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Blind mystic Baba Vanga's 7 predictions for 2024

Vangeliya Pandeva Gushterova, commonly known as Baba Vanga, was a Bulgarian attributed mystic and healer who claimed to have foreseen the future. Blind since her early childhood, she spent most of her life in the Rupite area of the Belasica mountains in Bulgaria.

Medical discoveries

Vanga had some good news — we'll soon have the cure for both cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

In addition to her seven predictions for the upcoming year, humanity can look forward to a resolution of world hunger between 2025 and 2028, according to Euro News.

European terror

Vanga guessed that Europe would see a surge in terrorism and that a "big country" would either conduct biological weapons tests or attacks next year.

Climate disasters

She predicted that natural disasters would abound next year. Vanga said that in addition to weather events, there could also be a rise in radiation levels, the Sun reported

Cyber attacks

She said that hackers will start to target infrastructure like power grids and water treatment plants, which will amplify threats to national security.

Technological revolution

Vanga said that quantum computing would see a major breakthrough, as quantum computers process information faster than standard computers.

She also predicted an increase in the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Putin's assassination

Russian President Vladimir Putin will be killed by one of his own countrymen in 2024, according to Vanga.

Coincidentally, just last month, someone on a Russian Telegram channel called "General SVR" falsely claimed that Putin had died and only his body double remains; however, the Kremlin denied that, calling it "absurd."

- nypost.com



- Vanga died years ago, but her predictions remain.

Wishing you blessings & prosperity in 2024
- Monsoon Journal Team



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Canada's Public Broadcaster to Cut 10% of Workforce



FILE - A man sits inside the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. broadcast center in Toronto, May 23, 2014.

MONTREAL — Canada's public broadcaster on Monday announced it would cut 600 jobs, or 10% of its workforce, as it confronts financial challenges sparked by a drop in television ad revenues and competition from digital news outlets.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) said the first job cuts would come shortly but that most would take effect over the next 12 months.

"CBC/Radio-Canada is not immune to the upheaval facing the Canadian media industry," Catherine Tait, president and chief executive officer, said in a statement.

"We've successfully managed serious structural declines in our business for many years, but we no longer have the flexibility to do so without reductions."

A total of 250 jobs will be slashed at CBC, the group's English-language network, and another 250 at French-language Radio-Canada, with technicians and other support staff making up the final 100 jobs to be slashed.

An additional 200 vacant positions will be eliminated, the broadcaster said in a statement.

Programming funds

CBC "will also be reducing its English and French programming budgets for the next fiscal year," it said. "This will result in reduced renewals and acquisitions, fewer new television series and episodes of existing shows, as well as fewer digital original series."

That will allow the company to make up a \$92.3 million budget shortfall.

Radio-Canada's workers' union called it a "dark day" for the broadcaster and for access to information.

CBC has been particularly hard hit by the drop in television advertising revenues.

In early October, CBC announced that job creation was

frozen until further notice, and that those who left the company would not be replaced.

"We understand how concerning this is to the people affected and to the Canadians who depend on our programs and services," Tait said.

"We will have more details in the months ahead, but we are doing everything we can to minimize the impact of these measures."

Many media outlets in Canada — as in other parts of the world — are currently in dire financial straits, and the public broadcaster is not the first to announce a redundancy plan.

After months of negotiations, Canada and Google struck a deal last week for the tech giant to pay compensation to Canadian media companies in exchange for the distribution of content.

Google will provide financial support of \$100 million a year, indexed to inflation.

CBC has not seen similar budget cuts since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took office in 2015.

The Canadian Media Guild, which represents thousands of members, including staff at CBC, called on the government to act to ensure the broadcaster's funding.

Guild President Annick Forest said the CMG was "dismayed and frustrated by the enormous impact these budgetary cuts will have on our members, the workers responsible for creating the content ... on our public airwaves and platforms."

Parthi Kandavel wins Scarborough Southwest byelection

Former TDSB trustee Parthi Kandavel is officially Toronto's newest city councillor. On Monday, Dec 4th, City Clerk John Elvidge certified the results of the Nov. 30 byelection in Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest, and declared Kandavel as the winner.



Prior to entering politics, Kandavel worked as an elementary school teacher.

Kandavel served as a Toronto District School Board (TDSB) trustee for two terms from 2014 to 2022.

Kandavel ran on a platform of increasing daycare spaces, building road safety infrastructure and reducing inequality. He defines his political ideology as "sensible solutions that address inequity". Following his election, Kandavel met with Mayor Olivia Chow, who highlighted their shared commitment to affordable housing and child care.

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Coping with Grief During the Holiday Season

By Harrish Thirukumaran

During the holiday season, it's a joyous time filled with celebration, family, friends, and reflection. By extension, this applies to birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones that take on a celebratory nature. However, this has a different kind of effect on those grieving the loss of a loved one. In my case, my grief is centered on my mom and dad. I recently learned the importance of self-expression of your own individual needs during moments of celebration. The significance of these occasions, whether it is birthdays or holidays like Christmas, tend to be overwhelming when you realize they have become occasions you now experience without your loved one. As we gather for the holiday season soon, I want to direct this to readers to maintain sensitivity towards their friends, family or loved ones whom may be grappling with grief.

With holidays as those points of reflection, one can observe that grief encourages significant learning and growth within people as they grasp to do things on their own after their loved one departs. It does take an emotional toll on those going through it in my experience. Despite being able to handle these new responsibilities or tasks required of life, there is a feeling deep within us that yearns for the presence of their loved one. To return to a former way of life, as I perceived it. Yet, this, I believe, stems from how our mood descends to a lower level when we celebrate knowing our loved one is gone. Additionally, these changes in mood emerge as we ride the path of growth in trying to do things on our own in these sorts of circumstances.

The Mayo Clinic, for example, urges that grief and bereavement are universal, understandable human responses to loss. But, each person processes the various symptoms and reactions can vary greatly. This could not be truer. I found that in situations, especially social ones, negative feelings like sadness, sorrow, or crying tend to slowly reveal themselves. We can either let them be free or restrict them. I have chosen to let them be free when I feel their presence, even if they are not socially acceptable as pointed out in the health world.

Although this can be exhausting, it is recommended that you accept your process whether it be grieving privately or publicly. That is ultimately your decision to make. Some can also choose to seek out grief counseling or support group. There is no wrong way of grieving because it is a subjective experience that you determine. It empowers you to connect with yourself for purposes of emotional safety. It becomes our mission however to reframe those thoughts and feelings as part of exercises in reflection and taking stock of our accomplishments over the year.

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For holidays like Christmas, ways to remember your loved ones in a more positive light include sharing stories among family and friends, making favorite foods, or looking at photographs of happy memories. In a sense, let your own feelings be a compass to navigate grief during holidays and celebrations.

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, joy, happiness, and love.



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Statement by the Prime Minister on the birthday of His Highness the Aga Khan

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on the birthday of His Highness the Aga Khan:

“Today, we join millions of Shia Ismaili Muslims in Canada and around the world to celebrate the 87th birthday of their spiritual leader, His Highness the Aga Khan.

“Since he succeeded his grandfather in 1957, the Aga Khan has dedicated his life to helping those most vulnerable and making the world a better place. Through the Aga Khan Development Network, which operates across five continents, His Highness has worked to reduce poverty and improve quality of life for disadvantaged communities around the globe, including in South and Central Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. This includes the work of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, a strategic partner in Canada’s efforts to reduce poverty and promote democracy in

developing countries. The Foundation is dedicated to the empowerment of marginalized groups, including women and girls, by addressing their most pressing needs, which range from high-quality education and health care to economic well-being.

“Canada enjoys a special relationship with the Aga Khan. Together with the Government of Canada, His Highness established the Global Centre for Pluralism in Ottawa, Ontario, to promote equality and advance pluralism around the world. Furthermore, the Aga Khan chose Toronto, Ontario, as the location of North America’s first Islamic arts museum, the Aga Khan Museum, which also serves as a centre of education, pluralism, and tolerance. In recognition



of this special relationship, the Government of Canada appointed the Aga Khan as an honorary Companion of the Order of Canada in 2005 and granted him honorary Canadian citizenship in 2009.

“On behalf of the Government of Canada, I thank His Highness for his unwavering dedication to helping others. We look forward to further strengthening his relationship with our country and extend warm wishes for a very happy birthday.

“Salgirah Khushiali Mubarak!”

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Ontario reversing course on Region of Peel dissolution, cites tax hike concerns

Ontario abandons Peel Region dissolution

TORONTO - Ontario reversed course Wednesday on its plan to dissolve the Region of Peel, citing concerns about tax hikes in an about-face that has come to typify the latter half of the year for Premier Doug Ford's government, in particular on the housing file.

A transition board that has been working on the dissolution will instead focus on finding efficiencies in the upper-tier government located west of Toronto and improving regional services such as policing, paramedics and public health, the province said.

"The evidence we have seen is clear, full dissolution would disrupt critical services and lead to higher taxes for the people of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon," Housing Minister Paul Calandra said.

"And while some people might be OK with that, our government clearly is not."

Calandra did not provide evidence or numbers to back up his claim. He said dissolution would also slow down housing builds.

"Not only would this be very costly to devolve into the three component parts, not only would it cost local rate payers significantly, but equally important, it would cause a level of uncertainty that would stop us from getting the shovels in the ground," he said.

The government passed the Hazel McCallion Act in the spring to dissolve Peel Region, which is made up of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. The act fulfilled a promise Premier Doug Ford made to the former longtime mayor of Mississauga that it would stand as an independent city.

Outgoing Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, who is set to resign next month after being elected leader of the Ontario Liberal party, said she hopes the decision to reverse the dissolution was not only informed by a Deloitte report Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown recently cited.

"I will continue to call on the province to provide us with a credible, independent report commissioned by the transition board that proves Mayor Brown's unfounded reports that taxes will skyrocket in Brampton and Caledon as a result of dissolution," she said.

Brown has said that report shows dissolution would lead to an extra \$1.3 billion in operating costs over 10 years and sharp increases in taxes on local residents.

Brown said Brampton analyzed the data and presented findings to the transition board, whereas Mississauga had none.

"It is bewildering that Mayor Crombie would challenge... (the) reports when she has not put forward any financial analysis to support her position this would (lead to) savings," he said.

"I think she just hasn't been involved, so she's not aware. She has been largely absent for the last six months."

Mississauga's city manager said she has been at all of the transition board's meetings and it has not yet done financial modelling on the full dissolution of Peel Region.

The move on Peel was the latest reversal for Calandra, who has been walking back a number of big government initiatives since he took over the housing portfolio in September after his predecessor resigned amid the Greenbelt scandal.

Removing land from the protected Greenbelt, a move that is being investigated by the RCMP, was reversed by the government earlier this year, as were forced urban boundary expansions.

The new mandate for the Peel transition board asks it to bring forward recommendations to remove the "duplicative layer of regional bureaucracy" to help build housing faster," Calandra said.

The transition board will also look to "optimize services that will help build more homes, including land use planning, servicing roads and waste management," he said.

NDP Leader Marit Stiles said the government should have crunched the numbers before it introduced legislation. Ford's reversals have become a pattern, she said.

"Just like every other bill, they're now going to have to introduce a bill to repeal said bill," Stiles said.

"The province of Ontario is not a circus, right? We need, we deserve good government. We deserve responsible government. We deserve government that actually has the best interest of Ontarians at heart and not silly games."

Ontario is also cancelling audits of six municipalities launched earlier this year to determine whether local governments are facing a revenue shortfall as a result of a provincial law that cuts some of the fees developers pay.

Municipalities use the money from those fees to fund housing-enabling infrastructure, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has said the provincial changes will leave those communities \$5 billion short.

The former municipal affairs and



Ontario's housing minister Paul Calandra is set to make an announcement amid reports the government is considering reversing course on dissolving the Region of Peel. Calandra speaks with media at Queen's Park in Toronto on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Christopher Katsarov

housing minister had contended that municipalities were sitting on billions of dollars in reserve funds and launched those audits with a promise to make them "whole" if there was indeed a shortfall.

Instead, the province will now consult with municipalities on the impacts of the provincial law, Calandra said.

The first phase of the audits was largely complete, according to some of the municipalities involved, and Crombie urged the government to release the reports. The Progressive Conservative government previously commissioned a regional governance review in 2019, but has never released the results, going so far as to deny freedom-of-information requests for it.

Cam Guthrie, mayor of Guelph and the past chair of the Ontario Big City Mayors group, said the development charge policy is already leaving holes in municipal budgets, such as his own, forcing some cities to raise taxes to compensate. He believes the consultations Calandra announced Wednesday will be positive and truly make municipalities "whole," but they need to happen quickly, he said.

