

# Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

« 19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION » OCTOBER - 2024



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## NEW SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT ANURA DISSANAYAKE BREAKS TRADITION OF POLITICAL LINEAGE

Dissanayake sworn in as new president of Sri Lanka - chinadailyhk.com

Dissanayake, popularly known as AKD, polled 1.27 million votes more than nearest rival and main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa. Incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe finished third.

Premadasa is the son of former President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was assassinated in office. Wickremesinghe's uncle J R Jayewardene was a former president and prime minister, and Namal Rajapaksa, the eldest son of two-time president Mahinda Rajapaksa, was also one of the 38 candidates in the fray.

- reuters.com

## Sri Lanka orders new probe into Easter Sunday bombings

Sri Lanka orders new probe Sri Lanka's new government announced a probe Tuesday (8) into the 2019 Easter bombings that killed 279 people, saying that previous investigations had failed to identify other culprits responsible for the country's worst-ever attack against civilians.

In the aftermath, officials blamed a local jihadist group for the suicide bombings on three churches and three hotels, but a top Sri Lankan intelligence official was also accused of orchestrating the attack.

Other investigations faulted the authorities for

See page 3

## What could Sri Lanka's next parliament look like?

Sri Lanka's new president has dissolved parliament to make way for a snap general election.

Anura Kumara Disسانayake dissolved the 225-member parliament in which his left-leaning National People's Power (NPP) alliance had just three seats.

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## WORLD NEWS



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## Sri Lanka orders new probe into Easter Sunday bombings



failing to act on warnings from an Indian intelligence agency that an attack was imminent.

“There have been several commissions of inquiry, but some evidence was suppressed,” foreign minister Vijitha Herath told reporters.

“We want to find out why there were irregularities in the previous investigations, take a fresh look at the incident, expose the culprits, and bring them to justice.”

Herath’s announcement came days after President Anura Kumara Dissanayake dismissed Sri Lanka’s intelligence chief, Suresh Sallay.

British broadcaster Channel 4 reported last year that Sallay was linked with the bombers and had met with them prior to the attack.

A whistle-blower told the network that he had permitted the attack to proceed with the intention of influencing that year’s presidential election in favour of Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Two days after the bombings, Rajapaksa declared his candidacy and won the November vote in a landslide after promising to stamp out Islamist extremists.

Sallay, who has denied any

involvement in the bombings, was promoted to head Sri Lanka’s main spy agency following Rajapaksa’s win.

Sri Lanka’s Catholic minority has maintained a campaign for justice since the bombings, saying that prior investigations failed to answer outstanding questions.

President Dissanayake on Sunday (6) visited one of the churches targeted in the Easter Sunday attacks, where 116 people perished, and vowed justice for the victims.

“There is a widespread belief in society that the Easter Sunday attacks may have been carried out to gain political mileage,” Dissanayake told the congregation.

More than 500 people were wounded in the bombings, which also killed 45 foreigners and crashed the island nation’s lucrative tourism industry.

Last year, the Supreme Court fined then-President Maithripala Sirisena and four senior officials more than \$1.03 million in a civil case for their failure to prevent the attacks.

The UN asked Sri Lanka in April to publish parts of previous inquiries into the bombings that had been withheld from the public.

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## What could Sri Lanka’s next parliament look like?

The election will take place on 14 November, almost a year ahead of schedule, according to a notification in the official government gazette.

Opinion polls conducted as recently as August indicated a close race if the parliamentary elections were held then. The SJB and NPP were shoulder-to-shoulder with 29 percent and 28 percent, respectively, according to a poll conducted last month by the Institute for Health Policy. The SLPP was at 19 percent.

If parliamentary elections throw up such a result, Sri Lanka could have what is known as a cohabitation government, in which the president and prime minister are from two different political parties.

Given the economic precarity in Sri Lanka, a cohabitation government “does not bode well as you need more consensus and ideological coherence for policy consistency”, Gamage said.

She added that a parliament consisting of a majority of opposition members could pose a challenge for Dissanayake.

“Especially because the NPP campaign was driven on a very ‘us-vs-them’ narrative. This makes it very hard for them to now say, ‘Let’s work together.’”

– Agence France

– bbc / aljazeera

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# What does the current state of Canadian politics mean for you?

By Harrish Thirukumaran

Last month on September 4, news broke here in Canada around noon through Global News that the federal New Democratic Party or NDP, pulled their support from the supply-and-confidence agreement with the Liberal Party-led government. The supply and confidence deal allowed the Liberal government, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to remain in power by receiving the ongoing political support of the NDP. In exchange, Trudeau advocated for key policies and initiatives such as a national pharmacare plan through Parliament.

Accordingly, this could prove risky for Trudeau, as it puts his governing party in a minority government situation. It could fall at any time in the coming weeks or months if it loses any confidence votes in the House of Commons, which could trigger a snap federal election as soon as this fall. Some glimpse into this latest story in Canadian politics was narrated by NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh. In a video released on that Wednesday over social media, he accused the Liberals that they “have let people down” and failed to take on “corporate greed.”

This leads to many implications for the current government, which this article will help to spell out for readers. At the same time, it seeks to offer ways forward to readers on responding to this high-profile event in Canadian politics as voters.

This deal falling through means that the current governing Liberal Party is in a worse position to hold the confidence of the members in Parliament. Conservative Party Leader, Pierre Pollièvre himself, has urged Singh to hold a vote of non-confidence.

While the Liberals try to pass key legislation on matters like pharmacare as Parliament resumes, they will likely face challenges from opposition parties like the Bloc Québécois, which is pushing for policies that benefit Quebec. Additionally, the Conservatives are gaining popularity, leading in the polls by a significant margin ahead of both the Liberals and NDP.

Currently, the Liberal Party under Trudeau have lost the riding of LaSalle–Émard–Verdun in Montreal in a byelection held on September 16, 2024, putting his leadership to the test. Issues such as the cost of living, housing crisis, and carbon tax have been on the minds of voters and trouble Trudeau politically. Likewise, these results also serve as tests of leadership for the other parties, including Singh, as we head into what is definitively an election year. However, Singh seems to be holding steady with a byelection win for the NDP in the Winnipeg riding of Elmwood-Transcona on the same day.

So, you and others may be wondering what voters like yourselves can do exactly in these circumstances. To start, voters can stay informed on the direction of the political landscape. They can learn about party platforms. With doubts on the horizon, knowing the policies and stances of different parties will help

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voters make informed decisions. Party websites, social media accounts, news outlets, and independent polling platforms, such as 338Canada, are good resources to monitor trends and party proposals. Next, you can communicate with your local Member of Parliament (MP) regarding any specific concerns about how the end of this agreement might affect you. This includes matters like delays in promised healthcare programs. MPs directly represent your region and should provide insight on what this deal’s breakdown means for you as their constituents.

While we may anyway see some form of stability run its course for the time being, voters nevertheless should be prepared for a possible election scenario that could easily arise. In that sense, I urge readers to learn and initiate these strategies, among others, to help shape the response to these big developments taking place in the Canadian political atmosphere. Canada’s next federal election is legally expected to take place on October 20, 2025, unless an election is called earlier by the current government.

# Toronto Tamil International Film Festival – 2024

## Congratulations Award Winners!

Congratulations to our Toronto Tamil International Film Festival – 2024 award winners. These films and filmmakers exhibit excellence in artistry and craftsmanship in noteworthy ways. The Toronto Tamil International Film Festival family and jury extend a warm congratulations to these award winners who have positively shaped the world of film and storytelling.

### Jury Award

#### Jury Award Best Feature Film:

My imperfect life (Director: Steve Valli)

**Jury Award Best Short Film:** Oho Enthan Darling (Director: Nila)

**Jury Award Best Long Short Film:** The Silent Prayer (Director: Senthil Vinu)

**Jury Award Best International Short Film:** Pause (Director: Kannan Vijayakumar)

**Jury Award Best Feature Documentary Film:** Ray of Hope (Directors: Ryan Singh & Nikila Cole)

### Audience Award

#### Audience Award Best Feature Film:

Chithha (Director: S.U.Arun Kumar)

### Special Jury Award:

**Best Feature Film:** KAAZH (Director: Mohanraj VJ)

**Best Film on Social Message Feature Film:** Bumper (Director: Selvakumar M)

**Best Short Documentary Film:** Our African Hairitage (Director: Adanna Madueke)

**Award for Best Web/TV Series:** ROBIN THE HOOD (Director: Doug MacDougall)

-Honorable Mention

**Best Short Film :** Puspanjili (Director: Vaishali Subramanian)

**Best Short Film :** Smashing Memories (Director: Gowtham Maran)



### Special Jury Award: Outstanding Performance

**Award for Best Short Film Director:** Thirupathi Raja Gocindaraj (Movie: Endra Magan Ezhilan)

**Award for Best Actor:** Harish Ori (Movie: Vellakuthira)

**Award for Best Art Director:** DRK Kiran (Movie: Beast)

**Award for Best Actress:** Leah Feng & Gillian Zhao (Movie: Memories)

**Award for Best Photography:** Go Noles by Laila Thaler

### Awards for Album song

**Award for Best Album Song:** Grandma (Johnavan Thomas)

**Award for Best Album Song (Honorable Mention):** Kanave Kalaiyathiru (Sanjai Yo)

### Awards for Script

**Award for Best Feature Script:** From Homeless to Hollywood (Shaneen Charese Bonner)

**Award for Best Short Script:** The Dishwasher (Shelly NunChucks)

*The Film Festival Red Carpet Event, Screening and Award Ceremony were held from Sept 20 to Sept 22, 2024 at York Cinemas, Richmond Hill. Some of the photos from the Toronto Tamil International Film Festival can be seen here.*



(See page 6-7 for more photos)

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# CANADA NEWS



# CANADA NEWS





## WORLD NEWS

# As Israel Invades, the US Must Push for Peace in Lebanon

The US must push for a ceasefire in Lebanon. Currently, Israel is carrying out a land offensive against Hezbollah, an Iran-aligned Islamist militant group based in Lebanon's south. A diplomatic deal removing Hezbollah from Lebanon's southern border with Israel and replacing it with the Lebanese Armed Forces, a US-supported army would deal a blow to Iran's "Axis of Resistance."



**By: Steven Howard**

Continued escalation by Israel, on the other hand, will increase the likelihood of another Lebanese Civil War or a wider regional conflagration. It may also play right into the hands of Hezbollah.

### What is the US policy towards Lebanon?

Ever since the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday, September 27, US policy regarding Israel's invasion of Lebanon has been opaque. Earlier that week, the US had collaborated with France and several allied nations in presenting a 21-day ceasefire proposal to Israel and Lebanon, as well as indirectly to Hezbollah. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flip-flopped on the proposal throughout much of that week.

At the same time, there are reports that the US, while publicly calling for the ceasefire, tacitly gave Israel some form of approval to escalate heavily in Lebanon. Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib has also stated that Israel was aware Hezbollah accepted the proposal and then decided to assassinate the organization's leader Hassan Nasrallah and proceed with a bombing campaign and ground invasion of Lebanon.

War in Lebanon is not in Israel's interests

Israel's official war objective vis-à-vis Lebanon is to create a safe border area so that the roughly 60,000 Israelis displaced by Hezbollah rocket attacks in the north can return to their homes. Yet the US has publicly stated that the fastest and ultimately the most sustainable way to achieve this is diplomacy. Israel has invaded Lebanon four times over the past five decades and has, to date, been unable to eliminate all threats to its security by force. In any event, there can be no diplomatic deal while Lebanon is under invasion.

Further, the longer Israel continues to escalate with Hezbollah, the greater the risk of a state-to-state war with its backer Iran becomes. A ceasefire is the first step in the diplomatic process. It would enable the deployment of US-supported Lebanese

Armed Forces to the border area and ultimately facilitate the demarcation of the Israel-Lebanon land border so that civilian communities are protected for generations to come.

Israel's current invasion and bombing campaign of Lebanon are going far beyond their stated goal. It appears Israel is trying to eliminate Hezbollah completely, and there is no clear timetable or roadmap for how to do that.

### Israeli escalation may strengthen Hezbollah

It is quite likely that Israel's overreach will backfire. Widespread civilian death and displacement are fueling resentment and anger towards Israel that ironically may drive people to join Hezbollah or other aligned groups.

Hezbollah's origins as an organization trace back to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. It bills itself as the defender of Lebanon. So, Israel's land invasion of Lebanon is justifying the organization's *raison d'être*.

Furthermore, at a time when Hezbollah's popularity has been waning in Lebanon, Israel's brutal assaults in the country may actually be resuscitating the group. Hezbollah's 2006 war with Israel greatly boosted its legitimacy and led to its heightened influence in government for years to come. While there is no doubt the organization is greatly weakened today, it is likely, with the violent assault against it, to revert back to its original framework, operating outside the state rather than cooperating with it. The last time this was the case, the group carried out brutal attacks and assassinations even outside the borders of Lebanon. Hezbollah may again pivot away from its affiliation with a corrupt political establishment and use popular resentment against Israel and, by extension, the US to justify itself and attract new followers.

### The interests of the US are in a resolution, not a prolonged conflict

There are two dangerous scenarios that continued hostilities in Lebanon can lead to.

First, Israel's invasion may destabilize Lebanon. Even prior to the outbreak of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war on October 7, 2023, Lebanon was one of the most fragile states in the world. The delicate balance of power between the country's various sects had created a prolonged political gridlock. The humanitarian crisis Israel is creating,



- shutterstock.com

with already one million people internally displaced, will likely exasperate social tensions that could quite easily erupt into civil conflict and effective state collapse. In this scenario, malign actors will exploit the resulting power vacuum. The corresponding instability will be to Israel's detriment.

Secondly, the Israeli invasion may lead to a hot war with Iran. The US policy aim for the last year has been to diplomatically resolve this conflict, not to go to war with Iran and its terrorist allies. If Israel provokes such a conflict, it will put US forces and interests at threat of being attacked and would likely necessitate a direct US military commitment.

Even though Hezbollah is greatly crippled presently, it is still part of Iran's axis. Iran has already responded to Israel's escalation and attacked it directly. Israel's strategy as of late appears to be to try and provoke Iran into a larger conflict. If the US is not careful, Iran may change its posture from avoiding a full-scale war with Israel to preparing for one. If this calculus changes, the US would necessarily have to intervene and then this conflict will have escalated to one between states with no clear off-ramp.

However, there is still time. Hezbollah Deputy Chief Nasim Qassem's apparent de-linking of a ceasefire in Lebanon from a truce in Gaza could be a major breakthrough and indicator that Hezbollah may pivot its operations internally. Right now, Hezbollah does not pose the same threat to Israel's security as it did one year ago and is signaling to Israel it is ready to end this conflict.

