

Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

« 18TH YEAR IN CIRCULATION » JANUARY - 2024



FAST MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE



M. Kasippillai & Sons
Tel: 416.267.8221
Trusted over 28 Years

THE GUARDIAN HOME REALTY INC.
Where life begins...



416 989 6565 www.theguardianhomes.com
info@theguardianhomes.com
F119 - 80 Nashdene Road, Scarborough ON M1V 5E4

MT MAYURAN THARMABALAN
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

- * AUDIT
- * REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
- * NOTICE TO READER
- * BUSINESS ADVISORY
- * CONTROLLERSHIP SERVICES
- * CORPORATE TAXES
- * PERSONAL TAXES
- * FINANCIAL PLANNING
- * CRA AUDITS
- * PAYROLL
- * BOOKKEEPING

Mayuran Tharmabalan, CPA, CA, LPA
647-748-6344 647-989-6298
647-748-6444 www.tharmabalan.ca

A LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM
Suite 204 - 5200 Finch Ave East, Scarborough, ON M1S 4Z5



May the Blessings of Lord Ganesha, the Remover of Obstacles and Provider of Wisdom be with you all in 2024 and beyond!!!

Contribution by Kidambi Raj and Edited by Rudy at A1 Studio

DENTAL OFFICE
DENTAL IMPLANT • ROOT CANAL • WISDOM TOOTH EXTRACTION



Dr. Iru Vijayanathan
BDS, FAGD, MFDS RCPS (Glasg) DENTAL SURGEON

3 LOCATIONS

3150 Eglinton Ave. East, Unit 5 Markham/Eglinton | Tel: 416.264.3232
3351 Markham Road, Unit 129, Markham/Steeles | Tel: 416.609.2022
3348 Buroak Avenue, Highway 7/Buroak | Tel: 905.471.2818

WE SIMPLIFY BUSINESS
Let us be your HR Manager

We provide hr administration as well as hiring and supply of skilled staff
info@rhrrm.ca | 416-290-6186





**SPECIAL RATE
ON RENEWALS
&
INSURED
MORTGAGES**

ANTON DHARMASEELAN
MORTGAGE AGENT

LIC #M14000425

Available Till **Midnight**
Including **Weekends & Holidays**

CALL ME **FIRST FOR ALL
YOUR **MORTGAGE NEEDS****

PURCHASE

REFINANCE

SELF EMPLOYED

RENEWAL

BAD CREDIT

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

416 704 1200

MAJOR BANKS - BEST RATES

ANTON@MYHOMEMLS.CA



FAX: 1-800-566-3068

Premier Ford Shares New Year's Greetings



January 01, 2024 - Office of the Premier

TORONTO — Today, Premier Doug Ford issued the following statement to mark the start of the New Year:

“Happy New Year, Ontario!

As we turn the calendar to 2024, I want to take a moment to pause and reflect upon the progress we've made as a province over the past year.

2023 was a year of growth for Ontario.

In the face of economic and geopolitical uncertainty around the world, Ontario created more than 160,000 jobs, with more new manufacturing jobs in our province than all U.S. states combined.

We attracted billions of dollars in new investments, including Volkswagen's historic \$7 billion investment to build its first overseas electric vehicle battery plant in St. Thomas, which will employ thousands of people. We also saw considerable progress on the construction of the NextStar electric vehicle battery plant in Windsor.

To support this growth, our government continues to deliver on our plan to build.

We're connecting people to more convenient care close to home. We're investing billions over the next ten years in over 50 new hospital projects as we hire thousands of more doctors and nurses. Pharmacists are doing more to treat people in their communities, with nearly 600,000 pharmacist assessments having been done,

relieving pressures on family doctors and our entire health-care system. By investing more in hospitals and community surgical and diagnostic centres, we're taking thousands of people off surgical wait lists and now have the lowest wait times in the entire country.

We're building and expanding schools, with over 7,000 new student spaces for the 2023-24 school year and are on track to create 86,000 new child care spaces by the end of 2026. We've secured deals or agreements-in-principle with almost all of Ontario's education unions so that we can keep kids in class learning, exactly where they should be. We saw student test scores stabilize or improve as we got kids back to learning the basics while preparing them for the jobs of the future.

We're expanding GO train service, making significant progress on the new Ontario Line subway and building roads and highways across the province, helping to ensure commuters spend more time at home and less time in bumper-to-bumper traffic. We secured a new deal for Toronto, which invests in improved services for the city and avoids any new taxes. And let me be clear: our government will never toll the Gardiner Expressway or Don Valley Parkway. Drivers coming into the city from Peel, Durham, York and beyond can't afford any new costs.

Now more than ever, we need to keep costs down for people and businesses.

That's why, throughout 2023, we took important steps to put money back into people's pockets, including by increasing the minimum wage, expanding the Guaranteed Annual Income System program to support an additional 100,000 seniors and extending the gas and fuel tax cut, saving families up to \$260. We also continued to cut child care fees, saving families accessing over 300,000 child care spaces an average of between \$6,000 and \$10,000 annually.

As we keep costs down, our government is also on a relentless hunt to find new ways to make life more convenient for people. This past year, we announced the largest expansion of choice and convenience in the sale of alcohol in nearly 100 years. By no later than January 2026, people

will be able to buy wine, beer, cider, seltzers and coolers at their local convenience, grocery or big-box store. Our government also continued to cut outdated and duplicative red tape, saving people and businesses more than \$900 million and 100,000 hours of time each year.

Looking ahead to the new year, our government will continue to build our economy to create better jobs with bigger paycheques, invest in the roads, highways and infrastructure that our growing Ontario needs, look for ways to put money back into people's pockets and make life easier and more convenient for families. There's so much more work to do to build Ontario.

We need to find ways to get more shovels in the ground sooner to build new roads and highways, including Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, as well as hospitals, long-term care homes and schools.

Working closely with our municipal partners, we'll take more action to build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031, including by allowing for way more density near public transit.

We need to continue building an energy system that provides the clean, low-cost and stable electricity our growing province and economy needs, now and for generations to come.

We'll continue to train more people for rewarding careers in the skilled trades as we welcome newcomers ready to help build our province.

And we want more people in Ontario to be connected to a family doctor or primary care team, so that they receive quality care when and where they need it.

I'm so proud of what Team Ontario accomplished this past year, and I can't wait to see what's to come in 2024. Because, while the world continues to face economic uncertainty, when the people of Ontario work together, we've shown that we can achieve amazing things.

From myself, my family and the Government of Ontario, I wish everyone across our great province a prosperous, healthy and happy new year!"

- news.ontario.ca

Ontario Achieves Strong Job Growth and Investments in 2023

Domestic and international companies invested billions in the province

January 05, 2024 - Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

TORONTO — Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued this statement following today's monthly employment release by Statistics Canada, which showed that while employment in Ontario decreased



last month, nearly 120,000 jobs were created in 2023, including over 22,000 jobs in the province's manufacturing sector.

“As we reflect on 2023, we can proudly say that our responsible and targeted approach to fostering stability and growth across Ontario's economy is working – with over \$11 billion in new investments and the creation of thousands of new jobs across a variety of industries including the auto, manufacturing, tech and life science sectors.

Thanks to our competitive and stable business environment, highly skilled workforce, along with over 500 initiatives to reduce red tape, Ontario remains the economic engine of the nation, and large multinational companies across the globe, particularly in the auto sector, are taking notice.

Over the last three years, Ontario attracted more than \$27 billion in new investments from global automakers,

(Continued on Page 5)

NEED HELP WITH YOUR TAXES?
WE GOT YOU COVERED!

உங்கள் வரித்தேவை,
வியாபாரக் கணக்கு
எதுவாயினும்,
திறமை, அனுபவம்,
தேர்ச்சி பெற்ற
கணக்காளர்.

- ▶ Corporate Tax
- ▶ Personal Tax Planning
- ▶ Accounting
- ▶ Financial Statements
- ▶ Business Plan & Proposals
- ▶ For all your Business Needs

ARI A. ARIARAN CPA, CGA
Chartered Professional Accountant



MP Accounting & Finance Services Inc
1750 Brimley Road, Suite 213
Toronto, ON. M1P 4X7

416 293 1616
416.438.9799
www.aricpa.ca • ari@aricpa.ca



PUBLISHER'S DESK

A Moment of Renewal and Tamil Heritage in 2024

By Harrish Thirukumaran

In Canada, it is interesting to see that January not only marks the beginning of the new year, but it also commemorates Tamil Heritage Month. Started in 2010, it aims to celebrate the history of Canada's Tamil community and its contribution to the social, cultural, political and economic strength of Canada. While recognizing our accomplishments and tracing our roots, Tamil Heritage Month will provide opportunities to celebrate Tamils' history in Canada as well. In addition, this month will actively celebrate Tamil heritage and rejuvenate Tamil culture in Canada.

During the new year, a tradition associated with it is to set New Year's Resolutions. According to the Cambridge dictionary, New Year's Resolutions are a promise that you make to yourself to start doing something good or stop doing something bad on the first day of the year. As in the name, they are intended to resolve something in your life as you perceive it.

However, from my perspective, it can serve as the basis of renewal for another year, another chapter that lies ahead in your story. Also, given the backdrop of Tamil Heritage Month, this time of renewal can help me connect deeper with my own Tamil cultural roots.

Anthropologist Dimitris Xygalatas, in an essay for Sapiens, has said New Years are often treated by various human cultures as serious moments of renewal through different festivals that take place at different times. Rituals help drive that renewal as they mark seasonal changes. Moreover, rituals provide a sense of routine, helping practitioners cope with anxiety across these various cultures. By coming together to enact them collectively through symbols, participants experience a sense of community. Furthermore, they allow people to leave the past behind and be hopeful for the future.

I've previously written about the grief process as it relates to my parents, and it helps to heal the initial wounds that are felt very early on. It has not even been a year yet since my dad's passing. While there is still much to process from last year, the message of renewal that accompanies a new year is highly important as I and many others learn to lead life in new ways. A part of this involves performing rituals. One of the duties for me in this light will be to commemorate my dad as we approach the year mark since his sudden passing in both the Hindu and Tamil traditions.

As mentioned, I seek to focus on renewal by prioritizing my own wellness as I continue to rebuild my life by looking back at the lives of my own parents and remaining hopeful. This simultaneously involves advancing Tamil culture, traditions and customs by honouring my father in such a manner that strengthens my connection to him. At the same time, I hope that this can also strengthen the Tamil community living throughout Canada as we mark Tamil Heritage Month.

Happy New Year and Happy Tamil Heritage Month!

PUBLISHING TEAM

Managing Editor & Publisher :	Logan Velumailum, B. Sc. - editor4mj@gmail.com
Executive Editorial Board :	Harrish Thirukumaran Danesh Thirukumaran Krishni Narine Tashvir Narine
Graphics & Design :	Suren Rasadurai - suren8@gmail.com , Santosh Kumar - kasantosh@gmail.com
Photo Journalists :	Gnane B. Gnanendran, Rudy Ruthran
Health & Care :	Jeavana Sritharan, Andrea Shanmugarajah, Dr. Nuwan Fonseka, Dr. Shiyam Loganathan
Special Feature :	Raymond Rajabalan, J.J. Atputharajah, C. Kamalaharan, Sivanesan Sinniah, Kumar Punithavel, Nate Velumailum,
Business & Finance :	Muraly Srinarayanathas
Education :	RG Education Centers - www.rgeducation.com
Durham News :	Durham Tamil Association www.durhamtamils.com
Mississauga News:	media@mississauga.ca
Markham News :	City of Markham Communications www.markham.ca
Brampton News :	City of Brampton Communications www.brampton.ca
Waterloo News :	www.tamilculturewaterloo.org
Coverage on Institutions :	Scarborough Health Network - www.shn.ca Markham Stouffville Hospital - www.msh.on.ca Providence Health Care Foundation www.providence.on.ca/foundation
Words of Peace :	www.wordsofpeace.ca
Isha Yoga :	www.innerengineering.com
Circulation Co-ordinator :	Edward Francis
Web & Digital:	Sam Daniel

**PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FLEXIBLE PACKAGE AVAILABLE**



Contact by Email: Editor4mj@gmail.com www.monsoonjournal.com

SCARBOROUGH HEALTH NETWORK FOUNDATION
RADIOTHON
றேடியோதான்

Join the Tamil community and help us reach our goal for the Scarborough Hospitals. Please donate generously.
www.shnfoundation.ca/tamil

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

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED: No contents in Monsoon Journal may be printed without the written consent of the Publisher. The views and opinions expressed in the articles in Monsoon Journal are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher.

While all efforts have been made to ensure accuracy Monsoon Journal is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the contents. Advertisers are responsible for the contents in the Advertisements and all liabilities for their claimers. To place community and non profit organization news submit by email to: toronto@monsoonjournal.com Tel: 416-358-3235. MONSOON JOURNAL CIRCULATION: Toronto(GTA), Scarborough, Markham, Mississauga, Brampton, Pickering, Ajax, Vaughan, Waterloo. "Source for Multi Ethnic Exposure"

DISCLAIMER: Opinions and Interpretations appearing in the newspaper are those of the writers and need not be necessarily of Monsoon Journal. For additional any other information contact Monsoon Journal at 416-358-3235

(Continue from Page 3)

parts suppliers, and electric vehicle (EV) battery manufacturers.

In 2023, Ontario secured new auto investments from companies including Mitsui High-tec (Canada), Umicore and Magna alongside Volkswagen Group's historic \$7 billion investment to build its first overseas EV battery cell manufacturing plant in St. Thomas.

Through the province's Regional Development Program, which helps companies in eastern and southwestern Ontario expand their operations, our government supported a \$9.6 million investment by automaker PWO Canada and a \$35 million investment from parts manufacturer Bobaek America Inc. These investments will create nearly 200 new jobs in the Windsor and Kitchener regions.

And, to further strengthen our end-to-end auto supply chain, we launched the fourth round of the Ontario Automotive Modernization Program (O-AMP), partnering with 26 parts suppliers that invested almost \$9.6 million and created 111 new, good-paying jobs across the province.

In the auto sector and across all sectors, our government is supporting small and medium-sized businesses and creating the conditions for jobs to grow.

While 2023 was a great year for job creation in our province, we cannot take this success for granted. In 2024, we're going to continue with our targeted and responsible approach to ensure Ontario remains one of the best jurisdictions in the world for companies to invest, grow and create jobs."

