## Monsoon



## Journal

A parfait media pu

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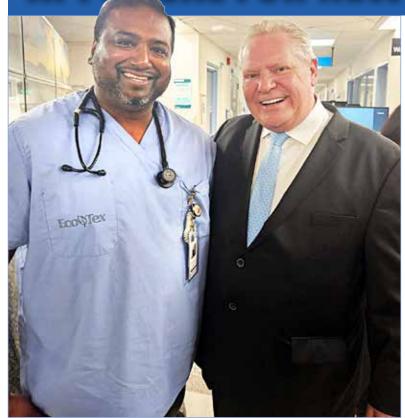
MAY- 2025







## PREMIER DOUG FORD ANNOUNCES FUNDING APPROVAL FOR NEW HOSPITAL IN CAMPBELLFORD



Chief of Medicine, Campbellford Memorial Hospital, Dr. Shiyam Loganathan with Ontario Premier Doug Ford

Piccini, CMH CEO Jeff Hohenkerk, and CMH Foundation Chair Martha Hunt. The proposed Campus of Care will be located on a 48-acre site donated by local farmer Jim Curle along County Road 30, just west of Campbellford. The development aims to provide a 50-bed hospital, a 128-bed long-term care home, a medical office building housing community mental health programs, primary care offices, and other ancillary health services.

new hospital will not only enhance healthcare services but also create jobs in construction and healthcare, providing long-term benefits to the region," he stated.

MPP Piccini highlighted the importance of the project for the community. "This is a historic step forward for Campbellford and the surrounding areas. It reflects our government's dedication to ensuring residents have access to the healthcare services they need," he remarked.

CMH CEO Jeff Hohenkerk expressed optimism about the project's impact. "This redevelopment will usher in a new era of healthcare excellence in our region, addressing Continued on Page 3...

Premier Doug Ford visited Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) on Tuesday, May 20th, 2025 to announce the provincial government's approval of funding for a new hospital to serve the growing community of Trent Hills. The new facility is expected to be completed within the next 7 to 10 years and will be part of a comprehensive "Campus of Care" development.

The announcement was made in the presence of Northumberland— Peterborough South MPP David Additionally, the site will include supportive and staff housing complexes, recreational trails, community gardens, and wooded areas.

Premier Ford emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare in rural communities. "This



Staff at Campbellford Memorial Hospital with Ontario Premier Doug Ford

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## CANADA NEWS



Continued from Page 1...

### PREMIER DOUG FORD ANNOUNCES...

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current demands and anticipating future needs," he said. The Campus of Care initiative is expected to alleviate pressure on surrounding hospitals and accommodate the increasing patient volumes and complexity of care required. The project is in the planning stages, with detailed planning underway, including addressing zoning issues, conducting soil testing, studying traffic flow, and developing comprehensive program plans.

The Ontario government has committed to funding 70% of the new hospital's cost, with the remaining 30% to be raised through fundraising efforts led by the CMH Foundation. The hospital has already demonstrated strong community support, raising over \$755,000 through its 17th Annual Angels of Care Campaign to fund a new CT scanner.

The redevelopment project is expected to create numerous jobs in construction and healthcare, contributing to the local economy. The new facility will also attract healthcare professionals, offering a modern and state-of-the-art environment to support highquality patient care.

As the planning process continues, CMH remains committed to ensuring a meticulous, transparent, and efficient development process. Community members are encouraged to stay informed and engaged through the hospital's website and upcoming public consultations.



Funding announcement ceremony at Campbellford Memorial Hospital by Ontario Premier Doug Ford accompanied by Northumberland—Peterborough South MPP David Piccini, CMH CEO Jeff Hohenkerk, and CMH Foundation Chair Martha Hunt.



**Ontario Premier Doug Ford** 



Staff with Ontario Premier Doug Ford







### PUBLISHER'S DESK

# Tamil Genocide Monument inaugurated in Brampton, Canada



On May 10, 2025, Brampton, Ontario, commemorated a pivotal moment in its history with the inauguration of the Tamil Genocide Monument at Chinguacousy Park.

This monument stands as a solemn tribute to the Tamil civilians who perished during the Sri Lankan civil war, particularly in its final stages in 2009.

The event was marked by a gathering of community members, dignitaries, and advocates, all united in remembrance and solidarity.

The Tamil Genocide Monument, a 4.8-meter-tall stainless steel structure, symbolizes the enduring

strength and resilience of the Tamil community. Its design, inspired by the traditional Tamil homeland of Tamil Eelam, serves as a permanent reminder of the atrocities faced by the Tamil people and the ongoing struggle for justice and recognition.

Mayor Patrick Brown expressed the city's unwavering commitment to truth and justice, stating:

"We will not forget. We will not be silenced. We will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Tamil community."

His remarks underscored Brampton's dedication to acknowledging the painful legacy of

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the Tamil genocide and supporting the community's journey toward healing and recognition.

www.wordsofpeace.ca

**Edward Francis** 

Sam Daniel

www.innerengineering.com

The inauguration of the Tamil Genocide Monument was not merely a ceremonial event; it was a testament to the power of community advocacy and the resilience of a people determined to ensure their history is neither forgotten nor denied. The monument stands as a beacon of hope, education, and remembrance, inviting all who visit to reflect on the past and commit to a future rooted in justice and understanding.



Words of Peace:

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## PUBLISHER'S DESK



Patrick Brown
@patrickbrownont
Mayor of Brampton,
Former Leader of the
Official Opposition at
Ontario Provincial Govt,
3 term Federal Member
of Parliament.

"We unveiled the Tamil Genocide Monument in Brampton — a powerful symbol that has been constructed by the National Council of Canadian Tamils (@ ncctonline) in remembrance of the victims of the Tamil Genocide being committed by the Sri Lankan state. This monument serves as a place for Canadians to come together to commemorate and memorialize the Tamil Genocide. It also allows the Tamil people to share their painful traumatic experiences and to educate others about the Tamil Genocide. Despite various attempts of Tamil Genocide denial and distortion, foreign interference and attempts to silence us by the Sri Lankan state, we stood firm. In Brampton and across Canada, we stand with the Tamil people."



Anandasangaree

Minister of Public

Safety, MP for

Scarborough—

Guildwood—Rouge Park



Today's opening of

the Tamil Genocide Monument in Brampton marks a significant moment in our collective history. This monument stands as a memorial to the thousands of innocent lives that were taken during the Sri Lankan government's genocide against the Tamil people. It also honours the strength and resilience of Tamil communities around the world, whose dedicated advocacy has brought us to this moment. I would like to thank the National Council of Canadian Tamils - NCCT, the Brampton Tamil Association - Canada, Mayor Patrick Brown, and all those who fought to ensure our stories are never forgotten. As we continue to call for justice for these atrocities, let us stand strong, and let us stand together.

