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Radha Pandya's Bharathanatyam Arangetram Shines Light on the Classical Dance's Prominence

By Danesh Thirukumaran

"Radha's devotion to Bharathanatyam, her Guru, and all those who have assisted her in her journey to the Arangetram was evident, as each individual performance during the program seemed to promote vibrancy within the audience. Radha found much assistance from her cousin,

Harini Rajadeva, who completed her Arangetram earlier in July. They supported one another's dancing journey, and even acted as each other's Master of Ceremonies for their respective Arangetrams. This performance would not have been possible without the orchestra, comprised by Vocals from Smt. V Krupaa Lakshmi, Mridangam by Shri. Vasuthevan Rajalingam, Veena by Smt. Pra-bha Dayalan, Flute by Smt. Varshini Narayanan, and Nattuvangam by Guru Smt. Selvi Chandranathan. This talented group of individuals together can be acknowledged as the musical version of the popular Marvel Avengers, as Ketan Pandya, Radha's father, noted in his speech. She duly did her parents, Ketan and Sanju Pandya, as well as her grandparents, Bhagvati and Manjula Pandya, and Velumailum and Punitharani Sathianathan proud."

- Full article on Pages 24 & 25

Velumailum granddaughters perform exquisite Bharatanatyam Arangetrams:



Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Hindu Temple Honors Priests from Greater Toronto Area at its Annual Festival

By Danesh Thirukumaran

Inclusivity is Key in Establishing the Future of the Tamil Diaspora Identity

Settling in a new home within a vastly different community comes with times of excitement, struggle, and uncertainty. In the case of Tamils over the last forty years, this story is far from unfamiliar. Temples play a crucial role in easing the transition from Sri Lanka to many places across the globe. In Ontario, Canada, temples like Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Hindu Temple of Toronto and Richmond Hill Hindu Temple cultivate a homely feeling for many devout Tamils.

Contd. on page 23...



Shri K. Govindarajan Bhattar from the Richmond Hill Hindu Temple and Shri Panchadchara Vijayakumara Kurukkal at the Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Temple festival

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Ontario Launches its Plan to Catch Up

Plan Starts with Students Back in Classrooms, On Time



July 25, 2022
Education

TORONTO — After two years of pandemic disruptions, Ontario today launched its Plan to Catch Up for the 2022-23 school year. The plan, which is supported by the government's historic investments in education, starts with students back in classrooms, on time, with the full school experience including extracurriculars like clubs, band and field trips.

"Our government is looking ahead as we remain squarely focused on ensuring students receive the best stable learning experience possible, and that starts with them being in class, on time, with all of the experiences students deserve," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "We have a plan for students to catch up, including the largest tutoring program in Ontario's history, a modernized skills-focused curriculum to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow, and enhanced mental health supports."

Ontario's Plan to Catch Up is squarely focused on the priorities of parents and includes five key components:

1. Getting kids back in classrooms in September, on time, with a full school

experience that includes extra-curriculars like clubs, band, and field trips;

2. New tutoring supports to fill gaps in learning;

3. Preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow;

4. Providing more money to build schools and improve education; and

5. Helping students with historic funding for mental health supports.

The full Plan to Catch Up can be found online here.

The government has made key investments that students and educators are already benefiting from, including:

- More than \$26.6 billion in funding for the 2022-23 school year, the highest investment in public education in Ontario's history.

- Investing more than \$175 million for enhanced tutoring support programs delivered by school boards and community partners, with a focus on reading, writing and math.

- \$304 million in time-limited funding to support the hiring of up to 3,000 front line staff, including teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants, and other education workers.

- Investing \$14 billion to build state-of-the-art schools and classrooms and renew and repair existing schools,

Ontario Bringing High-Speed Internet Access to More Communities

Province helping to connect up to 266,000 unserved and underserved homes and businesses

August 04, 2022
Infrastructure

TORONTO — The Ontario government is bringing high-speed internet access to up to 266,000 unserved and underserved homes and businesses, marking another milestone in its plan to help connect every corner of the province by the end of 2025.

"Our government is ensuring every community in Ontario has access to reliable high-speed internet," said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. "We are making tremendous progress towards building a stronger Ontario, where everyone will have access to health services, be able to work and learn online, participate in the agriculture sector, while also helping to create jobs and invest in the future of our province, today and for generations to come."

The province has signed agreements with eight internet service providers to bring access to as many as 339 municipalities across Ontario. The internet service providers were selected through a two-stage competitive process and are part of Ontario's historic investment of nearly \$4 billion to bring access to reliable high-speed internet across the province.



"This competitive process is the first of its kind in Canada and has led to an unprecedented market response and commitment to deliver high-speed internet connections to communities that have been left underserved until now," said Michael Lindsay, President and CEO of Infrastructure Ontario. "We at Infrastructure Ontario are proud to help create a connected, modern and competitive Ontario."

The government has a plan to build Ontario's future with shovels in the ground for highways, hospitals, housing and high-speed internet infrastructure. Ontario's high-speed internet initiatives will help ensure that every home and business, in every community, can participate in today's economy. It will also help create the conditions for economic and fiscal growth, while protecting progress made.

Via news.ontario.ca

including \$2.1 billion for the 2022-23 school year.

- Allocating \$90 million for mental health initiatives and supports for students, a 420 per cent increase from 2017-18.

- Additional funding to support students with exceptionalities through a \$93 million increase in funding for the Special Education Grant and over \$9 million in funding to support the new de-streamed grade nine program, with an emphasis on supporting students most at risk including students from racialized, Black, immigrant, and Indigenous communities.

"With almost 50,000 children benefiting from Ontario's tutoring investments every week, and summer learning programs underway province-wide, Ontario's plan is getting students

back on track," added Minister Lecce. "With an emphasis on getting back to basics, our government is focused on strengthening life and job skills in the classroom, so that students graduate as financially literate, technologically savvy, emotionally intelligent leaders, ready for the jobs of tomorrow."

Nationally, Ontario students continue to be among the top performers in math, reading and science, as demonstrated in the 2019 Pan-Canadian Assessment Program results. Ontario's Plan to Catch Up will help preserve the province's competitive advantage and ensure students have the skills they need for the jobs of the future as they recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Via news.ontario.ca

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For World Humanitarian Day 2022, Look Towards How We Can Spread Humanitarianism Throughout the Globe

By **HarrishThirukumar**

Humanitarian action is guided by humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. These principles, derived from international humanitarian law, have been taken up by the United Nations in General Assembly Resolutions 46/182 and 58/114.

The principal motivation of humanitarian action is to save lives and alleviate suffering in a manner that respects and restores personal dignity. Accordingly, humanity is the principal driver for any response to a crisis, whether caused by conflict, violence or natural or man-made disaster.

This perspective underlines World Humanitarian Day (WHD). This day was recognized in memory of the 19 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people. It included the chief humanitarian in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. In 2009, World Humanitarian Day (WHD) was formalized by the United Nations General Assembly.

Last year, World Humanitarian Day 2021 highlighted the immediate consequences of the climate emergency for the world's most vulnerable people and ensure that their voices are heard, and their needs top the agenda at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November.

For 2022, a US-based non-profit organization will host their first annual Day of Service in partnership with the United Nations' global call to action this World Humanitarian Day, August 19, 2022. As a global humanitarian

relief and development organization, HHRD has been responding to human suffering in emergency and disaster situations around the world since 2005, as well as offering long-term relief and development programs.

To join in these efforts, from August 19-21, all HHRD regional offices nationwide will organize a Day of Service opportunity for volunteers to sort and pack essentials to send to distressed populations and countries around the world. Clothing, shoes, blankets, and toys are just some of the items that will be prepared for shipping during this event. Volunteers will also have a chance to mingle and enjoy refreshments, friendly competitions, and other entertainment. This was reported by HHRD at the beginning of August in preparation for this day of observance.

In that sense, this pub desk encourages readers to look within your communities and elsewhere in Ontario and Canada on humanitarian work being done across the globe. Some organizations include the Canadian Red Cross, Oxfam Canada, and CARE Canada.

As Martin Luther King Jr., a civil rights activist and clergyman, once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

For World Humanitarian Day 2022, look towards how we can spread humanitarianism throughout the globe as we answer that question in full.

Canada Historic Milestones



August 8, 1918
Canadian and Australian troops advance 13 kilometres into territory held by Germans in the Battle of Amiens. The battle will last four days and involve over 600 tanks, 2,000 aircraft and scores of heavy guns.

German morale will be hit hard, and the Canadian and Australian troops will be buoyed by their remarkable advance and victory against the enemy. However, Canadian casualties will be high, with over 11,800 dead and injured, including nearly 4,000 on the first day.

This "black day" for German morale, the first of the "Last Hundred Days," will boost Allied troops and mark the beginning of the end of the First World War.

The price one pays for pursuing any profession or calling is an intimate knowledge of its ugly side

- James Baldwin - (August 2, 1924 - December 1, 1987) American writer

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

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Statement by the Prime Minister on the 39th anniversary of Black July

July 23, 2022

Ottawa, Ontario

The Prime Minister, Justin

Trudeau, today issued the following statement on the 39th anniversary of Black July:

“Today, we remember those who lost their lives or were displaced during the horrific and violent events of Black July.

“In July 1983, anti-Tamil pogroms erupted in Colombo, following decades of unrest and rising tensions across the country. Known as Black July, these deadly events triggered an armed conflict that lasted 26 years, cost tens of thousands of lives, destroyed homes and businesses owned by Tamils, and sent hundreds of thousands into exile.

“In the months that followed the events of Black July, the Government of Canada implemented a Special Measures program to respond to the violence in Sri Lanka, which helped more than 1,800 Tamils resettle in Canada. I have had the privilege of meeting many Tamil Canadian survivors of Black July and have been moved by their harrowing experiences of loss, displacement, and resilience.

Canada is now home to one of the largest Tamil diasporas in the world, and we thank Tamil Canadians for contributing so greatly to making Canada the strong, vibrant, and inclusive place it is today.

“Today, we acknowledge the people of Sri Lanka, who are suffering during this current economic and political crisis. Following the recent election of the new president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, by the Sri Lankan parliament, Canada strongly encourages Sri Lanka's government to promote democracy and human rights and maintain the rule of law as it works to address this crisis, and undertake the necessary reforms for a peaceful, prosperous, and reconciled Sri Lanka.

Canada also reiterates the need to ensure that the rights to protest and a free press are protected during these difficult times.

“On this day, our thoughts are with all those who suffered and lost family, friends, and neighbours during Black July and the conflict that followed. We are committed to working together to help build a better future for everyone.”

Via pm.gc.ca

Statement by the Prime Minister on the 50th anniversary of the Ugandan Asian resettlement



August 4, 2022

Ottawa, Ontario

The Prime Minister, Justin

Trudeau, today issued the following statement on the 50th anniversary of the Ugandan Asian resettlement:

“Fifty years ago, Canada welcomed more than 7,000 South Asians expelled from Uganda as part of an international resettlement effort. Today, we honour the resilience,

strength, and courage of Ugandans of South Asian descent and reflect on the many important contributions they have made – and continue to make – to Canadian communities across the country.

“On August 4, 1972, the Ugandan President Idi Amin Dada ordered all South Asians to leave Uganda within 90 days. This appalling decision reflected severe anti-South Asian dis-

Ontario Marks World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

July 29, 2022

Children, Community
and Social Services

Solicitor General

TORONTO — Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Solicitor General Michael Kerzner released the following statement:

“We stand together with our partners worldwide to recognize World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

This year's theme focuses on the use and abuse of technology and how social media and cellphones are often used by traffickers to lure, groom, recruit, and exploit individuals.

While human trafficking can happen to anyone, we know young women and girls are particularly at risk of being exploited, robbing them of their safety, as well as having a devastating impact on their health and well-being.

The widespread use of social media and online messaging services have intensified globally during the COVID-19 pandemic. Traffickers use this technology to more easily identify and target a person's vulnerabilities, gain trust and form a bond that they will then use to manipulate and exploit their victim. We must use the same technology to reach those at risk and disrupt and prevent human

trafficking. Our government's \$307 million Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy is specifically designed to protect children and youth. It includes digital education tools that, with the help of adult facilitators, can teach kids how to recognize if they are being targeted by a trafficker and where to get help. It also provides culturally specific resources for Indigenous communities.

trafficking.

We must do everything we can to protect potential victims and support survivors by intervening early, holding offenders accountable, and ensuring law enforcement officials have the tools necessary to investigate, charge and prosecute offenders.

Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government will continue to work with communities and our partners across the province to prevent and eliminate human trafficking while supporting victims and survivors.”

For more information or supports, individuals can call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010.

Via news.ontario.ca

call home.

“In the five decades since, South Asian Ugandans have become a vibrant part of Canada's social and economic fabric. Their many important contributions have made our country stronger, more diverse, and more inclusive.

“On behalf of the Government of Canada, I encourage all Canadians to learn more about the expulsion and resettlement of South Asian Ugandans in Canada and beyond. Canada will continue to honour our long-standing tradition of protecting those fleeing conflict and persecution – no matter who they are and where they are from.”

Via pm.gc.ca

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CANADA NEWS

Sarah El-Shaarawi wins 2022 Dalton Camp Award and \$10,000 prize for essay The Similarities Between Red and Yellow



"We were detained for days in cold cells. They took most of our clothes, denied us soap and toothbrushes, and only allowed us to speak to our lawyers."

TORONTO – Writer Sarah El-Shaarawi has won the 2022 Dalton Camp Award for her essay *The Similarities Between Red and Yellow*, a powerful reflection on the importance of freedom of the press.

The Dalton Camp Award is an annual \$10,000 prize for the best essay on the subject of media and democracy in Canada. FRIENDS launched the award in 2002, to honour the memory of the late Dalton Camp, a prominent commentator on Canadian public affairs.

In *The Similarities Between Red and Yellow*, El-Shaarawi draws from her own experience as a journalist in Canada and abroad to make the sobering observation that journalists are being threatened and prevented from doing their job in both autocratic countries as well as democratic ones like Canada.

"As a forever student of global politics and global media systems and having worked extensively in some of the region's most associated with oppression and a lack of media freedoms, I have been able to look in on Canadian press freedoms from, perhaps, a different perspective," said El-Shaarawi. "And this has given me two things: first, it has shown me just how lucky we are and how much we should appreciate the freedoms that we have as Canadians, and as Canadians working in the media. And second, it has shown me just how fragile these

systems are and how much they need to be protected."

The winner of this year's Dalton Camp Award for Best Student Journalist essay is Kevin Seeram, a graduate of McMaster University. In his essay *The Memeification of Modern Politics: From TikTok to Deepfakes*, Seeram reflects on how social media platforms are shaping the current generations' political engagement.

"Given the current climate we find ourselves in, credible, reliable and independent journalism has never been more important," said Marla Boltman, Executive Director of FRIENDS.

"Keeping Canadians informed and connected helps strengthen trust between citizens and supports a healthy democracy. We are honoured to be awarding this prize to two writers who have taken the time to think and reflect on the state of journalism in Canada".

The winners were chosen from amongst 200 entries, by a five-member jury: Hannah Sung, Jane Hilderman, Kathy English, Danielle Paradis and TemurDurrani.

We extend our thanks to The Toronto Star and The Tyee, our official media partners for the 2022 Dalton Camp Award.

FRIENDS is a people-powered movement that stands up for Canadian voices, in public broadcasting, news media and culture. A strong CBC, fearless journalism, and our shared story make us who we are. FRIENDS is not affiliated with or funded by CBC/Radio-Canada or any other media outlet, industry group or political party.

Ontario's Plan to Build Supporting Stronger Province and Economy

2022 Budget is a plan to help keep costs down for families, support better jobs and bigger paycheques and build more highways, housing, transit and hospitals



August 09, 2022
Finance

TORONTO — As part of its commitment to implement the 2022 Budget and build a stronger Ontario for workers, businesses and families, the Ontario government today re-introduced the Plan to Build Act (Budget Measures), 2022.

"I am pleased to re-introduce the Plan to Build Act (Budget Measures), 2022 bill today so our government can continue delivering Ontario's Plan to Build, supporting better jobs for workers while building more highways, housing and hospitals right across the province," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "With costs rising, our plan also includes measures to help families, including new direct payments to parents to help their kids catch up and increasing Ontario Disability Support Program payments."

To help those who qualify for disability support, the government is delivering on its commitment to increase the rates for income support by five per cent beginning in September 2022, for families and persons under the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Beginning in September, the government will increase both the ODSP rate and the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program maximum monthly amount by five per cent. Future ODSP rates will also be adjusted to inflation.

To help fill gaps in learning for students after two years of pandemic disruptions, the government is also investing \$225 million for direct payments to parents. This is in addition to the previously announced \$175 million tutoring support program, the largest of its kind in Ontario's history.

The government will have more details later in the year on how families can access this new support.

"No government in Ontario history has invested more in public education, tutoring supports, and student mental health than our government," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "We are going further by providing direct financial support to parents, in addition to the expanded tutoring supports for students, all focused on ensuring kids get back to class with the full school experience."

The additional investment in tutoring supports and increased ODSP rate will be funded from existing contingencies contained in the government's fiscal plan as presented in the 2022 Budget.

Building on the Province's record of transparency and accountability, the government also released the 2022-23 First Quarter Finances today, which provides updated information about the evolution of Ontario's economic and fiscal outlook since the 2022 Budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Due to higher-than-projected taxation revenues, the government is projecting a deficit of \$18.8 billion in 2022-23, an improvement of \$1.1 billion from the outlook presented in the 2022 Budget.

"We have a prudent and flexible plan which builds on our record of responsible fiscal management, while making the investments that will reduce commute times, support front-line health care and help create good jobs," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "In a time of economic uncertainty, our government is supporting Ontario workers and families by putting more money back into their pockets."

Via news.ontario.ca



SE Asian govts urge superpowers to maintain peace after Pelosi Taiwan trip

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and others restate One China Policy recognizing Beijing's stance.

By John Bechtel for BenarNews

2022.08.03

Southeast Asian governments on Wednesday urged China and rival superpower the United States to hold back from "provocative actions" that could inflame tensions, saying they were watching the situation around Taiwan after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's controversial visit.

From Manila to Jakarta, Bangkok, Hanoi and other capitals, governments across the region reiterated their support for the One China Policy, under which Beijing is recognized as the sole government of China.

The United States also holds this policy, but maintains close unofficial ties with Taiwan and is obligated to provide defense support. Washington only acknowledges China's sovereignty claim over Taiwan rather than endorsing it.

The foreign ministry of Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest country, expressed grave concern about the "increasing rivalry among major powers," without naming the U.S. and China.

"If not managed well, it may lead to open conflict and disrupt peace and stability, including in the Taiwan [S] trait," Jakarta said in a statement as it called on "all parties to refrain from provocative actions that may worsen the situation."

"The world is in dire need of wisdom and responsibilities of all leaders to ensure peace and stability are maintained," said Indonesia, which has faced its own territorial tensions with China in waters around the Natuna Islands in the far southwestern reaches of the South China Sea.

In Bangkok, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed similar concern in the wake of Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

"We do not wish to see any actions that would aggravate tensions and undermine peace and stability in the region," ministry spokesman Tanee-Sangrat said.

"We hope that all parties concerned exercise utmost restraint, abide by international law and principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and resolve their differences through peaceful means."

As the military jet carrying Pelosi and her delegation touched down in Taipei on Tuesday evening after a flight from their previous stop in Kuala Lumpur, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) announced live-fire drills at six locations around Taiwan, some overlapping the island's sovereign territorial waters.

In addition, 21 Chinese military aircraft, including 10 J-16 fighter-jets and two reconnaissance airplanes, flew into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ).