- news.ontario.ca

Statement by Minister Khera on Tamil Heritage Month

From: Canadian Heritage

Today marks the beginning of Tamil Heritage Month! Throughout January, we will highlight the many contributions that Tamil Canadians have made to the social, economic and cultural fabric of our country.

Canada's Tamil community is one of the largest outside Asia, thanks in part to the Canadian government's initiatives and policies, starting in 1983, that helped people fleeing violence find safety and security here in Canada. Ever since, Tamil Canadians have helped build the Canada we know and love today. They saw Canada as a place of opportunity, and got right to work opening businesses, starting media outlets and running grassroots organizations to serve their communities and strengthen our country. Their contributions in academia,



- canadianimmigrant.ca

literature and science have made our communities and our country stronger.

As Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, I'd like to invite Canadians from coast to coast to join in celebrating Thai Pongal and learn more about the Tamil community, its heritage, its resiliency and its culture.

As we celebrate this month, we reaffirm our deep gratitude to Tamil people and communities. Together, let's continue to build a united, diverse and fair Canada where everyone has equal opportunities and can contribute to our shared prosperity.

Happy Tamil Heritage Month!

- canada.ca

Removing barriers to build more homes, faster in Toronto, Ontario

Right now, in communities across the country, building the housing we need, especially affordable housing, is too hard. That's why the federal government is working with municipalities to break down barriers and build more homes, faster so Canadians – from young families, to seniors, to newcomers – can find a place to call home, at a price they can afford.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that the federal government has reached an agreement with the City of Toronto, Ontario, to fast-track nearly 12,000 new housing units over the next three years. This work will help spur the construction of more than 53,000 homes over the next decade and help meet the demand in Toronto.

Under the Housing Accelerator Fund, this agreement will provide over \$471 million to eliminate barriers to build the housing we need, faster. It will allow for more housing options in the city, including multiplexes of up to four storeys and four units. City council has also committed to considering six units as-of-right in the new year. The agreement will allow for more apartment buildings, encourage below-market rentals, speed up development processes, and



- Reuters

help build new affordable rental units near public transit stations. As part of the agreement, Toronto will work to streamline zoning bylaw approvals, expand affordable rental programs, cut red tape, and unlock non-market housing. It will also take action to address "renovictions", whereby a landlord can evict a tenant for the sole purpose of undertaking renovations or repairs on a home.

These initiatives are going to significantly improve the way affordable housing is built and delivered in Canada's largest city.

The Housing Accelerator Fund is helping cut red tape and fast-track the construction of over 380,000 new homes for people in towns, cities, and Indigenous communities across Canada over the next decade. It asks for innovative action plans from local governments, and once approved, provides upfront funding to ensure the timely building of new homes, as well as additional funds upon delivering results. Local governments are encouraged to think big and be bold in their approaches, which could include accelerating project timelines, allowing increased housing density, and encouraging affordable housing units.

The Government of Canada is supporting the middle class – and housing is key to that work. Our plan to double the rate of housing construction over the next decade will help build the housing supply we need. We will continue to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, as well as Indigenous partners, to keep building more homes for Canadians, faster, and make life better for everyone.

- pm.gc.ca

STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF CRA



Our passion is to solve your tax problems:

- ▶ Unfiled Tax Returns - Last ten years
- ▶ Appeals, Audits and Adjustments
- ▶ GST/HST Rebates: Rental, New Housing and Owner-Built
- ▶ Collection, Garnishment, and Payment Plan
- ▶ Tax Court of Canada (I)
- ▶ Estate, Trust, Non-Residents and VDP
- ▶ US Tax (PTIN) - IRS 1040 & State Returns

X-CRA Officers are on staff.



Shawn Y. Sarvaa, CPA, CGA
2750 14th Ave., Suite 206
Markham ON L3R 0B6
ideas@sarvaacpa.ca

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

VANCOUVER

604 398 7272

TORONTO

647 219 3110

CALGARY

403 879 7272

Government of Canada on track to exceed high-speed Internet connectivity targets

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada



Projections show that 98.6% of Canadians will have access to high-speed Internet by 2026

December 28, 2023 – Ottawa, Ontario

No matter where you live, access to reliable, affordable high-speed Internet is essential. That's why the Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and large and small Internet service providers to ensure that all Canadians are connected.

Today, the Honourable Gудie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, updated Canadians on the Government of Canada's progress toward connecting all Canadians, no matter where they live, to high-speed Internet.

A year of progress

Thanks to the \$3.225 billion Universal Broadband Fund (UBF), as well as other federal and provincial investments, the federal government is on track to exceed its goal of providing access to high-speed Internet to 98% of Canadian households by 2026 and 100% by 2030. Today, 93.5% of Canadian households have access to high-speed Internet compared to just 79% in 2014. Current projections show that 98.6% of households will have access by 2026.

Since the launch of the UBF in November 2020, 295 projects have been announced across Canada. This includes 45 projects in 2023 alone, which will serve more than 200,000 households. In 2023, 40,000 households also gained new access to high-speed Internet through completed UBF projects. The Government of Canada looks forward to announcing more UBF projects

through 2024. Projects are posted online as they are announced.

In June 2023, Minister Hutchings launched the government's redesigned website—canada.ca/rural. The interactive website is a source for rural Canadians to find relevant resources and information on Government of Canada programs, including the UBF.

Partnering for success

To help meet connectivity targets faster, the Government of Canada has also entered into co-funding partnerships with Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island. With more than \$2 billion in provincial co-funding secured, these partnerships allow for more households to be connected through UBF funding.

Many provinces have made significant progress toward achieving universal connectivity already. With a total of \$920 million in federal-provincial co-funding under Canada-Quebec Operation High Speed, Quebec has achieved our common goal of offering high-speed Internet access to all residents in the province. Many other provinces, including Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, are also very close to achieving universal connectivity.

The Government of Canada is working closely with all provinces and territories to help connect remaining underserved households. For the latest information on Canada's progress toward achieving universal high-speed Internet access, visit the interactive High-Speed Internet Access Dashboard. The dashboard allows Canadians to track national progress and government funding by province and territory.

Real results, real progress

These investments are making a real difference in peoples' lives, including by enabling them to access health care or expand their businesses.

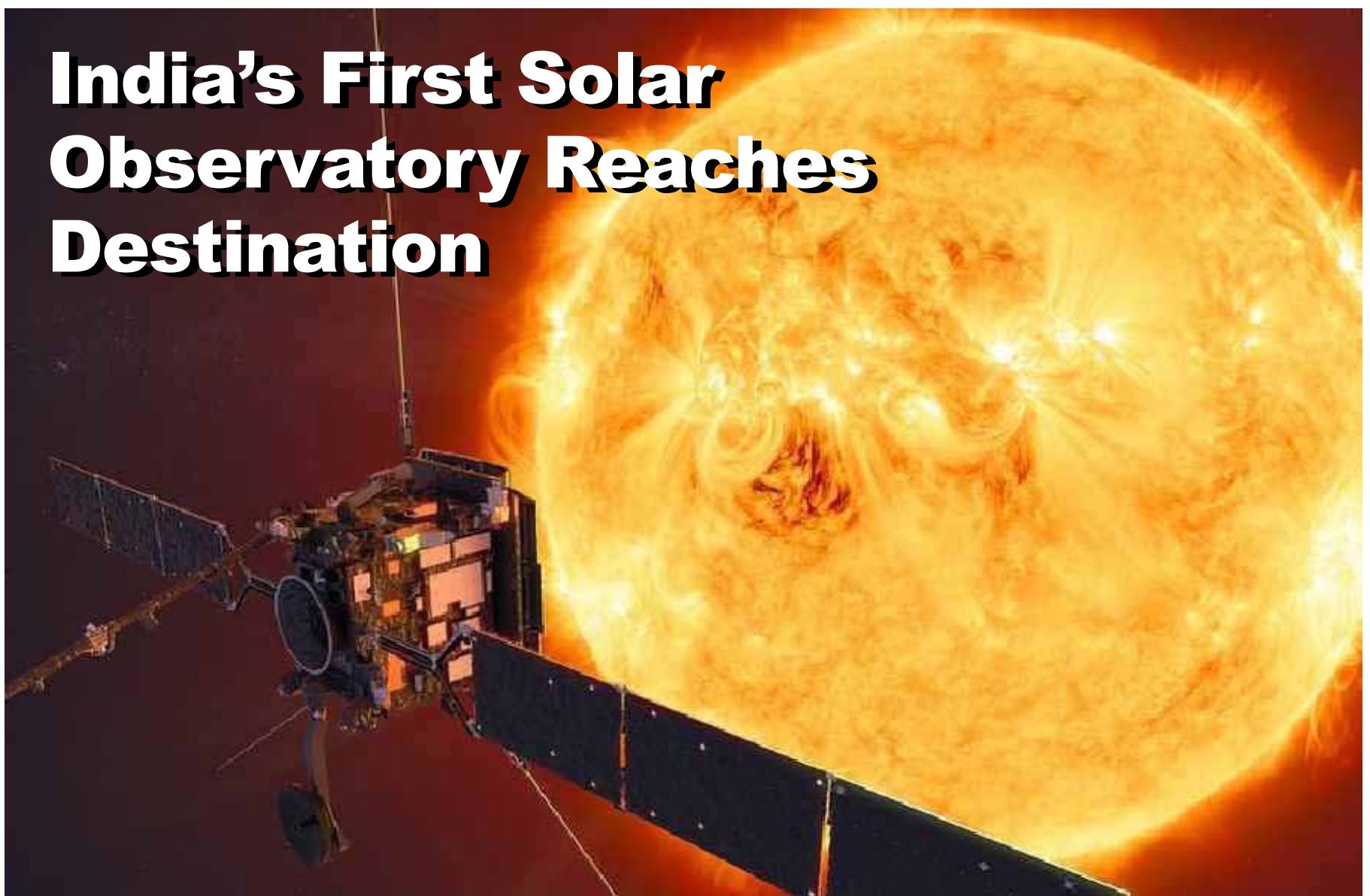
In Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, also known as Shoal Lake No. 39 First Nation, community members are benefiting from improved access to reliable high-speed Internet. Residents can now access telehealth services, enabling people to meet with doctors virtually when in-person appointments are not possible. This has been an important benefit to Shoal Lake No. 39 First Nation and has improved residents' quality of life.

Elsewhere, in Port-Menier, Quebec, recent access to high-speed Internet has enhanced the village's tourism industry. Businesses in the community, located on Anticosti Island in the heart of the St. Lawrence, have improved their online visibility and increased their opportunities to market to tourists. Visitors can now enjoy the region's vast wilderness while staying connected to the rest of the world.

The work continues

Since 2015, the federal government has allocated more than \$7.6 billion for improving connectivity across Canada. These investments will level the playing field and ensure rural communities have equal ability to benefit from Internet access. The Government of Canada will continue working with provinces and territories, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and Internet service providers so that all Canadians, no matter where they live, have access to high-speed Internet as fast as possible.

- canada.ca



-Spacecraft Aditya L1 - theindianeye.com

India's First Solar Observatory Reaches Destination

- Anjana Pasricha

NEW DELHI — India has achieved another milestone in space exploration by successfully placing a spacecraft in an orbit from which it will study the sun for five years.

India joined a select group of nations already studying the sun four months after it became the first country to land an unmanned spacecraft on the moon's southern polar region, cementing its reputation as a nation that is emerging on the frontlines of space exploration.

The Indian Space Research Organization said that the space observatory, Aditya L-1, reached the position from which it can monitor the sun's outer layer and send data back to Earth on Saturday. The spacecraft, which was launched September 2, took four months to reach its destination.

"The orbit of Aditya-L1 spacecraft is a periodic Halo orbit which is located roughly 1.5 million km [kilometers] from earth," according to an ISRO statement.

Aditya-L1 is named after the Hindu god of the sun, called Aditya in Sanskrit. "L1" refers to Lagrange point 1, the location in space between the sun and Earth, where the satellite has been parked.

"This demonstrates India's capability to travel over a million kilometers away from the Earth's orbit. It is a capability that very few countries have and India is the first in Asia to do so," according to Chaitanya Giri, associate professor of environmental sciences at Flame University in Pune. "The ability to maintain deep space communication with a spacecraft that has traveled so far and

sustain a mission for a long period is also significant."

The Indian mission is scheduled to study the sun for five years. The "Lagrange 1" point, where the spacecraft has been positioned provides an uninterrupted view of the sun, even during eclipses.

The major focus of the mission is to gain a better understanding of space weather, variations in the environment in space between the Earth and the sun, which is crucial for protecting satellites and other spacecraft, according to space scientists.

"It is vital to understand space weather at a time when there are thousands of satellites in space," Ajay Lele, space scientist and former senior fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, said.

"Space weather is about disturbances that happen on the sun such as solar winds, solar flares and coronal mass ejections. These three components need to be studied," he said.

Aditya-L1 is expected to be able to give warnings about space storms that can have an impact on Earth, occasionally affecting the operation of satellites and radio communications.

The spacecraft is equipped with seven scientific instruments to study solar wind particles and magnetic fields.

Solar observatory missions have been launched so far by the U.S. space agency NASA, the European space agency, Japan and China.

India's space program, which began in the 1960s, has gained prominence under Prime Minister Narendra Modi — it is seen as part of his efforts to promote

India's global stature.

"India creates yet another landmark. It is a testament to the relentless dedication of our scientists in realizing among the most complex and intricate space missions," Modi said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Saturday.

Other major missions planned by the Indian space agency include a manned mission to space that is due to be launched this year and an interplanetary mission to Mars.

Besides scientific space explorations such as these, India is also looking to enhance its military capabilities in space, according to experts. The first signal that it is giving a military profile to its space program came in 2019 when it conducted an anti-satellite weapon test to demonstrate that it could shoot down satellites in space — a capability that only the United States, China and Russia have.

India has plans to develop 50 new satellites based on artificial intelligence technology in the next five years to beef up the country's border surveillance and enhance its "geo-intelligence" capabilities, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chairman S. Somanath said last month.

Enhancing surveillance capabilities from space from a military perspective is key for India, according to experts. Its concerns center both on its Himalayan borders with China, where disputed borders between the two have sparked military tensions, and on the Indian Ocean region, where China has been increasing its influence.

- voanews.com



Indian Navy Rescues Commercial Ship in Arabian Sea After Hijack Attempt



- Reuters

- Anjana Pasricha

NEW DELHI — India said Friday night it had evacuated 21 crew members, including 15 Indians, from a commercial ship in the North Arabian Sea that had been targeted by hijackers.

