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# "This is not the Canada of 1945":

PM Mulroney outlines what it takes to become a winning Conservative Leader in Canada today



Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney



Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown

Substance and style. These are two essential qualities that makes for a winning Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. This means they have what it takes to become the Prime Minister of Canada. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney shared these thoughts to students at the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government within St. Francis Xavier University, his own alma mater, in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. This was part of an interview hosted by the Institute via Zoom where PM Mulroney joined from West Palm Beach, Florida on March 16, 2022.

It is now available to audiences beyond on the University through Youtube. Titled Challenges in Leadership During Turbulent Times, Brian Mulroney was interviewed on topics ranging from his political upbringing to the COVID-19 pandemic to the

Russia-Ukraine crisis to the ongoing Federal Conservative leadership race.

Brian Mulroney himself served as the 18th Prime Minister of Canada from 1984 to 1993. Politically, he was the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada at the time.

Speaking on the ongoing leadership race, he noted that three of the candidates stand out well in their own ways from his perspective.

Pierre Pollièvre himself is a very bright, effective Member of the Opposition in the House of Commons. At the same time, he has a long history with the party itself. Next, Jean Charest has been a very successful Premier of Quebec as well as a senior cabinet minister of PM Mulroney's Progressive Conservative government during the 1980s.

Contd. on Pg 3...

## Ontario Provincial Election June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Current Premier Doug Ford's PC Party seems to be leading over the Liberals according to polls surveys



Andrea Horwath



Doug Ford



Steven Del Duca

By Siva Sivapragasam

Polls surveys seem to forecast that the PC Party is having a sizeable lead in the forthcoming Ontario Provincial elections scheduled for June 2nd.

The Liberals under Steven Del Duca are running second in the polls and would likely finish ahead of Andrea Horwath's New Democrats in the seat count. The Ontario PCs is hoping to capture over the 63-seats required for a majority government and could potentially gain seats at the expense of the other parties compared to the last election.

The Liberals are projected to more

than triple their seats compared with the last election. However, there is a significant difference between them and the New Democrats for the official opposition role. The Liberals are ahead of the PCs in Toronto and are running second in the GTA and eastern Ontario, according to poll surveys. Meanwhile, Elections Ontario is encouraging residents to vote early this year in the hopes of avoiding polling station crowds amid the pandemic.

Among the issues that would be in the minds of the voters at this election will be the Pandemic, Housing, Labour issues, Long-term care, Healthcare and Energy.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tamil Radiothon 2022

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## Ontario Election to be Held on June 2, 2022

May 03, 2022

### Office of the Premier

TORONTO – Premier Doug Ford today confirmed that the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, has accepted the premier's advice to sign a proclamation dissolving the 42nd Parliament of the Province of Ontario, effective as of 4:00 p.m. today.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Election Act, the Lieutenant Governor also called for the issuance of writs for the general election to be issued May 4, 2022 and naming June 2, 2022 as the date of Ontario's next general election. [Via news.ontario.ca](http://news.ontario.ca)



## Producing made-in-Canada vaccines and creating hundreds of good jobs



April 29, 2022

### Montréal, Quebec

The Government of Canada's top priority remains protecting the health and safety of all Canadians. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we worked hard to secure life-saving personal protective equipment, invest in our health care system, and ensure everyone could get vaccinated. As we recover from the pandemic, we will continue to strengthen Canada's capacity to develop and produce made-in-Canada vaccines so we can keep Canadians healthy now and into the future, while creating good jobs.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that COVID-19 vaccine developer Moderna will build a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Quebec to deliver made-in-Canada vaccines. When completed, this new facility will be able to produce up to 100 million mRNA vaccine doses

annually. It will also create hundreds of good jobs.

Construction is set to start this year and the facility is expected to be operational in 2024 at the earliest, subject to planning and regulatory approvals. In addition to COVID-19 vaccines, the facility is expected to be able to produce vaccines for other respiratory diseases, such as influenza – pending their ongoing development by Moderna and approval by Health Canada.

Strengthening our biomanufacturing and life sciences sector across the country will help re-establish Canada's domestic vaccine manufacturing capability, bring Canadian innovation to the front lines of tomorrow's health solutions, and ensure we are better prepared for future health crises – all while growing the economy and creating good jobs.

[Via pm.gc.ca](http://pm.gc.ca)

# "This is not the Canada of 1945":

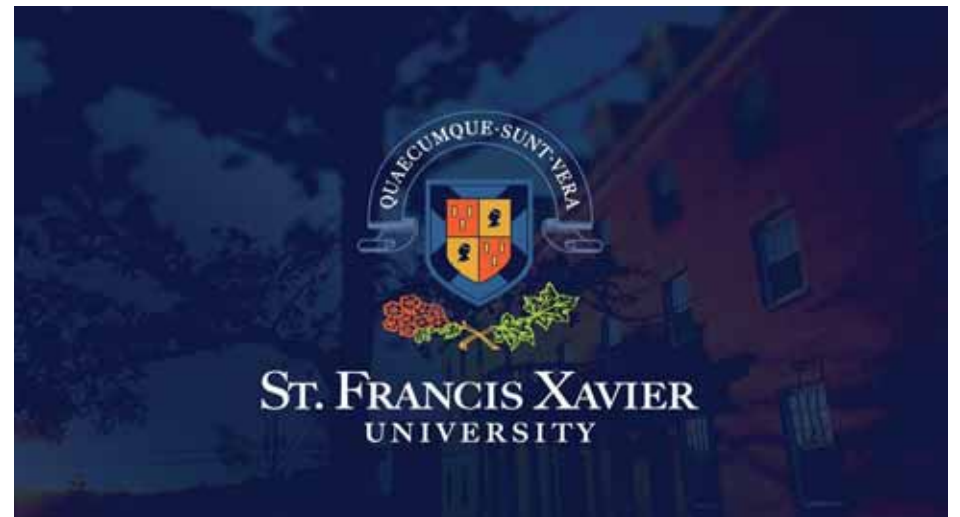
Contd. from Page 1...

He has also been a good political campaigner. He considered Patrick Brown as probably the best political organizer in Canada. Mulroney noted of his current position as the Mayor of Brampton as well as his previous tenure as the Leader of the Official Opposition and Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

spirited. That is when style comes into play.

PM Mulroney brings up Donald Trump as an example who had reasonable policies on things like trade and taxation yet used platforms like Twitter just to insult people.

This greatly impacts the minds of independent voters especially those scattered in places like suburban



A major question that these top candidates along with the party itself needs to answer is this, as posed by PM Mulroney:

"Do you want a candidate who can win a political leadership convention or do you want a candidate who can win an election?"

To lead Canada, one cannot do so from the far left or the far right of the political spectrum. That may work for a political leadership convention race like the one currently happening, but that does not translate into winning a general election.

No, what needs to be done is campaigning with the broad middle class as this is what Canadians are like. If you, as a prospective political leader, can present a moderate, thoughtful policy to Canadians, then he will win. This can range across policy issues from foreign affairs to financial matters to social policy. If you can bring that sort of substance or the best policies in the world, that can be great for you, but that does not mean you get elected if you come off as mean

Toronto. In turn, this led to another question by PM Mulroney:

"The three biggest cities in Canada are Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. We didn't win a seat in the last couple of elections in Montreal, we didn't win a seat in Toronto, and won a small handful in Vancouver. Now how are you going to form a majority government with that kind of situation?"

In that sense, the candidates must understand that this is not the Canada of 1945. Canada is a different country with a different population. Every wave of immigration that has contributed to this makeup, including the Irish and Jewish people, has brought honour and prosperity to the country.

PM Mulroney concluded that if these candidates want to be Prime Minister they need to get with the program here. Canada is a modern, sophisticated, highly impressive and a quite wonderful country. They will need to learn understand it, deal with it and lead it properly.

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## 2022 Ontario Election:

Vote for a government that you believe seeks to bring out the best of the province for you and your fellow Ontarians

By **Harrish Thirukumar**

On June 2, 2022, readers like yourselves of the Monsoon Journal and the rest of Ontarians will be heading to the polls to elect their provincial government in the 43rd Ontario general election. This serves as a message encouraging those eligible to exercise their right to vote in this election guaranteed by our democratic system of government. It is where we will have a say in the direction the province should strive towards. The writs were issued on May 4, 2022, pursuant to the Elections Act, dissolving the 42nd Parliament of Ontario.

Three major political parties have begun campaigning on May 5th. They will seek to demonstrate to voters why they have what it takes to govern this Province in response to the issues near and dear to Ontarians as they have heard them. The current incumbent governing party, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, is led by Doug Ford. Next, we have the Ontario Liberal Party led by Steven Del Duca. There is also the Ontario New Democratic Party under the helm of Andrea Horwath.

Several other political parties, including the Green Party of Ontario under Mike Schreiner, will be contesting for 124 seats in the Ontario legislature. This election is both a critical and unique one that highlights why voting is just as much a civic duty as a right granted to citizens. From the COVID-19 pandemic to affordability, there are many issues that have a significant effect on the wellbeing of Ontarians. The nature of these issues calls for a thoughtful response by the provincial government. If Ontarians want something done on these concerns and move towards something more aspirational, this can be accomplished through the act of voting as a



way to speak on how your government can be responsive to its citizens.

In terms of the voting process this year, Ontarians will expect to see advance voting days as well as mail-in ballot and returning office vote options. The deadline to apply to vote by mail is 6 PM (Eastern Time) on May 27. Ontarians can vote from the day after an election in your electoral district has been called until 6 PM the day before election day, which is June 2 this year. Additionally, public health measures will be in place for polling stations including physical distancing, hand sanitizers, and disinfecting high-touch surfaces and so forth. This is in account of COVID-19. Elections Ontario has also launched an app this year available on the Apple Store and Google Play to help voters find further information on voting. This along with other resources can be found at [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca).

To help Ontarians in making their electoral decision, voters can visit the websites of the contesting parties for their positions, such as these four Ontario political parties below:

<https://ontarioliberal.ca/>  
<https://ontariopc.ca/team/doug-ford/>  
<https://www.ontariondp.ca/>  
<https://gpo.ca/>

The 2022 Ontario election will undoubtedly be a defining moment in the province's political history given the issues we are currently dealing with. Vote for a government that you believe seeks to bring out the best of the province for you and your fellow Ontarians.

### Canada Historic Milestones



May 14, 1969

Homosexuality is decriminalized in Canada, with the passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Act (1968-1969). This omnibus bill was first introduced in December 1967 by Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Minister of Justice. The bill went through two revisions, C-195 and C-150, before finally passing third reading with a vote of 149 to 55. This massive amendment to the Criminal Code of Canada included amendments to the law on abortion, lotteries and gun possession, and added new offences like impaired driving and cruelty to animals.

"The butterfly counts not months but moments,  
and has time enough"

- **Rabindranath Tagore** (7 May 1861 - 7 August 1941) Nobel laureate

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## Ontario's Plan to Build

2022 Budget supports a plan for better jobs and bigger paycheques, building highways, transit and hospitals, and lower costs for families



April 28, 2022

### Finance

TORONTO — Today, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the 2022 Budget. Ontario's Plan to Build has five pillars:

1. Rebuilding Ontario's Economy
2. Working for Workers
3. Building Highways and Key Infrastructure
4. Keeping Costs Down
5. A Plan to Stay Open

The government's plan will seize the opportunities in critical minerals, batteries and electric and hybrid vehicle manufacturing, help deliver better jobs and bigger paycheques for workers, help keep costs down for families, and get shovels in the ground for highways, transit, hospitals and other key infrastructure. Supported by a plan to stay open, the government is building Ontario.

"The people of Ontario deserve a government that has a real plan to build," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "Our government's Budget is Premier Ford's vision and our plan to cut through the excuses and act right away on the priorities of the people of Ontario."

The 2022 Budget continues the government's track record of strong fiscal management. The plan includes increases to base program spending at an average annual rate of about five per cent over the next three years. The Budget also presents a recovery plan that will eliminate Ontario's deficit two years earlier than projected in the 2021 Budget.

"Our government has a plan, and

that plan is working," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "But the work is not over, and the job is not done. We are ready to get it done for the people of Ontario."

**Rebuilding Ontario's Economy** is the first pillar of the government's plan. While Ontario lost 300,000 manufacturing jobs between 2004 and 2018, the government has a plan to help create jobs and build prosperity everywhere, for everyone.

**Working for Workers** is the second pillar of the government's plan. Ontario workers deserve a government that works as hard as they do for Ontario. That's why the government has a plan to support better jobs and bigger paycheques.

**Building Highways and Key Infrastructure** is the third pillar in the government's plan. For too long, the people of Ontario have been stuck in gridlock, with thousands of hours wasted on packed trains, or behind the wheel in bumper-to-bumper traffic, costing billions to the province's economy. This has to change. The government is getting shovels in the ground to build highways, transit and other infrastructure projects to fight gridlock, boost the economy and create jobs.

**Keeping Costs Down** is the fourth pillar in the government's plan. When costs go up, it has a direct impact on families, seniors, workers and the economy. That's why the government has a plan to help keep costs down by increasing housing supply, making it less expensive to drive or take transit, and by providing relief on everything from child care to taxes.

Via [news.ontario.ca](http://news.ontario.ca)

## Ontario Building State-of-the-Art Critical Care Tower at Sunnybrook

\$5 million provincial investment will add new patient beds and expanded cancer treatment programs



May 02, 2022

### Health

TORONTO — As part of its plan to stay open, the Ontario government is investing \$5 million to expand and redevelop Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. This funding will support the planning for a new, state-of-the-art critical care tower that will add more beds and expand much-needed health care services for families in the Greater Toronto Area and surrounding communities as the province continues to build a stronger, more resilient health system that is better able to respond to crisis.

"Expanding services at Sunnybrook with a new critical care tower is one more way our government is building a stronger, more resilient health care system that will keep Ontario open," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With this investment, we're continuing to ensure that patients and families have access to the high-quality care they deserve now and for generations to come."

Sunnybrook's new critical care tower will bring the hospital's critical care units together under one roof. Based on early planning, the hospital intends to add over 100 new beds so that the new tower will have a total of approximately 260 patient beds. This is planned to include over 100 critical care beds and over 100 medical and surgical beds to make it easier and

more convenient for families to access high-quality, integrated care when they need it.

As part of the redevelopment, the hospital is also planning to modernize its existing infrastructure and enhance health services. This includes expanding its complex malignant hematology program to add stem cell transplant services and increasing radiation therapy so that more patients have access to lifesaving cancer treatment. The redevelopment will be the starting point of future projects to renovate existing spaces, enhance more programs and services and build capacity so that the world-class team at Sunnybrook can continue to provide high-quality care long into the future.

"Sunnybrook is one of the largest sources of critical care capacity in the province and this investment will help ensure the province's safety net is there when people need it most," said Dr. Andy Smith, President and CEO of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. "We are incredibly grateful for this grant and look forward to move from planning to building this tremendous resource for all Ontarians."

Ontario is working with Sunnybrook on the early stages of the planning process, which include identifying programming, operational and space requirements and assessing how the project can meet the health care needs of patients and families in the region.

Via [news.ontario.ca](http://news.ontario.ca)

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## CANADA NEWS

# Ontario Liberals will slash all transit fares across the province to \$1



May 2, 2022

TORONTO – Steven Del Duca has announced that an Ontario Liberal government would slash transit fares to \$1 per ride on every transit line in Ontario, reducing gridlock and greenhouse gas emissions while making life more affordable for Ontario families.

“Ontario is gripped by an affordability crisis and families expect their government to act. Ontario Liberals have a better plan. Our plan will provide families with immediate relief within the first 100 days of being elected, by slashing the price of transit to a buck-a-ride,” said Del Duca. “Under our plan, someone hopping on the GO train from Oakville to head in for a Blue Jays game will save nearly \$20 on their round trip. And a commuter taking the GO from Whitby to Toronto would save more than \$300 dollars a month.”

“Ontario Liberals are offering a choice,” Del Duca continued. “With the Ford Conservatives, Ontario gets billions wasted on one highway that won’t be completed for a decade and will not make a difference on commute times. With our Ontario Liberal plan, people will get immediate relief for their commute and in their wallet.”

The fare reduction would apply to every transit system in Ontario, including municipal transit, all GO Transit services, and Ontario Northland service – with the provincial government fully replacing transit systems’ lost revenue, ensuring no

municipal government is impacted by this decision.

Transit ridership in Ontario has yet to recover from the pandemic. Reducing fares to a “buck-a-ride” will attract both new and out-of-practice transit commuters, making their journeys to and from work quicker, less expensive, and less stressful.

“Unlike Doug Ford’s broken promise of ‘buck-a-beer,’ we will deliver ‘buck-a-ride’ for all transit riders,” Del Duca added.

#### Key facts:

- Our plan cuts the cost of public transit fares on all networks across Ontario to \$1 per ride and \$40 for monthly passes until January 2024.

- Buck-a-ride is estimated to take an average 400,000 cars off the road each day.

- A Liberal provincial government will fully replace transit systems’ lost revenues under this plan, ensuring no municipal government is impacted by this decision.

- This plan is estimated to cost about \$710 million in 2022-23, and about \$1.1 billion in 2023-24.

- We’ll also invest an additional \$375 million in annual transit operating funding – supporting more routes, extended hours of service, improved accessibility and more intercity connections.

- We will make all public transit completely free for veterans.

- The lowest priced beer on the LCBO website is \$1.65.

Via [ontarioliberal-news.prezly](http://ontarioliberal-news.prezly)



# Ontario Liberals will add COVID-19 vaccines to list of universal school shots

## Plan will protect vulnerable kids and make classrooms safer



OTTAWA – Steven Del Duca was at Ottawa’s Celebration Park to announce that an Ontario Liberal government will protect vulnerable kids and make classrooms safer by adding COVID-19 vaccines to the compulsory immunization schedule for all children attending public schools in Ontario.

“The Doug Ford Conservatives’ approach to the pandemic was chaotic and confusing. Their hyper-political approach undermined confidence in vaccines and prolonged lockdowns and suffering — particularly for our kids,” said Del Duca. “The best way to get back to normal is to make classrooms safer. Ontario Liberals will do just that by expanding the list of universal vaccines to include the COVID-19 vaccine and requiring all frontline education workers to be vaccinated.”

Ontario Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca makes an announcement alongside the party’s Ottawa candidates.

“The Ford Conservatives dismantled the infrastructure we need to boost vaccine uptake on a voluntary basis. Ontario Liberals will make a different choice: partnering with parents, educators, and healthcare professionals to positively promote vaccination as the best available tool to keep kids safe,” continued Del Duca.

Under the Ontario Liberal plan, the COVID-19 vaccine will join nine other universal vaccines on the list of students’ required shots. Current exemptions under the Immunization of School Pupils Act will continue to apply.

On Wednesday, Ontario Liberals announced a plan to make a \$10 billion investment in new and repaired schools – the largest such investment in provincial history. The plan will be fully funded by cancelling the Doug

Ford Conservatives’ wasteful, damaging Highway 413, which experts say will destroy one-of-a-kind greenspace without significantly improving commute times. The savings from cancelling Highway 413 will be reinvested in 200 new schools and 4,500 schools that require urgent repairs, including to their ventilation systems.

The plan prioritises making schools safer, healthier, and more accessible by eliminating the repair backlog, focusing on ensuring classrooms are in good condition, particularly when it comes to ventilation.

“We’re offering people in Ontario a clear choice,” Del Duca concluded. “An Ontario Liberal government that will make classrooms safer with ventilation and vaccines, or four more years of the Doug Ford Conservatives’ cuts and classroom chaos. The choice is yours.”

#### Key facts

- The Immunization of School Pupils Act was introduced more than three decades ago, in 1990.

- According to the Ministry of Health, students attending public school must have proof of immunization against the following designated diseases:

- o Diphtheria
- o Tetanus
- o Polio
- o Measles
- o Mumps
- o Rubella
- o Meningococcal Disease
- o Pertussis (whooping cough)
- o Varicella (chicken pox) – for children born in 2010 or later

- In January, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) strengthened their guidance for kids aged 5 to 11, strongly recommending they be immunized against COVID-19.