## Statement by Prime Minister Carney to mark Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day



Mark Carney - Prime Minister of Canada

On May 18, 2025, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, issued the following statement to mark Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day:

"Today marks 16 years since the end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka – a conflict that spanned over 26 years and killed tens of thousands of civilians.

"On this Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day, we remember the lives lost – the families torn apart, the communities devastated, and those who remain missing to this day. We also think of Canada's Tamil community, who carry with them the memory of loved ones, and the many remembrance services planned across Canada.

"Canada continues to support independent international efforts to seek accountability and push for truth and justice.

"As we mark this solemn anniversary, let it strengthen our resolve to act in tribute, with courage, and for lasting peace."

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## Mullivaikkal Remembrance Day 2025: Memory, Mourning and the Long Struggle for Justice

🗨 ixteen years after the end of Sri Lanka's civil war, Tamil survivors and Defamilies of the disappeared are still fighting for one of the fundamental human rights: the right to mourn. Every May 18, Mullivaikkal Day serves as both an act of remembrance and a form of resistance, a call to honour those who perished and to demand justice for those who vanished without a trace. Yet, public commemoration remains heavily policed. Surveillance, intimidation, and arrests persist, reflecting a deeper unwillingness to reckon with the state's violent past. - srilankacampaign.org



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Pictures - tamilguardian.com

## CANADA NEWS



## NEWS RELEASE OF ONTARIO'S BUDGET BY PC CONTROLLED GOVT. A PLAN TO PROTECT ONTARIO

2025 Ontario Budget will help protect Ontario by unleashing the province's economy

Tinister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy lacksquare released the 2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario. The 2025 Budget includes measures to protect Ontario workers, businesses and jobs in the face of U.S. tariffs and continued economic uncertainty, with a plan to build an economy that is more resilient and selfreliant.

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The 2025 Budget furthers the government's goal to transform Ontario into the most competitive place to invest, create jobs and do business in the G7, while investing even more in health care, education and other critical services.

"Our government is delivering on our mandate to protect Ontario and help workers and businesses weather the storm, while creating the long-term foundations for a strong, resilient and competitive economy," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "We're making the investments in workers, infrastructure and services that will protect Ontario, no matter what."

Ontario's finances are in the strongest position they have been in over a decade, reflected by the two credit rating upgrades the province received in 2024. The government's plan remains prudent and responsible, and Ontario retains a path to balance the budget by 2027–28. The 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario moves forward with an ambitious plan to protect Ontario workers, businesses and families by unleashing the economy, getting more shovels in the ground to build infrastructure and putting money back in people's pockets while delivering better services the people of Ontario can count on.

#### Highlights include:

- Investing \$500 million to create a new Critical Minerals Processing Fund that will help unleash the potential of the province's mineral sector by attracting investments in critical mineral processing capacity here at home, to help ensure that minerals mined in Ontario will be processed in Ontario, by Ontario workers.
- Supporting new resources and opportunities for Indigenous equity partnerships by tripling the total amount of loan guarantees through the **Indigenous Opportunities Financing** Program (formerly the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program) to \$3 billion and expanding eligibility beyond the electricity sector to include eligible projects in energy, pipelines, mining and critical minerals, resource development and other sectors, to help support investments by Indigenous communities in Ontario's growth. The government is also investing \$70 million over four years through the **Indigenous Participation Fund (formerly** known as the Aboriginal Participation



Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy ready to present the provincial budget on May 15, 2025.

Fund) to improve capacity for Indigenous communities and organizations in areas of high mineral activity to participate in regulatory processes related to mineral exploration and mine development. As well as providing \$10 million over three years to create new scholarship opportunities for First Nations postsecondary students interested in pursuing careers in resource development.

- Supporting businesses that invest in buildings, machinery and equipment for use in manufacturing or processing in Ontario, by proposing to enhance and expand the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit. The proposed changes would temporarily increase the tax credit rate for Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPCs) from 10 per cent to 15 per cent, and temporarily expand eligibility for a 15 per cent nonrefundable version of the credit to non-CCPCs, including public corporations, that make eligible investments in the province. These proposed changes would help businesses lower their costs by providing an additional \$1.3 billion in support over the next three years.
- · Creating the Protecting Ontario Account, a fund of up to \$5 billion designed to provide businesses with critical support to protect jobs, transform businesses and grow strategic sectors of the economy that are facing significant tariff-related business disruptions. This fund will provide immediate liquidity relief as an emergency backstop for Ontario businesses that have exhausted available funding.
- Ensuring skilled workers across the province have the training they need to enter rewarding careers in priority sectors by investing an additional \$1 billion over the next three years in the

Skills Development Fund Capital and Training Streams, bringing the total funding commitment to \$2.5 billion. These investments will help organizations deliver better training programs and help upgrade and build new training centres for skilled workers across the province.

- Proposing to make the province's gasoline and fuel tax cuts permanent. This measure would save households, on average, about \$115 per year.
- Helping to fight gridlock by permanently removing tolls from the provincially owned Highway 407 East, which is expected to save daily commuters an estimated \$7,200 annually.
- Doubling down on the province's efforts to build, including the most ambitious capital plan in Ontario's history with planned investments over the next 10 years totalling over \$200 billion, including more than \$33 billion in 2025-26. Highlights of the 10-year capital plan include nearly \$30 billion to support the planning and construction of highway expansion and rehabilitation projects, approximately \$61 billion for public transit, approximately \$56 billion in health infrastructure and investing over \$30 billion to build more schools and child care spaces.

"Our province has been faced with challenges before, and we have always emerged stronger and more united as a result," said Minister Bethlenfalvy.

"Today, with the 2025 Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario, we put forward a plan that reflects the government's vision and the mandate we received from the people of this great province to do whatever is necessary to protect Ontario workers, businesses and communities."

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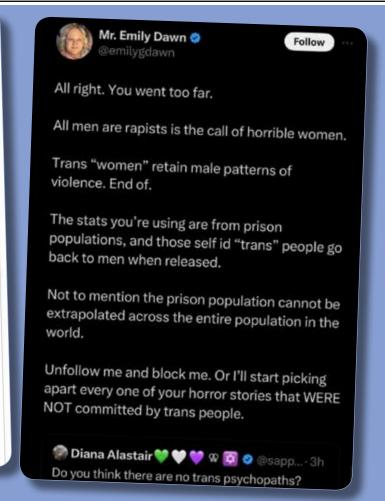
The mother who was seen in a viral video earlier today protecting her baby while trapped inside the overturned bus in Kotmal has passed away, according to Newsfirst.



A child lost his mother. Parents lost children. Children lost parents. Siblings lost siblings.

Spouses lost each other.