The rescue mission was mounted by an Indian warship. India has deployed several warships and reconnaissance aircraft in the Arabian Sea following a string of attacks on commercial ships that include hijacking attempts and drone and missile attacks by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

The Indian navy said in a statement that commandos boarded the Liberian-flagged MV Lila Norfolk carrier following a distress call saying the vessel had been boarded by five to six armed hijackers. The message had been sent to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which monitors merchant shipping.

The ship's crew had gathered in the ship's citadel — a fortified section in commercial vehicles that is used as a refuge during attacks by pirates.

The Indian navy said no hijackers were

found on board during a search by the commandos.

The “attempt of hijacking by pirates was probably abandoned with the forceful warning by the Indian navy,” according to the navy statement. It said that all 21 crew members were “safely evacuated.”

The navy said the Indian warship INS Chennai, which carried out the rescue mission, helped restore power generation so that the ship can carry on its voyage.

Hijacking of commercial ships by Somali pirates, which posed a huge challenge earlier, had declined hugely in recent years after the United States and other countries stepped up patrolling.

Experts say it is reemerging as a threat, though. They say hijackers have been encouraged as U.S. and other countries' naval forces focus on thwarting attacks by Houthi rebels, who, since November, have targeted commercial ships with several drone and missile attacks in the Red Sea. The Iranian-backed Houthis claim to target Israeli-linked vessels in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

“The pirates are probably taking advantage

of the disturbance in that area due to the Houthi attacks,” Debesh Lahiri, executive director of the National Maritime Foundation told VOA. “This is something to watch out for. If left unchecked, this threat could become worse. That is why every responsible nation is deploying its assets in that area.”

The growing attacks have prompted many shipping companies to reroute their vessels.

India increased surveillance in the waters after an India-bound commercial vessel carrying crude oil was targeted last month by a drone attack off the country's west coast. Earlier a ship carrying mostly Indian crew members was targeted by hijackers in the Arabian Sea.

“The Indian navy remains committed to ensuring safety of merchant shipping in the region along with international partners and friendly foreign countries,” the navy statement said.

However, India is not part of a security initiative put together by the United States to protect shipping routes. Along with France, Britain and several other countries, the U.S. launched Operation Prosperity Guardian in mid-December to protect ships from Houthi attacks.

“As you know, we have Indian navy ships patrolling the area. They are also keeping a watch on Indian ships there,” Indian foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said Thursday. “So far, we are not part of any multilateral initiative in the area. We are looking at the unfolding situation very closely.”

- voanews.com

Sri Lanka repatriates 21 Indian fishermen to Chennai

Colombo, Jan 5 (PTI) The Sri Lankan government on Friday repatriated 21 Indian fishermen to Chennai, days after they were arrested by the island nation's Navy for illegally fishing in the country's waters.

The Navy said in 2023 they had arrested 240 Indian fishermen along with 35 trawlers for poaching in Sri Lankan waters.

“21 #Indian fishermen have been repatriated from #SriLanka to #Chennai a short while ago,” the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka posted on X.

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged



incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

The Palk Strait, which is a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.

There have been periodic instances of Indian fishermen being arrested by Sri

Lankan authorities for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line and fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

On December 18, at least 14 Indian fishermen were arrested with their trawler seized off the coast of Karainagar in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

- PTI



New Indian envoy to Sri Lanka calls on PM Gunawardena to discuss multidimensional bilateral ties

India's new High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha on Friday called on Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and discussed a wide range of topics related to the multidimensional bilateral ties. Jha assumed charge as the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka last week.

"High Commissioner called on H.E PM @DCRGunawardena today. They discussed a wide range of topics pertaining to the multidimensional India-Sri Lanka relationship" the Indian mission posted on X.

They also emphasised that centuries-old linkages in Buddhism are central to the abiding connection between the people of the two countries.

A senior Indian diplomat, Jha was



India's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium & Luxembourg before taking up his assignment in Colombo.

Jha had also served in Colombo from 2007-2010 as Counsellor at the High

Commission, handling work related to commercial and economic matters. During this period, he played a major role in building the architecture of India-Sri Lanka development cooperation. - PTI

Why India Welcomes Sheikh Hasina's Return to Power in Bangladesh

- Anjana Pasricha

NEW DELHI — For India, the return of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party to the helm in Bangladesh for a fourth consecutive term is a welcome development, according to analysts.

While the United States and Britain have said the recent elections that extended Hasina's rule in the South Asian country were not credible, free or fair, New Delhi considers her a close ally in a neighborhood where its military confronts both Pakistan and China along hostile, disputed borders.

That is why a friendly government in Bangladesh, with which India shares a long land border, is crucial to India's security, according to Harsh Pant, vice president for studies and foreign policy at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi.

"India faced a lot of turbulence in Dhaka-Delhi ties before Hasina came to power, but since taking office in 2009, she has been a steadfast ally," said Pant. "Given the challenging neighborhood that India lives in where it faces a lot of headwinds like China's increasing presence, it is natural for India to want her to continue in power."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first to congratulate Sheikh Hasina after she secured a fourth consecutive term.

"We are committed to further strengthen our enduring and people-centric partnership with Bangladesh," he wrote on social media platform X, formerly Twitter. For her part, Hasina called India "a great friend" at a news conference held after her victory.

For India, the topmost priority is its strategic interests, said analysts, who point out that Hasina has adroitly balanced ties with both India and China. Beijing has significantly expanded its footprint in small South Asian countries with its Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. Dhaka joined

Beijing's BRI in 2016. China is building infrastructure that includes bridges, power plants and rail projects in Bangladesh. China is also Bangladesh's key supplier of military hardware.

"Some projects that are dual use in nature have raised questions in New Delhi. Beijing is building a submarine base in Bangladesh and has supplied two submarines to Dhaka," according to Srikanth Kondapalli, dean at the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University. "Any military cooperation between them will be a matter of concern."

However, he pointed out that Bangladesh "describes its partnership with China as a developmental partnership and has been generally mindful of Indian sensitivities."

The Bay of Bengal where the submarine base is taking shape is a key waterway in the Indian Ocean, where India, along with the United States and other countries, are working together to deter China.

Dhaka has allayed New Delhi's concerns, saying its ties with China are friendly but primarily focused on economic linkages.

"We are very prudent in receiving any aid or funds. So people should not be afraid that Bangladesh would succumb to the Chinese," Bangladesh's foreign minister, Abdul Momen, said in an interview to India Today television after the polls.

Analysts said that Hasina's continuation in Bangladesh is a relief for New Delhi, which recently saw a pro-China government take office in the Maldives, straining ties with the archipelago nation.

"There has been no overt pro-China, anti-India discourse in Bangladesh as we saw in Sri Lanka in the past or in Maldives at present," according to Sankalp Gurjar, assistant professor in geopolitics and international relations at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Bangladesh is also crucial to the security of India's remote northeastern states where



- AP Photo

insurgent groups used to be active. They often took sanctuary in Bangladesh, which shares borders with some of these states.

"Since Hasina has come to power, India's northeastern problems have eased because she has not allowed Bangladesh to be used by such groups," according to Gurjar.

Questions have been raised over the credibility of Hasina's victory following the elections the opposition boycotted. Thousands of opposition activists were jailed in the run-up to the polls, raising concerns of democratic backsliding and authoritarianism.

In a statement, the U.S. State Department said, "The United States shares the view with other observers that these elections were not free or fair and we regret that not all parties participated."

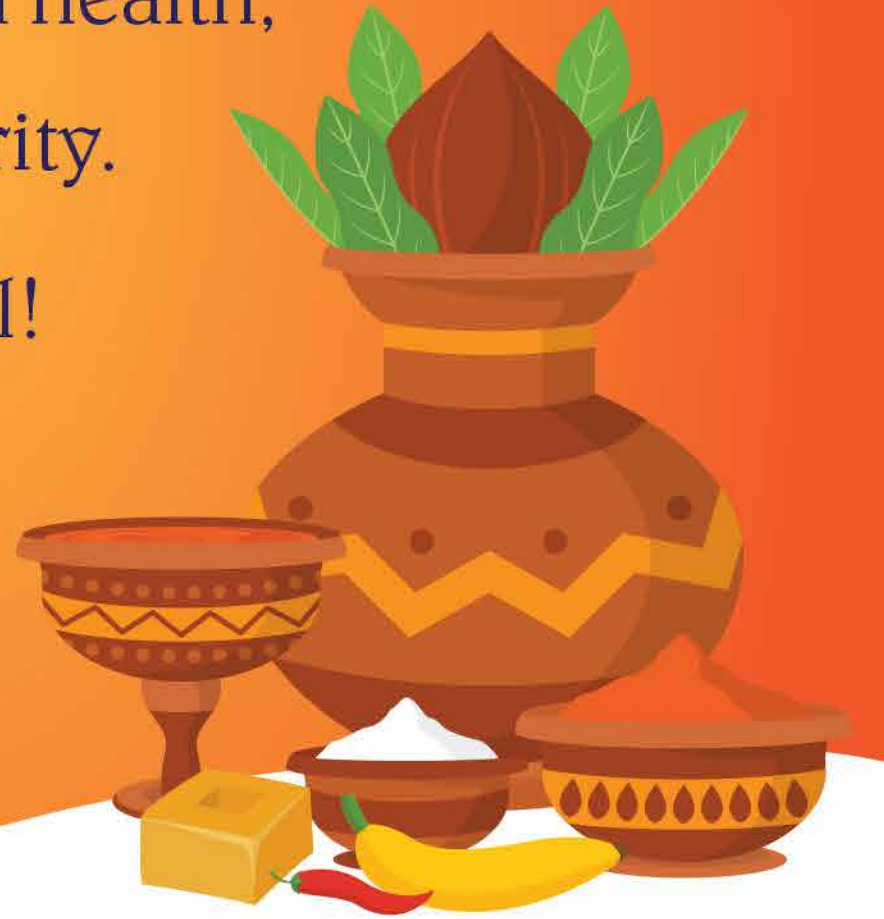
Despite the divergent stands taken by New Delhi and Washington, India is urging Western countries to work with Bangladesh.

"India will have to maintain a delicate balance, but New Delhi is playing the role of a facilitator between Hasina and Western countries," according to Pant. "It is telling the U.S. that marginalizing or ignoring Bangladesh would only make China a much more central player in the country, which would not serve either India's or Western interests."

- voanews.com

தைப்பொங்கல் திருநாள் வாழ்த்துகள்
நீங்கள் நல்ல ஆரோக்கியத்துடனும்,
அமைதி மற்றும் செழிப்புடனும் வாழ வாழ்த்துகின்றேன்.
இனிய தைப்பொங்கல் வாழ்த்துகள்!

May the blessings of Thai Pongal
Leave you in good health,
Peace and prosperity.
Happy Thai Pongal!



Member of Parliament | Scarborough North

SHAUN CHEN

4386 Sheppard Avenue East, Unit E
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T8

416-321-CHEN (2436)
info@shaunchen.com



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

Phyllis Diller



Dr. Seshantri Viswasam

Family Dentist

sunshine

DENTAL

416 291 1011

45 Milner Avenue Unit 6

Toronto, ON M1S 3P6

NE corner of McCowan & HWY 401



www.sunshinedentalonmilner.com

BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME?



ROYALAN TEAM



B: 905 201 9977
F: 905 201 9229

17 Eastvale Dr,
Markham, ON L3S 4N8 | kailain.thillai@royalanteam.com
www.royalanteam.com



HOMELIFE / FUTURE REALTY INC., BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED | * SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Kailain Thillainathan
647-668-8276

Raghu Thillainathan
416-629-5800

DEBT PROBLEMS???



JOINTLY SERVING ALL COMMUNITIES UNDER ONE ROOF

Unsettled Life due to Credit Problems!

Is Your Daily Life affected?

Worried that you will lose your House or Car!

Phone harassment from Collection Agencies !

Concern that your wages will be garnished by your creditors!

www.creditsolutioncanada.com

For All Your Problems, call for a free consultation

V. SRI

Certified Insolvency Counsellor

CREDIT SOLUTION CENTRE
Services of Trustee is available

80 Corporate Drive, Suite 309
Scarborough, ON M1H 3G5

Tel: **416.439.0224**

Fax: 416.439.0226
creditsolutioncentre@gmail.com





THE GUARDIAN
HOME REALTY INC.
 BROKERAGE, Independently Owned and Operated



Where life
begins...

☎ **416 989 6565**  www.theguardianhomes.com
 info@theguardianhomes.com

F119 - 80 Nashdene Road, Scarborough ON M1V 5E4



PRISHA LAW

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION



YOUR LEGAL SOLUTION STARTS HERE...

647 478 0144

2225 Markham Rd, Suite 307, Toronto, ON. M1B 2W4

prishanthy@prishalaw.ca | www.prishalaw.ca



PRISHA LAW

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION



MAYURAN THARMABALAN
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
 CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

- AUDIT
- REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
- NOTICE TO READER
- BUSINESS ADVISORY
- CONTROLLERSHIP SERVICES
- CORPORATE TAXES

- PERSONAL TAXES
- FINANCIAL PLANNING
- CRA AUDITS
- PAYROLL
- BOOKKEEPING



Mayuran Tharmabalan, CPA, CA, LPA

647 748 6344 647 989 6298

647 748 6444 www.tharmabalan.ca info@tharmabalan.ca

Suite 304 - 5200 Finch Ave East, Scarborough, ON M1S 4Z5

A LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM




BANQUET HALL

Where Your Traditions Matter

& CONVENTION CENTRE

We provide a touch of elegance to your event. Our reputation for excellence will leave you confident that your next party will be perfect.

For more information:
416-290-6186 | jcsbanquet.ca



JC'S GRILL HOUSE
Fresh Dining

We are the
**GOOD FOOD
NEIGHBOURHOOD
RESTAURANT**
You have been craving



There is always time for a good breakfast!
We are open early to ensure you start your day off right.
On the go eats or starting your day off right, come in and leave happy!

jcsgroup.ca | jcsgrillhouse.ca | 905-232-2200



In the Community with the Scarborough Health Network Foundation



Annual Sip, Shop & Celebrate event held during Nov 2023 raised over \$109,000 this year in support of our #LoveScarborough campaign !

This was another unforgettable event for the books, and we are grateful to all our attendees, sponsors, donors, vendors, and presenters who helped us make this night to remember for a good cause.

