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# Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigns after leaving the country

## Sri Lanka sees end of family rule

**“POWER CORRUPTS, AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY” - HISTORIAN LORD ACTON**

By Siva Sivapragasam

After months of agitation surrounded by chaos and crisis in Sri Lanka, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was forced to leave the country and resign his post as President of Sri Lanka, an island nation once described as the “Pearl of the Indian Ocean”.

The exit of Rajapaksa brought an end to family rule in the country. The Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has become the Acting President until a President is elected by Parliament.

President Rajapaksa sent his letter of resignation to the Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeyawardene. Singapore’s foreign ministry said Mr Rajapaksa had not asked for asylum or been granted asylum. Singapore

generally does not grant requests for asylum according to the foreign ministry.

Protesters earlier occupied the heavily guarded Presidential palace and the official residence of the Prime Minister but later agreed to hand back the premises to the authorities.

Over three months or more, the country went through a period of rising prices and shortages of essentials like fuel, gas, and medicines. The country’s economy had hit rock bottom with depleted foreign reserves, heavy external debt, and shortages of essential items. The economic crisis triggered a political upheaval with widespread demonstrations and processions across the country.

A media friend of mine in Colombo



described Sri Lanka’s recent political scene very appropriately quoting historian Lord Acton’s famous words “Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely”.

“We call on all sides to refrain from violence & ensure peaceful political transition. A broad-inclusive process respecting rule of law is needed. Leaders must call for respect of life+property. Security forces incl military must respect human rights & exercise restraint” - UN Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner - pic via: @UNHumanRights

## SHN Foundation Tamil Radiothon raises over \$400,000 in 2 years for SHN

On Saturday June 11th, the second annual Tamil Radiothon took place raising almost \$130,000 for SHN. The event was presented by the Canadian Tamils’ Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) and Nava Wilson LLP and was aired on CMR 101.3 FM.

Funds raised from the event will help the Love, Scarborough campaign, and other key priorities including removing barriers to mental health care, managing and preventing chronic kidney disease, and treating heart disease in Scarborough. Co-chaired by Sritharan Thurairajah and Logan Velumailum, the Radiothon featured interviews with physicians, staff, and business and

community leaders who shared about programs and services that SHN offers the community, and how SHN can continue to service the community with their support. SHN serves a catchment area of 832,000 people in Scarborough, Markham and Durham and is the third largest community health network in Ontario.



## CTCC showcases Canadian Tamil Entrepreneurship at the Annual Gala 2022

“The Award recipients have built their businesses or have contributed greatly to the Canadian business sector and have been recognized as the pillars of the Tamil business community”, says CTCC President Vina Devadas

By Siva Sivapragasam

The Canadian Tamils’ Chamber of Commerce which represents the Canadian Tamil Business community showcased the entrepreneurship achievements among the Tamil community in a recently held Awards Gala night on 9th July at the Hilton Suites, Markham.

- Please see pages 44 for full news



Vina Devadas, CTCC President

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# Premier Ford Unveils New Cabinet to Build Ontario

Experienced team will deliver on government's ambitious agenda, including building highways, transit and the road to the Ring of Fire

June 24, 2022

## Office of the Premier

TORONTO — Today, Premier Doug Ford unveiled his new cabinet with an experienced team that will deliver on the government's ambitious agenda to build the infrastructure necessary to unlock the full potential of the province's economy, including highways, transit and the road to the Ring of Fire.

"With big challenges ahead, including an uncertain global economic climate, now is the time for unity and working together," said Premier Ford. "Our government will be relentless in delivering on our ambitious plan to grow our economy and build infrastructure as we leave no stone unturned when it comes to solving the historic labour shortage. It's all hands on deck."

The new Executive Council includes the following:

- Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
- Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care, Minister of Legislative Affairs and Government House Leader
- Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility
- Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Doug Downey, Attorney General
- Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities
- Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, with an additional mandate for small business
- Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
- Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- Parm Gill, Minister of Red Tape Reduction
- Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General
- Stephen Lecce, Minister of

## Education

• Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

• Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

• Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation and Minister of Francophone Affairs

• David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

• Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

• George Pirie, Minister of Mines, with a mandate to develop the Ring of Fire

• Kaleed Rasheed, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery

• Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs

• Prabmeet Sarkaria, President of the Treasury Board, with an expanded mandate for emergency management and procurement, including Supply Ontario

• Todd Smith, Minister of Energy

• Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, with an additional mandate for government real estate

• Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

• Stan Cho, Associate Minister of Transportation

• Michael Parsa, Associate Minister of Housing

• Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

• Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity

Under the leadership of Premier Ford, the government has secured another mandate from the people of Ontario to deliver on a plan to build Ontario.

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



# Ontario Government Providing More Relief at the Pumps

## Gas and Fuel Tax Cut in Effect July 1

June 30, 2022

## Office of the Premier

### Finance

TORONTO — As part of its plan to keep costs down for Ontario families and businesses, the Ontario government is providing more relief at the pumps by cutting the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for six months, beginning July 1.

"It has never been more important to get it done and provide Ontarians with real relief," said Premier Doug Ford. "This gas tax cut will provide more relief at the pumps for hardworking families and businesses and put more money back in their pockets, where it belongs."

Effective July 1 until December 31, 2022, the gas tax rate will be cut from 14.7 cents per litre to 9 cents per litre, representing a cut of 5.7 cents per litre. The fuel tax rate, which applies to diesel, will be reduced from 14.3 cents per litre to 9 cents per litre, representing a cut of 5.3 cents per litre. When combined with the 4.3 cents per litre savings from the elimination of the previous government's cap and trade carbon tax, the reduction in provincial taxes and charges on gas totals 10 cents per litre.

Vehicle owners in Ontario will see significant direct savings from the gas tax cut and the elimination and refunding of licence plate renewal fees, with households benefitting from an average combined savings of about \$465 in 2022.

"People and businesses are feeling the pinch of high gas prices and grocery bills," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "Our government is cutting the gas and fuel tax rates to put money back in people's pockets and help keep costs down."

"As we build up Ontario's transportation network, our government is working hard to keep costs down for drivers and families," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "At a time when the price of living has



skyrocketed, our government has taken strong action by cutting the gas and fuel tax rate, eliminating licence plate stickers and renewal fees, and removing tolls on Highways 412 and 418."

Cutting gas and fuel taxes is part of the government's broader plan to provide immediate cost-of-living relief, including:

- Cutting costs for millions of Ontario vehicle owners by refunding licence plate sticker renewal fees paid since March 2020, and eliminating licence plate renewal fees and plate stickers on a go-forward basis, saving vehicle owners \$120 a year in southern Ontario and \$60 a year in Northern Ontario for passenger and light commercial vehicles.

- Permanently removing tolls on Highways 412 and 418.

- Providing tax relief for workers, families and seniors through the Low-Income Workers Tax Credit, the Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit, the Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit and the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit.

- Implementing the new Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System, which will enable Ontario to achieve an average of \$10-a-day child care by September 2025.

To further help families and businesses, the Ontario government continues to encourage the federal government to work with the province by reducing the cost of the carbon tax, which increased to 11.05 cents per litre on gasoline and 13.41 cents per litre on diesel on April 1, 2022.

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

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## World Youth Skills Day 2022: Transforming Young People into our Future Leaders

By Harrish Thirukumar

“To the youth of today, I also have a wish to make: be the scriptwriters of your destiny and feature yourselves as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future.”

According to the late Nelson Mandela, youth or young people should in their own ways be masters of their own path in life. It benefits not only themselves, but society as well. This is why it is important for places like Ontario and elsewhere to commemorate World Youth Skills Day as part of UN efforts to raise global consciousness through its UN days of observance.

Back In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day. It served as a platform to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. It has helped to lead conversations between young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, firms, employers' and workers' organizations, policy-makers and development partners.

World Youth Skills Day 2022 takes place amid concerted efforts towards socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that are interconnected with challenges such as climate change, conflict, poverty, rising inequality, rapid technological change, demographic transition and others. Young women and girls, young persons with disabilities, youth from poorer households, rural communities, indigenous peoples, and minority groups, as well as those who suffer the consequences of violent conflict and political instability, continue to be excluded due to a combination of factors. Additionally, the crisis has accelerated several transitions the world of

work was already undergoing, which add layers of uncertainty regarding the skills and competencies that will be in demand after the pandemic is overcome.

Participants have highlighted the ever-increasing significance of skills as the world is embarking on a transition towards a sustainable model of development. Education and training are central to the meaning of this day as with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The vision of the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030 is fully captured by Sustainable Development Goal 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. There is also Sustainable Development Goal 8, “Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.” For young people, the issues of unemployment, under-employment and poor job quality have proven to be persistent and daunting.

As noted by the UN, young people may be called the ‘torchbearers’ of the 2030 Agenda, since they have a pivotal role to play not just as beneficiaries of actions and policies under the Agenda, but rather as partners and participants in its implementation. Indeed, young people have been architects in the development of the 2030 Agenda, and remain engaged in the frameworks and processes that support its implementation, follow-up and review.

The UN will be spearheading initiatives to commemorate World Youth Skills Day 2022 as seen on its website here: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-youth-skills-day>.

So, this pub desk calls on our communities in the Greater Toronto Area, Ontario, and Canada to meaningfully engage with youth as they transform into our future leaders in commemorating World Youth Skills Day 2022.

### Canada Historic Milestones



July 9, 1960

Seven-year-old Roger Woodward is the first person to survive going over Niagara Falls without a barrel. Family friend James Honeycutt is on the Niagara River in his aluminum boat with young Roger and his teenaged sister Deanne. When the engine dies, quick-thinking Honeycutt orders the children to put on lifejackets. The boat is pulled into the current and overturns. Deanne is rescued by two men standing on the shore, while Roger and James go over the Horseshoe Falls. Honeycutt drowns, but little Roger survives thanks to the lifejacket. The boy is picked up by the Maid of the Mist after a harrowing eight minutes under the falls.

It is the marriage of the soul with nature that makes the intellect fruitful, and gives birth to imagination

- Henry David Thoreau (July 12, 1817 - May 6, 1862) American Philosopher

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

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CANADA NEWS 

# Minister of Education Celebrates Students as School Year Ends



June 29, 2022

## Education

TORONTO — Today, Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, issued the following statement as the 2021-22 school year concludes:

“I could not be more proud of all the graduates across Ontario, young leaders who have the skills, values, and drive to succeed. Through your hard work, you have achieved an important milestone in your academic journey, and we know you will continue to do amazing things as you start your next chapter, wherever it takes you.

As we look forward to September, we are fully committed to ensuring all students return to the classroom on time, with the full school experience that students deserve.

We continue to prioritize and invest to ensure students catch up, benefit from positive mental health, and learn the critical life skills that will lead them to good-paying jobs. To ensure students get back on track, our government launched a province-wide tutoring program; expanded summer learning opportunities; and made in-school-year investments focused on improving reading, math and other foundational skills that will lead students to good-paying jobs.

We will continue to prepare students for the world of work and the jobs of tomorrow, with a renewed emphasis on life and job skills.

While our government continues its tireless work to pave clear pathways to success for all students, I want to

thank all students, families and staff and wish them a safe and positive summer break with your loved ones.”

### BACKGROUND:

Each week, our school boards and authorities have reported more and more students that are benefiting from the tutoring supports now being offered. For the week of June 13-17, 2022, 42,909 elementary and secondary students received tutoring supports across the province.

We know that supporting student academic success is only part of the picture for building up our students and getting them ready for the future. That’s why we also committed \$90 million, including \$10 million in new funding, to support student mental health and well-being in 2022-23. This funding represents a 420 per cent increase under our government, and we will continue to invest in the positive supports that students deserve.

Over the past four years, our government has modernized curriculum to ensure students have the life and job skills they need to succeed and get good paying jobs. This includes overhauling the new math curriculum to be focused on foundational math skills, financial literacy, budgeting, and coding in every grade to bring this learning back to real-life applications and skills, as well as STEM-related concepts and skills and the skilled trades. We are also focused on students learning about civic engagement, leadership skills, service, and action to create positive change in their communities.

# Statement by the Prime Minister on Canada Day

July 1, 2022

Ottawa, Ontario

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on Canada Day:

“Today, we celebrate the country we love, and the people we share it with. Canada is home to over 38 million people: Canadians who live in cities and towns – big and small; people who are indigenous to this land; and those who’ve been here for weeks, months, years, or for generations.

“Canada is strong because of our diversity. No matter what our faith is, where we were born, what colour our skin is, what language we speak, or who we love – we are all equal members of this great country.

“Today, we celebrate the place we all call home. I know for some, our country’s historic wrongs can make that difficult. But while we can’t change history, we can put in the work to build a better future; one that reflects our values of hope, resilience, kindness, respect, and generosity.

“Generation after generation,

Canadians have shown that we can deliver on those values. We did it when we adopted our charter in 1982, we did it when we took care of each other during the pandemic, and we do it every day when we welcome refugees with open arms.

“Today is an opportunity for us all to recommit ourselves to those values – values that the Maple Leaf represents. Because our flag is more than a symbol, it’s also a promise. A promise of opportunity. A promise of safety for those fleeing violence and war. And a promise of a better life.

“As we come together today, let’s think about what this country means to us – and tomorrow, let’s challenge ourselves to find new ways to live up to the great promise of Canada. From my family to yours, happy Canada Day!”

Via pm.gc.ca



# Judge quashes controversial Brampton city council appointment

Full Text of media release by John Mykytyshyn, Campaign Manager - Patrick Brown Campaign:

A judge on Tuesday, July 12th ruled that Bampton City Council’s decision to pre-emptively fill a seat that wasn’t even yet vacant, was illegal.

This is a victory for Mayor Patrick Brown and the minority of councillors who stood for democracy and the rule of law.

Federally, Patrick is conducting another legal challenge, to the Conservative Party of Canada’s Leadership Election Organizing Committee’s decision to disqualify him from the party’s leadership race.

Due process was never followed. The Brown campaign was never provided details of the complaint laid against him, nor given an opportunity to defend itself against the allegation. Eventually, the campaign learned the

details of the complaint when the complainant herself came forward to the media several days after the decision to disqualify him was made.

Patrick has hired some of Canada’s best defence lawyers to lead an appeal of this flawed decision.

We will oppose this until there are no more options left to oppose it with. This is undemocratic, disenfranchising at least 150,000 new members the Brown campaign signed up, many who are new Canadians or from ethnic communities that had never been associated with the Conservative Party before, but chose to take a leap of faith with Brown to support his vision of a modern, inclusive party.

Many of these supporters are devastated now and wondering what the point was.

But there is always a point to stand up and fight for democracy.

And that is what we will continue to do.

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## CANADA NEWS

# Gil Penalosa runs for Toronto Mayor in October 24 municipal election

Of the 11 candidates that are running against incumbent, John Tory, for Toronto's mayor chair on October 24, 2022, no one seems to visibly stand out to make this race healthy and competitive for residents. That, however, seems to have positively changed for the sake of municipal democracy. On July 14, 2022, Gil Penalosa has announced his intention to run for Mayor of Toronto, with his campaign officially launching Monday, July 18, 2022 via Twitter.

Penalosa is the Founder and Chair of the successful Canadian non-profit organization, 8 80 Cities, as well as the first Ambassador of World Urban Parks, the international representative body for the city parks, open space and recreation sector. He started 8 80 Cities back in January 2007.

In addition, Gil leads a private international consulting firm - Gil Penalosa & Associates, providing services as an inspirational keynote speaker, instructor of Master Classes and advisor to decision makers. Recently he created Our Third Act, an advocacy group focused on helping older adults live healthier and happier.

The vision of 8 80 Cities is to create safe and happy cities that prioritize people's well-being. It believes that if everything it does in our public spaces is great for an 8 year old and an 80 year old, then it will be great for all people. It's overall mission as an organization is to improve the quality of life for people in cities by bringing citizens together to enhance mobility and public space so that together they can create more vibrant, healthy, and equitable communities.

Throughout his career, Penalosa has been a strong advocate for improving city parks, making his first mark in Bogotá, Colombia, where he led the design and construction of over 200 parks - including Simon Bolivar, a 113-hectare park in the heart of the city.

Frustrated by the lack of progress happening in cities both locally and globally, Gil (Guillermo) Penalosa, set out to light a fire under decision-makers and community leaders reticent to change. In his words, he wanted to help cities "move from talking to doing."

Having led urban transformation projects in Bogotá in the late 1990s, he knew the tremendous power of investing in sustainable mobility, parks, and public spaces. After moving to the Greater Toronto area with his family, Penalosa incorporated the not-for-profit organization "Walk and Bike for Life" with the goal of promoting walking, bicycling, parks, and public spaces as a means to building healthier, happier, and more equitable communities. The organization quickly grew as municipalities and partners around the world began seeking out leadership and expertise in creating cities for all.



It thereby successfully re-branded as "8 80 Cities" to reflect its people-centered approach. The following lists the accomplishments Penalosa has achieved through the organization:

- Worked with over 350 communities across 6 continents
- Become experts in unconventional citizen engagement
- Helped lead an open streets movement around the world
- Delivered over 100 community-led engagement projects to improve parks, streets and public spaces for all
- Partnered with global leaders in public health, transportation, parks and recreation, urban design, and more.

He holds an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management, where he was selected as one of the "100 Most Inspirational Alumni" in the school's history. Gil received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Faculty of Urban Planning at the prominent Swedish university, SLU. He is a Certified Professional Speaker by the US-NSA. Two years ago, he was listed in Planetizen's Top 100 Most Influential Urbanists, and last year received in Australia the World Urban Parks Annual Distinguished Individual Award.

Since this announcement, many people have noted in platforms like Twitter that he could be a game changer and a great choice in this race given his experiences as an urbanist and commitment to livable cities. More particularly, he is noted as a more progressive voice for Toronto and, as Penalosa has highlighted, aims to make Toronto more equitable, sustainable, and affordable for everyone.

As noted by the Toronto Star, he is a longshot to unseat John Tory given the resources and incumbency status for his campaign. However, he is the sort of candidate that is needed to push forward meaningful ideas that can help improve Toronto for everyone. In that sense, the Star reported that his intention to run was in part because of the problems Toronto is facing around issues like housing and climate change.

It was also reported that his profile as a parks champion could position him well in attacking Tory's record, which includes his struggle to complete his legacy project, Raildeck Park. In 2022, he has also been criticized for the state

# Ontario Caps 2023 Rent Increase Guideline Below Inflation at 2.5 Per Cent



June 29, 2022

## Municipal Affairs and Housing

Ontario's rent increase guideline for 2023 is 2.5 per cent, below current rates of inflation. The rent increase guideline is the maximum amount a landlord can increase rent during the year for most tenants without the approval of the Landlord and Tenant Board. The guideline is based on Ontario's Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation calculated monthly by Statistics Canada using data that reflects economic conditions over the past year. Due to recent inflation, this would result in a 2023 guideline of 5.3 per cent, however the guideline is capped to help protect tenants from significant rent increases.

"As Ontario families face the rising cost of living, our government is providing stability and predictability to the vast majority of tenants by capping the rent increase guideline below inflation at 2.5 per cent," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal

Affairs and Housing. "We continue to look for ways to make homes more attainable for hardworking Ontarians, while making it easier to build more houses and rental units to address the ongoing supply crisis."

The guideline applies to the vast majority – approximately 1.4 million – of rental households covered by the Residential Tenancies Act. It does not apply to rental units occupied for the first time after November 15, 2018, vacant residential units, community housing, long-term care homes or commercial properties.

Rent increases are not automatic or mandatory. Landlords may only raise rent if they gave tenants at least 90 days' written notice using the correct form. In addition, at least 12 months must have passed since the first day of the tenancy or the last rent increase. If a tenant believes they have received an improper rent increase, they can apply to the Landlord and Tenant Board to request a correction.

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

of public amenities in the city's green spaces.

Penalosa says those shuttered washrooms and inoperable fountains are signs of a city that has fell into disrepair, along with sights such as broken escalators in subway stations and overflowing public garbage bins.

