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Pierre Poilievre becomes Leader of the Conservative Party

Pierre Poilievre who has served as the leader of the Opposition in Parliament has been elected recently as the Leader of the Canadian Conservative Party with a 68 percent of the total vote.

Pierre Poilievre's leadership has put the right-wing and populist politician in a strong position to lead a united party into the next general election.

He nearly swept every riding in the country. Of the 338 electoral districts in Canada, Poilievre lost only eight to his main opponent, former Quebec premier Jean Charest. Poilievre's campaign platform was primarily a promise to make Canada the "freest country on earth".

The new Conservative Party leader made his priorities clear at the victory speech- "Your pay cheque. Your retirement. Your home. And your country. By tackling Liberal inflation, we'll put

you back in control of your money and your life."

However, it may take time before the new Tory leader gets the chance to take on Trudeau in a general election because of the agreement the prime minister signed with NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh earlier this year could ensure the Liberals remain in power until the planned 2025 campaign. Recent federal polling suggests the Liberals and the Conservatives are still running neck-and-neck.

At the end of his victory speech the Conservative leader stated "Tonight, begins the journey".



3,500-YEAR-OLD FIRE TEMPLE IN AZERBAIJAN



Compiled by Kidambi Raj

Azerbaijan was part of the Silk Route that connected Asia and Europe, and it is believed that merchants from the Indian subcontinent came to hear of the legend of the "burning earth" and "eternal flames" that the Absheron peninsula in Azerbaijan was renowned for (Azerbaijan, in fact, is often referred to as "The Land of Fire"). And so, Indian travellers and pilgrims arrived in the late 16th and early 17th century, building Ateshgah in its current form, and worshipping the scared flames alongside their own Gods such as Ganesha and Shiva. Ateshgah, it turns out, is a fascinating little relict of history, of globalisation and the inter-cultural exchange between the Indian sub-continent and Europe, dating back to the 16th century.

Full Coverage in Pages 42 & 43 ...

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Premier Doug Ford Marks the Passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



September 08, 2022

Office of the Premier

Today, Premier Doug Ford issued the following statement to commemorate the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

"On this sad day, I join everyone across our province, country and the world in commemorating the remarkable life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of Canada. Throughout her historic reign, she taught us the true meaning of selfless service and was respected and admired for her sense of duty and commitment to charity.

After assuming the throne in 1952, Her Majesty led the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth through decades of changes, reigning as the longest-serving Monarch in the history of her nation. Even with her many responsibilities, the Queen always held a special place in her heart for Canada,

having made twenty-two official visits to our shores throughout her life.

While I express my sincere condolences to King Charles III, I also congratulate His Majesty on his ascension to the throne of the United Kingdom and wish him great success in continuing his mother's legacy. On behalf of all Ontarians, I am sending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Royal Family, the people of the United Kingdom and to Her Majesty's many admirers all over the world.

Long live the King!"

Via news.ontario.ca



Statement by the Prime Minister on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

September 05, 2022

Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

TORONTO — Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, issued the following statement to mark Labour Day:

"Today, and every day, we pay tribute to the hardworking men and women who keep Ontario moving.

Workers are — and always have been — the backbone of our province. You are heroes, building the roofs over our heads, putting food on our tables, and caring for the most vulnerable in our communities.

And after two and a half years of the pandemic, now more than ever, we owe you a debt of gratitude.

To build a stronger Ontario that works for everyone, our government is leading the way with historic changes that rebalance the scales and put more workers in the driver's seat of their careers, and their lives.

We are bringing healthcare and dental benefits to millions of part-time and precarious workers, cracking down on the exploitation of domestic and temporary foreign workers, introducing foundational rights for those in the gig economy, and reforming the occupational illness system.

We are also improving our employment services to give a hand up to those on social assistance, young people, and newcomers, and investing more than \$1 billion to get more men and women into rewarding careers in the skilled trades.



But across our province, nearly 400,000 jobs continue to go unfilled. This generational labour shortage is holding back our economy and raising costs for families.

Each unfilled job is a paycheque waiting to be collected and a path to a better life. This is why, under the leadership of Premier Doug Ford, our government is continuing to invest in innovative training programs that give workers the skills needed for new in-demand careers.

Because meaningful work provides a sense of purpose. It builds stronger families and better communities.

In the coming months, our government has an ambitious Plan to Build. We will be taking further action to ensure Ontario is a province where hard work pays off and big dreams come true.

As I have always said, the only way we can spread opportunity and better jobs to every corner of our province is by working together — with labour, government, and business.

So, as we thank all our workers today, we also renew our mission to make Ontario the best place to live, work and raise a family."

Via news.ontario.ca

Prime Minister to hold Cabinet retreat in Vancouver to focus on making life more affordable for people

August 31, 2022

Ottawa, Ontario

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that he will hold a Cabinet retreat in Vancouver from September 6 to 8, 2022.

The Cabinet will drive progress on our continued efforts to make life more affordable for Canadians, and keep delivering economic growth that benefits everyone.

During the retreat, Cabinet will discuss what they heard when talking to Canadians over the summer. While Canadians have recovered all of the jobs lost since the beginning of the pandemic and our economy is growing, families are feeling the impacts of global inflation, particularly through rising food and gasoline costs. The Prime Minister and ministers will keep working to further strengthen

the economy to meet the needs of Canadians, making life more affordable for families, and building a green, healthy future for everyone. Ministers will also work to advance other priorities for Canadians, including making housing more affordable, improving the delivery of government services, taking climate action and transitioning to a clean economy, strengthening democracy here in Canada and around

the world, and creating safer communities. The Government of Canada will continue to work with the provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous Peoples, international partners, businesses, and other stakeholders on the issues that matter most to Canadians. As Parliament resumes next month, together, we will continue to build a better Canada for everyone.

Via pm.gc.ca

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Canada Historic Milestones

Trans-Canada Highway
It took 12 years, but they finally got there!
On September 3, 1962, the opening ceremony for the Trans-Canada Highway (7,821 km) took place in B.C., with representatives from 10 provinces. - via Library and Archives Canada

Peace is not unity in similarity but unity in diversity,
in the comparison and conciliation of differences

- **Mikhail S. Gorbachev** - (2 March 1931 - 30 August 2022) - Last leader of the Soviet Union

International Equal Pay Day 2022: Learning how pay transparency could reduce the gender wage gap

By **Harrish Thirukumar**

In 2022, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported that for full-time employees, there is a 16.1% difference between annual median earnings of women and men relative to the annual median earnings of men. Compared with other countries, Canada has the eighth worst gender pay gap. Although progress has been made in Canada with new laws such as the Pay Equity Act, more needs to be done to close this gap here at home and elsewhere globally. It is the foundation for International Equal Pay Day that was created by the United Nations (UN). Commemorated on 18 September, it shines a light on the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. Accordingly, it further expands upon the United Nations' commitment towards human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.

Across all regions, women are paid less than men, with the gender pay gap estimated at around 20 per cent globally. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls continue to be held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women's and girls' capabilities. Progress on narrowing that gap has been slow. While equal pay for men and women has been widely endorsed, applying it in practice has been difficult. To ensure that no one is left behind, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Furthermore, the SDGs promote decent work and economic growth by seeking full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, includ-

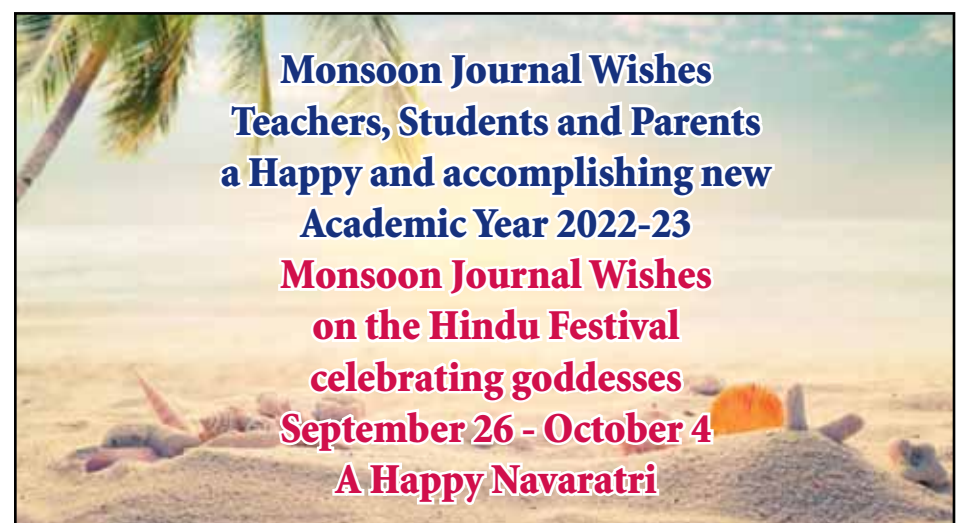
ing for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. Mainstreaming of a gender perspective is crucial in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Achieving equal pay is an important milestone for human rights and gender equality. It takes the effort of the entire world community. As hinted at earlier, there is still more that could be achieved. The United Nations, including UN Women and the International Labour Organization (ILO) invites Members states and civil society, women's and community-based organizations and feminist groups, as well as businesses and workers' and employers' organizations, to promote equal pay for work of equal value and the economic empowerment of women and girls. Even the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the gender pay gap in the healthcare sector. Women earn on average of 24 per cent less than peers who are men, according to a new joint report by the ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This year, the UN will be observing this year with a webinar organized by the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) on Friday, 16 September 2022 from 9:30 - 10:45 EDT. This can be located at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/equal-pay-day>. It is titled Addressing the gender pay gap through transparency and information sharing. The EPIC is led by the ILO, UN Women, and partners. The Coalition's goal is to achieve equal pay for women and men everywhere.

Other ways to support this global cause in your communities in Ontario and Canada could include assisting non-profits and other organizations that are part of these efforts. These include the Canadian Women's Foundation and the Equal Pay Coalition.

So this year and onwards should be about learning how pay information can be a key solution in reducing the gender pay gap.



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

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CANADA NEWS



Province Thanks Workers on Labour Day

September 8, 2022
Ottawa, Ontario

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

“It is with the heaviest of hearts that we learned of the passing of Canada’s longest-reigning Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

“For most Canadians, we have known no other Sovereign. Queen Elizabeth II was a constant presence in our lives. Time and again, Her Majesty marked Canada’s modern history. Over the course of 70 years and twenty-three Royal Tours, Queen Elizabeth II saw this country from coast to coast to coast and was there for our major, historical milestones.

“She would proclaim ‘it was good to be home’ when returning to her beloved Canada. She was indeed at home here, and Canadians never ceased to return her affection.

“Her Majesty vowed to devote her life to the service of the Common-

wealth and its people. On behalf of all Canadians, I thank Queen Elizabeth II for honouring this vow and for a lifetime of service.

“Her Majesty’s reign spanned so many decades – a period when we came into our own as a confident, diverse, and forward-looking country. It is her wisdom, compassion, and warmth that we will always remember and cherish.

“Today, a page has not only been turned, but a chapter in our shared history has drawn to a close. I know Her Majesty’s service to Canada and Canadians will forever remain an important part of our country’s history. The coming days will be a period of mourning for Canadians, as it will be for all Commonwealth citizens, ending with a national day of mourning when a commemorative service will be held to mark the passing of our Sovereign.

“On behalf of the Government of Canada, I express our heartfelt condolences to members of the Royal Family during this most difficult time.”

Via pm.gc.ca

Tackling immigration backlogs to help Canadian businesses grow

From: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
News release

August 24, 2022—Vancouver—Canada is a destination of choice for people looking for a new place to work, study and build their lives with their families, and immigration is key to helping employers fill hundreds of thousands of vacant positions across the country and grow our economy.

The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, today highlighted ongoing work to strengthen Canada’s immigration system and reduce application backlogs, with a focus on addressing labour shortages, improving client experience, and reuniting families. As part of this plan, the Minister announced that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will have hired up to 1,250 new employees by the end of the fall to increase our processing capacity and tackle the backlogs in the short term, while we take action to make our system more sustainable in the long term.

These new hires, as well as support



provided through the \$85 million from the Economic and Fiscal Update 2021, have allowed us to reduce wait times and return to pre-pandemic service standards for new clients in critical areas, including the six-month service standard for the Express Entry permanent residence pathway, the 12-month service standard for family reunification through spousal sponsorship, and permanent resident cards.

With unprecedented interest in Canada from applicants all over the world, IRCC continues to set the bar higher for immigration processing. In 2021, we set a historic record by admitting more than 405,000 new permanent residents to Canada. Our target for 2022 is to welcome 431,000 permanent residents, and we are well on our way

Live statement from the Governor General on the passing of Her Majesty The Queen

September 8, 2022

Check against delivery

Hello, bonjour, [Inuktitut greeting].

Today, we mourn the loss of our Queen of Canada, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In countless languages around the world, people are sharing solemn words of remembrance. Today, in Inuktitut, I add to these tributes.

[In Inuktitut] On behalf of all Canadians, I extend my condolences to Her Majesty’s family. We honour her memory.

On behalf of all Canadians, my husband, Whit, and I offer our condolences to the Royal Family on the loss, not just of a queen, but of a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Her Majesty cared about people, about our well-being. This was clear every time we spoke. She cared about Canada, and all the unique stories that make up our beautiful country.

She learned our stories as she visited every corner of Canada during her many Royal Tours. She called Canada her “second home.”

Her Majesty celebrated our achievements, reassured us in difficult times and inspired us with her steadfast

dedication to service.

Until her final days, she remained engaged and committed to her country, to the Commonwealth and to her family. With her passing, we mourn the end of an era.

I’m proud to have represented Her Majesty as governor general. Following my appointment, Her Majesty said to me: “be gentle with yourself.” I’ve come to understand her words to mean that while we should work hard on the issues that matter, we should also take time to pause. To be patient. To lead with understanding and respect.

I can see the wisdom in these words.

To the entire Royal Family and to a Commonwealth in mourning, our thoughts are with you.

The memories of The Queen will always have a place here, in Canada. Her second home. Thank you.

Merci. Miigwetch. Nakurmiik.

Via gg.ca



to achieving it, with approximately 275,000 admissions from January 1 to July 31—a number reached faster than in any previous year.

IRCC was able to issue more than 199,000 work permits in 2021. This year, we issued over 349,000 new work permits from January 1 to July 31, compared to approximately 112,000 issued during the same period in 2021. These include over 220,000 open work permits, which allow permit holders to work anywhere in Canada in almost any occupation. These work permits mean up to 1,700 new people every day are able to come work in Canada and help grow our economy. Canada is also a top destination for international students. In 2021, IRCC finalized almost 560,000 study permit applications, surpassing our previous record from 2019 by 31%. IRCC is already outpacing that number in 2022, with almost 360,000 study permits finalized between January 1 and July 31, 2022, compared to about 306,000 finalized in the same period in 2021.

However, responding to humanitarian crises and updating aging

technology to meet demands have led to processing delays and longer wait times. Our focus is on reducing existing backlogs, which are the applications that have been in our inventories longer than our service standards. At the end of July, about 54% of applications in our inventories were considered in backlog. We are aiming to process 80% of all new applications within these standards, accounting for expected delays in complex cases.

Continuing to improve Canada’s immigration system will increase our ability to attract top talent from around the world, and help solve key labour shortages in sectors like tourism, health care, agriculture, transportation, and the skilled trades. To keep Canadians up to date on our progress toward reducing the backlogs, IRCC will publish monthly data on our website. We will share more information in the coming weeks and months on additional measures that will help get workers into the economy, reunite families, and ensure that our immigration system works for everyone.

Via canada.ca

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Check the Voters' List to save time on Voting Day

Wednesday, Sep 07 2022

BRAMPTON, ON (Sep 7, 2022)

The City of Brampton is asking all eligible voters to make sure they are on the Voters' List. Eligible voters must be on the Voters' List in order to vote in the 2022 Brampton Municipal and School Board Election.

The process is simple. Visit the City's website, click on "Am I on the Voters' List?" and enter your name, date of birth and address to check if you are on the list. You can verify or update your information online, or register to be added if your name is not on the list. Online registration will be available until 5 pm on October 15.

Eligible voters can also visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall to check if they are on the Voters' List and complete an Application to Amend the Voters' List form, if required. Voters can also complete the form at any

Advance Voting location, or on Voting Day.

You are eligible to vote if you are a Canadian Citizen, at least 18 years of age on Voting Day, and reside in Brampton (or you or your spouse are the owner or tenant of property in Brampton).

Links

- Check if you are on the Voters' List
- Voter eligibility
- Brampton Votes 2022

Via brampton.ca



City of Brampton receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Monday, Aug 29 2022

BRAMPTON, ON (August 29, 2022)

The City of Brampton has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the seventh consecutive year.

This award represents a significant achievement for the City of Brampton, reflecting commitment to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting. To receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the City of Brampton had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for an effective budget presentation including:

- A policy document;
- A financial plan;
- An operations guide; and
- A communications device.

Budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories and in 14 mandatory criteria to receive the award. The 2022 Budget includes a one per cent levy to support health care expansion, maintains programs and services, makes record contributions to infrastructure, and supports business growth.

There are more than 1,700 partici-



pants in the GFOA's Budget Awards Program. The GFOA advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 21,000 members.

Quotes

"Winning the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for our 2022 Budget is an impressive accomplishment that reflects our efforts to meet the highest principles of government budgeting. That the City has received this award for seven consecutive years recognizes our dedicated commitment to financial transparency and good governance for Brampton residents and businesses."

- Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton, Chair of Budget Committee
Via brampton.ca

Celebrate Tree Month in Brampton this September!



Thursday, Sep 01 2022

BRAMPTON, ON (September 1, 2022) – Join the City of Brampton this September for Tree Month to celebrate Brampton's trees! The City and its partners will host events and initiatives, including an exciting tree giveaway, as part of this important month.

Residential Tree Giveaway

The City will be giving away 500 trees (150 per location) to Brampton residents:

- Gore Meadows Recreation Centre, Saturday, September 24, 9 to 11 am
- Bramalea Ltd Community Park, Saturday, September 24, 1 to 3 pm
- Susan Fennel Sports Plex, Sunday, September 25, 9 to 11 am
- Creditview Sandalwood Park, Sunday, September 25, 1 to 3 pm

Residents can select from Red Maple, Red Oak, Ironwood, Blue Beech or White Spruce trees or Nannyberry or Serviceberry shrubs.

Connect with the City on social media

Snap photos of your favourite tree or trees in Brampton and share them on social media using #BramptonTrees for a chance to be featured on our channels @CityBrampton and website at www.brampton.ca/trees/

Participate in the Tree Month colouring contest

Sharpen your pencil crayons and download a tree-themed colouring sheet for a chance to win a prize! The contest runs until October 1, and includes a children category and adult category.