Let's stop glorifying loss and channel our anger at reckless bus drivers killing innocents daily. How many more must die before we admit there's a fundamental problem with bus drivers in Sri Lanka?





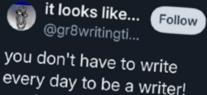




DNA CONFIRMED THAT A HIGH-RANKING VIKING WARRIOR BURIED WITH WEAPONS IN SWEDEN WAS ACTUALLY A WOMAN, SHAKING OLD VIEWS ON GENDER ROLES. THE 1,000-YEAR-OLD BIRKA GRAVE REVEALED THAT FEMALE VIKINGS HELD POWER BOTH IN BATTLE AND IN DAILY LIFE.

Thulasi Muttulingam





you don't have to write every day to be a writer! you just have to feel guilty every day that you don't





## Op-Ed

### WORLD NEWS



## **WATER BECOMES A STRATEGIC WEAPON** INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

#### By Visvalingam Muralithas

The India-Pakistan relationship **▲** has long been defined by political, and territorial tensions. A less visible but increasingly dangerous front in this rivalry is water. As both countries rely heavily on the Indus River Basin for agriculture, energy, and human consumption, control over this shared lifeline has become a potential flashpoint. Recent escalations following a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir have brought the issue to a head, with India suspending the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)—a development that could destabilize not only South Asia but also affect nearby nations like Sri Lanka.

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#### The April 2025 Attack and Treaty Suspension

On April 22, 2025, armed militants attacked a group of tourists in the scenic town of Pahalgam, Kashmir, killing 26 and injuring dozens in the region's worst terror attack. India swiftly blamed Pakistan, linking the attackers to crossborder militant groups. In response, India suspended the IWT, a landmark 1960 agreement that has governed watersharing between the two nuclear-armed neighbors for over six decades.

India's Prime Minister declared that "not even a drop of water" would be allowed to flow into Pakistan until Islamabad "credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism." Pakistan denied any involvement in the attack and warned that any attempt to cut water supplies would be treated as an act of war.

#### The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

The Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960 with World Bank mediation, is considered one of the world's most durable water-sharing agreements. It divided the six major rivers of the Indus Basin:

- India retained exclusive control over the eastern rivers: Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej.
- Pakistan was granted rights to the western rivers: Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—which make up about 80% of the total water flow.

#### Pakistan's Vulnerability

Pakistan is highly dependent on the Indus system:

- 75% of its renewable freshwater originates from the Indus.
- 90% of the population lives within the basin.
- 94% of water withdrawals go to agriculture, which:



- o Accounts for nearly a quarter of GDP.
- o Employs over a third of the workforce.
- All 21 hydroelectric plants are located in the basin, generating 20% of electricity.

Yet, Pakistan has limited water storage capacity—less than 10% of annual flows—leaving it highly vulnerable to disruptions.

#### India Cut Off the Water

India does not currently have the infrastructure to significantly reduce flows to Pakistan. The IWT allows India only limited non-consumptive use, such as run-of-the-river hydropower, which doesn't involve large storage reservoirs.

Large-scale projects to control river flow—like major dams and diversions-

would take years or decades to build. For now, India's most effective lever may be data denial. The treaty mandates sharing flood forecasts and hydrological data. Suspending the IWT enables India to halt this information exchange, disrupting Pakistan's water management and disaster preparedness.

#### Climate change

- Shrinking Himalayan glaciers are reducing river flow.
- Increased variability in water availability intensifies

competition.

- India, as the upper riparian state, holds strategic leverage.
- · Pakistan sees every Indian dam as a potential threat to its water security.

#### The Nuclear Shadow

- · Both countries are nuclear-armed.
- U.S. officials confirmed the 2019 crisis came close to a nuclear exchange.
- Current escalations raise the risk of miscalculation or preemptive action.

#### **Global Diplomatic Vacuum**

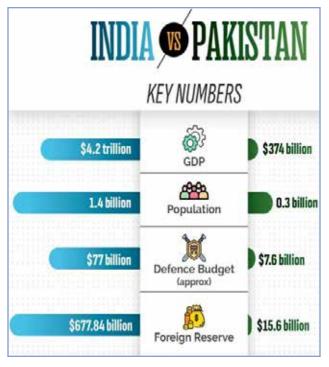
- The world's attention is elsewhere— Ukraine, Gaza, Taiwan, etc.
- Previous U.S. mediation is absent.
- No active conflict resolution forums exist between India and Pakistan today.



Op-Ed



#### **Economic Comparison**



## Comparison between India and Pakistan

Investor confidence is another concern. Global investors tend to steer clear of conflict-prone areas, and rising regional instability could cause delays in foreign direct investment into Sri Lanka. As the country struggles to recover from an ongoing economic crisis, such a delay could stall growth and development.

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#### **Tourism**

Tourism one of Sri Lanka's key industries, is also likely to suffer. Even if Sri Lanka itself remains peaceful, the perception of regional instability can deter international travelers, affecting employment and income in the hospitality sector.

Tourists from India and Pakistan play a major role in Sri Lanka's tourism industry, so escalating tensions between the two countries could result in a sharp decline in arrivals from these key for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Sri Lanka may be called upon to support mediation or peacebuilding efforts in South Asia. Such involvement could enhance Colombo's diplomatic profile and regional standing, but it may also place the country in politically sensitive situations. Navigating this role with strategic caution will be essential to safeguard Sri Lanka's national interests while making a meaningful contribution to regional peace and stability.

#### **Conclusion**

The suspension of the Indus Waters
Treaty is not just a diplomatic gesture—
it is a seismic shift in South Asia's
security landscape. Water, once a
stabilizing element in a turbulent region,
has now become a tool of coercion and
conflict. While the presence of nuclear
weapons makes all-out war unlikely,
even a limited confrontation would have
devastating consequences.

For Sri Lanka, the crisis poses indirect but serious risks—economic, diplomatic, and security-related. The situation urgently calls for renewed regional cooperation, sustainable water-sharing mechanisms, and robust international mediation to prevent a shared resource from becoming a shared catastrophe.

