

# Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

1<sup>00</sup>¢

« 18<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION » NOVEMBER - 2023

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## Toronto's only Tamil Radiothon raises over \$174,000

“ In support of Scarborough Health Network Foundation and the Love, Scarborough Campaign”



SCARBOROUGH (November 16, 2023) – SHN Foundation's Tamil Radiothon presented by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) and in partnership with EAST FM 102.7 raised a final total of \$174,000 for SHN's highest priority needs and the purchase of urgently needed medical equipment across its

three hospitals – Birchmount, Centenary and General. Key stakeholders from the community that helped make the event a success gathered to celebrate and learn more about how the impact of their donations will be helping the Scarborough Hospitals. The CTCC and EAST FM 102.7 were instrumental in bringing (Continued on Page 3)

### A trailblazer in Journalism, the community loses a pioneer of our time

#### Siva Sivapragasam

It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Siva Sivapragasam on Friday, October 27, 2023. Sivapragasam was serving as the executive editor, marketing consultant and one of the key and main influential force in the publication of Monsoon Journal.

He will be dearly missed by the entire team, readership and the family.

(See pages 40-47 for tribute)



Dec 17, 1937  
Oct 27, 2023

### Tamil-Canadian Entrepreneur Murali Sivaguru Elected as President of CTCC



President Murali Sivaguru

In a resounding display of achievement and transition, the Canadian Tamils Chamber of Commerce convened its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the CTCC Business Centre, unveiling a panorama of accomplishments and embracing a transformative shift in leadership.

The event, a testament to the organization's resilience and growth, was heralded as a pivotal moment by attendees. Outgoing

(Continued on Page 3)

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(Continue from Page 1)

## Tamil-Canadian Entrepreneur Murali Sivaguru...

President, Vina Devadas, delivered a poignant retrospective, chronicling the extraordinary events of the past two years. Emphasizing the overwhelming endorsement from respected members, Devadas extended heartfelt gratitude to sponsors and supporters, acknowledging their integral role in the organization's milestones.

However, the spotlight of the day shone on the seamless transition to the new board for the 2023/2024 term, a feat accomplished sans the need for an election. Incoming President Murali Sivaguru, in his address, conveyed gratitude to all present and outlined a vision emphasizing the recruitment and empowerment of young entrepreneurs, while nurturing the landscape of women's entrepreneurship within the chamber.

The unveiling of the 2023/2024 board of directors introduced a blend of experience and fresh perspectives, signaling an exciting chapter for CTCC's leadership:

**President:** Murali Sivaguru

**Executive VP:** Vithu Ramachandran

**VP Internal Affairs:** Darshan Sritharan

**VP Finance:** Rukshan Para

**VP Membership:** Poorany Sornabala

**VP Community Relations:** Christeen Seevaratnam

**Director:** Kanchana Thuraisingam

**Director:** Suresh Tharmalingam

**Director:** Rakhavan Ketheeswaran

**Immediate Past President:** Vina Devadas

With an eye on the future, CTCC extends gratitude for continuous support and anticipates a year replete with success, expansion, and collaborative endeavors within the community. As the baton passes to a new leadership, the organization stands poised for an exciting and prosperous 2023/2024. The CTCC remains committed to fostering an environment conducive to growth, innovation, and inclusivity, cementing its role as a cornerstone of business and commerce within the city.



CTCC Board Members for 2023/2024

(Continue from Page 1)

## Toronto's only Tamil Radiothon raises over \$174,000...



Presenting Sponsor CTCC raised \$50,000 for the 3rd Annual Radiothon by SHN Foundation in partnership with East FM 102.7 that was held on Sept 26, 2023 and collected a total of \$174,000 for the Scarborough Hospitals.

the Tamil community together once again to highlight how vital the Scarborough Hospitals are for our community. The evening included remarks from Murali Sivaguru, Chair of the Tamil Radiothon committee, Vina Devadas Past President of CTCC, Nada Rajkumar, Chairman of EAST FM 102.7, Tulla Bateman, VP of Community Development and Partnerships at SHN Foundation and Gajen Arumugam, President of Lucvua Kitchens. Immediately after, a novelty cheque was presented by the entire Tamil community of sponsors, donors, volunteers and organizers. Following the photos was an exclusive tour of the Centenary Emergency Department, one of the highest priorities through the Love, Scarborough campaign, led by Dr. Elan Ambalavanar, and Dr. Mayoorendra Ravichandiran, Associate Medical Directors of Emergency Medicine at the Scarborough Health Network.

Launched on January 10, 2022, the Love, Scarborough campaign is an awareness campaign shedding light on

the healthcare inequities Scarborough faces. Funds raised will support SHN Foundation's \$200 million fundraising goal, which will go toward critical projects like Canada's first no-wait Emergency Department, community health centres, critical cardiac projects, and advancing research and education within Scarborough hospitals. More than 75% of Toronto's Tamil population resides in Scarborough, with members of the SHN team being part of the Tamil community and working specifically to support their unique healthcare challenges. This includes a dedicated Tamil-speaking mental health therapist who exclusively addresses and supports mental health within the Tamil community and a full-time Tamil interpreter available to support patients and families.

The Tamil community came together to invest in healthcare and improve the health outcomes and the patient experience for one of the country's most diverse communities.

( See Page 05 for pictures )

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## PUBLISHER'S DESK

# Music is a Powerful Device to Navigate Grief

By Harrish Thirukumaran

The last few months have had me traveling along the journey of grief. I recently lost my dad, Kanapathipillai Thirukumaran, on June 16, 2023. He was also the co-founder of the Monsoon Journal, as mentioned in last month's issue of the paper. It has been a struggle, where I often feel a strong sense of vulnerability as I try to continue going forward in life. My ongoing experience with grief is also compounded by the fact that I lost my mom, Nalene Thirukumaran, a few years ago on October 16, 2020. Sadness seems to have sat with me in both covert and overt ways as I go about my days due to the heaviness that this kind of loss has on someone who has not even approached their 30s. However, I find that one way that I have been able to process and channel feelings of grief is through music. In that sense, I hope this publisher's desk can serve other readers out there who may also be dealing with grief.

Music has had this powerful effect of releasing feelings of sadness and love for my parents. Water easily collects around my eye ducts, flowing down my cheeks, upon simply listening to devotional Tamil songs. Bhaja Govindam is one particular song that evokes a strong emotional experience since it was one of my dad's favorite songs. I would say that music is a device that allow someone to express or touch their realest self that can be non-describable through words or speech. There are now moments at home where I just desire to browse and listen to songs found on Spotify playlists, and even sing along, especially R&B as well as soul tunes. It really gives someone in mourning the capacity to heal during their journey of grief. The meaning behind the lyrics as well as the melodies from these songs unleash the emotion of living life and all the experiences accompanying it.

On the other hand, the vulnerability that grief places you in can also bring up feelings of doubt, negativity, or worry. It's important to recognize whether those periods of vulnerability are signs of self-doubt or grief, as I try to do each day. I find that music does help us see that as well. It encourages us to look inward to see the pain or hardships that we may have internalized from our own life experiences beyond grief.

While the rawness of these emotions that are released can be a tiring process, listening to music gives way for you to redirect and manage those feelings that are bubbling towards the surface. It grants you a key to unlock the deeper thoughts, memories, and emotions that are located within yourself. According to Pathways Home Health, music can help create your story, redefine your relationship with grief and even transform it into a thing of beauty. From my experience, this can lead us from listening to creating music. Hip Hop music particularly has become a device for me in creating that story. My own interest in it has even led me to just rap as a pastime to attend to my wellbeing as I deal with grief. However, those who may not be as interested in rap or hip-hop music can find other ways to be creative musically or in other fields to help with grief. Also, it really is not about the skills or

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talent, but more so about the bravery of engaging yourself in that creative act. To give those raw emotions an outlet of expression.

Music has become a great form of therapy for me during these times. Music therapy is something that I have been unintentionally practicing. Yet, it is by writing this publisher's desk that I am now more conscious of this activity. Through this practice, I am able to feel fully the truly dynamic nature of our emotions because music can navigate us through the wild nature of grief.



Join the Tamil community and help us reach our goal for the Scarborough Hospitals. Please donate generously.  
[www.shnfoundation.ca/tamil](http://www.shnfoundation.ca/tamil)

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# CANADA NEWS

## Photos taken at celebrations held to honor the Tamil Radiothon participants



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## Tamil Family Donates Quarter Million to Scarborough Hospitals

### Jegan & Sathia Mylvaganam of Scarborough Convention Centre's generous donation to SHN Foundation

SHN Foundation would like to thank the Jeganathan family for their generous donation of \$250,000 towards the new Northpine Emergency Department at Centenary Hospital!

We would like to send our gratitude to Jegan & Sathia Mylvaganam, long-time donors of SHN, for their outstanding support of our Scarborough hospitals and for helping us advance our care to hundreds of patients and their families. This donation will help build Canada's first no-wait Emergency Department, right here in our own community. The family gift is led by Jegan Mylvaganam,

known to many in Scarborough as a Gateway Newstands franchisee and for founding the Scarborough Convention Centre in 2012.

The Jeganathan family have not only become supporters of our hospitals, but the entire family has used our facilities in some capacity, and supporting emergency care is meaningful to them all. We applaud the Jeganathan family for helping us address the healthcare needs in our community and for stepping up for Scarborough hospitals!

Thank you to the Jeganathan family for Loving Scarborough.  
#LoveScarborough



## Angel Immigration raises \$10,000 with the support of Chinese Community for SHN Foundation

On Friday October 20th, 2023, over 350 people attended a fundraising dinner with the Chinese community in support of our Scarborough Hospitals. SHN Foundation would like to thank you to Angel Chau, Ana Fang and Mark Yang from Angel

Immigration for raising \$10,000 for Scarborough Health Network!

This donation will help ensure our healthcare teams receives the investments they need to continue providing exceptional care to our community.

Thank you, Angel Immigration, for your generous donation and commitment to supporting our Scarborough Hospitals.  
#LoveScarborough

To learn more about our campaign please visit [LoveScarborough.ca](http://LoveScarborough.ca)

## Generous Fundraising Campaign by Surati Sweet Mart for Scarborough Hospitals

In honour of Dussehra/Vijayadashami, a Hindu festival celebrated every year at the end of Navaratri, @suratisweetmart @grainzerofoods will be matching all donations made with a purchase from today until November 20th in support of our Scarborough Hospitals!

Thank you @suratisweetmart @grainzerofoods for investing in the healthcare of our Scarborough community #LoveScarborough

Visit Surati Sweet Mart to make your donation today! 300 Middlefield Road, Toronto ON M1S 5B1







# Physicians' Campaign Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary

On November 1st, SHN Foundation proudly hosted The Physicians' Campaign Dinner and officially celebrated the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Physicians' Campaign!

It was an amazing evening celebrating an exceptional group of physician's philanthropists at SHN. Not only have they devoted lives to caring for our

community of Scarborough, but they have stepped up with leadership commitments of \$10,000 or more to support critical projects across our hospitals! We are so thankful for our physicians who are a part of this inspiring campaign & who dedicate themselves to making great strides for the future of healthcare in Scarborough. The success of the

campaign reflects their hard work and commitment to philanthropy at SHN.

We are excited to continue growing our physician donor community and recognizing our leaderships commitment to our hospitals.

Together, we're building greatness right here in Scarborough. #LoveScarborough







# The Schroeder Foundation donates **\$100,000** to SHN Foundation

SHN Foundation would like to thank Walter and Maria Schroeder and the entire Schroder Foundation, for their wonderful donation of \$100,000 and for their outstanding generosity in giving our SHN Frontline workers a night out with their family and friends. Over 600 people from our SHN family came out and enjoyed The Wild Rovers Musical put on by @terrabruceproductions!

The Schroeder Foundation has once again extended its thanks to our SHN healthcare teams for their dedication to caring for our Scarborough community. Everyone had an amazing time listening to the music of the Irish Rovers under the ambience of the Winter Garden Theater. We are so grateful to the Schroder Foundation for their ongoing commitment to supporting our Scarborough hospitals!  
*#LoveScarborough*







# Indian Rescuers Working to Free 40 Men Trapped in Collapsed Tunnel

Rescuers on Tuesday continued battling to save 40 Indian construction workers who have been trapped inside part of a Himalayan highway tunnel that collapsed early Sunday.

The rescue team has been drilling a hole through debris in hopes to affix a wide steel pipe that can be used to pull the workers to safety.

Authorities have said the men, trapped men for some 60 hours, are safe and healthy, and have been given food, water and oxygen, and have been in regular contact with the rescue team.

The early Sunday collapse occurred with about 50-60 workers inside. Those who were near the exit were able to escape, with 40 remaining in the tunnel.

The workers are expected to be freed by Tuesday night or Wednesday according to senior government official Ranjit Sinha.

The 4.5-kilometer tunnel, which had been under construction since 2018, is in Uttarakhand state, a mountainous region known for its many Hindu temples that attract pilgrims and visitors. The tunnel was a part of a new Char Dham Hindu pilgrimage route being built to connect the popular sights.

An ambitious government project, the improved highway route was expected to be

completed in July 2022 at a cost of some \$1.5 billion, although completion is now delayed until at least 2024.

The region is prone to landslides, earthquakes and floods and the incident follows events of land subsidence that geologists, residents and officials have blamed on rapid construction in the mountains.

Many have long protested the construction along the highway, pointing to safety concerns and effects on the environment.

The federal government has said it is using environmentally sound construction techniques to ensure the safety of geologically unstable stretches.

- Via voanews.com



This photo provided by Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) shows rescue work inside a collapsed road tunnel where 40 workers were trapped in northern in Uttarakhand state, India, Nov.14, 2023.

## Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe presents budget; says economy not out of crisis yet

### Cost of living allowances for 1.3 million state employees and pensioners to be raised

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday presented his government's 2024 budget, emphasising the need for tough reforms until the full recovery of the cash-strapped island nation's economy.

Although Sri Lanka has managed to control its hyperinflation in the ongoing economic crisis, its economy was far from being fully recovered.

"We have been able to put back on the rails the derailed economy. Still, people undergo suffering," Wickremesinghe, who is also the Finance Minister, said.

"The inflation which was 70 per cent in September 2022 has been reduced to 1.5 per cent in October this year," the minister said.

He said in order for the island nation to prevent another bankruptcy, hard reforms are a must.

The state banks were made to fund the losses of state enterprises. He proposed that two



state banks' shares be issued to the public and investors while the government would inject cash into the state banks to maintain their stability.

Wickremesinghe said the cost-of-living allowances for 1.3 million state employees and pensioners numbering 7,00,000 would be raised by Rs 10,000 and Rs 3,000, respectively, from 2024.

The announcement came as state employees last week held

street protests demanding a wage hike of Rs 20,000.

He said the government could no longer print money or get external borrowings for state expenditure.

Wickremesinghe blamed the political trade union for protests against investment projects such as the Trincomalee Oil Tanks Farm Deal with India.

A special presidential task force would see the development of the entire Trincomalee district, he

said. Highlighting the revenue shortfall, Wickremesinghe said there remains a monthly state expenditure deficit of Rs 168 billion with the government having to pay Rs 220 billion as loan interest.

The revenue shortfall was one of the key factors mentioned in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) first review of its 2.9-billion-dollar bailout.

The budget speech made no reference to when the second tranche of the IMF four-year bailout would be forthcoming.

Wickremesinghe said this budget was not a 2024 election budget as no popular handouts were announced.

The next presidential election must be called by mid-September of 2024 and be held before the end of November.

- PTI





## Minister Ng advances cooperation on trade, investment and supply-chain resilience in the Asia-Pacific Region



This week, the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development, participated in the 2023 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Annual Ministers' Meeting in San Francisco, California.

While at APEC, Minister Ng highlighted Canada's commitment to deepen its engagement across the Indo-Pacific by continuing to work closely with APEC economies to ensure strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth that creates good jobs and opportunities for businesses on both sides of the Pacific.

During a US-hosted session on economic prosperity and resiliency, Minister Ng underscored the importance of supporting a rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. She encouraged APEC partners to work towards ambitious outcomes at the upcoming WTO 13th Ministerial Conference.

Minister Ng also discussed solutions to strengthen resilient global supply chains and build a green and sustainable future during a roundtable with key business leaders from Canada and San Francisco. She advanced discussions on trade and investment to support Canada's economic growth, including finding opportunities for Canadian businesses in key sectors including clean technology, critical minerals, and agricultural exports.

Minister Ng attended a Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Business Dialogue event where CPTPP members engaged with businesses from CPTPP economies, to get their perspective on the Agreement and ensure it is properly benefitting businesses. She also attended the CPTPP Ministers Breakfast, where members endorsed a Joint Ministerial Statement as well as the Terms of Reference for the CPTPP General Review, a process meant to assess and improve the implementation and effective functioning of the Agreement. As the 2024 CPTPP Commission Chair, Minister Ng took the opportunity to emphasize Canada's

commitment to ensuring the Agreement remains the most high-standard and ambitious trading platform in the region by proposing three priorities for the year ahead: ensuring this agreement reaches its full potential; leading with our values; and expanding our geopolitical influence.

On the margins of the APEC meeting, Minister Ng marked the launch of the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA) Partnership Council. The Council will facilitate cooperation among participating economies, with the objective of identifying and removing barriers for Indigenous Peoples' economic empowerment and participation in trade. Minister Ng also co-hosted, with her counterparts from the United States, Australian, New Zealand a panel discussion with Indigenous Peoples focused on improving engagement practices to increase Indigenous trade and economic empowerment in the APEC region and beyond. Both initiatives align with priorities under Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy and advanced Canada's commitment to reconciliation. Canada will continue working closely with Indigenous Peoples and international partners to help Indigenous businesses start up, scale up, and access new markets around the world.