Via [ontarioliberal-news.prezly](http://ontarioliberal-news.prezly)





## Ontario Liberals will cap classrooms at 20 students and end the Conservatives' disastrous e-learning requirement

### Hiring 10,000 new educators to help get our students back on track



VAUGHAN – Steven Del Duca was at St. Stephen's Catholic Elementary School to announce that an Ontario Liberal government will cut class sizes province-wide, capping them at 20 students for every grade. Because capping class sizes will require more educators, Ontario Liberals will hire 10,000 teachers – ensuring every student gets the focus and attention they deserve.

*“As a dad of two young girls, I know how hard the pandemic has been on students,” said Del Duca. “Two years of disruption and online learning from Doug Ford Conservatives have made students' lives more stressful and put their learning in jeopardy. Kids deserve a government that's in their corner. Ontario Liberals are offering people a choice. Under the Ford Conservatives, you'll get crowded classes and cuts to education. With the Ontario Liberal plan, we will end mandatory online learning, hire more teachers to teach smaller classes.”*

As our kids try to catch up on learning lost during the pandemic, they need their teachers more than ever – but the Ford Conservatives' budget slashed \$1.3 billion in much-needed funding for schools and doubled down on disastrous mandatory online learning. Ontario Liberals will reverse Doug Ford's cuts to public education, putting a hard class size cap of 20 students in every grade, and will put an end to the Ford Conservative plan to impose mandatory online learning on students.

“We need to give teachers the tools not just to teach, but actually reach their students. They cannot do that over a computer screen. Small class sizes and in-class learning will allow them to do just that, Del Duca added.

To reach our goal of hiring 10,000 more teachers, we'll recruit teachers

from other provinces, help qualified teachers immigrate to Ontario, and attract some of the 80,000 Ontario certified teachers not currently employed by schools back to teaching. The Ontario Liberal plan will also support teacher education programs – particularly for French-language educators.

The Ontario Liberal education plan will:

- Hire 10,000 teachers, including by recruiting from other provinces and helping qualified teachers immigrate to Ontario
- Impose a hard cap of 20 students on class sizes in every grade, province-wide
- Build 200 new schools across Ontario
- Repair, upgrade and rebuild more than 4,500 schools
- Remove the Conservative's mandatory requirement for 2 online credits for graduation
- Put new technology and devices in classrooms to close the digital divide
- Reverse the Ford Conservatives' budget cuts to after-hours community programs in schools.

“Ontario families just can't afford more Ford Conservative cuts to public education,” continued Del Duca. “As one of the hundreds of thousands of parents watching their kids' education disrupted by Doug Ford's cuts, I will work tirelessly to ensure students and teachers have the support they need to succeed.”

On February 1, 2022, the Ford Conservatives confirmed in a memo to all school boards and principals that it was their policy that “students must successfully complete the equivalent of at least two full online credits to fulfil the graduation requirement.”

Via [ontarioliberal-news.prezly.com](http://ontarioliberal-news.prezly.com)

## Ontario Liberal Environment Plan will combat the climate emergency, cut carbon pollution in half, and reduce traffic

### Eco-friendly plan offers smart, affordable ways for families to make sustainable choices



NEWMARKET – Steven Del Duca released the Ontario Liberal Environment Plan, which will protect and expand the Greenbelt, slash transit fares to \$1.00, cut carbon pollution in half by 2030, and help high-emitting industries in reducing the environmental impact of their operations.

“Through the environment plan we're releasing today, Ontario Liberals are offering a choice: Doug Ford, who wants to waste billions on a highway that won't improve traffic — or an Ontario Liberal government that will provide smart and affordable ways for families to make sustainable choices,” said Del Duca.

The Ford Conservatives ripped up Ontario's climate action plan, choosing to fight progress rather than fighting climate change. Since 2018, they wasted \$30 million in court battles against Federal carbon pricing, fined small businesses for refusing to put up their faulty gas pump stickers, and shredded clean energy contracts.

“Under Doug Ford Conservatives, traffic has gotten worse, commutes have become more expensive, and carbon emissions are set to skyrocket,” continued Del Duca. “Now, they want to sink \$10 billion into the wasteful Highway 413, which will destroy a huge chunk of the Greenbelt while shaving mere seconds off commutes.”

The environmentally-friendly choices Ontario Liberals are offering voters include:

- Slash transit fares to \$1 until 2024, taking 400,000 daily car trips off the road;
- Cut carbon pollution in half by 2030;

- Strengthen the requirements of the Conservative's existing industrial Emissions Performance Standards to ensure the biggest emitters do their part to meet our 50% carbon reduction target;

- Expand the Greenbelt and designating 30% of Ontario land as protected areas, up from 10%;
- Stop Highway 413;
- Provide a 30% rebate of up to \$500 on e-bikes;
- Provide up to \$9,500 in rebates on non-luxury electric vehicles and vehicle charging equipment;
- Provide grants of up to \$3,000 each year for people and businesses who want to make eco-friendly renos like new windows, insulation, heat pumps, and flood protection;
- Create 25,000 new green-jobs and a new Green Jobs Fund to invest in made-in-Ontario clean technology innovations; and
- Increase funding for separated bike lanes and cycling trails, bike sharing and rental services, and secure bike parking.

A lack of climate action from the Ford Conservatives is costing families precious time and hard-earned money, causing congestion to worsen, insurance rates to spike, and food prices to soar.

“The cost of climate change should be on the shoulders of polluters, not families. The Ford Conservatives would rather dole out green space to their developer buddies than take action to fight climate change,” Del Duca concluded.

Via [ontarioliberal-news.prezly.com](http://ontarioliberal-news.prezly.com)





# A Place to Grow: New Ontario Liberal team releases fully-costed plan for Ontario

## Fair, fully-costed, and forward-thinking plan presents choices for voters

The Ontario Liberals have released their plan for Ontario, A Place to Grow. It will improve public education, clear the surgery backlog, and revolutionize elder care. At its core, A Place to Grow is about tackling Ontario's affordability crisis and helping families get ahead – including by introducing \$1 transit fares, lowering the cost of food, and making buying and renting a home more affordable.

### Our Liberal plan will make Ontario:

- **A Place to Grow Your Family**
  - Eliminate HST on more meals, funded by fair taxes
  - Replace the minimum wage with a regional living wage, starting at \$16/hour
  - Build 1.5 million new homes and deliver rent control
- **A Place to Grow Older**
  - Revolutionize senior care in Ontario by guaranteeing home care
  - End for-profit long-term care
  - Boost pensions by up to \$1,000 for seniors who need it
- **A Place to Grow Healthy**
  - Clear the surgical backlog and set maximum wait times
  - Ensure access to a doctor or nurse practitioner within 24 hours
  - Make more mental health help available
- **A Place to Grow Economic Dignity**
  - Give every worker access to benefits and 10 paid sick days

- Build to a four-day work week
  - Eliminate corporate taxes for two years for small businesses hit hard by the pandemic
  - **A Place to Grow Up**
    - Build and repair schools with \$10 billion funded by scrapping Highway 413
    - Hire 10,000 teachers for smaller class sizes
    - Fully fund an optional Grade 13 to give students a chance to catch up
  - **A Place to Grow Sustainably**
    - Cut transit fares to \$1 a ride everywhere in Ontario
    - Cut Ontario's carbon pollution in half by 2030
    - Protect and expand the Greenbelt and create new provincial parks
  - **A Place to Grow Together**
    - Raise disability and social assistance benefits
    - Advance Indigenous reconciliation
    - Ban handguns
- Ontario Liberals have a plan that works for everyone and a team ready to deliver. On June 2, the choice is yours.

“The team that's ready to implement this plan includes community leaders from all walks of life,” continued Del Duca. “They're educators, nurses, and doctors that have experienced the Ford Conservatives' cuts and privatization creep first-hand. They're mayors and town councillors that know what it means to lead. They're entrepreneurs and small business leaders fed up with



Doug Ford's big-box bias.”

About “A Place to Grow”: Our Liberal Plan for Ontario

This fully-costed, fair and forward-looking plan will make life better for the next generation. The full fiscal plan is consistent with the 2022 Ontario Budget's deficit reduction projections over the same period, but the Liberal plan makes very different choices.

The Ontario Liberal plan makes the right choices to put Ontario on a path to present a balanced budget in 2026-27.

The Ontario Liberal plan incorporates the revenue forecasts from the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario, which were reinforced by the Auditor General in their pre-election report. To ensure these assumptions are prudent, an Ontario Liberal government will undertake an in-depth

fiscal review within 100 days of taking office.

The Ontario Liberal plan reallocates portions of the contingency funds, which the Auditor

General described as “overly cautious and higher than usual.” We choose to put these funds to work now to help Ontarians recover from COVID-19. Despite this choice, the Liberal Plan still maintains \$3.4 billion in contingency or reserve funds in 2022-23 growing to \$4.8 billion in 2025-26.

The Ontario Liberal plan uses defined fiscal anchors to reduce the debt burden and put Ontario's finances on a sustainable path, consistent with the Budget 2022-23's fiscal plan, including a commitment to keep the net debt-to-GDP ratio below 42.0% and the net debt-to-revenue below 250%.

## Liberals in Scarborough North Nominate Anita Anandarajan as 2022 Ontario Liberal Party Candidate

Liberals in Scarborough North have nominated Anita Anandarajan, a Recruitment Consultant and a strong community advocate, as their Ontario Liberal Party (OLP) candidate for the June 2nd provincial election.

“Anita is dedicated to improving life for the residents of Scarborough North and will make a fantastic MPP at Queen's Park,” said OLP Leader, Steven Del Duca. “I'm glad to have her on our team as we prepare for the next provincial election.”

Anita Anandarajan graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Science and holds a postgraduate certification in Human Resources Management. She has been working in the Human Resources field throughout her career and in the last three years



has worked as a recruitment consultant in Scarborough North where she supported residents with employment opportunities.

“My campaign is about the people, and it is time to make real changes and demand action with urgency,” said Anandarajan. - via: [OntarioLiberal.ca](http://OntarioLiberal.ca)

## Ontario Liberals will build and repair thousands of crumbling schools

ETOBICOKE – Steven Del Duca was at Wedgewood Junior Public School to announce that an Ontario Liberal government will commit an additional \$10 billion to build and repair schools across the province – the largest such investment in Ontario's history.

The plan will be fully funded by cancelling the Doug Ford Conservatives' wasteful and damaging Highway 413, which experts say will only save 30 seconds off commute times while destroying vital greenspace and farmland.

“Last year the Ford Conservatives cut \$1.3 billion from education budgets, allowing our schools to crumble and decay,” said Del Duca. “This election gives voters a clear choice, the wasteful Highway 413 paving through the Greenbelt or the Liberal plan to invest the \$10 billion to build new schools in every part of Ontario and upgrade ventilation systems in schools that desperately need them.”

The Ontario Liberal Plan will:

- Build 200 more new schools across Ontario;
- Repair, upgrade and rebuild more

than 4,500 schools;

- Put new technology and devices in classrooms to close the digital divide, increasing the existing budget for such resources;
- Reverse the Ford Conservatives' budget cuts to after-hours community programs in schools.

Within the first 100 days after the election, an elected Ontario Liberal government would begin investing \$10 billion to build and repair schools and eliminate the repair backlog. These renovations would include new ventilation systems in every school that needs them, providing students and teachers with a healthy, safe environment to teach and learn.

“Every parent knows that kids lost out on their education over the last two years,” said Del Duca. “Ontario Liberals will make historic investments that put our schools and our students back on track. The Ford Conservative's will build a 60km highway that few people would use. My message to Ontarians today is: The Choice is Yours.”

via [ontarioliberal-news.prezly.com](http://ontarioliberal-news.prezly.com)





## World Bank to provide \$ 600 million financial assistance to Sri Lanka to meet current economic crisis



By Sivapragasam

The World Bank has agreed to provide \$600 million in financial assistance to Sri Lanka to meet essential imports, a crisis due to declining foreign reserves.

As an initial amount of \$400 million will be made available to the Sri Lankan government shortly. The World Bank said it would continue to help Sri Lanka to overcome the current economic crisis.

Sri Lanka's worst financial crisis since independence in 1948 was caused by a drastic drop in its reserves that dropped 70% over the past two years, hitting \$1.93 billion at the end of March. This left Colombo struggling to pay for essentials, including fuel, medicines, and food.

Earlier this month, Sri Lanka had talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial assistance.

Before the IMF finalizes a programme for Sri Lanka, the country needs \$3-\$4 billion in bridge financing to help meet its essential expenses.

The Sri Lankan government has also appealed to multiple countries and multilateral organizations for bridge financing until the IMF comes up with its aid.

India has helped Sri Lanka by assisting with \$1.9 billion, and Colombo is in talks with New Delhi for an extra \$1.5 billion to fund imports, including fuel.

Sri Lanka is also negotiating with China for up to \$1 billion in a syndicated loan.

The country announced a suspension on some of its foreign debt repayments earlier this month and said it would divert its meagre reserves to fund essential imports such as fuel, cooking gas and medicine.

## Several countries condemn attacks on peaceful protesters in Sri Lanka



British High Commissioner Sarah Hulton

US Ambassador Julie J. Chung

Canadian High Commissioner David McKinnon

German Ambassador Holger Seubert

World Bank Country Director for Sri Lanka Faris H. Hadad-Zervos

UN special rapporteur Mary Lawlor

Several countries via their diplomats condemned violent attacks by supporters of ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) on peaceful protesters.

The British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Sarah Hulton in a tweet said: "Strongly condemn the violence against peaceful protesters today. The authorities have a responsibility to safeguard citizens' rights to protest peacefully and to hold the perpetrators of violence to account."

The US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie J. Chung in her tweet said: "We condemn the violence against peaceful protesters today and call on the government to conduct a full investigation, including the arrest and prosecution of anyone who incited violence. Our sympathies are with those injured today and we urge calm and restraint across the island."



Canadian High Commissioner David McKinnon tweeted: "I condemn the perpetrators of today's violence in

also joined in expressing concern. In his tweet he said: "We are deeply concerned with the perpetration of violence in #SriLanka. Those responsible are only standing in the way of the country's immediate economic recovery and making the task even more difficult for development partners."

## TN CM thanks Centre, says humanitarian gesture to Lanka will improve cordiality



PTI

2 May, 2022

Chennai, May 2 (PTI) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday thanked the BJP-led government at the Centre for permitting humanitarian aid to the crisis-hit Sri Lanka and said the move would improve cordiality between the two countries.

Expressing gratitude to the Centre for accepting the state's plea to dispatch relief material to the island nation, the Chief Minister said this humane gesture would be greatly welcomed by all.

"This would help to improve the warmth and cordiality between the nations," he said while personally thanking Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for accepting Tamil Nadu's request.

Posting a copy of Jaishankar's letter addressed to him on his Twitter account, the CM said, "Let the goodwill grow in all spheres." On April 29, the Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a resolution urging the Centre to positively consider the state government's request to immediately dispatch food and life-saving medicines to crisis-hit Sri Lanka.

Chief Minister M K Stalin who piloted the resolution unanimously passed by the House, including the opposition AIADMK and the BJP, said, "We can't see the development in Sri Lanka as the neighbouring country's internal issue. We need to extend humanitarian aid...help should be prompt, on time." Also, recalling his meeting with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi last month on the issue, Stalin said he followed it up with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar but there has been no response from the Centre so far. "Hence, I have been constrained to move this resolution," he had said.

Responding to the Assembly resolution, Jaishankar stated that the island nation would accept inclusive relief on government-to-government basis.

"The Foreign Secretary had spoken to Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and highlighted on April 16, that government of Sri Lanka would be open to humanitarian support on government-to-government basis," the Union Minister said in the letter dated May 1.

Jaishankar further said both Lankan government and Tamil leaders there were of the view that humanitarian gesture at this time should be inclusive. "This may be reflected in the distribution of supplies. The matter could therefore be coordinated by our high commission, supplementing assistance already underway," he said in the letter posted by the Chief Minister on his twitter account.

Jaishankar asked Stalin to direct the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary to coordinate with the government of India for supply and distribution of humanitarian relief material to the Sri Lankan government.

"The relief material will be shared with government of Sri Lanka to be distributed appropriately in the current circumstances," he said.

Via PTI

#SriLanka against peaceful protesters. They must held to account. Violence is never the answer. Restraint is key, particularly in such volatile circumstances."

German Ambassador Holger Seubert also tweeted: "Current developments hurt my heart. What used to be an example of a well-functioning democracy – people peacefully exercising their right to free speech - has turned into tense confrontation. I call on all sides for calm and restraint. Violence is no solution, to neither side!"

World Bank Country Director for Sri Lanka Faris H. Hadad-Zervos

UN special rapporteur Mary Lawlor said she had heard: "disturbing reports... of repression and disproportionate use of force against peaceful demonstrators who are protesting against allegations of corruption and widespread impunity in Government".





# UN condemns violence in Sri Lanka



GENEVA (10 May 2022) – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday called on the authorities in Sri Lanka to prevent further violence, and urged restraint and meaningful dialogue to address the grievances of the population amid the severe economic crisis in the country.

“I am deeply troubled by the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka after supporters of the Prime Minister attacked peaceful protestors in Colombo yesterday 9 May and the subsequent mob violence against members of the ruling party,” Bachelet said.

Seven people have died during the incidents - including a Member of Parliament and two local officials, over 250 were injured, and the properties of others were destroyed by arson throughout the country.

“I condemn all violence and call on the authorities to independently, thoroughly and transparently investigate all attacks that have occurred. It is crucial to ensure that those found responsible, including those inciting or organising violence, are held to

account.”

The High Commissioner also called on the authorities to prevent further violence and to protect the right to peaceful assembly.

“Authorities, including military personnel deployed in support of security forces, should exercise restraint in policing the situation and ensure that measures adopted in the context of the state of emergency comply with international human rights norms and are not used to stifle dissent or hinder peaceful protest,” she stressed.

The State has a responsibility to ensure the right to life and to exercise due diligence to protect the lives of individuals against violence by private individuals or entities.

The severe economic crisis has made daily life a struggle for most Sri Lankans. It has also highlighted grievances, which require national dialogue and deeper structural reforms, Bachelet said. It has brought together people from various ethnicities and religions to demand greater transparency, accountability and participation in democratic life.



“I urge the Sri Lankan Government to engage in meaningful dialogue with all parts of society to find a pathway forward and address the socio-economic challenges people, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, are facing. I call on the Government to address the broader political and systemic root causes that have long perpetuated discrimination and under-

mined human rights.”

Bachelet said the UN Human Rights Office will continue to closely watch and report on the situation in the country. She expressed hope that Sri Lanka would find a peaceful solution to the current crisis to alleviate people’s suffering, strengthen democracy and human rights, and prevent further violence.

## Crisis-hit Sri Lanka re-introduces fuel rationing

5 May, 2022

Colombo, May 5 (PTI) Sri Lanka’s state-owned petroleum corporation on Thursday re-introduced fuel rationing for vehicles, as the worst economic crisis in decades roils the country with massive public protests against the government.

Ceylon Petroleum Corporation head Sumith Wijesinghe said that now motorcycles and other two-wheelers can purchase fuel up to worth Rs 2,000 per visit to a fuel station. Similarly, three-wheelers can purchase fuel worth Rs 3,000 and cars upto Rs 8,000. Mid last month, fuel rationing for vehicles was introduced and came to be later scrapped with the last hike of retail prices.

For several months, Sri Lankans have endured long lines to buy fuel, cooking gas, food and medicine, most of which come from abroad. Shortages of hard currency have also hindered imports of raw materials for manufacturing and worsened inflation, which surged to 18.7 per cent in March.

As oil prices soar during the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the island nation’s fuel stocks are running out. Authorities have announced country-wide power cuts extending up to 7 1/2 hours a day because they can’t supply enough fuel to power generating stations.