Tree-sources

Learn all about trees and participate in Tree Month by using these handy tree resources:

- Brampton Trees
- Tree Care Tips from the City of Brampton
- Interactive Tree Tracking Tool
- One Million Trees Program
- Tree Canada

Brampton tree facts

• Brampton currently has approximately 3.6 million trees, which accounts for 18 per cent of total land cover.

• Over the last five years, the City and its partners – including conservation authorities, the Region of Peel, school boards and the development industry – have planted, on average, 43,000 trees each year in Brampton.

• Over a quarter million trees have been planted in Brampton since 2014.

One Million Trees Program

In February 2020, Brampton Council approved the Brampton One Million Trees Program - a framework for the City and its partners to increase tree planting initiatives and realize the target of one million trees by 2040.

Everyone has an important role to play in helping Brampton achieve its one million new tree goal, whether it's the City planting on its own properties, or residents, businesses or City partners participating in tree planting events, spreading the word about the importance of planting trees and the Brampton One Million Tree program, and/or donating resources to support tree planting across the city.

Via brampton.ca

City of Mississauga Pays Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Local government

September 8, 2022

Today, the City of Mississauga will be dimming the Civic Centre clock tower, lowering its flags to half-mast and will have a Book of Condolences available to honour the life, reign and work of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada.

Mississauga residents and visitors are invited to pay their respects to Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by sharing messages in the Book of Condolences, which will be delivered to the Royal Family on behalf of the City.

The Book of Condolences will be located in the Great Hall at the Mississauga Civic Centre.

Details

What: A Book of Condolences in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada

When: Friday, September 9 starting at noon until 9 p.m.

After Friday, the book will be available daily from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Where:

Mississauga Civic Centre
Great Hall – Ground Floor
300 City Centre Dr.
Mississauga, ON
Via mississauga.ca





City of Brampton commemorates life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Thursday, Sep 08 2022
 BRAMPTON, ON (September 8, 2022) – The City of Brampton joins the country and the entire Commonwealth in mourning the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Canada’s Head of State.



The City of Brampton has lowered flags at all its facilities in memory of Queen Elizabeth and in honour of her dedicated service.

A book of condolences is available in the City Hall Atrium during weekday business hours from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm for those who wish to pay their respects. Click here to leave messages in an online condolences book.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was the United Kingdom’s longest-serving monarch and Canada’s head of state. She died on September 8, 2022 at the age of 96, after reigning for 70 years.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born in London on April 21, 1926, and was the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York.

In November 1947, she married Philip Mountbatten, a former prince of Greece and Denmark, and their marriage lasted 73 years until his death in April 2021. They had four children together: Charles, King of the United Kingdom; Anne, Princess Royal; Prince Andrew, Duke of York; and Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.

When her father died in February 1952, Elizabeth—then 25 years old—became queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon (known today as Sri Lanka), as well as Head of the Commonwealth.

Queen Elizabeth had a special relationship with Canada and the Region of Peel. She toured Canada as both Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, and as Queen on numer-

ous occasions. During her 1973 Royal tour, she visited Brampton for the 100th anniversary of the town. During the visit, the Queen and Prince Philip were taken to Gage Park where they were guests of honour during official centennial celebrations.

Peel Region has a number of places named in honour of the Queen, including in the City of Brampton’s historic venue Alderlea, named “The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Pavilion”.

Quote

“On behalf of the City of Brampton, I extended deepest and sincere condolences to the Royal Family, Great Britain, Canada and the entire Commonwealth on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As the UK’s longest-serving monarch and Canada’s longest-reigning sovereign, Queen Elizabeth dedicated her life to unwavering public service. She will forever be remembered as an important part of Canada’s history and that of Brampton’s, visiting our community in 1973 for the 100th anniversary of the town. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family, the people of Great Britain and the entire Commonwealth at this most sad time.”

- **Patrick Brown**, Mayor,
 City of Brampton
Via brampton.ca

Back to School!

City services | September 6, 2022

It’s almost impossible for most parents to say the phrase ‘back-to-school’ without also singing those three beautiful words whimsically in their heads while grinning like a cat with a secret.

Regardless of how you feel about back-to-school, the Sunday of summer better known as September has arrived and every parent out there is tripping over their children to welcome this long-lost friend back into their lives.

To ensure the 2022/2023 school year is a total success, preparation is needed. For instance:

Bedtime routine: the first week can be used to get back into that early-to-rise, early-to-bed routine that, although may not be a favourite among the young, can certainly be mastered. A few days in the classroom will help parents work this specific magic.

School walking routes: the City is focused on keeping kids safe on their

way to and from school. When school starts, more than 200 school crossing guards will assist students through the City’s School Walking Routes plan to make this a safe and successful year.

Remind kids to stay alert: when sending kids out the door, don’t forget to check their ears. Not for the telltale marks that let you know they have forgotten to wash this particular area, but to ensure they aren’t wearing ear buds or headphones if their route to school crosses any railroad tracks. Because newer trains tend to be quiet, they may not be heard coming so it’s best to stay alert and off all phones and devices while in these areas.

Drivers, this one’s for you: be and stay alert. Obey the posted speed limits and follow the rules at drop-off and pick-up locations.

More road safety and back-to-school tips.

Via mississauga.ca

You’re Invited: Join a Sharing Lanes Block Party this Fall



Block Party!

September 10 & 24
 11 am to 4 pm



City building | September 6, 2022

The City of Mississauga is celebrating the end of summer with two open street block parties and everyone is invited! It’s all part of Sharing Lanes, our tactical urbanism project that has temporarily transformed parts of the City’s Downtown and Cooksville neighbourhoods into people-friendly gathering places this summer. The main goal of Sharing Lanes is to put people first by making our streets inviting and accessible for all.

During each Block Party, we’ll be taking over Jaguar Valley Drive in Cooksville to make way for family-friendly street programming. Get ready for local restaurants and food trucks serving up tasty treats, outdoor games and an opportunity to connect with friends and neighbours.

We’re also excited to announce that the City’s popular Summer Concert Series is being extended to bring some of Mississauga’s best local artists to the Block Party stage.

What:

The City of Mississauga is hosting two Sharing Lanes block parties in Cooksville featuring food, music and fun for everyone.

Where:

Jaguar Valley Drive at Dundas Street East in Cooksville

On event day, Jaguar Valley Drive will be closed to vehicles at Dundas Street, extending north from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Local access to driveways on Jaguar Valley Drive will be permitted from the north at Kirwin Avenue.

When:

Saturday, September 10 and Saturday, September 24, 2022

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Programming Details

Live onstage – Saturday, September 10

11:30 a.m. – Bollywood Dance Class, led by Sanya Sachdeva, presented by Heart Comonos

1:45 p.m. – Five and Tens presented as part of the Summer Concert Series
 3 p.m. – The InfraRed Band presented as part of the Summer Concert Series

Live onstage – Saturday, September 24

11:30 a.m. – Salsa Dance Lesson, led by Sofia Aguilar, presented by Heart Comonos

1:45 p.m. – Cmagic5 presented as part of the Summer Concert Series
 3 p.m. – Strange Brew presented as part of the Summer Concert Series

More Information

Sharing Lanes is a tactical urbanism project that temporarily transforms city streets for the benefit of pedestrians and residents. The City’s Summer Concert Series brings free, family-friendly concerts to parks and public spaces while showcasing local talent. Heart Comonos is a community group that invites people to come together in Cooksville to share their ideas, gifts, skills, knowledge and life experiences. Together they create events and projects that enhance individual and community wellness.

Sharing Lanes will wrap-up in late-September. Learn more and tell us what you think about the installations by taking a five-minute survey: yoursay.mississauga.ca/sharing-lanes

Via mississauga.ca



India, China Withdraw Troops from Disputed Himalayan Border Area

September 09, 2022 3:03 AM

Anjana Pasricha

NEW DELHI —

Indian and Chinese troops are pulling back from one of the several disputed border areas in the Himalayan mountains where they have been locked in a standoff for over two years.

The Indian Defense Ministry said in a statement Thursday evening that troops had begun to disengage from the area of Gogra-Hotsprings “in a coordinated and planned way, which is conducive to peace and tranquility in the border areas.”

The announcement marks a step forward in resolving a military standoff that began after a June 2020 clash in Ladakh in the western Himalayas killed 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers.

Both countries have since deployed about 50,000 troops each, backed by fighter jets, artillery and tanks along the Himalayan borders, along what are called “friction points” along their unmarked 3,800-kilometer border. At several places, the troops are positioned in close proximity.

“The perception that things could flare up due to the military standoff have been diffused so the pullback has created a degree of tranquility in Ladakh,” Brigadier Arun Sahgal from the Delhi Policy Group, a think tank in New Delhi, told VOA. However, he warned that the buildup along Himalayan borders by the two countries will not end anytime soon.

“Both sides have built up certain capacities and capabilities and they



FILE- An Indian schoolgirl wears a mask of Chinese President Xi Jinping to welcome him on the eve of his visit in Chennai, India, Oct. 10, 2019.

are here to stay. To that extent the postures will remain hard, so I don’t think the de-escalation will take place any time soon.”

Protracted negotiations between each side’s military commanders to end the standoff in the last two years have made slow progress. The agreement to withdraw troops from the Gogra-Hot Springs area came in the 16th round of talks, held last month between the Indian and Chinese military commanders, a year after they last announced they were withdrawing troops from another area.

The pullback comes ahead of a regional summit to be held next week in Uzbekistan, scheduled to be attended

by both Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. There has been speculation in domestic media of a likely meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit marking their first direct contact since tensions erupted after the 2020 border clash.

India has repeatedly said that ties with China will not improve unless the status quo that existed along the Himalayan border prior to that clash is restored.

“The state of the border will determine the state of the relationship,” Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said last week

at the launch of an office in New Delhi of the Asia Society Policy institute, a think tank.

Key disputes at other places along their Himalayan borders continue to pose a challenge – one of the toughest to tackle is an area called Depsang Plains, where Indian analysts say Chinese troops are blocking access to a key mountain pass.

However, the latest pullback of troops in Ladakh has led to some optimism. “A sort of political narrative is being created that there is a move forward,” Sahgal said, which “probably would open up space for more political-level consultations.”

Via voanews.com

Sri Lankan president Wickremesinghe reviews progress on Indian projects

PTI Updated:

September 09, 2022 20:03 IST

Colombo, Sept 9 (PTI) Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday advised officials to act immediately and amend government circulars if they impede Indian investment projects in the cash-strapped island nation.

Wickremesinghe at a meeting attended by Vinod K Jacob, the Deputy Indian High Commissioner, examined the progress of several development projects in the country based on Indian investment cooperation, an official statement said.

Wickremesinghe advised the office to amend the relevant government circulars immediately if they impeded the development projects.

New Delhi at different times had raised the slow progress in implementing the Indian projects in the country.

In the ongoing economic crisis, India has provided Sri Lanka with

credit lines for fuel, fertiliser and essential commodities worth USD 3.5 billion.

Additionally, three credit lines were provided to the tune of USD 1.5 billion and foreign exchange crisis support of USD 2 billion, the Indian High Commission said.

The government of Tamil Nadu had separately sent humanitarian relief assistance to help in the crisis that soon turned into political unrest, leading to the resignation of then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Ranil Wickremesinghe, the then prime minister, was appointed the president soon after Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives and later to Singapore. From Singapore, he flew to Thailand before returning to the country last week.

(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)

Via PTI



WORLD NEWS



Pakistani PM Says Flooded Country Faces Food Shortages

September 12, 2022 8:18 AM
Associated Press

Pakistan is grappling with food shortages after deadly floods left the impoverished country's agriculture belt underwater, the prime minister told the Turkish president by phone, as authorities scaled up efforts Monday to deliver food, tents and other items.

Shahbaz Sharif spoke to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan overnight to thank Turkey for dispatching food, tents and medicine by 12 military aircraft, four trains and Turkish Red Crescent trucks.

import badly needed wheat and vegetables, including to people not directly affected by floods.

Meanwhile, the price of vegetables and other food has started increasing.

Until last week, floodwater was covering around a third of Pakistan, including the country's agriculture belt in eastern Punjab and southern Sindh provinces which are the main food basket. Initially, Pakistan said the floods caused \$10 billion in damages, but authorities say the damages are far greater than the initial estimates.

That's forced Pakistan and the United Nations to urge the international community to send more help.



A government statement said Sharif briefed Erdogan about the government's relief activities and sought assistance from Turkey in overcoming the "food shortage." Sharif also sought help from Turkey on reconstruction work in the flood-hit areas.

More than 660,000 people, including women and children, are living at relief camps and in makeshift homes after floods damaged their homes across the country and forced them to move to safer places. Pakistan, the country's military, U.N. agencies and local charities are providing food to these flood victims.

Pakistan heavily relies on its agriculture and occasionally exports its surplus wheat to Afghanistan and other countries. Now it is in talks to

In response, U.N. agencies and various countries, including the United States, have sent more than 60 plane-loads of aid. Since last week, Washington has sent three military planes to deliver food.

Three more U.S. military planes carrying aid were to land in Pakistan's worst flood-hit southern Sindh province later Monday, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Washington days ago set up a humanitarian air bridge to flood-ravaged Pakistan to deliver aid through 20 flights, which will arrive in Pakistan before September 16. The U.S. authorities also plan to distribute cash among needy people.

Last week, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during a visit to

Queen Elizabeth II's memorable moments in Asia during her 70-year reign



The queen, who died at age 96, was one of the most-traveled and widely respected global figures, including in Asia.

By Nawar Nemeah for RFA

2022.09.08

UPDATED at 5:47 p.m. on 9-8-2022

During her 70 years on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II presided over the sunset of the British Empire and declining British influence, but she also commanded deep respect. The record of her meetings with Asian leaders reads like a who's who of the region's modern history since World War II. Emperor Hirohito of Japan, Indonesia's Suharto, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew and China's Xi Jinping are just a few of the national leaders she visited in Asia or hosted at Buckingham Palace.

As British monarch, Queen Elizabeth served as head of the Commonwealth of former British colonies. She visited many of those countries multiple times. The Asian members she visited included Bangladesh in 1983; Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, which she first visited in 1972; India and Pakistan, which she first visited in 1961; the Maldives in 1972; and Sri Lanka in 1954, just two years after she ascended the throne on the death of her father, George VI.

She also frequently traveled to far-flung Pacific island nations that are in the Commonwealth, such as Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Samoa. Additionally, she was hosted in Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, China, and South Korea.

Her 1986 six-day trip to China was the first-ever by a British monarch to the country, where she visited the Forbidden City in Beijing and the Great Wall, and reaffirmed the British commitment to return Hong Kong to Chinese rule. That commitment was fulfilled in July 1997, an act widely seen as heralding the end of the British Empire.

Queen Elizabeth's last visit to Asia was in 2006, where she was hosted by President S.R. Nathan in Singapore as head of the British Commonwealth.

Her reign straddled the tenure of 15 British prime ministers. The first was Winston Churchill, Britain's leader during World War II. Her last was Liz Truss, who took office on Tuesday after meeting the queen, just two days before the monarch died.

For the vast majority of Britons, Queen Elizabeth was the only monarch they had known in their lifetime. For citizens around the world, her image is often associated with the rapid decolonization of Britain's global imperial holdings, but she maintained strong ties with the peoples and leaders of those countries even after their independence.

Elizabeth assumed the throne at age 25. She died on Thursday at the age of 96 at Balmoral Castle, a royal estate in Scotland, surrounded by her children. She will be succeeded by her eldest son, the 73-year-old Charles, Prince of Wales.

Correction: An earlier version of this story referred to Liz Truss as Britain's head of state. She is the leader of the government.

Via rfa.org

Pakistan traveled to flood-hit areas, where deluges from floods are still causing damage.

Guterres has called on the world to stop "sleepwalking" through the dangerous environmental crisis. He assured Sharif in a meeting with him that he will do his best to highlight the ordeal of Pakistanis facing floods.

Deluges from the rising Indus river

and the Lake Manchar in the Sindh province were still posing threat to Dadu, a district in the south where rescuers using boats were evacuating villagers to safer places Monday. Light rain is expected in flood-hit areas this week, according to the Meteorological Department.

Via voanews.com



WORLD NEWS

Victorious Sri Lankan cricket team to celebrate Asia Cup win with double-decker ride

Colombo, Sep 12 (PTI) Members of Sri Lanka's victorious Asia Cup team will travel through Colombo on a double-decker bus and interact with delirious fans to toast their success over Pakistan, officials said on Monday.

Sri Lanka crushed Pakistan by 23 runs to win their sixth Asia Cup title in Dubai on Sunday, bringing much cheer to the people of the crisis-hit island nation, who have been hit hard by the worst economic turmoil in several decades.

The Dasun Shanaka-led team will arrive on Tuesday morning at 5 am, and will be welcomed by officials from Sri Lanka Cricket and the Sports Ministry at the Bandaranaike International Airport here, officials said.

The team will then participate in a victory parade at 6.30 am, and will undertake a double-decker bus tour from Colombo to Katunayake and interact with fans, officials said.

Sri Lanka's netball team also brought glory to the country by winning the 2022 Asian Championships on Sunday.

Believe in our cricketers... a lot of bad things are going around. As cricketers, they too should enjoy their lives as well, not spreading bad things. They have private lives too. Keep believing, that is the key. As a captain, I give confidence to the players, [whatever] I can. I can't ask for more than



that," captain Shanaka said at the post-match conference, as Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis formed the backdrop of the cricket team's Asia Cup campaign.

"Congratulations to the #lka cricket team on the win against #Pakistan in the #AsiaCup2022Final in Dubai. The commitment and teamwork shown by the #SriLankan team have been remarkable," ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who returned to Colombo from Thailand on September 2 tweet-

ed on Sunday.

His successor, President Ranil Wickremesinghe, praised the national cricket team for winning the Asia Cup and underlined that it shows that with dedication and determination crisis-hit Sri Lanka can overcome challenges as a nation.

"Congratulations to the Sri Lankan cricket team on winning the Asia Cup 2022. Well played Pakistan! "The second championship for today," he

said, adding that it "goes to show that, with dedication and determination we can overcome challenges as a nation. Onwards and upwards Sri Lanka!" Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, declared in mid-April its international debt default due to the forex crisis.

A crippling shortage of foreign reserves has led to long queues for fuel, cooking gas, and other essentials while power cuts and soaring food prices have heaped misery on the people.

Via PTI

Sri Lankan Netballers in glorious win to retain Asian title

Sri Lanka Netball team led by Gayanjali Amarawansa once again performed well to retain the Asian Netball crown when they defeated host Singapore 63-53 in their Asian Netball championship final played in Singapore yesterday.