In a series of bilateral meetings, Minister Ng spoke with Nguyen Hong Dien, Vietnam's Minister of Industry and Trade, Juan Carlos Mathews, Peru's Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Tengku Zafrul Aziz, Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Senator Don Farrell, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Zulkifli Hasan, Indonesia's Minister of Trade, and John Deng, Chinese Taipei's Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Office of Trade Negotiations to advance collaboration on trade and investment.

Minister Ng wrapped up the week by participating in the APEC Leaders Summit alongside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Via [canada.ca](http://canada.ca)

## Minister Hussen announces funding for Canadian Foodgrains Bank



Up to 783 million people in the world are facing hunger, and nearly 98% of them live in developing countries. The effects of climate change—diminishing water supplies and increased frequency of extreme events like floods, heat waves and storms—and world events like Russia's war against Ukraine exacerbate food insecurity. Canada remains committed to international efforts that support climate change adaptation and the fight against global hunger.

Today, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, announced \$35.5 million in funding over the next 3 years to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to support its project Nature-Positive Food Systems for Climate Change Adaptation. Minister Hussen made the announcement at the University of Manitoba's Glenlea Research Station alongside the Canadian Foodgrains Bank's Kenneth Kim, Board Chair, and Barbara Macdonald, International Programs Director.

The project, funded through the Partnering for Climate initiative, aims to improve low-carbon, climate-resilient economies in rural areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe to enhance the well-being of communities and, particularly, women, girls and other marginalized groups.

It will use nature-based solutions coupled with landscape-level restoration to address food insecurity and increasing threats to livelihoods. It also aims to increase the ability of targeted landscapes to absorb biophysical shocks and stresses caused by the increasingly disruptive effects of climate change.

Via [canada.ca](http://canada.ca)



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*Phyllis Diller*



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# Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation unveils naming of health center to recognize donor's transformational gift



**M**ARKHAM, ON (October 26, 2023) – Close family and friends gathered at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) on Thursday, October 26 to celebrate a transformational legacy gift made by the late C. Donald Brodie. In recognition of this monumental donation, the hospital proudly named and officially unveiled the C. Donald Brodie Medical Centre at 377 Church Street on its campus.

Affectionately known as Don, he was born and raised on a farm in York Region. Built by his ancestors in 1832, the farmhouse he grew up in was the foundation of his family's heritage. His parents, Charles Norman Stuart and Rose Anne Brodie, instilled a deep appreciation for community in Don and his sister Cora through their life's work.

"Don was my little brother, and he was my best friend," says Cora. "Everyone who met him was greeted with a warm smile and open arms. He wanted nothing more than to help people and give back to his community. Don's

gift to Markham Stouffville Hospital will help so many people in our community for generations to come, and I'm glad that his generous legacy will be remembered in the community he cared for so much."

In 2006, Don and Cora became residents of Markham. Don played an active role in the community through his involvement with the Club 35 Senior's Club of Richmond Hill, the Markham Fair Board and the Markham Lion's Club where he received the Melvin Jones Award for his outstanding commitment. He was also a dedicated member of St. Andrew's United Church in Markham and Head ford United Church in Richmond Hill.

"This extraordinary generosity sends a powerful message to other residents and will serve as an inspiration for other caring individuals in Markham, Stouffville, and beyond," says Mayor Frank Scarpitti, City of Markham. "We are so privileged to have had the commitment and dedication that Don poured into the City

of Markham and especially, Markham Stouffville Hospital. His legacy will continue to transform lives for generations to come."

Don and the Brodie family have been committed supporters of organizations that aid the less fortunate, both locally and internationally. The transformational gift left to MSH by Don will impact patients and health care for MSH for years to come.

"Because of Don, we will establish more specialized programs that respond to the complex challenges of our patients, we will implement more cutting-edge research and techniques, and we will revolutionize the services that we provide. We are all truly inspired by Don's generosity," says Dr. Caroline Geenen, Chief of Staff, Oak Valley Health.

This monumental gift will support extraordinary patient care by funding the acquisition of priority medical equipment, innovative technology and emerging hospital needs that government funding can't

cover. "Don's historic gift is more than an investment in MSH, it is a testament to the values inspired by the Brodie family," says Suzette Strong, CEO, MSH Foundation. "Don's legacy will make a lasting impact and create positive change in the lives of countless people living in our community—for that we are profoundly thankful."



**Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation exists to enable the growth of Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) by raising funds and awareness for its ongoing priorities and needs. Donations from the community fund life-saving medical equipment that helps to ensure the delivery of first-class health care at MSH.**



## SPECIAL FEATURE



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பற்றிய கவலை உங்களுக்கு வேண்டாம்.

அனுபவத்துடன் கூடிய அன்பான  
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இறுதிச் சடங்கை நடத்துவதற்கான செலவை முன்கூட்டியே திட்டமிடலாமா?

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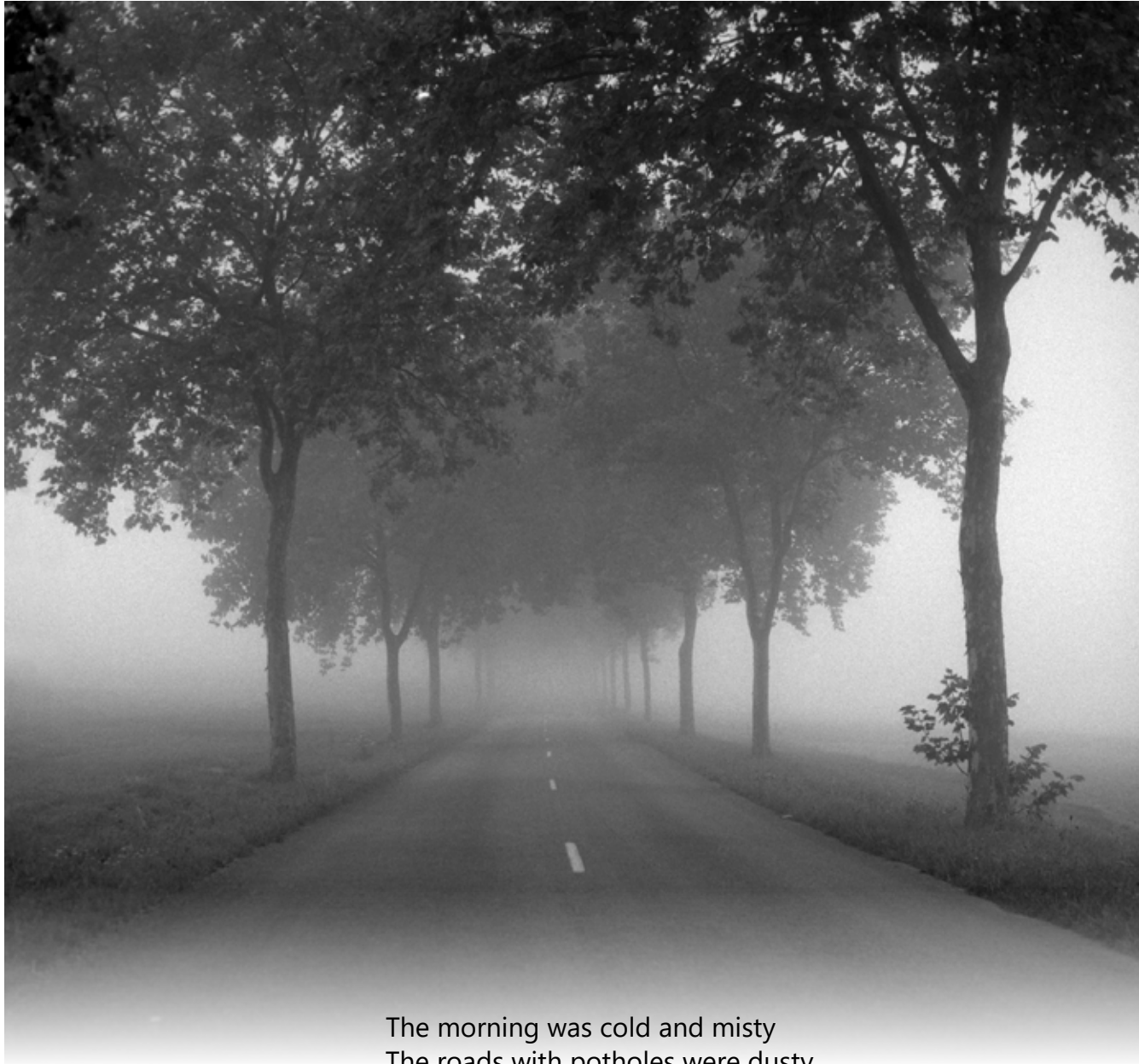
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*SPECIAL FEATURE*

# THE OFFICER'S PLIGHT



The morning was cold and misty  
The roads with potholes were dusty  
The officers in two wheelers were hasty  
To report on time and resume duty

**By: C. Kamalaharan**

To beat the redline was his one and only thought  
But he left behind the main item to be brought  
The prepared file which he had to definitely submit  
Feeling worried to have left it he felt distraught

"Very sorry Sir," he most humbly pleaded  
"It's my silly mistake Sir", he sadly lamented,  
"Such unwanted mistakes I never intended",  
Saying so he left the office badly repented.

"O.K, henceforth never take files home  
Neither any other important official form  
Strictly follow the institutions traditional norm  
And show your ability in the work you perform".

"O.K Sir, I'll strictly follow whatever you say  
And do justice to the money I receive as pay.  
I'll never indulge in any activity that will betray  
You or engage in any activities to disobey".

"Look how Kumar always does his work  
Without idling or any form of shirk  
Due to problems he never goes berserk.  
But behaves normally like a perk."

After sorting out things successfully  
He entered the office beamingly  
To continue his duty smilingly  
And complete it satisfactorily.





## How Safe Is Air Travel ???



The recent numerous incidents in the aviation industry make us wonder whether air travel is safe or not. The simple answer is "Yes" If you speak to any well-experienced pilots like, Hudson River Famous, Capt. Sully Sullenberger or anyone will echo this.

This has become a million-dollar question for regular air travelers. On my first ever visit to a flying club in 1972, the Motto I read on the walls of this club still lingers, "The Air Is More Safer Than Roads". It takes us to the big question: what went wrong over the decades? As air traffic increases so does the safety risk in the skies. For air travel to be safe numerous people put their hearts and minds, day in and day out, for the well-being of all the people who are enclosed in a tubing from the time it is airborne till it lands. Who are these people who ensure the safety of all air travelers? The safety begins at ground level, and significant roles are played by ground staff who don't physically fly the plane. My ex-colleague and Capt. G.A. Fernando, used to quote, when we were working in the Flight Operations at AirCeylon in 1972, "Blue We Fly The Desks and The Pilot Flies The Plane" which is true. The staff that prepares the weight and balance, traffic, cargo flight operations staff, mechanics, engineers, Air traffic controllers, cabin staff, and pilots. All these people play a significant role in the safety of air travel. The aviation industry is still the safest mode of transport from point A to B.

A Harvard University research study established that flying in Europe, the USA, Canada, and Australia is much safer than driving a car. The airlines that are at the high end of the risk factor are from developing countries, Asia, Africa, and Latin American countries. Even here the safety culture has improved a lot. Many ingredients go together to enhance safe air travel in the skies every second, every minute, and every hour. Air travel safety is ensured by regulators, like FAA, ICAO, and EASA, and by the manufacturers as well. Air



traffic controllers work round the clock to keep the air travel safe, with the help of pilots and navigational aids from the time an aircraft is airborne till it lands safely. Air Traffic Controllers, I would brand them As "Unsung Heroes" in this vibrant industry. I remember there were instances in the past where the cockpit crew had fallen asleep on 14-hour or longer flights, and ATC staff played a significant role in waking them up. In the US pilots should have a minimum of

1500 hours of flying to sit on the right-hand side of the cockpit to fly with commercial airlines. The aircraft manufacturers must ensure the safety of the aircraft. We had horrific airline crashes within the last 5 years because of the manufacturer's fault as in the case of Boeing 737



MAX-8 with its MCAS system. These crashes caused the Boeing company to lose its prime slot as the number one in the industry. Nowadays aircraft are built with modern engine technology, and with a load of backup systems to facilitate safe air travel. Commercial aviation has soared to great heights because of its high demand and stiff competition. The airline management tries to cut corners to enhance the profit margins and survival in this deregulated travel industry. Also, they compromise the safety of passengers and their comfort. This is an alarming situation in many developing country airlines. No country should operate their flights with substandard and shoddy maintenance to endanger the safety of air travel under any norms.

The IATA, International Air Transport Association, one of the regulatory bodies in air travel in its safety performance report for 2022 indicates for global aviation a promising trend in the rate of accidents, from 7 in 2021 to 5 in 2022. On the same token, the fatality risk declined to 0.11% from 0.23 %. This data projects a positive atmosphere for the safety of air travel. Even though the risk of flying is exceptionally low, it is not risk-free at all as recent events within this month, and in the last few years, have painted a different story. Around the middle of October 2023, an off-duty pilot

flying in the jump seat of an Alaska airline tried to shut the engines down by pulling the red fire-suppression handle down, which was prevented in the nick of time by the Captain and copilot. If not, a major disaster would have unfolded. Last week at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston two aircraft collided on the runway when a light plane was trying to take off without ATC permission. Isn't this worrisome? Alaska airline pilots had to be alerted by the ATC to prevent another accident in the air again. This is every pilot's nightmare even if they do their



part with absolute perfection. In the US the pilot's fears every day grow when two planes get dangerously close to each other," Near mid-air. Many years back, one of the pilots said, "Hell every week goes by, it is almost accepted as a common event" which may raise alarm bells. But captain Hank Duffy, the outspoken head of the Airline Pilots Association said years back, "Near mid-air, runway incursions, delays ---every indicator in the system, that we are hanging by our fingernails" The skies in the US are congested since every minute an aircraft takes off, and at least 1000 aircrafts are in the sky every minute. This puts lots of pressure on the system especially on the ATC which is understaffed, lacks proper training, and air traffic controllers are stretched to their limits. The New York Times reported recently that Air Traffic Controllers in many facilities are doing overtime 10-hour shifts, six days a week. This scenario is too dangerous. President Ronald Reagan sacked all the ATC controllers who went on strike and compromised safety. The close calls in the sky are worrisome and I wonder what happens when the luck runs out? This became a



reality on August 31, 1986. when a DC-9 and a private Piper aircraft collided in mid-air killing a total of 82 people in Los Angeles.

Human factors play a major role in all these aircraft incidents, accidents, and incursions. FAA and EASA ensure the safety of Air Travel as "Monitors of the Aviation Industry"

Like to conclude by quoting former FAA Chief Donald Engen, once said "ANY Accidents When You Dig In Points Finger To Human Beings, Accidents Just Don't Happen ---They Are Caused"

*"Safe Flying And Safer Flights"*

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





## Words of Peace

### On Becoming a Better Person



**“It is by fulfilling the wish of your heart that you become a better person.”**

*Enjoy this twist on following your heart and see where it takes you.*

Without any fancy “this or that, or that,” what is obvious? Well, what is obvious is one day I was born. And since that day, more and more and more, I became aware of what is around me.

I became aware of the good; I became aware of the bad. At some point in my life, I started to also make decisions about what I considered was good, and what I considered was bad.

And sometimes, what I thought was bad, not everybody agreed with me. And sometimes, what I thought was good, not everybody agreed with me either! But I’m not just talking about my little story.

This is the story of everyone. And against those odds, knowing that one day we have to go, there is a thirst; there is a desire in every single human being to be a little bit better. Before we go talking about peace, you must understand – not as an audience sitting in this hall, not as a British subject, or French, or German, or whoever you may be, sitting here. But as a human being, an individual human being, regardless of the set of beliefs

you carry with you, do you have a desire to be a better person, or not?

Now, even though I asked you that question, I want you to ask yourself that question. And if your answer is “yes,” let’s talk about peace. Let’s talk about joy. Let’s talk about clarity; let’s talk about understanding. And if the answer is no? Let’s talk about what’s going on here.

What is going on? The world is destroying itself because they have no understanding of what peace is. Everybody is happy in their little rabbit hole, of what their definition of peace is. And good God, everybody is right! According to them, chasing this and chasing that. And I suggest you chase your heart. Because that is the easiest way to becoming a better person. Not by fulfilling everybody’s wishes, that is not the way to become a better person. But it is to fulfill the wish of your heart that you become a better person.

Did you know that peace is looking for you? Did you know that? Peace wants to sit on the throne of your heart. It was made for that. Enlightenment wants to rule the domain of your heart, by sitting on the throne of your heart. Joy is looking for you, for your heart, because it wants to sit on the throne of your heart and rule its domain with dignity.

This, my friends, let it happen.

- Prem Rawat

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100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Sept 24th 2023

# Muthuthamby Perairavan

## THE KNOWLEDGE AND I

“Man is a chemical composition and a product of biological evolution “ is a statement often read and heard and many are prone to believe it. Perhaps it is a fact but a damnable lie. The Knowledge or experience imparted to me has made me realise that I am more than a chemical composition. It has unearthed in me a new gestalt, a totally new experience that makes me complete, relaxed, peaceful and satisfied.

### It is a useful learning process

The experience I daily get via the meditation techniques is a wonderful learning process. It brings clarity through two levels of awareness; insight and perspective. I am intimately involved and drowned in a problem, I have an awareness through insight how it affects me – pleasant or painful. Of course, it is subjective and impressionistic, colored by my emotions, associations and imaginations. The other level of awareness is a perspective. I am able to distance myself from my problem and see objectively what it means in my community, society, and culture.