"For the first time, I'm very, very hopeful to see this be resolved for, ultimately, a win on every level — a win on the relationship and collaboration side, a win on the impacts to local taxpayers, and an impact on getting the houses built," he said in an interview.

Calandra also said he is considering revoking or amending several Minister's Zoning Orders, which override local bylaws, for lack of action or lack of water or wastewater servicing for sites.

As well, the government said that measures it introduced earlier to spur the creation of "attainable" homes will be amended to incentivize the development of modular homes.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Dec. 13, 2023.

Mexico's Maya Tourist Train Opens for Partial Service Amid Delays, Cost Overruns



The inaugural train with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on board passes near Chochola, Quintana Roo State, Mexico, Dec. 15, 2023.

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's Maya Train rail project opened partially to the general public Saturday, amid hours-long delays and huge cost overruns.

Passengers waiting for the twice-daily train to leave the resort of Cancun were left waiting on the platform for about five hours before being able to board. Officials apologized for the delayed and said it was due to trains being "reconfigured."

Some passengers napped on the floor of the concrete platform. Some — many self-declared supporters of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador — cheered when the train finally appeared in Cancun.

The train running in the other direction from the Gulf coast colonial city of Campeche was also delayed for hours, because only one side of the planned double rail line is finished. Officials estimated it would take about 5 1/2 hours to travel the 473 kilometers from Campeche to Cancun.

Meanwhile, the cost of the project has soared from original estimates of around \$8.5 billion, to as much as \$28 billion.

The 1,528-kilometer line, called the Maya Train, is meant to connect beach resorts and archaeological sites. However, only about one-third of it — the 473-kilometer stretch that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador inaugurated with dignitaries and the press Friday — has even been partly finished.

Officials pledged the rest of the line would be ready by the end of February. But even on the part López Obrador inaugurated Friday, just a single line of a planned double-line track has been finished, meaning one train has to wait on

a siding while another passes.

The stretch running between Campeche and Cancun is about one-third of the entire project and covers the least controversial portion of the route, which crosses many environmentally sensitive areas. A first-class ticket on one of the two trains from Cancun to Merida, the most popular stop, will cost the equivalent of \$68. A first-class bus covers the route in about the same time and costs about \$58, with buses leaving about every half hour from the city centers, rather than remote train stations on the outskirts.

That led to questions about whether the train will ever cover its operating costs, much less its construction budget.

Mexico's army, which operates the train and built part of the railway, did not respond to a request for comment about the delays or cost overruns.

In comments Friday, López Obrador acknowledged, "Yes, things are lacking (on the train), of course," and predicted it would take "three years, four years" for the train system to begin covering its operating costs under the best scenario.

Asked how much the construction cost of the project would be, the president said: "I don't know ... I don't have the exact figure."

Originally projected to cost \$8.6 billion, by now \$22.7 billion has been assigned to the project, and Treasury Secretary Rogelio Ramírez told local media the final cost would be around \$28 billion.

Unlike the remaining two-thirds of the Maya Train, the part of the line inaugurated Friday already had an old train line running over much of the route. Many of the still-unfinished

parts were cut through the jungle and built over sensitive, relic-filled cave systems, drawing objections from environmentalists.

López Obrador has raced to finish the Maya Train project before he leaves office in September, rolling over the objections of ecologists, cave divers and archaeologists.

The train runs along the Caribbean coast and threatens extensive caves where some of the oldest human remains in North America have been discovered. Because of the region's limestone geology, it is riddled with caves that carry most of its water. While officials have touted the train as utilitarian transport for freight and local residents, its only real source of significant income would be tourists. However, given its frequent stops, unwieldy route and lack of feasibility studies, it is unclear how many tourists will actually want to buy tickets.

"The train won't help residents get to work or school, and besides, it's very expensive," SELVAME, a coalition of groups opposing the project, said in a statement Friday. "The train runs through the jungle, filling cenotes (sinkhole lakes) and underground rivers with concrete, without any studies."

López Obrador has tried to rush through the project by exempting it from normal permitting, public reporting and environmental impact statements, claiming it is vital to national security.

In November 2021, his administration issued a broad decree requiring all federal agencies to give automatic approval for any public works project the government deems to be "in the national interest" or to "involve national security."



HERE ARE WIKIPEDIA'S MOST SEARCHED TOPICS IN 2023



Millions around the world turn to Wikipedia when they want to better understand the world around them, and that apparently includes artificial intelligence — the most searched topic on the online encyclopedia in 2023.

“ChatGPT is one of the generative AI tools that is trained on Wikipedia data, pulling large amounts of content from Wikipedia projects to answer people’s questions,” says Anusha Alikhan, chief communications officer at the Wikimedia Foundation. “So, the fact that millions of people are going to Wikipedia to learn about ChatGPT is kind of an interesting twist.”

Wikipedia articles about ChatGPT garnered more than 79 million page views across all languages, according to the Wikimedia Foundation, the nonprofit that hosts and funds the site. The information found on Wikipedia is managed by volunteer editors around the world.

English-language Wikipedia drew more than 84 billion views in 2023, according to the nonprofit. The top five articles this year were ChatGPT; Deaths in 2023; 2023 World Cricket Cup; Indian Premier League; and the film “Oppenheimer.”

Cricket is a popular global sport, but this is the first time since Wikipedia started keeping track in 2015 that an

article about the sport made the list.

The rest of the most popular topics in Wikipedia’s Top 25 include a couple of Indian movies, as well as the U.S. megahit film, “Barbie.” Two celebrities who died this year — Matthew Perry and Lisa Marie Presley — are on the list, as are two well-known people: singer Taylor Swift and businessman Elon Musk, who made headlines a lot this year. Sports events, the United States, and India also made the Top 25 list.

“It gives the world, in our opinion, a real deep dive into the topics that people

are most interested in for the entire year,” Alikhan says. “We often say also that Wikipedia reflects the world.”

According to Wikipedia data, the top five countries that accessed the English Wikipedia in 2023 are the United States (33 billion page views); the United Kingdom (9 billion page views); India (8.48 billion page views); Canada (3.95 billion page views); and Australia (2.56 billion page views).

Historical subjects that make the list are often connected to a current event, including J. Robert Oppenheimer, the so-called father of the atomic bomb. “The fact that number seven on the list is J. Robert Oppenheimer speaks to the fact that it was, of course, connected to the ‘Oppenheimer’ movie,” Alikhan says. “The article about him was also very highly trafficked, in addition to the film. So typically, if there’s a historical article in the Top 25, it’s because it was related to a current event.”

Top 25 English Wikipedia articles that received the most pageviews in 2023:

ChatGPT 49 million page views

Deaths in 2023 43 million

2023 Cricket World Cup 38 million

Indian Premier League 32 million

Oppenheimer (film) 28 million

Cricket World Cup 25.9 million

J. Robert Oppenheimer 25.6 million

Jawan (film) 22 million

2023 Indian Premier League 21 million

Pathaan (film) 19.9 million

The Last of Us (TV series) 19.7 million

Taylor Swift 19 million



Online encyclopedia Wikipedia reports that ChatGPT, artificial intelligence that creates human-like conversational dialogue, was the most searched topic on its platform in 2023.

were most interested in for the entire year,” Alikhan says. “We often say also that Wikipedia reflects the world.”

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- Barbie (film)** 18 million
- Cristiano Ronaldo** 17 million
- Lionel Messi** 16.62 million
- Premier League** 16.60 million
- Matthew Perry** 16.45 million
- United States** 16.24 million
- Elon Musk** 14.37 million
- Avatar: The Way of Water (film)** 14.30 million
- India** 13.8 million
- Lisa Marie Presley** 13.7 million
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (film)** 13.3 million
- Russian invasion of Ukraine** 12.79 million
- Andrew Tate** 12.72 million



The subject of the 2023 Cricket World Cup received the third most page views on English language Wikipedia in 2023.

Taylor Swift Named **Time** Magazine's Person of the Year



Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift appears on the cover of Time magazine's 2023 "Person of the Year" edition, in an image released on Dec. 6, 2023. (Time Magazine via Reuters)

Is the year of Taylor Swift over now? Not yet.

Time magazine named Swift its person of the year on Wednesday, a week after Spotify announced she was the most-played artist on the streaming platform.

Swift was picked from a group of nine finalists that included Barbie, King

Charles III and OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman. "While her popularity has grown across the decades, this is the year that Swift, 33, achieved a kind of nuclear fusion: shooting art and commerce together to release an energy of historic force," Time said about her selection.

Her year included the wildly popular

Eras Tour and concert movie, the release of her reimagined "1989" album, and her closely watched relationship with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce. She's even the subject of college courses.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was Time's 2022 person of the year.



HOW GLADYS CELEBRATES HER MOTHER'S LIFE THROUGH HER ART – WHILE GIVING BACK TO SHN



When Gladys's mother Corazon sadly lost her fight against Parkinson's Disease Dementia, she found herself falling into a dark place where she lost interest in daily activities, lacked motivation, and ultimately lost her love for art until she started using it as a healing process.

Gladys and her family moved to Scarborough from the Philippines when she was eight years old. Since then, Scarborough has become her home as the warm culture embraced her.

"The diversity of Scarborough is my favourite thing. I grew up knowing every kind of food, every kind of culture, every kind of family dynamic. I felt like home away from home," she says.

Working in the Social Services field as a Case Worker and a Pyrography (the free handed art of decorating wood with burn marks using a heated tool) artist on the side, Gladys often finds herself giving back to the community that raised her.

Her connections to Scarborough Health Network (SHN) run deep, as she and her family are frequent visitors to the hospital. She gave birth to her daughter at the Scarborough General Hospital,



her sister works as a Registered Nurse at Scarborough General Hospital, her brother was treated there after his stroke, and her mother had her final moments at Centenary Hospital in the Margaret Birch Wing. Gladys is no stranger to the amazing quality of care SHN provides.

"The staff were amazing, from the Tim Horton's staff to the maintenance crew, to the doctors, and the nurses that made sure our mom was comfortable in her last few days. They were all just super helpful to our family," says Gladys.

While Gladys's mother was sick, she used her Pyrography business, Esma Jay Creations, named after her daughter and son, as a way to bond with her mother, who was slowly declining.

"All those times when my mom was still at home, I would do the wood burning between 11pm and 2am in the morning because my mom would be up. So, it was my way of completing my orders and keeping her company. When I was wood burning, I showed her my art every time I was done. I don't know if she really understood what I was doing, but I shared my piece with her anyway, and she would always have a little smile. I don't know if it was natural reflex, but I would like to think that she was smiling and encouraging me,"



Gladys recalls. After her mom passed away, Gladys started to feel unmotivated about her art during her grieving process but quickly realized that's not what her mother would want for her.

"I went to a really dark place. I was so unmotivated, especially when my mom passed away and the lack of motivation carried me well into the first few months of this year. I had to figure out how to help myself overcome this feeling of loneliness, emptiness and lack of motivation. I decided, you know what? Something's got to change. My mom would definitely not want me to be in that place."

With a newfound motivation and a desire to honour her mother, Gladys decided she couldn't give up on her art and looked for a way to continue doing what she loved while also making her mom proud. This sparked an idea to host a woodburning class through SHN Foundation's Show Your Love program, where proceeds would be donated back to the hospital to help patients just like Corazon.

"My mom is gone. Of course I'm sad. It's always a bittersweet moment. But I thought, let me do something to give back to the hospital that helped her over the years, and raise funds for them in memory and celebration of her life. That's how it really started," says Gladys.

When Gladys shared her woodburning class with all her family and friends and educated people on the importance of giving back to Scarborough hospitals, she had no idea how much support she would truly



get. She set a goal of just \$500, and with the help of her community, she raised over \$1,600 for SHN.

"I thought it would be really fun for people to experience my love for Pyrography and to be able to share an alternative outlet which helped me, and continues to help me through my grieving and healing process. This is my way to celebrate my mom, give back to the community and share what I can do with a simple heated tool, a vision and my hands," she says. "People just started to pour their hearts out and, of course, opened their wallets and were able to give back the way they wanted to," she continued.

A total of 15 people attended Gladys's woodburning class. They used heated tools to delicately burn the outline of a tree into pieces of wood. According to Gladys, the symbol of the tree signifies life. The tree's roots signify new beginnings, and the branches and leaves signify community. Burning the tree symbol was meaningful to her, as it represented her mother being an important part of her life.

"My mom was the foundation of that tree," says Gladys. Not only has Gladys given back to Scarborough hospitals through her Show Your Love fundraiser, but she has supported the hospitals through her business by donating art pieces to silent auctions and attending our fundraising events.

Thank you, Gladys, for sharing your story and for supporting our Scarborough hospitals in such a meaningful way.