While in Taipei, Pelosi visited Tai-



wan's parliament before meeting with President Tsai Ing-wen who called her "one of Taiwan's most devoted friends."

During a brief speech following their meeting, Pelosi praised Taiwan for its resilience.

"America's determination to preserve democracy here in Taiwan and around the world remains ironclad," the house speaker said, adding that the U.S. "will not abandon our commitment to Taiwan."

Pelosi was the first senior-most American official to visit Taiwan in 25 years. In the days leading up to her visit, Beijing had issued stern warnings against it, claiming that the trip would encroach on Chinese sovereignty.

The Philippines, which has also had confrontations with China in the South China Sea and maintains a Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States, said it was tracking Pelosi's visit over concerns that it could escalate tensions with Beijing. The Pelosi-led U.S. delegation left Taiwan Wednesday evening and traveled on to South Korea.

"Our military and our DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) are closely monitoring the situation as they would in any other similar circumstance," said Trixie Cruz-Angeles, spokeswoman for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

"On matters of international relations, reactions are studied. We don't make knee-jerk reactions because they could adversely affect international relations," she said, stressing that "loose words" could impact Philippine-China relations.

Cruz-Angeles said China's envoy to Manila, Huang Xilian, had reminded officials to adhere to the One China Policy.

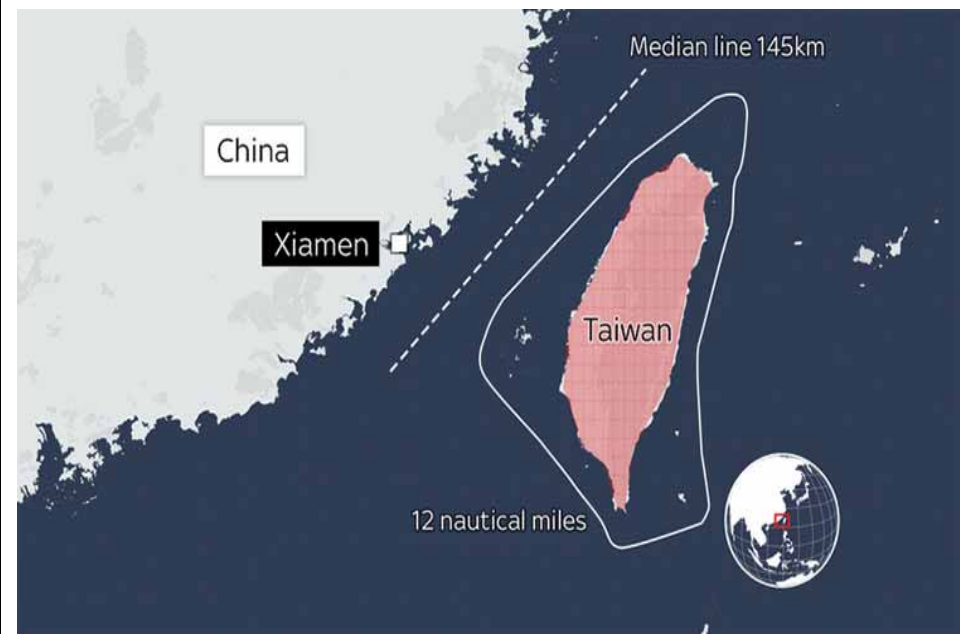
"There is only one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory," Huang said Tuesday ahead of Pelosi's visit.

The Chinese ambassador said he hoped the Philippines would "handle all Taiwan-related issues with prudence to ensure sound and steady development of China-Philippines relations."

Malaysia's foreign minister, meanwhile, said his government wanted to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region as officials in Kuala Lumpur seek to maintain good relations with their counterparts in Beijing and Washington.

Contd. on page 9...

China's military exercises near Taiwan continue as drones fly over Kinmen islands



By RFA Staff

2022.08.06

China's major military exercise around Taiwan entered day three Saturday, with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) apparently staging a simulated attack on Taiwan's main island, Taipei's Defense Ministry said.

Multiple Chinese military aircraft and vessels operated near Taiwan on Saturday morning, some of them crossed the median line dividing the Taiwan Strait, the ministry said in a statement.

The Taiwanese military sent warnings, scrambled aircraft and deployed defense missile systems to track the Chinese military planes, the statement said.

On Friday night, four Chinese drones were spotted flying over the Kinmen islands near China's Fujian province, the defense ministry said.

During the day on Friday, Chinese military aircraft made a record 68 incursions into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ), many of them crossed the median line, which serves as a de facto border between Taiwan and the mainland.

This is the highest number of incursions in one day. The previous single-day record was 56, on Oct. 4, 2021.

By "squeezing the median line," the PLA intends to make its encroachments on Taiwan's air space and waters routine, therefore changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and making it a Chinese inner sea," said Shen Ming-Shih, acting deputy chief executive officer at Taiwan's Institute for National Defense and Security Research, a government think-tank.

The unprecedented drills are set to continue until noon on Sunday local time and Chinese media reported that a Chinese aircraft carrier group, featuring at least one nuclear-powered submarine, would take part in the first carrier deterrence exercise.

Details however remain sketchy and the whereabouts of both Chinese carriers, Liaoning and Shandong, were

unclear as of Saturday.

USS Ronald Reagan returns

The U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, seems to have returned to east of Taiwan from a position near its Japanese home port, several sources said.

The amphibious assault ships USS Tripoli and USS America were also heading to waters near Taiwan, the U.S. Naval Institute reported.

The carrier and other ships are expected to conduct maritime transit through the Taiwan Strait in the coming weeks, according to U.S. National Security Spokesperson John Kirby who added that the U.S. "will take further steps to demonstrate our commitment to the security of our allies in the region."

On Friday China released a set of eight "countermeasures" in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, freezing collaboration on three sets of military dialogues with the U.S., as well as from talks on the climate crisis, repatriation of illegal immigrants, counter-narcotics and legal assistance in criminal matters.

The breaking off of the wide range of bilateral talks came after Beijing announced sanctions against Pelosi and her direct family members, accusing her of "vicious and provocative actions."

Pelosi is the most senior U.S. official to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

On Thursday Japan said it had lodged a diplomatic protest after five ballistic missiles fired by China appear to have landed inside Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which stretches 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the outer limits of Japan's territorial seas.

Beijing rejected the complaint, saying China and Japan have not carried out maritime delimitation in the waters and China's missile test-launch in the area was "consistent with international law and practices."

Via rfa.org



Ponniyin Selvan: History versus curiosity over onscreen portrayal of mighty Cholas

Ponniyin Selvan is based on renowned writer Kalki Krishnamurthy's (1899-1954) popular Tamil novel of the same name, published in 1955.

By: PTI

August 7, 2022 6:29:09 pm

While film enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting the release of the history inspired flick PonniyinSelvan-I, a curious question has been raised on the religious signs portrayed in the movie's teaser.

An RTI activist has demanded to know why Chola kings were shown in the movie's teaser as sporting tilak on their forehead and not the sacred ash.

Cholas were Shaivites by faith and they should have been portrayed with the Shaivite sign, the sacred ash, the activist Selvam said in a legal notice. Seeking an explanation and demanding to know if history has been 'hidden' in the movie, the notice was sent to the filmmakers and actors through his lawyer.

PonniyinSelvan is based on renowned writer Kalki Krishnamurthy's (1899-1954) popular Tamil novel of the same name, published in 1955. The novel was inspired by the history of the imperial Cholas. PonniyinSelvan denotes 'Son (the Chola king) of mother Ponni', which is another name for River Cauvery, that made the Chola land fertile.

The film, starring Vikram, Karthi, Jayam Ravi, Jayaram and Aishwarya Rai, is helmed by Mani Ratnam.

A former epigraphist with the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department and a noted scholar in history, Tamil language and literature, S Ramachandran said the practice of sporting 'Senchandanam' was a part of the 'Kalamukha' Shaivite sect's practices.

A kumkum-like vertical mark on the forehead, the Senchandanam's length and width is often medium.

The researcher, who has written on several historical issues, said there are literary references on Kalamukha sect's practices. In Tamil Nadu, Tiruvotriyur (North Chennai) and Kodumbalur (Pudukottai District) were the two principal places where Kalamukha Shaivism was practised. This was about 800 to 1,000 years before the present times. Led by Mallikarjuna, a Kalamukha monastery thrived in Kodumbalur, he said.

The KodumbalurIrukkuvelir clan, who belonged to the Kalamukha sect were very closely related to the Cholas and there is an inscription as well to substantiate this, he said. Kalki's novel gives importance to the Irukkuvelir people and this is noteworthy, Ramachandran said. "So, a red religious mark is not against Shaivism, the history or Kalki's work," he said.



Circa 10th Century AD, a Chola army general became a Kalamukha saint after a war. He established a monastery in Tiruvotriyur following a visit to Kasi where he took 'Deeksha' from a Kalamukha guru Niranjanar. The general's name was MalaimandalathuNandikaraPuthurElankumaran, and he assumed the name of ChathurananthaPandithan after he chose the path of spirituality.

Worshippers of Goddess Kali also use the bright red mark, Ramachandran told PTI.

"When VijayalayaChola emerged victorious (mid 9th Century), he built a temple for Goddess Kali in Thanjavur as a thanksgiving," he said. Rulers of the valorous Mutharaiyar dynasty have worshipped Goddess Kali.

"It is an astonishing fact that a variety of Shaivite monasteries flourished in Tamil Nadu during the Chola era." Such monastic institutions trace their origins to various parts of the country including regions that now form part of Bengal. Eventually, the Shaivite sect of Kalamukha was assimilated by Veera Shaivism during the 12 Century AD.

"No doubt Chola emperors were ardent Shaivites. Chidambaram Lord Shiva is their family deity. Chidambaram temple Deekshitaras (priests) led the coronation events of Chola kings. At the same time, we must never forget that Cholas gave due respect and importance to all faiths," he said.

Cholas built places of worship for Sri Vaishnavism, Jainism and Buddhism. "We have an inscription in Lord RanganathaSwamy temple in Srirangam on Rajaraja-II (12th Century AD) building a math for Sri Ramanujacharya and the monarch's keen interest in supporting Sri Vaishnavism." The Chola kings gave away valuable gifts and bestowed land to support all places of worship including Sri Vaishnavite shrines and they ensured religious harmony, he said.

Raja RajaChola's sister KundavaiPirattiyar built a Jain temple (KundavaiJinalaya, during 10th-11th Century AD) off Polur near Tiruvannamalai and it could be seen even today, he said.

Soolamani Varma Vihara, a Buddhist monastery was built by Raja RajaChola-I near Nagapattinam. "We have evidence to say that Raja Raja-I, a devout Shaivite who assumed the title of Siva PadaShekaran and took Shiva Deeksha, did not ignore Buddhism. Cholas gave due importance to Devi worship as well." Hailed as 'the great', Raja RajaChola-I (985-1014 AD) built the famed big temple in Thanjavur, now a world heritage site.

"Belief in Karma, rebirth and the importance given to following Dharma in everyday life are the basic building blocks of all religions born in India. When people appreciate such unifying aspects, it will help them comprehend their specific traditions and theo-

gy much better. Importantly, it will strengthen harmony," Ramachandran said. Although Shaivite and Vaishnavite marks are dissimilar, the underlying theme of Indian spirituality is the same, the scholar said.

It may be recalled that AayirathilOruvan, a 2009 Tamil action-adventure movie directed by Selvaraghavan was also inspired by the times (roughly, towards the end of 13th Century AD) of the Chola empire. Ramachandran guided the makers of the film on life and times during the Chola era.

Characters in the Selvaraghavan movie were portrayed as sporting the Shaivite symbol of sacred ash as Cholas were Shaivites. Mother Kali or Mahakali and Durga are distinctive manifestations of Goddess Parvathi, the divine consort of Lord Shiva, who is the Mahakal.

In the tradition of Tamil Shaivism, 'temple' denotes the Chidambaram shrine. It underscores the primacy accorded in Shaivism to this temple, located in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu. This temple has a shrine dedicated to Lord Vishnu, worshipped as Sri GovindarajaPerumal.

Tamil poet Ottakuthar hails ParantakaChola-I (Circa 907-953 AD) as '... KadhalarPonveinthaKavalan,' praising him for constructing a golden roof for the Chidambaram temple's vimana out of love for the God.

Via PTI



US seeks to dial down tension over Taiwan Strait

In Manila, Blinken called China's halting of cooperation with the U.S. 'irresponsible.'

By Benar News Staff
2022.08.06

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Saturday said Beijing had acted irresponsibly in halting cooperation with the United States on topics including defense and climate change, as he sought to reassure Southeast Asian countries over raging tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

Meanwhile, China pressed forward with its major military exercise around Taiwan for a third day on Saturday, with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) apparently staging a simulated attack on Taiwan's main island, Taipei's Defense Ministry said.

"Since their missile launches, Beijing has taken an irresponsible step of a different kind: They've shut down eight different areas where our two countries have been able to work together," the top U.S. diplomat said during a press conference Saturday in Manila.

Beijing announced the "countermeasures" on Friday in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan, freezing bilateral dialogue on several military-to-military channels as well as talks on the climate crisis, repatriation of illegal immigrants, counter-narcotics and legal assistance in criminal matters.

"The world's largest carbon emitter is now refusing to engage on combatting the climate crisis. Suspending climate cooperation doesn't punish the United States; it punishes the world, particularly the developing world," Blinken said.

While Beijing appeared to have halted live-firing exercises around Taiwan, multiple Chinese military aircraft and vessels operated near Taiwan on Saturday, some of them crossing the median line dividing the Taiwan Strait, the ministry said in a statement.

The Taiwanese military sent warnings, scrambled aircraft and deployed defense missile systems to track the Chinese military planes, the statement said.

Blinken, traveling from Cambodia where he attended ASEAN meetings, said that the U.S. government was determined to avoid a crisis and to deescalate the tensions.

"The United States is not going to engage in any provocative actions of our own," Blinken told the Voice of America in an interview late Friday in Phnom Penh, transcripts of which were released to the press Saturday. "We think the seas should be calmed."

"The Taiwan Strait is of vital importance to virtually every country in the region. So much commerce goes through there. If that were interrupted, it would have a terrible impact on the global economy and on everyone's desire to recover from COVID," Blinken stressed.

"So I think it's incumbent upon all countries – the United States, but also China – to act responsibly and not use the visit of a member of our Congress as a pretext for engaging in potentially

dangerous and destabilizing actions," he added.

Nonetheless, he noted that the U.S. House Speaker had every right to make the recent trip to Taiwan, and that China's reaction by launching 11 ballistic missiles and deploying its ships around the region "is so disproportionate and so dangerous."

Meeting with Marcos

The U.S. diplomat met with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Saturday morning, and underlined the two sides' long-standing alliance.

Blinken is the highest-ranking U.S. official to travel to the country since the inauguration of Marcos, the son and namesake of the late dictator whom Washington helped flee into exile in Hawaii after a 1986 "people power" uprising.

"We're committed to the Mutual Defense Treaty. We're committed to working with you on shared challenges," Blinken said, referring to a 1951 pact between Manila and Washington that binds both sides to come to each other's aid in times of aggression from outside forces.

The U.S. government has repeatedly cited that partnership in the face of continued Chinese buildup in the disputed South China Sea region, where Beijing's maritime claims overlap with those of the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries.

He assured Marcos the United States would honor its commitments to the decades-old joint defense pact. "The alliance is strong and I believe can grow even stronger," Blinken said.

Marcos, for his part, stressed the importance of the alliance amid the volatile outlook in the region even as he stated that Pelosi's visit to Taiwan "did not raise the intensity" of tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

"But nonetheless, this just demonstrates how volatile the international diplomatic scene is, not only in the region," Marcos said. "So again, this just points to the fact of the importance of the relationship between the United States and the Philippines."

He said that the MDT "is in constant evolution" while noting that the Philippines and the United States enjoyed a special relationship linked by shared history.

Marcos succeeded President Rodrigo Duterte in May after six years of a somewhat rocky relationship with Washington that saw the Philippines pulling away from its traditional ally in favor of Beijing.

After meeting with Marcos, Blinken held a virtual meeting with his counterpart, Enrique Manalo, who earlier this week announced that he had contracted COVID-19. Manalo likewise reiterated the ties that bind the two nations, and the importance of keeping the peace over the Taiwan Strait.

"The Philippines continues of course to look at the big powers to help calm the waters and keep the peace," Manalo stressed. "We can ill afford any further escalation of tensions in the region." Blinken responded by saying

that Washington was "determined to act responsibly, so that we avoid crisis, we avoid conflict."

Beijing considers the self-ruling, democratic island a breakaway province, to be united with the mainland by force if necessary, and objects strongly to high-level U.S. visits. The United States does not recognize Taiwan diplomatically, as part of a One China policy demanded by Beijing, but retains close unofficial ties with Taipei and is obligated by law to provide it with defense capabilities.

Myanmar situation worsens

Meanwhile, Blinken said that the situation in Myanmar had deteriorated sharply, with the military regime there "totally unresponsive" to international calls for it to resolve the crisis there peacefully.

"Well, I think what we've seen, exactly as you say, is a situation that's gone from bad to worse, including with the heinous act of executing four members of the democracy movement despite pleas from ASEAN, from Cambodia, from many others not to do that," Blinken said, according to the VOA interview.

Blinken urged the junta to implement the five-point consensus that the Association of Southeast Asian



Nations (ASEAN) had drafted earlier for Myanmar to return to the path to democracy. Failing to do so would unleash "more pressure on the regime – economic pressure, political pressure," he warned.

"We have to press the regime to allow humanitarian assistance to reach people in Myanmar, and we should look at ways to make sure that weapons don't get to the regime. So we'll look at everything, including additional forms of economic pressure and sanctions," Blinken said.

He said ASEAN was correct to exclude Myanmar's foreign minister in recent meetings, but said moving forward the bloc would have to "look at what that means, including suspension of Myanmar."

Via rfa.org

SE Asian govts urge... Contd. from page 7

"[W]e want everyone concerned to look at the situation and address it in the best way because we appreciate and we've put a lot of value in both the U.S. and China when it comes to trade and technology in the region and want to be friends to both," Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said from Phnom Penh, where foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were assembling for the ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting and meetings this week with the top Chinese, American and Russian diplomats, among others.

'Maximum restraint'

Late on Wednesday, the foreign ministers of the 10 ASEAN members-states prepared a collective statement about "the cross strait development."

The bloc, it said, was "concerned with the international and regional volatility, especially in the recent development [...] adjacent with the ASEAN region."

That situation "could destabilize the region and eventually could lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts and unpredictable consequences among majors powers," the top ASEAN diplomats said.

Elsewhere, officials in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam reaffirmed support for One China policy while also calling for peace and stability in the region.

"The Lao PDR reiterates its support for the policy of the government of the People's Republic of China on the national reunification by peaceful means," it said in a Facebook post.

The military government in Myanmar, for its part, reaffirmed its belief that Taiwan is "an integral part of the People's Republic of China" while expressing concern over Pelosi's visit, "which is causing escalation of tensions on the Taiwan Straits."

"Myanmar calls all concerned parties to deescalate the tensions through constructive dialogue and peaceful negotiation for peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits," the junta said in a Facebook post.

China has become the largest source of foreign investment in Myanmar since Western businesses pulled out after the February 2021 military coup.

Like a frontline soldier

In northern Thailand, an analyst at Chiang Mai University lauded Pelosi while casting doubt on some media reports suggesting that her Taiwan visit could have ignited a new cold war.

"As the U.S.'s third most influential figure after President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, Pelosi could have laid a milestone on the U.S.'s new approach in Asia. Her trip to Taiwan is a strong political gesture and is vitally important for the relationship of the U.S. and East Asia in the future," Isa Gharti told BenarNews. "She is like the first U.S. soldier who lays milestones to locate flash points."