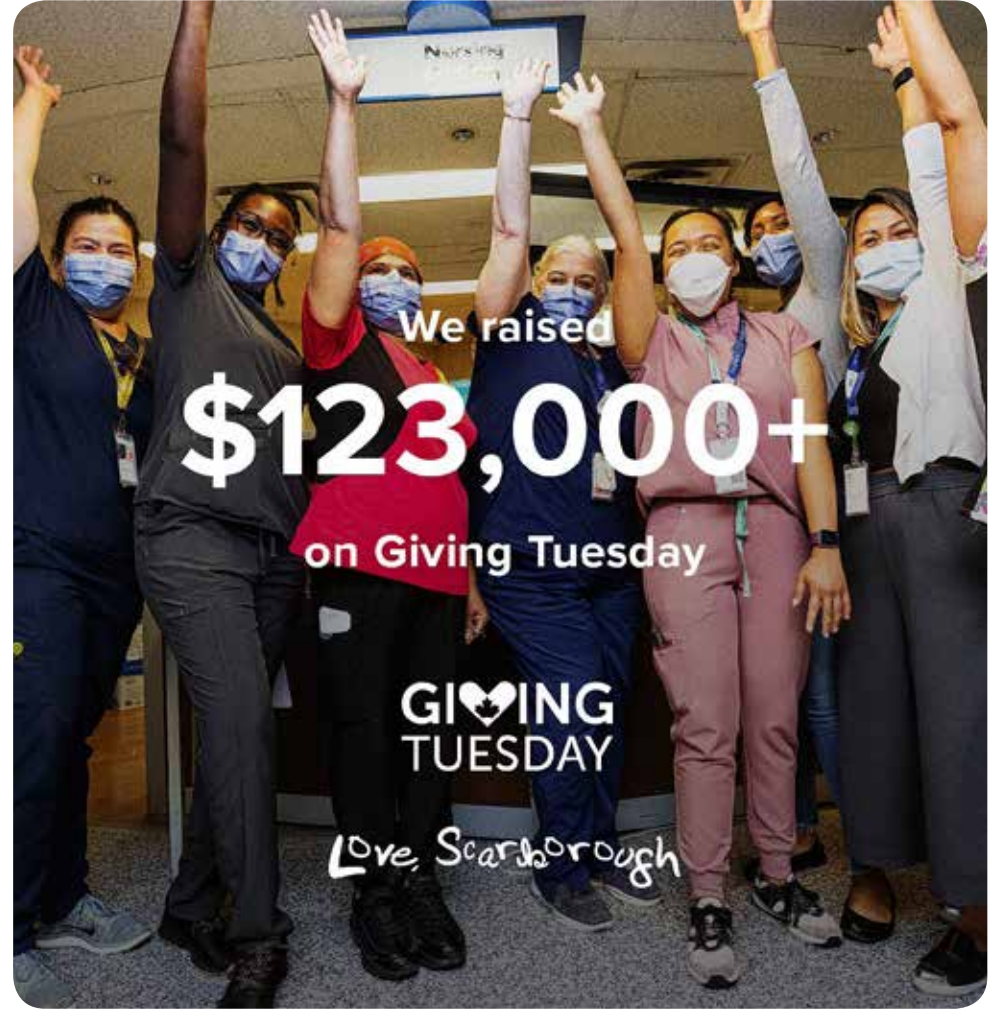
Funds raised will support the Northpine Diagnostic Imaging Department at SHN, which will bring all imaging services at the General hospital together in a single location, helping us to continue providing the best healthcare to our community of Scarborough possible.

To learn more about our campaign, visit LoveScarborough.ca

SHN Foundation would like to send a huge thank you to the Malvern Onyx Lions Club for your generous donation of \$10,000 towards our Scarborough hospitals!

With community partners like you we can ensure our most vulnerable patients receive world-class care close to home! We are so grateful for your commitment to supporting equitable healthcare in Scarborough #LoveScarborough

To learn more about our campaign please visit LoveScarborough.ca



Sending the @raptors all the luck they can get this season! #LetsGoRaptors

#Throwback to when The Raptors visited our hospital and put smiles on our young patients faces for the holiday season! We are forever grateful for your support of our #LoveScarborough campaign

To get involved visit LoveScarborough.ca

Thank you to all who supported us this #GivingTuesday and for making it our most successful one yet!

With the outstanding generosity of our donors, we have raised an incredible \$123,000+ for our Scarborough hospitals! We couldn't have done this without you all! Each donation will help support our highest priority needs and help us to continue providing exceptional quality care to our Scarborough community.

Thank you for being part of the #LoveScarborough movement, and for helping us build greatness right here in Scarborough.

Visit LoveScarborough.ca to learn more about our campaign



WIN **BIG** THIS WINTER

Congratulations To Our Recent Winner

Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation Winter 50/50 Raffle
Tuesday, February 20 to Friday, March 29, 2024

Don't miss your chance to win!
Purchase your tickets and help bring a lifetime of care to MSH.

Tickets are:

200 for \$75,

40 for \$40, and 10 for \$20.

There is an Early Bird Prize of **\$1,500** plus a guaranteed Grand Prize of **\$10,000.**

Buy your tickets at mshf5050.ca



Winning Number: G-4760819 - Name: Christy F. - Draw Date: Nov 2, 2023
Prize: \$21,440



MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE FIFTY FIFTY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Guaranteed Take Home Prize \$10,000

Help bring a lifetime of care closer to home.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 50/50 draw.
Our next one is coming soon so stay tuned!



A Grand Old Man of Aviation in Sri-Lanka & May be in the Whole World.

God keeps the Aged, with hearts of Gold, and Silver tinted hair. Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. I breathe at this hour the fragrance of the Lilacs, the Violets and the Roses, as at twenty years ago.

Honestly it never dawned on me to pen a few words of this humble giant of Sri Lanka aviation, till I learnt that this gent will be celebrating his 104th birthday on the 31st of January. "Old is Gold", an adage used in a different context, but I would say he is more than Gold. As you age, wisdom and knowledge become sharper and more attuned.



Mr D.L. Srimanne (Engineer)

In 1972 January, after joining Air Ceylon as a Junior Accounts clerk, and within 6 months on being selected to work as a Flight Operations Officer, purely on merits, at the Katunayake Airport with the Pilots, met a gentleman at our engineering department, who was our Radio and ground engineer for our Trident jet engine aircraft. I was casually introduced by one of my friends and colleague Iqbal Cader, who was at engineering too and joined the flight operations with me. Mr. Sirimane who



Air Ceylon - Air Ceylon flight to..

started his long airline career at Ratmalana airport, engineering hangar and was working on DC-3 and Avro HS- 748 aircraft. When Air Ceylon bought its first jet engine aircraft in 1969 or 1970, the engineering base was shifted to Katunayake hanger and so Srimanne too. We used to travel in the same Air Ceylon transport to Katunayake airport, when I was on morning duty. I did not know much about him then, and hardly converse except a hello or good morning. But as time evolved, mostly my conversation with him was related to aircraft engineering issues as far as the operation of our flights. Fortunately, I used to meet him with his wife Olga, at my boss Capt. Ferdinand's house for birthday parties and on special occasions and got to know him better. But still the seniority and the fact he flew with Capt. Ferdinand and didn't allow me to be close except on operational matters and work-related issues. Mr. Lionel Sirimane who lives presently at Nugegoda, was born

in Kurunegala on January 31st 1920, had his early education at St. Benedict's College, after his 10th standard attended the technical college and learned a skilled trade, to obtain an early employment. He further enhanced himself through certain trade skill courses, got qualified as an electrician and managed to find his vocation at Ratmalana Airport. While tinkering with electrical fittings, got interested him in Radio technology and the sound waves. This interest became the turning point in his career and I am sure he never looked back on his life. He studied Morse code signals to send messages and got fully interested in it.

The whole world opened for him in 1947, when Ceylon formed its first national career, Air Ceylon, Sirimane joined as a junior radio officer and was working with a senior radio officer, the late John. D. Vethavanam. I was fortunate enough to have worked with John Vethavanam in the flight operations for 6 years as he was our administrative officer. In 1948 when Air Ceylon was commissioned to operate a flight to Sydney, this pair of radio officers were part of the crew, on the 17th of December 1947, which made history as the first Asian Airlines to operate a flight to Australia. The flight was really a monumental achievement for the crew, almost a version of "Miracle in the Hudson" especially for Vetha and Sirimane.

Without proper radio-navigational equipment and facilities, and only with the help of maps and charts, and a VHF and their wit, this flight landed eventually in Sydney. Over the straits of Malacca, they encountered severe storms and could not contact any of the air traffic control facilities. But the efforts of John Vethavanam and Sirimane finally helped them to land safely in Sydney. Mr. Sirimane's career too changed in 1955, he joined KLM Royal Dutch Airlines as a radio officer and eventually became navigator and flying across the Atlantic. When KLM stopped flying the Fokker aircraft, he reverted to Air Ceylon in the early 1960s. With the opening of the engineering hangar at Katunayake, and the purchase of the Jet engine, Trident, HS-121 aircraft, Sirimane moved to Katunayake and worked there with the Manager engineering, Mody

Fonseka. MR. Allen Ponnu Jeyaraj, our Trident flight engineer, who lives in Scarborough said "Sirimane was an enthusiastic team player and a good radio engineer with a finesse character".

Mr. Sirimane got married to another pioneer, the first air hostess of Sri Lanka, Olga de Silva, and raised a beautiful family and stayed wedded for more than 65 years. Olga passed away in 2021 at 98 years. He

was really saddened by her departure but vowed to carry on for the love of his children and grandchildren, till God permits him to meet his angel, air hostess in the blue skies again. It is a real Love Story. Even though my association with Sirimane was limited, memories of this great individual are vivid. I heard that he gave a fitting, factual narration as a living testament to the history of aviation in Sri Lanka. I still haven't read Capt. Elmo's book, in fact Sirimane had flown with Elmo's father, Capt. Emil Jayawardena. When we purchased our first Jet Engine Aircraft Trident - HS -121, he worked as our radio engineer on the Trident.

The humble lad from Kurunegala through his honest, hard work, and sheer determination made a name for himself in the annals of Sri Lankan Aviation. Last year in May when we



Air Ceylon crew in their ceremonial uniform taken in 1949 at the farewell to Mr.L.S.B. Perera, the first Director of Civil Aviation. (From left to right) R/o D.L.Sirimanne, F/o Noel Peiris, Capt. Kenneth Joachim, Stewardess Olga de Silva, Capt. M.R. de Silva, Mr. L.S.B. Perera Director of Civil Aviation, Capt. Peter Fernando, Chief Pilot and Operations Manager, Capt. Emil Jayawardena, F/o P.B. Mawalagedera, F/o George Ferdinand, R/o John Vethavanam, R/o Hector Fernando.

were in Sri Lanka, planning to make a visit to his home, but could not do it with my friends Capt. Duleep Vetha, and G.A. Fernando. Hopefully it will materialize this year. He is a living legend of Aviation, and must Honor and respect his services to the Aviation Industry. I urge the Sri Lankan Government to bestow the highest Civilian Honor, to this Aviation legend D. Lionel Sirimane, people of this caliber should be recognized while they are living rather than espousing his achievements and contributions when they are not with us one day, by an oration or a flower drop.

Dear Mr. Sirimane, please let me echo my appreciation, sentiments, and the pleasure of working remotely, and the honor of meeting a "Humble Giant" of Sri Lankan aviation pioneer without any doubt.

May God Bless You on this grand birthday and wish you with many more Happy Birthdays.

Let me make a smooth landing, with these final words as an appreciation to your services to Air Ceylon and aviation.

Quote "Do not keep the alabaster box of your love and friendship sealed up until your friends are no more.

Instead, Fill their lives with sweetness.

Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them,

and while their Hearts can be thrilled and made happier.

The kind of things you mean to say when they are not there, say it when they are around us".

Finally, I must thank my ex-colleague and good friend Capt. Duleep Vethavanam for providing some of the photos.

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



FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION CENTRE

Serving the Tamil Community OF GREATER TORONTO

உங்கள் உறவொன்றை பிரிந்து தடுமாறும் வேளையில் இறுதி நிகழ்வுகள் பற்றிய கவலை உங்களுக்கு வேண்டாம். அனுபவத்துடன் கூடிய அன்பான சேவையை வழங்குகின்றோம்.



At Need Funeral Arrangements

We provide a full range of service to families who have experienced a loss of a loved one, including:

- Vistation • Funeral & Memorial Service
- Reception • Burial • Cremation

மார்க்கம், மற்றும் மிசிசாகா நகரங்களில் எமது சேவை



Christeen Seevaratnam
416-258-6759



Vilosanan Sivatharman
416-993-0826

இறுதிச் சடங்கை நடத்துவதற்கான செலவை முன்கூட்டியே திட்டமிடலாமா?

Pre-Arranging: A Wise Choice...

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Lock in the cost at today's prices
- Convenient time payments
- Insured against early death

EMOTIONAL BENEFITS

- Letting your family know your wishes
- Peace of mind to you & your family
- Relieve the added stress & burden

8911 Woodbine Ave, Markham, ON, L3R 5G1
www.chapelridgefh.com • Email: info@chapelridgefh.com

A caring part of our community



SPECIAL FEATURE

Words of Peace

Experience What's There



“You’re not trying to manufacture an experience but you’re trying to experience what’s already there.”

The simple truth about knowing yourself and learning how to thrive.

People doubt Knowledge. It’s so simple. What are you doing, you let your focus go inside. You’re not trying to manufacture an experience but you’re trying to experience what’s already there.

Doubt is a powerful thing. A long time ago, I said, “Leave no room for doubt.” This is two-zero-two-two. And I will say it again: “Leave no room for doubt.” Fill it with clarity; know. Not “not-know,” know. Know who you are; know what is within you. Know. Thrive. Get away from this mode of survival.

So much is possible. I know some of you are quite old now. So, you are already very anxious about what’s going to happen to you.

It is not the number of years; it’s just what happens in those years that matters. And if you’ve got one left, make the most of it. You’ve got half of it left; make the most of it. You’ve got one day left; make the most of it. You have no option than to have that attitude. It cannot be any other way. Don’t you see? It cannot be any other way. That’s the way it has to be.

You cannot say, “You know, I’m much wiser now, so I would like 45 more years.” Right. You’re not going to win that argument. There’s no Santa Claus to grant you that wish. All you can do – you have control over what happens. Know where you have control and you don’t have control.

You have control over letting go of the gas. The engine noise, you don’t have any control over. It will make that noise if you push the gas. Don’t push the gas. That’s what you control.