To create your own fundraiser in memory of a loved one, please visit shnfoundation.ca/ShowYourLove



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An Evening of Celebration, Tradition, and Giving Back to Markham Stouffville Hospital Markham, ON



Host of CP24 Breakfast, Jennifer Hsiung returns to emcee The Fortune Ball benefiting Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital



(L-R) The Fortune Ball Co-chairs, Kenny Wan, David Ho, Stephen Li, Alan Kwong, and Gordon Chan dress to impress for the event's second year

(Nov. 28, 2023) – On Saturday, November 25, 2023, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation welcomed more than 700 guests and community members to The Fortune Ball, graciously supported by lead sponsor Green City Communities Inc. and presented by TD. Attendees enjoyed a night to remember at the Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites where they were treated to exceptional cuisine and live entertainment in celebration of the modern traditions of Chinese culture—all to support Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH).

The evening featured returning emcee, Jennifer Hsiung, host of CP24 Breakfast, as well as other special guests. Wushu Project began the night in majestic fashion, dazzling guests with their dragon dance, followed

by the musical stylings of The Caverners Beatles Tribute band performing a stunning live homage to the English rock icons that marked their 60th anniversary this year.

MSH Foundation is honoured to partner with leaders of the local Chinese-Canadian community to inspire more Chinese business and philanthropic leaders to help bring abundant blessings to MSH through the sharing of their good fortune and prosperity. Founding members of MSH Foundation's Fortune Leadership Council (FLC) returned as Co-Chairs for this year's gala. Alan Kwong, David Ho, Gordon Chan, Kenny Wan and Stephen Li, all distinguished members, lead the FLC – an assembly of local Chinese business leaders with a shared mission to give back to the hospital.

"We commemorate our community's dedication

to ongoing progress and exceptional patient care at Markham Stouffville Hospital," said Co-Chair Alan Kwong. "Gatherings like The Fortune Ball not only reinforce unity, but also ensures that we are continuing to nurture the health and well-being of our neighbours for the future."

Access to the most state-of-the-art equipment is essential for MSH to continue providing the exceptional, patient-centred care the community needs and deserves. The urgent and evolving needs in surgery, diagnostic imaging, and emergency medicine are constantly changing as our community is expanding and aging through the years.

"Markham Stouffville Hospital relies on the compassion of the community to keep on the forefront of technological advancements and deliver life-saving care

when it matters most," said Suzette Strong, CEO, MSH Foundation. "Government cannot fund all top priority needs – and so we rely on the support of our community to help bring a lifetime of care, close to home."

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, volunteer committee, and the entire community – \$800,000 was raised! Re-live favourite moments of the evening on social media @ supportMSH or donate at www.mshfortuneball.ca.

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.



HEALTH & WELLNESS



A presentation to Lead Sponsor – Green City Communities Inc.
(L-R) Frank Scarpitti, Mayor, City of Markham, Jo-anne Marr, CEO, Oak Valley Health, Michael Bender, Vice President of Business Operations, Green City Communities Inc., James Zhang, Vice President of Pre-Construction and Design, Green City Communities Inc., Suzette Strong, CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation, and Iain Lovatt, Mayor, Whitchurch-Stouffville

A presentation to Presenting Sponsor – TD Bank
(L-R) Frank Scarpitti, Mayor, City of Markham, Jo-anne Marr, CEO, Oak Valley Health, Vito Cramarossa, Vice-President, Commercial Banking, TD, Tracy Beatty, Market Manager, TD Wealth, Suzette Strong, CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation, and Iain Lovatt, Mayor, Whitchurch-Stouffville



Wushu Project soars through the crowd with their mystical dragon to the tune of their enchanting drum performance



The Caverners perform a dazzling tribute to English rock legends, The Beatles and the 2023 The Fortune Ball to support Markham Stouffville Hospital



The Hilton Toronto/Markham is transformed into an elegant evening for community members and supporters of Markham Stouffville Hospital



The "White Bird" That Disappeared into The Blue Skies Forever



There are so many white birds that fly past the blue skies every day, and one that graced it from the early 1970s, since its birth to a French mother & British father in 1969, Christened Concorde for the general agreement the parents had. It took to its wings in late 1969, and was flying high, faster, and was breaking the sound barrier, angering the environmentalists, aircraft manufacturers, since it cut the Transatlantic flight more than half and became the darling of the celebrities. It was one of a kind, this sleek white bird with blue long lining on its body, and uniquely shaped Delta wings, made it so beautiful and a cynosure of the

model of the Concorde with British Airways Logo, which still decorates my living room.

Concorde was called so many names, the most appropriate one was "Time Machine". If you leave Paris, CDG airport at 1030am, will be in New York, JFK at 815am. This aircraft flew at twice the speed of sound, supersonic, the noise was deafening, and could carry only 129 passengers and 9 crew members. It had flown Kings, Queens, the Pope, richest, the celebrities and many more who could afford to pay 7000 Sterling Pounds. Mr. Fred Finn, the UK-based executive has/had a record of 718 flights on Concorde across the Atlantic. Only 20 Concorde aircrafts were



crowd. Anyone will pause for a moment to see its beautiful take-off and landing. Its nose dips, as if saluting, on landing and take-off. What a marvelous sight to see!

I had never seen anything like this in my aviation career. I was fortunate enough to board the Concorde, when it flew to Sri Lanka, Katunayake Airport in 1974, on its first ever Test Flight across the world's various airfields. My Ex colleague, friend Capt. Duleep Vethavanam, G.A. Fernando and me were fortunate enough to board the aircraft as our friend Iqbal Cader was off, chatted with the Flight Deck crew, and personally was luckier, since I received a

made, 7 were operated by British Airways and 7 by Air France and the rest were kept for spares and standby.

It was an extraordinary skill, and a marvelous work of aeronautical engineering that resulted in an aircraft that was fast at 1350 miles per hour, at a flight level 58000 feet (about twice the height of Mount Everest), speedy, and incredibly graceful. It was a darling of aviation for enthusiasts like me and many others.

Let me delve-into see, why on that fateful day July 25th, 2000, flight 4590 at 4.42pm, the stunning beauty and wonder- kid of aviation, got engulfed in flames, 2 seconds

soon after it took off from runway 26 R and crashed on the same runway killing all 109 people on board and 4 people on ground when it plummeted. It was piloted by Capt. Marty, Copilot Jean Marcot and flight engineer Giles Jardinand, highly respected in Air France aviation, and well experienced in flying the Concorde. It was as if someone shot down the Concorde with a high-powered missile soon after it took off.

The world of aviation was flabbergasted and stunned by this news and could not digest it immediately. Air Traffic Controller on duty Mr. Logelin at the CDG control tower noticed the flames shooting from the engines on the take-off run and alerted the cockpit crew. Since Capt. Marty passed the V1 speed and on V2 speed, he could not. abandon the take-off and pulled the nose up and lifted the aircraft. Logelin kept watching the take-off and in seconds Concorde had a Fiery crash on Runway 26R. No survivors at all. Logelin fell on his knees and cried inconsolably as he watched the whole disaster, and it is not superfluous to say that he was one of the survivors as he considered himself as part of the disaster. Logelin alerted the Emergency Services as soon as he noticed the fire. The fire crew arrived and made necessary arrangements to secure the crash site and runway 26R was closed for all flights. Immediately Air France grounded all its Concorde fleet and soon followed by British Airways.

BEA, who was overseeing the investigation, had started gathering evidence with the lead investigator Allan Bouillard, assisted by NTSB investigators headed by Bob MacIntosh. In no time they gathered enough evidence to ascertain the crash but needed all the time to dissect their evidence to prove it beyond any reasonable doubt. As MacIntosh mentioned at an early stage, "the evidence is not talking to us". The investigators combed all the evidence collected painstakingly and concluded their findings based purely on scientific methodology to ascertain the actual cause of the crash.

They concluded their findings with great care. A foreign object, a metal piece, was on the runway 26R, that had fallen off previously from an American Continental Airlines, that took off, before Air France flight 4590 from the same runway. The said metal piece acted like a sharp knife that cut the tires of the Concorde on the take off run and caused a big chunk of the tire, 4.5 kgs,

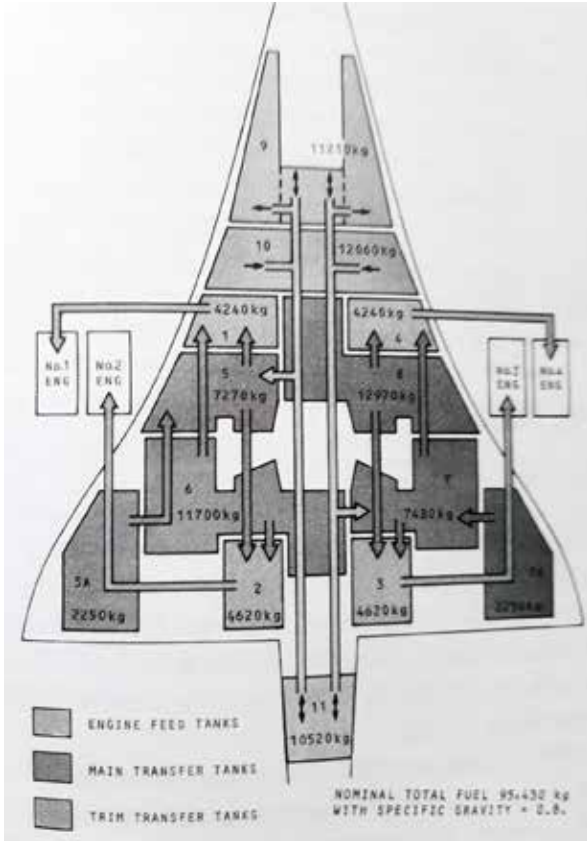


moved upward with a venomous force and caused the number 5 fuel tank in the wing to rupture. This caused the fuel-guzzling

Aviation & Airlines



SPECIAL FEATURE



out, and caused the fire, more fuel was pouring and never ending flames which in no time paralyzed the Concorde and caused this unbelievable fiery crash in a matter of seconds. If not for this unpredicted, unforeseen incident, the "King of Aviation" would be still flying. Soon after the report was published both airlines stopped the Concorde Operations. The aviation world reacted to this news with lots of mixed emotion, as some were extolling the virtues of this elegant, and ravishing White Bird.



Found on runway 26R at Charles de Gaulle after the crash, this 4.5-kilogram (9.9-lb) fragment of Concorde's number 2 tire, punctured by debris left behind by another departing jet, had hurtled into the number 5 wing tank, causing an internal shock wave that ruptured the tank. (BEA REPORT, 60)

Capt. Jack Lowe narrated Concorde as the "The most bewitching of machines that reduced the world to a journey of 24 hours".

Chief Flight attendant of Concorde at Air France said, "Concorde is a magic aircraft and the pleasure of inside it, is almost a carnal one". A lot more was said, as it never lacked fans. Others differed in their sentiment. Concorde was a fuel thirsty and gas guzzler aircraft as it had 13 fuel tanks, needed 95 tons of fuel for a Trans-Atlantic flight and the cost of fuel was skyrocketing. It had some minor safety concerns too. Lord Jeffrey Sterling summed it up this, "Nobody will think whether it was a commercial success or not" but an aviation wonder and an Icon.

On 30th of May, 2003 Air France Concorde flew out of CDG to JFK airport on its final flight. This was followed by BA on November 26, 2003 when its Concorde flew to Aerospace

Bristol in Bristol in England, and it remains on display at the museum. It is sad, almost 20 years and counting The SuperSonic air travel grind to a halt with the demise of Concorde. Like to conclude what former Air France chairman Jean-Cyril Spinetta said, "Concorde will never really stop flying, because it will live on, in People's imagination" forever. For me personally "Concorde Is a Milestone Of the 20th and Quarter of the 21st Century. Thank you for your Yeoman services.