#### **Economic Indicator** India Pakistan Notes \$4.2 \$374 India's GDP is over 11 times larger than GDP (2024) Paki stan's. trillion billion \$3.39 \$376.53 India's GDP is more than 800% larger than GDP (2022) trillion billion India's GDP per capita in 2014 was higher GDP per Capita (2014) \$1,424 \$1,560 than Pakistan's. India's GDP per capita increased by 74%, \$2,711 \$1,581 GDP per Capita (2024) while Pakistan's increased by only 11%. India's foreign reserves are over 45 times Foreign Exchange \$688 \$15 billion billi on greater than Pakistan's. Reserves (2024) \$779.45 \$35.41 India's exports are 17 times larger than Exports (2023) billion billion Paki stan's. India's unemployment rate is projected to Unemployment Rate 4.9% 8.0% improve, while Pakistan's is projected to (Projected by 2025) Unemployment Rate India's unemployment rate decreased, while 8.9% 5.8% Pakistan's increased over the years. (2018)

#### Impact on Sri Lanka

As tensions rise between India and Pakistan over water disputes and cross-border violence, the effects are reverberating beyond the immediate borders of the two nuclear-armed neighbors. One of the regional countries most at risk of indirect fallout is Sri Lanka. While not a party to the conflict, Sri Lanka's economy, security, and geopolitical positioning make it vulnerable to the consequences of a deteriorating situation in South Asia.

#### **Economic Disruption**

A potential military conflict or prolonged diplomatic standoff between India and Pakistan could seriously disrupt the Indian Ocean region's stability. This poses a direct threat to Sri Lanka, which is heavily reliant on maritime trade. The country's strategic ports—Colombo and Hambantota—could see a decline in transshipment traffic and logistics operations if shipping routes are affected.

markets. However, given the current situation in Kashmir and the broader conflict between India and Pakistan, Sri Lanka has a unique opportunity to position itself as a safer and more attractive alternative for international tourists.

The tourism sector must act proactively—intensifying promotional efforts, offering incentives, and enhancing services to attract more foreign visitors.

Additionally, if Pakistan decides to close its airspace, as it has in previous crises, this could burden the airline industry. Flights would have to take longer routes to avoid Pakistani airspace, leading to increased fuel consumption, higher airfare, and extended travel times. This, in turn, could further discourage tourists and impact the overall competitiveness of Sri Lanka as a destination.

#### Global and Regional Diplomatic Role

As a member of regional organizations such as the South Asian Association

#### Writer

Visvalingam Muralithas is a researcher in the legislative sector, specializing in policy analysis and economic research. He is currently



pursuing a PhD in Economics at the University of Colombo, with a research focus on governance, development, and sustainable growth.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Honours) from the University of Jaffna and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Colombo. His academic background is further strengthened by postgraduate diplomas in Education from the Open University of Sri Lanka and in Monitoring and Evaluation from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In addition to his research work,

Muralithas has contributed to academia by teaching economics at the University of Colombo and the Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka (IBSL), and has also gained industry experience as an investment advisor at a stock brokerage firm affiliated with the Colombo Stock Exchange.

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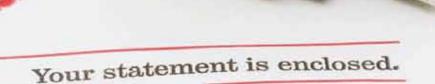


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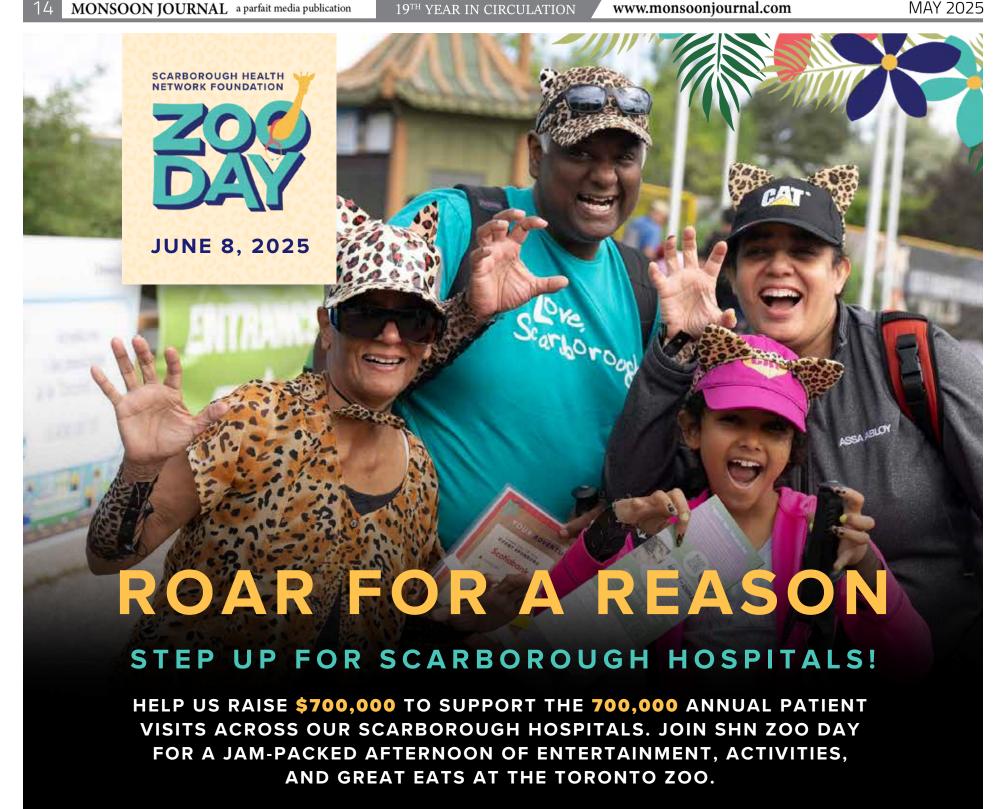
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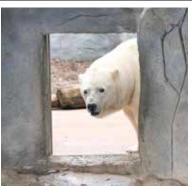


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## TIM HORTONS RESTAURANTS IN MARKHAM, BALLANTRAE, AND STOUFFVILLE RAISE RECORD \$120K FROM 2025 SMILE COOKIE CAMPAIGN FOR MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL

Tim Hortons restaurant owners of ▲ Markham, Ballantrae, and Stouffville proudly announced they raised an incredible \$120,064.29 through this year's Smile Cookie campaign — all in support of Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH).

"We're so grateful for the outpouring of support for this year's Smile Cookie campaign from Tim Hortons guests across Canada. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we topped our previous Smile Cookie record," says Axel Schwan, President of Tim Hortons.

Since the first-ever Smile Cookie campaign in 1996, the annual charitable campaign has raised more than \$151 million in total for local charities and community groups, which are selected every year by Tim Hortons restaurant owners. For MSH Foundation alone, the campaign has raised more than \$1 million since 2007, directly benefiting children and families cared for at MSH.

The Tim Hortons restaurant owners of Markham, Ballantrae, and Stouffville have made a \$500,000 commitment to MSH through the Smile Cookie campaign. In recognition of their generosity, the hospital has proudly named a paediatric surgical waiting room in their honour.

"We are very grateful and proud to be the long-standing beneficiary of the annual Smile Cookie campaign in Markham, Ballantrae, and Stouffville." says Allan Bell, Vice President, Community Relations & Corporate Partnerships, MSH Foundation. "Tim Hortons' continued support helps our hospital deliver essential programs and services for children and families, right here at home."