The US should leave no stone unturned in pushing Israel, Lebanon and Hezbollah towards a ceasefire and diplomatic solution before it is too late.

*[The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the American Task Force on Lebanon.]*

- faiobserver.com





# Canada and India expel each other's diplomats in escalating dispute over an assassination

NEW DELHI — Canada and India each expelled six diplomats Monday (14) in tit-for-tat moves as part of an escalating dispute over the June 2023 assassination of a Sikh activist in Canada.

A senior Canadian government official said Canada was expelling six Indian diplomats, including the high commissioner after police uncovered evidence of ongoing violent criminal activity linked to the Indian government. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Shortly afterwards, the Indian foreign ministry said it was expelling six Canadian diplomats. It had said earlier Monday that India was withdrawing its diplomats, after rejecting Canada's notification that the Indian ambassador was a "person of interest" in the assassination.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last year that there were credible allegations that the Indian government had links to the June 2023 assassination in Canada of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India has rejected the accusation as absurd.

In response to the allegations, India told Canada last year to remove 41 of its 62 diplomats in the country. Ever since the relations between the two countries have been frosty.

Earlier Monday, India's foreign ministry said in a statement that it was withdrawing its diplomats and also summoned the top Canadian diplomat in New Delhi and told him that "the baseless targeting" of the Indian high commissioner, or ambassador, and other diplomats and officials in Canada "was completely unacceptable".

"We have no faith in the current Canadian government's commitment to ensure their security," it said.

The ministry said that India would withdraw its high commissioner and other diplomats and officials.



Canada's Deputy High Commissioner to India Stewart Wheeler, speaks to media personnel after meeting with officials at the Indian government's Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi, India, on Monday (Oct. 14, 2024) - AP

The Indian foreign ministry said Monday that "India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau Government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India."

It later said it had asked the six Canadian diplomats to leave by Saturday (19).

It also said it had summoned Canadian Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheeler to protest.

Canada's government has not publicly confirmed that it has named any Indian official as a person of interest.

Wheeler on Monday reiterated Trudeau's accusation, saying in a statement: "Canada has provided credible, irrefutable evidence of ties between agents of the Government of India and the murder of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil.

"Now, it is time for India to live up to what it said it would do and look into those allegations."

India has repeatedly said Canada has not shared any evidence to back its claim.

"This latest step follows interactions that have again

witnessed assertions without any facts. This leaves little doubt that on the pretext of an investigation, there is a deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains," India's foreign ministry said earlier on Monday.

In June, a committee of Canadian parliamentarians named India and China as the main foreign threats to its democratic institutions, based on input from intelligence agencies.

The US has also alleged that Indian agents were involved in an attempted assassination plot of another Sikh separatist leader in New York in 2023 and said it had indicted an Indian national working at the behest of an unnamed Indian government official.

India expressed concern after the US raised the issue, dissociating itself from the plot, and launching an investigation.

The accusations of assassination plots against Sikh separatist leaders in Canada and the US have tested their relationship with India as they look to forge deeper ties with the country to counter China's rising global influence.

-Agencies



## **Subject : An Appeal to the Tamil Diaspora for Constructive Engagement**

*Dear Tamil Diaspora,*

It is time for us to face the reality that the dream of Tamil Eelam is over, and clinging to this idea will only hinder the progress and well-being of our people. Revisiting the painful final days of the war, debating who was involved, and speculating on alternative outcomes are not productive. They only serve to deepen wounds and create further division within our community and the nation as a whole. Instead, we must focus on the future—one that promotes healing, unity, and cooperation.

Reliving these events in endless debates may feel like a way to process our loss, but in truth, it is a distraction. Our homeland's future depends on finding ways to move forward. The current political leadership (JVP), which itself has experienced defeat and decimation not once but twice, has managed to reconcile and secure the trust of the majority. They have shown that it is possible to rise above the bitterness of the past, and we must take a page from their book.

For the sake of our people, especially those who remain a vulnerable minority, we need to take responsibility for how we conduct ourselves. Our diaspora community should not indulge in unproductive "chest-thumping" from afar, but rather, seek out ways to support constructive initiatives that will benefit those on the ground. Continuing to agitate for unachievable goals will only harm the very people we wish to protect.

We must live together with the majority, and this means showing that we are committed to peaceful coexistence within a united Sri Lanka. The current government seems sincere in its efforts to promote equality, and we should seize this moment to engage with them in good faith. The diaspora has a crucial role to play, but only if we act with realism and practicality. Let us support political representatives who advocate for solutions rooted in peace, equality, and cooperation, and reject those who thrive on divisiveness.

A rare opportunity for reconciliation exists under the current leadership, and we should not squander it. Let us direct our efforts towards fostering peace and working with those who can help us achieve it.

**In unity and hope,**

**Ariaratnam Gobikrishna**

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*Phyllis Diller*



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# Sri Lanka's economy stabilized, but continued reforms critical says World Bank

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's economy has stabilized, with growth expected to reach 4.4 % in 2024, surpassing earlier forecasts, the World Bank said on Thursday (10), noting that the positive outlook follows four consecutive quarters of growth driven by the industrial and tourism sectors and supported by critical structural and policy reforms.

However, the Bank's bi-annual Sri Lanka Development Update, titled *Opening Up to the Future*, released on Thursday, cautions that the recovery remains fragile and hinges on maintaining macroeconomic stability, successfully restructuring debt, and continuing structural reforms to increase medium-term growth and reduce poverty.

It says key reforms aimed at boosting exports, attracting foreign investment, enhancing female labour force participation, improving productivity, and addressing challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, and vulnerabilities in the financial sector are crucial for achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth.

The report underscores the country's potential for achieving higher and sustainable growth through trade. Noting that Sri Lanka has an untapped export potential estimated at \$10 billion annually, which could create approximately 142,500 new jobs, it says there is significant opportunity for diversifying and expanding exports in manufacturing, services and agriculture, provided the necessary reforms are implemented.

David Sisen, World Bank Regional Country Director for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, acknowledging Sri Lanka's recent economic stabilization, marked by four quarters of growth and a current account surplus in 2023, as a significant



*Sri Lankan rupees seen in a bowl at a vegetable vendor's shop in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on July 29, 2022. The economy recorded falling consumer prices for the first time in 39 years, official data showed Monday (Sept 30, 2024), with the September inflation figure dipping to negative 0.5%*

*- Kim Kyung-Hoon/Reuters*

milestone, said Sri Lanka, at this moment, has a real opportunity to realize its export potential, estimated at \$10 billion annually. "There is an opening for Sri Lanka to deepen its participation in global value chains and take advantage of its geography and an evolving global landscape to generate jobs and sustain growth. The continued implementation of important economic and governance-related reforms will allow Sri Lanka to fully benefit from this moment," explained.

Looking ahead, the report projects a modest growth of 3.5% in 2025, with growth then expected to follow a modest path over the medium term due to the scarring effects of the economic crisis. Poverty is expected to gradually decline but remain above 20% until 2026. Inflation is likely to stay below the central bank's target of 5% in 2024, gradually increasing as demand picks up. The current

account is projected to remain in surplus in 2024, driven by tourism and remittances.

The Sri Lanka Development Update is a companion piece to the South Asia Development Update, a twice-a-year World Bank report that examines economic developments and prospects in the South Asia region and analyzes policy challenges faced by countries in this region. The October 2024 edition, *Women, Jobs, and Growth*, projects growth of 6.4% in South Asia this year, making it the fastest-growing EMDE region in the world. Increasing women's participation in the labour force and opening further to global trade and investment could help the region grow even faster and achieve its development goals, according to the World Bank's regional outlook.

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## MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION UNVEILS RECOGNITION IN HONOUR OF MARKHAM MAYOR FRANK SCARPITTI AND THE FRANK SCARPITTI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



L-R: Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Paul Scarpitti, Arthur Moad, Khalid Usman, Del Silvestri with Oak Valley Health physicians — Dr. Mitesh Mehta, Dr. Andrew Patterson, Dr. Henry Solow — unveil recognition in honour of Mayor Scarpitti's late parents proudly hung in the Centre for Diagnostic Services at Markham Stouffville Hospital



L-R: Jo-anne Marr, President & CEO, Oak Valley Health, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Suzette Strong, CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation



L-R: Jo-anne Marr, President & CEO, Oak Valley Health, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Suzette Strong, CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation unveil surprise recognition in honour of Mayor Scarpitti's leadership



The Frank Scarpitti Charitable Foundation receives key from Oak Valley Health and MSH Foundation in recognition of their support of the hospital – L-R: Suzette Strong, Del Silvestri, Arthur Moad, Khalid Usman, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Jo-anne Marr

Close family and friends gathered at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) the evening of Monday, September 30 to celebrate the generosity of The Frank Scarpitti Charitable Foundation and the extraordinary leadership of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

In recognition of a \$1 million contribution from The Frank Scarpitti Charitable Foundation made during the hospital's \$50 million We're Growing. Together. Expansion Campaign, the hospital proudly named and officially unveiled the Antonio & Lucia Scarpitti Waiting Room in the Centre for Diagnostic Services at MSH. In addition, to pay tribute to Mayor Scarpitti's vision and extraordinary leadership during the hospital's first redevelopment project, as well as his ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the community, Oak Valley Health and MSH Foundation unveiled The Frank Scarpitti Link, the bridge that unifies Cornell Community Centre and the hospital.

"We put a lot of thought into how we can show Mayor Scarpitti, and the community, just how much his leadership embodies the connection between the community and the hospital," says Khalid

Usman, Board Director, The Frank Scarpitti Charitable Foundation and Former Markham Councillor. "A link is something that connects two independent things, or ideas, and makes them stronger together. The partnership between Markham Stouffville Hospital and the Cornell Community Centre, physically connected by this walkway or link, makes our leading community hospital a truly unique, state-of-the-art health and wellness campus."

The Expansion Campaign was launched to support MSH's first ever major redevelopment project. Mayor Scarpitti was instrumental in garnering tremendous community support that achieved incredible fundraising success and built the hospital to what it is today. The expanded and completely refurbished MSH reopened in 2014. Physically connected to the Cornell Community Centre, it is a truly unique, state-of-the-art health and wellness campus.

"We are sincerely grateful to Mayor Scarpitti and The Frank Scarpitti Charitable Foundation for sharing our vision that enables exceptional patient care that our families – and our community – needs and deserves, right here close to home," says Suzette

Strong, CEO, MSH Foundation.

"This is a celebration of the legacy of philanthropy that Mayor Scarpitti is helping to build here in our community, as well as the extraordinary future his leadership is enabling. We are so honoured and proud that Mayor Scarpitti is continuing his leadership, together with Mayor Iain Lovatt of the Town of Stouffville to co-chair our new \$150 million Campaign for MSH."

Health care's complex landscape is changing, along with our growing, diverse community. MSH is committed to creating extraordinary patient experiences, and it cannot be done alone. Government can't fund all of MSH's top priority needs.

Through MSH Foundation, donors play a vital role in advancing health care excellence and innovation. The Campaign for MSH calls on the community to invest their support. For more information visit [www.mshf.on.ca](http://www.mshf.on.ca)

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





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# Human Resilience in Aviation, And the Safety Net It Creates

By: Kane Siva

People say many things about Human Resilience, but this attribute of Humanity and Human endeavors have had/have saved, will save the day for aviation, and many people's lives in future too. In Aviation when Pilot makes a misstep it is front page news in all the major newspapers, media channels, and a slew of investigations on all fronts. But do the flying public ever know, how many times all over the world, the pilot's instincts, experience, their training, and their resolve have saved the day for the aviation, and its passengers? This goes unnoticed completely to a great extent. James. T. Reason, a well renowned professor on Human Factors in his book "The Human Contribution", and who dedicated his writings all along as to why folks mess up or hoof up said, his boring subject is/was "Humans as Hazard". I mentioned this in one of my earlier articles on Human Factors, "Accidents don't happen, but are made to happen".

So, what is this word Resilience I am uttering about? Resilience traces its usage to 1620 in the writings of Francis Bacon, Lord Chancellor, Politician, and a Figurative painter. Resilience originated from the Latin word "Resalire", is defined as the ability to withstand or recover from difficult conditions, challenges, and adverse situations without panicking, but to respond positively, resolve or overcome the situation. This term has evolved immensely within a span of 25 years in great strides, and has been used in Corporate Business, Medicine, psychology, and in many other fields but I would paraphrase it as being used in many instances in aviation. A well-recognized authority, Capt. Pierre Wannaz, of CEFA Aviation, a privately owned French Company, which is actively involved in pilot training, flight safety, and many more describes that this word has great significance in aviation for the ability to recover from, and to respond positively in an emergency. In the words of Shawn Pruchnick, an assistant professor for Aviation Studies at The Ohio State University, Quote "Resilience is more about how we go beyond that, and how we continuously adapt to changing situations for which we may not necessarily have procedures...In the aviation realm, it is when we are faced with unexpected events for which we don't have the likes of specific checklists that we can demonstrate" our level of resilience. Resilience has many narratives by many consultants and experts in aviation. I would say the best I read by Matt Simpson, technical director for Cyber Resilience at Atkins, quote "Resilience includes the ability for operations to continue even after safety has been compromised, this means ensuring that within the aviation industry, that systems do not shut down—even if for example, the cyber aspects of



the system are not working properly, from air traffic control to the air conditioning with a room of servers.

Dr. Shawn Pruchnicki, qualified resilience in this fashion, "The crew need to adapt, and only perform part of a checklist, and they had to be able to figure out on the fly, what part of a checklist was going to be valuable in the next 2 minutes, and they were not paralyzed by this unexpected event which was one, that they were not specifically trained for, but rather adapted procedures to meet the challenge, to adapt to the circumstances". There are 5 important factors to develop resilience: namely control, connection to others, communication, confidence, competence, and commitment. I would say the 5 C's. This is also defined by Researchers Meredith Carroll and Shem Malmquist, "As the intrinsic ability of a system to adjust its functioning prior to, during, or following changes and disturbances, so that it can sustain required operations under both expected and unexpected conditions".

Nowadays most of the airlines train their pilots to be resilient. To give the benefit of the doubt, Resilience training is not a new concept in aviation parlance. It was introduced maybe 10 years back in CRM Crew Resource Management. It is built on Pilot's confidence and competencies. Really there are few incidents we came across with in the last 10/15 years, where the resilience of the pilots saved the day. I will be chronicling a few of these incidents in my future articles, to give my heartfelt appreciation to the pilots, and to the airlines who motivated them, by their training in flight safety, to give their best, in an unforeseen or unscripted incident.

Being a Canadian, I would say a first of this kind, (maybe I am wrong) that happened on the 23rd of July, 1983, 14 years before I migrated to Canada, gives the best illustration of resilience, of the pilots who saved the day for Canadians, and for our aviation, even much before the word Resilience, and CRM, has been used in aviation parlance.