"By reading some analysis lately, I am surprised that they think this is the start of a new cold war," he said. "I don't think so because the superpowers have yet to get their economies recovered and cannot afford to lose any partners."

via rfa.org



WORLD NEWS

Jagdeep Dhankhar elected 14th Vice President of India; bags 528 votes against Margaret Alva's 182

PM Modi meets Jagdeep Dhankhar and congratulates him

PTI - New Delhi, August 6

NDA candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice President of India on Saturday as he defeated joint Opposition candidate Margaret Alva.

Dhankhar, a former governor of West Bengal, secured 528 votes while 80-year-old Alva got 182.

The numbers were stacked in favour of Dhankhar as the ruling BJP enjoys an absolute majority in Lok Sabha and has 91 members in Rajya Sabha. The BJP heads the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Even before the results were announced, celebrations had started outside the residence of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi where Dhankhar was present.

Joyous scenes were also reported from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, the hometown of Dhankhar.

Soon after the announcement of the result, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Dhankhar and congratulated him.

Dhankhar, 71, will succeed M Venkaiah Naidu whose tenure ends on August 10.

As many as 725 MPs cast their ballots in the poll, which is 92.94 per cent of total votes, an official said, adding 15 votes were declared invalid.

Members of Parliament, including nominated ones, are entitled to vote in the vice presidential poll.

While the electoral college comprises 788 members, due to eight vacancies in Rajya Sabha, the actual strength is 780. The Trinamool Congress had



abstained from voting claiming it was not consulted while naming Alva as the opposition pick. However, two of its MPs—Sisir Kumar Adhikari and Dibyendu Adhikari—broke ranks and cast their ballots. The party has 36 MPs, including 23 in Lok Sabha.

The voter turnout this time was lower than 98.2 per cent recorded in the 2017 election when M Venkaiah Naidu was elected as the vice president.

The rise of Dhankhar, 71, to become the next vice president has surprised many. Dhankhar, who had been associated with the Janata Dal and the Congress, joined the BJP only in 2008 after a hiatus of nearly a decade when he concentrated on his legal career.

He has championed issues related to Other Backward Classes, including the grant of OBC status to the Jat community in Rajasthan.

The BJP described Dhankhar as "kisanputra" while announcing his candidature for the vice presidential election, a move seen in the political

circles aimed at reaching out to the politically significant Jat community which had participated in huge numbers in the year-long farmers' protests on the borders of the national capital against agriculture reform measures unveiled in June 2020.

Dhankhar will take oath on August 11, a day after incumbent M Venkaiah Naidu (73) demits office.

From pasting party posters to evolving as an epitome of political and ideological loyalty who became one of the BJP's most visible leaders and later India's vice president, Naidu came a long way.

He entered into student politics through the ABVP and played an active role in the movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan.

Born in a humble agricultural family in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, Naidu has served as a BJP president, a union minister and a long-time Rajya Sabha member.

Known for his oratory skills, Naidu

often uses interesting one-liners and rhyming phrases to put across his views effectively.

Not many know that Naidu translated former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's speeches for his audience down south.

As Rajya Sabha chairman, Naidu had to deal with difficult situations on various occasions, including protests in the House by opposition members on issues such as the now-repealed three central farm laws.

For Alva, the vice presidential election has been another comeback. Barring a brief lull in 2008 triggered by her standoff with Congress president Sonia Gandhi over the issue of family entitlement in ticket distribution, the suave and soft-spoken Alva's career has largely been a dream run.

She has had a political career spanning over four decades during which she occupied several positions, including a five-time Congress MP, a union minister and governor.

She congratulated Dhankhar on his victory.

In the past there had been four instances when candidates were elected unopposed to the post of the vice president who is also the chairperson of Rajya Sabha.

In the 1992 vice presidential poll, K R Narayanan bagged 700 of the 701 valid votes while his rival Kaja-Joginder Singh alias "DhartiPakad" managed just one vote in his favour.

Via PTI

WMO warns of frequent heatwaves in decades ahead

19 July 2022

Climate and Environment

With temperatures expected to remain above normal until the middle of next week, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned that heatwaves will occur more and more frequently, into the 2060s.

The pattern is linked to the observed warming of the planet that can be attributed to human activity, raising serious concerns for the planet's future, the UN weather agency said.

Harvests at risk

"We are expecting to see major impacts on agriculture. During the previous heatwaves in Europe, we lost big parts of harvest. And under the current situation -we are already having the global food crisis because of the war in Ukraine - this heatwave is going to have a further negative impact on agricultural activities", warned Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the WMO at a press conference to launch the latest extreme weather findings, in Geneva.

In several countries, some economic sectors - including tourism that has only begun to fully recover in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic - are suffering as a result.

Further warming inevitable

"The negative trend in climate will continue at least until the 2060s, independent of our success in climate mitigation", Mr. Taalas added.

"We have already lost the game concerning the melting of glaciers. We expect that the melting of glaciers will continue for the coming hundreds of years or even coming thousands of years...Sea level rise will continue for the same period".

Mr. Taalas reflected growing concerns over extreme weather patterns, in his sartorial selection on Tuesday, he told journalists, choosing to wear short sleeves and a red and blue tie, in recognition of the increasing number of red alerts flashing up across Europe.

WMO briefed journalists that the European heatwave may not end, until the middle of next week.



Air pollution

The heatwave also acts as a kind of atmospheric lid, WHO explained, trapping pollutants, and degrading air quality, with adverse health consequences, particularly for vulnerable people such as the elderly. In the major 2003 heatwave in Europe, some 70,000 people died.

"Climate change is affecting our health in many ways, not only by heatwaves which are having direct consequences" but also other areas of essential healthcare, such as rising levels of disease, alerted Maria Neira, Director for public and environmental health at WHO.

She explained that reliable access

to food and water is at stake, as with agricultural production levels at risk", and there will be water scarcity for sure".

She said that 99% of the global population is breathing air that does not meet the health standards set by WHO, hugely impacting chronic respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

Ambition is key

"The best solution to this will be, again, being very ambitious on tackling the causes of this global warming.

"We have been alerting for a long time that climate change is affecting very much human health", she emphasized, which will also impact the struggle to reach net zero carbon emissions, and the crucial transition to clean, renewable sources of energy.

More deaths among the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions are feared due to the ongoing heatwave in the weeks ahead, and subsequent challenges to health systems, to keep up with rising demand.

Via news.un.org

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*Love,
Scarborough*

Patrick Brown announces he's running to be Brampton's mayor again

Mayor Patrick Brown on July 18th announced he is running for mayor of Brampton. He was elected first in 2018.

"I just wanted to inform everyone that after talking to my family, we've decided to put my name in again for Mayor of Brampton," Brown said at the news conference.

"It's been the greatest privilege to serve the city over the last four years, and I'm looking forward to the next four years," Mayor Brown said at the news conference.

Brown cited funding for a new hospital, medical school, a transit facility, and an electrified transit fleet among other economic development projects as goals achieved under his tenure, according to a news report on the CBC website.

CBC added that Brown also froze



property taxes for four consecutive years in Brampton, a move that was popular with many voters.

"We've done a lot of great work in city hall," Mayor Patrick Brown said at the announcement event.

SOS for Injured Animals and Wildlife

July 7, 2022

Like people, animals sometimes need rescuing.

While the best course is usually to leave wildlife undisturbed, there are some situations involving animals where assistance is required.

Animals can get injured through fighting with other animals, an accidental fall or collision, or from a severe weather event.

The City's Animal Services section is a key social service that helps to protect wildlife. Animal Services responds to emergencies 24/7, 365 days a year. Their team of experts is dedicated to rescuing wildlife and pets, and to providing food, shelter, care and basic medical care. This is in addition to protecting the community through the City's Animal Care and Control By-law enforcement, education, as well as investigating standards of animal care.

2022 has been an especially critical year thus far. Rescues are on the rise as residents are increasingly reporting incidents of animal injury or distress.

As of June 15, Animal Services has successfully completed 2,418 animal rescues, with 307 animals being transferred to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation centre.

Typical rescues have included:

- A gosling tangled in fishing wire
- A coyote with a food jar stuck on its head
- A fox suffering from mange
- Baby opossums stranded on a busy street
- A skunk and a raccoon stuck in a car engine

Animals with severe injuries are at a higher risk for chronic pain, starvation and dehydration. They are also more vulnerable to predators. So the first few hours after an animal is rescued is always the most critical. De-



prived of water, food and shelter, the animals are often wary and fearful.

While Animal Services is equipped to rescue animals, it is not a wildlife rehabilitation facility. Under provincial legislation, animals cannot be held for more than 24 hours at an Animal Services facility. Wildlife that require rehab are transferred to rehab facilities, approved by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry where appropriate treatment is provided.

To date in 2022, more than 300 animals have been transferred to wildlife rescues for rehabilitation.

Animal Services frequently partners with numerous rehab facilities around the Greater Toronto Area. This includes Toronto Wildlife Centre, Urban Wildlife Care, The Owl Foundation, Hobbitsee Rescue and Shades of Hope.

Contact Animal Services if you encounter an animal that is:

- visibly sick or injured
- suffering or in immediate distress
- running in traffic or in danger
- locked in a hot vehicle
- wild and bites a pet or person
- acting aggressively to people or pets

Mississauga residents and visitors are always encouraged to respect wildlife and their natural habitats. If you see any animal in Mississauga that is injured, hurt or distressed, contact Animal Services at 311 or at 905-896-5858.

Learn more about urban wildlife by visiting [mississauga.ca/wildlife](https://www.mississauga.ca/wildlife).

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

City of Brampton launching basketball and ultimate Frisbee adult leagues at Save Max Sports Centre

BRAMPTON, ON (July 22, 2022)

- Calling all Brampton sports enthusiasts! The City of Brampton is launching adult sports leagues at Save Max Sports Centre.

This fall, residents 18 and over can register to play basketball and ultimate Frisbee. Individuals can join the league as part of an already assembled team or individually as free agents. All games will be played at Save Max Sports Centre at Dixie Road and Sandalwood Parkway in Brampton.

The fall league will run from September 21 to December 14 with registration opening on August 1. The suggested team roster is nine to 12 players. All registered players will receive a reversible jersey for "home" and "away" games. All gameplay is

officially by Ontario Association of Basketball Officials.

The fall league will run from October 13 to December 15 with registration opening on August 1. The suggested team roster is nine to 11 players. Games are not officiated. All registered players will receive a reversible jersey for "home" and "away" games.

"Brampton is a Healthy and Safe City, and we are always striving to find new ways to help keep our residents healthy and active. This fall, join one of our new adult sports leagues at Save Max Sports Centre. Not only will basketball and ultimate Frisbee help with fitness, but you'll have fun, too!" Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton said.

Feel Like Moving and Grooving this Summer? Visit One of Mississauga's Sports Amenities



July 26, 2022

It's the time of year that everyone looks forward to – summer! The perfect season to enjoy a new activity or find time for your favourite sport.

The City makes it easy for residents of all ages to participate in outdoor and indoor activities offered at one of our many sports amenities. Sports classes and recreational activities contribute to making Mississauga a healthy, active and engaged community.

Take some time and check out all the fun activities you can try this summer!

More Stretch, Less Stress

Massages and medical appointments aren't the only way to stay on top of your aches and pains. With many people working from home, the City encourages residents to find time to get active. Sign up for therapeutic programs at a community centre that offers a warm water therapeutic pool. Private training sessions are also available at many community centres. Residents looking to relax and stretch can also try indoor and outdoor yoga classes throughout the summer.

Playgrounds for Everyone

Accessible and barrier-free playgrounds offer a safe and fun environ-

ment for people of all ages and abilities. In addition to children, parents with accessibility needs are also encouraged to visit one of the City's playgrounds. Larger swings, artificial turf and rubberized play areas are just some of the ways the City has designed the parks so that everyone feels safe and comfortable.

Find a barrier-free playground near you.

In Need of a Wheelie Good Time? Visit Mississauga's BMX-mountain Bike Parks

There are a few BMX-mountain bike parks around the city, offering residents the chance to ride, develop balance and perfect their landing. These parks often have a variety of lines and obstacles, so don't forget to bring a helmet.

Want to Try Something New Without Commitment?

Not sure where to start? Find a drop-in program at your closest community centre. Drop-in programs fill on a first come, first served basis and you can check in at the front desk to join in on the fun.

For more information about all Mississauga's sports and amenities, visit: mississauga.ca/recreation-and-sports/



Scarborough Health Network announces 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Scarborough Health Network's (SHN) Board of Directors is injecting new expertise in medicine, finance, and governance, into its transformative team of leading minds.

"From our Board of Directors, to our frontline staff and physicians, Scarborough Health Network is attracting exceptional talent in the name of delivering exceptional care," said Matt Ainley, Board Chair.

"I'm delighted to officially welcome Dr. Catharine Whiteside, Mr. Ali Suleman, and Ms. Diane Sinhuber to our Board, and I look forward to continuing to shape the future of care alongside these experienced leaders."

Between COVID-19 recovery and several exciting initiatives for Scarborough in research, future facilities, and new services, the 2022-2023 Board of Directors is looking forward to a productive year of improving lives through exceptional care. The next Board meeting will take place in the fall and details will be shared at SHN.ca and on social media.

Get to know the newest directors:

Dr. Catharine Whiteside: A University of Toronto graduate, Dr. Whiteside served as dean of medicine and vice-provost relations with healthcare institutions at the University of Toronto from 2006 to 2014, and was recognized with WCN Canada's Most Powerful Women Top 100 Award in 2012. Until June 2022, she served on the Scarborough Health Network Foundation Board.

Dr. Whiteside is a founding member and former president of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. She is also director of

partnerships for Diabetes Action Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Research's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research in diabetes and related complications, and currently chairs the Board of the Banting Research Foundation. In 2016, Dr. Whiteside was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada; in 2007, was awarded the Medal for Research Excellence from the Kidney Foundation of Canada; and in 2009, received the Canadian Medical Association May Cohen Award for Women Mentors.

Mr. Ali Suleman: As vice-president and treasurer of Hydro One Inc., one of the largest nonfinancial corporate debt issuers in Canada, since 1999, Ali oversees debt funding; financial risk management; cash management and banking operations; and insurance and claims; and manages relationships with banks; credit rating agencies; and fixed income investors. Previously, Ali held positions within Ontario Hydro's Treasury Division, and worked in the U.S. municipal finance and mortgage-backed sectors with Kidder Peabody & Company of New York. He was also a consultant to several municipal bond issuers. Ali sits on the Board of the Montreal-based Institute for Research on Public Policy and serves as Chair of its Investment Committee. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Wellesley Institute of Toronto from 2012 to 2018, and he continues to serve as a member of its Finance and Investment Committee, which he chaired from 2015 to 2018.

Ms. Diane Sinhuber: With a flair for numbers, Diane is an objective financial expert,



as well as a risk, governance and controls professional with over 35 years' experience providing accounting and auditing services to all types of financial institutions and within a global bank. Retired since May 2022, Diane was deputy chief auditor of TD Bank Group and former leader of EY Canada's Financial Services Organization. Giving back is second nature for Diane, who has served on volunteer Boards including as Chair of the YMCA of Greater Toronto and the Kidney Foundation of Canada in Toronto. Diane is a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for community service, as well as the 2020 Ontario Volunteer Service Award. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University, was made a Fellow of Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) Ontario in 2011, and has completed the Institute of Corporate Directors education program.

Visit [SHN.ca/board-of-directors/](https://www.shn.ca/board-of-directors/) for more information.

Stroke Patient Turns Advocate

Would you recognize if you were having a stroke?

SHN patient Pam Spence missed a telltale sign she had suffered a stroke, but knew something was seriously wrong: her face was drooping on the left side when she found herself on the floor of a gym change room after falling in the shower. She struggled to call for help.

"I was experiencing severe headaches. Nothing would cure it, and it went on for eight hours," she recalled. "I thought they were migraines."

After calling her doctor, she was sent for a vascular ultrasound of the neck, which provides pictures of the veins and arteries.

"I had carotid stenosis (narrowing of the arteries in the neck) on the left side, fully blocked, and partially blocked in the right artery," she said. "I also had an irregular heartbeat."

Narrow arteries can result in high blood pressure, the leading cause of stroke. When the heart is working too hard, damage to blood vessels and organs may occur over time. When this happens, blood clots may develop that prevent oxygen flow to the



brain. Signs that someone may be having a stroke include drooping in the face, difficulty raising arms or legs, and slurred speech.

After receiving tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA), the only drug that can break up a blood clot if received within the four-hour limit, Pam would eventually find herself in

the care of Scarborough Health Network's (SHN) Central East Regional Cardiovascular Rehab program.

Through the lifestyle and self-management program, Pam is one of several thousand people each year who've received life-saving and life-changing care

(See Page 17)



SHN's Orthopaedic Trauma Centre steps in when senior's stroll ends in bone fracture

While on her usual afternoon stroll on a mild-April day, Virginia found herself reaching out to catch her body from hitting the ground, mid-fall, after tripping on the path. Suddenly, a bone in her arm appeared to be dislodged. At first, she didn't realize what had happened, which she now chalks up to pure shock.

"I wasn't close to home when I fell," she recalled. "There was a lump in my arm, but it was numb, and I couldn't feel anything in that area of my arm, which was a really good thing. I don't know how I would have gotten home otherwise."

Her daughter drove her to Scarborough Health Network's (SHN) General Hospital, where she was put in a temporary plaster cast.

She returned to the Fracture Clinic for an evaluation several days later, and discovered the seriousness of her injury. Her wrist was broken into pieces and she would need surgery to repair it—a journey to recovery that could take several months.

In Virginia's case, it would only take one day for her care team to schedule her for an open reduction and internal fixation at SHN's Orthopaedic Trauma Centre at the Scarborough General Hospital.

Scarborough's Orthopedic Trauma Centre delivers dedicated care for urgent cases

Since opening in July, the Orthopaedic Trauma Centre has performed over 500 surgeries, including 300 day procedures. This new centre has been designed for patients like Virginia who don't need a limb-saving surgery, but require an urgent procedure. Instead of waiting at the hospital to go to surgery, patients can be at home while their surgery is scheduled. This means fewer hospital stays and delays in after-hours care.

"We thought, wouldn't it be better if we had

an ambulatory clinic, or outpatient clinic, for orthopaedic trauma injuries like wrist, ankle, clavicle, shoulder, tibia, foot and wrist fractures," said Dr. Warren Latham, corporate chief of orthopaedics and lead surgeon at SHN.

"Patients showing up at the emergency department can complete the forms for having a surgery, then return home and wait for our dedicated trauma team coordinator to call them when their surgery is scheduled. We know that kind of definitive care provides for a better patient experience, better patient outcomes, and enhanced quality of patient care."

In the past, patients endured longer waiting periods and were usually placed on an emergency roster waiting for beds to open up.

"If you broke your ankle, for example, you would come to the emergency department. You might go home with a cast and come back to the Fracture Clinic later that week to see an orthopaedic surgeon, who would decide if you needed surgery on your ankle," explained Dr. Latham.

"Then you would have to be admitted. You would be placed on the emergency roster and have your surgery at night."

With the new Orthopedic Trauma Centre, patients receive defined surgical dates, so they know exactly who their surgeon will be; and, with timely access to specialists in sports medicine, hip and knee, upper extremity, spine, and foot and ankle surgery, they will be assigned the best surgeon for their needs.

SHN has also added several resources, including a hospitalist, physician assistant, physical therapist, and trauma team coordinator to further develop the program, while the orthopaedic trauma room enables flexibility for SHN to add elective cases that were previously cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic.