He seeks to invest more towards public amenities by changing city budget priorities. The first step would be cancelling the rebuild of the Gardiner Expressway, which is expected to cost \$2 billion over ten years.

To get more housing built, he would permit buildings between five and eight storeys tall on all major corridors served by transit, like Dundas St., Queen St., and Davenport St. To reduce traffic injuries, he would also lower speed limits on all streets within 500 metres of schools, libraries, community centres, and parks to 30 km/h, and would boost transit by installing more dedicated streetcar lanes. This is

especially significant given his urban passion for road safety. He has also received the endorsement from Canada's doctor on 'Parks & Health', Dr Melissa Lem, leader of PaRx.

Moreover, he highlighted again the need for parks & nature everywhere in Toronto as part of this endorsement. Stating that it is unacceptable that low-income areas in the city have a fraction of green spaces and trees than wealthy ones. These are just a few of the policy ideas that Penalosa has expressed through this mayoral campaign that the Toronto Star has reported recently so far.

So, with Gil Penalosa entering the race to become Toronto's top municipal leader, this should make it more engaging in upholding municipal democracy in Ontario and Canada's largest city.

Readers can find more information about Penalosa by visiting <https://www.gpenalosa.ca/index.php/>



# Sri Lanka's misery should be warning to us all on global food, fuel and finance crisis: UNDP

7 July 2022: "We're witnessing a tragic series of events that are unfolding in Sri Lanka right now that should be a warning to anyone who thinks that, you know, it is up to countries themselves to figure out how to deal with this crisis," said Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), in reference to the South Asian nation's debt default last month – the first in its history.

"That default essentially means the country is no longer able to pay - or not only service - its debt, but actually to import fundamental parts of what keeps an economy alive, whether it is petrol or it is diesel, whether it is fuel, whether it is medicines," Mr. Steiner added.

The warning came as new data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicated that the number of people affected by hunger globally rose to 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 46 million since 2020, and 150 million since the outbreak of coronavirus.

Failure to take decisive and radical action by governments risked sparking widespread unrest, UNDP chief Steiner suggested.

## Pain on the streets

"Very quickly, we might see also with the troubling economic outlook a situation where for many countries the patience and the ability of people to cope with this reality runs out. And as I've often said, when politics moves out of our parliaments, out of government, onto the streets, we are in a fundamentally different situation. We are very vulnerable at this moment to see these kinds of developments happen in many more countries."

Outlining some of the finance policy recommendations that are detailed in the new UNDP report - Tackling The Cost-Of-Living Crisis: Policy Responses to Mitigate Poverty and Vulnerability around the World – Mr. Steiner insisted that it might be possible for some countries to tackle runaway inflation without resorting to the "blunt instrument" of raising interest rates.



A woman stands in debris caused by shelling in Beresteisk in Kyiv, Ukraine. - via UNDP/Oleksandr Ratushniak

## 'Shock after shock'

Speaking at a virtual briefing at UN Geneva to flag a series of policy recommendations that countries could follow to withstand the global food, fuel and finance crisis, UNDP Senior Economist George Gray Molina noted that many countries had faced 36 months of "shock after shock after shock": first COVID-19, then Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, the latter in particular shaking global food and energy supplies and sparking an inflationary surge.

"With COVID, what we saw is effects that worked through labour markets, lockdowns, and income, that was slowly cumulative but had a strong impact over time," said Mr Molina. "Official estimates are about 125 million people falling into poverty over about 18 months...what we found right now is that three months of inflation have drawn about 71 million people into poverty."

"There is potential through the multilateral investment banks for example by paying in more capital, to allow them to provide through targeted lending and crisis-response measures," he said, adding that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could also be involved in this process.

There were "ways and means by which countries can address more specifically their needs", the UNDP Administrator continued, that did "not necessarily have to be in contradiction to the inflationary pressure measures" now being put in place by central banks.

## 'Drastic' speed

According to the UNDP report, the impact of the global food, fuel and finance crisis on global poverty has been "drastically faster" than the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Analysis of 159 developing countries globally indicated that price spikes in key commodities were already having

# UN chief calls for dialogue to ensure 'smooth transition' of power in Sri Lanka

UN chief on Monday, July 11th called for dialogue to "ensure a smooth transition of government and solutions to the country's deep economic crisis.

President Rajapaksa became the focus for widespread protests in recent months over dire food, fuel and medical shortages, alongside a financial and humanitarian crisis that has left the country unable to service its debt, record inflation, and more than six million food insecure.

"The Secretary-General continues to follow developments in Sri Lanka closely", said a statement issued on behalf of UN chief António Guterres, by UN Deputy Spokesperson, Farhan Haq.

"He stands in solidarity with the Sri Lankan people and calls on all stakeholders to engage in dialogue to ensure a smooth transition of government and to find sustainable solutions to the economic crisis."

The president was moved to safety before the protesters entered the residence, and the occupation continues. According to reports, his resignation can only be accepted when he resigns by letter to the Speaker of Sri Lanka's parliament, which has yet to happen.

The Prime Minister has also reportedly indicated that he will step down, after his house was set ablaze during the weekend.

"The Secretary-General condemns

all acts of violence and calls for those responsible to be held accountable, underlining the paramount importance of maintaining the peace", the statement continued.

"The United Nations stands ready to support Sri Lanka and its people."

Sri Lanka's multiple crises were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which saw the collapse of the crucial tourism industry, which provides foreign currency for imported fuel and medical supplies, and rocked by the supply chain crisis precipitated by the Ukraine war.

The UN Resident Coordinator and top humanitarian official in Sri Lanka, Hanaa Singer, issued a statement on Sunday saying an end to the immediate political crisis through dialogue was essential, so that the country can "cope with its worst economic crisis since independence."

"It is important that all incidents of violence against journalists, peaceful protestors, and harm to property are investigated and that those responsible, are held accountable", she said.

"The UN continues to monitor the situation closely and is ready to assist in dialogue, as needed.

"As we do around the world, the UN calls for respect for human rights, rule of law and democratic governance in Sri Lanka.

- UNNews.org

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"immediate and devastating impacts on the poorest households.

Clear hotspots have emerged in the Balkans, the Caspian Sea region and Sub-Saharan Africa (in particular the Sahel region), according to UNDP.

## Global Crisis Response Group

This report also zooms in on the insights provided by the two briefs of the UN Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine.

Key to the global recovery will be the recognition that it is in everyone's interest to help countries that are grappling with depleted fiscal reserves and high levels of sovereign debt, as well as rising interest rates on global financial markets, Mr. Steiner insisted.

"Unprecedented price surges mean that for many people across the world, the food that they could afford yesterday is no longer attainable today," says UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner. "This cost-of-living crisis is tipping millions of people into poverty and even starvation at breathtaking speed and with that, the threat of

increased social unrest grows by the day."

Among the UNDP report's strongest takeaways is the warning that "entire developing countries" risk decoupling from the global economy permanently.

Internationally-agreed measures "can take the wind out of this vicious economic cycle" and save lives and livelihoods, insisted Mr. Steiner, whose agency also recommended "targeted cash transfers" as being more equitable and cost-effective than blanket energy subsidies, which "disproportionately benefit wealthier people".

But seismic shifts in the international financial system will also be necessary to ensure that low and middle-income countries can recover, the UNDP Administrator suggested. "You also have to be smarter about it and the IMF originally put together some of the responses to COVID; most developing countries at the end of the day did not dare to borrow against those measures because immediately the rating agencies would downgrade them." - UN News.org



# Indian Migration into Culturally Diverse Australia Increasing According to National Census

June 28, 2022

by Phil Mercer

Indian immigration to Australia has surged, overtaking China, according to national census data released Tuesday. The survey, which is held every five years, also revealed a growing number of Australians identifying as indigenous.

According to the new census data, Australia's demographics are changing rapidly and it is becoming increasingly culturally diverse.

More than half of its residents were born overseas or have an immigrant parent.

Indians are now the second-biggest immigrant population after those from Britain, overtaking settlers from China and New Zealand.

More than one million people moved to Australia since the last census in 2016. The vast majority — about 850,000 — arrived by the end of 2019 before the start of the pandemic and the closure of Australia's international borders.

The research has shown the number of people who used a language other than English at home increased to more than 5.5 million people since 2016. Of those, 850,000 reported that they did not speak English well or at all. Australian Bureau of Statistics' deputy statistician Teresa Dickinson told a news conference Tuesday the country is becoming increasingly multicultural.

"The number of us who are first-generation Australians — those born overseas — and second-generation Australians — those with one or both parents born overseas, which includes me — has grown and is now over half the Australian population. We have seen the largest increase in country of birth outside Australia being India with 220,000 additional people counted, making India now the second highest overseas born population after England and leapfrogging China and New Zealand."

The proportion of Australians identifying as Christians has fallen below 50% for the first time.



The number of people who identified as Hindu increased by 55% over the past five years, reflecting the flow of immigrants from India and Nepal.

The survey has reported a growth in the number of indigenous Australians. Collectively, they speak 167 traditional languages at home. It was also the first time that "non-binary" was offered as an option to report an individual's gender.

Completing the survey is compulsory.

Those who do not comply can be prosecuted and fined up to \$153 each day until the census is completed.

There were 25.5 million people in Australia on census night in August 2021, excluding overseas visitors. This is an increase of more than two million people from 2016.

Census data is used to develop policy about transport, schools, health care, and infrastructure.

Via voanews.com

# Sri Lanka: WFP ramps up emergency support, beginning with pregnant mothers in need

16 June 2022

## Humanitarian Aid

WFP is working to provide life-saving food, cash and voucher assistance to three million of the most vulnerable people who can no longer meet their food needs due to the unprecedented economic meltdown.

### Action plan

Last week, the UN and partners launched a joint Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Plan (HNPP) requesting more than \$47 million, to aid some 1.7 million worst hit by the spiraling economic crisis, which has seen the country struggling to pay for essential imports, amid rising debt, food, fuel and medical supply shortages.

The multi-pronged crisis that has led to widespread protests, was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated collapse of the tourism sector across the South Asian island nation.

Food inflation in Colombo rose to a record high of 57.4 percent in May, said WFP in a press release, and widespread shortages of fuel for cooking and transport, means that poorer families are struggling to feed themselves.

Nearly five million people, or 22 percent of the Sri Lankan population, are food insecure and in need of assistance, the agency said. Nutritious foods, such as vegetables, fruits and protein-rich products are now out of reach for many.

WFP surveys indicate that 86



percent of families "are resorting to at least one coping mechanism, including eating less, eating less nutritious food and even skipping meals altogether."

### Vouchers for mothers

The monthly vouchers are worth around \$40 in local currency and will enable more than 2,000 women to buy much-needed food. They will be provided alongside antenatal care provided by public health authorities in the capital.

"Pregnant mothers need to eat nutritious meals every day, but the poorest find it harder and harder to afford the basics", said Anthea Webb, WFP Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific from Colombo. "When they skip meals they're putting their and their children's health at risk."

"Poor families in cities and those who work on estates have seen their incomes plummet while market prices

have soared. Each day that passes sees an increase in food and fuel prices globally, making it vital that we act now," she noted.

### History of support

WFP has long supported the Sri Lankan Government's national nutrition programmes, which have been severely depleted by the crisis, which began in 2019.

On Wednesday, the Government announced it was giving the country's one million public sector employees, and extra day off each week for the next three months, partly to ease demand for fuel, but also to encourage them to become smallholder farmers to help feed themselves and their families, according to news reports.

To bolster existing social safety net programmes, WFP's emergency response plan aims to assist a million children through the Government's

national school meal programme, together with another million people participating in the Thripasha programme - which provides nutritionally fortified food to mothers and children - and a further million who are now relying on emergency food rations, in the form of produce, cash or vouchers.

### Millions more

Given its concern that food and nutrition needs under the joint HNPP will persist beyond September, WFP estimates it will require \$60 million to assist three million people from June through to December.

Existing donors to WFP's Sri Lanka programme include Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Japan, Korea, Mastercard, Russia, Switzerland, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the United States.

Via news.un.org



# U.S.-Sri Lanka Economic Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges

## "Let's make sure Sri Lanka thrives together."

US Ambassador Julie Chung's Remarks to the 183rd Annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

June 30, 2022: Chairman Govindasamy, CEO de Silva, honorable members of the board, and friends at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce – thank you for the invitation to speak with you this evening. I understand this is the first time in three years you've been able to hold this General Meeting in person – and how wonderful it is to see you all in person and not on a screen! As the Chairman just spoke about all the Chamber's activities, I want to applaud your leadership in entrepreneurship, transparency, good business governance, and strong CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). All of you in this room are not only spectators but real advocates for strengthening the investment and trade climate, and democratic institutions in Sri Lanka to make this country better.

Yesterday, a high-level delegation representing the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of State just concluded an important visit. Deputy Assistant Secretaries Robert Kaproth of Treasury and Ambassador Kelly Keiderling of State met with a wide range of political representatives, economists, and international organizations. The purpose of their meetings was to explore the most effective ways for the United States to support Sri Lankans in need, Sri Lankans working to resolve the current economic crisis, and Sri Lankans planning for a sustainable and inclusive economy for the future. The delegation also pressed upon the government the need to negotiate urgently with its creditors and the IMF to finalize an assistance package, in order to ease the suffering of the Sri Lankan people and get the economy back on track as quickly as possible.

This visit underscores our ongoing commitment to the security and prosperity of the Sri Lankan people. Our efforts to support economic growth and strengthen democratic institutions have never been more critical.

As we all know, Sri Lanka is facing one of the most challenging moments in its history. We've all seen the fuel queues grow longer, and prices for basic necessities increase. We've sat in the dark during power cuts, and we've witnessed Sri Lankans voice their frustrations in peaceful protest. Every day, in every conversation I have, Sri Lankans share that they are worried about the future and the wellbeing of the next generation. Sri Lanka's challenges are undoubtedly serious. But they are not insurmountable.

Every day, I see and hear examples about incredible ingenuity and inspirational efforts that are contributing to the well-being of every-day Sri Lankans. There is one thing I am certain about and that is the resilience of the Sri Lankan people. It will take creativity, leadership, determination,



and compromise to resolve this economic crisis. It also requires political stability and urgent action. Now is the time to redouble our joint efforts to get Sri Lanka back on the path to economic stability. Now more than ever the private sector can make a difference in creating a more inclusive and sustainable economy. In my remarks today, I'd like to lay out a few – well, five to be exact, steps that I think Sri Lanka must take to revive its economy and build long term solutions to benefit all Sri Lankans:

First, the debt crisis must be resolved. We welcome the steps Sri Lanka has taken to go to the IMF, to hire debt and legal advisors, and begin debt restructuring talks. Those are positive moves. But there is much more that needs to be done to get Sri Lanka back on the path to sustainable economic growth. If talks are successful, this will be Sri Lanka's 17th IMF package. Let's make sure it's the last. The reform measures Sri Lanka adopts need to address the root causes of this crisis so that the country finally makes lasting and decisive structural reforms that enshrine international standards of good governance and transparency for the benefit of all Sri Lankans. There is no more room for stop-gap measures.

As Sri Lanka engages in debt restructuring and financial reforms, it is absolutely critical that all creditors are treated equitably and comparably. That is one of the very important components that many countries who undergo an IMF program have to address.

Second, Sri Lanka must invest in its people. It is vital to have a workforce with gender parity, with women literally at the table and in leadership roles. Looking around this room, it's clear we need more women in business and our work is not yet done. Women should enjoy equal access to funding for their small and medium-sized enterprises that operate in so many villages and towns across the island. It is imperative that all Sri Lankans have access to quality public primary, secondary, and tertiary education, and training so that Sri Lanka retains and builds on the rightly earned reputation of having a highly educated, creative,

and skilled workforce. To build peace and stability, Sri Lanka must protect democratic values such as the rule of law, respect for human rights for all, equal representation, and transparent government. When these democratic values falter, the private sector, civil society, and the independent press must hold the government accountable for its leadership and stewardship of this country. The right to peaceful protest must be upheld for all Sri Lankans and the culture of impunity must end. We call on the government to foster independent institutions that operate transparently and build public trust in the reconciliation process, to ensure all Sri Lankans have access to a fair justice system, including further reforms to bring the PTA in line with international standards, and to engage with minority parties and a wide range of civil society organizations to bring political stability to the country. We also call upon the government to protect civic space and allow civil society organizations to operate freely. Economic reform needs to be intertwined with political reform in order to create a sustainable and prosperous economy for all of Sri Lanka's people.

Third, the business environment and investment framework environment need improvements for the private sector to flourish. It is important to reduce red tape and make sure that there are no unreasonable obstacles to investors as they look for opportunities in Sri Lanka and bring in the foreign capital that the country desperately needs.

In 2020, U.S. foreign direct investment in Sri Lanka was \$13 million, bringing total active U.S. investment in the country at the time to \$274 million. If you compare this to the \$17 million invested five years earlier in 2015, I think you would agree when I say that there is room for improvement. Concerns about consistency and transparency in government decision-making, and above all, a lack of predictability, are the primary reasons FDI hasn't grown faster. What our companies want is a level playing field. A good regulatory framework. Trust that their arbitration and their contracts will be honored. When you have that kind of strong investment

climate, then companies will want to come. Making this a reality, however, will require difficult decisions on reforming unprofitable state-owned enterprises that often pose a barrier to entry to foreign direct investment. We welcome the Ministry of Power and Energy's recent efforts to modernize the country's electricity sector to allow more private sector participation and diversity of energy sources.

Fourth, Sri Lanka should seize this moment to shift to green technology and renewable energy sources. We are encouraged by Sri Lanka's target to reach 70 percent of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030 as part of a broader policy of climate action. If there is anything the fuel crisis has taught us is that the time to switch to renewables is now! This is an area where Sri Lanka stands to benefit from the cutting-edge technology that American companies have to offer, as well as access to U.S.-based project finance. Clean power is also a priority focus of the Build Back Better World partnership that President Biden announced with our G7 partners last year.

Sri Lanka is endowed with abundant sustainable energy sources like wind and sunlight, but its power sector has not been developed to maximize the usage of these resources. This is why we launched the \$19 million USAID Sri Lanka Energy Program to help transform Sri Lanka's power sector into a sustainable and reliable market-driven system. The project will facilitate access to capital and attract investments in support of the government's renewable energy goals. USAID's Transaction Advisory Fund has committed \$850,000 to support the competitive development of Floating Solar installations. The project will also work toward improving energy efficiency and demand side management activities in the country and will promote the deployment of advanced technologies.

We also recently announced technical assistance to VEGA Innovations to help them further develop Sri Lanka's electric vehicle sector. This will support VEGA Innovations' efforts to promote electric vehicles, including electric "tuk tuks," help pilot a national vehicle charging network, and support the manufacturing of locally designed batteries and inverters. I drove one myself and was amazed by its efficiency; I can imagine a day when the streets of Colombo are full of these tuk tuks. The eventual transition of the Sri Lankan power sector to a market-driven system will provide more opportunities for Sri Lankan private businesses as well as international investors while helping the country get out of this crisis and rebuild its economy.

**Contd. on page 10...**



## WORLD NEWS

### Donation of Medicine to Sri Lanka

July 01, 2022

Responding to appeals for medicine, several Buddhist and religious organisations in Malaysia donated urgent medicine and medical items to Sri Lanka.

Karine Gheong representing Chi Hui Tang – Kuala Lumpur, Siew Nyoke Chow representing Yayasan Sin Chew & Best Wishes Foundation, Malaysia and Ven Jue Cheng, Chief Abbess of the BLIA & Fo Guang Shan Malaysia handed over a consignment of medicine worth US \$ 54046.26 to High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Malaysia Air Chief Marshall (Retd) Sumangala Dias at the Chancery premises on 14 June, 2022. The consignment was sent by Sri Lankan Air-



lines from Kuala Lumpur to Colombo on 20 June, 2022.