It’s okay. Go within. Be prepared to go within. How do you prepare to go within? By being attracted to those beautiful things that are inside of you, that state where there is no fear. That state where there is no envy. That state where there is no doubt. Get it? That’s where Knowledge takes you. That’s where Knowledge takes you.

Undefined Contentment

It is very hard to be conscious when you are in the company of nothing. But it is very easy to be conscious when you’re in the company of everything.

Sep 09, 2022

Each moment becomes meaningful when you wisely choose the source of contentment.

What is the undefined contentment? When you understand it is not based on anything – but it is to be content.

“I will have contentment if I have this!” That’s what happens in that world of “It isn’t, wasn’t, won’t be.” (I should keep it straight for my own thinking.) It wasn’t! Isn’t, and won’t be. The power! The power is not that that “wasn’t, isn’t, and won’t be.” The powerful is the one that was, is, and will be – forever.

Past the human species. Past! Was before there was anything called human, anything stirred, any dirt hadn’t even come around to form the earth. And it was there. Is there – even through this stupid pandemic, is there. And will be there even after this pandemic. Even after the human beings. Always.

When that is your source, now you have connected onto something incredibly meaningful. And when you have connected to that something incredibly meaningful – your life becomes meaningful. Every moment becomes meaningful. Because it is very hard to be conscious when you are in the company of nothing. But it is very easy to be conscious when you’re in the company of everything.

And the tragedy, the tragedy would be to be in the company, (because there is no way you can be anywhere on the face of this earth and be devoid of that company of the infinite) – and not to have recognized that, but rather have connected with all that that wasn’t, isn’t, and won’t be. That’s what I wanted to tell you. That’s what I wanted to tell you.

And if you want to give it a thought, give it a thought. There are two. Being conscious is: “What choice are you making? Are you connecting with that which it isn’t? Or are you connecting with that which is, and will be, and was?” And this is our opportunity. And it begins with each one of us.

- Prem Rawat www.premrawat.com www.timelesstoday.com

Thai Pongal

January marks one of the most festive celebrations worldwide, with Thai Pongal falling around the second week. Here are 6 things to know about the festival of Thai Pongal:

Thai Pongal is celebrated worldwide by those who follow the Hinduism religion, and are mostly Tamils. Hindu Tamils are found around the world, for example, in India, Sri Lanka, Singapore and other countries with Tamil immigrants. In Sri Lanka, it is celebrated in the West, North, East, Central regions and just about any other area where Hindus live. Tamil Nadu in India has declared Pongal the State Festival.

Thai Pongal is a essentially a harvest festival

Thai Pongal is traditionally a festival dedicated to the harvest and the sun, by farmers who depend on Mother Nature and her elements for a bountiful crop harvest of their staple food, rice. Farmers depend on the sun, the rain, the soil, water, and cows, buffaloes etc. Without any discrimination, people from all walks of life celebrate this festival to offer their thanks.

Thai Pongal is a 4-day celebration

Day 1

Pongal is actually a 4-day celebration. Day one is Bhogi, on which day worshipers burn any unwanted or old items, symbolizing the end of the old and beginning of the new.



Day 2

Day two is Surya Pongal, the most important day of the festival, where devotees wake up early to bathe and worship the Hindu Sun God — Surya.



Day 3

Day three is Mattu Pongal, which is dedicated to farm animals like cows and bulls who help farmers successfully raise and harvest crops.



Day 4

Day four is Kaanum Pongal where people offer food like sugarcane and milk rice to the Sun God, and visit relations and loved ones.

Thai Pongal follows the Tamil-Hindu calendar

The festival of Thai Pongal historically follows the Tamil-Hindu calendar which is an astrological calendar that follows the path of the celestial objects like the sun and the moon. Thai Pongal is celebrated in the first four days of the month of Thai in the calendar.

Pongal

The most significant practice is the preparation of “pongals”

The Pongal dish is the main sweetmeat of Thai Pongal, and its preparation is a highlight of the festival. Pongal is a dish made of rice boiled with milk, jaggery, plums and other spices, traditionally made in earthenware pots over a wooden fire.



Kolam

The Kolam is an integral part of the festival

One of the most important aspects of Thai Pongal is the kolam, which is a traditional design drawn by hand at the entrances of the houses. It is a design made of lime powder and other elements, and is usually drawn early in the morning of Thai Pongal after the residents have a bath.





facebook

Search for people, places and things

www.facebook.com/pages/Humans-of-Northern-Sri-Lanka Home

Timeline Now

Status Photo / Video Event, Milestone + Create Page

Thulasi Muttulingam 1d



English Literature 2d

The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum. That gives people the sense that there's free thinking going on, while all the time the presuppositions of the system are being reinforced by the limits put on the range of the debate. ~Noam Chomsky
(Book: How the World Works <https://amzn.to/3KjErHQ>)
#ad #englishliterature #study #Chomsky

Thulasi Muttulingam 4d

Nooruddean @BeardedGenius

Fact we're in the 'Twenties' sounds so weird. It's so synonymous with the 1920s. Sounds like a bygone era when women were still fighting for their rights, the upper classes were living a life of hedonism whilst people starved & the world was on the verge of financial ruin and war


11:39 AM · Jan 1, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

861 Retweets 3.3K Likes

Nyx Erinyes January 3 at 9:39 PM

Thulasi Muttulingam 5d

Colombo's skyline has changed quite a bit.
What on earth is that monstrosity?
Looks like it was aiming for leaning Tower of Pisa and ended up like the twin towers directly after 9/11 instead.



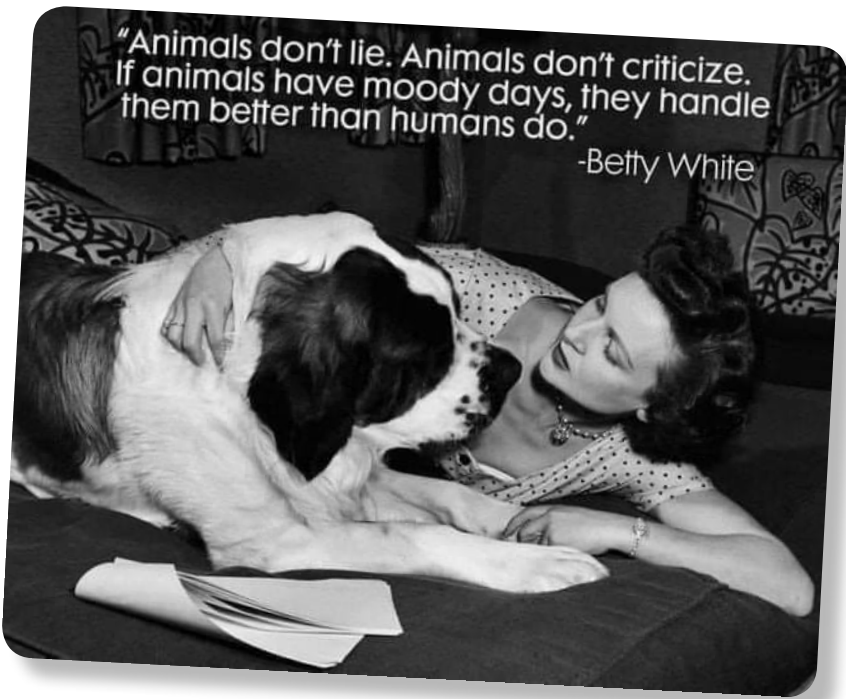
23 4 comments

Thulasi Muttulingam 5d

Milli Hill @millihill

Me chatting to a bloke down my local.
Him: So what's a TERF then?
Me: It's someone who thinks Eddie Izzard is most welcome to wear a dress and lipstick but that he shouldn't be using a communal shower with their teenage daughters.
Him: Well that's what most sane people think. 🤔

254 Reposts 8 Quotes 2,107 Likes





PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE



Inogen® Rove 6™ System

Inogen One® G4° System

CLAIM YOUR
14-DAY
RISK-FREE
TRIAL¹

Call us toll-free at
833-815-8791



¹14-day risk-free trial- Return within 30 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price.

PM230469 EN_EX_USA
Rx Only. © 2023 Inogen, Inc.
301 Coromar Drive, Goleta, CA 93117
Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

PROTECT YOUR HOME 365 DAYS A YEAR



BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE



INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS



"LeafFilter was a great investment for our home."

-Bill & Jan. ★★★★★

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + **10% OFF** + **5% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY! TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!**

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!¹

Promo Code: 285

¹Subject to credit approval. Call for details.



Keeps Out All Debris

Completely sealed system protects your gutters — and entire home — from damaging debris.

WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!



CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-888-495-4326

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only.

You can have
goals...
and pizza

Get started

with 3 months

free*

WeightWatchers

weightwatchersoffer.com/29



*With select plan purchase. Restrictions apply.

NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub

Featuring our *Free Shower Package*

SPECIAL OFFER

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

Call Today for Your Free Shower Package

1-844-869-2952

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE

PLUS \$1600 OFF

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Call Toll-Free 1-844-869-2952

**SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB**

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

FINANCING
AVAILABLE
WITH APPROVED
CREDIT



**LIFETIME
LIMITED WARRANTY**

CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445



Sangam poet

Elathu Poothanthevanar

By Kumar Punithavel

The Tamil Sangam era which flourished in the South Indian Pandian kingdom spans from 600 BCE to 100 CE, had the privilege of communication around the world and Tamil academic scholars from various parts of the world were joined in the Sanga forum. Those days Sri Lanka was called Sri Elom in which Sri is a title of veneration and Elyom was the name. When the European colonial rulers came instead of Sri they must have found using 'C' simpler, and changed the last letter m of Elyom to n. Thus, changing the name of Sri Elyom to Ceylon. When Ceylon became a republic, it was changed to Sri Lanka. The term Lanka had been used in the Indian epic Ramayana authored by Valmiki who lived between 1500-500BC.

As the tradition of those times to add the name or profession or village to the name the poet was called Elathu Poothanthevanar meaning he was from Sri Elyom. Elyom Poothanthevanar is said to have participated in the Sangam during the time when King Pasum Poon Pandian ruled the Pandian Kingdom. He is also said to have hailed from the ancient international port of Maanthai Sri Elyom, which is also called as Maanthottam in Tamil. In Sinhalese language it is called Maanthota. He is said to have authored, stanzas 88, 231 and 307 in the anthology Ahananooru and in anthology Kurunthokai stanzas 189, 343 and 360. He also authored stanza 366 in an anthology titled Natrinai.

As testing a grain of rice would be enough to judge whether the pot of rice is properly cooked and ready to eat, let's take the stanza 343 of Kurunthokai and see how good it is. During the Sangam era it was an accepted practice for a lady to elope with the man she loved so that the chastity of the lady's love relationship with the lover to prevent her from being married to a stranger.

Though there was agreement to elope, the heroine struggled with the fear of what the future holds for her. The whole verse is authored as if our heroine's friend is giving encouragement to her endeavour to travel with her lover to his country which must be of hilly terrain. The above sonnet observes that the lady must think about why she is presented with images of a battle between an elephant and tiger. The situation reveals that the man and lady were leading, that the hero and lady were leading a love affair and had been meeting together for a while. There came a point when the man realized that there was no other option to protect his relationship with the lovely lady, he loved but to elope away with her. He conveys his decision to the confidante and she decides to take up the matter with the lady. She says to the lady, "Won't you consider it my friend? May you live long! Upon the striking mush drenching face of a male elephant a huge male tiger with a huge mouth pounced to kill the elephant. But all it could achieve was to drench the white tusk with its own blood, coating it red and falling down like a dark-trunked 'Vengai' tree's branch, tumbled by the western summer wind, in front of the tall mountain. Finally concludes by revealing that she asks the heroine to think about joining and leaving with her lover.



**Blessings to you do reflect, the great
mushing tusker attacked on face
by a stout male tiger with gaping mouth,
leapt on face turning the white tusk red
Dropped down like a withered bloomed Vengai 5
Branch tumbled by the westerly wind
In the tall mountain country you may shift.**

நினையாய் வாழி தோழி, நனை கவுள்
அண்ணல் யானை அணி முகம் பாய்ந்தென,
மிக வலி இரு புலிப் பகுவாய் ஏற்றை
வெண்கோடு செம் மறுக் கொளீஇய விடர் முகைக் 5
கோடை ஒற்றிய கருங்கால் வேங்கை
வாடு பூஞ்சினையின் கிடக்கும்,
உயர்வரை நாடனோடு பெயருமாறே.

One may wonder what a curious instance of a friend insisting upon elopement! But one should remember during the Sangam times eloping was considered an accepted practice of the girls to prevent to be married to a stranger. Reversing the scene of the tiger pouncing on the elephant and laying defeated, we learn that it is a metaphor for what would happen to opponents, who come in the man's way. The friend implies like how the elephant remains unscathed but for the blood stains of the tiger on its tusk, the hero too would be able to defeat anyone who opposes him, and thus takes care of his lover unscathed. With such high compliment on the hero, she implies that leaving with such a valour is the right path for the dame. This small verse is like a very short documentary



SPECIAL FEATURE

Mendicancy - giving and taking



By: J A Rajah

Seek help from those who can afford it and are inclined to be charitable. If they do not respond, it is not your fault. Even begging may be a pleasure sometimes, if the process does not involve any semblance of pain., The interaction between the giver and the taker must be equally perceptive and understanding, as well as clean in heart and mind. There is some charm in begging from persons, who appreciate their duty and respond promptly and generously. Seeking charity may seem as good as giving, if the giver is one who, even in his dream, will not refuse to share what he has. A giver should respect the taker. Because there are charitable men on earth, who never deny alms, people also beg to keep their bodies and souls together. At the sight of charitable men, who never deny alms to the needy, abject poverty will flee from the earth. Mahatma Gandhi said that 'rich men are trustees of the society.

"Iharlnthu erllathu eevaraik kaaninmahilnthu ullam, Ullil uvappathu udaithu".

“இகழ்ந்தெள்ளாது ஈவாரைக் காணின் மகிழ்ந்துள்ளம் உள்ளுள் உவப்பது உடைத்து”

If charitable men give without expressions of condescending scorn, the taker will accept with joy and respect. The Bible asserts that God loves a cheerful giver. If there were no poor seeking charity, this world, of beauty and variety, would be like the stage of a marionette show. Where would be the glory of liberality, if there were none in the world to beg?

"Irappan vehulamay vendum nirappidumpai, Theyum chalum kari".

“இரப்பான் வெகுளாமை வேண்டும் நிரப்பிடும்பை தானையும் சாலும் கரி”

When denied charity, one should not lose his temper; it is for that man to realize, that one day he might suffer the evils of poverty too.. Human relationships are enriched by cheerful givers.