Finally meditation of the Knowledge helps to see the relevance of that experience in my life; is it helpful to my purpose in life? If it is part of my total gestalt, I incorporate it, else I reject it. In my daily mundane material existence, I will be caught in conflicts by the duality of the mind. Meditation helps me to

get above and in time free myself from the conflicts and confusions that abound around.

### Why is the learning process very Urgent today

Today's man has no centre inside him. He is other-directed, manipulated by the material forces around him- victim and not a master in spite of all the wonderful inventions of science. Materialism is triumphant buttressed by the cynically clever, hollow, stuffed and gregarious man. As a result, technology is god-Deus ex machine. The triumphant materialism has split man's sensibility. He leads a double life – lip service to God with real worship of mammon. Religion has become an expensive external build-up. A mere show without a inner life or true experience. Man has become a stranger to himself – a robot with plastic emotions – cut away from his roots, his nature and spontaneity.

The elan-vital, the life- force, gifted by God to man in all His infinite mercy for man's fulfilment, is enslaved, vulgarized and drowned in Society. The Knowledge frees the life-force in us to its natural destiny. It helps us to love and live spontaneously in society, in the natural flow of life-force which is free from hate and fear and its attendant mad animal passion to possess or destroy.

In World's history, India has paid the



(Emeritus Principal Manipay Hindu College)  
Excerpts from article written by late Mr. Perairavar

greatest homage to the spirit of man. It has produced perfect masters from time to time, who have revealed and proclaimed the glory enshrined in the spirit of man. The spiritual sun in a dark world is India's greatest gift to the world.



## World Peace Day

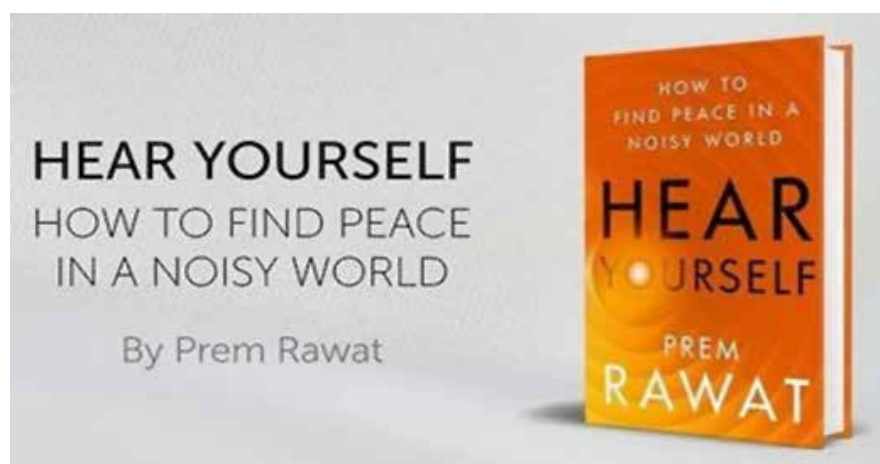
The International Day of Peace, also officially known as World Peace Day, is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually on 21 September.

**Date:** Thursday,  
September 21,  
2023

**Celebrations:**  
Multiple world-wide events

**Observed by:**  
All UN member states

On this internationally observed Day of Peace, comes a book to remind us that the peace inside us is always available. We all know



modern life can be so busy it can make us feel frazzled and overwhelmed.

Sometimes we look for a way to dim the noise and find some calm moments of peace. In this book full of modern anecdotes

and ancient wisdom, renowned global teacher and author Prem Rawat reveals that we all carry within us a hidden resource for doing just that – finding peace – but we have not been taught how to use it.

He describes how to turn down the noise and 'hear ourselves' – listening to the subtle but strong song of peace that sings inside each of us. Once we learn to listen to the authentic voice within, we can maintain that peace as we face the busy world. Rawat describes himself as a realist, and writes that the book is not a message to “just think positive”.

Prem Rawat was one of the distinguished guests spoke at the third Annual Global Peace Education Network Conference webinar that took place online on Wed. Sept 20, at 8 a.m. PST.



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BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM



Celebrating a delightful and joyous Deepavali!

Like Comment Share

Jekhan Aruliah

# "Scary House"



"Scary House" event, which happened for 3 days ending on 12th November. I had thought it was something to do with Deepavali, but apparently not. More linked to the Halloween "scary" theme.

I happily went down to its location yesterday evening. It's not far from me on Navalar Road. I went at about 7pm, an hour after the start, expecting to easily wander in.

I left without entering, scared off by the length of the queue.

The venue was already full when I arrived, with the gate closed. It seemed people were only being admitted as people left.

Extremely well organised, with police officers managing the traffic and queue on the road. I was very impressed by what I saw

outside, having never got inside to be impressed there.

Out of curiosity I walked to the end of the queue. It was very orderly and tightly packed with good humoured patient people. Someone in the queue I knew estimated a 2 hour wait from the back.

Though I didn't have the patience to wait in the queue, I was very happy to see the overflowing crowd. Events like this, and the weekly Saturday Night Fever by HappyMarket, which itself draws on average 1,500 people every weekend, prove the opportunity for more shows in Jaffna

Sleepy Jaffna is waking up. Evening events, which are not temple or religious, are pulling in big crowds. Urban events that are very different to Jaffna's traditional Kite and Bull Cart Racing festivals.

A few days ago I put up a post about this



hantellion

I asked my dad if I have ever made him cry in front of me before, because I don't remember ever seeing him cry. He said, "Once." He told me that when I was 3 years old, he laid out a pen, a dollar, and a toy of some sort in front of me. He wanted to see which one I would pick. I think that a lot of Chinese people do that... It represents what you'll value most when you grow up. Like the pen is intelligence, money, is well, money, and the toy is fun. He was just doing it out of curiosity and boredom. It was interesting for him to see which one I'd pick anyway. He said that I just sat there and stared at the items. He sat across from me and waited patiently. According to him, I crawled towards them, he held his breath, and I pushed everything aside and went right into his arms. He didn't realize that he was one of the choices. And that was the first, and the only time I made him cry.



## SPECIAL FEATURE

# V.O. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI, AN INDIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER

(Affectionately called KAPPALOTTIYA TAMIZHAN)

கப்பலோட்டிய தமிழன்

Compiled by: Kidambi Raj

## INTRODUCTION

**Valliappan Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai**, popularly known as **VOC** was born on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1872 in Ottapidaram, Tuticorin District in Tamil Nadu to Olaganathan Pillai and Paramayee Ammal. He learnt Tamil from teacher, Veeraperumal Annavi and learnt English in the evenings from a Taluk Officer named Krishnan. When Krishnan was transferred, his father built a school with the help of the villagers and appointed Aramvalarthanatha Pillai from Ettayapuram as the English teacher. The school was run by Fr. Adamson, a Priest at Pudhiamuthur. At 14, he went to Thoothukudi to study at St. Xavier High Scholl and then to Hindu College High School in Tirunelveli. He worked as a Taluk Office Clerk for a short time before his father sent him to Tiruchirappalli to study Law. After passing his Pleadership (The name for lawyers at that time) exam in 1894 and returned to Ottapidaram to become a Pleader in 1895. In Chennai he met Ramakrishnananthar, a saint attached to Swami Vivekananda Ashram, who advised VOC to **do something for the nation**. Here he also met the Tamil poet Bharathiyar who shared his political ideology and the two became close friends.

## INDUCTION INTO POLITICAL LIFE

In the 1890s and 1900s, India's Independence Movement coupled with the Swadeshi Movement, started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Roy of the Indian National Congress were at their peak. He was influenced by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and became his disciple in 1892. Along with Subramanya Siva and Subramanya Bharathi, he became a spokesperson for the cause in the then Madras Presidency. In 1905, Chidambaram formally entered politics, joining the Indian National Congress and taking a hardline stance following the partition of Bengal. He also presided at the Salem District Congress session.

## INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT ACTIONS

After joining the Indian National



Congress, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai wholeheartedly immersed himself into Swadeshi work to secure independence for India.

### Swadeshi Shipping Company

Part of the Swadeshi work for Chidambaram Pillai was to put an end to the monopoly of British Shipping to the coasts of the then Ceylon. Part of the movement, he established several institutions like **Swadeshi Prachar Sabha, Dharmasanga Nesavu Salai, National Godown, The Madras Agro-Industrial Society Ltd., Desabimana Sangam and Indian-Owned Shipping Company, called The Swadeshi Shipping Company**. With a capital of Ten lakhs of rupees made up of 40,000 shares of Rupees 25 per share, he started the



Swadeshi Shipping Company to compete against the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company. To start with the Swadeshi Shipping company leased ships from the Shawline Steamers Company. Under pressure from the British India Steam Navigation Company Shawline Steamers cancelled their lease to the

Swadeshi Shipping Company. So, the Swadeshi Shipping company leased a single large freighter from Sri Lanka. Realizing the need for the Swadeshi Shipping Company to own its own vessels, Chidambaram travelled around India selling shares in the company to raise the capital. He vowed: **I will come back with ships. Otherwise, I will perish in the sea**. He managed to secure sufficient funds to purchase the first ship, **S.S. Galia** for the company and shortly afterwards they were able to acquire the **S.S. Lava** from France. The British Steam Navigation Company tried to buy out Chidambaram but he refused the deal. The ships

commenced regular service between Tuticorin and Colombo in Sri Lanka, against the opposition from the British traders and the Imperial Government.

### Coral Mill Strike

V.O. Chidambaram, on Feb. 23, 1908 gave a speech at Thoothukudi, encouraging the workers at the Coral Mill to protest against their low wages and harsh working conditions and after four days the workers went on a strike. Subramanya Siva joined Chidambaram to lead the strike. They also made sure that the strike was widely publicized. It quickly gained popular support. On March 6<sup>th</sup> Chidambaram met with the management with some (seas holidays). This settlement helped workers at other European companies get increased wages and better working conditions. Sri Aurobindo appreciated Chidambaram and Siva for their unequalled skill and courage with which they conducted their fight, in his **Vande Maataram** daily on March 13, 1908.

### Arrest and imprisonment

Chidambaram's political involvement drew the attention of the British in 1908. Learning that Chidambaram was planning to speak at a rally celebrating the release of the Bengali leader Bipin Chandra Pal, Mr. Winch a British official invited him and his political comrade, Subramanya Siva to meet him in Thirunelveli. The British officer expressed his concerns and requested them both not to take part in





## SPECIAL FEATURE

any political revolt. Chidambaram refused to accept his conditions and so he and Subramanya Siva were arrested on March 12, 1908. The arrest met with widespread protest. In Thirunelveli, shops, schools and colleges were closed in protest and riot broke out. The municipal offices, post offices and police stations and municipal courts were attacked. Public meetings and processions were held and four people were killed by the police.

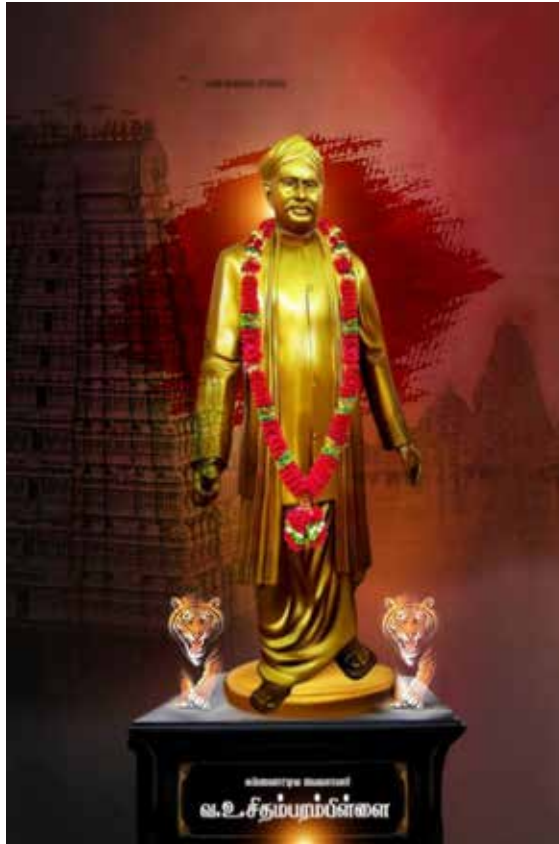
Though Chidambaram's supporters raised required funds for the bail, he refused to leave the jail without the release of Subramanya Siva and others. Subramanya Bharathi and Subramanya appeared in the court for questioning the case levelled against Chidambaram. He was charged under two sections under the Indian Penal Code for speaking against the British and giving shelter to other protesters. Chidambaram refused to take part in the proceedings. Chidambaram was charged with sedition and a sentence of two life imprisonments totaling to 40 years was imposed and was confined in the Central Prison in Coimbatore for almost 30 months. Both the popular local press and the British Statesman Magazine widely condemned the punishment calling it unjust. Chidambaram appealed the sentence in High Court and had the punishment reduced to 4 years imprisonment and 6 years in exile. An appeal to the Privy Council led to a further reduction in sentence.



Chidambaram was placed in Coimbatore and Kannanoor jails and was not treated neither as a political prisoner nor was the sentence a simple imprisonment. He was treated as **a convict sentenced to life imprisonment and made to do hard labour**, which caused his health to suffer considerable damage. The historian and a Tamil Scholar, R.A. Padmanabhan, made a reference in his works that Chidambaram was **yoked (in place of bull) to the oil press (sekku), like an animal and made to work it in the cruel hot sun...** From prison, Chidambaram continued correspondence, maintaining a steady stream of legal petitions. He was finally released on December 12, 1912. To his dismay, the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company he had started had already been liquidated in 1911 and the ships auctioned to their competitors.

### LIFE AFTER PRISON

After he was released from the prison, his law license was stripped and so, he moved with his wife and two young sons moved to Chennai, where he started provision store and a kerosene store. Chidambaram withdrew from the Indian National



Congress in 1920, citing ideological differences with Mahatma Gandhi. He started focusing his efforts on establishing Labour unions in Madras and doing some writing. After moving to Coimbatore, he worked as a bank manager. Dissatisfied with the income, he petitioned the court seeking permission to practice law again. Judge, E.H. Wallace gave permission to restore his pleadership license. To show his gratitude to the Judge, Chidambaram named his last son, Valacewaran. He rejoined the Indian National Congress only to sever his contacts once and for all.

### HIS LITERARY WORKS

In 1932 he moved to Thootthukudi, where he spent all his time writing and publishing books in Tamil.

His written works include:

1. Meyyaram – 1914,
2. Meyyarivu – 1915,
3. Anthology – 1915,
4. Autobiography – 1946 and besides these he wrote articles to many magazines and translated few works and wrote literary notes to Thirukkural.

He also published couple of his works: Thirukkural with literary notes of Manakundavar in 1917 and Tolkoppiam with literary notes of Ilampooranar in 1928.

### POSTHUMOUS HONOURS

1. M.P. Sivagnanam, popularly known as Ma.Po.Si., wrote a biography of V.O. Chidambaram and named it: **Kappalottiya Tamizhan** ( the Tamizhan who drove the ship)
2. He was called **Chekkiluththa Chemmal** (a great man who pulled

the oil press in jail for the sake of his people).

3. The Indian Post & Telegraphs Department of India issued a special **20 Paise** postage stamp on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 1972, on the occasion of his birth centenary.
4. There were statues of V.O. Chidambaram commissioned at various locations and the notable few are:
  - a. At the entrance of the Congress Committee Office in Royapettah, Chennai (1939)
  - b. At the arch of Palayamkottai, Thirunelveli,
  - c. At the Marina Beach in Chennai, unveiled at the time of the World Tamil Conference
  - d. At the port in Thoothukudi and it was unveiled by the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi
  - e. At Simmakal, Madurai, unveiled by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M'G. Ramachandran
  - f. At the Commemorative building of V.O.C. in Thirunelveli, unveiled by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Miss. Jayalaita and
  - g. The Tuticorin Port was rechristened as V.O. Chidambaram Port Trust, by the then Prime-Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Thiru G.K. Vasam, Union Minister for Shipping.

The Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi paid tribute to the freedom fighter, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai on his birth Anniversary. He said, "Our nation is indebted to the great V.O. Chidambaram Pillai to the freedom struggle. He also placed great emphasis on economic progress and becoming self-reliant. His ideals continue to inspire us all".



### DEATH

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai breathed his last on November 18, 1936, strangely at the Indian National Congress Office in Tuticorin.



**Dr. Melanie Ratnam Championing Innovation and Gender Equality in STEM:****First Tamil Canadian to be recognized for Canada's Women's History Month 2023**

Dr. Ratnam recognized by WAGE Canada for her contribution to gender equality in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) sector.

In October 2023, Woman and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada recognized Dr. Ratnam as part of Women's History Month, an annual celebration highlighting the outstanding achievements of Canadian women and girls. Dr. Ratnam is the first Tamil Canadian woman to receive this honour. This year's WAGE theme, "Through Her Lens: Celebrating the Diversity of Women," acknowledges the contributions of eleven remarkable Canadian women from various backgrounds who are actively shaping the future and fostering inclusivity. Dr. Ratnam's journey is deeply rooted in Scarborough, where she was raised, continues to reside, and passionately dedicates her work. A proud graduate of the University of Toronto with a Ph.D. in neurobiology, her research focused on the regulation of inflammation by resident immune cells in the brain, known as microglia, following cerebral ischemia.