Today, health care's complex landscape is changing, along with our growing, diverse community. Government can't fund all of MSH's critical life-saving equipment and top priority needs. Dynamic partnerships and collaborations like this one enable MSH to enhance its critical departments with the best resources possible through community investment. Generous donor support is essential to the exceptional care that MSH patients are able to receive, close to

To learn more about the Tim Hortons annual Smile Cookie campaign, visit www.timhortons.ca/smilecookie. Although the Smile Cookie campaign is over for this year, you can still donate at mshf.on.ca.

#### **Markham Stouffville Hospital**

Foundation exists to enable the growth of Markham Stouffville Hospital 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 firstclass health care at MSH.

**About Tim Hortons** In 1964, the first Tim Hortons® restaurant in Hamilton, Ontario opened its doors and Canadians

have been ordering Tim Hortons iconic Original Blend coffee, Double-Double™ coffees, Donuts and Timbits® in the years since. For more than 60 years, Tim Hortons has captured the hearts and taste buds of Canadians and has become synonymous with serving Canada's favourite coffee. Tim Hortons is Canada's largest restaurant chain operating in the quick service industry with nearly 4,000 restaurants across the country. More than a coffee and bake shop, Tim Hortons is part of the Canadian fabric and guests can enjoy hot and cold specialty beverages – including lattes, cappuccinos and espressos, teas and our famous Iced Capps® – alongside delicious breakfast, sandwiches, wraps, soups and more. Tim Hortons has more than 6,000 restaurants in Canada, the United States and around the world. For more information on Tim Hortons visit TimHortons.ca.



Tim Hortons Restaurant Owners and team members receive a token of appreciation from MSH Foundation. L-R: Ivan Chiu, Mike Forbes, Matt Peate, Subash Suntharesan, Dr. Bear, Jeff Thompson, Gillian Fintelman



Tim Hortons Restaurant Owners and team members from Markham, Ballantrae, and Stouffville present Smile Cookie campaign donation cheque to MSH Foundation. L-R: Ivan Chiu, Mike Forbes, Jeff Thompson, Matt Peate, Shubhangi Patankar, Allan Bell, VP, Community Relations & Corporate Partnerships, MSH Foundation, Subash Suntharesan, Julie Brewer, Mark Singh, Dr. Bear, Gillian Fintelman, Ali Awan



Sweet success! The final fundraising results from the Tim Hortons restaurants from Markham, Ballantrae and Stouffville unveiled - \$120,064.29! L-R: Mark Singh, Mike Forbes, Jeff Thompson, Matt Peate, Ivan Chiu, Allan Bell, VP, Community Relations & Corporate Partnerships, MSH Foundation, Shubhangi Patankar, Subash Suntharesan, Julie Brewer, Dr. Bear, Gillian Fintelman

## HEALTH & WELLNESS



## Fortune Leadership Council exceeds its \$3 million commitment to support Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION



(L–R): 8th Annual Fortune Leadership Council Networking Lunch featuring Oak Valley
Health President & CEO Mark Fam, FLC Co-Chairs Gordon Chan, Stephen Li, MSH Foundation
Senior Development Officer Anita Mah, MSH Foundation CEO Suzette Strong, and FLC
founding Co-Chairs Kenny Wan and Alan Kwong.



Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti (centre) presents a recognition to FLC co-chairs (L-R): Gordon Chan, Alan Kwong, Stephen Li, and Kenny Wan at the 8th Annual Fortune Leadership Council Networking Lunch.



(L–R): Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, FLC Founding Co-Chair Kenny Wan, FLC Co-Chair Gordon Chan, MSH Foundation CEO Suzette Strong, Oak Valley Health President & CEO Mark Fam, FLC Founding Co-Chair Alan Kwong, and FLC Co-Chair Stephen Li for a cheque presentation initially announcing 2.7 million raised before an unforgettable moment was shared and they announced reach \$3.15 million raised.

Today, Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) Foundation's Fortune Leadership Council (FLC) met for their annual luncheon, and to celebrate raising \$2.7 million. With the recent announcement of the new Fortune Club, 13 individuals joined during the lunch, leading to a record-breaking \$3.15 million raised to date – surpassing their \$3 million goal!

FLC, a network of local Chinese business leaders, was established in 2016 with a mission to raise awareness and give back to Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) to support its key fundraising priorities and needs.

Under the leadership of founding cochairs, Alan Kwong and Kenny Wan, and honourary chair, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, FLC completed its first \$1 million goal in 2021 and at the time MSH celebrated FLC's contribution by naming the hospital's Emergency Orange Zone.

The Fortune Club, which launched today, is an exclusive network of Chinese business leaders and MSH ambassadors who will collaborate and strategize on the continued fundraising success of FLC. Membership is by referral and must be accompanied by an individual donation commitment between \$10,000

and \$100,000 or more towards MSH Foundation. "We are thrilled to announce that we have exceeded our \$3 million fundraising goal today, thanks to our generous community, and thanks to our 13 new generous Fortune Club members, who were driven to show their continued, heartfelt support," says Wan, Past Board Director, MSH Foundation. "We are not stopping here though. Health care needs span the full spectrum of life — starting from birth. Our community deserves exceptional care, and we are dedicated to ensuring our hospital has the funding it needs for families to have access to the most advanced technology and procedures in all areas at MSH. So, we will continue to set new goals for ourselves, and work hard to achieve them."

For nine years, FLC has inspired others, specifically in the Chinese community, to step up and support the hospital. "We are delighted to help raise funds for MSH — the collective lifeline of our community," says Kwong. "Health care is a lifelong need — from birth to old age. We are all going to need MSH at some point in our lives. So, we recognize the true value in giving. Supporting MSH is supporting ourselves and our community."

Suzette Strong, CEO, MSH Foundation, along with Mark Fam, President and CEO, Oak Valley Health, and Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Honorary Co-Chair, FLC, were in attendance and commended the contributions made by FLC over the years. "Health care's complex landscape is changing, and MSH's diverse community is growing," says Strong.

"MSH is committed to delivering quality, integrated, patient-centred care for all the communities it serves, and we recognize that we wouldn't be able to do that without the dedication and generosity of groups like the FLC. On behalf of MSH Foundation, I would like to thank you for all you do."

FLC remains involved in numerous fundraising initiatives including the esteemed annual Fortune Ball which will be held on November 22. Show your support and get involved at www.mshf. on.ca.