This all started on a beautiful day in a picture-perfect weather on July 23rd, 1983 on an Air Canada, Flight 143, that took off from Montreal, Quebec, destination Edmonton, Alberta, overflying Ottawa. On board this domestic sector flight, the Captain was Robert Pearson, 48 years with total of 15000 hours, assisted by First officer Maurice Quintal, 36 years, with 7000 hours was flying, a brand new Boeing 767-200, which was only 5 months, REG C-GAUN, 61 passengers, and 8 crew members on board. Air Canada 143, departed as a normal flight from Dorval airport in Montreal and was heading to Edmonton. The troubles started around 2000 hrs, at 41000 feet the flight deck crew had an alarm on fuel indicators. The pilots immediately shut down this right engine, soon there was an alarm from the other fuel indicator too. The pilots realized some serious issue was going on, and all of a sudden, the aircraft lost its power. All the instruments became blank, and the instrument panels turned black. The pilots were able to use RAT, Ram Air Turbine for emergency instruments and hydraulic support to handle the aircraft. The incident was caused by a multitude of errors including human, technical, a complete misunderstanding of the Foot Pound system, and the Centigrade Gram System, regarding the unit of fuel pumped in.

In fact, the aircraft was cleared to operate this flight with MEL -Minimum

23 July  
1983: Air  
Canada  
Flight 143  
was a  
Boeing 767-  
200, registra-  
tion C-GAUN,  
enroute from  
Montreal to  
Edmonton,



Captain Robert  
Pearson



Aviation & Airlines

SPECIAL FEATURE



C-GAUN, the aircraft involved in the accident, photographed 2 years after the incident.

Equipment List, category by the engineers who gave the green light for this flight. Fuel -quantity indicator sensor -FQIS were not functioning properly in the B 767 aircrafts, and this issue arose in many of the B767s.

Initially the investigators believed the cause was the fuel pumps and the faulty Fue quantity indicator sensors but to their bewilderment it was not so. The Culprit was Human. The Fuel Quantity for the sector was entered into the system manually by the pilots, as there was a fault in the computer. The system in the B-767 calculates the fuel in the Metric System, The Quantity of fuel was given in the FPS system. This system change resulted in the calculations of fuel required for the flight to be halved. When

Gimli Glider / Air Canada Flight 143



Flight 143 after landing at Gimli, Manitoba

the Engines gave up on the pilots halfway through the flight, the immediate reaction was, what had happened? As they did not understand, why was the plane out of fuel? Quoting Pearson who said "I did not know how the computers work, except how an ATM machine functions? Pearson supposed to have said "How the hell can computers shut down the engines"? When the alarm sounded on that flight 143, Pearson said no one had any idea what went wrong and had no clue? Since there was no power the engines were not working, and the pilots really got confused. Capt. Pearson decided not to panic the passengers, made the first announcement "The Plane's computers are not working, and we would divert the flight to Winnipeg to get it fixed. Apt Pearson's lifetime piloting skills of all kinds of flying equipment, and moreover he is an avid Glider pilot. All these experiences kicked in at the right time, and that saved the day.

When the engines failed, Pearson, who was flying the aircraft quickly realized, instead of finding out the cause, his main responsibility was to land this stricken

aircraft safely on a piece of land. Co-pilot, Maurice Quintal, was doing the calculations to get to the closest airport, as they realized the aircraft was bound to lose altitude in a matter of 45 minutes or less. Pearson convinced self, that they could make it to Winnipeg. By a stroke of luck Maurice Quintal, had trained at Gimli, an Air Force Base, before he joined Air Canada, (Hence the name "Gimli Glider") that was about 15 miles away from the point they were at. They had barely any basic instruments left to guide them, as there was no power. The pilots realized they were at greater height, while approaching the airport and had no power to reduce the speed. Quintal lowered the landing gear, but it didn't provide much assistance. Quoting investigative reporter "Christine Negroni" Pearson used a sideslip maneuver he had honed while towing Gliders. Using the Rudder, ailerons, and the elevators, he turned the Fuselage into the airstream, so that the plane's bulky metal flank would work against its movement through the air.

Later Pearson said "we were using the Fuselage (The central body of the plane where the crew and the passengers are) as an air brake, this gave everyone an uncomfortable ride, but this maneuver saved the day for all of them and for the aircraft as well. Miraculously both the pilots landed the aircraft on that airfield without any loss of lives and major damage to the aircraft.

After the horrific ordeal Capt. Pearson had said, "I had total tunnel vision and Maurice was by my side with his experience, and I was mainly focussed on the speed and my relationship to that piece of cement. (Runway)" Miraculously both the pilots did it. Their resourceful Teamwork gave more credence to the word, "Crew Resource Management", even much before it was applied to the Cockpit Management.

For the reader's interest, the aircraft was damaged, surely the undercarriage but the major components were unscathed, was repaired, and it was flying till 2008, until it was sent to its retirement home in Arizona.

Unfortunately, the Co-Pilot, Maurice passed away in 2015, and Capt. Pearson on June 16th,2019.

We all must understand that the machines do not change or modify on their own and only function as they are. Yes of course, what humans bring into the cockpit, is their unassailable ability to overcome any incidents, and what not. As a result of this incident, which was almost a total catastrophe, the Department of Transportation of Canada, ensured all the airline's fleet in Canada, adhere strictly to the Metric System, to prevent any further mishaps.

I would love to quote the words of Mario Pierobon, on Resilience, before I do a perfect smooth landing. He wrote in the Flight Safety Foundation "Explaining the term is easy, but putting this concept into practice is more challenging". It was absolutely true looking back at the

turn of events. As I always greatly value the contribution of anyone, to improve everyone's wellbeing, motivate others, and the aviation industry, I sincerely offer my most humble appreciation, gratitude, and prayers for saving the day, for the 69 people on that flight. I would go an extra mile and say this to the two pilots, "You made all the Canadian Pilots, and our Aviation industry over the moon, by your ingenuity and heroism" and this should be recorded in the annals of the aviation industry.

Bravo, Bravo, & Graci.

I Want to sum it up with the words of John Ruskin:

"When we fail to praise a man who deserves praise, two sad things happen; we run a chance of driving him from the right road for want of encouragement, and we deprive ourselves of one of the very happiest of our privileges, the privilege of rewarding the labor that deserves a reward".

up to 5,000 liters and pumped the requested fuel into the tanks.

Step	Calculations performed by crew	Correct calculations
1. Drip stick readings	62 cm, 64 cm	62 cm, 64 cm
2. Conversion from centimeters to liters using table of figures	= 3,758 L + 3924 L = 7,682 liters	= 3,758 L + 3924 L = 7,682 liters
3. Conversion from liters to kilograms	7,682 L x 1.77 = 13,597 kg (actually lbs)	7,682 L x 0.8 = 6,146 kg
4. Calculation of required additional fuel (kg)	22,300 kg - 13,597 kg (lbs) = 8703 kg	22,300 kg - 6,146 kg = 16,154 kg
5. Conversion of required additional fuel from kg to L	8703 kg + 1.77 = 4,916 L = 5,000 L	16,154 kg + 0.8 = 20,192 L = 20,200 L
5000 L of fuel weighs about 4000 kg. 6,146 kg of fuel already on board + 4000 kg added = 10,146 kg of fuel total, out of 22,300 needed.		

Comparison of the calculations made the by the crew, vs. the correct calculations. (Own work)

HIP HIP hooray! for Captain Robert Pearson and co-pilot Maurice Quintal. You both will be remembered by the Canadian Aviation Fraternity always.

God bless both these brave souls. Thank You Great Aviators.



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



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# Abandoning RESERVE



By: J A Rajah

To the forlorn lover, who has tasted love, but is now in the pangs of separation the final solution is the ride on the Palmyra horse, as a remedy. Experiencing anguish and shame, which the body and soul cannot endure, it is better to mount the Palmyra horse as a remedy. Time there was when delicacy and manliness were the prized possessions, but now the 'palmyra horse' possesses my love-lorn self. The torrent of my passion has washed away the raft of manliness and delicacy, which was my trusted strength. The distress of separation at eventide and palmyra-horse are gifts to me by the maiden of tender waist and tint bracelets. With ceaseless thinking about my artless maiden, my eyes refuse to close, so I consider midnight riding of Palmyra horse too. Nothing is more sublime than the self-restraint of my

woman, who will not ride the Palmyra horse, even when her passions go deep as well as the oceans. My passions know the bounds of modesty, nor can they abide restraint, so the secret is out, and our love is publicly known. My all-absorbing passion would hold that no one else knows about it, so I roam the streets confusedly in a public exhibition.

**"Yaam annin kaana nakupa arivillar,  
Yaam patta thaam padavaru".**

யாம்கண்ணின் காண நகுப அறிவில்லார்  
யாம்பட்ட தாம்படா ஆறு

*Fools laugh at me, to my very face, for they  
have not felt all the pangs of love I have felt.*

**(Kural: 1131-1140)**



Valluvar's Views



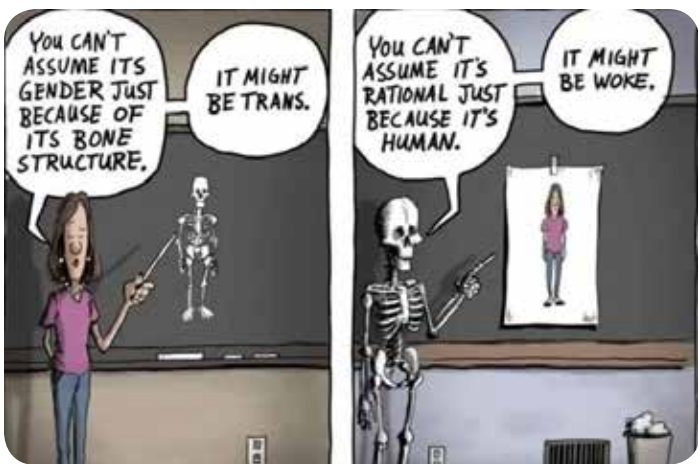
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Mary Shelley once said: "The history of villains is much more entertaining than that of heroes, because monsters are not born, they are created. They do not emerge from emptiness or darkness of their own accord, but are shaped by circumstances, by the wounds of the world around them. They reflect the depths of human pain, rejection, loneliness, misunderstanding. A hero is defined by his acts of bravery, but a villain is the result of a heart that was once pure and ended up corrupted. Monsters, in their tragedy, show us what could happen to us all, if the world were to turn its back on us."



This is not even a joke. There are archeologists out there who identify the bones of female warriors as men. Because you know, if they went to war, rode horses, donned battle armour - they must be men. Everyone knows women only cook and clean. So progressive of them to know all that and educate the rest of us.



LOL, you'll never guess what is at No.1 of the worst degrees he names. Or perhaps you can. All true though. Young people need to stop prioritizing college unless they want to be a doctor, engineer or architect. Don't go in for random degrees. It's one massive scam and worse, these days they brainwash you into becoming woke automatons whose CVs get binned. I am not even joking. These kids are told to put pronouns in their bios. Many employers are now talking about how they don't hire Gen Z college kids - especially the ones with pronouns in bio - as they are unstable woke maniacs.

This is a worldwide phenomenon.  
1. Students are not taught to read from a young age.  
2. Tiktok generation have seriously broken brains. They can't concentrate for more than a minute at a time.  
I have English Literature students in my class who have not read a single book in English.

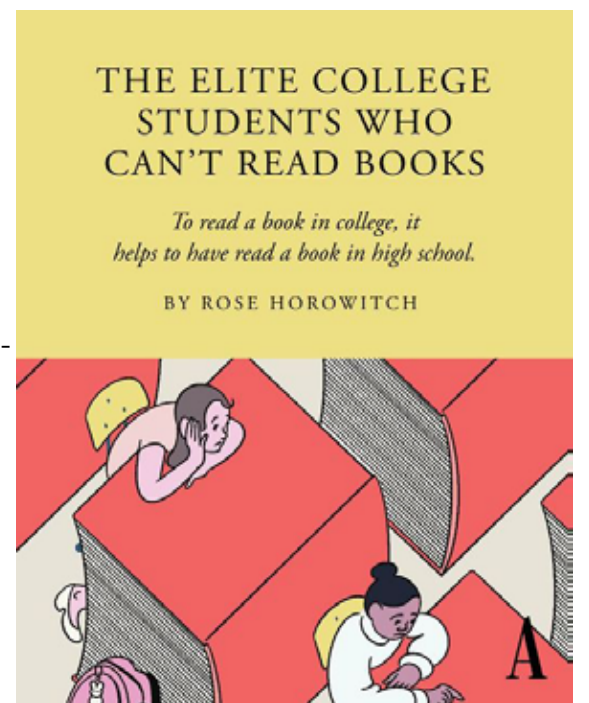
Asked why they chose English Literature as a subject, answers varied from "I like to read poetry" to "My friends are taking that course."

A local literature teacher told me he used to assign reading as homework, so that the works can be analysed in class. Now he has to waste a lot of time sitting with the students as they read in class - they simply won't do it otherwise.

I do the same thing in my English classes. Used to assign them graded texts as homework before realising they simply wouldn't do it.

So now they sit and read in class.

And even then, the tiktok generation cannot sit and concentrate for just 10 minutes of reading in class.





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# Magnanimity of my mother

Original in Tamil

English version by Siva Sinniah



Shakti got a shock when she did not see her mother, who usually waits for her with a cup of coffee every day, when she returned from college. She was worried and thought this may be because of her father's kidney problem. Preparing tasty dishes for the family and fasting frequently for the good health of her husband was her normal duties. Even though her mother never divulged the reason for her fasting, Shakti knew very well it was for her father.

On the advice of doctors, mother started preparing dishes fit for him. Doctors told him that the Creatine level in his blood is slightly more than the normal one. But my father never liked those dishes, and this created unnecessary problems between the two of them.

"I am in good health, and I don't need any special dishes" was his argument but used to go to bed because of tiredness. This made my mother tell him to follow the intake of special dishes.

Shakthi started looking for her mother in the kitchen and was disappointed. Normally on my arrival she used to give me a cup of coffee and went through my notes with care.

"You only studied grade 10 and what are you going to understand by reading my notes" I used to tease her.

"I am checking whether there is any love letter in your notebook" she used to reply. She was very careful in telling every member of the family not to do anything wrong, in a very subtle way.

"Mom, what is wrong in loving a person?" asked Shakthi.

"Nothing wrong in loving but hiding from parents is the wrong thing," she said firmly.