Speaking in Parliament on Thursday, Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekara said the release of diesel to the market has been limited due to energy needs as more diesel is to be given to generate electricity.

He assured that the current long lines for fuel would ease in about three days. “We have an issue regarding diesel supply, the priority has to be given to supplying diesel to power plants for power generation,” he said. The daily release of 4,000 metric tonnes of diesel is now limited to 1,000-1,500 metric tonnes, he said.

“The government had to take a policy decision on whether queues should be reduced by supplying the available fuel consignments to filling stations or continuing rolling power interruptions of 3 hours and 20 minutes without extending them,” he said.

Sri Lanka is expecting additional credit lines from India for the purchase of fuel. India has committed more than USD 3 billion to debt-ridden Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and credit swaps since January this year.

On Monday, India extended its

current credit line by a further USD 200 million to replenish Sri Lanka’s rapidly depleting fuel stocks.

Sri Lanka is on the brink of bankruptcy and has suspended payments on its foreign loans. Its economic miseries have brought on a political crisis, with the government facing protests and a no-confidence motion in Parliament.

**PTI CORR PMS PMS**

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**Via PTI**



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that sets everything straight.”

*Phyllis Diller*



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# Dear Toronto,

It's time for all of us to have equal access to the best healthcare.  
Because our most diverse area is also our most ignored.

We are 25% of Toronto's population, yet we get less than 1% of the hospital donations. Our emergency departments are stretched to the limits and our hospitals are among the oldest in the city.

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Thanks to recent provincial investments and your backing, we can do right by the people of Scarborough. We can build up Scarborough hospitals to a level equal to the incredible people who live and work here.

Your donations will improve our facilities, expand our capabilities, and offer more care to more people with fewer barriers.

Our care needs your care. We need you to back us up.

# Love, Scarborough

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## SPECIAL FEATURE



# SHN Foundation Tamil Radiothon back again to bring community together for a great cause



On Saturday June 11th, the Tamil community will once again come together to support healthcare in Scarborough through the Tamil Radiothon co-presented by CTCC and Nava Wilson LLP and in partnership with CMR 101.3FM. Last year through the Tamil Radiothon the community came together to raise almost \$300,000 from a goal of \$50,000 for the Scarborough Health Network Foundation.

“We were honoured to support the inaugural Tamil Radiothon as co-chairs and back again this year. We have always believed in the true potential from the Tamil community and this event has displayed the community spirit. We are looking forward to another successful event with the community’s support. Sritharan Thurairajah & Logan Velumailum, Co-Chairs, SHNF Tamil Radiothon.

This year the community is rallying to raise over \$300,000 and a future goal of 1 million dollars for the hospital. Proceeds from the Radiothon will support SHN’s highest priorities, like the treatment of chronic kidney disease, heart disease, accessible care for Seniors through the GAIN clinic, and the new Community Mental Health Clinic.

A key priority within SHN Foundation’s Love, Scarborough campaign is innovating cardiac care. SHN’s Cardiac Care Program is a regional Cardiac



Kubes Navaratnam - Nava Wilson LLP

Centre for Scarborough-West Durham region, with 750 patients being treated each year in the Coronary Care Unit (CCU).

Launched in January, the Love, Scarborough campaign is an open letter to Toronto from Scarborough asking them to “back us up”. It sheds light on the healthcare inequities faced in Scarborough, one of Canada’s most diverse communities. Particularly prevalent is the high incidence of CKD due to the cultural and ethnic makeup, with SHN serving a “diabetes hotspot”. Events like the Tamil Radiothon support access to treatment, prevention, and education for chronic disease.



Malliha Wilson - Nava Wilson LLP

This year’s co-presenting sponsors include SHN Foundation community partners, CTCC and Nava Wilson LLP.

“On behalf of Canadian Tamils’ Chamber of Commerce (CTCC), we are proud to be the co-presenting sponsors of the second annual Tamil Radiothon. The CTCC has a long-standing relationship with SHN and are committed to give back to our community. Many of our businesses, clients and customers live or work in Scarborough and use the Scarborough Health Network services and we are looking forward to supporting another successful event.”

Vina Devadas, President of CTCC  
“As a Scarborough business, Nava Wilson LLP is proud to be the co-pre-



Vina Devadas - CTCC President

senting sponsor for the upcoming SHN Foundation Tamil Radiothon. Supporting healthcare in Scarborough enables us to ensure we are strengthening our community and closing the gap between inequity. We will continue to support SHN Foundation and the Love Scarborough campaign through events like the Tamil Radiothon” Kubes Navaratnam, Managing Partner and Malliha Wilson, Senior Counsel at Nava Wilson LLP

Donations can be made in 3 ways, through the website [shnfoundation.ca/tamil](http://shnfoundation.ca/tamil), in person at one of the drop off centres on June 11 (for a full list visit the radiothon website), or by calling in on June 11th from 8 AM-8 PM at 416-431-8152 or 1-844-224-3863.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://shnfoundation.ca/Tamil).

**Co-presented by CTCC & Nava Wilson LLP**







## Province announces New Birchmount Hospital and more investments at SHN

Premier Doug Ford and Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Christine Elliott, joined Scarborough Health Network (SHN) staff and physicians, and MPPs from across Scarborough, at Birchmount Hospital on Thursday, April 14 to announce an over \$1 billion investment in several major redevelopment and expansion projects for SHN. These investments in the organization provide an essential step on their path to redevelop and grow SHN so that they are able to meet the needs of the Scarborough community on into the future.

SHN provides care to over 800,000 people in one of Canada's most diverse communities, and as Scarborough and the surrounding communities continue to grow, so will the demand for health care services. To build the necessary capacity to meet this demand, SHN is working with the government on

several projects that, through a phased approach, will redesign and reimagine aging hospital facilities for the people of Scarborough.

This includes an additional \$3 million to plan a massive expansion to the Birchmount Hospital that will double its current capacity.

As part of the first phase, planning is underway to build a new, state-of-the-art inpatient tower with more than 200 new beds, 14 new operating rooms and additional space to support future growth. Once completed, Birchmount Hospital is planned to have over 450 beds.

Health care services at the hospital are also planned to be expanded as part of the redevelopment, including medicine, surgery, critical and emergency care, mental health and addictions care and stroke and rehabilitation care. With these enhanced services, Scarbor-

ough Health Network will be able to provide high-quality care to patients for generations to come.

Other projects include:

- Continuing the expansion of emergency services at Centenary Hospital
- Funding a chronic kidney disease program at the new Bridle-towne Neighbourhood Centre
- Modernizing surgical services and expanding diagnostic imaging services at our General Hospital

SHN appreciates this show of support from their partners in government and look forward to the monumental changes to come as they continue shaping the future of care in Scarborough.





# RBC Presents Festival of Colours Event to Celebrate South Asian Culture and Raise Funds for Markham Stouffville Hospital

## Colourful evening to raise awareness and funds for Markham Stouffville Hospital's child and adolescent mental health services

MARKHAM, ON (May 5, 2022) – On Saturday, May 14, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation's Festival of Colours presented by RBC will celebrate the vibrant South Asian culture while raising money for child and adolescent mental health care at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH).

MSH Foundation is proud to partner once again with leaders from the South Asian community for an evening of scintillating entertainment and delicious Indian cuisine, with a featured performance by Bollywood singer Shradha Pandit.

Approximately 450 guests will gather to help destigmatize and shed light on mental health awareness in our diverse community. Funds raised will enable the expansion and enhancement of the child and adolescent programs within the Gulshan & Pyarali G. Nanji Mental Health Services to help reduce wait times, ensure more youth can access more timely care, and improve the quality of life for our community's children, youth, and families. Lead donors for the event are the Gulshan & Pyarali G. Nanji Family Foundation. To make a donation visit [support.mshf.on.ca/festivalofcolours2022](http://support.mshf.on.ca/festivalofcolours2022).

**Where: Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites, 8500 Warden Ave., Markham, ON**



**When: Saturday, May 14, 2022**  
**Doors open at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Performance and welcome at 7 p.m.**  
**Patient speaker at 9 p.m.**  
**Shradha Pandit performance at 10 p.m.**



**Who: The Hon. Helena Jaczek, MP Markham-Stouffville**  
**Chairman Wayne Emmerson, CEO, The Regional Municipality of York**  
**Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton, City of Markham**  
**Mayor Iain Lovatt, Town of Witchurch-Stouffville**  
**Jo-anne Marr, President and CEO, Oak Valley Health**  
**Suzette Strong, CEO, MSH Foundation**  
**Dr. Rustom Sethna, Chief of Psychiatry, Oak Valley Health, and event committee member**  
**Teresa Givelas, Patient Care Manager, outpatient mental health services**  
**Imtiaz Seyid, Event Co-Chair & Board Member, MSH Foundation**  
**Indu Bains, Event Co-Chair**







## SPECIAL FEATURE

# 10 Places in Toronto You're Pronouncing Completely Wrong

The language learning platform Preply has used Google search data to reveal a list of the most mispronounced Toronto places and how you actually pronounce them.

Some places are super simple to get right, but good luck with these lesser-known towns in Toronto. Unfortunately, how to pronounce Toronto's streets, neighbourhoods, and destinations that make up our everyday vocabulary - is much more complicated than it should be.

To determine the most challenging places in Toronto to pronounce, Preply compared Google search data around correct pronunciation.

The ranking of the top 10 places features the most challenging places to pronounce, analyzing a list of 26 places.

Let's see if you're pronouncing these places correctly:

### 1. Toronto

**Correct:** tuh-ronno

**Incorrect:** toe-ron-toe

It's not "tor-ahn-toe," it's Toronno. Or Churrano. Pronouncing the second "T" in Toronto sounds pretentious, and it's a dead giveaway that you don't live in Toronto.

### 2. Geoffrey

**Correct:** jeh-free

**Incorrect:** gee-off-free

Moving over to the west end of Toronto, Geoffrey is another residential street name pronounced differently than how you spell it. Don't pronounce Geoffrey with a beginning "Geo" like Geoff, nor is the "Ji" sound like "George." Instead, Geoffrey pronounced with a beginning "Jeh" like "Jeffery."

### 3. Etobicoke

**Correct:** et-toh-bee-co

**Incorrect:** et-a-ba-co-key

The "k" is silent. We know you've lived here long enough to say "Etobico" instead of pronouncing it Etobi-COKE. (Also, home of the first-ever Colonel Sam Smith Skating Trail in Toronto). The Etobicoke name with its bizarre silent "k" is derived from the Ojibwe word "wadoopikaang," which refers to a place where alder trees grow.

### 4. Yonge

**Correct:** young

**Incorrect:** YUN-ji

It's pronounced Young Street. Please don't make it Yonj St. or try to make it rhyme with "sponge." The Guinness Book of Records once stated Yonge Street as the longest street in the world!

### 5. Wellesley

**Correct:** WELLZ-ly

**Incorrect:** well-LESS-ly

Wellesley is a downtown Toronto



artery with its subway station. If you are a TTC commuter in Toronto, it will be hard to avoid this word: WELLZ-ly. Not WellLESS-ly.

### 6. Grosvenor

**Correct:** gro-vner

**Incorrect:** gross-vee-nor

Okay, 'fess up. Some of you pronounce it Gross-vee-nor, but can we agree that the "s" is silent and should sound like Grov-ner? Let's all pretend to be English and say "gro-vner" almost like 'guv-ner'!

### 7. The Esplanade

**Correct:** thuh esplan-aad

**Incorrect:** thuh esplan-AID

So, be honest. Do you call it Esplan-AID rather than its proper name, Esplan-aad?

### 8. Strachan

**Correct:** strawn

**Incorrect:** strak-en

The name of this street running from the lake to Trinity Bellwoods Park is Strawn — not Strack-an, according to Heritage Toronto. Rhymes with yawn.

### 9. Spadina

**Correct:** spuh-dee-nah

**Incorrect:** puh-die-nah

Most Torontonians pronounce Spadina as "spuh-die-nah," but the funny thing is that you should pronounce it

as "spuh-dee-nah." That's the historical pronunciation of it anyway!

### 10. Roncesvalles

**Correct:** rawn-SES-vay-yez

**Incorrect:** rawn-SEZ-vales

Some say Rawn-sez-valls; others insist that it ends with "vale." Others give up and call it Roncy. It's a Spanish word that got shifted over here. Try this on for size: Rrrrrrrawn-ses-vay-yez.

Emphasis is added to dominant syllables.

Source: <https://preply.com/>

Amy Pritchett, Learning Success Manager at Preply, said:

"There's nothing more embarrassing than getting to a new city and mispronouncing its name in front of a local—especially if you butcher the regional accent.

To avoid that awkward encounter, we've researched the most commonly mispronounced places in Toronto so you never have to worry about these tongue twisters again.

I encourage you to sound like a native—or at least a savvy tourist—when you learn to say these place names correctly."

### Methodology:

To determine the most challenging places in Toronto to pronounce, Preply compared searches on Google around

correct pronunciation.

The ranking of the top 10 places features the most challenging places to pronounce, analyzing a list of 26 places.

Google Search data reveals Toronto places people are asking about "How to pronounce PLACE" most often by looking at the Average Monthly Search volume on Google Keyword Tool in the past year.

You can find the complete data set and imagery here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Mispronounced%20Toronto%20Places>  
via: <https://preply.com/> - Please contact [amy.pritchett@preply.com](mailto:amy.pritchett@preply.com) if you would like a bespoke quote from Preply.

### About Preply:

Preply is a global language learning marketplace, connecting 140,000 tutors with tens of thousands of students worldwide.

Founded in 2012 and backed by some of the world's leading investors, Preply is on a mission to shape the future of effective learning. Fueled by a belief that live engagement with a teacher is still the most effective way to learn a new skill, Preply builds a personalized learning space that will enable individual learners to reach their goals in the fastest way possible.





# Can an Aircraft just fall From Sky While on a Powered Flight? So What Happened to China's Eastern Flight 5735 on the 23rd of March

I am sure millions of people would / could have watched it on live television, “a free fall for an aircraft from the sky“ an unusual phenomenon. When I was looking at, it was a nosedive that reminded me of the “Kamikaze Pilots“ from Japan in ww 2. This was steeper, almost perpendicular to the earth and had never seen one like this. A regional flight of 2 hours operated



by Boeing 737 800 aircraft, 6 years old, a precursor to 737 MAX which had some issues. A workhorse with most of the airlines worldwide, 4320 aircrafts are in service and one of the most popular version of Boeing, for short and medium haul flights, had the pleasure of flying at least 6 times yearly for almost 17 years, safe aircraft at all times. On this calamitous day this flight took off at 1.10 pm from Kunming to Guangzhou, reached 29,000 feet at 1.25 pm and was cruising, then all of a sudden without any warning it started to nose dive. This caused all 132 people on board to die instantaneously for no fault of their own other than being in that aircraft on that day which was their crime. There was no mechanical failure or emergency reported, no smoke or fire from the aircraft, no electrical failure or May Day call. After this crash the statements from Boeing, NTSB, FAA, and other aviation experts categorically state that this aircraft had all the safety features to prevent a free fall of this nature, personally qualify this statement by saying “provided this aircraft was in the hands of emotionally balanced pilots”. After analyzing these statements, am convinced to a certain degree, human fallacy caused this crash. Black Box and CVR tapes will enlighten all our doubts, but must not forget the fact that we are dealing with a country, which is behind an iron curtain.

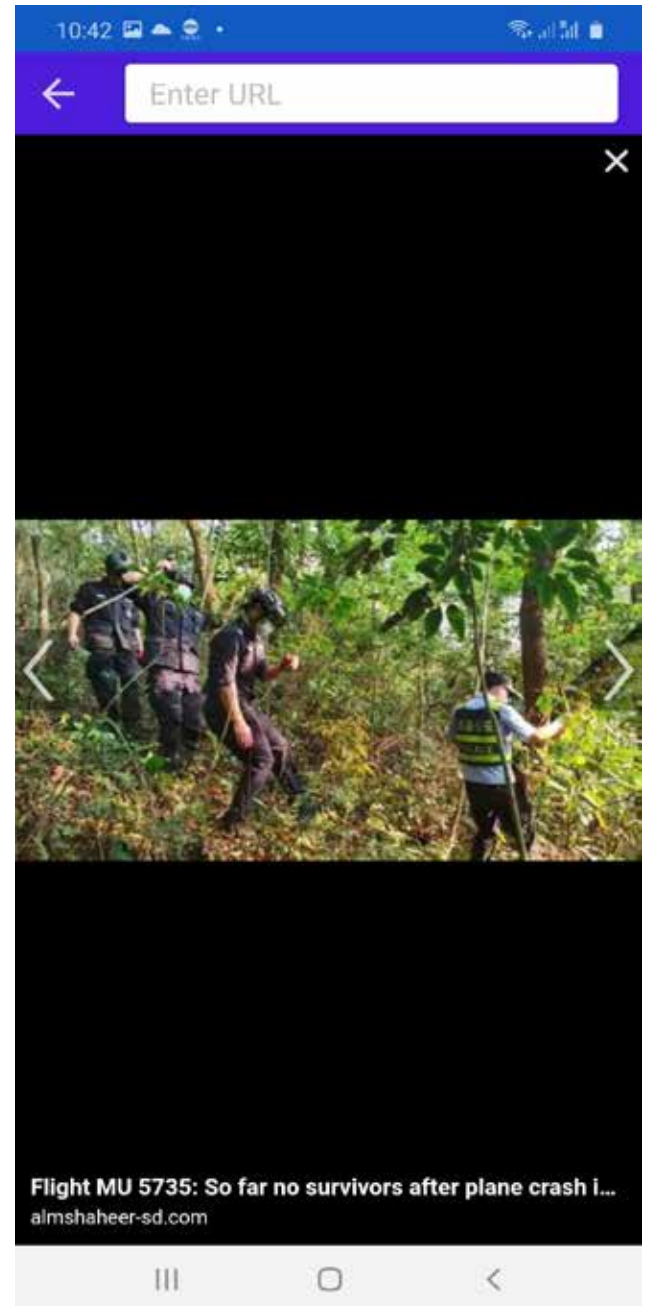


But Boeing will tell the truth from the tapes and the FAA to safe guard their interests. Recently I received surprising and shocking information from the first Jet flight engineer of Sri Lanka. This is purported to be from a highly placed party source or from China

Eastern's public security system, Quote “I am going down, don't know whether it is hell or heaven“ supposed to be the last words from the cockpit of the doomsday aircraft. Based on this the Co-pilot of this flight, was on a suicidal revenge. He, (A former senior Captain) Zhang Zhengping's was a meritorious pilot and captain of Yunnan airlines but after the merger with China Eastern, this particular captain was demoted as a co-pilot and was 61 years old. The captain of this flight was Yang Hongda, an apprentice of Zhang had around 6,500 hours of flying. Zhang, co-pilot had more than 31,000 hours, it further states the security people from China Eastern were notified of this commotion in the cockpit. Further it clearly states how Zhang caused this crash that was clearly heard in Guangzhou and Yunnan control towers which prompted the airline security people to visit the hotel of Zhang 20 minutes after the crash where they supposed to have found a note left by Zhang to warrant his heinous act. It is interesting to say in China, if you want to become a pilot you must have a real party connection and once in, to become a captain another higher party level push should be there.

Further from this message I could clearly see that the co-pilot had a cruel hand in this crash as an act of revenge to justify his cruel treatment at the hands of the airline management. I remember reading an article that a Captain's remuneration in China is almost 4 times greater than of a co-pilot. Zhang had been a meritorious captain, was demoted to a co-pilot, had a great loss of his pay and other privileges which could have caused his suicidal action. According to a captain of Chinese descent who is based in Hongkong, the party faithfuls have a lot of say in these appointments. Your merits or ability does not count. Zhang was treated badly by the China Eastern soon after its merger in 2021. Co-pilot Zhang felt humiliated by this treatment considering his age and also being well a qualified pilot. This would have depressed and pushed him in an act of revenge. His reasoning for this kind of act will not justified. But in depression any reasoning negates everything. His action has no merits.