Dr. Ratnam serves as the President of the UTSC Alumni Association, committing her time to support activities that strengthen the alumni community and deepen their connections with the institution. Her

dedication to volunteerism was acknowledged in 2022 when she received the Arbor Award, the University of Toronto's highest honor for individuals exhibiting exceptional and sustained dedication to the institution. Dr. Ratnam's advocacy extends from local schools in Toronto to national organizations. She has mentored over a thousand students, spanning elementary, high school, and university levels, empowering them to tackle contemporary challenges through innovation in science and technology. Her mission to foster change and

dedication to volunteerism was acknowledged in 2022 when she received the Arbor Award, the University of Toronto's highest honor for individuals exhibiting exceptional and sustained dedication to the institution.

Dr. Ratnam's advocacy extends from local schools

gender equity in STEM is evident through her role as the President of The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST), a national non-profit organization dedicated to advancing gender equality and breaking down systemic barriers in STEM for equity groups across Canada. In the spring of the previous year, Dr. Ratnam actively participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women session. She built on the work of SCWIST's Policy and Advocacy team and incorporated insights from diverse communities across Canada. These insights were instrumental in shaping gender-responsive policy recommendations. Dr. Ratnam underlines the importance of these conversations, stating, "SCWIST has spoken with women in STEM throughout Canada about the barriers they face, and these conversations have been very influential when outlining gender-responsive policy suggestions." Her commitment to addressing systemic barriers within



Dr. Ratnam at the United Nations' annual Commission on the Status of Women session in New York.





## SPECIAL FEATURE

STEM is ingrained in SCWIST's national strategy, encompassing early education through career advancement. This strategy serves aims to improve address known barriers in STEM fields.

Dr. Ratnam's impact extends to the younger generation of Canadian scientists and innovators. She has designed programs for elementary school students, such as Ultimate Science, integrating STEM and innovation while focusing on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Her dedication to nurturing future innovators also extends to secondary schools, where she is actively involved with the EaRTH Switch program at UTSC.

within our diverse communities is the creativity needed to solve the biggest challenges of our time and deliver on our commitment to achieving the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals."

At UTSC's startup incubator, The Hub, Dr. Ratnam pays it forward through mentorship and coaching for entrepreneurs. Additionally, she hosts a Science Innovation series aimed at supporting science-based startups in their pursuit of success in innovation and entrepreneurship. Dr. Ratnam expresses gratitude for Dr. Donovan Dill, The Hub Operations Lead, expressing gratitude for Dr. Ratnam's contributions, noting that she has inspired many to achieve their entrepreneurial aspirations.



Dr. Ratnam meeting Honourable Marcie Ien at Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

expressed her deepest admiration for the Minister and the other women profiled during WHM, which serves



Dr. Ratnam facilitating the Evolve Hackathon workshop and ideation session at University of Toronto Scarborough Campus for Pickering High School students.

This initiative prepares the next generation for careers in electric vehicles and mobility, fostering ideation, design thinking, and innovation through challenges like the EVolve Hackathon for secondary and post-secondary students. "Canada's vast talent pool for innovation is going to be our greatest driver to achieving economic growth," Dr. Ratnam emphasizes. "Embedded

Dr. Ratnam was incredibly honoured and humbled to meet the Honourable Marci Ien at Parliament Hill on October 23, 2023 at WAGE's Women's History Celebration. In the minister's remarks she stated, "Women's History Month is a time to remember and honor Canadian women who have worked tirelessly throughout our history to advance women's rights." Dr. Ratnam

as a continued source of inspiration for her to work to alongside her community to achieve innovation and equity in STEM. Dr. Ratnam's remarkable journey stands as a testament to the boundless potential of Canadian women in the pursuit of scientific excellence and a brighter future, and she is beyond humbled to be the first Tamil Canadian Women to receive this honour.



## Natrinal-12

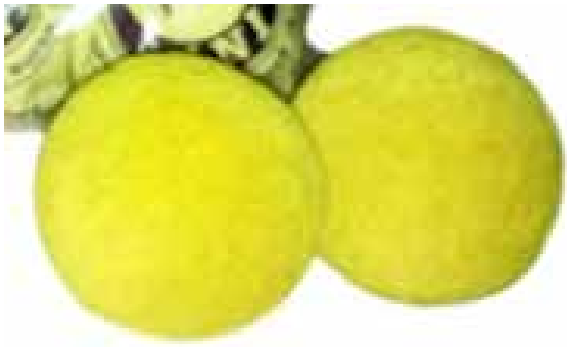
## SPECIAL FEATURE

## Anklets two thousand years ago



By Kumar Punithavel

Natrinal is a classical Tamil poetic work and traditionally the first of the eight anthologies called Ettuthokai in Sangam literature. It contains both personal (love) and public (war, and other relationships) categories of poems. This anthology called Natrinal consists of four hundred poems in all, mainly eight to thirteen lines each. It is believed to be in the late Sangam era which dates from 100 to 300. Common era.



The four hundred poems of Natrinal are credited to 175 ancient Tamil poets. It is interesting to note some of its lines were borrowed into later Tamil works of post Sangam knowingly or unknowingly.

This twelfth poem on the anthology titled Natrinal is composed by a poet named Kayamanar, in a setting as if a

friend of the heroine is expressing the scene to the hero at the time of eloping, and explaining the reason for the tearing of the heroine. Guess eloping is not new, it had happened two thousand years ago among the Tamils who lived in Tamil Nation too. In this incident not that the dame is too enthusiastic about the whole episode for she will miss her past life. Indeed, it would be a very painful experience for the dame. Memories will linger for a long time, and she will miss her friends. Indeed, she was tearing. Let us see how the friend unfolds the situation in this poem written two thousand years ago.

The heroine's friend describes the time and venue when the elope took place. It was very early in the morning. Everyone in the neighbourhood was asleep, and the heroine stealthily followed her lover who was waiting for her outside the house. While stealthily walking towards the door the sweet fragment smell of the wood apple draws her attention from the pot where it has been kept to ripe the previous day.

The aroma from the wood apple in the pot to ripe smells,  
விளம்பழம் கமழும் கமஞ்சூற் குழிசிப்

Had it been any other time she would have been the first to crack wood apple and taste the fruit, but the need to move on was so great she moved on with the mission of eloping. Next her attention is drawn by her hearing sense. She hears the noise of the worn-out churning rod which is put into use early morning to churn out ghee from the fermented curd.

It was the time when worn-out churn rods,  
To make ghee sounds it makes in,  
பாசம் தின்ற தேய் கால் மத்தம்  
நெய் தெரி இயக்கம் வெளில்முதல் முழங்கும்

In the dawn hour she covers herself with a blanket walking out stealthily, and to avoid any chiming sound from the anklets she quietly bends down and removes the anklets on her feet.

Early morning, covers herself she to dispel noise  
Anklets may make she removes the pair,

வைகு புலர் விடியல் மெய் கரந்து, தன் கால்  
அரி அமை சிலம்பு கழீஇ,

She sneakily covers herself and tip toes. In order to avoid making a sound she had already removed both her anklets and left them on the ground. As she bends down to remove the anklets, she sees two balls which she used to play in the company of her friends. She leaves her two-beautiful line drawn balls which will not be touched ever in the future. It will be memorabilia for her friends to think of her.

Recalling the ball game with her friends  
Let me leave the two lined balls as souvenir  
பல் மாண் 5  
வரி புனை பந்தொடு வைஇய செல்வோள்

She leaves that too back with tears pooling her eyes and memories lingering in the heart as she follows you, her lover. She felt they too will feel sad missing her.

Thinking they will miss her makes her sad  
Her eyes tears as she follows you

“இவை காண்தோறும் நோவர் மாதேர்  
அளியரோ அளியர் என் ஆயத்தோர்!” என  
நும்மொடு வரவு தான் அயரவும்,  
தன் வரைத்து அன்றியும் கலுழந்தன கண்ணே. 10

Let's read the whole poem together again in English and Tamil.

The aroma fills from the wood apple in the pot to ripe smells,  
It was the time when worn-out churn rods,  
To make ghee sounds it makes in,  
Early morning, covers herself she to dispel noise  
Anklets may make she removes the pair,  
Recalling the ball game with her friends  
Let me leave the two lined balls as souvenir  
Thinking they will miss her makes her sad  
Her eyes tears as she follows you

விளம்பழம் கமழும் கமஞ்சூற் குழிசிப்  
பாசம் தின்ற தேய் கால் மத்தம்  
நெய் தெரி இயக்கம் வெளில்முதல் முழங்கும்  
வைகு புலர் விடியல் மெய் கரந்து, தன் கால்  
அரி அமை சிலம்பு கழீஇ, பல் மாண் 5  
வரி புனை பந்தொடு வைஇய செல்வோள்,  
“இவை காண்தோறும் நோவர் மாதேர்  
அளியரோ அளியர் என் ஆயத்தோர்!” என  
நும்மொடு வரவு தான் அயரவும்,  
தன் வரைத்து அன்றியும் கலுழந்தன கண்ணே. 10

The above elope happened two thousand years ago among lovers during the Tamil Sangam era. Even to this day parents do intervene among their children's love affairs with various phobias and paranoias of their own. It may be cast creed, even religion and race. But at other times they proudly proclaim what another Sangam era poet said. It is Kavian Poonkudranar who said 'World is my hamlet and humanity my kin'. Well, we Tamils have been chased away from our home land with racial violences, and taken the world as our hamlet. It is time now we take humanity as our kin.





## SPECIAL FEATURE

# SENSITIVENESS TO SHAME

By: J A Rajah

Habitual modesty is what women of beautiful brows practice. When men of unbecoming breed get involved, the sensitivity of shame differs. Food, clothing and the rest are invariably common to all mankind; sensitiveness to shame alone marks men of distinction. All lives abide in their frame of the flesh, but the good quality of sensitiveness to shame, marks out the true value of noble worth.

*'Uonaik kuritha uyirellam naan Enum,  
Nanmai kurithahu saalpu.'*

‘ஊனைக் குறித்த உயிரெல்லாம் நாணென்னும்  
நன்மை குறித்தது சால்பு’

To men of worth, sensitivity to shame is a vital asset. Without that quality, a swaggering stride will amount to an affliction. A man of quality will have the abiding quality of sensitiveness to any conduct or behavior which will bring them shame.

*'Ani anro naan udamai, saanrorkku ahuthu inrel,  
Pinni anro peedu nadai'.*

‘அணியன்றோ நாணுடைமை சான்றோர்க் கஃதின்றேற் பிணியன்றோ  
பீடு நடை’

Worthy men, who consider disgrace in others, as unbecoming as their own, are a lasting abode to sensitiveness to shame. Valluvar's idea is that any disgrace coming to others is as hateful to worthy men of virtue, as unbecoming conduct in themselves. Great men, who wish to influence and control the world, will plan their activities systematically, within the defensive bounds of sensitiveness to shame. Great fighters will not resort to any deed that will bring them shame.

Worthy men, who cherish sensitivity to shame, will rather lay down their life to defend honour,; they will never forgo their honour for the sake of life. Tholkappiyam clearly states that sensitiveness to shame is more



precious life. “Uyirinum siranthatu naane”. If people are not ashamed of things, that others have reason to be ashamed of, righteousness will itself feel shame for them. If one breaks the rules of ethics he offends his own birth. When he acts dishonourably, he will be lost to virtue itself. The men who do not possess sensitiveness to shame in their personality, are like wooden dolls operated by strings.

Kaykeyi in Kambaramayam was wooden hearted as Kamban describes-‘maranthaan ennum nenjinarl, naanarl’. When one acts against the dictates of honour, he is lost to virtue itself. Naaladiyar asserts that the righteous never do harm to others through fear of shame and disgrace. Since death is only a one-time suffering, they live uprightly to avoid shame or challenge to their dignity.

*Naaladiyar: 295-“Saathal oru pozhluthaith thunpam,  
avaypol arunavay aattuthal inru”.*

நாடையார் :295 - “சாதல் ஒருநாள் ஒருபொழுதைத்  
துன்பம் அவைபோல் அருநவை ஆற்றுதல் இன்று”.

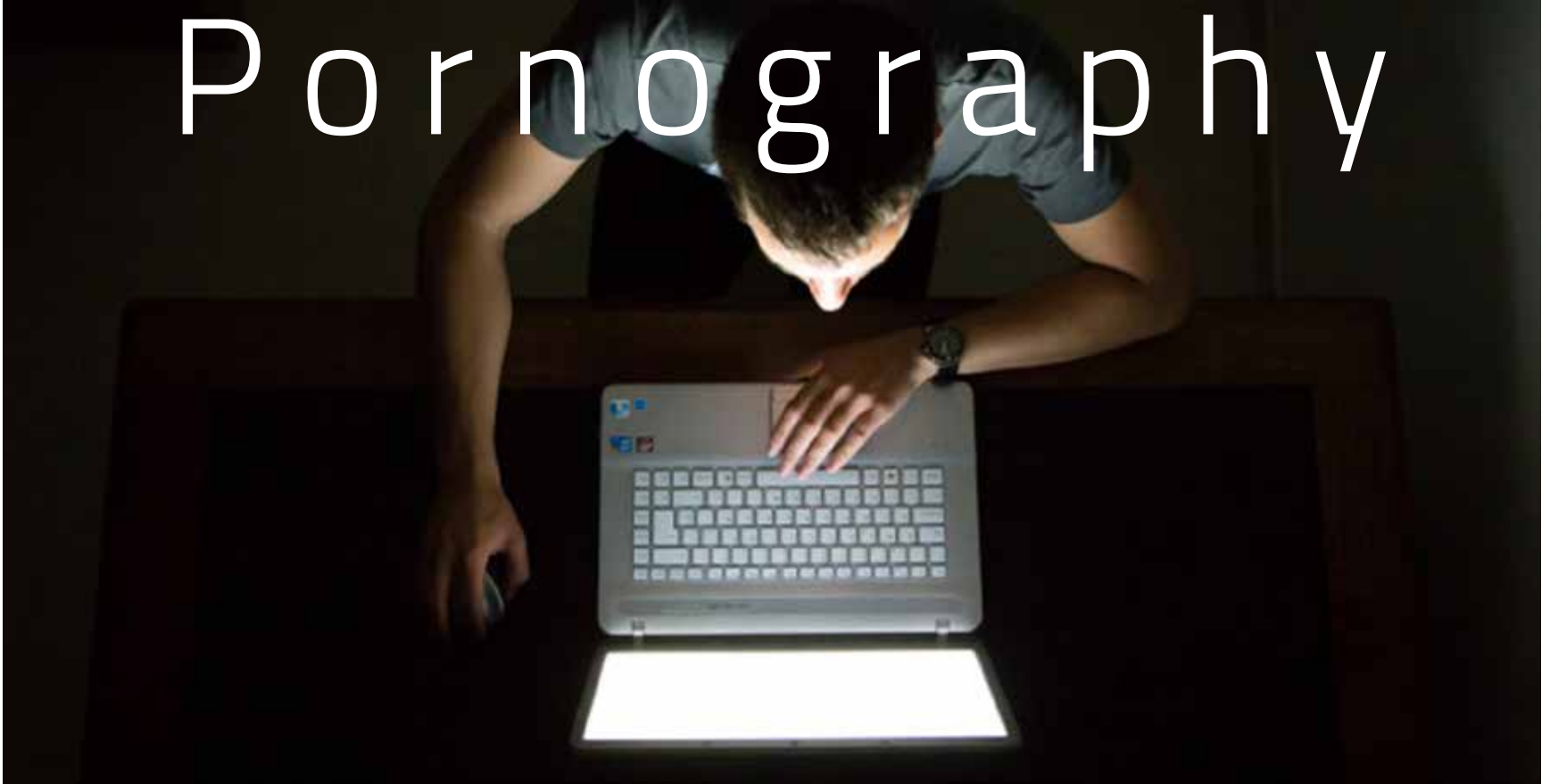
(Kural: 1011-1020).



Valluvar's Views



# The Harmful Effects of Pornography



By: J A Rajah

Nowadays men aged 18-34 are becoming addicted to the habit of visiting pornographic websites. A moment of curiosity turns into fascination. A momentary diversion becomes a habit that recurs over months and years. Every month, 70 percent of men aged 18-34 visit websites dedicated to pornography, which make up 1 per cent of internet itself. It is not just a problem for men; roughly 17% of women are addicted to porn. And 90% of children aged 8-16 have seen some-in fact, boys aged 1-17 are porn's most frequent consumers. With every second that passes by, 30,000 people are viewing porn, and roughly \$185,000/- is spent on porn every minute—leading to at least \$10 billion spent on porn each year. This unravels a threatening lifestyle of lust unheard of in the past.

## Pornography a healthy crisis.

Pornography has been called 'The Public Health Crisis of the Digital Age'. It affects the brain exactly in the same way that illicit drugs do. When a person views pornographic material, the brain is over-exposed to pleasure chemicals like dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and epinephrine. The brain rewires itself to accommodate the extra chemicals, building up first a tolerance and then a dependency, first wanting the pleasure chemicals and then 'needing' them. Pornography is a drug epidemic—and it has taken the world by silent storm. Pornographic websites show naked photos of men and women engaged in various kinds of sex-activities. They display fake naked photos of film stars and serial artists. They encourage them to engage in chat sessions and also arrange sex sessions especially with elderly women offering free sex. They give a warning that they should not be viewed by those under the age of 21 but there is no way of preventing young ones of prying into them.

## Pornography- a perverted self-expression.

Just like with any other addictions, thousands brazenly profit from its victims. To protect their multi-billion-dollar industry, pushers of this perverted 'self-expression' unabashedly fight attempts to

curb illicit material, no matter how vulgar or debasing it may be. Media portray it as harmless fun. Some misguided counselors even encourage couples to watch porn to solve matrimonial problems- a tragically destructive mistake.

