims to establish the steps that need to be taken to ensure that teaching personnel develop their full potential.

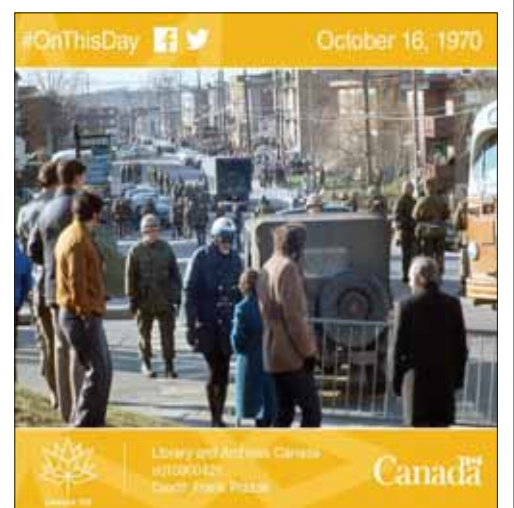
This year, World Teachers' Day celebrations will take place in conjunction with the meeting of the Joint ILO-UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART), which will be running from October 4 to October 8 2021. Other events held by UNESCO during this week will be online. The official celebrations event on October 5th will be opened by Ms. Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO's Director-General, followed by statements from the Heads of Co-Convening Partners - namely UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Education International (EI).

Interested readers can consult the programme, all the concept notes and register through the links given below next to each event found at this site: <https://events.unesco.org/event?id=2479558071>.

As Ontario resumes in-person learning, let's ensure teachers are at the heart of the education recovery from the fourth wave of COVID-19.

Canada Historic Milestones

October 16, 1970
During the October Crisis triggered by the Front de libération du Québec (FLQ), Pierre Elliott Trudeau's federal government invokes the War Measures Act. This leads to the declaration of a state of emergency in Quebec. The FLQ is banned, civil liberties are suspended, and arrests and detentions without charge are authorized.
In the next few hours, 8,000 Canadian soldiers are deployed on the streets of Montréal, and nearly 500 people arrested. The following day, Pierre Laporte, Quebec's Minister of Immigration, Manpower and Labour, will be found dead in the trunk of a car. The FLQ members who kidnapped him will be arrested and brought to justice.



"But, my dear, I knew when I was a baby what I wanted to do, and I'll tell you, kiddo, if you don't do what your heart tells you, you'll never be real."

- Shirley Booth (August 30, 1898 - October 16, 1992) American Actress

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

Ontario Commemorates Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



September 30, 2021

Office of the Premier

TORONTO – Today, Premier Doug Ford and Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs, released the following statement in recognition of Orange Shirt Day and the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

“Today, people in Ontario and across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour the many Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families and forced to attend residential schools.

We observe Orange Shirt Day thanks to the courage of Phyllis Jack Webstad, from the Stsweccem'cX-gat'tem First Nation, who bravely shared her experiences attending St. Joseph Mission Residential School in British Columbia in 1973. On her first day of school, Phyllis proudly wore an orange shirt given to her by her grandmother. Upon her arrival there, the shirt was immediately taken away from her, marking the beginning of Phyllis's long separation from her family and community, and from her culture and language.

Tragically, Phyllis's story is but one of tens of thousands of residential school survivor stories. Today, as we honour them, we must not forget the countless Indigenous children who did not return home. The recent discoveries of remains found at former residential school sites in western Canada has underscored the need for all Ontarians to learn about and recognize these painful truths and the ongoing harms

resulting from the residential school system.

This year, September 30th also marks the first observance of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is vital that we commemorate the loss of generations who are no longer with us, and to acknowledge the ongoing trauma experienced by residential school survivors, their families and their communities.

To mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, Ontario will join other governments across Canada to light several buildings in cities across the province, as well as Niagara Falls, orange. This is being done at the request of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to honour the children who did not come home and those who have lived as survivors and their families. Indigenous peoples have endured the harsh realities and have felt the impact of residential schools for generations. It is long past time for all Ontarians to acknowledge this dark stain on our history and to take action. We encourage everyone to attend a local event today, whether in-person or virtual to learn more about the impact of residential schools. This is an opportunity to reflect and strengthen our relationships with Indigenous peoples and to play an active role in supporting healing and reconciliation.

This long and difficult journey cannot be completed in one day; we must pledge to undertake it — together — each and every day.”

Via news.ontario.ca

Ontario Recommends the use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Individuals Aged 18-24 Years Old

September 29, 2021

Health

TORONTO — Today, Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued the following statement on COVID-19 vaccines for individuals aged 18-24 years old:

“Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and significantly reduce the risk of infection and serious illness, including hospitalization.

Out of an abundance of caution, Ontario is issuing a preferential recommendation of the use of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for individuals aged 18-24 years old effective immediately based on the current available analysis from Ontario's adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance system.

This recommendation was based on the advice of Ontario's Children COVID-19 Vaccine Table, Ontario Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group, and Public Health Ontario and is due to an observed increase in Ontario of the very rare heart condition called pericarditis/myocarditis following vaccination with Moderna compared to Pfizer in the 18 to 24 year old age group, particularly among males. The majority of reported cases have been mild with individuals recovering quickly, normally with anti-inflammatory medication. Symptoms have typically been reported to start within one week after vaccination, more commonly after the second dose.

This decision is also based on the increased and reliable supply of the Pfizer vaccines and the fact that individuals who received Moderna

for their first dose can safely take the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for their second dose. Mixing vaccines is safe and effective, and full vaccination with two doses of the mRNA vaccine offers the greatest protection you can have against COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

Based on the significantly higher risks of COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU admissions and death among the unvaccinated, those who received a first dose of the Moderna vaccine absolutely did the right thing to protect themselves, their loved ones and communities. Vaccination is the best way to protect against COVID-19 related complications, and the risk of contracting myocarditis and other serious adverse events including pericarditis, arrhythmia, deep-vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, intracranial hemorrhage and thrombocytopenia is 18 times higher among patients with COVID-19. Should individuals aged 18 to 24-year old wish to receive Moderna they can continue to do so with informed consent. The province will continue using the Pfizer vaccine for youth ages 12-17 (including those turning 12 in 2021).

The health and safety of Ontarians remains our top priority, and we will continue to monitor the latest available data regarding the use of Moderna for this population moving forward.

As Ontario continues to respond to the fourth wave driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant, we encourage all eligible Ontarians to sign up to receive their first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine today.”

Via news.ontario.ca



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Ontario Improving Access to Mental Health Services



September 29, 2021

TORONTO —The Ontario government is investing over \$34.6 million to support upgrades and the addition of new facilities at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) so they can continue to provide high-quality care and better address the unique mental health needs of patients.

“Investing in projects like the redevelopment of CAMH’s forensic mental health unit is one more way our government is delivering on our commitment to build a comprehensive mental health and addictions system for all Ontarians,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This investment will give patients access to high-quality care and services that meets their unique needs in a safe, recovery-oriented environment.”

CAMH’s forensic mental health program currently operates out of an old, institutional building that was not built for modern concepts of forensic health care. The expansion includes upgrades to the existing forensic services facility and additional indoor and outdoor support spaces. Once completed, the newly renovated space will include dedicated family visitation areas in the inpatient units, enclosed outdoor areas to support recovery, outpatient services, security and building support services.

The redevelopment of CAMH’s forensic mental health program is the fourth and final part of the hospital’s broader redevelopment project. This new funding brings the province’s

total investment in the project to over \$37 million.

“Since the release of Roadmap to Wellness last year, our top priority has been to continue making critical investments that will fill urgent gaps in mental health and addictions care and ensure that Ontario’s most vulnerable populations have targeted and reliable access to the support they need,” said Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “The redevelopment of CAMH’s forensic mental health program will ensure that individuals who need emergency mental health support receive the most appropriate care, in a specialized setting where they are fully supported.”

In addition, the Ontario government is taking further action to support CAMH during the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing the hospital’s operating funding for the third straight year, with over \$13.9 million in additional operating funding in 2021/22. This represents an increase of approximately 4.5 per cent from 2020/21.

“This is a significant milestone as we enter the fourth and final phase of CAMH’s ambitious redevelopment project,” said Tracey MacArthur, President and CEO of CAMH. “The new building will bring to life our vision of secure recovery. This is based on the idea that for recovery to take place, patients need access to rehabilitative programming, an environment of trust, and the ability to develop relationships with those providing their care. All patients deserve to receive care in dignified spaces that promote healing and recovery.”

Ontario Cautiously Easing Capacity Limits in Select Settings Where Proof of Vaccination is Required

Public Health and Health Care Indicators are Currently Stable or Improving

September 24, 2021

Health

TORONTO — With public health and health care indicators stable and proof of vaccination now in effect, the government, based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is cautiously easing capacity limits for select indoor and outdoor settings where proof of vaccination is required.

“With more and more Ontarians joining millions of others in rolling up their sleeves, our government is taking a safe and cautious approach to ease capacity limits in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “With the added layer of protection offered by proof of vaccination, we are ensuring our businesses can remain safe and open as we continue to reach even more Ontarians who have yet to receive a first or second dose.”

Effective September 25, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., capacity limits will be increased in many of the indoor settings where proof of vaccination is required. Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres; sporting events; concerts, theatres and cinemas; racing venues (e.g., horse racing); and commercial and film television productions with studio audiences will be increased to up to 50 per cent capacity or 10,000 people (whichever is less) for indoor events.

For certain outdoor event venues where patrons stand, capacity limits will increase to up to 75 per cent capacity or 15,000 people (whichever is less). For certain outdoor event venues



where patrons are seated, capacity limits will be increased to up to 75 per cent capacity or 30,000 people (whichever is less). This is in recognition of the fact that the risk of transmission is lower because of reduced mobility around the venue. In addition, proof of vaccination will now be required in outdoor settings where the normal maximum capacity is 20,000 people or more to help keep these venues safe for patrons.

The success of Ontario’s vaccine rollout, which has resulted in one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, continues to protect Ontarians against COVID-19, including the Delta variant, which remains dominant in the province.

“Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Ontarians adhering to public health measures and going out to get vaccinated, some of our key public health and health care indicators are currently stable,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “Work remains however, and we must all remain vigilant and continue following the measures and advice in place, and continue to work to vaccinate as many Ontarians as possible to achieve the highest immunization rates we can, and to increase our level of community immunity and protect those who cannot receive the vaccine.”

Via news.ontario.ca

NOTIFICATION BY PUBLIC NOTICE (articles 136 et 137 C.C.P.)

Notice is hereby given to ALLAN EICKMEIER, residing at 420, Meadowvale Road, Toronto, Ontario M1C 1S5 to take delivery at the office of the Court of Québec, Small Claims Division in the district of Trois-Rivières, Québec situated at 850, Hart street, Trois-Rivières, Québec G9A 1T9, 819 372-4150, at the latest 30 days after this publication, in order to receive the originating application left there in your name. You must answer the application within the time specified in the summons attached to it, failing which a default judgement may be rendered against you and you may have to pay the legal costs. This notice is published under an order rendered on August 13th 2021 by the deputy-clerk of the Provincial court in case number 400-32-701704-210.

It will not be published again, unless required by the circumstances.

Trois-Rivières, on September 9th 2021
Louise Attala
Clerk of the Provincial court of Québec

CANADA NEWS



Gary Anandasangaree re-elected Scarborough-Rouge River Federal MP for third time

Cont . from page 1...

Gary has tirelessly worked for human rights, equitable education, and social justice. 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, establishing his own Law firm. Gary also received both the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Dia-

mond Jubilee Medals. received the Osgoode Hall Law School "One-to-Watch" Alumni Gold Key Award and the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto's Young Practitioner Award.

As an active and engaged member of his community, Gary served as Chair of the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre,

President of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce, Board member of the Youth Challenge Fund, member of the Toronto Police Chief's Advisory Council, and member of the United Way Newcomers Grant Program.

Gary came to Canada with his mother as a refugee in 1983 and has advocated for the rights of refugees throughout his life. He is married to Harini and they have two daughters, Bairavi and Sahanah.

Federal Public servants and air-passengers should be vaccinated against COVID-19 by end of October 2021

The Canadian Federal Government has announced that "core" federal public servants and air-passengers boarding a plane in Canada will have to prove that they are fully vaccinated against COVID - 19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland outlined the details of the new COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

"Core" federal public servants will have to attest to being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 29 or face being put on leave without pay by Nov. 15. Anyone who wants to board a plane in Canada will have to prove they're vaccinated by Oct. 30, the federal government announced.

"This is about keeping people safe on the job and in our communities," Prime Minister Trudeau said. "If you've done the right thing and gotten vaccinated, you deserve the freedom to be safe from COVID-19, to have your kids safe from COVID, to get back to the things you love."

The vaccine mandate will apply to approximately 267,000 federal workers whether the employees work remotely or from their offices.

There will be exemptions made for "certified medical contraindications," as well as for religious reasons. Though, these accommodations will only be granted under certain parameters, including providing documented medical proof of the requirement for the exemption or testifying under oath to their religious beliefs.

The mandatory vaccination policy includes the RCMP, as well as full-time employees, casual workers, students and volunteers for federal departments, agencies, and offices such as the Department of Health, Veterans Affairs Canada, Service Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Correctional Service of Canada, and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Officials stated that while this policy does not extend to all employees in federally-regulated workplaces, such as banks, the government is working with them to "ensure vaccination is prioritized for workers in these sectors."

"We are taking this step to protect those who work in the federal public service, their families, and their communities. This measure also protects everyone who does business with the public service, whether it is getting access to your benefits at a Service Canada office, or safely traveling across our borders," Deputy Prime Minister Freeland said.



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<p>October 11, 2021: 7:30-8:30 p.m. - Musical Program by Sakthy Sangeetha Academy - Prashakthi Vinayagathevarajah</p>	<p>October 12, 2021: 7:30-8:30 p.m. - Violin Program by Prahash Mayooran</p>	<p>October 13, 2021: 7:30-8:30 p.m. - Flute Program by Thashmini Suthakaran</p>	<p>October 14, 2021: 7:30-8:30 p.m. - Vijayadasami Bhajan</p>	

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India's Elite Military Academy to Open Doors to Women

September 29, 2021 8:11 AM

Anjana Pasricha

NEW DELHI —

For the first time, women in India are eligible to apply to the country's elite military college after a historic Supreme Court ruling paved the way for them to aspire to the top ranks of the world's second largest military and marking a key step in gender equality.

"Keeping in view gender equality, it is a good first step and something that had to happen given the fact that women are seeking more roles in the army all over the world," former Lt. General H.S. Panag told VOA.

The battle for the rigorous four-year program in the National Defense Academy has not been easy — so far women enter the military through a shorter 11-month training course that excludes them from higher positions and mostly limits their career to 14 years. The Supreme Court cleared the decks this month for women to sit for entrance exams to be held in November. Its ruling came after a public interest petition argued that barring women from the premier military college violated the constitution, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

Although qualifying through the military academy will put women on par with male officers, combat roles for them in the army will still be restricted.

Women form a miniscule part of India's 1.3 million strong military with the army having the smallest percentage — a little over half a percent. The air force has 1.8% and the navy 6.5%.

During the hearing, judges had criticized the government for a "regressive mindset" after it cited numerous reasons to limit women's role in the army including "motherhood, childcare, and psychological limitations."

The court has been particularly critical of the army for being slower to induct women.



FILE - Indian army women recruits attend a class as part of their training, during a media visit in Bengaluru, India, March 31, 2021.

Last year, it had also cleared the way for them to hold non-combat command positions dismissing the government's argument that "lower physical standards of women, composition of units that are entirely male mostly from rural background" play a role in deciding appointments of commanding officers.

"Policy makers were resisting women's entry into military colleges because of a patriarchal mindset, that is why this has happened only after the court's intervention," said Akanksha Khullar, a researcher with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in New Delhi. "From my numerous interactions with women who joined

the armed forces, the men who are under a woman leader do not question the gender, they simply follow instructions."

The move toward gender parity in the armed forces could still take time. Although the Air Force has three women fighter pilots and the navy deployed four women on warships for the first time this March, allowing women into combat units in the army is not on the horizon. Women have worked in the armed forces mostly as doctors, nurses, engineers, administrators and lawyers.

"Certainly, the physical fitness standards of women cannot be at par with that of men, and this is not a

problem where non-combat units are concerned," points out Panag. "In the United States also for combat roles they have to be on par with physical fitness level of men and I agree with this. They should not be allowed into combat units unless they meet those standards. However, those women who do qualify should be allowed."

Only a handful of countries, including Australia, Germany, Israel and the United States, allow women to take on combat roles.

"That is too major a leap considering that our government has taken so long to even open the military college to women," Khullar said.

Some women who have served in the army say conquering the final frontier of combat roles will have to be a gradual process.

Sajita Nair, who joined the army in 1994, a year after it first began recruiting women, is happy that after three decades of serving in the armed forces, women will finally get their due. "This opens the way for them to get into senior positions," she told VOA. "We have some way to go but we are nearly there. We need to go step by step."

Nair said qualifying through the military college will give women the chance to build a full career instead of exiting in their thirties, as many have had to do in the past because the "short service commission through which they are inducted has a 14-year cap."

The entry of women will spell a change for the all-male academy located in western India.

It remains to be seen how many aspirants apply and make the cut. But women like Nair are optimistic.

"Overall, it will help the nation," she said. "We have such able women and they should be given the opportunity, and then of course, it is up to them to prove themselves."

via voanews.com

Several programs to mark International Children's Day on October 1

OCTOBER 01, 2021

Several programs have been arranged at the national and provincial levels to mark the International Children's Day falls on October 1, State Minister Piyal Nishantha said.

Addressing a media briefing held at the Government's Information Department Sept(30) the State Minister said:

'Children before everything' is the theme of International Children's day this year. All arrangements are in place to celebrate the National ceremony this year under the patronage of Education Minister Dinesh Gunawardana, Media Minister Dallas Alahapperuma and several other ministers and parliamentarians in the main studio of the National Television – Rupavahini tomorrow. A limited number of children will participate in the ceremony due to the COVID-19



pandemic, so encourage children to watch this program over the television, State Minister Nishantha requested the parents.

He further said that a number of programs have been implemented on children's day as children have been

confined to homes, affected by the global pandemic and some other diseases, and denied study opportunities.

The most affected groups are the pre-school children who were denied an opportunity to attend pre-schools for two years. They are compelled to

admit to schools next year without pre-school education. Therefore, arrangements have been made to launch a new television channel specifically to cater to pre-school students Oct-01st. Awareness will be made among the parents of pre-school students over this special channel, the State Minister said.

He said, in addition, computer centres will be opened for the inmates of 379 children's homes throughout the country.

He further said that arrangements have been made to grant 1500 scholarships for school teachers today.

State Minister Nishantha said that action will be taken to appoint committees of representatives to draw attention to the children of expatriate parents who are subject to exploitation

Via news.lk



India's Modi Tells UNGA Afghanistan Cannot Be Used to Spread Terrorism

September 24, 2021 7:22 PMUP-
DATE September 25, 2021 12:50 PM

Margaret Besheer
UNITED NATIONS —

At the United Nations General Assembly annual meeting Saturday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it was crucial that Afghanistan not be used to spread terrorism globally, and he called on world leaders to help minorities in the country, including women and children.

The Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in August after the U.S. decision to withdraw troops from the country following 20 years of war the U.S. and its allies initiated after the al-Qaida terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

"It is important to ensure that the land of Afghanistan is not used to spread terrorism and perpetuate terrorist attacks," Modi said.