This reminds me of an analogy which happened in Sri Lanka in 1971 just before I joined the national carrier Air Ceylon. An action, not of this magnitude since that pilot had a golden heart, I had known him personally, but clearly displayed the pilot's depression and frustration with the management. The only Jet aircraft that was in operation then was Hawker Sidley's Trident which operated international flights Colombo-Kuala- Lumpur, Singapore, Bangkok and Bombay. Only two captains always flew in command and did not want others to be checked out as captains. Few were flying as co-pilots for a very long time which really frustrated them. But one



was not put off particularly by this kind behaviour. On a flight to Singapore in 1971 after the flight landed, the co-pilot supposed to have vanished in to thin air and was not available for the return flight. The flight was delayed by two days till Air Ceylon flew out another co-pilot to operate the flight back to Colombo, which did cost the airline lots of money. This co-pilot joined Air Siam and flew with them till he joined Singapore Airlines. I am sure Zhang could not go down this lane, would have ended up in labour camps. What he did, cannot be justified under any norms. Knowing China's track record any information is a “doctored one” only a “so called truth“. The hierarchy should not engage in this kind of management activities and put the lives of the innocent passengers at the hands pilots who become suicidal by their depressed mental state. The airline industry of China will suffer always by this kind of autocratic management even though the CCAA has a very good safety record. The general public will be petrified to fly with this kind of management atmosphere which resulted in the “Flight of Vengeance.”

**K.N. Sivagnanasunderam (Blue)**  
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# Be Generous with your Kindness



People talk about world peace; people look at me like, “Okay, tell us about world peace, and fix all the problems.” And I’m like, “No, I can’t fix any problems—because the way it works is, at first, you find your peace. First, you find your peace—and then, make peace with the world—and then you will have world peace.”

And whether or not there is world peace, at least you need to make peace with yourself. Because that’s the fundamental step. So, before you can even begin to tackle the job of making peace with yourself, the question is, “Who are you? What are you?” What are we all about? What are our fundamental basics? And one thing that we all share in common—that we all want to be content. We want to be happy; we want to feel good.

It doesn’t matter what you call it. It’s this state of being in which we find ourselves to be us, and we are happy with it. It isn’t built upon ideas and theories and philosophies and all of this stuff—but just that you feel good. You feel good! Because you feel good and you feel good from the inside, not psychologically.

That you indeed have a strength—and, talk about emotion.... When do we become emotionally strong? We can only become emotionally strong when we’re strong within ourselves.

Otherwise, emotions eat us apart: “Does my friend like me; does my dad like me; does my mom like me?” And then we just run the game of seeking approval—approval from this world, approval from our friends, approval from our parents, approval, approval—and in this process of finding approval we uproot

ourselves.

And then? We’re lost. Having everything, and we’re lost. The goodness that resides in us becomes dormant.

It’s very simple. If you take a field—if you take a field and leave it be, don’t do anything to it, what do you suppose is going to happen? Things will grow—but what will grow is weeds. And maybe somebody, seeing that there are weeds growing; nobody is using the land, they will start to throw trash in there too. And the situation of the land will deteriorate.

However, even going through this whole process of being dumped on, weeds growing, has that land ever lost its potential for growing beautiful flowers, pure beautiful vegetables, or a beautiful crop? No, that potential is still there—and how does the potential return? The potential returns as soon as somebody starts to take care of it, take out the weeds.

People don’t want to know themselves. People don’t want to understand who they are. And when I say “who you are,” it’s not about your personality. It’s not about your likes and dislikes. It’s not about your ideas—it’s not even about your dreams.

You see, because your dreams are going to change. Your dreams are going to change! Your ideas are going to change; your circumstances are going to change—but who truly you are, you are not going to change.

Your body is going to change. The way you look at your body is going to change. Your stamina is going to change. Your friends are going to change. What you think is hip is going to change—your

fashion is going to change. But who you truly are is not going to change.

So I say to you, that “Who are you?” Fifty percent bad. (Sorry.) Exactly fifty percent—not forty-nine/fifty-one—exactly fifty percent, you’re really bad. That’s the bad news. The good news is, fifty percent? Good. Very good. Amazingly good, incredibly good.

What do you think of that? “Fifty percent bad; fifty percent good.” Because the fear is in you, and that’s the bad—and courage is in you; that’s the good. Confusion is in you, and that is the bad, and clarity is in you, and that is the good. War is in you; that is the bad, and peace is in you; that is the good. In you. Your fear comes wherever you go. Your disappointment comes wherever you go—it’s just always there. They are all over you.

But—knowing yourself is understanding not only the bad, but understanding the good. Because most people, when they would talk to me sometimes, they say, “You know, I get angry very easily.” They have understood their bad—but they have not understood their good.

Because I have to point out to them that “If you can get angry, that means you have something else too—and that is, forgiveness, joy, is also there.” When I say, “Know yourself,” that’s exactly what I mean—you know your bad; you haven’t felt your good yet—but it’s there.

I want you to understand that it is there. And you can get in touch with it. You don’t need to get in touch with your bad—because you are very familiar with it, right? But are you familiar with the good?

Let me tell you something. In this life, understanding and knowing that the good is in you—and not accepting the failure.... This is the core; this is the foundation of emotional strength, physical strength, mental strength. Clarity—that’s what clarity is: “The good in you and the bad in you, both are there wherever you go.”

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, has to be in life, to perpetuate the good, the kindness, the generosity. The clarity.

Generosity isn’t giving money out to people. Generosity existed before money was invented. Generosity begins with being generous with the kindness that you have. Kindness. Understanding that every human being on the face of this earth is just like you—nobody is better and nobody is worse.

There is a possibility here in this life—and this is the real possibility. And the possibility is—like against all odds, you learnt how to walk, failed, but never accepted a failure....

It’s up to you. That’s my suggestion. That’s what living this life without accepting the failures is about—to consciously make a choice. To understand that the possibility of peace is here with you—always has been, always will be—that the peace is inside of you, even as you walk this world.

Whatever you do and wherever you go and whatever happens and how dire the circumstances are, the peace is still inside of you.

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## SPECIAL FEATURE



# Benevolent King Valvil Ori

By Kumar Punithavel



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

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

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

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

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

**To beg is bad even from the good;  
To give is good, where heaven forbid.**

நல்லாறெனினுங்கொளல் தீது மேலுலகம்  
இல்லெனினும் ஈதலே நன்று

However, frequently learned poets, with their literary knowledge while taking teaching as

a profession, when in need of money they go and praise the benevolent wealthy and get funded. In this case Kalaithin yanaiar begins the poem mentioning it is a shame to beg and further it is shamer to refuse when having enough wealth to help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**It is shame to ask for alms, as opposed,  
It is shameful to refuse alms.  
It is worthy to offer alms, as opposed,  
It is worthier to refuse what is offered.  
A roaring ocean with clear water nearby,  
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Cows and horses stirred by drinking  
Made turbid and muddy, though dirty  
There will be many tracks towards it to drink  
Omens and bad times will be blamed, not  
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thundering and lighting sky,  
Generously thee pour your gifts endlessly.**

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புறநானூறு 204, பாடியவர்: கழைதினயானையார்,  
பாடப்பட்டோன்: வல்வில்ஓரி, திணை: பாடாண், துறை:  
பரிசில்

ஈனனிரத்தல்இழிந்தன்று, அதன்எதிர்  
ஈயென்னன்றல்அதனினும்இழிந்தன்று,  
கொள்ளனக்கொடுத்தல்உயர்ந்தன்று, அதன்எதிர்  
கொள்ளேன்னன்றல்அதனினும்உயர்ந்தன்று,  
தெண்ணீர்ப்பரப்பின்இமிழ்திரைப்பெருங்கடல்

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உண்ணார்ஆகுபநீர்வேட்டோரே,  
ஆவும்மாவும்சென்றுஉணக்கலங்கிச்  
சேறோடுபட்டசிறுமைத்துஆயினும்,  
உண்ணீர்மருங்கின்அதர்பலஆகும்  
புள்ளும்பொழுதும்பழித்தல்அல்லதை  
உள்ளிச்சென்றோர்பழியலர், அதனால்  
புலவேன், வாழியர்ஓரி, விசும்பின்  
கருவிவானம்போல  
வரையாதுசுரக்கும்வள்ளியோய்நின்னே.

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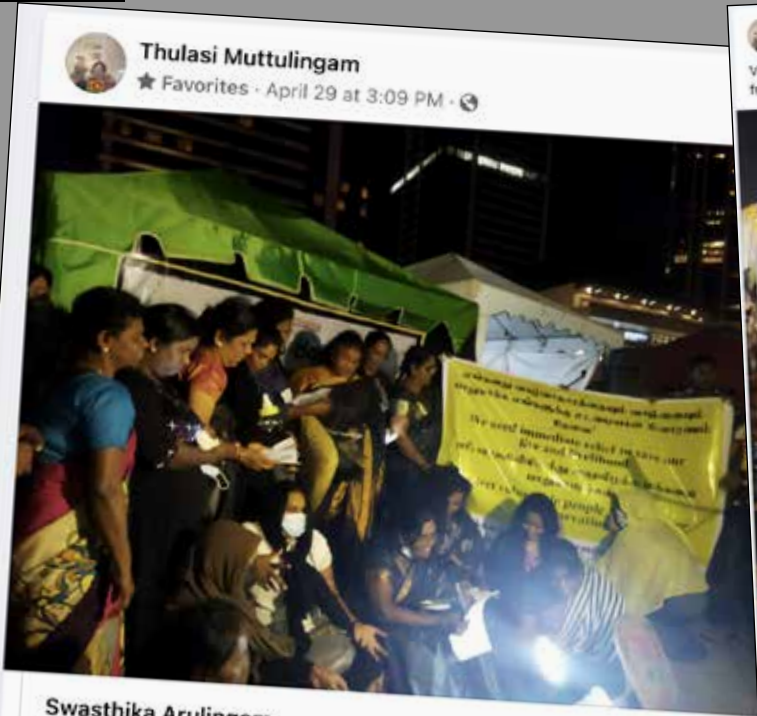




BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM

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Timeline Now Status Photo / Video Event, Milestone + Create Page



**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 29 at 3:09 PM

**Swasthika Arulingam**  
April 29 at 12:00 PM

Women from Batticaloa performing the oppaari in Gota Gama now. Oppaari is a song sung at funerals. Today the women sing the oppaari lamenting the cost of living and the state of the country.



**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 18 at 8:39 AM

Very proud of all my friends, including my socially anxious introvert friends, out at the protests

**Siddarth Abimanyu** is at Gotagagama.  
April 18 at 7:34 AM - Colombo, Sri Lanka

Did My #civic #duty  
#gohomegota2022  
#gohomerajapaksa  
#gohomekaputas  
#occupygotaface  
#SriLankaCrisis



**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 14 at 8:04 AM

**Lekshitha Jayawardhana**  
April 13 at 6:04 PM

Happy new year .....?  
(Photo rights - owned by original owner.)



**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 11 at 3:12 PM

**Sujeewa Pathmasiri**  
April 11 at 9:17 AM

More than the most beautiful day of life, you may feel that it is more important to make the future to live beautiful. First trip to the battlefield



**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 11 at 4:07 AM

**Kasunsala Gimhani**

**Nalini De Silva** is with **Kasunsala Gimhani**  
April 9 at 9:19 AM

Kasunsala Gimhani poet doctor lady. When I saw this photo of yours, I thought how not to write a poem. Makes so much sense ... In the name of love that should be shared instead of hugging....

The struggle is not only for me but for your daughter. For the sound of their tomorrow. Even though iron is tied to the song in the heart Take this flower from the heart for the name of fragrance

The heart that heard with a tube in the heart is for the night To the rhythm of wetting the eyes with tears So mom and dad, let's not worry, a breath will be hot. We are on the road for all of you, for the struggle of life.

#GoHomeGota2022



**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 10 at 9:05 AM

**Lakmali Hemachandra**  
April 10 at 9:01 AM

In 1956 when the Sinhala Only Act was passed leftist parties in the parliament opposed it. The decision to get rid of the coloniser's language should have been a revolutionary day. Yet, there was a black mark left on it.

1956 was a turning point in Sri Lankan history. It meant freedom from the imperialist hold over the country. It meant development and sovereignty.

It should have been the start of a nation building project. But the contradiction of our nation was born in 1956. Tamil Speaking minorities were excluded from the idea of our nation and continues to be excluded.

Looking at the Bandaranayake statue amidst the protesters we can only imagine what could have been if we were able to not divide but unite this nation.

Now as we face a political crisis born out of indebtedness we have the chance to start a new nation building project. One for a free nation...free from debt and poverty, that belongs to all it's people. Let's start all over again.

Picture credits **Kalpa Rajapaksha**



**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 10 at 10:57 PM

**Jiva Jehanathan Parthipan**  
April 8 at 4:38 AM

A paan handler (buleth is Sinhala) from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India has kindly donated 20,000 Indian Rupees towards the welfare of Sri Lankan people to the Sri Lankan government. Thank you kindly sir and god bless you.

இந்தியாவில் இருந்து யாசகர் ஒருவர் நிதி நெருக்கடியில் சிக்கியவர்களை இலங்கை அரசுக்கு நிவாரணமாக வழங்குவதற்கு தான் யாசகம் பெற்று ரேலித் தொகையில் 20,000 இந்திய ரூபாயை மதுரை மாவட்ட ஆட்சியாளரிடம் ஒப்படைத்தார்.

நல் வாழ்த்துக்கள் ஐயா. கடவுள் உங்களை ஆசீர்வதிக்கட்டும்.

**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 9 at 2:48 PM

**Shanuki De Alwis**  
April 8 at 3:08 AM

I'm going to share an unpopular opinion here, because I see us getting into the ugly stage of divisions again. "If you're not with us, you're against us" is the shitty mentality that politics has always capitalized on. Cancel cultures are toxic. If some people are not protesting and just minding their own business it doesn't confirm that they are govt supporters, it could simply mean they choose not to get involved, and that's ok. There are also those who can't speak because they would compromise on their jobs or employer policies, which at this point nobody can afford to do. If they ARE government supporters, that's also ok. A democracy means people are allowed to believe and support who or what they individually wish to. It's pretty unhealthy for us to demand that everyone sees it our way, or to punish someone for having a different view or experience than us. If you want more people to consider your stance, then you have to educate and have discussions, not isolate them. If they prefer a different choice, then that's on them but it's also their right to make their own choices.

There's no 'us Vs. them' here. Unity and tolerance are what is breaking the curse of the Pohottu strategies. Don't turn against each other and start more in-fighting because we can't be big enough to agree to disagree and move on.

Feel free to stone me now, but I know I'm right on this one. Keep. The. Peace.

#gohomegota

**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - April 11 at 3:58 AM

**Shanuki De Alwis**  
April 11 at 2:23 AM

The government is trying to twist the narrative that this is all about electricity, fuel and gas.

No, dudes. This is about the Rajapaksas. It has always been about the Rajapaksas.

The Rajapaksas who are directly and solely responsible for -

1. Gross mismanagement of the economy
2. Human rights violations and war crimes
3. Abuse of power
4. Missing/ disappeared persons
5. Racism and Ethno-religious conflict
6. Suppression of media freedom
7. Corruption, misappropriation of public funds and money laundering
8. Illegal land grabs and illegal deforestation
9. My blood boiling

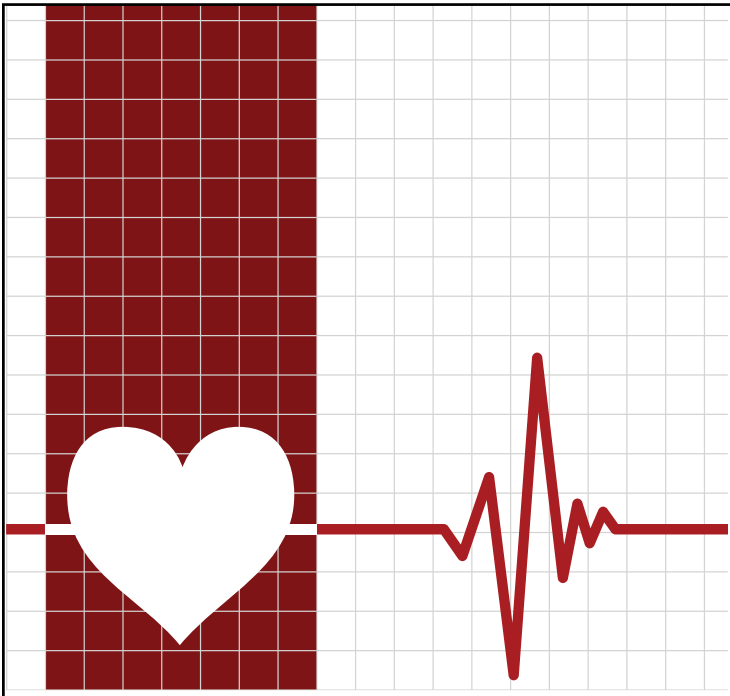
The demand is very simple. Not sure you've noticed. It's clearly #GoHomeGota2022 and #gohomerajapaksas

The media needs to note this when they're reporting on what the govt. version is. Tell the world both sides of the story, please. That's your job.



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## SPECIAL FEATURE

# American SIGN LANGUAGE influence in Indian classical dance BHARATANATYAM



Bharatanatyam signs by Suryakala Chandrika

time I was exposed to this language and was left fascinated. When I decided to research American Sign Language and how Bharathanatyam can impact it, I started learning my sign language at George Brown College, Toronto. At that time, my teacher always asked questions in sign language, but I most of the time struggled to answer and was automatically confused with the hand gestures in Bharathanatyam. In my class, few students cannot hear, and most of them can listen to and speak. After viewing my gestures, they also got interested to learn Bharathanatyam gestures.

American Sign Language consists of different variations of

**B**haratanatyam and American Sign Language are two different areas. When looking at both require hands-on practice to master the skills and techniques. American Sign Language, also referred to as ASL, can be considered an aesthetic beauty just like Bharathanatyam, which incorporates the use of body and facial expression to communicate. Once a person starts to grasp the basic concepts of American Sign Language, they will be able to relate to Bharatanatyam. A particular idea in American Sign Language is the movements of eyebrows. To convey the different meanings, for example, raising the eyebrows when asking questions that start with what? “, when sighing “who,” the eyebrows are brought together towards the center point in-between the eyebrows. The use of the body as a method of communication and a means to express oneself to one another is the key concept that brings the flavor to combine both areas.

### Importance of American Sign Language

The effect of learning any one language is not only for the personal benefit, but it will add an experience another side of this earth. America is well-known as the melting pot for a reason, and with culture everywhere, it is damage not to be more aware and involved. Learning American Sign Language will not only be educational, but significantly one can experience joy.

From the beginning of humanity, people from all races and ethnicities have

been taught and learned many different languages to communicate with each other. Hypothetically, most languages are exercised through words that are created from the vocal cords and emitted from the mouth. This type of language requires the listener to hear the words that are coming from the speaker.



American Sign Language

However, there are some cases where the “listener” isn’t listening. In other words, the person trying to interpret the words is usually deaf and can’t hear the speaker. These situations are the exact reason sign language should be taught in school systems so that more people can quickly and gracefully interact with deaf individuals.

Learning a new language is the key that unlocks so many doors and opens your perspective in life. Each language has its beauty. If you held the same background with sign language, it could be said that sign language is the language of dance or language of inner feelings. Sign language is a visual language that turns the shapes of hands in words and facial expressions into emotions; it does not communicate with sound. I can vividly recall the first

the body. Typically the upper body is used to make gestures and signals to each other, which form words until sentences or phrases are created. This repetition of movements is continued between both individuals until their “conversation” is finished, just like a normal conversation. In addition, sign language can be taught and learned through this same process. At a particular grade, schools recommend their students to take a foreign language class for them to either graduate or move on to the next grade level.

