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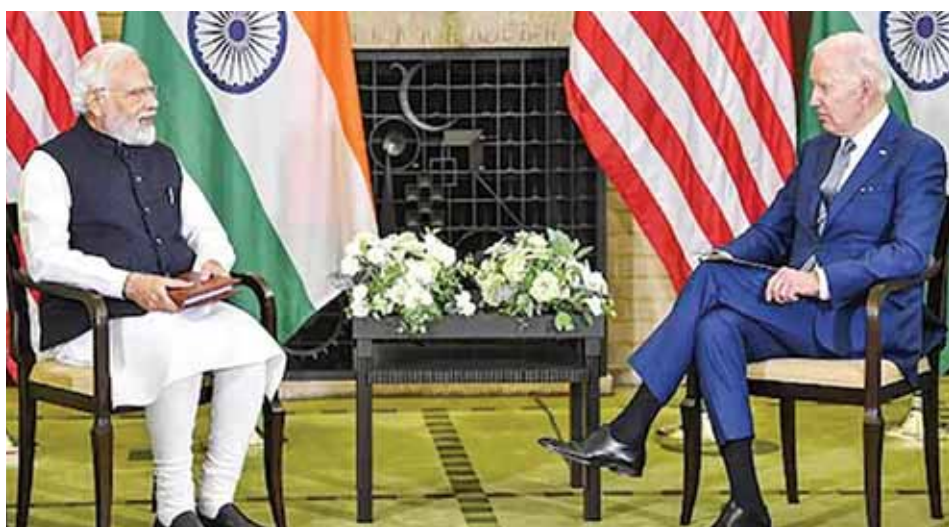
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Committed to making US-India partnership among closest on earth: President Biden tells PM Modi in Japan



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden hold talks on the sidelines of Quad Summit meeting, in Tokyo

Tokyo, May 24: US President Joe Biden on Tuesday told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he is committed to making America's partnership with India among the closest on earth, saying there is so much that the two countries can and will do together.

The two leaders met in Japan for the second Quad leaders' in-person summit. Biden said he was pleased that the two countries have reached an agreement for the US Development Finance Corporation to continue this important work in India, supporting vaccine production and clean energy initiatives. "I am glad that we are renewing the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme," he said.

"There is so much that our countries can and will do together. I am committed to make the US-India partnership

among the closest we have on earth," Biden said.

On the issue of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US President said the two leaders also discussed the ongoing effects of Russia's brutal and non-justified invasion of Ukraine and the effect it has on the entire global world order.

"The US-India is going to continue consulting closely on how to mitigate these negative effects," Biden said.

Earlier, PM Modi, US President Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australia's newly-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attended the second in-person meeting of Quad leaders here during which they exchanged views about developments in the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest.

- PTI

Ontario Provincial Election 2022 Voters weigh promises made by Parties contesting the Election



Left to Right - PC Leader Doug Ford, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, Liberal Leader Stephen Del Duca, and Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner

(Picture Credit: Canadian Press)

By Siva Sivapragasam

As the 2022 Ontario election date draws closer, and campaigning is in full swing, voters are weighing the various promises made by the parties contesting the election.

Among the major issues focused on this election are cost of living, housing affordability, employment, childcare, taxes, healthcare, transportation, and education.

After four years of leading a majority government, Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative party is seeking to secure a second term in the 2022 Ontario election on June 2.

While the contest is keen and campaigning has been high among the parties, Polls surveys seem to indicate that the PC Party led by current Premier Doug Ford has an edge over the other parties contesting the election. However, voter minds can also change as the election date draws closer.

The 2018 Ontario provincial election was held on June 7, 2018, to elect the 124 members of the 42nd Parliament of Ontario. The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, led by Doug Ford, won 76 of the 124 seats in the legislature and formed a majority government.

Sri Lanka the Bamboo Lounge

By: Roy Ratnavel

Full Article on page 25...



Over 100 faith leaders renew pledge to advance rights of all girls and boys in South Asia

From 8-10 May, UNICEF South Asia hosted the 'Regional Faith Engagement Forum' in partnership with the Religion of Peace and the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI) on Faith and Local Communities.



Full Article on page 10...

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Only Ontario Liberals can stop the Conservatives



May 25, 2022 - TORONTO – Steven Del Duca announced that an Ontario Liberal government will give small businesses a leg up and end Doug Ford’s Big-Box bias and handouts for mega-grocery chains.

“Doug Ford believes that billion-dollar Big-Box stores are more important than workers or mom-and-pop shops. He’s not running for you – he’s just the puppet of his Big-Box Conservative donors,” said Del Duca.

“Doug Ford locked down local small businesses and stayed silent when billionaire grocery conglomerates clawed back hero pay from frontline retail

workers. He allowed private pharmacy chains to profit off public health necessities like COVID-19 tests – all while the average small business lockdown debt grew to \$190,000,” said Del Duca.

“The biggest fraud of the last election was that Doug Ford was ‘for the people,’” continued Del Duca. “On June 2nd, Ontario Liberals are offering a choice: four more years of Ford Conservatives who don’t care about you and your family, or a new Ontario Liberal government that will put you ahead of the profits of billion-dollar corporations. The choice is yours.”

- via: [OntarioLiberal](#)

The Conservatives want every household to pay nearly \$2,000 to build Highway 413 for their land speculating donors

May 27, 2022:

MISSISSAUGA – Steven Del Duca was in Mississauga today to shine a light on the staggering \$10 billion cost of the Ford Conservative’s Highway 413, amounting to every household in the province – from Thunder Bay, to Peterborough, to Ottawa, to London – paying nearly \$2,000. All this money for a highway that will only save a handful of commuters a mere 30 seconds.

Rather than waste \$10 billion on a road that only benefits a handful of Conservative donors, Ontario Liberals will build 200 new schools and repair 4,500 more, touching every region of the province. While Highway 413 will turn Doug Ford’s friends from millionaires into billionaires, our plan will



result in better schools in your neighbourhood and an investment in your kids’ and Ontario’s future.

On June 2, the choice is yours.

- via: [OntarioLiberal.ca](#)

In Calling Stephen Lecce Ontario’s “Best Education Minister”, Doug Ford Insults Students, Teachers and Parents

May 17, 2022: Just days after shocking revelations came to light about Stephen Lecce’s involvement in a fraternity slave auction fundraiser, and nineteen days after the Conservative budget revealed Lecce had secretly cut \$1.3 billion cut from school funding, Doug Ford could not offer a credible defence when called out on his disastrous record by Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca in last night’s debate.

Ford responded to Del Duca by saying that “Ontario has the best Education Minister”. Ontario students, parents and teachers beg to disagree. The facts speak for themselves.

This past April, the Toronto Star reported that under Lecce’s leadership, private schools received more rapid tests than “paramedics, daycares, shelters and jails combined”. This was as parents with students in public schools were forced to play hunger games in an effort to secure rapid tests during the peak of the sixth wave.

Lecce oversaw a disastrous pandemic response in our schools, leading to students losing around 220 in class learning days, the most of any Canadi-

an province or territory. Those decisions included, cutting the budget for COVID protections in our schools last year, larger class sizes, and sending rapid tests to private schools while denying them to students and families in the public school systems.

Page 192 of the Ford Conservative’s budget shows that the reason they refused to reduce class sizes, or use rapid tests in our public schools, was because they cut the COVID protections in our schools by \$2 Billion.

In February of this year Lecce continued his war on public education by announcing requirements that students would need to complete at least 2 credits online in order to qualify for graduation. Ontario Liberals will repeal that cost-cutting and ridiculous requirement.

Ontario student’s, teachers and parents know Stephen Lecce has been one of the worst, if not the worst education ministers in Ontario history. On June 2nd their parents can fire Lecce and Ford once and for all.

- via: [OntarioLiberal](#)

Ontario Liberal Party denounces antisemitic posters targeting Dr. Nathan Stall in Toronto-St. Pauls

May 27, 2022:

Ontario Liberals are deeply disturbed by the coordinated antisemitic attacks targeting Dr. Nathan Stall in Toronto-St. Paul’s. Hate filled posters, including antisemitic tropes, have been plastered across the riding of Toronto-St. Paul’s for over a week.

These actions are part of a troubling trend of targeted attacks against members of Ontario’s Jewish community. According to the Toronto Police Annual Hate Crime Statistical Report, the Jewish community was the most targeted group in 2021.

Antisemitism and all forms of hate



must be confronted wherever they are found. Ontario Liberals call for all Ontario political leaders to join with Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) in condemning these antisemitic attacks on Dr. Stall.

- via: [OntarioLiberal.ca](#)

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Monsoon Journal
Wishes Readers, Advertisers, Distribution outlets,
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A Happy Father's Day
June 19, 2022

Best wishes for a pleasant,
Safe & Sunny Summer season
Beginning Tuesday, June 21

Happy Canada Day - July 1
US Independence Day - July 4

As we observe International Day of Family Remittances 2022, let's work together to support the lives of others through remittances

Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion. This may seem like a complex statement, but simply put it means ensuring migrant workers across the globe have access to financial means for a healthy well-being. It signifies the importance of remittances to not only national economies, but the individuals themselves.

The UN has said the following about International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR):

June 16 is recognized as the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR). This was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on 16 June. The IDFR recognizes more than 200 million migrant workers, women and men, who send money home to over 800 million family members. "This day further highlights the great resilience of migrant workers in the face of economic insecurities, natural and climate related disasters and a global pandemic. The IDFR is now globally recognized and is a key initiative in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Objective 20), which urges the reduction of transfer costs and greater financial inclusion through remittances.

'Remittances, or "cross-border person-to-person payments of relatively small value," serve as a vital lifeline to the developing world. Individual remittances may be of 'relatively small value,' but collectively these flows are three times greater than global official development assistance. Remittances underwrite many basic household needs and support skills formation and opportunities through education and entrepreneurship. These resources prove transformational for both households and local communities, enabling many families to achieve

their 'own SDGs.'

Remittance flows have increased five-fold over the past twenty years, serving in a counter-cyclical capacity during economic downturns in recipient countries. COVID-19 has been a formidable test for global remittances. However, early forecasts of sharp declines greatly underestimated the resilience in remittances flows. A May 2021 report by the World Bank reveals a drop in remittances of only 1.6 per cent in 2020, to US\$ 540 billion from US\$ 548 in 2019.

Behavioural shifts among migrants and the diaspora over the past year have further bolstered the resilience of remittances. Changes include an increased use of savings to sustain remittances flows, greater utilization of formal sending channels and more migrants sending money home for the first time. Local currency depreciation in recipient countries and increased government support for formal migrants in host countries during the pandemic have also had an impact."

Remittances have become increasingly important for individuals and workers living in countries like Sri Lanka especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

Official channels are also an important source of foreign currency earnings that have seen a downfall in their reserves in recent times. In this economic crisis situation, remittances are not just a support for an individual family, but they are also an important tool in uplifting a whole country amidst an economic crisis situation. As we observe International Day of Family Remittances 2022, let's keep in mind that we are helping a wider population through these remittances.

Canada Historic Milestones



June 22, 1960
Lawyer and politician Jean Lesage is elected Premier of Quebec. His Liberals defeat the socially conservative Union Nationale government, which had been in power for the previous 16 years. Lesage is known as the father of the Quiet Revolution. This period of change will give rise to a less traditional, more urban and more modern Quebec society.
Before becoming premier, Lesage was a federal Member of Parliament and in Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent's Cabinet. Lesage will serve as Premier of Quebec until June 16, 1966.

When the facts change,
I change my mind

- John Maynard Keynes (5 June 1883 - 21 April 1946) English Economist

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

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CANADA NEWS 

2022 Provincial Election Spotlights Housing Affordability as Key Issue For Ontarians

Latest Abacus Data research report shows Ontarians want the next provincial government to tackle the housing affordability crisis



May 19, 2022

TORONTO – Ontarians want to own homes: it’s part of the Canadian Dream. But because of the housing affordability crisis, that dream is on life support and Ontarians want to see it prioritized by all political parties in the upcoming provincial election.

As Ontario voters begin heading to the advanced polls, housing affordability remains a top priority for all provincial political parties. A recent poll conducted by Abacus Data on behalf of the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) shows that 73% of Ontarians agree that making housing more affordable should be a priority for the Ontario government, with 84% saying that a party’s ideas on solving the housing affordability crisis could be an important factor when deciding who to vote for on June 2.

“Ontario’s REALTORS® put real solutions to the housing affordability crisis on the table and we’re pleased to see that all four political parties have listened, offering robust housing platforms that include a number of OREA’s ideas,” said OREA CEO Tim Hudak. “Whether they are millennials struggling to enter the market, growing families looking for more space, or downsizing empty nesters, it’s clear that Ontarians want action: and they intend to vote for the party that best

prioritizes choice and affordability.”

Ontario Realtors wants to keep the dream of home ownership alive, but that will only happen if the provincial government makes it easier for first-time buyers to own a home, through increasing housing supply, eliminating outdated zoning rules that have been historically anti-housing, and leveling the playing field by doubling the tax break for first time buyers.

Here’s how each of the four major political parties in Ontario stack up compared to OREA’s 2022 Election Housing Platform: A Home for Everyone.

“Whether they are supporting the Liberals, Conservatives, NDP, or the Green Party, it’s clear that housing is at the forefront of many Ontarians’ voting intentions,” said Hudak. “Through our Members’ advocacy efforts, we’ve highlighted good ideas to help more people become homeowners and what may stand in the way. It’s now up to voters to decide.”

Earlier this month, through well-researched and proven innovative solutions, OREA put forward bold solutions to save the Canadian Dream of home ownership in Ontario. For more information and to view OREA’s 2022 Election Housing Platform, visit www.AHomeForEveryone.info.

Via orea.com

Affordability Concerns Too Significant to Ignore This Election



(TORONTO- May 18, 2022) - Today, Rocco Rossi, President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), released the following statement:

“While polls continue to indicate that affordability is a top concern for voters this election, parties have not expressed a clear plan to tackle this issue. Businesses are worried that high cost of living will continue to impact their ability to attract and retain talent. Housing affordability, for example, is critical to workforce productivity and business competitiveness.

“A recent national survey indicated that 30 percent of new immigrants to

Canada are citing high cost of living as a reason they would look to move to another country in the next two years. More Ontarians moved to Quebec than the reverse in 2021 — a first on record. Ontario’s next government needs to make life more affordable in this province. Otherwise, our economy is at stake.

“Affordability concerns are too significant to ignore this election. We call on all parties to outline how they plan to make life more affordable in Ontario.”

Via occ.ca

2nd Annual Tamil Radiothon 2022 in support of SHN Foundation

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Tamil Radiothon back again in support of Scarborough Health Network Foundation. Aiming to raise over \$300,000 towards the Love Scarborough campaign in partnership with CMR 101.3FM. Every dollar counts.

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Statement by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada **Memorial event commemorating one year since the confirmation of unmarked graves at a residential school in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**

May 23, 2022

Hello,

I'm honoured to join you here today, and I acknowledge that we are gathered on the territory of the Secwépemc Nation, specifically the territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc.

I also open my heart to the survivors who are with us today, and to the families and communities that suffered generational trauma from the many threads intertwined with the residential schools experience.

You knew. You've known for so long. You knew what happened here, the atrocities, the deaths, the loss. And the silence.

So many children, gone. So much possibility. Gone.

It has been called a discovery. The discovery of unmarked graves of children cruelly ripped away from this life too soon. But it isn't a discovery so much as a confirmation of your experiences and the knowledge passed down from generation to generation.

And now everyone knows. It shouldn't have taken this long, but finally, people know. And knowing has transformed this community. People have made pilgrimages here, to pay their respects, to say they're sorry, to show their support.

But you haven't yet had time to grieve, to make peace in your hearts. I hope today contributes to that process of healing.

It will take time. Healing is a migration, not a destination. It begins slowly, softly, carefully. It follows its own path, carrying us forward, but also in many other directions.

Yesterday, I walked a path through these grounds. Since then, I've searched for the words to convey my horror, my pain.

Horror at the images that filled my heart with sorrow, of the fear and anguish every child here endured. Pain at the senseless loss of life in your families and communities.

It's unimaginable that a place of learning was so cruel. It's inexcusable that people could commit these atrocities, or that people could stand silent as they were committed.

In our communities, towns and cities, we expect our schools to be places of learning and friendship.

Here, at the Kamloops residential school, that was a lie.

It was here Indigenous children unlearned who they were. Unlearned your culture and language and beliefs. Unlearned how to value themselves.

They followed the orders given to them. Don't ask questions. Don't speak your language. Obey. Be silent. Be still. Follow.

Over the years, we, as Indigenous peoples, have rediscovered our voice,



but that doesn't mean people listened or understood.

Today, we make ourselves heard across the country. Although it's hard, we're telling Canadians and the world about our wounds and pain, our anguish and outrage. And I know that so many have now heard us. From every corner of the country, we are united in the horror and sadness we feel. And now we must find a way forward together and to be united in saying "Never again will we stay silent."

So many unmarked graves. So many children who suffered and died because society thought they knew what was best, because people turned a blind eye.

Today, we honour the victims. We honour the children who suffered, the lives gone unfulfilled and all that could have been.

No child deserves to be treated with disrespect, to be dismissed, abused, made to feel less than human. And no child deserves to have their friends disappear, never to be seen again, always wondering, am I next.

Residential schools have left a long legacy of guilt, shame, fear and fury.

But as hurt as I am, as sad as I am, I can only end by speaking of hope.

Because there is always hope.

Hope that the preservation of these places, the stories told and retold, will bring about understanding and respect.

Hope that we can begin to heal, begin to forgive ourselves for being here when so many others aren't. And hope that Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can work together to build a better society, one free of judgement and inequality, one where everyone can speak and hear the truth.

A Canada where we truly belong without giving up who we are, where we have safe spaces to tell our stories. We, as Indigenous peoples, grow up with legends and myths, of creation and family. Eventually, we make our own stories, which we pass down to the next generation.

At this residential school and others like it across the country, churches and governments eradicated Indigenous languages and identity through corrupt policies. They took away our stories.

Over the years, too much of our culture, language and people have been lost because of residential schools, colonization and assimilation policies.

We still feel its impact today. We still experience trauma today.

For these children, their stories were cut short, but you won't let it end like this. By speaking up, you strip away the anonymity forced upon them by this school.

These were young boys and girls, with hopes and dreams, love in their hearts and their lives ahead of them. They had families and friends and were integral to their community and culture.

And it's up to all of us, across the country, to tell the stories of these kids, no different than any other child, no different than our children. To say in one voice: we failed them, and you.

We can never let that happen again.

The time for "we didn't know" is over. To all Canadians, I deliver this message. Indigenous families didn't know what happened to their children and many still don't. Most Canadians didn't know about residential schools. Now they do.

How, then, do we move forward from the shadows to the light and begin to heal?

Wherever I go in Canada or around the world, I vow to take your stories with me. I will share your stories and the stories of these children. I will do my part to bring their memories into the light.

I consider this a sacred responsibility, as governor general, as an honorary witness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as a mother and a grandmother.

This is a responsibility all Canadians share. We all need to listen. We all need to understand.

It's important that we teach the real history in our schools—the good and the bad. By incorporating this truth into our curriculum, we make sure the next generation grows up dedicated to building and restoring relationships, to reconciliation, to seeing things differently and to valuing Indigenous knowledge and stories.

Finally, I want to say how proud I am of you and your work. This isn't easy. To face this painful past, the abuses suffered, both mental and physical, requires strength.

This community needs time, space and support to heal. Don't diminish your own suffering. Make sure you take care of yourselves. Find strength where you can: in your hearts, with family and friends, from the community or, if you can, from mental health services.

This is the first community in Canada, but by no means the last, to experience this grief.

As a country, we must address the lack of available resources, training and support for mental health services in Indigenous communities. We must all work in unison to support each other and to champion accessible services that incorporates Indigenous knowledge and language.

There is a word in Inuktitut, my mother tongue: ajuinnata. It means to never give up, to keep going, no matter how difficult the cause may be.

You never gave up, you continued to tell your stories, continued to tell these children's stories.

Together, you confront this painful past.

Together, you will make sure these children are brought home.

And together, we will continue building a better future for Indigenous peoples.

On behalf of all Canadians, I offer my sincerest condolences.

We mourn with you. We stand with you. We believe you.

Thank you.

Via gg.ca

“Canadians are mourning with you”

PM Trudeau responds to horrific Texas elementary school shooting



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau released a statement as follows on the horrific shooting that killed 19 children and three teachers at a Uvalde, Texas elementary school on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

“My heart breaks for everyone affected by the horrific shooting in Texas today. I'm thinking of the parents, the families, the friends, the classmates, and the coworkers whose lives have been forever changed – Canadians are mourning with you, and are here for you. “

University of Manitoba, Rady Faculty statement in response to shooting in Buffalo

MAY 20, 2022 —

Message from Dr. Marcia Anderson, Vice-Dean, Indigenous Health, Social Justice and Anti-Racism, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, 10 Black people were killed and three were injured in a horrifying act of anti-Black racism in Buffalo, New York. Adding to the violence and trauma was a 180-page hate-filled manifesto and the social media live-streaming of the mass shooting. As the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, we acknowledge and think of the families and communities who are grieving the loss of their loved ones.

As a faculty, we need to be aware of, understand and support people in our community who may experience this as a collective experience of grief and trauma.

We need to be cautious about assuming people will be ready or want to engage in conversations about this: ask for consent first and accept “no” without requesting further explanation.

We may falsely assume that this could not/has not happened in Canada, that anti-Black racism is somehow not as bad on our side of the border. This is factually incorrect, and erases experiences of anti-Black racism in our country, province, city and university. This perspective can cause further harm.

In our desire to acknowledge our limitations and our systemic participation in anti-Black racism, we may reach out to Black colleagues, students or leaders and ask them what we



should do now. However, we must be mindful that they too may be processing their grief and trauma responses in response to this violent act. They may need to prioritize their own well-being and time with their families and communities.

Perhaps we can hit the pause button to hold that respectful space, and instead prepare ourselves to amplify those voices when they are ready to share at the time that is right for them. We can prepare by reading the work of Black scholars, poets and writers, engaging with the work of Black artists, and understanding what we have already been told about how anti-Black racism acts in our systems and spaces and what is needed to disrupt this racism and support Black excellence and joy.