If she found that my handwriting is a scribble, she used to ask whether I am sick. If I say in the affirmative, she will see that I got back to normalcy by preparing home remedies tirelessly. She was active in every work she performed and took extra Care in me and my father. If you enter the home tired and on seeing her you feel fresh and happy. My mom is the embodiment of spiritedness. My mother used to pinch my cheek after I finished drinking the coffee. If sometimes she misses her pinch on my cheek, she will come searching for me to do that. A mother who is so fond of her daughter can also be a good friend.

The hall was empty without my mother. Is she angry with me, I

thought for a moment and as far as I remember I did not do anything wrong. She saw a note on the dining table on which was scribbled coffee in the flask. Some letters were seen erased by water droplets. Shakthi never bothered about the coffee but was keen on looking for her. Finally, she went to the top of the house's open area and saw her in a corner seated and having her head in between her legs and crying. She never saw her in that position and got perplexed.

"What happened? Who scolded you?" Shakthi inquired.

She never answered and did not raise her head. Shakthi forced her legs apart and cleaned her face with the towel, but she kept on crying, her face was swollen and indicated that she has been crying for a long time. Suddenly the sky became dark and small drops of rain fell on the ground.

"Mom it is slightly raining, and I know you will not like this and why not we go down?" she pleaded.

"What is the point in safeguarding my body when nothing I like happens here. It doesn't make any difference whether I live or die" was her angry reply.

Shakti was shocked on hearing her words. A person always speaking



## Short Story

## COMMUNITY WATCH



to everyone in a happy mood is now speaking angrily. Which is unusual.

“What happened mom?” she asked.

“What more there to happen”.

I am unable to fathom your problem. Shall I call Father?”

“There is no point in calling him, since he’s the problem”.

“Are you worried about his kidney problem?”

“I have been praying to God and fasting for his healthy survival, but this is a different one”.

Shakti got a shock. Mom and Dad have been called model partners. Now she is accusing dad as the source of the problem. She was not able to find out the reason for the problem.

The person who analyzes any problem in the family and solves it easily is now telling that she has a problem.

“I think God is now testing me,” she said.

“What Mom you used to say that we must not be afraid of problems and run away, but make the problem get afraid of you and run away from us. Usually, the people who have problems are the source of them and if you find out the root cause of them, you may get the answer. These are your advice. Whenever we tell our problems you used to say motivating words and make us get over them easily. You are now speaking in frustration. I remember you telling me that when a problem is born, the solution is also born with it. So, your smartness is to look for the problem. So, Mommy tell me your problem and we both will try to find the solution” so said Shakti.

“Now the front water is running over my head and there is no point in sitting and thinking about it” she started crying again. She wiped her eyes with the end of the saree she was wearing. At that time a photo fell down from the saree. There her father was standing by the side of a lady with the wedding chain on her neck and his hand over her shoulder smiling.

“Oh, my God. What is this?” exclaimed Shakti.

“That is what I don’t understand. I think it may have fallen from his diary and I found it today, when sweeping the room. I never expected this from him. I have been very careful in seeing that a situation like this must not arise, but I have failed miserably now,” said Mom.

Shakti remembered the face of the lady in the photo and finally traced it to the office of her father. One day she was waiting at the reception to meet her father, and this lady came in with a piece of paper, where it was written to wait for him for 10 minutes and showed

signs by hand and went off.

She inquired from the receptionist as to this lady. She replied that she’s unable to speak and is working with your father. She’s always helpful to everyone and would volunteer to do the work of others, even if they don’t ask. Also donates blood to those who are in need. She’s not worried about her disability and used to express herself in sign Language or in writing.

“Wow, I am happy to hear that. What is her name?” She asked.

“Karna”

“An abnormal name. Is he a newcomer?”

“Yes, she was working in Delhi and lost both of her parents in an accident and after donating their body organs and moved here. She does not have any relatives and moves with everyone closely as a relative. As per her name she’s always helpful and sociable.” replied the receptionist. There were tears in her eyes when she was telling the story.

Shakthi was trying to recollect this past incident.

“I have been cheated. A woman will never wish for such an event to happen to her” Mom said while sobbing.

After realizing the critical situation Shakti thought that her mom was busy looking after the household activities and forgot to look after her husband.

Suddenly she asked her, “do you remember dad going on a one month leave last year with his office mates on vacation?”

“Yes, what that has to do with this?”

“Why did you not go with him?”

“Yes, as per the astrologer’s advice, I was fasting for a month hence did not join him”.

I presumed this may have happened during that time.

“Yes, I can remember his behavior changed after this and even took leave because of ill health”.

“What is the point in regretting now. You have been busy talking of Pooja, astrology, fasting and was away from your husband and never cared to pay attention to him and this may be the reason for this unfortunate situation.”

“Is this the way of a daughter talking to her mother in support of her father?”

“Mom don’t get me wrong. You have been keeping a distance from your husband and gave him a chance to seek another woman for pleasure. Hence you are the cause of this problem”.

“Okay if it is so, what about his common sense? Don’t you think he should have controlled his feelings for the sake of the family”.

“No point in blaming him, when you are the cause of the problem.”

There was a pause, and she agreed to my suggestion.

“Mom it is up to you to handle the situation now. You have to prove our custom and traditions to her. She is from an entirely different community with different customs and manners. Furthermore, you can voice your opinion but she’s not able to speak.”

On hearing this mom’s feeling changed and her reaction was seen on her face.

“Your father is a kind gentleman and may have done it because of it”, she said.

“There is no point in talking about it Mom. We will ask him when he comes”.

“You both have been talking without even noticing my entry. I came home early to tell you about this” so said father while entering the hall.

We were surprised and did not speak for a while.

“I was in hospital having said to you, that I am going on a tour.”

“Why Hospital?” She was shocked to hear that.

“I have been not taking care of my health, even though you have repeatedly told me about it. One day I fainted in the office and Karna took me to the hospital . After many tests Doctor told me that my kidneys are not functioning well and need dialysis or transplant. In order to save my life, she volunteered to donate one of her kidneys even though I was opposed to this decision. She argued that her kidneys are compatible to mine and on the advice of the doctor signed on the agreement. I am sure you will be upset about this and hence told you a lie and went to the hospital to do the transplant. On returning to normalcy after the transplant, I thought of doing something to her for her life saving action and since she doesn’t have any relatives to give her a safe life, I decided to marry her and tied the thali in the temple. Now it is up to you to accept my action or reject it” so said father and kept silent waiting for the reply.

Mom thought for a while and spoke with determination “I would have even hesitated in giving my kidney. I am reminded of a story of King Syby who donated his flesh to save the life of a pigeon. Even though she was an outsider, performed a miraculous action by donating one of her kidneys. She saved your life and is now a member of our family. Choose an auspicious day and bring her home”.

Dad was astonished and embraced her. Shakti was amazed at her mother’s words and saluted her and bent on her feet and worshiped for her magnanimous action.

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## SPECIAL FEATURE



## LEGENDRY FRIENDSHIP

By: Kumar Punithavel

Friends have played a very important role at various times in everyone's life. It goes to the extent that Thiruvalluvar had said that friends are like 'the hand that hastens to hold the clothes that slips on a person'. But when he says on couplet 785 on his famous book of ethics Thirukkural, there is no need of communication for friendship to last, I felt it was too much to believe such a statement, and here is that couplet;

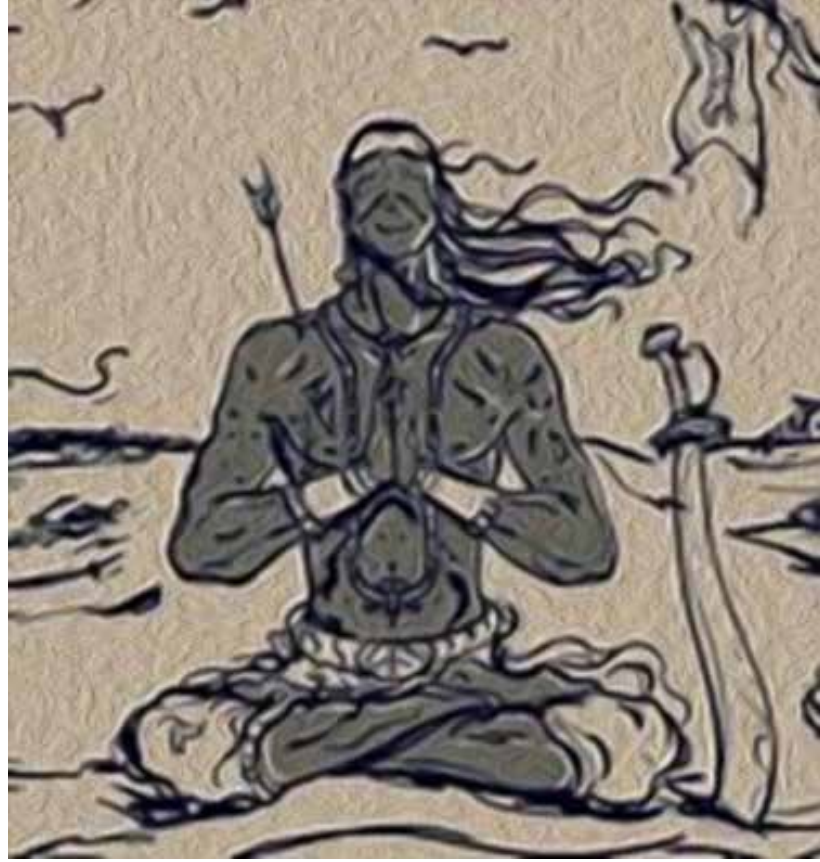
**Kural 785:**

புணர்ச்சி பழகுதல் வேண்டா  
உணர்ச்சிதான் நட்பாங் கிழமை தரும்  
*No close living nor clasping grip;  
'Tis the unison of feeling friends  
unites.*

However, after reading about the friendship between great Chola King Kopperumcholan (கோப்பெருஞ்சோழன்) and poet Pisiraanthaiar (பிசிராந்தையார்) of Pandya kingdom in the Sangam literature, where the two who had never met carried their friendship to death, I changed my stand. King Kopperumcholan was an early Chola King (100BC-100AD) who ruled from his capital, Uraiyur, which is the present-day Trichy. There are ten poems on King Kopperumcholan in The Sangam literature Purananoru (புறநானூறு), and he himself has authored three poems in this ancient Tamil Sangam text which is an anthology of four hundred poems by various poets. Because of his excellence in Tamil, he became very friendly with many Tamil poets and a great patron of many poets. Among them Pisiraanthaiar who hailed from a distant town called Pisir in the Pandyan Kingdom. While the king had heard about the poet's fascinating Tamil poetic skills, and the poet too had heard about the king's scholarly, impeccable governance and benevolence. Though they both had never met nor seen each other, they had great admiration for each other and shared a great bond of friendship.

The two admired and respected each other. In the poem#212, in Purananoru (புறநானூறு) the poet Pisiraanthaiar mentions about his friend King Kopperumcholan as follows; Initially the poet, though from Pandya kingdom refers to his friend King of Chola kingdom, as his king and says he rules a prosperous country where labourers drink filtered, aged, desirable toddy and eat cooked tortoises without limits and cheeks bulging with roasted eels, as they forget their occupation and celebrate perpetual festivals ... and on.

In spite of his glorious righteous



Kopperumcholan (கோப்பெருஞ்சோழன்)

reign, things turned sour for King Kopperumcholan. He had two sons who were misguided by some bad friends, and the two children wanted to compete for the Chola throne. They raised an army to fight against their father. The angered king decided to vanquish the two sons and rallied his army in preparation of an imminent war.

Though preparing for a war, the king was in constant communication with the learned poets in his royalty. Of them was Pullarrur Eyirriar (புல்லாற்றூர் எயிற்றியனார்). He pointed to the king that if he slays his own sons and wins the war then the country would be left without an heir, and on the other hand if he loses, they would be victors and rule the country. It was a catch 22 situation. He pointed out to the king that it is better to die than fight his own progeny. Withdrawing from the fight was a difficult decision to make because of his pride. Finally, he decided to face death by vadakirutal a Tamilian tradition of committing suicide honorably, where the person sits facing north and starves himself to death. It was a practice during the Sangam age. The Tamil kings, in order to save their honour, and prestige, were prepared to meet their death facing North and never would they turn their back in the battle. It was a Tamil martial art. This was either done alone, or as a group with the supporters of the captured king.

When decided to do vadakirutal, the king wanted to reserve a spot for his beloved friend Pisiraanthaiar from the Pandya kingdom. However, there was objection from those who were present. Justifying his decision, he narrated a poem which is the poem #216 in Purananoru, the anthology of four

hundred poems. Let's see what he had said in that poem;

“Royalty! Pisiraanthaiar has heard about you, but never had met you personally; Maybe you have had friendship for many years, but have never met one another personally, nor can he deviate from friendly relationships”, thus thinking, do not doubt you the learned ones. Without fail my pleasant intimate friend who never lies to bring about shame: Whenever asked his name, he mentions adding my name to his as the naive Cholan. It was indeed a very intimate friendship he had with me. At a time when I am doing the vadakirutal, he will not keep away. Certainly, he will come. Do reserve a seat for him. Thus sang a poem by the emperor Kopperumcholan. Here is the translation and the original Tamil poem #216 of Purananoru, and the original Tamil version.

*“You have heard about him, a little bit  
haven't met him though years have gone,  
However, it was a faultless friendship,  
Impossible Royalty to act accordingly”  
thus  
Don't doubt, the learned ones! 5  
Without fail my pleasant intimate friend  
Never lies that brings defame;  
While mentioning his name adds, “my  
name  
Naive Cholan”, the great  
Loving friendship he had with me 10  
At this juncture he will not stay away,  
Certainly he will come. So, reserve him a  
place.*

“கேட்டல் மாத்திரை அல்லது யாவதும்  
காண்டல் இல்லாது யாண்டு பல கழிய,  
வழு இன்று பழகிய கிழமையர் ஆயினும்,  
அரிதே தோன்றல், அதற்பட ஒழுகல்” என்று  
ஐயம் கொள்ளன்மின், ஆர் அறிவாளர்! 5  
இகழ்வு இலன் இனியன் யாத்த நண்பினன்  
புகழ் கெட வருஉம் பொய் வேண்டலனே  
தன் பெயர் கிளக்கும் காலை “என் பெயர்  
பேதைச் சோழன்” என்னும் சிறந்த  
காதற் கிழமையும் உடையன், அதன்தலை 10  
இன்னது ஓர் காலை நிலல்லன்,  
இன்னே வருகுவன் ஒழிக்க அவற்கு இடமே.

Indeed, he did come down, though the king had already died when he turned up. However, the poet took his seat that was reserved for him by his beloved friend Kopperumcholan and observed the ritual of vadakirutal, until death took his life away. Reading this episode completely changed my belief that friendship needs interaction and communication, and go with the stance taken by Thiruvalluvar on couplet #785. Long live friendships.