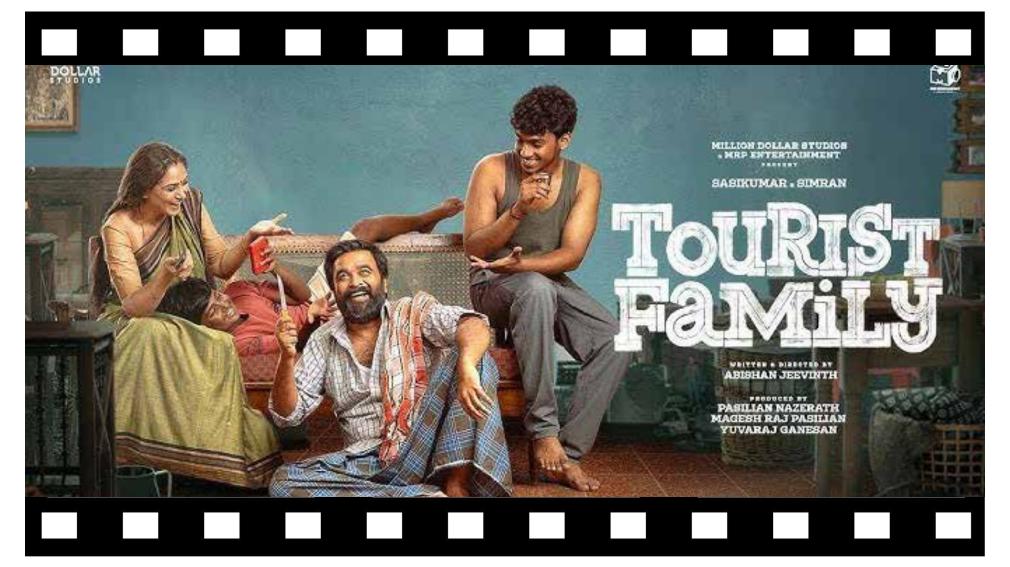
Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation exists to enable the growth of Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) by raising funds and awareness for its ongoing priorities and needs. Donations from the community fund life-saving medical equipment that helps to ensure the delivery of first-class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



## **Tourist Family Review**

www.monsoonjournal.com

## An Excellent, Well Written Film



#### By Harrish Thirukumaran

mourist Family is a family comedy **L** drama written and directed by Abishan Jeevinth. Production was done by Million Dollar Studios and MRP Entertainment. It was released on May 1, 2025. The film stars the likes of Sasikumar as Dharmadas or Das, Simran as Vasanthi, Mithun Jai Shankar as Nithushan, and Kamalesh as Mulli.

All make up a Sri Lankan Tamil family who seek to escape the island due to the economic crisis, to find a better future for themselves elsewhere in Rameshwaram, India. Although the film tackles a heavy topic like migration and refugees, it does well in balancing the emotional journeys of our leads with a great dose of comedy.

Indeed, Kamalesh's Mulli provides great comedic timing in various scenes punctuated by tension and negative emotions. It sort of represents how humour is used as a literary device to diffuse the obvious tension that surrounds these scenes.

However, this somewhat becomes self-defeating at times. The rawness of these Sri Lankan Tamil emotional realities gets lost by the film trying too hard to cater to typical Tamil cinema cliches. An example could be the scene with Das and his elder son Nirushan, exploring father son dynamics in families.

It seemed promising to confront the quiet tension between them both regarding how a man is supposed to be and supporting a family. Yet, it rushes to resolve this tension with a quick, upbeat dance number. It tries to present what is supposedly a happy family, as the closeup shot of Mulli's shirt showcases. That scene seemed frustrating as it had more potential than realized.

The writing of the film is quite excellent as it explores the nuances of the Tamil language when the family tries to hilariously blend in their new home and hide their obvious Sri Lankan Tamil dialect.

Later on, it has, what I would say, a well written scene with Nirushan and Kural, played by Yogalakshmi, who is the daughter of the police inspector, R.Raghavan. He heads the family that Das' family stays with. We feel a potential romance blooming from the constant hints found in the film, but this is left open to interpretation or a

possible sequel. The way this subtle romance developed between the two characters was made natural through the brilliance of its dialogue around the idea of migration and love. Nirushan's migration journey while it crossed treacherous seas, it also crossed the sea of love between the two characters, as hinted at by Kural.

The film is also able to make you tear up with certain scenes such as Mangaiyarkarasi, played by Sreeja Ravi, who passes away due to the fear of losing her own husband. We also have the drunkard, played by the director himself, who attempts suicide when he loses his mother. The poignancy of these scenes reveals to us the sheer goodness of Das as a character, and what leads us as the audience to support his character's journey. He also extends a warm, good neighbour energy to his fellow neighbours in the area that parallels his character's home country, Sri Lanka, neighbouring his new home of India.

Overall, Tourist Family is an excellent, well written film that serves as an emotional journey for not only the lead characters, but for the audience themselves.

#### Aviation & Airlines

## SPECIAL FEATURE

## IS AIR SAFETY ZERO OR ARE WE ZEROING IN ON AIR SAFETY??

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

#### By: Kane Siva

The recent incidents and accidents, sometimes day after day or week after week from January 2025 up to now, leave this Aviation Enthusiast, who has been in this for more than 5 decades and counting, really baffled as to where to start.

Aviation Pandits may or might say that this is preposterous to classify or categorize aviation safety in this fashion, even I ponder, but the recent incidents within the last 5 months tell a different story and lean towards my assertion. It is a sad story as thousands of lives take to the air,24 hours,365 days of the year. As I mentioned a year back in another article, on my first ever visit to the flying school at Ratmalana Airport in 1972, after joining

Air Ceylon, the inscription on the wall spoke volumes, quote "The Air Is Safer Than the Road". So where, why and how it all went wrong is the question in everyone's mind? The answer to this question is really elusive, difficult to pinpoint and elucidate. I strongly feel the "Air Safety Is at Cliff's Edge", even though I may be wrong but one fact remains undisputed is this, air safety does not rest on one's shoulder alone but it is a coordinated effort of 1000s of people, basically starting from ground



zero. Air safety starts in the ground and follows it to the air. This is a story or a dialogue between Machines and Men. It is a story how men understand the machines and the machines and the machines coordinate and function accepting the men's command. I believe, both these factors or components must work in coordination, and any misstep creates unwanted issues. In Fact, I had listened to certain old timers, Captains, in the cockpit saying, as if talking to the Aircraft, while doing a landing, "Come on Baby, Come on Baby, get down smoothly".

Safety begins in ground basically

with the ground staff from aircraft cleaners, baggage loaders, Ramp staff, passenger checking staff, Dispatchers, Load Controllers, Engineers,

Mechanics, Catering personnel and Air traffic controllers, and all endeavor for safety. If you ask anyone what is the number one cause? they will point the finger in unison towards the Pilots.

You can't blame them since the pilots fly the Airplanes, the finger is pointed at them straight away. Also, when you see the statistics the pilot's error is on the high end 55 to 85 % but the causes for the pilot's error are multifaceted and caused by so many Factors and Vectors which always go unnoticed.