It was a superb team effort by Sri Lankan lasses who fought back to win the final after close four quarters. In the first quarter Singapore won 19/13 with a six points difference. However Sri Lankan players made real come back to reduce the margin and Singapore led 30/27 after the second quarter.

Sri Lanka team changed their approach in the third quarter to get the lead winning by 46/38 and getting 8 points lead during the third quarter gave huge confidence to the Sri Lanka team.

The fourth and final quarter was dominated by Sri Lankan lasses winning 17/15 and Sri Lanka emerged champions to retain the title in great style by 63/53. Skipper Gayanjali Amarawansa did good leadership to the team while Goal Shooter Tharjini Sivalingam the 6' 1" foot player dominated the game with her shooting skills. Dulangi Wannithilleka the deputy skipper and skipper Gayanjali Amarawansa controlled the center

court with good passes while Gayani Dissanayake, Chaturangi Jayasuriya, the two former skippers and the newcomers to the team gave a good display to win the title.

The coach Hayasinth Wijesinghe, chairman of the selection committee Damayanthi Jayathileka and President of the Netball Federation Victoria Lakshmi and her team put in a lot of effort to get this success but last not least Sports Ministry gave good support.

Via dailynews.lk



Tharjini Sivalingam, Key scorer in the Sri Lankan Netball Team



“A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.”

Phyllis Diller



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abuenaventura@shn.ca | 416-300-9481

Register at SHNFoundation.ca/Seminar

ABOUT THE EVENT

This session will cover essentials for Wills and Powers of Attorney and the consequences of not having them.



You will learn about:

The differences between Wills and Powers of Attorney and why they are important
Considerations which may be overlooked in your Will: guardians for children, custody of pets, special needs dependents, benefits of charitable giving, and more
How to avoid Will litigation – do you wish to disinherit any family member?

GUEST SPEAKER

Shirley Yee, Barrister and Solicitor, is the principal of Shirley Yee Professional Corporation, a multi-service law firm with five lawyers providing services in Cantonese, Mandarin and Toi Shan dialects.



Ms. Yee has been practicing law for over 35 years with emphasis on Wills and Estates, Real Estate and Business and Corporate Law. Ms. Yee graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1981 and Osgoode Hall Law school in 1985, she was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1987. She has given many Wills and Estates seminars in her own easy-to-understand and informative manner.



Happy Diwali

Wishing all our readers a very
Happy and Joyous Diwali
Monday, Oct 24, 2022

COMMUNITY WATCH 

MP Gary Anandasangaree ends summer with Community Corn Roast from August 27 to 28 2022



Gary Anandasangaree and constituents at Community Corn Roast

Gary Anandasangaree, Member of Parliament (MP) for Scarborough-Rouge Park, hosted a Community Corn Roast on August 27 to 28 2022, the last weekend of that month, in the federal riding. It's also known as the unofficial end of summer, albeit vacation for most Canadians. Held annually, it's a way to mark the end of summer for the constituents in the riding and others. He also serves as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney Gen-

eral of Canada.

MP Anandasangaree stated that this event had been held at different times on the weekend among the multiple unique neighborhoods that define the diverse character of the riding. One example being Centennial Park at 225 Centennial Road in Scarborough-Rouge Park. This event was held from Saturday, August 27 at 5 to 7 pm. The other locations included his constituency office at 3600 Ellesmere Road, Unit 3 on Saturday, August 27

from 1 PM to 3 PM and Birunthan Park, 31 Dragonfly Crescent from 5-7 pm on Sunday, August 28. It ensured equal, meaningful engagement with the many constituents in the riding.

It served as an intimate gathering among residents to enjoy some locally roasted corn and listen to some fun music. They were also able to exchange conversation with their MP, socialize amongst one another, and soak in the beautiful summer air.

The corn roast and its ongoing tradi-

tion seems to be a way for MP Anandasangaree to understand how he can continue to fully represent them in Ottawa regarding their needs as they have made the riding their own home.

All in all, it was a joyful celebration for the end of summer 2022 among the constituents in the Centennial neighbourhood and the rest of the riding. At the same time, it was a renewed beginning of advocacy for a prosperous Scarborough-Rouge Park.

VILLA KARUNA HOME FOR SENIORS

SANTHIYARAGAM GOLDEN SUPER SINGER, SEASON 4, 2022



Villa Karuna Home for Seniors is the first of such services established in 2002 for Sri Lankan Tamil community in Toronto to provide loving & caring support to growing need of elderly. Being the pioneer, Villa Karuna Home for Seniors marks a very special milestone in 2022 with the celebration of its 20th Anniversary.

Santhiyaragam Golden Super Singer is the brainchild of Mrs. Indrani Nagenthiram who is the founder and CEO of Villa Karuna Home for Seniors. It was staged for the first time in 2016 with 20 participants who were over 55 years of age. This program was successfully continued with increased participation with much loved

seniors with great enthusiasm.

Villa Karuna Home for Seniors proud to present Santhiyaragam season 4 this year which is taking place at Tamil Isai Kala Mandram on September 24th, 2022 at 4.30 pm. The tickets are \$50 including food. The proceeds of this program will be directed towards elevating the services and to enhance

the quality of living of the residents of Villa Karuna Home for Seniors

The Board of Directors and the team of Santhiyaragam Golden Super Singer will be happy to see our community to come to this event, witness the hidden talents of the seniors to cheer and motivate them.



Deepening ties between U of T Scarborough and Scarborough Health Network a win-win for health-care in eastern GTA

By: Alexa Battler

When medical students complete their residencies, they're not just getting real-world experience — they're helping keep doctors on their toes.

"Students ask great questions. They push us to know the evidence and remember things that perhaps we have long forgotten or took for granted," says Dr. Sacha Bhinder, interim corporate chief of medicine at Scarborough Health Network (SHN) and lecturer in U of T's Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

"When we see that across the entire spectrum of health disciplines, it improves the knowledge base of the staff, physicians and allied health colleagues."

Relationships between universities and health-care providers can strengthen medical research and training, and have a widespread positive impact on community health. It's why U of T Scarborough and SHN, a network of three hospitals and several health-care sites across the eastern GTA, are collaborating on projects to revitalize health-care in Scarborough.

Later this fall, SHN and U of T Scarborough will co-host Shaping the Future of Care (or SFC 2022), a conference bringing together academics, health-care professionals and community members in the eastern GTA. The two-day conference will cover information on the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH), ideas and innovations in health-care, and updates on work to establish Scarborough as a leader in health-care research and education.

SHN has roots with U of T. It's long been an affiliated teaching site for U of T's department of family and community medicine and hosts residencies for medical students. U of T Scarborough's Highland Hall was also the location of a COVID-19 assessment centre and several vaccine pop-up clinics operated by SHN. The institutions are continuing to strengthen ties as Scarborough's health-care system struggles to meet the region's needs.



University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus

"This collaboration is an important opportunity at a crucial time for Scarborough," says Irena Creed, vice-principal, research and innovation at U of T Scarborough. "Developing stronger ties between the university and the hospital will help us come together to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the health-care system."

Recent news about shortages of health-care professionals highlights the stress currently on the system, which SAMIH will help address. Supported by the SHN, the academy will graduate up to 30 physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners (each), 40 physical therapists and 300 life sciences undergraduates every year. Many of those students may choose to complete their residencies in SHN hospitals and health-care sites.

"SAMIH will allow those who live in Scarborough to learn in Scarborough, to receive their degree and training in Scarborough, to practice in and support the very community that they represent. This will organically build a foundation of expertise in medical education and

practice across health disciplines," says Bhinder, who is a respirologist with SHN.

Bhinder says the collaboration will allow more students to interact with the diverse range of patients in Scarborough, adding that "it's a valuable collection of resources coming to a community that is hungry for those resources."

The deepening relationship is also part of a larger goal: to create a health district in Scarborough, similar to downtown Toronto's hospital district or Waterloo's tech district. Such an area relies on strong connections between institutions, such as universities, health-care providers and community groups.

The need for a health district was an emerging theme at a day-long U of T Scarborough event in March, which also saw advocates, researchers and health-care experts from the eastern GTA advocate for community-based solutions.

"A health district means institutions work closely together to understand and address the specific needs of the community, across teaching, research and innovations in health-care," says Creed.

"Scarborough has always had a strong legacy of thought-leadership in healthcare," says David Graham, SHN's interim president and CEO. "That history is now getting recognized with an incredible conference that will mark this time of positive change and help propel us into a bright future as a hub for healthcare study and applied research."

The SFC 2022 conference takes place on Nov. 25 and 26 at U of T Scarborough's Highland Hall. It will feature six topics including lessons from the pandemic, innovations in education, continuing medical education and medical science updates, integrated health, mental health and community health. Registration is upcoming.



SHN

SPECIAL FEATURE



THE CHARIOT FESTIVAL IN THIRUMURUGAN TEMPLE MONTREAL



C. Kamalaharan

MONTREALTHIRUMURUGAN TEMPLE - MONTREAL

The chariot festival held on the 20th of August 2022 was as usual a crowd-puller. Under a bright clear sky the chariot gently moved forward accompanied by the traditional nathaswara music, clanging of the cymbals and beating of the damaru as they rapturously maintained the divine atmosphere.

Colourfully decorated with beautiful tapestry the chariot attracting everyone was pulled around the temple along the outer courtyard. I quite well remember participating in a similar function in my ancestral home those days with my peers.

The refreshing sweet drinks mor thaneer (curd water) and sakkarai thaneer (jaggery water) served to quench the thirst of devotees brought memories of the past in my ancestral home where we as tiny tots squabbled for a cup of drink.

It was a heart warming sight to see the young and old actively pulling the rope as the chariot gently



moved forward. The tinkling sound of the numerous small bells fixed all around the chariot enthused the devotees who were engrossed in the blissful atmosphere. Devotees walking behind the chariot in groups sang devotional songs. Fulfilling their vows some devotees shouldered the 'Kavadi' with spikes pierced through their cheeks or laid prostrate on the ground and rolled around the temple outer courtyard. While fulfilling their vows the next of kin kept pace with him inspired and encouraged him.

The drinks mor thanni (curd water) and sakkarai thaneer (jaggery water) served to

quench the thirst of the sun baked devotees brought memories of the past. I remember as a tiny tot squabbling among the others just to have a cup of sweet refreshing drink.

The 'viputhi' prasatham (holy ash) and the 'thir-tham' (holy water) served to devotees were received in piety by the Murugan devotees. The lunch served to everyone was delicious and sumptuous. They left to home spiritually charged and fully satisfied.





SPECIAL FEATURE

Climate Change and Resultant Travails of the World

By: J A Rajah

A. The Nature of Climate Change:

Climateologists have the view that climate change occurs in a cycle of ten years. Though the theory was not evident in the past now we see that climate is changing and providing numerous hassles to the world at large. Temperature is normally determined by the latitude in which a country is located. Those in the tropics have usually high temperatures, Countries in the temperate zone have medium temperatures and those in the frigid zone have very low temperatures. Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. Since 1800, human activities have been the main driving force of climate change. Burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas; clearing forests; landfills for garbage; energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use patterns are the main causes of climate change. The temperatures have started to rise in many countries due to human activities. Burning fuels generate greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures. Greenhouse emissions that cause climate changes are carbon dioxide and methane. Climate change has been defined as the major issue of our time. It has far-reaching effects to our earth's atmosphere. Climate changes have brought catastrophic flooding, hurricanes, droughts, and forest fires. Many scientists believe that global temperature increases must be held below 2 degrees centigrade to avoid climate change. Global temperature is an average of air temperature recordings from weather stations on land and sea as well as some satellite measurements. Worldwide, 2006-2015 was the warmest decade on record since thermometer-based observations began nearly 150 years ago. In early 1960s scientists recognized that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was increasing. Later they discovered that methane, nitrous oxide and other gases were rising. Because of these gases trap heat and warm the earth, as a greenhouse traps heat from the sun, scientists concluded that increasing levels of 'Greenhouse Gases' would cause global warming. An increase in temperature due to global warming, It's not only about a heat increase that can be felt by humans or glacial ice-melting -it has the potential to affect the planet's entire ecosystem.

B. The Effects of Climate Change:

Climate change has brought about a vast number of problems throughout the world. Canada is regarded as one of the coldest countries in the world. Global warming has caused tremendous increase in the summer temperatures in many parts of Canada. Temperatures have shot up to 40 degrees centigrade in British Columbia. Vast acres of forests have been destroyed. Some areas are suffering from floods and people have to be



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evacuated from their homes to safer areas. The same phenomenon is noticed in the USA. Arizona, Texas, California and New York are some of the states where forest fires and floods are reported. Wild fires were seen in Yosemite National Forests, California. Heat waves have also caused damage to coastal areas. Mediterranean countries like Spain, Portugal and Greece which have temperate climate now have extreme heat causing wild fires and floods. China experienced forest fires and flood caused severe problems to many residents. Ukraine, already affected by Russian invasion is also suffering from floods and wildfires. Australia reported floods and wildfires due to heat excesses. India and Pakistan have the same climate changes which resulted in evacuation and migration of residents, facing tremendous hardships. Cultivation of crops is severely affected and there is a scarcity of food in many areas in Tamil Nadu. Banana plantations are vastly damaged and many rice crops waiting for harvest were left without farmers helpless as they were unable to do the needful due to floods and rain damaging their crops. The government is unable to give proper compensation for farmers affected by these unexpected climate changes.

C. The Panacea for Climate Change:

The bad effects of climate change can be reduced by taking the following precautions. Much of the electricity and heat are powered by coal, oil and gas. The use of energy can be lessened by lowering heating and cooling by switching to led bulbs and energy-efficient electrical appliances. Washing the laundry with cold water or hanging things instead of using the dryer would help. The world's roadways are clogged with vehicles; most of them burn diesel and gasoline. Walking or riding a bike instead of driving will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help with health and fitness. For long distances people could take a bus or train. A car-pool will also help whenever possible.

Eating more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts or seeds and less meat and dairy can significantly lower environmental pollution. Providing plant-based foods generally result in fewer gas emissions and require less energy land and water. Air planes burn large amounts of fossil fuels, producing significant gas emissions. That means taking fewer flights is one of the faster ways to reduce environmental pollution. It is better to take trains whenever necessary for long distance travel and avoid flights altogether. It is better not to throw away food. When we do, we are wasting the resources and energy that were used to grow produce, package and transport. When food rots in a landfill, it produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. It is better to use what we buy and compost any left-overs. Electricity, clothing and other items cause carbon emissions at each point in production, from extraction of raw materials to manufacturing and transporting goods to market. If we are going to protect our climate, we should buy fewer things, shop second-hand, repair whatever we have and recycle. We should rely on renewable sources of energy such as wind or solar energy. We could install solar panels on our roofs to generate energy for our homes. If we plan to buy a car, we should go for electric cars. Electric cars can reduce air-pollution and can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather than gas or diesel-powered vehicles. We should prefer eco-friendly products. We should buy products from companies that use resources responsibly and are committed to cutting their gas emissions and waste. Individually, we should speak up for control of gas emissions. This is the most effective way to make a difference. We should appeal to local and world leaders to act promptly to reduce gas emissions and the warming up of our immediate environment. Joint effort should be made on an international basis to attend to this major problem that is affecting the life-style of the people.



Suicidal Pilots in Commercial Airlines

By: Kane Siva

I am sure when I mention this lot of people may think twice to fly on airlines and am not cynical about this, but it is a reality unfortunately and we have seen quite a lot in the last 20 years or so. We knew Japanese World war 2 Kamikaze Pilots perfected this act. The frustration, depression that builds on human mind motivates or push a human psyche to do things that cannot be



Questions remain about Germanwings crash
23 March 2017



Germanwings crash: Counting the cost
27 March 2015

fathomed at any time by any Psychologist. There may be a genetic link to suicide as per Mayo Clinic USA. It is an intentional action that can or cannot be controlled. This is the saddest reality with this kind of mental behaviour. But the colossus of life lost is immeasurable when it happens at the hands of a pilot.

I remember reading an article how to make a pilot. I came across a unique experience that I



D-AGWM - Germanwings Airbus A319 at Hamburg

have never heard in my career which is practised by German Lufthansa Airlines and astonished by it. Lufthansa does not recruit people with flying licenses as pilots. They recruit people with the right attitude who will have the following traits, Firm but keep an open mindedness, Experienced but keep the widow of learning open always and constantly learning, Adherence to standard procedures but with an ability to improvise when required. They don't recruit cadets with pilots licenses but people who can fit their mould of being a good pilot, nurture them through rigorous tests, training, multitasking for the picture perfect Pilot Personality, finally they undergo flying lessons, simulator training. The end product will be a pilot who suit their

expectations. Unlike other carriers who take people with pilot license, Lufthansa grow their own pilots. It is hard to understand why they have their training center in Arizona, 6000 miles away from Germany. Their strict training procedure is like processing an absolute fine product out of a "Processing Plant".

It is hard to get through this process and hired by them. Almost 99 percent of them are hired. With all these process still it is very difficult to fathom the psyche of an individual who will end up as a pilot. So in a broader sense the airlines take a great risk by entrusting their Billion dollar aircrafts, passengers and their prestigious name with two pilots. Most of them come out perfectly with flying colours. But the 1 percent or less is a chance we have to worry about. This happened with the German Wings airline which has strict recruitment process for pilots. He filtered through all these procedures and did this heinous act killing all his passengers, a total of 149 in 2015, on a flight from Barcelona to Dusseldorf. Lubitz joined the airline in 2013 as a flight attendant eventually becoming a First officer. 34 years old Captain Patrick Sondenheimer left the cockpit to answer a call of nature, Lubitz locked the cockpit door refused the attempts of the captain's return, ignored the controllers call for 15minutes, when the aircraft was at 38000 feet on autopilot, disengaged automation, wilfully descended to 100 feet and crashed into the high terrain of the French Alps.

The investigators said "Lubitz had a psychiatric issue" and that had returned. Failure by the management not to evaluate him periodically is unpardonable. On February 9th 1982 Japan Airlines Flight 350, on the final approach to Haneda airport, captain disengaged the autopilot at 170 feet, pushed the control column forward and set the thrust levers on idle. He did the same for engines two and three. The co-pilot tried his best to pull the control column but was of no use as the captain had pushed it down with both hands and the co-pilot could not raise the nose up. Aircraft crashed in to the sea just short of the runway killing 24 people. The captain was one of the survivors, and the investigators found he was Schizophrenic, pointed the finger at the management.