Deputy High Commissioner Dilani Weerakoon and Second Secretary (Commerce) Mekhala Abeykoon were also present at the handing over event.

Via news.lk

### US. partners with VEGA to Promote Green Energy and Electric Vehicles in Sri Lanka

Colombo, June 15, 2022: The United States continues to promote sustainable energy and economic growth in Sri Lanka. On June 15, U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung attended a signing ceremony for an agreement that will provide technical assistance to VEGA Innovations to help them further develop Sri Lanka's electric vehicle sector. The agreement, to be funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will support VEGA Innovations' efforts to promote the adoption of electrical vehicles, including electric "tuk tuks". It will also help pilot a charging network for electric vehicles and support the manufacturing of locally designed batteries and inverters. USAID Sri Lanka's Energy Program was launched in 2021 to help the country's power sector become market-based, secure, reliable, and sustainable.

"The U.S. supports innovators and researchers around the world to test new ideas, take strategic risks, build evidence of what works, and advance the best solutions to some of the world's most intractable development challenges. In Sri Lanka, we are excited to partner with VEGA and other key private sector firms to support innovation and growth in the renewable energy sector," said Julie Chung, U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka.

Dr. Harsha Subasinghe of VEGA Innovations stated: "We are delighted with this opportunity to collaborate with the USAID Sri Lanka Energy Program, especially when alternative energy sources are being sought after in the country. At VEGA Innovations, our multi-disciplinary teams have been able to transform many industries through the years while taking our homegrown brands to the world. Now, through this shared vision, we look forward to supporting our motherland's journey towards development while paving the way for a sustainable future for the generations to come."

VEGA Innovations is a Sri Lan-



U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung in an electric tuk tuk

ka-based electric vehicle automobile manufacturer of electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, supercars, and electric vehicle chargers. It provides Electric Vehicles (EV) research and development services to clients throughout the world, as well as designing and manufacturing EV components such as high-performance inverters, drivetrains, and battery packs.

Rick Whitaker and Dr. Harsha Subasinghe signed and witnessed the agreement on behalf of the USAID Sri Lanka Energy Program and VEGA Innovations, respectively.

USAID's Sri Lanka Energy Program is one component of the United States' ongoing commitment to the prosperity of the Sri Lankan people. Since 1961, USAID has provided more than 350 billion LKR (\$2 billion) to programs in support of economic development, entrepreneurship, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation, as well as other sectors, in Sri Lanka. To find out more about USAID's work, visit [usaid.gov/sri-lanka](http://usaid.gov/sri-lanka) - via US Embassy-Colombo.

### Sri Lanka provides 10-year Residence Visa for foreign investors



The Government of Sri Lanka has decided to provide Golden Paradise Residence Visa with a validity period of ten years permitting foreigners to obtain residence facilities for the purpose of making investment in a government approved bank.

The long-term resident visa program titled 'Golden Paradise Visa' enables the issuance of residence visas for 10 years for foreigners who deposit a minimum of \$100,000 in a commercial bank recognized by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The foreigners are eligible to withdraw \$50,000 after the first year but should maintain a minimum balance of \$50,000 for the

rest of the granted timeline. 'Golden Paradise Visa' is a special category of Residence Visa which is a permit for foreigners to obtain residence facilities for the purpose of making investment in a government approved bank.

The spouse and the dependents of the primary applicant will also be eligible to apply for the same visa.

Further information in this regard could be obtained from the official website of the Department of Immigration and Emigration: [www.immigration.gov.lk](http://www.immigration.gov.lk) or from the Sri Lanka Consulate General in Toronto on 416 323 9133 or

e-mail : [srilanka@bellnet.ca](mailto:srilanka@bellnet.ca)

### U.S.-Sri Lanka Economic Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges

Contd. from page 9

This kind of financial assistance often contributes much more to long term, sustainable capacity development than more high profile, but economically dubious, infrastructure projects.

And finally fifth – and this is an area my team and I are truly excited about – Sri Lanka can grow its exports to and investments in the United States. The United States remains Sri Lanka's largest single country export market, so our contributions to Sri Lankan prosperity are, in this regard, unparalleled. Our bilateral trade relationship amounts to about three percent of Sri Lanka's GDP. By our estimates, Sri Lankan exporters to the United States provide direct employment for at least 180,000 people here. This is the type of economic partnership we should all be looking to expand. Investment in the United States is another opportunity for the Sri Lankan private sector. Businesses investing in the United States, regardless of industry, gain competitive advantages from one of the most open markets on the planet. The United States offers the largest consumer market on earth with a GDP of \$20 trillion and 325 million people. Companies of all sizes help make innovation in the United States a global enterprise, benefiting from – and contributing to – a flourishing ecosystem for invention and inspiration.

This is a defining moment in Sri Lankan history, and a time when unity is more important than ever.

Unity does not mean we all agree all the time. It means coming together and doing whatever each of us can constructively to solve the problems of the day. For seventy years, the United States has provided foreign assistance, loans, trade opportunities and two-way educational exchange programs to help grow the Sri Lankan economy, increase domestic capacity, and support the prosperity and wellbeing of the Sri Lankan people. The United States continues to stand by Sri Lanka during these challenging times. Over the last few weeks, we have announced \$120 million in financing for Sri Lankan small and medium-sized businesses, \$27 million for the Sri Lankan dairy industry, and over \$30 million in new humanitarian, technical and food security assistance to benefit Sri Lanka's most vulnerable communities. And we look forward to building on that assistance in the months to come. The United States remains a friend and partner for Sri Lanka's prosperity, and I look forward to our shared future and success in overcoming the present-day challenges. The Chairman spoke about surviving through these challenging times. I would like to take that a step further and say we need Sri Lanka not only to survive but to thrive, to become stronger and better through this crisis. It may seem daunting but I believe it can be done. Let's make sure Sri Lanka thrives together. Thank you. - via US Embassy, Colombo

- Sri Lanka

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*Phyllis Diller*



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# THANK YOU



Canadian Tamils'  
Chamber of Commerce  
கனேடியத் தமிழர் வர்த்தக சம்மேளம்

FOR YOUR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF  
SCARBOROUGH HEALTH NETWORK FOUNDATION THROUGH THE:



To date, the Tamil Radiathon has raised over \$400,000. The CTCC is our largest donor with over **\$65,000** raised!

## DID YOU KNOW...

- That 59% of Scarborough's population are new Canadians and 74% of Scarborough's population are visible minorities?
- That 75% of the City of Toronto's Tamil population is living in Scarborough?
- And despite being 25% of Toronto's population, SHN receives less than 1% of the hospital donations?

It's time for all of us to have equal access to the best healthcare, because our most diverse area is also our most ignored. For the first time ever, SHN Foundation has launched a \$100M fundraising campaign, shedding light on healthcare inequities and encouraging Torontonians to back us up.

## FUNDS RAISED WILL SUPPORT OUR KEY PRIORITY PROJECTS



Transforming  
Kidney Care



Innovating  
Diagnostic Imaging



Evolving  
Mental Health



Expanding  
Emergency Care

AND OTHER URGENT CAPITAL PRIORITIES

THANK YOU CTCC AND OUR TAMIL COMMUNITY  
FOR BACKING US UP!



[LoveScarborough.ca](http://LoveScarborough.ca)



## SPECIAL FEATURE

# SHN Foundation Tamil Radiothon presented by CTCC and Nava Wilson LLP raises over \$400,000 in 2 years for the Scarborough Health Network (SHN)

On Saturday June 11th, the second annual Tamil Radiothon took place raising almost \$130,000 for SHN. The event was presented by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) and Nava Wilson LLP and was aired on CMR 101.3 FM. Funds raised from the event will help the Love, Scarborough campaign, and other key priorities including removing barriers to mental health care, managing and preventing chronic kidney disease, and treating heart disease in Scarborough. Co-chaired by Sritharan Thurairajah and Logan Velumailum, the Radiothon featured interviews with physicians, staff, and business and community leaders who shared about programs and services that SHN offers the community, and how SHN can continue to service the community with their support. SHN serves a catchment area of 832,000 people in Scarborough, Markham and Durham and is the third largest community health network in Ontario.

Some of the photos of cheque presentation can be seen here.







# HEALTH & WELLNESS



## The Northpine Foundation donates \$20 million in support of Scarborough Health Network Foundation's Love, Scarborough campaign

Transformative gift will create Canada's first no-wait Emergency Department, modernize diagnostic imaging, and create a surgical quality excellence program



**Northpine Foundation Team** - The Northpine Foundation team from left to right: Sammia Malik, Operations Lead; Bayan Khatib, Impact Manager - Refugee Newcomers; Sara Tessier, Impact Manager - Formerly Incarcerated Persons; Naomi Gichungu, Impact Manager - Special Initiatives; Aatif Baskanderi, CEO; Nkem Kalu, Product Manager; Mark Lane, Impact Manager - Rural Newfoundland and Labrador.  
*Photo Credit: Northpine Foundation*

**SCARBOROUGH** (June 21, 2022) – Scarborough Health Network (SHN) Foundation announced a transformative, \$20-million gift today, donated by The Northpine Foundation. This gift will create the Northpine Emergency Department at SHN's Centenary hospital, the Northpine Diagnostic Imaging Concourse at SHN's General hospital, and the Northpine Centre for Surgical Quality Excellence. All three priority projects will advance equitable healthcare for Scarborough—one of Canada's most diverse communities—and poise SHN to be a national leader in emergency care and surgical patient outcomes.

The Northpine Foundation's vision is to expand human-centred innovation in Canada and be an impactful force for good. True to their mission of supporting communities that face limitations, their historic donation to SHN will help remove barriers to care for all who live and work in Scarborough.

"Northpine views human health as a critical factor to support thriving communities, and we know the people of Scarborough deserve the same level of care and facilities as the rest of Toronto," says Aatif Baskanderi, CEO of The Northpine Foundation. "We were inspired to support SHN because of the gap in healthcare donations to Scarborough, whose diverse population is 59% New Canadians. We know that there are great learning opportunities in Scarborough that can help improve the health of others across Ontario, Canada, and globally."

This momentous donation will do incredible things for SHN's Birchmount, Centenary, and General hospitals, including:

- Create the Northpine Emergency Department at Centenary hospital, which will be the first no-wait Emergency Department in Canada. This ground-breaking model will incorporate a physician at the front of care and more efficiently triage, test, and treat patients to reduce wait times.
- Modernize diagnostic imaging through the Northpine Diagnostic Imaging Concourse at General, which will support the radiologists and specialized professionals performing more than 335,000 diagnostic imaging exams yearly at SHN. It will bring all imaging services together in a single location at the General hospital in a new state-of-the-art concourse.
- Launch the Northpine Centre for Surgical Quality Excellence and become a leader in quality based on an innovative program piloted in the surgical department. SHN has the second-largest

surgical program in Ontario and, with Northpine's investment, will become a leader in positive surgical outcomes, research, and innovation.

"Today's announcement will enable us to push forward toward our ambitious campaign goal and break down barriers to equitable care for Scarborough," says Alicia Vandermeer, President and CEO of SHN Foundation. "The Love, Scarborough campaign has become a rallying cry for Scarborough, and we are so grateful that The Northpine Foundation answered our call. It's an honour to work with community leaders and donors like Aatif and his team, and it's our hope this announcement will inspire others in the community to join us in our campaign to Love, Scarborough."

Northpine's gift is the largest in SHN's history and the most significant in support of SHN Foundation's Love, Scarborough campaign. Launched publicly in January, the campaign highlights health inequities faced in Scarborough and encourages the rest of Toronto to back SHN up. To date, the campaign has reached \$85 million of its \$100 million fundraising goal.

"The Northpine Foundation's generous gift will provide our talented, compassionate and inclusive healthcare teams with the infrastructure they need to care for our diverse and growing Scarborough community," says Liz Buller, President and CEO of SHN. "Their belief in helping communities flourish is abundantly clear, and their generous gift will help transform the future of care for Scarborough."

The Northpine Foundation is funded by Cathy & John Phillips through Klistar Credit Corp., an early investor in Shopify Inc.



**Photo of the announcement**  
From left to right: John Phillips, George Cope, Chairman at BMO and Honorary Co-Chair of the Love, Scarborough Campaign Cabinet, Liz Buller, President and CEO of SHN, Alicia Vandermeer, President and CEO of SHN Foundation, Aatif Baskanderi, CEO of Northpine Foundation, Bayan Khatib, Impact Manager - Refugee Newcomers at Northpine Foundation, Nkem Kalu, Product Manager at Northpine Foundation, and Cathy Phillips.  
*Photo Credit: SHN Foundation*

### About Scarborough Health Network

Across our three hospitals and several community-based satellite sites, Scarborough Health Network (SHN) is shaping the future of care. Our innovative programs and services are designed for the specific needs of the Scarborough community, and our medical expertise and compassionate care are accessed from well beyond our borders. We operate Ontario's largest regional nephrology program and regional community-based cardiovascular rehabilitation service; the designated cardiac centre for the Central East region of Ontario; and an internationally designated cardio-oncology clinic centre of excellence. As a community-affiliated teaching site for the University of Toronto, a Toronto Academic Science and Health Network member, and partner with other universities and colleges, we are committed to helping train the next generation of healthcare professionals. Learn more at [shn.ca](http://shn.ca).

### About Scarborough Health Network Foundation

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

### About Northpine Foundation

The Northpine Foundation is a startup philanthropic organization with big dreams! Our vision is to propel and expand human-centred innovation in Canada. Our focus is to support communities that encounter economic and social limitations. We achieve this initiative by designing, funding, and partnering on initiatives that improve community flourishing. We combine best practices to invest in bold, new, and untried approaches. The Northpine Foundation's resources and annual giving capacity rank it as one of Canada's top private foundations. The Northpine Foundation's core value of kindness is exhibited through acting as a professional, innovative, reflective, aggressive, and impactful force of good. We aim to enable Canada's most marginalized populations to thrive. *We value voice.*



# Disease Epidemics and Global Catastrophe

By: J A Rajah

The world is now facing global catastrophe due to the increased impact of epidemics. At the world's current level of population, these calamities would kill about 2 billion people. Even after facing the covid-19 pandemic for the last two years, people are finding it difficult to believe this due to the vast advances in modern medical technology. As the world realizes the reality of more than 6 million covid-19 deaths, there are also maladies that continue to do great harm. The Aids epidemic has seen more than 35 million deaths since the mid - 80's. Even today, the WHO reports that more than 37 million are living with HIV/Aids, with about 1.5 million newly acquiring the disease in 2020. Meanwhile, other diseases continue to cause great suffering around the globe. Though physicians in the US diagnose more than 2,000 malaria infections in a typical year, 2020 saw more than 240 million cases worldwide, leading more than 600,000 deaths- mostly children in sub-Saharan Africa. African and Asian countries like India, Sri Lanka and Nigeria suffered from massive outbreak of yellow fever and malaria in the yesteryears. In 2019, more than 1.2 million people around the world died of Tuberculosis - a number that the WHO says increased more than 1.5 million because of limited treatment availability due to Covid-19 quarantines and restrictions. Tuberculosis is reported to be causing severe loss of life increasing from year to year. Covid-19 is reappearing in variant forms and still spreading rapidly in countries like China, India, US, and UK. Most populous counties like China and India appear to be the worst affected. In India states like Kerala, Karnataka, Delhi, and Maharashtra recorded vast increases of Covid-19 cases.

## A. Epidemics of the Past :

In the past century, the developments of anti-biotic -'the magic bullets' of modern medicine have fostered a false sense of security in which many assume that we are no longer threatened by infectious diseases. However, the appearance of microbes resistant to powerful drugs reveals that there are limits to what antibiotics can do. In just few hours, thanks to international travel, disease carriers can encounter thousands of people at airports and on planes, greatly increasing the rate of exposure. The rise of mega-cities, where millions of people live in close contact also facilitates the spread of diseases. In the developing world-where millions crowd together in slums with little access to clean water, medical services or the sanitary disposal of human wastes and garbage where infectious diseases thrive. India and Pakistan have already reported that infectious diseases are spreading at alarming rates. China has recently had a new wave of Covid-19 that had resulted in the opening of new hospitals, which could accommodate many sick persons. There is scarcity of beds and healthcare personnel in most countries. Health care workers fall easily as victims of these dangerous diseases.



## B. the Current Epidemics in Contrast to Past Plagues :

The spread of biochemical terrorism- the deliberate release of toxic microbes or chemical agents in urban areas offers the scary scenario of large number of people being killed in very little time. In the last decade, the world has clearly become more vulnerable to the outbreak of epidemics that have the potential of claiming millions of lives. Russia is reported to have used chemical weapons in Ukraine to annex some parts of the country without any humanitarian considerations. Human hatred is also playing a role in the spread of these devastating diseases. Epidemics have been prevalent in the world since time immemorial. The Bible speaks of plagues and pestilences and David in his psalms beseeches God to protect his dwelling from perilous pestilences. History reveals the devastating effect of disease bearing bacteria. Award winning Canadian Journalist Andrew Nikiforuk reminds us that once they 'start to reproduce in exponential numbers; they can alter entire eco-systems, food chains, water systems and even the fate of countries. Epidemics in the past arrived unexpectedly and spread death over wide areas of the world. In medieval age's leprosy, tuberculosis, cholera, and typhoid thrived in the filth and crowded conditions in those days. In 1348, an epidemic of the 'Black Death' killed an entire third of the population of Europe-some 30 million- in just two years. The plague spread through medieval trade routes. Columbus's sailors brought syphilis from the Americas. The disease spread rapidly through Europe, aided by promiscuity. Europeans brought smallpox to the Americas, where it killed 100 million Native Americans in one century because they lacked antibodies to the disease. A century before Covid 19, the flu epidemic of 1918 killed 50 million people in just 18 months. By contrast - the battlefields of the World War 1 required four years to claim 15 million lives. When epidemic strikes, it

can annihilate a population with a speed and range that exceeds mankind ability to destroy itself through conventional warfare. The resurgence of infectious diseases clearly indicates that Covid 19 is no less a threat to human health than it was before modern medical advances- and it will cause devastation when conditions are ripe. Monkey pox and other kinds of diseases are recently reported in Nigeria, India and Kenya.

## C. The Impact of Population Explosion :

Human lives and the environment today are changing in unprecedented ways. Population explosion has led to polluted air and water; garbage ridden and growing cities; slums where millions live in squalor; forests destroyed by economic development and sere temperatures that effect weather patterns around the globe. Added to this is the appearance of drug resistant germs, immune systems weakened by stress, promiscuous sex, intravenous drug use and malnutrition. Many of today's diseases are the biological consequences of promiscuity, poor hygiene, and a host of much behaviour on the part of people who ignore fundamental principles of health.

## D. The Need for Vigilance :

Epidemics can cause innumerable loss of lives and all necessary precautions should be taken to contain their dangerous effects. Covid-19 protocols should not be abandoned. Wearing masks, staying away from social contacts, avoiding large gatherings of people should be strictly adhered to. The example of countries that relaxed these protocols like China, U.K and India must be taken as a warning. Epidemics cause greater havoc than big wars, and therefore cannot be taken as passing clouds. The range of global catastrophes can be avoided by vigilant precautions.



# Canada National Aviation Day

As we celebrate the 155th birth day of Canada,  
Canadian Aviation has flown for 113 years unblemished.

By: Kane Siva

As our great country celebrates its 155th birth day on the 1st of July, as a glorious, inclusive, appreciative, pluralistic and welcoming nation, the Aviation of Canada has been flying for 113 years and still dominating the "Blue Skies" with same fervor as it was in 1909, after Wright brothers of our "Big Brother" in 1903.