A combination of both dance and American Sign Language can become a form of communication for students with disability. This is a new, arising topic in Bharatanatyam, and there are not many scholarly articles to support this paper. This article will be based on my observations on American Sign Language studies at George Brown College and throughout my studies on Bharatanatyam at various institutions and Universities.

### Suryakala Chandrika

PhD Research Scholar at Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram, Tamil-Nadu, under the guidance of Dr. N. Muthukumar (Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Faculty of Arts)





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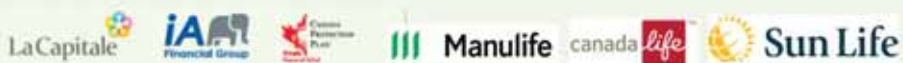
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## Former YRDSB Chair seeking to bring more vigorous representation for residents of Ward 7 in the City of Markham

May 2, 2022 – Markham, On  
Juanita Nathan, former Chair and  
current York Region District School  
Board (YRDSB) trustee, is seeking  
to become the next Councillor for  
Ward 7 in the City of Markham.

“After consulting with my family,  
friends and residents in the commu-  
nity, I have decided to bring my ad-  
vocacy towards local issues forward  
at the city level and run for Ward  
7 Councillor in the 2022 Municipal  
Election” said Juanita Nathan in  
announcing her intention to run in  
the municipal elections scheduled  
for October.

“As a long-time resident of Ward  
7, I am committed to build strong,  
safe, and inclusive communities by  
ensuring services delivered to resi-  
dents of this Ward are equitable and  
fiscally sound” added Ms. Nathan.

Juanita has over a decade of  
experience in public service repre-  
senting the interests of residents  
in Markham. Juanita has been a  
YRDSB Trustee since 2010 and has  
served as the Vice-Chair and Chair  
during her tenure. In addition to her  
role as a Trustee, she is a Com-  
munity Support Worker and Fam-  
ily Counsellor at a Social Service  
Agency in York Region. A graduate  
of Brock University, a recipient of  
Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for



Service, Juanita is a change agent  
and known for her service in the  
community, including on boards of  
the Canadian Mental Health Asso-  
ciation – York & Simcoe, Markham  
Tamil Organization and several  
other community organizations.

“I have had the honour and priv-  
ilege of serving our community as a  
Trustee for three terms. Over these  
years, I have met with many resi-  
dents and heard their perspectives  
on a wide range of local matters that  
impact their daily lives,” said Ms.  
Nathan.

“In the coming months, I look for-  
ward to continued engagement with  
residents of Ward 7 and focusing on  
the local priorities that matter the  
most to our communities” concluded  
Ms. Nathan.

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# COOKING NOURISHING FOOD

C. Kamalaharan



Mahendran left home engaging in deep thought  
As regards purchasing his wife's items he ought  
And complying with her urgent request he bought  
All her items satisfying her as he happily brought

Are there any left behind items for us to cook  
Saying so he went around everywhere to look  
Finding nothing he went to the close by brook  
And pulled out enough water spinach to cook

His mistress all of a sudden sprang into action  
Began preparing the delicious curry in tension  
Hoping to serve it for the maximal satisfaction  
Of her hubby who proudly reveals his reaction

Just then on hearing the cycle bell ringing  
He went to find out a fish vendor arriving

Without delay he happily began choosing  
The fresh fish and then began purchasing

After his mistress cooked the tempting fishes  
He commenced eating the items as he relishes  
Accompanied by his kids and caring mistress  
Completely wiped out all the vessels of fishes

Having enjoyed a gratifying prelunch brunch  
They retired to beds after a sumptuous lunch  
In the evening they had cracker in one crunch  
As they bit the ripe apples with a loud crunch

Life as such has to be perfectly maintained  
With nourishable food it must be sustained  
Any form of complain must be ascertained  
And staying away from it must be refrained





## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Facing an Assembly with Courage



By: J.A. Rajah

**E**loquent men, who know the effective use of words, will never slip up in the orderly presentation of their case. Those who are really learned men among wise men, are capable of conducting an acceptable discourse in an assembly of the wise.

*“Kattarul kattar enappaduvar kattarmun,  
Katta cella cholluvar”*

“கற்றாருள் கற்றார் எனப்படுவர் கற்றார்முன்,  
கற்ற செலச்சொல்லு வார்”

There are many who are willing to die on the battlefield at the hands of the enemy, but only a few will face an audience without nerves. In an assembly of the learned, it is wise to present one's ideas in an acceptable way. In such a discourse, they would be able to absorb worthy thoughts from those more learned.

*“Aattin alavarinthu katka avayancha,  
Maatam koduthat porudu”*

“ஆற்றின் அளவறிந்து கற்க அவையஞ்சா,  
மாற்றங் கொடுத்தற் பொருட்டு”

One should be a Master of Science of logic and reasoning, to be ready with an apt retort in any context. Those who

have no courage in their hearts, have no use for the sword at all; so too are those who fear an assembly have no use for learning. The learning acquired by a person who cannot face a wise assembly, is like a shining sword in the hand of an eunuch. Even a wide spectrum of learning serves no purpose at all to a person, who cannot put his thoughts acceptably before an audience. Jesus said in the Bible inferred that a learned man who cannot communicate his thoughts to a worthwhile audience is obviously like the man who buried his talent. Even with all their learning, men, who are afraid to face an assembly of wise men, may be considered worse than ignorant men. Those who cannot convey their learned thoughts purposefully to an audience, because of fear, though they exist, they are good as dead. The vital trait that should accompany all learning is the faculty of eloquent speech, which will enable them to put across their learned thoughts to an assembly of learned men, without any fear or nervousness.

(Kural:721-730)



Valluvar's Views



# RESURRECTION AND ASSURANCE OF EVERLASTING LIFE



*By: JA Rajah*

Resurrection is the fulcrum of the Christian faith. Jesus rose on the third day fulfilling the prophecies. He is the only one to have triumphed over death. Death is the main wrecker of human beings and Jesus is the only one who faced death and reverted to life again. The resurrection is the very foundation of the Christian faith. If there is no resurrection, there would have been no Christianity. Resurrection is a historical fact. Professor Thomas Arnold of the University of Rugby said that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead raised Jesus to a matchless position in human history. The Easter season refers to the time from Jesus's death to the day of resurrection. It refers to the Jewish festival of Passover when which signifies the saving power of the blood of Christ, reminiscent of the happenings in Egypt when the Israelites were saved by the blood of the lamb painted on their doors.

## **A. Resurrection As Proof of His Divinity:**

Resurrection is the proof of the divinity of Christ. He was able to overcome the devil and bring back several others to life during his ministry. He was also able to control natural elements and heal the sick and the suffering. He was God and man in one and demonstrated to the world the way of living a holy life. He overcame his temptations and led a victorious life. That is why even after two thousand years, he is still the most influential man in the world. His message of salvation is taken to the nooks and corners of the world, and many have laid down their lives to his faith. More books are written, and more buildings are built to propagate his teachings and

humanitarian enterprises than any other man or faith.

Jesus's resurrection shows that we can rise from any kind of calamity. In St. John chapter 11 verse fourteen Jesus claims that he is the resurrection and the life. Though his blood any sin is forgiven. The weight of the sin lay heavily on the person who has committed it. It makes one feel helpless and lead to a life without peace of mind. Out of frustration, the sinner is forced to sin more and more. Jesus gave people an assurance that any sin can be forgiven, and the sinner can find peace and happiness. The love of God works wonderfully to cleanse us from the iniquities of sin.

## **B. The Power of the Resurrection:**

Many have found deliverance from the shackles of sin after hearing the wonderful story of Jesus's life and his resurrection from the dead. His story is still effective in changing the world. His message of redemption is taken to the needy in all parts of the world. The Canadian evangelical Association like many others, have been sending men and materials in acceptance of the command of Jesus who said, Go ye into the world to spread the tidings of great joy. St. Paul assured, "If Christ has not been raised, our faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." (1 Corinthians: 15,16). When we live according to the word of God, we are released from the burden of sin and we will be able to attain everlasting happiness,' He lives, He lives Christ Jesus lives today.

The episode of the resurrection reveals to us that the kingdom of God is ruled by a living sovereign. Jesus preached that the kingdom of God abides in us. When we are conscious of God abiding in us, we remember to lead blemish less victorious lives. We will be shielded from harm

and disaster. Jesus appeared in front of John after sixty years of his death in the island of Patmos and said, "I am the first and the last and the one living one, I was dead and behold I am alive for evermore. He is present with us to prompt and guide us. We should earnestly pray and keep in continuous touch with him, lest we go astray. Our souls are perpetually rejuvenated by the Holy Spirit that propels us always correct us. And that indeed is the resurgence-rekindled by the ever present God in us.

Jesus's redemption gives a new dimension to human lives. It proves that death is not the end of human existence. Every person who has lived loyal to his teachings can die with the hope that he or she will rise and live with him for ever. This is the glorious promise emanating from the victorious resurrected Christ. Jesus made it clear by his triumph over death that there is no end to the soul of man and that he or she will rise again. Eternal life is possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **C. The Blessed Assurance:**

With Jesus, there is always victory. Sin will have no power over man. Jesus is symbolised as the lamb that was slain that we could live again. Death, the fundamental human weakness was overcome by Jesus Christ.. He brought security and happiness and pave the way for eternal life. Jesus will care us of human frailties. Resurrection is a multi-effective word in the Christian vocabulary. It means rising above all problems-physical, mental, or spiritual. It is the culmination of human endeavours of living true to the teachings of Christ. Christ guarantees eternal life for all those who follow him. Apostle Paul describes our certain future as a 'new heaven and a new earth' (Revelation 21:1).





# Tamil New Year Could be More Scientific

Reinventing the Tamil Calendar is Necessary for the Benefit of Future Generations

By OUE Research Institute

Tamil's two major celebrations are Thai Pongal and Tamil New Year. These festivals are on the wrong dates based on astronomical science and natural seasons. It is because of the Tamil astrological calendar, which is based on the sidereal (sayana) method. Ancient Tamil's astrological contribution is outstanding. However, there is a correction necessary to avoid the seasons being out of phase with the natural phenomenon of the earth. This research article analyses the astronomical and astrological reasons behind it, how and why we do that, and what to do about it.

## INTRODUCTION

Tamil astrological calendar, the Mesha Sankranti marks the spring equinox (equi=equal, nox=night). Equinox occurs twice a year like the solstice. According to the Tamil astrological calendar, Tamil new year falls in the spring equinox (Mesha Sankranti) falls around April 14th at present as per the Gregorian calendar. However, there is an error in all these celebrations. If you follow the Hindu calendar, you notice that the dates of these festivals do not fall either on the correct dates of the seasons, or these fall on the accurate dates of the equinoxes and solstices.

## BACKGROUND

The invention of the first intelligent and accurate tropical calendar goes to the Egyptians, who invented the calendar some 6000 years ago. Today the scientific calendar that we use, the Gregorian calendar, is a modification of this ancient Egyptian calendar. The Egyptians could invent the tropical calendar for a straightforward reason. "By timing the Sirius's appearance exactly from year to year, Egyptian astronomers eventually realized that the solar year was one-fourth day longer than 365 days.

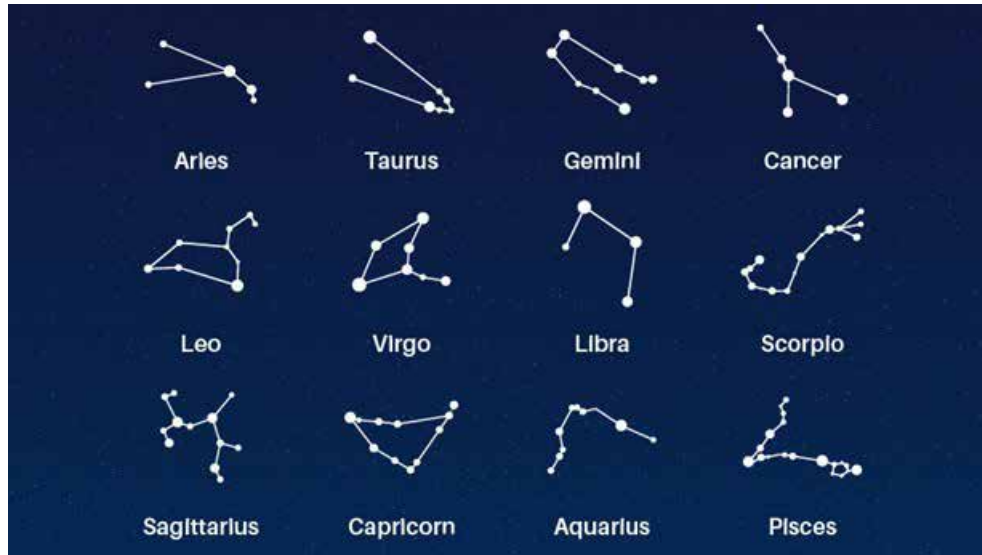
Egyptians also used pyramids to measure shadows to determine the coming of the equinoxes." (Calendar – D.E. Duncan pp 21). We note that this Egyptian calendar of 365 days and 6 hours is accurate up to 11 minutes to the present most scientific Gregorian calendar that we use today. We should say that it was an incredible accomplishment for the Neolithic civilization of Egypt 6000 years ago. (According to the modern scientific measurement, the Solar year is 365.24222 days (based on the Vernal equinox as reference). It is about 365 days, 5 hours, and 49 minutes. It also may be noted that the modern calendar, as we have it today, was only modified in 1574 CE by Pope Gregory. It may also be noted that this modification was suggested by Roger Bacon of England as back in 1267 CE. The reason for this required modification was the tropical year is also affected by another factor called the precession of the equinoxes.

## Gregorian Calendar

The Gregorian Calendar is widely used in the world today. The calendar used in the international standard for the term of dates and times: ISO 8601:2004. A solar calendar is based on a typical 365-day year divided into 12 months of irregular lengths. The solar year is measured by counting the period of the successful return of the earth to the same reference point on the ecliptic. However, we can measure it in two ways namely tropical year and sidereal year.

## Tropical Year

A tropical (nirayana) year (Gregorian calendar) is also known as an astronomical year, a solar



year, or an equinoctial year. It is, on average, approximately 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds long (365.24219 days). The tropical year reference point may be the 'equinox point. You measure the time from one spring equinox to the following spring equinox.

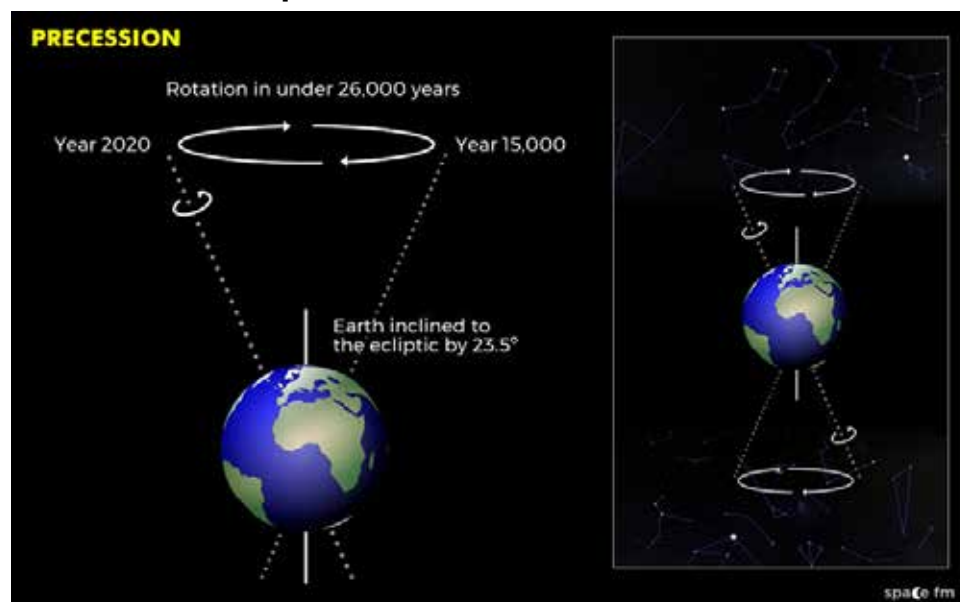
## Sidereal Year

A sidereal (sayana) year (astrological calendar) is, on average, approximately 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 9.5 seconds long (365.25636 days). We may take one reference point by taking a fixed background star on the ecliptic. In this system, the solar year measured is the actual time taken for the earth to revolve once around the Sun concerning a fixed star. Sidereal (astrological) year is little longer than a tropical year, approximately 20 minutes and 24 seconds because of precession.

## Tropical Year & Seasons

The primary point to be made here is not how accurate was the tropical calendar that the Egyptians invented initially but the fact that it was this tropical calendar of the Egyptians that was adopted and developed further by the scientific communities of the Western world, starting with the Greeks (Ptolemy), Romans (Julius Ceaser) and by the Christian world (Pope Gregory), and that it is this tropical calendar that the scientific communities of the world are using today. This tropical calendar synchronizes with the seasons of the year and the equinoxes, and the solstices.

## Precession of equinox



It is this 'precision of the equinoxes' is not accounted for in the sidereal calendar and makes out of phase with the seasons. The discovery of the 'Precession of equinox' is usually attributed to Hipparchus (190–120 BC), a Greek astronomer. According to Ptolemy, another Greek astronomer

of the 2nd century, Hipparchus measured the longitude of Spica (Sitra) and other bright stars on the equinox day and compared his measurements with data from his predecessors and concluded that Spica had moved about 2° relative to the equinox. He also compared the lengths of the tropical year (the time it takes the

Sun to return to an equinox) and the sidereal year (the time it takes the Sun to return to a fixed star) and found a slight discrepancy. Hipparchus concluded that the equinoxes were moving ("precession") through the zodiac and that the precession rate was less than 1° in a century.

## Hindu Astronomers

The Vedic Tamils did not know about this 'precision' since it was invented only in about 190 BC or after. However, this knowledge was known later since this invention was after Alexander the Great (326 BC), who opened the communication between India and Greece. Hindus use the word Sankranti for the 'precision of the equinoxes,' which indicates that they knew about it. However, we do not find any records that Indians ever tried to utilize this knowledge to correct the calendar to synchronize with the seasons. The astrological calendar was later reformed several times in the Christian era by several Hindu astronomers such as Aryabhata, Barahmihira, Bhaskara, and others. However, in none of these revisions, the effect of the 'precession of the equinox' was addressed or was considered to modify the calendar.