(Kural:1051-1060)



Valluvar's Views



2024 Tamil Heritage Month Celebrations at the University of Toronto



University of Toronto Scarborough, the Canadian Tamil Congress and Tamil Chair Inc. jointly hosted Tamil Heritage Month Celebrations on January 10, 2024. The event dedicated to Tamil heritage and culture was held at the University of Toronto Scarborough Highland Hall. The festivities commenced with lighting of traditional lamps and followed by captivating cultural performances that showcased the rich and diverse Tamil culture. The event was further enriched by the serving of traditional Tamil delicacies, including the beloved Pongal.

Dr. Brenda Beck, a distinguished Canadian anthropologist known for her commitment to exploring and preserving Tamil culture, graced the occasion as a special guest. Her address captivated all attendees as she spoke passionately about the significance of the “white umbrella” in Sangam Literature and its symbolism of unity. To illustrate her point, Dr. Beck even presented a white umbrella adorned with pearls and recited verses from Sangam Literature that referenced this unique cultural

artifact. Mr. Sivan Ilango, Chair of the University of Toronto Tamil Chair project and former President of the Canadian Tamil Congress, Ms. Raveena Rajasingam, current President of the Canadian Tamil Congress, Prof. Linda Johnson - Acting Principal, University of Toronto Scarborough and Celeste Richards - Director Development and Alumni Relation also addressed the audience, contributing to the event’s significance.

Although Professor Sidharthan Maunaguru could not be present in person, he addressed the guests virtually. His words resonated with the audience as he expressed his eagerness to spearhead this academic endeavour.

Establishment of Chair in Tamil Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough is a historical joint accomplishment by the Canadian Tamil Congress and Tamil Chair Inc. with the support of thousands of Donors around the world. This remarkable achievement will further help the academic advancement and exploration of Tamil language. It

is expected the inaugural Chair for the Chair in Tamil Studies, Prof. Sidharthan Maunaguru will assume his duties on May 1st, 2024. Prof. Sidharthan Maunaguru is currently serving as an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, as well as South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, Professor Sidharthan is a renowned expert whose research transcends anthropology, history, and philosophy, focusing on global Tamil communities.

The event celebrating Tamil heritage and culture at the University of Toronto Scarborough was outstanding with around 200 guests and performers. The Global Tamil community look forward to remarkable achievements that the University of Toronto Tamil Chair will undoubtedly accomplish in the years ahead. This initiative promises to be a beacon of excellence, fostering knowledge and understanding of Tamil language and literature among diverse community.

- Photos Courtesy: Ninaiivukal.com

See page 30 for more photos

COMMUNITY WATCH





2023 NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

Scientists Behind mRNA COVID Vaccines Research Win Nobel Prize

OUE Research Institute

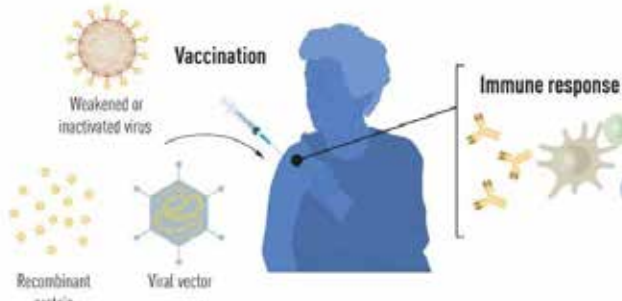


Fig. 1 Methods for vaccine production before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two pioneers of mRNA research — the technology that helped the world tame the virus behind the COVID-19 pandemic — won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology. Overcoming the lack of broader interest in their work and scientific challenges, Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman made critical discoveries about messenger RNA that enabled scientific teams to start developing

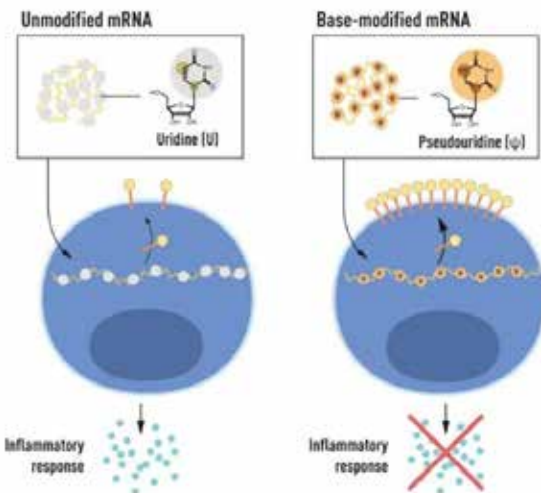


Figure 2 mRNA contains four different bases, abbreviated A, U, G, and C. The Nobel laureates discovered that nucleoside base-modified mRNA can be used to block activation of inflammatory reactions (secretion of signaling molecules) and increase protein production when mRNA is delivered to cells.

the tool into therapies, immunizations, and — as the pandemic spread in 2019 — vaccines targeting the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Moderna and the Pfizer-BioNTech partnership unveiled their mRNA-based COVID-19 shots in record time, thanks to the foundational work of Karikó and Weissman, who helped save millions of lives.

Karikó, a biochemist, and Weissman, an

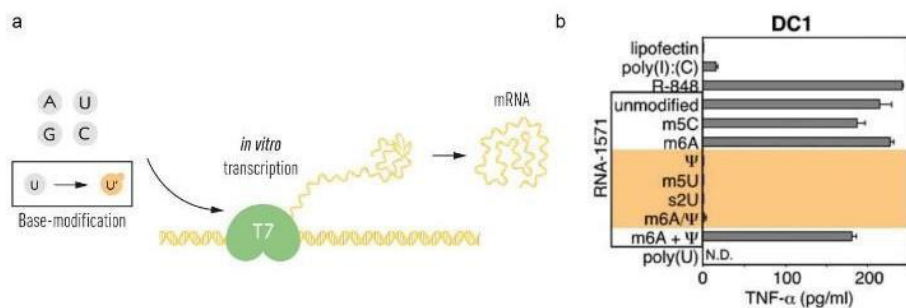


Figure 3 Evaluation of *in vitro* transcribed mRNA with or without nucleoside base modifications and transfection into primary dendritic cells. (a) The T7 *in vitro* transcription system was used to produce mRNA with canonical RNA bases (A, U, G and C) or modified bases. (b) The bases used for *in vitro* transcription of RNA-1571 are shown, with those that did not result in TNF-alpha secretion indicated in orange (modified from Karikó *et al.* Immunity 2005).

immunologist, performed their world-changing research on the interaction between mRNA and the immune system at the University of Pennsylvania, where Weissman, 64, remains a professor in vaccine research. Karikó, 68, who later went to work at BioNTech, is now a professor at Szegec University in her native Hungary and an adjunct professor at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine. The duo will receive 11 million Swedish kronor, or just over \$1 million. Their names are added to a list of medicine or physiology Nobel winners that, before this year, included 213 men and 12 women.

The award was announced by Thomas Perlmann, Secretary General of the Nobel Assembly, in Stockholm. Perlmann said he had spoken to both laureates, describing them as grateful and surprised even though the pair has won numerous awards

seen as precursors and had been tipped as likely Nobel recipients at some point.

When Karikó and Weissman were notified on Monday, they thought it was a prank, possibly from some anti-vaxxer. "This can't be real," Weissman recalled at a press briefing organized by Penn. He opted to go back to bed and wait for the announcement with his wife. "And then the press conference started, and it was real. So, we really became excited."

Every year, the committee considers hundreds of nominations from former Nobel laureates, medical school deans, and prominent scientists from microbiology, immunology, and oncology. Members try to identify discoveries that have altered scientists' understanding of a subject. And according to Alfred Nobel's will criteria, that paradigm-shifting discovery must also have benefited humankind.

The Nobel committee framed Karikó and Weissman's work as a prime example of complementary expertise. Karikó focused on RNA-based therapies, and Weissman brought a deep knowledge of immune responses to vaccines. But it was a challenging road for the scientists. Karikó encountered rejection after rejection in the 1990s while applying for grants. She was even demoted while working at Penn, as she toiled away on the lower rungs of academia. However, the scientists persisted and made a monumental discovery published in 2005 based on simply swapping out some of the components of mRNA.

With instructions from DNA, our cells make strands of mRNA that are tan "read" to make proteins. The idea behind an mRNA vaccine is to take a piece of mRNA from a pathogen and slip it into our bodies. The mRNA will produce a protein from the virus, which our bodies learn to recognize, and fight should we reencounter it as the actual virus.

The idea goes back to the 1980s, as scientific advances allowed researchers to make mRNA easily in their labs. But there was a problem: The synthetic mRNA not only produced smaller amounts of protein than the natural version in our cells but also elicited a potentially dangerous inflammatory immune response and was often destroyed before it could reach target cells.

Karikó and Weissman's breakthrough focused on how to overcome that problem. mRNA comprises four nucleosides, or "letters": A, U, G, and C. But the version our bodies make includes some chemically modified nucleosides — something the synthetic version didn't, at least until Karikó and Weissman came along. They showed that subbing out some of the building blocks for modified versions allowed their strands of mRNA to sneak past the body's immune defenses.

While the research did not gain wide attention at the time, it did catch the attention of scientists who would go on to found Moderna and BioNTech. And now, nearly 20 years later, billions of mRNA vaccine doses have been administered. "And this,"

Weissman said, referring to the Nobel Prize, "has just given RNA the recognition." "We are not working for any kind of award," Karikó said Monday at the press briefing. "The importance was to have a product which is helpful."

For now, the only authorized mRNA products are the Covid-19 shots. However, academic researchers and companies are exploring the technology as a potential therapeutic platform for various diseases. They use it to develop cancer vaccines and

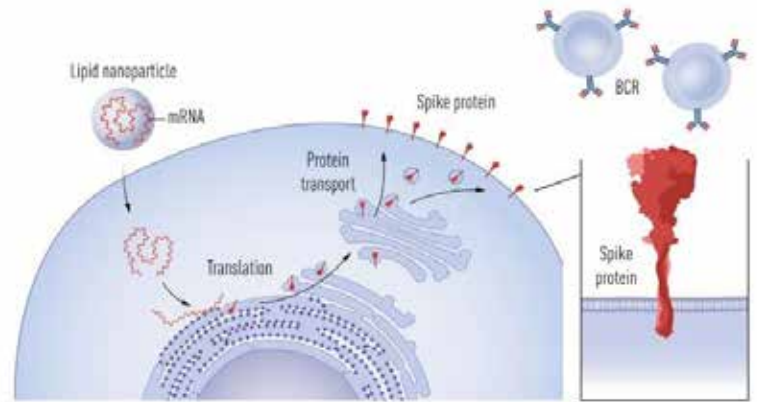


Figure 4. Spike production following mRNA vaccination and recognition of spike by B cells. Following uptake of mRNA into cells, facilitated by lipid nanoparticles, the mRNA acts as a template for spike protein production. Spike is then transiently expressed on the cell surface, where it is recognized by B cells via their B cell receptors (BCRs), stimulating the secretion of spike-specific antibodies.

immunizations against other infectious diseases, from flu to mpox to HIV. An mRNA vaccine is highly adaptable compared to earlier methods, which makes it easier to alter the underlying recipe of the shot to keep up with viral evolution.

As she gained global fame, Karikó has been open about the barriers she encountered in her scientific career, which raised broader issues about the challenges women and immigrants can face in academia. But she's said she always believed in the potential of her RNA research. "I thought of going somewhere else or doing something else," Karikó told STAT in 2020, recalling when she was demoted. "I also thought maybe I'm not good enough, not smart enough. I tried to imagine: Everything is here, and I just must do better experiments." To future scientists, Karikó said Monday, "If you like to follow instruction, maybe the military is the best. If you want to be rich, I don't know the answer. But if you want to solve problems, you know science is for you."

Weissman hopes that the mRNA treatment will be available to sickle cell anemia patients in a year and a half. He also has many mRNA clinical trials underway, including a phase 1 trial for the disease amyloidosis and vaccine trials for HIV, norovirus and malaria. Weissman's team is also planning to start clinical trials soon on a pan-coronavirus mRNA vaccine, which could help prevent future coronavirus epidemics.

We are coming off the worst pandemic in more than a century, and certainly these vaccines contributed to lives saved and to less morbidity. An adaptation of this technology and mRNA vaccines could really be transformative, particularly for low-and middle-income countries, because of the adaptability and flexibility of the platform.



Professors Drew Weissman (left) and Katalin Kariko



RG Education Centers

Giving the Gift of Education since 1991

ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE

- French
- English
- Math
- Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

- Piano
- Theory
- Guitar
- Voice



- CONVENIENT
- EASY TO SET UP
- EXPERIENCED TEACHERS
- AFFORDABLE RATES

IN-PERSON CLASSES:

**3852 FINCH AVE. E, SUITE 401
SCARBOROUGH (KENNEDY & FINCH)**

(416) 609-9508 / www.rgeducation.com



COMMUNITY WATCH



Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years

DTA hosted Tamil Heritage Month & Thai Pongal Vizha

DTA proudly hosted the annual Tamil heritage month and Pongal Vizha on Jan 7th. The event was filled with cultural shows which showcased the rich Tamil heritage and the talents of the Durham Tamil community young and old. We would like to thank all the parents, Youth and Adult Volunteers who made this show possible and supported immensely. Also, would like to thank all the DTA Executives for your tremendous support and assistance.





Durham Tamil Association
Evolving Elder-care:

Training

- Free Training with Certification
- Volunteer Travel Expense \$0.58/km
- Unlock valuable life skills with Free Standard Cpr and First Aid Training

Benefits

- Shape your future
- Providing up to 50 volunteer hours
- Free Vulnerable Check

Contact US

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
9:00am - 5:00PM

Contact Number:
• (647) 968-9549
• (647) 286-9549

Durham Tamil Association
66 Harwood Ave, S.Ajax L1S 2H6



Durham Region

Serving Eight Municipalities

- Brock
- Uxbridge
- Scugog
- Pickering
- Oshawa
- Clarington
- Ajax
- Whitby

Invest Durham

For More Information Visit the website:
dtaseniorsinhomesupport.ca

Volunteers Needed!



Join our volunteer team and gain more than just experience – unlock valuable life skills while making a positive impact on seniors' lives in Durham!

Volunteer Gala : Twice a Year!