“THREE HEARTY CHEERS CONCORDE
AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE
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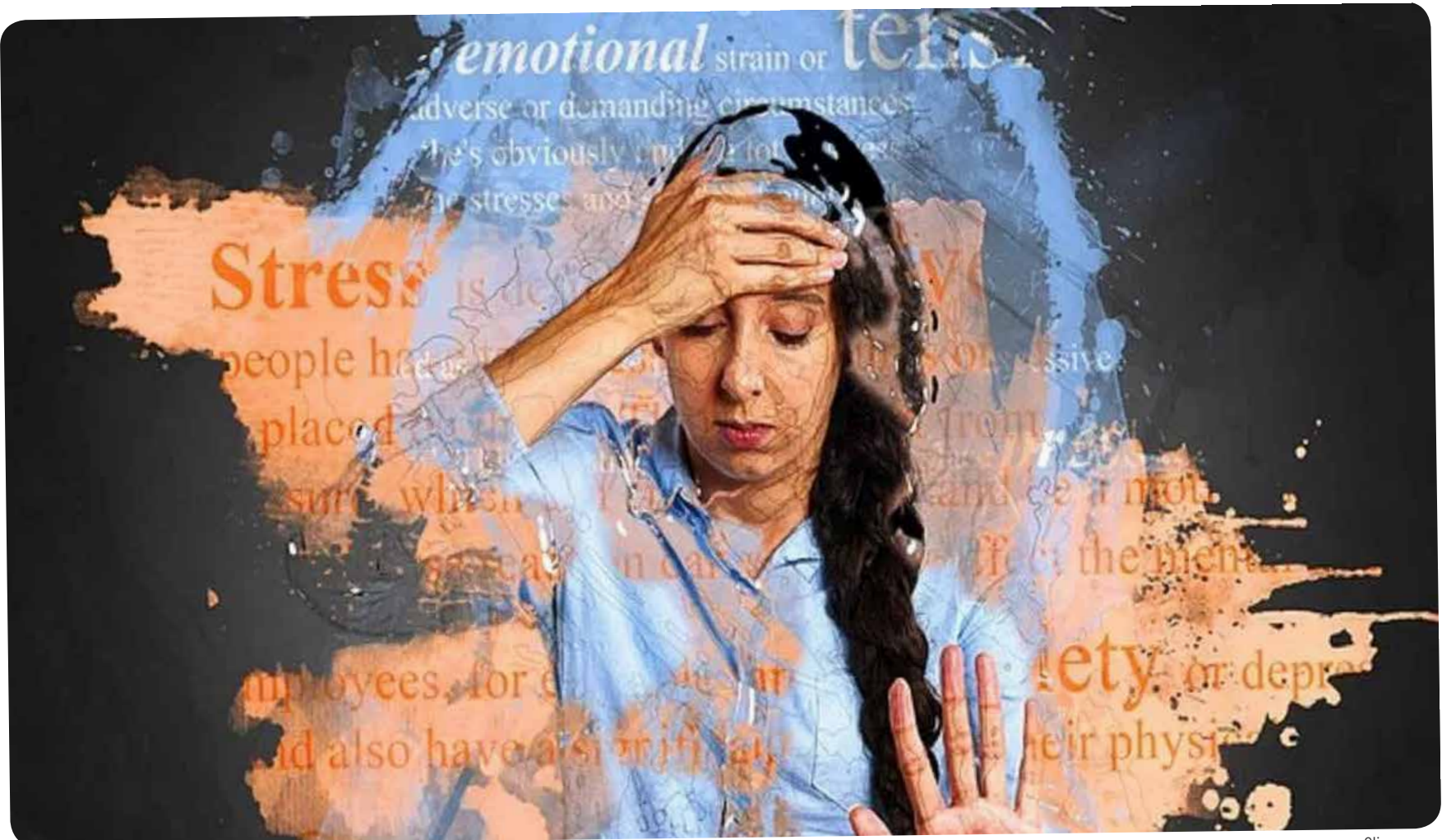
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Words of Peace

The Antidote to Fear



- news9live.com

What is fear? Is it a presence, or is it an absence?

MC and host:

What is the antidote to fear, especially the fear of making mistakes and being judged for it?

Prem Rawat:

Uncertainty creates fear; fear creates anger. Anger creates harm—harm to yourself, to others; it could be anything; harm is harm. Harm creates uncertainty; uncertainty creates fear; fear creates anger; anger creates harm.... And off it goes!

So, you don't want fear. What should you do? What is fear? Is it a presence, or is it an absence?

: Absence.

Thank you! You see—and you guys learned too quickly.

MC:

There was certainty there, wasn't there?

Prem Rawat:

Yes, there was certainty there. And the day you start living your life with certainty, then the ambiguities go away. And even if the ambiguities come, you have a weapon to say, "No, this is uncertain. I want to be certain. I want this life to be real."

It's not that you will remove every single obstacle—because the obstacles will have a tendency to plunk in your way. But whenever you come across that obstacle, you have the power to be able to remove it. That's what's so beautiful! That's life! It has the power to remove those obstacles; you have the power. And you've always had that power.

But again, you're a believer, because believing is so much easier than knowing. It abdicates—we love to abdicate responsibility. So, "You show me." And why? Why aren't you doing it? Are you incapable of doing it? No, you're not! You're a human. And as a human, you have that power to be able to move the mountains.

And so, how to get rid of fear? Because it is an absence, bring the light of knowledge—not darkness of fear. Because that uncertainty will be removed by certainty. And there is nothing more certain than the knowledge. And there is nothing more certain than the Knowledge of the self.

- Prem Rawat

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www.timelesstoday.com



Jaffna Hindu College Association Canada Hosts Productive Annual General Meeting for 2023-2024



Executive Committee – 2023-2024

The Jaffna Hindu College Association Canada recently convened its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the fiscal year 2023-2024, a significant event that took place on December 9, 2023, at the Scarborough Civic Centre, Council Chamber, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The AGM served as a platform uniting former students and staff of Jaffna Hindu College, gathering to meticulously examine the Association's reports on the previous year's activities, deliberate on school development matters, discuss charitable initiatives, and make pivotal decisions for the forthcoming year.

This gathering witnessed a robust turnout, drawing 205 members, including 150 Life Members and 55 Annual Members, underscoring the strong engagement and dedication within the association.

The AGM commenced with opening remarks by President Kugathasan Sarangapani, extending a warm welcome to all attendees and expressing sincere gratitude for their unwavering support.

During the meeting, the Secretary and Treasurer presented comprehensive reports, shedding light on the Association's activities and financial status throughout the past year. Furthermore, the Chair of the Tamil Student's Assistant Program delivered a detailed progress report, outlining the advancements made in various projects aimed at uplifting underprivileged areas in Sri Lanka, emphasizing the association's commitment to philanthropic endeavors.

Subsequently, elections were held,



Kugathasan Sarangapani, President

resulting in the formation of the new Executive Committee for the year 2023/2024.

Mr. Kugathasan Sarangapani was re-elected as the President of the Jaffna Hindu College Association Canada. Additionally, the following individuals were elected as Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members, representing members from various batches ranging from 1980 to 2011.

President:

Kugathasan Sarangapani (1980 Batch)

Vice President:

Shanthypoosan Jeyabalan (1997 Batch)

Secretary:

Sutharsan Sirinivasan (1998 Batch)

Asst. Secretary:

Kathirkamanathan (Kathir) Nadarajah (1987 Batch)

Treasurer:

Aravinthan Sathananthan (1991 Batch)

Asst. Treasurer:

Suntharesan Ganeshamoorthy (1991 Batch)

Web Master:

Thamayswaran Ganeshamoorthy (2011 Batch)

Executive Committee Members:

Kumaran Sanmuganathan

(1987 Batch)

Sivakumar Sandraraj

(1992 Batch)

Marcus Mariathas

(1990 Batch)

Jey Theepan

(1989 Batch)

Vilosan Sivatharman

(1991 Batch)

Sayon Balasuntharam

(1998 Batch)

Aathavan Selvarajah

(1987 Batch)

Divagaran Manikkavasagar

(1991 Batch)

Gnanendran (Gnany) Ratnam

(1988 Batch)

Jeyagoby Subramaniam

(1989 Batch)

Ranjith Thavarajah

(1996 Batch)

For more detailed information, kindly visit the association website at www.jaffnahinducanada.com to access further particulars regarding the AGM and ongoing initiatives.

The AGM of the Jaffna Hindu College Association Canada stands as a testament to the commitment, dedication, and shared vision of its members in fostering educational and charitable endeavors, further cementing the association's role in supporting its alma mater and contributing positively to society.

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BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM

Thulasi Muttulingam 1d



Let your child love and love animals from a young age.. He will be a great man in future

Thulasi Muttulingam 1d



Kristin Ana is in Los Angeles, CA, United States. 4d

In a world of shadows, I softly tread,
A little cat, with fears unsaid.
Amidst the ruins, beneath the sky so gray,
I whisper to the winds, "Please take this war away."

With eyes of emerald, wide and bright,
I gaze upon the day, I tremble in the night.
Once there were warm laps, and gentle strokes of love,
Now there's only silence, and dark clouds above.

"Where are my humans?" I softly cry,
"Why did they leave, did I say goodbye?"

The thunder of guns, the flash of a fight,
Turned my sunny days into endless night.
I'm just a kitten, small and frail,
In this broken world, where the brave hearts fail.

I don't understand the reasons of men,
Why they choose war, again and again.
I long for a touch, a kind embrace,
In this lonely world, a quiet, safe space.

To purr once more, to chase a string,
To find joy in the simple, little thing.
Oh, world, hear my plea, a kitten's prayer,
For peace, for love, to breathe sweet air.

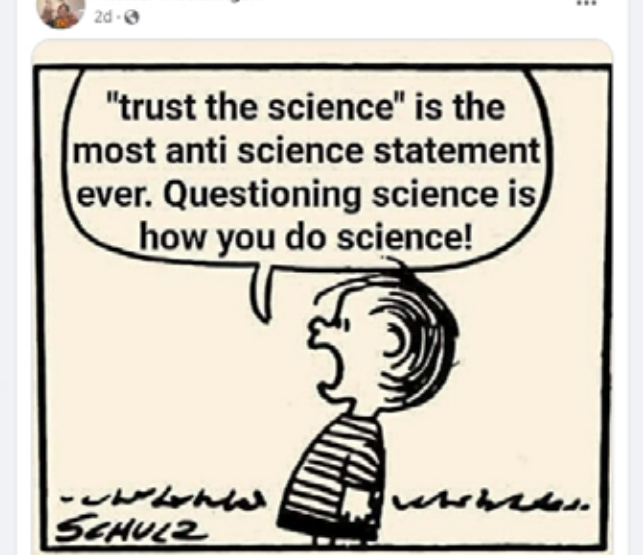
Let's mend what's broken, heal what's sore,
And promise each other, no more war.

Marqot The Russian Blue Cat

Like Comment Share


Write a comment...

Thulasi Muttulingam 2d



SCHULZ

Thulasi Muttulingam 6d



A perfect example of Big Bad Corporates in one single image. Not only has Anlene used this image of recent Gold Medalist, Mrs. Thirunayaki, WITHOUT her consent, they also had zero to do with her hard fought win! Trying to take credit for it, is both unethical & abhorrent!

There is such a thing as an Endorsement Agreement, if you want her to advertise your brand. This is a cheap advertising gimmick, assuming you could get away with it!

Shame on you Anlene Sri Lanka, Thanks Rajeevkanth Rajkumar for highlighting.

Like Comment Share

Joy of exploring Jaffna's backstreets

Jekhan Aruliah



and window frames. And with carefully reclaimed roof tiles. These places are interesting for a number of reasons

1) Most obviously, here are good places to get cheap wooden door and window frames. Good aged wood, decades old. Roofing tiles of various ages, looking in very good condition.

Dig around these places for half an hour, you may find dusty neglected frames that properly treated would adorn a Colombo 7 residence. I have seen these, often displayed as artworks not entrances.

2) Also very interesting, this is a sign of investment in the North.

Many substantial houses in Jaffna are being demolished. From the standard of the door and window frames, these were substantial properties.

For people to be taking the trouble and expense of demolishing, presumably there are plans for renovations and constructions. Perhaps by the original owners, perhaps by diaspora investors. Whatever, there is life in the Northern property market.

Once prosperous Jaffna had many of these substantial residences. Some still standing visible from the main roads. Some in remoter areas where wealthy landowners built their homes before the war turned them out.

The joys of exploring Jaffna's backstreets in a good pair of shoes a leather hat, with a bottle of water a packet of canned tuna sandwiches, and googlemaps

To know a place you have to go there. Googling, talking to friends, reading my stuff on FB can only be superficial.

By going there with seeing eyes and listening ears you will by chance trip over the unexpected.

Not secret things, just things too ordinary for those who know to mention. But interesting surprises for those who don't.

A week ago my friend Suganthan Shanmuganathan and I went to visit a fisheries scheme in Ariyalai. Turning at a junction, I spotted a junkyard. One of several junkyards Suganthan knows well, and has scavenged before for his projects. Too ordinary for him to mention, but a nice surprise for me.

On our way back we stopped to take a look.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/mNAoLHAQDnVb5Psd8>

Scattered around Jaffna Peninsula you will find these yards stacked with old door

SPECIAL FEATURE



THE GUARDIAN HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL GALA



Real Estate Brokerage, The Guardian Home Realty Inc. hosted its 3rd Annual Gala partnered with Dominion Lending Centres and with the support of business partners, political leaders and agents, clients, and friends.