"We also have to be alert that no nation should be able to misuse the delicate situation in Afghanistan for their own selfish motives like a tool," Modi added in an apparent reference to Pakistan, locked between Afghanistan and India.

Modi's appeal to protect women in Afghanistan came amid indications the Taliban are limiting women's rights since they seized the capital of Kabul, despite recent statements they are willing to ease restrictions on women and girls. Women were largely banned from public life under the Taliban's previous reign in Afghanistan between 1996-2001.

The prime minister of India, which competes with China for influence in Kashmir and in the Indian Ocean region, also cited the need to shield oceans from "the race for expansion and exclusion."

Other speakers Saturday at the assembly include leaders from Russia, Ethiopia and Haiti, among others.

On Friday, the prime minister of the tiny island nation of Barbados gave a stirring address to the assembly, asking who would stand up for people across the world and bring badly needed action.

"In the words of Robert Nestor Marley, who will get up and stand up?" Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley asked the annual gathering of leaders, quoting the famous Jamaican singer. "Who will get up and stand up for the rights of our people?"

Reading her speech from her mobile phone, the prime minister went through a long list of challenges that included COVID-19 vaccine distribution inequities, unemployment, transportation issues and climate change. She said it is not beyond the international community to solve them; it is just that leaders tire of facing them year after year and seeing nothing change.

"If we can find the will to send peo-



Mia Amor Mottley, prime minister of Barbados, reads from her phone as she addresses the 76th Session of the U.N. General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Sept. 24, 2021.



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, in a pre-recorded message, addresses the 76th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Sept. 24, 2021, at U.N. headquarters.



ple to the moon and solve male baldness, as I've said over and over, we can solve simple problems like letting our people eat affordably and making sure we have transport," she said.

Female leaders have been few this week, making up less than one-tenth of the speakers so far. Eight were due to speak on Friday. Their thin ranks highlight the obstacles women in both developing and developed countries face in reaching the highest levels of government.

The climate crisis has been a recurrent urgent theme this week. South Sudan Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior said it has impacted some 800,000 people across her country.

De Mabior said that "torrential rains" resulted in the worst flooding in 60 years and submerged villages, towns, land and livestock. "Therefore, I call on the international community to help save the lives of more than 5.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance," she added.

While much of the world has been struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic, its effect on New Zealand has not been as severe because its leaders were proactive in containing the virus. The country has seen just over 4,000 confirmed cases and 27 deaths, according to data from Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, which tracks the pandemic globally. New Zealand also has an active national vaccination campaign.

"We have placed our trust in the actions of neighbors and strangers — to wear masks, to distance, to get vaccinated and support others to do so, and we live collectively with the consequences," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said. "It has been a privilege for me as a leader to witness the practical application of New Zealanders' values to these challenges."

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that "the United Nations stands as our best hope" in pursuing a collaborative and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

On the sidelines of the annual session, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced \$400 billion in new commitments to increase access to clean, renewable energy for millions of people living in "energy poverty" across the world.

"Investing in clean, affordable energy for all will improve the well-being of billions of people," Guterres said.

"And it is the single most important solution to avert climate catastrophe."

The annual meeting of leaders continues through Monday. On Saturday, India, Russia, Ethiopia and Haiti, among others, will deliver addresses.

via voanews.com



WORLD NEWS

Sri Lanka and Thailand hold high-powered talks to explore mutually beneficial investment corridors

September 29, 2021

To further enhance and expand investment corridors between Sri Lanka and Thailand, the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka in Bangkok, together with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd, co-hosted a high-powered dialogue by inviting leading line agencies and trade chambers of commerce of Thailand to an opportunity exploration meeting recently.

Several senior level dignitaries from Thai-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce; Thailand Board of Investment; Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade Thailand; Federation of Thai Industries; Department of South Asian, Middle East & African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand actively participated in these progressive talks to explore and identify bilateral investment opportunities between the two countries.

The discussions explored multiple investment opportunities Sri Lanka could offer by way of the CHEC Port City and also, its six thrust sectors of Manufacturing, ICT, Hospitality & Tourism, Agri& Food Processing, Infrastructure and Other Services, in addition to options that could also enable Sri Lankan enterprises to expand supply chain operations in Thailand.

Opening the high-powered forum, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the

Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) C.A. Chaminda I. Colonne warmly welcomed representatives from both Sri Lanka and Thailand and said, "Under the National Framework 'Vistas of Prosperity & Splendour', and the twenty Foreign Policy guidelines of the present Government led by the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, priority has been given, for Sri Lanka to become an investment friendly country with high levels of doing business to attract sustainable foreign direct investments."

Ambassador recalled with honour, the acceptance of her invitation extended to Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha, for Thai investors to invest in the Colombo Port City Project and other investment opportunities in Sri Lanka, during her recent courtesy call and conveyed special gratitude to Director-General Darm-Boontham of the Department of South Asian, Middle East and African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand for facilitating to arrange the virtual meeting within a short time span.

Chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI) Sri Lanka, Sanjaya Mohotala, while providing a comprehensive overview of Sri Lanka's compelling investment climate and outlining Sri Lanka's unique investment focused propositions, said, "These discussions have exposed us to the vast potential of investment prospects that can open



the doors for transformational change and positively impact the future of both our economies. Sri Lanka offers dynamic and multifold opportunities, and we warmly welcome the investment community of Thailand to take advantage of this potential, which enables global enterprises to establish regional headquarters in Sri Lanka through the CHEC Port City and make full use of our suite of strategic investment propositions ranging from its key thrust sectors, market access, geographic location, economic fundamentals, winning & capable talent, and quality of life."

Port City Colombo Country Manager - Sales and Investor Relations Radhika Ellepola presented the project's Master Plan. He elaborated on the progress of the project, state-of-the-art infrastructure, sustainability, unmatched opportunities to invest in the multi services Special Economic

Zone (SEZ) and its salient features. He apprised the Thai business chambers and other officials of the four main real estate asset classes - Residential, Commercial, Hospitality and Mixed Use Developments in which opportunities can be explored.

He added that Port City Colombo offers a unique advantage given its geographically significant location and that it can serve as the region's hub for services.

Director of Thai Enterprise Development Division of Board of Investment Thailand Punlop Punyasiri, Vice Chairman of Committee on South Asia, Middle East and Africa Affairs of Board of Trade Thailand Songsang-Patavanich, and President of Textile Industry Association Somsak Sri-supornwanich, representing Federation of Thai Industries also addressed the forum.

Via news.lk

Bursa business community ready to explore Sri Lankan products

September 29, 2021

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Turkey M.R. Hassen, during a round table information sharing meeting with the members of the Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, invited the Bursa based business community to explore a wide range of quality Sri Lankan products and look for investment opportunities available in Sri Lanka.

Ambassador had a constructive discussion with Acting Chairman of the Board of Directors Ismail Kus and the Assembly members & board of directors of the Bursa Chamber of Commerce & Industry to enhance trade, investment & tourism between Bursa & Sri Lanka on 24 September 2021.

Prominent business personalities and representatives of companies currently engaged in business activities with Sri Lanka were present at

the occasion and shown interest in Sri Lankan spices, Ceylon Tea and solid tyres and other rubber related products. They expressed their desire to visit Sri Lanka once Sri Lanka fully opens for foreigners without quarantine restrictions.

Region of Bursa is the second largest business city of Turkey with huge manufacturing sector and recorded 21.3 million USD worth total trade in year 2020. In terms of population Bursa currently ranks fourth with 3.1 million population. Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry comprised of 46,000 memberships and established in 1889. Textile, automotive manufacturing, food processing, fresh fruits, nuts and dry fruits and tourism are the major sectors contribute to its economy.

Minister Counsellor (Commercial) of the Embassy Yoshitha Jayasuri-



ya, Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka to Bursa Ahmet Yildiz, Vice President of the Assembly Murat Bayazit, Deputy President of the Assembly Metin-Senyurt, Member of the Board of Directors. Yuksel Tasdemir attended

at the meeting.
Embassy of Sri Lanka
Ankara
Via news.lk



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SPECIAL FEATURE

Mani Ratnam wraps "Ponniyin Selvan" shoot; releasing theatrically in 2022

Chennai, Sep 18 (PTI) The first part of acclaimed filmmaker Mani Ratnam's Tamil-language historical drama film "Ponniyin Selvan" has finished its production, the makers announced on Saturday.

The star-studded magnum opus, which started filming in December 2019, features actors Vikram, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Karthi, Trisha Krishnan, Prakash Raj, Jayaram, Jayam Ravi and Aishwarya Lekshmi among others.

"Ponniyin Selvan" is backed by

Ratnam's production house Madras Talkies and AllirajahSubaskaran's banner Lyca Productions.

The film's production wrap announcement was made on the official Instagram page of Madras Talkies.

"Filming complete. PS-1 coming soon!" the post read.

The movie is based on Kalki Krishnamurthy's 1955 Tamil novel "Ponniyin Selvan".

The book chronicles the story of the early days of Arulmozhivarman, one of the most powerful kings in the

south, who went on to become the great Chola emperor Rajaraja Chola I.

Ratnam has co-written the film's screenplay with Elango Kumaravel. B Jeyamohan has been credited as the dialogue writer on the movie.

The film's music has been scored by Ratnam's frequent collaborator and Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman. Cinematographer Ravi Varman has shot the film.

"Ponniyin Selvan" is set to be released theatrically in 2022.

- PTI





BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM



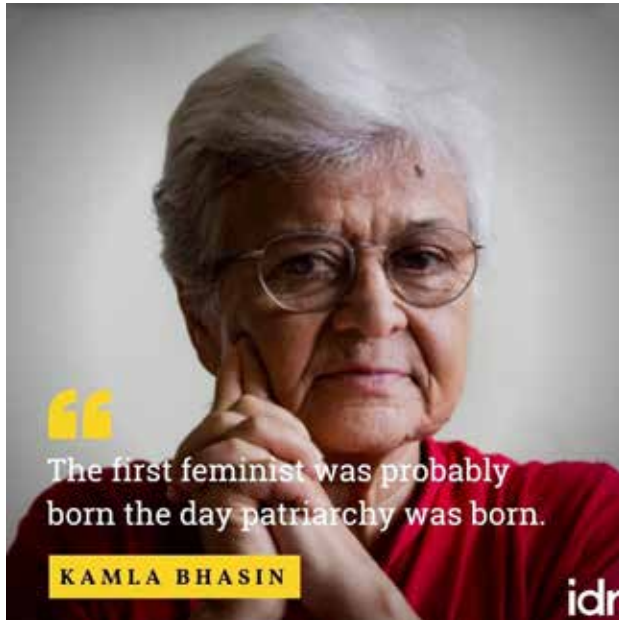
“Rest in power Kamla di.”

Kamla Bhasin feminist extraordinaire and guru to generations of feminists across the world, has passed away.

Rest in power Kamla di.

You will live on in our hearts and through the firebrand feminist activism you fostered across South Asia and beyond through your Sangat movement.

You're irreplaceable but as a great leader, you did foster and mentor up and coming feminist leaders across various countries. To the best of our ability, we'll carry forward your mantle



Spinach curry

Questions that stump me as an English teacher.

What is keerai curry to be called in English? Send help?

Spinach is the name of only one type of keerai.

Green leaves appears to be Sri Lankan English. They're either called salad greens or leafy vegetables generally. So I guess we could go with one of those + curry.

If curry can enter the English language, so can keerai curry

Things I learn

The things I learn, teaching English.

Preparing for tomorrow's lessons, wondered why brinjals are commonly referred to as aubergines or eggplants in the western hemisphere.

Apparently it's referred to as brinjals only in the Indian subcontinent and South African versions of English.

Googled the etymology of brinjal to see why we were different.

The plant apparently originated in India and was known as vatin-gana in Sanskrit. Means it gets rid of gas. Further translation - you'll fart.

Most Dravidian languages had similar names - it was known as varutunai in Tamil.

Vatin-gana then crossed into the Persian language as badingan from where it crossed into Arabic with their definite article 'al' as al-bad-ingan. From where it continued to bastardize through Spanish, French and eventually English to end up as aubergine.

Meanwhile the Portuguese also bastardized badingan to bringella - from where we in South Asia, get our term brinjal.

So while the plant and the original name originated from India, we use a derivative that came from Portugal - and so we stand out from the rest of the world.

Eggplant apparently originated from the white egg shaped versions that were first seen in the USA.

Kaviyarangan Yogalingam True. The meaning that conveyed by the sentence 'He is sitting at the table' can be attained by saying 'அவர் மேசையில் இருக்கிறார்.' That is the natural way. When we use 'அருகில்' that would change the meaning. It can mean the person is sitting beside or near the table (while not at the table). When it said 'அவர் மேசையில் இருக்கிறார்' in Tamil we don't have to translate it literally and say someone is sitting on the table. And if you want to say 'He is sitting on the table,' then we can put that as 'அவர் மேசைக்கு மேலே இருக்கிறார்' or 'அவர் மேசையில் ஏறி இருக்கிறார்' ... (That's my understanding).

Like · Reply · 1d

Thulasi Muttulingam Enlightening. Thank you.

Like · Reply · 1d

Translation of "At the table"

Tamil speakers, how would you translate "He is sitting at the table" into Tamil?

I keep saying "Mesa adila irrukirar" which many take to be sitting under the table

I keep saying "Mesa adila irrukirar" which many take to be sitting under the table

Little lady in California

10 year old writing an essay on school: "Teachers are spiteful and mean..."

Me: Hold it young lady! I'm a teacher too!

10 year old: Oh gosh! Well, I wasn't thinking of you when i wrote that.

Well, you are a cool person. I mean you're not the school teacher kind of teacher are you?

Well Ok kid! I'll take that as a compliment

Well, this little lady in California (10 years old), I've been teaching has some very strong ideas about school administration and how schools should be run. She wrote a strongly worded essay targeted at school principals about it. I volunteered to share it with other adults here. They clearly need to be schooled on how to school children

I'll be meeting her again tomorrow and she said she can't wait to hear what you had to say. So please do let her know your constructive feedback.

She sent photos of her essay, to be shared here. Will try to transcribe them later if I have time but this should still be readable.

Teaching her is huge fun.

I keep heckling her as she writes just to see if she has a counter argument and she always does.

She wrote that Principals can enjoy their coffee and have more 'me time' if recesses were longer.

I said they'd be in for it if the school inspectors walked in.

That's when she wrote "Don't worry about school inspectors, they can't ban recess anyway."

Then for schools being more popular and better able to pull students and money if her ideas were

My advice on school administration
Children have been fighting for excitement and enthusiasm in school grounds. But spiteful teachers have been dissising the idea. Don't you think children should have an easy life in school? In that way you will be safe from angry parents, saying their children didn't learn anything and the lesson was useless!

they don't want to go to school or how school sucks. Now you'll get less complaints about children sleeping in the lesson!

My last but definitely not least point is longer recess! This is one of the top reasons for debate. But if children really did get longer recess, wouldn't it help you catch up on things you wanted to do? You wouldn't have to worry about children coming in and out of your office. You could just take your mind off the whole thing and do some you time. But don't worry about your school inspector, it's not like recess could be banned.

In this way your school would be the best school in the world! You would make more money, more children would come. And no more complaints from teachers. This could be the best job you could apply for! No more waking up and groning about how going to my job sucks, when it's a

come. And no more complaints from teachers. This could be the best job you could apply for! No more waking up and groning about how going to my job sucks, when it's a

another hour! wouldn't it be easier for you? Not to get incomplete homework complaints from the teacher and parents? Your job could be way easier!

piece of cake! Your life would be way easier, don't you think?

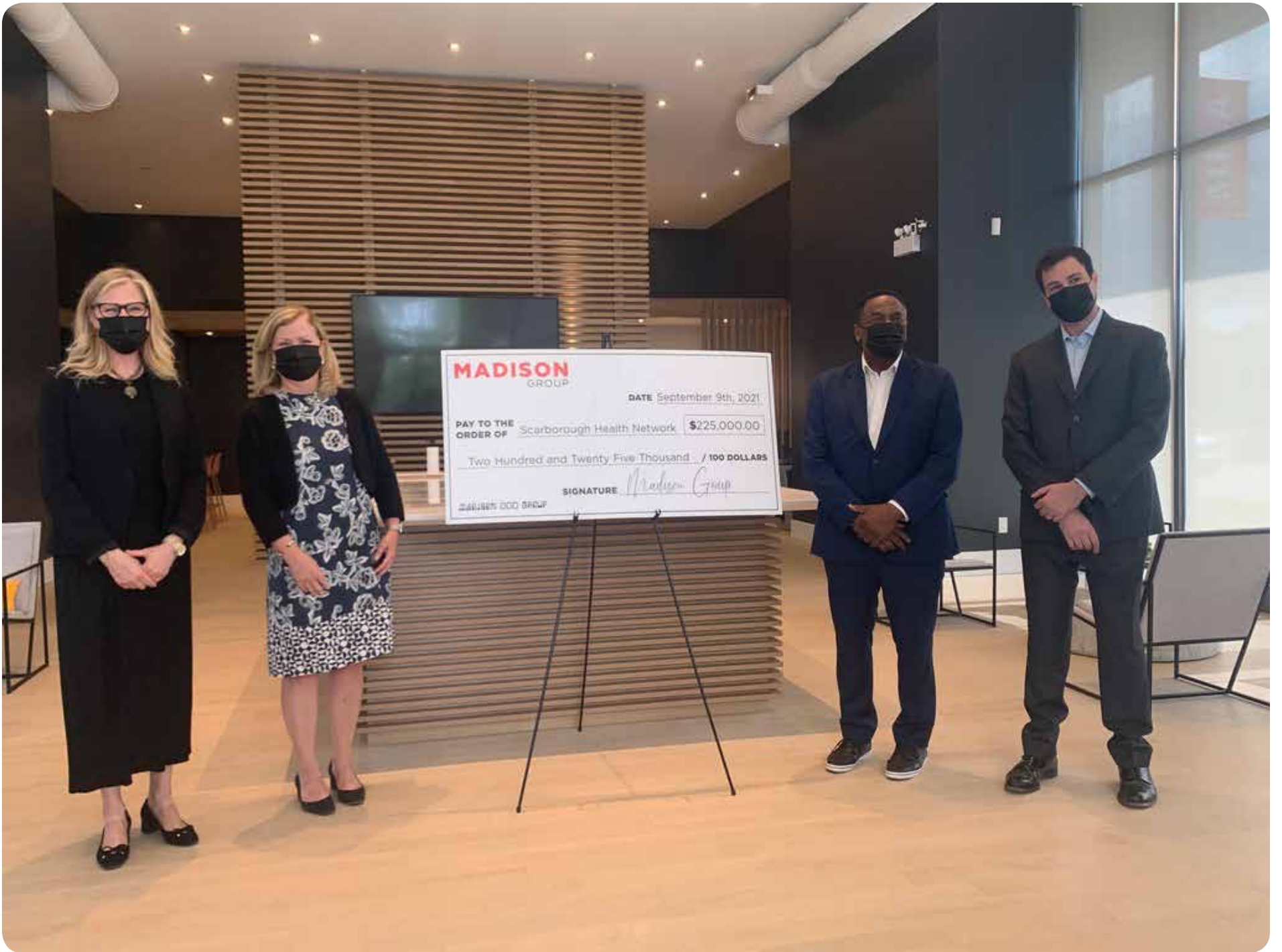
In fact, why don't they have longer weekends! well if you think about it, aren't you getting a longer vacation? This could help children stop complaining about how they don't want to go to school or how school sucks. Now you'll get less complaints about children sleeping in the lesson!
My last but definitely not least point is longer recess! This is one of the top reasons for debate. But if children really did get longer recess, wouldn't it help you catch up on things you wanted to do? You wouldn't have to worry about children coming in and out of your office. You could just

implemented, I asked. "What if parents complain they are sending kids to school to study, not have long recesses?" Her answer was "No, kids need time to process all the information teachers teach. So longer recesses means kids get the lesson better."
She really has all the answers <3



MADISON GROUP DONATES \$225,000 TO SCARBOROUGH HEALTH NETWORK FOUNDATION

Madison Group commits funds to Scarborough Health Network's General hospital to support a new, state-of-the-art Diagnostic Imaging concourse



SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 (TORONTO) - Madison Group, a leading real estate development company with properties in Toronto and New York City, is delighted to announce a **\$225,000 donation to the Scarborough Health Network Foundation (SHN)**. Yesterday, leadership members from both Madison Group and Scarborough Health Network and the Foundation addressed an intimate crowd to announce this important donation.