- Summer Gala 2024
- Winter Gala 2024
- Spring Gala 2025
- September Gala 2025

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Age Well at Home Initiative





COMMUNITY WATCH



DTA Evolving Elder Care in Home Support

We are proud to announce that DTA will be providing Evolving Elder Care in Home support. This will allow us to provide these services to any Seniors in need in Durham. We can provide following service:

- Meal Delivery
- Transportation
- Volunteer Drop offs:
 - ▶ Grocery Assistance
 - ▶ Doctors Appointments
- Friendly Visits
- Light House Keeping Assistance

For more information, please contact our office Mon-Fri **(647) 968 9549** or **(647) 286 9549**. You can also visit our website @ DTAseniorsinhomesupport.ca





Evolving Elder Care In-Home Support Meal Delivery

Offers the option of either veg or non veg

- Hot, Freshly Prepared Meals
- Timely deliveries are Coordinated by Volunteers




CONTACT US:

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

Contact Number:

(647) 968-9549

(647) 286-9549

Please place your order a minimum of 5 days before the delivery date.
Eligibility: Vulnerable and Low-Income Seniors: Ages 55 and Up

Visit Our Website to Register: dtaseniorsinhomesupport.ca

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Age Well at Home Initiative 





The Durham Tamil Association introduces "Evolving Elder Care In-Home Support," a volunteer-based service for eligible seniors with low-income and vulnerable, aged 55 and up.

OUR SERVICE

- Meal Delivery
- Transportation
- Volunteer Drop-offs:
 - Grocery Assistance
 - Doctors Appointments
- Friendly Visits
- Light House Keeping Assistance

CONTACT US:

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

Contact Number:

- (647) 968-9549
- (647) 286-9549

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

 dtaseniorsinhomesupport.ca

DURHAM TAMIL ASSOCIATION

EVOLVING ELDER CARE IN-HOME SUPPORT



Ages 55 and up

Vulnerable and Low-income seniors

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Age Well at Home Initiative 

Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years

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

DTA's Homeland Projects

DTA is proud to announce that we are restarting our homeland projects. The following projects have been completed in 2023:

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

2. Hope for the homeland" initiative Project #6 - House renovation project. This is to finance to renovate an existing temporary shelter like house. Requested by a woman with four members in the family. Son is an ashmatic patient. Both children are going to school.. They have been living for the last nine years in temporary shed like house. The house is leaking during rainy season and as a result they could not sleep or children could not study. They Need to have a roof with tin to avoid leakage. Rs 200,000/-

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

DTA Hosted Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance

DTA's annual Christmas Dinner and dance was a huge success. Members and their families had great time with great food and gifts. Everyone had a merry good time. As always thank you to all the parents, Youth Volunteers ,Adult volunteers Senior Volunteers and the Executive team for your





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 & accommodation
[\$500 deposit with registration]

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

647-606-1222





City of Brampton adopts 2024 Budget

Mayor's inaugural budget builds the Brampton advantage with the lowest tax increase in the GTA and record-level investments city-wide

BRAMPTON, ON – On Dec 13, 2023, following an extensive city-wide engagement, the first-ever Mayor's budget was adopted.

Brampton's 2024 Budget supports the needs of a growing population while making record contributions to reserves and priority investments in infrastructure, transportation, recreational amenities, health care, and community safety.



2024 Budget Highlights

Affordability & Service Excellence

- At 1.9%, the City is delivering a tax increase on the City portion of the tax bill below Canada's rate of inflation (3.8%) as of September 2023. The increase is less than half of the Region of Peel's (4.5%), lower than the City of Mississauga's (2.3%) and the lowest in the GTA.
- \$139M – largest ever annual contribution to reserves, inclusive of levies to keep city buses, roads, recreation centres, public spaces, and other infrastructure assets at sustainable levels. The majority will go towards sustaining and enhancing Brampton's infrastructure.
- \$913M Operating Budget; \$544M Capital Budget = \$1.5B total.

Health Care



- The City has already built up reserve funds of over \$74M (as of September 2023) towards the City's local share of \$125M.
- Continuation of a 1% hospital levy to support the construction of a second hospital for Brampton and a new cancer care centre
- Support for the new medical school (opening in 2025)

Transit



- Purchase and refurbishment of buses: \$78.4M
- Brampton Transit Züm service expansion on Bramalea Road corridor: \$3.8M
- 108,500 new Transit service hours
- 136 New Brampton Transit operators

Recreation

- Embleton Community Centre construction: \$79.8M
- Howden Recreation Centre construction: \$24.2M



- Tennis, pickleball, basketball, outdoor recreation amenities, dog park and playground enhancements: \$6.1M
- Cricket infrastructure and programming: \$8M
- Century Gardens Youth Hub construction: \$5.5M
- Memorial Arena expansion (construction): \$2.5M
- Lawn bowling at FCCC: \$900,000
- Basketball court and enhancements at CAA Centre: \$525,000
- Artificial turf field at Central Peel: \$200,000
- New, inclusive multi-sensory room at Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre: \$100,000

Environment

- Riverwalk phase one (flood protection): \$87.3M
- Stormwater capital improvements: \$7.9M
- Drainage channel inspection and maintenance program: \$1M



- Erosion control and streambank stabilization: \$1M
- Minimize energy and emissions through energy efficiency programs: \$215,000
- Enhancing community gardens: \$100,000
- Chinguacousy Park upgrades: \$25,000

Shaped by our Community

This year's budget, focused on building the Brampton advantage, was developed with feedback from residents and local businesses:

- A pre-budget telephone town hall with over 4,600 residents
- A roundtable hosting 89 businesses
- Five coffee chats with Ward Councillors from across the city

About Brampton's Budget Development Process

The City's annual budget process engages,



educates and informs the citizens of Brampton through communications and engagement efforts, including telephone town halls, coffee chats, advertisements, news

releases, social media, and the City's budget website.

This year's budget supports the City of Brampton's Corporate Strategic Plan 2022-2026. This critical document will provide a structure to prioritize and deliver what is most important to the community. The plan is a living plan that sets the context for the City's budget master plans, projects, services, and resources.



Additional Resources

- To review the 2024 Budget highlights, please visit www.Brampton.ca/budget.
- If you require this document in an alternate format, please submit a request to accessibility@brampton.ca.



" I am very pleased that the 2024 Budget is now adopted. This budget demonstrates our commitment to building the Brampton advantage. This is a budget for jobs, for families, for recreation, for transit, for health care, and for community safety. I would like to thank my Council colleagues, City staff and you - the taxpayers of Brampton - for providing feedback, ideas, and helping us successfully develop this budget."

- Patrick Brown, Mayor, 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



Waterloo Region's first South Indian Hindu temple project gets off the ground



Waterloo, ON.: “ In a significant development for the Waterloo Region, a long-cherished dream is becoming a reality as the South Indian community spearheads the establishment of a Hindu temple.

The visionary behind this endeavor is Sivakumar Somasundram, who has tirelessly worked towards this milestone.

Back in the 80s, Sivakumar was part of a new wave of Sri Lankan

immigrants settling in the Waterloo region. Motivated and energetic, he, along with a few dedicated volunteers, laid the foundation for the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region. Fast forward to the





ஸ்ரீ முருகன் கோவில் வோட்டர்லூ வட்டாரம்
Sri Murugan Temple of Waterloo Region
 Cordially invites you and your family to our community's
 Sri Murugan Temple WR inauguration project
 & Thaipoonsam festival celebration

தைப்பூசம் திருநாள்

Friday, January 26th 2024 at 6:30pm
Doon Pioneer Community Center
 150 Pioneer Drive, Kitchener, ON.

Unveiling of Vel and Pillayar Statue
 Special Poojai ceremony by
 Sivasri Panchadchara Viyakumara Kurukkal
 Chief Priest, Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Temple, Toronto.
 Cultural programs and Annathanam.

S. Sivakumar
President

Sushma Rao
Secretary

waterloomurugantemple.ca
info@waterloomurugantemple.ca



Sri Murugan Temple of Waterloo Region & Community Centre

ஸ்ரீ முருகன் கோவில் வோட்டர்லூ வட்டாரம் தைப்பூசம் திருநாள்



present, and the association is set to celebrate its 35th anniversary in April, marking years of growth and community bonding.

Sivakumar's latest venture involves the establishment of a South Indian-style or Dravidian-modelled Hindu Temple in the region. The temple, now registered as a non-profit organization with plans to apply for charitable status, aims to honor deities such as Lord Murugan, Ganesha, Shiva, Durga, Venkateswara others.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team has been diligently working for the past eight months on the temple project. Sivakumar emphasizes that this is a long-term project, with coordination between temple executive team, volunteers and well-wishers crucial for fundraising efforts. Pledges have already started pouring in, reflecting the community's enthusiasm and support.

Sushma Rao, the Secretary of the Temple, expresses excitement about the venture, highlighting that the temple will cater to the diaspora of Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Telugu-speaking communities of South India and the Sri Lankan community. The vision is to create one large, united family, a haven for religious practices and celebrations of the rich South Indian heritage and Dravidian culture.

Ken Sri Shanker, the Treasurer, says that valuable experience and knowledge from involvement in temples in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, is proving helpful in getting the project off the ground. The immediate goal is to secure funds for renting a space and acquiring idols from South India, with plans to rent a space next year.

The inauguration of the temple project is scheduled for January 26th, 2024, at the Doon Pioneer Community Center in Kitchener. The auspicious Thai Pooam

festival will accompany a grand pooja ceremony presided over by Sivasri Paanchadchara Viyakumara Kurukkal, the chief priest of Sri Varasiththi Vinaayagar Temple. A generous donor and family has already pledged a Vel and Pillaiyar/ Ganesha bronze statue for the temple.

The inauguration ceremony will be followed by cultural dance and musical programs, further enhancing the cultural experience for attendees. An annathanam, or community feast, will conclude the event, bringing people together in celebration and unity. It will be open to all devotees and public.

As the South Indian and Sri Lankan Tamil communities in Waterloo Region embark on this remarkable journey, the anticipation and excitement are palpable. The temple project stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of community, culture, and shared dreams.'



Winter is here! Be a good neighbour this snowy season

When winter weather hits, we can all do our part to help keep each other safe, make snow clearing more efficient and support snow-clearing crews as they work.

Shovel early and often

Be a good neighbour and try to clear your sidewalk and driveway of snow and ice as soon as possible after a snowfall. This will allow others to travel safely, whether they're going to work, essential appointments or getting some exercise. Shoveling early and often will also limit heavy snow buildup.

When shovelling, remember to clear around your furnace and hot

Be a good neighbour, clear your walk.

Shovel your way to safety for all.
Help older adults and persons with disabilities.



water tank vents. Covered vents can be a carbon monoxide hazard. If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please clear around it so it's visible to fire crews.

Consistent and heavy snowfall also make windrows an unpleasant but unavoidable part of winter. A windrow is a pile of snow left at the

end of a driveway after street snow-clearing operations are completed. If you have space, try shoveling snow to the right side of your driveway so the plow blade doesn't push it back onto your driveway when it passes.

Shovelling can be a lot of work. Take breaks, keep hydrated and dress appropriately.

If you can, lend a hand

Check in on your neighbours and consider offering to help those who may need help clearing their sidewalk or driveway.



Be smart with your salt use

Before applying any salt or de-icing materials to your walkway, sidewalk or driveway, clear any snow first and always use the materials as recommended by the manufacturer.

Remember that salt only works on ice and snow when the temperature is above -10° Celsius. Use alternatives like sand, grit, mulch, non-clumping kitty litter or treated salt (magnesium chloride) to add traction when the temperature is below -7° Celsius. Some of these options can even be swept up and reused.

Avoid flooding and icy conditions around your home

In cold weather, melting snow can't be absorbed into frozen ground – this can contribute to flooding or icy conditions. Try to pile snow away from your home's foundation and where melted water won't flow across sidewalks or driveways, where it can freeze and become slippery.





Park vehicles in your driveway during snow clearing

Vehicles parked on residential streets make it hard for crews to clear the snow properly and efficiently. This can make it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through and for you to get in and out of your street.

When the City is plowing,

avoid a parking ticket and help out our crews by parking your car in your driveway instead of on the street. Remember to remove sports equipment like basketball nets and garbage bins from your curb.

During snow clearing, the

City may suspend temporary parking permits and new ones will not be issued. To find out if temporary parking permits have been cancelled, contact 311, follow @MississaugaSnow on X or visit mississauga.ca/temporaryparking.

On-street parking is suspended during snow-clearing operations

You are required to remove your vehicle from the street.



Be kind to crews clearing the way this winter

Please remember to treat snow-clearing crews and equipment with respect. Snow-clearing crews keep us all moving safely. They work around the clock to treat and clear Mississauga roads, sidewalks, bus shelters, parking lots and bike lanes. It's a tough job. You may not know the person operating the plow, tractor or truck, but they are part of the community and should be able to work safely. Thank you for your patience and co-operation!

Stay up-to-date on snow clearing in Mississauga this winter:

- Visit mississauga.ca/snow to learn more about the City's snow-clearing operations.
- Use the online snow plow tracker to view a map of the City's snow-clearing routes and track the City's fleet as it clears streets and sidewalks:

mississauga.ca/plowtracker.

- Follow @MississaugaSnow on X for timely snow-clearing updates.
- Find out if on-street parking restrictions are in effect and if temporary parking permits are suspended due to a weather event.

- Call 311 (905-615-4311 if outside city limits) for questions related to the City's snow-clearing operations or to report a missed street after the level of service timelines have ended.
- Follow @PeelPublicWorks on X for snow-clearing updates on Regional roads.