As a faculty, we stand in solidarity with the families and Black communities in Buffalo and beyond. We are committed to more fully understanding and acting in response to our commitments to the Scarborough Charter. We are open to feedback or suggestions about what supports would be helpful at this time.

- via UManitoba News

Canadian MP's speech in Kannada in Parliament earns him praise

Bengaluru, May 20: A speech in Canada's Parliament by a Canadian MP in his mother tongue Kannada has gone viral on the social media, earning him praise for his love towards his native language.

Chandra Arya, a Member of Parliament from Nepean, hails from Dwaralu, a small village in Sira Taluk of Tumakuru district in Karnataka.

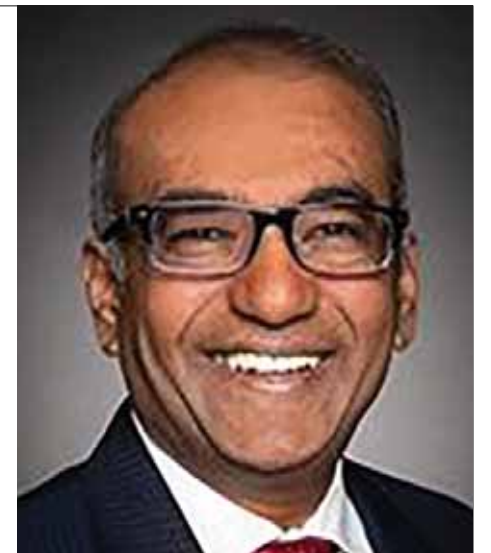
“I spoke in my mother tongue (first language) Kannada in Canadian parliament. This beautiful language has (a) long history and is spoken by about 50 million people. This is the first time Kannada is spoken in any parliament in the world outside of India,” Arya has tweeted with a minute-long video of his speech in Kannada.

His speech received a standing ovation from some of his Parliament colleagues.

“Respected Speaker, I'm happy for having got an opportunity to speak in Kannada in Canada's Parliament. It is a proud moment for 5 crore Kannadigas that a man born in Sira Taluk's Dwaralu village in Tumkur (Tumakuru) District from an Indian state of Karnataka, has been elected as Member of Parliament in Canada has spoken in Kannada,” he said in his Kannada speech.

Noting that Canada's Kannadigas in 2018 had celebrated Kannada 'Rajyotsava' in Canada's Parliament, he said, “I want to end my statement with (a) few words of the song written by Rashtarakavi Kuvempu and sung by Natasarvabhowma Dr Rajkumar-Elldaru Iru Enthadaru Iru, Endendigu Nee Kannadavaagiru (Wherever you stay, however you are, always be a Kannadiga). Thank You Speaker.” Son of retired Commercial Tax Assistant Commissioner K Govinda Iyer, Chandra Arya is a Liberal Party politician.

Appreciating Arya's speech, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj



Chandra Arya MP

Bomma said he has spread Kannada's quintessence at the world stage.

“Heartfelt compliments to Chandra Arya for proving that however big one may grow in his life, he should always remember his roots. Elladaru Iru Enthadaru Iru, Endendigu Nee Kannadavaagiru,” he tweeted.

Minister for Large and Medium-scale Industries Muruges R Nirani said, “It is an absolute honour to see the language of our land, Kannada being spoken in the Canadian Parliament. It fills us all with immense pride.” Karnataka Congress President D K Shivakumar said, “It makes me happy to see our great Kannada language spoken in the Canadian parliament. A great idea by Sri Chandra Arya. Kannadigas across the world must fly high the flag of our mother tongue.” Arya had recently urged the Canadian people and the government to recognise the difference between the 'swastika', an ancient and auspicious symbol for Hindus and the 20th century Nazi symbol 'Hakenkreuz', pointing out that there is no similarity between the two.

- via: PTI

Government of Canada working with airports and air carriers to reduce airport wait times

May 27, 2022

Ottawa

Transport Canada

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport, and the Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, issued this statement today to provide an update on actions the government is taking to reduce wait times at Canadian airports:

The Government of Canada recognizes the impact that significant wait times at some Canadian airports are having on travellers. It is great news that more and more Canadians are choosing to travel. As travel volume surges, there are reports of delays in many aspects of travel: Canadian customs, United States customs, airport security screening, luggage handling, airline services, taxis and limos, among many other areas. We are also witnessing similar phenomena at other airports around the world. Having said that, we are taking action to quickly address delays while continuing to maintain adequate

security screening. We are working with airports, air carriers and other airport partners to find solutions to reduce delays in airports in advance of the summer peak season. The goal of this collaboration is to ensure efficient services for inbound and outbound passengers, so Canadians are able to travel smoothly and safely as the sector recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Canada recognizes the urgency of the situation and continues to work with all partners to address wait times as a matter of priority. With additional CATSA screeners and CBSA Border Services Officers in place and coming, and ongoing discussions to further reduce the delays, some progress has been made, but we recognize we need to do more—and we will. We will take clear and decisive action to ensure the safety, security and resiliency of Canada's transportation system, its employees, and its users, while supporting economic recovery

. via: Canada.ca



WORLD NEWS

Mullivaikkal Commemoration held in Sri Lanka capital for the first time

Citizens groups protesting at Sri Lanka's capital Colombo came together expressing solidarity in a rare public remembrance event at Galle Face on May 18th to pay homage to those killed in Mullivaikkal 13 years ago.

Report appearing in *The Hindu* on the remembrance held in Colombo as follows:

Sri Lanka war anniversary: Tamil victims remembered in Colombo

by Meera Srinivasan

Scores of people on Wednesday gathered in Mullivaikkal village, in Sri Lanka's northern Mullaitivu district, to remember the tens of thousands of Tamil civilians who were brutally killed in the final stages of the civil war in May 2009, when the armed forces crushed the LTTE.

Simultaneously, dozens came together expressing solidarity in a rare public remembrance event in capital Colombo, at Galle Face, the ocean front where citizens' groups are protesting for 40 days now, asking President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit over the economic crisis stifling the country.

Although small, the commemoration in Colombo assumed significance, amid sharp divisions in how the Sinhala-majority south and Tamil majority north perceive the civil war's end.

While the UN has recorded at least 40,000 civilian deaths in the final stages of the war, many in the island's south are yet to confront hard ques-

tions about the Sri Lankan military's alleged human rights abuses at the time, that too targeting civilians reportedly directed to a 'No fire zone'. Their popular narrative conflates the LTTE with Tamil civilians, hails soldiers as "heroes" for crushing the outfit, and celebrates the end of the war as the military's "victory".

The divide has starkly manifested in the war anniversaries observed since 2009 – with some citizens reliving the enormous pain of losing their loved ones, and others cheering Sri Lankan troops marching down the very same Galle Face promenade in "victory day" parades.

Today, the stretch in the international spotlight is for other reasons. Citizens, mainly Sinhalese, are mounting unprecedented resistance against the Rajapaksas, who they blame for the economic meltdown. The ruling clan, once revered for "defeating" the LTTE in war, is now widely detested. But President Gotabaya Rajapaksa seems determined to stay in office, despite other resignations including that of his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa, who stepped down as Prime Minister on May 9.

In a 'War heroes' day message on Wednesday, President Gotabaya said there is "no doubt that various local, foreign groups and individuals are trying to use" the economic and political crisis "as a pretext to influence" national security. "We must defeat it together. Only then will the courageous war hero's commitment to the country be preserved," he said in a statement.



"Let us remember our Tamil brothers and sisters who died, or were forcibly disappeared on this day in Mullivaikkal," said Fr. Jeewantha Peiris at the remembrance event at Galle Face, where participants drank kanji or porridge in coconut shells, as many Tamils did while living precariously amidst indiscriminate shelling. Participants made speeches in English, Tamil, and Sinhala, as they expressed solidarity with the victims and their families.

"This is a very significant moment, as some Sinhalese have also joined this event in solidarity with Tamil families in Mullivaikkal remembering those killed during the war. Conversations about how we address our troubled past, how we confront questions of justice and accountability are just beginning," said lawyer Swasthika Arulingam.

Tamil lawmaker from Batticaloa Rasamanickam Shanakiyan termed the commemorative event in Colombo

"a great leap" in reconciliation efforts.

"The memorial held at #GGG [Gota go gama or village] to commemorate the lives lost & families affected in #Mullivaikkal 13 yrs ago today is a great leap in the reconciliation efforts as it acknowledges the pain Tamils in Sri Lanka went through during the war.

We are hopeful about an equal and just future," he said in a tweet on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Tamil families commemorated their loved ones in Mullivaikkal, offering flowers and lighting lamps in their memory. In the 13 years since the war ended, Tamils have frequently raised concerns over heightened surveillance and intimidation around memorial events. Last year, a plaque erected in Mullaitivu was found vandalised, while authorities bulldozed a memorial on the University of Jaffna campus. -

via **The Hindu**

Sri Lanka registers strong protest with Canada on House of Commons motion

Full text available on mfa.gov.lk

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris registered the Government of Sri Lanka's emphatic protest and deep concern over the adoption of a motion in the Canadian Parliament on 18 May 2022 on the alleged genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

In a meeting with the Acting High Commissioner of Canada in Sri Lanka Amanda Strohan at the Foreign Ministry on Friday 20 May 2022, the Foreign Minister categorically rejected the blatantly false content of

the motion, and highlighted that its erroneous substance is fundamentally inconsistent with and contradicts the position of the Government of Canada that "it has not made a finding that there was genocide in Sri Lanka." Minister Peiris also pointed to the need for such technical terms with specific legal connotations to be used with caution and responsibility, as well as to the dangers of its seeming endorsement by any senior members of the Canadian Government.

Considering the inaccurate and prejudicial nature of the motion, as



Sri Lankan Foreign Minister discusses House of Commons motion with Canadian diplomatic officials

well as the negative perceptions on Sri Lanka generated in the public domain as a result of such conduct, the Foreign Minister requested the Canadian Government to take appropriate action to correct the fallacies contained in the motion. The latter request was conveyed in the context of the strong bilateral relations of over six decades existing between Sri Lanka and Canada.

In response, Acting High Com-

missioner Strohan referred to the non-binding, non-legislative nature of the private members' motion adopted in the House of Commons of Canada. She also agreed to convey the content of the démarche to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada for appropriate action.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Colombo
20 May, 2022

2nd Annual Tamil Radiothon 2022 in support of SHN Foundation

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Tamil Radiothon back again in support of Scarborough Health Network Foundation. Aiming to raise over \$300,000 towards the Love Scarborough campaign in partnership with CMR 101.3FM.

Every dollar counts.

Support health care in Scarborough and donate online now at shnfoundation.ca/Tamil.

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Canadian Tamils'
Chamber of Commerce.





Canadian Parliament recognizes Genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka and establishes May 18th of each year as Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day



Full Text of Press Release
Via Office of Gary Anandasangaree
MP, Scarborough Rouge Park, Ontario

OTTAWA, Ontario May 18, 2022
Today, the Canadian Parliament adopted the following unanimous consent motion brought forward by Gary Anandasangaree, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge Park "This House acknowledge the Genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka and recognize May 18th of each year as Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day."
"Canada becomes the first National Parliament in the world to recognize the genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka. It is a recognition of the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan government. This motion also recognizes each May 18th as Tamil Genocide Remembrance

Day." said Anandasangaree.

"This is the culmination of years of hard work and advocacy by so many members of the Tamil community; survivors, family members of survivors, and the many jurisdictions that recognized the genocide of Tamils. I hope this will give some solace to those who are impacted and traumatized by the genocide. I also recognize that much work lies ahead to ensure that those who are responsible for these atrocities are held to account.

I want to thank all the political parties for their support, including the Conservative Party, Bloc Quebecois, New Democratic Party, and the Green Party and the many Members of Parliament who worked so hard to ensure the success of this motion."

Indian envoy calls on new Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe

PTI / May 13, 2022

COLOMBO: The Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay on Friday became the first foreign envoy to call on the new Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and discussed with him the current situation in the country amid the worst economic crisis, according to sources here.

Wickremesinghe, 73, was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister on Thursday to stabilise the country's debt-ridden economy and end the political turmoil.

Baglay visited Wickremesinghe immediately after the latter assumed duties in his office on Friday, Prime minister's office sources said.

They discussed the current situation in the country amid the current situation in the country amid the ongoing economic crisis, the worst since the country gained Independence in 1948.

India's economic assistance package



since January had kept Sri Lanka afloat in its worst economic crisis since independence.

India provided credit lines for the purchase of fuel and essentials as Sri Lanka's foreign reserves depleted.

India has committed more than \$3 billion to debt-ridden Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and credit swaps since January this year.

In mid-April Sri Lanka declared its insolvency by announcing its inability to meet foreign debt commitments.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country

Sri Lanka: 1,500 persons arrested for May 9 violence



Ten persons had died in the violence that broke out in the country after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the prime minister.

The Sri Lankan Police have arrested 1,500 persons in connection with the May 9 violence in the country, the police said on Monday, the country's news portal News First reported.

On May 9, violence had broken out in the island country after Mahinda Rajapaksa had resigned as the prime minister. Ten persons, including a ruling party MP, had died and homes of many political leaders attacked in the clashes between supporters of Rajapaksa's party and anti-government protestors.

The ancestral home of the Rajapaksa family in Hambantota, and the houses of ruling party MP Sanath Nishantha and senior leader of the party Maheepala Herath were also been set on fire.

Members of the ruling coalition government had blamed the Opposition communist party Janata Vimukhti Peramuna for instigating the violence, reported PTI.

Sri Lanka Police spokesperson Superintendent of Police Nihal Thalduma on Monday said that 152 persons were arrested in the last 24 hours in connection with the violence.

Eight more Cabinet ministers sworn in

Meanwhile, eight new Cabinet ministers were sworn in on Monday in the presence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Bandula Gunawardena took over as the minister for media, transport and highways and Keheliya Rambukwella got the water supply portfolio.

Other ministers are Roshan Ranasinghe, irrigation, sports and youth affairs minister, Vidura Wickramanayake, minister for Buddha Sasana, religious and cultural affairs, Mahinda Amaraweera, agriculture, wildlife and forest resources conservation minister, Douglas Devananda, fisheries minister, Ramesh Pathirana, minister of industries, and Naseer Ahamed, minister of environment.

On Friday, Sri Lanka had appointed nine Cabinet ministers, including those from the Opposition parties.

The President has, however, not inducted a finance minister to manage the debt-ridden nation's economic crisis, PTI reported.

On May 12, Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the new prime minister after Mahinda Rajapaksa's exit.

Via PTI

cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

The crisis has provoked widespread protests calling for political reform and the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

On April 1, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa imposed a state of emergency, lifting it five days later. The government reimposed a state of emergency on May 6 after police fired teargas and arrested students protesting near parliament, which was adjourned until May 17.

Although the protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, the police fatally shot a protester on April 19, and on several occasions have used teargas and water cannons against protesters. The authorities have made numerous arrests and repeatedly imposed curfews.

The political crisis was triggered in late March when people hurt by

long hours of power cuts and essential shortages took to the streets demanding the resignation of the government.

President Rajapaksa sacked his Cabinet and appointed a younger cabinet as a response to the demand for resignation. A continuous protest opposite his secretariat has now gone on for well over a month.

On Monday, his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the prime minister to make way for the president to appoint an interim all political party government.

Wickremesinghe said he was looking forward to having closer ties with India.

India on Thursday said it looked forward to working with the new Sri Lankan government formed in accordance with the democratic processes and New Delhi's commitment to the people of the island nation will continue.

Via PTI



WORLD NEWS

India delivers 40k tonnes of petrol to Sri Lanka days after diesel shipment

By PTI | May 23, 2022

India on May 23 said it has delivered around 40,000 tonnes of petrol to Sri Lanka, days after supplying 40,000 tonnes of diesel under the Indian credit line to help ease the acute fuel shortage in the debt-ridden island nation which is grappling with its worst economic crisis. India extended an additional \$500 million credit line to Sri Lanka last month to help the neighbouring country import fuel as it has been struggling to pay for imports after its foreign exchange reserves plummeted sharply in recent times, causing a devaluation of its currency and spiralling inflation.

“Commitment delivered!! Around 40,000 MT of petrol under Indian assistance reached Colombo today,” the Indian High Commission here said in a tweet. India on Saturday provided another 40,000 tonnes of diesel to Sri Lanka under the credit line facility.

The Sri Lankan government has asked its non-essential staff to stay at home due to the petrol and diesel shortage. Lawmakers have asked the Speaker to give them accommodation in hotels as they cannot reach parliament from their homes in the absence of transport fuel. A severe shortage of foreign reserves has led to long queues for fuel, cooking gas and other essen-

tials while power cuts and soaring food prices have heaped misery on the people.

In a tragic incident, a two-day-old baby died on Sunday due to her father's inability to find petrol to take her to hospital from the central hill area of Haldummulla in the district of Badulla. The baby was found to be undergoing a yellow discoloration of her skin. Her father was unable to find a vehicle to take her to the hospital due to the current fuel shortages experienced in the country.

Dr Janaka Pathirana, the judicial medical officer at the Diyathalawa hospital, said it was a preventable death. The Sri Lankan government has warned that it will suspend the delivery of fuel if transporters are threatened, after an angry mob torched a petrol pump owner's house in the country's North Central Province.

Spontaneous protests have been reported at the filling stations across the country where consumers have been waiting in long serpentine queues for fuel for hours on end. Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said if the public continues to threaten the truckers delivering the fuel, then the government will have to suspend fuel deliveries for the safety of the transport workforce.



It has been reported that organised groups are preventing fuel trucks to pass certain areas demanding they be unloaded at different fuel stations and threatening to set fire to them. If this continues, we will have to suspend deliveries for the safety of the transport workforce, he tweeted on Friday. An Indian credit line for fuel has been in operation since February as Sri Lanka was unable to pay for fuel imports due to the forex crisis.

Earlier, India delivered 40,000 tonnes of diesel to Sri Lanka on April 2. This was India's fourth consignment of fuel delivered to Sri Lanka under the Line of Credit. India and Sri Lanka signed a \$500-million Line of

Credit Agreement for purchase of petroleum products on February 2, 2022.

With the economic crisis and the shortage of forex, the Indian credit line of \$500 million for fuel imports has provided a lifeline to the island nation, which is currently going through the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

The economic crisis has also triggered a political crisis in Sri Lanka and a demand for the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The crisis forced Mahinda Rajapaksa, the elder brother of the president, to resign as the prime minister on May 9.

Via PTI

Over 100 faith leaders renew pledge to advance rights of all girls and boys in South Asia

Kathmandu, 10 May 2022 - South Asia is home to most of the world's religions. For decades, religious and faith leaders have been able to reach the hearts and minds of millions of people in the region through their deep and trusted relationships with families. In our era of COVID-19 and crises, their contributions are critical to help meet the increasing needs of children and their families deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing incidents of humanitarian crisis and natural disasters.

From 8-10 May, UNICEF South Asia hosted the 'Regional Faith Engagement Forum' in partnership with the Religion of Peace and the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI) on Faith and Local Communities. At the regional meet, over one hundred religious and faith-based leaders from South Asia unanimously endorsed the Regional Faith Engagement Strategy to promote child rights. The strategy lays a strong focus on accelerating progress for adolescent girls by ending child marriage, revolutionizing learning, addressing mental health, and fostering leadership by girls and women in a changing world.

“Religious leaders and faith organizations have the power to convene and shape values, promote responsible behaviours and unite communities under a common cause,” said George Lar-yea-Adjei, UNICEF Regional Director

for South Asia. “Religious and faith-based leaders were vital during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in keeping families safe and promoting kindness and solidarity. We value our longstanding partnership and look forward to working together to tackle the deepening inequities and rising needs of the most vulnerable children and their families.”

Faith actors and UNICEF have been working together for decades on various child related issues and it was in 2018 that UNICEF, Religions for Peace and Joint Learning Initiative jointly launched the Faith and Positive Change for Children Initiative. Since then, religious, and faith-based leaders have helped reduce harmful practices, discrimination, inequities, and vaccine hesitancy in South Asia.

“The Faith and Positive Change for Children Initiative partnership in South Asia envisions to strategically embed faith engagement within existing organisational strategies and country plans. This fosters strong collaborations and investments towards our shared goals of meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families in the region,” said Ms. Kirsten L. Muth, Chief Executive Officer of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities.

“It is critical for religious institutions, faith leaders, faith-based organizations, and experts to work



together for the rights and well-being of children, their families, and communities. That is why Religions for Peace, is pleased to partner with UNICEF and JLI to expand the global Faith and Positive Change for Children Families and Communities (FPCC) initiative in the region,” said Deepika Singh, Associate Secretary General and Director of Programmes, Religions for Peace.

“Religions for Peace greatly welcomes the partnership with UNICEF South Asia and other faith-based organizations. Our role on the frontlines, especially as first responders to emergencies and humanitarian situations requires us to continually collaborate and invest in our ability to build resilient societies where our chil-

dren can live, play, and thrive,” said Reverent Dr. Yoshinori Shinohara, Secretary-General, Asian Conference of Religions for Peace.

Globally, UNICEF works in partnership with Religions for Peace, with over 50 years of multi-faith collaboration for advancing children's rights and well-being; and the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities with a network of more than 800 diverse faith actors and academic partners. In our era of COVID-19 and crises, these relationships between UNICEF and religion and faith-based organizations are only becoming stronger and are essential in the fight to build a better world for all children.