## SPECIAL FEATURE

# THE CHALLENGES TO THE FAMILY SYSTEM IN CANADA

By: J A Rajah

**D**ramatic changes have occurred in Canadian households that have eroded the nuclear family--one father, one mother, and the challenges to the family system in the modern world are significant. Such changes have eroded the traditional nuclear family structure of one father, one mother, and two or more children. The challenges to the family system in Canada are significant.

Canadians are marrying at an older age than previous generations. The average of marrying was 30.7 in 2020. Although divorce rates are high, the institution of marriage is still dominant and highly valued in Canada. Single-parent households and families, including step-parenting and step-sibling- relationships, have become commonplace as rates of divorce and re-marriage have increased.

### A. Cultural Shift and the Family System :

Canada has now become a home for people from all over the world. In a country of multiculturalism, there is a tendency to be influenced by Western tradition and behaviour. Though there is freedom for every community to preserve its traditions, there is also a trend towards uniformity. Cultural shifts don't occur overnight or in a vacuum. For the first time in the country's history, the number of one-person households has surpassed all other types of living situations. They accounted for more than 28.2 per cent of all households

according to the 2023 census. The number is more than the percentage of couples with children, couples without children parent families, multiple-family households and all other combinations of people living together. More Canadians are living alone, and other takeaways. There are several reasons for people deciding against marriage and opting to stay single. One of the reasons they say is that it is their personal choice. I know of a young guy who fell in love with a girl as he was studying at school. Their affair continued after they got qualified and got employed. However, it so happened that the girl met with an accident and died accidentally. The young man though well accomplished in life decided to live as a confirmed bachelor doing social and religious service. Several similar cases add to a new cultural pattern of living single lives.



- macleans.ca

### B. Changes in the structure of the family :

Now more adults are choosing other alternatives such as living with their parents, living alone or living unmarried with roommates. The divorce rate in the country has increased. In 1981 more than 68% lived as couples. Now only 39% remain as couples. There is a shift in the general opinion about marriage. Angus Reid opinion polls showed that 53% of all Canadians feel that "marriage is simply not necessary". This belief was held by 60% of men aged 18-34. Now 53% of Canadian adults prefer a civil ceremony to a religious ceremony to get married. Four in ten Canadian adults have never been married and aren't sure they want to.

### C. Married Couples - the foundation of the economy :

In many Western countries, changing public opinions regarding marriage, childbearing, and family are having lasting effects. The changing attitudes have led to fewer couples and marriages, resulting in the disturbing trend of fewer babies. Canada's fertility rate has dropped from 1.6 in 2016 to 1.3 in 2022. A fertility rate of 2-1 babies per woman aged 15 to 49 is known to be the benchmark to maintain a population. Canada's fertility rate is only two-thirds of what is needed to support its population, and the 1.3 fertility rate represents a nearly 20 per cent decline in just six years. While the decision to marry

and have children is deeply personal, it has an impact on society. Marriage matters a lot to society at large. Married couples are the foundation of the economy. They earn savings and spend more than their unmarried counterparts. They are happier. Stable two-parent families are suitable for kids. Children brought up in a married family are more likely to succeed in school, find employment and avoid problems later in life than those raised in other situations however loving.

### D. Healthy Families- Foundation of Successful Communities.

It must be clearly understood that the right from creation -men and women were built to reach their full potential within a family structure. In recent decades, the family unit has come under attack. Although many find themselves in less-than-ideal situations beyond their control, family does matter. It is the bedrock of society and the foundation of a thriving community. A healthy family is and has always been the best environment for raising children and shaping future generations.

A Tamil film song resonates with the idea that a good family operates like a university. "Nallathoru kundumpam palkalaykkazhakam". It provides an environment in which members can interact with each other and gain many life skills and values. The extended family system in many Eastern societies also serves as a rich environment for cultured living.



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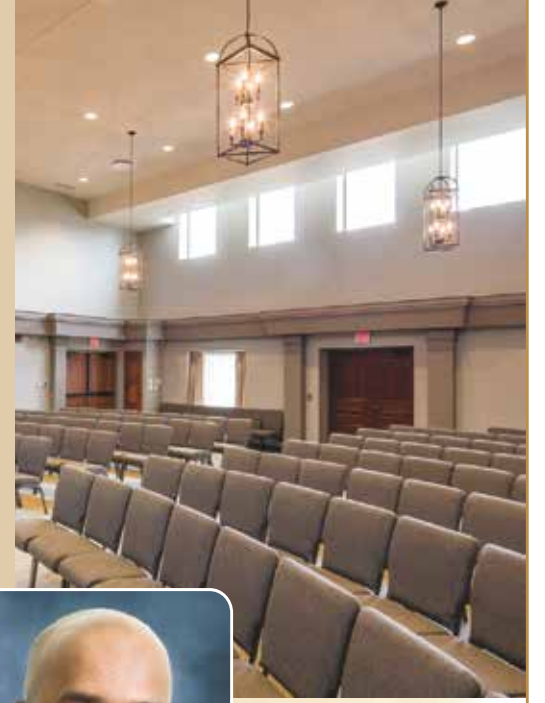


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# WHY IS CLIMATE CHANGE SO CRITICAL?

Climate change is something that is unfortunately affecting most living beings. There are many reasons as to why understanding climate change is so important. Some reasons are that climate change affects our ecosystem, climate change negatively impacts lives and the reasons as to why climate change is mainly impacted by human pollution. We need to help eliminate climate change by changing the way we do some things on Earth. Here are some solutions to bring climate change to an end.

Firstly, climate change affects our ecosystem that includes living and non-living organisms. A reason is that it endangers species that are important to the ecosystem. Climate change also endangers humans as well. Natural disasters happen because of the Earth increasing in temperature and it can kill so many living and nonliving organisms. Another reason could be the melting of ice glaciers. Climate change is about the Earth increasing in temperature and all the gases trapped inside our atmosphere. So, the northern ice glaciers will melt because of the heat and gases trapped inside of our atmosphere.



**By: Akshaya Sasitharan**  
Grade 7 student

Secondly, climate change can negatively affect living organisms that reside in forests, coral reefs, food sources and other species. Climate change affects our lives because it can create natural disasters such as forest fires, floods, tsunamis, tornados and more. Other kinds of pollution such as sound, light, air, water can affect lives of humans and especially endangered and non-endangered species. The types of pollution that I've mentioned are caused by human activity. Light and sound pollution can come from cars, condos and other buildings. Air and water pollution can be caused by the chemicals and non-renewable energies that we

produce and the waste that gets dumped into the water. The weather is also becoming harder and harder to predict because of unusual weather activities. This is a problem as we cannot properly prepare ourselves for future weather such as rain, snow, and other weather events.

My third and final reason as to why climate change is important is because of climate change being caused by pollution. The use of fossil fuels creates unnecessary heat to be released into the atmosphere. We are ruining the Earth by creating pollution caused by fossil fuels that enters the sky creating acid rain causing lakes, rivers and freshwater reserves becoming undrinkable. Another thing humans do is use energy. Sometimes, oil leaks cause freshwater reserves, lakes and rivers to become undrinkable. Oil leaks also cause animals to get covered in oil and hurt them. Humans also cut down forests for paper, furniture, houses etc. People cut down trees way too often causing deforestation. Deforestation is the removal of trees, that could also be another reason for more carbon emissions into the atmosphere. These things people do are also reasons for climate change to become more and more serious.

The United Nations should come together to find a solution to climate change just like they did for the chemical CFC, that almost destroyed our ozone layer. The United Nations came together to address the problem scientists discovered were the chemical CFC that was used to keep refrigerators



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safe. But, that chemical was slowly destroying the ozone layer. So, the United Nations came together to ban that chemical. I believe they should do the same thing for climate change and create some progress to getting rid of it for good. So, what do you think? Is climate change an important topic to be resolved immediately or not? That is why I think climate change is a topic that should be resolved as soon as possible. I hope you learned some new facts or interesting ideas that you might look into too!.



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As part of this upgrade, we have implemented some new security measures such as enabling Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). This along with other security features will ensure your data is protected with the most modern security features available. We understand that some of these features have made it difficult to setup your account. To remediate some of these issues, we have implemented

email to receive your MFA verification code.

Users who successfully have setup SMS will continue to receive their challenges via SMS message. We will introduce more flexible options for MFA soon.

As part of this experience, a New iOS mobile app is available for download from the app store {Access Markham on the App Store (apple.com)} A new Android OS app will be available in the Google Play store soon. If you are having difficulties accessing



our platform, please let us know via our City of Markham Contact Centre.

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## MARKHAM SIGNS 3-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH LNHL TO HOST ANNUAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Today, the City of Markham, together with Destination Markham Corporation, have signed an agreement with the Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) to host its annual hockey tournament for the next three years.

The 51st annual LNHL Tournament, the largest annual ice hockey tournament for First Nations youth in Ontario, is scheduled for March 2025 and will be hosted in partnership with the First Nations of the Chippewa Tri-Council.

“We are thrilled and honoured to see Markham chosen as the host city for the next three LNHL tournaments,” said Mayor Frank Scarpitti. “After hosting the 50th Anniversary celebration earlier this year, we look forward to welcoming the athletes, their families and guests from across Ontario back to our city through 2027. We will continue to support the incredibly positive impact this tournament has had on tens of thousands of Indigenous youth in Ontario. We would also like to congratulate the First Nations of the Chippewa Tri-Council in their newly named roles as Host Communities for the 2025 tournament.”

“With the unforgettable memories of the 50th anniversary still fresh, we are proud to welcome back the LNHL to Markham for the next three years,” Andrew Baldwin, Executive Director, Destination Markham. “Our city is ready to deliver an exceptional experience, both on and off the ice, for the athletes, families, and communities who make this tournament so special.”



**Front row (left to right):** Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Chico Ralf, President LNHL, Ward 5 Councillor & Chair, Destination Markham Board of Directors, Andrew Keyes.  
**Back row (left to right):** Chief Ted Williams, Mmjikaning (Rama) First Nation, Chief Donna Big Canoe, The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, Marcel Monague, Councillor, Beausoleil First Nation.

“I view this as a very historic day. It is the beginning of the next 50 years of the Little NHL Tournament. Our athletes, families, First Nations communities, and fans now have a home for the next three years in the City of Markham,” said Chico Ralf, LNHL President. “I also welcome this year’s 51st LNHL Tournament Host Community, First Nations of the Chippewa Tri-Council consisting of Mmjikaning (Rama) First Nation, Beausoleil First Nation, and The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, to this historic event. I look forward to a successful tournament next year and many more to follow.”

In March 2024, Markham hosted the 50th anniversary of the LNHL 2024 Hockey Tournament, Cultural Festival, and Gala Celebration. Spread over six days, the City welcomed more than 3,500 young Indigenous athletes, family and spectators from across Ontario to celebrate the game of hockey and Indigenous culture. The tournament itself generated nearly \$8 million in economic impact within the City of Markham.

The City of Markham celebrates Indigenous communities, as well as sports, which transcends both language and culture and brings communities together. Since January 2017, the City of Markham has partnered with Eabametoong First Nation to help promote social, cultural and economic collaboration. Furthermore, the City continues to work closely with Eabametoong to grow sport and fitness opportunities in the First Nation community.

### About Markham:

Markham, an award-winning municipality with over 362,000 residents and the largest of nine communities in York Region, is home to over 650 corporate head offices and more than 1,500 high tech and life science companies. Markham is a leader in attracting foreign direct investment with more than 234 foreign companies located in the City. Founded in the 1790s, today Markham is Canada’s most diverse community and enjoys a rich heritage, outstanding community planning and services, and a vibrant local economy.





## WHERE TO PLACE YOUR WASTE IN WINTER

On waste collection days, place your garbage, blue boxes, green bins and/or yard waste away from the curb on the right side of your driveway (if you're facing the house). This will allow our plows to clear the pile of snow from the bottom of your driveway without disturbing the waste.



## FURNITURE AND LARGE ITEMS

Furniture and large items are collected every other week with garbage



### Collection guidelines

- Large items such as sofas, chairs, mattresses and toilets each count as one item toward the three-item garbage limit. Only set out these items on your garbage collection day. Consider donating items that are still in good condition to others in need or to charitable organizations.
- Items must not exceed 68kgs/150lbs in weight or 1.8m/6ft in length. Items that are over the weight or length limit must be disposed of at a waste depot.

- Glass and mirrors must be securely wrapped in cardboard and marked as "Glass for disposal".
- For safety reasons, toilets set out at the curb must be separated into two pieces (tank and bowl) unless it is a one-piece toilet. If you are unable to separate a two-piece toilet, please dispose of it at a waste depot.
- Anything not collected must be removed from the curb by 9 p.m. on collection day.

- When complaints are received from the community about others leaving uncollected waste at the curb for long periods of time, City staff will investigate the property and provide the resident with an educational notice (in the form of a door hanger) noting that the waste must be removed from the curb immediately. If the resident does not comply within 48 hours, they could be subject to a fine of up to \$100 for being in contravention of the City's Waste By-law.



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600 sq.ft.

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**Two Bedrooms Unit**  
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- Living Area  
- Kitchen  
- Two Washrooms  
- Private Balcony



# COMMUNITY WATCH



## Durham Tamils Association Serving Our Tamil Community Over 20 Years

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

### DTA'S HOPE FOR HOMELAND GALA NIGHT

DTA proudly hosted its annual Hope for Homeland Gala night. The event was a huge success with proceeds collected going to fund additional projects in the homeland. As always these events can't be possible without the continued support of the youth and adult volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event go smoothly. A huge shout out to all the DTA executive team for making this event successful. Also want to thank all the sponsors and attendees for purchasing the tickets for this great cause.



### DTA SENIOR'S AUG MONTHLY MEETING

DTA Senior's March monthly meeting will be held on Sunday Oct 27, 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](http://durhamtamils.org)

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

### FAMILY KARAOKE NIGHTS ON FRIDAY

Join us for every Friday night for family fun and music at our Family Karaoke Night!

Bring your vocal talents as we gather for a memorable evening filled with laughter, singing, and bonding. Whether you're a seasoned performer or a first-time singer, there's a song for everyone to enjoy.

We will provide your favorite tunes so get ready to create lasting memories.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to come celebrate your talents.



**LOCATION:**  
DTA CENTER  
66 HARWOOD AVENUE  
SOUTH, AJAX, ON  
L2S 2H6

**YOGA**  
CLASS FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

SATURDAYS,  
9:30AM-10:30AM

AGES 10 TO 54  
START DATE  
SEPTEMBER 14TH

REGISTER ONLINE @ [DURHAMTAMILS.ORG](http://DURHAMTAMILS.ORG)  
TEL: 905-428-7007

PER CLASS  
**\$5**

**YOGA INSTRUCTOR**  
**MALINI PARARAJASINGHAM**

### YOUTH & ADULTS YOGA CLASS

"This yoga class is led by a highly skilled and exceptional instructor."