The \$225,000 donation will be going towards a new Diagnostic Imaging concourse at SHN's General hospital which will support SHN's initiative of continuing to provide best-in-class care across three hospitals and eight satellite sites in the community of Scarborough.

This initiative stems from Madison Group's commitment and passion to support the communities in which they build. **MILA**, a new master-planned community coming

soon to Midland & Lawrence, is Madison Group's latest development to launch in Scarborough. For each home sold in this future community, Madison Group pledged a \$1,000 donation on behalf of each 225 homeowners that will one day be part of the Scarborough community.

"A key pillar of the Madison Group brand is to support the development, and/or rejuvenation of the communities in which we build," says **David Singer, Vice President, Low-Rise Communities, Madison Group**. "One day, these future homeowners will rely on the care and services provided by Scarborough Health Network, and we are grateful to have this opportunity to help this incredible team of healthcare workers continue to provide world class care to the community of Scarborough."

Over the past few decades, Madison Group has expanded their portfolio and developed

numerous commercial and retail properties within the Golden Mile district. Together with the City of Toronto, Scarborough and Canada's top design talent, planning is underway to redevelop this area as a future master-planned neighbourhood that will one day offer state-of-the-art commercial space and be home to thousands of new residents.

"We're tremendously grateful to Madison Group for stepping forward with their generous gift to support a new Medical Imaging Concourse at SHN's General hospital," says **Alicia Vandermeer, President & CEO of SHN Foundation**. "As we embark on a significant capital fundraising campaign to support our Scarborough hospitals, it's encouraging to know organizations like Madison Group are committed to supporting our community. Together with donors, advocates and organizations, we can build a brighter, healthier Scarborough."



THE SHN FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC RAISES OVER \$275,000 FOR SCARBOROUGH'S HOSPITALS



Thanks to our over 60 corporate and community partners and 240 players, the 2021 SHN Foundation Golf Classic was a resounding success! Together we raised over \$275,000 – the most in the Tournament's 12-year history.

Every year, SHN Foundation's annual golf tournament has helped raise much-needed support for our community hospitals. With more than \$1.2 million raised since 2008, proceeds from the event have helped equip our physicians, nurses and frontline staff with the tools and infrastructure they need to continue delivering exceptional care to the hundreds of thousands of patients we see each year.

Our golfers had a great time, enjoying various on-course activities including closest to the pin, beat the pro, and the unanimous favourite – the air cannon! Players were allowed one drive with a unique "air cannon" provided (and supervised) by Hiller Golf. Launching the golf ball over 400 yards, the air cannon was a fun addition to the course!

Participants were also able to enjoy special treats throughout the course including food trucks, ice cream trucks and delicious seafood. Although this



year's format was different due to COVID-19, our guests had a great time and supported an important cause.

We are incredibly grateful to our generous sponsors, donors and

participants for making this the best tournament yet.

If you would like to learn more about participating in next year's Golf Classic, please reach out to communitydevelopment@shn.ca



SPECIAL FEATURE

Indian Foreign Secretary Shringla visits Jaffna; briefed about Palaly airport's development

Colombo, Oct 3 (PTI) Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Sunday inspected Jaffna's Palaly airport in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated Northern province where he was briefed by officials on the development work undertaken with India's assistance.

Shringla arrived in Sri Lanka on Saturday on a four-day visit during which he will meet the top leadership, including President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, and review the bilateral ties between India and the island nation.

"Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Sunday inspected Jaffna's Palaly airport, yet another of India's development engagements in the island," the Indian High Commission here said in a statement.

In 2019, India provided Sri Lanka with 300 million Sri Lankan rupees towards upgrading the Palaly airport's runway.

After Sri Lanka christened Palaly as its third international airport in November 2019, India's Alliance Air ran a twice weekly flight between Palaly and Chennai.

With the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020, the operations were halted.

Shringla also visited the Jaffna Cultural Center which, he said, was constructed with an Indian government grant of USD 11 million.

He visited the iconic Jaffna Cultural Centre, which is built with Indian grant assistance.

"The iconic, state-of-the-art cultural centre will help people of Northern Province reconnect with their roots and in nurturing our shared cultural heritage," the statement said.

Shringla talked about India's help to support the maintenance of the Jaffna Cultural Centre.

"I am happy to announce that the government of India will support the maintenance of this building for a period of 5 years," Shringla said.

Shringla arrived in Jaffna after his visit to the Temple of the Tooth in the

central town of Kandy.

"This is a site of spiritual importance not just for Sri Lanka but also for India," he said after being received at the foremost Buddhist shrine in the island and receiving blessings there.

The Jaffna leg of the trip in the North was his last for the day after visiting Kandy and Trincomalee in the east.

In Trincomalee, he visited the World War II oil tanks farm, a key Indo-Lanka economic partnership link for decades.

Since 2003, the Indian Oil Corporation's local entity LIOC has been running an operation there.

Shringla's key political appointments are to take place on Monday in Colombo, official sources said.

In addition to the Rajapaksa brothers, Shringla would meet a delegation of the main Tamil party, Tamil National Alliance for discussions.

India has been consistently calling upon Sri Lanka to fulfil its commitments to protect the interests of the Tamil community and preserve the island nation's character as a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.

The Tamil community in Sri Lanka has been demanding the implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution that provides for devolution of power to it. The 13th Amendment was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987.

Ahead of Shringla's visit, the Ministry of External Affairs said that Sri Lanka occupies a central place in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. The foreign secretary's visit signifies the importance both countries attach to strengthening their close and cordial relations in all spheres of mutual interest, it said.

"The visit of Foreign Secretary will provide an opportunity to review our bilateral ties, progress of ongoing bilateral projects and ongoing cooperation to tackle Covid related disruptions," the MEA said in a press release.

- PTI



Indian Foreign Secretary

@harshvshringla had separate and productive meetings with delegations from TNA, TPA and CWC.

He emphasized India's commitment to protecting the rights of Tamils through full implementation of the 13th amendment, early convening of Provincial Council elections, achieving reconciliation and establishing connectivity to India.



Foreign Secretary @harshvshringla visited the Oil Tank Farms at Trincomalee today. LIOC briefed him about the development undertaken at the Lower Tank Farms and the possibilities for further strengthening India-Sri Lanka energy partnership to enhance SL's energy security. @MEAIndia



3:40 AM - Oct 3, 2021



Foreign Secretary @harshvshringla arrives at Jaffna. He was extended a warm welcome by Indian CG in Jaffna and Chairman, Northern Provincial Council, Mr. C.V.K Sivagnanam. Officials from Civil Aviation Authority briefed FS about the development & rehabilitation of Palaly Airport.



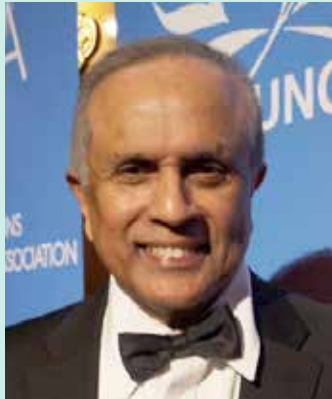
9:58 AM - Oct 3, 2021



Veteran Journalist Thalif Deen Takes Over as IDN Advisor

By Ramesh Jaura

Veteran journalist Thalif Deen has been appointed IDN-In-DepthNews Advisor on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Arms Control Issues & Senior Writer at the United Nations. IDN is the flagship of the Non-profit global media agency International Press Syndicate. He has been covering the United Nations since the late 1970s.



Beginning with the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, he has covered virtually every major UN conference: on population, human rights, the environment, sustainable development, food security, humanitarian aid, arms control and nuclear disarmament.

As the former UN Bureau Chief for Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency, Deen was cited twice for excellence in UN reporting at the annual awards presentation of the UN Correspondents' Association (UNCA). In November 2012, he was on the IPS team which won the prestigious gold medal for reporting on the global environment—and in 2013, he shared the gold, this time with the UN Bureau Chief of Reuters news agency, for his reporting on the humanitarian and development work of the United Nations.

A former information officer at the UN Secretariat, he served twice as a member of the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN General Assembly sessions. His track record includes a stint as deputy news editor of the Sri Lanka Daily News and senior editorial writer on the Hong Kong Standard.

As military analyst, Deen was also Director, Foreign Military Markets at Defense Marketing Services; Senior Defense Analyst at Forecast International; and military editor Middle East/Africa at Jane's Information Group. He was a longstanding columnist for the Sri Lanka Sunday Times, U.N. correspondent for Asiaweek, Hong Kong and Jane's Defence Weekly, London.

A Fulbright scholar with a Master's Degree (MSc) in Journalism from Columbia University, New York, he is co-author of the 1981 book on "How to Survive a Nuclear Disaster" and author of the 2021 book on the United Nations titled "No Comment – and Don't Quote me on That"—and subtitled 'from the Sublime to the Hilarious', both of which are available on Amazon: <https://www.rodericgrigson.com/no-comment-by-thalif-deen> email: thalifdeen@gmail.com tmd30@caa.columbia.edu

"Working at the UN during the most dramatic events of our time—from the pursuit of war and peace in the Middle East to the humanitarian disasters in Africa and Asia, this book provides an insider's view on what went on behind the 'glass curtain' during a period of extraordinary turbulence," writes Roderic Grigson in a book review.

No Comment is told through a series of news stories, interviews, anecdotes, and personal recollections. This compelling page-turner is held together by flashes of surprising humour and an overarching third world focus and point of view.

Though the book's scenes are scattered, they are individually memorable, evoking amazement and laughter in the same breath. Deen's colleagues know him "as a raconteur, often entertaining guests at various functions and parties with stories from his vast array of yarns, and this comes through his narrative in abundance".

[IDN-InDepthNews — 19 September 2021]

Meng, Canada's 'Two Michaels' Freed

By Ho King Man

Sep 25:

Meng's release was closely followed by that of two Canadian nationals jailed for spying in the wake of her arrest:

Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou headed home to China on Saturday, Sept 25th as Chinese authorities released Canadian nationals Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, despite having claimed their sentences were unrelated to Meng's detention in Vancouver at the request of the United States.

Meng was freed after attending court via video link from her home in Vancouver, where she has been under loose house arrest since being arrested on Dec. 1, 2018 at the city's airport, pending an extradition request from U.S. federal investigators, who have charged her with misleading HSBC Holdings about Huawei's business dealings in Iran.

Days later, Chinese authorities arrested eight Canadian nationals, including Kovrig and Spavor, and handed down a death sentence to convicted Canadian drug trafficker Robert Schellenberg, who had been serving a 15-year jail term.

The arrests and resentencing sparked criticism around the world that the moves were a form of "hostage diplomacy" on the part of Beijing, and raised concerns that Beijing might seize nationals of other countries with disputes with China.

Meng's release came after she reached a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) with the U.S. Department of Justice on Sept. 24.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kessler told the court that the prosecution had adopted Meng Wanzhou's acknowledgment of some wrongdoing under the agreement in exchange for delaying her prosecution.

A copy of a "Statement of Facts" posted to Twitter by Canada-based South China Morning Post correspondent Ian Young showed that Meng admitted that her previous claim that Huawei had only a "business partnership" with another company, Iran-based Skycom, was untrue, as the latter is wholly owned by the former, and "Skycom employees are really Huawei employees."

The statement relates to a case against HSBC brought by the DOJ under U.S. sanctions banning companies with a U.S. presence from doing business with individuals or organizations in Iran.

The deferred prosecution agreement will end in December 2022, at which point the wire transfer and bank fraud charges against Meng will be withdrawn if she doesn't break the law again.

Meng, who as the daughter of Huawei founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei has earned the sobriquet "Huawei's princess," thanked the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Chinese government via social media as she took a plane home.

"It is that shade of brilliant Chinese red that...leads me on the long journey home," she wrote in comments translated by Agence France-Presse.

Back home in China, state media made no reference to her admission of wrongdoing, with the Global Times newspaper reporting that she had been "finally released on a not guilty plea," and made no mention of Kovrig and Spavor.

Soon after Meng boarded her flight to the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Kovrig and Spavor had left Chinese airspace, and were expected to arrive in Canada on Saturday.

Trudeau told a news conference in Ottawa that they had gone through "an unbelievably difficult ordeal."

"For the past 1,000 days they have shown



File photos of businessman Michael Spavor (L) and former diplomat Michael Kovrig, two Canadians imprisoned by China in what critics branded "hostage diplomacy" and sent home on Sept. 24, 2021. AFP/International Crisis Group/Julie David De Lossy

strength, perseverance, resilience and grace, and we are all inspired by that," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said: "The U.S. Government stands with the international community in welcoming the decision" to release the men.

Michael Spavor, who was detained amid allegations of stealing state secrets more than two years ago, was sentenced on Aug. 8 by the Dandong Intermediate People's Court in the northeastern Chinese province of Liaoning.

Michael Kovrig, a former Canadian diplomat detained amid allegations of stealing state secrets more than two years ago, stood trial behind closed doors at the No. 2 Intermediate People's Court in Beijing on March 22, 2021, three days after Spavor's trial.

China gave no legal explanation for the release of the Canadians, despite its long insistence that their case had no connection to Meng's.

The U.S. has warned that Huawei, a private company subject to Chinese government orders to aid national security operations, could use its gear for espionage, and the U.S. has lobbied some foreign governments, including some members of the 29-nation NATO alliance and European Union, to shun Huawei Technologies.

U.S. officials have threatened to not share intelligence with those who compromise their network security by buying the Chinese manufacturer's products for their next-generation 5G wireless infrastructure or defense communications systems.

In July 2020, the U.K. said it was banning Huawei from its 5G telecom network amid an investigation by U.S. prosecutors into its alleged theft of trade secrets and obstruction of justice.

British telecom operators were given until 2027 to remove existing Huawei equipment from their 5G networks in changes likely to delay the country's 5G rollout by a year.

Around the same time, researchers in Australia were sounding the alarm about the CCP's global network of influence operating via the United Front, a network of party and government-linked agencies and companies.

Concerns were reignited in the U.K. earlier this month after the Times newspaper reported that a top business school at the University of Cambridge has close ties with Huawei, with three out of five board members linked with the company.

Three out of four directors at the Cambridge Centre for Chinese Management (CCCM) were reported to have ties with Huawei, while its chief representative is a former Huawei senior vice president paid by the Chinese government, the Times reported on Sept. 13, 2021.

Translated and edited by Luisetta Mudie. - via Radio Free Asia.



Prem Rawat in Toronto

Sept 23rd 2021

Over 4,000 virtual guests from 66 countries joined a live audience of a limited number of 350 attendees, in downtown Toronto to hear Prem Rawat speak from the heart about truly owning one's lifetime and recognizing the gift that it is.

From his talk,

Candle Power

The message "You are fortunate to be alive". It means nothing to many. They would rather talk about how to overcome their problems. But the truth is, you are fortunate to be alive. What is the significance of that. How do you take it.

A candle is designed to give light.

A lit candle can light other candles which are different.

What happens when a candle is lit?

1. Looks beautiful 2. Gives light 3. It is gone

In the disappearing, it does 2 things- it looks beautiful and gives light.

What is this light? The light of anything that is good. What is

"Be bigger than your problems."

Prem Rawat, September 23, 2021

that, that is the Divine. When the divine, the flame is dancing on top of you, you look beautiful, you give light. That is the most powerful thing you can imagine. Your existence allows the possibility of the divine to manifest.

You will like people to be kind to you, even if you are not kind to them. If you are kind to them, you want them to be kind to you. If they are not kind to you, you think why should I be kind to them. Are you a business person or a human being? You are trading. So many things are happening. You do not know what is happening.

As we get older, we get a clue about the 2 walls. From the time you came out of the first wall, you are sliding towards the second wall. Nothing or no one can stop that. In the middle of the two walls you want to be peaceful, have joy. One day you are

peaceful, the other day you are frustrated. Why? problems to out do one another.

Why is that, you cannot simply be kind to others, even if they are not kind to you? That can happen if you

Begin by being kind to yourself. When you are not kind to yourself, and you being kind to others, you are only acting. You have a need, that other people like you. If you cannot like you, you cannot like anyone. If you don't like them, they won't like you. In this world, you do not understand your identity. You are a candle. A lit candle gives light and remove darkness, a process incredibly powerful. That is the dance of the Divine, all done by coming to light.

You are fortunate to be alive. This will trigger in you, the deepest gratitude, acknowledgement and the absolute truth. Your Truth.

There won't be another one like you, ever again. How unique you are! Many say "I am nobody". No, you are somebody.

Why are you looking for truth in a world of lies that we have created?

You are a candle and the candle should be lit. Divine will dance on you, you can feel the presence. You glow and even little things appear huge in the shadow. You can see the huge spider in the shadow is only a tiny spider.

You cannot live forever. But you can live however long and be happy, be in joy.

You have won a lifetime. One human being free. Take ownership of your time. In you is the power, the joy, the Divine

When you leave this hall, you go back to grind your problems.

Be Bigger than your problems. When you see the reality, how incredibly fortunate you are to be alive, you can be bigger than your problems.