For Virginia, all these dedicated roles were critical in providing her with a sense of understanding and safety.

"Everyone was so nice. They introduced themselves to me, let me know what to expect, and everyone let me know what their job was going to be during this process," she said.

Now in physiotherapy, Virginia is on the road to recovery with her wrist and arm getting stronger and gaining more range of motion. Thanks to SHN's Ortho Trauma Centre team, she's looking forward to getting back the independence she has been missing since her fall.

With a little laugh, Virginia remarked, "I can't wait to be able to put on jeans or tights again!"

Stroke Patient Turns Advocate

from SHN's health professionals.

"While I was in the Regional Cardiovascular Rehab program, I had an exercise therapist checking in on me weekly. The seminars that were offered were excellent," she raved. "I am grateful to all the staff at Scarborough Health Network who have helped me in this journey."

But for Pam, that was just the beginning of her journey. Since the scare at the gym, Pam has been committed to helping others living with heart and stroke conditions.

Pam is not only a past stroke patient, but she has since become a member of SHN's Patient Family Advisory Council. In addition, she is an alumni member of the Regional Central East Cardio Program and living each day as a stroke rehabilitation healthcare advocate.

"I've had the journey, I've lived the experiences, and I know what resources are out there," said Pam. "I truly believe that every stroke and heart patient can return to a functional lifestyle with best-in-class healthcare practices from SHN."

With the support of her family, Pam continues to provide as much information and resources to the public as possible. From setting up information booths at her local shopping mall and library, Pam said she is also open to discussions about implementing stroke best practices across the province.

"I am very lucky," remarked Pam. "I can walk, I can talk, I don't have any cognitive issues. Everything is fine and I am grateful to be where I am today."

Others aren't so lucky. Depending on which part of your brain is affected and the amount of damage, the long-term effects of stroke are often devastating with stroke as the third leading cause of death in Canada.

With nearly a quarter of Scarborough's population experiencing high blood pressure, it's not hard to see why SHN hospitals saw 2,352 emergency department visits and 1,810 patients, like Pam, admitted for stroke-related concerns since the Stroke Centre of Excellence opened at Birchmount Hospital in April 2020.

Scarborough's South Asian, African, Indigenous, and seniors' communities are at higher risk for stroke because of the prevalence of diabetes and high blood pressure among these individuals.

That's also why the Stroke Centre of Excellence is so important. With an Integrated Stroke Unit, patients get specialized medical care from a dedicated team and transition into rehabilitation within the same space, without moving from unit to unit. This means less time spent in hospital and a better quality of life when returning home.

Fortunately, nearly 80 per cent of premature stroke and heart disease is preventable through healthy lifestyle behaviours, and the centre's outpatient Stroke Prevention Clinic helps patients manage their risk factors for stroke. Patients are seamlessly cared for by the same all-star team of specialists who support the inpatient unit.

Stroke is a medical emergency. If you experience any of these signs, call 9-1-1. Do not drive to the hospital. An ambulance will get



SPECIAL FEATURE

Increasing prospects of Famine in Many Countries in the World

By: J A Rajah

The world today is faced with the problem of famine. Large segments of the human family suffer daily hunger and agonizing facts of life. It is said that the world's population has way of limiting itself periodically. Diseases, natural disasters and deadly global warfare is expected to bring about deaths of one-fourth of the world's population.

A. Causes of Famine:

For decades, Western relief agencies and the United Nations directed most of their food relief efforts toward famines across Africa. Yet in more recent years, food insecurity has spread to other regions in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Earlier this year, the UN called world attention to severe food shortages affecting populations in Afghanistan, Haiti, and Yemen. Widespread drought and lack of rain is not the only causes of modern famines. Severe or erratic weather related to climate phenomena such as La Nina, can bring torrential rains, freezes and tornadoes that damage crops and create food shortages. Wars that drive farmers off the land as in Ukraine reduce food production, disrupt distribution systems, and destroy stored food. Political opponents are often deprived access to food supplies. Access to arable land has become a tool for political influence in some troubled countries, with favoured parties or groups gaining access denied to opponents.

Structural changes foisted on debtor nations by the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund also generate famine conditions in segments of society. Nations that are encouraged to grow cash crops for exports, instead of raising food, often become unable to feed themselves. The displacement of rural subsistence farmers by large corporations also sends many to poverty and starvation in places like India.

B. Human Negligence of the Earth's Resources:

While political and social battles continue over 'climate change'-disputing whether recent climate extremes are just part of a natural cycle or have been worsened by mankind's poor stewardship over the planet-the costs of environmental deterioration are severe and must eventually be paid. Allowing used plastics products to get deposited in the waterways and sea can cause severe hazards to fish and other sea based living things. Fish stocks in the world's oceans are in serious decline, devastated by modern factory-fishing techniques. Meat is becoming more and more expensive to produce, leading to the burst of interest in 'plant-based replacements that are being pushed by environmentalists, as well by multi-national corporations seeking to profit from the crisis.

C. Wars and Famine:

Misguided government policies, amplified by drought, have caused famines in the past. They continue in the present with signs of famines getting worse. The Ukraine in 1932-33 saw an estimated five million farmers die

because of famine brought about by Soviet leader Joseph Stalinist policy of forced collectivization of farmlands. And how many Ukraine may die even this year because of the food disruptions brought by Putin's invasion. Several farmlands are destroyed and the wheat production that made Ukraine the breadbasket of the world suffered tremendously by the heinous war-crimes of Vladimir Putin. An estimated 30 million Chinese starved for some of the same reasons during the nation's 'Great Leap forward' in the late 1950's. Though it is difficult to get a reliable figure from the tightly controlled state, some observers estimate that more than three million North Koreans died between 1994 and 1998 because of their government's draconian policies.

D. Famine in Today's World :

Famine is now widespread in many countries of the world including Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Ukraine, Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria and South Africa. In Sri Lanka Corrupt Administrators, irresponsible investments and political upheavals have resulted in acute famine in all parts of the country. There is acute shortage of diesel and petrol and many car owners are without any means of using their vehicles. The cost of transport has risen by leaps and bounds. One has to pay Rs.15, 000/- to get to the air-port from Colombo. The cost of a pound of bread has gone up to Rs.150/-. One cannot buy essential commodities easily in the markets. People have been relegated to a position of starvation. One has to survive on rice and dried fish for all three meals. There have been tremendous political agitations to change the government in order to restore better economic conditions to avoid the famine situation. Deaths from malnutrition on a large scale occurred across India in modern times. In Maharashtra alone, for example there were around 45,000 childhood deaths due to mild or severe malnutrition in 2009. Growing export prices, the melting of Himalayan glaciers due to global warming, changes in rainfall and temperature are the major issues affecting India. Farmers in South India were badly affected by excessive rainfall and severe winds recently. In Pakistan, nearly 4.66 million people experienced high level of food insecurity in 2022. Lack of grains export is driving global hunger to famine levels. According to FAO, the food insufficiency in Ukraine increased to an estimated 49 million in 2022. The Ukraine President said that his country was unable to export enough food because of Russia's blockade of the Black Sea ports, which was preventing exports from being shipped to other countries. Ukraine along with Russia is among the largest producers and exporters of wheat and other essential foods like grains like wheat, barley and oils. Egypt and Zimbabwe get forty percent of their wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine. The number of people living in



hunger in Brazil has surged 73 % in the past two years. A recent survey suggests as six in ten Brazilians are struggling to put food on the table. 60% of the country's 125 million population are now unable to get three square meals per day. Argentina is experiencing great food shortage and the numbers suffering increased from 2.5 million to five million in recent times. Organic food grown in rural schools is to implement 500 active projects in Argentina and nearly 43,000 children benefitted from these projects. In North-Eastern province in Nigeria living conditions, malnutrition and widespread displacement due to impact of the on-going conflict between Boko-Haram and the Nigerian military. Gowza, a garrison town in North-East Nigeria is the home of 60,000 people; many of them are displaced from to other places due to the conflict. Living conditions are difficult, there is little humanitarian aid and there are frequent clashes between the military and the armed groups. In South Africa, people need sustainable supply of clean water for drinking, washing, cooking, and cleaning. South Africa is considered as a water-scarce country and is the 30th driest country in the world. Delayed rainfall, decreasing dam levels led drought in two provinces- Kuwa Zulu and Natal Free State. In Cape Town, the city of Cape-Town experienced severe water shortages from 2018 that led to famine conditions.

E. Fighting Famine in the Modern World:

Cooperation between countries and international organizations like the Oxfam can work towards the successful elimination of poverty and famine in the world. Sri Lanka is in Dire Straits finding help with their ailing economy. Only India has helped instantly and the President had requested Russia to help with the import of fuel. International organizations can help the famine areas with provision of clean water, encouraging proper sanitation, distributing food, planting crops, and ensuring government accountability. Timely action should be taken to curtail famine. In 214, more than 250,000 people in Somalia lost their lives when the world ignored repeated warnings after the failure of rains in the region. Many humanitarian organizations are helping with orphaned children in Ukraine. Children are moved to safe areas where they fed and cared for. Medical assessments are made and proper treatment is given to them to heal them.



The Incident on UL Flight 504 London

Colombo On The 15th Of June 2022

By: Kane Siva

This flight departed London, on the 15th of June as a normal flight with 297 passengers



and 10 crew members on board an Airbus 330-300. Everything was normal till the flight was over the Turkish air space which is normally a busy air traffic corridor. Ankara air traffic control informed the captain the UL captain to climb to a height of 35,000 feet from 33,000 feet which they were cruising at. The UL crew spotted another aircraft in the vicinity and promptly informed the ATC, but the Controller insisted again to climb. The UL captain did not budge his ground. Once the ATC realized their mistake, informed the UL flight to maintain its height level. This is what actually happened that day without any major mishap to any aircraft. There was a British Airways flight BA105, G-VIIG, Boeing 777 cruising at 35,000 feet, at a faster speed than the UL flight, and was on its way to Dubai, obviously both were on the same course. Once the UL flight landed at KIA, Colombo, the

Total fatalities 71

Total survivors 0

First aircraft



RA-85816, the Tu-154 involved in the accident, in March 2002

Type	Tupolev-Tu-154M
Operator	BAL Bashkirian Airlines
IATA flight No.	V92937
ICAO flight No.	BTC2937
Call sign	BRAVO TANGO CHARLIE 2937
Registration	RA-85816
Flight origin	Domodedovo International Airport, Moscow, Russia
Destination	Barcelona Int'l Airport, Barcelona, Spain
Passengers	60
Crew	9

crew filed an incident report with the authorities in Colombo. Some or other this news had been leaked to the media which went to town saying this "Would have been a major midair collision. It is not superfluous to say that the SL newspapers had spun this incident and made a mountain out of molehill". Even the SL Pilot Fraternity was not happy with the way this was portrayed by the media, which sooner issued a statement clarifying

the incident. I am sure this would not have been done intentionally by the crew as some concluded, giving the benefit of the doubt to the crew. Airbus 330-300 is a state of the art aircraft with all modern navigational data systems for smooth flying and an accident free one. There is a unique feature is installed in almost all the aircrafts that was rolled out after 1970. It is mandated by ICAO that all aircraft with a capacity more than 30 passengers to be fitted with this system, called the "Traffic Collision Avoidance System" - TCAS or ACAS was invented in 1970, works on a transponder signal sent by the aircraft. It will show the cockpit crew if any aircraft is in the vicinity up to 5 nautical miles in front and back. All the systems in the cockpit are always complement to each other so that one of the pilots could monitor the panels always. TCAS helped the UL pilots to identify another aircraft in the

ICAO flight No.	BTC2937
Call sign	BRAVO TANGO CHARLIE 2937
Registration	RA-85816
Flight origin	Domodedovo International Airport, Moscow, Russia
Destination	Barcelona Int'l Airport, Barcelona, Spain
Passengers	60
Crew	9
Fatalities	69
Survivors	0

Second aircraft



A9C-DHL, the Boeing 757 involved in the accident, in June 2002.

Type	Boeing 757-23APF ¹¹
Operator	DHL International Aviation ME

area thus preventing the calamity.

I like to recall what I saw written on the wall of the flying club at Ratmalana airport on my first ever visit to a facility after joining the airline 1972, with my ex colleague GAF, retired Sri-Lankan Captain, "The sky is safer than the roads" with this in mind, I categorically say that there was no threat of midair collision at any time as said. As in the words of my good friend, retired Flight Engineer, an authority on almost all the avionics equipment, MR. GALB. JANZ, a professional instructor on aviation in Sri Lanka his primary instruction to the aspiring aviators, is "trust the instruments always and to rely on it". Aviation and Flying is always a tussle between man and machine nowadays. Also remember humans are inherently imperfect. I give due credit to the instruments in the cockpit and to the view of the retired flight engineer.

I recall an incident that happened in 2002 with a DHL aircraft and a BAL, Bashkirian Airlines Flight 2937, a TU-154 passenger jet, and DHL International Aviation ME flight 611, a Boeing 757 freighter, collided in midair over Uberlingen, Germany, a southern German town on Lake Constance, near the Swiss border, resulting in

the death of 71 passengers from both the aircrafts. The investigators confirmed the cause to have been the confusion over the instructions provided by the pilot and TCAS. DHL crew followed



the instructions of the TCAS, since not being instructed by the ATC. However Tupolev's crew disregarded TCAS instructions and struck with the area ATC instructions. ATC expected one flight to ascend and the other to descend but unfortunately both the aircrafts descended and caused second deadliest midair collision in the aviation history. I would like to travel little further on this unfortunate incident. May be two years after this horrific crash, Peter Nielsen, the air traffic controller that day, I believe a Swiss national, was tracked down by a Russian citizen Vitaly Kaloyev, and was murdered in his apartment as a revenge killing, for the death of his wife and two children who were on that unfortunate BAL flight. It was a really sad story indeed. This incident resulted in a new aviation rule in commercial flying, the TCAS command had to be given priority over the ATC instructions. Based on this incident it is hard to comprehend the reliance on the system too. But again one in a million chance of this occurring.

I like to mention in the good old days, an aircraft in flight was controlled by humans but nowadays is done by pilots typing instructions in to a complex system of computers. The humans and the machine do the job differently. The beauty of it, the human will adapt to the situation. The industry tries to blend the new technology and human qualities to intertwine in the right way so that the safety is ensured at all times. Human fallibility may sometimes lead to disaster but the resiliency always saves the day. I remember reading this in a book "pilots interrupt errors, oversights and reshuffle priorities, they avert problems almost on nearly every flight, without the passengers even knowing that there is something amiss.

On the strength this statement I am privileged and humbled to say that the Vigilante of the Sri Lankan's pilots should be commented and lauded, even though the fraternity may differ, saying it is "Professionalism" and a duty. When a pilot makes an error or causes accident or incident, it is front page news all over the media. I strongly believe that this Particular captain and his copilot should be commented as an English idiom goes, Give The Devil His Due, whether they followed the Protocols or not. I could not conceal my laughter when I read my ex colleague's GAF's article on this issue "professionalism and protocol". I wonder whether if it was followed to its letter in the same establishment previously? I thank them personally for being vigilant. Often we hear that the crew was not alert or asleep in the cockpit many a times nowadays recently an Italian airline.

Well Done Old Boys & Keep Challenging Irrespective Of Who Hoots!

K.N. Sivagnanasunderam (Blue)
Former Flight Operations Officer,
Air Ceylon Ltd,
Kanesiva6@gmail.com

Words of Peace

SPECIAL FEATURE



Hello, everyone; I hope you're all well, healthy—and trying to enjoy yourself under these situations of the lockdown.

Answering questions: "I can see where my children are in their lives; my 'picture' has been ripped apart by them." I have responsibility as their father to ensure they're on good tracks. How do I do this?

All right, interesting question. You are with your children in this lockdown and you're seeing that they're not what you thought you were raising. Okay, so let me just try to answer this question. Are your children a product of you telling them how they should be—or do you include them in the decisions that you make for them?

Do you solicit their help by posing what it is that should happen—and explaining to them why that should happen? And asking them for their solutions, for their help to accomplish it. And not only ask them for their solutions, but help them accomplish this; take their advice in stride; accept their advice.

So, so with your children, you tell them what to do—and you expect them to do it. With your friends, however, you do exactly what I told you before, which is you sit down with them; you explain your problem—and

don't do things in a way where they're included in coming up with the solution....

I have seen kids come up with solutions, that cannot even talk properly yet, that young. You just have to ask them, "So, what do you think; how do you think we should do it?" And they will come up with it, you know, "What can we do."

Even if the child is not doing well in school, it's like, "Well, you know, what would it take to start helping you get better at school?" And take their advisement; they'll think about it. Are they not capable of thinking? They are absolutely capable of thinking—and believe me, you'll be surprised; you will be very, very surprised.

So, please, first of all, give some respect to your children—if you want some respect from them—and include them in your decision-making process.

You know, don't become like this, you know—not all politicians are bad but some politicians, you know, they show up—they'll bend over backwards when they want your vote. And then after that, they'll slap you (for I don't know, for whatever the reason is). So, don't become that; don't become that. Be a father. That's what a father means, fathering.

You're a father; you're not a dictator;

disaster; the beans are all over the place—you know, don't freak; order a pizza. After all, what you need is food. It doesn't have to be beans that day; maybe you can cook beans the next day. Take what you have learned and apply it and make better beans the next day, not making it a disaster.

Sometimes it is as simple as that. Sometimes, of course, it's not as simple as that—but each day, understand its preciousness—and what you have control over. You must know what you

to be the one responsible for killing them. You know, that would be too much, so I'm not going to do it."

Krishna says, "Do—do what you have to do; do your duty. Don't worry about the consequences; do your duty." This is.... And this is a big thing in India—and the Gita opens up this whole chapter of "Duty, do it; don't worry about the consequences."

You're a doctor; you can help people. You have helped so many people. You can continue to help the people. Guilt



LOVE KNOWS NO BARRIERS

then ask them for advice of how you could possibly do it. And then you listen to them—of course, you listen to them, especially if it's good advice.

Now, it's going to take a little time. Your children are not going to come up with perfect answers the first day—because they don't know. They have to trust you. But do not underestimate your children. Don't think of them as idiots, because you are the father.

So, give them the respect—and they will give you the respect. It takes to give respect to get respect. It takes two to come to the same conclusion for something to move forward.

So, ask them for their advice: "How would this happen; how could this happen?" That's exactly what you do when you go to the hospital. You go to the doctor and you say, "Doctor, my arm is hurting. What could I do to help it?" And then the doctor gives you the advice and you accept the advice.

If the doctor tells you, "I'm going to cut off your arm," and you go, "Well, no, it's just a little scratch. And you know, why do you want to cut off my arm?" And he goes, "Well, I like cutting arms off; thank you," you would say, "No, I don't like you as a doctor; I'm going to go find somebody else."

It takes that trust that you have to form with your family, with your wife, with your children. You want to be the dictator of your family. But believe me, your empire is going to backfire.

You, right now, (I don't know how old your children are), but if you're talking about just ripping down the pictures, listen, your entire empire is going to get ripped apart—if you

you're not a slave-owner. You're not there to produce slaves for yourself. You're a father—and fathering means to help your children understand the process of decision-making, of all those things that it takes to be.

And I just see that so many people have created, you know, an impossible task in front of them—because they don't want to, you know, "include, include"—because when you do, then you have a team. When your family—not only then you have a family, but you have a family team.

And when you have that team, then you have teamwork that's going on. And it is wonderful; it's just great. And that teamwork can be so lovely, can be so beautiful. So, that's what you have to work on. So I hope this makes sense.

Question: "Have you any words of inspiration"—this is from Victoria—"Have you any words of inspiration to help me take control of my day please?" Yes. Be confident. Understand what this control is.