**Yoga Instructor:**

**MALINI PARARAJASINGHAM**

**When:** \*Every Saturday from 9:30AM- 10:30AM.

**Start date:** Saturday, September 14th

**Location:** DTA Center  
66 Harwood Avenue South,  
Ajax, ON L2S 2H6

**Ages :** 10-54

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE:  
<https://www.durhamtamils.org/youth-adults-yoga-class.html>  
Tel: 905-428-7007

Yoga class fees : **\$5** per class  
(Please pay **14** classes  
fees **\$70** - Sept 14 to Dec 14th)

**Durham Tamil Association Evolving Elder Care In-Home Support Senior /Transportation Service**

Seniors Onboard: A volunteer-based service for eligible seniors with low-income and vulnerable, aged 55 and up.

**OUR SERVICE**

- Temple Drop off (Drop off / pick up)
- Church Drop off (Drop off / pick up)
- Medical Appointment (Drop off/ pick up)
- Grocery shopping (Drop off / pick up)

**CONTACT US**

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

Contact Number:

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

For More Information Visit Our Website:

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

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**Durham Tamil Association Evolving Elder Care -in Home Support for seniors**

**Training**

- Free Training and a certificate of completion from Computek College in Ajax
- 50 volunteer hours placement

**Benefits**

- Free Vulnerable Check
- Unlock valuable life skills with Free Standard CPR and First Aid Training
- Volunteer Travel Expense \$0.58/km
- Join us to make a positive impact on seniors lives while gaining valuable skills and experiences.

**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

**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

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

For More Information Visit the website:  
[dtaseniorsinhomesupport.ca](http://dtaseniorsinhomesupport.ca)



### 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.

## COMMUNITY WATCH



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

Tel 905.428.7007

(Unity Is Strength)

**FREE**

### TAI CHI CLASSES FOR SENIORS

**In-Person Class**  
DTA Centre: 66 Harwood Avenue South, (Basement) Ajax, ON L2S 2H6

**Zoom**  
Meeting ID: 844 5390 6008  
Passcode: 968736

in-person & virtual Tai Chi Class option

Every Friday TIME: 6:30PM

Register now: [durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org) Contact us: 905-428-7007

### FREE TAI CHI CLASSES ON FRIDAYS

for Seniors & Older Adults! \* (Ages 55+)

Do not miss this opportunity!!! slow, graceful, opening and closing movements carried out at a smooth, even pace. It's suitable for those who want a low to medium-intensity exercise that improves balance, flexibility, and coordination while strengthening the body and improving internal circulation.

**DAY:** Fridays,

**TIME:** 6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM\*

**LOCATION:** Online or in person at 66 Harwood Avenue South, (Basement) Ajax, ON L2S 2H6

REGISTER NOW

WWW.DURHAMTAMILS.ORG or 905-428-7007

### DAY TRIP TO SRI RAJARAJESWARI TEMPLE (ROCHESTER)

**DATE:** Saturday, OCTOBER 12th

**Cost:** \$60 per person

**Includes:** Coach Bus Ticket and Breakfast.

REGISTER ONLINE: <https://www.durhamtamils.org/day-trip-to-sri-rajarajeswari-temple1.html>

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

In the comments, please indicate "OCT 12thTEMPLE TRIP")

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

### DTA'S HOMELAND PROJECTS

DTA is proud to announce that we have completed over 79 homeland projects as of Sep 30, 2024. Watch out more for this year as we wish to continue this momentum and provide more opportunities back home.

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

### Evolving Elder Care In-Home Support

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(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

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

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

### Trip to Rochester

ராஜராஜேஸ்வரி அம்மன் தேர் திருவிழா

October 12th Saturday 7:00 am

\$60/person

Trip includes Luxurious fleet and breakfast

**PICK UP LOCATIONS**

DTA centre  
66 Harwood Ave. South,  
Ajax, L1S 2H6

WALMART  
799 Milner Avenue,  
Scarborough, M1B 3C3

REGISTER AT [durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org)  
call 647 606 1222

### The Durham Tamil Association

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

#### OUR FREE SERVICE

- Meal Delivery
- Transportation :Worship Places,(Temple, Mosque, Church) Malls & Restaurants etc.
- Volunteer Drop off/ pick up: -Medical Appointment, Grocery shopping, Hospital/Doctors Appointments etc..
- Friendly Visits
- Light House Keeping

**CONTACT US:**

Office Hours: Monday through Friday  
Contact Number:  
(647) 968-9549  
(647) 286-9549

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

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

### DURHAM TAMIL ASSOCIATION

#### EVOLVING ELDER CARE IN-HOME SUPPORT

Ages 55 and up

Vulnerable and Low-income seniors

SERVING EIGHT MUNICIPALITIES IN DURHAM  
PICKERING, AJAX, WHITBY, OSHAWA  
CLARINGTON, BROCK, UXBRIDGE, SCUGOG

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



# WATERLOO RESEARCHERS AWARDED \$2.5 MILLION TO ADVANCE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

THE RESEARCH TEAM IS DEVELOPING NEW SUSTAINABLE BIOPROCESSES THAT CAN CONVERT WASTE INTO VALUABLE COMMODITIES

By Nicola Kelly

Faculty of Engineering

Researchers at the University of Waterloo have received \$2.5 million in funding to reimagine how waste materials — such as plastics, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, and agricultural residues — can be converted into marketable products.

The funding was awarded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) as part of the National Science Foundation Global Centers initiative. Waterloo researchers are part of the Center for Innovative Recycling and Circular Economy (CIRCLE).

As the planet faces the ongoing effects of climate change and the accumulation of pollution from plastic waste, CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, other gases and biogenic waste, it is clear that the pace of human development is unsustainable.

CIRCLE seeks to address these challenges through a multidisciplinary global collaboration involving 40 researchers from 18 academic institutions and industry partners. The aim is to develop sustainable bioprocesses that reduce pollution and contribute to a circular economy by converting different types of waste into valuable commodities.

Through this research, plastic waste could be transformed into biodegradable bioplastics or chemical products that are more valuable than the original material, providing a strong financial motive for companies to invest in recycling technologies. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could be captured and converted into useful commodities, such as fuels or materials, turning pollution into a source of revenue.

“Our lives are based on oil and even if climate change were not a problem, that oil will run out,” says Dr. Christian Euler, lead PI for the Waterloo team. “We need to establish ways to circularize the stuff we use every day to keep material in a closed loop. Projects like this one will be critical to establishing a circular economy in the decades to come.”

Dr. Christian Euler stands with arms crossed looking at the camera

Dr. Christian Euler is leading the



Dr. Christian Euler is leading the University of Waterloo research team that was recently awarded \$2.5 million in funding.

University of Waterloo research team that was recently awarded \$2.5 million in funding.

The interdisciplinary team will leverage different research strengths, from engaging in synthetic biology and metabolic engineering, carbon capture, and material science, to developing downstream processes and applying machine learning to optimize efficiency.

With a five-year funding commitment, the research group intends to develop the technical basis for next-generation bioprocesses and devise scale-up and deployment strategies. The integrative approach offers hope for a future where waste can be turned into resources that can help drive sustainable growth.

The group will also play a vital role in training the next generation of scientists, engineers and policymakers. Funding will support up to 16 graduate students, including 14 PhD students to advance the field of waste conversion in the future. Students will be given opportunities to engage in collaborative research, travel to partner countries and interact with industrial partners building a professional network.

Candidates who wish to apply to be part of this research group should have interests and be developing expertise in the following areas: synthetic biology, metabolic engineering, polymers,

bioreactors, data science, optimization, advanced materials, and carbon capture and utilization. The group is now actively seeking graduate students to apply.

Going beyond science and engineering, the initiative will explore policy research and community engagement. Research partners at Queen’s University will conduct policy research aimed at creating a robust framework for a circular economy. This will involve understanding how government policies can encourage the deployment of new waste conversion technologies and ensure they benefit a wide range of communities including Indigenous Peoples in both urban and remote communities.

CIRCLE includes partners from Canada, the U.S., South Korea, the U.K., Australia, and Singapore along with 20 international industry partners. The Canadian team includes professors in the departments of chemical engineering and biology at the University of Waterloo, and School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University. The Waterloo research team includes Dr. Joshua Pulsipher, Dr. Valerie Ward, Dr. Tizazu Mekonnen, Dr. Luis Ricardez-Sandoval, Dr. Yilan Liu and Dr. Trevor Charles.



# Brampton Plan Awarded

## "Plan Ontario Vision Award of Excellence"

The City of Brampton is excited to announce that the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) has recognized the City's new Official Plan – Brampton Plan – with the prestigious "Plan Ontario Vision Award of Excellence." The award was presented at the OPPI Adaptation Transformation Conference in Hamilton yesterday evening, marking a significant achievement for the City's planning and development strategy.

The PlanON Awards celebrate the exceptional work of OPPI members who demonstrate professional excellence and innovation in advancing the planning profession in Ontario. The Plan Ontario Vision Award of Excellence is the highest honour presented by OPPI, recognizing Brampton Plan as a benchmark in visionary urban planning and sustainable development.

### About Brampton Plan

Brampton Plan, approved by Peel Regional Council in May 2024, is the City's official roadmap for managing land use and growth up to 2051. It aligns with the aspirations of the Brampton 2040 Vision, aiming to guide the city's expansion as it transitions to a major urban centre with over one million residents. Brampton Plan was developed over four years through extensive technical studies and public consultation, incorporating feedback from residents and stakeholders across the city.

### Key highlights of the Brampton Plan include:

**Innovative Urban Design:** Focused on creating people-friendly, vibrant spaces promoting community interaction and active transportation.

**Economic Development:** A comprehensive strategy to attract investment, support local businesses and foster a robust, innovative economy.

**Sustainable Practices:** A commitment to environmental stewardship through green initiatives, energy conservation and responsible resource management.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Strengthening

Brampton's cultural landscape by supporting arts, culture and heritage programs.

**Inclusive Communities:** Policies designed to promote diversity, inclusivity and accessibility for all residents.

The Plan positions Brampton to grow responsibly while maintaining the flexibility to meet provincial population and housing targets, ensuring the City continues to thrive as a dynamic, sustainable and inclusive community.

### Links

[City of Brampton Official Plan Brampton Plan](#)

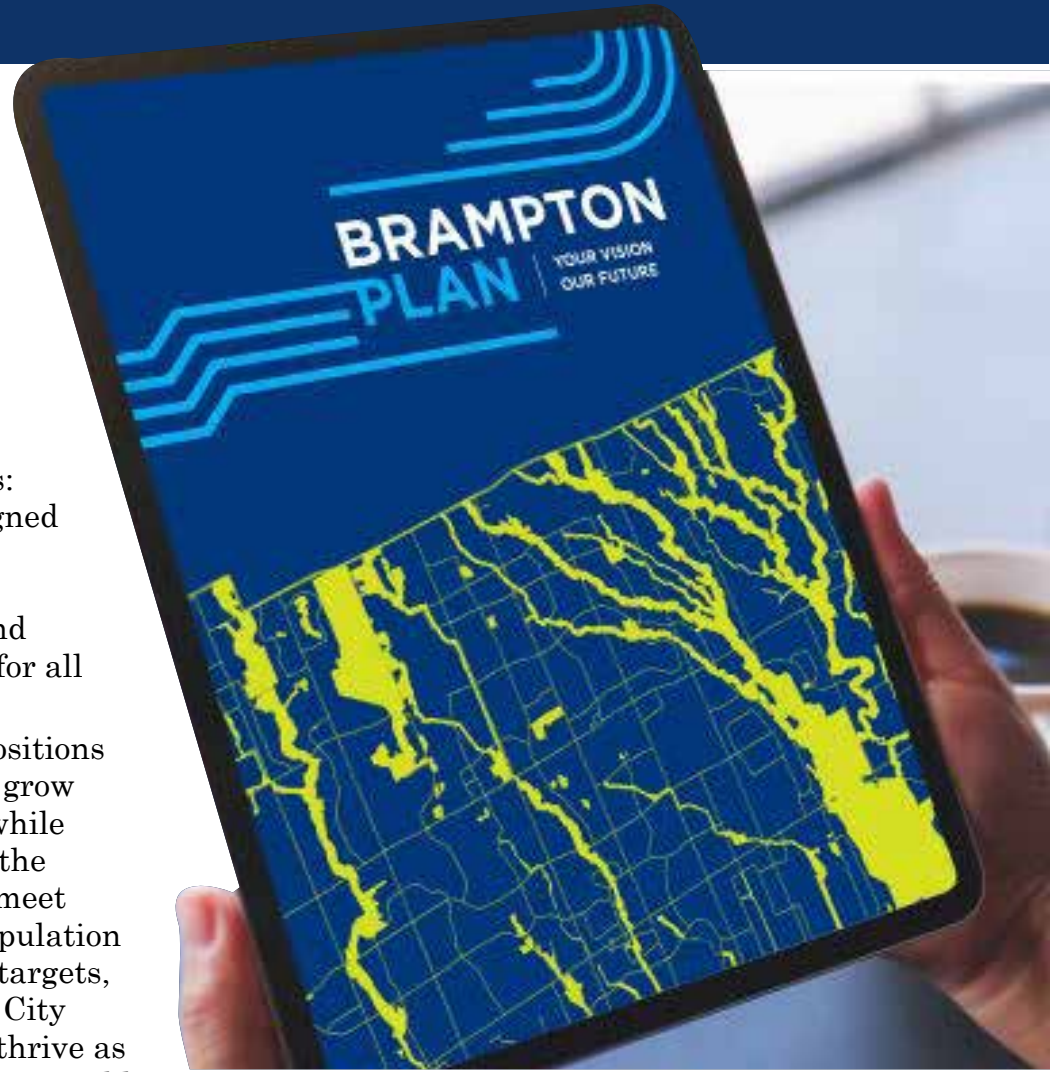
[City of Brampton Brampton 2040 Vision Brampton 2040 Vision](#)

[City of Brampton Strategic Planning](#)

### Quotes

"This recognition from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute is an honour for the City of Brampton and a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our community and planning professionals. Brampton Plan embodies our city's vision for a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future. As we grow and evolve, this plan ensures we continue to prioritize the needs of residents while building a city we can all be proud of." - Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton

"Brampton Plan is the result of extensive consultation and collaboration, and receiving this award highlights our commitment to thoughtful urban planning.