From the talk by Prem Rawat
www.timelesstoday.com
www.premrawat.com

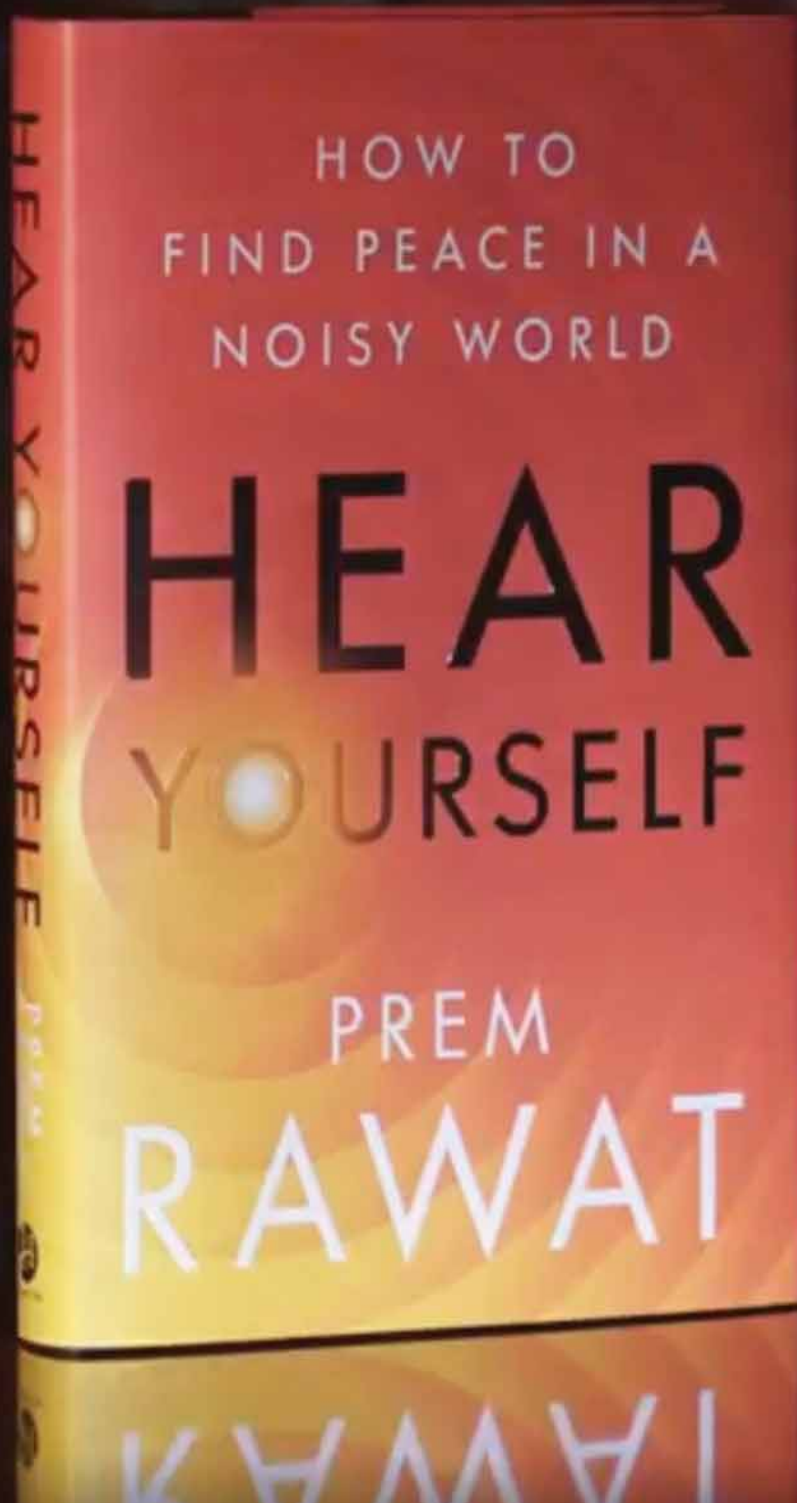
SPECIAL FEATURE 

Hear Yourself:

How to Find Peace in a Noisy World

PREM RAWAT'S NEW BOOK

"HEAR YOURSELF: HOW TO FIND PEACE IN A NOISY WORLD"



DEBUTS IN THE
TOP 10
 ON THE
The
New York
Times
BEST SELLERS LIST

By Prem Rawat
 Hardcover – Sept. 14 2021

About the Book

The renowned teacher and author of the internationally bestselling *Peace Is Possible* shows us how to quiet the noise of our busy lives to hear our own unique authentic voice—the source of peace.

The cacophony of modern life can be deafening, leaving us feeling frazzled and uneasy. In this warm, wise book, PremRawat

teaches us how to turn down the noise to “hear ourselves”—to listen to the subtle song of peace that sings inside each of us. Once we learn to truly “hear ourselves” and the voice of peace within, then we can hold on to that as we face all the noise of the world.

The culmination of a lifetime of study, *Hear Yourself* lays out the crucial steps we can use to focus on the voice within. He guides the reader on a journey,

often illustrated with stories, that reflect simplicity and accessibility for all, inviting us to listen to the heart, to reconnect with ourselves and take control of our lives. This book dives deep into the heart, while reflecting on the meaning of existence and the immense possibilities it offers.

If we allow ourselves to listen, what we hear is the extraordinary miracle of existence—an experience that transforms our

relationship to life and everything in it. Packed with powerful insights and compelling stories, *Hear Yourself* introduces readers to an ancient line of practical wisdom that enlightens us to a simple way to listen. By doing so, PremRawat reveals, we can “profoundly change our understanding of ourselves, those around us, and our lives.”



SPECIAL FEATURE

BENEVOLENT KING VALVIL ORI

By: Kumar Punithavel

The name of the poet who composed the poem # 204 of Purananooru which is an anthology of four hundred poems is Kalaithin yanaiar (கழைதின் யானையார்), which literarily means in Tamil as sugar cane munching elephant. Though there is only one poem credited to this bard in all the thousands of Sangam poems, it is believed that he must have authored at least one other poem about an elephant which was mulching sugar cane, and this was a nig-name given to him meaning 'sugar cane mulching elephant', though the said poem in discussion, is not found to date.

It is believed that Kalaithin Yanayar lived during Sangam era, which is between 600 BCE and 200 CE. During this Sangam era there lived seven benevolent royals called as kadaielu vallalkal (கடையெழு வள்ளல்கள்) meaning latter seven philanthropists. Before them there lived another seven philanthropist kings are called as thailaielu vallalkal (தலையெழு வள்ளல்கள்). The seven latter philanthropists known as Kadaielu Vallalkal are; Kari, Ori, Pēkan, Āy, Nalli, Pāri and Athikan. Ori is the last of them all.

There is an interesting folk lore worthy of note. Once when Valvil Ori when gone on hunting in the area called Rasapuram, which is presently known as Rasipuram, killed a hog with an arrow. The hurt animal ran into a nearby bush and hid. The king had run after looking for the wounded animal. Inside the bush he found a Shiva Lingam instead of the animal he had shot, and Lingam was bleeding. Believing that Lord Shiva had come down to judge him, on that spot he built a temple and conscripted it as Sri Kailasanathar temple. In that temple to remember this incidence at the bottom of the flagstaff, is a sculpture of a swine in the bush, and to show the king a sword and shield too is carved. The rear side of the turret has the whole incidence portrayed.

Hearing about the benevolence of King Valvil Ori, the bard Klaiathin Yanaiar had gone to the king for donations. Unfortunately, the king had refused to meet him for some unknown reason. Having known the kind benevolence of Valvil Ori, the bard did not pass judgment on the king. He felt that the king must have some good reason to refuse audience. Not wanting to hurt the feelings of the benevolent royalty he composed a poem expounding the circumstances.

In that poem he started mentioning that it is shameful to beg, but he goes on to say it is more shameful to refuse help to someone who had come begging. Though in the ancient times the Tamilian race considered begging as one of the most shameful way of living. The great Tamil bard Thiruvalluvar too in his couplet # 222 mentions, to beg is evil, even though it were said that begging will lead the path to heaven. Here is that couplet#222

*Though men declare it heavenward path, yet to receive is ill;
Though upper heaven were not, to give is virtue still.*

நல்லா நெனினுங் கொளல்தீது மேலுலகம்
இல்லெனினும் ஈதலே நன்று



However, frequently learned poets, with their literary knowledge while taking teaching as a profession, when in need of money they go and praise the benevolent wealthy and get funded. In this case Kalaithin yanaiar begins the poem mentioning it is a shame to beg and further it is shamer to refuse when having enough wealth to help.

It is shame to ask for alms, as opposed,
It is shamer to refuse alms.

In the next two lines, he goes on to mention that it is worthy to give alms before some one come begging, but he goes on to mention it is worthier to refuse what is offered as alms.

It is worthy to offer alms, as opposed,
It is worthier to refuse what is offered.

A person who is near a clear big ocean, if thirsty cannot quench the thirst from the ocean. Though the puddle of water where cows and other animals drink and muddies, will have many tracks focusing towards it where animals would have trekked to quench their thirst. Clearly implying that it is not what a person has but how charitable he is before one would approach.

*A roaring ocean with clear water nearby, 5
The thirsty will never quench on it.
Cows and horses stirred by drinking
Made turbid and muddy the pond, though dirty
There will be many tracks towards it to drink*

Persons who come to you to receive gifts, when they are unfortunate not to get what they came in search of, will not blame a kind person like you, but blame their own omen, timing and fate for the ill outcome. Hence, he says he will not detest the king. Instead, he is blessing that Ori may live long and continue helping the unfortunate. The bard compares him to the dark clouds in that sky that pours rain, he is a benevolent one giving gifts to the unfortunate.

*Omans and bad times will be blamed, not 10
Blame the one they went to appeal, thus
Me blame not thee, but praise Ori, like,
thundering and lighting sky,
Generously thee pour your gifts endlessly.*

This poem is more than two thousand years old, and one could see the magnanimity of the Tamil kings, and the non-judgmental nature of the bard at that time. Let us read the whole poem in in both English and Tamil which is the poem number 204 of Purananooru, composed by bard Kalaithin Yanaiar about Valvil Ori. There are hundreds of poems, nay thousands of poems of that era which had stood the test of time.

Purananooru poem # 204 By: Kalithin Yanaiar. Translated by Kumar Punithavel

It is shame to ask for alms, as opposed,

It is shamer to refuse alms.

It is worthy to offer alms, as opposed,

It is worthier to refuse what offered.

A roaring ocean with clear water nearby, 5

The thirsty will never quench on it.

Cows and horses stirred by drinking

Made turbid and muddy, though dirty

There will be many tracks towards it to drink

Omans and bad times will be blamed, not 10

Blame the one they went to request, thus

Me blame not thee, but praise Ori, like,

thundering and lighting sky,

Generously thee pour your gifts endlessly.

புறநானூறு 204, பாடியவர்: கழைதின் யானையார், பாடப்பட்டோன்: வல்வில் ஓரி, திணை: பாடாண், துறை: பரிசில்

ஈ என இரத்தல் இழிந்தன்று, அதன் எதிர் ஈயேன் என்றல் அதனினும் இழிந்தன்று, கொள் எனக் கொடுத்தல் உயர்ந்தன்று, அதன் எதிர் கொள்ளேன் என்றல் அதனினும் உயர்ந்தன்று, தெண்ணீர்ப் பரப்பின் இமிழ் திரைப் பெருங்கடல் 5 உண்ணார் ஆகுப நீர் வேட்டோரே, ஆவும் மாவும் சென்று உணக் கலங்கிச் சேறோடு பட்ட சிறுமைத்து ஆயினும், உண்ணீர் மருங்கின் அதர் பல ஆகும் புள்ளும் பொழுதும் பழித்தல் அல்லதை 10 உள்ளிச் சென்றோர் பழியலர், அதனால் புலவேன், வாழியர் ஓரி, விசும்பின் கருவி வானம் போல வரையாது சுரக்கும் வள்ளியோய் நின்னே.

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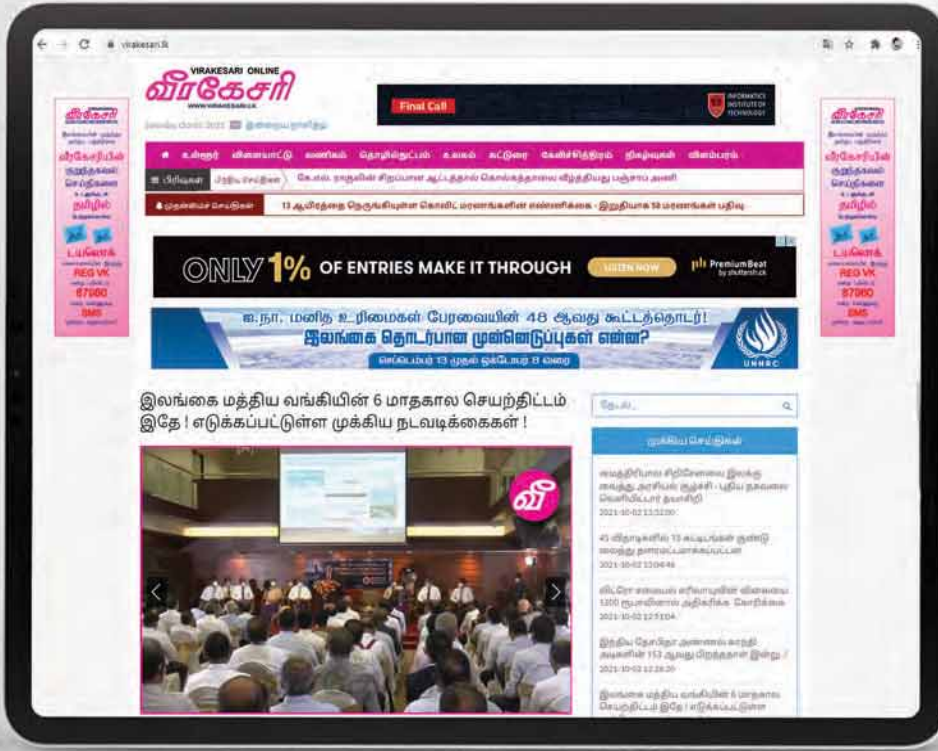
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Adorer of the feminine principle

By: Mira T. Sundara Rajan

Bharati believed absolutely, not only in the equality, but also, the superiority of the female over the male

"While I was sitting on the steps of the manadapam by the river, enjoying the Southern breeze, she brought me a poem. My heart overflowing with joy, I accepted it and asked her to marry me; with a smile on her lips, she disappeared..."

Days and nights pass; and then – "A beautiful damsel came and stood in front of me in the garden; looking at her luminous face, I lost myself entirely. She said that her name was Chentiru; since then, I have been haunted by the desire to embrace her to my heart's content."

The reader, like the intoxicated poet himself, is beguiled by the beauty of these encounters. But, gradually, we come to understand that Mahakavi Bharati is speaking, not of "maidens" only, but of goddesses — she who is said to reside on the tongue of Brahma and gives eloquence to the poet; she who is responsible for the abundance of life, the wealth of the world and the treasures of the heart. Saraswati and Lakshmi, the Hindu goddesses of knowledge and wealth; but who might be the third "love" of the Poet?

Late at night, a beautiful black form came before me

I thought it was the form of a virgin and went near passionately
Lo! It was the Mother,
Mother Parashakti!

This last and most mysterious of encounters, the sudden appearance of Parashakti before the poet's eyes, is the most astonishing in this series of moving and mysterious meetings between the poet and the divine — the divine specifically in the feminine form of the Goddess. The poem reveals the unique vision of the poet: drawing upon ancient Tamil literature, and inspired by the profound tradition of bhakti, he presumes a relationship of great intimacy with the divine, and one that is specifically made possible through his special adoration of the feminine principle. As noted by his granddaughter, S. VijayaBharati, in her commentary on this poem, the encounter with Parashakti, above all, must be characterised as a truly mystical experience.

Mystics in every culture have claimed to "see" visionary events — to witness what no-one can expect to see — to enter a world that we might ordinarily describe as dreamlike or hallucinatory. It is difficult to comment on the experiences that they describe. Science, and the progress of neuroscience in particular, increasingly serves to remind us of the evanescence of our own perceptions. But Bharati was, above all, a dedicatee of truth; he believed that, as a poet, this was his particular duty. While we may not be able to comment on what Bharati "saw," we can, however, develop a clearer understanding of his visions by looking at their practical corollaries.

In particular, Bharati's dedication

to Shakti was matched by an equally profound, mystical, and visionary dedication to human womanhood. Bharati's "feminism" deserves emphatic clarification: he believed absolutely, not only in the equality, but also, in a sense, the superiority of the female over the male. In his essay, "The Place of Woman," Bharati describes womankind as "the civiliser and, therefore, the spiritual superior of man."



Subramania Bharathi
(11 December 1882 – 11 September 1921)

Bharati points out what should probably be obvious — that the "enslavement" of women is rooted in male violence ("For it is the masculine habit...to slay those who do not desire to be enslaved by you"), whereas woman "loved the male too well to think of slaying the latter."

"Civilisation," he writes, "is the taming down of man by woman."

To Bharati, the role of womankind in the construction and preservation of culture could not be more fundamental. Culture is what essentially defines us as human beings and represents our contribution to the cosmos. Bharati argues that women's historical dedication to culture, to the interpretation of its "fables, parables and symbols," is what enables culture to survive — in the case of India, what allowed Indian culture to maintain its integrity in the face of the "terrific onslaughts" of European colonialism. Indeed, these incantatory tools were the only "weapon" that women could wield in their "work" of civilization. Bharati writes, "Where woman comes, comes Art. And what is Art, if not the effort of humanity towards divinity?"

Women, though historically excluded from many educational, cultural, and spiritual contexts, have nevertheless managed to remain the keepers of what we might call traditional knowledge. This refers, not only to traditions, local culture, and knowledge of the environment, but also, as Bharati points out, to a certain special fluency in the imaginative and visionary capacities of remembrance, myth-making, and celebration, which make gold out of the dross of everyday human experience. In his writings, Bharati repeatedly referred to the great women of Indian history — women like Maitreyi and Gargi, ancient philosophers and composers of Vedic hymns, and Andal, the Tamil poet-saint whose work he even translated into English — as well as recognising and cele-

brating the immense contributions of Western women, such as Annie Besant and Sister Nivedita, to the Indian national movement.

New woman

Famously, Bharati wrote about his own ideal of a "Pudumai Penn," a new kind of woman. He visualised her as a leader and a lawmaker and, above all, a free, independent, and fully realised human being. Once again, there was nothing theoretical about these ideas, nor were they based on the glorification of the past at the expense of the present. Rather, Bharati aimed to resurrect whatever was truly glorious — truly egalitarian, in his view — from the past, and give it new life. The pudumai penn that Bharati saw before his own eyes was none other than his wife, Chellamma. A woman who had married at age seven, and was effectively denied all of the benefits of modern education, nevertheless emerged as Bharati's foremost disciple, understanding the poet's heart and vision to the core, and virtually memorizing every line of poetry that he wrote. The poet celebrated her in lines of immortal poetry, and praised her as his vision made incarnate. "The loving wife is Shakti herself," he wrote.

Indeed, if any one incident could be said to lie at the heart of Bharati's feminism, it would be his encounter with Sister Nivedita. An Irishwoman who had come to India to become a disciple of Swami Vivekananda, Nivedita met Bharati when he was returning from the meeting of the Indian Congress at Calcutta in 1906. In a well-known story related by S. VijayaBharati, she asked Bharati why he had not brought his wife with him to engage in political activities, and advised him that it was his duty to do so!

Yet her influence on Bharati was immensely more profound than these words exchanged. Like Dakshinamurthy himself, Sister Nivedita taught Bharati through silence — through the force of her personality, which immediately touched him, appealing to his own visionary sensibility, when he met her. In 1908, he dedicated his national poems (SwadesaGithangal) to this "foreigner," this woman, writing:

"As Lord Krishna revealed his mighty form to Arjuna and explained the state of Atman, the Guru showed me the form of Bharata-Devi in its completeness and taught me to love my country. I dedicate this slender volume at the flower-like feet of my Guru. I dedicate this book to Sri-

mathiNivedita Devi, the spiritual offspring of Bhagwan Vivekananda, the most excellent of all spiritual teachers. Through silence, she taught me the nature of true service to the Mother, and the greatness of asceticism."

Bharati's sense of women's rights, of their place in society and their contribution to the world, was well thought out, deeply and patiently reasoned, and largely demonstrable with historical and contemporary examples. But, through the alchemy of his poetic gifts, feminism became, not only something that Bharati thought about, but also, something that he lived and experienced. It could be said that the poet who lost his mother at the age of five encountered her anew, in new forms, throughout his life; ultimately, he believed himself to be beloved and nurtured by the Mother of all, Parashakti. His tremendous and unshakable faith in Her, originating in his visionary experiences and sustained by the excellence of his mind, fed his transcendent gifts, and made him deeply joyful in the face of what might otherwise be considered, in crude terms, a life of unending adversity.

Notwithstanding the progress of the



Illustration by R. Rajesh

past century, everywhere in the world, we are still awaiting KruthaYugam, the epoch of enlightenment sought by Bharati, where women, half of humanity, will live a free and equal life. For those who celebrate Navaratri, or witness this festival as interested observers, Bharati's passionate argument stands: let us worship the Goddess, not only in the temple, but also in our homes, and in our hearts.