C-FTCA: Air Canada Boeing 767-300ER (Leftover From...  
airplanes.itsabouttravelling.com

On the 23rd of February in 1909, pilot J.A.D McCurdy, flew the "Silver Dart" from Badeck, N.S., creating history as the first Canadian to fly, marking Canada's first powered flight, pivoting Canada to the World of Aviation. This day is celebrated as the "National Aviation Day" in Canada. As an aviation buff, felt my devout duty to exemplify the aviation industry of Canada on this August day. On this day we must felicitate the achievements in aviation and be thankful. It is not superfluous to mention aviation is a major part of Canadian life. The aviation industry is a significant contributor to our large economy. Aerospace Industry sales may be over \$25 billion and another \$17 billion from the airport services. We have one of the safest air travel industry in the world and should be proud of it. Our accident rate has declined continuously over the years to a remarkable low level - thanks to the absolute professionalism of all the personnel.

Aviation industry started growing since 1915 with the first production of aircraft in Canada, the Curtiss JN-3 airplane, for the military, even though it was not 100 percent Canadian. 1919 saw the birth of the first direct transatlantic flight, from St. John's Newfoundland to Clifden, Ireland, by John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown. The Air Board Act became Aeronautics Act in 1937. Vedette airplane was the first Canadian designed and built aircraft in 1928; it was a crucial moment in our aerospace industry and from this moment Canada never looked back. Sound proof cabins, Air traffic control, Flight plans, fixed routes and flight attendants were introduced to enhance our aviation services in 1930. Jessica Jarvis became first woman to get her commercial pilot's license in 1934. Trans - Canada Airlines was created by the Canadian government in 1937, the precursor for Air Canada that was formed in 1964. World War 2 was helped by the Canadian Aircrafts and aviation personnel, besides RAF used Manitoba, as a training base for the pilots. By the end of war in 1944 with the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, ICAO was founded and is headquartered in Montreal. The first high-speed flight was made in 1958 by AVRO CF-105 Arrow. Instrument Landing System was installed to facilitate better landing options for the aircraft

in our airports. NAV Canada became the torch bearer for the Air navigation in 1996.

Canada created history by becoming the first country in the world to implement Safety Management System (SMS), a new tool to eliminate the risks in Aviation safety. In 2002 Canadian Air Transportation Security Authority was formulated to focus on Passenger and baggage screening at the airports. "Blue Sky Policy" was adopted to increase air travel among countries to facilitate easy bilateral agreements and healthy competition in air travel industry for the benefit of passengers. Our Aircraft manufacturing Company Bombardier Aviation, founded in 1989 in Dorval, Quebec, established itself as the world's 3rd largest aircraft maker. Bombardier is one of the money-spinners for our economy. Most of its aircrafts are used across the Atlantic for short and medium haul flights. Canada is home for NORAD, North American Defense Command established in 1968, in Winnipeg, Manitoba played a crucial role in 9/11

and all the airports of Canada played a great role of humanitarian assistance in the biggest crisis of USA since Pearl Harbour.

WW 2 produced greatest Canadian pilots, who contributed extensively. George Beurling was one of greatest pilots, and many others like Henry Wallace McLeod, Vernon Woodward George Wittman, Willie McKnight and many others. Also Andrew Carswell, Lester Pearson, (Toronto airport bears his name). I want to pay a special tribute to an Air Canada Captain, Robert Pearson (may be a relation of Lester Pearson) who started flying in 1956, had more than 15000 hours of flying. On July 23 rd 1983, AC 143 was cruising with Robert and co-pilot Maurice Quintal who had 7,000 hours, at 41,000 feet, from

## Aviation and Space Museum.



Montreal to Edmonton, a Boeing 767, ran out of fuel in midair, because the refueller calculated the fuel amount in pounds rather in kilograms, even the Captain did not notice this error, and the Aircraft engines shut down, resulting in the whole computer system failure as there was no power. Because of the sheer piloting skill of Bob Pearson & Maurice, manage to land this aircraft in Winnipeg, by a gliding technique Robert had perfected while being a glider pilot for some time. If not for this timely action, a major catastrophe would have happened. This was a miracle since he was flying the aircraft almost 40 minutes without fuel. This Captain must be thanked and remembered on this day.

I salute and recognize these great pilots, fliers, maintenance engineers, ATC controllers, flight attendants, flight operations and ramp officers, ground controllers, refuellers, customer service and all the public sector staff who have pooled all their resources to make the aviation enormously safe in our most beautiful country. Thank you so much for all the great sacrifices. Before I sign off want to pen my personal nostalgia. Way back



The Silver Dart and the Dawn of Flight  
in Canada | The Canadian ...

in 1972 when I joined the national airline in Sri Lanka, used to get the transport to go the airport, the days we miss, my ex colleague, retired Sri Lankan captain GAF, me and my good friend Duleep Vethavanam, retired Captain, travel to the top of the road by Negombo bus and walk down to the airport even in the night. The "Sign" on the middle of the road to the airport read like this, "Canada Friendship Road" as that was built by the Canadian Government, gesture of friendship. I never realized that after migrating 25 years ago will be penning this on the Canada Day. What a blessing to have taken the right step down the road then and be here.

Quoting John Adams in 1776 "This day ought to be Solemnized with Pomp and Parade with Shows, Games, Sports, Bells, Fire crackers, Bonfires and Illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward and forever more". The last but not the least, Jack Layton, "Canada is a great country, one of the hopes of the world".

*May God keep blessing this great and wonderful nation on this planet!*

*Viva La Canada! Mucho Gracious!*

**K.N. Sivagnanasunderam (Blue)**  
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## SPECIAL FEATURE

# What is the need of Thirukkural as a book on universal ethics?

By Kumar Punithavel



### Who are we:

Humanity is a cultural mosaic of varied identities. Everyone has his or her own identity. If humanity is to continue its existence in peace and harmony, and to have a clear understanding of what unites us all, as a common humanity, it is important to have a genuinely universal approach to ethics. We are all human in physical appearance. It is interesting and important to note that human beings have what is called a mind. Because of this mind the humans' group into and call themselves as different creed, caste, race, religion etc. However, the basic inner values that emerge from concern for fellow beings like kindness, honesty, patience, forgiveness and compassion etc. are the same in all communities and have been largely verbalized in religious terms.

### Religious perspective:

From the beginning of civilization, religions have played a key role in maintaining ethics in humanity. Be it theistic or non-theistic, they take it to their domain to give the code of ethics.

The theistic religions, includes Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism, Christianity, and Islam. On the other hand, non-theistic religions include, such as Buddhism, Jainism etc. In theistic religions ethics is grounded in some understanding of God as the creator and ultimate authority. For theistic religious the entire universe is part of the divine creation. It must also be noted that in many theistic traditions there is the belief that after death we will face divine judgment, and this provides great incentive to behave with restraint. It must also be observed that submission to God makes the human to act with restraint which is a plus point of religion. Fear of reprimand makes human be ethical.

Non-theistic religions like Buddhism and Jainism and certain sects of Hinduism, have no belief in the divine creator God as the rule maker. Instead, there are the core principles of causality, while the universe is regarded as beginningless, thus endless. Without a creator figure in which to ground the inner values of ethics, non-theistic religions instead ground ethics in the cause and effect called the karma. The word Karma in Sanskrit literally means action. The doctrine of Karma is grounded in the observation of causality as a law of nature. All actions, either word, thought or deed of a person has a potential unending stream of consequences. When this is combined with the belief and fear of suffering in rebirth it becomes a powerful deterrent to do something unethical.

### Science perspective:

Religion is formed based on faith, as opposed to this, science is based on proof of facts. Science is the attempt to discover, by means of observation, and reasoning. Based upon it, first particular facts about the world are found, and then laws connecting facts with one another and making it possible to predict future occurrences is done. Because science unveiled truths of nature, the new generations accepted the facts proved by science as gospel. In the early days during the beginning of theistic and nontheistic religions, it was done so, essentially with limited scientific knowledge

of the universe that existed. With the limited knowledge that existed it was believed that the world was in the center, and the rest of the universe revolved around it. They even believed there is a heaven in the sky and a hell underground! But, with the advancement of science, which is rooted in facts with proof, it was realized that the world is only a very tiny speck in the wide universe. Unlike what these religious creeds believed; it was discovered instead of the sun revolving around earth it is the earth that is revolving around the sun. This was discovered by astronomer mathematician Nicolus Copernicus (1473-1543).

Until Newton came in and explained the theory of gravity after the dropping of an apple, people did not know that there was no need for an external controlling power to help the planets to revolve in their path, and that they could do so on their own, with the gravitational forces of attraction, repulsion etc. Further, with the discovery of the theory of evolution by Charles Darwin (1809-1882), the theory of creation has gone outdated overnight. Because of these scientific discoveries the credibility of the religion is gradually waning away. Slowly but surely the new generation of humanity is moving away from religious acceptance.

### Need for a book of ethics:

Science is concerned only intellectual handling and objective control. It is morally and emotionally neutral. It sets out to describe, and to understand, not to appraise nor to assign values. What should the humanity do with the new facts' science is showering upon it? Religion has been the dominant factor in defining ethics. While science is interested in finding new facts, unfortunately religions committed itself to a theology of fixity instead of one of change, and claimed to be already in possession of all the knowledge that mattered. It therefore seemed that to admit the truth and the value of the new knowledge provided by science would be to destroy the earlier stand of religion. As religion misses its grip on humanity, what will happen to the ethics which have been the main domain of religion for humans? Ethics is fundamental for the progress of humanity. His holiness Dalai Lama, in his book 'Beyond Religion', comes out with a very nice analogy which I wish to share. He says ethics is like water which is very essential for survival. Religion is like tea, milk and sugar which is added to make it a very likable drink. A person can live without the ingredients, but cannot survive without water. Thus, more fundamental than religion is ethics for humans to survive and thrive. The challenge, therefore, is to find a way of grounding ethics and supporting the cultivation of the inner values that is keeping the future generations morally progressing in spite of the scientific advancements. Inherently humans have a disposition towards love, kindness, and affection irrespective of whether they are religious or not. The challenge, therefore, is to find a way of bringing it out and cultivating ethics and inner values in the new generation that are appropriate in spite of scientific advancement and discoveries.

Mankind must develop a code of ethics based on the basic inner values that emerge from concern for fellow beings like kindness, honesty, patience, forgiveness and compassion etc. Such universal guidance should be acceptable by everyone, with no affiliation nor repulsion with any religion, science, race or ethnicity etc. It

## SPECIAL FEATURE



should recognize that the world is to be shared by all beings including humanity. It should not contest one's belief in the creator God or otherwise. It should recognize our shared humanity and our shared human aspiration to happiness and the avoidance of suffering; the second factor is the understanding of the reality, of interdependence of humanity as a key feature of human reality, including accepting and helping one another in the common interest of everyone.

### Thirukkural perspective:

Around two thousand years ago lived a person who is believed to be a weaver by trade. He lived an average householder's life and his wife's name is said to be Vasugi. St. Thiruvalluvar has composed Thirukkural a book of 1330 couplets. All human beings need wealth to live happily. They also want happiness in their life. Both of these are to be built on the foundation of virtue (righteousness). The whole book Thirukkural comprising 1330 couplets very much akin to tweets, with seven words each, whereas tweets go up to 280 characters. There are 133 chapters, with ten couplets on each chapter in Thirukkural. Further the book is grouped in three sections. Namely Virtue, wealth and pleasure. It is a point of interest he never used the word 'Tamil' anywhere in the book though it was written in Tamil; however, strangely enough he starts the narration with the first letter of Tamil language 'Ah' (அ) and ends the narration with the last letter of Tamil language 'in' (இ).

In this book not even a single country, village nor even a natural phenomenon like the name of a mountain nor a river is mentioned in the whole book. As an example, let us see the couplet #397 in the chapter on Education he says;

*All lands and towns are learner's own;  
Why not till death learning go on?*

The poet raises a question asking how is it that any one can remain without learning, up to his death, when (to the learned person) every country is his own country, and every town his own town. Thus, Thirukkural has no borders and belongs to the whole world.

Further the book of ethics Thirukkural says in no uncertain terms that if a person is honest out of fear, then he is not honest. The traditional religions tend to take a stand that if you do wrong you will be punished by the God or by the causation of your karma meaning action. But St. Thiruvalluvar takes the stand that if a person is honest/good because of fear, he is really not a good person, in fact he is an ignoble person, but out of fear he is behaving good, and he should be judged as he is. At times even if he does some good deed, it is because of the faint hope he will gain to some extent. In the chapter 108 titled 'Baseness' in couplet # 1075 he says:

*Fear is the base man's virtue; if that fail,  
Intense desire some little may avail*

Accepting that humans are inborn with qualities of compassion, love and empathy, as opposed to the stand taken by religion that infuses ethics in a person by fear, in the above couplet, he says if fear of punishment is the cause for a person to do good then he is a base person. If the inborn nature is brought out then he is bound to be good.

As one could see, Thirukkural, a book of ethics written more than two thousand years ago say exactly that. It brings out the inborn nature of goodness in a person. Without any mission promoting this book, it is believed to have been already translated into more than forty-eight languages. In English languages

alone there have been multiple translations up to over a hundred. Thirukkural mentions no particular language, religion, race or cultural group in its contents. It treats humanity as its kin and world as its hamlet.

The first chapter is titled, "The praise of God". Interestingly the author defines on the fourth couplet, while Religion gives hope and strength to face adversity by convincing the person to get what he wants by praying to God, Thirukkural, a book of universal ethics, defines God as one who has no likes nor loathes, thus implying one cannot flatter him and have gained benefits. It is explained in no uncertain terms in Thirukkural on the first chapter titled 'Praise of God' in couplet #4 goes on defining the nature of God as follows;

*Who holds his feet, who likes nor loathes  
Are free from woes of human births;*

Thus, the poet says though praying may give the person comfort, God has no likes nor loathes and his retribution will have no effect on the wrong doer praising God.

As mentioned earlier God as one who has no likes nor loathes, in 619th couplet he goes on to mention that even if fate that is destined by God fails, the man's effort will reward his effort. Here is that couplet;

*Though fate-divine should make your  
labour vain;  
Effort its labour's sure reward will gain.*

The book never mentions the name of any religious God or deity. Of the 133 chapters the first thirty-eight chapters discuss righteousness in living. This section is further subdivided as a preface with four chapters, next twenty on domestic virtue, and followed by fourteen on ascetic life. On these there are discussions on various aspects of righteous domestic and ascetic life.

It is clearly pointed in this book the anchorites, meaning religious hermits and to the poor, even those who are dead, it is the householder that gives the protection and support. What will happen to the religious worshiping places and those who take care of it, if there is no householder to support it by their productivity? The fundamental need for the humanity to go forward is righteous householders. Before proceeding further let me give couplet # 42 which is as follows;

*To anchorites, to indigent, to those who've  
passed away,  
The man for household virtue famed is  
needful held and stay*

As the last couplet on householders Thiruvalluvar, praises that if a person leads a righteous life he shall be placed among the Gods in heaven. So, the most important goal is to produce virtuous householders and not priests, pastors, preachers nor hermits. Here is the last couplet (#50) giving that thought;

*Who shares domestic life, by household  
virtues graced,  
Shall, mid the Gods, in heaven who dwell,  
be placed.*

Next seventy chapters are dealing with wealth. Wealth is an essential component of human living. No religion shall survive in this world without wealth. Though the title is wealth, it has been subdivided as royalty, ministry, politics, alliance/ friendship and finally a section miscellaneous. Various aspects of human interactions are discussed in this section, be it governing, education, judging, and all aspects of human interrelationship are explained clearly in seven-hundred couplets or shall we call it tweets?

In the face of adversity religions always propagate prayers as the panacea for the problem, but not Thirukkural. It believes it is the thoughts that reach high achievements. Till the thoughts one ponders are noble and high there will be no achievements reached high. It further says even if one fails it is still great to ponder high. Here is the couplet 596:

*Whate'er you ponder, let your aim be loftily  
still,  
Fate cannot hinder always, thwart you as it  
will*

It is the norm for religion to advise the devotees to beg for divine intervention to raise one's life, by praying to an almighty divine being. Not in Thirukkural. In the couplet #595 the bard says the stem of a lotus flower will be as long as the depth of the pond in which it flowers, likewise the person will rise as high as his mind ponders.

*With rising flood, the rising lotus flower its  
stem unwinds;  
The dignity of men is measured by their  
minds*

The third section of Thirukkural deals with inter relationships between both sexes. I am yet to come across a religious book teaching how the relationship between both sexes should harmonize. After all, the consummation of Adam and Eve is the beginning of humanity. The subject of relationship between man and woman is dealt in two segments. The first is pre-marriage comprising seven chapters with seventy couplets and the second is chaste wedded relationship in eighteen chapters with one hundred and eighty couplets.

It is said that a grain of rice determines how well the pot of rice is cooked. Likewise on the section of pre-marriage relationship lets analyse one couplet say # 1281. The poet says love is more pleasurable than the best wine available, for wine gives pleasure only when it is consumed, but love gives pleasure on mere thought of it. I am yet to come across a religious or scientific book giving insight on the pleasure of love. Here is the couplet for you to browse on;

*Gladness at the thought, rejoicing at the  
sight,  
Not palm-tree wine, but love, yields such  
delight*

On post-marriage relationships let me take the last couplet of as a sample of this section dealing on the subject. In newly married couples one could observe frequently the partners will feign quarrel. It is not because there is a misunderstanding, but they are bored with constant agreement, that they quarrel. St. Thiruvalluvar says, in such quarrels the one who gives up and surrenders is the winner, and it could be found when they get together. Here is the last couplet of this great book of universal ethics numbered 1330:

*A 'feigned aversion' coy to pleasure gives a  
zest;  
The pleasure's crowned when breast is  
clasped to breast*

There is yet a book of ethics dealing with all aspects of human relationship. As Rev. G.U.Pope who translated it to English in his introduction has mentioned, I quote, 'Thirukkural is as clear as an unpolluted spring. Yes! Thirukkural, the unique book, has come to remove the impurities of the world'. Let us use Thirukkural as a book of universal ethics to cleanse the world's impurities.



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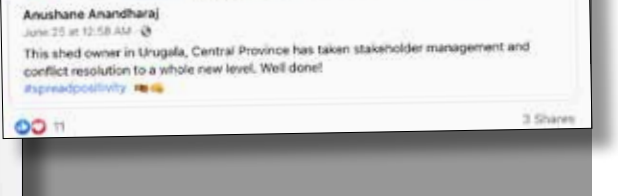
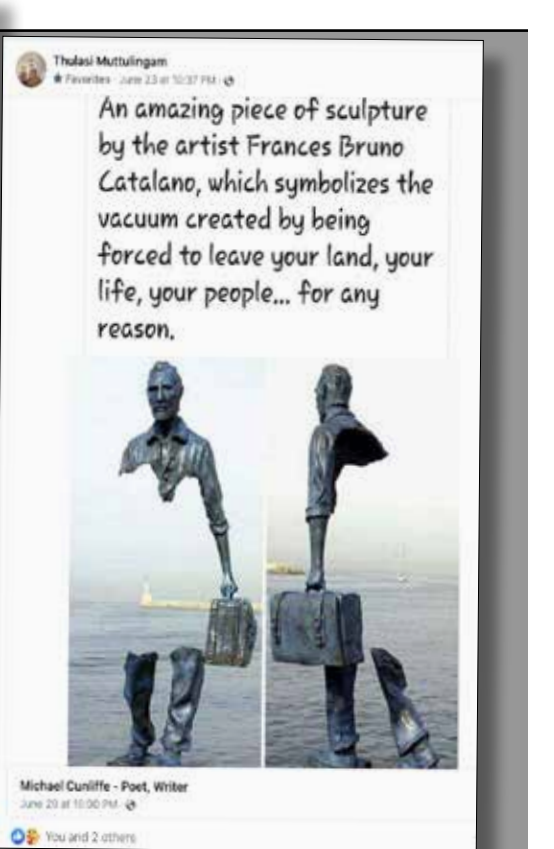
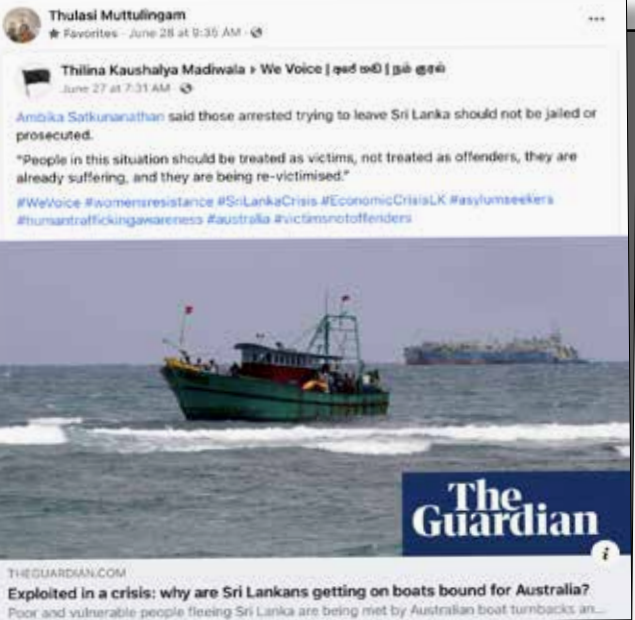
**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - June 29 at 4:08 AM

**Swasthika Arulingam**  
June 29 at 3:06 AM

Economic crisis irukkotho illaiyo sexual harassment on the streets and in public transport has not gone down. The other day a random man decided to sit next to me and pull out his penis. As I am no longer rattled by unsolicited display of penises in public spaces I wanted to turn around and have a conversation with the man and ask him what about a 35 year old woman looking like a dehydrated potato was turning him on.