It's not like, all of a sudden, you will become that Mickey Mouse, you know, wizard that just waves his finger and the broom comes out of the closet and starts washing the floor, and the bucket starts pouring water and all of that stuff; that's not what it's about.

It's you, you being full, you being—understanding of yourself, of saying, "Okay, if this doesn't work, I'm fine with it. I am fine. I am fine." Not, "If this doesn't work, that's it for me." No. "If this doesn't work, I'm still fine. I will be okay. I will be okay."

If you're boiling your beans; it's a

have control over and what you don't have control over. and a lot of people don't know what they don't have control over and they try to gain control over those things; it's going to be a disaster. You know, it is going to be a disaster.

What do you have control over? How you feel. It's not the situation; it is how you react to it. This is abundantly clear. So, in your life, each day, make that effort, be conscious and move forward.

Question: "I realized recently that I'm stuck in my life, not because of COVID virus—because I work in the middle of it; I had the virus and I'm cured—a few symptoms left, but nothing serious. My trouble is I can't seem to digest what is happening.

"Courage I do have. That's why I wake up and go to work. But the old people dying alone and not given a fighting chance, being refused intensive care just because of a freaking number, their age—honestly, I know some people who are fresher at eighty-six or ninety-two years old than some fifty-year-olds.

"Plus, being a doctor, it's my responsibility to give the news, not only to the sick, but also to the family. It's really horrible. How do I deal with the guilt? I know it's out of my hands; but then why the guilt?"

No, you don't need to feel guilty. You do not need to feel guilty. You are in this precarious position, very much so.

Arjun says, in the middle of the battlefield—this is exactly what Arjun says; he says, "I'm not fighting. I know these people. You know, I don't want

does not need to come.

What is happening? Bad decisions. Maybe history will reflect itself, reflect on this, bad decisions that are being taken by some leaders, weird things, weird conclusions. And I think this is going to play out for a really, really, really long time.

Because people didn't have the resources to be able to express their anger or express their fear or express whatever they express—but now they do. And so I think this is going to play out for a really, really long time.

But I would encourage you not to feel guilty; you don't need to feel guilty. What you need to feel is the courage to move forward—and take that courage, shake it off; that's what I call it, "shake it off." This guilt is coming from the head, here. It's not coming from the heart; it's coming from here. It's coming from reasonings.

But in the middle of this fire, it is not the right time to figure out how the fire got started; the best thing is to fight the fire. So, my, what I can say to you—you're a doctor—is, "Don't feel guilty; shake it off; move forward and help people, help people like you can. Give them the love; give them the care; give them that—give them that care that you alone can give." So, good luck to you.

Every day that this is happening, you must remember what you can do. What you can do is to love: love, love, and love.

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SPECIAL FEATURE



Triple Gems of Thirukkural

By Kumar Punithavel

Buddhists take refuge in three different expressions of the awakened mind; the first being Buddha, next Dharma and finally Sanga. Each of these is a precious and necessary element of the Buddhist path, and so they are called the three Gems of the religion. Like wise Valluvar philosophy too has three gems which let's consider in detail.

Hunger and carnal-desire are basic to the survival of all living beings. However, humans who have the sixth sense mind, have developed and established many institutions of which family is the basic institution. These institutions have to interrelate with one another. The duties to be performed as a householder, Thiruvalluvar called it as householders' virtue, and those who wished pursue the path of austere as ascetic virtue. In this multi establishment society to satisfy hunger and carnal-desire all living beings need wealth. The pursuit of wealth and pleasure is based on the foundation of virtue. Thus, the three sections of Thirukkural are Virtue, wealth and pleasure. Let us look at what he has to say about how these paths could be acquired and which is the gem in each section.

Virtue: This is the first section in Thirukkural. For humanity to thrive and exist virtue is the foundation on which the other two are built. As humans are social animals there is the need for interaction with one another. Such a relationship must be based on ethics. The first section of Thirukkural is Virtue, for it is the foundation of the structure of humanity that has to be built. In it he has thirty-eight chapters with 380 couplets. Has also given two options to follow. One is give in the option to lead a householder's life and secondly ascetic life. Thiruvalluvar deals with both of them and gives the code of ethics for both in the section on virtue.

Let's get a look at the gem of this section. When dealing with fellow humans we find many times one tends to find fault with the other. When two get together they tend to twist or exaggerate the other's faults. There is an excellent Tamil acronym which says, "One cannot see his own rear side'.

Humans are a mixed basket of good and bad people. One has to judge and accept the good one, discarding the bad, says Thirukkural. Before a person finds fault on others he should analyse and see what faults he himself has and get rid of it and then try analysing others. This is the primary virtue suggested by Thiruvalluvar.

If all human beings follow this virtue there will be no cause for enmity among people. No cause for war between nations. There is no need to walk towards the destruction of humanity. Even in politics there is no cause for enmity. The valuable time will be spent in correcting their own mistakes and no time before time used to correct others. Further there will be awareness that others are also like self with shortcomings. With such thought they will become blind to other's shortcomings. There is no place for someone who wants to oppose everyone in society.

The gem of all these ideas is condensed in a tweet like couplet #190 with seven words only as follows in the section of Virtue;

*If each his own, as neighbours' faults would scan,
Could any evil hap to living man?*

ஏதிலார் குற்றம்போல் தங்குற்றங் காண்கிற்பின்
தீதுண்டோ மன்னும் உயிர்க்கு.

This is the panacea given by St. Thiruvalluvar for all the evils of the world is the first gem. Now that we have the gem of virtue in our heart the poet gives the next gem in the section of wealth. Without wealth

nothing could be achieved in this world.

Wealth: There are 34 chapters with 340 couplets in this section. In couplet 751 of this section Thiruvalluvar says that nothing exists save wealth, that can change man of nothing to a worthy man. Procuring wealth should be done in a virtuous way for it to be worthy. In the process of procuring wealth the social circle widens. He is forced to interact with others when he tries to earn wealth in community living. One should first learn how to earn wealth and develop that ability. With the ability gained applied in the proper virtuous way wealth should be accumulated. They should earn by their own initiative. Even a simple meal earned by one's own effort would taste better than any other food. Wealth is obtained from the society the person belongs to and he will have to fit into it. Thirukkural gives various aspects of social living from education, friendship, to royalty, ministerial duties even going up to all the way espionage etc.!

Anyone who has earned their wealth by their own effort and by just means will benefit from what he gained. Those who made wealth by virtuous means need not fear anyone. Ill gotten wealth will bring misery and sadness to their life. They will not be able to enjoy the jewel of wealth.

The gem in the section on wealth is, that what is obtained by true hard work, and own ability at the same time should not be unjust to others will bring happiness in their life. If life should gain the gm of wealth must be obtained by virtuous means causing no injustice to fellow humans. In couplet 754 St. Thiruvalluvar says:

*Their wealth, who blameless means can use aright,
Is source of virtue and of choice delight.*

அறன்ஈனும் இன்பமும் ஈனும் திறனறிந்து
தீதின்றி வந்த பொருள்.

Having gotten the two gems, let's look into the third gem in human life. It is none other than Pleasure. It is the fundamental cause for procreation. The desire for carnal-pleasure is boundless, as it is the driving force of proliferation.

Pleasure: For the world to continue reproduction is fundamental. It is a desire given to all living beings. Till the person is young and strong the desire is there for pleasure. Humanity created the institution of family for this purpose. Thiruvalluvar discusses the carnal relationship in two stages. Before marriage and starting a household and after marriage. Thirukkural couplet # 45 he says if love and virtue is there in a couple, then it is a life of perfect grace and gain. And further on the 50th couplet he says if one leads a virtuous householder's life he will be placed among God after death.

However, as a person ages though the desire for carnal-pleasure may wane away. Thiruvalluvar says the closeness and friendship should not ebb away between husband and wife. It should be like the bond between soul and body to enjoy the gem of pleasure fully. Only death should take them apart. Love is also a form of friendship happening between man and woman. On couplet #1122 he says as follows:

*Between this maid and me the friendship kind
Is as the bonds that soul and body bind*

உடம்பொடு உயிரிடை என்னமற்று அன்ன
மடந்தையொடு எம்மிடை நட்பு

In 1330 couplets the poet has provided the three Jewels amply explained for humanity to read and benefit. Let's enjoy the three gems to the fullest by reading a Thirukkural.



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Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · 4d ·

Dominik Furgler @SwissAmbLKA
Entire Swiss 🇨🇭 Embassy lawn transformed into a vegetable garden by the staff with great support of renowned 🇨🇭 company @A_Baur_Co . In times of suffering and on our National Day we want to set an example, show solidarity and will donate our garden produce to some of the poorest.



Dominik Furgler @SwissAmbLKA

Entire Swiss 🇨🇭 Embassy lawn transformed into a vegetable garden by the staff with great support of renowned 🇨🇭 company @A_Baur_Co . In times of suffering and on our National Day we want to set an example, show solidarity and will donate our garden produce to some of the poorest.



13:04 · 01 Aug 22 · Twitter for iPhone

Sanjee Goonetilake

August 1 at 12:01 PM ·

🇨🇭 Swiss Embassy of 🇸🇰 Sri Lanka sets an example by transforming the lawn into a vegetable garden.

Thank you Ambassador Dominik Furgler.



Entire Swiss 🇨🇭 Embassy lawn transformed into a vegetable garden by the staff with great support of renowned 🇨🇭 company @A_Baur_Co . In times of suffering and on our National Day we want to set an example, show solidarity and will donate our garden produce to some of the poorest.

<https://t.co/a3MLPoBe7P>

Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and the Maldives

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · August 1 at 4:26 AM ·

Have long wanted this in Colombo. Was watching with trepidation as Jaffna as a city too became more and more cycle-unfriendly. People were spending 4 hours commuting to and from work in Colombo rush hour traffic where bicycles could have whizzed within an hour. Let's hope bicycle lanes become a thing in Sri Lanka.

Embassy of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka & Maldives
2 hours ago ·

CYCLING IN SRI LANKA

We applaud this initiative to see how cycling in cities can be made safer! Another step towards a cycle friendly and sustainable environment.

Dutch Cycling Embassy



dailymirror.lk

Pilot program to allocate bicycle lanes for users from today in Colombo - Latest News | Daily Mirror

Sanjee Goonetilake

July 29 at 10:07 AM ·

CYCLING 🚲🚲 IN 🇸🇰 SRI LANKA

We applaud this initiative to see how cycling in cities can be made safer! Another step towards a cycle friendly and sustainable environment.

Kudos to the Embassy of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka & Maldives for promoting cycling in 🇸🇰 Sri Lanka.

Thulasi Muttulingam
★ Favorites · August 3 at 9:06 PM ·



Daily Mirror

August 3 at 4:37 PM ·

Breaking News: Yupun Abeykoon wins bronze at the Commonwealth Games 2022 placing third in the Men's 100m finals a short while ago.

Timing: 10.14 seconds

#CommonwealthGames #YupunAbeykoon #SriLanka

COMMUNITY WATCH



Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Hindu Temple Honors Priests from Greater Toronto Area at its Annual Festival

Contd. from page 1

In and around the Tamil month of Aadi (July 16-August 16), many North American Hindu temples held their annual Mahotsavams. Divinely and elaborately, these temples conducted outdoor festivities after a lapse of two years. Each temple has its unique way of celebrating traditions and bestowing centuries-old knowledge onto its devotees. Celebrating annual festivals shows the Tamil diaspora community the beauty which lies within Hindu Tamil culture. We as a community should acknowledge the temples' efforts to continue this chain of knowledge into the future through participating and learning about our roots.

Ensuring continuity within the diaspora and in this new environment is no simple task. To blend Canadian culture and that of Hindu Tamil's long-standing identity, it will be necessary to maintain close proximity to Temples, where many values are derived from. Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Hindu Temple comfortably allows Tamils to maintain this proximity through its active effort to promote an inclusive environment. The temple suitably involves second-generation Canadians through utilizing young priests to perform services, as well as having young volunteers help directly with rituals. At its annual festival this year, Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Hindu Temple invited priests from other temples and paid tribute to their work in elevating the community. One of the longest-tenured priests in Canada to date, Shri K. Govindarajan Bhattar from the Richmond Hill Hindu Temple, was one invited priest in attendance and many blessings were showered upon him. Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Hindu Temple's endeavors to unify the Tamil community to grow as one are admirable and will be crucial as Tamils continue to understand their roots.

While the Tamil diaspora community continues to adjust to its new environment, temples will proceed to provide the foundation to leap from and assist in building prosperous lives for generations to come.



Shri K. Govindarajan Bhattar from the Richmond Hill Hindu Temple and Shri Panchadchara Vijayakumara Kurukkal at the Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Temple festival

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SPECIAL FEATURE

RADHA PANDYA'S BHARATHANATYAM ARANGETRAM SHINES LIGHT ON THE CLASSICAL DANCE'S PROMINENCE



By Danesh Thirukumaran

Sustaining a practice for longer than one generation is something to be applauded. Sustaining a practice for over 500 generations is almost incomprehensible.

Bharathanatyam, an ancient classical dance form stemming from Hindu temples in Southern India, has achieved such an incomprehensible feat. Embodying emotion, melody, rhythm, and dance, this solo expression of divinity intends to tell religious stories and express devotion. Its focus is to also enrich the values of the audience, who gain a greater understanding of Hindu culture.

Despite its beauty, it has seen bouts of opposition, particularly during the British colonial era in the 19th and 20th centuries. However, its inherent soulful core empowered supporters of the dance to not only diminish its oppression, but also adapt the dance form outside of strictly temples and into a broader public spectacle. Its continued revival as a public demonstration was witnessed on July 30th at Radha Pandya's Bharathanatyam Arangetram at the Jo-Ann Magistro Performing Arts Center in East Brunswick, New Jersey. On an evening flooded with passion, Radha Pandya graced the stage as she blessed the audience with this over two millennia-long acclaimed art form.

Radha, a student at Piscataway High School, has a strong passion for the arts. Alongside Bharathanatyam, Radha was previously a member of the Rutgers Scarlet Knights Choir, currently is



learning Carnatic music, and plays violin for her school's Chamber Orchestra. In combination, these contribute to her diligence as seen at her Arangetram.

As Radha's mother, Sanju Pandya, noted in her concluding speech of the evening, "[Radha's] name signifies unconditional love, and she showed unconditional dedication to her

dance journey." Radha began her Bharathanatyam journey at the age of four through the wisdom imparted by Guru Srimathi Selvi Chandranathan, a renowned teacher and director of Bharata Kala Nrityakshetra. A goal of Guru Smt. Selvi Chandranathan is to bring her students closer to South Indian art and cultural traditions, which she undoubtedly did with Radha, whose complete sincerity was evident throughout the performance.

Paying homage to those who came before her, as well as fully expressing her identity were prominent elements noticeable in Radha's performance. In performing Chella Kanni Vayal, Radha profoundly displayed endearment toward Lord Murugan in his childlike form. Lord Murugan's undiluted heart bestows sweetness and enriches those who invoke his name in delight. Radha's facial expressions, hand gestures, and swift yet deeply eloquent movements personified Lord Murugan's pure goodness. This composition of Lord Murugan - whose abode lies within Nallur in Jaffna, Sri Lanka - was aptly written by Sri Veeramani Iyer, who was born in the Nallur-neighboring Inuvil. The selection of this song and timing of Radha's performance is fitting, as the famous Nallur Kandaswamy Temple is holding its annual festival which starts August 2nd and will continue for the next 25 days. It can be said that Radha's performance helped usher in such a majestic time in Nallur.

SPECIAL FEATURE



Continuing to fully express her identity, Radha performed Hari Tum Haro Jan Ki Peer. Meera Bai, the mystic poet behind this composition, ardently loved Lord Krishna and wanted to showcase how his love is evident for all his devotees. Radha avidly demonstrates two stories in which Lord Krishna indiscriminately loves all, as he saves both Draupadi from humiliation by the Kauravas and an elephant from the clutches of a crocodile. Radha, seemingly with all her heart, portrays each story with detailed expressions, ranging from misery to joy. She did not miss a beat as she masterfully assumed different roles,

making it easy to understand the flow of the stories.

Radha's devotion to Bharathanatyam, her Guru, and all those who have assisted her in her journey to the Arangetram was evident, as each individual performance during the program seemed to promote vibrancy within the audience. Radha found much assistance from her cousin, Harini Rajadeva, who completed her Arangetram earlier in July. They supported one another's dancing journey, and even acted as each other's Master of Ceremonies for their respective Arangetrams.

This performance would not have been possible without the orchestra, comprised by Vocals from Smt. V Krupaa Lakshmi, Mridangam by Shri. Vasuthavan Rajalingam, Veena by Smt. Prabha Dayalan, Flute by Smt. Varshini Narayanan, and Nattuvangam by Guru Smt. Selvi Chandranathan. This talented group of individuals together can be acknowledged as the musical version of the popular Marvel Avengers, as Ketan Pandya, Radha's father, noted in his speech. She duly did her parents, Ketan and Sanju Pandya, as well as her grandparents, Bhagvati and Manjula Pandya, and Velumailum and Punitharani Sathianathan proud. The program was followed by a delicious and fragrant meal from Arusuvai Chettinad Restaurant.

South Indian and Hindu culture continues to progress into new eras, interestingly in this generation as many families immigrated across the world from their native homelands. Radha's beautiful performance deepening herself and the audience portrays how rich the culture is and how it will continue to thrive in the future.



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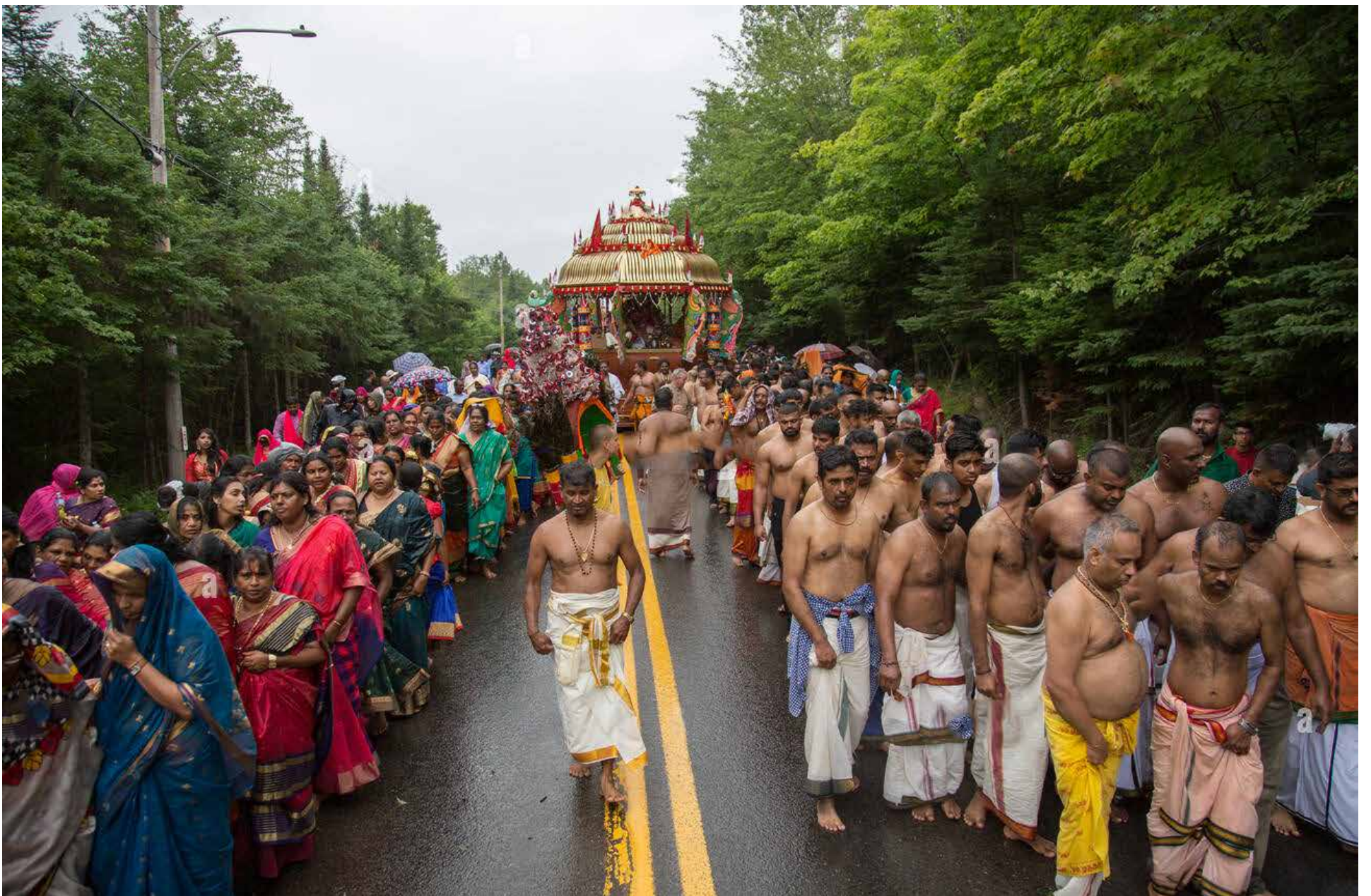
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SUBRAMANYA AYAPPA TEMPLE

(At Val-Morin, Quebec)



C. Kamalaharan

Situated high on a mountain top in the beautiful Laurentian mountains above

Val-Morin in Quebec the Subramanya Ayappa temple reopens every year in

the month of April after the winter season. During winter the deities are shifted from the ashram to the Krishna temple.