The statistics of air accidents from the beginning of the year 2025 around the globe is around 295 so far and by the time this article gets to print I

am sure this may be 300 or more. This includes fixed wing Commercial aircraft, private jets and Helicopters. When an incident or accident happens it naturally brings mass news media attention due to the nature and loss of lives, and the investigators and researchers go into in depth analysis to assess the causes. Surely this process facilitates to enhance the safety of future air travel and reduce the risks for the flying public so the highest standards will always prevail. But as we have seen in recent times however careful the fraternity is, the accidents keep happening without notice and still we are striving to bring out the best in everyone to prevent future incidents. This brings us to the biggest question, why do Plane Crashes occur? The answer is, it is caused mainly by Human Error and other factors such as Weather, Bird strikes, Mechanical failure, Nuts & Bolts and Air Traffic Control. Every accident leaves us baffled as to why these keep on happening day after day (sometimes) as we have seen within the last 5 months. There is no definite answer and will never be due to the nature and complexity of the industry, as it involves many players. Still the human nature becomes more resilient and strives to leave no stone unturned to do better all the 365 days, and in years to come.

The Pilot's error is listed as the number one cause in most of the accidents. There are many underlying factors some of which are unforeseeable. Pilot's error is a complicated term in the sense it can be interpreted in many different angles and I would love to pen it as "Multi Dimensional".

Robert L. Cohn in his book "Pilot Error" sheds serious flaws in both pilot procedures and FAA rules. Cohn highlights how and why a variety of normal human frailties affect pilot performance. The FAA is addressing some of these issues I believe. Pilots



#### Aviation & Airlines

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### SPECIAL FEATURE

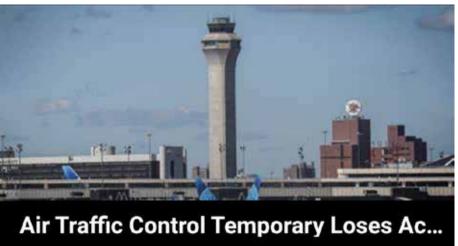


are responsible for everything that happens in the aircraft, once it is airborne. Starting with the correct assessment of the fuel calculations, weight and balance, (once provided by the flight operations officers) preflight checklist, weather conditions, understanding the communication from the air traffic controllers clearly and coordinating with enroute controllers till they land at the destination. The pilots are trained well to address the

Cockpit Resource Management skills as this too has been proved to ensure air safety. Cabin crew members can also cause aircraft accidents by not properly securing the catering equipment which too can cause serious accidents. The cargo loading staff by not properly securing Unit Load Devices contribute to accidents. All these scenarios can cause accidents and eventually the blame goes to the pilots even though they struggle to achieve 200% perfection under difficult conditions for safer flights.

The other player is MRO, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul of an aircraft to certify its health and to assure that it is safe, and fit to fly. This maintenance is a vital component of air safety at all times. Some airlines outsource this process to save money and have read reports that maintenance had been done by unlicensed personnel which resulted in accidents. Also, a couple of years back I read a book titled "Flight Failure" written by a former aviation engineer who turned NTSB investigator, Donald J. Porter, devoted one chapter only for "Nuts and Bolts". Here Porter explained how the smallest of parts had caused airliner accidents, if it is not properly secured. He explains really and clearly so a layman with no technical background can digest immediately the need for proper maintenance. After reading this Book twice I am a bit nervous nowadays to fly after so many years. It is scary how airlines are cutting corners, and supervisors are fudging paperwork to certify the airworthiness. He mentions some of the airlines that do this kind of shoddy maintenance in his investigative maintenance narrative. It is Nerve-Racking when you read this book.

Weather is an integral part for air safety and people realise this too as a major cause directly or indirectly. The statistics shows around 12% accidents are weather related. There is a nasty weather out there in the blue skies, called CAT, Clear Air Turbulence and this causes real havor for the flights, and lots of damage and injuries to passengers and to cabin crew, and since cabin crew are on the move most of the times. On the 21st May 2024 Singapore Airlines flight SQ321, from London to Singapore at 37000 feet over Myanmar, hit a severe turbulent weather, causing a 73 year old man's death and injuring 71, some really seriously. Quoting a



passenger Andrew Davis, who told CNN "It was a perfectly normal flight, cabin crew were serving breakfast and all hell broke loose in no time". Statistics show roughly about 65000 aircraft suffer moderate turbulence in the US and 5500 encounter severe turbulence yearly. Further, the climate change is fast moving & will increase the turbulent weather conditions as time progress. This is a Nature's Hazard for aviation safety.

The other major concern is the manufacturer's design and defects, and using some new technology that does not function properly, and also not informing the airlines that buy their aircraft. This might look stupid for anyone but really happened with the Boeing, 737 Max -8 aircraft crashes, Garuda, Indonesia and 6 months later with Ethiopian airlines that resulted in 346 deaths. These unsuspecting customers became the scapegoats. The worst scenario here is that Boeing knew this MCAS System is not working to the highest expectation, but still installed it and sold the Boeing 737 MAX-8s. What a shame? When you read this kind of truth is happening to save corners, do you think that air safety would be ensured, enhanced or compromised? The answer is on the wall.

The other major hidden player is the respective airline's Corporate Management policies, tactics and to save money at the expense of the passengers' lives who patronise their airlines. I have read that airline CEOs are more interested in their Coffers than the safety, by pushing them to fly with the minimum fuel, to make unsafe landings, and neglecting the crew's flight time limitations. I always feel the safety is compromised with budget airlines and it is equally on the same footing with other regular and established carriers to an extent.

Accidents caused by the failure of the system that was mandated to protect and project air safety are there too, the Civil aviation authority of the respective countries, and the FAA in the US. Recent and almost everyday incidents at the US airports signal, as if the world is waiting for a major incident to unfold, which I hate to hear without any reservation. The staffing problem of the Air Traffic Control, antiquated communication system, constructions at the runways and many more plagues the US aviation facilities.

I think it is worth mentioning here

that the recent communication system failure at Newark Liberty International Airport, on the 28th April 2025, highlights the FAAs and Department of Transport's colossal failure to bring Air Safety to the most optimal level. What is alarming is this Quoting, MSNBC, Tom Costello, 3rd May 2025, said of his conversation with an air traffic controller, which he described as, really an incredible statement

unsolicited. He just said that to me, and separately: "Don't fly into Newark. Avoid it at all costs". Further the United Airlines CEO, Scot Kirby, said this facility has been highly understaffed for many years. This echoes what everyone's worst fear is and is sounding the alarm on air safety.