Bharati's original poem in Tamil is entitled, "MoonruKadal."

The writer is Mahakavi Bharati's great-granddaughter. (Via - The Hindu)



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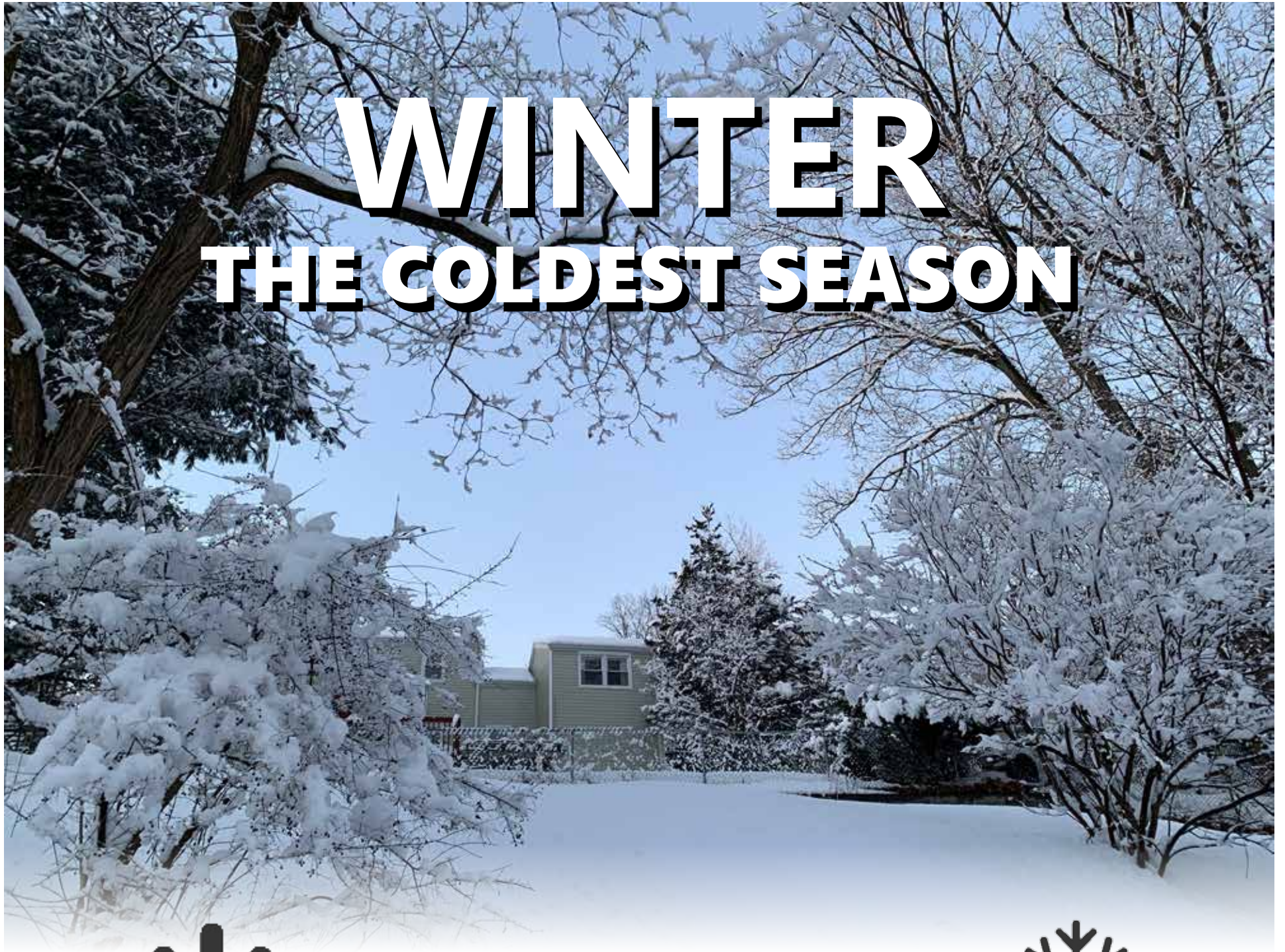
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SPECIAL FEATURE



WINTER

THE COLDEST SEASON



C. Kamalaharan



Winter is just around the corner
 A prelude to hard times sooner
 People are bound to face it
 None are exempted from it
 All must adapt to winter
 It's going to be so bitter
 Remember life should go on
 Whatever setbacks come upon
 Never take Canadian winter lightly
 Follow weather instructions strictly
 During winter wear thermal suits
 And water proof tracked boots
 Winter lasts only a few months
 The benefits it leaves surmounts
 If winter comes can spring be far behind?



- P.B. Shelley



SPECIAL FEATURE

The Art of Persuasion



- enterpriseleague.com

By: **J.A. Rajah**

One may possess all other gifts but the art of persuasive speech is an exceptional asset. John Kennedy said admiringly of Winston Churchill of Britain, “He harnessed the English language and sent it to war against Hitler”. True it was the eloquence of Churchill that sustained Britain, when France had fallen and Britain stood without enough arms and alone. Since prosperity and destruction could be the outcome of a leader’s speech, it is wise to take great care in preparing one’s speech and not words that falter. The words spoken should be such as to bind and convince the listener, and non-listeners too should want to hear. No greater justice or worldly benefit can accrue than by adapting the speech, to the assessed intellectual level of the audience.

**‘Chooluka chollaip pirithor chol achchollai,
Vellum chol inmai arinthu’**

‘சொல்லுக சொல்லைப் பிறிதோர்சொல் அச்சொல்லை
வெல்லுஞ்சொல் இன்மை அறிந்து’

A speech should be so thoroughly prepared, that it is not possible to refute it, by counter arguments on the other side. The policy of the right kind of counsellors will be to speak pleasingly, and to welcome useful ideas urged by other speakers.

**‘Cholvallan sorvilan anchan avanai,
Ihal vellar yarkkum arithu’**

‘சொல்வல்லன் சோர்விலன் அஞ்சா னவனை
இகல்வெல்லல் யார்க்கும் அரிது’

What makes a counsellor invincible in debate, is a convincing style, a good memory and fearlessness. The world will lose no time seeking performance of able counsellors, who can express profound ideas in orderly and pleasing manner. It is only those, who have not learnt to think well, and couch their ideas in precise words of a brief speech, would prefer to go on speaking at great length. Those, who cannot express their thought acquired after deep study, are like a bunch of flowers without fragrance. Any amount of learning, without the concomitant power of expression, serves no purpose as far as the world is concerned.

(Kural: 641-650)



Valluvar's Views



Cricket and the Lessons of Life



Rest of the World vs England 1970 - Getty image

By: J.A. Rajah

A. Cricket News:

Cricket is a popular game that originated in Britain and is played mainly in countries that were earlier under the British Empire. They are mainly Australia, New-Zealand, South Africa, India, West-Indies, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. These are the countries who now engage in cricket tournaments and competitions. I took an interest in cricket as I attended St. John's College, which was founded by British missionaries who introduced cricket with a solid foundation. As a youngster, I used to read the sports pages of Observer and Times of Ceylon which my grandfather subscribed regularly. In those days they used to publish photographs of cricketers belonging to major cricket playing countries and I used to collect them as a hobby. The names of Len Hutton, Dennis Compton, Ray Illingworth, Don Bradman, Everton Weekes, Clive Walcott, Frank Worrell, Harold Larwood and Ray Lindwall still rings in my memory. Cricket is now played in three formats:-Test Cricket, One-Day Cricket and 20 Overs Cricket.

B. Lessons Learnt From Playing Cricket:

Cricket is a character-building game. You need not be a player. You could learn many lessons by just watching the game. Good things come to those who wait. Only if you strain yourself and practice hard in the nets that you can become a good batsman or a bowler. Your fitness is

more important than your skills. You might have mastered batting, bowling or fielding but if you are not physically fit you will not be able to wait for many hours at the pitch or in the field to stand the strain of batting for a long time or fielding for long periods of time. Practice makes perfect. Cricketers should have to practice continuously if they have to enhance their skills-whether it is batting, fielding or bowling. "Catches win matches'-goes the adage. If you have sufficient practice, you will be ready to take catches when they come. If you stay at the wicket, you will make runs. You should not be crazy about good shots and go in or them without studying the bowlers' tactics. The main thing is to take your time, study the field and gradually go in for big shots. 'Hit out or get out'-slogan does not make you a good cricketer. Cricket is a game that is played well with the encouragement given by cheering squads. "Bails, bails let them fly, wickets, wickets let them fall', 'Send the ball over the rope', 'Adida Machchan, boundry, six sir' are some of the popular slogans in Sri Lankan cricket matches. Cricket metaphors have now become common in general conversations. If one tells a tall story, it is said that he had hit a six. If an opponent fails it is stated that a wicket has fallen. Thus, cricket has enriched common Ligu Franca.

C. Glorious Uncertainties:

Cricket is a game of glorious uncertainties. There are umpteen number

of snares awaiting you in the field and hence the need to stay put if the batsman is interested in making a good score. Victory and defeat are inevitable in cricket. One could always be hopeful that there is better luck next time. One should always have hope springing in the mind until the match is over. You don't lose a match until it is over. A team may blunder in the first innings and come back pretty well in the second innings. If you go on trying over and over again you will succeed. Timing of your decision's matters. A captain should be able to decide at what time he should declare an innings closed, if he is playing to win a game. You should never wait to decide and give way to an inevitable draw. Any team member can lead his team to victory. The tail ender could be a bold striker who could score profusely and make up for the

setbacks of the former batsmen to convert an inevitable draw or defeat to victory.

D. Mindset and the Need For Innovative Strategies in Cricket:

Mindset is more important than skills. A grim determination to succeed works well. One should not be deterred by quick fall of wickets. One who handles pressure confidently, wins comfortably. You should not play every ball that is bowled at you. Don't go out of the way to reach an outgoing ball and get caught. Batsmen should watch, wait and go in to slam the ball easily. If your basics are strong, you will bounce back soon. A captain should be able to rotate the batting order or bowlers depending on the need of the situation. When quick runs have to be scored, you have to send in the master blaster. If a batsman is ill at ease to face left-break bowler, the captain should bring in the leg-spinner. Sonny Ramadhan ('Prince of Slow-bowlers'), the West-Indian spinner was able to take a large number of wickets, when brought in at the appropriate time. In cricket, the captain should always try to be innovative to use his experience and expertise to bring in new solutions to keep up the morale of his team. Hence lessons for life are interwoven with the game of cricket and it makes it a positively character-building game.



Technology

By: Mithusha Partheepan

Technology has become a vital part of our life. Without the use of technology, we can't imagine a simple and comfortable life. The internet is probably the most famous means to spread information. Using the internet, one can easily access the news, views, updates and insights of the world. Technology has advanced so much from the 20th century, because in the present day, people can carry portable devices in their pockets and communicate with each other through voice and video calls. Moreover, using the internet enables one to easily work from home, do their official work, online shopping, and many other activities. Using communication

gadgets, like mobile phones and telephones, help people feel connected with each other.

The use of technologies has enhanced the teaching-learning activities for students; especially during quarantine this past year and a half. Students actively take part in the visual learning process through animations using various software and programs. They can surf various educational websites, collect data and information related to their course content, and also take different online tutorials. Technology also saves time for people and makes them more productive

Technology is also an added advantage for large companies, because they use computers and other gadgets to accomplish their work. Industrial tasks are automated by the use of machines and robots that have resulted in large production in a shorter time. Whether it be the field of industry, banking, education, transport, communication, or security, it is the technology that has made the work easier and smoother.

Although technology has made human life easier, it also has a lot of bad effects on our lives. Modern gadgets waste the time of people. Instead of engaging in productive tasks, many people involve themselves in unimportant activities. Thus, it has caused a distraction from studying as well as work. This diverts people from their ambitious goals and also reduces the creativity of people. Many young minds are

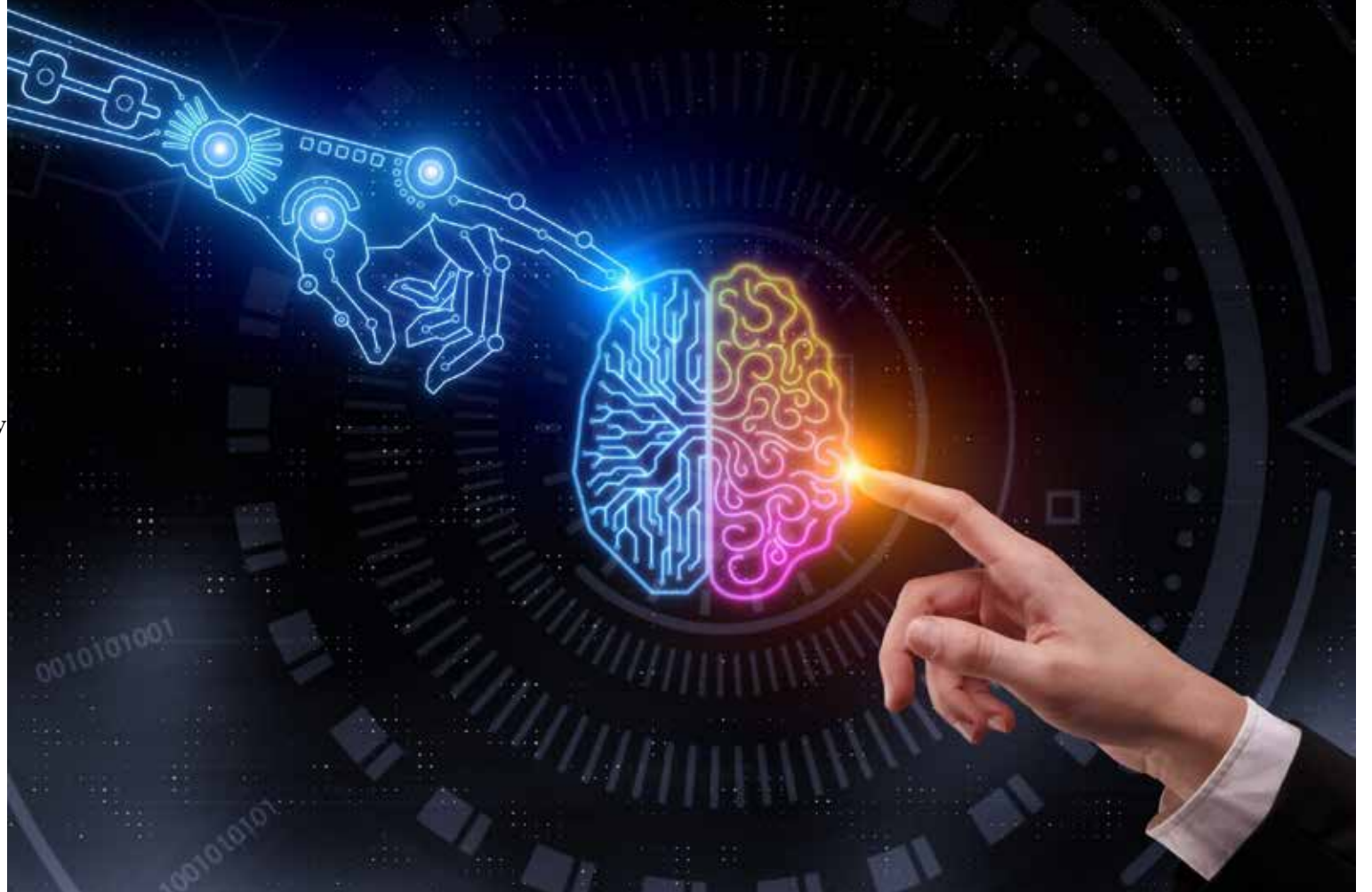
addicted to technology. Overuse of technology leads to isolation from society, family members, and may even cause anxiety and depression.

Technology has effects on the environment as well. Different vehicles, which run on fuels, cause air pollution. Industrial and chemical wastes result in the pollution of water and land. Heavy vehicles, airplanes, and loud music players cause sound pollution. Moreover, excessive use of technology in every sector has lowered the value of human workers. Technology can even cause threats and danger to people, societies, and nations. Military weapons such as guns, bombs, grenades, and line mines are used in the war among groups of nations which leads to mass deaths of the population. Thus, even though technology is a gift to everyone and has been ingrained into our everyday lives, we cannot ignore the severe negative impacts of technology on our lives and environment.

Today, technology is a very integral part of the day-to-day life for each and every one of us. Even though technology has gone a very long way in making life more convenient for us, technology has also brought along a variety of negative effects that cannot be overlooked. Technology can be said to be highly addictive as a result of its convenience and the easy comfort sources accompanied by the entertainment that it offers. It is important that one tries to

find a balance between nature and technology. It one can achieve this, it is sure that one's life will change

for the better and one would be able to live a life that is happy and free of stress and depression.



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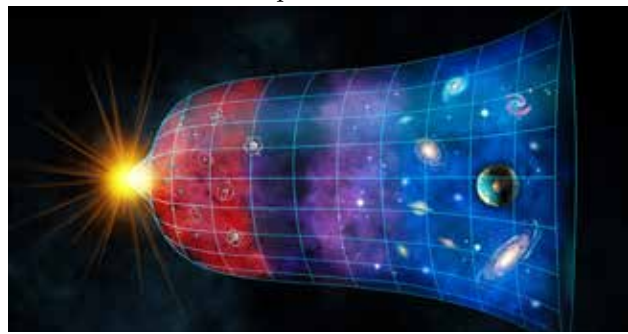


A SINGLE NUMBER MET A COSMOLOGICAL CRISIS

Something Wrong With The Standard Cosmological Model

By OUE Research Institute

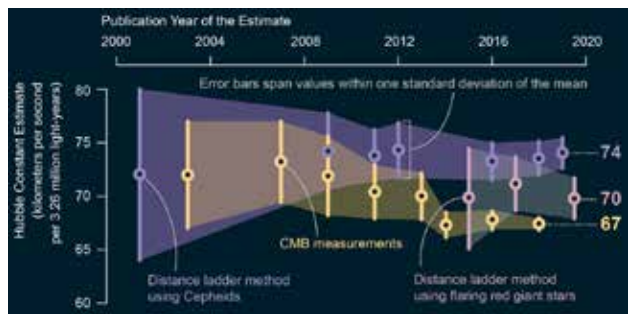
Two different measurements of how fast the universe is expanding cannot both be correct. Scientists have regularly calculated the rate of the universe's expansion (the Hubble constant) with two distinct techniques. These measurements have produced a persistent conflict. One method, which includes measuring supernovae and stars in the relatively recent universe. The other strategy, which uses light leftovers from shortly after the big bang. Practical problems could cause the mistake, but no one is sure what those problems would be.



The standard cosmological model seemed complete but full of mysteries. It was filled with fruitful areas for further research. The universe consisted of approximately two-thirds dark energy and maybe a quarter of dark matter and 4 or 5 percent "ordinary" matter. The ordinary material of us—and planets, stars, galaxies, and everything else we had always thought, constituted the universe in its entirety until the past few decades.

Inequality Measurement

A disparity has developed between two ways of measuring the rate of the universe's expansion and a value called the Hubble constant (H₀). Measurements beginning in today's universe



and working backward to earlier stages have consistently revealed one number. However, measures starting at the universe's earliest stages and working forward have always predicted another number. One suggests the universe is expanding faster than we had thought. Knowing the universe's current expansion rate helps cosmologists extrapolate backward in time to determine the universe's age. It also allows them to conclude forward in time to figure out when, according to current theory, the space between galaxies will have grown so vast that the cosmos will look like a space beyond our immediate surroundings.