- via UNICEF.org

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Why Tamil community businesses should be stepping up for local initiatives

Nava Wilson LLP supports community through SHN Foundation Tamil Radiothon

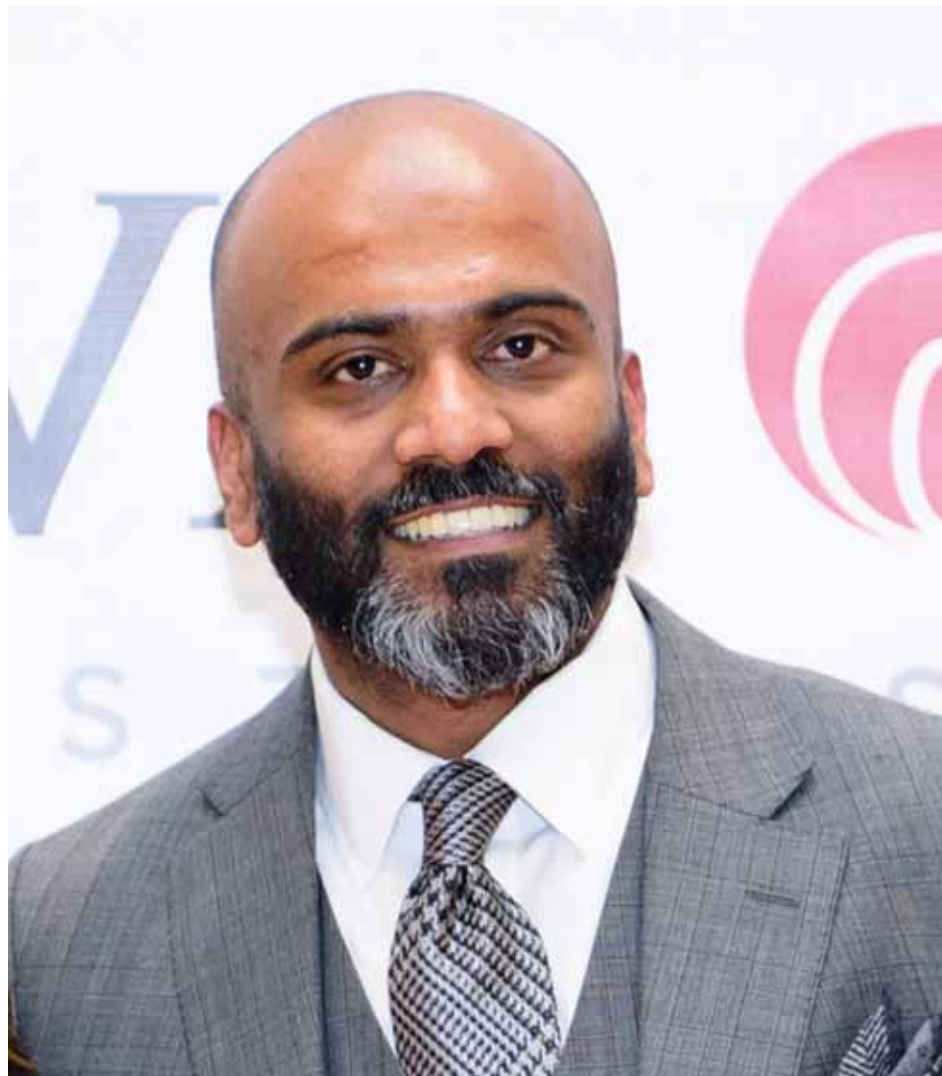
As many new immigrants land in Scarborough, Canada from all over the world, so did Kubes Navaratnam after the 1983 riots along with many others in the Tamil diaspora. Kubes grew up in Scarborough and studied computer engineering, but later found a passion for law after he had an opportunity to teach computers back home in Sri Lanka. He returned and wanted to do more for the community, and saw that there was a need for awareness of the justice system and access and he was empowered to do just that and began studying law. He chose Scarborough to set up his practice, Nava Law Professional Corporation and later Nava Wilson LLP with Senior Council Malliha Wilson, since this is where he grew up, and Scarborough was always home to him.

"People from Scarborough lead with their hearts, it is a mix of Canadian values with immigrant values in a beautiful way. You never felt like an outcast," explains Kubes.

Nava Wilson LLP specializes in real estate, corporate and litigation law, serving the Scarborough community and beyond. It was about creating access to regular services that the corporate law firms downtown offer, and servicing the community of Scarborough and beyond right at home. He wanted to structure the company to serve his clients in a way that would not only support his business, but also allow him to create services that he could offer pro bono and adapt to the market so he could continue to serve his community close to home. The law firm was built specifically for areas where there was a large disparity in legal access.

Kubes was always passionate about supporting causes in Sri Lanka and locally in Canada, but later realized how the funding structure works for hospitals in Ontario, along with, the funding disparity in Scarborough.

Scarborough Health Network's (SHN) three hospitals – Birchmount, Centenary, and General - serve Toronto's most diverse community with 59% of the population made up of new Canadians. And yet, Scarborough hospitals are not keeping pace, and in fact SHN has the oldest operating rooms in Ontario. SHN physicians and staff are treating patients in aging facilities, and while the care is exceptional there is so much more that they could be doing for the patients if the hospitals were equipped with contemporary spaces and the latest technology. The recent funding announcement by the Government of Ontario is a huge step in the right direction, however fundraising remains critical. SHN must



Kubes Navaratnam - Nava Wilson LLP

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SCARBOROUGH HEALTH NETWORK FOUNDATION
RADIOTHON
றேடியோதான்

raise their share of funding so priority projects can move forward.

In January 2022, SHN Foundation launched a \$100 million fundraising campaign. The campaign is an open letter to the rest of Toronto from the people of Scarborough. Despite the fact that Scarborough makes up 25% of Toronto's population, just 1% of all healthcare donations flow to SHN. The campaign, which includes print, bus shelter ads, TV commercials and online videos is designed to raise awareness of Scarborough hospitals and their needs. It creatively uses the alphabet to profile 26 community members, business leaders, SHN patients, current donors and physicians. These 26 profiles show the strength,

diversity and potential of Scarborough.

On Saturday June 11, 2022, SHN Foundation is working with the Tamil community to invite physicians, nurses, staff, community leaders and prominent members of the business community to showcase the services that the hospital offers to the Tamil and Scarborough community, and demonstrate how vital this health network is to the people that access this care. Tamil physicians like Dr. Ram Vijayaraghavan, Director of the Cardiac Cath lab at SHN, who developed the regional Cardiac MRI program at SHN and other complex programs, and seeks to bring the highest standard of invasive cardiac care to the community setting. And Dr.

Senthuran Gunaratnam, staff Psychiatrist at SHN and one of the very few Tamil-speaking psychiatrists in Canada, who is dedicated in raising awareness of mental health among our Canadian Tamils. The care provided at SHN is exceptional and the Tamil Radiothon will share how physicians like Dr. Mayoorendra Ravichandiran, an Emergency Physician at SHN and a lecturer at the University of Toronto, wants to give back to his community and led him back to Scarborough as an emergency physician.

The health of our community is only as strong as its health care system. For our community to get the care they deserve we need to invest in SHN. Members of the community will be able to come together and donate online, through the phone or in person at one of the drop off locations. For more information about the Tamil Radiothon please visit www.shnfoundation.ca/tamil. All proceeds will support the Love Scarborough campaign and SHN Foundation's \$100 million fundraising goal, which will go toward expanding emergency departments, integrated communities of care, accessible diagnostic imaging and barrier-free mental health care.

About Scarborough Health Network Foundation

Situated in one of Canada's most diverse communities, Scarborough Health Network (SHN) Foundation inspires the support necessary to improve patients' lives through exceptional care at Scarborough Health Network across three hospitals and eight satellite sites. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked with generous donors, volunteers and community members to raise funds needed to build state-of-the-art infrastructure and purchase the latest medical technology, supporting the SHN's vision to be Canada's leading community teaching health network.

About Scarborough Health Network

Across our three hospitals and eight satellite sites, Scarborough Health Network (SHN) is shaping the future of care. Our many programs and services are designed around the needs of one of Canada's most vibrant and diverse communities. We are home to North America's largest nephrology program, as well as the designated cardiac care and spine centre for Scarborough and surrounding communities to the east. We are proud to be a community-affiliated teaching site for the University of Toronto and partner with a number of other universities and colleges, helping to train the next generation of health care professionals. *Learn more at shn.ca.*

WORLD NEWS



World Bank Statement on Sri Lanka



WASHINGTON, May 24, 2022—The World Bank today issued the following statement on Sri Lanka:

“Recent media reports have inaccurately stated that the World Bank is planning support for Sri Lanka in the form of a bridge loan or new loan commitments, among other incorrect assertions.

We are concerned for the people of Sri Lanka and are working in coordination with the IMF and other development partners in advising on appropriate policies to restore econom-

ic stability and broad-based growth. Until an adequate macroeconomic policy framework is in place, the World Bank does not plan to offer new financing to Sri Lanka.

We are currently repurposing resources from previously approved projects to help the government with some essential medicines, temporary cash transfers for poor and vulnerable households, school meals for children of vulnerable families, and support for farmers and small businesses.”

USAID Administrator Samantha Power holds phone call with Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe



May 23, 2022

The following is attributable to Spokesperson Rebecca Chalif:

Today, Administrator Samantha Power held a call with Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe to discuss how USAID is responding to the country’s political and economic crises.

Administrator Power expressed her sympathy for those Sri Lankans who were killed or injured in the political unrest earlier this month. She pledged her support to the people of Sri Lanka and committed that USAID would help the country weather the crisis. She stressed the need to urgently undertake political and economic reforms

to gain the trust of the Sri Lankan people.

Administrator Power underscored that USAID is pivoting its ongoing programs in Sri Lanka to help address the urgent needs of Sri Lanka’s most vulnerable and marginalized communities as they experience the economic shocks, compounded by rising food, fuel and fertilizer prices due to Russia’s unprovoked war against Ukraine. Administrator Power assured the Prime Minister that USAID would closely work with other donors such as the IMF, the World Bank, G7, and others to support Sri Lanka during this extraordinarily difficult period.

- USAid.gov

IMF Staff Concludes Virtual Mission to Sri Lanka



May 26, 2022

Washington, DC: An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team led by Mr. Peter Breuer and Mr. Masahiro Nozaki conducted a virtual mission with the Sri Lankan authorities during May 9-24 on an economic program that could be supported by an IMF lending arrangement. The IMF team met with Honorable Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at the concluding meeting, following technical discussions with the economic team led by Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Secretary to the Treasury Mahinda Siriwardana. The team also met with representatives of the private sector, the financial sector, and development partners.

At the conclusion of the mission, the IMF team issued the following statement:

“Sri Lanka is facing difficult economic conditions and severe balance of payments problems. Recent economic indicators suggest that economic activities have been negatively affected by fuel and power shortages. Rising global food and oil prices have further added to the balance of payments pressures. Inflation has accelerated driven by many factors, including the shortages of goods, fuel price increases, and currency depreciation. In this context, we are deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing crisis on the people, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups.

“The IMF team held technical discussions on a comprehensive reform package to restore macroeconomic

stability and debt sustainability. The team made good progress in assessing the economic situation and in identifying policy priorities to be taken going forward. The discussions focused on restoring fiscal sustainability while protecting the vulnerable and poor; ensuring credibility of the monetary policy and exchange rate regimes; preserving financial sector stability; and structural reforms to enhance growth and strengthen governance. We expect that these discussions will help the authorities formulate their reform program.

“The team welcomed the appointment of financial and legal advisors to engage in a collaborative dialogue with their creditors as an important step towards restoring public debt sustainability. Since Sri Lanka’s public debt is assessed as unsustainable, approval by the Executive Board of an IMF-supported program for Sri Lanka would require adequate assurances that debt sustainability will be restored.

“IMF staff will continue to monitor the economic and political situation very closely and engage with the authorities to formulate concrete measures under an IMF-supported program, as well as broader stakeholders to support a timely resolution of the crisis. We reaffirm our commitment to support Sri Lanka at this difficult time, in line with the IMF’s policies.

“Staff express their gratitude to the authorities for their constructive engagement and support during the mission.”

- via: www.imf.org

2nd Annual Tamil Radiothon 2022 in support of SHN Foundation

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Tamil Radiothon back again in support of Scarborough Health Network Foundation. Aiming to raise over \$300,000 towards the Love Scarborough campaign in partnership with CMR 101.3FM.

Every dollar counts.

Support health care in Scarborough and donate online now at shnfoundation.ca/Tamil.

Co-presented by CTCC & Nava Wilson LLP





SHN Nurses Who ‘Answer the Call’

Scarborough Health Network (SHN) is showcasing the diverse skills, specialized knowledge and clinical acumen of nurses who work in varied positions across the profession. Nurses play an important role in the health and wellbeing of patients, families and the public. These stories offer a glimpse into the varied skills and contributions of a few nurses who have truly risen to “Answer the Call” during the pandemic.



Hannah Kwok RN, Critical Care

Hannah had a patient during the first wave of COVID who was terminally ill. His last wish was to be legally married to his common law partner. Unfortunately, he was on isolation precautions and was not able to receive any visitors at the time. Given his condition, Dr. Howard Clasky spoke to the manager and initiated a virtual wedding ceremony for them. SHN’s spiritual care team arranged for a priest to officiate the marriage, while the common law watched outside of the room on Zoom. Hannah signed as a witness after the

short ceremony. Although it was a stressful 12 hours communicating between the patient, family member, spiritual care, priest, etc. (while keeping the patient alive!), Hannah says it was the most special and satisfying moment in her nursing career.

Judy is a Urology Resource Nurse who has always made herself open to new projects, whether she was asked to be involved or take the lead. She is very positive and takes on new challenges eagerly and without hesitation.



Judy To RN, Surgery and Ambulatory Care

Lisa courageously accepted a position as a new Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) RN in the hospital, just as the pandemic was unfolding. With an unmatched strength and resilience, Lisa displayed dedication in managing and learning through COVID-19 practices. By going unit-to-unit, she raises awareness of the BSO role, and her commitment to strategies that promote meaningful nurse-patient interactions. She is creative in her adaptation of tools to ensure patients in isolation are provided with equal opportunity to participate in activities. Lisa welcome the opportunity to assist our patients in transitioning to our new off-site facility and in easing their adjustment to a



Lisa Ryan RN, Acute BSO

new area, in a larger-than-usual volume, to a newly relocated team. She was often called upon to review patients’ documentation, meet with teams and create meaningful care plans specific for the new SHN environment.

Back in January, SHN was selected to provide regional therapeutic treatment to COVID-19 outpatients. The team hit the ground running and opened the clinic as soon as drug supply arrived. They have not



Judith Elson Patient Care Coordinator, Internal Medicine stopped since, providing access to treatments to patients across the community, seven days a week. As the lead nurse, Judith has gone above and beyond to support not only the needs of the clinic, but of the patients. The clinic has been well-received by the community, helping sick individuals to avoid serious illness and hospitalization as a result of COVID-19. Judith’s thorough, sensitive and compassionate approach has helped provide individual care options for many, including a new mother who needed support to accommodate her baby’s nursing schedule.

AN UPDATE TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Scarborough Health Network (‘SHN’) is issuing a public notice of an incident involving unauthorized access to data contained on several of SHN’s servers.

Patient data contained on a subset of SHN’s servers may have been accessed, including patient ID numbers, names, genders, date of birth, email address, home address, OHIP number, procedure descriptions, lab reports, staff names, physician name and numbers, insurance policy numbers, immunization status and diagnosis information.

As soon as the issue was identified on January 25, 2022, SHN immediately retained a leading third-party cybersecurity team to conduct a detailed investigation and to assist in containing the incident and restoring the security of our systems. We can confirm that the unauthorized actor was shut out of the system by February 1, 2022. Patient data from February 1, 2022 and onward is not at risk. While the investigation is now complete, SHN and its experts are continuing to closely monitor the situation and have not detected any malicious use of the data that was accessed.



It is important to know that if people visited a vaccine clinic that was affiliated with SHN, their data was only uploaded to Ministry of Health servers and was not affected by this incident. The only data related to COVID-19 vaccinations that may have been exposed is for individuals who were actually admitted to an SHN hospital and received

in-patient care, where that information was included as part of their patient chart.

Past and present SHN patients should visit our website for more information and to learn how to protect themselves and their data:

www.shn.ca/publicnotice or call 1-888-874-2140



Mother pays tribute to healthcare workers following car crash that sent her into early labour



Looking out onto a bright blue, sparkling lake, Pickering mom Nisha Tharma holds her beautiful baby girl close to her heart. As the wind whippers and the waves crash, the pair are locked in, at ease and as close as ever.

A far cry to where this harrowing story began one year ago.

Twisted metal and shattered glass blanketed the intersection of Kennedy and Highway 401 as emergency services rushed to the scene on May 24, 2021. Nisha, eight months pregnant, had been involved in a serious car crash. While no fatalities had occurred, an expectant mother's worst nightmare would soon unfold.

As the ambulance took Nisha to Scarborough Health Network's (SHN) General Hospital to treat her injuries, she couldn't help but notice something was missing. At this point in her pregnancy she had grown accustomed to the wriggles and kicks of her baby, but immediately following the accident, there was only stillness.

"She wasn't moving," says Nisha, "she usually moves around that time... and my stomach felt weird. I knew something was wrong."

As her baby's presence faded, Nisha's concerns grew. Without hesitation, SHN's nurses and doctors leapt into action. But after a series of tests and examinations, Nisha's worst fears had come true: her baby's heartbeat had stopped. There was no time to waste.

Before she knew it, Nisha, still recovering from her car crash injuries, was on the operating table preparing for an emergency caesarian section.

For Nisha, a delivery at General hospital proved to be not only life-changing, but life-saving. Thanks to the prompt response of Dr. Catherine Owen, Nisha's obstetrician-gynecologist, and the birthing room nursing team, both Nisha and her newborn baby, Oviya, survived.

SHN is home to nationally recognized, advanced Family Birthing Centres that are staffed with an interprofessional team of obstetricians, paediatricians, midwives and nurses who are hugely skilled to deliver high quality and exceptional patient centered care.

At SHN, the NICU's are level 2C, meaning staff are specialized with a unique set of skills to provide culturally sensitive care to families in Scarborough that maybe at risk for premature births. The neonatal intensive care units (NICU) can look after babies born as early as 30 weeks.

For a month, Nisha and Oviya recovered under the careful observation of the NICU nurses and paediatrician. Trained specifically to aid new mothers and their babies, these nurses helped balance the joy of motherhood with the challenges of hospitalization; a skillset even more valuable during a pandemic marked by isolation.

"I was always nervous to do little things," says Nisha. "They were literally holding my hand for the first couple weeks. I didn't even know how to bathe her, which was really hard. I was expecting my mother-in-law or someone to help me bathe her, but I was alone... and they showed me how to do everything."

By the time Nisha and her baby were ready to leave, she had learned many fundamentals of newborn care. Dr. Leah Tattum, a paediatrician, and the nurses taught her how to bathe, feed, and care for Oviya in a way that only healthcare professionals could.

"Being a new mom is a very different experience, but it's the most beautiful experience. I can't describe the feeling...it's the best feeling ever. It's just beautiful.

"I am really thankful for everyone that was involved in my care to make sure I had this experience: Dr. Owen, Dr. Tattum, nurse Corinna and the nurses."

Today, Nisha and Oviya are at home, both much stronger since their accident a year prior – counting blessings. They still see Dr. Tattum for check-ups, and to ensure Oviya meets all her milestones. Forever changed by her experiences, Nisha continues to encourage other expectant mothers to make their way to SHN when the time comes.



SPECIAL FEATURE

OP-ED

More Reasons to Vote for Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown as the next Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, and, thereafter, the 24th Prime Minister of Canada

by K.T. Kumaran

Patrick Brown would be the type of Conservative leader who reflects the new demographic of Canada. He would bring about a big tent Conservative Party that includes many from various different shades and walks of life and their priorities throughout the country.

Patrick Brown sets himself apart from the other contenders in the current leadership race as a centrist and with a proven track record as a leader of a governmental structure within Canada, as opposed to being just a legislator. Yes, Patrick Brown comes with executive experience.

With this sort of backdrop, Patrick Brown would not engage in the disruptive politics that negatively debates basic questions or facts on matters such as science, vaccinations, equality for newcomers, and so forth.

Electing a far right Conservative Party Leader who follows disruptive populist tendencies in France and the US can prove chaotic for Canada.

Moreover, Canada's parliamentary system has produced situations of a minority government. This would give a far right Conservative Party leader a significant bargaining chip in governing Canada.

It would simply be problematic to have one of Canada's major political parties straddling towards that view or far left for that matter. This is the case especially since we don't realize how the Conservative Party has made a positive impact on our lives.

Traditionally, conservative parties in Canada did not have the anti-newcomer policies or rhetoric we have seen in recent times.

Take for example the largest Tamil diaspora outside of Asia became a reality in Canada in 1986 because of Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and now we all know that our diasporic being outside of Sri Lanka is a blessing now more than ever!

Brian Mulroney took a political risk to enable the largest Tamil diaspora outside Asia, right here in Canada. So the right Conservative Leader matters to all of us.

Next, previous Conservatives understood the environment is not a partisan issue. When Bill Davis was premier of Ontario, he created the Ministry of the Environment and put into place Canada's first environmental land-use plan.

It was Brian Mulroney who was named Canada's "greenest" prime minister as he led the federal Conservative party at the time.

In 1987, Mulroney hosted world leaders in Montreal to get them to drastically cut the use of ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs. In 1991, Mulroney signed the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement to reduce the pollution that caused acid rain.

Currently, there is an agreement between the Liberals and the NDP for the former to govern until 2025. This will mean a decade with this current government that was first elected in 2015.

A continuous reign in government consecutively for a political party will not be an efficient way to use our tax dollars.

This is also why voters in countries like the USA prefer to change their governing parties at least every eight years for new ideas, perspectives and the efficient use of tax dollars.

The governance may not become or should not be

a lifelong career even on a party basis.

So in that sense the leadership election is the opportunity for you to have a voice on who you want to lead a major political party in Canada and the country itself.

The Canadian Federal Conservative leadership election is an opportunity for us to rise up and have a positive impact on a party where we may not have been the traditional core constituency.

The leadership election will be held on September 10, 2022. The voting will be done virtually. Canadian Citizens above age 14 (fourteen) at the time of becoming party members by June 3, 2022 are eligible to vote at the leadership election.