This is a significant milestone and I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our neighborhoods, communities and economy as Brampton continues to grow." - Michael Palleschi, Regional Councillor, Wards 2 & 6; Chair, Planning and Development Committee

"Brampton Plan is a testament to the City's commitment to excellence in urban planning and sustainability. It sets a clear path for managing growth while preserving what makes Brampton unique. I am incredibly proud of the team's hard work and the meaningful contributions from our community that made this plan possible." - Steve Ganesh, Commissioner, Planning, Building & Growth Management, City of Brampton

### About Brampton

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, Brampton is home to nearly 700,000 people and more than 100,000 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](http://www.brampton.ca)

# Mississauga's waterfront revitalization is moving forward with more housing at Lakeview Village

Agreement includes \$28 million contribution to rebuild Canada's longest pier on the Great Lakes making it a year-round destination for locals and visitors alike.

Lakeview Village, a new development on one of Mississauga's most iconic waterfront sites, is moving forward. City Council has approved a **by-law** to authorize an agreement outlining community benefits and affordable housing requirements that will support more homes and bring the area to life.

Lakeview Village is transforming the site of a former coal-burning power plant into a modern, sustainable new community. The 177-acre site includes housing, parks, trails, transit and recreational opportunities. The area will drive tourism, foster innovation, spur economic growth and attract a new generation to Mississauga's former industrial waterfront.

## Getting ready for more homes

When approved in 2021, the Lakeview Village development was zoned for 8,050 units. In an effort to increase Ontario's supply of housing, an enhanced **Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO)** was issued in late 2023 which increased the number of units to 16,000. In April 2024, a Ministerial Order was issued, requiring the City and Lakeview Community Partners Limited (LCPL) to enter into agreements to address matters including community benefits and affordable housing.

Over the last few months, the City has been working closely with the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator and LCPL on an agreement to ensure the increased number of homes (above the approved 8,050) will be built in an appropriate way.

The agreement for the increased units includes the following provisions:

- ▶ **Community benefits:** LCPL will provide a contribution of \$28 million to support the reconstruction of the Lakeview Village Pier. This is in addition to the \$14 million committed through a community benefits agreement related to the first 8,050 units on the site.

- ▶ **More affordable housing:** Five per cent of all units constructed beyond 8,050 units – up to 16,000 units – will be affordable and a further five per cent will be for a mix of types and tenure, including shared equity mortgage or market rental.

This agreement builds on an **earlier**



**agreement** between the City and LCPL which addressed the first 8,050 units on the site. That agreement outlined the City's parkland requirements, necessary transportation studies and traffic improvements. It also required LCPL to complete odour and noise mitigation measures, set aside land for a Peel District School Board school site and provide a mix of housing units of which a minimum of five per cent would be affordable units.

## Building a new community

With these agreements in place, the City is moving forward with:

- Approving site plan approvals for the first residential development blocks
- Park design and development plans for the many parks and public spaces in the community including the Lakeview Village pier
- Finalizing the design and implementation of the Lakeshore bus rapid transit corridor
- Planning for the Lakeview Village Innovation Corridor

The City will work with the province and LCPL to enable the construction of a municipal parking structure to address the increased density for Lakeview Village. The parking structure, which is necessary to support the influx of new residents and visitors to the area, is also important to the future success of employment uses within the Innovation Corridor. The Innovation Corridor is

expected to feature more than 1.5 million square feet of employment space, for 9,000 highly-skilled jobs in research and development.

## Quotes

“Mixed housing is one of the City's top priorities. It's essential we continue to speed up the process. I'm pleased we now have the necessary agreements in place to make Lakeview Village a showpiece of urban design. The village is creating a liveable, walkable waterfront community with interesting parks, an iconic pier and an innovative employment hub.” Mississauga Mayor, Carolyn Parrish

“We're another step closer to opening up our waterfront for a new generation to live and work in Mississauga. I'm pleased that LCPL has committed to ensuring the area has the parks, cultural facilities, and mix of housing the community needs to support more homes on the site. Lakeview Village is happening!” Geoff Wright, City Manager and CAO, City of Mississauga.

## Background

1. **Lakeview Village** is a 177-acre site on Mississauga's waterfront, formerly the Lakeview Power Generating Station.
2. Planning for the area began in 2010 when the City launched **Inspiration Lakeview** to create a shared vision for the future of the site.
3. The 16,000 units at Lakeview Village are part of **Growing Mississauga** the City's Action Plan for New Housing.





Tim Hortons  
**SOUTHSIDE SHUFFLE**  
THE 26TH ANNUAL PORT CREDIT BLUES AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

## JIM CUDDY BAND FILLS MEMORIAL PARK AT 26TH ANNUAL TIM HORTONS SOUTHSIDE SHUFFLE IN MISSISSAUGA, DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND CLOSES FESTIVAL WITH FAREWELL TOUR PERFORMANCE

The 26th Annual Tim Hortons Southside Shuffle Blues and Jazz Festival, held in the village of in Port Credit and Memorial Park from September 6-8, 2024, was a spectacular weekend, drawing thousands of music lovers to the park, street, and clubs over the 3 days.

This year's festival was headlined by Canada's multi-award-winning Jim Cuddy Band, who took to the stage on Saturday night to a packed audience. Closing the festival on Sunday evening was The Legendary Downchild Blues Band, marking a significant moment as they performed on their farewell tour after 55 remarkable years in the music industry.

The festival kicked off on Friday with award-winning Sue Foley headlining the evening. Throughout the weekend, the Brightwater Mainstage brought a diverse lineup of local and international artists, including CJ Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band, Marriner & Bowskill, Bywater Call, Philip Sayce, Matt Minglewood, The Blackburn Brothers, Durham County Poets, and The Ladies of Sweet Soul Music with headliner performance proudly powered by Visit Mississauga.

"Over the weekend, we had several acts, some from Canada, others from the United States, and some from right here in Mississauga, including performers from Port Credit. It was a fabulous weekend, and we are so grateful to everyone who came out to support the festival, all of the musicians who performed in the park, on the streets, and in the clubs, and the hundreds of dedicated volunteers that make it



happen. Without them, the festival wouldn't exist," said Founder and Artistic Director Chuck Jackson.

In addition to the ticketed main stage, the festival also featured several free events and performances, making it accessible to all. The LIUNA Local 183 Street Shuffle on Saturday transformed the village into a "blues Disneyland," with over 20 acts performing along Lakeshore Road. The Street Shuffle wrapped up with a New Orleans-style Second Line Parade, featuring a Dixieland band, leading the crowd into Port Credit Memorial Park and the Not Another Restaurant Gazebo Stage and Queen Bea Stage, along with the vendor area, offering a variety of food options, vendors, and giveaways from sponsors, including Tim Hortons, Rama Gaming

House, and more.

The festival also supported up-and-coming talent through the Youth Band Challenge, backed by Metalworks Studios, SoundsUnite, Long & McQuade, Mississauga Arts Council, and the Hazel McCallion Foundation.

The festival's continued success is a testament to the strong support from the community, hundreds of volunteers, and several sponsors and donors, including Tim Hortons Mississauga, Visit Mississauga, Brightwater, Ontario Creates, Canadian Heritage, Port Credit Community Foundation, Port Credit BIA, the City of Mississauga, Elite Containers, Not Another Restaurant, LIUNA Local 183, Rama Gaming House, Charitable Gaming-Community Good, Hazel McCallion Foundation, and Edenshaw, along with several local businesses. "We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, grantors, and donors, whose contributions are essential to the festival's success," said Festival Co-Chair Kris Kane. "The commitment of hundreds of volunteers also plays a crucial role, and we can't thank them enough for their hard work."

Looking ahead, the festival remains committed to delivering top-notch musical experiences and fostering a strong sense of community in Mississauga. More information about this year's performances, as well as updates on next year's event, can be found at [southsideshuffle.ca](http://southsideshuffle.ca).





## SPECIAL FEATURE

# 5000 YEARS OLD MAMLESHWAR MAHADEV TEMPLE

## IN KARSOOG TOWN, HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA



Compiled by Kidambi Raj

### INTRODUCTION

Himachal Pradesh is one of the states in India known for its natural beauty, as it lies in Himalayas. Other than its amazing scenic beauty, it is also known as *Dev Bhoomi* (the Land of God). It has some amazing and interesting temples and one of them is *Mamleshwar Mahadev Temple*.

### LOCATION

The Maleshwar Mahadev Temple is located in mesmerizing Karsog valley in Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh. It is the most famous temple of this area. Though the Karsog town is densely populated, this ancient temple is situated in the less populated suburban area known as *Mamail*. The place is rich in culture, history and religion that are attached to it. From fertile land, apple orchards and dense deodar forest that rise to touch the snow-covered peaks can be found here. It is also known as the *Beosh region*, as the valley has been a territory of the *Suket domain*. The famous Suket Satyagraha started in this valley in 1948. Suket was one of the small kingdoms of India.

This land is extremely fertile, and a range of crops are grown here, for instance, Apple, Rice, Wheat, Rajmah or Kidney Beans. It is famous for its juicy, crispy and delicious apples. Apple orchards are a must-visit here. It is counted as one of the mainstay crops of the valley. The winters are chilling, and the summers are pleasant. The end of December or the whole of January is the peak time for snowfall in the valley making it a paradise for nature lovers.

### HISTORY AND LEGENDS OF ORIGIN

*Karsog* is a combination of 2 words, *kar* and *sog* which means *daily mourning*.

There is a known narrative about this place in *Mahabharata*, the ancient epic. In the *Dwapara era*, Pandavas spent some time in this place. It is believed that from here Pandavas crossed the Himalayas towards the north to reach *Gandhamadan mountain*, where *Bhima* met *Hanuman*.



One will be amazed to know that this temple is around 5,000 years old. According to Hindu mythology, it is believed that this temple was built by the *Pandavas*. It is said that during their exile period they stayed here for some time. Also, as per history, Pandavas used to play musical instruments in this temple. There are five Siva Lingas established also by Pandavas and they can be seen outside the main temple area.

### INTERESTING FACTS

There are several interesting facts attached to this temple which will blow one's mind. Also, these facts are related to the history of this temple. It also clarifies few doubts that this temple was built by the Pandavas. Here are some of the facts.

#### 1. Dhol of Bhima

*Bhima* was one of the brothers among the Pandavas. He was also the most powerful among all five brothers. There is a *Dhol* (large barrel shaped wooden drum) kept inside the temple and it is huge. It is believed that this Dhol is 5,000 years old and belonged to none other than Bhima. He used to play this Dhol in the temple, as a devotee of Lord Siva. This round and huge Dhol is made of a wood called *bhekhhal* (Indian costus).

#### 2. 2,000 times bigger wheat grain

It is impossible to believe this; but it is true. The temple has a wheat grain, which is believed to be 2,000 times bigger than a normal wheat grain. It is believed that this has been preserved carefully from the time of Pandavas. This grain is approximately 200 gms. in weight and almost the size of a mango. So, this wheat grain is stored in a wooden box and it has a glass cover. Tourists can ask the priest to show it to them.

#### 3. Continuous burning fire pit

There is very interesting story behind this. During their exile, the Pandavas, lived in this village for some time. Around the same time, there was a demon, *Bahasura* living in a nearby cave in the village. In spite of destroying the whole village once, he compromised with the villagers. The compromise was for the villagers to send one person daily from the village to him as part of his food. One day, a boy's turn came where the Pandavas were residing. The boy's mother was crying and mourning for her son. After asking the mother, the Pandavas got to know about the evil demon Bahasura. Then, Bhima the strongest of the five brothers went with the boy to the cave of the demon. In order to save the boy and the village from this terror, Bhima fought a frightful battle with Baha-

## SPECIAL FEATURE



sura and finally killed him. Thus, he freed the villagers from the demon's evilness. This fire pit (*kund*) was ignited in the cheer of his win. This fire pit is still burning and continuously since then.

#### 4. Idols from underground

This place is full of surprises. In the entrance of the temple lots of idols are placed. Idols were found underground whenever the land near the temple was excavated. But no one knows from where these idols were appearing from.

#### 5. Diamond in the belly button of Lord Siva's idol

Yes, you read it right. There is a large uncut diamond in the belly of Lord Siva's idol. This diamond is transparent in colour. The diamond is not visible from outside. It is kept hidden under the garlands offered to the Lord, because of security reasons. If one visits the temple, he/she can ask the priest to show it. It is believed that this diamond is also said to have been offered by the Pandavas.

#### 6. Holds a record in Guinness book of records

Surprisingly, Karsog holds the Guinness book record for making 995 kg. *Kichidi*, a traditional multi-grain dish, in five hours in a single vessel on the occasion of *Makara Sankranti* at *Tattapani*, 52 km. from Karsog.

## PANDAVA ERA TEMPLES IN KARSOG VALLEY

The geographical location of *Karsog Valley* is picturesque with the *Pir Panjal Himalayan range* in view. With mountains on all sides, it is the perfect weekend getaway where one need to be for a rendezvous with nature.

*Devbhoomi Himachal* is where the deities reside in every particle. This place is a blessing for devotees. The temples here contain the history of India and the faith of the devotees. Temples built here are of *Pagoda styles*, where they are rectangular stone and wood structures with successive roofs, placed one over another making them look like a multi-storey edifice. Some of the prominent temples of Karsog valley are :



### Mamleshwar Mahadev Temple, Kamakshi Devi Temple and the Mahunag Temple.

#### Kamakshi Temple

It is believed that this *Shaktipeet of Goddess* belongs to the golden age of *Satyayuga*. However, some researchers believe that this temple may belong to *Parasurama* or *Pandavas* period as the Satyayuga temples may not have last that long. This temple has an *Ashtadhatu Murti* believed to be of the Pandavas period. A fair is organized every year on the occasion of *Durgashtami*. People come from far and wide to have a darshan of the Devi. It is believed that by visiting Kamakshi temple, every wish is fulfilled. It is said that there are three Kamakshi Devi Temples.

The first one is the *Kamakhya Devi Temple*, in the famous *Shaktipeetam of Assam*. The second is in *Kancheepuram* in Tamil Nadu and the third *Kamakshi Temple* is in Karsog in Mandi district. There is a mention of *Parasurama* visiting the temple in Karsog.

**Mahunag Temple** Mahunag is believed to be the incarnation of the *Suryaputra Karna*. Suryaputra Karna is the son of the God *Surya* (Sun) and *Kshatriya's mother Kunti*. Suryaputra Karna was considered one of the greatest warriors in Indian history. In the war of *Mahabharata*, *Arjuna* killed Karna by deceit and Arjuna was filled with guilt after killing Karna. It is said that Arjuna, with the help of his serpent friends, brought Karna's body and performed the last rites near *Tattapani* on the banks of the *Sutlej River*. A serpent appeared from the same pyre. The snake settled at this place and people still worship this snake deity in the



form of *Mahunag*.