It is fair to say that 90s was really the year of the "Suicidal Pilots". 21st August 1994, on a Moroccan airline flight, the captain disengaged the autopilot and deliberately guided the flight towards ground in spite the co-pilot's effort to counter act, killing 44people without any remorse. Six days before Christmas, 19th December 1997 while the aircraft was flying at 35000 feet, flight recorders stopped recording, Aeroplane started to comedown suddenly, no Mayday calls or intimation to ATC, crashed in to the river killing 104 people on board. Investigators concluded a wilful action by the pilot. Eleven days after New Year January 11 1999, Botswana airline pilot got depressed, since his flying license had been revoked, flew an aircraft deliberately at Gaborone airport and crashed it into the ground and was the sole occupant. A drama unfolded over Atlantic Ocean, 31st October 1999. Egyptian airline flight, New York to Cairo, on autopilot was crossing the ocean. The flight had 3 Cockpit crew captain, co-pilot and a relief co-pilot. The captain left the cockpit, followed by the co-pilot on duty. Soon after the relief pilot disengaged the autopilot descended rapidly at the same time shutting off the engines. The captain returned to the cockpit tried to win back the control of the aeroplane but his efforts were futile. The Aircraft



hit the surface of the ocean, killing all 217 lives on that "flight of death". 29th November 2013 Mozambique airlines flight 470, co-pilot left the cockpit to use the toilet and the captain selected the descent altitude engaged the autopilot and crashed the aircraft killing 33 people. In 2014 Malaysian airlines flight 370 was crashed by the captain killing all 239 people on board. There is lot of speculation to indicate it was Pilot made, even though the Malaysian authorities took the 5th amendment. 2022May, China Eastern co-pilot wilfully crashed the flight 5735.

Now the post-mortem begins. I know aviation pundits and others will come out with lots of theories, the fact remains innocent lives are lost all of a sudden since someone had mental issues and were at the controls. I would strongly recommend FAA to formulate a policy to evaluate the mental health of the pilots, Irrespective of their age and seniority with the airlines concerned who is going to fly. Since the pilots undergo periodical health medical tests yearly, spot breathalyser tests to check the alcohol level in their system before a flight, the mental issues of the pilots should be assessed periodically and on an ad hoc basis.

The best way forward is to be more open about mental health of pilots. An human being can snap at any time under Stress but should not be allowed to fly a passenger fly under any norms. It is a travesty of justice by the owners of the Airlines to allow Pilots with mental health to fly.

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

Words of Peace

SPECIAL FEATURE



Hello everyone; PremRawat here. . . So, what's going on? Well, it's a little, little virus that's taking over. And there are so many commentaries; there are so many ideas that people have; there is so much misinformation. There is good information; there is bad information. And somehow, there is very little clarity. There is very little understanding of what really it's all about.

Now, has anything changed? Well, in one way, everything has changed. But every human being wants to feel secure; everyone wants to feel good; everyone wants to feel free. So, in that

about?

And there's just so much misinformation—on television, on social media and so on and so forth. But there is a truth inside of you—and you need to let that truth come out. There is a reality inside of you and you need to let that reality come out.

So, the contrast, I would say, is immense right now because there is so much that is, well, real concerning stuff that is going on, this coronavirus—that we need to isolate ourselves. And that we need to make sure that we are healthy. But we have to be healthy, not only physically, but we

is being said from your heart, from yourself.

And you need to include yourself in this one. Don't exclude yourself; you need to include yourself in this one. You need to include that beauty that you have inside of your heart on this one. But we human beings have to bind together; we have to come together, and we have to come together in a very funny way—and we have to come together by being together ourselves. Even in isolation, we have to be complete; we have to be whole and not do silly and stupid things.

But at the same time, will human

visiting our heart, visiting ourselves, visiting our understanding—and just, from clarity, coming out from clarity, to be able to see that, “Yes! I'm still alive and my aspirations have not changed.”

So, whatever it may be. And people, you know, have their ideas of “how this is going to happen and how that should happen.” And doctors are coming together; medical staff is coming together to help people. And we need to be helpful towards them; we need to be helpful towards each other.

It is time for humanity to really kick in—and for us humans to really take

A Time for Courage



sense, nothing has really changed because this is, when everything was fine, when coronavirus was not an issue, people wanted to feel that too.

But today, because this burden is upon us and it's like, the fear—the fear comes in. And of course, you can let the fear take over, and fear would love to take over. But let me just remind you of something.

There is something really wonderful inside of you, and it's called “courage.” In these dark times, in these very concerning times, we need to be using courage, not fear, to live through this. We need the light that shines from within our hearts to illuminate this very dark jungle out there.

We need to live every day with a sense of purpose, a sense of clarity, a sense of understanding, a sense of just, not doubt, but clarity—and this is what I talk about all the time. But in these times, these elements that we have inside of us really need to shine—every day!

It's not a question of, you know, “Today is not important.” No, today is important. All of a sudden, the world being in pretty much, a lockdown, just locked down everywhere, just about—what do you do? What do you think

have to be healthy here too, in our minds.

So, all of these issues really come into play; it's like, “Okay, how do we do this? How do we take the good and make the good really come out? How do we enjoy ourselves in these dire circumstances?”

So, sometimes, you know, you really have to just step back and say to yourself, “Well, what is this all about? I am here; I am a little part in this puzzle.” Of course, you don't want to hurt other people, so you don't want to go and become a person who contaminates more people. And the best way to do that is to isolate; the guidelines are being provided. And some of it makes complete sense.

What do you rely on? Well, for once, you also have to look at inside of you. You have to rely on yourself too, your heart, your understanding, your desire for clarity, your desire to be happy. You have to—you have to rely on that. You have to accept that, that this is a very basic thing.

Not just be drowned in fear, drowning in, like, “Oh my God, what's going to happen to me?” Now, you should be concerned, but by the same token, there is something very beautiful that

beings win this race, win this war?

And, yes, you know, yes, we have to; we have to. We have to go on. And the way we can win it is to be sensible, to be clear, not be in doubt, not be anger, not be in frustration, not be finger-pointing at each other. It is time.

This little virus—which is not a living thing; it's just some RNA wrapped around in some fat—it has done, for this world, something really amazing.

It is calling upon us, in its very unfortunate and harmful way, to come together—all of us, helping each other around the world, spreading good news, not rumours, not wrong information, but spreading the news that “Use courage! Use clarity. Use that good stuff that you have in you.”

And then and only then, I really feel that not only can we win this, but we can really win this war, really, really win—and not be short-changed by it, not be smacked by it, not be hurt by it, but come together.

And it is time to rely on yourself to do not silly things. As the guidelines are, you know, “Isolate; stay home. Don't spread this to other people; maintain your distance”—to follow these simple guidelines.

But by the same token, also be

on those super-nice attributes that we have as human beings and offer that to each other, offer each other kindness, offer each other understanding. This is the time for empathy. This is the time for clear thinking; this is the time for courage.

And if we can have that, then I think we can make a huge difference for ourselves, for every single day that we are alive, even without the coronavirus. Because our world needs to be—with or without coronavirus, we need to be in that clarity.

So, I hope, of all the things that I have said, something makes sense to you. And you take that to heart. And no reason for fear because fear doesn't do anything, you know, except just clamps you down.

What you need is courage. Understand the complexity of the problem; understand the severity of the problem, but instead of giving fear the rise, give clarity the rise; give courage the rise; give understanding the rise, not the doubt. And these are the things that can make a difference in every single day that we have.

PremRawat
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SPECIAL FEATURE



Blindfolded Hero

By Kumar Punithavel

A inkurunuru which literally means five hundred short ones. It belongs to the Sangam era which is Before common era 600 to Common era 200. There are eight anthologies collectively called Ettuthokai. This is the third of them. The TAMILIAN landscape was divided into five different terrains. The five hundred songs have been divided equally, hundred each for each terrain. In this study we will look into poem number 293 which falls into Kurinji landscape, which is the hilly terrain. This particular poem was composed by a Sangam poet Kapilar.

Kapilar was a great Tamil poet who has contributed about 206 poems in Sangam literature. Kapilar also authored Inna Narpathu, a didactic work of the Sangam literature, comprising of forty verses in Venpa meter (Quatrain). He was a contemporary of Karikala Cholan and Paari. Karikala Cholan is known for conquest on many countries, and during his reign, he unified the three kingdoms of Chola, Chera and Pandya kingdoms as one country. Further he is very famed in history for building of great anicut across Kaveri River.

Though a king of a small kingdom, the benevolence of King Vel Paari too is legendary. His fame as a kind monarch, earned him many powerful envious kings as enemies. He was so kind hearted, it is told that he had abended his chariot for a (Mullai) Jasmine vine to lean on.

In this poem Ainkurunooru # 293, the bard has composed the verse as if the hero expressing his thought. It is an accepted form of having a feigned quarrel between the lovers, which will make the love more pleasurable. The famed Thirukkural which is a book of ethics, too as its last couplet refers to such a feigned quarrel between lovers;

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

1330

ஊடுதல் காமத்திற் கின்பம் அதற்கின்பம்
கூடி முயங்கப் பெறின்

The hero was tracking the foot prints of a deer, to hunt. He had come to the edge of an over grown lands of the hilly terrain and reached the farm land which is called the Marutha terrain. His dear lover who was waiting sentry to chase the birds away from the field ready for harvest. Seeing him walking in the border of the field, stealthily goes behind our hero and covers the hero's eyes. The hero must have been more like Sherlock Holms, for he does some forensic deduction. He starts mentioning his observations about the fragrance of the hands that covered his eyes and says it smells like flame-lily, a flora common in Tamil region mountain slopes.

Like the fragrance of flame-lily of mountain slopes

சிலம்பு கமழ் காந்தள் நறுங்குலை அன்ன

Following that his eyes still covered by his lovers' hand, our hero goes on to continue his deduction and describes her hands. He says they were gorgeous hands that closed his eyes.



*With your gorgeous palms you covered my eyes
நலம் பெறு கையின், என் கண் புதைத்தோயே,*

The scent not only alerts our hero who it was who covered his eyes, but also reminds him how coyly she joined him on the bed the previous night hugging him with the long bamboolike smooth arms. Smell has a very strong impact in one's mind. Even after decades if a person goes back to his childhood house, the familiar smell of the place will bring him nostalgic memories of the past. Here too our hero is reminded of the good time he has had with the lover the previous night on the mat where she was grand like a peacock. He goes on to describe the hands that hugged him the previous night to be smooth and strong, like bamboo the shoulders. He continues with his deductions as follows;

*Coyly joined me on the mat, grand like a
Peacock with bamboolike slender shoulders,*

பாயல் இந்துணை ஆகிய பணைத்தோள்
தோகை மாட்சிய மடந்தை,

He goes on to challenge her asking who else will be in his mind other than her? In the last line of the poem, he ends with a question asking who else she thought it could be. Here is the last line of Kurunthokai #293 by Bard Kabilar;

Other than you who else it could be in my heart?

நீ அலது உளரோ என் நெஞ்சு அமர்ந்தோரே?

Let us look at the whole poem together:

*Like the fragrance of glory-lily of mountain slopes
With your beautiful palms you covered my eyes
Coyly joined me on the mat, grand like a
Peacock with bamboolike slender arms,
Other than you who else it could be in my heart?*

Kurunthokai #293 by Bard Kabilar;

ஐங்குறுநூறு 293, கபிலர், குறிஞ்சித் திணை - தலைவன்
தலைவியிடம் சொன்னது

சிலம்பு கமழ் காந்தள் நறுங்குலை அன்ன
நலம் பெறு கையின், என் கண் புதைத்தோயே,
பாயல் இந்துணை ஆகிய பணைத்தோள்
தோகை மாட்சிய மடந்தை,
நீ அலது உளரோ என் நெஞ்சு அமர்ந்தோரே?

In five lines the poet Kabilar has vividly described the rendezvous of the lovers which had happened two thousand years ago, made immortal by his lovely poem. No wonder it is told word is mightier than sword. There many such songs by poets for those who could spend the time to look into the Tamil Sangam literature.



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Thulasi Muttulingam
 ★ Favorites · August 29 at 4:14 AM ·

People in Sri Lanka who have savings if at all: what are the best bets to ensure your retirement nest egg doesn't turn to dust?
 Inflation is currently at 58% and steadily climbing in the country.
 The most generous FD rate right now offered by a bank is 24% by HNB.
 And that only recently, I closed a few FDs getting only 5% interest from Commercial bank, but you need a minimum of one million to get the 24% interest.

19 Comments

Like Comment Share

Rukshana Rizwie
 Bank of Ceylon, Seylan Bank and Sampath are also offering similar rates.

Like Reply 1w

Thulasi Muttulingam
Rukshana RizwieBoC - you have to put 1.5 million for 4 years to get that rate. Not sure about the other banks.
 Issue is, given current inflation rates, that's still seeing your money steeply decline in value.

Like Reply 1w

Rukshana Rizwie
Thulasi Muttulingam no BoC has a special promotion for 100 days plan. Do check it out.

Like Reply 1w

Lilanka Botejue
 Look at Investing in real estate or gold as well.

Like Reply 1w

Dimuthu Prabath Hettiarachchi
 No boc

Like Reply 1w

Chandrika De Silva
 food inflation is 300%

Like Reply 1w

Iaz Abdul Cader
 Money saved in a FD is worth nothing, invest in real estate, gold, is good. ... See more

Like Reply 1w

Tharanga Paranavithana
 In a time of inflation, real estate and commodities such as gold are the best choices.

Like Reply 1w

Chandrika De Silva
 The AER on the so called 24% FD is actually 18% or less. There is a mathematical reason I wont go into.
 Food inflation is closer 300%
 Dont take it from me look around you at regular things like eggs (20)=x300% =60(=), electricity, transport etc and lo... See more

Like Reply 1w Edited

Sumaya Samarasinghe
 Commercial bank rates have gone up to 15.8 percent per year and it does not have to be a million rupees; interest every month .

Like Reply 1w

Chandrika De Silva
Sumaya Samarasinghe against 100% inflation. So at the end of the year you still lost 85% of the value of your money

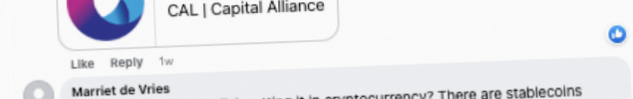
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Vipulananda Sivakumaran
 We also face sky-high borrowing rates

Like Reply 1w

Nadisha Aloysius
www.cal.lk

Like Reply 1w



Marriet de Vries
 What about (temporarily) putting it in cryptocurrency? There are stablecoins pegged to the US dollar or euro

Like Reply 1w

Thulasi Muttulingam
 Have to look into it. Have no idea what cryptocurrency is yet but I keep hearing about it.

Like Reply 1w

Shirani Rajapakse
 Real estate and gold are the best ways to save for the future. But the problem is you need lots of money to buy real estate and then you have the added problem of having to take care of it.

Like Reply 1w

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Like Reply 1w

Chandrika De Silva
Sumaya Samarasinghe against 100% inflation. So at the end of the year you still lost 85% of the value of your money

Like Reply 1w

Vipulananda Sivakumaran
 We also face sky-high borrowing rates

Like Reply 1w

Nadisha Aloysius
www.cal.lk

Like Reply 1w



Marriet de Vries
 What about (temporarily) putting it in cryptocurrency? There are stablecoins pegged to the US dollar or euro

Like Reply 1w

Thulasi Muttulingam
 Have to look into it. Have no idea what cryptocurrency is yet but I keep hearing about it.

Like Reply 1w

Shirani Rajapakse
 Real estate and gold are the best ways to save for the future. But the problem is you need lots of money to buy real estate and then you have the added problem of having to take care of it.

Like Reply 1w

Thulasi Muttulingam
 ★ Favorites · September 5 at 11:48 AM ·

I get some clueless (or seemingly clueless) dick panderers asking me why I am so outspoken on the trans issue.
 "But... but... what rights have women lost? Why don't you just be kind?"
 Here's a comprehensive list of all that women have lost already.
 You can call me bigot and transphobe all you like.
 I'll continue to fight this ideology tooth and nail.
 The bigots are YOU including women who stand for this. You all are misogynists. I am not the problem. You are.

- Sex-based human rights for female people include:**
1. The right to single-sex toilets and changing rooms.
 2. The right to single-sex accommodation for female people in hospitals, refuges, shelters and prisons.
 3. The right to exclude male-bodied people from women-only shortlists, award schemes, grant programmes etc.
 4. The right to exclude male-bodied people from women's sports, especially where including males risks injury for females.
 5. The right for female people to meet in order to debate, organise, protest, advocate and campaign for female-specific interests, without risk of harassment, threats, abuse, loss of livelihood/income, prosecution or violence.
 6. The right to refer to female people as women/girls, and to define women/girls as female.
 7. The right to refuse to use female pronouns to refer to male-bodied people - especially sexual abusers, rapists, domestic abusers and violent attackers.
 8. The right to have male crime recorded as and reported as male crime, irrespective of the 'gender identity' of the perpetrator.
 9. The right to exclude male-bodied people from the category 'lesbian'.
 10. The right to talk about female biology without being compelled to change terminology to include male-bodied people.
 11. The right to challenge and critique ideological concepts, policies and practices that negatively impact upon the human rights of female people.
 12. The right to be consulted about changes in policy and practice where there is a risk of negative impact upon the human rights of female people.



Pakkiyarajah Pushpakanthan
 #SupportLocalArtists

U.S. Embassy Colombo, Sri Lanka
 August 29 at 11:44 PM ·

Pakkiyarajah Pushpakanthan, a Sri Lankan artist from Batticaloa, purposefully creates a disturbing atmosphere in his art. Drawing on his experiences throughout the Civil War for inspiration, he uses his work to expose the traumatic truths of the past so that people can grieve and heal. Common themes include death, disappearance, torture, and wounds. He proceeds through shifts in perception rather than looking for explanations or fixes in the hopes that the observer will be able to relate to the experience and its significance.