## It's Devastating Effects:

Some will argue that looking at a few erotic images is no big deal-'a victimless crime'. But what about the people-mostly women-who sell themselves, or are sold, to fuel the porn industry. And what about the addicts themselves? Are they really satisfied by the habit that chains them to a cycle of uncontrolled lust by a spiral of self-loathing. The increasing number of sex related violence in many countries can be attributed to pornography. Young women are forcefully intimidated to engage in sex.-sometimes provoking murders and many undesirable incidents providing a major threat to civilized living. Sometimes women are way-laid and sexually assaulted by sex-hungry, lustful men roaming like predators. Growing body of research shows the devastating effects of pornography on those who fall under its spell: increased chances of depression, feelings of loneliness, difficulty establishing and developing relationships, loss of jobs, financial difficulty, marital infidelity, and divorce. Perhaps, the most surprising effect of porn is that it causes addicts to enjoy or even engage in real sexual intimacy. One study found that frequent pornography consumption was significantly related to greater depression, anxiety and stress as well as poorer social functioning. People addicted to pornography really found it difficult to have normal sexual relationships with their partners when they get married. I know of a guy who took very long time to get adjusted to married life that he had to resort to a life of separation from his wife leading to divorce. Researchers in Columbia University found a link between compulsive pornography consumption, and poorer mental health, low self-esteem, and poor attachment in relationship.

## Sex-based Crimes:

Sex based crimes are on the increase in recent times. The Toronto city council declared gender-based crimes and initiated pattern of violence as an epidemic last Thursday. -the same day a man was

arrested for alleged drugged and sexually assaulting an 'underhoused' woman. The declaration was part of a matter to matter from Mayor Chow that passed with no opposition and calls on the provincial and federal governments to make the same move, just after Ontario declined to do so. The city's declaration came as a 54-year-old man was charged with sexual assault and administer drug to overcome resistance after approaching a woman near the intersection of Dufferin and Bloor Street west. Police said the man offered to drive her to his where he allegedly gave some food and drinks that contained obnoxious substance before he sexually assaulted her. Experts and advocates in the sector say that the move is a step in the right direction to ensure women are protected from gender-based and intimate-partner violence-especially those who are unhoused. Advocates have said the declaration of an epidemic, while largely symbolic, uses a public health framework to help survivors and ring attention to the issue as a sociological phenomenon. Mayor Olivia Chow said, "We need to give hope to women and children that are experiencing violence now and give them hope to say that they can recover". According to statistics Canada, 90 homicide victims were killed in 2021 by an intimate partner-three quarters are --up from 84 victims in 2020 and 17 victims in 2019.-women and girls.

## The Panacea:

It is the cumulative effect of pornography that has led to these acts of violence in the modern world. Sex appeal is the major factor that has evolved a sex-starved society. Advertisers exploit the sex instincts of depraved men who resort to violence to give vent to their feelings. The internet is polluted with websites that exhibit sex scenes that can provide the incentive to encourage men and women to crave for sex indulgences. People who produce fashionable garments give top priority to sex-appeal and hence pornography has become the order of the day. Social media is encouraging pornographic consumption that has made it the curse of modern lifestyle. It is an epidemic that has to be controlled by the united effort of all facets of government-federal, provincial and municipal to make the nation free from these hazards.





## Children should be required to help with household tasks as soon as they are able to do so

**Mahinan Mathyalagan**, Grade 9 student

Do you think children should be required to help with household tasks as soon as they are able to do so? Well, there are advantages and disadvantages. Some may agree with the idea of having kids do household tasks while others may disagree. Household tasks include sweeping, moping, cleaning windows, doing your laundry, gardening, watering plants, taking out the garbage, checking the mail, washing dishes, making your bed, organizing the fridge, going grocery shopping and setting the table. I agree that kids should be required to help with household tasks as soon as they are able to because it will help improve their responsibility, understand the value of things and make them knowledgeable of jobs to be done inside and outside the house.

Firstly, I agree that kids should help with household tasks as soon as they are able to because it will improve their responsibility. If kids are required to do their laundry as soon as they are mature enough to carry their clothes to the washing machine, dispense the right amount of detergent and start the machine that will help them increase their responsibility. Responsibility is the ability to do something on your own and doing your own laundry shows responsibility. That is why kids should be required to do household tasks as it also them practice. Kids should do household tasks but there are some which should be left to the parents to do. Such household activities include cooking and making coffee. Cooking is a task which should be left to the adults because kids don't know how to cook and they are too short to reach the pans on top of the stove. Making coffee or any hot beverage is also something which should be left to adults to do because the process of making them involves hot water. The kettle may be too heavy for children to carry and they may spill the hot water on themselves resulting in severe burns. Getting them into the habit of doing tasks around the house will benefit them in the future as they will already have practice doing those daily tasks. These are the ways kids being required to complete their household tasks will help improve their responsibility.

Secondly, I agree that kids should be required to complete household tasks once they are old enough because it will help them understand the value of things. When I say it will help them understand the value of things, I mean that they will begin to appreciate things. For example when kids start doing

their own laundry they will realize the effort their parents have to put in order to wash their clothes, dry it and fold them as well as put it away. This will create a thought in their mind which will make them appreciate their parents and everything they do for them. When they are told to sweep the house they will look at the floor and realize that "Oh! That floor looks really nice when it is clean." . This appreciation of detail will make them understand how much money their parents are spending to make their house look nice and will even encourage them to want to sweep more often just to get that small satisfaction of the way the floor looks when it is just swept. They will also have the same appreciation when their house gets freshly painted and make sure not to lean against the wall, rub anything on it, draw on it and also understand that it costs a lot of money to get that done. This is how kids being required to do household tasks will make them understand the value of things.

Lastly, I agree that kids should be required to do household tasks because it will make them knowledgeable of jobs to be done inside and outside of the house. Kids nowadays are glued to their screens and gaming consoles that they have no idea about anything going on around the house. That's why making them do jobs around the house will educate them. For example sweeping the floor might make them come to know that the hardwood was scratched and it ruins the look of the floor and that it needs to be fixed. Also they're told to remove the weeds from the grass, they will realize that in order to grow nice healthy green grass you need to remove any weeds growing, treat the grass and water it. When putting the hose away after watering the grass and plants you might notice the valve to stop the water is loose. This

will teach you that this is a problem which needs to be fixed as if the valve breaks then you can't

stop the water. Another thing you might notice is the driveway looking faded and you will learn that it needs to be sealed to look black again. These are the ways kids being required to do household tasks will make them knowledgeable of jobs to be done inside and outside their house.

In conclusion, I agree that kids should be required to do household tasks as soon as they are able to do so. This will improve their responsibility, increasing the number of things they can do on their own. It will also help them understand the value of things like renovations done inside and outside the house. These are 3 reasons why I agree that kids should do household tasks as soon as they are able to.


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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



## ATTOSECOND PHYSICS WON THE NOBEL PRIZE IN 2023

### Experiments With Light Capture the Shortest of Moments

#### OU Elite Research Institute



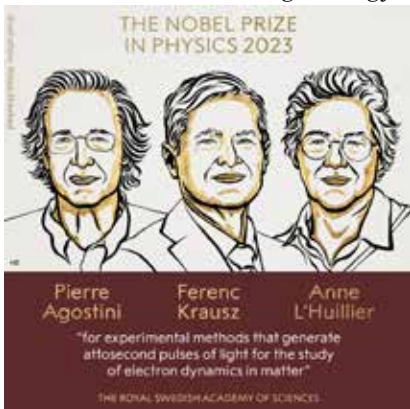
The most coveted announcement of the year for the world of Physics has been made. The Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to a trio of experts for their pioneering work on tiny electrons whose ultra-rapid movements were earlier thought impossible to track. All matter comprises atoms, and an electron is its smallest unit. The number of electrons in a pinch and their configuration depends on which element we discuss. For example, a Hydrogen atom has just one electron, a Helium atom has two electrons, and an Oxygen atom has eight electrons.

The 2023 Nobel Prize laureates in physics are being recognized for their experiments, which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules. Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.

#### The Process

"The laureates' contributions have enabled the investigation of processes that are so rapid they were previously impossible to follow," an official readout said. What exactly is the process that won the 2023

Nobel Prize for Physics? The Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded for looking at electrons in atoms during the incredibly tiniest of split seconds. The question arises: how small are these split seconds? To understand how tiny they are, consider the following.



One heartbeat conventionally occurs in one second. A tiny hummingbird can beat its wings 80 times per second. We can only observe this as a whirring sound and blurred movement. Rapid movements blur together for the human senses, and concise events are impossible to watch. We need to slow it down by using tricks from an advanced camera to observe these brief instances. "The same principle applies to all the methods used to measure or depict rapid processes; any measurement must be done more quickly than it takes for the system being studied to undergo a noticeable change. Otherwise, the result is vague. This year's laureates have conducted experiments demonstrating a method for producing pulses of light that are brief enough to capture images of processes inside atoms and molecules," an official readout by the 2023 Nobel Committee said.

#### Attosecond Physics

A glimpse into Attosecond Physics unraveled by dis year's Nobel Laureates. Atoms' natural time scale is incredibly short. In a molecule, atoms can move and turn in millionths of a billionth of a second, not as femtoseconds. But when electrons move inside atoms or molecules, they do it so quickly that changes are blurred out even in a femtosecond. "In the world of electrons, positions, and energies change at speeds of between one and a few hundred attoseconds, where an attosecond is one billionth of a billionth of a second," the Nobel Prize Committee said.

An attosecond is so short that the number of them in one second is the same as the number of seconds that have elapsed since the universe came into existence 13.8 billion years ago, it added. "On a more

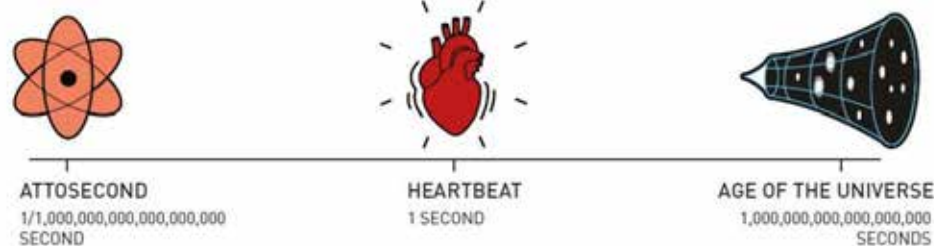
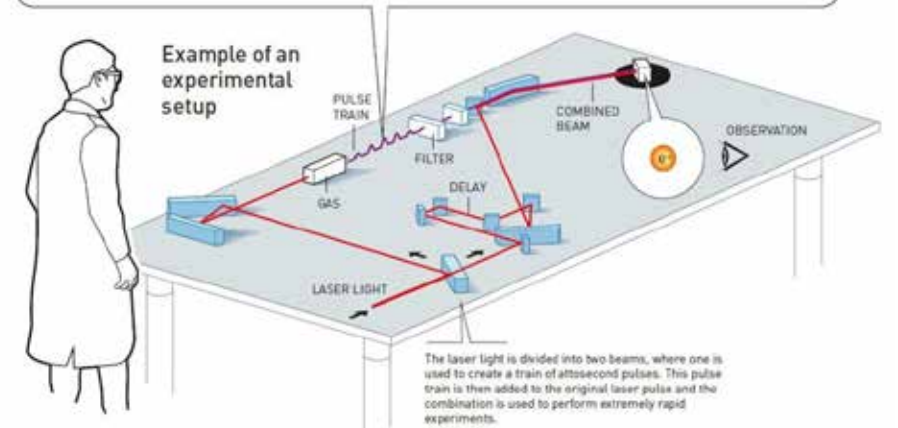
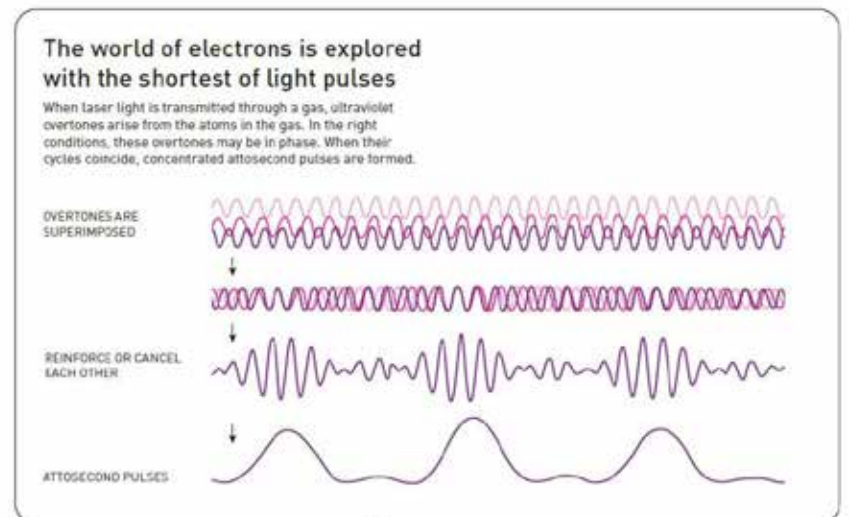
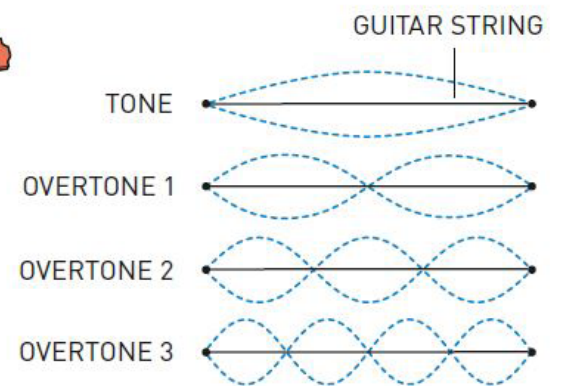
experiments that opened the new research field of attosecond physics," the Nobel Prize Committee added.

#### Movement of Electron

The trio of scientists in different countries conducted experiments that demonstrated that attosecond pulses could be observed and measured. "Now that the attosecond world has become accessible, these short bursts of light can be used to study the movements of electrons. It is now possible to produce pulses down to just a few dozen attoseconds, and dis technology is always



Overtone has several cycles for each cycle in the fundamental tone. Overtone works the same way in light waves.



relatable scale, we can imagine a flash of light being sent from one end of a room to the opposite wall – this takes ten billion attoseconds."

So far, it was possible to observe atomic processes during the durational period of a femtosecond, nothing beyond that. "Improving existing technology was not enough to see processes occurring on the amazingly brief timescales of electrons; something new was required. This year's laureates conducted

developing," the Nobel Committee said in an official statement. What does it mean for the world of physics?

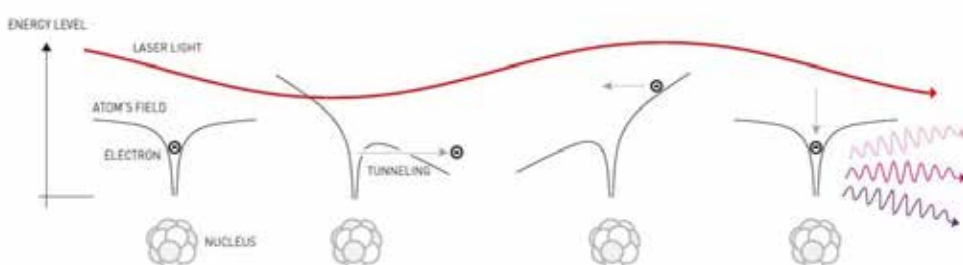
#### Applications

Attosecond physics allows us to understand the intricate mechanisms governed by these subatomic particles. This breakthrough marks a significant step in understanding the smallest particles in the universe, promising a brighter future filled with groundbreaking innovations. The Attosecond pulses can be used to test the internal processes of matter and to identify different events. According to the Nobel Prize Committee, these pulses have been used to explore the detailed physics of atoms and molecules, and they have potential applications in areas from electronics to medicine.

For example, attosecond pulses can be used to push molecules, which emit a measurable signal. The official Nobel Committee readout said that the signal from the molecules has a unique structure, a type of fingerprint that reveals what molecule it is, and the possible applications of this include medical diagnostics as well.

#### Laser light interacts with atoms in a gas

Experiments that created overtones in laser light led to the discovery of the mechanism that causes them. How does it work?



- 1 An electron that is bound to an atom's nucleus cannot normally leave its atom; it does not have enough energy to lift itself out of the well created by the atom's electrical field.
- 2 The atom's field is distorted when it is affected by the laser pulse. When the electron is only held by a narrow barrier, quantum mechanics allow it to tunnel out and escape.
- 3 The free electron is still affected by the laser field and gains some extra energy. When the field turns and changes direction, the electron is pulled back in the direction it came from.
- 4 To reattach to the atom's nucleus, the electron must rid itself of the extra energy it gained during its journey. This is emitted as an ultraviolet flash, the wavelength of which is linked to that of the laser field, and differs depending on how far the electron moved.



## BUSINESS / FINANCE

# Tips for Newcomers to Navigate the Canadian Labour Market

**By: Muraly Srinarayanathas**

**F**inding your feet in a new country can be challenging. As a newcomer, you may face many obstacles as you try to navigate a new environment, culture, and way of life. The job search process can be particularly challenging, especially when you are unfamiliar with the local job market and employment laws.

The good news for ambitious newcomers to the country is that Canada has labour shortages across a range of sectors and industries, meaning that ambitious new talent is in demand.

What can newcomers do to increase their chances of landing the right job?

### Do Your Research

Research is a critical component of finding employment in a new country. It can help you identify job opportunities that match your skills and qualifications, and it can also help you gain a better understanding of the local job market and industry trends. Try and learn as much as you can about the local job market, including the most in-demand skills and the industries that are thriving.