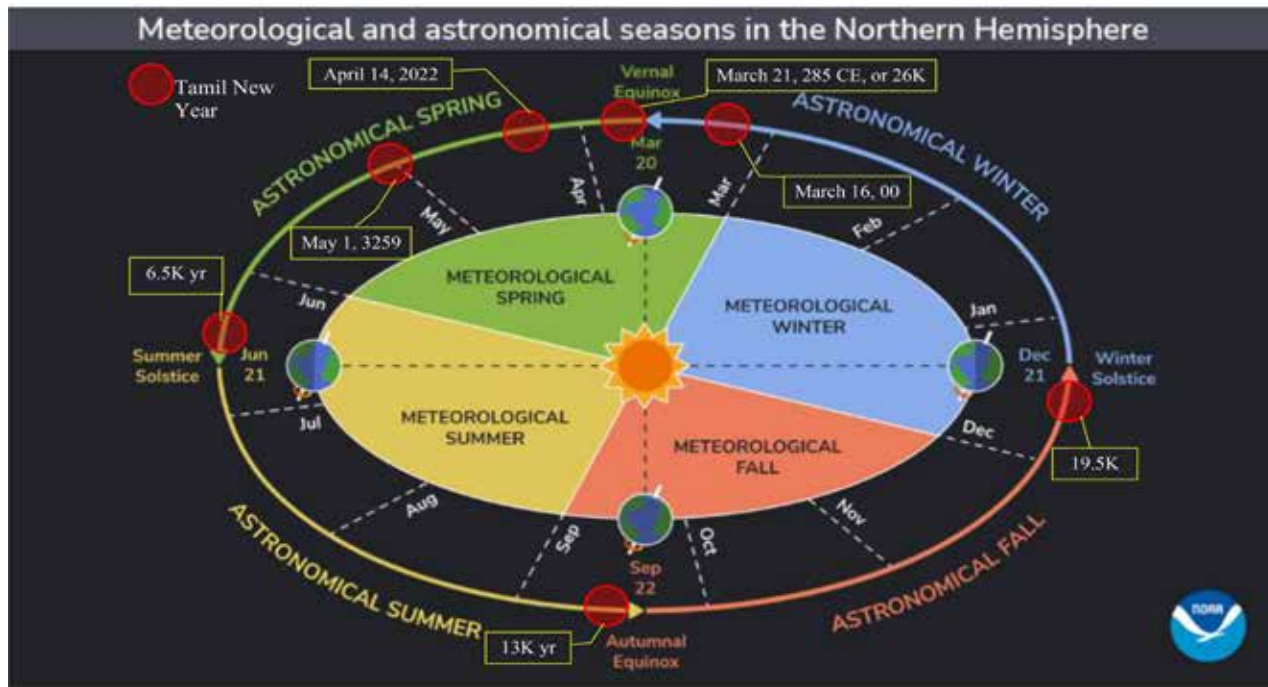
## Discrepancy

Let us now see how the discrepancy of 24 days has crept into the present Tamil calendar. According to Surya Siddhanta, an ancient astronomical treaty, the Indian sidereal (sayana) year coincided with the tropical (nirayana) year in KY (Kali Yuga) 3600, which has now been standardized as the 285 CE. In 285 CE, the solstices and the equinoxes were per the present Gregorian calendar; the Mesha Sankranti on 21st March. Since then, however, the equinoxes are processed in the Hindu calendar at the rate of 20 minutes a year for a total  $(2022-285) = 1737$  years, which accounts for the  $(1737 * 20) / 60 / 24 = 24$  days discrepancy that we have today. To bring the matter

home, you may note that at the present rate, you can find that 1000 years ago, the Tamil were celebrating Tamil New year (Mesha Sankranti) on March 31, 1022. In another 1000 years, Tamil will celebrate Tamil New year on April 28, 3022.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



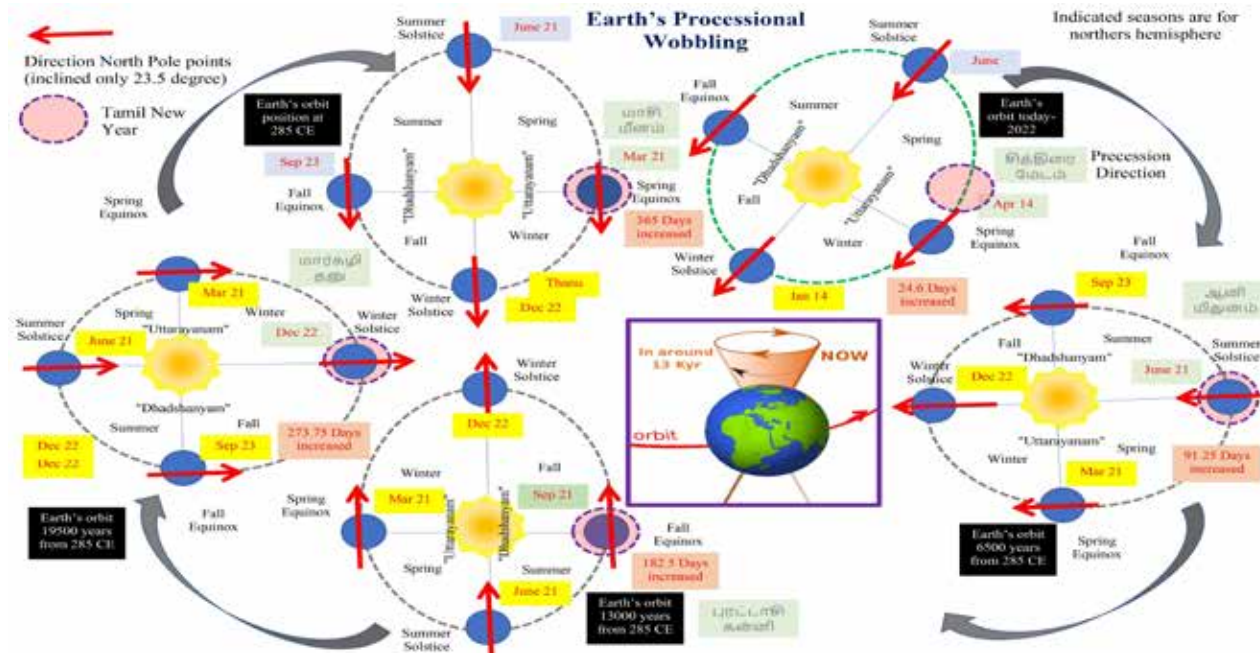
Meteorological – அளவியல், Astronomical - வானியல்

## Reformation Attempts

It is not that Tamils did not try to reform the calendar in modern times. The Indian Calendar Reform Committee tried to improve the astrological calendar. A unified calendar was introduced in 1957, creating a National tropical calendar that all tried to incorporate the Hindu religious calendars. This effort, however, failed mainly due to the orthodox schools of Vedic astrology, which rejected modern astronomy. As a result, Tamils still follow the traditional old Vedic treaties. And hence the discrepancy of the 'precision of the equinoxes' with the seasons remains.

annual phenomena like the 'monsoons.' It may be because of their religious world view, or it may be because developing a tropical calendar needed practical scientific planning and execution of earth-bound experiments of measuring shadows to determine solstices and equinoxes or observing the monsoons for that matter, and these were considered boring and not significant by the Vedic Tamils.

What is vital for us to know is that usually, one would expect that both the measurements, tropical and sidereal, would give the same length of the year. However, that is not the case. When the Sun has returned to the same apparent position relative to the background



In the Tamil astrological calendar system, the tropical seasons (and the solstices and the equinoxes) are out of phase by 24 days at present with the correct seasonal phenomenon as marked by the Gregorian calendar. To make matters worse, it is not only out of phase, but this out of phase is also increasing every year. Therefore, it is essential to fix this error as soon as possible.

## ASSESSMENT

We can analyze how and why the Tamil calendar (sidereal) is out of phase with the seasons and what to do about it. First, it is out of phase is straightforward. Tamil measures a 'sidereal' solar year, while the scientific community measures a 'tropical' solar year. The sidereal method is to calculate the placement of zodiac signs and constellations. The primary purpose of a calendar is to measure the length of the year along with its seasons. The tropical year accurately measures the seasons while the sidereal year does not.

The sidereal year calendar initially developed by the Tamils thousands of years ago. It is not necessary to speculate here as to why the Tamil could not develop a more practical tropical year calendar by measuring from one 'Uttarayana' to the next or by taking the help of vital local

stars, one complete orbit, the equinox is past twenty minutes. In other words, every year, the equinox occurs twenty minutes earlier in orbit than the sidereal year. Today we know that this difference in time measurements is due to the 'Precession of equinox' occurs due to the wobbling motion, like that of a top, of the earth.

This precession is about 50.3 seconds of arc per year or 1 degree every 71.6 years. Thus, a complete precession cycle covers approximately 25,765 years, the so-called Platonic year. During this time, the equinoxes and the seasons

will regress a full 360° through all twelve constellations of the zodiac. Note that 20 minutes per year is approximately 365 days in 25,765 years. Thus, the equinoxes, and the seasons, will always be out of phase in a sidereal astrological calendar. The European Gregorian calendar, which measures the tropical year, considers the effect of the 'precession of the equinox.' It, therefore, is synchronized with the seasons.

## Discussion

The time has come to decide whether to follow the astrological way of celebrating the Tamil New Year or based on seasonal dates. Tamil scholars need to have a serious discussion about this to find a solution. It is unnoticeable that there is a slight difference of about twenty minutes between these two measurements each year. The accumulated out of phase is continuously increasing every year. Therefore, the gradual changes make the equinoxes and the seasons will backslide through all twelve constellations of the zodiac. It is essential to fix this error as soon as possible.

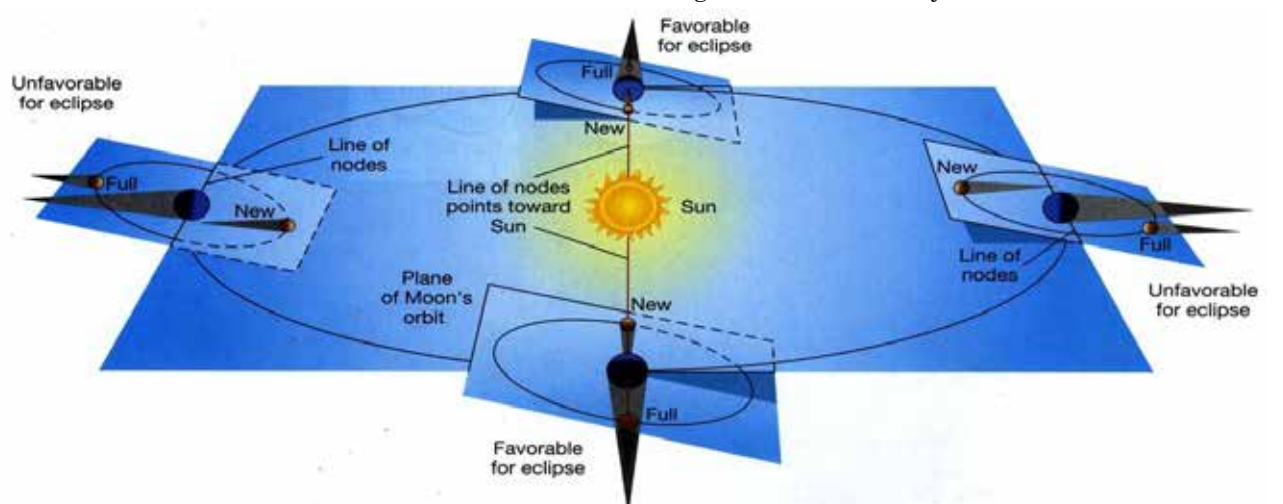
The calendars are human-made based on human considerations, calculations, trials, and errors—each calendar system best suited for their needs, primarily religious, agricultural, and sometimes social. The story of the calendar is the story of man's attempt to develop some order in history and time-keeping. If wobble (precession) does not happen, the equinox will not move. It will be matched with the sidereal calendar. If the earth's wobble (precession) does not happen, the equinox and solstice will not move and match the sidereal calendar. Since there is precession, the seasonal changes are the reality. Therefore, we need to follow the tropical calendar.

## Summary

Astrological prospective, sidereal system seems to be fine but not for the secular and seasonal festival like Pongal and New Year. There are multiple solutions available. Both festivals are based on seasons. Therefore, it need to be correlate with nature and scientifically analyzed and resolved. It is important that the public must be aware of the situation. It should be noted that once Thai Pongal celebrated on December 21, 285 and Tamil New Year celebrated on March 21, 285.

Thai Pongal and Tamil new year celebrations are based on astrological calculations. The translation of Tamil months to English will lose its meaning. For example, Thai and siththirai can coincide with any of the 12 English months due to the sidereal calculation method. The sidereal method and tropical method has own merit. The sidereal method is Time Mathematics, and the tropical method is Climate Mathematics. Both approaches have their values.

This article mainly focuses on Tamil celebrations, and it also impacts the other communities who follow the same reasons to celebrate the new year and Thai Pongal. So far, it has been working fine, but it will create significant confusion and blame the previous generation for misleading society and lose its merit in the future. Therefore, it needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Thai Pongal and Tamil New year celebrations are more associated with climate than astrological calculations. Therefore, the sidereal method does not work for Thai Pongal and Tamil new year.






**BUSINESS / FINANCE**

# The Next Big Thing: How Augmented/Virtual Reality Is Changing the Way We Learn



Over the past couple of years, educational institutions across the world have changed the way they approach education. Traditional teaching methods are quickly becoming a thing of the past, with newer technologies like virtual reality taking center stage.

Virtual and augmented reality are revolutionizing the educational environments of both teachers and students by allowing for a much more interactive learning experience. Before we look into how augmented and virtual reality is helping to transform education, let's take a look at what exactly they are.

## What Is Augmented Reality (AR)?

Augmented reality uses the existing environment to overlay animation, images, or other forms of information on it. In essence, it adds to reality. AR also doesn't require a device with a screen since it doesn't need a display, making it one of the cornerstones of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

## What Is Virtual Reality (VR)?

Unlike AR, virtual reality involves a created, artificial environment. Despite its name, however, VR can create a much more immersive experience than AR, but it does require a VR headset device in order to view or interact with the virtual environment.

## How Does AR/VR Change the Education Industry?

### Customization

Using EdTech in the classroom will allow students to learn like never be-

fore. Traditional teaching methods require students with different learning styles to conform to one teaching style, but AR and VR can help remove that barrier by allowing the curriculum to be customized to suit their needs.

### Interactive Learning

The level of interaction offered in augmented reality won't just keep students interested and engaged, but will also help students who learn better through audiovisual education. Augmented reality can even be used to turn a 2D image in your textbook into 3D!

Virtual reality takes interaction even further by allowing students to see the immersive content of any course or subject. VR provides the student with a 360° complete sensory experience so they can examine the subject in full detail. Consider students learning history—many might find the topic boring, but with immersive VR education, students can be transported right into the time and place they're studying about.

### Hands-On Learning

EdTech also helps push the boundaries of learning by giving students access to things they never had before. Take the Google Expeditions app, for example. It offers hundreds of trips and adventures for students about science, history, art, and more. Students can visit the Louvre, Mount Everest, and even walk on the moon!

In addition, VR and AR can also help students get more insight into the



phenomena of the natural world. Ever wanted to know what it's like to be in the eye of a tornado? Now you can!

### Lifelong Learning

While AR and VR are making leaps and bounds in the education environment, there's nothing saying it should only be used in the context of an educational institution. Take, for example, the VR tool VirtualSpeech—it allows you to practice public speaking in a realistic and immersive environment with various e-learning courses for all sizes of audiences!

In today's tech-driven world, VR and

AR technologies give people a chance to learn throughout their lives, in a way that keeps them striving for more. If you want to know more about the latest tech trends and how to make the most out of your life, check out my website today.

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## Appointments & Achievements

### Philanthropist, physician, and gene-therapy developer Dr. Sukumar Nagendran of Sri Lankan origin receives the 'Distinguished Alumni Award'

Philanthropist, physician, and gene-therapy developer Dr. Sukumar Nagendran received the 'Distinguished Alumni Award' from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Rutgers University at a gala event held on April 9, in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

After completing his high school education at Royal College, Colombo, Dr. Nagendran migrated to the United States where he completed his undergraduate degree in biochemistry at Rutgers University and his medical degree at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He subsequently trained in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.



### Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe appointed Sri Lanka's Central Bank Governor

Dr. P. Nandalal Weerasinghe who is a Sri Lankan economist and banker has been appointed as the Governor of Sri Lanka's Central Bank. He becomes the 17th Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

A career officer in the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, he served as its chief economist and senior deputy governor. He has also served as an alternative executive director at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. Weerasinghe holds a PhD and Master's Degree in economics from the Australian National University.



### Ms. Dinithi Ratnayake appointed by SDB bank as a new Director to the board

The Board of Directors of SDB bank in Sri Lanka has appointed Financial Institutions expert Ms. Dinithi Ratnayake as a Director of the bank. Her extensive banking and finance experience is set to further diversify and strengthen the bank's formidable board.

Ms. Ratnayake possesses a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, and a Master of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of Colombo.



## Quotable Quotes - 2022

By: Siva Sivapragasam

“They said it”



“We have made significant gains on transit, on housing, on unity of the city, on better functioning of the council, on city finances, building up industries like tech and film, and building up the city's image”

– John Tory, Toronto Mayor



“There's never been a better time for companies to invest in the future of Ontario:”

– Ontario Premier Doug Ford



“If we had access to all the weapons we need, which our partners have and which are comparable to the weapons used by the Russian Federation, we would have already ended the war”

– Ukrainian President Zelenskyy



“We have a lot to do and the war in Ukraine reminds us that we are going through tragic times where France must make its voice heard.”

– French President Emmanuel Macron



“We are not promising the moon and the stars. We are promising that we are going to work for you...It's a solid, doable plan that means hope is on the way”

– Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath on their election platform



COMMUNITY WATCH 

# U.S. Ambassador Julie J. Chung Travels to the North

Colombo, April 27, 2022: U.S. Ambassador Julie J. Chung visited Jaffna from April 24 to 27 in her initial trip to northern Sri Lanka as Ambassador.

“It was essential to me to visit the North early in my tenure as Ambassador,” said Ambassador Chung. “During the visit, I explored the history of the region and heard from people first-hand about their challenges and opportunities. I gained a much better understanding of the impact of the war and the human rights concerns, as well as the current economic situation in the North.”

While in Jaffna, Ambassador Chung had courtesy calls with the Northern Province governor and the Commander of Security Forces Headquarters Jaffna to discuss the political and security situation in the North during the current economic crisis. She engaged with civil society and met with families of missing and disappeared persons. The Ambassador underscored the importance of the ongoing efforts towards justice and accountability towards national reconciliation and unity. In a meeting with Tamil politicians, Ambassador Chung discussed human rights and governance challenges. Ambassador Chung also met with representatives of diverse religious communities and visited sites of worship to underscore the importance of religious pluralism in Sri Lanka.



Ambassador Chung also spoke with representatives of the business community to learn about their current challenges and efforts towards economic recovery. Ambassador noted the potential for Diaspora investment to develop local business. In addition, the Ambassador visited a U.S.-funded demining project that makes land viable for local communities. Ambassador Chung met with University of Jaffna faculty members to discuss their new peacebuilding degree program and the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation grants for the Archeological Museum Laboratory. Ambassador Chung also visited a U.S.-funded palm leaves manuscript conservation project at the Jaffna Library. Before she returned to Colombo, Ambassador Chung met with local youth leaders at the American Corner in Jaffna to learn about their perspectives on a path forward towards an inclusive and



prosperous future for all Sri Lankans. This was Ambassador Chung’s second official trip outside the Colombo area. Her first trip was to the Kandy region. She looks forward to visiting many more parts of the country over the coming months.



## Making housing more affordable for Canadians



April 20, 2022  
Waterloo Region, Ontario  
Making life more affordable for Canadian families starts with making housing more affordable. The Government of Canada recognizes that it is becoming increasingly challenging to find a safe and affordable place to live. That’s why Budget 2022 proposes a series of investments to build more houses, help people save for their first home, and curb speculation and unfair practices that drive up housing prices.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today highlighted key measures included in Budget 2022: A Plan to Grow Our Economy and Make Life More Affordable to improve housing affordability for Canadians.

**The measures proposed in Budget 2022 include:**

- Putting Canada on the path to double housing construction over the next decade, including by investing \$4 billion for the launch of a new Housing Accelerator Fund that will help create 100,000 new housing units over the next five years; and providing \$1.5 billion to extend the Rapid Housing Initiative and create at least 6,000 additional affordable housing units across Canada.
- Helping Canadians buy their first

home by introducing the Tax-Free First Home Savings Account to allow first-time home buyers to save up to \$40,000; doubling the First-Time Home Buyers’ Tax Credit to \$10,000, providing up to \$1,500 in direct support to home buyers; extending the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive to March 31, 2025, to allow first-time home buyers to lower their borrowing costs; and investing \$200 million to help develop and scale up rent-to-own projects across Canada.

- Curbing unfair practices that drive up the price of housing by imposing a two-year ban on foreign capital coming into Canada to buy residential real estate; and taking steps to make property flippers pay their fair share.

- Protecting home buyers by working with provinces and territories to develop and implement a Home Buyers’ Bill of Rights and bring forward a national plan to end blind bidding.