Founded in 1963 by Swamy Vishnu- Devananda the ashram attracts people from

all over the world to practice yoga, meditate or pray at the temple connected to the ashram with a long wooden staircase.

For two weeks every summer Hindu devotee from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto

arrive and take part in these religious activities. Some devotees even come from as far

as Western Canada, United States, Europe and Sri Lanka. They arrive for the annual Kavadiceremony, the largest Hindu festival in North America.

The Kavadi ther (chariot) festival is celebrated every

year in July. Taking part in the kavadi festival is considered as the ceremonial sacrifice performed by devotees of Lord Subramanya. The kavadi bearer goes through strict austerities for purification of the body and mind.

During the festival Lord Subramanya is brought out of the temple and taken in a procession through the town of Val-Morin in a wooden chariot beautifully designed with carvings. Vehicles arriving late are blocked from approaching the temple as such devotees had to alight from the vehicles and move forward on foot.

Every year on July 9th the anniversary of the day the deities were first installed in the temple is celebrated with Pooja's and other festivities. The temple inaugurated in 1994 attracts thousands of devotees throughout the year from all cultures and nationalities. It was heart-warming to see devotees distributing meals they had cooked to other devotees after the Pooja ceremony. After partaking the lunch the devotees leave the temple fully satisfied and spiritually enlightened.



SPECIAL FEATURE



Abstaining From Alcoholic Drinks

By: J.A. Rajah

If men are addicted to drinking, their enemies will not be afraid of them, they will also lose their reputation. People will talk of him in jest as a drunkard. Let none take to the drinking habit, except those, who do not value, their reputation and esteem among the righteous.

“Unnatka karlai, unnil, unka sanroran ennapada vendaathar”.

உண்ணற்க கள்ளை உணில்உண்க சான்றோரால்
எண்ணப் படவேண்டா தார்.

Drunken revelry is out of order even, even before one's own mother, that being so, what will it be to the men of righteousness? A drunken man is likely to lose control over his thought, word and deed. The lady of modesty will turn her back on persons, who are addicted to, the low and abiding vice of drunkenness. It is the character-less foolishness to pay money to acquire drunken insensibility. Those who sleep resemble the dead for the duration, but the drunken ones are as good as dead always, having consumed poison.

“Thunchinar settharin verallar engnanrum, Nanchunpar karl unpavar”.

துஞ்சினார் செத்தாரின் வேறல்லர் எஞ்ஞான்றும்
நஞ்சுண்பார் கள்ளுண் பவர்.

Those who drink to insensibility regularly in their homes too will surely become the laughing stock of the village. Drunkenness cannot remain a close secret, because of the way it affects subsequent behaviour. A drunkard had not pretended that he does not take drink; he will only be adding falsehood to his vice. To show reason to one, who has over indulged in liquor, is like taking, a torch to search for a man drowned in deep waters. When a man is sober, and witnesses the condition of another drunken person, why does he not contemplate the evil of drunkenness? Japan introduced a novel treatment for drunkards. They recorded the ratings of those under the influence of drink and played it back to them when they attain sobriety. It is said that this process had a very salutary influence on them. Valluvar had thought of such a panacea for drunkenness 2000 years ago.

(Kural: 921-930)



Valluvar's Views



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Muraly Srinarayanathas,
Special to The Monsoon Journal



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

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

The Web3 Revolution

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

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

Web3 and Cryptocurrency

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

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

Web3 and Globalization

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

How Will Web3 Scale?

Web3 is already a part of the digital world with decentralized networks like FundingDAOs and

SocialDAOs working to improve governance, web browsers like Brave running on its own blockchain, and even Opera partnering with Solana blockchain to allow decentralized apps.

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

What Does This Mean for Immigrants?

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

A lot of my work revolves around being a changemaker for my family and community, and I do this by helping people get the knowledge, resources, and confidence they need to walk their own paths.

Muraly Srinarayanathas is a business leader, philanthropist, and investor, who frequently writes on topics ranging from technology, entrepreneurship, and the future of Canada.



The Value of Generosity



Usman Ali Naser
Jun 20, 2022

Generosity can benefit others in many different forms such as, money, food, clothing, and anything else that can provide support to them. By being generous, you can bring yourself happiness and can also change the lives of others immensely. When you are generous, you feel good on the inside and overall become a better person to your community. Generosity can also teach you many life lessons that give you a greater understanding of the world and show you the struggle people go through just to survive for another day.

Generosity can really help those in need and could ultimately change their lives, getting them back on track. Donating to charities is one way to be generous and can help many people that struggle in their daily lives. Every time you are generous, it benefits at least one person in need around the world. Even if it is only one person, you are still making an impact in the world. Generosity shows you how to be a virtuous person, and it shows you what goes on in the lives of the less fortunate. It teaches you kindness and empathy, and shows that your actions can change the lives of others from what they once were. Being generous is like wisdom in a way, as it gives you more knowledge about the world. You can then pass your knowledge on

to other people you know. This is why you should always try to be generous and kind whenever you can, to anyone around you.

Being a generous person can even benefit yourself. It can help you develop a good mindset and behavior which can lead you to becoming a more positive person. Being a more positive person can especially help improve your reputation in your community which can also have a supportive effect in your life. You can improve and strengthen relationships with other people by being generous. This allows you to be a more productive person at home and even at the workplace. Many changes can happen to you mentally and physically by being generous. Generosity can increase your happiness and self-love through the knowledge that you helped a person in need, which can make you a more peaceful person. It can help reduce stress, enhance one's sense of purpose, and can even help naturally fight depression. It provides greater satisfaction in life and can make people feel happier in their careers. People that are generous are often recognized as kind, supportive and understanding people.

Generosity also shows you what life is like for people in different careers and levels of life which provides you with an awareness of reality. This awareness can help you make better decisions in life and can even help you become a successful person. This is because, when you are aware of reality, you can better understand what is positive and what is negative. It will allow you to think critically and help you make the right choices based on the possible benefits and consequences. Generosity has many different effects on people's lives and can help one become a well-behaved and kind person. Being generous

has no consequences and can give you a greater understanding of the world and can enhance your awareness of your surroundings.

Generosity always has a positive effect on not only other people but yourself too. When being generous, you can really feel a change in yourself, both mentally and physically. Generosity shows us how your actions can help different people around the world. Generous people often personally feel more fulfilled, happier, and more peaceful within themselves. These factors can have dramatic effects on your body and mind,

which will ultimately increase your lifespan. It can help you be a good person to society and make life more meaningful. Generosity can also improve relationships and make you a more kind and patient person, shaping your personality. It provides you with a much greater understanding of yourself and the world. You are aware of yourself mentally, physically, and even spiritually. Generosity supports everyone around the world as it always has positive effects on both the giver and the receiver. This is the value of generosity.



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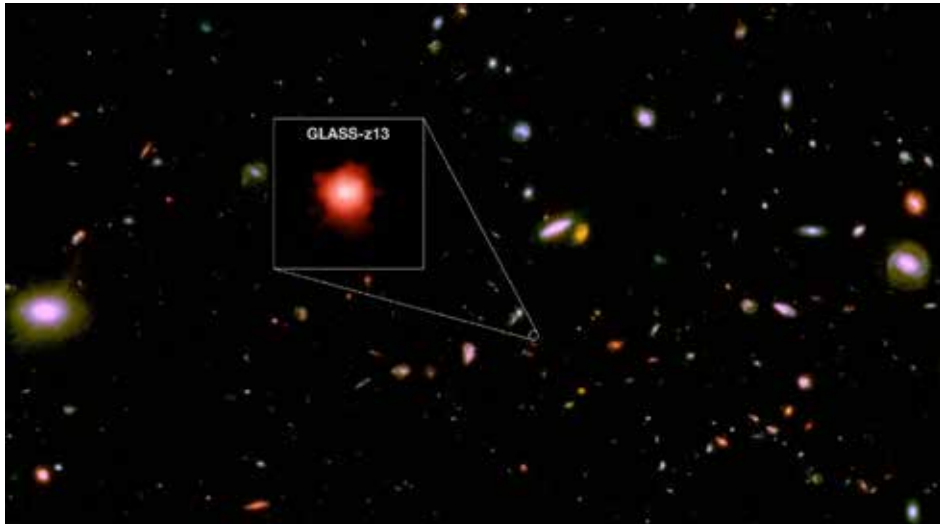
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The James Webb May Have Found the Oldest Galaxy

Why are James Webb's images such a bigger deal than Hubble's?



By OUE Research Institute

NASA has finally revealed mind-blowing first images from the space-based observatory from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) on Monday, July 11, 22. What makes this image so mind-blowing is how small it is and how large it is at the same time. It's small because this image represents only a tiny portion of the night sky. Imagine you are holding out a grain of sand at arm's length. The area of the sky that grain covers. While it appears to us as a flat image, this image reveals the depths of the universe and is a window via time. JWST also makes measurements about what elements those early galaxies are composed of. An image like this is similar to a core sample of sedimentary rock. It shows the evolution of the universe over time in its many layers.

JWST has found a galaxy that existed 13.5 billion years ago. It is known as GLASS-z13. The Universe dates back to 300 million years after the Big Bang, about 100 million years earlier than anything previously identified, Rohan Naidu of the Harvard Center for Astrophysics told AFP. "We're potentially looking at the most distant starlight anyone has ever seen," he said.

It takes longer for more distant objects' light to reach us, so to gaze back into the distant Universe is to see into the deep past. GLASS-z13 was spotted in so-called "early release" data from the orbiting observatory's main infrared imager, NIRcam. When translated from infrared into the visible spectrum, the galaxy appears as a blob of red with white in its center, part of a broader image of the distant cosmos called a "deep field."

JWST vs HST

JWST conveys a vast improvement over the powers of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), which,



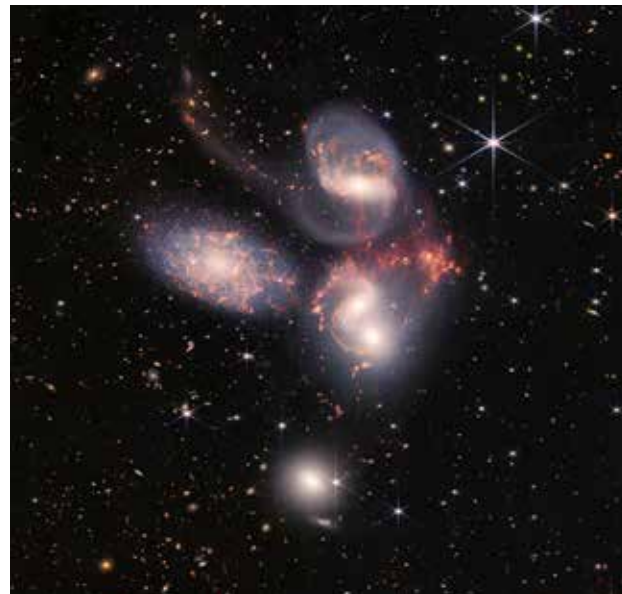
until the launch of the JWST, was the largest observatory in space. HST's mirror is an impressive 7.8 feet in diameter. JWST's beautiful, gold-hued mirrors combine for a diameter of 21.3 feet. Overall, that amounts to more than six times the light-collecting area, and when it comes to telescopes, more light collecting equals more detail. You can already see the improvements JWST brings over the HST.

The JWST's other advantage over HST is the type of light it collects. Light comes in a lot of different varieties. The human eye can see only a narrow band known as visible light. Still, the universe contains lots and lots of light outside this range, including the higher-frequency, higher-energy forms: ultraviolet light and gamma rays. Then there's the lower-energy light with longer wavelengths: infrared, microwaves, and radio. The HST collects visible light, ultraviolet, and some infrared. The JWST is primarily an infrared telescope, so it sees the light in a longer wavelength than our eyes can see. Infrared light is less obscured by cosmic dust, so the JWST can reveal more stars in this region than the HST could. This seems nerdy and technical, but it allows JWST to look farther back in time than the HST.

Infrared light is often ancient light due to a phenomenon called redshifting. When a light source moves away from a viewer, it gets stretched out, transforming into a longer and longer wavelength, growing redder. It's similar to what happens to the sound when an alarm goes by. The pitch increases as the alarm approaches, then decreases as it paths away. Because space constantly expands, the farthest things from us in the universe are moving away from us, their light growing redder and redder before eventually dropping into the infrared spectrum. Infrared is invisible to human eyes, but Webb can capture it in glittering detail.

More Images from JWST

NASA released even more images the next day, showing its impressive capabilities. JWST spots a quintet of galaxies. "JWST shows never-before-seen details in this galaxy group," NASA relays. "Sparkling clusters of millions of young stars and starburst regions of fresh star birth grace the image." The Carina Nebula is an area of star



formation. "Webb reveals emerging stellar nurseries and individual stars that are completely hidden in visible-light pictures," NASA explains.

JWST observes the remains of a dying star in the Southern Ring Nebula, another stunning image. On the left, the nebula is captured in the near-infrared, and on the right, it is captured in the mid-infrared, each bringing out different details of this disaster. The dim star in the center has been "sending out

rings of gas and dust for thousands of years in all directions," NASA writes.

Work to be done

JWST can find the earliest galaxies formed after the Big Bang, 13.8 billion years ago. The earliest galaxies are so distant from Earth, requiring time for light to reach us. It has been stretched by



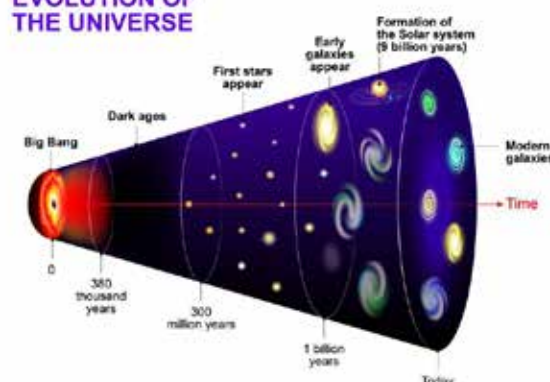
the expansion of the Universe and shifted to the infrared region of the light spectrum, which JWST is equipped to detect with unprecedented clarity.

"We searched all the early data for galaxies with this very striking signature, and these were the two systems that had by far the most compelling signature," said Naidu. One of these is GLASS-z13, while the other, not as ancient, is GLASS-z11. "There's strong evidence, but there's still work to be done," said Naidu.

The team wants to ask JWST's managers for telescope time to carry out spectroscopy – an analysis of light that reveals detailed properties – to measure its precise distance. "Right now, our guess for the distance is based on what we don't see – it would be great to have an answer for what we see," said Naidu. The team has detected surprising properties. For instance, the galaxy is the mass of a billion Suns, which is "potentially very surprising, and that is something we don't understand" given how soon after the Big Bang it formed, Naidu said.

Astronomers are confident that JWST will proclaim a new era of discovery. This is just the beginning of JWST's scientific mission. In the future, scientists hope to use it to see the first galaxies and farther back in time, which held the very first stars and a period called "cosmic dawn," when the cosmos evolved transparent to starlight for the first time. JWST will help them know the end of the dark ages when no light reaches from there and figure out what caused this fog to lift, escorting in the cosmic dawn. This is just the beginning. There's so much more to see.

EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSE



BUSINESS / FINANCE

Top 4 Ways Educating Newcomers About Financial Literacy Improves Outcomes for Immigrant Communities



By: **Muraly Narayanathas**

Financial literacy, or the ability to make informed and educated decisions about financial resources, is something that can be difficult to learn. However, becoming financially literate can help anyone who wants to take their money and see it grow, and that includes newcomers to the country.

Curious about how educating newcomers about financial literacy can help improve outcomes for immigrant communities? Read on to learn the top four ways it can do so.

1. Helps Create Stability

One of the most important parts of becoming financially literate is the ability to budget. Budgeting takes into account money that is coming in, money that is being spent, money that is being invested, and money that is being given away. If one can keep all four of these amounts in mind, then one can be financially stable, and that stability lends itself to having less stress and more time taking part in your community. As such, the immigrant community can grow by becoming financially stable and can learn how better to fit into the financial system of their new country.

2. Can Introduce Investing in Immigrant Companies



The previous point mentioned investing, which is one of the more complicated parts of finances. However, becoming financially literate enough to know how to invest in stocks, and therefore companies, can help the immigrant community grow. If you are financially literate enough to invest in the stocks of, say, a fledgling company from your previous country that now finds its home in the same country you do, you can vastly improve not only your own financial standing but theirs as well. Helping a new business flourish is something those that are financially literate can do without worrying that they'll leave themselves in a troubling financial situation, after all.

3. Opens up the Possibility of Borrowing

Even those who are not new to a country can become intimidated by the thought of borrowing money. However, if you are financially stable through your knowledge of financial literacy, borrowing money becomes easy. With that money, you could grow your own business—which can then help the immigrant community grow in turn—or can even take to giving that money to the community in other ways that you see fit.

4. Let You Plan for the Future

Financial literacy lets you gain the knowledge you need to make your money go farther, and that includes

into the future. Whether it be retirement planning for you or planning for your children's futures, knowing how best to use your money can help anyone, and that includes newcomers to the country. The best part about planning for your future though is that you are also planning for the future of the immigrant community in your country: becoming a "success story" yourself can lead to many more success stories and opportunities for newcomers along the way, creating a vibrant community that can grow and thrive in your new country.

Interested in learning more about financial literacy? Then subscribe to my blog! You can also get in touch by contacting me via my website or social media for more information.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Appointments & Achievements - by Siva Sivapragasam

Droupadi Murmu elected India's new President

Droupadi Murmu, a woman who hails from a minority ethnic community, has been elected India's new President.

Droupadi Murmu who is a leader from India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party was elected by the Indian Parliament and state legislatures. She becomes the first President from one of the country's tribes and the second-ever woman to hold the position. She started out as a school teacher before entering politics and has been a two-time lawmaker from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party.