Thulasi Muttulingam
 ★ Favorites · September 5 at 1:40 PM ·

Animal lovers, SOS. Please help and donate to this. Even a little money per person would go a long way.
 Backstory: This poor dog was hit by a train on the outskirts of Colombo and lost parts of his front paws.
 He was a stray fed by a man in the area. When he saw Mahesh, his feeder arrive after work one day some weeks ago, he was overjoyed and ran across the tracks to greet him, not noticing an oncoming train.
 He has miraculously survived. Most doctors said the front legs had to be amputated. Only one said he'd try to retain the legs - so far the legs are healing and Tommy has started to hop/ walk about.
 He still needs twice weekly visits to the vet however.
 Currently the vet + trishaw charges come to Rs 4000 per visit and the medicines needed to 1800 per week. Adds up to 9800 per week for 2 visits to the vet and the meds.
 Mahesh has taken responsibility for the dog but he can't afford this.
 My friend, animal rights activist, and well known environment reporter **Risidra Mendis** lives close by and is trying to raise funds to ensure poor Tommy, the dog, gets his treatment on time.
 He has survived against the odds but still needs a lot of care.
 Whoever who can, however much you can, even if it be only a 1000/-, please donate to **Risidra Mendis**
 Commercial bank a/c 8460045502 Ratmalana.
 Pls send her a txt with the amount if you are making a donation. Contact no 0703993872
 Many of you in the animal lovers community probably already know Risidra. If you don't however, I'll vouch for the fact she is a hard core animal rights activist and she'll ensure the money you donate will be utilized correctly.
 Please help.
 Also share widely among your networks.
 Please and thank you ❤️



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SPECIAL FEATURE

RAAGA FEST 2022



Arya Canada presented a two-day event titled “Raaga Fest 2022” on August 6th and 7th, with a lineup of favorite musical stars at the Markham Meadows open air theatre.

It was a full house event on both days with popular singers like SPB Charan and Shankar Mahadevan keeping the crowds spellbound with their favourite and popular songs. Popular South Indian TV host Priyanka stole the show as the main MC for the event.

It was also announced at the show that the Mr. Tamil Canada event will be titled in the future as Mr. Tamil International.

Seen here are some pictures taken at the “Raaga Fest 2022”

SPECIAL FEATURE



TAMIL FEST 2022

Scarborough’s large street festival “Tamil Fest” 2022 which was held on August 27th and 28th recorded a large attendance this year.

The popular “Tamil Fest” street festival is the largest of its kind outside the Indian subcontinent where attendees gathered to witness a two - day event of music and dance. Tamil Fest event showcases and highlights the achievements of individuals and collective achievements of the Tamil Canadian community. The event is a show-piece to share Tamil culture within Canada’s national mosaic framework.

The festival hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) envisions the festival to be a unique platform to showcase and highlight the Tamil Canadian community’s achievements. It was a free event and attendees look forward to the last weekend of August each year for the event with anticipation.

Many great food options and local vendors were present once again with special music and dance performances depicting Tamil culture.

A fully dedicated kids’ zone with a numerous variety of inflatable rides was an attraction this year.

The President of the Canadian Tamil Congress Sivan Ilangko thanked the celebrities and the thousands of members of the Tamil community who visited the event.

Tamil Fest is hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress which is a non-profit organization serving the voice of Canadian Tamils.

*Seen here are some pictures taken at the event-
Picture courtesy-Iya4U*





SPECIAL FEATURE

India's Evolving Tradition of Electing Presidents Symbolizing the Diversity of Her People

By D.B.S. Jeyaraj

Sri Lanka's nearest neighbour and closest friend, India celebrated her 75th anniversary of gaining freedom from British rule on the 15th of this month.. "Incredible" India also made history last month by electing a woman from a tribal community as the Republic's 15th President . 64 year old Droupadi Murmu was sworn into office after being elected India's President last July. She is India's first president hailing from the "AadivaasI" community or people from scheduled tribes. Droupadi Murmu is the second woman and youngest person to be elected president of India.

Droupadi Murmu was born as Puti Biranchi Tudu on 20 June 1958 in the Uparbeda village of India's eastern state Orissa now known as Odisha. She hails from the Santhal ethnic group of India's scheduled tribes. The Aadivaasis or tribal people comprise 8.6% of India's population. Droupadi Murmu worked as a clerk and teacher before taking to politics as a member of India's Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP). She has served as a local authority councillor. Member of the legislative assembly and state minister. Droupadi Murmu was also appointed as Governor of Jharkand State by the Narendra Modi Government from 2015 to 2021. She has suffered immense personal tragedies in having lost her husband,two sons,mother and brother within a span of 7 years from 2009 to 2015.The only living family member is her daughter.

The Indian Presidency is largely a ceremonial, but symbolically significant post. The President is elected by members of the Indian Lower (Lok Sabha) and Upper (Rajya Sabha) houses of Parliament along with members of the various state and unin territory legislatures (legislative assemblies). The votes are graded accordingly and allocated a particular value.

In the July 2022 presidential poll the total number of MPs and MLAs who cast their votes was 4754, bearing a combined value of 1, 072, 377. However, with 53 votes being declared invalid, the total number of valid votes was 4701, bearing a combined value of 1, 056, 980. Ms. Droupadi Murmu nominated by the BJP led govt polled 2824 (64.03%) of these votes — bearing a value of 676,803 — while the united opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha gained 1877(35.97%) votes —

with a value of 380,177. Thus after 75 years of Independence,India has got its first Aadivaasi president!

Election of an Indian President

As a keen observer of the Indian political scene for many decades, the election of an Indian President is an exercise I greatly admire. What I have been impressed about most is the tradition followed by successive Indian Governments of electing presidents reflecting the mixed population of the country at large. India has through a deliberate process of selection ensured over the years that members of the regional, religious and linguistic minorities are rotated as Presidents of India. In recent times caste and gender too have become relevant factors. Now the under privileged scheduled tribes too



President Smt Droupadi Murmu taking the National Salute from Tri Services Guard of Honour at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan.



President Droupadi Murmu visited the National War Memorial on the occasion of Independence Day and paid homage to the martyrs who had made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

have got symbolic recognition.

A political tradition of inclusiveness reflecting the plural heritage and ethno-cultural diversity of a country has to be gradually evolved. The practices maintained currently in India with regard to the Presidency was carefully built up over the years. A brief re-run of the history of Indian presidents and the nature of the presidency is worthwhile and necessary at this juncture to understand how this inclusive and broadly representative tradition evolved over the years. I have written on these lines on earlier occasions and would be drawing upon such writings in this article.

World's Largest Democracy

The Indian Presidency unlike that of countries like Sri Lanka, USA, Russia or France is not an executive Presidency. It's more of a ceremonial post like that of the Governor – General when Sri Lanka was Ceylon or that of the Presidency before Junius Richard Jayewardene transformed it as an Executive Presidency. Even though titular, the Indian head of state does have prestige and stature as the President of the world's largest democracy. More interesting and important perhaps is the fact that the Indian presidency has evolved over the years as a symbol of that Country's vast diversity and ethnic pluralism.

Despite various challenges from within and without India has remained strong and united. India has fourteen major national languages and over 250 minor languages and dialects. All the major religions of the world are found there. Its regions are widely disparate and unevenly developed. Moreover India is plagued by caste differences. Fissiparous

SPECIAL FEATURE



tendencies were galore in the early years of Independence. Many analysts predicted fragmentation within years. The Indian state and elite were so paranoid about divisive tendencies that they downplayed the “federal aspects” of the Indian Constitution and instead emphasised “on its unitary characteristics”

Fortunately “Mother” India was blessed in having enlightened children to lead the nation. The Nehruvian vision of accommodating diversity and forging unity in practical terms laid the groundwork for a strong, united India to emerge. Re-organizing states on a linguistic basis, secularism and co-operative federalism were the key elements that went into re-inventing modern India.

ethnicities, regions and religions. This unwritten procedure has more weight than written laws or rules. The evolution and growth of the Indian presidency and the different strands of society reflected and recognized by that Institution is an interesting tale worth recounting.

First President Rajendra Prasad

After Independence, the first Indian to be Governor – General of the Dominion was a Tamil Brahmin C. Rajagopalschari or Rajaji. Meanwhile the Constituent assembly presided over by Dr. BR Ambedkar drafted India’s Republican Constitution. India became a Republic formally on Jan 26th 1950. The first President was Rajendra Prasad. He was a Hindi speaker. Prasad was a man of great

Nehru died in 1964 and also when Nehru’s successor Lal Bahadur Shastri passed away in 1966.

First Muslim President

After Radhakrishnan another scholar and educationist Dr. Zakir Hussain became President in 1967. He was India’s first Muslim President. A member of a regional and linguistic minority was followed by a member from a religious minority. The Prime Ministers up to that time were from the majority Hindi speaking Uttar Pradesh. But the Presidency was rotated to accommodate Minority members.

Zakir Hussain died in office in 1969. The Presidential stakes became a power struggle. On the one hand was the “old guard” party hierarchy known

lim Zakir Hussain was succeeded by a linguistic and regional minority member. 1974 saw Giri’s term of office ending. He was succeeded by Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed a North Indian Muslim. He was a cabinet minister and Indira Gandhi loyalist. So India had a religious minority member as President again.

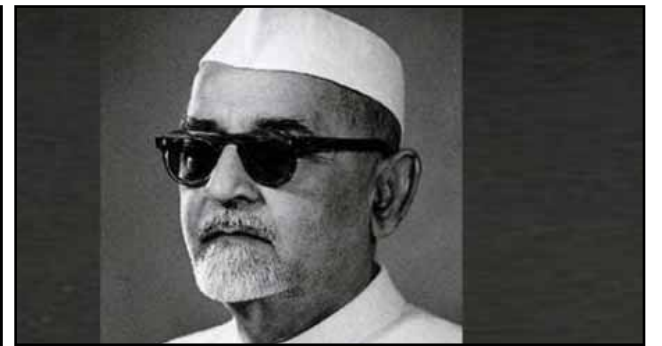
1977 saw Ali Ahmed passing away while holding presidential office just as Zakir Hussain. Meanwhile Indira Gandhi was defeated in the polls. A Janata party led coalition was in power with Morarji Desai from Gujerat as Prime Minister. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was made President. He was the man defeated in 1969 by VV Giri. Reddy was a Telugu from Andhra Pradesh. Once again a regional and linguistic



Dr. Rajendra Prasad – Term of Office: January 26, 1950 to May 13, 1962



Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan-Term of Office: May 13, 1962 to May 13, 1967



Dr. Zakir Hussain-Term of Office: May 13, 1967 to May 3, 1969



Shri Varahagiri Venkata Giri-Term of Office: May 13, 1969 to July 20, 1969 and August 24, 1969 to August 24, 1974



Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed-Term of Office: August 24, 1974 to February 11, 1977



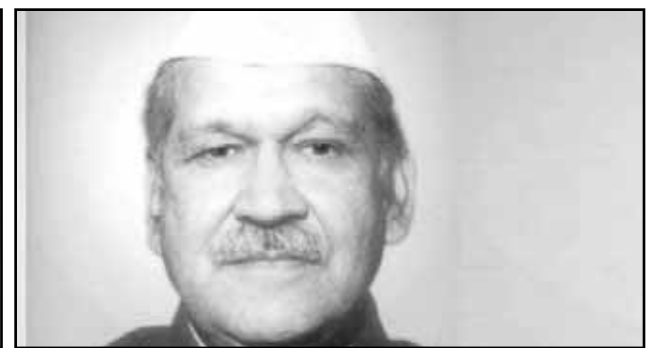
Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy-Term of Office: July 25, 1977 to July 25, 1982



Giani Zail Singh-Term of Office: July 25, 1982 to July 25, 1987



Shri R Venkataraman-Term of Office: July 25, 1987 to July 25, 1992



Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma-Term of Office: July 25, 1992 to July 25, 1997

The Ceremonial “Rashtrapathy”

It is said in lighter vein that the cohesive bonds keeping modern India together are the Indian civil service, Railways, Cricket, Hindi Cinema, English language and the Institution of the Indian Presidency. The “Rashtrapathy” though a ceremonial post has developed over the years into an institution symbolising pluralism and reflecting diversity. This process has been strengthened not through legislation or litigation but through an interesting on going process of usage and convention. The spirit of accommodation has through practice forged a rough pattern in selecting Presidential candidates.

As stated earlier the idea has been that of giving recognition and representation to all of India’s diverse

stature and a political personality on par with Jawarhalal Nehru. In the old days of “left” and “right” Prasad was a “rightist” and Nehru left of Centre. With Prasad’s elevation to the Presidency a potential rival to Nehru was sidelined.

Newly elected Droupadi Murmur is the 15th President of India. Actually she would have been the 16th but for Rajendra Prasad becoming President for a second term in 1957. He is the only President to have served for two successive terms.

In 1962 the eminent scholar and philosopher Dr. S. Radhakrishnan became President. He was vice – president earlier. Radhakrishnan though a resident of Chennai was a Telugu by ethnicity. The South Indian Radhakrishnan was the President when

as the “syndicate” while on the other was Indira Gandhi attempting to break free of those who had installed her in office. The “syndicate” consisting of people like S. Nijalingappa, Kamaraj, SK Patil, and Atulya Ghosh wanted the speaker N. Sanjiva Reddy to be President; Indira wanted the vice – president VV Giri to succeed Hussain. The elections saw Indira calling upon Congress members to defy the party high command and vote for the “independent” Giri. There was a third candidate C. Deshmukh fielded by Rajaji’s Swathantra party. Giri won. The Congress party split.

VV Giri a former High Commissioner to Sri Lanka was a Telugu speaking Niyogi brahmin. His family hailed from the eastern Godavari district in in Andhra Pradesh. Thus the Mus-

minority member was President.

First Sikh President

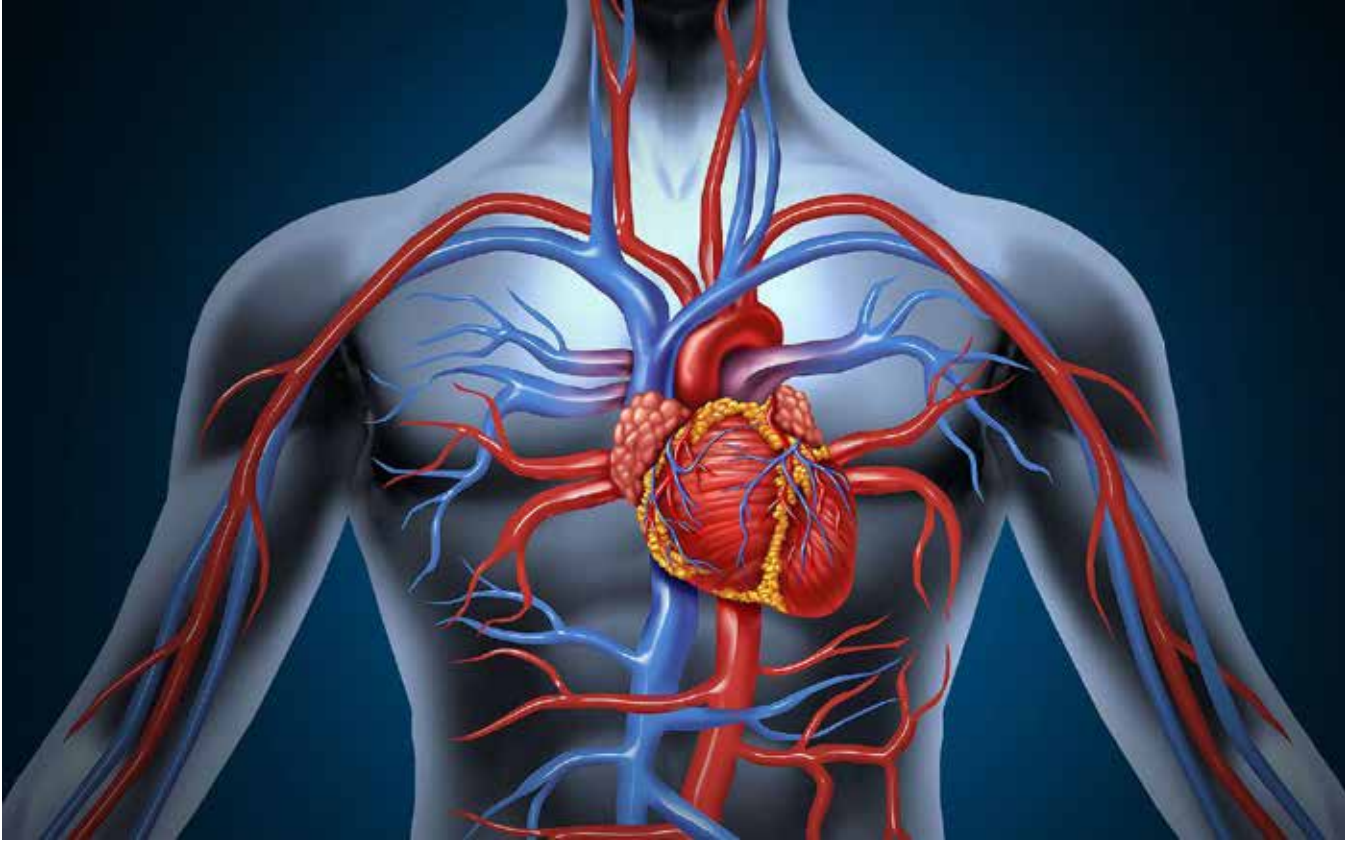
Indira returned to power in 1980. In 1982 Giani Zail Singh was made President. He was a Sikh from Punjab and a devout loyalist of Indira Gandhi. So another religious minority community member was President. 1987 saw the Vice – president R. Venkataraman succeeding Zail Singh. Venkataraman was a Tamil brahmin from Tamil Nadu and had been a cabinet minister earlier. Thus a regional cum linguistic minority community member was President again. Rajiv Gandhi was killed in 1991. The new Congress government had PV Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister. Rao was from Andhra Pradesh. For the first time a South Indian was Prime Minister.

Contd. on page 29 ...



SPECIAL FEATURE

Medicine



By: J.A. Rajah

Excess or deficiency of the three humours could cause disease; Wind begins these humour as listed by experts. Any shortage of wind, bile and phlegm, will lead to disease. Food, work and sleep are indispensable for good health.

*'Marunthuena vendavaam yaakkaiku arunthiyathu,
Attathu porti unnin'.*

மருந்தென வேண்டாவாம் யாக்கைக் கருந்திய
தற்றது போற்றி உணின்

If one takes food again, only after an earlier meal has been well digested, no medicine is needed for good health. After digesting what has been eaten earlier, have food again in right measure; Moderation in eating is the secret of longevity. Shakespeare expressed the same idea when he said 'Good digestion waits upon appetite and good health on both.' After making sure that the previous meal has been digested, when one is really hungry, have only such food as will agree with the system.

*'Maarupadu illatha undi maruthu unnin,
Uurupadu illai uyirkku'.*

மாறுபா டில்லாத உண்டி மறுத்துண்ணின்
ஊறுபா டில்லை உயிர்க்கு

If one has only the food that agrees with system and limits the intake, his healthy life will not suffer any harm. The man, who exercises conscious restraint, will retain the pleasure of eating; so too the unrestrained eater will invite disease.