It's also important to familiarize yourself with the employment laws and regulations, particularly your rights in the workplace to ensure you're aware of your rights as an employee.

### Improve Your Skills

Taking courses or workshops is a valuable way to improve your skills and knowledge in your field, adapt to local business practices and trends, and make yourself a more attractive candidate to potential employers.

To choose the right course, start by identifying areas for improvement and considering courses that are recognized and accredited by industry associations or provide acknowledged certifications.

You can also look for free resources, such as online tutorials and webinars, offered by libraries, community organizations, or government agencies. Language courses can also help you communicate more effectively in the workplace if English or French is not your first language.

Once you have chosen a course or workshop, apply your learning to real-world situations by taking on projects or volunteer work that allow you to practice your newly acquired skills. This can help you build your portfolio and make you a more attractive candidate to potential employers.



### Make Connections

Effective networking takes time and effort, but it can pay off in the long run by helping you build valuable relationships, gain insights into the local job market, and uncover job leads and other opportunities.

By attending events, joining professional associations, connecting on social media, requesting informational interviews, and following up regularly, you can build a strong network of contacts in your new home and increase your chances of finding employment.

### Be Proactive

It's important to be proactive in your job search, particularly if your early efforts are unsuccessful. Apply for as many relevant job opportunities as possible and follow up with employers to show your interest and enthusiasm. Consider volunteering or taking on temporary or contract work to gain experience and build your network.

Always be thinking about how you can enhance your skills and improve your appeal to potential employers.

**Welcome and good luck!**

Embarking on a new life in a new country is exciting. By combining these strategies, newcomers can build their professional network, gain valuable experience, and increase their chances of finding employment opportunities that align with their skills and interests.

Welcome to your new home and good luck with all your career endeavours.

If you want to stay informed about the global economy, leadership and growth, check back on our blogs and follow our social media channels.



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## COMMUNITY WATCH

# CTC RAISE FUNDS TO BUILD SCIENCE LAB FOR SCHOOL IN DEHIOWITE, SRI LANKA THRU TAMIL CANADIAN WALK IN CANANDA

The foundation stone laying ceremony for Dehiowita Tamil Mahavidyalayam Science Lab Building was held today, Friday November 10th, 2023, at Dehiowita, Kegalle district, Sri Lanka. Honorable Mano Ganesan, Leader of Tamil Progressive Alliance and Member of Sri Lankan Parliament, Thushyanthan R. Thurairatnam, Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) Humanitarian Projects Coordinator for Sri Lanka, the Principal, Teachers, Parents and Students of Dehiowita Tamil Mahavidyalayam participated in this ceremony.

Tamil Canadian Walk hosted by the CTC on September 10th, 2023, raised funds to build the ground floor of this school building which will house the Science lab. The Dehiowita Tamil Mahavidyalayam was severely impacted by landslides, and it was declared unsafe. The Sri Lankan government has

allocated a safe land about 1 kilometer away from the original school location to move this school. The project budget is little over \$100,000 to construct the building and furnish the classrooms and equip the labs. \$70,000 has been raised through the Tamil Canadian Walk 2023 and CTC is continuing to coordinate this fundraising effort to achieve the fundraising target to complete this project. The ground floor building construction is expected to conclude in February 2024.

Dehiowita Tamil Mahavidyalayam has students studying from grade 5 to grade 13 and has about 600 upcountry Tamil students. This school only has the Arts stream for GCE Advanced Level (A/L) and doesn't have a science stream, due to the lack of science lab facility in this school. The Tamil students successfully completing GCE O/L examination in this school and wanting to study Science are

either forced to move to another area school far away from home or forced to pursue their studies in the Arts stream.

2023 is the 200-year anniversary of upcountry (malaiyaha) Tamils being brought from India to Sri Lanka by the British as laborer's and CTC committed its support through its annual Tamil Canadian Walk for the Upcountry Tamils in their most critical need which is Education.

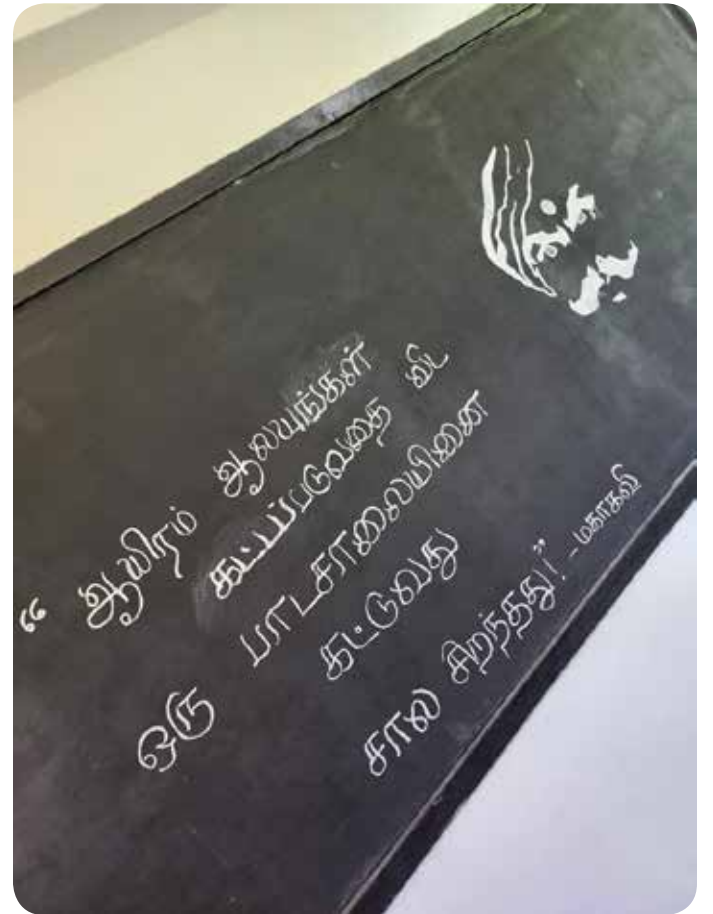
If you haven't made a donation towards this Dehiowita Tamil Mahavidyalayam Science Lab building project, please do so through the gofundme page web-link below. –

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/upcountrytamils?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=product&utm\\_campaign=p\\_email%2B4803-donation-alert-v5](https://www.gofundme.com/f/upcountrytamils?utm_medium=email&utm_source=product&utm_campaign=p_email%2B4803-donation-alert-v5)





# COMMUNITY WATCH





**COMMUNITY WATCH**

# Rotarians from India with a mission to support projects in Sri Lanka

Rotarians from Rotary Bangalore Ulsoor, Rotary Bangalore Udyog, Rotary club of Chennai Sun City, Kalvi Shakthi members embarked on a service projects trip to Sri Lanka from 6th to 9th November 2023.

## Brief Summary and Highlights of service projects

### Day 1 on 6th November

Nine Enthusiastic members onboarded with service in mind, the project was kickstarted by Kalvi Shakthi, Social organisation partnering with Rotary for setting up a platform for rural interaction, providing the online education, tuition, and skilling of the student communities. A featured customised Display media set with stabiliser was presented at Chavakacherri location around Jaffna for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Nagarajan P and Dr. Siva from Kalvi Shakthi presented the overview of the framework, structure, and the modalities of the online Tuition programs, schedule, content presenters and coordinators.

Next project was distributing the groceries pack to 100 needy families at Vethaparayana Community Centre, Kondavil on the outskirts of Jaffna city. With Deepavali festival of lights in the vicinity, this will help the families for something to light and fire up their kitchens.

Rotarians visited the Nallur Kandaswamy which is one of the most significant Hindu temples built in 948 AD in the Jaffna District of Northern Province, Sri Lanka.

At 7.00 PM, a joint meeting was held between the Rotary club of Nallur, Rotary club of Chunnakam Heritage, Rotary Bangalore Ulsoor, Rotary Bangalore Udyog, Members of



media set with stabiliser was presented to enable the students around Kilinochchi. Kalvi Shakthi team presented the framework, structure, and the modalities of the online Tuition programs.

After another 64 kms, the team reached Uyirilai Spinal Cord Injury Association, Mullaitivu, A non-profit organization founded by those with spinal cord injuries. Sarees and Lungis were distributed to over 100 members. A gift to celebrate the Deepavali.

Sri Lankan Rupees Rs. 2,75,000 were donated to the Uyirilai Spinal Cord Injury Association in the form of fixed deposit, the recurring interest earned will be used to cover the ongoing expenses. Mr. Seelan Jeyaseelan from Perth Australia, Members of Rotary Tiptur and Rotary Bangalore North were the donors. A new travel suitcase was also donated to a college going girl student.

After a brief stopover for lunch, Kalvi Shakthi team handed over the featured customised

Display media set to benefit the rural students of Ampara in Batticaloa district.

Another 130 Kms along the coastline ride got the team to Trincomalee, A visit to Koneswaran temple highlighted the origin, history, and etymology of the temple.

An evening joint meeting with vibrant Rotary Trincomalee club was very interactive and engaging highlighting the history, legacy and projects undertaken by their respective clubs. A request was made by the Rotary Trincomalee club to initiate the Kalvi Shakthi online Tuition program around the rural areas in Trincomalee.

Flags were exchanged and the evening ended with a fellowship dinner building the goodwill and friendship.



Kalvi Shakti, families, and friends.

New Laptops were provided to the girl students studying in colleges, A bicycle was presented to a school going girl student, in addition 3 wheelchairs were provided to the differently abled recipients. Finally, Rotary Bangalore Ulsoor, Rotary Bangalore Udyog, Rotary Tiptur and Rotary Bangalore Platinum city flags were exchanged with host Rotary clubs symbolizing international fellowship and token of friendship. The decorative colourful flags express the story and community pride of each club.

The evening ended with a network fellowship dinner discussing future collaborative projects and exchanging culture notes.

### Day 2 on 7th November

The members drove 63 kms to Rotary club of Kilinochchi for a joint meeting and flag exchange.

Another featured and customised Display



### DAY 3 on 8th November

Day started with a glimpse of a unique Kanniya hot water spring with seven wells in a square shape. Wells are only 3–4 feet deep and the temperature was considerably high but vary slightly from one spring to another.

Around Mullaitivu, visited a majestic and beautifully ornated Vattrappalai Kannaki Amman temple devoted to the goddess of chastity, rain and fertilization.

Three hours' drive brought the team to Mullivaikal village to visit a community school.

Contributions was made to cover the band tutor fees.

The students were treated with fun games by the Rotary members.

Two more featured customised Display media set was presented by Kalvi Shakthi team at one each Mullivaikal and Mullaitivu.

Fellowship and Dinner was hosted by Rotary club of Nallur and Rotary club of Chunnakam Heritage exchanging the bondage and friendship.

### DAY 4 on 9th November

Enroute to Jaffna airport, the team stopped over for a Tree Plantation project at Palaly North G.T.M school, native Karuvaa saplings were distributed to 70 students and teachers. Rotary and Kalvi Shakthi members planted the saplings and highlighted the importance of environment which is a primary focus area for Rotary International.

The teachers were given a demonstration of the online tutoring and importance of virtual simulations of experiments and practical studies through the existing smart TV infrastructure. This will be immediately implemented much to the delight of teachers and students.

All the service projects had incurred wide public image coverage and presence in online forums and major newspapers in Sri Lanka.

### Departure statement

The Journey of service opened the minds, changed the lives of others through selfless service, gave a new perspective, dimension and understanding of Rotary in the minds of all those who participated and contributed to the projects and leaving a lasting positive impact.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed.

Mr. Seelan Jeyaseelan (Perth, Australia)

### Rotary Chennai Sun city

• Rtn. Dhanshekhar

### Rotary Bangalore Ulsoor

• Rtn. Somasundaram Venugopal (Mentor)

• Rtn. Mohan Kumar (President 2023-24)

• Rtn. R.P Shetty (Past President)

• Rtn. Srinivasan (Member) – Goed Travels



# COMMUNITY WATCH

- Rtn. Sugadha Somasundaram (Joint Secretary)
- Rtn. Varadappa Babu (Member)
- Rtn. Santhana Lakshmi (Community Service Director) & Rtn. Narendran VB (Mentor)
- Mr. Shekhar (Friends of Rotary)
- Mr. Ravi Kumar (Friends of Rotary)
- Ms. Anupama Ravindran (Friends of Rotary)

## Rotary Bangalore Udyog and Members

- Rtn. Panchanathan (President 2023-24)
- Kalvi Shakthi Team - Mr. Nagarajan P and Dr. Siva

## Rotary Tiptur & Members

- Rtn. Krishna Prasad (President 2023-24)

## Rotary Bangalore Platinum City & Members

- Rtn. Rupa (President 2023-24)
- Rotary Bangalore North & Members
- Rtn. Janaki Ram (President 2023-24)







## 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 in 2023:

1. Hope for the homeland" initiative Project #5) Shop Development project Helping to purchase more items to an existing small shop, selling betel and fruits, in order to earn more money to look after her ailing mother and her daughter in high school. This request is made by a widow affected by war and lost her husband.. Rs 100,000

2. Hope for the homeland" initiative Project #6 - House renovation project. This is to finance to renovate an existing temporary shelter like house. Requested by a woman with four members in the family. Son is an ashmatic patient. Both children are going to school.. They have been living for the last nine years in temporary shed like house. The house is leaking during rainy season and as a result they could not sleep or children could not study. They Need

to have a roof with tin to avoid leakage. Rs 200,000/-

Thank you to Mr. Subramaniam Kathirithamby & Mr. Maylvahanam (Sri Lanka) for coordinating this project.

### 22nd Annual DTA Youth Festival

DTA's youth proudly came and represented and presented an amazing Youth Festival show that was enjoyed by everyone. It was a great night filled with colorful and exciting performances by all ages.

A Heart felt thank you to all DTA Youth Choreographers, Dance school teachers, and all performers. Well done!!!

Sincere thank you to all youth volunteers; parent volunteers who helped us to run the event smoothly.

Heartfelt thank you to all parents for your strong support and cooperation!

Thank you to all our guests who attended the event and encouraged the youth - your support truly means a lot to our volunteers.

### DTA Senior's November monthly meeting

DTA Senior's March monthly meeting will be held on Sunday November 26, 2023 at 5:00 pm at DTA Centre.

66B Harwood Ave S, Ajax

L1S 2H6.

Event Time: 5-9 pm

Please all Senior (ages 55+) members attend the meeting.

Register online - [durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org)

Members who were born in March, please mention in the comments section to organize your cake-cutting at the meeting.

**Durham Tamil Association's 'DTA TOURS is organizing a 12-day Spring trip to Florida.**

12 DAY TRIP TO FLORIDA

DATE: FEB 14TH TO FEB 25th 2024.

### Pricing

\$1500 including bus tour and accommodation. (\$500 deposit with registration to hold a seat).

**REGISTER ONLINE:** [durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org) (Once you register someone will contact you with additional details).

**Please note:** \*DTA also strongly suggests all passengers take their own out-of-country medical insurance. DTA is not responsible for medical insurance.

### Requirements:

-**Canadian Citizens:** Canadian Passport  
-If you are a Permanent Resident card holder, please bring your passport with your American visa.

### Tamil School

Tamil class registration is open for the School Year from 2023-2024!

In-person or Virtual class options are available!

## 12 DAY TRIP TO FLORIDA



Register online:  
[durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org)

### DTA TOURS & TRAVELS

**FEB 14TH TO FEB 25th 2024**

**\$1500 including bus tour and accommodation.(\$500 deposit with registration to hold a seat)**

E-Transfer to: [dtatravel1@gmail.com](mailto:dtatravel1@gmail.com)



### DTA's Seniors

DTA is keeping our seniors fully occupied with multiple activities and programs. DTA is here to support you in any way. If you want to participate in our programs, please check our monthly calendars. Please register for virtual Seniors programs at [durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org). Thank you to our fantastic volunteers who do not expect anything and are serving the community voluntarily. DTA is truly grateful for your continued support.

### Thank you to DTA's Annual Sponsors

DTA thanks our annual sponsors Computek College of Business, Healthcare & Technology  
Nava Wilson LLP, Chapel Ridge Funeral Home & Cremation, and all our sponsors for your continued support throughout the year.

**For more information on all DTA's Community Support Programs and Sponsor**

contacts please visit [www.DurhamTamils.Org](http://www.DurhamTamils.Org)

Tel 905.428.7007

*Unity Is Strength*





# Mississauga ready to be an Independent City



**November 15, 2023**

Today, Mississauga City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Shari Lichterman presented an update to Council about the City of Mississauga becoming an independent, single-tier municipality on January 1, 2025.

In June 2023, the provincial government passed Bill 112, Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023. This legislation dissolves Peel Region as a governing body and makes Mississauga an independent city.

“We’ve advocated for this change for years and are prepared to take on the challenge of becoming a single-tier, independent municipality. The City has proven its ability to be a world-class destination with strong financial management, exceptional leadership and extensive experience,” said Chris Fonseca, Acting Mayor and Ward 3 Councillor. “The shift towards independence will allow Council and the City to make meaningful decisions to address key issues unique to Mississauga such as housing, growth, transportation, infrastructure, climate change and financial management. We’re confident this change will lead to a better service delivery for residents and businesses. This is good news for Mississauga.”

At present, the City of Mississauga splits its property taxes. Of every dollar collected from property tax, around 36 per cent stays with the City, while almost half (45 per cent) goes to the Peel Region. This money is used to help pay for services such as police, housing supports, roads, water and wastewater treatment and waste management, among others. Under the current structure, Mississauga pays 60 per cent of the regional tax levy. Through independence, the majority of property tax revenues will now remain in Mississauga and

the City will be able to make investments in its strategic priorities without interference.