A correct value of H₀ might even help clarify the nature of the dark energy driving the acceleration. This sort of condition is not rare in science. It may be with the observations or the interpretation of the observations. This leaves one last option something is wrong with the cosmological model itself. The assumption that it would disappear has convinced cosmologists for the past decade. But the disagreement has hardened year after year each set of measurements growing more and more contrary.

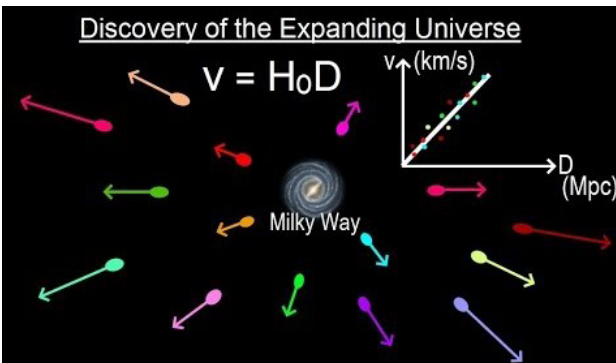
Hubble Experimentation

In 1925 astronomer Edwin Hubble achieved it toward experimentation when he announced that he had solved a centuries-long mystery about the



identity of spots in the heavens—what astronomers called "nebulae." Hubble discovered nebula, what we today call the Andromeda galaxy.

Furthermore, when Hubble looked at the light from other nebulae, he found that the wavelengths had extended near the red end of the visible spectrum, suggesting that each source was moving away from Earth. The speed of light remains constant. What changes is the length between waves, and that length determines the color. In 1927 Belgian physicist and priest Georges Lemaitre noticed a pattern: The more distant the galaxy, the greater its redshift. The farther away it was, the faster it dropped. In 1929 Hubble independently arrived at the same conclusion: the universe is expanding.



Absence of Evidence

Reverse the outward expansion of the universe, and you eventually wind up at a starting point, a birth event of sorts. A few theorists immediately suggested a kind of explosion of space and time, a phenomenon that later made the "big bang." The idea sounded fantastical, and for several decades, in the absence of empirical evidence, most astronomers could afford to ignore it.

In 2001, the Hubble Space Telescope completed the first reliable measurement of the Hubble



constant. In this case, the standard candles were Cepheid variables, stars that brighten and dim with a regularity corresponding to their absolute luminosity. The Key Project wound up essentially splitting the difference between the two earlier values: 72 ± 8 . The next purely astronomical search for the constant was carried out by a team led by Adam G. Riess, who in 2011 shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for his role in the 1998 discovery of acceleration. The standard candles were Cepheids and type Ia supernovae, and the last included some distant supernovae observed. Cepheids are variable stars having a regular cycle of brightness with a frequency related to their luminosity, allowing estimation of their distance from the earth. The initial result, in 2005, was 73 ± 4 , and the most recent, in 2019, was 74.03 ± 1.42 .

European Space Agency

Another possible explanation is that the influence of dark energy changes over

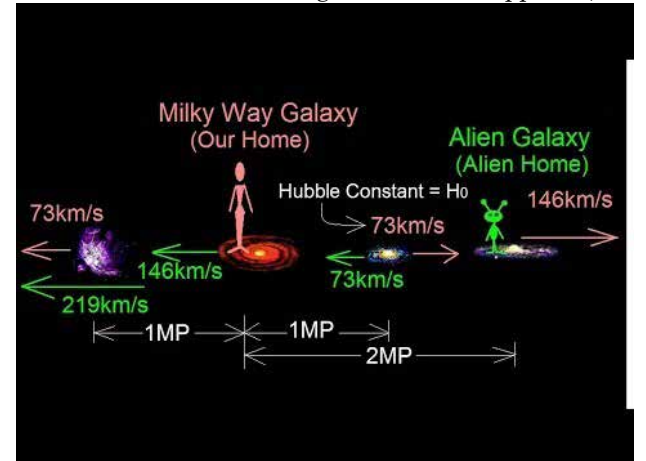


time—a reasonable alternative, considering that cosmologists do not know how dark energy works, let alone what it is. There is a small correction somewhere needed to bring the numbers into an agreement. "that is new physics, and that is what inspires cosmologists—a defect in the wall of the Standard Model, something new to work on."

Everybody knows what they have to do next. Observers will await data from Gaia, a European Space Agency observatory that promises unprecedented precision in measuring distances to more than a billion stars in our galaxy in the next couple of years. If those measurements do not match the values that astronomers have been using as the first round in the distance ladder, they may have been systematic errors after all. Theorists, meanwhile, will continue to shake out alternative interpretations of the universe. So far, though, they have not found one that withstands community examination. And there, barring any breakthrough, the tension—problem, crisis—will have to reside for now: in a quasi-unscientific universe harbouring a predicted Hubble constant of 67 that denies the observation of 74.

Alternative Hypothesis

There are numerous alternative hypotheses to the Big Bang theory, but none have risen to influence. But even if scientists disagree on what happened,



more seem to be challenging regarding the universe's origin. Nobel prize winner James Peebles attacked the Big Bang theory. He accused scientists of accepting the theory because it's a convenient assumption, not because they have enough evidence to support it. Cosmologists have evidence of a rapid outward expansion, but not anything as discrete as a singular point that detonated to create everything in the universe. Peebles does not have an alternative to the Big Bang theory to propose. "We don't have a strong test of what happened earlier in time," Peebles told AFP. We have theories but not tested.

Eric Lerner, the founder of Lawrenceville Plasma Physics, has been arguing against the notion of the Big Bang for decades. Lerner's latest research finds a discrepancy between the theory and actual data scientists have observed. Lerner's study explicitly challenges assumptions about how light elements like helium and lithium formed in the universe's earliest days.

The standard cosmological model remains one of the great scientific triumphs of the age. In half a century, cosmology has matured from speculation to expected certainty. It might not be as complete as cosmologists believed it to be even a year ago, yet it remains a textbook example of how science works at its best: it raises questions, it provides answers, and it hints at mystery.



Retirement Planning

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

The retirement you choose will be unique to you, and that's as it should be – but in a general way, all retirements travel through three phases.

You've undoubtedly thought a lot about the "shape" of your retirement – but whether your plans include traveling, volunteering, starting a new career, or a myriad of other retirement dreams, the most important thing is having sufficient finances to ensure all of them become reality. If you are a member of a pension plan, now is the time to make some important decisions that will have a strong impact on the amount and length of your pension.

Phase 1: Figuring it out

Becoming retired is a change and while you might have dreamt about it, you really won't know what it will be like until you experience it. Much of who we are comes from work – our sense of accomplishment, our status and even our social connections – but the shift to retirement may mean figuring out who we truly are and learning how to be content through many retirement years. Before you retire, 'try on' different potential retirement lifestyles and chat with other retired friends about their retirement journey that may lead to discovering something new that you had not considered. Financially, you're likely to spend more during your early retirement years as you try out new things – so budget for these additional expenses but also remember that some fulfilling things (such as volunteering) are not expensive and provide a strong sense of self worth.

Phase 2: Settling in

At this point, you'll know exactly what you want out of retirement – and to be sure you'll enjoy it, always take care of your health. Financial plan-

ning becomes easier because most of your expenses are stable and predictable – but ensure you plan for the unexpected like a sudden health issue or major repair bill and periodically review your spending plan to ensure you've captured all your costs, including the effects of inflation.

Phase 3: Winding down

In this phase, folks usually slow down due to declining health or finances. You'll find yourself thinking more and more about the financial and other legacies you'll leave.

Do what you can to maintain and improve your health – but be aware that health care costs can be significant. Although Canada's health care program is very good, you'll likely want to enhance your control over your own health – so be sure to understand your health care options and choices, especially what would happen if you become chronically or acutely ill.

These three phases of retirement aren't necessarily linear – for example, if a significant health event led to retirement, you may live for a time like you're in Phase 3 but with recovery, move back to Phase 1. And keep in mind that your spouse may not always be in the same phase as you.

Myths and realities

Whether your retirement is just around the corner or way down the road, you probably think about it – the shape of it, the quality of it – and perhaps worry about it, too. That's why you plan for retirement – to eliminate as many unknowns as possible and to chart the right retirement course for you. But every solid plan needs a solid foundation. The good news is that in this electronic age, there's lots of information out there. The bad news is there's also a lot of misinformation out there. So to give your plan the solid



David Joseph, M.A., CFP®, CLU

Financial Consultant

david.joseph@investorsgroup.com

Phone: (905)-895-6718

Toll Free: 1-888-565-9996

Fax: (905) 895-5581 <http://www.investorsgroup.com>

foundation it needs, let's dispel some myths and look at some basic realities of retirement.

Myth: Financial health is most important

Reality: Sure, having money definitely provides additional choices in retirement but the reality is that people tend to 'right-size' their retirement lifestyle in line with their financial resources. As well, many people enjoy fulfilling and meaningful retirements without having lots of money – by volunteering, through part-time work, or other appropriate lifestyle choices. The biggest issue is your health – poor physical or mental health removes choices whether you have money or not. So your plan should include maintaining and improving your health and knowing how health issues will be handled before they happen.

Myth: The biggest risk to your retirement income is the stock market

Reality: Yes, poor investment returns early in retirement can have an impact, but avoiding the stock market by sheltering your investments in low-return vehicles such as Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) may not be the answer. Unlike GICs, equity investments can provide the opportunity for the level of growth over the long term that can offset the effects of inflation. So, your plan

should include strategies for accessing market growth while still protecting your income from the impact of a short term market turndown.

Myth: You'll have plenty of spare time.

Reality: Experienced retirees will tell you that they have little spare time. Life tends to expand to fill up time so your plan should ensure your time fills up with things that are meaningful to you.

Myth: People work in retirement because of financial need.

Reality: Some people do work in retirement for financial reasons but many seek part-time, occasional or flexible work that provides social interaction, allows them to feel challenged, or provides a sense of accomplishment. So plan to talk to 'working retirees' about why they work and how they fit their retirement around it.

To eliminate all the retirement myths from your retirement realities, talk to your professional advisor about the best retirement plan for you.

Disclaimer:

This report specifically written and published as a general source of information only, and is not intended as a solicitation to buy or sell specific investments or insurance, nor is it intended to provide investment advice.

Someone filed a claim against me but I filed for Bankruptcy in Canada



Filing for bankruptcy is one of the most difficult situations in your life. However, you will feel about it of relief upon filing for bankruptcy. That's because you know that you will be able to receive relief against the outstanding debt you owe. In the meantime, you might have to experience many other challenges. For example, someone else might go ahead and file a claim against you. In such a situation, you will wonder what you can do to get out of the situation.

Once you file for bankruptcy, stay of proceeding will come to effect. Along with that, legal notices will be sent to all the companies and individuals that have a legal action against you. This will provide you with coverage against the unsecured debts that you have. In the meantime, stay of proceedings is in a position to keep another person from filing any claim against you as well. Therefore, you will need to go ahead and let your trustee not to leave out

anything.

Even under such instances, you might receive a notice about legal action from the unsecured creditors. This can take place after bankruptcy. In such a situation, you will need to go ahead and contact the trustee. Then you will have to inform the trustee to take legal actions against them. This is a protection that you can receive from law.

It is also important to keep in mind that Stay of Proceeding is sent to the court as well. Therefore, you will be able to receive assistance with handling the legal issues as well. For example, if you are dealing with a case that is linked to wage garnishment, the stay of proceedings would provide ability for the courts to go ahead and stop it. Therefore, stay of proceedings has the ability to deliver an excellent overall protection to you with dealing with the unsecured debts that you have. Therefore, you will be able to manage the proceedings of bankruptcy with

minimum hassle.

Along with this, you are also encouraged to take a look at defaulting on the consumer proposal. In case if you fail to meet the terms and conditions that are implemented within the consumer proposal, it would go into default. Therefore, your stay of proceedings would be lifted as well. Along with that, creditors will be able to regain their complete collection rights, along with the court action.

There is a possibility that stay of proceedings to be lifted by the courts as well. A creditor will have to go ahead and apply for this. In fact, they have all the rights to ask from the courts whether it is okay to go ahead and take specific legal action against you. Therefore, it is better if you can work out closely with a bankruptcy lawyer and discuss the matters. Then you can come up with the best solution available to handle the situation.

**In case of you have credit or debt issues
visit www.gtacredit.com or
call 416 650 1100**



COMMUNITY WATCH

Appointments

Sri Lankan born Kamzy Gunaratnam elected a member of the Norwegian Parliament

Kamzy Gunaratnam who has been elected as a member of the Norwegian Parliament was born in Sri Lanka and came to Norway as a refugee when she was three years old. Her parents were Tamil refugees who worked in the fishing industry in the north of Norway. After joining the Tamil Youth Organization in Oslo, Gunaratnam met governing mayor Raymond Johansen who encouraged her to get involved with politics, which she did.

Gunaratnam was elected as a representative to Oslo City Council for the first time in 2007, she was a deputy member of the Storting (2013-2017) and took office as the Deputy Mayor of Oslo on 21 October 2015.



Ajith Nivard Cabraal appointed Sri Lanka's Central Bank Governor

State Minister of Money, Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms, Ajith Nivard Cabraal has stepped down from his portfolio as a State Minister and taken up the portfolio of Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This is after Central Bank Governor Professor W.D. Lakshman's announcement that he will resign from his position with effect from September 14 serving little less than two years.



Ceylon Tobacco Company PLC (CTC) has announced the appointment of Syed Muhammad Ali Abrar as Finance Director

Ceylon Tobacco Company PLC (CTC) has announced the appointment of Syed Muhammad Ali Abrar to the position of Finance Director, effective 1 September 2021.

As the new Finance Director, Ali will be reporting to the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer Nedal Salem. Ali holds a bachelor's degree from the National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan and holds an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration, Pakistan.



Sri Lankan born scientist Ashani Weeraratne appointed to the US National Cancer Advisory Board

Sri Lankan born scientist Ashani Weeraratna, a leading cancer researcher has been appointed by US President Joe Biden to the National Cancer Advisory Board, which plays an important role in guiding the Director of the National Cancer Institute in setting the course for the national cancer research programme.

Born in Sri Lanka and raised in Lesotho in Africa, Dr. Weeraratna first came to the United States in 1988 to study biology at St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Quotable Quotes - 2021

By: Siva Sivapragasam

“They said it”



“

“I stand here today, for the first time in 20 years, with the United States not at war. We've turned the page. We all must call out and condemn the targeting and oppression of racial, ethnic, and religious minorities when it occurs in -- whether it occurs in Xinjiang or northern Ethiopia or anywhere in the world.”

– US President Joe Biden at UN Annual sessions 2021

”



“

“Everyone has a story about that moment on Sept 11, 2001 when mourning over an apparent tragic accident gave way to fear and anger over an obvious attack. In a day-a few moments-everything seemed to change. And in retrospect, most everything did.”

– Edward Keenan, Toronto Star's Washington Bureau Chief

”



“

“Peaceful protest is a right, but patients & our health care heroes do not deserve to be intimidated or obstructed from accessing or delivering care”

– Christine Elliott, Health Minister

”



“

“People know that we need to have economic growth in order to create jobs and opportunities, in order to pay for the programs that give Canadians more and more opportunities”

– Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

”



“

“Unite behind a proven campaigner who can and should be our next Prime Minister”

– Former Ontario PC Premier Mike Harris on Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole

”



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GENIE SISTERS

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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.

Three Sisters Soup



October marks Thanksgiving here in Canada and the only way we believe we can start off the month is with this beautiful Indigenous recipe. At the centre of many traditional Indigenous recipes are what is considered the three sisters of harvest: corn, squash and beans. These vegetables were in abundance and the nations would build their agriculture techniques with these crops in mind. Try making this hearty vegetarian recipe this month and celebrate Thanksgiving with us all.

Method:

In a large pot, place the corn, green beans, squash and potatoes. Add water and chicken bouillon and bring to a boil. Once boiling, reduce the heat to a low simmer and continue to cook until the vegetables are soft.

In a separate bowl, blend the melted butter and flour together and stir into the soup. Turn the heat up to a medium and cook until the soup thickens in consistency and the floury taste disappears. Season the soup with salt and pepper and it's ready to serve.

Recipe courtesy of Kevin Wager

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

Ingredients:

- ✓ 2 cups canned white or yellow hominy corn (drained) – can be substituted for regular corn
- ✓ 2 cups fresh green beans (trimmed and snapped)
- ✓ 2 cups butternut squash (peeled and cubed)
- ✓ 1½ cups white or yellow potatoes (peeled and diced)
- ✓ 5 cups water
- ✓ 1½ tbsp chicken bouillon granules
- ✓ 2 tbsp butter (melted)
- ✓ 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- ✓ ¼ tsp ground black pepper

At the Monsoon Kitchen,
Samayal Santhai

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Yohani sings her way to **Bollywood**

September 29: Sri Lankan YouTuber, Yohani De Silva, who grabbed the international audience with her cover song “Manike Mage Hithe” with over 129 million views, has entered the Bollywood market. Yohani has released her soulful interpretation of the female version of the title track from the Bollywood movie “Siddat” after capturing the attention of Indian fans with her original popular record. Shiddat, also known as “Journey Beyond Love”, is a Hindi-language romance film directed by Kunal Deshmukh and produced by Bhushan Kumar and Dinesh Vijan under the T-Series and Maddock Films. The T-series



youtube channel has already released the theme song of the movie “Siddat”. Radhika Madan, Sunny Kaushal, Mohit Raina, and Diana Penty appear in the film. The film will release on Disney+ Hotstar on October 1, 2021.

- *daily news.lk*





City of Brampton recognizes October as Small Business Month



BRAMPTON, ON (October 1, 2021) – October is Small Business Month, and the City of Brampton celebrates local entrepreneurs whose ideas, passion and determination help make the community competitive and prosperous.

Throughout October, the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre (BEC), as part of the Economic Development Office, is hosting a full schedule of virtual programming and networking events for the local business community covering topics like marketing, design tools, bookkeeping, incorporating and more. More details and event registration can be found at www.brampton.ca/BEC.

Also in October and in honour of Small Business Month, BEC is launching the Business Milestone Program. Small businesses with ten or less employees who have pivoted and shown resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, are celebrating an anniversary or milestone or are doing something special or unique are invited to share their story with BEC at bec@brampton.ca.

Successful small businesses are essential to a thriving city, helping to create jobs, boost the economy and enhance local neighbourhoods. COVID-19 has greatly impacted the greater

Brampton community, and small businesses – the backbone of cities – have been hit hard by the pandemic.

Residents are encouraged to explore, select and buy local, and to keep the following tips in mind:

- Consider supporting local businesses and promoting your favourites on social media! For a full list of small Brampton businesses, visit the Support Local Brampton website. Leave them online reviews to refer others. Engage with local businesses through social media accounts and show support for Brampton businesses using a Support Local graphic and the hashtag #SupportLocalBrampton. A Support Local media pack can be downloaded here.

- Explore all the must-eat-at spots in Brampton with the Brampton Food-Guide, download your copy here.

- Your favourite local businesses are open, show your vaccine receipt and mask up to easily and safely access gyms, hair salons, restaurants for indoor dining and more!

- Refer friends and family by word of mouth.

For more information on supporting local, visit the Support Local Brampton website.

- via: Brampton.ca

City of Brampton Fire and Emergency Services wins national award for its work in diversity, equity and inclusion



BRAMPTON, ON (September 15, 2021) – This week, Brampton Fire and Emergency Services (BFES) was awarded the 2021 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Award by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC). This new award recognizes industry leaders and celebrates the work being

done to ensure fire services across the country reflect that of Canada's diverse population.