But since I was honestly feeling like a dehydrated potato with no capacity to engage in sinhala on a nuanced discussion on sexual harassment I decided to move my seat.

When I got down he got down with me (his penis now back inside his pants) and followed me to my destination. Thankfully the streets were crowded with pedestrians despite being late night because these days everyone is walking. No fuel.



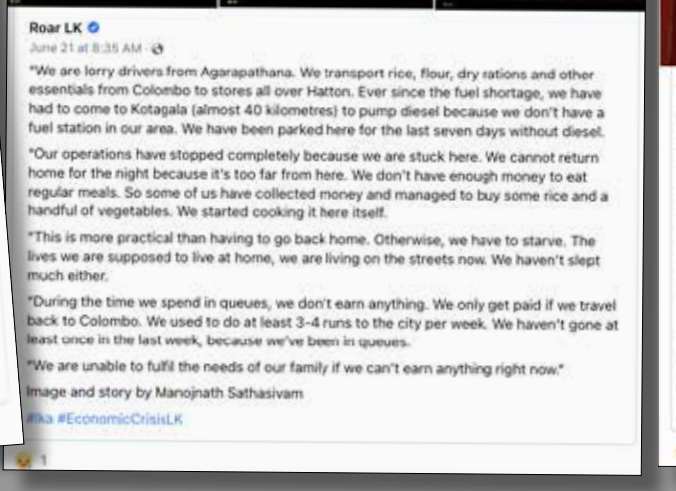
**Thulasi Muttulingam**  
★ Favorites - June 16 at 9:43 AM

**Elijah Hoole**  
June 16 at 9:06 AM

In 1988, my father quit his job as chief electrical works engineer at the KKS cement factory when he was 32. He had already worked for 11+ years after graduating with an engineering degree from the University of Birmingham. A few years later, he was able to rebuild an old property in Mannar almost entirely using his savings from his KKS job.

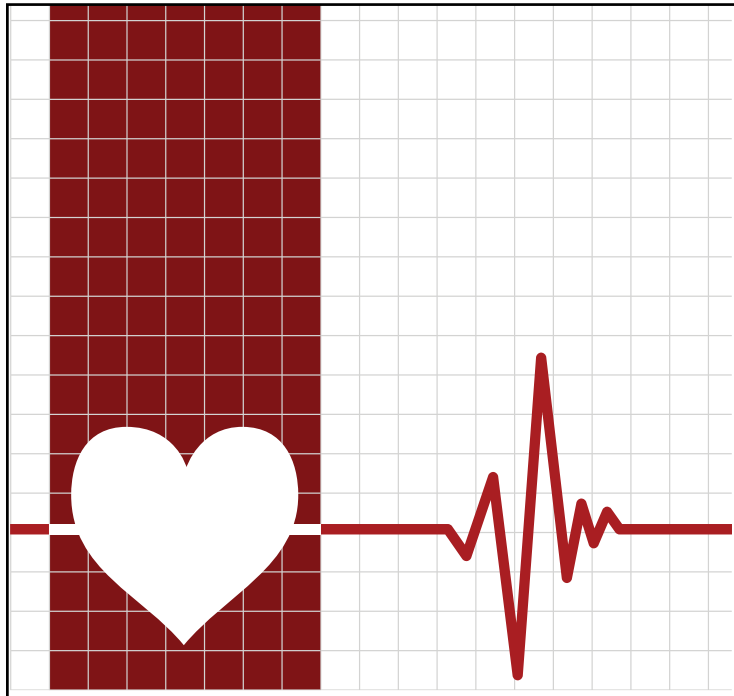
- Many of my Indian masters friends in Edinburgh are now 24. They had 2+ years of work experience prior to joining the study.
- I was still doing my 3rd year of engineering when I was 24. None of my batch mates are anywhere close to a mid-senior level role, let alone close to becoming department chiefs in a company. Most of us have close to 0 savings. We are either turning 30 this year or already past the mark. Worse still, doctors my age, who have come through our university education system, have worked for just 2 years.
- How far back have we fallen in relation to our neighbors? Heck, how far back have we fallen in relation to our older generations? Who is to blame for this robbery of youth? What a sorry, sad, lazy country!

2



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**SPECIAL FEATURE**



# BATTLE OF THE HINDUS - 2022

## School Cricket match between Colombo Hindu College Vs Jaffna Hindu College

The 11th Hindu cricket match between Jaffna Hindu College and Hindu College, Colombo. This match proudly known as the "Battle of the Hindus" was held on 10th and 11th June, 2022 at the Jaffna Hindu College ground.

The "Battle of the Hindus" cricket match was played between Jaffna Hindu College and Hindu College, Colombo in the 80s. Then due to the lack of proper conditions to hold the tournament, it became impossible to hold it in the past few years.

However, the restarted tournament was finally held in 2019 at the 'T Saravnamuthu' International Stadium.

Then the tournament was suspended for the last two years due to unusual circumstances.

This great battle of the Hindus, which was first started in 1982, took place for the first time at the Bambalapitti Hindu Hindu College Grounds. then the second annual



tournament was held in 1983 at the Jaffna Hindu College ground.

Jaffna Hindu team lost in the finals held in 2019. Out of 10 matches played, Bambalapitti Hindu College won four matches, Jaffna Hindu College won one and the points

are 4-1. The other five matches ended in draws. This cricket match which is more than four decades old has two strong teams, two schools' student fans' support, the high involvement of alumni and a long-lasting tradition make this cricket match was the most anticipated competition ever !



The battle of the Hindus was live streamed on IBC Tamil, Analai Express, Montamil & Vilaiyaddu.com. All the AD revenue and donations by JHC old boys in Canada (Rs.855,000) was donated to JHC Cricket Development. The Jaffna Hindu College society thanks the donors for their contribution.



### Summary of Cricket Scores

#### Jaffna Hindu College:

1st Innings: 230 in 59.3 Overs  
Samson: 77, Priyandan: 58, Sagitharan: 5/57

#### Colombo Hindu College:

1st Innings: 146 in 56 Overs  
Dilulshan: 40, Barath Vasan: 4/33

#### Jaffna Hindu College:

2nd Innings: 117 for 6 Declared in 29 Overs  
Subarnan: 31, Kajanath: 30, Sathursan: 2/46

With a target set at 202 to win Colombo Hindu College survived scoring only 67 for the loss of 8 wickets:  
2nd Innings: 67 for 8 in 31 Overs  
Kavishkaran: 27, Arjan: 5/26



SPECIAL FEATURE



BATTLE OF THE BLUES IN CANADA

Annual Cricket match between Hartley College Old Boys and JHC Old Boys

Traditional Canada Day Family Picnic this year was celebrated in a glorious manner after the Pandemic. More than one hundred family and friends of JHCA Canada joined in the celebrations at Sunnyside Park. The Annual Cricket match between Hartley College Old Boys and JHC Old Boys was exciting and the match can be watched on Eagle TV. It certainly brought a tone of school days memories for the Old Boys!

Chief Guest for this occasion was one of the oldest members of the Association, Mr. Suntharalingam Sinnathurai. Community Events of this nature requires the support of sponsors. Mr. Kugendran Perampalam from Gabby's and ThairoomGrand and Mr. Shanthiragaanthan Sathasivam from RE/MAX Community Realty Inc support along with other donors helped to make the 2022 Canada Day Picnic a memorable event.

Everyone enjoyed the traditional Sri Lankan food, summer fun fruits and the fancy ice cream served with a triangle wafer in the middle and more.

The 2022 Sports Committee of JHCA Canada organized an excellent event for Canada Day and the Cricket matches. Stats about the two matches played;



**Masters Match, JHC won the toss and decided to bat.**

**JHC 127/3 off 20 overs & Hartley College 113/9 off 19.5 overs**

- Best Batsman - V Mohan - Hartley College
- Best Bowler - Mohan K. Chandramohan - JHC
- All Rounder - Amalan - JHC

**Blasters Match, Hartley College won the toss and decided to field.**  
**JHC 159/8 off 30 overs & Hartley College 90/10 off 20.5 overs**

- Man of the Match - Vithyasangar Raveendirarasa - JHC
- Best Batsman - Ganeshwaran (Gana) Jegatheeswaran - JHC
- Best Bowler - Athithan Suresh - Hartley College
- Best Fielder - Sarangan Knight - Hartley College
- All Rounder - Vimal Suvendrarajah - Hartley College

Pictures of Canada Day celebrations of JHCA Canada can be seen at <https://iyah4u.smugmug.com/PublicEvents/2022Events/JH/i-GZkhvF3/A>

# BATTLE OF THE HINDUS

## Colombo Hindu College Vs Jaffna Hindu College



Kalaiyarasi Sathaasivam of Kilinochchi has been selected as one of the 30 players for the under 19 Sri Lankan National Cricket Team. She was presented a sum of Rs.200,000 as an incentive for her achievement. The funds for this donation were provided by Mr. Sayon Balasuntharam, an old boy of JHC, 1998 A/LBatch. The presentation of the Rs.200,000 donation was made on 10th June 2022 at the opening ceremony of the 11th battle of the Hindus .



Kriystia Selvarasa from Jaffna has been selected as one of the 30 players for the under 19 Sri Lankan National Cricket Team. Mr. Nema Shanmuganathan, an old boy of JHC, 1989 A/L Batch honored her by presenting the incentive payment of Rs.200,000 on 11th June 2022 at the closing ceremony of the 11th battle of the Hindus.



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அனுபவத்துடன் கூடிய அன்பான  
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நகரங்களில் எமது சேவை

இறுதிச் சடங்கை நடத்துவதற்கான செலவை முன்கூட்டியே திட்டமிடலாமா?

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# AN ENCHANTING SIGHT



*Vallai Veli* – Crown land partly with salt water lagoon that connects two main towns in Northern Province, Jaffna & Point Pedro.

*Photo by Kiruba Karann taken in Jan 2005*

## C. Kamalaharan

A sight so beautiful and enrapturing  
A herd of cows casually grazing  
Had I never seen before in any scenery  
In a wide spread area so greenery

Having copious supply of water and grain  
Caused by the recent torrential rain  
The cows are busy having their usual meal  
And moving about with intense zeal

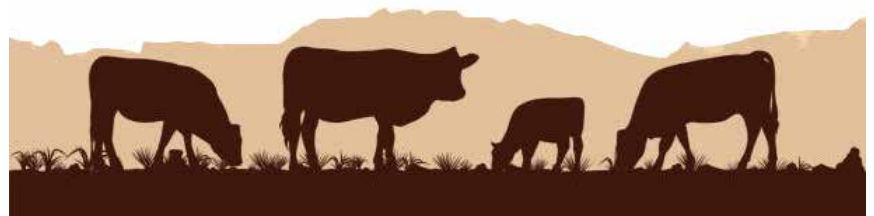
Having sufficient meal everywhere  
With reservoirs here and there  
How peacefully are they grazing  
While moving around pacing

The tall palmyra palms in the background  
And the greenery in the foreground  
Reminds me of the Valukkai Aaru in the north  
Where people settling there live in mirth

All the cows are hell bent in grazing  
Not at all interested in racing  
Instead they continue to go on pacing  
In search of grass for feeding

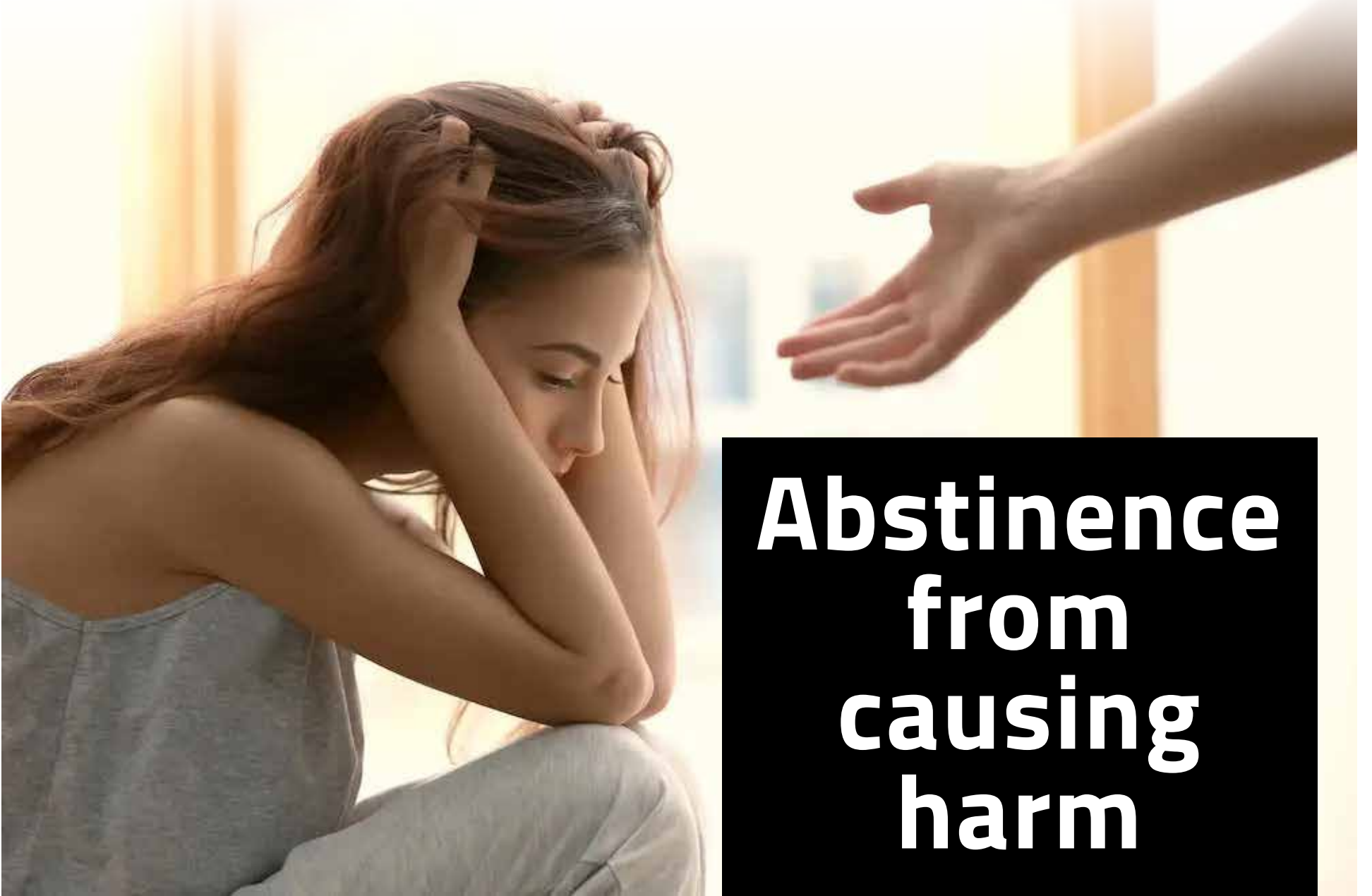
How do all of them constantly move together?  
Without cowherds keeping them together  
When there is enough food and water everywhere  
There isn't need for them to go elsewhere

Moving about in a safe and peaceful place  
They are free from thieves in that place  
The cow herds aren't seen anywhere in the scene  
Probably they have moved elsewhere unseen





## SPECIAL FEATURE



# Abstinence from causing harm

By: J.A. Rajah

Even if it is productive of wealth and attendant fame, men of virtue will not cause injury to others. Cardinal Newman defined a gentleman as one who does not inflict pain on others. Even to a man who intentionally causes harm, a virtuous man's ideal is not to return evil. The Lord Jesus Christ set a noble example when he pleaded for his persecutors with the words: 'Father, forgive them, they do not know what they do'. Revengeful harm done even on an unprovoked wrong will bring endless evil in its trail. The best punishment for those who do harm to you is to shame them by retuning good for evil. The Bible reinforces this idea when it asserts: 'Whoever strikes thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also'. Of what use is great wisdom if you cannot treat other's grief as yours?

*"Arivinan aahuvathundo pirithin noi,  
Tham noi pol pottakkadai'.*

அறிவினான் ஆகுவ துண்டோ பிறிதின்னோய்  
தந்நோய்போற் போற்றாக் கடை

The wise men will treat the pain of others as their own. What one has realized as causing pain to himself should not be inflicted on your neighbour. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan -Jesus Christ illustrates the same idea when he says: 'Do not do unto others; what you would not like others to do for you'. Confucius of China, Bernard Shaw -both advocated the same pattern of conduct. It is a cardinal virtue not to do wrong to anyone even in thought:-

*"Ennaitanum engnanrum yarkkum manathan aam,  
mana cheyamai thalai."*

எனைத்தானும் எஞ்ஞான்றும் யார்க்கும் மனத்தானாம்  
மாணாசெய் யாமை தலை

Why should a man who has experienced the pain of injury cause pain to be done to others. If a man does harm to his neighbour in the forenoon, such harm will come to him in the afternoon\*. A Tamil proverb carries the same idea when it says: 'Vinay vithaippan vinay aruppan'. Kipling says: 'The sins you do two by two, you must pay two by two'. Valluvar's perceptions of virtue speak volumes of the norms of the Tamilian society of those times. All pain in the world rebounds on the man who caused it; one who seeks freedom from it, should not inflict pain. The Holy Quran says: 'Wrong not and ye shall not be wronged'. When one causes pain, one asks for pain and it will come to one in greater measure.

\* *"Pirarkku inna mutpakal cheyin thamakku inna,  
Pit pakal thaame varum".*

பிறர்க்கின்னா முற்பகல் செய்யின் தமக்கின்னா  
பிற்பகல் தாமே வரும்

(Kural: 311-320).



Valluvar's Views



# The Mountain

**You have a certain power.**

You are a human being. You have a certain power. You have a certain strength.

Problems are like clouds. They come; they go. Sometimes they're big; sometimes they're small. Sometimes they're not there. Sometimes they're there everywhere.

But the mountain that sits on the ground does not move with the clouds—doesn't become bigger or smaller with the clouds. You are the mountain; clouds are your problems.

If action comes from thought, thought is changeable by nature. It is variable by nature. It can be influenced, and it can be changed at any time! Any time. Any, any given time, a thought can be changed—and there's no trace of it.

If I'm going to steal something—and I go, like, "I think I'll steal it"—and then I change, "I'm not going to steal it," what have I done? I have not stolen! I ... even

**Sometimes it seems as if all we deal with are problems. But their power over us diminishes when we remember that we are made of something far greater.**

though I had a thought, "I want to steal something," I did not steal it, and therefore what really happened is, I never stole it.