Budget 2022 proposes targeted and responsible investments to give all Canadians a safe and affordable place to call home. This is part of our plan to make life more affordable, create jobs and prosperity today, grow the middle class, and build a stronger economic future for everyone.

Via [pm.gc.ca](http://pm.gc.ca)



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## MONSOON KITCHEN

### GENIE SISTERS 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.

## Rajma

Serves 4

**R**ajma is a dish made with kidney beans where the key is in the slow process of cooking and using fresh ingredients. Kidney beans are packed with nutrients, so if you're going to be soaking dried beans and cooking them ahead of making this recipe, be sure to make a little extra which could be then used to make chilli, burgers, or used as a salad topping.



### Ingredients:

- ✓ 400gms red kidney beans
- ✓ 1 medium red onion, chopped
- ✓ 2 tsp ginger and garlic paste
- ✓ 1 tsp cumin seeds
- ✓ 1 green chilli, slit

### Method:

You can use tinned kidney beans, but the long way is definitely much better. Soak the kidney beans for 12 hrs and rinse. Add to a pressure cooker or stove top with enough water to cover the beans plus an extra cup. Add ½ tsp of salt and pressure cook for 8 whistles, or cook on a medium heat till tender on the stove top (may take around 30 mins)

In a heated pan, add the cumin seeds and the oil (in that order) once the seeds being to sizzle, add your chopped red onions and sauté till translucent. Add ginger and garlic paste and brown. Next add in the tomato paste brown for 1 minute and follow with the chilli powder and ½ cup of water to loosen the mixture. Next add in the kidney beans, and green chilli followed by the garam masala and cumin powder. Mix in 2 cups of water and cook covered for 20 minutes on a low-medium heat. Add more hot water if the curry gets too thick.

Next add in the tomatoes and simmer for 5 minutes. Turn off heat, garnish with coriander leaves and serve with hot roti's, jeera rice and a cucumber salad.

- ✓ ½ tsp garam masala
- ✓ 1 tsp cumin powder
- ✓ 1 tsp Kashmiri chilli powder
- ✓ 1 tbsp tomato paste
- ✓ 2 medium red tomatoes, diced
- ✓ 3 tbsp mustard oil/ sesame oil
- ✓ Coriander leaves to garnish
- ✓ Salt

Try making this recipe this month and hashtag #monsoonjournal on

Instagram and send us your pics, comments and feedback. Spread the love (and recipe!)

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# Housing Affordability Tops Mississauga's List of Priorities for Next Provincial Government

May 4, 2022 - Not sure who to vote for in the provincial election on June 2? Vote for a candidate that understands Mississauga matters.

As the provincial election approaches, the City of Mississauga has launched an advocacy campaign to remind all provincial candidates and political parties that 'Mississauga Matters.'

As Ontario's third largest city, it is important that the next provincial government understands and supports Mississauga's priorities to ensure continued recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, economic growth and investment to build a world-class city that is accessible and affordable for all. "Ontario cities play a critical role in our province's well-being. But the pressures we face continue to grow. As we head into a provincial election, it's vital that the next provincial government will support cities in creating more housing that is affordable for everyone, help us in building key transit projects and sustainable infrastructure, and deliver financial support for our hardest-hit businesses and industries," said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. "The reality is that cities can't do all of this alone. And as we continue

to recover and build our growing city, we need a provincial partner who is fully committed to working with us. Our message to candidates is clear: our priorities should be your priorities because Mississauga Matters!"

The 2022 Mississauga Matters campaign asks residents to consider parties and candidates who will support:

**Housing Affordability:** Work with municipalities to make housing more affordable so that people can live and work in Mississauga.

**Public Transit:** Invest in building the Downtown Loop; provide all-day, two-way GO service along the Milton corridor.

**Funding for Cities:** Extend the Safe Restart program to support ongoing recovery; sustainable funding to keep the City's infrastructure in a state of good repair.

**Local Economy:** Invest in businesses and industries hardest hit by the pandemic; support local business innovation and competitiveness.

**Virtual Information Session**  
- May 17

On May 17 at 1 p.m., the City will hold a live, virtual information session about Mississauga's top priorities in the lead-up to the election. Provincial



candidates in Mississauga ridings and residents are invited to join the session to learn about the City's priorities and to ask questions of the panelists. Register online to attend the session and ask questions, or watch the livestream on the City's website. Questions can also be emailed in advance to [mississaugamatters@mississauga.ca](mailto:mississaugamatters@mississauga.ca).

"Mississauga is growing. Our City is known for its fiscal responsibility, but our limited revenue streams – primarily property taxes and user fees – do not adequately cover the costs to maintain services and accommodate growth," said Paul Mitcham, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer. "Mississauga needs a committed provincial partner to enable us to continue our recovery and build healthy, sustainable communities now and for the future."

Mississauga Matters 2022 will run during the provincial election campaign throughout May and is intended to engage residents about the issues that matter to Mississauga.

Mitcham added, "We invite residents and business owners to attend our public information session with registered candidates in each of Mississauga's six provincial ridings in advance of the June 2 election to share details and ensure they are keenly aware of our priorities and why Mississauga Matters!"

To learn more about Mississauga's provincial election priorities, visit [mississaugamatters.ca](http://mississaugamatters.ca). Residents are also encouraged to get involved on social media by mentioning their local candidates in their posts and using the hashtag #MississaugaMatters.

- via: <https://www.mississauga.ca/>

# Mississauga has a Littering Problem

April 22, 2022 - The snow melt in Mississauga has uncovered a big problem – litter – and there's tonnes of it. The influx of garbage has become a consistent issue for City maintenance crews who are working hard to keep up with the growing amount of litter in the city. Even with additional waste bins and more frequent emptying, litter continues to be a problem in Mississauga.

Coffee cups, used masks, pop cans, water bottles, Styrofoam pieces, old drywall, fast food wrappers, cigarette butts and gum can all be found piled up in ditches, parks, streets, blocking stormwater catchbasins and hanging from trees and off bushes. The City has seen an increase in litter since the start of the pandemic. Sadly, discarded face masks are also becoming part of the problem. Masks and other discarded PPE have added to litter and pollution in forests, woodlands, parks, rivers and creeks.

## Littering impacts everyone:

Children and Youth – areas that are commonly used by children like parks, playgrounds and sports fields are not safe if covered in litter. It can pose a health and safety concern for our youngest residents.

Pets – any pet owner knows how important it is for their animal to not ingest garbage and debris off the streets. When dog parks and trails are covered in litter, it's hard to keep them from coming in contact with it.



Environment – increased litter can contaminate our drinking water. It is estimated that almost 10,000 tonnes of plastic debris enter Ontario's lakes and rivers each year according to the Government of Ontario.

Wildlife – small animals become innocent victims in eating, becoming entangled or entrapped in discarded litter like plastic soda can holders, jars, cups, netting or eating plastic bottle caps.

## Where's the litter coming from?

Litter comes from different places. Litter happens out of unawareness, convenience, laziness or carelessness. The City has installed waste and recycle bins in parks, waste bins at some bus stops, parking lots and sidewalks so people can dispose of their waste properly. According to the Government of Ontario, residents in the province

generate nearly one tonne of waste per person every year. This time of year, City crews are busy cleaning up a significant amount of litter, by the hundreds of bags full in our neighbourhoods, parks and streets. If you can, give them a hand.

Don't get caught with a littering fine. Littering and illegal dumping in Mississauga is no joke. Fines can run upward of \$500.

The Debris and Anti-Littering By-law prohibits the throwing, placing or depositing of refuse or debris on private property, or on property of the City. Littering comes with a fine of up to \$500. In Mississauga, it's illegal to dump garbage, renovation, household or bulky items at facilities and parks. Under the Environmental Protection Act an individual or company could face significant penalties for each

offence committed.

## Let's take action!

As residents head out to use local trails, parks and green spaces – the City is asking people to do their part to keep Mississauga litter free. Residents are encouraged to take action to help keep our City clean and safe. Here are a few ways you can make a difference.

-Follow all proper waste collection procedures.

-Put your garbage, recycling, dog waste, disposable masks and gloves in the appropriate waste containers. If our park's waste containers are full, look around – there may be another waste container close by or throw your garbage out at home.

-Remember dog waste goes in waste bins, not recycling bins.

-Don't dump household waste, old bicycles, construction materials or furniture in the parks.

-If you see litter, debris or illegal dumping, contact the City by calling 311 (905-615-4311 outside City limits) or reporting it online.

-You can also help clean up litter in your community by adopting a park or road.

-Organize a 20-minute makeover in your neighbourhood.

For more information about how to stop litter issues in your neighbourhood, visit [mississauga.ca/litter](http://mississauga.ca/litter). via: [mississauga.ca/](http://mississauga.ca/)



# Action! Brampton's film industry booming

Thursday, May 05 2022

BRAMPTON, ON (May 5, 2022)

– The City of Brampton has had a record-breaking year in the film industry. In 2021, Brampton hosted 80 different film, television and commercial productions totaling over 553 days of filming activity, a 90 per cent increase from 2020.

Due to the strict COVID-19 health and safety protocols created and adhered to by screen industry companies, productions and individuals, productions were able to continue working throughout the 2021 pandemic year.

When applying for a film permit, production companies must indicate their estimated direct spend in Brampton to the Film and Television Office. Since 2018, these estimates have grown substantially, with estimated economic impact growing 959 per cent to over \$18 million, and revenue to the City by 147 per cent to nearly \$400,000 in 2021. This growth was due in part to the interest from large US-based studio productions such as Netflix, Apple, and Amazon,

as well as the steady use of converted studio space and temporary standing sets.

Recent projects that took place in Brampton include:

- Amazon Prime Video's new series *Reacher*
- Paramount+ series *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*
- Netflix's feature film *13: The Musical* and *Man from Toronto*
- Apple+ series, *See*
- CBC's television series, *Coroner*
- And so much more!

Brampton is the ideal place for film production. The City of Brampton is committed to offering concierge-style services to the industry, assisting productions of all sizes to find film-friendly locations for filming and support including the City's lush parklands and sport fields, residential neighbourhoods, industrial areas, contemporary and heritage City facilities, and different roadway options to help set the scene. The Brampton Film and Television Office also works alongside other City stakeholders including the Region of Peel, Peel Regional Police,



conservation authorities and more to facilitate production needs.

The City of Brampton is a member of Ontario Green Screen, an initiative between government, industry, unions, guilds and trade associations to empower productions and studios to make sustainable choices. The Brampton Film and Television Office is also

working closely with the Arts, Culture and Creative Industry Development Agency (ACCIDA) on ways to empower Brampton-based filmmakers and content creators for the future of film in the city.

To learn more about filming in Brampton, visit [brampton.ca/film](http://brampton.ca/film).

**Via [brampton.ca](http://brampton.ca)**

## City of Brampton contributes nearly \$600,000 to help support local non-profit and charitable organizations

Friday, May 06 2022

BRAMPTON, ON (May 6, 2022) –

The City of Brampton is contributing nearly \$600,000 to help support 64 local non-profit organizations and registered charities in 2022 through the Advance Brampton Fund, with grants ranging in value from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

This funding is vital to help deliver the important programs the community relies upon as Brampton continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations supported through the Advance Brampton Fund include Asees Foundation, Lady Ballers Camp, One Voice One Team Youth Leadership Organization, Punjabi Community Health Services, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Peel, Beaux Arts Brampton and more. A full list of the 2022 Advance Brampton Fund grantees can be found at [brampton.ca/abf](http://brampton.ca/abf).

Brampton seniors have been particularly impacted from isolation and a lack of available resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. For Indus Community Services, "The Advanced Brampton Fund will help us support our seniors in showcasing their cultures and build skills through arts, conversation, exercise, education and healthy eating. We are pleased to offer this programming to our clients in person and virtually."

Brampton is a Healthy and Safe



City, and the Asees Foundation recognizes the importance of staying active. "The Advance Brampton Fund will give us the opportunity to expand our Get Active Initiative for youth and other individuals in our community. These contributions are making a remarkable difference in helping youth to develop knowledge and understanding of physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle."

For the Lady Ballers Camp, this funding was instrumental in their ability to deliver a valuable program to the community. As grant recipients in 2021, it helped ensure that their Summer Camp 2.0 - Right to Learn Right to Play was a success. "Our program surpassed our expectations, reaching 246 children and youth in

Brampton, and brought joy into so many young lives. In the fall of 2021, we provided academic tutoring and homework help, alongside mental wellness programming, which was important during these extraordinary hard times." Funding from the 2022 program will help Lady Ballers Camp deliver their 8-week summer camp and 14-week back-to-school programming, providing Black female children and youth living in or at-risk of poverty the opportunity to receive physical exercise, emotional wellness, socialization, and vital academic support.

To further support local non-profits and charities, the Advance Brampton Fund partnered with Toronto Metropolitan University's (formerly Ryerson University) G. Raymond Chang School

of Continuing Education to deliver Non-Profit Sector Development workshops focused on helping organizations expand their capacity and build sector education and skills. Since November 2021, 11 sessions were held, hosting over 250 participants. The next series will launch in the fall.

About the Advance Brampton Fund  
The Advance Brampton Fund is a \$600,000 community-grant program that provides eligible Brampton-based non-profit or charitable organizations with funds to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of the community and advance the Term of Council priorities.

There are three funding streams:

- Emerging - provides up to \$5,000 in matching funds for new and innovative projects
- Developing - provides up to \$12,500 in matching funds for programs that have run at least once in Brampton
- Amplifying - provides up to \$25,000 in matching funds for projects that have run at least twice in Brampton

The next round of grant applications will open in fall 2022 to help support projects taking place in 2023. For a full list of 2022 Advance Brampton Fund grantees and to learn more about the program, visit [brampton.ca/abf](http://brampton.ca/abf).

**Via [brampton.ca](http://brampton.ca)**



## City of Brampton partners with NASSCOM to strengthen global connections in Innovation District



Thursday, May 05 2022

**BRAMPTON, ON (May 5, 2022)** – The City of Brampton is on the verge of a deliberate and significant transformation with a growing innovation and technology sector that is full of opportunities for global businesses. Today, the City signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) of India to establish a Launchpad program in Brampton. Brampton is the only Canadian city to be selected for this program's expansion.

Through this partnership, the Launchpad program will act as a catalyst for the global expansion of Information Technology (IT) companies by increasing connections between the government of India and local technology ecosystems. Participants in the program will have improved access to working in foreign markets, with support in government regulations, tax planning and incentives in different regions.

The Brampton BHive – a soft landing pad for international businesses in Downtown Brampton – will act as home base for IT companies participating in the program.

### National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)

NASSCOM is the premier trade body and chamber of commerce of the technology industry in India and comprises more than 3,000 member companies including both Indian and multinational organizations that have a presence in India. Its membership spans across the entire spectrum of the industry from start-ups to multinationals and from products to services, Global Service Centers to Engineering firms.

### About Brampton's Innovation District

The Innovation District, located in Downtown Brampton, has a sharp focus on start-up scaling, investment attraction and talent development, and provides local support for entrepreneurs and new business. It also offers resources to support innovation and technology companies in advancing their work.

With agreements starting in 2019, the City has committed to investing

approximately \$20.5 million in its Innovation District, with an additional approximately \$55.2 million in investments being drawn in by Innovation District partners.

Partners in the Innovation District include entrepreneurial, business incubation, post-secondary training, and accelerator spaces like the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre, BHive Brampton, the Toronto Metropolitan University-led Venture Zone, Altitude Accelerator, the Founder Institute, Algoma University, and the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst Headquarters and Accelerator. Sheridan Edge, the Brampton Board of Trade and Downtown Brampton BIA are also key partners in building the Innovation District.

### About Brampton BHive

BHive, located in the Innovation District, is an initiative powered by the City of Brampton with a goal to empower the next generation of innovators, accelerate their journey and create a positive impact for the entrepreneur, economy and community as a whole. Established in collaboration with the Toronto Business Development Centre, BHive is intended to attract foreign entrepreneurs who wish to establish new, scalable businesses in Canada through the Start-up Visa Program. Successful applicants will be granted their permanent residency and during their 6-month incubation program, will be given a range of resources including office space, networking opportunities and business support services.

To learn more about the Innovation District, visit [www.bramptoninnovationdistrict.com](http://www.bramptoninnovationdistrict.com) or watch the City's video highlighting the impacts of this innovation ecosystem. To learn more about BHive, visit [thehive.ca](http://thehive.ca).

### Quotes

"Throughout this term, Brampton City Council has prioritized advancing Brampton as a leader in innovation and a prime location to invest. Through strengthening relations with international partners like NASSCOM, we're continuing to advance Brampton's profile globally while providing local economic benefits. I look forward to continuing this important work with our partners!"

- Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of

## Stay healthy and active – purchase a City of Brampton Fitness Membership



Tuesday, Apr 26 2022,

**BRAMPTON, ON (April 26, 2022)**

– The City of Brampton offers annual fitness memberships at its recreation facilities for residents to stay healthy and active.

The annual membership includes access to all fitness centres, drop-in group fitness classes, public swims, shinnies and aquafit. Convenient monthly payment plans are available. The annual fitness membership offers a variety of services at an affordable rate to ensure fitness is accessible to the community.

Memberships are also available on a per-visit, 10-time visit, or monthly basis.

To purchase a membership, visit [www.brampton.ca/memberships](http://www.brampton.ca/memberships).

To explore our facilities, visit [www.brampton.ca/recreation](http://www.brampton.ca/recreation).

### Discounted Seniors Memberships

The City of Brampton offers a number of substantial discounts to seniors to help increase access and affordability to fitness facilities and amenities.

Adults over 55 years of age receive a 35 per cent discount on fitness memberships. This is significantly discounted compared to surrounding

municipalities, at a rate of \$247.79 for an annual fitness membership at Brampton Recreation facilities, compared to an average of \$440.23.

New for 2022, adults over 70 years of age receive a 50 per cent discount on fitness memberships!

### Student Summer Fitness Memberships

Brampton Recreation is offering a discounted Student Summer Fitness Membership to support students' well-being over the summer break and provide an affordable option for fitness while home from school. The discounted membership is available for purchase until August 7 and can be used until September 5.

Valid from April 18 to September 5 at a rate of \$112.08, the Student Summer Fitness Membership works out to 80 cents per day to access recreation facilities, and it is pro-rated based on the number of days left in the membership at the time of purchase. Membership includes access to all fitness centres, drop-in group fitness classes, public swims and shinnies. This membership must be purchased in person at any Recreation Centre. Proof of full-time studies is required.

**Via [brampton.ca](http://brampton.ca)**

### Brampton

"Through continued collaboration with local, national and international stakeholders, Brampton's Innovation District is uniquely positioned to provide increased access to resources and services that help local entrepreneurs and businesses thrive. This partnership with NASSCOM will further accelerate the work we have done to date to build an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Downtown Brampton."

- Martin Medeiros, Regional Councillor, Wards 3&4; Chair, Economic Development, City of Brampton

"As we continue our reopening, the City was so pleased to welcome an in-person delegation from NASSCOM and to have the opportunity to introduce visitors to key partners in our growing Innovation District. Through continued investment and collaboration, we are continuing to attract international attention that positions Brampton as a global leader in innovation."

- Paul Vicente, Regional Councillor,

### Wards 1&5; Vice-Chair, Economic Development, City of Brampton

"With partners like NASSCOM, the Innovation District continues to enhance its ecosystem to provide businesses in innovation and technology with the tools and resources they need to thrive. Through leveraging global partnerships and shared knowledge and best practices, Brampton is becoming an unparalleled destination for businesses to invest."

- Clare Barnett, Director, Economic Development, City of Brampton

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, Brampton is home to more than 700,000 people and 75,000 businesses. People are at the heart of everything we do. We are energized by our diverse communities, we attract investment, and we are embarking on a journey to lead technological and environmental innovation. We partner for progress to build a healthy city that is safe, sustainable and successful. Connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Learn more at [www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca).