Dinesh Gunawardene appointed Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Dinesh Gunawardene has been sworn in as Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister.

Gunawardene is a veteran member of the ruling Sri Lanka People's Front. He took the oath of office before President Ranil Wickremesinghe who was elevated as President from his role as Prime minister by a vote in parliament. Gunawardene is an old boy of Royal College and a classmate of President Wickremesinghe.



Saman Ekanayake appointed Secretary to the Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe

President Ranil Wickremesinghe has appointed Saman Ekanayake as the new Secretary to the President.

Ekanayake previously served as the Secretary to the Prime Minister when Ranil Wickremesinghe was serving as the Premier from May until the resignation of the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Ekanayake is a Special Grade Retired Officer in the Sri Lankan Administrative Service.



Ali Sabry Sri Lanka's new Foreign Minister

Ali Sabry who is a Sri Lankan lawyer and politician has been appointed Sri Lanka's Minister of External Affairs. He previously served as the Minister of Finance until 9 May 2022. He was a Member of Parliament, appointed from the national list of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna.



Quotable Quotes - 2022

By: Siva Sivapragasam

“They said it”



“Although you are seeing a short-term softening in sales, there is still a recognition that we have an overall supply change”

– David Wilkes, CEO BILD on home prices



“In the face of this deplorable evil, the Church kneels before God and implores His forgiveness”

– Pope Francis on the death of indigenous children



“Spreading information around the world about Russia's invasion of Ukraine is as important as distributing guns and bullets for the country's defense”

– Ukrainian President Zelenskyy



“Given the growing immigration backlog as a major barrier for economic growth and business investment, it's imperative Canada takes an all-hands-on-deck approach to secure a competitive advantage, and modernize the immigration system”

– Goldy Hyder, President and CEO of the Business Council of Canada



“Prices are dropping rapidly from where they were in February, March. But they're stabilizing at a lower level because the demand's still there and the inventory levels haven't popped”

– Phil Soper, Royal LePage CEO on home prices

BEWARE OF CO-SIGNING LOANS FOR MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY

by Ajay Oberoi

Bankruptcy, Budgeting, Collection calls, Cosign, Debt, Debt Management, Divorce, Insolvency

Co-signing loans for family members can at times lead to an unfortunate ending. It is common to hear of instances where family members have co-signed on a loan only to suffer consequences after because loan terms were not met.

If you co-sign a loan you are included as someone who is responsible for the debt taken which in return protects the bank or lender's loan. In the case where payments are missed, then you as a co-signer will be required to take responsibility of the debt and in some instances depending on the contract you may be required to repay the whole loan instantly.

A key point to remember is that when a bank or a lender asks the person who's taking the loan to come forth with a co-signer, they are pretty much saying that everything for them indicates that the loan will not be paid back. Having someone involved as a co-signer basically guarantees them that regardless of anything, they will be paid at the end of the day.



IT'S NOT EASY TO SAY NO

Family is family and sometimes it's tough for us to say "no". Your child is asking for a co-sign on a loan of \$25,000 for a business they may want to start. Show them other ways to acquire the necessary funds. Be helpful in their approach. Show them you care

and want to help but dipping yourself into financial uncertainty is something that you cannot afford.

Do not feel guilty for your decision as the person may not see it from your perspective. Keeping a good credit rating and staying positive financially is one of the most important things. Protecting yourself from an unseen

circumstance – where you are responsible, is not something to feel guilty about.

Are you still unsure about co-signing? Get in touch with a professional here at GTA Credit Solutions and let us guide you towards the right answer!

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

Eat more, learn more!

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

Shrimp curry with moringa leaves

Murungai keerai, popularly known as moringa leaves are rich in Iron and help reduce inflammation, blood sugar levels and are rich in amino acids and antioxidants. Here is a recipe you could try making to enjoy the benefits of this superfood.



Ingredients:

- ✓ 500g shrimp, cleaned and deveined (eraal)
- ✓ 1 bunch of moringa leaves, washed, cleaned and roughly chopped (murungai keerai)
- ✓ 2 tbsp Sri Lankan curry powder (kari thool)
- ✓ ¾ tin of coconut milk (thengai paal)
- ✓ ¼ tsp turmeric (manjal)
- ✓ 1 tbsp coriander powder (malli thool)
- ✓ 1 tsp garam masala
- ✓ ¼ tsp mustard seeds (kadagu)
- ✓ ¼ tsp cumin seeds (seeragam)
- ✓ ¼ tsp fennel seeds (perunseeragam)
- ✓ 1 lemongrass stalk, cut into thirds and lightly bruised
- ✓ 1 pandan leaf, cut into smaller strips (rampe)
- ✓ 2 pink onions, diced (vengaayam)
- ✓ 4-5 cloves garlic, minced (poondu)
- ✓ 2 tbsp gingelly oil (nallennai)
- ✓ 1 knob ginger, minced (inji)
- ✓ Curry leaves (karuveppillai)
- ✓ 2 tomatoes, diced (thakaali)
- ✓ Water, as needed (thanni)
- ✓ Salt, to taste (uppu)
- ✓ ¼ tsp ground black pepper (milagu)
- ✓ ½ lemon, juiced (elumichai pazham)

Method:

In a medium sized pot on a medium flame, add mustard seeds, cumin seeds and fennel seeds to warmed gingelly oil. When the mustard seeds start to splutter, add onions, garlic, ginger, pandan, lemongrass and curry leaves and stir. Cook this until the onions become translucent. At this stage, add tomatoes, mix once and cover with a lid for 2-3 minutes. When the tomatoes have softened, add turmeric, Sri Lankan curry powder, salt, coriander powder, garam masala and stir well. Add the moringa leaves, mix again and close the lid for 2 minutes. Check the consistency after this time has passed; if the pan looks dry, add more water. Keep stirring every 5 minutes for a total of 10 minutes, until the moringa has cooked down, making sure the pan is not too dry. When the moringa has cooked well, add prawns and coconut milk and stir again so that all elements of the dish are incorporated. Close the lid and let this cook for 4-5 minutes, depending on the size of your shrimp. To finish off, add ground black pepper, lemon juice and check for salt. Once you are happy with all the levels, the dish is done.

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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OBITUARY

COMMUNITY WATCH



Benedict Thomas

(Saturday, December 9th, 1933 - Sunday, August 7th, 2022)

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing away of Distinguished Patri-
cian Mr Benedict Thomas who was a longtime member of "St Patrick's College
Jaffna Alumni Association of Toronto Ontario".

Images of Mr Benedict Thomas on this page are from some of our Association
hosted events that he attended.

On behalf of the Patrician Brothers in Canada we express our deepest con-
dolences to the Family and Friends. May his soul rest in peace

Visitation:

Friday, August 12th, 2022 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Chapel Ridge Funeral Home
8911 Woodbine Ave, Markham

Second Visitation:

Saturday, August 13th, 2022 7:30am - 9:00am
Chapel Ridge Funeral Home
8911 Woodbine Ave, Markham

Service:

Saturday, August 13th, 2022 9:30am
St Thomas the Apostle
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Officiant: Rev Fr. Patrick Gnanapragasam

Interment:

Saturday, August 13th, 2022 11:00am
Christ the King Catholic Cemetery
7770 Steeles Avenue East, Markham





COMMUNITY WATCH

Tamils' Information:

Raymond Rajabalan

"Necessity is the mother of invention" is a proverb that points to the truth that the desire to respond to a "dire need" often becomes the primary driving force for newest inventions. Based on this proverb, one can rightly say that the advent of a valuable Tamil monthly journal named Tamils' Information, three decades ago, in Canadian soil was a great boon for the newly arrived immigrants from Sri Lanka.

The first band of Tamils sought refuge in Canada propelled by the brutal Black July anti-Tamil pogrom in Colombo and other parts of Sri Lanka.

Later they sponsored their family members; all of them arrived hoping for a new beginning in an unfamiliar

land that welcomed them with open arms. Undoubtedly all of them were in dire need of a reliable source of information that would guide them to make effective use of the available resources in a new environment. Apart from facing the difficulty of adapting to the new geographical and cultural environment, many were also handicapped by the limited knowledge of the English language.

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mation journal that provides reliable information is certainly a challenging job. An error in a news item included in a newspaper can be corrected with a note of apology provided in the next day's issue. In the case of disseminating an information, it must be unquestionably right with no room for any error. In this context, gathering the facts from reliable sources and making them available at the right time is indisputably a challenging and daunting task. Yet Thiru with a far reaching vision set upon this journey with great determination and signalling for the future.

Thus, a somewhat mini version of Tamil equivalent of Readers Digest was born in this great western nation. It is remarkable that this unique publication is able to maintain its credibility and trust-

dazzled by the immense value of its contents and began to make use of them to their great advantage. It was a time many of the newly arrived people were unable to read the sign boards, unable to find the right number of the bus or the routes and unable to make effective use of the telephone.

Some of them faced big trouble in finding a family doctor or locating a school to admit their children. Just like any new immigrant in any part of the world, the needs of these newcomers began increasing daily. Thus every one of them were more than happy by the timely arrival of this great publication.

That was thirty years ago. Since then much water has flown under the bridge.

Meanwhile this valuable guide journal began to evolve rapidly and its

edged with gratitude that he had used the past issues of this journal as the topic of research for the thesis of his Honours degree program.

The current population of Tamils in Canada has swelled up to nearly 350,00. Meanwhile, this enterprising community whose intellectual pursuits had been deliberately suppressed and bogged down by the brutal regimes in their country of birth for several decades, began to make the best use of their talents and abilities to the awe, astonishment and amazement of those around them. Very soon the owners of several businesses in Canada began seeking employees specifically among those from Sri Lanka.

The momentum that began three decades ago rapidly began snow balling and has begun to produce astonishing

An invaluable guide to the Canadian Tamil Community

land that welcomed them with open arms. Undoubtedly all of them were in dire need of a reliable source of information that would guide them to make effective use of the available resources in a new environment. Apart from facing the difficulty of adapting to the new geographical and cultural environment, many were also handicapped by the limited knowledge of the English language.

Meanwhile even with a wealth of information available from a plethora of services from the various levels of governments in Canada, many newcomers were perplexed as to how to accurately identify an appropriate resource.

It was at that time an enterprising and socially responsible individual who too had arrived in Canada in the 1980s decided to make use of his journalistic expertise and experience for the benefit of new immigrant Tamils. He was determined to bring out a free monthly journal to guide his fellow immigrants. With no financial assistance from any government or other organizations, it was a very bold venture for him to delve into this arena. However, this well experienced journalist Mr. ThiruS. Thiruchelvam who had already faced various political storms during his career was determined to move into an uncharted territory with great vision and confidence. By the time the first issue came out in 1991, coincidentally the number of Sri Lankans arriving from their homeland or through various countries soon began to turn from a trickle into an avalanche, triggering off a multitude of needs such as housing, schools, employment, medical services etc.

Information and News

As everyone is aware unlike publishing a newspaper, producing an infor-



worthiness throughout the past three decades.

Thiruchelvam, popularly called Thiru was amazed and pleased by the great response received from the fledgling Tamil community. The new immigrants starved of any reliable source of information in their mother tongue eagerly grabbed the copies of his magazine as soon as they were released on the 5th of every month. This magazine soon turned out to be a great guiding light to help them navigate through the darkness around them.

The grateful readers were simply

quality began developing by leaps and bounds. Now every Tamil in Canada is fully aware of its credibility and great value. Today every Canadian library where Tamil books are available, one can find a copy of this journal. Further the Annual issue released in February is considered a mini encyclopaedia containing very valuable well researched articles written by experts in their respective fields. It has become so valuable that copies of these magazine are kept in several universities in Sri Lanka. Recently an undergraduate of the University of Jaffna acknowl-

results over the years. Meanwhile, many have agreed that this unique magazine had contributed to the success of so many Tamils who have made this great nation their new home.

Growth and Evolution of Tamils information

Over the period of three decades, parallel to the exponential growth of the population of Canadian Tamils, this journal too began spreading its wings wide to include several new aspects. As this monthly journal and its Annual Compendium grew strong in years, it began publishing articles,

COMMUNITY WATCH



இளமகிழ் சுவடு

PREMIER
CANADIAN
TAMIL JOURNAL
கனடிய
முத்த
தமிழ் இதழ்

தமிழர்
தகவல்
TAMILS' INFORMATION

ESTD 1991
From The Community
To The Community

ஆண்டு 2021
2022
ஆண்டு பூர்த்தி மலர்
ஆகஸ்ட் 2022 August










Life has its
Rewards
-
Work has its
Awards

சமூகத்துடன் இணைந்த வளர்ச்சி - Growing with the community




news items, events and biographical notes on prominent Tamil creative writers and on the laurels and achievements of Tamils in more than eight countries across the globe where Eelam Tamils have made their permanent home and live, study, work and grow in sizeable numbers.

Awards and Honours

Over the years of its growth Tamils' Information has come to occupy a unique place among Canadian Tamils by recognizing and promoting the contributions and achievements of many outstanding individuals and groups not only among the Tamils but also in the larger Canadian society.

Looking at the amazing array of the award recipients of the past three decades is a joyous exercise. The individuals who have been honoured are held in high esteem by our community for their outstanding contributions. These eminent men and women come from diverse professional backgrounds and their service to the community include the areas of medicine, education, arts and culture, the media, community

service, and entrepreneurship among many others. We are especially proud to have honored the 'Toronto Star' newspaper with a special award.

A main stream Canadian newspaper consenting to be honoured by Tamils' information journal speaks volumes as to its value and respect in the society.

Notable among the Life Time Achievement Award recipients in the recent past are: Prof. Peter Schalk of Uppsala University in Sweden (A Scholar in Ancient Tamil Literatures), Chevalier S.A. Adikalamuthu, Prof. SivalingamSivanandan of Illinois University, who was also honoured by the White House for his contributions on Solar Photovoltaic Research Dr. SanjayanMuttulingam who has made significant contributions to the preservation of the environment and wild-life conservation, Madam Kim Phuc (UNESCO Peace Ambassador), Dr. Shan Shanmugasundaram (a leading medical practitioner and Community Activist from California), Professor Sir. SabaratnamArulkumaranfrom

United Kingdom, Professor AjithYoganathan (Emory University, USA) and Mr. SinnathambySittampalam(ALeading Community Activist).

Tamils' Information has recognized and honoured eminent persons from the international Tamil Diaspora in a very special way for their special contribution to our community, thus giving Tamils' Information international respect and Recognition. Very special mention has to be made of the student/youth award recipients who have felt highly motivated and encouraged in their endeavours by this unique honour.

After years of uninterrupted publication, Thiru has reached a great milestone of 30 years of publication, an achievement that has no parallel for a journal of its kind anywhere throughout the globe.

Salient Aspects of Tamils' Information

On this momentous occasion, it is appropriate to provide a summary of the main aspects of this great publication. In his keynote speech delivered in

2018 at the Annual Award ceremony of Tamils information, Professor Fr. Joseph Chandrakanthan succinctly highlighted some of the vibrant aspects of this great journal by stating:

Tamils' Information Has Promoted and Nurtured Young Tamil Writers.

Very few Tamil journalists, if any had guided, mentored, advised, nurtured and promoted as many young Tamil women and men to write and to publish both in Tamil and English as Mr. Thiru S.Thiruchelvam did single-handedly through this journal and its annual volume. The numerous high-quality essays in his monthly and annual volumes are an eloquent testimony to this assertion.

A Healthy Criticism and Advancement of Arts and Literature.

In this monthly journal he has provided ample space almost every month to promote Tamil Performing Arts and creative Literature in all its many and variant forms, taking a quiet but firm leadership role in advancing traditional Tamil arts, cultural performance and literary events.

Insightful Political Observations and Commentary.

Tamils' Information emphasized the truth that journalism without insightful political comments, involved interpretation and sincere participation in the social forces that impact our daily life will only be a mere reportage in a vacuum.

This journal has always promoted an integrated a vision where Canadian Tamils could give their best to the mainstream Canadian national life while retaining their specific ethno-cultural space and identity. As a monthly journal, it carries comments not only about Tamil politics but is also disseminating equally instructive and informative comments on Canadian Federal, Provincial and municipal politics.

Deeply and personally conscious of the fact that from its very origin mass media of communication and all efforts related to it are neatly grounded in the dialectics and dynamics of the social forces; and while being fully conscious of the colossal growth of media technology, this journal relentlessly educated the Tamil-speaking public who have difficulties in appreciating current political issues in the English language, by providing an open social forum in Tamil.

According to the editor, Tamils Information hopes to continue its journey in the service of our community with commitment, dedication and solidarity and has invited everyone to join him on this untrodden path of our history.

Thiru has emphasized that his journey of service to humankind will never end until human kind remains committed to serving one another.

The Canadian Tamil community will ever be grateful to Mr. Thiruchelvam for his vision that Tamils' Information is both, a documentation of history and a history of documentation of Tamils life primarily in Canada and across the world.



SPECIAL FEATURE

SUBRAMANIA BHARATHIYAR POET, FREEDOM FIGHTER AND A REFORMER

Compiled by : KIDAMBI RAJ

INTRODUCTION

Subramania Bharathiyar, was born as Chinnaswami Subramia, at Ettayapuram (present day, Thoothukudi) on December 11, 1882, to Chinnaswami Subramania Iyer and Lakshmi Ammal. Bharathi had his early education in Tirunelveli and Varanasi. From a very young age, he was musically and poetically inclined. Bharathi lost his mother at the age of five and was brought up by his father who wanted him to learn English, excel in arithmetic, and become an engineer.

EARLY YEARS

Bharati became a Tamil scholar at an early age. He received little formal education, however, and in 1904 he moved to Madras (now Chennai). There he translated English into Tamil for several magazines and later joined the Tamil daily newspaper *Swadesamitran*. and worked as a journalist with many newspapers, including *The Hindu*, *Bala Bharata*, *Vijaya*, *Chakravarthini*, the *Swadesamitran* and *India*.

A SOCIAL REFORMER AND A FREEDOM FIGHTER

He was a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist, social reformer and polyglot. Popularly known as **Mahakavi Bharathi** (Great Poet Bharathi), he was a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry and is considered one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all time. His numerous works included fiery songs kindling patriotism during the Indian Independence movement. He fought for the emancipation of women, against child marriage, stood for reforming Brahminism and religion. He was also in solidarity with Dalits and pioneered for equality amongst all castes of Hindus. He was against caste bias. In 1908, an arrest warrant was issued against Bharathiar by the government of British India and that made him to move to Pondicherry where he lived until 1918.



Subramanya Bharathi and his wife Chellamma

His influence on Tamil literature is phenomenal. Although it is said that he was proficient in around 14 languages including 3 non-Indian foreign languages. His favorite language was Tamil. He was prolific in his output. He covered political, social and spiritual themes. The songs and poems composed by Bharathi are very often used in Tamil cinema and have become staples in the literary and musical repertoire of Tamil artistes throughout the world. He paved the way for modern blank verse. He wrote many books and poems on how Tamil is beautiful in nature. His poetry is known for its appeal to the liberty and strength of the people.

A proficient linguist, he was well-versed in Sanskrit, Hindi, Telugu, English, French and had a smattering of Arabic. Around the age of 11, he was conferred the title of *Bharathi*, the one blessed by *Saraswati*, the goddess of learning by the *Raja of Ettayapuram* seeing his excellence in poetry. He lost his father at the age of sixteen, but before that when he was 15, he married *Chellamma* who was seven years old.