We are responsible for our thought. When our thought is clear, so is our action and so is the consequence of that action. When that thought emerges from understanding—emerges from light, emerges from knowledge—then the action also carries the attributes of that thought.

When that thought is born of doubt, of confusion, of anger, then that action too bears all the traits of the confusion, of doubt, of fear.

What have I seen in my life? I have seen darkness that you could never even fathom. I have

seen desperation that you cannot even imagine. I have seen confusion that virtually has no bounds. I have seen desolation in a human being that would be hard to speculate.

And I have seen joy in a human being that would make the universe look small. I have seen wisdom! In my life I have seen wisdom ... that is so huge, so big, so large, that it truly could encompass countless universes and beyond. And I have seen light in the eyes of human beings.

I have seen the impossible made possible! And I have seen the very possible made impossible. I have seen courage. And I have seen the possibilities made real because of that courage.

So when I talk about the fifty years of experience, this is what I'm talking about. Because, whatever happens in our lives, the consequences of our actions will affect us. We don't want that; we don't like that. We don't want that to be that way. But that is one thing that will never change; has never changed, and will never change.

And if you don't understand your strength, your courage, then unfortunately, you will be weak; you will give in! Your thoughts will bear children and these children that will be born could ultimately become the very cause of your demise.

Or, your actions, born from your strength, from your clarity, could be the children that you bear that will ultimately be your partners in victory.

– **Prem Rawat**

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# The Influence of Human Activity on Earth



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



I do believe that human activity is harming and damaging the Earth. Humans hurt the Earth's land when building and destroying materials, such as trees. Precious resources such as clean water and air get polluted by human activity. Living beings are also at risk because humans kill them for food, leisure, or even destroy their habitats. One could say that humans may benefit the Earth sometimes, making it a better place to live in. But most of the time, humanity hurts it more than helping it. This is why I believe that human activity is harming and damaging the Earth.

Humanity is harming and damaging the Earth's land. It is hurt when buildings are established on the land, displacing so many natural resources to set it up. This is because destroying plants and trees to make room is part of the building process. Obviously, the more and more humans there are, the more space is necessary to provide for all those people. This leads to more natural resources used up by humans. This can cause soil erosion, which is when water and wind affect soil patches, detaching and removing them, which then go into streams and waterways. Also, the use of agricultural land change the Earth's land and damages it by destroying habitats to establish enough farms to feed the human population. Habitats are destroyed daily, animals are killed for food, and the natural state of the Earth gets worse and worse as more goes on.

Humans are also harming the water and air of the Earth. One way the Earth's water is harmed is when people pollute natural waterways with trash. A lot of people litter without thinking, and then the wind will pick it up and lead it to the ocean, where it can be difficult to clean up properly. This can negatively affect the animals in the oceans too. Animals such as turtles, which eat jellyfish, are prone to mistaking plastic bags for jellyfish since they look similar. Turtles can accidentally eat these stray plastic bags and suffocate to death. Most of the trash in the ocean is plastics. Because of this negligence, a big garbage path in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, was formed. It is so big that apparently, it is about the size of France—maybe even larger! There are also many smaller ones around the world too. This happens when ocean currents take trash from all over the world's oceans and pushes them all into one area. Plastic takes thousands of years to decompose, which is why it is still there, and will still be there after many years, decades, and even centuries. It is currently growing to this day.

Another way humans hurt the water is through oil spills. When oil rigs spill, it spills a lot of oil into the ocean. Even birds get affected by his because oil may get on their wings and hurt their ability to fly away. This problem also hurts humans too! If a fish

were to inject these bad chemicals, it would stay in their bodies and possibly be transferred to humans when caught and fed as food. The people eating these fish are exposed to the same polluted waters that these animals are in. Humans also indirectly hurt the ocean. If a tsunami were to hit somewhere, all the trash from the destroyed buildings would float into the ocean. For example, last year, a tsunami hit Japan, and all the trash and debris from that tsunami eventually went into the ocean, and it was carried over the Pacific. In some cases, after ten full years, debris

from past tsunamis can land on coasts across the world—some even reaching British Columbia, Canada. This is how human activity is hurting the Earth's oceans and waters.

Humans also hurt the Earth's air and atmosphere. When fossil fuels are burnt for humans to use, such as coal, gasoline, and other natural gasses, they emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Cars and other modes of transportation pollute the air, as well as factories, etc.. These greenhouse gasses go into the atmosphere, and keep heat from the sun inside the Earth's atmosphere, causing the Earth's surface to heat up. This is how humanity negatively affects the Earth's atmosphere and air.

Despite all of this, sometimes humans can be beneficial to the Earth. For example, if an animal contracts a contagious virus, humans can help cure it before it spreads to others animals and species through modern medical technology. These diseases could affect other animal species, surrounding plants, and even humans as well. This is really all humans do to help the Earth be a better

place than without human activity. All in all, this is how humans affect the Earth. I believe humanity is hurting it a lot more than we are helping it. Through human activity, natural resources are being used up, pollution negatively affects the air and water, and so much more. There are some ways in which humanity benefits the Earth, but most of the time, the situation on Earth is made a lot worse than it already is because of human intervention. This is why I believe that human activity is both harming and damaging the Earth.



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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



## DOES THE ASTROLOGICAL METHOD SATISFY SCIENCE ?

### The Differences Between Astronomy, Tamil, and Western Astrology Explained

By OUE Research Institute

Astrologers claim that the time of our birth reflects profound truths about who we are and what will happen to us. Some people think these



heavenly bodies directly yield events on Earth through unknown means. Our modern age rejects this idea and instead sees the sky like a mirror. By learning the language of astrology, they say, we can see a reflection of who we are and what our future might be.

Indeed, astrology has the models of science: it makes a hypothesis, relies on calculations, and deals in systems and structures. The astrological prediction proved wrong in several scientific experiments. Therefore, the Philosopher of science Paul Thagard declared astrology a pseudoscience in 1978. However, in times of great stress, astrology forecasts can give the illusion of control. Not knowing what the future holds can be shaky for some. Despite incredible scientific progress since its creation millennia ago, astrology hasn't lost its attraction. Its claims have been refuted repeatedly, but many find the practice helpful in times of anxiety.

#### ASTRONOMY VERSUS ASTROLOGY

Astronomy is the study of celestial objects, space and the universe as a whole.	Astrology is the study of movement and position of celestial objects and their supposed influence on the lives of human beings.
Astronomy is a branch of science.	Astrology is considered a pseudoscience.
Astronomer refers to scientists who study astronomy.	Astrologers are people who use astrology to predict future events.

Pedica.com

#### Tamil Astrology

Tamil astrology refers to the Four Vedas, ancient Hindu scriptures written around 1200 BCE that contain ritual guidance, mantras, governing philosophies, and divine revelations. Vedas translates as knowledge, and the practice of Tamil astrology was born from seers and sages that sought to translate divinity into daily life. In this sense, Tamil astrology is more innately tied to spirituality than its Western counterpart.

Tamil astrology views the birth chart as a total of our past life experiences. The Tamil horoscope illustrates how to fulfill our mission in this life based on the deeds performed in previous lives by applying concepts of karma and reincarnation. Astrologers expound this by simply regarding the stars as an extension of ourselves.

#### Western Astrology

The western astrological system is most dominant in Western countries. Western astrology is historically based on Ptolemy's Tetrabiblos

(2nd century CE), which in turn was a continuation of Hellenistic and Babylonian traditions. Western astrology is mainly horoscopic. It is a form of divination based on the construction of a horoscope for an exact moment, such

as a person's birth, in which various cosmic bodies are said to have an influence. Astrology in western

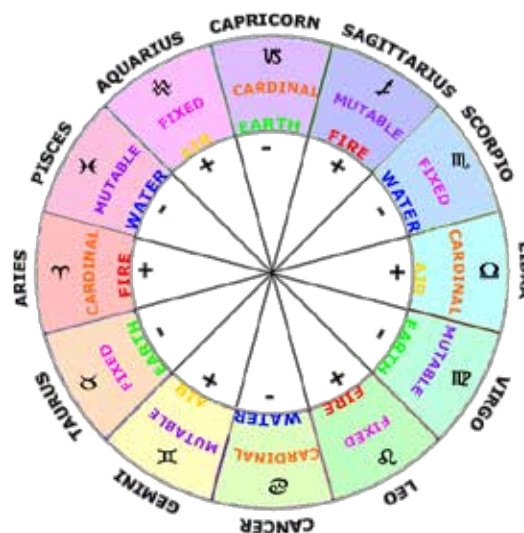
12.Pisces	1.Aries	2.Taurus	3.Gemini
11.Aquarius			4.Cancer
10.Capricorn			5.Leo
9.Sagittarius	8.Scorpio	7.Libra	6.Virgo

contrast, Tamil astrology uses the sidereal zodiac, which is based upon the physical positions of the constellations in the sky. As the Earth spins on its axis, it experiences a bit of a tilt, a whirl known as precession. As such, the stars and constellations do not remain fixed. When the Earth rotates and orbits around the sun, the constellation of the stars appears to move around the north star (Polaris) but does not move. Earth comes to a complete orbit. It takes sidereal time 20 minutes and 24 seconds

No.	Western (Fixed)	Tamil (Change – 2022)
1	Aries: (March 21 - April 20)	Aries: Mesham (April 13–May 14)
2	Taurus: (April 21 - May 20)	Taurus: Rishabam (May 15–June 14)
3	Gemini: (May 21 - June 21)	Gemini: Mithunam (June 15–July 14)
4	Cancer: (June 22- July 22)	Cancer: Kadakam (July 15–August 14)
5	Leo: (July 23 - August 23)	Leo: Simmam (August 15–September 15)
6	Virgo: (August 24-September 22)	Virgo: Kani (September 16–October 15)
7	Libra: (September 23 - October 23)	Libra: Thulam (October 16–November 14)
8	Scorpio: (October 24 - November 22)	Scorpio: Virudshigam (November 15–December 14)
9	Sagittarius: (November 23 - December 21)	Sagittarius: Dhanush (December 15–January 13)
10	Capricorn: (December 21 - January 20)	Capricorn: Makaram (January 14–February 11)
11	Aquarius: (January 21 - February 19)	Aquarius: Kumbham (February 12–March 12)
12	Pisces: (February 20 - March 20)	Pisces: Meenam (March 13–April 12)

popular culture is often reduced to sun sign astrology, which considers only the individual's date of birth and the "position of the Sun" at that date.

Most western astrologers use the tropical zodiac beginning with the sign of Aries at the Northern hemisphere Vernal Equinox on or around March 21 of each year. Tamil astrologers use the Sidereal zodiac, which uses actual star positions.



#### Differences

A critical difference between Western and Tamil astrology is the use of different zodiac systems. Western astrologers use the tropical zodiac based on the seasons and the orientation between the sun and Earth. In the tropical zodiac, the Spring Equinox always coincides with the onset of the Aries season. In science, to get the correct equinox and season since the Earth's orientation changes due to precession and the orbital motion, 20 minutes and 24 seconds less than the sidereal year required for each year based on our Gregorian calendar. There is a lot of misunderstanding and mixed information about this subject. By

longer than tropical time each year. Each star moves roughly one degree every 70 odd years per the Gregorian calendar. Therefore, the approach and application of Tamil astrology vary greatly from Western methods.

In Tamil astrology, sun signs vary in name and dates from those of Western astrology because the Western astrology and the Gregorian calendar are based on a tropical seasonal system. Tamil sidereal system recognizes the discrepancy and corrects it within the birth chart using ayanamsa. For this reason, your sun sign in Tamil astrology may very well be different than western astrology.

Tamil and Western astrology systems have 12 zodiac signs. They differ in their understanding of the position of constellations—each possessing a broad set of magnetism and disadvantages. While the attributes of the Western vs. Tamil zodiac signs are similar, the respective dates vary.

#### Summary

The increasingly rational appearance of astrology (computer ephemeris, limitation of the scientific discourse) mimics Science methodology. Astrology is a pseudoscience because of its absence of progress and refusal to deal with a large body of critical scientific studies. Many modern astrology fans do not see it as a science but a tool for introspection or self-examination, mainly because its predictions can give them an illusion of control in a time of stress. There are more grounded ways of dealing with insecurity, like mindfulness practice and engaging in activities that put you "in the zone."

An astrologer works in affectivity (emotion), not rationality (wisdom/logic). The clients find themselves in the position of the believer who only hears what he wants to hear. It causes a significant risk of psychological manipulation. Some people do consult their astrologers before making any decisions. Western astrology focuses on the psychology of the individual and their experience of life events. Tamil astrology is more predictive, expressly predicting things like fame, fortune, familial dynamics, and periods of hardship and ease based on karma and reincarnation.



# How Does Investing in Crypto Stocks Work?



While cryptocurrency hasn't been around for long, it's gained popularity among investors and is now regarded as a mainstream investment asset. If you're new to the crypto scene, it can be overwhelming to determine which cryptocurrencies can yield gains, and which ones to avoid.

I've already spoken about cryptocurrencies and the factors you need to consider before investing in them. Now, let's take a look at how investing in crypto stocks actually works.

## How Does Investing Work?

If you're interested in investing in cryptocurrency, take a look at the following steps.

### 1. Select a Crypto currency

The first thing you need to do to invest in crypto is to pick a type of cryptocurrency to invest in.

Ask yourself what the purpose of your investment is. Is it to maximize gains or are you going to use crypto in financial transactions?

Depending on your needs and reasoning, there are various options for you to pick from. Bit coin is the most popular and valuable crypto currency,

but Ethereum and Cardano are more commonly used in complex financial transactions. You also have other options such as Doge coin, Solana, and Litecoin.

Do your own research on the pros and cons of each of these cryptocurrencies before picking one that works well for your needs.

### 2. Open an Account

After deciding the type of cryptocurrency you'd like to invest in, determine where you want to buy it. Centralized exchanges, like Coin base, are popular places to shop for cryptocurrencies.

Robinhood, SoFi and other online brokers also offer both cryptocurrencies and traditional investment options to their clients.

Before opening an account with a broker or an exchange, check to see if they support the cryptocurrency you want to buy.

### 3. Choose How to Pay

If you're a first-time buyer, you can purchase cryptocurrencies with most fiat currencies, or in other words, regular money, like the US dollar. Some experienced investors, however, choose

to trade in one cryptocurrency for another. For example, you can trade your Ethereum for Bitcoin or any other cryptocurrency.

### 4. Add Money to Your Account

Before investing in cryptocurrency, it's vital to ensure you have sufficient funds in your account to make a sizable investment. If you want to buy cryptocurrency using fiat money, make sure that your exchange allows you to do so.

You can use your debit card or a bank transfer to purchase crypto. However, investing in crypto using your credit card could be a risk. If your investment declines in value, interest rates could make your loss more severe.

If you already own other cryptocurrency, you can simply transfer it to your digital wallet and trade it in for another. But bear in mind that you cannot exchange all cryptocurrencies for each other. This would depend on the trading platform you're operating from. So check whether your exchange allows trading between the assets you

have your eyes on.

Investing in cryptocurrencies can be simultaneously scary and exciting. But don't let your emotions get the best of you. Do extensive research on the options available to you and make an informed decision to secure your financial future.

Subscribe to my blog if you want to learn more about crypto, blockchains, and other recent advancements in the tech industry. If you'd like to get in touch, please contact me via my website or social media.

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# Five tips to know for your first camping trip

For many Canadians, camping has become one of the most popular ways to travel in recent years. It's inexpensive, offers quality time with friends and family and is the perfect way to get outdoors. Investing in the right supplies can make your camping experience amazing, with happy memories for years to come.

Here are some tips from Coleman Canada to make sure you're prepared for a perfect escape:

## 1. Pick the perfect tent

When choosing the tent size, divide the tent rating in half to get the best fit. For example, if two people will be sleeping in the tent, choose one that is rated for four people. This will give you enough space to sleep comfortably and store your gear.

Invest in a quality tent that can also protect you from all kinds of weather. The Coleman® PEAK1™ collection is outfitted with the WeatherTec™ Plus system, which helps keep water out and withstand winds up to 45mph.

## 2. Bring separate coolers for drinks and coolers

Most coolers are opened frequently throughout the day to get out drinks. By separating your food from your drinks, you can reduce the number of times the cooler with your food in it is opened, which keeps food fresher and reduces how quickly your ice will melt.

A high-performance cooler is a smart one-time investment that will last for years. The Coleman® Convoy™ Chest Cooler has a TempLock™ FX fully insulated lid, body and heavy-duty latch that will make sure your food or drink stays cool for a long time.

If you're going on a day trip, a soft, portable cooler is a great option. The Coleman® Sportflex™ Soft Cooler has 4Way stretch front and side pockets to easily fit your phone and keys with room to spare.

## 3. Illuminate your tent

A quality camping lantern is an outdoor essential. It's great for nightly camp games, sets the right outdoor ambiance and is key for making two-handed tasks easier in the dark.

Coleman® Classic Recharge Lantern has a rechargeable battery and a durable, impact-resistant design meaning it will be a reliable light source your whole camping trip.

## 4. Keep in mind comfortable sleeping

Everyone has different comfort levels. There are cots, air mattresses and a wide variety of sleeping bags you can choose from for your best sleep.

When it comes to airbeds, look for one with built-in pumps that inflate quickly and will not leak, such as The Coleman® rechargeable SupportRest™ queen sized bed.

## 5. Be prepared with a stove

Many campers rely on cooking all their food on the campfire, however, once it rains and the wood is too wet, they are unable to start a fire and cook

their meals. Be sure to pack a camp stove in case of rain or a fire ban. The Coleman® RoadTrip™ Griddle offers maximum portability and easy cleaning.

The Outside is Calling. Answer the call. Visit ColemanCanada.ca for more camping tips.



## CAMPING CHECKLIST

Checklists are a good habit to get into when you prepare for an outing. Print them out, make your own additions, and maybe you can avoid that, "Oh, no, I forgot..." scenario.

## CAMPING GEAR

- Tent, rain fly, poles and stakes
- Ground cover or tarp
- Tool kit – hand axe, rubber tent-peg mallet, tent stake puller
- Tent repair kit
- Extra tent stakes
- Fire starter (cotton rolls soaked in melted wax or any material containing paraffin)
- Long-nosed butane lighter
- Waterproof matches



- Firewood
- Fuel for lanterns, stoves, grills, and other outdoor appliances
- Fuel funnel (if using a liquid fuel lantern or stove)
- Lantern

- Lantern carry case
- Lantern tree hanger
- Battery-operated lantern
- Flashlights – always take more than one
- Extra batteries – make sure they are new
- Extra lantern mantles
- Compass and maps

- Multipurpose knife or camper's tool
- Folding saw
- Trowel or shovel
- String or parachute cord
- Whisk broom and dust pan

## EATING/FOOD PREP

- Cook stove and fuel
- Table
- Comfortable folding chairs
- Nesting cookware
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Plates, cups, bowls
- Cooler(s) with ice
- Small soft cooler
- Bottle and can openers
- Thermal containers for hot and cold beverages



- Napkins, paper towels
- Trash bags
- Plastic zipper bags
- Plastic wrap
- Aluminum foil
- Biodegradable dish soap
- Pot scrubber
- Dishpan

## SLEEPING AND COMFORT

- Sleeping bag rated for the nighttime temperatures you expect to find
- Pillow – Clothes in a stuff sack may also be used
- Air mattress with pump or a camp pad – This will smooth out the ground and let you sleep better
- Cot

## PERSONAL ITEMS

- First aid kit
- Sunscreen – use a high SPF for optimum protection
- Sunglasses
- Radio with weather band
- Flare, mirror, brass whistle
- Insect repellent – repellents which contain DEET work the best
- Mosquito coils
- Layered clothing
- A poncho or other rain gear
- Phone and charger
- Toilet paper
- Toiletries
- Clothesline
- Bath towel
- Biodegradable soap
- Cards and games
- Pad, pencil or pen

## THE ESSENTIALS

- Sunscreen – use a high SPF for optimum protection
- Sunglasses
- Hat or visor to shade your head and face
- Cooler(s) with ice
- A variety of beverages including lots of water
- Thermal containers for hot and cold beverages
- Flask/Bota bag
- Light snacks
- Binoculars
- Portable chairs
- Stadium seats/cushions
- Blankets
- A poncho or other rain gear
- Portable radio/stereo
- Phone and charger
- Frisbee, football or baseball and glove



## COMMUNITY WATCH

### Appointments & Achievements

#### Kandepan Balendran elected as the President and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Harvard Club in Sri Lanka

Kandepan Balendran has been elected as the President and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Harvard Club in Sri Lanka. Balendran is the Co-Founder and CEO of Academics Group, which is Sri Lanka's first cross-party, cross-sector education think tank with a vision to help create a more open and connected education system. Kandepan is recognized as a bright and proactive Business Manager.