Clearing the way this winter

What We Clear:

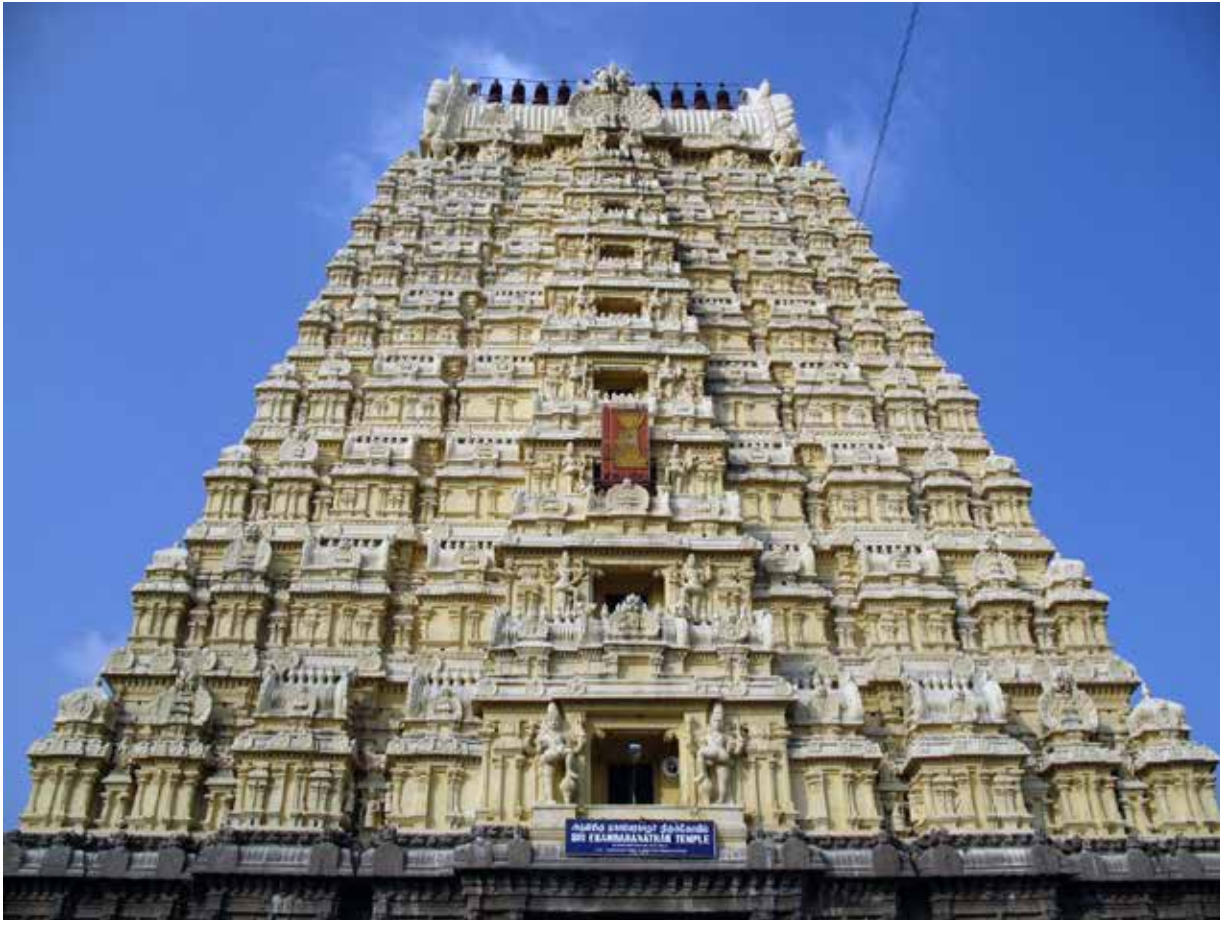




SPECIAL FEATURE

SRI EKABARESWARAR AND SRI NILATHINGAL THUNDAM PERUMAL TEMPLES IN KANCHIPURAM, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Compiled by Kidambi Raj



INTRODUCTION

Ekambareswarar Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Siva, in the town of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, India. It is significant to the Hindu sect of Saivism, as this is one of five Saivite temples element earth or Prithvi. Lord Siva is worshipped here as Ekambareswarar or **Ekambaranathar** and is represented by the Lingam, with His idol referred to as **Prithvi Lingam**. His Consort Parvathi is depicted as **Elavarkuzhali**. The presiding deity here is revered in the 7th century Saiva canonical work, the *Thevaaram*, written by Tamil saint poets known as the *Nayanars* and classified as *Paadal Petra Sthalam*.

Like Chidambaram Nataraja temple, also houses a Vaishnavite temple called, **Nilathingal Thundam Perumal** Temple, one of 108 temples regarded as Vaishnava Divyadesams and revered in the Vaishnava Canon *Naalaayira Divya Prabhandham*,

SRI EKAMBARESWARAR

TEMPLE



The temple complex covers 25 acres and is one of the largest in India. It houses four gateway towers known as gopurams. The tallest is the southern tower with 11 stories and a height of 58.5 metres (approx.. 192 ft.), making it one of the tallest temple towers in India. Temple has numerous shrines. The temple complex houses many halls; the most notable would be the thousand-pillared hall built during the Vijayanagar period.

The temple has six daily rituals at various times from 5:30 a.m to 10 p.m. and twelve yearly festivals. **Panguni Uthiram** festival is celebrated for thirteen days during the Tamil month of **Panguni** (March – April) is the most prominent festival of the temple and the town.



TEMPLE AND ITS ARCHITECTURE

The present masonry structure was built during the Chola Dynasty in the 9th century and the later additions are attributed to the Vijayanagaram rulers. The temple is being maintained and administered by the Hindu Religious Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

LEGENDS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TEMPLE



The legend has it that once Parvathi the Consort of Siva, wanted to expiate herself from sin by penance under the temple's ancient Mango tree near the Vegavathi river. In order to test Her devotion, Siva sent fire towards Her. Parvathi prayed to Her brother, Vishnu for help. In order to save Her, He took the Moon from Siva's head and showed the rays which then cooled down the tree as well as Parvati. Siva again tried to disrupt Parvati's penance by sending the river Ganga. Parvathi requested Ganga and convinced her that both of them were sisters and so she should not harm Her. Accordingly, Ganga did not disturb Parvathi's penance. So, Parvathi made a Siva Linga out of sand to get united with Siva. The God here then came to be known as Ekambareswarar of the **Lord of Mango Tree**.



According to another legend, it is believed that Parvathi worshipped Siva in the form of **Prithvi Lingam** (a Lingam improvised out of sand), under a mango tree. Legend also has it that the neighbouring Vegavathi river overflowed and threatened to engulf the Siva Lingam and Parvathi (Kamakshi) embraced the Lingam. Siva touched by the gesture appeared in person and married Her. It is in this context that Lord Siva is referred as Tazhua Kuzhainthaar (He who melted in Her embrace) in Tamil.

Thirukuripputhonda Naayanaar, one of the 63 Saivite Naayanmaars was a washerman near the temple and he washed the clothes of all the Saivites. He was divinely tricked by Lord Siva, appearing as an aged brahmin and asked him to wash his clothes before dawn. At the

SPECIAL FEATURE



same time, Siva made it a cloudy evening. On observing the approach of the evening, the washerman banged his head in a stone in disappointment. Lord Siva appeared in His true form and graced this devotee.

This vast temple is one of the most ancient in India having been in existence since at least 600CE. Second century CE Tamil poetry speaks of *Kama Kottam* and the *Kumara Kottam* (the current Kamakshi Amman temple and Subramanya temples). This temple finds mention in the classical Tamil Sangam literature dated 300BCE, like *Manimegalai* and *Perumpaanaarruppadai*. Initially the temple was built by Pallavas. The Vedantist Kachiappar served as a priest at this temple. The existing structure then, was pulled down and rebuilt later by the later Chola Kings. Adi Sankara, the 10th century saint got Kanchipuram remodeled along with expansion of this temple along with Kamakshi Amman temple and Varadaraja Perumal temple with the help of the local rulers.



The temple covers an area of over 23 acres (93,000 sq. m). Reaching a height of 59 m (194 ft.), the temple's Raja Gopuram (the entrance tower to the temple) is one of the tallest in South India. The bottom half of the gateway tower has the shrines of Ganesa and Muruga on either side. From entrance, there are two halls namely Vaahana Mandapam (vehicle hall) and Sarabesa Mandapam (also called Navaratri hall). The Aayiramkaal Mandapam, or the "hallway with a thousand pillars", which was built by the Vijayanagar Kings, is found on precinct after gateway tower. The fourth courtyard contains a

small Ganesa temple and a pond. The third courtyard contains lot of smaller shrines. The flag staff of the temple is axial to the sanctum and diagonally located to the main entrance and the temple tank on either direction. There is a shrine called Thirukachi Mayanam and Kalyana Mandapa, named after Pachayappa Mudaliar, both of which are located close to the flag staff. Thirukachi Mayanam, Valeesam,



Rishabesam and Satyanadeesam are located in four corners of the temple. The hall of the flagstaff has pillars sculpted with intricate figures indicating various legends and avatars of Siva.



SRI NILATHINGAL THUNDAM PERUMAL TEMPLE

Sri Nilathingal Thundam Perumal temple is 58th of the 108 Divya Desams of Lord Vishnu, situated in the first precinct of Sri Ekambreswarar Temple, one of the Pancha Bootha Sthalsms of Lord Siva, located in Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu. This is the one and only Divyadesams where the poojas are being done by the Saivite Priests. This place is also called as Thiruneduthangadam. This temple is close to 2,000 years old.

Moolavar is being worshipped as *Nilathingal Thundathan* and as *Chandrasooda Perumal* in

His standing posture facing west under Purushasukhtha Vimanam with his Abhaya Hastham. Thaayaar is Blessing us as *Ner Oruvar Illa Valli Naachiyaar* (Nilathingal Thunda Thaayaar).

LEGENDS

One of legends associated with this temple as well has been mentioned earlier in this article under Sri Ekambareswarar temple.

Another legend is that during the very early periods, the Devas reached out to Lord Vishnu and requested Him to bless all the Devas for long life. Lord Vishnu directed both Devas



and Asuras to churn Thirupparkadal to get the Amirtham which would help to get long life for all devas. During the process, the first thing that came out was poison which was taken by Lord Siva and then came the Nector. Lord Vishnu took all the Nectar by Himself, which made Him very warm and His colour turned to black. It is believed that Sun and Moon are the two eyes of Lord Siva. Lord Siva appeared before Lord Vishnu and used His moon to absorb the warmness and convert the colour to regular with the help of the Moon on top of His head. Hence, the Perumal here is referred to as Thiru Nilathingal Perumal.



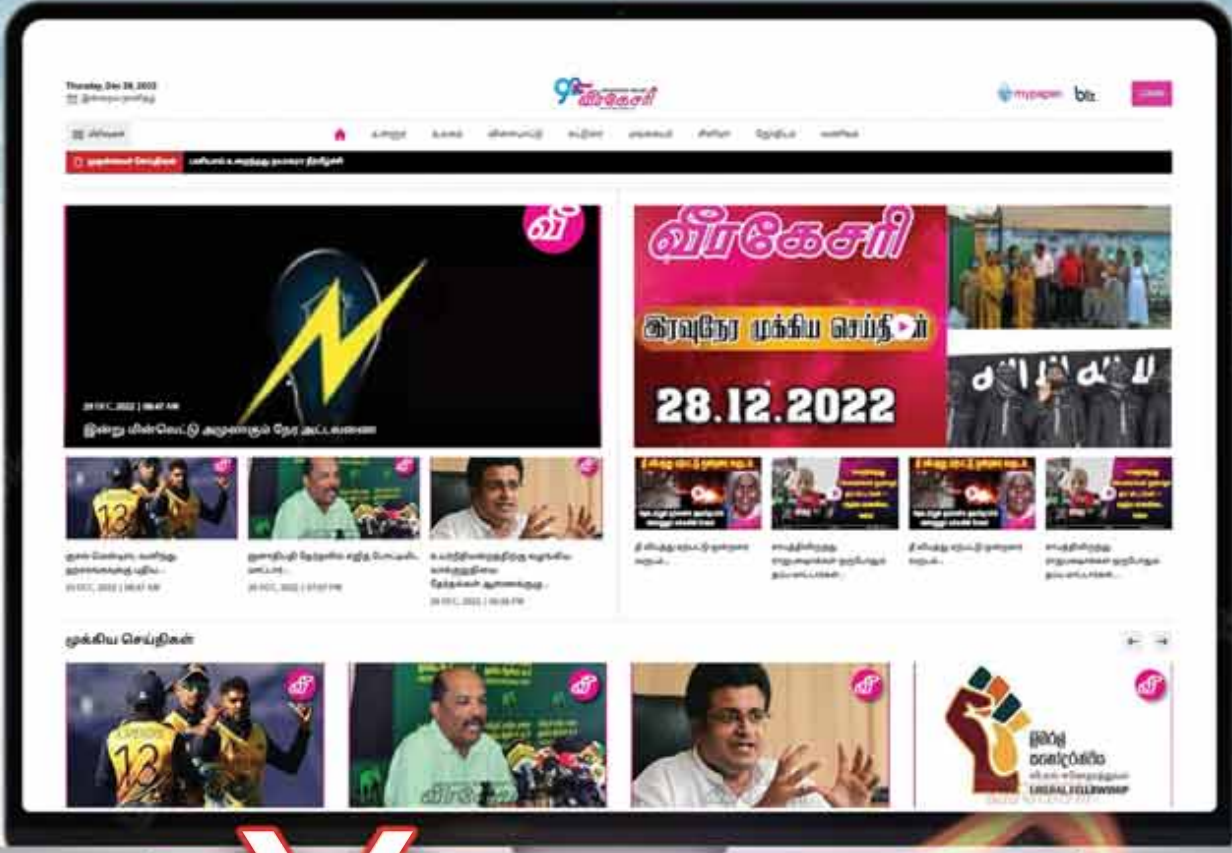
Six daily rituals and two major yearly festivals are held at the temple. Of these, the Vaikunta Ekadasi celebrated during the Tamil month of Margazhi (December – January), is the most prominent.

The temple is glorified in the Naalaayira Divyaprabhandam, the early medieval Tamil canon of the Azhwars (the Vaishnavite saints) from the 6th to 9th centuries CE. This is one of 108 Divya Desams dedicated to Lord Vishnu and He is worshipped here as Nilathingal Thunda Perumal and His Consort Lakshmi as Nilathingal Thunda Nayagi.

வாசிப்பின் புதிய அனுபவம்

வீரகேசரி இணையத்தளத்தில்
அனைத்து விதமான பிரத்தியேக கட்டுரைகளையும்,
செய்திகளையும் வாசித்தீடுங்கள்.

**EXCLUSIVELY FOR
OUR VALUED SUBSCRIBERS**



EXCLUSIVE!

தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்ட பிரத்தியேக கட்டுரைகளுக்கு மாத்திரம்
கட்டணம் அறவிடப்படும்.

1 மாதத்திற்கு

\$1

6 மாதங்களுக்கு

\$6

1 வருடத்திற்கு

\$10

இலங்கையில் வசிப்பவர்கள் இலங்கை ரூபாவில் கட்டணங்களை செலுத்தலாம்.

இந்த ஆக்கப்பூர்வமான முயற்சிக்கு
உங்களின் பங்களிப்பையும் ஆதரவையும் எதிர்பார்கின்றோம்.

www.virakesari.lk

☎️ 📞 Helpline : +94 74 092 7382