To get your membership, please go to this link; https://fighterleaderwinner.ca/en/membership/?short_code=wskt



Air Disasters



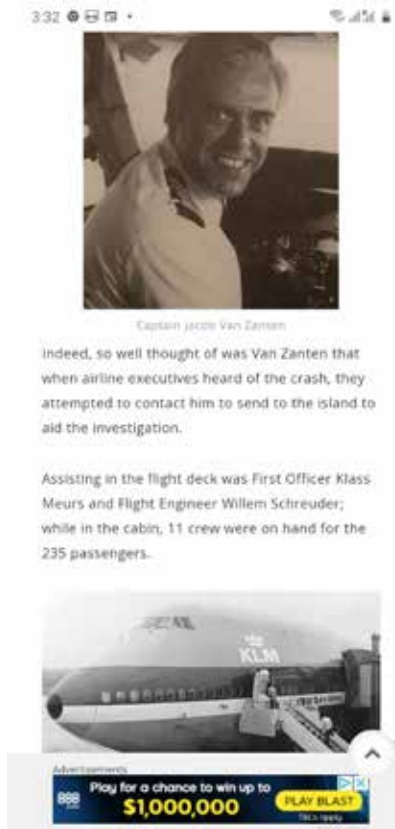
SPECIAL FEATURE



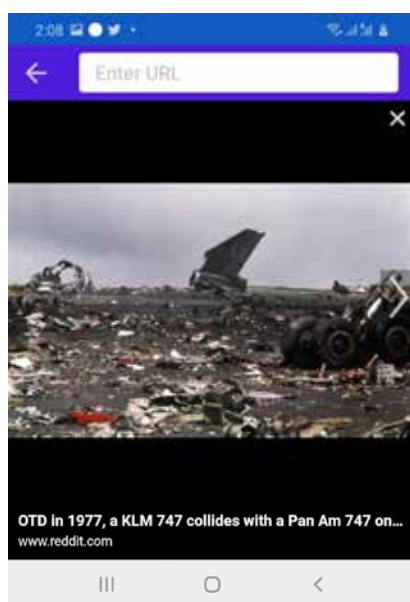
The Deadliest Air Crash that ever happened in aviation history, but not in the air but on the ground. Unbelievable

When we say air crash, people think of an accident in the sky or air, no one with any sanity will think that this happened on the ground. But to everyone's disbelief this is what happened on March 27, 1977, on a runway at Tenerife, in the island of Canary, involving two

largest aircrafts at that time, a Boeing 747 of KLM Royal Dutch airlines and PANAM World Airways. On that day several airlines including KLM and PANAM flights were diverted due to a bomb scare at Las Palmas airport. The airport was reopened after 3 hours when "all clear" was given and the crew was preparing for the short flight back to Las Palmas and all the airline crews were in a hurry especially pilots, did not



want to exceed their flight time limitations. As all the aircrafts returned to Las Palmas there were more aircrafts and no gates to park them. The air traffic controllers were in a quandary to schedule their take off in an orderly fashion as most of the aircrafts were on the taxiways, thus blocking the path to the runway. Controllers wanted the crew to follow one aircraft when it enters the runway, followed by the next aircraft on its heels. When one aircraft enters the departure threshold, this aircraft will make a 180 degree turn and get ready for take-off position. In aviation we call this backtracking or backtracking. The aircraft that follows had to pull off onto a taxiway to get out of the way of the plane that was positioned for take-off. When the first plane departed the second crew would taxi their plane into position and go.



few planes took off following this pattern and the next to do was PANAM and KLM. KLM, entered the departure threshold followed by PANAM with captain Victor Grubbs, 56 years, co-pilot Bragg and the flight engineer George warns. Captain Jacob Van. Zanteen, fifty years, one of the most popular pilots, head of the flight training, a face of KLM, almost a celebrity in Netherlands, was commander of the KLM. Jacob did not want his flight delayed which would make him to exceed his flight time limitations, making an overnight stay in Las Palmas, that would cost KLM too much. Being a senior captain he decided to go as soon as possible and to save money. When the PANAM was on the taxiway, a cloud of fog developed which became denser, reducing the visibility

to less than 500 meters in no time. The tower advised the PANAM crew and cautioned them about the visibility. Captain Grubbs of PANAM, 21,000 hours flying time in his cap, continued his taxing very cautiously through the fog. The fog had cleared at the take-off end, where KLM was. Capt. Jacob steadied his airplane for take-off position. He was at one end of the runway and the PANAM slowly moving in the opposite direction of the KLM to position itself for take-off almost half a mile away. Jacob pushed the throttles for more power, which prompted the co-pilot Klaas Meursto warn Jacob that ATC did not give take off clearance yet. Capt. Jacob requested Klaas to obtain the ATC clearance and throttled back. When the ATC gave the information for departure, not the take-off clearance, Capt. Jacob told Klaas, "here we go" and opened full power for the take-off and was rolling.

Capt. Victor of PANAM, saw KLM coming straight ahead through the fog which Captain Jacob did not notice because of the heavy fog, Victor was trying his best to steer the PANAM further to a side of the runway trying to avoid the oncoming KLM head on. Victor's words were "This SOB "is coming straight to us". Captain Jacob too saw the PANAM rolling towards & pulled his aircraft for take-off climb but it was too late in a way. The KLM flight was airborne barely and it's under carriage scraped the roof of the PANAM, made a gaping hole, plummeted on to the runway and burst in to a ball of flames, killing all 249 souls on KLM to perish in a scorching ball of fire. This impact according surviving PANAM hostess, Dorothy Kelley, real heroine of the crash, was like a big Bomb. The worst ever air crash to have had happened personally, in my 50 years career in aviation. What a loss of lives for the occupants of both these flights?

This crash clearly educated all, a captain who should have used his experience in flying to the betterment but placed his self-esteem ahead. The 3 cockpit crew members of the KLM flight made glaring mistakes which paved way for this horrible crash in aviation

chapters. This engineered to analyse the cockpit communications procedures. Pilots should be able to communicate in the flight deck with each other at par, irrespective of the seniority or the amount of flying hours in their bags. If this level of communication is not there, could lead to major disasters as in the case of KLM. Investigators realised Captain Jacob qualified Klaas as a co-pilot, on the 747.

Captains consider themselves as "GOD", mostly don't accept their short comings and consider superior at all levels of thinking. NASA research scientist, John Lauber, did an extensive study for many years on the pilots, machines they fly and the shortcomings. John, should be called the "Godfather" of Cockpit resource management, CRM, John stressed the importance of this to enhance better communications in the flight

deck. After the crash of Eastern Airlines Flight 401 CRM, catapulted to a new dimension and is now called "Crew Resource Management". John's idea was to teach the pilots how to manage their resources in the Cockpit very effectively like a CEO of a Billion dollar company since he realised there should be effective communication. This crash was a wakeup call to aviators and related personnel in airline industry to pay attention to minute details and not to take anything for granted. Further it opened the Pandora's Box about cockpit hierarchy. Human fallibility is an ocean. When it is in the cockpit, it has cascading effects. This statement is well vindicated by this crash and the decision of the KLM captain which was absolutely unintentional.

Humans are inherently imperfect and the cockpit hierarchy is a myth. This crash silenced 583 precious lives out of 605, for no reason or rhyme. This crash still remains a watershed moment in aviation and remains and will be so!!!!

K.N. Sivagnanasunderam (Blue)
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2nd Annual Tamil Radiothon 2022 in support of SHN Foundation

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Tamil Radiothon back again in support of Scarborough Health Network Foundation. Aiming to raise over \$300,000 towards the Love Scarborough campaign in partnership with CMR 101.3FM.

Every dollar counts. Support health care in Scarborough and donate online now at shnfoundation.ca/Tamil.

Co-presented by CTCC & Nava Wilson LLP





SPECIAL FEATURE

Words of Peace

You are Blessed

I have been to quite a few prisons—and I'm here, not to judge you; that's already been done; that's not my job. I'm here to point out something to you. And that something that I want to point out to you is you.

Because in this whole equation of life, sometimes we are not included. There are issues; there are governments; there's this and that—but what about you as a human being? What does it mean to you to be alive?

In life, it's one thing. At the end of the day, (and that's, "end of life"), you can always look back—and say, "Oh, I could have done that differently. I could have done that better." But what if you could do that at the beginning—and say, "How would I shape my existence? How would I be? What would I be?"

In India, there is a very fascinating story, because the story unfolds—and the result of the story is very clear. The result of the story is going to be that there will be a huge war, huge. Four million people will be involved in this war.

And it is playing out, how this war is going to happen. This war is for the good to win over the bad, the good to win over the evil. There is a princess involved in this story—and she is the reason, one of the reasons, in fact, why this war will be fought.

So, you can see that the war hasn't happened yet but it's going to; it's imminent. And there are reasons for this war.

And one day, while she's still quite young, she hears that a very wise man has come to her town. So everybody encourages her to go and see him, see if she can learn something from him. She goes to see this wise man and he looks at her and he says, "I know who you are. You are the reason why there is going to be a calamity; you are the reason why there is going to be a war. And millions of people will be killed." And she goes, "I don't want that to happen. I don't want to be the reason why so many people would die. Can't I do something to change this?"

And he says, "Yes. There is." (And this is why I am telling you this little story. This is what he says. This is how she can prevent this war from happening.) And he says, "One, don't be offended. When somebody offends you, don't be offended." She goes, "That's really easy; I can do that."

"Don't try to offend anybody else." So, "One, don't be offended yourself. And don't offend other people. And if you are offended by other people, don't think of revenge." So, don't take revenge "Don't get offended; don't offend other people—and if you do get offended, don't try to take revenge." She goes, "Done. I can do this."

Actually, what happened in the story is, she offended somebody. That person she offended, offended her. And when she got offended, she wanted nothing more than revenge—and that led to four million people losing their lives on that battlefield.

Why did I tell you this story? What has it got to do with you? This is it. The battlefield—the battlefield is you! Your life, your existence. And in this battlefield, either you come out as a victor or you will be slain.

And for this war not to happen, you cannot be offended; don't offend anyone else. And if you are offended, don't take revenge. Because that is the start of that war.

You are more than you realize. You are the gift. You have been told, "No, the gift will come from somewhere else. Somebody else is going to come and save you."

You heard that—you didn't question it; you agreed with it. You memorized it—and in your life, you went along, "Somebody is going to come and save me; somebody's going to come and save me, come...." And in that time, more confused, and more confused, and more confused a human being becomes.

Because this is a battlefield—remember now, this is a battlefield. And what you are battling with is not only your ideas but other people's ideas, not only your expectations but other people's expectations of you.

We need to know ourselves. Why? And what does it mean to know yourself? Your name—no. Your likes, your dislikes, no. What you need to know about yourself is your strength: courage.

Have you heard about the heart—what the heart is, what does it mean? What is a heart? Then, heart is the place where the courage of a human being resides. Heart is the place where the clarity of the human being resides. Heart is the place, indeed, where the Divine resides—and I don't mean that religiously.

That power that pulses through everything—is also pulsing through you. That which is making the earth suspend in this universe.... That has got this earth spinning—no poles, no nets, no fishing lines, no strings—suspended. With a universe that goes beyond ten billion light-years....

We don't know the edge of the universe, and the reason why we don't know the edge of the universe is because the light is still traveling, still coming.

There is no "up"; there is no "down." It's everywhere. Everywhere. And there, that same energy is pulsing through you. Life, that's who you are. Your understanding, that's who you are. And that's about knowing yourself—your strengths.



And that's what constitutes this life.

What did you hear when you first came to this facility? "It's over." Who said it's over? Where did that come from? From you?! You're still alive! Not only are you alive, but hopefully, through Peace Education Program, you have learnt that you still have a life and you still get to forge it.

Is it the fences? Is it the wall? Or is it you? You are the player, not these fences. You are the player. The biggest fence that you have to overcome is not this one. This one is barbed—but this fence that is between here?—has killed many. Destroyed civilizations, destroyed lives.

You have life—you still have life. And you're going to have it till that day when you don't anymore. And till that day, you get to shape it; you get to change it, and what goes through this head is up to you.

Who's ultimately responsible for making your life a pleasant experience? You are. And you always were. But who did you look for? You looked for friends. Friends were going to make it very enjoyable for you. Probably, for so many people, that's where they pick up the wrong influence.

You are responsible. And that's your courage. Walk the walk. Walk the walk that'll take you to peace. Talk the talk that reflects wisdom.

You must remember one thing. If I take a lit candle—and I take an unlit candle.... Okay? So one candle is lit; one candle is unlit—and I take the unlit candle next to the lit candle; I touch the wick with that one. What do you think is going to happen? Will the unlit candle put out the lit candle?

Or the lit candle will turn on the unlit candle: "The law." This is the law that has prevailed. This rule.... This rule, if you understand this rule—that a lit candle has the power to light an unlit candle—but an unlit candle does not have the power to put out a lit candle. Because it could

be the other way, right? But it isn't. This is how it is.

Learn to take advantage of that. Light the candle—and you will be able to light many unlit candles. But light the candle for yourself first. This is—it's a great law! It's it a great rule. This is—this is what gives you hope. That means that if you have a lit candle, you never have to be an unlit candle, ever. Ever. Ever. But find the lit candle within you.

Somebody said to me when I was in Colombia, "Mr. Rawat, I feel really good; you're here; everything is good. But you will leave and what will happen?" I said, "By the way, what you feel, good—is coming from you, not from me. That goodness, you always had in you. And learn to access that goodness 24/7, seven days a week, 365, and then for the rest of this life."

You have everything you need. You have everything you need. Begin with your strength; begin with your clarity; begin with your courage. Fly.

I'm not here to entertain you. I'm talking about you finding in you, your peace, your joy. It's possible; believe me, it's possible—even regardless of the circumstance.

If there was a baby born here—a baby, born here, would it be affected by the fences, the bars? No. All it would need is the mama, the milk—and the baby would be quite happy. It'd happily be cooing and cawing, so far it is content.

Find that contentment in yourself. Don't let anything distract you from who you are. This is what I tell everybody. This is nothing special that I'm telling you this. This is what I tell everybody. Don't let that make you think you're unfortunate. No, so far this breath is coming into you, you are fortunate; you are blessed, regardless of the circumstances.

Prem Rawat

www.premrawat.com

www.timelesstoday.com

SPECIAL FEATURE



The Castle

By Kumar Punithavel

Sunthu and Shanthi were enjoying an ice-cream at a restaurant. Somehow Shanthi felt a bit uneasy, as lately Sunthu had changed a lot. Previously he was 'all work and no play'. Hardly interact with the son and daughter either. But lately he is all-out to take the children on outings, even help them with their homework etc. She had an eerie feeling that Sunthu was hiding something from her.

With a charming smile on her face, she asked him, "Darling, I wanted to ask you something, can I?" "Come on dear, what is it that you want to know? Feel free to ask and I will be glad to reply", Sunthu said.

"Darling of late you are coming home and spending so much time with children and me, even taking time to help with the kids' lessons and homework, I feel as if you want to say something but hiding it from us". "Not exactly, I am as usual trying to be a good husband and a dad", he replied. In response Shanthi annoyingly said, "Darling now don't fib, I can see in your face you are trying to hide something from me. OK, if you don't want to, don't tell me". His response was, "Don't be stupid Shanthi. What is there to hide? Wait a minute I want to show you something", so saying he got up and walked to his car and brought his briefcase with him.

Sitting down, he opened the briefcase and grabbed a letter which was folded and kept inside his day planner and handed it over to her. It was written on the envelope, 'To my darling son Sunthu'. Shanthi was confused and asked him what it was and his response was, "Recently when I cleared my mother's room, I found this. Go-ahead and read it. She opened the letter and started reading it:



My darling son Sunthu,

I am very much sure this letter will come to your hand one day, better early than late. I am writing this letter as your father's wife and your mother. I do not know how lengthy this letter is going to be, but please read to the end. When I got married to your dad, I was a lecturer at a university in Ceylon. Due to the repeated communal violence, we decided to migrate to Canada hoping for a better future for you children. Coming to Canada his first job was a car jockeying in a car dealership. In order to enhance our income, he did dish washing in a restaurant, in the evenings. As you two children were too young, I could not go for work, and became a stay home mother.

Dad hardly got time to spend with you both, but he worked hard and in due course he slowly rose up to be salad bar cutter, and later became a chef.

I was waiting for your dad at home. He was working hard to build up a decent life. While he was building up his career, you two were the only company to me. We played together. When you leave for school, I wait for you both to return. When you get home you will tell lots of stories, half of which will be fib. I enjoyed listening to them admiring your imagination.

Slowly you grew up, and did not have much to communicate to the mother. However, orders and messages kept on coming. You will inform me that you are

going out, but I had no right to ask when you will return. I will wait for your return, but I can't ask whether you will have dinner before returning.

Restaurant owner was getting old and wanted to sell his business. In the meantime, dad had developed a close relationship with the owner Mr. Reginald. Regi had developed such a liking to the dad he not only handed the business at a very reasonable price, but also in easy terms. Dad's urge to make more in business and retire wealthy, so that he could have all that he missed. The outcome was my waiting lengthened. He got a second restaurant too, and you joined dad, first on part time and latter full time managing the second location.

Slowly but surely, we moved to the house you live in today, a mansion in a neighbourhood, with a flashy sports car you got for yourself. But the price dad paid was not only money. His health got detreated. First, he got diabetes, and later pressure too. Slowly he was bedridden and hardly moved around. Lost all interest in life. He did not like to communicate, even with me. I continued to wait to talk to him, but he had no interest. He would watch TV or his iPad, but had no time to talk. At the time to talk he had no time to talk. Now he had all the time but he had no reason or cause to talk.

Occasionally when we go out, I see many mothers, and in their eyes what I see is the

urge of waiting. I see young fellows like you bringing their wives... They want to live with their partners at that moment, for they know there will not be a chance tomorrow. Thinking it is only one day I see some fathers buying and serving all they could do that day. You may wonder why I am saying all this now, during my time I could not tell your dad all this and make him realise. But you are the next generation, who are capable of thinking. That is why I am telling you. When I was alive, I could not say this. Even if I say this you would not have heard it.

You have a daughter and wife at home. They are waiting for you, waiting for your company. You don't know how much your younger sister Meera loved your father. When she expressed it, your father was already bedridden? He was so busy, never joined her to the school, or picked her from school. What he spoke in his last stages she never heard, as she had already married and went to live with her husband in USA.

This is life. Don't give Shanthi a life like this. Don't make her write a letter to her son like me. Money is the foundation on which life stands, and is essential. But what you have is enough for you today and the rest of your life. So, change your focus, and speak to your wife and daughter. Spend some time with them when you are hail and well. A life making someone wait for your attention is not a good one.

Suddenly Shanthi realized her sight had become blurry. She took her cell phone and dialed a number. In the process of conversation Sunthu heard her saying, 'Mom, why shouldn't I call you just to talk? How is dad doing? and she continued with her conversation with her mother.

In future there won't be a need for someone with Shanthi's call. Hope in yours too there won't be a need for someone waiting for your call. Money is the foundation on which the castle of relationships is built. Let's not forget the Castle.

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Saturday, June 11, 2022

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BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · May 11 at 2:31 AM · 🌐

Swasthika Arulingam
May 10 at 7:58 AM · 🌐

This is not a fight between people. People have not suddenly become violent. The Government which the IMF has decided to negotiate with unleashed violence on our people.

We don't want solidarity messages from Western Governments. We don't want your preaching on peaceful protests. What we want from you is real solidarity to build our economy which will be beneficial to us. Help us to industrialise. If that means controls on imports enable us to do it.

Instead what I see is IMF to EU telling our government to lift import controls. We barely have enough money to feed ourselves. And you want us to import products which even your country people do not consume?

There is so many things Western Governments can do to help us. Preaching us on peaceful protests is not one of them. We will handle that. Thank you.

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · May 11 at 4:36 PM · 🌐



News Curry
Satire Page · May 11 at 8:05 AM · 🌐

Army Demands Refund From Paint Workshop After Camouflaged Tanks Spotted All Over Colombo.

👍❤️ 14 7 Comments 4 Shares

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · April 11 · 🌐



Banu Jane Jothimalarr
April 1 · 🌐

The Indian movie industry should be hanging its head in shame for holding on to archaic casting practices based on colourism while a Tamil woman (who actually looks like a Tamil woman, not another Amy Jackson scenario) is being celebrated for her talent and her stunning beauty across the rest of the world. Mad respect to Bridgerton for casting a gorgeous, talented and perfect lead. Watching her on screen and seeing my side of the diaspora being represented so beautifully gave me all kinds of feels. Like many dusky-skinned Indians I've been taught all my life to be ashamed of my skin colour. I was regularly cautioned since childhood to avoid the sun, never wear black, use skin whitening products, drink milk and do all sorts of other nonsense to achieve fairness. I was once gifted with a tube of "Fair & Lovely" for Christmas. I once succumbed to the pressure and bleached my face till it was raw and bleeding. I've been the butt of jokes, which I learned to laugh along at even when the punchlines felt more like punches and less like lines. I've been called a crow, black devil (in Mandarin), the N word, Si Hitam, gorilla... the list goes on. The sad thing is I tolerated all of it, even thought I deserved it. This is why representation matters. Because seeing Simone Ashley on the screen made me feel seen too. It lifted a lot of the shame and fear of derision that I carry in a society that exalts fair skin to ridiculous heights. It felt exonerating. It felt like a victory for women like me everywhere who have been taught that we're lesser because of something as unchangeable as our skin tone. It made me feel so, so proud. Representation shines a light on the perpetrators of discrimination and resoundingly tells them that they're wrong. I hope talented Indian women continue to flourish across the world in all shapes, sizes and colours. However, it's high time our own Indian communities learn to step up, measure up or face getting 'cancelled' when future generations refuse to uphold their colourist and sexist values.

Image: 

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · May 17 at 11:15 AM · 🌐

Shamila Ghyas
May 17 at 10:28 AM · 🌐

Today, quite a few people, mainly men, videoed a woman listening to music on her iPod in Islamabad on a pavement. While listening, she moved around with the music. No, it was not actual "dancing" or "pole dancing" as many claimed. It was posted on social media and as expected, bombarded with curses, insults, and whatnot towards the woman.

Have these people forgotten how the hashtags "Pakistan perverts" and "Pakistanis get out" were trending in Turkey a few weeks back for the same reason? Pakistan men had been recording Turkish women on the streets and posting on social media, etc. One of the videos had been of a woman actually dancing in a fun manner with her friend. All the Pakistani men involved were arrested and then deported. Their media covered it as well. Turkish women in general don't have a positive image of Pakistani men. Yes, not all men, but the damage to the image has been done.