## ARCHITECTURE & SHRINES

The temple is aesthetically appealing with interesting architecture. The architecture style used is known as *Kath Kunni Style*. This architecture is the traditional architecture of hilly areas. This unique style is earthquake resistant with no cutting and nailing. Various types of joints are used, to name a few, tongue and groove joints.

The materials used are wood and stone. Beautiful carvings have been done on the façade of the temple using wood. The roof is made up of slates. The old temple has been restored and refurbished.

*Kothi* of the temple is an additional building which can be mostly found in hilly temples. This building has multiple purposes. It has a *Devta* (God) idol which also serves as a grainery and storage area for the temple. The interesting thing about this *Kothi* is,



that it can be accessed only by the priest of the temple. It is believed that both good and evils powers reside in *Kothi*. That is why, except the priest no one else is allowed to enter this area.

The temple complex consists of other buildings such as *Sarae* (Rooms/Dormitory), kitchen to make prasad, halls and storage rooms.

## TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF KARSOG VALLEY

### Pangana Fort

Historical Pangana fort was built sometime in 1211 AD by the ruler of the erstwhile *Suket Riyasat, Vir Sen*. It was the first capital of the *Sen Dynasty of Suket State* that later shifted to present-day *Sundernagar*.

The Pangana Fort is famous for its unique architecture and wooden carvings. Fort is a tower-like structure on a fifty feet stone platform overlooking the little village spread on either side. This seven-storeyed fort is mainly visited for the charming old-world grandeur that it exudes. Pangana Fort at present is a typical *Kath-Kuni* architecture *Kila* and the top floor of the fort is a temple dedicated to the powerful deity *Mata Mahamaya*. No one goes inside the fort except the priests. Only the ground floor entrance is accessible, which has been converted into a temple for Mata Mahamaya.

### Tattapani

This is a famous pilgrimage centre for Hindus. The month of *Magha* (Maham - January-February) is auspicious for a dip here. It is believed that by doing so, one can cleanse oneself of one's sins. To this hot sulphur springs, thousands of people flock to take a dip during winter, especially on Makara Sankranti. Sulphur has a high medicinal value and is good for the skin. Tattapani is famous for the adventure activity of rafting. There is a different thrill in rafting in the sparkling blue water.

## CONCLUSION

This place is an untouched beauty that does not require much effort to reach. This place is easily approachable by road. The summer months of April to June are mostly considered the ideal window in which one would see the best of the beauty of the place and can go for an apple-picking experience. Nearby areas are transformed into snowy wonderlands during the winter months of December to February. There is no access by air. The nearest airport is *Simla*. The distance from Simla airport to this valley is 115 kms.



# COMMUNITY WATCH

## JCC OBA Canada Branch hosts a grand sold out Annual Dinner event on Sept 28, 2024

The annual dinner of Jaffna Central College Old Boys Association was held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at Markham Convention Centre, Scarborough, Ontario. It was a grand sold out event with over 320 guests, attended by former students, their families and friends.

Illustrious Jaffna Central College Old Boy Dr. Kandiah Gnanendran graced the event as the Chief Guest and Dr. Sabesan Thangathurai was the Guest of Honour.

Everyone had a grand time enjoying the live band music, the amazing singers, dancers, entertainers and the DJs. The hors d'oeuvres, finger food, beverages and the main dinner were sumptuous and the service was excellent. The evening continued with everyone on the floor dancing and thoroughly

enjoying themselves to the scintillating music, including the Baila, well into the early hours of the morning.

The delightful occasion was the result of detailed planning and meticulous hard work by the Board of Directors of the Old Boys Association and the Dinner/Dance Sub-Committee. It has to be mentioned that Mr. Esa Para, the President of the current Old Boys Association, played a pivotal role in working so hard right up to the event to ensure a successful Dinner/Dance and then moving around with bountiful energy right through the evening, ensuring that all were having a good time.

The Board of Directors of the alumni thanks everyone who attended the event for joining in and making it a huge success.



# COMMUNITY WATCH





# THE EVOLUTION OF CRICKET BEYOND THE “GENTLEMAN’S GAME”



- linkedin.com

By Ariaratnam Gobikrishna, MD

The recent arrival of the Cricket World Cup in the USA in my neck of the woods reignited a childhood enthusiasm I thought had faded. Cricket, the sport that once captured my imagination with its intricate blend of skill, strategy, and sportsmanship, suddenly felt alive again. As I watched the games unfold, a familiar thrill resurfaced—a connection to the “gentleman’s game” that had shaped so much of my early childhood and formative years.

But on second thought, the moniker itself—“the gentleman’s game”—began to unravel in my mind, raising uncomfortable questions about whether cricket is truly what it claims to be, or if I had been swept up in a romanticized version that I’m now hesitant to let go of. Reflecting on its history and the legacy it carries, I find myself questioning whether the title “gentleman’s game” holds up under scrutiny. After all, the sport was spread across the world by colonial powers who used it as a tool of control, keeping many on the sidelines for far too long. Can a game with such a past truly be considered a model of fairness and integrity? I wondered.

In the spirit of “see no evil,” I decided to

focus on the goodness that has emerged from cricket, regardless of whether we continue to call it a “gentleman’s game.” Cricket, for all its complexities, has a unique power to bring people together, often bridging divides that seem insurmountable in other arenas.

Consider the moments in history when warring nations have found common ground through cricket. In 1900, England and France—nations with a long and contentious history—played at the Paris Olympics. In the colonial era, English and Dutch settlers found themselves on the same cricket fields in distant lands, creating a rare space where their shared love for the game transcended their imperial rivalries.

In more recent times, the cricketing rivalry between India and Pakistan stands as a testament to the sport’s ability to foster connection even amid deep political tensions. While diplomacy often

falters, the cricket pitch has become a place where the two nations meet, not as enemies, but as competitors bound by a shared passion. The intensity of these matches, watched by millions, reveals how cricket can act as a unifying force, offering a glimpse of what is possible when adversaries engage in peaceful competition rather than conflict.

In the early days of Indian cricket under British rule, a remarkable story emerged that hinted at the power of the sport to challenge deeply entrenched social hierarchies. One of the first Indian cricketers to gain recognition for his bowling prowess—particularly



Early Cricket (Pre 1799)- ICC

## COMMUNITY WATCH



in the nascent art of spin bowling—was a member of the Dalit community, traditionally marginalized in Indian society. Palwankar Baloo, initially a groundskeeper, was used by the English for batting practice. However, his undeniable talent quickly propelled him to the position of vice-captain in a local cricket team composed of high-caste Indians.

The dynamics within the team were telling. The Brahmin captain would deliberately leave the field, forcing Palwankar Baloo to step in and take charge. The man who had once been excluded was eventually allowed to sit among his high-caste teammates during lunch breaks. This act, though small, was a vivid sign of the winds of change—an inkling of equality breaking through the rigid caste barriers that had defined Indian society for centuries.

Cricket's role as a catalyst for social change is further underscored by the story of Basil D'Oliveira, a mixed-race South African cricketer who faced exclusion in his own country due to the harsh realities of apartheid. Denied the opportunity to play in South Africa, he found a place in

The controversy surrounding Kerry Packer, in particular, marked a turning point in the history of the game. Initially vilified for his bold innovations, Packer's introduction of television broadcasting, colorful clothing, night games, and the white-ball limited-overs format breathed new life into a sport that was beginning to feel out of step with the times. What traditionalists decried as the loss of cricket's art and soul, others saw as a much-needed revitalization of a game that had become increasingly impractical for the fast-paced lives of the modern era—an era without the luxury of servants and the slow rhythms of colonial life.

As a Sri Lankan, I can't avoid discussing the recent controversy surrounding one of the greatest cricketers Sri Lanka has ever produced, Muttiah Muralitharan. Widely regarded as the best spinner of all time and the highest wicket-taker in cricket history, Muralitharan's journey to the top was anything but straightforward. Despite coming from an affluent background, he belonged to the minority Indian Tamil community, which presented its own set of challenges. His rise was further complicated by

community. Despite his contributions to cricket, this alignment has overshadowed his achievements, leaving a legacy that is as contentious as it is celebrated.

The Tamil community, while recognizing his cricketing prowess, received his biopic with lukewarm interest, reflecting their conflicted feelings. In an era dominated by social media, where opinions are voiced instantly and often regretted later—in my opinion, in the same vein as “see no evil”—Muralitharan became a victim of his need to immediately express his relief when the guns finally fell silent. Rather than remaining quiet in the aftermath of a 25-year civil war, where both the LTTE and the government committed atrocities, Muralitharan's outspoken support for the government felt jarring to many in the Tamil community—those who had suffered immensely during the conflict and found themselves on the losing side.

Returning to the controversial moniker, in the modern era of women's cricket, the term “gentleman's game” is increasingly outdated, particularly from a semantic perspective. Moreover, the fervent and passionate participation of female spectators in India today starkly contrasts with the reserved demeanor of their Victorian predecessors. Cricket, often viewed as the sole monotheism in a land of polytheistic traditions, now finds its highest shrine in the IPL (Indian Premier League). Once, the Ashes represented cricket's pinnacle, followed by English county cricket and World Test Cricket; today, the IPL stands as the sport's high priest, without which cricket might risk slipping into obscurity.

Finally, after a 128-year hiatus since 1900, both men's cricket and women's cricket—making its debut—will return to the Olympic roster in 2028. Interestingly, around the same time in 1900, cricket in America was overtaken by baseball. Now, with the upcoming Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, American cricket is poised for a resurgence. The game that the founding fathers of the United States once knew and played is once again gaining momentum and returning to the spotlight.



India vs Pakistan, T20 World Cup 2024

England, where the more liberal attitudes of the time allowed him to showcase his talents. His story resonated across the world, symbolizing the growing opposition to apartheid and highlighting the injustices faced by non-white races in South Africa. This global attention contributed to the mounting pressure that ultimately led to the end of apartheid and the rise of Nelson Mandela to power.

Cricket, despite its blemishes and controversies, has repeatedly shown the strength and tenacity to evolve and adapt. Whether it was the notorious “bodyline” bowling that targeted the great Don Bradman, leading to new rules on bouncers and the introduction of body armor and helmets, or the push for fair pay for professional players that emerged from the tumultuous Packer era, or the strict punishments that followed match-fixing scandals, cricket has found ways to extricate itself from even the most challenging situations.

accusations of “chucking” the ball, a controversy that threatened to derail his remarkable talent.

The debate over whether Muralitharan's path was more arduous than that of Lasith Malinga is debatable, but his status as the most unparalleled bowler, representing a minority community during Sri Lanka's protracted and bloody civil war, certainly adds a unique dimension to his story. Unfortunately, his legacy became tainted when he publicly supported the Sri Lankan government, which brutally crushed the Tamil minority's armed struggle at a significant civilian cost.

Muralitharan could have been a hero and a symbol of reconciliation, much like his teammate Kumar Sangakkara, who remained neutral and respected by all sides. However, for reasons unknown, he chose to align himself with the government, which has led to his vilification among the global Tamil



Women Cricket match- Getty



## A VISION FOR A UNITED SRI LANKA: UPLIFTING MINORITIES TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

*Dear President Dissanayake,*

Congratulations on your remarkable victory and for defying the odds to reach the highest office in our nation. Your journey from humble beginnings to the presidency, and your commitment to eradicating the deeply entrenched corruption in Sri Lanka, is an inspiration to all of us who believe in the potential of our country to rise above its challenges.

I am writing to you on behalf of the minority communities in Sri Lanka, particularly the Tamil and Muslim communities, to express our hope and to share a vision for a united and prosperous nation. As you work towards building a better future for all Sri Lankans, I urge you to consider the vital role that these communities can play in the economic and social upliftment of our country.

The Tamil population, both within Sri Lanka and the vast diaspora, holds enormous potential to contribute to the nation's development. Many Tamils who left the country during the civil conflict are now in a position to invest in the redevelopment of the neglected Northern and Eastern regions. However, for this potential to be realized, the political environment must be conducive and stable.

We are not seeking a separate nation or major positions in government. What we desire is the ability to live peacefully, managing our own affairs while preserving our culture, language, and lands without the oppressive presence of the military. By fostering an environment of trust and inclusivity, we can encourage the diaspora to channel their resources and expertise back into their homeland, creating economic opportunities that will benefit the entire nation.

The Tamil population in the upcountry has long been the backbone of Sri Lanka's tea industry, a key pillar of our export economy. Supporting and uplifting this community is not only a moral imperative but also an economic necessity. Improved living conditions, educational opportunities, and fair wages for these workers will result in a more robust and sustainable tea industry, which in turn will strengthen the national economy.

Similarly, the Muslim minority, with its strong cultural and familial ties to the Gulf nations, plays a crucial role in maintaining a steady flow of remittances to Sri Lanka. These remittances are a lifeline, especially in times of economic hardship. By recognizing and supporting the contributions of the Muslim community, we can ensure that this vital source of foreign revenue continues to bolster our economy.

Your administration has the unique opportunity to transform Sri Lanka into a nation where all communities feel valued and included. To achieve this, I propose the following initiatives:

**1. Political Inclusivity:** Encourage and facilitate the participation of minority communities in governance by supporting corruption-free parties that genuinely represent their interests. This will help build trust and ensure that the voices of all communities are heard in the decision-making process.



Anura Kumara Dissanayake takes oath as Sri Lanka's president  
- Al Jazeera

**2. Economic Development:** Create targeted economic development programs for the Northern and Eastern provinces, and the upcountry regions, focusing on infrastructure, education, and healthcare. This will enable these areas to become self-sustaining and reduce their reliance on the central government.

**3. Reconciliation and Justice:** Implement meaningful reconciliation measures to address the grievances of the Tamil community, including the demilitarization of civilian areas and the return of lands taken during the conflict. Establishing a transparent and fair process for addressing wartime abuses will help heal old wounds and promote national unity.

**4. Diaspora Engagement:** Develop a comprehensive strategy to engage the Tamil diaspora, encouraging them to invest in the development of their homeland. Providing assurances of stability and good governance will be key to unlocking this potential.

**5. Supporting the Muslim Community:** Recognize and support the vital economic role played by the Muslim community, particularly in maintaining the flow of remittances. Ensuring their security and well-being is crucial for the continued economic stability of our nation.

Mr. President, the challenges before us are immense, but so are the opportunities. By embracing the contributions of all communities and ensuring their active participation in the national development process, we can overcome our current economic difficulties and build a prosperous future for all Sri Lankans.

We stand ready to work with you and your administration in achieving this vision. Together, let us seize this historic opportunity to create a united and thriving Sri Lanka, where every citizen, regardless of ethnicity or religion, can live with dignity and hope.

*Yours sincerely,*

**Ariaratnam Gobikrishna**