The event was held on Saturday, Dec 9th at the Scarborough Convention Centre in a grand scale with over 300 guests in attendance.

The Guardian team functions under the leadership of Sutharsan Nadarajah and Gini Annarasa and their achievements were showcased at this event.

At the welcome address, the Owner and Broker of Record, Sutharsan Nadarajah thanked all of their agents for their hard work with so much dedication stating that they are the hearts of this brokerage. Further, Sutharsan appreciated for their good work and quoted that he is so proud of them for their achievements and mentioned that they should be so proud of for their efforts.

Sutharsan thanked all of their business partners for their ongoing collaboration and assured his continued support for the partnership to grow even more stronger in the coming years.

Sutharsan went on to thank for the support by all levels of Government and welcomed who were in attendance to witness this event, Mayor Frank Scarpitti. Mayor of Markham, Federal MP Shaun Chen from Scarborough North and Councillor Shaheen Butt from

Ward 3, City of Pickering. The event was well planned and executed to provide a memorable and enjoyable time for the guests. The combination of diverse and delicious food options, engaging entertainment, and premium drinks contributed to a positive and festive atmosphere, leaving guests with fond memories of the occasion.

The Guardian management under the leadership of Sutharsan Nadarajah unveiled his future plans and part of his speech is given below;

NOW GOAL AND PROJECTION OUR STRATEGIC VISION AND MISSION for 2024/2025

The first pillar in our strategic roadmap is expanding and strengthening our position in Construction:

- PCL want to be one of the leading Players in Construction Industry.
- PCL was established with the goal of transforming the lives of the people with their dream homes built with
 - One Price
 - On time Guarantee.
 - This Price guarantee and Delivery guarantee is unheard of in Ontario by any developers or construction companies.
 - Our construction will enable you to live the lifestyle you've always dreamed of. We will be the leading CUSTOM Home builders in Ontario by 2025.

Second Pillar will be Development:

- We are working with Municipal and regional authorities along with our Investors for Rental and affordable housing projects in Ontario and other Provinces.
- Our target is to support government and work with them to support on their fight for affordable housing needs.
- There are few projects in Pipeline in Durham Region, Niagara Falls, London and New Brunswick.
- With all your support and we have targeted to deliver over 1800 units by end of 2030, and we have already 235 units in the pipeline.

Third Pillar will be Investment:

- We are going to introduce simple real estate Investment platform for short term and long-term investors with AT most safest investments in Properties.
 - Our New Rental Investment strategy where you will be having a hassle-free investment with excellent returns and with no tenant interaction is going to be one of unique offering.
 - This Asset base investment portfolio will be tailor made for each individual needs.
- AND Ladies and Gentlemen this is not only in Canada, but also the first time we are offering International properties and not only in residential but also in commercial.
- We are proud to inform you that we



SPECIAL FEATURE

are entering commercial and Agri Land Investments. To begin with Our new project in Woodstock for commercial and Farmland in New Brunswick and Luxury properties in DUBAI and Beach resort in Punta Cana. Our 2025 investment department target will be to manage a portfolio of investments up to 1 Billion Dollars.

Finally, the fourth Pillar will be our ONERELIEF

- Giving back to Our Community.
- As you know Our OneRelief non-profit organization have been providing support in financial, educational and mental

health support to those in need in the community here and as well in Sri Lanka and other needed countries.

• BUT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WE WANT TO BRING THIS HOME TO OUR CANADIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

• We have in pipeline to work with homeless and refugees and asylum seekers who are in need in current situation.

• DEAR FRIENDS WITH YOUR SUPPORT LETS OPEN HEART TO PEOPLE IN NEED IN THIS COUNTRY NOW.

• By 2025 our aim is to be a global Non-

profit organization and be the Guardian Angels for people in need.

As you could see my dear friends, we have a clear VISION AND MISION for the future and I stand here with open arms.

Let's hold our hands to March forward to a great life and happiness to all.

Thank you very much and enjoy the evening....

Remember with my Favorite quote "WHERE WARENESS GOES YOUR ENERGY FLOWS".

Some of the photos taken at the event can be seen here. (See page 25 & 26 for more photos)



SPECIAL FEATURE





SPECIAL FEATURE



- Photos by Iyah4u



As opposed to flame she is cool when near and hot when far

By Kumar Punithavel



The word Kurunthokai in Tamil literally means collection of short ones, and it is a classical Tamil poetic literature of Sangam era, dated BC 300. It falls second in the Ettuthokai, meaning eight anthologies. The poems in this anthology fall into the category of aham meaning matters pertaining to emotions or personal relationships like love. These poems are short from four to eight lines except two of them have nine lines.

The poem number 95 Kurunthokai was authored by the poet Kapilar, who had composed 206 poems in Sangam literature. Interestingly another great saintly poet who is hailed as the lawgiver of the Tamil race and to the world, St. Thiruvalluvar, in his famed book Thirukkural, calls the lass as a wondrous fire of different nature, which cools when near and warms when she moves away, in his couplet 1104;

*Withdraw, it burns; approach, it soothes the pain;
Whence did the maid this wondrous fire obtain*

நீங்கின் தெறூஉம் குறுகுங்கால் தண்ணென்னும்
தீயாண்டுப் பெற்றாள் இவள்.

In the above couplet St. Thiruvalluvar portrays a woman as a different sort of fire, and goes on to say this fire performs opposite of what happens in the presence of normal fire. We all will agree that normally when one gets closer to the fire they will feel the warmth, and as he moves away it will progressively become cooler. St. Thiruvalluvar says as opposed to that notion when the lad moves away from the lass his heart will burn with desire, and as he gets closer, he will feel way cooler as his thirst of his heart is quenched.

Likewise, to this couplet from Thirukkural, in the poem Kurunthokai # 95, poet Kapilar observes that the lass makes our hero cooled down when he gets closer to her. The episode of this poem is composed as if a young hero voicing to his friend about his feelings of love. The whole event of this poem is comparing the effects of inanimate substance to human feelings and presence. Like inanimate fire bows down to the might of water, the burning emotions of a youth bows to the countenance of a young lass. The poet makes the clash between water and fire, to flash in front of our eyes. The episode took place in Kurunji terrain, meaning mountainous region. He starts by describing the terrain with the first line saying from a sky-high mountain cascades the clear white stream of water.

From Sky high mountain cascades the clear white brook,

மால் வரை இழிதரும் தூ வெள் அருவி

Next the poet describes the scenery of the mountain sides where the water flows on a creek causing echo in the crevices of the mountain, the rest of the mountain sides are overgrown with a variety of flower bushes giving a beautiful sight.

Echoing in the rock crevices, mountain slopes with variety of flowers

கல் முகைத் ததும்பும் பன்மலர்ச் சாரல்

After describing the setting of the episode, the poet goes to describe the two characters of the event, by describing first a person from the tiny hamlet's comes a young lass, describing her as having broad shoulders. Interestingly in the modern age we may not much appreciate the beauty of broad shoulders, during the Sangam era, people appreciated the broad shoulder that carried the family, further it is the shoulder of the lass that holds him tight to her breast!

Resident of small hamlet, broad shouldered young lass

சிறுகுடிக் குறவன் பெருந்தோள் குறுமகள்

However, he goes on to describe the lass as having the countenance like water, meaning her beauty is gentle like water. Probably the bard had remembered the brooks flowing down the sides on the hill;

Water like grace,

நீர் ஓரன்ன சாயல்,

It is interesting to note that just after mentioning the countenance as though strong shouldered was also soft like water, which had quenched the lad's carnal thirst.

Quenches my fiery strength.

தீ ஓரன்ன என் உரன் அவித்தன்றே.

Here is the full poem both in English and Tamil;

From Sky high mountain cascades the clear white brook,
Echoing in the rock crevices, mountain slopes with variety of flowers
Resident of small hamlet, broad shouldered young lass
Water like grace,
Quenches my fiery strength5

மால் வரை இழிதரும் தூ வெள் அருவி

கல் முகைத் ததும்பும் பன்மலர்ச் சாரல்

சிறுகுடிக் குறவன் பெருந்தோள் குறுமகள்,

நீர் ஓரன்ன சாயல்,

தீ ஓரன்ன என் உரன் அவித்தன்றே. 5



Niceties of Naaladiyar

THE NECESSITY TO LEARN FROM BOOKS

By: J A Rajah

**“Kalvi karaiyila katpavai narl sila,
Mella ninaikkin pinipala-therlithin
Arayinth thamaiyudaiya katpave neeroliya,
Paalun kurukin therinthu” -135**

There are innumerable books that have to be learned in order to gather knowledge. However, we have only a few days of living to learn all these books. In this limited lifespan, we have innumerable diseases that trouble us.

Therefore, we should choose the ones useful to our lives and learn them like the swan that could separate the milk mixed with water and drink only the milk.

In life, we have several options waiting for us, and we have to select the best of them and use them. There is an abundance of knowledge made available to us in

books, but we do not have the time to read and benefit from all of them. In modern times there are umpteen well-equipped public libraries where one can get all the information they need. Besides books, there is the radio and television promoting knowledge. Modern technology enables learning through interaction, where one can

learn by doing and receive feedback. New technology brings exciting curricula-based real-world problems into the classroom. Technology helps to create an active environment in which students not only solve problems but find their own problems. Technology has become an important

instrument in education. It

has brought increasing access to knowledge and as a means of promoting learning. They have accelerated the consumption of knowledge available to us.

(Naaladiyar: 125).



X-Mas

the reason for the season

By: J A Rajah

christmas is celebrated throughout the world as a season of joy, human fellowship, and revelry. The

festivity is very much commercialized, and people spend most of their time shopping around collecting or buying things they love to own. They also buy things for those whom they love or cherish. They exchange greeting cards and gifts. Shopping areas are brightly decorated, and Christmas songs are broadcast all over shopping malls. Giving and receiving promote love and care and lead to tremendous human happiness. One need not be a Christian to celebrate Christmas. All nationalities and followers of other religions also join to celebrate the

birth of Jesus Christ- the most popular festivity in the world.

Even people from Russia and China celebrate Christmas. Jesus Christ is the main reason for the season. He was born in Bethlehem in Judea two thousand years ago and the main purpose of his birth was to save sinners. The Jews expected him to be the one who would free them from the cruelties of the Roman rulers, but Jesus's main concern was to help people to lead righteous lives. He wanted to show humanity that God loved his people. He wanted to be a wonderful counselor to people, as a mighty man who could cure all the problems of humanity, as an everlasting father he would provide security for his people forever, as a prince of peace he could relieve all the iniquities that make people unhappy. Jesus came on a rescue mission to redeem humanity from sins. At Christmas we exchange gifts among ourselves but what do we give God? Jesus came to revolutionize the life of the people. He wanted us to live righteous lives. The best way to celebrate Christmas is to change our way of living. We should change our lives according to his teachings. We should help others to lead righteous lives. We should not put our trust in things that can be destroyed but cherish eternal values. The Jews nailed Jesus to the cross and put him to death as they are doing now in Gaza (Hamas-Israel War). Jesus rose from the dead to

give us everlasting lives. He raised humanity and gave us a chance to live eternally. Christmas is a celebration of eternal values. It is indeed a revolutionary effort to raise humanity to divinity. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son so that all those who believe him can lead everlasting lives."



SPECIAL FEATURE



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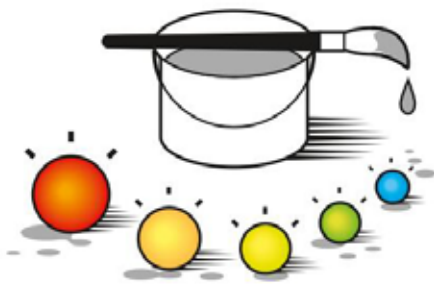
2023 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY GOES TO QUANTUM DOTS

Quantum Dots can be Seen as One Milestone for the Whole Field of Nanotechnology

OUE Research Institute



Two American scientists and a Russian have been awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in chemistry for discovering and synthesizing quantum dots, which helped drive a revolution in nanotechnology. The prize is shared equally between Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus, and Alexey Ekimov for discoveries on the unique properties of nanomaterials and how to make them, which paved the way for wide-ranging applications in consumer electronics, biochemistry, and medicine.



A quantum dot is a crystal that often consists of just a few thousand atoms. In terms of size, it has the same relationship to a football as a football has to the size of the Earth.

Trio Scientists

Bawendi is an American chemist of French and Tunisian descent based at MIT, Brus is based at Columbia University, and Ekimov is chief scientist at Nanocrystals Technology, a New York-based company. The three scientists will share the prize of 11 million Swedish kronor, or nearly one million US dollars.