Did the people not learn anything from this? In Turkey it is wrong, but in Pakistan, it is ok? No, this is not a post against men because now the crybabies "I am the real victim and feminists hate me" brigade will come out. It is NOT about you.

This is about the behavior that many consider normal, even women. Why this constant moral policing all the time? Commenting on even non-Pakistani actresses' photos to the point that they have to block comments.

Let people breathe. If a person is happy, let them be. How does a person simply listening to music and walking around with it harm you in any way? You think that person is doing it for attention? Then ignore that person.

If you must show you are a great pious human being, show it with kindness and actions, NOT by constantly policing others. And STOP recording random women (and men) on the streets minding their own business. It is an invasion of privacy and if you post their videos, it IS harassment. That is why the Pakistani men were deported.

LEARN.

👍❤️ 2 Comment Share

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · May 16 at 10:43 AM · 🌐

Swasthika Arulingam
May 14 at 8:03 AM · 🌐

A 19 year old boy, a Free Trade Zone worker was framed for the May 9th violence and produced to Court today on fabricated charges.

His mother who was present in Court today came out of the Court and told me " I was listening to them (the police) lying about my boy. At least if they would have told the truth it would not have hurt so much. They lied about my boy in Court"

A 19 year old Free Trade Zone worker is being scapegoated by the new Ranil lead State.

Only three lawyers were present in Court today. I wonder with the appointment of Ranil whether the good will of professional classes towards the Aragalaya is drying up?

One law for the privileged. One law for the oppressed. It hurt to watch the mother crying.

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · 7h · 🌐

One of my students sent me this photo of his home. Moments of happiness amidst the chaos ❤️



👍❤️👍 84 6 Comments 1 Share

Like Comment Share

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · May 20 at 12:13 PM · 🌐

A puppy that appeared begging for food near my workplace today. If anyone in Jaffna can provide a home, please let me know. Not sure of the sex, a colleague sent the photo. If female, I'll take responsibility for spaying when the pup is an year old.

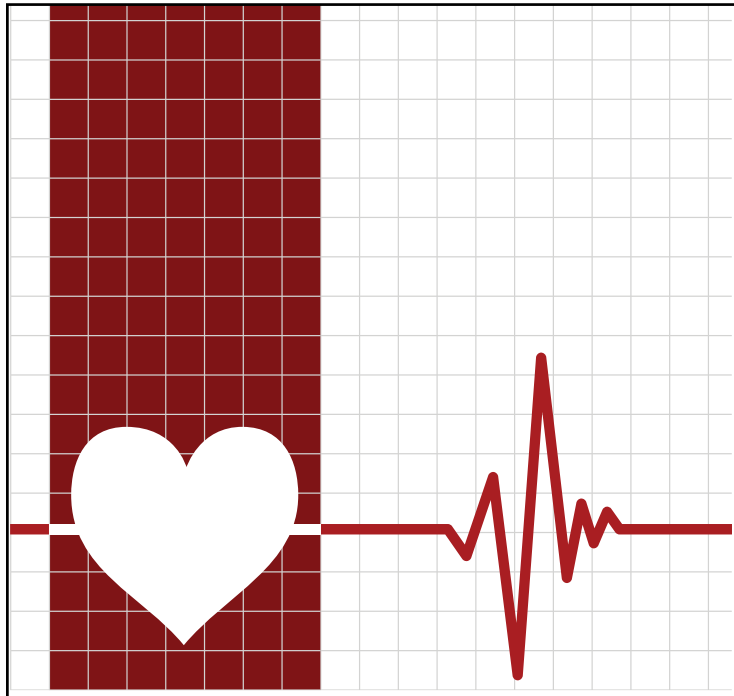


👍❤️👍 Pirunthajini Pirabakaran and 41 others 5 Comments 11 Shares

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SPECIAL FEATURE



SRI LANKA

THE BAMBOO LOUNGE

By: Roy Ratnavel

Some people like to collect coins, first edition stamps, retro comic books, or sports memorabilia. I collect spoken words. I hunt and gather these words when I overhear them on the street while watching movies, in my living room via television. These words of the mouth include cultural sayings, turns of phrase, proverbs, quips, and impromptu bon mots that have been uttered over the years.

A friend who worked in law enforcement — more importantly in the financial fraud squad years ago asked me if I ever heard of Rumanian Box. “Never,” I replied. He looked shocked given that I’m in the financial industry, and then said, “You must remember where you came from.” “I do, I said.” He piped up again and said, “The rate among Sri Lankan politicians to create their Rumanian Box is 100 percent.” So, I looked it up.

The legendary Depression-era con man Victor Lustig who wrote the famous “Ten Commandments for Con Men,” used to sell a money-making machine called the “Rumanian Box.” This was a little machine that a mark would put a blank piece of paper into, only to see real currency come out the other side. The brilliant Lustig sold this Rumanian Box repeatedly for vast sums. Rumanian Box became part of my collection of bon mots, ever since.

But Lustig has been outdone by the modern rulers of Sri Lanka, who managed to manufacture their version of the Rumanian Box. Sri Lankans at large seems to be the unsuspecting buyers of it. At least recent and historic examples show that the Sri Lankan naivety for this catchy epigram, the memorable phrase, especially in politics, is inexhaustible.

The only reason such apathy exists, however, is because there’s still a widespread misunderstanding among the Sinhalese population as to how badly their fellow citizens of the country — the Tamils, are treated, with emphasis on the quotation marks around “badly.” The question every Sinhalese should be asking, as one politician after another, drain money from the system — is this: In an economy as horrible as Sri Lanka, which ironically looks like those hollowed-out ghost ships we see on History Channel Documentaries like Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes, where in the hell did country’s leader’s eye-popping wealth come from, exactly?

All countries swaddle themselves in myths, and the Sri Lankans are just as self-indulgent as others, but this country houses a vast number of demagogues and many lunatics with the gift for



endless hyperbole, hucksterism, and a dizzying array of old-school hustles. They are certainly more persuasive and sophisticated than the legendary Depression-era con man Victor Lustig.

Sri Lanka’s ingrained anti-Tamil sentiments and whipped-up nationalist hysteria is a very powerful cement for the most odious system, which makes it easier for the leaders to con its citizenry. Sure, mugging the blind is against the law, but it’s also easy. To prevent it, civil society depends, for the most part, not on the police but on civilized people making the conscious decision not to do it.

Con artists have a word for the inability of their victims to accept that they’ve been scammed. They call it the “True Believer Syndrome.” That’s sort of where the Sri Lankans are, in a state of nagging disbelief about the real problem in Sri Lanka. It isn’t so much that Sri Lanka has inadequate rules or incompetent corrupt leaders, although both things are certainly true. The real problem is that it doesn’t matter what rules and regulations are in place if the people running the country are rip-off artists and the citizenry suffers from a pre-existing condition called racial hate.

With such racial hate, the country had become one giant dope house, where a few major players like Rajapakse extracted the valuables from race-obsessed people of the country the way junkies share needles. But it is also comforting for many Tamils like me — as we collectively revel in the saying, “That people get the government they deserve.” In that spirit, a brief history of Rajapakse years is the best Rumanian Box scam the country has ever seen.

The Germans would call how Tamils feel about the

current situation in Sri Lanka, “schadenfreude”: pleasure derived by someone from another person’s misfortune. What Sri Lanka needs is fresh new leaders with unifying ideas to uplift this deeply fractured nation. And those leaders should not be associated with any political dynasty of the past or present.

Sri Lanka is a prime example of why countries like this have not progressed economically and evolved politically from the dawn of independence. Since then, these countries have been governed by leaders with a penchant for redrafting history. It is symptomatic of countries light-years away from attaining true nationhood. In 1948, when Sri Lanka got its independence, it was considered to be the post-colonial nation most likely to succeed economically and democratically. Unfortunately, since then, Sri Lanka has been governed by leaders with racial hatred for Tamils. Through their hatred, they have destroyed the country.

The democratic political system assumes a certain minimum level of ethical behavior, responsibility,

and civility on the part of elected government officials that is above what is explicitly spelled out by the constitution. If those ethics are absent — well, democracy just isn’t going to work. In the absence of an overwhelming and fundamental change in Sri Lankan attitude and behavior, equality of race, religion, and gender will never be possible in that country.

The true greatness of a nation — like Singapore — is its willingness to accord all communities status and dignity equal to the majority, to weld those diverse groups into a harmonious polity. Unless, and until Sri Lanka can produce leaders who can realize that truth and are willing to act on it — it will continue to be dismembered by conflict well into the future.

More to the point, the fact that even after all these economic misfortunes and colossal failures, no one has done much of anything to change the rules and behavior of the people of Sri Lanka shows that they still don’t get it. Instituting racial dominance and vehement denials of oppression of Tamils regardless of the nasty past is like the addict coming back to the con man to get the lost money back. Sri Lankans must ask themselves how well that ever works out, as they get ready for the reload.

Speaking of ‘the reload,’ returning Ranil Wickremesinghe for a sixth term as Sri Lanka’s PM with the country mired in political and economic crises is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

Fans of the movie Goodfellas will recall Henry Hill — played by Ray Liotta and Tommy DeVito — played by Joe Pesci, taking the same approach to the Bamboo Lounge nightclub they’d been gouging for years. Roll the Ray Liotta narration: “Finally, when there’s nothing left when you can’t borrow another buck . . . you bust the joint out. You light a match.”

Sri Lanka is the current-day Bamboo Lounge!

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SPECIAL FEATURE



M. K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar

THE FIRST SUPER STAR OF TAMIL CINEMA

C. Kamalaharan



Mayavaram Krishnasamy Thyagaraja Bhagavathar an actor, producer and carnatic singer is considered to be one of the most successful among the actors in Tamil cinema ever. Born on August 1st 1940 he was not interested in studying in schools but in acting particularly taking up female roles. Blessed with a sonorous voice he sang Thevarams Thiruvagasam and S. G. Kiddappah's songs in dramas. Those days before the advent of the cinemas dramas were popular for which besides acting singing was a requisite for actors. M. K. T, P. U. Chinnapa, K. R. Ramasamy, T. R. Mahalingam, M. S. Subulaxmy, K. B. Sundarambal became popular actors. Among them M. K. T was outstanding.

Altogether M. K. T had acted in 14 movies among which 6 were super hits. In 1934 his debut movie Pavalakodi was screened. Following this Ambikavathy and Chinthamanee were released in 1937, Thiruneelakandar in 1940 and Sivakavi in 1943. All these were super hit movies. Owing to his mastery both in acting and singing M.K.T was held as demigod by his fans. Wherever he went he was thronged by them. Once while travelling in his car from Trichy to Puthukkottai he had to halt at a railway crossing causing a heavy stampede when the crowd aware of his travelling in advance thronged his car to have a glimpse of him. Whenever he travelled by train the train had to stop at every station where his fans knowing his travelling in advance would storm the station. As a result with him on board the train would reach its destination late by several hours.

M. K. T considered the uncrowned King of Tamil cinema was the richest star of his time. He had his meal in a golden plate and also drove the latest cars. He lived in style owning a white horse on which he appeared in the introductory scene in his super hit movie Haridas winking at the passing lasses who shyly retreated. He was also a philanthropist who contributed liberally for important social and religious causes and never charged fees for concerts at temples and educational institutions.

Such a glorious period of M. K. T came to a sudden end when he N. S. Krishnan and a Coimbatore based movie studio owner S. M. Sri Ramulu Naidu were charged in the murder of Lakshmikanthan who wrote scandalous unauthenticated stories about actors and actresses in his yellow page magazine Hindu Nesan relying on gossip and hearsay. While S. M. Sri Ramulu Naidu was acquitted M.K.T

and N.S.K were found guilty and convicted. The appeals of both of them were turned down by the Madras High court and both of them were locked in the Madras jail. How distressing it would have been for M. K. T to listen to his songs in Haridas through loud speakers while in captivity.

Later lawyers of both M.K.T and N. S. K approached the Privy Council in London and both of them were acquitted for want of evidence. After languishing in jail for three years M.K.T appeared completely devastated. At that time Haridas was successfully running all over Tamil Nadu continuously for three years at Broadway cinema having celebrated three Deepavalis.

His fans were optimistic that he would pick up from where he left Unfortunately a new wave of social reforms replaced mythological and historical films as a result M.K.T movies became out of date. Rajamukthi (1948) Shyamala (1952) Amarakavi (1953) Puthuvalu (1957) and Sivakami (1960) were unsuccessful at box office. With the advent of M.G.R (Manthirikumari 1950) Shivagi Ganesan (Parasakthi 1952) N. T Rama Rao (Pathalabairavi 1951) and A. Nageswara Rao (Devadas 1953) M. K. Ts movies couldn't fit in the new trend. Furthermore with the advent of playback singing and the changes in hair style and costumes created a major setback to M.K.T forcing his era to end.

Later M.K.T withdrew from society and resolved to follow a secluded religious life spending his time in temples mostly at Samayapuram temple in Thichy. He never sang film songs in carnatic concerts. His health too gradually deteriorated owing to acute diabetes taking insulin injection all by himself even on stage during concerts. Diabetic retinopathy caused him to wear glasses. During the closing stage of his life he also suffered from blood pressure.

Developing philosophical attitude he went on pilgrimage



to many religious shrines; Dharmapuram Atheenam Ramakrishna Thapovanam Pandaripur and Prashanth Nilayam at Puttaparthi where he arrived completely blind to have Swamy's dharshan. During dharshan M. K. T said to Swamy, "I have seen everything on earth but I feel sad for not able to see you, how nice it would be for me to see you." Swamy for a moment stared at M.K.T and said, "For you to see me I give you sight, look at Me. M.K.T was thrilled to see Lord Narayana and said, "Swamy you have given me sight and purified me." Swamy in reply

said, "As you have seen Me in this dharsan all your past sins are washed away. With that Swamy withdrew M.K.Ts sight. Enlightened and fully satisfied M.K.T left Prashanth Nilayam.

M.K.T spent his last days in poverty as all his savings had been spent in court cases. He also returned the advance money to producers due to incompleteness of their movies. He refused to accept money from anybody even at the time of his declining health and fame. On the first of November in 1959 the legendary star breathed his last at the age of 49. His body was taken to Trichy and buried at Sangiliyandapuram beside his father's tomb. The last journey took 4 hours to reach the burial ground due to the vast gathering of fans from all walks of life. Whatever reforms in the music world may be M.K.Ts melodious voice will continue to haunt the masses for generations as they are also based purely on carnatic format and composed by legends.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Folly or Foolishness



By: J.A. Rajah

Folly is the quality, that jettisons all that is profitable materially and spiritually and clings only to harmful things. The folly of follies is to desire and do a thing, which is base and brings one ill-repute. Rajaji puts it differently by saying ‘The biggest folly among follies is to cherish a desire for a prohibited objective. ‘Absence of shame and compassion as well as failure to do one’s duty and cherish values, are all known traits of a fool.

*“Oothi unarnthum pirarkkuraithum thanadangap
Pethayin pethayar il.”*

ஓதி உணர்ந்தும் பிறர்க்குரைத்தும் தானடங்காப்
பேதையிற் பேதையார் இல்

There is no greater fool than one who thinks he is learned, and presumes to preach to others, but does not effectively regulate and control himself. Puranaanooru expresses such persons as, “aanravintha kolhaich chanror”. But for his foolish action in one birth, a man could make himself liable, for a slimy hell in all his seven births. Ignorant of the know-how, if a fool undertakes one important enterprise, he will spoil it from inside and ruin himself too.

*“Ethilar aarath thamar pacipar pethai,
Perunchelvam utta kadai”.*

ஏதிலார் ஆரத் தமர்பசிப்பர் பேதை
பெருஞ்செல்வம் உற்றக் கடை

If a fool comes by great wealth, only unworthy strangers benefit from it, while his kindred continue to starve. A fool getting hold of great wealth is like a lunatic taking intoxicating liquor.” It was bad enough being bad, but liquor is added to make bad worse’. Parimelalahar describes such a person as ‘maiyalum mathukkalippum udayan’. In a way the friendship of fools may be considered good, because separation from them brings no regret. Entry of a fool into the assembly of the wise and virtuous men is like getting on to a clean bed with unwashed feet. “Unwashed feet is an expression to describe an unclean person. Jesús washed the feet of his disciples to make them clean. A fool’s entry into an assembly of ‘saanror’ is definitely an insult to the assembly, according to Valluvar.

(Kural: 831-840)

‘Vayathul Vazhlvangu Vazhlum Vazlikal’.



Valluvar’s Views

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SPECIAL FEATURE



THE WORLD IN CRISIS

THE BLOWING STORMS

By: J A Rajah

A. Variety of Upheavals :

The world is in crisis because of numerous problems faced in different parts of the world. Convergence of events in Australia, Africa, Europe, and North America brought disasters to those regions. In Australia, the drought in Queensland ended abruptly with flooding rains that drowned 600,000 cattle, followed by the hottest and driest year on record, leading to the worst bush fire in memory-destroying property. When it seemed things couldn't get any worse, the black swan of Covid 19 hit. Climate change had played havoc in many parts of the world. Massive floods have been reported in India, Pakistan, US, and Canada. Many agricultural farms have been destroyed resulting in lack of sufficient food production. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has resulted in massive loss of lives and devastation of buildings and infra-structure. Ukraine is one of the greatest producers of wheat in Europe and that supply has been affected by war. Ban on Russian gas and diesel has resulted in lack of sufficient supplies of these vital commodities in Europe and rest of the world. We see the convergence of inflation, worker shortages, and empty shelves, while immigrants flood across border from around the world, and into Britain from Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia. Additionally, there are mega wars brewing in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. There is acute famine in Sri Lanka due to mismanagement by political leaders.

B. The Effects of Diseases :

The world is still suffering from the ill-effects of the Pandemic. It has reappeared in variant forms and keeping a number of people in hospitals. There is inadequate facilities to meet the excessive demand for medical services. Front-line workers are also subject to harm and governments find it difficult to contain the disastrous effects of the Pandemic. In addition to the Pandemic, new diseases have cropped up like the Monkey-pox, the small-pox, and the chickenpox. Monkey -pox which was earlier confined to Central and West Africa is now spreading to other countries. With blisters and poxes all over the body, the monkey-pox is tormenting the victims in disastrous proportions. Mankind's problems are spinning out of control. US and China the world's most powerful countries are having a crucial time. The US is suffering from the ill-effects of the Pandemic and China is having a new virulent variant attack hospitalising many of its citizens.

Apart from diseases internal conflicts, violence, agitations for women's rights, political differences are all adding to the sum of world problems. Russia is annoyed with the NATO for supporting Ukraine. The move of Sweden and Finland to join the NATO has also annoyed Russia.

C. Violence Accelerates :

We see a big picture of geo-political realignment of nations. There are strident divisions in the country over illegal immigration, Covid protocols and mandates, school curricula and even what it means to be a male or female. Our purchasing power is in freefall, the cost of essential commodities has grown up. There is violence in the streets. Murder and accidents are the news highlights in daily television. Prosecuting criminals have increased. District attorneys are busy with thugs and conscienceless delinquents.



D. Illegal Immigration :

The world has changed since 9/11. With hundreds of thousands flooding across American southern border, various European borders or the English Channel every month, how many of these are violent gang members, sex offenders, drug dealers or committed terrorists. Even if only 1%-20,000-of the 2 million known to have entered America illegally last year are troublemakers, this opens a troublesome door. Refugees have also crossed the Mediterranean sea and moved to Italy. In the US, a young white lad aged 18, has planned and killed 10 persons in a Black community supermarket. Similar acts of violence are reported in several parts of the world. Stringent acts of violence are reported against women in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Ethnic and religious differences have caused several incidence of violence in many countries.

E. Land Investing :

Land investing has become increasingly significant over the past few years, ownership and control over the land and food it produces goes overseas. Investment in farmland is key strategy for governments anxious to stabilize food supply and their food prices. Buying land in other countries and farming it, foreign buyers can support their domestic food supply and other markets that depend on agriculture without having to compete for essential products in the global market. Foreign investors will buy several hundred thousand acres, say in Africa to produce oil palm, rubber, or biofuel. The deals are typically accompanied by promises of jobs, infrastructure, resource development or just a jolt for the national economy., but all too often, those promises to come to nothing. The local population reaps no benefit, they lose their farming rights, access to water, even their homes. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and China are buying land, minerals and water rights across North America and Africa. The actual percentage of America are still small; foreigners own about 2 percent of American farm acreage.

F. Brewing New Calamities :

There are other types

of storms in the forefront. North Korea is testing missiles again. China is flying jets over Taiwan. Joe Biden has cautioned that US will interfere if China invades Taiwan. The problems between Iran and Israel continues. Russia has plans of sending troops to Cuba and Venezuela. Extensive droughts have been seen in Australia, the Western US and Canada. There is precipitous decline in Florida orange crops over the last two decades. The drop is due to the 'citrus greening'--one of the most devastating plant diseases in the world. It is spread by an insect, has no cure, and usually kills the tree within a few years. This has vastly affected orange production in Florida. Earlier Florida produced 244 million boxes of oranges in a single year but now it can produce only 44.5 million orange boxes. Vast acres of forests in California and British Columbia are reported to have been destroyed by forest fire.

G. The Solutions :

The blowing storms have seriously affected the economy and stability of the world at large. There is a great need for democratic and progressive countries like the US, U.K, Germany, Canada and Australia should get together and formulate a plan for world recovery. International organizations like the IMF, the UN, the World Vision, and the FAO must do their best to restore economic rehabilitation in these dire conditions. A vast majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries. More than 821 million people are facing chronic food deprivation. Government and international agencies are working together to eradicate world hunger by 2030 through UN's Sustainable Development Goal.

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Should Distance Learning be an Option for High School Education?



Essay by Senkon Senkeeran,
Gr. 7, Student at
RG Education Centers



I believe that distance learning should be an option for high school education. There are many advantages to distance learning. Firstly, it can really help people with physical disabilities, making education more accessible. It can be really hard for those with disabilities to get to school as well as learn in the classroom. Distance learning can also benefit students in technology-related courses, since students have access to learning materials that might be better than those provided by schools. This is why I believe that distance learning should be an option for high school education. Obviously, with this, there are some cons. One thing that is inevitable is that students may cheat or get distracted through distance learning. But I believe that the pros outweigh the cons, making distance learning an option that can benefit any student.