“Moving to a single-tier government structure will provide residents and taxpayers with cost savings and more coordinated service delivery,” said Shari Lichterman, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer. “We will have the ability to make decisions independently and that means we can do things like approving housing more quickly to reach our provincial housing targets and deliver improved programs and services that meet the direct needs of those in our Mississauga community.”

The City remains committed to providing exceptional customer service to residents and businesses and funding programs efficiently and effectively. Transferring regional services to the City will eliminate duplication of services and create efficiencies while providing the necessary support to front-line service areas. Residents and businesses will also have a single point of contact for all municipal services.

To get ready for independence, Mississauga has taken action to bring on the right people with the right experience to ensure the city is ready to take on regional services. This includes hiring Catherine Matheson as the Interim Commissioner of Health and Human Services and appointing Lori Kelly, former Director of Human Resources, as the new Director of Municipal Transition and Integration.

Lichterman added, “We’re ensuring Mississauga will have the right people in place for a seamless transition. This includes bringing on experts in fields like health and human services so that we’re ready to deliver these critical services on day one. Our focus remains on providing quality services with no disruption for residents

and businesses. It also means welcoming the highly qualified Peel Region staff and their expertise to deliver the programs and services in these areas.” Mississauga is working closely in collaboration with the Government of Ontario, the provincially-appointed Transition Board, Peel Region, Brampton and Caledon to ensure that all matters are handled fairly and equitably. The recommendations and decisions will be shared with the province for their final approval.

As the Transition Board makes decisions, more information will be shared with Council and residents in the upcoming weeks and months.

For more information and updates about the City’s steps toward independence, visit [mississauga.ca/ourcityourfuture](https://mississauga.ca/ourcityourfuture).

## Background

The Peel transition is a result of Bill 112, Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023, passed by the Government of Ontario. For more information on the Act, read the legislation. Completed milestones of the transition include:

- On May 18, 2023, the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 112 to dissolve Peel Region
- On June 8, 2023, Bill 112, the Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023, came into effect
- On July 5, 2023, the province announced the appointment of the Transition Board
- On October 5, 2023, the City hired Catherine Matheson as the new Interim Commissioner for Health and Human Services
- On October 16, 2023, the City hired Lori Kelly as the new Director of Municipal Transition and Integration



# TRIBUTE

## We Love you Pata forever

By: Anjali (Granddaughter)

The number of close friends, cousins, and colleagues Pata had throughout his life was as vast as a small country. He would often mention someone he talked to and say to me, "this, you know, is one of my dearest friends." And I would respond, "another one?" But to them, he was their good, best, or long-term friend of many years, Siva. All his friends would share with me how they were impressed by his work ethic and brilliance. Even into his 80s, he took on new projects and continued to support



the paper. He was the most honest and soft-spoken man they knew. No matter the topic, he could always relate it to a captivating story. Not only were Pata's cousins close to him, but Ammama's cousins also became his dear friends. His friends, including Logan, Kula, Ajith, Mohan, Sathie, Alf, Nirmalan, Rajabalan, Roland, Thurai, and many more, helped shape the stories he loved to tell and brought him immense happiness.

Pata lived a simple life but had an extraordinary impact. He was the second oldest among his four siblings: the late Balasingham, the late Rajasingham, the late Sivakumaran, and his sister Ambikai. While he cherished all his siblings, his bond with Ambikai, the only girl, was particularly strong and protective. In the last few months, Pata had plans to reunite with her, displaying his impatience to be by her side in Sri Lanka. He treasured the special bond he shared with Ambikai, a bond unaffected by distance or time.

Pata sought the company of sisters and

had two more, sister-in-laws to be precise. My kunjumani aunty from Australia was like a sister to him, and he referred to her as "mani." His relationship with her remained strong even after Ammama's passing. He continued to call her weekly, a tradition he started when Ammama was still alive, saying, "it's because it's what Ammama would do."

Dr. Rachel Navaneelan was his other sister-in-law, lovingly known as "bubby." Pata often spoke about taking her to the bookstore and protecting her while she studied for exams. He was immensely proud of her accomplishments, confidently predicting that she would either become a doctor or marry one, and she accomplished both.

Pata had warm relationships with his brother-in-laws, including the late Neelan, the late Choutey, the late Kitchen, and Kundo uncle. These relationships were characterized by endless stories, weekly phone calls, paternal advice, and the recurring question, "Athan, can I get you another glass of wine?" followed by a disapproving look from Ammama.

In his later years, Pata found great joy in his nieces and nephews, celebrating their achievements, career successes, relationships, and family milestones. His nephews and nieces, including Ashok, Sharmini, Patiyah, Kunchan, Tony, Tanya, Shankaran, Sahu, and Havishmi, brought him immense happiness.

He was present for significant family events, such as the birth of Shankaran's daughter Arya and Tony's marriage to his long-term partner, Josh.

Sivakumar, his son-in-law, was more than just that; he was Pata's son. They shared daily chats about politics and news, and Pata appreciated the delicious fruit salad Sivakumar made for him. He considered Sivakumar an exemplary father and husband and appreciated his unwavering support and willingness to help. Pata often expressed his gratitude for Sivakumar, considering him a blessing to the family.

Pata's grandson, my brother Harikesh, meant the world to him. Pata often said that Harikesh was his vision, with each eye representing my brother and me. He was impressed by Harikesh's knowledge and assistance with technology. Pata fondly referred to him as "the miracle," admiring his pure and kind-hearted nature.

Pata had one child, but he believed that

was all he needed. His daughter, my mother Premilla, was his pride. She cared for Pata with immense dedication, especially after Ammama's passing. Pata often told his friends that no one could care for him as well as his daughter did. He admired her hard work and independence, recognizing that she achieved her success on her own. His love for her was boundless, and it will endure, as the love between a father and daughter is unique.

I remember when I wrote my Ammama's Eulogy not too long ago, my main goal was to focus on her family and how much they meant to her because she wasn't one to seek the spotlight. With Pata, it was a different story. He loved to share his accomplishments and stories. He enjoyed reminding everyone that he was a media man and that he once shook hands with Justin Trudeau. However, when he spoke about his achievements, he did so with humility and grace, inspiring others to listen a little longer.

Pata was an accomplished journalist and editor who composed and published many remarkable articles. But his influence extended beyond journalism. He became the local career center, helping friends and family find employment. Whenever someone needed a job, he would confidently say, "Don't worry, let me make a call, and I'll get you a job." He even considered himself a matchmaker, with many turning to him to find suitable matches for their children. And, of course, he was a promoter, endorsing various businesses in his community. Pata's repetition was a key strategy: he encouraged you to keep visiting the places he recommended until you gave in. He wasn't just a great media man but also someone always ready to lend a helping hand, a testament to his lifelong priorities. I believe that, in one way or another, big or small, recent or distant, he has touched the lives of everyone he ever knew.

Ammama was Pata's true love and life partner. They didn't display traditional affection but had a unique bond characterized by endless teasing and bickering. When Pata spoke about Ammama in an adoring way, it would annoy her, but he relished that reaction because it was quintessentially Ammama. Where Ammama was loud, Pata was soft; where she was assertive, he was passive. Her strength came from her husband, and his words were a great source of comfort. They had two pieces of advice for newlyweds: marriage is built on a give-and-take policy and requires patience. Ammama's patience lasted long, and she gave Pata to be with us for the past eight months. However, they couldn't bear to be apart any longer, and now they are eternally reunited, as their love and bond remained unbroken.

My Pata, Patikins, my Boo. I've never been one to express affection openly or wear my emotions on my sleeve, but with you, I couldn't resist showering you with hugs, kisses, and heartfelt expressions of love. You were more than just my grandfather; you were like a second father to me. You protected me, provided guidance, embraced me, and supported me throughout my entire life. Everyone who knew me was familiar with you because I often spoke about you, emphasizing your paramount importance in my life. Even my friends know you as the legendary 'Pata.' Many of them are here today,

Continued on Page 41...



## TRIBUTE



# Siva uncle with my late sister played the role of my parents since my young age

By: Rachael Navaneelan

I first met Siva Uncle in his home on Edward Lane in Colombo, when I was very young and near the beginning of my life. And I had the fortune to be in his hospital room in Markham two days ago at the very end of his life.

In the near forty years between those encounters, Siva Uncle played an outsized role in my life. My sister and I were not old enough to meet our maternal grandparents before they passed. But we were fortunate to have Siva Uncle and our late Rani Aunty to fill that role.

And together they gave us those things that real or chosen grandparents are always best suited to give: their love, their time, and their deep curiosity in our lives and achievements.

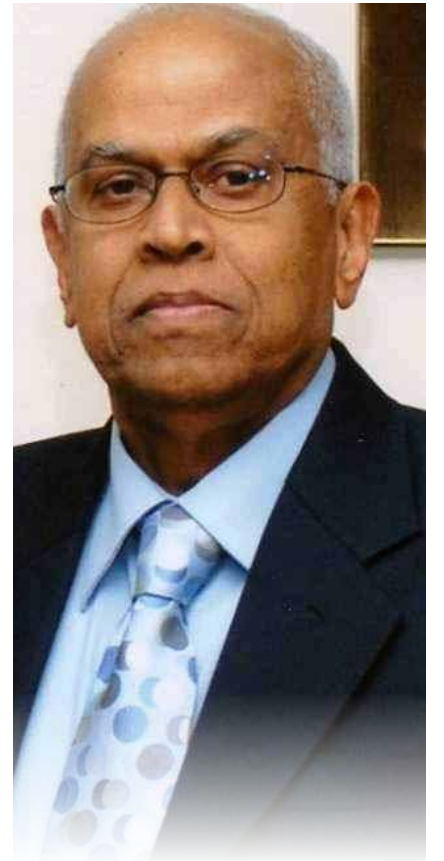
Like many of you, my memories of Siva Uncle are filled with some constant themes. The unshakeable integrity of his character. The quiet humility of his personality. The incredible warmth of his smile.

But we all have our own unique memories of Siva Uncle that mark out our own special relationship with him. When I argued one of my most important cases in court, I had discussed it with Siva Uncle in the months long before it happened. And though I had forgotten about the conversation, he had keenly remembered it.

And, when the court date came and passed, a card arrived from Siva Uncle, expressing his pride and asking about the outcome. I still have that card tucked away. And it always reminds me of his typical quiet thoughtfulness.

When Rani Aunty passed away earlier this year, we had made promises at her hospital bedside that as a family we would care for Siva Uncle in her absence. And that we would do our best to fill the void her death left in his life. We thought then that he would be under our care for much longer than he was.

In the end, Premilla, Sivakumar, Harikesh and Anjali, you more than lived up to that promise we made to Rani Aunty. I know Siva Uncle felt deeply loved in these past months. And he knows that he will be sorely missed in the years to come.



## We Love you Pata forever

thanks to your genuine interest in them. You'd inquire about their well-being, their endeavors, and endearingly assign them countless nicknames, never forgetting a single one. You even offered rides to my friends, despite Mom's occasional admonitions. I have a vivid memory from my early years that Pata often recalled. I was at an age where I was still learning to talk, and I repeatedly uttered the phrase 'showtopata.' Initially, I thought it was the name of some distant relative I couldn't remember. But you clarified that my mother had bought me a new pair of shoes, and the first thing I wanted to do when I put them on was to show them to you, Pata. This continued throughout my life. Whenever I achieved something noteworthy or accomplished a goal, you were the first person I wanted to share it with. When I recently graduated from law school and received my certificate, the very first person I texted and called was you, Pata, because I always wanted to make you proud. I am profoundly grateful for all the time and memories I shared with you, Pata, because not every grandchild has the privilege of spending almost every day of their life with their grandparents. Selfishly, I wish I could have had you with me for even longer, to witness more of my milestones. However, you made a promise to stay until my graduation, and you kept that promise. So, thank you for being my soulmate; no one can ever replace you or the love you bestowed upon me. I cherish this bond because it is the strongest connection I've ever known. I will miss you, and living life without you will undoubtedly be challenging. Yet, I will always carry you with me, no matter where I am. I love you, Boo Boo.

Pata lived a remarkable life spanning 85 years, filled with achievements and accomplishments. The people gathered in this room today serve as living proof of his extraordinary journey. While we will all grieve for a while, we can find solace in the knowledge that Pata fulfilled everything he wanted and needed to before departing. He left us with the assurance that we will eventually find peace and healing.



## TRIBUTE



# Tribute to Siva Sivapragasam

By: **Raymond Rajabalan**, Senior Editor, Monsoon Journal

VINI, VIDI, VICI (He came, He saw, He won)

– This saying is attributed to Julius Caesar.

When we review the life and times of Late Mr. Siva Sivapragasam, who passed away peacefully in Toronto at the ripe age of 86.

Sivapragasam, popularly known as Siva had a Royal beginning since he had the great privilege of having his education at the reputed Secondary school in Colombo, Royal College.

He continued his higher education at the prestigious University of Ceylon, Peradeniya Campus, since there was great harmony among all the groups of people in the island. He established lasting friendship with undergraduates belonging to every community. This was later very helpful for him to develop his professional career.

Soon after graduation he served at Jaffna college as lecturer for a short period of time after which he moved to Colombo where he got employed at Lake House that was being run by late Wickremesinghe, the father of the current President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe.

While serving at Lake House, he worked as a parliamentary news reporter, during which time he had the great opportunity of meeting many senior politicians.

Meanwhile Virakesari newspaper had several vacancies and Siva was appointed as circulation manager. It was at Virakesari that Siva was able to develop his special talents. Since he had a very good interpersonal skills, he was able to get develop a good relationship with the rest of the staff members, which in term lead to great productivity.

While serving at Virakesari, he made a number of great changes. He was the one who was responsible for bringing out a new daily newspaper called "Mithiran" which turned out to be an instant success. Soon after he was able to bring out a special edition of Virakesari for the readers in plantation sector.

Since, Siva wanted to promote the special talents of the writers from upcountry areas of Sri Lanka, he created Virakesari Publication to publish north and short story books authored by writers from Upcountry.

After serving Virakesari for nearby three decades, he moved to Canada to join the family of his only daughter Premilla.

Within a week of arriving in Canada, Siva was offered a position of Manager for a Tamils Business directory that was being published by late Mr. Nandakumar, a very talented architect.

Siva effectively managed publication for nearly four years until the business was folded up by its owner.

Just as he was about to rest Mr. Siva was called upon to be executive editor and marketing consultant of a Tamil Canadian managing newspaper "Monsoon Journal". It soon turned out to be a very successful monthly and it

continued for the next 18 years. While managing the publication of Monsoon Journal, Siva had a brain wave of a Canadian edition of Virakesari newspaper which was very effectively published for some time.

Mr. Siva was also involved in the annual publication of Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce, for nearly a decade.

Thus, Siva was very active almost till the time of passing away in October 2023. It must be mentioned that he brightened every project he was involved.

Mr. Siva is survived by his only daughter Premila and family.

**May his soul rest in peace.**

## Obituary Notice



### Thuraisingam Sivapragasam

(Former Circulation and Advertisement -  
Manager of Express Newspapers – Virakesari,  
Editor Monsoon Journal, Canada )

Passed away in Canada on 27/10/2023. Loving husband of late Sivapakkialakshmi Sivapragasam Loving son of late Thanigasalam Duraisingam (Architect) and late Selvanayaki Sivapragasam Beloved father of Premilla and Loving father-in-law of Sivakumaran Thambiayah Grandfather of Anjali and Harikesh Son in law of the late Dr.Ramasamy Nitchingam and late Sakunthala Brother of late Balasingham, late Rajasingham, late Sivakumaran and Ambikai Loving Brother in law of the late Dr.Christy Navaneelan, Dr.Rachel Navaneelan, late Selvakulalingam, Sivanes Selvakulalingam, late Sivakumaran, Meena Nitchingam, late Sivarajan, Sumathy Sivarajan, Sivananthan Nitchingam, Pramila Sivananthan, Ratnes Sivakumaran, Rajdurai Beloved uncle of Ashok, Mathanki, Sharmini, Ossington, Anthony, Joshua, Tanya, Siva Selva, Amber, Jack Selva, Havishmi, Shankaran, Sharon, Saku.

Viewing at Chapel Ridge Funeral Home 8911, Woodbine Ave Markham, ON L3R 5G1 Canada On Sunday 29th October From 5:00pm to 9:00pm and On Tuesday 31st From 12:30pm to 2:30pm and Cremation at 3:00pm

**Premilla (Daughter) +416-562-4489**  
**Anjali (Grand-Daughter) +905-431-4081**  
**Sivakumar (Son in Law) +647-802-8250**





# Mr. Sivapragasam is a remarkable person

Below is the script of the eulogy delivered by the immediate past president of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce at the funeral.

## *Ladies and gentlemen,*

Today, we gathered here not only to mourn the loss of a remarkable individual but to celebrate the extraordinary life and contributions of Mr. Siva Sivapragasam. I stand before you as the Immediate Past President of the CTCC, but more importantly, as a friend and admirer of a man whose impact on our lives and our chamber has been immeasurable.

Mr. Sivapragasam, or Mr. Siva or Siva Annaa or Siva Uncle as many of us fondly called him, was a true luminary in the field of journalism in Sri Lanka. For 17 years, he served as a journalist in Canada for the Monsoon Journal, illuminating the pages of print media with his sharp wit, wisdom, and unparalleled dedication. His writing was not just a profession; it was his passion, and he elevated journalism to an art form.