*'Thee alavu anrith therian perithu unnin,
Nooi alavu inrip paddum'.*

தீயள வன்றித் தெரியான் பெரிதுண்ணின்
நோயள வின்றிப் படும்

The man who eats beyond the limit of his digestive powers, will be subject to all kinds of ailments. The skilful treatment of a disease consists in identifying the symptoms and causes, as well possible remedies, before choosing the best. The first step in treatment of a disease is to identify and list out the symptoms; the next step will be to go into and locate the causes, which have brought about the ailment. In prescribing the treatment, a good physician considers the capacity of the patient, the progress of the disease and the season. The patient, the physician, the remedy and the attendant are the four elements that go to make up effective medical treatment. Raajai explained this kural more clearly when he said, "The co-operation of the patient and the skilled service of the attendant were considered no less important than the doctor and the drugs then, and even now as in modern medical treatment".

(Kural:941-950)



Valluvar's Views

SPECIAL FEATURE



In 1992 it was time for Venkatraman to step down as president. His Vice – president was Shankar Dayal Sharma, a hindi speaking North Indian. With the PM being a South Indian, the North Indian Sharma became President. The prevailing tradition of appointing minority community members was broken. But the Premier was South Indian. In 1996 another South Indian Deve Gowda from Karnataka also became Premier.

First Dalit President

In 1997 KR Narayanan the vice – president succeeded Sharma.

Narayanan a former career diplomat hailed from the South Indian state of Kerala. Once again a regional and linguistic minority community member was President. Narayanan also set another precedent. He belonged to the so called low caste “Dalit” community. Thus after fifty years of Independence “casteist” India had a “Dalit” as President. Besides Narayanan also had “christian” links because of his wife

to conclude his term of office. The vice – president was Bhairon Singh Shekhawat a Rajput from Hindi – speaking Rajasthan. He was a former BJP Chief minister of Rajasthan. The Congress did not want a BJP politician as President. So it selected Pratibha Patil who was then Governor of Rajasthan as the Govt candidate with the approval of its allies like the DMK and the Communist and Marxist parties. Shekhawat himself contested as an “independent”. The Presidential poll saw Pratibha Patil defeating her rival easily. Pratibha hailed from Maharashtra state and was ethnically a Mahratta. Maharashtra is neither North nor South but in Central or West of India. The Mahrattas are a distinct entity speaking the Marathi language.

Thus a regional and linguistic minority community member became President again. More importantly Prathiba Patil was the first woman to be elected as President of India. This

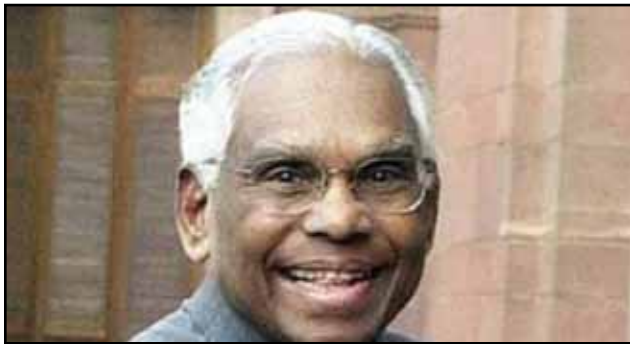
and the conscious effort to recognize plurality lies at the core of India’s comparative success in crisis management. The tradition of rotating the Presidency among regional, religious, linguistic and caste minorities is a healthy expression of that mindset.

As stated earlier ,India elected its first Muslim President in 1967. There have been two more Muslim presidents thereafter in 1974 and 2002. The first Sikh President was elected in 1982. Presidents have been elected from the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well as the Non – Hindi speaking states of Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The first woman President was elected in 2007. The first scheduled caste (Dalit) president was elected 50 years after independence in 1997. 70 years after independence a second Dalit president was elected. Now a tribal woman is elected president. The election of a woman or Dalit or Aadi-

actually of Kashmiri pandit Brahmin lineage. His successor Lal Bahadur Shastri was also from UP. So too was India’s third and first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who was Nehru’s daughter. Indira married Feroze Gandhi a Parsee. Their son Rajiv became Prime Minister in 1984. He too contested from a UP constituency.

There have been other premiers from the Hindi speaking states like Chaudhari Charan Singh, V. P. Singh , Chandra Shekhar and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. However there have been Prime ministers from Non-Hindi speaking states too. The first elected non -Hindi Prime minister was Morarji Desai a Gujarati. The present Premier Narendra Modi is from Gujarat too. Gulzarilal Nanda who served twice as acting prime minister after the deaths of Nehru and Shastri was a Punjabi Hindu. So too was Inder Kumar Gujral. P. Narasimha Rao and H. D. Deve Gowda from the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Kar-



Shri K. R. Narayanan-Term of Office: July 25, 1997 to July 25, 2002



Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam-Term of Office: July 25, 2002 to July 25, 2007



Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil-Term of Office: July 25, 2007 to July 25, 2012



Pranab Mukherjee-Term of Office: July 25, 2012 - 25 July 2017



Ram Nath Kovind-25 July 2017 – 25 July 2022



Droupadi Murmu-Assumed office 25 July 2022

and siblings who had converted.

When Narayanan stepped down in 2002 the Bharatiya Janata party led coalition was in power. Jayalalitha Jayaram the actress turned politico was chief minister of Tamil Nadu. She proposed Abdul Kalam the famous nuclear scientist as President. Kalam was a Tamil speaking Muslim from Rameshwaram in the South of Tamil Nadu. Hussein and Ali Ahmed were Urdu speaking Muslims. Abdul Kalam was a celebrity in his own right as the scientist credited with India’s nuclear capability. It made political sense for the Hindu rightist BJP regime to re- furbish its image by making a Muslim the President. Jayalalitha was happy about a “Thamizhan” becoming President. Tamil speaking Muslims in Tamil Nadu perceive themselves as Tamils observing Islam as a religion. They do not see themselves as separate from Tamil Hindus or Christians on account of their religion.

First Woman President

2007 was time for Abdul Kalam

was indeed a commendable milestone. In 2012 the ruling Congress led coalition Govt nominated senior minister Pranab Mukherjee as its presidential candidate. Mukherjee was also from a non – Hindi state. He was a Bengali hailing from West Bengal state.

In 2017 Ram Nath Kovind a Hindu Dalit from Uttar Pradesh became president. The BJP has been long accused of being an upper caste (Brahmin and Bania) oriented party. Electing a Dalit as president would help dispel this image. Besides at the 2017 UP polls, a sizable number of Dalits had voted for the BJP. Thus it made sense for the BJP to elect a Dalit Hindu from Uttar Pradesh as president. Kovind has now been succeeded by Murmu. Getting an Adivaasi woman elected President also helps boost the BJP.

Rotating the Presidency

Despite these political considerations the elections have proved to be victories for the accommodative tradition. The celebration of diversity

vaasi as President does not mean that the status of women; Dalits or Tribals have automatically improved. However is noteworthy that the Indian presidential elections manifest an evolving tradition of recognizing the diversity and plurality that is India in a symbolic manner.

Prime Ministerial Office

Even the Prime Ministerial office in India has begun to reflect the multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-linguistic, multi-caste society of India over the years. The Hindi speaking people form the largest linguistic group in India. They number about 41% of the population. Other linguistic groups form the rest. Religion wise Hindus form 80% of the population. Muslims are about 15 %. In the early years after Independence most Prime Ministers came from Hindi speaking Uttar Pradesh which is also India’s most populous state.

India’s first Prime minister Jawarhalal Nehru hailed from Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh (UP) but he was

nataka respectively have also been Prime ministers. No Muslim has been elected Prime minister, but a Sikh Dr. Manmohan Singh was Premier from 2004 to 2014.

Reflecting India’s Plural Heritage

The election and/or appointment of Prime Ministers depend on electoral results and political power equations. Though non – Hindi speakers have become PMs it was not due to deliberate design. However as far as the symbolic Indian presidency is concerned, one is able to discern a definite and consistent method of trying to elect Presidents representing and reflecting the plural heritage of India. The latest election of Droupadi Murmu being an effective example.

by DBS Jeyaraj

DBS Jeyaraj can be reached at dbsjeyaraj@yahoo.com

This article appears in the “Political Pulse” Column of the “Daily FT” dated August 24th 2022.



Winter through the Eyes of a Child



Krishay Mayuran
Grade 3, Student at
RG Education Centers

Winter is a season that is sometimes fun and sometimes not fun and I have some reasons for both. First we will see why winter is a fun season and then we will see why winter is not a fun season.


Winter can be a fun season because you can have snowball fights. A snowball fight is when people make a lot of snowballs and throw it at each other. You can have races to see who can make the biggest snowball too! Winter can also be fun because you can make snowmen. To make a snowman, you need three snowballs: one big, one medium and one small. Next, you need to stack the snowballs from biggest to smallest. Lastly, you add sticks as the hands, a carrot for the nose and buttons for the eyes and mouth. If you want, you can add a hat and scarf. During winter, you can also make an igloo. To make an igloo, you need to use molds shaped like cubes and fill them with snow. Next, stack the snow blocks and make a lollipop shape using them. Then, stack more snow on top of the lollipop for the walls. Lastly, connect the walls together with a curve for the roof and your igloo is done. You can make snow castles too. A snow castle is similar to an igloo but the difference is that the snow castle is shaped like a castle. Other activities you can do in winter are sledding and ice skating. Sledding is when you use a sled and slide down a hill. Ice skating is similar to roller skating but ice skating is on the ice. Ice skating boots have thin and sharp blades that help you glide on the ice in ice rinks. During winter, you can also see the Northern Lights. The colours of the Northern Lights are red, orange, blue and purple. Another reason winter can be fun is because you can drink a lot of hot chocolate. To make hot chocolate, you need milk, cocoa powder, vanilla extract and sugar. The steps to make hot chocolate are easy. First, you need to pour the milk in a mug. Then, you add the

cocoa powder. Next, you need to add a drop of vanilla extract and some sugar. Then stir and microwave the mug for one minute. Finally the hot chocolate is ready and you can enjoy it. These are some of the reasons why I enjoy winter.

Winter is also sometimes not a fun season for me. One reason is because snow is really cold. If you touch it without gloves or mittens, you can get sick. Even if you wear warm clothes, you will still feel cold sometimes. Winter is also not fun because your skin can get dry. If you put cold cream on your skin, it will not get dry. You can also get hurt by slipping on ice. Another reason winter is not fun is because blizzards can cover your house with snow. A blizzard is when a lot of snow gets blown away by wind. Stores will also be closed due to blizzards or snowstorms and this isn't good. For example, if you want to go to the grocery store because you ran out of food, the store will be closed and you cannot get the food you need. During a blizzard, your electricity can burn out too. If the blizzard is very strong, sometimes the whole city can run out of electricity! This can be really bad because

heating, traffic lights, elevators and other things we need will not work. Sometimes it can take many days to get electricity for the whole city again! This is why winter is sometimes not a fun season.

Even though winter is sometimes not fun, I still enjoy the winter season very much!



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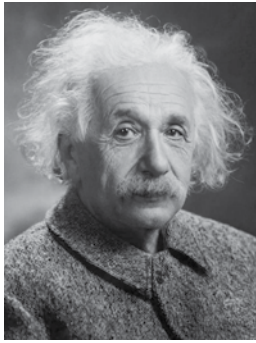
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ASTONISHING FACTS ABOUT THE BIG BANG THEORY

The Origin, Expansion, and Possible End of the Universe are Explained

By OUE Research Institute



Albert Einstein



Georges Lemaitre



Aleksandr Fridman



Edwin Hubble



George Gamow



Fred Hoyle



Arno Penzias



Bob Robert Wilson

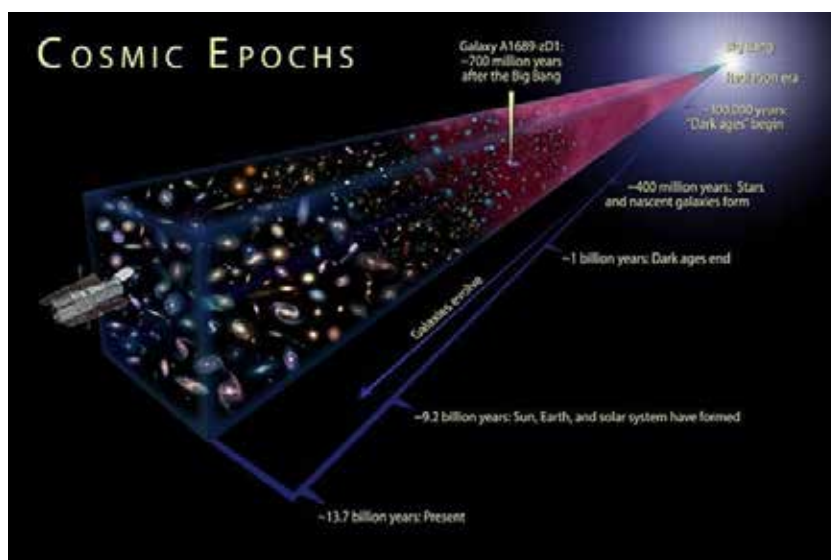
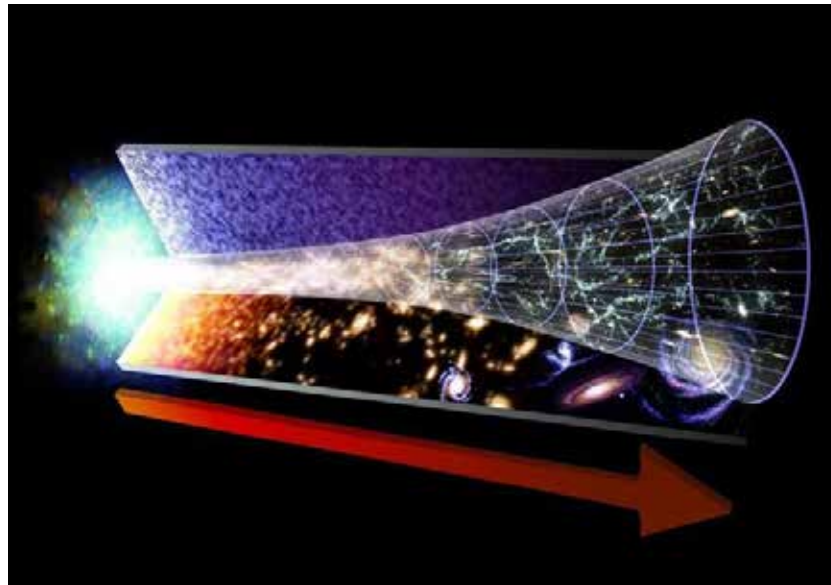
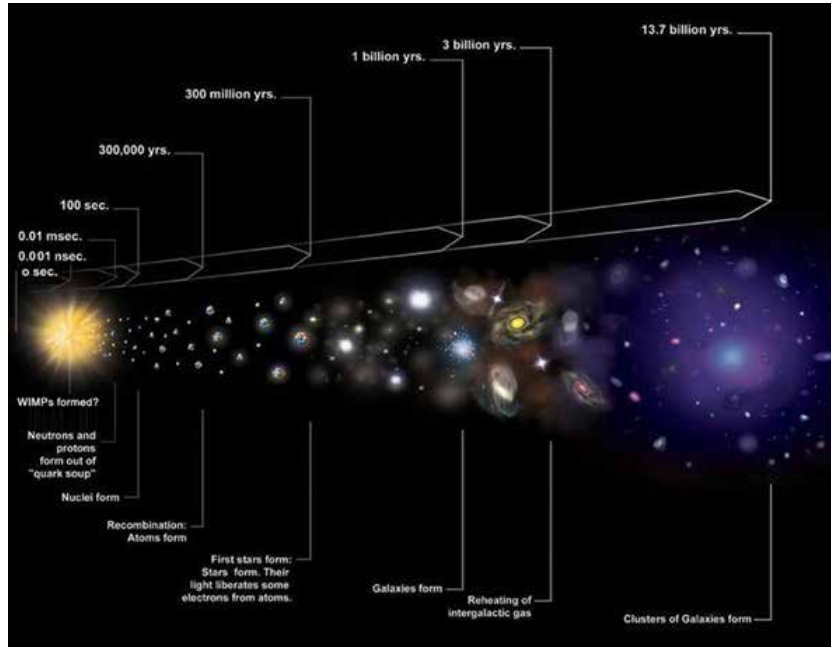
The Big Bang was a straightforward idea that goes back to the 1920s, that the Universe is expanding and cooling. The sequence of successful predictions that no other theory can match is widely accepted as the origin story of our Universe. Our Universe, full of galaxies, stars, and a cosmic web, is split by the hugeness of space between them. It was not originated that way and has not existed in this form permanently. The Universe reached this way because it expanded and cooled from a hot, dense, uniform matter and radiation-filled state with no galaxies, stars, or even atoms present at the beginning.

If anyone asks a scientist where the Universe started, “the Big Bang” is the most credible answer. Everything in its current form was not the way some 13.8 billion years ago. Moreover, that history was figured out only during the past 100 years. But even with all this, there are facts most people, even many scientists, don’t quite get about it. Dip into the following points most may not know about the Big Bang.

1. Einstein first ignored it outright when presented to him. Einstein’s general theory of relativity was an influential theory of gravity, proposed in 1915 as a successor to Newton’s theory. It indicated the orbital motion of Mercury to a precision Newton’s theory could not. It predicted the bending of starlight by mass, confirmed in 1919, and it predicted the existence of gravitational waves. When scientist Georges Lemaitre, in 1927, put forth the idea that the spacetime material of the Universe could be vast and growing, Einstein wrote back to him, your calculations are correct, but your physics is awful.

2. Hubble’s findings of the expanding Universe revolved it into a profound idea. Although many scientists believed that the spiral nebulae in the sky were distant galaxies all on their own even before Einstein, it was Edwin Hubble’s work in the 1920s that showed this was not only true, but that the more distant a galaxy was, the faster it was decreasing away from us. Hubble’s Law, describing the Universe’s expansion, led to a detailed understanding even with the Big Bang idea.

3.) The idea had been around since 1922 but was widely dismissed for decades. Soviet Physicist Alexander



Friedmann came up with the theory for it in 1922, when Einstein criticized it. Einstein also dismissed Lemaitre’s 1927 work, and even after Hubble’s work in 1929, the idea that the Universe was more petite, denser, and more uniform in the past was only a fringe idea. Hubble provided the observations that would give the most robust evidence for the expanding Universe but did not publicly support the theory until much later. However, Lemaitre added the idea that this expansion of space could explain the redshift of galaxies.

4. The theory rose to prominence in the 1940s when it made startling predictions. George Gamow, an American scientist who became fascinated by Lemaitre’s views, learned that if the Universe was growing today, then the wavelength of the light in it was increasing over time. Reasoning backward, he recognized that there once was a period when it was too hot for neutral atoms to form and before it was too hot for even atomic nuclei to form. Therefore, as the Universe expanded and cooled, it must have created the light elements and then neutral atoms for the first time, resulting in the existence of a cosmic background.