Firstly, it can be really helpful for those with physical disabilities. Some students with physical disabilities, especially ones related to mobility issues, can have it really hard in school. It would be difficult to get there and probably even harder once the student reaches school. Students with physical disabilities are at risk of bullying more than students who don't have a disability. A learning option that lets students learn from home can be extremely helpful to these students and solve a lot of these problems. Distance learning would make it a lot easier for those students to attend classes, taking away the physical barriers. This makes class more convenient and easier to learn in. Not only that, but they would be bullied a lot less too, since the students would be online. This is not to say that cyber bullying isn't a problem that is completely erased by distance learning. But regardless, with all the pros, even giving physically disabled students this option in the first place would be great.

An option to learn from home would also be really helpful for students in computer/technology-related courses. Firstly, a student would be using a computer a lot more. Because of this, the courses the students will be taking would be a lot more hands-on, especially if the student happens to be in a school that does not have good quality technology to provide to the students. Oftentimes, a student's personal computer may be faster than the ones provided by schools in the first place. This allows for a much better learning experience and environment.

Distance learning is also just a lot more comfortable and convenient for everyone. Firstly, a student doesn't have to wake up early in comparison to students who have to go to school in-person, since students have access to their learning materials digitally and quickly. This is really helpful, especially for students living far away from their schools. With all of these pros, there are a few cons as well. Firstly, distance

learning leaves students to be less disciplined, affecting their punctuality in classes. They can wake up right before the class begins and still make it on time with no penalty. Punctuality is really important and something students need to learn during their time in school because of the world outside of school. If someone arrives late at a job interview, the person most likely won't get the job because they won't be expected to make it on time every day. Also, if one has a job and they always come late, they could get fired since they are hurting the organization that they're working at by not being responsible.

Distance learning can greatly hurt students' punctuality. Secondly, teacher will not be able to keep an eye on students as much. Students can easily turn off their cameras, mute their microphones, and stay hidden during the entire class and never engaging with the teacher. It is so much easier to get distracted on computers. There are many things to play on with computers and at home in comparison to school. Students might be doing other things, such as playing video games or talking to a friend. Cheating would also be a lot easier, since students would be able to search up the answers or ask someone else for help without the teacher knowing. Not only that, but if a student has a bad connection or a low-quality computer, it can really be hard—or even impossible—to learn at school. Finally, cyber bullying could instantly rise. With more and more access to computers, more cyber bullying will happen. It is also much harder to catch someone cyber bullying because it can be done anonymously. All of this can be

avoided with in-person schooling. All in all, I believe distance learning should be an option in high school education. It can be really helpful to students with physical disabilities, especially ones with mobility issues related to their spine or legs. It is also a lot more convenient for students everywhere, especially students in technology-related courses and those who are learning far away from their school. However, cheating and cyber bullying is basically inevitable. I hope that high schools all around the world add a distance learning option for their education.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROLOGY

The Use of Cosmology, Astronomy, Astrology, and Astrophysics

By OUE Research Institute

Astrology is a pseudoscience that uses the scientific movement of planets and stars to divine meaning and significance in people's lives. At the same time, astronomy is a natural science that studies celestial bodies and phenomena related



to outer space. For millions of years, humans have looked up at the sky in stunned surprise and have tried to divine meaning from the movements and majesty of the cosmos. Our species had no higher knowledge of our universe for most human history. They primarily worshiped the stars above us, treasuring them as gods and believing that the shifting stars above our heads had similar meanings on Earth.

However, in the past half-millennium, scientific advances have exponentially improved our ability to understand and study astronomy and the cosmos with precise instruments and a reliable scientific method. The ongoing study of provable activity in the more expansive universe is non-like astronomy. Astronomy and Astrology are similar and often used interchangeably, but it is critical to understand their differences.

Cosmology&Astrophysics

Cosmologists study the entire universe, from its violent beginnings to what's happening right now to its eventual demise. Astronomy studies things in outer space, like galaxies, planets, and stars. Astrophysics is a science that uses the laws of physics, chemistry, and math to explain how the universe works.

History of Astrology

Although the earliest formal record of astrology only dates back 5,000 years, there is no denying that even the earliest civilizations of man were affected and inspired by the celestial bodies above them. Before they even had words to describe constellations, galaxies, meteors, planets, and astrophysics, there was a strong belief that those distant sparkling worlds had some control over their lives.



Everyone from the ancient Indian, Chinese, and Mayans to the Greeks and Arab empires attached special significance to the stars and their place in the sky. The western astrological tradition dates back more than 3,500 years. Over time, astrology developed into a much stronger belief that carefully predicted the movements of celestial bodies and studied their relative positions in the sky. Astrologers would be able to divine events on earth

both to themselves and to others. Astrology is most closely linked to horoscopes or reading one's destiny and personality based on what star sign you were born.

For thousands of years, astrology was considered a legitimate scientific field with similar respect to astronomy, geology, and other natural sciences.

However, in the last 200 years, as the scientific method gained traction globally, astrology has lost its status as legitimate science.

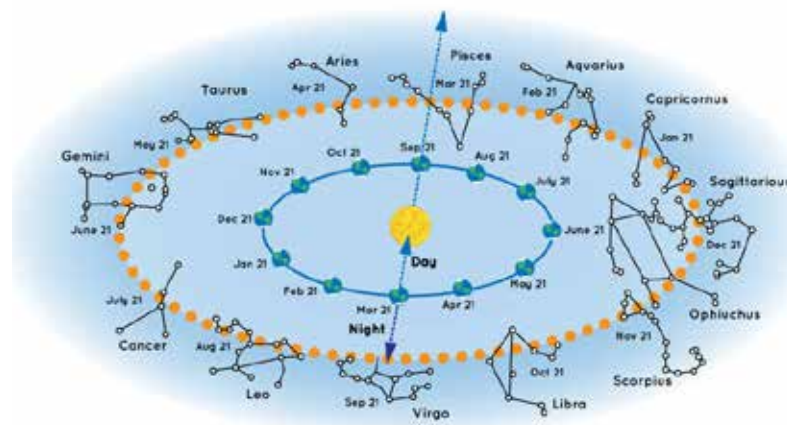
While millions of people worldwide still read their horoscopes every day.

History of Astronomy

Like astrology, astronomy has roots that date back thousands of years, which is often why the two areas of study are mixed up or assumed to be the same.

However, things have changed since Isaac Newton (1642-1747). When he proposed his laws of motion with gravitation, astronomy became separated from astrology. Astronomy is the study of celestial objects and phenomena through physics, chemistry, and mathematics. These disciplines help shed light on the origins of these objects, their composition, and their manner of interaction.

Astronomy is a study that lies outside the atmosphere of Earth. Most modern astronomy studies fall within the purview of astrophysics, but there are also theoretical and observational branches within this popular field. Astronomy has taught us the fascinating contents of our solar system, galaxy, and universe and more about life



on our planet and its origin. Unlike astrologists, astronomers rely on the strict and proven scientific method to develop their theories and test their predictions, making astronomy a legitimate and invaluable field.

The Differences

Astrology draws heavily on similar content as astronomy. A clever Astrologer needs to understand the movement of celestial objects and some of the basic principles of astronomy to "read" the stars and make their predictions. This leads to people assuming that astrology is actual or based on proof, whereas baseless opinions are derived based on proven astronomical events and changes.

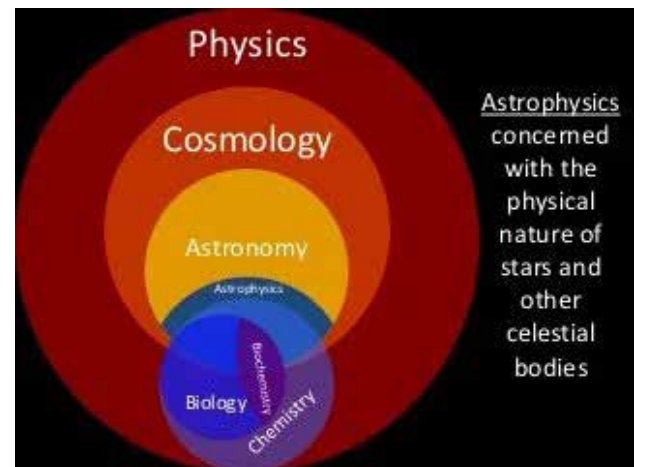
Historically, observation of celestial bodies has been used for navigation, the recording of seasons, and many other valuable purposes. Today, people differentiate between astronomy and astrology. One is a natural science, but the other is a pseudoscience, based more on superstition than the rigorous application of the scientific method.

Astrology suggests that each constellation should take up about 30° in the sky. Multiply the twelve constellations by 30, and we have 360°. However, just because we played a little with mathematics, we can see this is not the case. Each constellation varies



in size and shape, so they don't occupy the same amount of space (30°) in the sky.

For example, the first spring day was in Aries in ancient times (285 CE), but it is now moved to Pisces due to precession. So, if you were born at the start of spring, your zodiac sign would be Pisces, but after 700 years, the person born on the same day as you will not have the same zodiac sign. So how do astrologers explain this error? There is no way they can explain this error because astrology is a belief and is not a science.



Several studies have been done to determine if astrology is valid. Still, all have found that astrologers' predictions are untrue. For example, one study done by physicist Shawn Carlson in the 1980s using many astrologers as study subjects found that the "Astrologers are wrong."

When to Use Astrology

Astrology is the study of the movements of various celestial bodies as observed from the surface of the Earth and the interpretation of the effects these movements have on a person's life. Astrology is closer to an art form than science and more relative to religion. Like astronomy, astrology

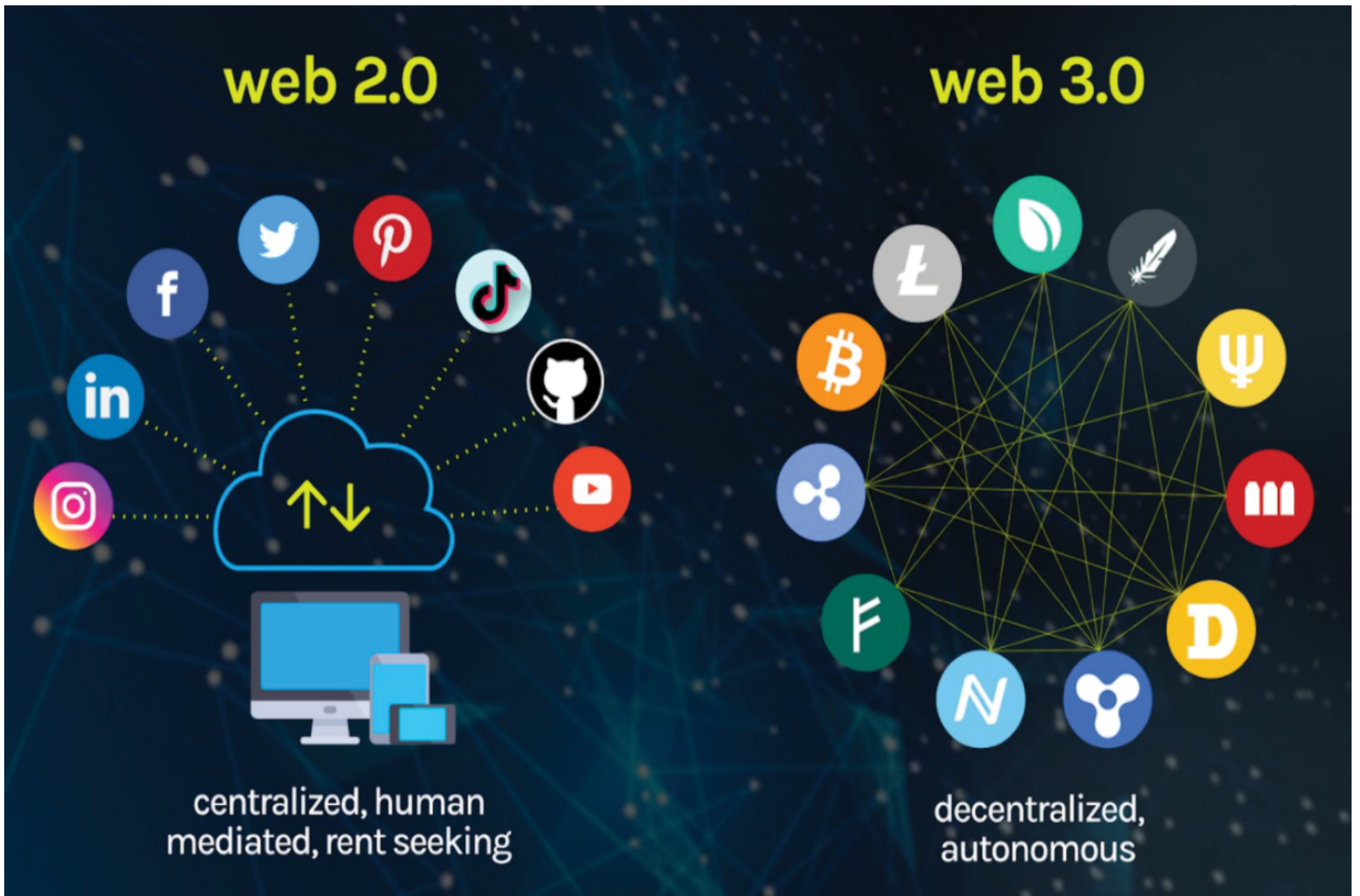
is a broad, multifaceted field. Astrology involves predicting the future based on the positions of celestial bodies close to one another and is organized into various groupings of zodiac signs. These zodiac signs are then used to predict a person's personality traits and the events that will eventually shape their life. Many newspapers have sections devoted to astrology. Astrology is a pseudoscience and has been cast out of the ranks of respectable academic specialties.

Summary

Astronomy and astrology are characterized by studying celestial objects and functions outside Earth's atmosphere. Astronomy is a natural science. Astrology has come to be recognized as pseudoscience. You can remember that astrology is pseudoscience since it shares the suffixology with the pseudoscience iridology and reflexology. While we may not have found any scientific basis for astrology accuracy, we know that some people think it works, at least in their case. If you can't remember the difference between these two pursuits, you can use this trick to remember whether you mean astrology or astronomy. If all else fails, you could always refer back to this article for a quick refresher.

BUSINESS / FINANCE

Why Is It Important for Immigrants to Learn and Understand Web3?



Growing up with parents who were recent immigrants themselves, and moving countries faster than I could settle in them, I understood at a pretty young age what it means to take life into your own hands—or as I call it, developing your Maestro Mindset. Taking your life into your own hands isn't easy, but it's the most rewarding work you'll do. And one way to do it is by broadening your knowledge and skillsets.

I've talked about Web3 and its impact on businesses before, but now let's take a look at why it's important—especially for immigrants—to know and understand the intricacies of Web3.

The Web3 Revolution

Web3 is one of the biggest buzzwords going around right now, with many people calling it the future of the internet. Web3 is one of the most significant technological developments in human history—and we're only just beginning to scratch the surface of everything it can do!

The essence of Web3 is that it's a decentralized open-source web, meaning that it isn't controlled by a person or organization. Right now, five companies control 43% of the internet's web traffic, which is something Web3 aims to change.

Web3 and Cryptocurrency

A huge part of Web3 is cryptocurrency-based, since it is heavily reliant on blockchain technology, especially with Decentralized Finance (DeFi) taking the world by storm. To put it into perspective, the amount of money in decentralized finance is over \$275 billion dollars, more than the amounts in huge financial institutions like HSBC or Goldman Sachs.

With DeFi sites attracting millions of visitors every month, it's definitely a trend that immigrants need to hop on.

Web3 and Globalization

The promotion of globalization via the internet isn't a new concept by any means, but Web3 is elevating it to new levels. Especially when it comes to moving money, geographical borders are becoming less and less relevant. Add to this the fact that people across the world are losing trust in established institutions, it means that people are looking for solutions that give them more agency.

How Will Web3 Scale?

Web3 is already a part of the digital world with decentralized networks like FundingDAOs and SocialDAOs working to improve governance, web browsers like Brave running on its own blockchain, and even Opera partnering with Solana blockchain to allow decentralized apps.



In the future, we're looking at Web3 as a force that allows people the chance to interact with each other, machines, and data without the involvement of third parties.

What Does This Mean for Immigrants?

The world is changing, and immigrants know this better than most as they have historically contributed a lot to the tech industry in the US. It's not easy to build a life from scratch, but with Web3 giving people the chance to take ownership over their data, it's not something immigrants can afford to ignore. As a more human-centric computer fabric, it gives people the chance

to empower themselves, their families, and their communities.

A lot of my work revolves around being a changemaker for my family and community, and I do this by helping people get the knowledge, resources, and confidence they need to walk their own paths. If you're interested in any of the above, feel free to check out my website here.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Appointments & Achievements

Dilshan Wirasekara appointed Chairman of Colombo Stock Exchange

Dilshan Wirasekara has been appointed Chairman of Colombo Stock Exchange succeeding Dumith Fernando who retired from this position.

Mr. Wirasekara is currently Director and Chief Executive Officer of First Capital Holdings PLC.



Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah elected MP to Australian Parliament

Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah of Sri Lankan origin and a member of the Australian Labor Party for the Division of Higgins has been elected as an MP at the recently held 2022 Australian federal election. Prior to entering politics, she was a clinician-scientist, and infection diseases physician. She achieved her MBBS from the University of Sydney in 1996, and her PhD in 2015. She is of Sri Lankan origin and her parents are from Tellipalai, Jaffna.



Sri Lankan born Iranthi Gomes makes it onto Forbes magazine's 30 Under 30 Europe list in 2022

Sri Lankan-born and Finnish-based entrepreneur Iranthi Gomes has fulfilled her childhood dream of making it onto Forbes magazine's 30 Under 30 Europe list in 2022.

Iranthi, who's originally from Sri Lanka but now lives in Finland, co-founded Service form alongside her life and business partner Jarkko Oksanen in 2018. Service form is a suite of 13 tools that helps businesses communicate, convert website visitors into customers, and manage them all on one platform.



Sri Lankan-born Cassandra Fernando has been elected to the Australian Parliament

Sri Lankan-born Cassandra Fernando has been elected to the Australian Parliament following the federal election. She was the Federal Labor Candidate for Holt, Victoria.

She beat another candidate of Sri Lankan origin, Ranj Perera. Cassandra is a proud migrant, a pastry chef, an advocate for essential workers who came to Australia with her family when she was eleven years old



Quotable Quotes - 2022

By: Siva Sivapragasam

“They said it”



“In America, evil will not win, I promise you. Hate will not prevail; white supremacy will not have the last word”

– U.S President Joe Biden



“Working people know that Doug Ford's not on their side.....he won't make sure that wages are decent”

– NDP Leader Andrea Horwath



“I think it is very important this country can move forward. I think it is vitally important there's a very clear understanding about the government of this country.”

– Former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison who conceded defeat after the election



“This is not simply a military conflict. This is a war between autocracy and democracy. If the autocrats win this battle, it will be a significant blow to the fate of democracy around the world”

– Weiner, Author of the book “The History of the CIA”



“Military non-alignment has served Sweden well, but our conclusion is that it will not serve us equally well in the future”

– Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Anderson





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- Giving families **\$2,750 per child** to make up for Ford's child care delays
- Turning Brampton's Peel Memorial into a full hospital and delivering a **third new hospital in Brampton**
- Delivering the **new Mississauga Hospital** and redeveloping the Queensway Health Centre
- Working towards a **4-day work week**, giving Ontarians extra time to invest in their wellbeing and with loved ones
- Investing **\$1 billion to erase the province's surgery backlog**, and clean up the Ford Conservative's mess.

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SAMAYAL
SANTHAI



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.

Maple curry almonds



Snacking is a huge problem for a lot of people as we approach summer. Whilst most places tempt us with artificially sweetened snacks, there are easy ways for us to incorporate healthier, homemade versions of our store favourites. One of ours is maple curry almonds; mildly spiced, perfectly sweet with a touch of salt to bring out all the flavours. We add these delicious almonds to our salads frequently or just keep a bowl of them on our desk to snack on throughout the day. The best part – it requires very few ingredients, and the method couldn't be simpler!

Method:

Place all of the ingredients above on a non-stick baking tray or a parchment-lined tray. Mix all the ingredients together so that the almonds are evenly coated and lay them evenly flat on the tray.

Pop into the oven for 15 minutes at 180°C. Once it is done, let it cool for 5 minutes, then pop them in an airtight container once cool.

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

Ingredients:

- ✓ 5 handfuls of almonds
- ✓ 4 tbsp maple syrup
- ✓ 2 tsp mild curry powder
- ✓ Pinch of salt

At the Monsoon Kitchen,
Samayal Santhai

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FOR...**

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their recipes featured!
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TAMIL LITERARY GARDEN

தமிழ் இலக்கியத் தோட்டம்

Award Recipients - 2021

The Tamil Literary Garden is a Toronto based charitable organization founded in 2001 and committed to promoting the development of literature in Tamil internationally. Its mandate includes creative writing, translations, book releases, awards, conferences, and workshops.

It recognizes that despite the richness and significance of contemporary writing, very little has been done to promote or to celebrate the authors who have made major contributions to Tamil studies. Hence the Tamil Literary Garden seeks to make a modest contribution by engaging in several activities that would serve the cause of literature. To this end it identifies projects that need to be supported and offers assistance by sponsoring publications, book launches, and translation workshops.

Among its activities, the event that takes centre stage is a Lifetime Achievement Award, given annually to a writer, scholar, critic, or editor, who, over a period of time, has made very significant contribution to the growth or study of Tamil literature.