Brampton Fire and Emergency Services is committed to building a workforce of cultural acceptance and understanding that is more reflective of the community it serves. The

City of Brampton opens grant applications to help support local artists and non-profits



BRAMPTON, ON (October 4, 2021) – Starting today, the City of Brampton is accepting applications for two community grant opportunities, one to support Brampton-based non-profit organizations delivering vital programs and services and the other to help local artists recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A \$600,000 community-grant program that provides eligible Brampton-based non-profit or charitable organizations with funds to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of the community.

There are three funding streams:

Emerging - provides up to \$5,000 in matching funds for new and innovative projects. Open from October 4 to 29.

Developing - provides up to \$12,500 in matching funds for programs that have run at least once in Brampton. Open from October 4 to November 29.

Amplifying - provides up to \$25,000 in matching funds for projects that have run at least twice in Brampton. Open from October 4 to November 29.

Applications for all streams of funding will pertain to projects taking place in 2022. Grants are open to those that provide services for Brampton residents; including incorporated non-profit organizations, registered charities and, for the Emerging stream, unincorporated non-profit groups. For each of the funding streams, applicants must select a Term of Council Priority their project best aligns with.

Interested organizations are invited to attend a virtual information sessions on the application process:

October 7 – Emerging Fund Information Session

October 14 – Developing Fund Information Session

October 21 – Amplifying Fund Information Sessions

To further support local non-profits and charities, the Advance Brampton Fund has partnered with Ryerson Uni-

versity's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education to deliver Non-Profit Sector Development workshops focused on helping organizations expand their capacity and build sector education and skills. Workshops will be offered in November. Details at brampton.ca/abf

New this year, the City of Brampton and the Arts, Culture and Creative Industry Development Agency (ACCIDA) are pleased to introduce the COVID-19 Recovery Fund for Artists, a unique program to help support Brampton's creative sector as Ontario begins to reopen and recover from the pandemic.

This program is an extension of the 2020 COVID-19 Relief Fund for Artists and Arts Organizations.

Individual artists can apply for up to \$2,000 to help stabilize, adapt, or rebuild their creative practice in the wake of the pandemic.

Applications for individual artists will be accepted starting October 4 on an ongoing basis until either the end of 2021 or the available funding is exhausted. The total amount of funding available is \$100,000.

Information sessions will also be held for artists and potential applicants to review application requirements.

To further support local artists, ACCIDA in partnership with WorkInCulture, presents Growing Creative Careers in Brampton, a free intensive 10-session professional development workshop series for artists and arts workers. Each week, participants will have the chance to take part in interactive activities, networking opportunities, gain expert advice and attend drop-in sessions to gain the tools they need to move their creative careers forward. Details at accida.ca

To register for the information sessions and view details, eligibility and application information for both the Advance Brampton Fund and COVID-19 Artist Recovery Fund, visit brampton.ca/communitygrants

enhancement of diversity, equity and inclusion within BFES, is a key priority and area of focus in the Council endorsed Brampton Fire and Emergency Services 2021-2025 Fire Master Plan. This plan identifies two main areas of focus – the need to educate and raise awareness within the existing workforce, and the implementation of innovative recruitment tactics and multicultural community engagement to build a diverse, inclusive and equitable fire service.

Championed by Fire Chief Bill Boyes, and led by Division Chief Ravjot Chhatwal, BFES created a strategic action plan to support enhancements to diversity, equity and inclusion within the department through:

Consultation with multiple community stakeholders, community organizations, non-profits, cultur-

al and faith-based organizations, Increasing cultural awareness and understanding within the BFES team through a series of training opportunities, and by Developing a recruitment strategy that breaks down traditional barriers and works to support diversity, equity and inclusion by connecting with key communities to enhance the workforce and make it more reflective of Brampton.

Brampton is a Mosaic, a diverse community that is cherished and celebrated. The long-term goals and work BFES is doing now and moving forward will help lay the foundation for a future workforce that reflects the community it serves while continuing to support community safety and well-being.

- via: Brampton.ca



COMMUNITY WATCH

Raj Rajaratnam, former Hedge Fund Manager who was convicted in the US of conspiracy and securities fraud on charges of insider trading, has released his own book which he says gives the inside story of what he describes as “unchecked prosecution”.

Titled ‘Uneven Justice – The plot to sink Galleon,’ the book is number three on Amazon’s hot new releases in Criminal Law and is available for pre-order and available on December 14, 2021.

A father to three children, Raj Rajaratnam lives in Manhattan with his wife of thirty-three years.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will be directed to charity, said Rajaratnam.

The following is the preface of Raj Rajaratnam’s book: Why I fought the good fight:

In October 2009 I was arrested and charged with insider trading. I chose to fight the charges against me because I was innocent.

The prosecutors alleged that 0.01% of my trades between 2005 and 2009 were illegal.

I understood that in the US there is a 97% conviction rate (similar to China and Russia) and a punitive trial penalty for those who dare to go to trial. Empirical studies have shown that the trial penalty is just about double that handed to those who plead guilty. If a defendant agrees to become a co-operating witness, helping the government with testimony — irrespective of the truth — to convict another defendant, the co-operating witness gets a much-reduced sentence and in many cases just parole.

I understood the stakes. I chose to go to trial. Why? It’s a question I’ve since been asked hundreds of times. Why. Why jeopardize everything. Because to my core I believed I would get a fair hearing. And with a fair hearing and a rational exposition of the facts, the truth would have prevailed. Until my arrest I had the highest regard for the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I believed that most Americans felt that way in 2009. Since then, of course, the American public has become jaded about the sanctity of these institutions with multiple examples of overreach and excess.

Certain DOJ and FBI sections operate, each attempting to further its own agenda without regard for Constitutional checks and balances. The terms “fake news,” the “Dark State” are now bandied about with almost wild abandon, humor, and satire. The public now assumes the existence of “fake news” alongside “authentic” news with little effort towards journalistic integrity. During the time of my arrest and trial, information from the media, DOJ, and FBI was absorbed as unquestioned “Trust,” although some would argue that the dark state has existed for many years. While I still believe that the vast majority of those who work for the DOJ and the FBI are people of integrity, this book is an attempt to shed light on the corrupt few who act with impunity and destroy lives and families to further their career ambitions.

From the moment of my arrest, the narrative of my story was recast with a precise agenda, shaped to direct public attention away from the stark horror of the 2007-2008 financial crisis

while promoting media idolatry of the publicity hungry and ambitious rookie US Attorney, Preet Bharara, who became a demi-God, the “Sheriff of Wall Street” riding into battle against myself, relentlessly personified as evil incarnate on the front pages of major newspapers around the world. Wanton disregard for the law, recognized by the judge at my trial, allowed a corrupt element within the FBI, Agent Kang, to falsify documents leading to

three institutions, ostensibly guardians of the public interest, charged with impartiality and integrity, bore down in a concerted campaign to make me the face of the financial crisis. My arrest and subsequent trial, a two-year process, deflected attention from a glaring fact: Not one major banker was held accountable for the 2008 global meltdown. No arrests. No searing prosecution. No jail time.

In the midst of a financial crisis

grants on Wall Street to be identified as a billionaire; and built a fabulous and intricate tale of “sex, drugs, and rock and roll” to entertain the public and build their own reputations. Their two-year reality series was successful beyond measure.

Preet Bharara, the then-US attorney for the Southern District of New York, used my prosecution to launch an unprecedented press campaign to promote himself. Bharara ran roughshod over the truth, standard Department of Justice protocols, and the office’s own dignity in his extraordinary zeal to convict me. Time Magazine put Bharara on its cover, their headline proclaiming “this man is busting Wall-Street.” It was Preet’s finest moment. Bharara did not touch the real perpetrators of the 2008 financial crisis — Wall Street’s top bankers. In a rare moment of public acknowledgement, both Preet and the influential New York Magazine observed in 2014 that Bharara was almost sheepish about the insider cases — “they made our careers, but they (didn’t) change the world.”

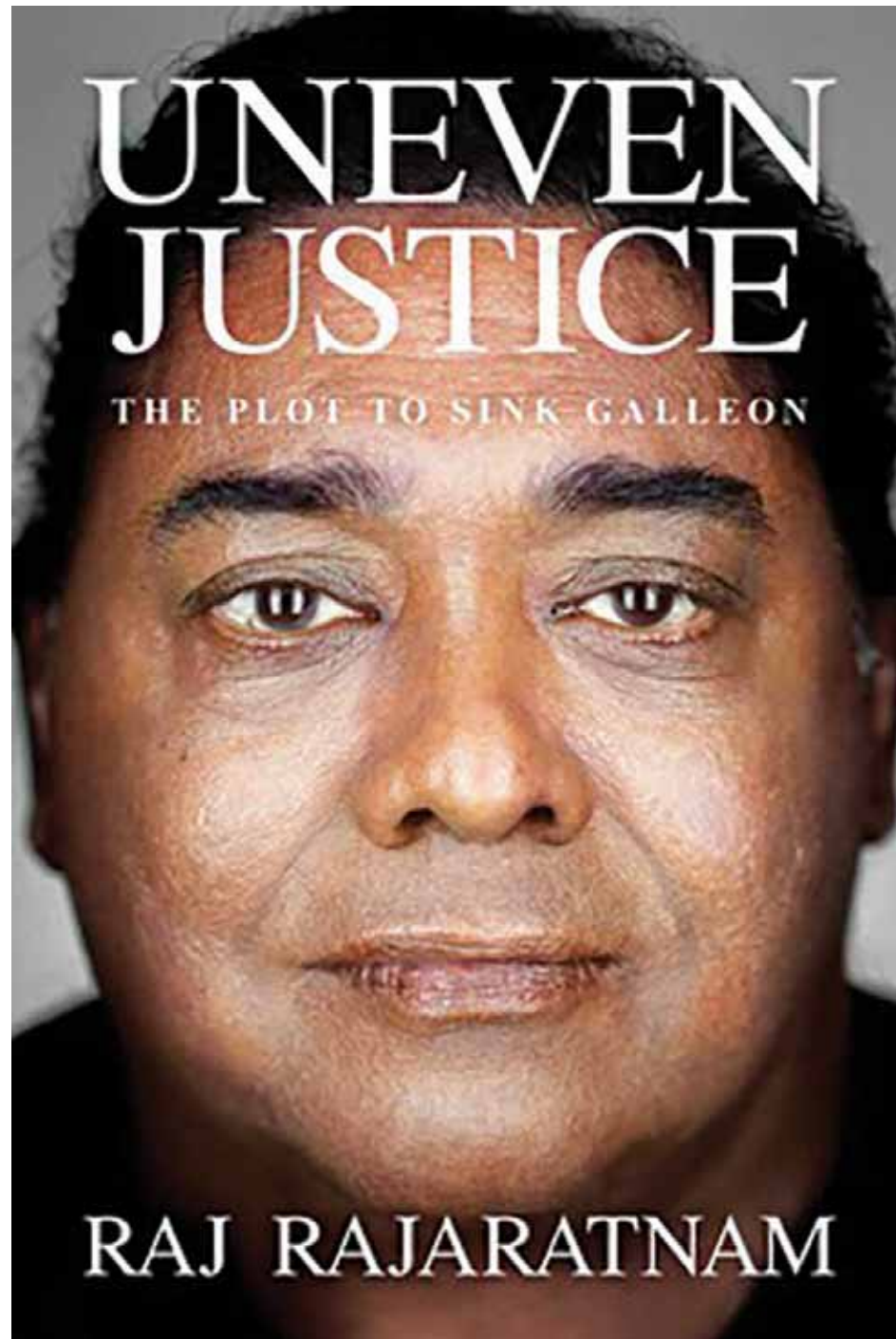
Bharara’s impotent and poisoned approach to the non-prosecution of criminal activity on Wall Street — ranging from the mortgage bankers who precipitated the financial crisis (Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers), the money-laundering of drug cartels (HSBC), and the encouraging of tax evasion by US citizens (UBS, CSFB) — would become the defining legacy of his tenure. Each of these firms settled civil charges by paying billions of dollars in fines using shareholder money, but no single person was criminally charged or individually fined. Every one of the insider trader prosecutions was criminal. The towering hypocrisy remains startling.

The prosecution under Bharara’s watch advanced a theory of trading to prosecute me and several others which the second circuit appeals court subsequently overruled, criticizing it for “doctrine novelty.” Soon after my trial in May 2011, the then-SEC commissioner Mary Shapiro gloated that “the beauty of insider trading laws is the flexibility in interpreting them.” The lead prosecutor in my case, Jonathan Streeter said in December 2012, “Insider Trading cases are confusing to investment professionals.” He went on to add, “There is incredible confusion on what is illegal and it’s a real problem. The law is very complicated and the lines are a bit murky.” A US Attorney, the prosecution in my trial, and the head of the SEC, all acknowledged their reservations about a “murky” set of laws but had no “murky” reservations using them liberally in my case and at my trial.

The FBI agent overseeing my case Special Agent BJ Kang lied on his sworn affidavit to obtain wiretap authorization of my phone. Recognizing there had been government misconduct, Judge Richard Holwell who presided over my trial case, issued a searing criticism of the wiretap application used by Agent Kang, reprimanding him for “reckless disregard for the truth with respect to both probable cause and necessity.” The Judge went on to add that “false and misleading statements and omissions pervaded the affidavit (submitted by Special Agent Kang) so extensively that it was impossible for the authorizing judge

Raj Rajaratnam, former Hedge Fund Manager to release tell-all book

“Nothing can beat a person who refuses to be beaten.”



my arrest and falsify testimony leading to my conviction.

I faced prosecutorial misconduct at its finest. The overzealous media, feasting on a human story they could sell every day, also profoundly prejudiced any hope of gathering an impartial jury by the time of the trial. These

which brought a multi-trillion-dollar world economy to its knees, these three institutions, independently and collectively, targeted a tiny slice of the US financial industry, hedge funds; honed in on a single hedge fund, Galleon; isolated only me, its CEO, who had recently become one of the few immi-

COMMUNITY WATCH

to have the constitutionally required determination for the issuance of the wiretap...rather than provide a full and complete statement as required by the law, the wiretap affidavit made full and complete omissions and included literally false information."

Kang did not stop at blowing through truth on paper. He menaced and threatened my family and employees with prosecution, frightened away crucial defense witnesses, and routinely leaked false information to the media churning up an unabated feeding frenzy that shredded me in the court of public opinion. Kang took his cues from the playbook of the publicly reviled former FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover. I was tried, convicted, and sentenced in the press even before I fully understood the charges against me. The atmosphere was so toxic that my lead counsel, veteran defense lawyer John Dowd said "the prejudicial publicity orchestrated by the USA was so palpable in the courtroom...It was the most toxic atmosphere of any case I ever tried."

My defense team led by John Dowd, along with expert testimony from a former SEC legal counsel, repeatedly highlighted that all the information discussed in the wiretaps was already in the public domain. Every bit of information was in the public domain. It did not matter. No amount of truth could overcome the false testimony trained into the co-operating witnesses by Streeter, his team of prosecutors, and Bharara, who sat on the sidelines, waiting in eager anticipation for any opportunity for a press conference. Each of the cooperating witnesses had committed his own set of crimes, unrelated to Galleon. Yet each chose to testify against me as an opportunity to reduce their probable sentences. That they were perjuring themselves was irrelevant; the government coerced them into an immediate mandate to take me down. Even the government's star witness, Anil Kumar, offered damning testimony under oath in my case only to recant the very same sworn testimony three years later during the trial of my brother. My brother was subsequently acquitted as a result of the revised and opposite version of Anil Kumar's testimony. A few newspapers picked up on this gross disparity, but that was it. The fact of perjury had no consequence. The cycle was vicious. "Innocent until proven guilty," the cornerstone philosophy of the American judicial system was proving to be a farce.

I was convicted by a jury, sentenced to 11 years in jail, and paid fines of over \$150 million. The irony is that even in setting the fines, the prosecutors working in tandem with the media kept up the unceasing drumbeat of punishment for the financial crisis. Never mind that I did not personally make any money from the alleged trades. And never mind that not one single investor sued me. Galleon went through an orderly process of closing down the firm and returned all the funds with a gain of 22%. Not a single investor lost money. Most important to me, personally, was that not one single investor sued me.

In July 2019, I was released after serving 7.5 years of my 11-year sentence under the First Step Act.

I wrote this book entirely in prison and by hand. I began by writing about

an hour a day. Soon that increased to two hours. Then three. I am choosing to publish the book for two specific reasons: First, I want my peers, professionals who understand the nuances of managing money, to hear the facts of my case. I want them to judge me. It is my assertion that I was entrapped, framed, unlawfully wiretapped, surveilled, and then made to endure a brutal and very public media lynching.

Secondly and more importantly, I want to begin a public discussion by creating awareness of how certain corrupt prosecutors and FBI agents are allowed to get away with criminal behavior. There are no checks and balances in our Justice system. Recently there has been a lot of discussion as to whether the President should be above the law. The President is so closely scrutinized that doing anything against the law would ring alarms bells the world over. Instead, my assertion is that the focus should be on the corruption within the American judicial system, on a handful of corrupt US attorneys who live their lives exempt from the law by which they control the lives of others and the rest of the country. In this book I will show how ambitious prosecutors actively take advantage of murky laws and coerce testimony from government witnesses to obtain wrongful convictions. Winning at all costs, regardless of the truth appears at every level to be an operative mantra. I realize there is only one book I can write to set the record straight. This is it.

My story is also about greed. In all its forms, greed boils down to avarice, hunger, power, money, ambition. All of these are readily available and identifiable in the financial industry, by definition. In fact, I would say that in the financial industry, greed is effectively a cliché with fear being on the flip side of a pair trade. Fear and greed are easy to communicate, and the media hones in on these aspects of Wall Street. But what I would like to do in this book is to hone in on the excess and greed in the judicial system. Ambition in the judicial system also translates to power and money, a far more insidious and dangerous consequence to society because it goes unchecked. After I was convicted, the press had a field day speculating whether the "new sheriff" of Wall Street, Preet Bharara, was actually in line to succeed Eric Holder as the next US Attorney General when Holder stepped down. While Bharara was at first coy about his intentions, he eventually made clear his goal to secure the job based on his work prosecuting Wall Street. He may have wanted the job but did not get it.

The same ambitions were true for the three government prosecutors in my case – all three left government shortly after closing out my case for higher paying jobs as partners in leading law firms. They and their new employers spent considerable effort drumming up business on the heels of the skills honed during their time as former prosecutors to future defendants accused of insider trading. They had no problem making the transition from denouncing apparent "greed" in the financial markets to defending that same greed, switching sides in an effective demonstration of greed. As partners at leading law

firms they would be highly compensated. The "protectors from greed" sold themselves to the highest bidder, all under the trusting gaze of an unaware public. The door meant to separate and maintain a balance between the public and the private sectors revolves efficiently and profitably.