The official announcement came after the three names were leaked in an email to a Swedish newspaper earlier on Wednesday morning, in an embarrassing incident for the academy. Johan Åqvist, the chair of the academy's Nobel committee for chemistry, said that at the time of the accidental email, the academy had not yet decided on the prize winners and, when asked, did not rule out the uncomfortable possibility that other scientists had been under consideration at the time.

Åqvist said a decision on the winners was taken only at the morning meeting of the academy, which "is not just a formality." "A decision is not made until the academy has met," he said. According to Nobel practice, the precise decision-making procedure is confidential and will only become public 50 years from now.

The laureates were oblivious to the drama; however, Bawendi said the academy had awakened him. "I was amazed, shocked, sleepy, and very honored", he said. "It's a field with many people who have contributed to it from the beginning," he added. "So, I didn't think it would be me that got this prize. We're all working together." Ekimov was reached by phone while on a trip to Mexico. It's a collaborative effort," Brus said in an interview at his home in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

Discovery

Quantum dots are nanoparticles so tiny that their size determines their properties. They are widely used in television screens and LED lamps to guide surgeons in removing tumor tissue. In chemistry, the properties of a material are generally governed by its chemical makeup. But when material comes in nano-dimensions – as is the case with quantum dots – its size affects its color and other properties.

This was known theoretically, but Ekimov made a crucial experimental demonstration while studying colored glass. He observed that when glass was tinted with copper chloride, its color varied depending on how long and hot it was heated. X-ray imaging revealed this was because the manufacturing process affected the size of tiny crystals of copper chloride that had formed inside the glass. He published the discovery in 1981 in a Soviet scientific journal, but his research was not widely known to scientists on the other side of the Iron Curtain.

A few years later, Louis Brus was working at Bell Laboratories in the US, looking at using solar energy to drive chemical reactions of tiny cadmium sulfide particles floating in solution. He noticed that the optical properties of the particles changed after he left them on the lab bench for a while and guessed it was because the particles had grown. He also realized this was due to a size-dependent quantum effect. In 1993, Moungi Bawendi revolutionized the methods for the chemical production of quantum dots, resulting in almost perfect particles whose size could be controlled. This high-quality production method paved the way for their wider commercial and medical application.

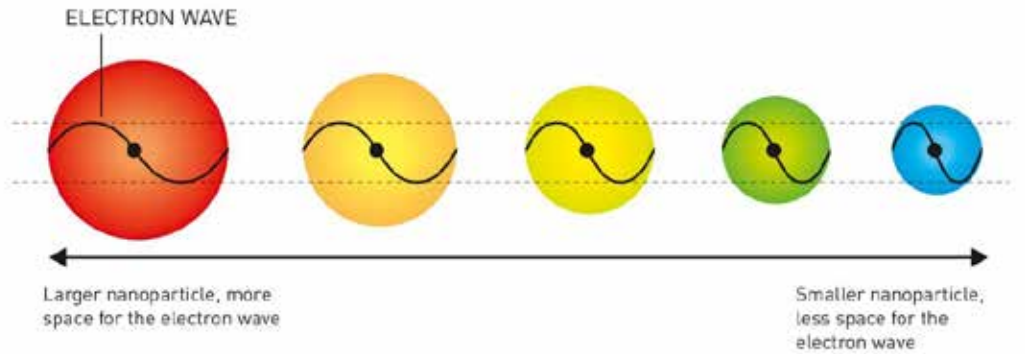
Summary

In a press briefing, the committee was asked about the choice to reward a Russian scientist, given Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "When selecting the prize, we simply follow the procedure of identifying the most important discoveries and the most important contributors to those discoveries. Nationality doesn't matter here. That's by the will of Alfred Nobel."

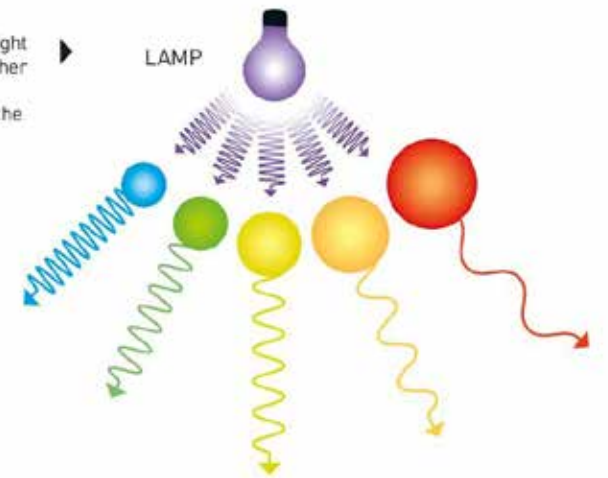
Prof Gill Reid, the president of the Royal Society of Chemistry, said: "The recognition of this work on

Quantum effects arise when particles shrink

When particles are just a few nanometres in diameter, the space available to electrons shrinks. This affects the particle's optical properties.



Quantum dots absorb light and then emit it at another wavelength. Its colour depends on the size of the particle.



quantum dots is inspiring and shows how chemistry can be used to solve various challenges. These remarkable nanoparticles have huge potential to create smaller, faster, smarter devices, increasing the efficiency of solar panels and the brilliance of your TV screen."

"Great science benefits from diverse viewpoints as part of a collective endeavor, and this year's prize is a great example of that – people working in different labs, in different countries, approaching a problem from different angles," she added.

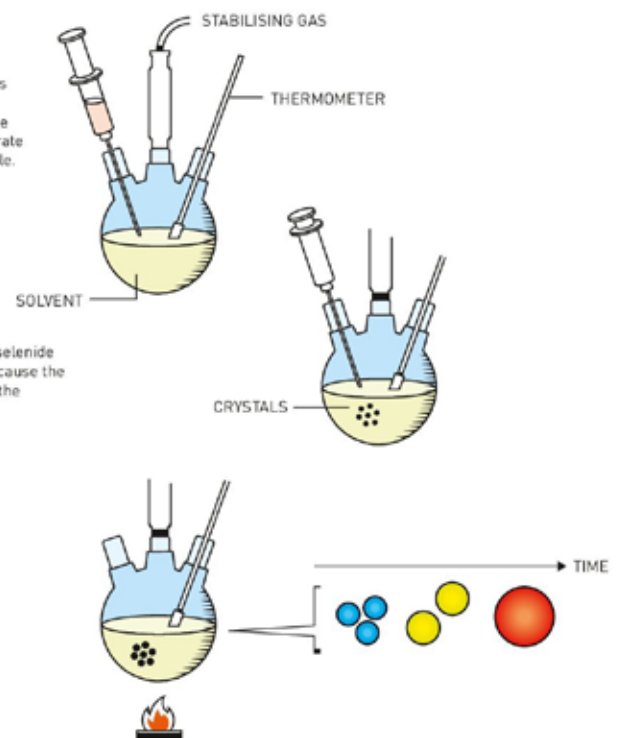
"We don't work in isolation in chemistry – teamwork is a fundamentally important aspect of how science is done and one of the most fun!" In addition to big screens and solar panels, dots are used to adjust the color of LED lights to make them less harsh. Medical scientists are also exploring their use as sensors and probes for hard-to-find molecules in the body. It is just the beginning.

How Moungi Bawendi produced quantum dots

1 Bawendi injected substances that can form cadmium selenide into hot solvent. The volume was enough to saturate the solvent around the needle.

2 Small crystals of cadmium selenide immediately formed, but because the injection cooled the solvent the crystals stopped forming.

3 When Bawendi increased the temperature of the solvent, the crystals once again started to grow. The longer this continued, the larger the crystals became.



Identifying future business leaders in your organization



Ensuring you have a reliable pipeline of future talent in your organization is key to future success. While the principle may be clear, turning it into a reality can be more difficult. The unpredictable human element can often make identifying and developing talent for your organization feel like something of a lottery. While some variables cannot be anticipated, there are ways to spot the people who may develop into successful leaders.

So how do you go about identifying the next generation of leaders in your organization?

Born or Made?

While a minority of great leaders will exhibit exemplary leadership qualities from the beginning of their careers, their aptitude is something that they will need to develop over time. To achieve this they will usually need a combination of the right attitude and a willingness to work hard. While some people may have a range of skills that could be utilized in a leadership role, they perhaps lack the drive to develop them. This is where training and mentorship play a pivotal role. Identifying who has both the talent and the drive to get there is a critical skill that current business leaders need to develop to ensure the future sustainability of their organization.

Key Traits of Potential Leaders

While there is no one way to be an effective leader, successful leaders will often share several key traits. These include:

A Desire to Achieve

Firstly, your successful leaders of the future will exhibit a clear drive to achieve. In practical terms, this will mean clear ideas of what achieving will mean in career terms and how that translates into tangible goals. Are their goals credible and do they coalesce with your own organizational goals and requirements? You will also want to see what practical steps the individual takes to achieve those goals, such as accessing training or mentoring that can help them gain the necessary skills.

Flexibility

Great leaders tend to be flexible. They are open to new ideas and can respond quickly to developing situations. In an age of technological disruption, this quality will be crucial to the future success of any organization. While the exact architecture of the future marketplace is difficult to predict, ensuring you have people in place with insight and a willingness to act will be key.

Openness

An open, inquiring mind supports flexibility and adaptive leadership. At a time of rapid change existing and emerging leaders need to be constantly learning. They should seek out new developments, try to understand trends and be able to identify opportunities.

Communication

Communication is perhaps the most important aspect of effective leadership. Being able to communicate ideas and plans, inspire and motivate others and defuse conflict solutions is a must

for the modern workplace. Effective communication is a skill that can be developed over time, and would-be leaders should prioritize acquiring advanced communication skills as part of their development strategy.

Empathy

Successful leaders understand human nature and how to get the best out of people. They empathize with the challenges, goals and dreams of people in their team and can relate on a human level. Because they care, they inspire loyalty and a desire among their team to work harder for shared goals.

Effective leadership means keeping informed. Stay tuned through our socials and website for the latest information, podcasts, more blogs and upcoming events.



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ACCOUNTANTS GALA IN TORONTO

Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada had its 21st Annual Gala on December 02nd at Scarborough Convention Center to showcase their achievements, recognize outstanding individuals and strengthen the bonds within the community. More than 400 guest participated at this successful event with dance, music and other diverse range of entertainment for everyone to enjoy the evening. This event not only provide a platform for networking and socializing but also contribute to fostering a sense of community among members. *Some of the photos from the event can be seen here.*





The City of Brampton launches two new projects empowering residents to make an impact within the city



BRAMPTON, ON (December 6, 2023) – Today, the City of Brampton launched its Neighbourhood Association Guide and the first phase of its GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles project.

The Neighbourhood Association Guide is a resource designed to empower and connect residents. The guide will serve as a tool for residents wanting to make a positive impact in their neighbourhood.

The City's Community Safety & Well-Being Office (CSWO) hosted a Community Leaders Workshop with over 40 participants including neighbourhood association leaders, Brampton volunteers, members of Brampton City Council, members of the Brampton Community Safety Advisory Committee, and others.

The participants of the workshop played a prominent role in finalizing the guide as they provided feedback on the draft guide, including over 200 comments and suggestions.

In the guide, residents will find tips and tools on how to take action to enhance safety, connectedness, belonging, and well-being. It equips residents with resources essential for fostering a proactive approach towards neighbourhood development and creating Neighbourhood Action Plans.

The Guide provides information on the following:

- o Brampton Neighbourhood Association Affiliation (i.e., benefits, requirements, and process of affiliation)
- o Resources for building Neighbourhood Action Plans
- o Potential beautification, connectedness, sense of belonging, and safety uses for the CSWO Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant (up to \$1,500 per Affiliated Neighbourhood Association)

The first phase of the GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles project, an initiative aimed at fostering community connectivity and promoting safety and well-being within the city, was also launched today.

Designed to meet the expressed needs of residents for enhanced connectedness and a deeper sense of belonging, the GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles serves as a way for residents to discover and engage with the diverse assets nestled within their neighbourhood and throughout Brampton.

It gives residents the ability to provide valuable input into their respective areas, actively contributing to their neighbourhood profile. Through this, residents will soon be able to play a role in highlighting the unique features and strengths of their communities.

Both the GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles and Neighbourhood Association Guide are part of the Brampton Community Safety Action Plan and represent a significant step toward advancing inclusive, connected, and empowered communities in Brampton and aligns with the City's commitment to fostering an environment where every resident feels safe, engaged, and connected to Brampton's mosaic.

For more information about the Neighbourhood Association Guide and to explore the GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles, please visit www.brampton.ca/communitysafety.

Quotes

"Fostering community connectivity and prioritizing safety and well-being within our city is fundamental to building

a thriving and inclusive community. The Neighbourhood Association Guide and GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles demonstrate our commitment to meeting the needs of our residents and empowering them to actively participate in the future of our city."

• Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton

"The Neighbourhood Association Guide was created to help empower the residents of Brampton to make an impact within their own community. Listening to our residents needs and highlighting what matters to them is so important in creating an inclusive community and a community embracing the needs and wants of residents. I am excited to see what our residents come up with and look forward to telling the stories of the hidden gems in Brampton neighbourhoods."

• Rowena Santos, Regional Councillor, Wards 1 & 5; Chair, Community Services, City of Brampton

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, Brampton is home to nearly 700,000 people and more than 90,000 businesses. People are at the heart of everything we do. We are energized by our diverse communities, we attract investment, and we are embarking on a journey to lead technological and environmental innovation. We partner for progress to build a healthy city that is safe, sustainable, and successful.

Connect with us on X (Formerly Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Learn more at www.brampton.ca



Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years

Ajax Pickering Hospital Holiday Wish list

Great big thank you to all donors who donated Cash to purchase the items & who donated the things for AJAX PICKERING HOSPITAL HOLIDAY WISH LIST for people who are in need. It was a great way to share your generosity and support during this season of giving.

Ajax/ Pickering Hospital Foundation was thrilled with your donations and conveyed their gratitude for your kindness and support.



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 asthmatic 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.

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CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE!

Saturday, December 16th
Time: 6:00pm
Photo Shoot with Santa
Gifts for children ages 0-12
Carols/ Games /
X'MAS Dinner & Dance
Entrance Fee for Children : \$20 per child (Kids ages 0-12)
Entrance Fee for Seniors, Adults Ages 13+ : \$10 per person

Register Online : durhamtamils.org
E-transfer Fees to :
dtafinancecommittee@gmail.com

Location:
EAST SHORE COMMUNITY CENTRE
910 Liverpool Rd,
Pickering, ON L1W 1S6



COMMUNITY WATCH



DTA Senior's December monthly meeting

DTA Senior's March monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 28, 2024 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

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

Tamil School

Tamil class registration is open for the School Year from 2023-2024! In-person or Virtual class options are available!

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. 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. **If you are**



interested in being annual sponsor, please reach out to the below contacts.

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

Unity Is Strength

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

(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.



DTA Tours & Travel

12 DAY FLORIDA ROAD TRIP

FEB 14 - FEB 25, 2024

ORLANDO | MIAMI | KEY WEST

\$1500 including bus tour & accomodation
[\$500 deposit with registration]

Register online: durhamtamils.org
E-transfer: dtatravell@gmail.com

647-606-1222



COMMUNITY WATCH

Colourful Deepavali celebration in Waterloo

Waterloo: The festival of lights, Deepavali, which is also known as 'Diwali' celebrated by Tamils all around the world. It remains one of the most prominent Hindu festivals. According to ancient Hindu mythology, the festival of lights is celebrated to commemorate the victory of Lord Rama over Demon king Ravana, the triumph of light over darkness.

Annual Deepavali celebration in Waterloo is organised by Tamil Cultural Association of

Waterloo Region in partnership with Waterloo Public Library. It took place on Saturday, November 11 at WPL Fisherhallman Road, Waterloo. The event highlights the cultural aspects of Deepavali celebration among South Indian and Sri Lankan Tamil community in the Waterloo Region. Rajivi Nadarajah, the Secretary of the association welcomed the community and explained the significance of the Hindu festival. It was followed up with

Tamil folk music and dance. A large section was reserved for book reading and colouring for children visiting the library.

Dennis Loyola, the President of TCA inaugurated the food section. Sweets and snacks were offer free to each and every guest. Local VIP's including Bardish Chagger, MP for Waterloo, Tim Louis, MP for Kitchener and Kitchener City Councillor Ayo Owodunni attended the event.



Tamil Sports Association of Waterloo Region launches its inaugural Badminton tournament

Kitchener: A new recognized Sports Organization, the Tamil Sports Association of Waterloo Region's Badminton Club is charged up to host its first tournament on weekend of October 21-22 for all members of the Waterloo Region community and Toronto area. The two day event was held at Huron Heights Secondary School in Kitchener.

The president of the association Mr. Ken Srishankar and Executive member/Coach Mr. Valli Padmanabhan were excited to bring tournament to the Region. The membership was open to all communities including Non

Tamil speaking members and Chinese community. A large number of competitors, from Toronto and GTA area, participated in the tournament.

"The tournament is more than just a game," says Ken Srishankar head of the association. "Every smash, every serve, every rally in this tournament will be no less than a testament to our badminton club's spirit and passion. "The tournament is open to all Tamil and Non Tamil speaking members. No restrictions on the age group either."

"As a member and an avid badminton player,

I see this as a golden chance to bridge bonds, develop skills, and ignite the badminton fever at the Region of Waterloo," Raj Yogarajah, an executive member said. "We encourage you to step onto the court with us and to create memories that we will cherish forever." Mayor of Kitchener Hon. Barry Vrbanovich and Hon. Bardish Chager MP for Waterloo were the guests in attendance.

The Badminton Club is actively taking registrations and would love to see your passion. The club can be contacted via email at director@tamilsports.org



Making climate change a priority for Mississauga: Taking meaningful steps now for a greener future

Climate change isn't going away. It is a reality for every country, every level of government, every city and every individual worldwide. The UN has declared that the Earth is entering "global boiling." This is where temperatures will continue to rise, and severe weather events will happen more



High water at St Lawrence Park in Mississauga

frequently. At this point, global temperatures have risen past the point where they can be reversed. However, climate change can still be slowed down. We can work towards preventing additional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from entering our atmosphere as well as adapt to these warmer climate and everything that comes with it.

This means investing more money into meaningful actions and measures that will help us as a city. This includes reducing GHG emissions, making sure we can manage our stormwater and having enough greenspaces to be able to absorb more water during heavy rain and snow storms.

Why is this happening?

Generating power, manufacturing goods, using transportation, producing food and powering buildings all add GHG emissions into our atmosphere. This creates a heat blanket, trapping the sun's

heat. This slowly warms our planet and causes weather pattern to change, leading to extreme storms, droughts, plant and animal loss, crop failures and more.

What does this mean for you in Mississauga?

According to the Canadian Climate Institute, the economic damages caused by climate change will not be limited to some distant future. In fact, by 2025, the effects of climate change over the past decade will have reduced the national GDP of Canada by \$25 billion. This means that if global warming had stabilized in 2015, the Canadian economy would have been \$25 billion larger.

By the year 2100, the impact of climate change in Ontario's cities is expected to result in billions of dollars in additional costs to

your own – but you can. And so can the City. That's why we're taking actions to make our city greener and adapting to climate change.

By understanding the choices we make, we can have a positive impact on our environment, whether it's choosing to bike, buy electric appliances, install heat pumps or solar panels or reducing waste.

We must start somewhere.

How will this impact you?

Each of us has the power to turn things around with the choices we make to reduce our carbon footprint. Making informed choices about our impact on the climate is more important now than ever before. Actions you take now can have a lasting impact on future generations – including your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



the property tax bill. The cost of maintaining public infrastructure in Ontario could also increase by over \$4 billion per year for the remainder of the century according to a report from the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario. The report mentioned that cities can cut costs by proactively making hospitals, schools, stormwater pipes and other public infrastructure more resilient to extreme heat and rainfall.

It's difficult to think you can make a difference when it comes to combating climate change on

What are we doing about it?

In 2019, City Council declared a climate emergency and adopted the Climate Change Action Plan, committing to becoming one of Canada's first net-zero cities. The City has an aspirational goal of making Mississauga net-zero.

Next year, 44 per cent of budgeted projects in 2024 include aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate-related projects, including hybrid buses, park acquisitions, electric-vehicle



Residents using a hybrid electric bus

community gardens planned for 2024-2025. This will allow more access to locally grown, healthy and culturally appropriate food.

- Approved the City's first Stormwater Master Plan, Build Beautiful. The long-term plan will be used to refine the City's stormwater program, stormwater management systems and infrastructure.
- Since 2020, the City has acquired 94.7 acres of parkland to enhance resilience and address the parkland deficit.
- Launched the Mississauga Climate Leaders Program to engage businesses in climate action, linking economic development with climate change.

Moving forward together

We're actively working with different levels of government, corporations, non-profit organizations, community partners and residents like you to collaborate on actions. These investments will

charging stations, bike lanes, sidewalks, buildings with solar panels, and more. That's almost \$263 million in capital spending that will help fast track our goal of achieving net zero.

The City is returning to its growth plan for transit post-pandemic, investing in the service to support population growth throughout the City, meeting our Climate Change goals, and to meet higher demand now that ridership has recovered from the impacts of the pandemic.

Actions taken in 2023

Lowering emissions

- Replaced more than 50 per cent of the MiWay bus fleet with second generation hybrid buses. These buses results in a 30 per cent reduction in diesel fuel consumption per year and 5,134,000 kilograms of avoided GHG emissions per year.
- Installed more than 70 electric vehicle (EV) chargers for the City's fleet and more than 20 for public use. This has resulted in 130,000 litres of avoided gasoline consumption and 288,000 kilograms of avoided GHG emissions since 2021. The City will be investing another \$500,000 in new EV chargers in 2024.
- Acquired the City's first electric fire truck. Fire Station 125 (6627 Tenth Line) located in Ward 9 is scheduled to open in late summer 2024, and will be the new home of the City's first electric fire truck but it will also be the City's first net zero energy fire station. Going forward, all new fire stations will be built to net zero energy.

- Updating the Green Development Standard. By 2030, most new private buildings will no longer emit GHG emissions.
- The City is continuing to advance new low-carbon building technologies, such as heat pumps and heat recovery systems in City-owned buildings.



EV charging stations at Sheridan College – Hazel McCallion Campus

Increasing resilience

- Developed a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) in the Cooksville area to help make Cooksville Creek and the surrounding neighbourhood more sustainable and ready for a changing climate.
- Continuing to offer a community gardens program, in partnership with Ecosource, to enhance local food security. A number of enhancements were made to existing gardens in 2022-2023, with at least two new

lead to cleaner air, less traffic and overall healthier neighbourhoods. When we choose to support these types of investments, we're making a strong commitment to continue to build a more sustainable and prosperous future for everyone – not just for ourselves, but future generations. By taking action today, we can help ensure a better tomorrow.

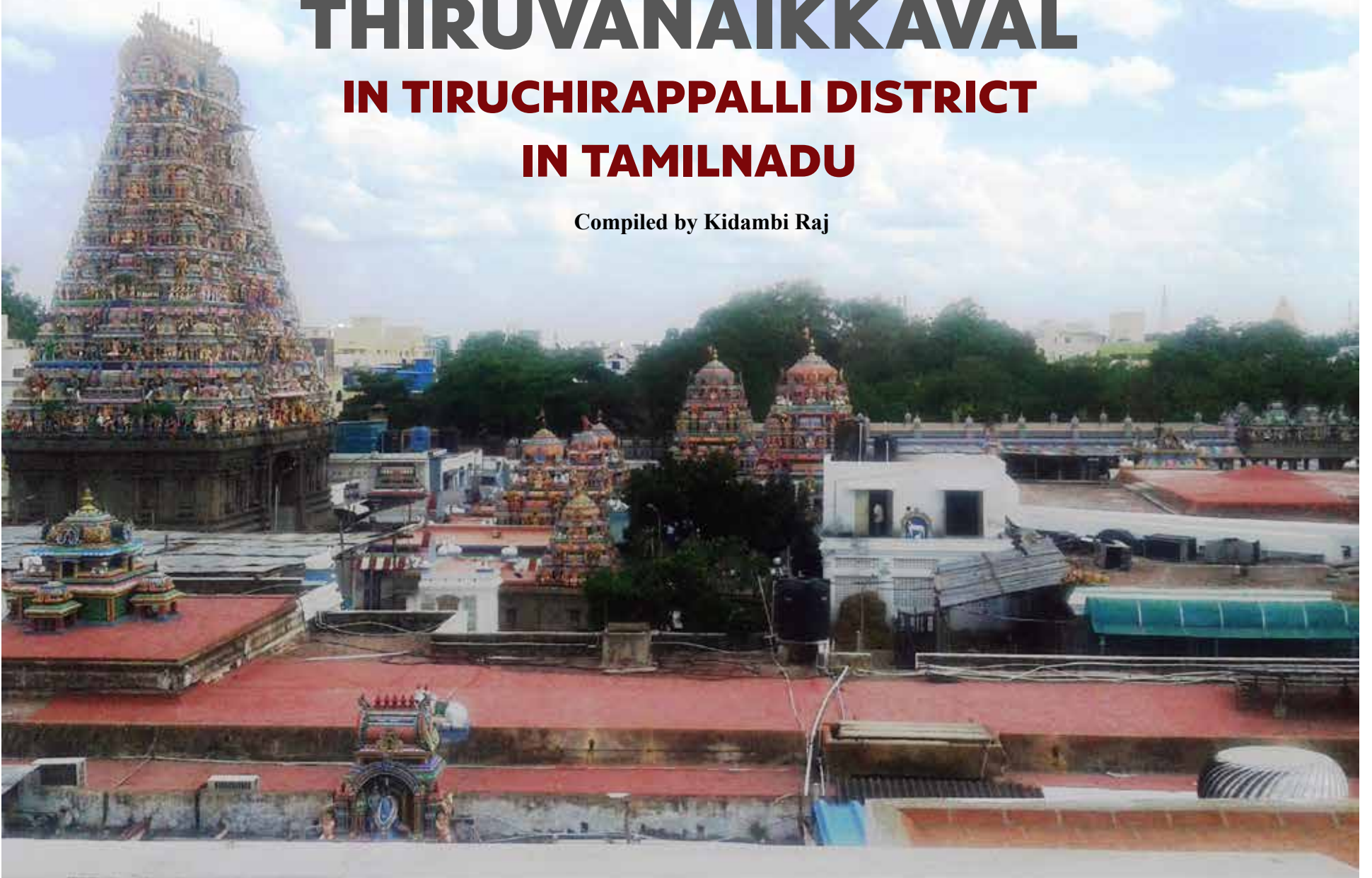
Learn more about the City's Climate Change Action Plan and its progress by visiting: mississauga.ca/projects-and-strategies/city-projects/climate-change-action-plan.