5. The name “Big Bang” arrived from the theory’s most passionate critic, Fred Hoyle. A theory creating

a different set of predictions — the Steady-State Theory of the Universe — was the leading theory of the Universe in the 1940s and 1950s. Into the 1960s, the claim that most atoms came from stars that died and not from this early, hot, dense state was borne out by nuclear physics. In 1949, Hoyle revealed that the Universe started its life 13.8 billion years ago in a single explosion and that the result is present expansion.

6. The 1964 finding of the leftover glow from the Big Bang. Scientists Arno Penzias and Bob Wilson, working at the Holmdel Horn Antenna at Bell Labs, discovered a uniform radio signal coming from everywhere in the sky. They thought it was a problem with the antenna and tried to calibrate this “noise” away. When that didn’t work, they went into the antenna and discovered nests of pigeons living there! They cleaned the pigeons’ nests and excrement, yet the signal remained. The realization that it was the discovery of Gamow’s prediction correct the Big Bang model, entrenching it as the scientific origin of our Universe. Penzias and Wilson are the only Nobel-winning scientists to clean up animal droppings as part of their Nobel-worthy research.

7. It would also take gravitation to pull objects together into collapsed structures. The first stars would take 50-to-100 million years to form; the first galaxies wouldn’t start for 150-250 million years; Milky Way-sized galaxies might take billions of years, and the first rocky planets wouldn’t form until multiple generations of stars lived, burned through their fuel, and died in catastrophic supernovae explosions.

8. The changes in the cosmic microwave background tell us how close-to-perfectly uniform the Universe was at the start of the Big Bang. The cosmic microwave background is just 2.725 K today, but the fluctuations are only around ~100 micro Kelvin in magnitude. The fact that the leftover glow from the Big Bang has slight non-uniformities of particular importance that the early Universe informs us that it was uniform.

9. The Big Bang itself does not necessarily mean the very beginning anymore. It is tempting to extrapolate this hot, dense, expanding state back to a singularity, as Lemaitre did nearly 100 years ago. But there is a suite of observations — led by the fluctuations in the primeval fireball — that teaches us there was a different state before that, where all the energy in the Universe was inherent to space itself. The Universe expanded at an exponential rate and called cosmic inflation. Science progresses farther and farther back, but so far, there is no end.

The way Universe began doesn’t tell us how it will end. Finally, the Big Bang tells us there was a race between gravity, trying to re-collapse the expanding Universe. However, the Big Bang on its own doesn’t tell us what fate will be. With the existence of dark energy, discovered only in 1998, we have learned that not only will the expansion win, but that the most distant galaxies will continue to speed up in their collapse. Science is about demolishing theory and replacing it with a more accurate one. It is interesting to note that major media outlets report that James Webb disproven this big bang theory.

BUSINESS / FINANCE

Global Trade: *What Is It?*



By: **Muraly Narayanathas**

Global trade hit a record \$7.7 trillion in the first quarter of 2022 and that amount continues to rise. It is now more accessible than it has ever been thanks to factors including fewer trade regulations and simpler internet access. In the market, there are more consumers and sellers, and the rivalry has led to better pricing and goods. It is still, however, one of the trickiest and most challenging corporate operations. Global trade has established itself as the engine that drives the world's economy, despite all of its difficulties. Continue reading to learn more about global trade and its fundamental elements.

What is Global Trade?

Global trade refers to the exchange of products and services between two or more countries. This includes the trading of products and services between citizens of other nations. It is subject to supply and demand law with occasional government intervention establishing the selling price of each good or service.

Understanding Global/International Trade

Each country in the world has resources and assets that they can use privately or trade with other countries. Some countries decide to focus on a variety of goods and services, giving them a competitive advantage over other countries. Countries that have a definite edge in manufacturing an item or service are the best at doing so and are more likely to export such



goods or services to other countries. Trade between nations is how the world's economy is created. Global trade is classified as follows:

- **Import Trade**- Refers to purchasing of goods from a foreign country because of cost disadvantages or other physical difficulties.
- **Export Trade**- Refers to the sale of products to a foreign nation.
- **Entrepot Trade**- Entrepot trade is the practice of importing commodities from one country and exporting them to another.

Let us discuss the features of global trade to have a better understanding of the subject.

Characteristics of Global Trade

1. Geographical Specialization

The main reason for the existence of international trade is geographic specialization. Every nation focuses on producing the commodities

and services where it has a distinct advantage.

2. Foreign Currency

Different foreign currencies are used for payments in international trade.

3. International Competition

To market their goods, manufacturers from various nations compete with one another in terms of quality, design, packaging, price, and advertising, among other factors.

4. Distinction between Buyers and Sellers

In international trade, buyers and sellers come from different nations and rely on middlemen to complete transactions.

5. Chain of Middlemen

International trade is an extremely complicated process. They need the help of knowledgeable middlemen like debt collectors, forwarders, clearing agents, foreign exchange banks, etc.

6. International Rules and Regulations

International laws and trade constraints must be understood by business people who conduct business internationally.

7. Restrictions

Different countries have different restrictions on imports and exports. Imports are subject to numerous import taxes and limitations imposed by the importing nation. Similar standards and regulations must also be adhered to when shipping goods abroad.

8. Government Control

Every nation's government exercises control over imports and exports for the benefit of the country.

The Bottom Line

Most economies place a significant impact on international commerce and their globalization has increased their interdependence. Subscribe to the Muraly's blog if you are interested in learning more about global trade. If you'd like to get in touch, please contact me via my website or social media.

Muraly Srinarayanathas,
Executive Chairman of
369 Global Inc.
www.muralys.com





CAN YOU FACE JAIL TIME FOR NOT PAYING DEBTS?

Of course there are repercussions in the instance that you fail to fulfill your payments involving debt when they are due, but you will not be facing jail time because of credit card debt, bank loans, and payments on bills, student debt, or not paying a collection agency.

People quite frequently ponder upon this question which is why it results in several Canadians giving in to scammers who call with threats of arrest or deportation if you don't comply with these tax scammers demands. Other collection agents who operate without principles may also use a similar strategy in terms of threatening or telling you made up circumstances you may fall into, even though the law does not permit that here in Canada.

You can be taken to court if you are not able to make payments. In this case what the prosecutor aims to do is to obtain a lawful court hearing against you that will show that you legally are in debt to them. If you are choosing the option to defend against these claims made against you, then you will have to attend and fight these allegations back inside a court. If the other side were to win, then your creditor can obtain a garnishment order through the court which will allow them to inform your employer to garnish your wages. An execution order can also be provided which will then allow the creditor to seize property(ies)

which varies by every province. However, even after all this you will never receive a verdict of jail time because you are in debt.

When it comes to things like utilities, for example a cell phone or electricity, your account can be cancelled and then will be sent to collections for further action.

DO FINES AND TICKETS COUNT?

According to the law in Ontario you will face consequences if you refuse or ignore to pay a fine or a ticket. The outcomes of this could be:

You get convicted of the offence in the case where you don't respond by taking action for the ticket within 15 days.

If you do get convicted then you will be required to pay the fine they set plus court costs and if it isn't a parking ticket then your cost will also include the victim fine surcharge that will be required to pay by a certain date.

Failure to pay the fine by the due date can result in one or more of the following:

- Depending of the offence the Ontario Ministry of Transport can refuse to issue or validate your vehicle permit.
- If you are caught speeding or offences related to it your license could get suspended
- Any extra administrative fee will also be on you
- The fine can get sent to a collection agency

• The fine owed and information with it will be forwarded to a credit bureau.

HOW ABOUT TAX DEBTS?

It is important to note that the Canada Revenue Agency will never call or e-mail taxpayers saying that will go to jail for unpaid tax debts.

There is however a few exceptions to this rule. They are the following:

Fraud – If there is fraud involved you could get charged with a serious criminal offence. Later on if you are found guilty, the sentence would be based upon the conviction of fraud rather than an unpaid debt.

Unpaid Child Support – It is not common, however the circumstance can still occur where you are charged with contempt of court related to unpaid child support payments. Authorization has been given to the Family Responsibility Office in which they are allowed to suspend your driver's license, seize your assets, issue wage garnishment, or applying a notification to your credit report. Lastly they can also request the judge to put the person owing the child car in prison.

Even though jail time is an unrealistic possibility the negative impact of debt is a forever cycle that can only end if you take an action to solve it. Get in touch with GTA Credit Solutions today and be on your way to a debt free life



COMMUNITY WATCH

Appointments & Achievements - by Siva Sivapragasam

Dr. Sivakumar Gulasingam has been chosen as one of the top Canadian immigrants for the year 2022

Dr. Sivakumar Gulasingam has been chosen as one of the top Canadian immigrants for the year 2022. The Award is sponsored by the Canadian Immigrant Magazine and supported by RBC Royal Bank.

Dr. Gulasingam was a lead physician at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Sri Lanka, but upon immigrating to Canada in 2008 he had to undergo extensive relicensing. That didn't stop him from becoming a physical medicine and rehabilitation doctor. He is now attached to the University Health Network in Toronto.



Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has been appointed the 49th Chief Justice of India

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has been appointed the 49th Chief Justice of India. Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court Bench from the Bar.

Justice S.M. Sikri was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court Bench in March 1964 and went on to become the 13th CJI in January 1971.



Vajira Kodithuwakku has assumed duties as Presidential Media Director (Electronic and Operations) in Sri Lanka

Veteran journalist and artiste Vajira Kodithuwakku has assumed duties as Presidential Media Director (Electronic and Operations) in Sri Lanka. Kodithuwakku, who has worked in many media organizations for a long time, has also worked as a press secretary to several ministers.

He worked as the press secretary to the Northern Province Governor before assuming duties as the Presidential Media Director. Kodithuwakku is also an expert artist.



Quotable Quotes - 2022

By: Siva Sivapragasam

“They said it”



“

“Today, the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy”
– US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on meeting leaders in Taiwan despite warnings from China

”



“

“These are dark days for our nation, as my beautiful home, Mar-A-Lago is under siege, raided and occupied by a large group of FBI Agents. Nothing like this has ever happened to a President of the United States ever before”
– Former US President Donald Trump on FBI search at his Florida home

”



“

“With some of those sectors reporting high vacancy rates, labour supply rather than demand appears to be the main issue”
– CIBC Senior Economist Andrew Grantham on labour supply

”



“

“We know that travel has not been easy for passengers. We will be persistent and dedicated to get through this transitional time and to get to a more normal state once again”
– Toronto Airport Authority CEO Deborah Flint on Pearson airport delays and cancellations

”



“

“Immigration and smaller house-hold sizes are all pointing to greater housing demand over the long term”
– Aladablorwerth, Deputy Chief Economist, Canada Mortgage and Housing Authority

”

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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.

Soambu keerai saadham

Soambu keerai is popularly known as dill in English and is an excellent dish to make for post partum/ post surgery recovery and during this time when the weather starts to get slightly cooler in the autumn months. Filled with vitamins A, C, Niacin, thiamine, vitamin B6 and minerals, it is a good veg to make to keep away the flu as children go back to school.

Here is a simple, yet quick recipe that does not take too much time to prep, but has all the goodness that dill provides.

Ingredients:

- ✓ 1 bunch of soambu keerai, chopped
- ✓ 15-20 small garlic cloves, peeled
- ✓ 10 chinna vengayam, chopped
- ✓ 1 tsp cumin seeds (seeragam)
- ✓ 1 green chilli (patchai milagai)
- ✓ ¼ tsp turmeric powder (manjal)
- ✓ 2 tsp, ghee (nei)
- ✓ 2 tsp, unroasted sesame oil (nallennai)
- ✓ 2 cups of cooked rice (any variety)
- ✓ Salt as needed

Method:

Heat your pan to a medium heat and add in the oil and ghee followed by the cumin seeds, chilli and garlic. Roast the garlic till golden brown and add the onions. Once the onions have turned translucent, add the turmeric powder and the soambu keerai. Salt as required and cook covered on a low flame for 2-3 minutes.

Into this dish, mix the cooked rice and stir well. Check for salt and enjoy with either fried fish or roasted vegetables.

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



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COMMUNITY WATCH



Top Tips for Newcomer Success

Newcomers play a critical role in the social and economic development of Canada, but many struggle to access the resources and advice needed to find their footing and thrive in their new home country – such as professional networks or in-language support and advice.

Your bank might not be the first place that comes to mind when looking for support on everything from housing to jobs. But thanks to people like Heidi Hemdan - once a newcomer herself - this is exactly what you might find.

“As a newcomer, it’s extremely helpful to have access to a team of people that are able to provide unique support, guidance and relevant resources based on your experience and language skills,” says Heidi Hemdan, Branch Manager at RBC and a leader of one of RBC’s Newcomer Advisor Teams. “One of the special things about our team is that we are all newcomers ourselves, who intimately understand the obstacles faced.”

Moving to another country and arriving without credit or a local reference meant it was challenging for Heidi to get a lease on an apartment or trying to find a job – facets many newcomers struggle with. But, as a Heidi learned during her journey, there are a few tips for success to help newcomers settle in sooner:



- Research your resources – There are lots of resources available both online and when you land to help you get settled and it’s important to know about them before arriving. Working abroad or traveling is very different from living in a new country.
- Set realistic goals – Be flexible and ready to pivot. For example, credentials from one country may not be applicable elsewhere. Use what transferable skills you have to get

started and learn more about the new environment you’re in.

- Network, network, network – Develop your own personal brand and advertise your skills to help you move forward in your goals, whether it’s in your career or life.

For more information,

visit <https://www.rbc.com/newcomers/>



Credit Ratings and Why They Matter

In the Canadian financial system, credit history is king. Without, it’s hard to secure most cell phone plans or rental agreements, which is why learning about credit and how to build a credit history is essential for all Canadians - especially newcomers.

Like many seeking their first credit card in Canada, newcomers might expect to receive a lower credit limit. This can be frustrating when it’s clear that access to a higher limit can help improve your credit score and is more efficient for larger purchases.

“Newcomers receive less support and education around credit than they would for other facets like finding a job or housing,” says Amit Brahme, Senior Director of the Newcomer and Cultural Client Segment at RBC.

“Something many of us who are used to the system overlook is just how critical credit education is to settling down in Canada.”

Since regularly using a credit card helps to build credit history – and credit history paves the way for future purchases, such as rent, purchasing a car and eventually owning a home – it’s worthwhile to seek a banking partner that provides access to higher credit limits with no credit history required.



Here are the top three important things for anyone to learn about credit in Canada:

1. What it is: A credit score is similar to a report card for your finances that represents your credit risk - the likelihood that you will pay your bills on time, pay back loans, etc. The higher the score, the more likely a bank or other lender is to approve a loan request. Loans can go towards things such as opening a business, continuing your education or securing a mortgage.

2. How it’s calculated: Multiple factors are taken into consideration, such as your payment history, the length of your credit history and your used credit vs. your available credit.

3. How to use it: Ensure all bills are paid on time and in full and, if possible, try not to max out your credit limit each month. To improve your credit score, it’s best to use up to 30 per cent of your overall available credit.

For more information,

visit <https://www.rbc.com/newcomers/>



COMMUNITY WATCH

2022 Ontario Municipal Election

On October 24, 2022, voters across the province of Ontario will be heading to the polls in the municipalities they call their homes to elect their Mayor and local representatives. Here is a glimpse of a few candidates running in this year's municipal elections in Toronto and Markham as seen from their campaign websites:

Parthi Kandavel



Candidate, City Councillor, Ward 25
- Scarborough-Southwest

For over 25 years, I lived and attended school in Scarborough Southwest, where I learned lessons about fairness, integrity and accountability. With this solid foundation, I want to give back to the place that's given me everything.

I've had the honour of serving as your Trustee for the Toronto District School Board for the past 8 years. I worked hard to transform the TDSB by empowering Parent Councils, addressing systemic inequities, and chairing key committees to ensure your schools, your children and your community can depend on resources, transparency and a strong advocate.

As a Trustee and as an elementary teacher, I engage in important conversations and decisions, with local families, business owners, community organizations and neighbours. You've told me what's important – responsible planning, safer streets and improved public services. Please be assured, these are my priorities as well.

With your support, I will become the new City Councillor for Scarborough Southwest and you'll have a hardworking, accountable and honest partner.

Together, we can make meaningful and positive change!

Via <https://parthikandavel.ca/>

Yalini, Rajakulasingam

Candidate, Toronto District School Board Trustee,
Ward 2 - Scarborough North

As someone who grew up, attended schools and worked in Scarborough North, I know the community, and I understand what the community's needs are. For far too long, Scarborough has faced many inequities in education, and we must continue to fight for equitable access to resources and



opportunities.

As the TDSB Trustee for the past 4 years, I have stood against cuts to education and pushed for better parent and caregiver engagement, especially for non-English speakers. I have always advocated for more programming for Scarborough students and culturally relevant mental health supports.

As your re-elected Trustee, I will continue to ensure that the transition from Pandemic learning addresses any gaps in academic success, specifically in underserved communities, and ensure student safety is our top priority.

Via yalinifortrustee.ca

Juanita Nathan

Candidate, City Councillor, Ward 7 – Markham

As the former Public School Board Trustee and former Chair of the York Region District School Board, Juanita brings experience, knowledge and a proven track record for getting things done. Juanita has championed community issues through collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including resident associations, parent networks, community and faith organizations, administration staff, and elected officials from all levels of government in Markham and beyond.

As a Trustee, Juanita has continually advocated applying the equity lens in programs and services within our schools; she has tirelessly worked to increase engagement between schools and communities, ensuring

that parents always have a voice at the table.

For over 25 years, Juanita has lived in Ward 7 and continues to be an active and engaged resident of Markham. Being the most diverse Ward of Markham and given Juanita's community involvement, she is in the best position to advocate for the diverse interests of our community. Given her work with newcomers, youth and seniors, Juanita has a deeper understanding of the needs and challenges faced by many in this community. She has received several recognitions for her service through awards, including Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award for Service, conferred by Hon. Michael Chan.

Juanita's influence with elected representatives, including municipal, provincial and federal leaders, complemented by her proven track record and ability to bring people together, equates to a strong voice and representation for Ward 7 at Markham's City Council.



To be eligible to vote, check to ensure you are on the voter's list for the municipality where you reside. For example, you can find information on Toronto's voter list online here: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/voter-information/how-to-vote/voters-list/>. So, you're encouraged to devote your time and energy towards learning about the issues affecting the community you live in and the candidates themselves. In turn, you can make an informed vote on October 24 in the Ontario municipal elections to see your ideal community or city.