#### Nihal Fonseka appointed Sri Lanka's Monetary Board Member

The Parliamentary Council has approved the proposal to appoint Anthony Nihal Fonseka as a member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The decision was taken at a meeting of Parliamentary Council chaired by the Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

Fonseka has over 23 years of experience in the banking sector. He was Chief Executive Officer of the DFCC Bank and was the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Sri Lanka for 10 years.



#### Rajendra Theagarajah appointed Chairman of Orient Finance in Sri Lanka

Rajendra Theagarajah has been appointed Chairman of Orient Finance in Sri Lanka. Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sri Lanka, and holds a Master of Business Administration from the Cranfield School of Business, UK.

He has had a successful 36-year career in banking in the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka, including 16 years of service as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of three of Sri Lanka's leading licensed private commercial banks.



#### Dr. Rohan Pethiyagoda Sri Lanka's foremost Biodiversity expert conferred U.K Linnean Medal for Zoology

Dr. Rohan Pethiyagoda, Sri Lanka's foremost biodiversity expert has been conferred the Linnean Medal for Zoology 2022 by the Linnean Society of London.

Dr. Rohan Pethiyagoda has played a critical role in the understanding and conservation of the astonishing freshwater fish diversity of Sri Lanka and the region more broadly, through original research and support for others.



#### Priantha Fernando appointed Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

Priantha Fernando has been made the Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

Priantha Fernando is a tourism and management consultant and tourism industry professional. He holds a MSc. in Tourism Marketing, University of Surrey, UK, Diploma in Hotel Management and Tourism, Belair College, UK.



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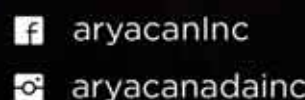
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## MONSOON KITCHEN

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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.

# Nellikai Saadham

Serves 4



### Ingredients:

- ✓ 4 cups of cooked basmati rice
- ✓ 4 Nellikai, grated
- ✓ 2 green chillies, slit
- ✓ 1 tsp mustard seeds
- ✓ ½ tsp cumin seeds
- ✓ ¼ tsp fenugreek seeds
- ✓ 1 stalk of curry leaves
- ✓ ½ tsp turmeric powder
- ✓ ¼ tsp asafoetida
- ✓ 2 tbsp untoasted sesame oil
- ✓ Salt to taste

### Method:

Cook and cool the basmati rice.

In a wok, heat the sesame oil to a medium temperature, add the mustard seeds and once they pop, add in the cumin seeds, fenugreek seeds and asafoetida. Follow quickly with the green chillies and the grated nellikai, curry leaves (tear them before adding) and the turmeric powder.

Toss mixture for 1 minute and add salt along with the cooked rice. Mix together and let the ingredients blend for 2 minutes on a low heat.

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

Nellikai, aka Indian gooseberry or Amla is an excellent summer ingredient to use to reduce blood pressure, control blood sugar levels and reduce toxins in the body. You can find them all over the GTA, and we are sure that this recipe will not disappoint.

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# Harini Rajadeva performs the Bharathanatyam Arangetram

By Harrish Thirukumaran

A dance performance that signified a transformation into a goddess.

This was a profound sentiment captured by her aunt, Sanju Pandya in recognition of the take on the 2000 year-old Bharathanatyam Arangetram in Hindu Tamil culture performed by Harini Rajadeva. She is the daughter of Ahilan and Samitha Rajadeva and granddaughter of Punitharani & Sathianathan Velumailum and Vimala & Late Rajadeva Rasanayagam.

Sanju, who herself has acknowledged her own passion for dance, noted her Arangetram was truly an awe-striking moment showcasing her creativity. "Today she's on to complete one of the hardest tests. A test for her stamina; her memory; her coordination; her knowledge of our culture, roots, ancestors through history, religion, and understanding the strength of the deities in becoming a goddess in the process. Has she not transformed into a goddess tonight?"

This Bharathanatyam Arangetram was held at the Jo-Ann Magistro Performing Arts Center. Its divine presence was graced on the grounds of the Township of East Brunswick, New Jersey on a Sunday evening.

The Master of Ceremonies or MC was her first cousin, Ms. Radha Pandya, who herself takes inspiration from Harini in completing her own Arangetram in the same year.

Harini recently graduated from Monroe Township High School, where she was part of the prestigious Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy Program. She plans to embark on a six-year PharmD program at Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy in the fall and continue further education in the medical field.

Harini has also been an aspiring dancer who has been immersed in Bharatanatyam in the Kalakshetra style under Guru Smt. Selvi Chandranathan since the age of 5. These performances ranged from cultural events arranged by the Bharata Kala Nrithyakshetra to the Indian Embassy in Beijing, China where she lived for two years.

Comprised of nine dances, the performance began with the Pushpanjali and concluded with the Managalam: Thiruppugazh (expression of gratitude to Lord Nataraja) as covered by the illuminating program brochure. For Harini, the Thiruppugazh both salutes and expresses her gratitude to the Lord Nataraja, Guru Smt. Selvi Chandranathan, members of the orchestra, family, friends and well-wishers to witness her moment.

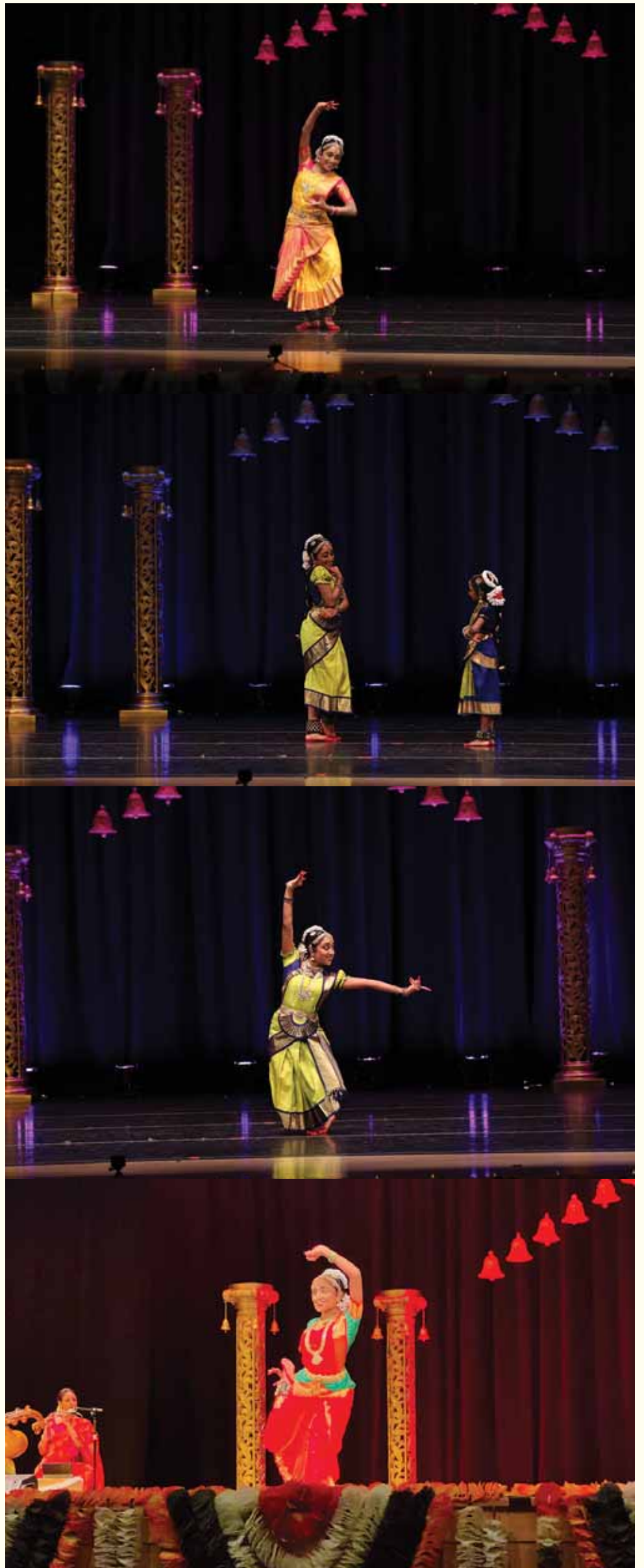
Thiruppugazh means 'Holy Praise' or 'Divine Glory' and serves as a 15th century anthology of Tamil religious songs dedicated to Lord Murugan, the son of Lord Shiva, and written by the poet-saint Arunagirinadar. The historic set of over 1300 poems kindles both the music of devotion in one's heart and stimulates spiritual awakening in the mind.

Harini has been noted as a leader of sorts amongst her family, friends, peers, and others through the evening speeches. A person who strives towards newer and greater heights to better herself and those around her. One being a list of '10 things I hate about Harini' sarcastically given by her younger cousins as a light humourous way to indicate how she embodies leadership; So much so that what is traditionally a solo performance for an Bharathanatyam Arangetram, she was joined by her younger sister, Sanvi, for the Padam as a powerful duet conveying the love a mother has for her child. Known for its simplicity and reverence, it was composed by renowned poet, Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathiyar.

Harini's Guru or teacher, Srimathi Selvi Chandranathan, is a renowned Bharathanatyam teacher. She is director of the Bharata Kala Nrithyakshetra school, founded to preserve and teach the Kalakshetra style of Bharathanatyam in New Jersey, USA.

The orchestra consisted of Selvi Chandranathan, Vocals from Smt. V Kruppaa Lakshmi, Mridangam by Shri. Vasuthevan Rajalingam, Veena by Smt. Prabha Dayalan, and Flute by Smt. Rasika Segar.

The night was also one of camaraderie and socializing among the attendees both prior to the Arangetram performance and during the intermission period. Harini herself was grateful for the love and support of her parents, grandparents, friends, relatives who travelled from far and wide including Canada, Sri Lanka, and Germany, and her Guru in witnessing her Bharathanatyam Arangetram. The performance was capped off with an appetizing dinner in devotion to this wonderful and unique Arangetram performed by Harini Rajadeva.



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## COMMUNITY WATCH



Sivanandini Duraiswamy,  
*President-Saiva Mangayar Vidyalayam, Sri Lanka*

# An Elegant yet Legendary Personality Sivanandini

community and in general for the woman and the girl child.

Born into a traditional Hindu family and the Hindu upbringing is reflected in her way of life, her work and her writings. Her Secondary schooling at Ladies' College, her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of London, Associate of the Trinity College of Music, her studies in Carnatic Music, Bharata

Natyam and Elocution and her parents instilled deep values of education, culture and religion in her, molding her into this erudite legendary figure. Both she and her husband late Yogendra were devout Hindus which have stood them in good stead in their respective services to the community.

Their guiding disciplines were from the Bhagavad Gita whether in building up the Kalagam and the school in Colombo or in all the development work Yogendra, as the District Secretary and Government Agent had done in the North. Or during the war years when working in the refugee camps and managing a Refugee camp for over hundred and fifty families in Pannai and later working with thousands of war widows teaching them micro finance and how to collect small savings and helping them with livelihood programs making them self-reliant. "This is our SEVA," she would say in keeping with the Gita dictum that one is entitled only to do one's duty and not to the fruits of action.

During her husband's diplomatic postings abroad, she travelled extensively in Asia and Europe where she spent a great deal of time researching and comparing Hindu Thought, Art and Culture with those of other cultures. "Her journey throughout these years is precious; so is our journey with her at the Vidyalayam," writes the Editor of the Annual Magazine of the Vidyalayam, dedicating the Annual magazine 'Vidyalayam 2019' to her.

She continues, "As all schools, the

Vidyalayam also covers a great portion in designing the Nation as a strong foundation is laid for the youngsters who become the pillars of the future. Thus developing plans for the students to face the real challenges of life and implementing them would have been a difficult task if not for the Manager (Sivanandini) who steers the ship with great care assisted by her Committee of Management, the Principal and staff. Her experience and wisdom have always been the strength and guidance focusing not only on the Curriculum but also on the Co-curricular activities sports and games of the students."

She is a visionary leader who has been managing the Kalagam and has been pivotal in molding a young generation of modern Hindu girls through a well-constructed educational system in accordance with the National Educational policy. "I can clearly see the difference that the school administration under her leadership has invested in capacity building and the students are now reaping the benefits. Being aggressively progressive and concurrently enriching cultural values and ethos among students is an admirable quality. The Vidyalayam is undoubtedly the school of choice for educating a girl in an environment that positively reinforces these values of Hindu culture." writes Dr. Prasanna as the Kalagam was commemorating its 91st Founders' Day on the 10th of December 2021.

In wrapping up her SEVA she says – "This Vidyalayam – the Temple of Learning is thus committed to an empowering environment where the students realize their intellectual, creative, ethical and physical promise and earn the ability to face the challenges of the fast changing world and garner experiences especially today in 'Online' studies during the 'New Normal' days of the pandemic 19. They are guided and fashioned into maturity through love and understanding in an atmosphere of our age old Hindu traditions and values."

A couple of years ago I was at the Felicitation Ceremony that was accorded to Sivanandini for her twenty five years of unstinted service to the Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam (Hindu Women's Society) and its premier Institution, the Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam (Hindu Ladies College). In March this year, I was happy to see her again walking into the Kalagam for its 91st Annual General Meeting. At 85 years of age, she was retiring as President after being with the Society for over six decades. Seeing her elegantly dressed as usual, I asked her whether she would like to say something as she retires from this prestigious Society and her work.

She smiled saying, "Since the 1960s I have been associated with these institutions, intermittently in the early years because of my marriage to Yogendra Duraiswamy a diplomat and our postings abroad and home, and fully later." This means that she has been working closely and remotely for these institutions for over 60 years first as a graduate teacher, then as an Associate member, and later as its Jt. Secretary, its Vice President and twenty five years ago she was elected as President of the Kalagam and Manager of the Vidyalayam. She is a person of few words and though I have known her for the past several years, I never realized that she had done so much for the Hindu Women's Society, its premier Institution Hindu Ladies College, the Hindu



## COMMUNITY WATCH



## Our Health

## Canada-Wide 2SLGBTQQIA+

An exclusive interview with **Anu Radha Verma**, a Research Manager at Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC) by Monsoon Journal was held during the month of June 2022 to understand more about this recent research. Please see below for the full script of the interview by **Emman Ahmed** of *Monsoon Journal*.

**Q) When does this survey open and close?**

**A-** The survey opened on April 30th, we don't have a close date yet as we are aiming for ten thousand participants and have also been receiving many responses. As of right now, we are thinking it will be open throughout the summer.

**Q) What is innovative about your research?**

**A-** We believe it is our biggest trilingual community health survey yet because it now serves the whole spectrum of the community and is also Canada wide. We are asking about the pandemic and the impact it had on the community, trying to better understand the current status with violence and discrimination, economic security, housing, care giving, sexual health, etc. What else is innovative is that we've got DBS (Dry Blood Spot) a collection piece where people can opt into doing at home blood tests that will tell them and us if they have covid anti bodies. This can tell us how many people in the community had covid at some point. They can also use this new at home testing technology for HIV, Hepatitis C and Syphilis. We believe it is unique to be able to bring testing to the homes as we know from COVID, seeing a doctor or trying to go to walk in clinics can be very challenging.

**Q) What type of data will you be collecting?**

**A-** We will be looking at the diversity of our communities, getting a better sense of how peoples experiences are distinct based on if they are Indigenous, if they are a permanent resident, or are here on a work permit, etc. We are doing this by having a robust demographic set of questions. Having questions such as where you live, what you do, who you connect with, and how the pandemic impacted you. My focus is chronic health, so what chronic health issues the communities are navigating through and living with, how they manage chronic health conditions and if they have health care providers.

**Q) What has been the influence of your research?**

**A-** There has been several influences; the first being CBRC's history in thinking about where health care systems and where research has failed our communities in which they haven't been represented in research or policy and program initiatives. A big piece of influence will always circle back to activism. Also, for us

having so little data in the past about chronic health and not having a full-blown picture on how much chronic disease/chronic health conditions are present in our communities. With already knowing how difficult it is to even access basic health care, our intent is to collect the data and see if there's a barrier for the community to access specialists and to receive referrals. If that is the case, we suspect that our community will need to become very creative to overcome this issue.

**Q) Do you believe this survey will be effective?**

**A-** Yes because at minimum we'll have data and information about our communities that we've never had before at base level. We don't want to collect data just for data's sake. We're a community-based organization, so we're always thinking about action-oriented research. We think that the data that's available and that's produced through this work, can be used for advocacy and be used to take to policy makers and get them to make change in our system – whether that's the provincial/territorial level or the government level. We also think it's just as important for people to feel seen in the data and for them to realize that they're not alone in whatever they are going through and that there are many others in the same boat as them.

**Q) Who do you want this survey to reach out to?**

**A-** We are interested in the whole spectrum of our communities, but for this particular survey, it is the first large survey that also includes queer and trans women, so we are very keen on hearing from them. We are also keen on hearing from BIPOC people as there's some distinct differences there as well. Looking at racism, homophobia and transphobia is going to be an important part in the research. The two other communities we're hoping to hear from are generally people living with chronic health conditions, but also people who are living in non-urban environments. This is because a ton of data we get for research projects end up coming from urban environments, since it is easier to do outreach there because that's where connections are. We would like to reach those who haven't really received the chance to be heard before.

**Q) Who is eligible to partake in this survey?**

**A-** Anyone who is a part of our LGBTQ+ community and are 15 years of age or older and currently live in Canada, are eligible to participate in the online survey. If people want to opt into the DBS component which is



an add on, they will need to be 18 years of age or older.

**Q) How are you enforcing participant confidentiality?**

**A-** This survey has been approved by the research ethics board at the University of Victoria alongside with any other research projects we have. All the data is on servers at the University of Victoria which are housed in Canada. We have a very specific process on who can access the raw data and there's also a certain period after the survey closes that we remove some of the identifying data. If anyone has questions or concerns about anything, they can always get in touch with us.

About Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC):

*Public Service Announcement*

Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC) is a non-profit charitable organization and is reaching out to every ethnic group in Canada (that is, all the public) to invite LGBTQ+ members of the community to participate in a nationwide survey about physical and mental health issues in the LGBTQ+ population. The purpose of this investigation is to improve programs, services, and policies for the LGBTQ+ community. Whether you are healthy or living with a chronic illness, your perspective is valuable. This confidential survey is open until the end of June. This survey is funded by Canada's COVID-19 Immunity Task Force and the Public Health Agency of Canada. To begin the survey and obtain more information, visit [cbrc.net](http://cbrc.net).

About Anu Radha Verma:

Anu Radha Verma (she/her) is a Research Manager at Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC). She has lived and worked in both Canada and India, in roles in the non-profit sector, the arts and more. Outside of CBRC, Anu Radha is a community-based consultant, an independent curator and an organizer with QTBIPOC sauga (a grassroots gathering of queer and trans BIPOC folks from across Peel in Ontario). She is a queer, diasporic, survivor, child of immigrants, and someone who lives with mental health struggles.