Award Recipients – 2021



1



2



3



4



5



6

1 Lifetime Achievement Award
Professor A. R. Venkatachalapathi

2 Fiction Award

- P. A. Jayakaran

3 Non-Fiction Award

- K. Chandru

4 Poetry Award

- Aazhiyal

5 Translation Award

- Martha Ann Selby

(Cat in the Agraharam and other stories)

6 Chief Guest

- Thomas Hitoshi Pruiksma

(Author, Translator, Teacher & Performer)

Profiles continued on Page 39



தமிழ் இலக்கியத் தோட்டம்
Tamil Literary Garden

இயல் விருது விழா 2021

தமிழ் இலக்கியத் தோட்டத்தின் இயல் விருது விழா மெய்நிகர் (Zoom) வழியாக சனிக்கிழமை 11 ஜூன் 2022 காலை 10.00 மணிக்கு (ரொறொன்ரோ நேரம்) நடைபெறும். படைப்பாளரும், கவிஞரும், மொழிபெயர்ப்பாளருமான தோமஸ் ஹிரோஷி புருக்ஸ்மா அவர்கள் முதன்மை விருந்தினராக விழாவில் கலந்து கொள்கிறார். விழா தேதியையும் நேரத்தையும் குறித்து வைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். விரைவில் உங்களுக்கு விழாவிடக்கான அழைப்பு அனுப்பி வைக்கப்படும்.

The Tamil Literary Garden awards ceremony will take place by Zoom on Saturday 11 June 2022 at 10:00 a.m (Toronto time).

The renowned writer, poet and translator Thomas Hitoshi Pruiksma has agreed to be the Chief Guest for this event.

Please note the date and time and you will receive an invitation soon.

For more information contact 416 905 4000

தொடர்புகளுக்கு 416 905 4000



TAMIL LITERARY GARDEN தமிழ் இலக்கியத் தோட்டம் Award Recipients - 2021

5 பேருக்கு 2021 விருதுகள்

இயல்விருது
பேராசிரியர் **ஆ. இரா. வேங்கடாசலபதி**



பேராசிரியர் ஆ. இரா.வேங்கடாசலபதி வாழ்நாள் சாதனையாளருக்கான இயல் விருதைப் பெறுகிறார். அவர் இயல்விருதுக்கு தேர்ந்தெடுத்துள்ள பற்றி: “கடந்த நாற்பது ஆண்டுகளாக, வரலாறு, மொழி, இலக்கியம், பண்பாடு, அரசியல், சமூகம் எனப் பல்வேறு துறைகள் சார்ந்து வேங்கடாசலபதி தொடர்ச்சியாக எழுதிவருகிறார். தற்போது சென்னை வளர்ச்சி ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவனத்தில் பேராசிரியராகப் பணியாற்றுகிறார். தமிழிலும் ஆங்கிலத்திலுமாக அறுபதுக்கும் மேற்பட்ட நூல்களையும் பல ஆய்வுக் கட்டுரைகளையும் எழுதியுள்ள இவர், தமிழ் இலக்கியம், தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு வரலாறு ஆகியவற்றை வெளிநாட்டினரிடம் கொண்டு சேர்ப்பதில் பெரும் பங்காற்றியுள்ளார். இவர் கணிசமான மொழியாக்கங்களையும் செய்திருக்கிறார். சிகாகோ, பேர்க்லி, டொராண்டோ, நியூசீலாந்து பல்கலைக் கழகங்களில் தன்முக்கிய ஆய்வுகள் குறித்துச் சிறப்புரை ஆற்றியிருக்கிறார். வருகைதரு பேராசிரியராக ஹார்வர்டு, சிகாகோ பல்கலைக் கழகங்களில் பணியாற்றியிருக்கிறார். தொடர்ந்து இருமொழி அறிஞராக தீவிரமாகவும் காத்திரமாகவும் இவர் இயங்கிக்கொண்டிருப்பது தமிழுக்கு பெருமை எனத் தனது விருதுக் குறிப்பில் கனடா இலக்கியத் தோட்டம் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

புனைவுப்பரிசு
பா.அ. ஜயகரன்



‘கடந்த முப்பது ஆண்டுகளுக்கும் மேலாக, நாடகம், கவிதை, சிறுகதை என புலம்பெயர் தமிழ் இலக்கிய உலகில் செயற்பட்டு வரும் பா. அ. ஜயகரன், தமிழ்ப் படைப்புலகில் முக்கியமானவர். புலம் பெயர்ந்த தமிழ் இலக்கிய உலகில் சிறந்த நாடகப் பிரதிகளுக்காகவும் நன்கு அறியப்பட்டவர். ‘எல்லாப் பக்கமும் வாசல்’ (2000), ‘என்னை விசாரணைக்கு உட்படுத்துங்கள்’ (2005) ஆகிய இவருடைய நாடக நூல்கள் இதுவரை வெளியாகியுள்ளன. இவருடைய படைப்புகள் போகும் போக்கில் எளிய முறையில் சொல்லப்படுவதால் அவற்றை எத்தனை

தடவையும் வாசிக்கலாம். அலுப்புக் கொடுக்காமல் ஒவ்வொரு வாசிப்பிலும் ஒரு புது அர்த்தத்தை அவை தரும். சொற்கள் தேர்விலும் வசனம் அமைப்பதிலும் போதிய கவனம் செலுத்துவதால் சிறுகதைக்கான தேர்ந்த இலகுவில் இவருக்கு அமைந்து விடுகிறது. புகலிட அனுபவங்களுக்கூடாகத் தமிழ் இலக்கிய வெளியில் நிலவும் எல்லைகளைத் தாண்டும் புகலிட எழுத்துகளில் பா. அ. ஜயகரனின் கதைகள் கவனம் பெறுகின்றன. நீண்ட காலமாகப் புனைவு வெளியில் இயங்கி வரும் பா.அ. ஜயகரன், 2021 ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான புனைவுப் பரிசைத் தன்னுடைய ‘பா.அ. ஜயகரன் கதைகள்’ நூலுக்காகப் பெறுகிறார் என விருதுக்குறிப்பில் கூறப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அபுனைவு விருது
முன்னாள் நீதிபதி **கே. சந்துரு**



தமிழ் இலக்கியத் தோட்டத்தின் 2021 ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான அபுனைவு விருது, சுயசரிதை நூலுக்காக மேநாள் நீதிபதி கே. சந்துருவுக்கு வழங்கப்படுகிறது. ஒரு தனி மனிதனாக, இந்திய அரசியலமைப்பு சட்டத்தில் ஆணைத்தரமாக குறிப்பிட்டுள்ள மனித உரிமைகளை, கடைக்கோடியினரும் அறிந்து அனுபவிக்க அவர்களுக்காக வழக்குரைஞராக போராடியவர், நீதிபதியாக பதவி உயர்ந்தபின் அஞ்சா நெஞ்சராக தன் தீர்ப்புகள் மூலம் அவர் எதிர் கொண்ட சவால்களை வெளிச்சம் போட்டுக் காட்டுகிறது ‘நானும்நீதிபதி ஆனேன்’ என்கிற அவருடைய நூல். வழக்கறிஞராக பணியாற்றிய காலத்தில் இவர் பழங்குடியின மக்களுக்காக நடத்திய சட்டப் போராட்டத்தில், வழக்கொன்றின் அடிப்படையில் திரையாக்கம் செய்யப்பட்ட ‘ஜெய்பீம்’ திரைப்படம் பெரும் வெற்றி பெற்றதுடன், அரசு அந்த மக்களுக்காக பல கொள்கை முடிவுகளை எடுக்கக் காரணமாகவும் அமைந்ததை இங்கே குறிப்பிடவேண்டும். சுயசரிதை நூல் என்பதற்கு மேலாக இது ஒரு வரலாற்றுநூல். அரசியலமைப்பு சட்டத்தில் பொறிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள மனித உரிமைகளை சாதாரணமும் எளிதில் புரிந்து கொள்ளும் வகையில் அமைக்கப்பட்ட அறிவு நூல். சட்டம் பயிலும் மாணவர்களுக்கான பாட நூல். அத்துடன் மனித உரிமை மீறல் வழக்குகளை விசாரணை செய்யும் நீதிபதிகளுக்கு தீர்ப்புகளை மேற்கோள் காட்டும் வழிகாட்டி நூல். ஆறே ஆண்டுகள் காலத்தில் நீதிபதி சந்துரு 90,000 வழக்குகளில் தீர்ப்பு வழங்கி சாதனை படைத்துள்ளார் என்பதும் கவனிக்கத்தக்கது. தமிழில் எட்டு நூல்களையும், ஆங்கிலத்தில் ஆறு நூல்களையும் படைத்துள்ள மேநாள் சென்னை உயர்நீதிமன்ற நீதிபதியான கே. சந்துரு, இயல்விருதுக்கு பெரிதும் தகுதியானவர். என விருதுக் குறிப்பில் கனடா இலக்கியத் தோட்டம் குறிப்பிட்டுக் காட்டியுள்ளது.

கவிதைவிருது
ஆழியாள்



‘நெடுமரங்களாய் வாழ்தல்’ (2021) தொகுப்புக்காக கவிதைக்கான விருதைப் பெறுகிறார் ஆழியாள். இது பற்றிய விருதுக் குறிப்பில்: ‘ஆழியாள் என்கிற புனை பெயரில் எழுதும் மதுபாஷினி ரகுபதி ஈழத்து தமிழ் கவிஞர். இவர் மொழி பெயர்ப்பு, படைப்பிலக்கியம், விமர்சனம் எனத் தீவிரமாக ஈடுபட்டு வருகிறார். மதுரை மீனாட்சி கல்லூரியில் ஆங்கில இலக்கியத்தில் பட்டப்படிப்பையும் ஆஸ்திரேலியாவில் நியூசவுத்வேல்ஸ் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் ஆங்கில இலக்கியத்தில் முதுகலைப் பட்டப்படிப்பையும் நிறைவு செய்திருக்கிறார். தொண்ணூறுகளில் எழுதத் தொடங்கிய ஆழியாளின் ‘உரத்துபேசு’ (2000), ‘துவிதம்’ (2006), ‘கருநாவு’ (2013), ‘பூவுலகைக் கற்றலும் கேட்டலும்’, ‘ஆஸ்திரேலிய ஆதிக்குடிகளின் மொழி பெயர்ப்பு கவிதைகள்’ (2017), ‘நெடுமரங்களாய் வாழ்தல்’ (2021) ஆகியவை இதுவரை வெளிவந்துள்ளன. இவரது கவிதைகள் சொல்லிகாத நுட்பமும், கனத்த மௌனமும் கொண்டவையாக இருக்கும். பல கவிதைகள் மலையாளத்திலும் கன்னடத்திலும் மொழிபெயர்க்கப் பட்டுள்ளன. எனத்தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது

மொழிபெயர்ப்புப் பரிசு
மார்த்தா ஆன் செல்பி



மார்த்தா ஆன் செல்பி டெக்சஸ் பல்கலைக்கழக பேராசிரியரும் தென்கிழக்காசிய ஆய்வுமையத்தின் தலைவியுமாவார். இவர் 2022 செப்டம்பர் முதல் தேதியிலிருந்து ஹார்வர்டு பல்கலைக் கழக தமிழ் இருக்கையின் பேராசிரியராக பணியாற்றுவார். பழந்தமிழ், பிராகிருதம், சமஸ்கிருதம் ஆகிய மொழிகளில் ஆய்வாளரான இவர், பல சங்க இலக்கிய நூல்களை மொழி பெயர்த்துள்ளார். அவற்றில் ஐங்குறு நூறு முக்கியமான மொழி பெயர்ப்பாகும். மார்த்தா ஆன்செல்பி, தற்காலத் தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர்களில் ஒருவரான திலீப்குமாரின் தமிழ்ச் சிறு கதைகளை மொழி பெயர்த்து ‘Cat in the Agraharam and other stories’ என்கிற தலைப்பில் தொகுப்பாக வெளியிட்டிருக்கிறார். இவர், Fullbright நல்கை வழங்கிய உதவியால், எட்டு மாதங்கள் சென்னையில்

தங்கியிருந்து, நூலின் ஆசிரியருடனும் பலகல்வியாளர்களுடனும் கலந்து ஆலோசித்து இந்த மொழி பெயர்ப்பை மிக அவதானமாக செய்து முடித்திருக்கிறார். பல கதைக்களங்கள் ஏகாம்பரேசுவர் அக்ரஹாரத்தில் அமைந்து இருப்பதால், அங்கே தேரில் சென்று, அந்தச் சுற்றாடலையும் மக்களையும் மனதில் உள்வாங்கி மொழிபெயர்த்திருப்பது அதன் தேர்ந்தயில் தெரிகிறது. சொல்சொல்லாக அல்லாமல் தன்னியல் பாகவெளிப்பட்ட ஓர் மொழியில் இந்த மொழிபெயர்ப்பு அமைந்திருப்பது இதன் சிறப்பு. தமிழ்சிறுகதைகளில் காணப்படும் அகவுலகும் நுட்பமும் தனித்தன்மையும் ஆங்கிலத்திலும் அப்படியே வெளிப்படுகிறது. மொழிபெயர்ப்பில் ஏற்படும் பண்பாட்டுச் சிக்கல்களை ஆசிரியர் எளிதில் கடந்துள்ளார். அனைவராலும் பாராட்டப்படும் ஒரு சிறந்த மொழி பெயர்ப்பு, அதன் தரத்துக்காக 2021-ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான கனடா இலக்கியத் தோட்டத்தின் மொழிபெயர்ப்புப் பரிசினைப் பெறுகிறது எனத்தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தாமஸ் ஹிட்லோஷி



விழாவுக்கு தாமஸ் ஹிட்லோஷி புருக்ஸ்மா (Thomas Hitoshi Pruikma) சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக அழைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளார். இவர், ஆசிரியர், கவிஞர், மொழிபெயர்ப்பாளர், கதைசொல்லி என பன்முகம் கொண்டவர்.

ஜூன் மாதம் விருது விழா

கடந்த 2001 இல் சுந்தராமசாமியில் தொடங்கி, அழுந்தத்தடம் பதித்துவரும் தமிழ்ப்படைப்பாளிகள், தகைமை மிகுந்த தமிழறிஞர்கள் இயல்விருதுக்குத் தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டு வருவதால், தமிழுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுவரும் தலைசிறந்த விருதுகளில் ஒன்றாக தமிழ்கூறும் நல்லுலகால் கருதப்பட்டுவருகிறது. இயல்விருது ரூபாய் 1 லட்சத்து 50 ஆயிரம் பணமுடிப்பும் ஏனைய பிரிவுகளில் வழங்கப்பட்டுவரும் விருதுகளுக்கு தலா ரூபாய் 30 ஆயிரம் பணமுடிப்பும் விருதுக்கேடயம், பாராட்டுச்சான்றிதழுடன் வழங்கப்பட்டுவருகிறது. 2021-ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான இயல்விருது வழங்கும் விழாவும் ஜூன் 11-ஆம் தேதிவாக்கில் டொராண்டோ நகரில் நடைபெறவிருக்கிறது. இந்த விழாவுக்கு தாமஸ் ஹிட்லோஷி புருக்ஸ்மா (Thomas Hitoshi Pruikma) சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக அழைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளார். இவர், ஆசிரியர், கவிஞர், மொழிபெயர்ப்பாளர், கதைசொல்லி எனபன்முகம் கொண்டவர். இவருடைய The Kural: Tiruvalluvar's Tirukkural என்னும் மொழிபெயர்ப்பு சமீபத்தில் வெளியானது. மேலும் பல நூல்களை இவர் படைத்துள்ளார்.

முதல்வர் மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் தன்னுடைய ட்வீட்டர் பதிவு மூலம் வாழ்த்துகளைத் தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார். இயல்விருதுகள் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள நிலையில், விருது பெறும் எழுத்தாளர் வேங்கடாசலபதி மற்றும் மேநாள் நீதிபதி சந்துரு ஆகியோருக்கு முதல்வர் மு.க. ஸ்டாலின் தன்னுடைய ட்வீட்டர் பதிவு மூலம் வாழ்த்துகளைத் தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார்.

COMMUNITY WATCH

60th Anniversary Celebration and Book Release

Mr. SIVANESAN SINNIAH,
 B.Sc., B. Ed , OCT, ESL
 was honoured by
Swami Vipulananda
Research Center of Canada
 for 60 years of service to the community.
 on May 22nd Sunday, 2022
 At Scarborough Civic Center



Photos from the event can be seen here.



Richmond Hill Hindu Temple
Sri Ganesha
Mahotshava Vingnapanam

Flag Hoisting
 30.05.2022
 Monday
 Navakalasa Abishekam
 6:00 am
 Vasantha Mandapa Pooja
 9:30 am
 Flag Hoisting
 11:00 am

Chariot Festival
 12.06.2022
 Sunday
 Navakalasa Abishekam
 6:00 am
 Vasantha Mandapa Pooja
 9:00 am
 Rathotsavam
 11:00 am
 Ratha Avarohanam
 1:00 pm

Mango Festival
 09.06.2022
 Thursday

Hunting Festival
 10.06.2022
 Friday

Sapparam Festival
 11.06.2022
 Saturday

Poongavana Festival
 14.06.2022
 Tuesday

FESTIVAL POOJA SCHEDULE

Morning		Evening	
07:00	Navakalasa Abishekam	4:00	Navakalasa Abishekam
09:00	Special Pooja	6:00	Special Pooja
09:30	Sthamba Pooja	6:30	Sthamba Pooja
10:15	Vasantha Mandapa Pooja Inside Procession	7:15	Vasantha Mandapa Pooja Inside Procession

10865 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S 1M1 Tel: 905 883 9109 Fax: 905 883 9834





City of Brampton update on response to extreme weather event



BRAMPTON, ON (May 22, 2022) – Following Saturday's severe thunderstorm and extreme winds, the City's cleanup and response efforts continue across Brampton.

Tree Removal and Damage Clean-Up Service Requests

Crews are responding to service requests across the City on a priority basis.

The City is responsible for the following on City property:

- Removal and clean-up of City-owned trees and debris
- Broken or damaged equipment
- General damage
- Lights not working
- Picnic tables or benches missing
- Water ponding

Due to the significant impact of the storm, 311 is experiencing significantly higher than normal call volumes. To report any fallen City tree branches, trees or debris, please submit your report online at www.311brampton.ca, 311 mobile app or by calling 311. 311 mobile app or by calling 311.

If residents are in danger, they should call 9-1-1 immediately.

Brampton Transit

For the latest Brampton Transit service updates, visit www.bramptontransit.com or follow @bramptontransit on Twitter. Questions may be directed to Brampton Transit's Contact Centre at 905.874.2999.

Power Outages

Alectra Utilities has deployed dozens of powerline maintainers and forestry crews to restore service. Powerlines, transformers, and poles across the Alectra service territory were damaged due to high winds that moved quickly across the province yesterday afternoon.

Alectra crews have been busy overnight restoring power to thousands of homes and businesses. Alectra anticipates that service will be restored to most remaining customers throughout Sunday. Service restoration times will be provided as crews assess the damage in hard hit neighbourhoods.

Those who are still without power are encouraged to check on neighbours who may require assistance. Customers can get updates on the company's power restoration effort by following the Alectra Twitter channel @AlectraNews. For a map of affected areas, visit Alectra's website here.

Refrigerated food should be checked if power has been out for a lengthy

period. Learn more about 'food safety in an emergency' online here.

To contact Alectra, call the Alectra Brampton Outage Hotline at 1.833.253.2872.

Read Alectra's latest news release online here.

City of Brampton Recreation Facilities

A number of City of Brampton Recreation Facilities and Community Centres are closed due to power outages and conditions. For an updated listing, visit www.brampton.ca/recreation.

Flood Safety tips

Residents are asked to follow these safety precautions:

- Standing water may be electrically charged by indoor electrical systems and underground or downed power lines. Keep yourself, children and pets away from standing water and downed power lines.

- Floodwaters can move quickly and pose a risk of drowning. Protect your safety and do not drive or walk through floodwaters.

- Building structures can be affected and become unsafe. Leave your home if there are any signs of potential foundation and structural damage, including to porch roofs and overhangs.

- Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car. Don't drive or walk through flood waters.

- Flood waters can contain sewage (may contain bacteria, viruses or parasites), chemicals and debris like broken glass. Avoid low-lying areas. Keep yourself, family and pets away from flood waters.

- Do not enter a flood area unless wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing.

If residents are in danger, they should call 9-1-1 immediately. To report localized flooding on municipal roads, blocked storm sewer grates or basement flooding, call 311.

Stay Connected

The Brampton Emergency Management Office continues to monitor weather conditions and will respond accordingly.

Residents can follow @CityBrampton on Twitter for the most current updates, and visit www.brampton.ca for flood safety information.

Via brampton.ca/



City launches its first Explore Brampton Youth Pass



New pass to provide free fares on Brampton Transit, free access to select Brampton Recreation programs for Brampton youth

BRAMPTON, ON (May 19, 2022) – The City of Brampton has launched its Explore Brampton Youth Pass pilot program.

With this pass, youth aged 12 to 16 who are Brampton residents will have free fares on Brampton Transit and free access to select Brampton Recreation drop-in programs, including swimming, skating and select sports

from July 1 to September 5, 2022.

The City has 2,000 Explore Brampton Youth Passes available through this pilot program. Priority will be given to vulnerable youth. The pilot program aims to encourage youth to use public transit and recreation facilities in Brampton, laying the foundation for an active lifestyle and healthy habits.

Applications are now available online. Click here to learn more about the Explore Brampton Youth Pass and submit an application.

Via brampton.ca/



PROCLAMATION

Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day

WHEREAS: The Tamils in Sri Lanka were subject to severe persecution, human rights violations, ethnic cleansing and genocide based on their ethnicity.

Over 40,000 Tamil civilians lost their lives during the last stages of the war in May 2009 and over 100,000 lives were lost in the three decades of struggle for human rights in Sri Lanka since 1983.

The 300,000 Tamils who have made Canada their home have worked hard to rebuild their lives in their new found home. They have greatly enriched our country through their leadership in business, academia, government, science, and the arts, and have inspired the young generation to become successful and contributing citizens.

May 18 serves as a reminder of the Tamil ethnic cleansing and provides an opportunity for the survivors in Canada and around the world to reflect on the enduring lessons of ethnic cleansing and genocide and redirect efforts to peace and the protection of human rights.

The City of Brampton joins the Canadian Tamil community in its annual observance of the Tamil Memorial Day on May 18th to remember the innocent civilian lives lost, honor the survivors and the importance of protecting human rights and eliminating hatred among our communities.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Patrick Brown, on behalf of Brampton City Council, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2022 as "Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day" in the City of Brampton.



Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton



SPECIAL FEATURE

SWAMI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA AN INDIAN MYSTIC, A REFORMER AND A SAINT

Compiled by : KIDAMBI RAJ

EARLY LIFE

Sri Ramakrishna was born as Gadadhar on February 18, 1836, to Khudiram Chattopadya and Chandramani Devi. The poor Brahmin family lived in Kamarpukur village in Hoogly District in Bengal Presidency. His family was very pious. After studying in a village school for 12 years, Gadadhar gave it up, as he was not interested in traditional education. He loved to paint and make



"My supreme good fortune is that I am his servant through life after life. A single word of his is to me far weightier than the Vedas and the Vedanta. Oh, I am the servant of the servants of his servants."

Swami Vivekananda

clay models of Hindu Deities. He was attracted to folk and mythological stories which he had heard from his mother. He gradually learnt Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas and other holy literature by heart by hearing it from priests and sages. Young Gadadhar loved the nature so much that he used to spend much of his time in orchards and on the river banks. From a very young age, Gadadhar was religiously inclined and he would experience episodes of spiritual ecstasy from everyday incidents. He would go into trance while performing pujas or watching a religious drama. After the death of his father in 1843, the responsibility of the family fell on his elder brother, Ramkumar. Ramkumar left home for Calcutta to earn for the family and Gadadhar back in his village started performing regular worshipping of their family deity, previously handled by his older brother. He was deeply religious and would perform the pujas ardently. Meanwhile, his elder brother had opened a school to teach Sanskrit in Calcutta and also served as a priest at different socio-religious functions.

Gadadhar was married to five-year old Saradmoni Mukhopadhyay from a neighbouring village when he was twenty-three years of age. The couple stayed apart until Saradmoni came of age and she joined her husband at Dakshineswar at the age of eighteen and the marriage was never consummated. Gadadhar proclaimed her as the embodiment of Divine Mother and performed the Shodashi Puja with her in the seat of Goddess Kali. She became an ardent follower of her husband's philosophies and took up the role of mother to his disciples with much ease.

INDUCTION INTO PRIESTHOOD

The Kali temple at Dakshineswar was established by the celebrated philanthropist and Rani Rashmoni, the Queen of Janbazar, Calcutta in 1855. Ramkumar the older brother of Gadadhar was invited by the Queen to take the position of the Head Priest at the temple. Ramkumar obliged and sent for Gadadhar to join him at Dakshineswar to assist him in the daily rituals. He arrived and was entrusted with the duty of decorating the deity. Ramkumar died in 1856, leaving Gadadhar to take over the position of the head priest at the temple. Thus began the long, celebrated journey of priesthood for young Gadadhar. It is said that, after witnessing Gadadhar's pious and certain supernatural incidents, the name **Ramakrishna** was given to him.

FIRST SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Around age six or seven, Ramakrishna experienced his first moment of spiritual trance. One morning, while walking along the narrow ridges of a paddy field, eating some puffed rice from a small basket, he came across the sight of a flock of milky white cranes, flying against the background of heavy rain laden black clouds, which soon covered the entire sky. The ensuing sight was so beautiful that he got absorbed into it and lost all his outer consciousness, before falling down with the rice scattered all over. People nearby who saw this, came to his rescue and carried him home. Ramakrishna grew up practicing Bhakti towards Lord Rama and his duties as a priest at Dakshineswar temple led him to practice worship of Mother Kali. While serving as a temple priest at Dakshineswar, Ramakrishna would encounter various itinerant sadhu's who would visit his place and stay there for a while. Practicing their own modes of worship, several of them initiated Ramakrishna into various schools of Hinduism.

RELIGIOUS JOURNEY

He worshipped God Rama as Hanuman, Rama's most devoted follower and even experienced vision of Sita merging with himself. He learned the nuances of *Tantra Sadhana* or tantric ways from Bhairavi Brahmani, a female sage, during 1861-1863. Under her guidance, Ramakrishna completed all 64 sadhanas of tantras, even the most intricate and demanding of them. He also learnt *Kundalini Yoga* from Bhairavi Brahmani.

PRACTICED ISLAM

In 1866, Govinda Roy, a Hindu man who was previously initiated into Islam and practiced Sufism, initiated Ramakrishna into Islam. Ramakrishna came to know about Govinda through the later regular visits to Dakshineswar. Being much impressed by seeing the faith and love for God in Govinda, Ramakrishna decided to practice Islam, reasoning; This also is a path to realization of God; the sportive mother, the source of infinite Lila, has been blessing many people with the attainment of her lotus feet through this path also. I must see how through it she makes those who take refuge in her, attain their desired end. Ramakrishna engaged himself in the practice of Islam according to its prescribed rules. He devotedly



repeated the name of Allah and said their prayers five times a day and remained in that state of mind for three days, after which he had full realization through their path. During this practice he had a vision of luminous of Mohammad.

PRACTICED CHRISTIANITY

End of 1873, Ramakrishna started the practice of Christianity. Once when the Bible was being read out to him, from the very beginning there were references to the doctrine of Sin. He ideated that more we give up such ideas as *I am sinful, I am weak* the better it will be for all, as we all are children of God, thus not weak and sinful, and considered thinking of oneself as weak and sinful to be the greatest sin. In 1874, Ramakrishna experienced a strange vision, while walking in the Panchavati, he reportedly had a vision of Jesus coming towards him, embracing and merging into his body. In his own room amongst other divine pictures was one of Christ, and he burnt incense before it in the morning and evening. After more than a decade of in various religious paths, each culminating in the realization of God by that path, his personal practices settled, and he is said to have remained in bhavamukha, a level of blissful samadhi. He would meditate in the Panchavati (a wooded and secluded area of the Dakshineswar Temple grounds), go to the Kali temple to offer flowers to the Goddess and wave incense to the assorted deities and religious figures, whose pictures hung in his room.

INITIATION TO SANYAASA

At *Panchavati*, situated to the north of the temple garden, Ramakrishna was initiated into sannyasa by *Tota Puri*. At the dawn of morning in the auspicious moment of Brahmamuhurtha, with the Homa fire lighted, he was guided through the various rites and ceremonies involved in the procedure of becoming a Sannyasi. In accordance with the scriptural injunctions and tradition of successive generations, he offered as an oblation, to be free from the desire of having spouse, children, wealth, admiration from people, beautiful body and so on, and renounced them all. He then also offered his sacred thread and the tuft of hair on his head as part of the oblation

NOTABLE DISCIPLES

Foremost among his innumerable disciples was Swami Vivekananda, who was instrumental in establishing the philosophy of Sri Ramakrishna at a global stage. Vivekananda established the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 to carry out the visions of his Guru Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and dedicated the establishment in servitude of the society. Other disciples who renounced all ties to family life and participated in the formation of Ramakrishna Math along with Vivekananda were Kaliprasad Chandra (Swami Abhedananda), Sashibhushan Chakravarty (Swami Ramakrishnananda), Rakkhal Chandra Gosh (Swami Brahmananda), Sarat Chandra Chakravarty (Swami Saradananda) among others. All of them were instrumental in propagating the teachings of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa not just in India, but throughout the world and carried forward his vision of Seva.

HIS TEACHINGS AND ITS INFLUENCE ON SOCIETY

Sri Ramakrishna was probably the most celebrated mystics of all times. A simple man, some times with childlike enthusiasm, he explained the most complex concepts of spiritual philosophies in most simple parables, stories and anecdotes. His words flowed from a deep sense of belief in the Divinity and his experience of embracing God in a very real form. He directed that the ultimate goal of every living soul is God-realization. Having practiced different facets of Hinduism as well of other religions like Islam and Christianity, he preached that all of these religions were different paths that lead up to a single God. His influence reached all strata of the

SPECIAL FEATURE



society; he did not differentiate between devotees based on caste. He even embraced the skeptics, won them over with his simplistic charm and unselfish love. He was a force of revival to re-energize the decaying Hinduism in the nineteenth century Bengal.

TITLE OF PARAMAHAMSA

Sri Ramakrishna taught the world through his direct spiritual experience that God could be realized through all religions. He had a unique way of teaching profound Vedanta philosophies through simple stories and parables. His teachings are entitled *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*.

Sri Ramakrishna was rewarded the title of *Paramahansa* by one of his Guru from Punjab who was a naked monk, Vedantic guru named Totapuri. In his own life time, Ramakrishna came to be hailed by people of all classes as a spiritual embodiment of God.

DEATH

In 1885 Ramakrishna suffered from throat cancer. In order to consult the best physicians of Calcutta, Ramakrishna was moved to a devotee's house in Shyampukur by his disciples. But with time, his health started deteriorating and he was taken to a larger house at Cossipore. His condition kept worsening and on August 16, 1886, he passed away at the Cossipore Garden house.

SELECTED WORDS OF WISDOM OF SRI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA



My Master's message to mankind is: "Be spiritual and realise truth for Yourself."

Swami Vivekananda

I have practiced all religions, Hinduism, Islam Christianity; and I have also followed the paths of different Hindu sects. I have found that it is the same God toward whom all are directing their steps, though along different paths. You must try all beliefs and traverse all the different ways once. Wherever I look, I see men quarrelling in the name of religion: Hindus, Mohammedans, Brahmos, Vaishnavas and the rest. But they never reflect that He who is called Krishna is also called Siva and bears the name of the Primal Energy, Jesus and Allah as well; the same Rama with a thousand names. A lake has several Ghats. At one, the Hindu takes water in pitchers and calls it "Jal"; at another the Musalmans take water in leather

bags and call it "pani". At the third the Christians call it "water". Can we imagine that it is not Jal, but only Pani or Water? How ridiculous! The substance is One under different names, and everyone is seeking the same substance; only climate, temperament, and name create differences. Let each man follow his own path. If he sincerely and ardently wishes to know God, peace be unto him! He will surely realize Him.

To work without attachment is to work without the expectation of reward or fear of any punishment in this world or the next. Work so done is a means to the end, and God is the end.

That knowledge which purifies the mind and heart alone is true knowledge, all else is only a negation of knowledge. You see many stars in the sky at night, but not when the sun rises. Can you, therefore, say that there are no stars in the heavens during the day? O man, because you cannot find God in the days of your ignorance, say not that there is no God. As a lamp, does not burn without oil, so a man cannot live without God. The Man who works for others, without any selfish motive, really does good to himself. Women and gold keep men immersed in worldliness. The woman is disarmed when you view her as the manifestation of the Divine Mother. All religions are true and God can be reached by different religions. Many rivers flow in many ways, but they fall into the sea. They all are one. Never get into your head that your faith

"Ramakrishna Paramahansa is the latest Avatara and the most perfect, the concentrated embodiment of Knowledge, Love, and renunciation, catholicity and the desire to serve mankind."

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



alone is true and every other is false. Know for certain that God without form is real and that God with form is also real. Then hold fast to whichever faith appeals to you. To explain God merely after reading the scriptures is explaining to a person the city of Banaras after seeing it only on a map. Sugar and sand may be mixed together, but the ant rejects the sand and goes off with the sugar grain; so, the pious men lift the good from the bad. When a certain quantity of milk is mixed with double the quantity of water, it requires a good deal of time and labour to condense it. The mind of a worldly man is diluted with the filthy water of impure thoughts, and he has to work long and hard to purify it.

QUOTES OF WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE ON SRI RAMAKRISHNA Swami Vivekananda

All the time I am, all that the world itself will some-day be, is owing to my Master, Sri Ramakrishna, who incarnated and experienced and taught this wonderful unity which underlies everything, having discovered it alike in Hinduism, in Islam and in Christianity. He was contented simply to live that great life and to leave it to others to find the explanation.

In the Ramakrishna Incarnation, there is knowledge, devotion, infinite love, infinite work and infinite compassion for all beings. Sri Ramakrishna came for the good of the world. Call him a man or God or even an Incarnation, just as you

please. Accept him each in your light. He who will bow before him will be converted into purest gold that very moment. Such a unique personality, such a synthesis of the utmost of Jnana, Yoga, Bhakti and Karma has never before appeared among mankind.

The one (Sri Adi Sankara) had a great head, the other a large heart (Sri Ramanuja), and the time was ripe for one to be born, the embodiment of both this head and heart.

Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhiji said in a tribute to this great soul: The story of Sri Ramakrishna's life is a story of religion in practice. His life enables us to see God face to face. Sri Ramakrishna was a living image of Godliness. His sayings are not those of a mere learned man but they are pages from the book of life. His sayings are not those of a mere learned man, but they are pages from the Book of Life. They are revelations of his own experiences. In this age of skepticism,

Ramakrishna presents an example of bright and living faith, which gives solace to thousands of men and women who would otherwise have remained without spiritual light. Ramakrishna's life was an object-lesson in Ahimsa. His love knew no limits, geographical or otherwise. May his divine love be an inspiration to all.

C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)

It is no exaggeration to call Sri Ramakrishna's teachings an Upanishad. Sri Ramakrishna was a mahatma who saw God in his heart and in all things in the world outside. He saw Him in all things with the same certainty and strength of feeling with which we see each other. When a Maharishi talks, it is his whole life that speaks through him, not mere intellect. He saw Him in all things with the same certainty and strength of feeling with which we see each other.

Francis X Cooney, S. J.

Sri Ramakrishna's example has taught me a great deal about how a believer can go about appreciating the religious experiences of other people.

Romain Rolland

Sri Ramakrishna, is the younger brother of our Christ. Hossainur Rahman said; Sri Ramakrishna's involvement in man was unique. I place Rammohan, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Rabindranath and Gandhi in one single category. Of course, they had their own individualities, their own perspectives, their own limitations. Yet, in essentials, they were a single family. They were the sponsors and leaders of modern Indian Renaissance.

Historian Arnold Toynbee

Toynbee began his career as a critic of Indian culture, later on wrote: "Sri Ramakrishna made his appearance and delivered his message at the time and place at which he and his message were needed."

2nd Annual Tamil Radiothon 2022 in support of SHN Foundation

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Tamil Radiothon back again in support of Scarborough Health Network Foundation. Aiming to raise over \$300,000 towards the Love Scarborough campaign in partnership with CMR 101.3FM.

Every dollar counts.

Support health care in Scarborough and donate online now at shnfoundation.ca/Tamil.

Co-presented by CTCC & Nava Wilson LLP



Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce.





COMMUNITY WATCH

Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Community



DURHAM TAMILS ASSOCIATION SERVING OUR TAMIL COMMUNITY OVER 20 YEARS

Durham Tamils Association is always looking for ways to help our members, youth, and our seniors. We are continuing to provide free virtual activities almost every day for kids to seniors. Thank you to our fantastic volunteers who do not expect anything and are serving the community voluntarily. DTA is truly grateful for your continued support. Also, DTA's Tamil school continues to provide virtual Tamil classes for our students.

Free French Reading Practice

French Read Along for Students

- Grades 5 and up for Non - French Immersion Students
- Gr. 2 and up for French Immersion

Instructor: SwaathiKetheeswaran

Register at durhamtamils.org

DTA's Free Drop-in Virtual Homework Club

- JK, SK & Grade 1-8
- Subjects: Math, Language Arts, French, Science, History, etc...
- Drop-In Time: Monday (6:00-7:00pm) and Tuesday to Friday (7:30-8:30pm)

This session is not limited to Homework help, but also for additional help on other subjects that volunteers may be able to help with. A big thank you to our youth volunteers.

Register online: durhamtamils.org

DTA's Unlock the Rubik Cube

Durham Tamil is presenting a free Unlock the Rubik's Cube program. It will teach everyone how to solve a Rubik's Cube.

Ages: 10-14

Time: Mondays 6:00-7:00pm

Class Requirement: 3x3 Rubik's Cube

Register online: durhamtamils.org

Instructor: Kevin Jacob

Mullivaikkal Remembrance Day

DTA held an event in honour of the victims and survivors of Mullivaikkal. Thank you to all the kids from our DTA Tamil school, teachers, performers and speakers who made this a memorable evening. Thank you to Mahen Anna for the samosas and InthiraniThiyagarasa & ThankaratnamSelvaratnam Aunties for making kanji. Thank you to our MC Yoka Selvan and to all the executive committee members who helped behind the scenes.

Organizing East Coast Trip

Durham Tamil Association's DTA TOURS & TRAVELS is organizing a 10-DAYS EAST COAST(5 PROVINCES) Atlantic Canada Bus Tour! *Nova Scotia, New Found Land, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island & Quebec*

EAST COAST TOUR DATE: JULY 9th - 18th, 2022

COST: \$1100 Cost per person

Limited Seats Available, Register Today before It's Too Late

REGISTER ONLINE: durhamtamils.org





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All proceeds will go towards sustainable projects to build empowered communities in the Homeland.

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COMMUNITY WATCH



Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Community

DURHAM TAMILS ASSOCIATION SERVING OUR TAMIL COMMUNITY OVER 20 YEARS

DTA's Homeland Projects

DTA is proud to announce that we are restarting our homeland projects. The following projects have been completed:

1. Provided educational items to 38 children who passed the scholarship exam Rs 50,000/-
2. Educational expenses for two students in AL & OL Rs 50,000/-
3. Educational expenses for a girl studying AL Rs 50,000/-
4. The Second project in Kilinochchi District, is a sewing machine project. a sewing machine for a family living below the poverty line. Two sisters aged 56 and 58, unmarried due to poverty, who live with a sickly mother, have made this request. They have experience in sewing. By providing this machine they can stand on their own and support the family.
cost Rs 150,000/- (CAD 580).
Thank you to Mr. Subramaniam Kathirithamby & Mr. Maylvahanam (Sri Lanka) for coordinating this project.

Hope For Homeland GALA NIGHT

Durham Tamil Association is proud to host a fundraiser Gala Night to support community projects and entrepreneurial needs of families in Northern and Eastern province of Sri-Lanka.

Tickets are available and they are \$100 each. We want every member to support this great cause. If you want to be a table sponsor or event sponsor please call 905-428-7007

Durham Career Networking Fair 2022

Durham Tamil Association is proud to host the Durham Career Networking Fair. This event is catered for University student, new graduate, or professional looking for career advancements or career change.

Share the Durham career networking links below with your friends, family, and any jobseekers you may know!

When: June 09th 3-6 pm EST

Where: 369 Global | 100 Westney Road South, Building 100, Ajax, ON, L1S 7H3

Check out our website to register: <http://www.durhamcareernetworking.com/>

Tamil School

Durham Tamil Association's Virtual Tamil school has been running very successfully. As per many requests, we started some additional new Tamil classes.

- Ages 4 & up
- Tamil Credit Course
- Teens & Adults

Please register online at durhamtamils.org

Fill out the form and provide your information under "Virtual class registration".

DTA's Seniors

DTA is keeping our seniors fully occupied with multiple free virtual classes and programs. We run Seniors Chair Yoga Class, Mind Exercises, Mat Yoga Class, Cooking Classes, Health Seminars, Chess Club, Virtual Game Nights, Travel Around the World from Armchair, Crafting Classes (including free craft items), and much more for our seniors. DTA is here to support you in any way. If you want to participate in our programs, please check our monthly calendars. Please register for virtual Seniors programs at durhamtamils.org. Thank you to our fantastic volunteers who do not expect anything and are serving the community voluntarily. DTA is truly grateful for your continued support.

Thank you to DTA's Annual Sponsors

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

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

Unity Is Strength

HOW TO REGISTER

Durham
CAREER NETWORKING
2022 *fair!*

09 JUNE 2022 **3:00PM - 6:00PM**

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July 9-18, 2022

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Bus Returns: 8:00 PM July 18th

Pickup Location:
5:30 AM - 62 Harwood Ave S Ajax (DTA CENTER)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ITINERARY
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Need additional info call : 905-428-7007

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In Jaffna, Sri Lanka North: Doing your research and planning adequately

By **Thulasi Muttulingam**

May 26, 2022:

Many people keep reaching out to ask me how the situation is in Jaffna.

I don't know much - all I know is that I keep having debilitating panic attacks. The situation is BAD.

Clearly.

And getting worse every day.

But people are not taking to the streets to protest, as in Colombo.

Jaffna's solution to a bad country situation has always been to leave the country. That was true even before this fiasco, but with this, I see massive numbers desperate to leave the country and doing anything possible to facilitate it.

We're a very secretive, suspicious community - with good reason I suppose, we have few well wishers amongst ourselves.

The downfall is that when things go wrong enmasse, the secrecy prevents the community from understanding patterns of what's going wrong.

We apply for IELTS and don't get



the required 6.5 band in 95% of cases.

We are secretive about this because our neighbours will never let us live it down. So the neighbours' kids eventually do the same thing because they have no clue you didn't ace your exams.

Years and years of this but still no community understanding of what the IELTS is, what is required to get to

the required level, what our own level as a community generally is, and how to bridge that gap.

So take the IELTS a few times and realize that's not working - pay an agent exorbitant fees to traffick you out of the country - never mind globally, trafficking illegally has HUGE repercussions and you're unlikely to make good on it.

Even worse, pay agents to traffick you to the Middle East where you are in SERIOUS trouble when caught there illegally.

Or trust agents who promise legitimate jobs abroad on short tourist visas - even when overstaying tourist visas in many countries could land you in serious trouble.

These are all issues we've had for several years now - but it has leapt off the charts in recent months.

We're killing ourselves as a community by not understanding patterns and how best to combat them.

I understand the zeal to get out of this country like it's a house on fire - but not doing your research and planning adequately means you are jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

P.S: I really need this message to get to the Jaffna community rather than without. If anyone could translate this into Tamil for me, I'd be grateful. Thank you.

- via: <https://www.facebook.com/thulasi.muttulingam>

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Saturday, June 11, 2022

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In collaboration with CMR 101.3FM, the SHN Foundation Tamil Radiothon will air live on June 11, 2022, and will feature interviews with patients, physicians, nurses, staff, volunteers, and business leaders to inspire the community to help shape the future of health care in Scarborough by showing their support through donations.

Help us raise over **\$300,000** to support our *Love, Scarborough* campaign and our key priorities including removing barriers to mental health care, managing and preventing chronic kidney disease, and treating heart disease in Scarborough.

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