## SPECIAL FEATURE

# HINDUISM AND HINDU TEMPLES IN MALAYSIA

Compiled by : **KIDAMBI RAJ**

### INTRODUCTION

Hinduism was prevalent in Malaysia before the arrival of Islam in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Traces of Hindu influence remain in the Malay language, literature and art. Indian settlers came to Malaysia from Tamil Nadu in the late 9<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many of them came to work as labourers on rubber plantations, while those who were English educated occupied more professional positions. A minority of Indian immigrants to Malaysia during this time period came from Northern India and Sri Lanka. Malaysian Hinduism is diverse, with large urban temples dedicated to specific deities, and smaller temples located on estates. The estate temples generally follow the tradition of the Indian region from which the temple's worshippers came from. Many people follow the Saivite tradition (Worship of Lord Siva) of southern India.

However, there are also some Vaishnava Hindus in Malaysia as well, and many of them of North Indian extraction and these Hindus worship in temples such as the Geeta Ashram in Seksyen, Petaling Jaya or the Lakshmi Narayan Temple in Kampung Kasipillay, Kaula Lumpur. Services in these temples are usually conducted in Hindi or English. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness also has a number of followers in Malaysia, and maintain temples in Kaula Lumpur, Penang, Taiping and Seremban. The Ratha Yatra festival is held once a year, when the Deities, **Jagannatha**, **Baladeva** and **Subhadra** are placed on a chariot which is pulled through the streets by devotees, accompanied by a party chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra. There are also few devotees of Sri Vaishnava of Ramanuja Sampradaya and Madhva Sampradaya. There are also few followers of Sri Sai Baba.

Malaysia is globally known for its secular credentials. The majority of Malaysian population is of Muslims at 61.3%, followed by Buddhists and Christians being 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions with 19.8% and 9.2% respectively. According to official figures, Hindus in Malaysia comprise of just 6.3% of the total population. So, they are the 4<sup>th</sup> religious group in the country.

Predominantly a Muslim nation, Malaysia is considered a tourist magnet and a peaceful nation where believers of all religious faith are respected and tolerated. One can witness several Hindu temples here at all nooks and corners of the country. There are about nine Hindu Temples that are popular with everyone.

Malaysia has been welcoming the establishment of countless temples, including the 9 beautiful Hindu temples listed below, which remain worth visiting places during a Malaysian tour. They are not exclusively for Hindu tourists or devotees only. Good number of tourists with their beliefs in other faiths too visit these popular Hindu temples. They are ultimate destinations to evaluate great architecture as well as nature's bounty in Malaysia.

#### 1. Batu Caves Temple

**Batu Caves** (Tamil: பத்துமலை : **Patthumalai**) is a limestone hill that has a series of caves and cave temples in Gombak, Selangor, Malaysia. It takes its name from

the Malay word *batu*, meaning 'rock'. The hill was originally known as *Kapal Tanggang* from the legend of *SiTanggang*. The town nearby is named after the Batu Caves limestone formation. The cave is one of the most popular Hindu shrines outside India, and is dedicated to **Lord Murugan**. It is the focal point of the Tamil festival of Thaipusam in Malaysia.

Batu Caves in short also referred to as 10th Caves or Hill for Lord Murugan as there are six important holy shrines in India and four more in Malaysia. The three others in Malaysia are **Kallumalai Temple** in Ipoh, **Tanneermalai Temple** in Penang and **Sannasimalai Temple** in Malacca. The limestone forming Batu Caves is said to be around 400 million years old. Some of the cave entrances were used as shelters by the indigenous **Temuan** people (a tribe of Orang Asli). Batu Caves was promoted as a place of worship by **K. Thamboo-**



Batu Caves Temple



**samy Pillai**, an Indian Tamil trader. He was inspired by the *vel*-shaped entrance of the main cave and was inspired to dedicate a temple to Lord Murugan within the caves. In 1890, Pillai, who also founded the Sri Mahamariamman Temple, Kuala Lumpur, installed the *murti* (consecrated statue) of Sri Murugan Swami in what is today known as the Temple Cave. Since 1892, the Thaipusam festival in the Tamil month of Thai (which falls in late January/early February) has been celebrated there. Wooden steps up to the Temple Cave were built in 1920. In the 1930s, the stairs began to show signs of wear and tear, and the then temple chairman Ramachandran Naidu proposed to build two flights of concrete stairs to the upper caves. The proposal was forwarded to Sorobgom in 1939. The work was completed in 1940, just in time for the Thaipusam celebration that year according to current temple Chairman R. Nadarajah. Currently there are 272 concrete steps. Of the various cave temples that comprise the

site, the largest and best known is the Temple Cave, so named because it houses several Hindu shrines beneath its high vaulted ceiling. In August 2018 the 272 steps were painted in an extraordinary colour scheme, with each set of steps painted in a different range of colours.

#### 2. Sri Maha Mariamman Temple



Kaula Lumpur Malaysia is famous for housing the richest South Indian Hindu Temple, Sri Maha Mariamman Temple. It appeals to both the visiting devotees and to the tourists in the Chinatown vicinity, where a glimpse of this beautifully designed temple invites the visitors to plan at least one visit. This stands as one of the famous Hindu Temples in Kaula Lumpur, Malaysia. Late Thambusamy Pillay had constructed this temple in 1873 and developed that into a private shrine. Since it had been opened for the general public in 1920, it gained immense popularity as the worshippers of Mother Goddess Mariamman, keep flocking in here. The convoluted statuettes and grandiose façade of this temple add to its beauty. Its main entrance seeks the attention of visitors with an imposing Gopuram. It remains a popular temple in Malaysia with pedantically sculpted 228 Hindu deity idols that are worshipped by the devotees throughout the year. The number of visitors multiplies during **Deepavali** and **Thaipoo-sam** festivals.

#### 3. Sri Poyyatha Moorthi Temple



Sri Poyyatha Moorthi Temple is the oldest existing/intact Hindu temple in Malaysia and one of the oldest functioning Hindu temples in Maritime Southeast Asia. It is Located in the state of Malacca, the temple is one of the few existing Chitty temples in Malaysia. Also called as Poyyatha Vinayaga Moorthi temple. Although its architecture is



## SPECIAL FEATURE



simple, it seeks the attention of all devotees besides large number of tourists. According to the historic recounts, Chitty preacher, Tha Vinayagar Chitty had constructed this temple way back in 1781. Devotees of Hindu God, Lord Ganesa keep flocking here. This temple is in the lime light for one more reason. Its location along side Cheng Hoon Teng Temple and Kampunbg Kling Mosque vicinity projects great communal harmony in this country. That is perhaps the main reason that this location is also denoted with the metaphor, *Harmony Street*.



#### 4. Tebrau Glass Temple

Malaysia's famous landmark, Tebrau Glass Temple is a must visit in country's Johor Bahru area. Also denoted with its name, *Arulmigu Sri Rajakaliamman Glass Temple*, it is popular amongst the Indian community, especially Hindu visitors from around the world. Current temple is a renovated one with the use of glass and thus it earned the new name since 1996 while it had been inaugurated for the general public. It maintained the rare distinction of getting listed in the Malaysian Book of Records in 2010, as the only Glass built temple in the country.

#### 5. Maran Murugan Temple



One of the famous Hindu Temples in Malaysia, Maran Murugan Temple is visited by the devotees worshipping Hindu God Lord Murugan. As per Hindu belief, Lord Ganesa's elder brother, Lord Murugan seeks equal respect. This temple is also popular by its other name, *Sri Marthandavar Bala Dhandayuthapani Aalayam*. As the stories go, the area nearby this temple witnessed happenings of several miracles. Presence of sacred tree in the temple premises is considered to be one such miracle. Devotees arriving here for worship, to reimpose their Hindu faith.

#### 6. Klang Perumal Temple

Named after the place where it is located, Klang Perumal Temple in the Klang area of Malaysia's Selangor regions is the Vaishnavite Malaysian temple popular as the old-



est amongst all. This temple is denoted with many metaphors including, being called the *Tirupathi of Southeast Asia*, besides other popular name, *Sri Sundarararaja Perumal Temple* for the Hindus to worship in Malaysian region. As large chunk of South Indian Hindus worship Lord Vishnu, this temple is thus dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

#### 7. Waterfall Temple



Located in the George Town area of Penang region in Malaysia. Waterfall Temple or famously called *Arulmigu Baladhandayuthapani Temple* is the one in this country where Lord Muruga is being worshipped. The temple is dedicated to that Hindu God and witnesses the gathering of sufficient crowd when the majority of Malaysian Hindus celebrate the popular Thaipusam festival. One important factor about this temple is that any devotee willing to worship here is supposed to climb the 513 steps of stair with the aim to worship Lord Murugan and to pay homage to the Hindu God. Considered the largest of Murugan shrines outside India, its tallest Gopuram stands at 21.6 m height is a popular attraction here.

#### 8. Sri Ayyanar Temple



Hindu temple in Malaysia with its connection with a local Tamil village in India, Sri Ayyanar Temple is a globally recognized one today. A belief goes on that one Tamil migrant worker in Malaysia named Periamma had made a tiny statue of Sri Ayyanar, a Hindu God with sand and clay materials that had been brought from India then. With fast increase in worshipper's numbers over a period of time, that makeshift temple attained manifold popularity. That tiny temple had already become a popular and splendid temple today, where approximately 72 ft tall Sri Ayyanar statue seeks attention of all worshippers. The original idol which Periamma had crafted centuries ago is still kept there.

#### 9. Sri Shakti Devasthanam



One of the recent yet vibrant Hindu temples in Malaysia namely Sri Shakti Devasthanam had its consecration ceremony in the year 2013 in a relatively calm and quiet environment of Bukit Rotan Village in Malaysia. Since then, this temple became popular landmark in the Selangor region, where its magnificent appearance appeals to Hindu devotees for worship. Also famous as Sri Shakti temple, it is known for its huge Gopuram that was meticulously sculptured to fit in the 5-storey temple. This tiny temple has already become a popular and splendid temple today where an approximately 72 feet tall Sri Ayyanar statue seeks attention of all worshippers. All 51 Shakti statues inside the temple corridor seek the attention of all devotees. According to Hindu belief these deities represent the *51 Shakti Peetas* in Indian subcontinents located in various places.





# COMMUNITY WATCH



# Riding the waves, Tamil New Year bands the community together

Kitchener, April 23 2022: Two years after the corona virus outbreak upended life in Waterloo region slowly inching to near normal. Local Tamil community from Sri Lanka and South India opened up their first event of the year, celebrating the New Year with a high note. A house full event of more than 300 guests attended the event. The spirit of members of Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region was high at Forest Heights Community Center in Kitchener.

The event was inaugurated by the

Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre Hon. Mike Morrice, Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis, Waterloo MP Bardish Chagger, Mayor of Kitchener Berry Vrbanovic and Mayor of Cambridge Kathryn McGarry. Special guest was Sivan Ilangko President Canadian Tamil Congress and Chairperson Tamil Chair of Toronto. The outgoing President Mrs. Yoga Arumugam welcomed the guests.

The program started with a beautiful classical Indian dance Natana Poojai, a piece depicting lord Shiva

in his form of Nataraja, lord of the dance by the students of Sri Abiramy Natiyalaya of Waterloo. The dancers describe the nine emotions: love, joy, compassion, anger, courage, disgust, fear, wonder and peace. This was followed by a speech by the incoming President of TCA Mr. Dennis Loyola. He welcomed the new comers and well-wishers to the region. He stressed the importance of building stronger community together.

The event was filled with cultural performances including Miruthan-

gam, Bharatha Natyam and fusion Bollywood dance. An hour musical program by Toronto singer Shardha Ganesh and Ramya Ramachandran entertained the crowd.

A banana leaf style South Indian dinner was served to all. Food catering was handled by Raja Fine Restaurant of Kitchener. The event was sponsored by Lens and Frames Optical of Cambridge. Mask and sanitizer protocol was implemented, due to COVID-19 in the region.





## COMMUNITY WATCH



# Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Community

## DTA SERVING DURHAM TAMILS DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED AND CHALLENGING TIMES

Durham Tamil 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.

### DTA's Easter Egg Hunt

DTA had an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Our kids had an amazing time during the outdoor celebration. Thank you to all the youth volunteers and parents who helped the program go successfully. Special thanks to our youth subcommittee who organized the games for this event. Congrats to our youth leader Sveta Manorathan for her great work. Thank you to our president who lent his backyard to host this event. Special thank you to our executive committee members and committee members who helped in the background to make this event successful. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the event.



### DTA's Homeland Projects

DTA is proud to announce that we are restarting our homeland projects. DTA's fishing boat project in Mannar District has been successfully accomplished. Also, DTA's sewing machine distribution project went well as well. If anyone wants to support our homeland projects, please contact us.

### DTA's Maple Syrup Festival Day Trip

Everyone had a great time at the maple syrup festival trip. Thank you to Mahedran Sinnathirai (Seniors Coordinator) for organizing the lunch and sponsoring the snacks for the trip. Congratulates to our youth Aswin & Pukalavan who attended the trip and helped during the trip. Special thanks to our president who travelled with us and tirelessly helped during the whole trip.



### DTA's Pittsburgh Bus Trip

DTA organized the Pittsburgh Bus Trip for all ages. We visited Sri Venkateswara Temple, Jain Temple, and Sai Baba Temple. It was a very fun and entertaining trip. Thank you to all the participants and volunteers.

### 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](http://durhamtamils.org)

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

### DTA's Seniors 1st Monthly Meeting

DTA Seniors had a fantastic time at the seniors' 1st monthly meeting in May 2022.

Thank you to Thavamanidevi Manickavasagar who bought vadai. Our seniors had a great evening with singing and laughter. Special thanks to the program organizers.

If you want to participate in our seniors' programs, please check our monthly calendars. Please register for virtual Seniors programs at [durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org). Thank you to our fantastic volunteers who do not expect anything and are serving the community voluntarily.

### 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](http://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, Showtha Thushijanthan-RE/MAX, Ajax Crematorium, and Visitation Centre, 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](http://www.DurhamTamils.Org)

Tel 905.428.7007

**Durham Tamil Association**

**Hope For Homeland  
Gala Night**

**SATURDAY JUNE 25TH  
AT 5:00PM**

**Location: Audley Recreation Centre  
(Banquet Hall)  
1955 Audley Road North, Ajax, L1Z 0L2**

*Buffet Dinner  
Dancing &  
Live Entertainment  
Cash Bar*

**Fundraising!  
\$100**

**Tickets can be booked at DTA website  
[durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org) OR call TEL# 905-428-7007**



## In Tribute & Remembrance Of Mullivaikkal Lives Lost Thru May 2009 ~ 13 Years ~ May 2022



## Sri Lankan violence claims several deaths

May 10, 2022: Police reports in Sri Lanka have confirmed that violence throughout the island has resulted in several deaths and a number of arson attacks on houses and properties.

A Parliamentarian, a Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman, a Sub Inspector of Police and a Police Sergeant, had died during the riots and violent activities that took place island wide recently.

More than 230 have been injured in these incidents. Police said 47 vehicles and 38 houses came under arson attack, while 41 vehicles and 65 houses had been severely damaged. Most of the vehicles and houses destroyed belonged to former ministers or MPs of the ruling party.

The incidents sparked off no sooner Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse resigned his Premiership. A nationwide curfew was imposed and troops were deployed in Colombo as supporters of the ruling party attacked anti-government demonstrators outside the President's office, leaving many people injured.

Supporters of the Government party rallied inside Mahinda Rajapaksa's office earlier urging him to ignore the protesters' demand to step down and requesting he remains in office. After the meeting, they went to the front of



**Ancestral home of Rajapaksas' set on fire in Hambantota**

the office where peaceful protesters have been demonstrating for several days while video footage showed the pro-government supporters attacking protesters with clubs and iron bars, demolishing and later burning down their tents.

The citizens of the island country have been showing this discontentment with the present government as they continue to struggle in long queues to meet their basic necessities, including food and medicines.

It was reported earlier that the Sri Lankan President and several ministers had also requested for the Prime Minister to resign allowing to form a government of national unity, an interim arrangement till the present economic crisis could be dealt with.

## Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) issues statement on violence and breakdown of law post May 9 incidents

10th May 2022.

Full Text of Media statement

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) expresses its grave concern at the violence which occurred in the course of yesterday (May 9th, 2022) commencing from the violence unleashed from Temple Trees on the protest sites opposite Temple Trees and at Galle Face. The attacks on the protest sites provoked unprecedented unleashing of violence on the person and property of many persons including Members of Parliament and members of local authorities and others resulting in deaths, injury and the destruction of public property and private property.

The BASL condemns all forms of violence and all those engaged in acts of violence must be dealt with according to law. Whilst peaceful protests are encouraged there should be no room whatever for violence and lawlessness. No one should condone or seek to justify any act of violence.

The BASL notes that the main responsibility for yesterday's incidents lie with those who organised and instigated the mob at Temple Trees which was the residence of the former Prime Minister Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse. The mob proceeded from there to the protest sites and as such Mr. Rajapakse cannot absolve himself from blame. Video footage show several senior politicians instigating the crowd which had gathered inside Temple Trees to engage in violence.

It is a manner of grave concern that the police failed to take action to halt the mob and to take necessary steps to quell the mob. Previously the Sri Lanka Police sought and obtained orders from courts on marches and processions relating to the protests against the Government but failed miserably to take any action against the mob at Temple Trees.

The unleashing of violence from Temple Trees has further eroded confidence in the entire regime including

His Excellency the President and seriously jeopardised efforts to restore political and economic stability.



In these circumstances urgent action is immediately required on the part of the authorities to restore public confidence and restore peace. For this purpose, the BASL demands:

1. The immediate arrest according to law of all persons who instigated, conspired to unleash the violent mob from Temple Trees and participated in the said violence - irrespective of the positions they held in the Government or of their family connections. Immediate travel bans be obtained against such persons by the Police.

2. A comprehensive investigation into the attacks on peaceful protesters opposite Temple Trees and at Galle Face.

3. Immediate halt to the violence unleashed on the persons and property of individuals and on State Property and that the perpetrators of such violence too to be investigated, arrested and dealt with according to law.

4. An independent inquiry into the failure of the authorities including the Sri Lanka Police to prevent and restrain the mob violence including that which was unleashed from Temple Trees.

The BASL will continue to do its duty towards the country and its people and to uphold the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in the country.

Signed by: SALIYA PIERIS, PC, PRESIDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA and ISURU BALAPATABENDI, SECRETARY, BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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## 60th Anniversary Celebration and Book Release Invitation

Swami Vipulananda Research Center of Canada is hosting a public event to Honor 60 years of service to the community of

**Mr. SIVANESAN SINNI AH, B.Sc., B. Ed , OCT, ESL**

Emeritas Principal of Kopay Christian College, Sri Lanka  
Retired Senior Master, Women Teachers College Gezawa, Nigeria  
Retired School Community Advisor, Toronto District School Board, Canada  
Senior Lecturer (English) - Annamalai University Canada Campus (Presently) in the fields of Education, Social Service, Hindu religion and Media (including Fine Arts)

On

**May 22nd Sunday, 2022 at 3 p.m.  
At Scarborough Civic Center**

Also on that day 3 of His following books will be released

1. NINAVIL NIRPAVAI (autobiography)
2. Everlasting English Poems (Tamil version)
3. NARI MAPPILLAI (Revised Edition) A short play.

We are pleased to invite all the staff and students of Annamalai Canada Campus Members of the Media, Professionals and Entrepreneurs of Toronto, Ex co members of various organizations, members of various Seniors Associations in Toronto his friends, relatives and well wishers.  
Thank you!

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Please note :

We kindly request all participants to follow the Covid protocol and wear mask and follow other Health department instructions so as to be safe and healthy. The event will start at 3 pm.

## Content Writer, Monsoon Journal

The Monsoon Journal is currently seeking a Content Writer to conduct interviews and write business or career profiles on individuals within the Monsoon Journal readership community.

This position is on a part-time basis for 3 months.

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