However, Mr. Siva's commitment to excellence extended far beyond his work as a journalist. He brought his talents and expertise to the CTCC, where he served as a board member from 2001-2003 and, most notably, as the Editor of the CTCC's Enterprise Magazine from the year 2001 until just last year 2022. It was during his tenure as the magazine's editor that we witnessed his true genius. He transformed it into a platform that not only highlighted the accomplishments of our chamber but also showcased the talents and achievements of our members and award recipients.

I still remember the day when I sat down with him for the final touches of the Enterprise Magazine in July 2022. He reminisced his days as Journalist with Virakesari in Sri Lanka. He shared many stories in his working days back then.

Mr. Siva was not just an editor; he was a visionary. He had a unique ability to capture the essence of our chamber and its members, bringing their stories to life in the pages of our Enterprise Magazine. His words had the power to inspire, inform, and connect us, and he did it with an unmatched level of grace and professionalism.

Even last week, he had called our incoming President, Murali Sivaguru, and congratulated him. That is how much he was involved with the Chamber even in his last days. His dedication to the chamber was unwavering, and his support for our incoming leadership was a



testament to his commitment to the future of our organization.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Siva was a warm and caring soul. He was always there to lend a helping hand, to offer a kind word, or to share his wisdom with anyone who sought it. His humility and genuine love for people left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

As we remember Mr. Siva today, let us not just mourn the loss of an exceptional journalist, editor, and board member. Let us also celebrate the life of a man who used his talents and wisdom to enrich our lives, our chamber, and our community. His legacy will continue to inspire us to reach for excellence in all that we do, just as he did.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory continue to inspire us in the days and years to come.

**Vina Devadas**

Immediate Past President  
CTCC



## TRIBUTE

# Mr. Sivapragasam (Siva) A man of class and a gentleman to the core

Every person you meet and get to know is a special creation of God. As you get to know them, you are changed to some degree as you hear their life-story and you are affected by their personality. Every time you interact with a person, your life is altered in some way. There are just a few individuals in your entire life that leave a profound and positive impact on you and Mr. Sivapragasam is certainly one of them. There are people who touch your heart instantly. They are magnetic and you are drawn to their positive attitude, energy, enthusiasm and their overflowing words of encouragement. They come into your life and you feel totally blessed. You are blessed because practically every contact with them leaves you feeling better about yourself and about life. They make you feel that life is exciting and every moment should be filled with joy and gratitude. A person who has affected the life of many is our dear Mr. Sivapragasam. Many of us looked upon him as a mentor and guiding light.

In human life, two events are certain – birth and death. One cannot influence the manner of birth. However, one can shape the manner of death by life he led.

Mr. Sivapragasam lived and died serving God and many in so many ways. He was gifted with many great qualities.

Mr. Sivapragasam had an innate ability to relate to anyone and on any level and was most accessible regardless of his position and standing. What many of us will remember most about is his pleasant smile, love, kindness, sincerity and his general belief that everyone is good and means well. He touched people with his warmth and interest.

Time and space will not permit me to accurately convey how much Mr. Sivapragasam has meant to many and me. He has been an inspiration and example of a great man. I had the incredible privilege of knowing him for many years through Canadian Tamil's Chamber of Commerce.

His death is a great loss to his family. However, it will be some consolation to them to know that many share in their grief.

I will miss his inspirational telephone conversations and greetings - but I am so grateful for having known him.

May his soul rest in peace.  
Esa Para Esananda

# Mr. Sivapragasam is an esteemed Journalist with conscience, honor and genuineness

Mr. Sivapragasam and I met in Canada around 1999 or 2000. I believe our first meeting was at a net-working event of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce. Subsequently, He became the Editor for the Chamber's Monthly Newsletter and also for the annual Enterprise Magazine. He remained in these voluntary roles for a very long time. During this period, many of us in the Chamber had the opportunity to seek his advice on many issues relating to our community.

Working together at the Chamber of Commerce not only enriched our own learning development and resulted in a close collegial bond, but also escalated to a more friendly and mutually respectful relationship.

Mr. Sivapragasam's journalistic career started in Sri Lanka several decades ago, and he gave his best in many ways to the larger community in that country, and again in Canada through his editorship at Monsoon Journal and through his active participation in the community affairs.

Mr. Sivapragasam was more a listener than a talker, a giver than a taker. I would like to remember him as a friend, a colleague and an esteemed journalist with conscience, honor, and genuineness.

We will all miss him, dearly.

**K. Gnanachandran**







# A trailblazer in Journalism, the community loses a pioneer of our time

## ■ Exemplary contributions in Journalism & Management of Media Organizations



### By: Logan Velumailum

Siva Sivapragasam is a Media Professional who received his high school education at the prestigious Royal College, a premier educational institution in Sri Lanka. He later graduated from the University of Sri Lanka with an Economics Honours Degree.

His interest and passion for Journalism made him join Lake House, the largest Newspaper group in Sri Lanka. At Lake House he worked for the Daily News, the premier English Daily in Sri Lanka in the capacity of Finance Editor for the newspaper. He later joined the Virakesari Group of Newspapers

and functioned as the Secretary and Marketing Manager for the Virakesari Group for more than 30 years.

Since his arrival in Canada, Mr. Sivapragasam has continued his Media work and was managing "Thamilar Mathiyil", the Tamil Business & Information Directory.

He was also a Director of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce and handling Publishing work for the Chamber. He was functioning as the Editor of the Chamber's annual Souvenir titled "Enterprise" for the past several years.

He had a deep love for Virakesari newspaper that made him to even bring it to action by publishing and

being the Chief Editor for Canada Virakesari in Toronto for a while.

The highlight of Siva's journalistic contribution was the article on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled "The beginning of the Modi Era" and selected as Chapter one in the book "Modi's Blueprint for India" published by Pentagon Press, New Delhi.

Mr. Sivapragasam possesses over 50 years of Media experience.

Until his demise, he was the Executive Editor of "Monsoon Journal", the South Asian Monthly English Newspaper for 17 years since the inception.

He will be missed by us and absolutely there is no replacement for him.



# TRIBUTE



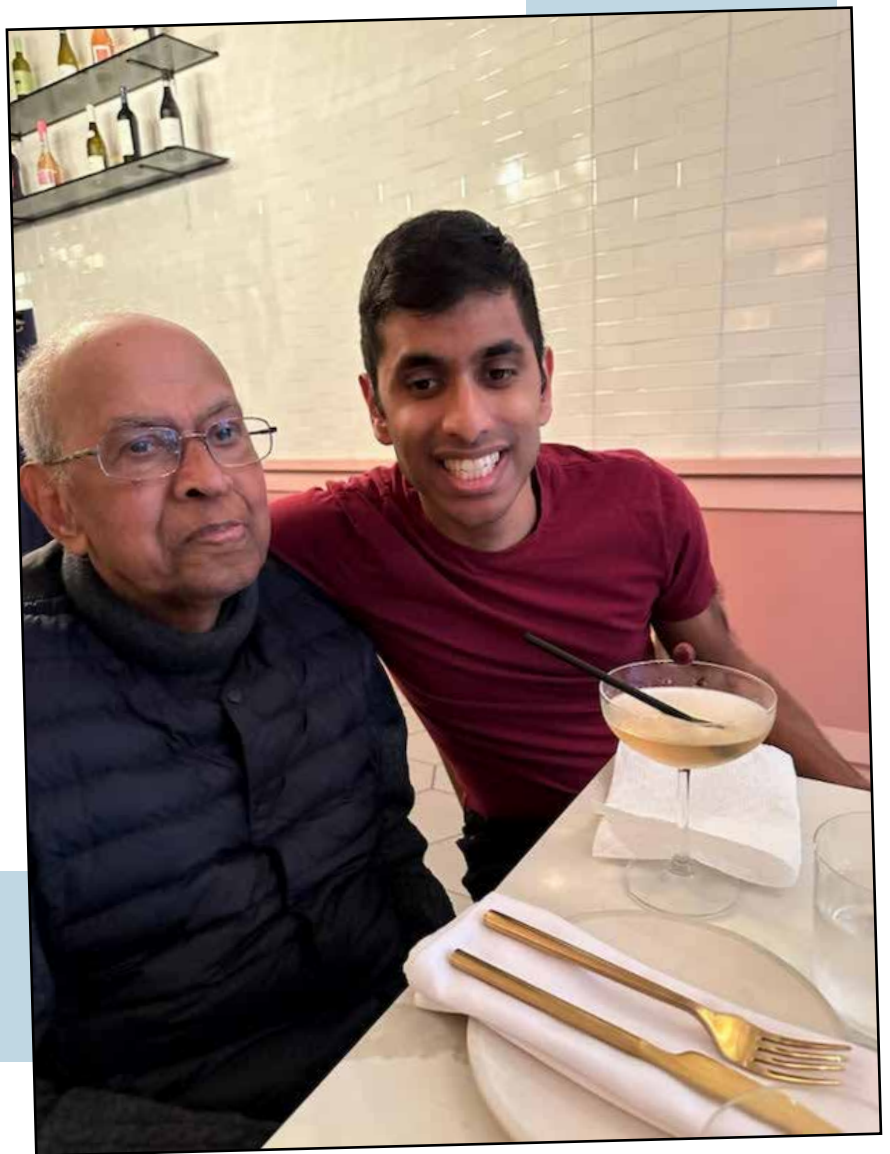
Daughter



Sivapragasam with Daughter



Sivapragasam with Granddaughter



Sivapragasam with Grandson





# Siva is remembered by his wisdom seven decades ago

My memories of T. Sivapragasam go back to the late 1950s when we were both residents of Marrs Hall at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya. By a coincidence, we also had another Siva: K. Sivapragasam. So, one was called T. Siva and the other was called K. Siva. Both were from Royal College, Colombo: a double distinction.

After graduation, where we both specialized in Economics, Siva and I crossed paths again, this time at Lake House, one of the major newspaper publishers in the country. I was a reporter on the editorial staff of the Observer and Siva was a reporter on the Daily News.

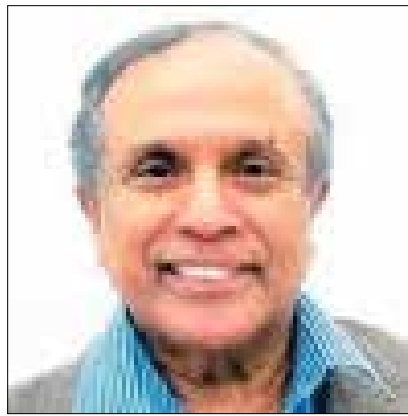
Siva's beat was politics and finance. He was regularly seen hanging out in the lobby of our parliament, chasing MPs and cabinet ministers, hunting for scoops and breaking stories.

Perhaps one of the legendary stories at the Daily News was an investigative piece he did on the shenanigans in the Bank of Ceylon. Our news editor, who rightly believed in the right of reply, asked Siva to contact the General Manager (GM) of the Bank, an

influential figure at that time, for his comments on the story.

When he spoke to the tight-lipped GM, he told Siva to call him around 2 pm that afternoon for his comments. As agreed, Siva called him sharp at 2. The GM asked him "Do you have a pen and paper". When Siva said he did, the GM dictated to him: "When the Daily News contacted the General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, he said, he had no comments to make"..

But that did not prevent the Daily News from running the story on Page one. In effect, it looked as if it was Siva who outsmarted the GM.



**Thalif Deen**  
Senior Editor,  
Inter Press Service (IPS)  
news agency.  
United Nations

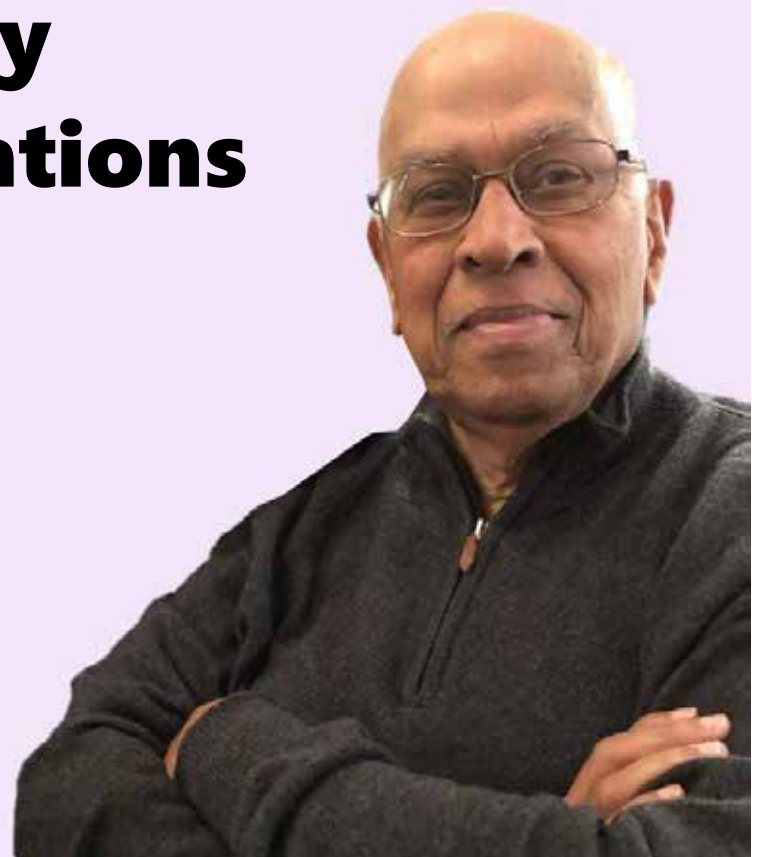
*Thalif Deen, author of the book "No Comment – and Don't Quote Me on That," is Senior Editor at Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency, an ex-UN staffer and a former member of the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN General Assembly sessions. A Fulbright scholar with a Master's Degree in Journalism from Columbia University, New York, he shared the gold medal twice (2012-2013) for excellence in UN reporting awarded by the UN Correspondents Association (UNCA). The link to Amazon via the author's website follows: <https://www.rodericgrigson.com/no-comment-by-thalif-deen/>*

## Siva will be missed by Community Organizations

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Siva Anna's heart beat fervently for community service. His unwavering support for the Durham Tamil Association and other community organizations inspired countless volunteers, leaving an indelible mark on the lives he touched.

We will dearly miss him, our thoughts are with his family and friends.

*Thank you,*  
**Dinesh Kumar**  
[www.DurhamTamils.Org](http://www.DurhamTamils.Org)

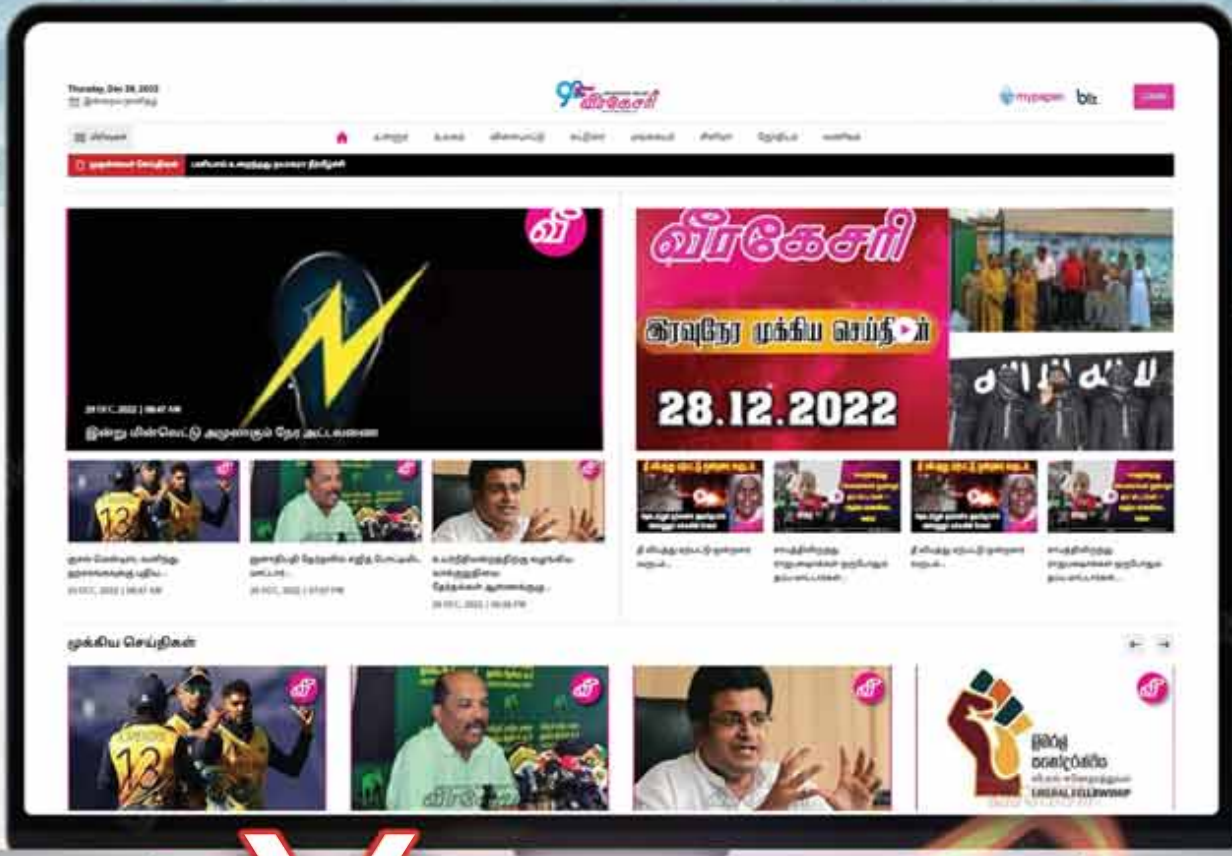




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