During his stay in Varanasi, Bharathi was exposed

to Hindu spirituality and nationalism. This broadened his outlook and he learned Sanskrit, Hindi and English. In addition, he changed his outward appearance. He also grew a beard and wore a turban due to his admiration of Sikhs, influenced by his Sikh friend. Though he passed an entrance exam for a job, he returned to Ettayapuram during 1901 and started as the court poet of Raja of Ettayapuram for a couple of years. He was a Tamil teacher from August to November 1904 in Sethupathy High School in Madurai. During this period, Bharathi understood the need to be well-informed of the world outside and took interest in the world of journalism and the print media of the West. Bharathi joined as Assistant Editor of the *Swadesamitran*, a Tamil daily in 1904. In December 1905, he attended the All-India Congress session held in Banaras. On his journey back home, he met *Sister Nivedita*, Swami Vivekananda's spiritual heir. She inspired Bharathi to recognize the privileges of women and the emancipation of women exercised Bharathi's mind. He visualized the new woman as an emanation of Shakti, a willing helpmate of man to build a new earth through co-operative endeavour. Among other greats such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, he considered *Sister Nivedita* as a Guru, and penned verses in her praise. He attended the Indian National Congress session in Calcutta under *Dadabhai Nowroji*, which demanded Swaraj and boycott of British goods.

Cover page of the 1999 Magazine *Vijaya*, published first from Madras and then from Pondicherry. The cover page of the 1909 Magazine *Vijaya*, was published first from Madras and then from Pondicherry. The cover showing *Mother India* (Bharat Matha) with her diverse progeny and the rallying cry *Vande Mataram*.

In 1908, the British instituted a case against V.O. Chidambaram Pillai. In the same year, the proprietor of the journal *India* was arrested in Madras. Faced with the prospect of arrest, Bharathi escaped to Pondicherry, which was under French rule. From there he edited and published the weekly journal *India*, *Vijaya*, a Tamil daily, *Bala Bharatham*, an English monthly, and *Suryodayam*, a local weekly in Pondicherry. The British tried to suppress Bharathi's output by stopping remittances and letters to the papers. Both the weekly journals, *India* and *Vijaya* were banned in India in 1909.

During his exile, Bharathi had the opportunity to meet many other leaders of the revolutionary wing of the Independence movement like *Aurobindo*, *Lajpat Rai* and *V.V.S. Aiyar*, who had also sought asylum under the French. Bharathi assisted Aurobindo in the *Arya* journal and later *Karma Yogi* in Pondicherry. This was also the period when he started learning Vedic literature. Three of his greatest works namely, *Kuyil Paattu*, *Paanchaali Sapatham* and *Kannan Paattu* were composed during 1912. He also translated Vedic hymns, Patanjali's *Yoga Sutra* and *Bhagavat Gita* into Tamil. Bharathi came out of Pondicherry near Cuddalore in November 1918 and was promptly arrested. He was imprisoned in the Central prison in Cuddalore in custody for three weeks from 20 November to 14 December and was released after the intervention of *Annie Besant* and *C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar*. He was stricken by poverty during this period, resulting in his ill health. The following year, 1919, Bharathi met *Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi*. He resumed editing *Swadesamitran* from 1920 in Madras (the present-day Chennai)

Bharathi is considered one of the pioneers of modern Tamil literature. Bharathi used simple words and rhythms, unlike previous century works in Tamil, which had complex vocabulary. He also employed novel ideas and techniques in his devotional poems. He used a metre called *Nondi Chindu* in most of his works, which was earlier used by *Gopalakrishna Bharathiar*.



Portrait of Bharathi by Suren

He is known to have said, "*Even if Indians are divided, they are children of one Mother, where is the need for foreigners to interfere?*" In the period 1910-1920, he wrote about a new and free India where there are no castes. He talks of building up India's defense, her ships sailing the high seas, success in manufacturing and universal education. He calls for sharing amongst states with wonderful imagery like the diversion of excess water of the Bengal delta to needy regions and a bridge to Sri Lanka.

The exposure to political affairs led to his involvement in a faction of the Indian National Congress party that favoured armed resistance against the *British Raj*.



Subramanya Bharathi and his family

SPECIAL FEATURE



As a result, he was forced to flee Pondicherry (the present Puducherry), a French colony, where he lived in exile from 1910 to 1919. During this time Bharati's nationalistic poems and essays were extremely popular. Bharati's best-known works included *Kannan paattu* (1917; *Songs to Krishna*), *Paanchaali sapatham* (1912; *Paanchaali's Vow*), and *Kuyil paattu* (1912; *Kuyil's Song*). Many of his English works were collected in *Agni and other Poems and Translations and Essays and other Prose Fragments* (1937). *Kuyil Paattu* was translated in Japanese by *Shuzo Matsunaga* (8 October 1983).

ACHIEVEMENTS

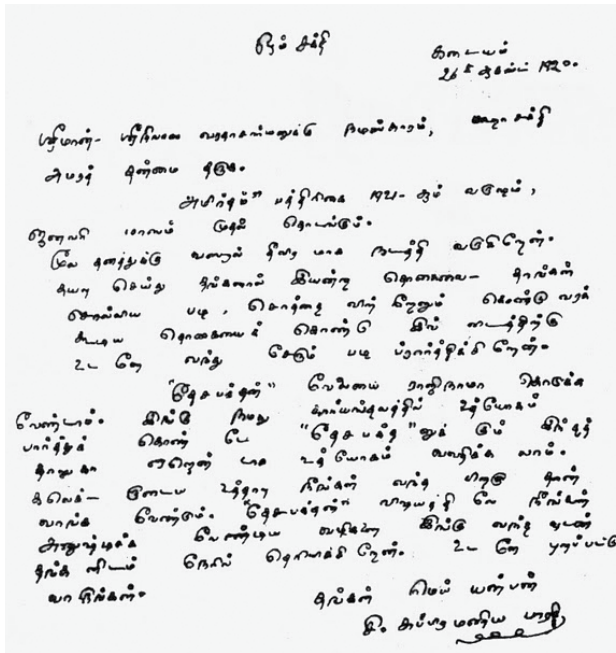


Subramanya Bharath 1960 Stamp

Subramanya Bharathi was a Tamil poet, reformer and freedom fighter during the pre-independence era. His used the adeptness at poetry to the best of his ability to coax the masses in the south to join the great Indian struggle for independence. Bharathi's name is counted amongst the

most celebrated bards of the country. Subramanya Bharathi was a Tamil poet, reformer and freedom fighter during the pre-independence era. Also referred to by the name of *Mahakavi Bharathiyar* meaning, Great Poet of Tamil. Bharathi's name is counted amongst the most celebrated bards of the country. He was an expert at both prose and poetry and used these to the best of his ability to coax the masses in the south to join the great Indian struggle for independence. His time was the most eventful one in the history of India and his contemporaries included the likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sri Aurobindo and V.V.S. Aiyar. Subramanya Bharathi, got attracted to the Hindu spirituality and nationalism during his stay at Varanasi. In 1905, he attended the meeting of the All-India National Congress and on his return also got the opportunity to meet Sister Nivedita, the spiritual daughter of the great Indian philosopher and thinker, Swami Vivekananda. Subramanya Bharathi felt very impressed on meeting Sister Nivedita and this proved to be a crucial turning point in the life. Bharathi began to publish his poems regularly and the themes often delved from complex religious hymns to rousing nationalist sentiments to songs on the Russian and French revolutions. He was simultaneously against social poverty, exploitation and abuse of the downtrodden people and the British ruling over the country. Though he lived a life of utter poverty, he was always positive in his thoughts and action.

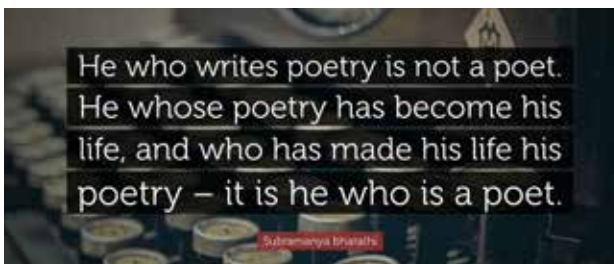
His national integration songs earned him the title *Desiya Kavi* (National Poet). He composed Tamil *keertanais* on love, devotion, fearlessness, mysticism. His stepbrother C. Vishwanaata Aiyar and V.V.S. Aiyar tell us that he himself set his songs to music and could sing them well in a variety of raagas. In *Bharata deviyin tiru dasangam*, he used 10 raagas. His patriotic songs emphasize nationalism, unity of India, equality of man and the greatness of the Tamil language, set himself to folk tunes. He sang these himself at Congress meetings at the Madras beach. In an article in *Sangeeta Vishayam* (Issues in Music), Bharatiyaar rebukes musicians for singing songs of the Trinity, *Patnam Subramania Aiyar* and others without knowing the meaning because the songs are all in Sanskrit or Telegu. Without knowing the meaning, singers are unable to sing with proper expression. He also says songs usually portray devotion and love and not about other emotions like courage, anger, wonder, fear, and hatred. He emphasized that musicians should not sing songs which they don't understand and should learn from Hindustani musicians how to train their voices. Bharathi is considered as a national poet due to his number of poems of the patriotic flavour through which he exhorted the people to join the independence struggle and work vigorously for the liberation of the country. Instead of merely being proud of his country he also outlined his vision for a free India. He published the sensational *Sudesa Geethangal* in 1908. In his early days of youth, he had good relations with Nationalist



Bharthi in his own handwriting during freedom struggle

Tamil Leaders like V.O.Chidambaram, Subramanya Siva, Mandayam Thirumalachariar and Srinivasachari. Along with these leaders he used to discuss the problems facing the country due to British rule. Bharathi used to attend the Annual sessions of Indian National Congress and discuss national issues with extremist Indian National Leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, B.G. Tilak and V.V.S. Iyer. His participation and activities in Benaras Session (1905) and Surat Session (1907) of the Indian National Congress impressed many national leaders about his patriotic fervour. Bharathi had maintained good relations with some of the national leaders and shared his thoughts and views on the nation and offered his suggestions to strengthen the nationalist movement. Undoubtedly, his wise suggestions and steadfast support to the cause of nationalism rejuvenated many national leaders. Thus, Bharathi played a pivotal role in the freedom of India.

The emancipation of women exercised Bharathi's mind greatly. Bharathi visualised the 'new woman' as an emanation of Shakti, a willing helpmate of man



to build a new earth through co-operative endeavour. During this period, Bharathi understood the need to be well-informed of the world outside and took interest in the world of journalism and the print media of the West. Bharathi joined as Assistant Editor of the *Swadeshamitran*, a Tamil daily in 1904. Bharathi participated in the historic Surat Congress in 1907, which deepened the divisions within the Indian National Congress between the militant wing led by Tilak and Aurobindo and the moderate wing. Bharathi supported Tilak and Aurobindo together with V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and Kanchi Varathaachariyar. Tilak openly supported armed resistance against the British. In Madras, in 1908, Bharathi organised a public meeting to celebrate Swaraj (independence) Day. His nationalistic poems Vanthe Matharam, Enthayum Thayum and Jaya Bharath were printed and distributed free to the audience. Bharathi is referred to as the National Poet of India.

In 1908, Bharathi gave evidence in the case which had been instituted by the British against V.O. Chidambaram Pillai. In the same year, the proprietor of the journal *India* was arrested in Madras. Faced with the prospect of arrest, Bharathi escaped to Pondicherry which was under French rule. From there he edited and published the weekly journal *India*, *Vijaya*, a Tamil daily, *Bala Bharatha*, an English monthly, and *Suryothayam*, a local weekly of Pondicherry. The British tried to suppress Bharathi's output by stopping remittances and letters to the papers. His poetry expressed a progressive, reformist ideal. His imagery and the vigour of his verse symbolise Tamil culture in many respects. Bharathiyaar famously espoused greater freedom and respect for women: "We will destroy the idiocy of denigrating womanhood." Bharathi also fought against the caste system in Hindu

society. Although born into an Orthodox Brahmin Family, he gave up his own caste identity. One of his great sayings meant, 'There are only two castes in the world: one who is educated and one who is not.' Bharathi considered all living beings as equal and to illustrate this he even performed upanayanam to a young harijan man and made him a Brahmin. Bharathi also scorned the divisive tendencies being imparted into the younger generations by their elderly tutors during his time. Bharathi openly criticised the preachers for mixing their individual thoughts while teaching the Vedas and the Gita.

SUBRAMANYA BHARATHI LANGUAGE

Bharathi was devoted towards his mother tongue Tamil language and was proud of its heritage. Bharathi was fluent in many languages including Telugu, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Kutchi, French and English and frequently translated works from other languages into Tamil. Bharathi had a voracious appetite for learning ancient and contemporary Tamil literature especially ancient poems. Mahakavi has delivered his last speech at Karungalpalayam Library in Erode, which was about the topic *Man is Immortal*. The last years of his life were spent in a house in Triplicane, Chennai.

DEATH

He was badly affected by the imprisonments and by 1920 when a General Amnesty Order finally removed restrictions on his movements, Bharathi was already struggling. He was struck by an elephant named Lavanya at Parthasarathy temple, Triplicane, Chennai, whom he used to feed every day. When he fed a coconut to Lavanya (the elephant), the elephant got fired up and attacked Bharathi. Although he survived the incident, his health deteriorated few months. He died early morning on 12 September 1921 at around 1 am. Though Bharathi was considered a people's poet, a great nationalist, outstanding freedom fighter and social visionary, it was recorded that there were only 14 people to attend his funeral. He delivered his last speech at Karungalpalayam Library in Erode, which was about the topic *Man is Immortal*. The last years of his life were spent in a house in Triplicane, Chennai. The house was bought and renovated by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1993 and named *Bharathi Illam* (Home of Bharathi).

INDIAN PM MODI'S THOUGHTS ON BHARATHIYAR

Prime Minister *Narendra Modi* recalled Bharati's rich scholarship and multi-faceted contributions to the nation, while also hailing his ideals on social justice and women empowerment. *India is proud to be home to the world's oldest language, Tamil*. On the 100th punya tithi (anniversary) of Subramania Bharati, (1 am) honoured to announce the setting up of *Subramania Bharati Chair of Tamil studies at Banaras Hindu University, in Kasi* said the PM after inaugurating the Sardardham Bhavan in Ahmedabad via video conferencing. Importantly, the announcement by the PM came a day after the Tamil Nadu government declared that the poet's death anniversary will be observed as *Mahakavi* day. The philosophy of *Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat* envisioned by *Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel* has been shining with full divinity in the Tamil writings of *Mahakavi Bharati*, PM said in his address. He noted that Bharati drew inspiration from Swami Vivekananda and was influenced by Sri Aurobindo. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Tamil poet and writer Subramania Bharati on his 138th birth anniversary as he addressed the International Bharati festival. Lauding his work as *fearless*, PM Modi said that today's youth can learn so much from Bharati's work, *especially being courageous*. One can only marvel at his work, poems, philosophy and his life, said PM Modi. He also said, Mahakavi Bharathiyar's definition of progression had a central role for women. One of the most important vision was that of independent and empowered women. He wrote that women should walk with their head held high while looking people in the eye. We are inspired by Bharathiyar's vision of independent and empowered women and we are working to ensure women-led empowerment, said PM Modi. The prime minister quoted a few lines from the works of the revered poet. He read out the lines in Tamil and also the translation in Hindi. "Several years before our independence, Bharati had dreamt of a vision for India. He had said that India would show the whole world a way to get rid of all kinds of bondage".



COMMUNITY WATCH

Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years



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

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

DTA's Homeland Projects

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

1. Provided educational items to 38 children who passed the scholarship exam Rs 50,000/-

2. Educational expenses for two students in AL & OL Rs 50,000/-

3. Educational expenses for a girl studying AL Rs 50,000/-

4. The Second project in Kilinochchi District, is a sewing machine project. a sewing machine for a family living below the poverty line. Two sisters aged 56 and 58, unmarried due to poverty, who live with a sickly mother, have made this request. They have experience in sewing. By providing this machine they can stand on their own and support the family.

cost Rs 150,000/- (CAD 580).

5. Donated photocopy machine for the Mulankavil primary school. cost SL rupees 100,000.00

Thank you to Mr. SubramaniamKathirithamby&MrMaylvahanam (Sri Lanka) for coordinating this project.

Canada Day Celebration

DTA actively participated in 4 Canada Day celebrations in Durham. DTA proudly and loudly represented our members and community in City of Pickering, Town of Ajax, Town of Whitby and City of Oshawa. Thank you to all the youth and parent volunteers who came out to cheer and support DTA. Also a big thank you to all the performers for a wonderful presentation at the events to showcase our talents and culture.

East Coast Trip

DTA organized a bus trip to the East Coast. This was well received and a bus load of excited members went on the 10 days' trip. The trip had stops in Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, New Found Land and Nova Scotia.

Tamil School

Canada Tamil Sankam's (Paddimuri Tamil) TAMIZH MOZHI VAARAM closing ceremony was held on Saturday, July 2nd. at Mary Ward CSS.

Cultural shows, Student awards, and Teacher's certification awards were presented.

Congratulations! to all DTA students who received Speech competition awards and our DTA Tamil teachers who received their teacher's certification.

DTA's Seniors

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

Thank you to DTA's Annual Sponsors

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

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

Unity Is Strength



COMMUNITY WATCH



Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years



OBITUARY

Rasasingam Jayanthan



(January 22, 1971 - August 8, 2022)

- BSc (Hons) Engineering (E90/91), University of Moratuwa
- Technical Lead (Networks), University of Queensland

Born in Karainagar, New Road, lived in Brisbane, Australia - passed away peacefully on August 8, 2022.

He is beloved husband of Santhini (Teacher, Tamil School, Brisbane), loving father of Sri Sakthy (student, Brisbane Tamil School), predeceased by his parents Rasasingam and Nagarajeswary; son-in-law of Rajaratnam and late Kamaladevi; dearest brother of Jeevakan and Janakan and brother-in-law of Bhavani Jeevakan, BirunthaJanakan, Malini Senthooorselvan, Sivananthan (London) and Kirubananthan (Canada).

Rituals and cremation: Brisbane, QLD, Australia, August 11, 2022.

Memories of Rasasingam Jayanthan

Death is not something which we accept easily regardless of the age of the person. But when we faced with the death of someone who is much younger than us it is even more difficult to accept or deal with. I am sure It will be the case for our colleague Jeevakan who is grieving the death of his brother Jayanthan at an age which we normally don't associate with death.

I have known Jayanthan not only as Jeevakan's brother but also as colleague when we had the opportunity of working together when he was working for Enterprise Technologies which was a sister concern of the organization where I was employed in my earlier life.

I remember him as someone whom you can trust personally as well as professionally. He was not only a man of integrity and honesty but also very polite and tactful. He had respect for everyone who worked with him was respected by everyone who worked with him.

He is someone who valued experience, knowledge and seniority at work. He had a very friendly and disarmingly simple manner in dealing with everyone with no hidden agenda whatsoever. I remember him as someone who will go out of his way to assist someone personally and professionally. I have seen him playing his role as a member of a team as well as leader of a team very effectively at various times during many projects.

Later on we parted ways as he moved on to another organization and I moved out of the career thereafter. Yet I remember contacting him on various occasions while he was in Sri Lanka when I needed some technical assistance and he being the same Jayanthan he was, ever willing to come to your assistance.

I am sure he will be missed by everyone who knew him close and most certainly his family would be struggling very hard to come to terms with the loss.

I haven't seen him for more than ten years now, yet I do remember him along with his qualities which made me pen this. Is he dead ? Not at all because he lives in our fond memories of him and spiritually no one dies as only the body dies but journey continues.

My prayers to the almighty Lord to be with his family during their sorrow and comfort them with peace. My prayers to the almighty Lord to be with Jayanthan as he continues his journey.

With love and prayers
Swami Gunatitananda.

Chinmaya Mission
Colombo & Jaffna, Sri Lanka.



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