COMMUNITY WATCH 

Successful Launch of Inaugural Golf Classic by Tamil Golfers Network

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. Its inaugural launch event, which was held on Wednesday, July 27th at Wyndance Golf Club in Uxbridge, was a tremendous success. The event garnered a lot of interest from Tamil golfers of all abilities, from beginners who haven't played golf before to advanced level players who golf frequently. It was sold out well in advance of the day of the event, with 84 golf participants and 144 in attendance for the dinner gala.

The weather conditions on the day were perfect for golf; sunny blue sky, 24 to 26 degrees Celsius temperature and a slight wind breeze. The golfers enjoyed the afternoon with friendly team and individual competitions. The teams were made up of group of 4 golfers with different levels, with the goal of novice golfers getting to learn from experience golfers, and for participants to network and meet like-minded people. It had diverse participant with golfers ranging in age from teenagers to 70+ year-olds, a true representation that the game of golf is for all ages. The golfers also came from different parts of the GTA, and even a few from the UK. They were all vying for various prizes including team with the lowest score, longest drive, closest to the pin, hole-in-one prize of \$50,000, and even a prize for the best dressed golfer.

The golf tournament was followed by a cocktail reception and dinner gala. Stan Muthulingam, Chair of TGN Canada, welcomed the guests and expressed his enthusiasm for this exciting new initiative to promote the game of golf to the Tamil community. He also shared proposed plans to continue building on the success of this inaugural event including having golf tournaments periodically and golf clinics for youth. Yoganathan Ratheesan, Global Chair, shared with

the audience TGN's vision to build a global network for Tamil golfers and the importance of uniting Tamils across the globe. Following the speeches, over 15 prizes were given out to winners of team and individual competitions. These exciting prizes ranged from golf pull carts, golf bags, golf clubs and many more.

The evening's gala was highlighted by Gajan Sivabalasingham's inspiring speech about his passion for the game of golf. He shared some tips on how parents can foster the interest in their children at an early age, based on his experience growing up playing golf. Gajan was better known as Canada's own Little Tiger Woods at the age of 6, back in year 2000. He became the youngest Canadian ever to represent his country at age 6, participating in the World Junior and US Kids Golf events. He won his first international golf tournament when he was only 10 years old.

The evening's gala was concluded by TGN committee member Siva Sivaraiah's vote of thanks. He thanked all the volunteers and golfers for making this event a tremendous success. Special recognition was given for the support of this inaugural event by several Tamil-owned businesses including EnMobi, Cablesoppe, Affinity Mortgages, NavaWilson LLP, Life100, IBC Tamil, Suresh Law, iVedha, JC Group, 369 Global, IT Pro Canada, Araviram and Knowledgehook.

TGN has 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.





SPECIAL FEATURE

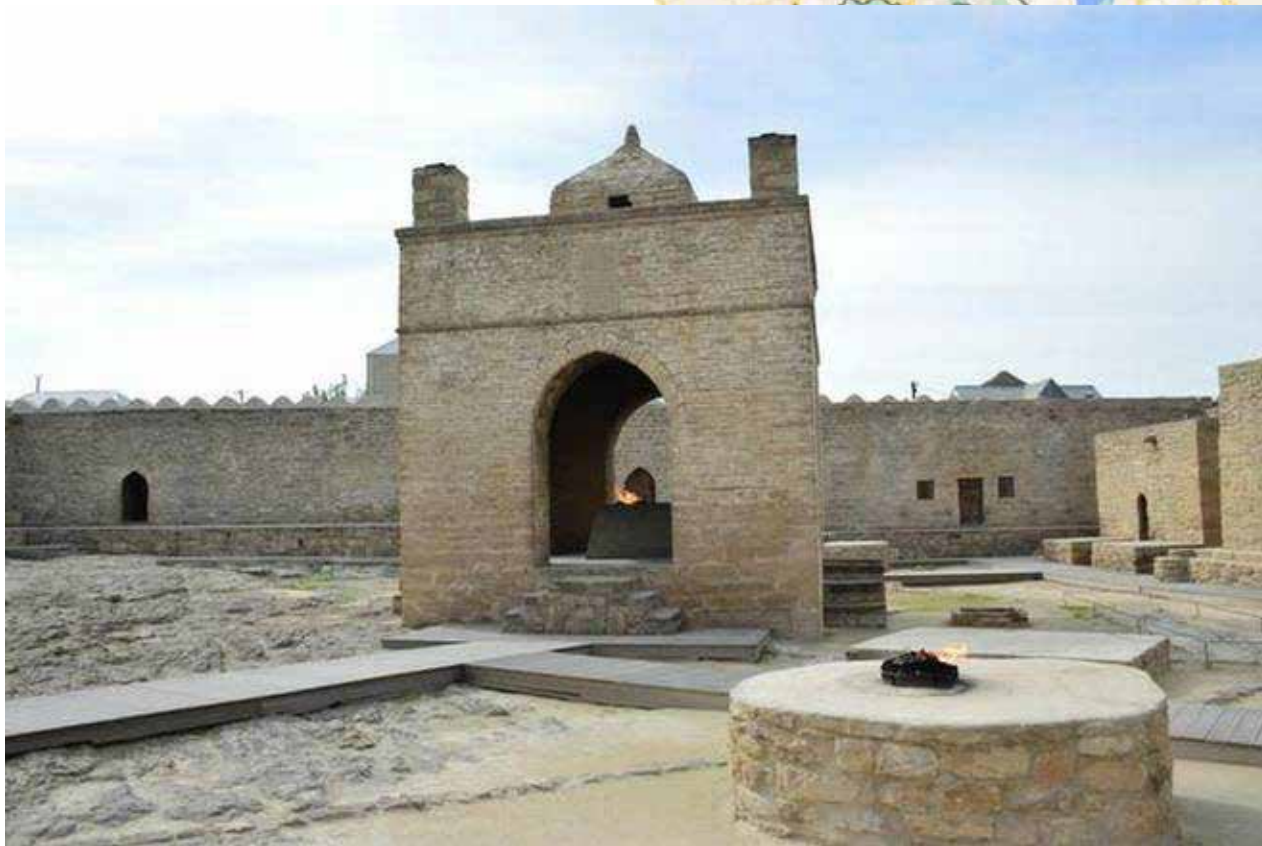
3,500-YEAR-OLD FIRE TEMPLE IN AZERBAIJAN

Compiled by : KIDAMBI RAJ

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan was part of the Silk Route that connected Asia and Europe, and it is believed that merchants from the Indian subcontinent came to hear of the legend of the “burning earth” and “eternal flames” that the *Absheron* peninsula in Azerbaijan was renowned for (Azerbaijan, in fact, is often referred to as “*The Land of Fire*”). And so, Indian travellers and pilgrims arrived in the late 16th and early 17th century, building *Ateshgah* in its current form, and worshipping the scared flames alongside their own Gods such as *Ganesha* and *Shiva*. *Ateshgah*, it turns out, is a fascinating little relict of history, of globalisation and the inter-cultural exchange between the Indian sub-continent and Europe, dating back to the 16th century.

Hindu History of Azerbaijan Ateshgah of Baku Fire Temple



Fire Temple, Baku, Azerbaijan – “*Fire Temple Baku*” is a castle-like religious temple in *Surakhani town* in Suraxani raion), a suburb in Baku, Azerbaijan. The pentagonal complex, which has a courtyard surrounded by cells for monks and a *tetrapillar-altar* in the middle, was built during the 17th and 18th centuries. It was abandoned in the late 19th century, probably due to the dwindling of the Indian population in the area. The *Baku Ateshgah* was a pilgrimage and philosophical centre of *Zoroastrians* from Northwestern Indian Subcontinent, who were involved in trade with the Caspian area via the famous “*Grand Trunk Road*”. The four holy elements of their belief were: *ateshi* (fire), *badi* (air), *abi* (water) and *heki* (earth). The temple ceased to be a place of worship after 1883 with the installation of petroleum plants (industry) in *Sutakhany*. The complex was turned into a museum in 1975.

Based on Persian and Indian inscriptions, the temple was used as a Hindu, SDikh and Zoroastrian place of worship. The Persian toponym *Atashgah* (with Russian/Azerbaijani pronunciation: *Atashgyakh/Ateshgah*) literally means “*home of fire*”. The Persian-origin term *atesh* means fire, and

is a loanword in Azerbaijani. *Gah* derives from Middle Persian and means “*throne*” or “*bed*”. The name refers to the fact that the site is situated atop a now-exhausted natural gas field, which once caused natural fires to spontaneously burn there as the gas emerged from several natural surface vents. Today, the fires in the complex are fed by gas piped in from Baku, and are only turned on for the benefit of visitors.

An inscription from the Baku Atashgah, the first line begins: I salute Lord Ganesha, venerating Hindu God Ganesha and the second venerates the Holy Fire, *Jwala Ji* and dates the inscription to *Samvat* 1802 or 1745-46 CE. *Surakhani*, the name of the town where Ateshgah is located, likely means “*a region of holes*” (*Suraakh* is Persian for hole), but might perhaps be reference to the fire glow as well (*sorkh/surkh* is persian for *red*). A historic alternative name for Azerbaijan as a whole has been *Odler Yurdu*, *Azeri* for land of fires. “*Surakhany*” in *Tati* (language of Surakhany, close to Persian) means “*hole with the fountain*”. *Shri Ganeshaya Namaha* is not an incantation one would expect to see etched in the heart of Azerbaijan, the tiny Muslim majority, former Soviet nation on

the banks of the Caspian Sea. But it is that, that catches the eye of the visitors on a stone archway as one enters Ateshgah, a Fire Temple near *Surakhani*, Azerbaijan. An inscribed invocation to Lord Shiva in Sanskrit can be seen at the Ateshgah. *Estakhri* (10th century) mentioned that not far from Baku (i.e., on the *Absheron Peninsula*) lived fire worshippers. This was confirmed by **Movses Daskhurantsi**, in his reference of the province of *Bhagavan* (“*Fields of the Gods*” i.e., “*Fire Gods*”).

In the 18th century, Atashgah was visited by Zoroastrians. The Persian handwriting *Naskh* inscription over the entrance aperture of one of the cells, which speaks about the visit of Zoroastrians from *Isfahan*: The translation of Persian inscription is: *Fires stand in line Esfahani Bovani came to Badak* (Baku) “*Blessed the lavish New Year*”, he said: The house was built in the month of *Ear* in year 1158.

The 1158 year corresponds to 1745 AD. *Bovan* (modern *Bovanat*) is the village near *Esfahan*. The word *Badak* is a diminutive of *Bad-Kubeh*. (The name of Baku in the sources of the 17th and 18th centuries was *Bad-e Kube*). At the end of the reference is the constellation of *Sombole/Virgo* (August-September). In the name of the month the master mistakenly shifted the “*I*” and “*h*” at the end of the word. According to Zoroastrian calendar *Qadimi* New Year in 1745 AD was in August.

Open Flames

A tourist writes that on the day of their visit to the temple, the wind was very strong, whipping up dust all around them. He added that they were after all, less than 20 km from the capital city of Baku, unofficially



SPECIAL FEATURE



called the City of **Wind** in Azeri. But he said that the sacred flame in the raised main altar at the centre of the temple compound burnt regardless.



That central flame, and the open flames that burn in the two circular platforms on the side are today lit by Baku's main pipeline of gas. But for hundreds, may be thousands of years, they were a naturally occurring phenome-

the current one during renovations done at the temple in 1969. There are indications that the old temple might have extended beyond the existing perimeter, but any remains were most likely destroyed when the surrounding land was excavated for oil and gas from the late 19th century onwards. That was also what caused the end of the glorious natural phenomenon of the eternal flame. The aggressive century long mining of the natural gas reserves meant the flames went out by 1969. That possibly the reason why worship ended at the temple in the late 19th century as well. Historians speculate that the pilgrims were driven away by the setting up of petroleum plants in the Surakhani region.

A Pilgrimage Site



non, the result of the country's massive natural gas reserves that leaked through holes in the rocky surface, igniting into flames as it came into contact with air.

Zoroastrian Origins

These **eternal flames** have been venerated by fire worshippers throughout Azerbaijan's history. There are mentions as far back as 7th century by travellers to the region. Indeed, historians believe that the fire temple



itself in an earlier form, built by Zoroastrians long before the Indian travellers came. Part of an older structure was found beneath

Thankfully, the 500-year-old temple still stands, and retains traces of its multicultural past. The central altar isn't purely Hindu in its structure, with similarities to traditional Zoroastrian fire altars, and one of its inscriptions in the temple compound is in Persian as well. The Zoroastrian influence in Azerbaijan is old but rooted, a remnant of the days when pre-Islamic Persian dynasties ruled the region. Even today, **Nuvruz**, the Zoroastrian New Year celebration, is a major festival in their calendar. Fittingly enough, according to historical accounts, Ateshgah in the 19th century became a pilgrimage site for Parsis from Bombay, who came to visit the Indian temple that was once a Zoroastrian place of worship. Following its restoration in 1969, the temple was converted into a museum in 1975, and was officially listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1998.

Today, each of the tiny cells that line the pentagonal perimeter of the compound tells stories of the pilgrims and ascetics who lived there, showing them doing **tapasya**, draping themselves in heavy iron chains or indulging in extreme acts of self-denial and fasting.

Chants of **Om Gam Ganapataye Namaha** floats out of one and yet another, displays shards of pottery used in rituals long ago. Rooted in Zoroastrianism, the oldest of all monotheist religions, Novruz Bayram has



been celebrated since ancient times. The spring New Year has been welcomed by holidays in Azerbaijan, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and other Eastern countries. Novruz, which means **New Day** in Persian is marked in the northern hemisphere on the day of the equinox (21-22 March), which is beginning of spring.

Zoroastrianism was founded by the Prophet Zoroaster in ancient Iran approximately 3500 years ago and revolves around the worship of fire. With a history that stretches back millennia, Baku is home to the **Baku Atesgah** or **Fire Temple**. The temple is an ancient Hindu castle like religious edifice in a suburb of greater Baku, which was initially recognized as a Zoroastrian fire worship place. Interesting information about Zoroastrianism in Baku is given by D. Shapiro in **A Karaite** from **Wolhynia** meets a Zoroastrian from Baku. **Avra-**



ham Firkowicz, a Karaite collector of ancient manuscripts, wrote about his meeting in Darband in 1840 with a fire-worshipper from Baku. Firkowicz asked him, **"Why do you worship fire?"**. The fire-worshipper replied that he worshipped not fire, but the Creator symbolized by fire – a **"matter"** or abstraction (and hence not a person) called **Q'rt'** (from **Avestan** kirdar or Sanskrit **"krt"** and signifies **"one who does"** or **"creator"**). Scholar, A.V. Williams Jackson, drew a distinction between the two groups. While stating that **"the typical features which Hanway mentions are distinctly Indian, not Zoroastrian"** based on the worshippers' **attires** and **tilakas**, their strictly vegetarian diets and open veneration for cows, he left open the possibility that few **"actual Gabrs (i.e., Zoroastrians or Parsis)"** may also have been present at the shrine alongside larger Hindu and Sikh groups.



COMMUNITY WATCH

Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years



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

DTA's Homeland Projects

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

1. Provided educational items to 38 children who passed the scholarship exam Rs 50,000/-
 2. Educational expenses for two students in AL & OL Rs 50,000/-
 3. Educational expenses for a girl studying AL Rs 50,000/-
 4. The Second project in Kilinochchi District, is a sewing machine project. a sewing machine for a family living below the poverty line. Two sisters aged 56 and 58, unmarried due to poverty, who live with a sickly mother, have made this request. They have experience in sewing. By providing this machine they can stand on their own and support the family.
cost Rs 150,000/- (CAD 580).
 5. Donated photocopy machine for the Mulankavil primary school. cost SL rupees 100,000.00
- Thank you to Mr. Subramaniam Kathirithamby & Mr Maylvahanam (Sri Lanka) for coordinating this project.

Family Fun Day & Pickering Cultural Fusion

DTA actively participated in Family Fun Day in Ajax. This was a great cause to fund raising event for Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation. DTA volunteers represented our members and community. Thank you to all the youth and parent volunteers who came out to cheer and support DTA. Also a big thank you to all the performers for a wonderful presentation at the events to showcase our talents and culture.

21st ANNUAL YOUTH FESTIVAL 2022!

Durham Tamil Association Proudly presents:

21st ANNUAL YOUTH FESTIVAL 2022!

DTA's biggest Annual Event!

(Event date & Location will be announced soon)

Are you looking for an opportunity to enhance your creativity?

Dance choreographers & other program trainers needed!

Great opportunity to take the lead, enhance your talent & get involved in the community!

Registration for Dance practice open now! Register online

@Durhamtamils.org

Rajarajeswari Temple Rochester Trip

Thanks to the kindness of Mr Kanapathipillai, DTA members were able to go to Rajarajeswari Temple in Rochester for free.

Sandbank Day Beach Trip

DTA organizing a day beach trip to Sandbanks for all DTA members to relax and enjoy. This will allow everyone to enjoy on last trip and celebrate the end of summer vacation in style.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation
- Delicious Kothu Roti (Mutton+Vegetarian)
- Kool (Seafood+Vegetarian)
- Short Eats

Mental Health 101 Workshop

On Aug 16th, DTA hosted a mental health workshop with help of trainer Mary Louise Ireland who volunteered her time to host the event. Mental Health 101 provides an understanding of various mental health issues, builds mental health awareness and helps reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. Participants will learn strategies for maintaining their mental wellness and for providing compassionate support and understanding to colleagues.

Tamil School

Tamil class registration is open for the School Year from 2022-2023!

In-person or Virtual class options are available!

Durham Tamil
Association



INCLUDED:

- ~Transportation
- ~Mutton+Vegetarian
Kothu Roti
- ~Seafood+Vegetarian
Kool
- ~Short Eats

Sandbank Beach

Open to Everyone!

Saturday, August 27, 2022

Adults (18+)/Seniors \$60.00

Children (0-17) \$30.00

Please E-transfer the funds to dtafinancecommittee@gmail.com

Register Now!

www.durhamtamils.org



DURHAM TAMIL ASSOCIATION'S

21st Annual YOUTH FESTIVAL

2022

Register Now!

Visit www.durhamtamils.org to REGISTER

DEADLINE: August 15, 2022

GROUP PRACTICES START SOON

Bollywood Dance Singing Performance
Kollywood Dance Bharatanatyam
Fusion Dance Fashion Show

Contact us!
www.durhamtamils.org
905-428-7007

COMMUNITY WATCH



Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years



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, Showtha Thushijanthan-RE/MAX, Ajax Crematorium, and Visitation Ctr, and all our sponsors for your continued support throughout the year.

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



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