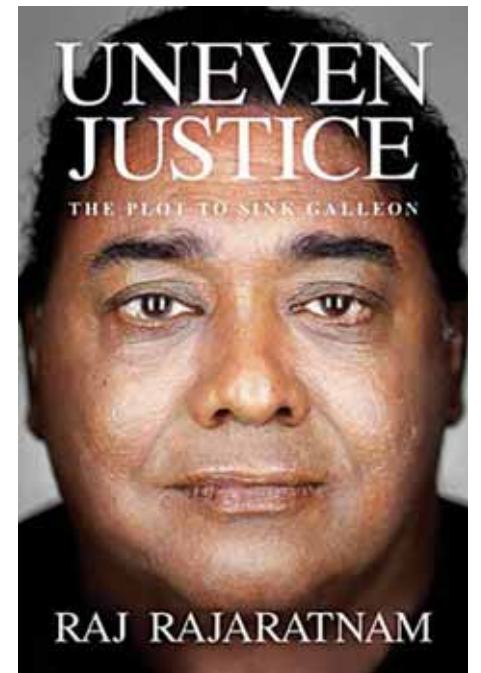
It is important to understand context of the time and the prevailing mood of the country in October 2009 when I was arrested. In 2008 we had seen the near collapse of the financial system and the wiping out of trillions of dollars of home equity and life savings of the American middle class. The government was forced to bail out the major banks. Mortgages that were bundled up or securitized and sold by banks had contributed to the crisis. Millions of American homes went into foreclosure. Institutions such as Lehman Brother, Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, AIG and Freddie Mac either filed for bankruptcy or lost over 90% of their market value. An estimated \$7 trillion in US household assets were wiped out. And to add to the catastrophe, in late 2008, Bernie Maddoff admitted to running the largest Ponzi scheme under the very eyes of the regulators. Politicians and the public placed the blame squarely on Wall Street. The public was clamoring for blood and there was no blood forthcoming. From anywhere.

I had nothing to do with the housing crisis. I was an easy target for politicians, for prosecutors, for pundits, and for Bharara who had just been handed leadership of the Southern District of NY including a mandate for bringing Wall Street under control. I was a successful and expendable hedge fund manager who employed just 250 people. We obtained an overwhelming amount of information on a daily basis and my trading was 100% consistent with the written recommendations of my analysts. In ALL cases, I had a pre-existing position in the stock before allegedly receiving the "tip." In 2009 and even today, insider trading laws are murky at best and often (intentionally) misinterpreted by prosecutors. The government painted our systematic, well-researched investing as being criminal. Theirs was an overreach of enormous proportions to show that "Wall Street fat cats" were being brought to justice. If I am guilty, then the entire investment business should be declared illegal.

As the Wall Street Journal noted insightfully, "Under standard rhetoric, the public is somehow cheated by all this, but the standard rhetoric is nonsense. The public isn't damaged because another party wants to sell or buy (and most hedge funds strive to make sure their trading doesn't affect prices anyway). But a cynic might note one thing: insider-trading law provides a bottomless reservoir of (supposed) financial 'crime' for Washington to investigate whenever it needs a Wall Street prosecution to flounce in front of the press."

[Endnote 1]

As a child, having gone to boarding school in a foreign country at the age of eleven, I learned quickly and early to be a fighter, a scrapper. This is a blessing and a curse. Over the years, I have learned that you don't always have to fight. The kindness of many people has defanged and disarmed me to a large extent. However, when



people try to take advantage of me, I have to respond. I don't back down. And I am fortunate to have been blessed with the mental fortitude and financial resources to fight for my innocence. Too many people do not. They plead guilty to indictments they cannot challenge. In my experience about 10% of the inmates at the prison in which I spent seven-and-a-half years were innocent.

When I was researching the Justice Department while in prison, I came across a paragraph that struck a chord in me. Unfortunately, I did not write down the name of the author or the source. "Criminal punishment is the greatest power that governments use and wield against their own people. When employed justly and appropriately, it is vital to any safe and productive society. But when employed aggressively based on vague laws and personal agendas the criminal justice system unnecessarily destroys lives, livelihoods, and families."

Oddly, my experience of the law has left me without rage or a sense of victimhood. While I would never say I am grateful for the experience, I can say with confidence that I like myself better because of it. When I finally broke through the wall of despair, I realized I had gained a sense of peace and awareness that had opened me up and cracked me free. I realized how incredibly strong the human mind is and that nothing can beat a person who refuses to be beaten.

Finally, I want to say that despite what happened to me as a result of a corrupt prosecutor, I love this country just as much as I did before I went to prison. I feel truly blessed to be one of the 5% of the world population who live in America. I do not see people lined up to emigrate to China, Russia, or Japan, for example.

As I reflect on my circumstances and my past, if God had arrived at my doorstep when I was 11 – with a crystal ball – and told me, "Raj, I will give you the wife and children you see here, these friends, and ensure that both your parents live long and happily and give you also the ability to help the less fortunate – But you need to sacrifice about seven years of your life," I would have taken that deal in a New York second.

I feel very fortunate.

I am very fortunate.

Raj Rajaratnam

February 2021



SPECIAL FEATURE

SIGNIFICANCE & IMPORTANCE OF TULASI FOR HINDUS

Compiled by : KIDAMBI RAJ

Introduction

Tulasi is a divine plant, is a house hold name among Hindus regarded as the ultimate symbol of purity. Tulasi is a Sanskrit word and literally means the one that has no equals, the one which has no comparison, matchless and the one whose merits are invaluable. Tulasi is considered as very sacred and divine plant that has both physical and spiritually healing properties. It is worshipped as a Deity in Hindu religion, since time immemorial. In olden days the presence of Tulasi in a house was considered as a symbol of religious and spiritual leaning of that family.

Different types of Tulasi

There are many varieties of Tulasi namely, Krishna Tulasi, Rama Tulasi, Lakshmi Tulasi, Vana Tulasi, Karpooora Tulasi, Rudrajata Tulasi and so on. Tulasi is not a seasonal plant. It is a perennial plant whose flowers are available throughout the year. Generally, Tulasi plant will be green or light red colour and emanates pleasant fragrance, astringent in taste and grows up to 100 cm. in height. We find generally Tulasi as an indoor plant which also grows extensively in forests. Botanical name for Tulasi is *Oscimum Sanctum* and is known as Holy Basil in English. Even in this botanical name we find sanctity in the word sanctum. Lots of Hindu households would have Tulasi plant in their courtyard. Some people construct a small structure around Tulasi plant called as *Tulasi Peetam* or *Tulasi Brindavan*. The great saint and composer who scripted the *Tulasi Ramayana* (Sri Rama Charitha Manas) had his name as *Tulsidas*. Tuls Manasa Mandir is a famous place to visit in Varanasi (Banaras). Tulasi, the perennial symbol of Hindu philosophy, tradition, culture and heritage is a Nature's gift to the mankind, that is associated with man's day to day life. It is referred to as Kalpa Vriksha of Bhoo Loka. Blessed are those who pluck Tulasi leaves daily for the pooja and worship Lord Vishnu.

Reference to Tulasi in the Puranas



Worshipping Tulasi Plant



Tulasi Plant

Glory of Tulasi mentioned in several Puranas like Padma Purana, Brahma Vaivarta Purana, Skanda Purana, Garuda Purana, Karthika Purana, Vishnu Dharmottara Purana etc. As per Padma Purana, it is said that Tulasi came out from the joyous tears of **Lord Dhanvantri** (a Divine Medic and an incarnation of Lord Vishnu) that fell on the Amrita (nectar) that he had brought from the bottom of the ocean during the **Ksheera Sagara Madhanam** (Churning of the Ocean of Milk).

According to Padma Purana, lord Krishna, for the benefit of the people in the material world brought Vrindadevi in the form of a plant (Tulasi) on earth. Offering of even one Tulasi leaf to Lord Krishna is equivalent to offering all the flowers, sandal paste and fruits to the Lord. Just as the Ganga purifies everyone who bathes in Her, so also Tulasi purifies all Her worshippers in three worlds.

While citing the importance of Tulasi, it has been mentioned in Padma Purana, that offering flowers made of gold, stones and pearls do not have even one sixteenth of the importance of Tulasi. Sins of even of many eras are destroyed by sight, touch, meditation, obeisance, planting and use of Tulasi. All deities reside in the plant of Tulasi from its roots to the tip. It constantly

emits the principles of deities and makes the surrounding environment sacred. That is why a house with a **tulasi vrindavanam** is considered sacred.

- The unmanifest and subtle most Vishnu principle is absorbed through the stem of Tulasi leaf and is then converted into **Krishna principle** and goes on flowing through the stem.
- **Chaitanya** (consciousness) is activated at the base of the Tulasi leaf and is projected into atmosphere in the form of circles. This chaitanya simultaneously flows through the vessels of Tulasi leaf.
- The particles of **Sakti** (divine energy) are also present in the leaves of Tulasi.
- The particles of Chaitanya and Krishna principle are transmitted into atmosphere through the inflorescence.

Spiritual and Religious Significance of Tulasi

Entire Tulasi plant, the leaves, flowers, stems, roots, seeds and even the Mrittika (clay of Tulasi plant) are all full of spiritual, religious and medicinal significance. Tulasi is also called with names like, Viswavandhana, Brinda, Pushparasa, Krishna Jeevani, Nandini, Viswapavani, Viswapoojitha and Brindavani. It is also called as Lakshmi Swaroopam, symbolizing Goddess Lakshmi beloved of Lord Vishnu. It is said that where Tulasi is, there Lord Vishnu resides and such place is considered as a Theertha (sacred place). It is considered as an incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi herself and so is called as Tulasi Devi.

Tulasi is compulsory and a must in the worship of Lord Vishnu, since He gets very much pleased when He is worshipped with Tulasi. In Vaishnava Sampradaya, Tulasi is extensively used and no religious ceremony or ritual is complete without Tulasi. Dried Tulasi stems are also used in performing Homas. As per Brahma Purana, it is said that as soon as one gets up from the bed, one should have the darshan of Tulasi plant which is equivalent to having darshan of all scared Theertha in three

SPECIAL FEATURE



worlds and also equivalent to having darshan of Sri Lakshmi Narayana. One will get absolved from sins with the darshan and pradakshnaa of Tulasi plant.

Even growing, touching, watering, transplanting and fostering Tulasi plant is said to be highly auspicious and meritorious. Lord Maha Vishnu always resides where there is tulasi, Lotus and Salagrama. It is believed that one who worships Lord Vishnu with Tulasi will not take rebirth and will attain salvation. Worshipping Lord Vishnu with Tulasi leaves helps one in getting cured of incurable diseases.

Sacred water (Theertha) given in temples by the priests is called Tulasi Theertham. It is a tradition and a belief that we find people giving Tulasi Theertham to a dying person in the last stages with a belief that the soul will go to heaven. We also find people adding Tulasi branches to the funeral pyre with the belief that it provides sanctity and spirituality to the departed soul. It is said that even Yama Doothas (messengers of Lord Yama) will not dare to enter the house where Tulasi plant is present and worshipped. It is said that worshipping Tulasi is equivalent to taking bath in scared river Ganges and one will get **Ganga Snana Palan**. Taking bath in Ganges River, having darshan of Narmada River and



Tulai Mala

worshipping Tulasi are all equal in merits.

While Tulasi is used in the worship of both Lord Vishnu as well as Lord Siva, one exception we find is that it is not prescribed in the worship of Lord Ganesa except on the day of Vinayaka Chaturthi.

Legends associated with Tulasi

In the story of **Sri Krishna Tulabaram**, Satyabhama, the queen of Lord Krishna prided herself about Krishna's love for her. On the other hand, Rukmini, the principal wife and queen of Sri Krishna was a very humble and devoted wife. Once, Sage Naaradaa tricked Satyabhama into performing a vrata (a ritual), wherein Satyabhama would give away Lord Krishna in Charity to Naaradaa, and when she tried to weigh Him in wealth, Satyabhama, accepted the vrata, gave away Lord Krishna and reclaim the Lord back by weighing Him in wealth. Satyabhama accepted the vrata, gave away Lord Krishna in charity to Naaradaa, and when she tried to weigh Lord Krishna by using all her wealth, the scale did not balance. But when Rukmini placed a leaf of Tulasi on the wealth, the scale balanced perfectly indicating the depth of her own devotion and the purity of Tulasi.

Wedding of Tulasi with Salagrama:

According to Skanda Purana, the wedding of Tulasi with the Salagrama (scared stone



Wedding of Lord Krishna & Tulasi Devi

symbolizing Lord Vishnu) is celebrated in the month of Karthikai on the twelfth day of the waxing moon (Sukla paksha Dwadasi). On this day, the Tulasi pot is decorated with mango leaves, a twig of Gooseberry (symbolizing Sri Krishna) is placed beside the Tulasi twig in the same pot and Pooja is performed. Lamps are lit on five gooseberries and Aarthi is performed to Tulasi and Lord Krishna.

Medicinal benefits of Tulasi

Apart from its religious significance, it is of great medicinal significance, and it is a prime herb in Ayurvedic treatment. Tulasi has been mentioned in **Charaka Samhita**, an ancient book on Ayurveda. Tulasi plant in its entirety is extensively used in Ayurveda in curing various diseases like allergy, skin infections, cold, cough and respiratory infections, heart diseases, stomach disorders, sore throat, ear ache, mouth infections, fever head ache and sleeplessness. It is said to be very effective in viral infections and malaria.

In fact, it is suggested as a good remedy for Swine Flu. It is said that Tulasi is very effective for controlling the Diabetes, kidney related disorders like kidney stones. Tulasi decoction is also used as herbal tea.

Usage of Tulasi also helps in improving memory power. It is considered as a very good Anti-Oxidant that prevents accumulation of bad cholesterol and fights with free radicals in the body. Tulai is believed to be an antidote to Snake venom and other insect bites.

Tulasi is liberally used in the manufacture of shampoos preventing dandruff, soaps and other beauty care products. Among various varieties of Tulasi, Krishna Tulasi is considered to be full of medicinal value. Karppora Tulasi is used in the manufacture of herbal toiletry products. Like an Elephant, Tulai plant is valuable both during and after its life time. Tulasi acts as an anti-bacterial, anti septic, anti-fungal, anti-viral, anti-allergic and is considered as an immuno stimulant. Considered as the Queen of herbs, it is said that where Tulasi is, there Health is.

Tulasi leaves are used in the treatment of ringworm and other skin diseases. Chewing of basil leaves daily makes the skin glow. It also removes acne and other blemishes. With its anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties. Tulasi effectively prevents the breakout of acne on oily skin. It is also used in the treatment of leukoderma.

Tulasi and Environment

Tulasi plant and its leaves with its unique and strong fragrance is said to cleanse the environment and provide a healthy and peaceful atmosphere. It is said that Tulasi plant always releases oxygen into the atmosphere.

It is considered to be effective to sleep in the sacred and healthy ambience of Tulasi plant. It is believed that the presence of Tulasi will ward off the evil spirits from entering the house. During an Eclipse we find people placing Tulasi leaves in the stored water and food to prevent the food and water from getting contaminated due to the pollution caused by the Eclipse. In view of its potential properties to cleanse the atmosphere, Tulasi is liberally grown in industrial areas for prevention of pollution. Fumigation with the dried Tulasi plant repels insects.

Prayers to Tulasi



Tulasi Pratishta at Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam

Lord Krishna along with other demi gods resides with Tulasi Devi. In Kaliyuga, whoever prays or sings Kirtans of Tulasi will attain Krishna's abode.

"Yanmoole Sarva Theerthani Yanmadhye Sarva Devata Yadagre Sarva Vedascha TulaseemTvaam Namamyaham."

Meaning: "I bow down to the Tulasi at whose base are all the holy places, at whose top reside all deities and on whose middle are all the Vedas".

On Sanctity of Tulasi leaves:

"Pushkaratyathi Theerthani Gangathya Sarithasthatha Vasudevadayo Devah Vasanthi Tulasi Thalae".

Meaning: "Sacred waters of all sacred places like Pushkar, River waters of all sacred rivers like Ganges and all Gods starting from Vasudeva are residing in Tulasi leaves".

While plucking the Tulasi leaves, the following Sloka should be chanted and then offered to the Lord:

"Tulasi Amrutha Janmani Sadaatwaam Kesavapriye Kesaavartham Lunaami Thwam Varada Bhava Shobane"

Meaning: "O Tulasi, you were born from a nectar. You are always very dear to Lord Kesava. Now in order to worship Lord Kesava, I am collecting your leaves and manjaris. Please bestow your benediction on me."



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Varna Rameshwaran:

Dedicated and inspiring renowned musician



Music lovers are lamenting the untimely loss of Mr. Varna Rameshwaran of Toronto on September 25. He hailed from Alavetti, Jaffna Sri Lanka and an old student of Mahajana College, Tellipallai. He was a Bachelor of Arts, Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts-graduate of the University of Jaffna. He is the founder and director of 'Varnam School of Music' in Canada.

Tributes have poured in praising his outstanding social work and the rendering of patriotic songs. May his soul Rest in Peace.

"The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) will not betray the rights of the Tamil people for privileges", says TNA Leader Sampanthan



"The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) will not betray the rights of the Tamil people for petty gains or privileges," TNA Leader R. Sampanthan said in a statement recently. He pointed out that there are many things to be won on behalf of the Tamil people, and the TNA would be patient and responsible until those are achieved.

He noted the opponents of the TNA have started criticizing and humiliating the Party based on various statements by the TNA MPs. "Many assumed that there was a split in the TNA due to a letter sent to the United Nations Human Rights Council. All must understand that the TNA is a political organization that has one policy, one goal."

Sampanthan further stated "We have no other goal than realising the aspirations of the Tamil people. We all work for a common aim. In this context, I see that some TNA Members have made public statements on various issues recently. Working in a democratic political structure, we respect freedom of expression, but such statements should not disturb the Party's unity," Sampanthan stressed.

The TNA Leader explained that the Party's Central Committee Meeting has been postponed due to the health risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. "Given the present situation in the country, we cannot gather people for meetings. We need to be patient till the situation eases," he added.

The Parrot

- By: J A Rajah

*Parrot, parrot glistening green,
In the parks on summer days,
What immortal hand or tool,
Could shape thy cute body bright?.*

*Thy two-fold screeching sound,
'Kee-kee' in brilliant tones,
Echoes through the parks and trees,
Bringing joy and jubilation!!*

*Thy beautiful red ring,
Round your neck shines,
In contrast to your green feathers,
What beauty!, what cuteness!!*

*Thou art the angel from heaven,
Singing songs with your vocal chords,
You elevate the joy of humanity,
With your lovely sprints from tree to tree.*



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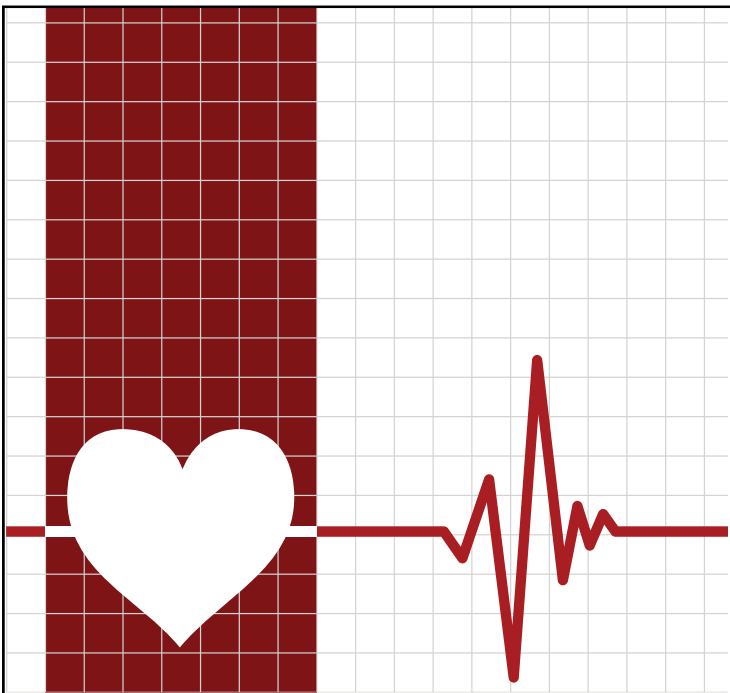
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