SPECIAL FEATURE

SRI JAMBUKESWARAR TEMPLE IN THIRUVANAICKAVAL IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT IN TAMILNADU

Compiled by Kidambi Raj



INTRODUCTION

Sri Jambukeswarar Temple in Thiruvanaikkaval is a famous Siva Temple located in the Srirangam Island, which also has the famous Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple. This temple is one of the five major Siva temples of Tamil Nadu representing the element Water, one of five Pancha Bhootas. The Sanctum of the Jambukeswara has an underground water stream and in spite of pumping the water out, it is always filled with water. It is one of the 275 *Paadal Petra Sthalams*, where all the four most revered Saivite Saints (Naayanmaars) have sung glories of this temple. This temple has



inscriptions from the Chola period.

LEGEND BEHIND THE TEMPLE

Once Parvathi mocked Siva's penance for the betterment of the world. Siva wanted to condemn her act and directed her to go to the

earth from His abode Kailasam to do penance. Parvathi in the form of Akilandeswari as per Siva's wish and found the Jambu forest (Thiruvanaikoil) to conduct Her penance. She made a Lingam out of water of the river Cauvery (also called as river Ponni) under the Venn Naaval tree (the Venn Naaval tree on top of Saint Jambu) and commenced her worship. The Lingam is known as Appu Lingam (Water Lingam). Siva at last gave darshan to Akilandeswari and taught Her Siva Gnana. Akilandeswari took Upadesa (lessons) facing East from Siva, who stood facing west.

There were two Siva Ganas (Siva's disciples who live in Kailas) by the names *Malyavan* and. Though *Pushpadanta*. Though they were Siva Ganas, they always quarreled with each other and fought for one thing or the other. In one such fights, Malyavan cursed Pushpadanta to become an elephant on earth and the latter cursed the former to become a spider on earth. The elephant and the spider came to Nambikwara and continued their Siva worship. The elephant collected water from the Cauvery river and conducted abluition to the Lingam under the Jambu tree (the Java Plum Tree) daily. The spider constructed its web over the Lingam to prevent dry leaves from dropping on it and prevent sunlight falling directly on it. When the elephant saw the web, it thought that it was dust on the Lingam and so tore them and cleaned the Lingam by pouring

water and this practice continued daily. The spider became angry and one day it crawled into the trunk of the elephant and bit the elephant to death, and killing itself. Siva, in the form of Jambukeswara, moved by the deep devotion of the two, relieved them from the curse. As an elephant it worshipped Siva here came to be known as Thiru Aanai Kaa (*thiru* means holy, *aanai* is elephant and *kaa* (kaadu) means forest). Later the name *Thiruvaanaikaa* became *Thiruvaanaikaaval* and *Thiruvanaikoil*.

As an outcome of having committed a sin by killing the elephant, in the next birth, the spider was born as *King Cochengot Chola* (Kotchengannan Cholan meaning red-eyed



King) and built 70 temples and this temple is one among them. The account of the Chola building seventy temples along with this temple is mentioned in *Naalaayira Divya Prabhandham*. Remembering his enmity with

SPECIAL FEATURE



the elephant in his previous birth, he built the Siva Sannidhi (sanctorum) such that not even a small elephant can enter. The entrance on the sanctorum of Jambukeswara is only 4 feet high and 2.5 feet wide.

The story behind the King's red-eyes: When he was in his mother's womb, the palace astrologer predicted a sacred time to give birth to enable the newborn's well-being. The queen went into labour early, before the time predicted by the astrologer. The queen hence told the servants to hang her upside down until the right time, so that she could have a wise and virtuous son who could head the kingdom righteously. This waiting time inside the womb made the baby's eyes red. After becoming the King, he built the temple for Siva and Goddess Akilandeswari in the name of Aanaikka (elephant protected) which in later days got changed to Thiruvanaikavil.

TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

The massive outer wall covering the fifth precinct, known as the *Vibudi Praakaara*, stretches over a mile and is two feet thick and over 25 feet high. Legend has it, that the wall was built by Siva working with the labourers. The fourth precinct contains a hall with 796 pillars and measures 2,436 feet by 1,493 feet. It also has a small tank fed by perpetual springs. The third enclosure is 745 feet by 197 feet surrounded by a wall 30 feet high. This area has two Gopurams (gateway towers) 73 and 100 feet tall, a coconut thoppu (grove) and a small water tank. The second enclosure is 306 feet by 197 feet, a gopuram 65 feet high and several small shrines. The inner most enclosure measuring 126 feet by 123 feet has the sanctum.

The sanctum sanctorum is a square structure, independently situated at the centre of the innermost enclosure. There is a *vimana* on the roof of the sanctorum. The structure is open on three sides, with a shallow moat separating it from the circumambulatory path of the innermost enclosure. The *sthala vriksham*, or the holy tree here is the white Jambuka (in Tamil called the *venn naaval maram*), found growing along the south-eastern wall of the sanctum sanctorum. The trunk of the tree is

protected by a walled structure. The western side of the sanctum, from where the deity is viewed, is continuous with a large closed hall, called the *Mukha Mandapa*, containing four-pillars and housing a bronze idol of *Nandi*. The Mukha Mantapa has a large, ornate western door gilded with silver that forms the principal entrance. There are two additional entrances to the Mukha Mantapa on the southern and North Eastern sides as well. A set of three steps descend to the level of the sanctum sanctorum from the Mukha



Mandapa. The deity is viewed through a stone window that forms an integral part of the western face of the sanctum sanctorum. The window has nine viewing apertures, believed to represent the *Navagrahas*. There is a panel in bas relief over the window depicting the *sthala puranam*. The jambuka tree growing out of a meditating sage's head on the extreme



right, the linga of Jambukeswarar under the tree, a spider and an elephant worshipping Goddess Parvathi, who stands to the left of the linga. The sanctum sanctorum is divided into the Ardha Mantapam or Antaralam (whose western wall bears the window) and the Garbha Griha where the deity of Jambukeswarar is housed. Entrance into the Sanctum is through a small door on the southern wall, about 4 feet in height. The Ardha Mantapa is about 4 feet by 4 feet and contains an idol of Goddess Parvathi on the right side of the door to the Garbha Griha, Devotees are admitted in groups of six into the Ardha Mantapa during sevas (services) like Abhishekham or on special pooja on payment of a small fee. The Garbha Griha is a wider structure compared to the Ardha Mantapa. At the centre, the Brahma Sthana, a self-manifested linga of Jambukeswarar. The upper conical part of the linga is of the colour of copper, whereas the yoni-bhaga or the pedestal is of black granite. A brass ring is seen at the point of attachment of the linga to the pedestal. The height of the linga is about 3 feet from the floor of the sanctum. The Garbha Griha and the Ardha Mantapa are unadorned from the inside, the only source of illumination within the sanctum being the ghee lamps. A stream of water is said to emerge from the linga, which is usually demonstrated as the soaking wet clothes in which it is draped. The water flow increases significantly during the monsoon. The main deity of the temple is Jambukeswarar, representing the element Water, one of the Five Pancha Bhootas. Jambukeswarar is depicted as sitting under a Jambu tree, which grows over a small stream that engulfs the deity during the rainy season. The temple is also considered the abode of Goddess Akilandeswari, one of the forms of Goddess Parvathi. Moreover, the Sannidhis of Goddess Akhilandeswari and that of Sri Prasanna Vinayakar are in the shape of the *Pranava Mantra*, "OM"

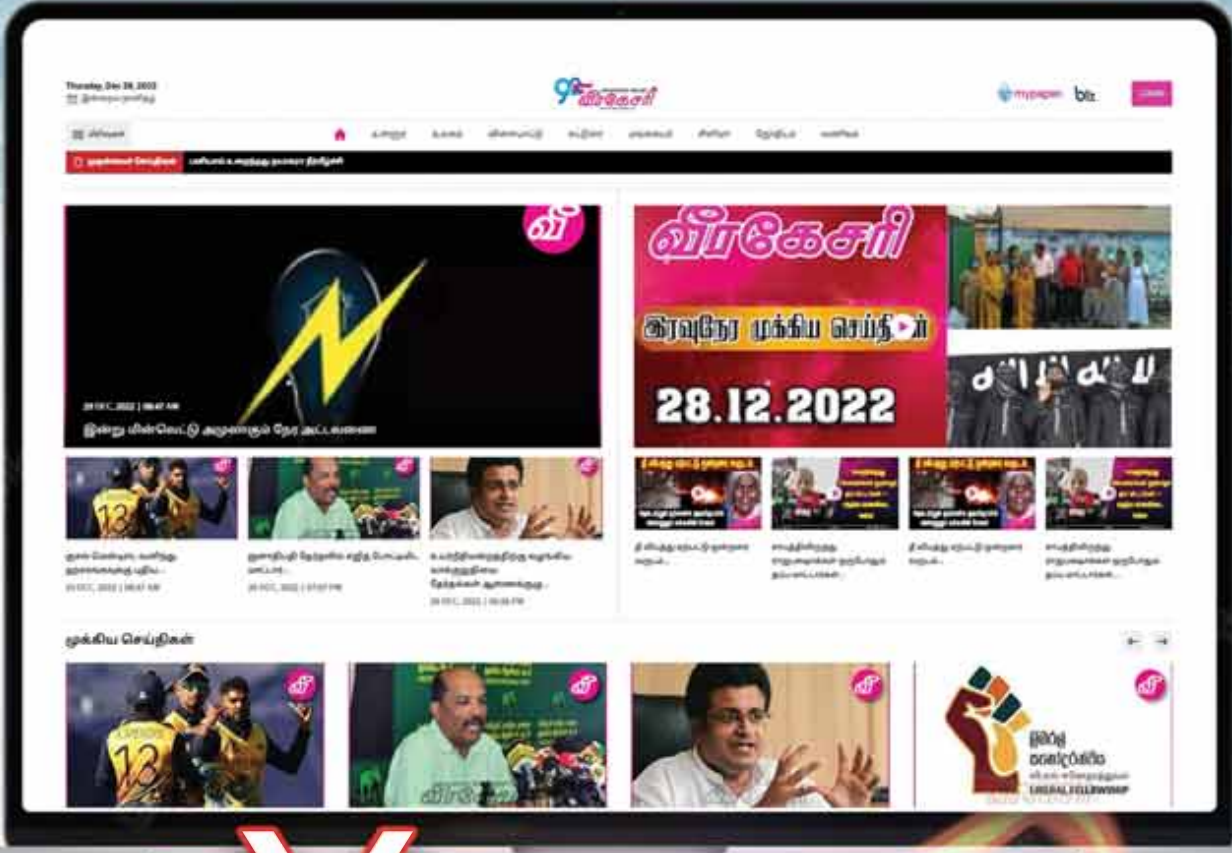
Also, the temple's idols are opposite to each other. Such temples are called *Upadesa Sthalams*. As the Devi was a student and Jambukeswara was a Guru (teacher) and hence Thiru Kalyanam (marriage) do not take place in this temple for Lord Siva and Goddess Parvathi, unlike other Siva temples.

The greatest of works related to this temple include Thiruvanaikkaval and Kilvelur Akshyalingaswamy temple.

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