## SPECIAL FEATURE

# SPREAD OF HINDUISM AND HINDU TEMPLES IN MYANMAR (FORMER BURMA)

Compiled by : KIDAMBI RAJ

### INTRODUCTION

**M**yanmar (formerly known as Burma) is located in Southeast Asia and its neighbours are China to the north and north-east; Laos to the east; Thailand to the south-east and India and Bangladesh to the west and bordering the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and has its south and west coastlines along the Indian Ocean. Given that, Myanmar is isolated from these countries because of a horseshoe of high mountains.

The name Burma is rooted in Hinduism. Burma is the British colonial officer's phonetic equivalent for the first half of *Brahma Desha*, the ancient name of the region. *Brahma* is part of the name of Hindu Trinity, the God of Creation. The name Burma is the regional language transliteration of *Brahma*, where *b* and *m* are interchangeable.

*Arakan* (Rakhine) *Yoma* is a significant natural mountainous barrier between Burma and India, and the migration of Hinduism and Buddhism occurred slowly through *Manipur* (an ancient independent Kingdom at the India-Burma Border) and by *South Asian seaborne traders*. Hinduism greatly influenced the Royal Court of Burmese Kings in pre-colonial times, as seen in the architecture of cities such as, *Bagan*. Likewise, the Burmese language adopted many words from Sanskrit and Pali, many of which relate to religion.

Ancient and medieval arrival of ideas and cultural fusion transformed Burma over time. It was in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century that over a million Hindu workers were brought in by the British colonial government to serve in plantations and mines. The British also felt that surrounding the European residential centre with Indian immigrants provided a buffer and a degree of security from tribal theft and raids. According to 1931 census, 55% of Rangoon's (Yangon) population were Indian migrants, mostly Hindus.

After independence from Britain, Burma's Socialist Programme Party under Ne Win adopted xenophobic policies and expelled over 300,000 Indian ethnic people (many of whom were Hindus), along with 100,000 Chinese from Burma between 1963 and 1967.

Predominantly, Burmese Indians make up Myanmar's population of Hindus. The practice of Hinduism among Burmese Indians is also influenced by Buddhism. The Burmese Indians include *Myanmar Tamils, Bengalis, Odias*. The Burmese-Indian Hindu woman wearing *Bindi* is similar to the *Thanakha* (a yellowish paste) usually worn on the cheeks by ethnic Burmese.

There used to be over 1,000 Hindu temples in the present-day Myanmar. In some of the more famous temples, ethnic Burmese visitors outnumber Tamils. All Hindu temples have a statue of Buddha.

Many Tamils have deep roots in the country. They kept a low profile and slowly improved their fortunes by mending their relationship with the majority community and staying away from politics.

Aspects of Hinduism continue in Burma today, even in the majority Buddhist culture. For example, *Thagyamin* whose origins are in the Hindu God *Indra*. Burmese literature has also been enriched by Hinduism, including the Burmese adaptation of the *Ramayana*, called *Yama Zatdaw*. Many Hindu Gods are likewise worshipped by many Burmese people, such as *Saraswati*, the goddess of knowledge (known as *Thuyathadi* in Burmese, who is often wor-

shipped before examinations. *Lord Siva* is called *Paramizwa* and *Vishnu* is called *Withano* and so on. Many of these ideas are part of *thirty-seven Nass* or deities found in Burmese culture.

In modern Myanmar, most Hindus live in the urban centres of *Yangon* (Rangoon) and *Man-dalay*. Ancient Hindu temples are also present in other parts of Burma, such as the 11<sup>th</sup> century *NathlaungKyaung Temple* dedicated to *Lord Vishnu* in the old city of *Bagan*. *ISKCON* (Hare Krishna) has presence in Myanmar. The largest Hare Krishna community is in *Myitkyina* which has about 400 followers.

The city was called *Rangoon* by the British, probably stemming from the *Arakanese* pronunciation of Yangon, Rankon, but for the Burmese it has always been Yangon. The Govt. changed the name from Rangoon to Yangon in 1989.

### SOME OF THE WELL-KNOWN HINDU TEMPLES IN MYANMAR

#### 1. NathlaungKyaung Temple



This is a Hindu Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. This temple is located inside the city walls of old Bagan, and to the west of the *Thatbyinnyu Temple* and it is the only Hindu Temple in Bagan. This is the oldest temple and was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, during the reign of *King Anawratha*. Some historians believe the temple was built in 10<sup>th</sup> century, during the reign of *King Nyaung-u-Sawrahan* (also known as *Taungthugyi*). The temple was originally built for Hindu Burmese Indians of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, including merchants and Brahmins in the service of the king. Many structures of the original temple have disappeared, although the main hall remains. Originally the temple contained statues of the *10 Avatars of Vishnu* and *Gautama Buddha*. However, today, only seven remain. The brick temple was isolated and unrepaired for many years, damaged by earthquakes. This temple is set on a square template with steep-raising upper terraces. It may have been built by Indian artisans brought into Bagan (Pagan), during the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD, to work on it and other temples. As the oldest temple in Bagan, its style influenced and inspired the numerous other Buddhist structures that followed. The Burmese say that it was constructed by King Anawrahta to store all non-Buddhist religious images (both Burmese *nats* and Hindu *devas*) that he had collected in order to strengthen *Theravada Buddhism*. The King later gave it all to the cult of the *nat*, so goes the legend, and placed 37 chosen images at *Shwezigon Paya*. The name of the temple means "*Shrine Confining Nat*." Whenever it was built, the fact that it was not destroyed indicates the tolerance of Hinduism in Buddhist Bagan. The high Mandapa (porch that extends from the tem-

ple) was given by a *Malabar Vaishnavite Saint* in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 2. Sri Kali Amman Temple, Yangon (Rangoon)



Sri Kali Temple, a Hindu Temple is located in the undefined Little India in downtown Yangon. It was built by Indian migrants in 1871, while the Burma Province was part of British India. The temple is noted for its colourful architecture, especially its roof, which contains images and stone carvings of many Hindu Gods. The temple is maintained by the local Indian community. The structure of Sri Kali Temple is quite similar to other Hindu temples, although there may be a few more sub-works under the influence of each land, due to the financial capacity of each temple, sometimes due to political influence.

Sri Kali Temple structure is based on the principle of only a small cathedral, where the statue is placed. There is a walkway around this cathedral. This is the center of the temple. After pray-

# SPECIAL FEATURE



ing, it is necessary to go around the presbytery, so the path around the statue is the essence of the temple structure.

Shri Kali Temple was designed with symmetrically shaped figures, around a central axis, such as squares and circles. The designs make this Temple to be in a symmetric iterative structure rooted in central beliefs, myths, harmony and mathematical principles.

Four main directions help create the axis of Shri Kali Temple, forming a perfect square in available space.

Above the temple is a superstructure with a dome, which is designed as a pyramid. Many studies suggested that this shape was inspired by the mountain of the universe where the gods reign. The walls of Shri Kali Temple are intricately decorated with carvings, paintings or images to inspire believers. The pillars, walls and ceilings are often elaborately carved. The exterior of the temple is decorated completely. The form of the roof (outer wall) of the temple is often folded to accommodate more sculptures, meanwhile, the temple roof is gradually smaller, creating a strong sense of notation to emphasize the universe.

### 3. Sri Varatharaja Perumal Temple



Varatharaja Perumal Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and is a lavishly decorated temple that dates from 1928 and was built by the Indian businessman **Dr. S. Ramantha Reddiar**. It has the classic South Indian Gopuram style of entrance tower covered with Hindu deities. The temple's main festival is a 10-day event in May-June and includes a flower procession.

### 4. Sri Ganesha Temple

Everyone calls it the Ganesha Temple, although the Tamil signboard clearly states the original name, **Siddhi Vinayaka** Temple. Siddhi Vinayaka is another name for the Elephant headed God Ganesha, and a liberal translation would be "**The God who helps you achieve your goals**". The architecture is typical Dravidian.

Its foundation dates to the 1850s when immigration from India was encouraged by the then new colonial government. A new stone inscription in the compound records that the land for the temple was given to **Cumara Pillai**, a south Indian, who constructed the temple in 1856. Such "**free grants**" were handed over to, many foreign religious communities after Yangon's

grid plan were implemented in 1853. The rituals resemble those in India, except that, devotees offer characteristic Burmese combination of bananas, green coconuts and flowers, arranged in large metal bowls. The priest recites prayers in Sanskrit before the images in three connected sanctums 'at the rear of the temple, waving a tray holding a small oil lamp (Aarthi), as worshippers stand just outside the doorway thresholds. This part of service culminates when the priest cracks open a hard-shell coconut and offers the meat to Gods and devotees, a '**ritual-food**', known in India as '**prasadam**'.

Indians came to Mandalay before Yangon, so one can guess this to be one of the older Indian temples in Myanmar. Inside this temple there are small shrines for other Hindu deities and the bronze icon of the **Monkey God Hanuman** which is really beautiful. There is a huge list of original benefactors near the entrance. It looks like a list of early Indian migrants to Burma. This is historically significant because there are Tamil names, North Indian, East Indian and Burmese names too. The list also shows Tamil names with Burmese aliases, which is interesting evidence of progressive integration between the two cultures. The priest speaks Tamil and the chants are recited both in Tamil and Sanskrit. For the Indians there is definitely a religious interest here and the links to Indian migration history more interesting.

The Sanctum has three chambers and contain the principal images. The central shrine is devoted to the '**linga**', symbolizing the God Shiva, which is flanked by His two sons, Ganesha



on the left and Subramanya or Muruga on the right. That this same configuration of deities is popular in Tamil Nadu is further testimony to the strong Tamil influence in Burma. Its namesake, **Mahapeinne**, is the Burmese word for Ganesha, derived from Maha Vinayaka, one of the God's many Sanskrit epithets. Ganesha was an important deity for Hindus in Lower Burma, and there were even Ganesha street processions in nearby Syriam in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Just inside the main entrance is a colossal image of Ganesha and a seated Shiva. Another downtown temple popular with Buddhists is the Shri Kali temple, west of the Sule, built in South Indian fashion, complete with sculpted granite doorjambs imported from India probably in 1920s.

Sacred sites south of Moulmein include a Hindu a Hindu temple just off the main road to Mudon. It is dedicated to Dandayudhapani, or the '**One Who Holds a Club**', a deity popular in South India and the son of Shiva and Parvathi.

The temple enjoys regional popularity among Hindus and Buddhists.

### 5. Peelikhan Sri Muneeswarar Temple – Yangon's Fertility Temple

The Peelikhan Sri Muneeswarar Temple or Yagon's Fertility Temple as it is also called is a Hindu Temple that was built in 1861. This gorgeous temple is located in **Kyauktan Township** on a remote road, some 6 km. away from the town itself. This temple is said to have been built at the site of a small **Banyan tree**.

Sri Muneeswarar is a Hindu God, whose name translates as **Saint**, who is typically represented as an imposing figure with a mustache who carries a spear. He is considered the protector or deity of families.

Ever since this temple opened, lots of local young women who follow Buddhism, who are unable to conceive and after trying all medical check-ups, fertility tests etc. and following Buddhist rituals and still not being able to get child, and having witnessed lots of their young Hindu women follow the Hindu version of prayers at this temple.

One of the Myanmar news paper reporters had written about a Burmese young lady, Ma May Thinzar, a trader who was frustrated in not being able to conceive and having tried everything visited this temple based on suggestion of her friend, though it was not close to where she lived. According to that report, she came to this temple and prayed saying, "**I really want to have a baby**". Over the past several years she had seen her friends becoming pregnant and hoped that it would happen to her soon enough.

After the prayers, the Brahmin (Priest) at the temple blesses the Holy Water and sprinkles over her and other devotees. Ma May Thinzar was very keen for the blessings, smiling when the ceremony was over.

In a final address to this young lady, the Brahmin orders her to come back with the child to have her child's head shaved at the temple. The Brahmin did not say, if you get a baby, since he was very confident that Sri Muneeswarar would bless her with a child.





## COMMUNITY WATCH

# CTCC showcases Canadian Tamil Entrepreneurship at the Annual Gala 2022

*“The Award recipients have built their businesses or have contributed greatly to the Canadian business sector and have been recognized as the pillars of the Tamil business community”, says CTCC President Vina Devadas*

By Siva Sivapragasam

The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce which represents the Canadian Tamil Business community showcased the entrepreneurship achievements among the Tamil community in a recently held Awards Gala night on 9th July at the Hilton Suites, Markham.

The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1991 to foster and develop entrepreneurship among the Tamil community. The CTCC has since then holding an annual Entrepreneurship Awards Gala every year to showcase the achievements of the Tamil business community.

The CTCC President Vina Devadas congratulated the Award recipients and stated, “The Award recipients have built their businesses or have contributed greatly to the Canadian business sector and have been recognized as the pillars of the Tamil business community”,

The following were the Awards recipients at the 2022 event:

### Best Entrepreneur Rameshwaran Ponnuththuri



Rameshwaran Ponnuththuri is the CEO OF Micropeer Corporation which is an experienced Technology Solutions company situated in Richmond Hill. Founded in 2002, the Company offers its customers solutions in all areas such as technology infrastructure related sales and services, enterprise retail systems related sales and service, hardware, and software support etc.

### Best Woman Entrepreneur Thurka Navaneethan



Thurka Navaneethan is a Nematologist who works with insect pest control with organic farming. She co-founded Tetra Biologicals in Canada. Tetra is constantly researching to introduce organic fertilizer and other biocontrol products which are safe to human and environment.

### Best Marketing Award

Mithunan Kunaseharan and Pratheepan Skandavarotheyar



Mithusan Kunaseharan is the CEO and Founder of Dagamma Ecommerce Solutions Inc and Pratheepan Skandavarotheyar is the COO of the Company. The Company has been specializing in developing and marketing products for expecting mothers. The Company developed an at-home fetal Doppler that would provide a peace of mind during pregnancy.



### Best Young Entrepreneur Award Dr. Ranjith Mahendranathan



Dr. Ranjith Mahendranathan is the Clinic Owner and Director Durham Spine Care and Rehabilitation Centre, Westney Spine Care and Wellness Centre

His interests are in spinal rehabilitation, sports injuries, and chronic pain management. At the time, he was one of the very few Tamil Speaking Chiropractors in all of Canada. His interests are in spinal rehabilitation, sports injuries, and chronic pain management.

### Lifetime Community Service Award Late Dr. Tham Vasanthakumar



Late Dr. Tham Vasanthakumar was an Engineer by profession and often represented himself as a leader, valuable guide, mentor, and idealist. Dr. Vasanthan, as he was more known, formed Computek College, an academic institution which achieved great success and enabled successful careers for many new immigrants in the community.

Dr. Vasanthakumar was a versatile and vibrant person full of life. He made his mark as a worthy champion of the Tamil Community in Canada. He made his mark as a worthy champion of the Tamil Community in Canada.

COMMUNITY WATCH



# Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Community



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

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

our seniors. 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. Subramaniam Kathirithamby & Mr. Maylvahanam (Sri Lanka) for coordinating this project.**

### Durham Career Networking Fair 2022

Durham Tamil Association is proud to have hosted the Durham Career Networking Fair. This event was catered for University student, new graduate, or professional looking for career advancements or career change. It was resounding success with many variety of employers from many fields attending. This was well received by the participants and the presenters.



### Hope For Homeland GALA NIGHT

Durham Tamil Association hosted a fundraiser Gala Night to support community projects and entrepreneurial needs of families in Northern and Eastern province of Sri-Lanka. DTA was proud to host this event for great cause. Had a great turnout with many sponsors who were eager and willing to donate to this great cause.

### 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](http://www.DurhamTamils.Org) Tel 905.428.7007

**Unity Is Strength**

## DURHAM TAMIL ASSOCIATION

### DTA TOURS & TRAVELS

## 10-DAY TRIP

### 10-Day Atlantic Canada Maritimes Tour

Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island & Newfoundland

\$1100

### East Coast Bus Trip

per person

Inclusions

10 Days and 9 Nights  
Fun filled Itinerary

- Tour Bus and Accommodations (4 People Occupancy)
- Breakfast & Snacks
- Ferry Charges
- Onboard Entertainment

**Tour Dates**  
July 9-18, 2022

**Bus Leaves:** 6:00 AM Sat July 9th  
**Bus Returns:** 8:00 PM July 18th

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ITINERARY  
REGISTER ONLINE: [DURHAMTAMILS.ORG](http://DURHAMTAMILS.ORG)  
Need additional info call : 905-428-7007

Made with Canva.com



## COMMUNITY WATCH

# Quotable Quotes - 2022

By: Siva Sivapragasam

“They said it”



“

“I know that many happy memories will be created at these festive occasions. I continue to be inspired by the goodwill shown to me, and hope that the coming days will provide an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved during the last 70 years, as we look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm”

– Queen Elizabeth II on her Jubilee Celebrations

”



“

“As a nation we have to ask, when in God’s name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? When in God’s name are we going to do what has to be done? Why are we living with this carnage? It’s time to act.”

– U.S President Joe Biden on the Texas school children shooting

”



“

“A lack of supply, as chip shortages hamper production, continues to weigh on vehicle sales. Unfortunately, a good chunk of that underlying strength was due to broadly higher prices”

– Benjamin Reitzes, Managing Director, Canadian Rates & Macro Strategist at BMO Capital Markets on high prices of vehicles

”



“

“Toronto is a cosmopolitan city, and a financial and a tech hub. It’s a city that will always be attractive to people globally. We need to focus on more housing supply and ensuring policy-makers focus on making housing a priority”

– Marc Desormeaux, Senior Economist, Scotia Bank

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“

“Right across the country, the pandemic boom..... is winding. The biggest change will be how quickly your home will sell – Don’t expect to sell it in a week-end”

– Phil Soper, President & CEO Royal LePage, on Home Sales

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## Launch of Exciting Initiative to Promote Golf amongst Tamils

Tamil Golf Network (TGN) is an exciting new initiative which hopes to ignite a passion for the game of golf within the Tamil community in Canada and globally. TGN hopes to provide opportunities for socialising and networking. Its inaugural launch event will be held on July 27th at Wyndance Golf Club, located in Uxbridge (near Stouffville), Ontario. Through upcoming golf games, competitions, and friendly tournaments, TGN aims to grow and unite a community of Tamil golfers from all backgrounds and all abilities.

Golf is enjoyable yet challenging to master. It saw a big revival as a sport amongst visible minorities after the emergence of Tiger Woods as the world’s top golfer 25 years ago. Golfers enjoy both the game and the networking opportunities it creates. There are many other successful ethnic golfing associations which are thriving and giving back tremendous support to their communities. The goals for TGN are:

- Promote the game of golf to the Tamil community and open it up to new enthusiasts
- Diversify golf, making it more inclusive and accessible to men and women
- Nurture young and upcoming talent
- Create business and networking opportunities



- Ensure that the game is fun and available for all the family to enjoy
- There has been overwhelming demand for TGN’s inaugural Championship Tournament event on July 27th, reaching the 72 maximum golf participants within a month after the launch announcement. The Championship Tournament will be followed by a dinner for over 140 guests. TGN has been successful in getting the support of the business community for its inaugural event, securing sponsorships from many Tamil-owned businesses such as EnMobi, CableShoppe, Affinity Mortgages, and mainstream enterprises such as TD Bank and CI Funds.
- TGN has assembled a strong team of 7 committee members, led by Yoganathan Ratheesan as Global Chair, and Stan Muthulingam as Chair for Canada. It hopes to expand the TGN Championships in future years to make it an annual event where greater number of players can compete and enjoy golf. TGA also plans to organise additional competitive events for golfers of all abilities throughout the year. For more information about TGN, please visit [www.tamilgolfersnetwork.com](http://www.tamilgolfersnetwork.com).

மெதுவாகச் செல்லவும்

புதிய குறைவான வேக வரம்புகள் நமது சாலைகளை பாதுகாப்பாக வைக்கின்றன

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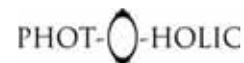
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