The negligence caused by the air traffic control staff was a rare phenomena 20 years back, but with the highest number of flights and as the air space is more crowded accidents do occur. As adding salt to an injury, the highly understaffed ATC system makes matters worse. The stress of longer hours for any ATC Controller in the US, is a real safety concern as incidents have happened. I am wondering whether firing of 11800 Air Traffic Controllers by Former President Regan in 1983 is the root cause for demoralising the system?

Basically, these are the critical parameters for the airline and air safety at any moment. Also, the flight rules adopted, the IFR or VFR flight rules. Our only prayer is that this system will improve in geometrical proportions in time to boost the morale of the passengers and the players

I fold my wings with these thoughts which I came across in a passage, captioned, "What is Worthwhile"? The world is blessed most by men who do things, and not by those who merely talk about them. W.J. Wilmont Buxton, who said this famous line,

"No Great Work Is Ever Done in A Hurry......Henceforth Be Mine A Life of Action and Reality!



19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION



#### SPECIAL FEATURE

## **Words of Peace**



## A Path to Peace

#### Prem Rawat Teaches Self-Knowledge: Techniques to Experience Personal Peace

Prem Rawat teaches a simple method to help turn your senses from the outside world to an inner experience of peace, an experience unique to each person. He offers guidance and practical tools he calls the "techniques of Self-Knowledge", or just "Knowledge." Practicing these empowering techniques daily helps you to better understand your true self, revealing an ever-evolving experience of heartfulness and contentment.

## "Gaining knowledge about the self is a process of discovery, of uncovering who we are." - Prem Rawai

Prem Rawat's Peace Education and Knowledge (PEAK) course is a prerequisite to help you gain a solid foundational understanding about the value of personal peace. At the conclusion of this self-paced course, you can choose to request a workshop, called a Knowledge Session, to learn the techniques. There is no charge to participate in PEAK or the Knowledge Session.

The daily practice of the techniques becomes an individual endeavor, easy to enjoy on your own wherever you are. Prem Rawat's role is to provide ongoing guidance, inspiration and insights via in-person events, video content, books and podcasts. He also regularly offers Knowledge Review sessions for people who have already learned the techniques and who want a refresher.

Hundreds of thousands of people across 100 countries practice the techniques of Knowledge every day, reporting profound benefits.

#### **Get Started with PEAK**

Throughout this self-paced video course, Prem Rawat facilitates a journey of self-discovery. Rather than describing or defining personal peace, the course materials engage you to reach your own understanding.

The self-paced course aims to help you get in touch with your inner strength whether you opt to learn the techniques of Knowledge afterwards or not — the decision is all yours.

#### **Learn More**

#### **Prem Rawat Introduces PEAK**

"It's not my place to tell people what they should or should not be; I'm here to offer reminders that we're blessed by the miracle of existence, and to help point the way to inner peace." - Prem Rawat

#### **Articles about Knowledge**

#### Prem Rawat's New Book – "Breath: Wake Up to Life"

"Prem Rawat's New Book – "Breath: Wake Up to Life" tells the back story of his much awaited follow up to his bestselling "Hear Yourself: How to Find Peace in a Noisy World." Publish...

Read More ...

An inspiring review of Prem Rawat's "Hear Yourself" by someone who knew nothing about him before reading it. "What a blessing of a book,' writes Patricia Savitski, "so enlightening ...

Read More...

Each chapter of the PEAK course explores different topics, including: Who are you?; Clarity and beliefs; Choice: Understanding; Gratitude; Peace; Hope; Self-knowledge.

#### What people say about Knowledge

Hundreds of thousands of people across 100 countries practice the techniques of Knowledge every day, reporting profound benefits. The experience is unique to each person, but common themes include feelings of well-being, gratitude, clarity and peace. Here is a selection of responses from people who were asked to briefly answer the question, "How has the practice of Knowledge changed your life for the better?"

"Knowledge helps me to distinguish my mind from my heart, my thoughts from my feelings and the power to navigate more consciously in my life." - Michael Dorfman

"Practicing Self-Knowledge has helped me to tap into my inner wisdom." - Patti Dallas

"Knowledge connects me with a profound inner peace that fills me with the purest gratitude for being alive. Being connected to this experience grounds me. - Dr. Mitesh Desai

"With practice and focus, Knowledge takes me from thinking to feeling. That subtle shift is the most amazing gift." - Craig Klawuhn

"Practicing Knowledge keeps me focused, enables me to deal with life's little bumps and feel grateful for what I have and appreciate being alive." - Elaine Wilson

"Practicing knowledge is like having an inner tuning fork."

- Joyce Gerber

"Knowledge allows me to feel and experience a deep sense of inner peace and satisfaction that is beyond my everyday thoughts, concerns and feelings." - Gilman Hanson

"The practice of self-Knowledge, for me, is deeply grounding and centering." - Janice Wilson

"Practicing Self-Knowledge daily helps me to be centered and calm, even under difficult circumstances." - Maribeth Raullerson

"Since receiving Knowledge, I have found a place of stillness, serenity and security within myself to which I can go whenever I choose."

- Andy Hoadley

"Knowledge helps me to distinguish my mind from my heart, my thoughts from my feelings and the power to navigate more consciously in my life." – Michael Dorfman

"Practicing Self-Knowledge has helped me to tap into my inner wisdom." – Patti Dallas

"Knowledge connects me with a profound inner peace that fills me with the purest gratitude for being alive. Being connected to this experience grounds me. - Dr. Mitesh Desai

"With practice and focus, Knowledge takes me from thinking to feeling. That subtle shift is the most amazing gift." - Craig Klawuhn

"Practicing Knowledge keeps me focused, enables me to deal with life's little bumps and feel grateful for what I have and appreciate being alive." - Elaine Wilson

"Practicing knowledge is like having an inner tuning fork."

- Joyce Gerber

#### **More Resources for Peace**

If you aren't ready to engage in a course or pursue a daily practice, Prem Rawat offers many other resources to help you better understand yourself and your potential for personal peace, including events, videos, books and podcasts.

www.timelesstoday.com - www.premrawat.com



## **Proverbs**



#### By: J A Rajah

1. No smoke without fire.

Allathu kurayaathu, chollathu piravaathu.

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2. The man's best candle is his understanding.

Arignarkku alagu Ahathunarnthu arithal

3. Pains are wages of ill pleasures.

Arintharinthu ariyum paavathai, azhuthu, azhluthu tholakkavendum.

4. You must walk before you can run.

Arayil aadiyallo ambalathil aadavendum.

5. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Anpaana sinehithanai aapathil ariyalam.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Anru thinnum palaakayilum, inru thinnum karlaakkai mel.

7. Honour thy father and mother.

Annayum pithavum munnari theiyvam.

8. Let patience have her perfect work.

Aakap poruthavan, aarp porukka vendum.

9. Love is blind.

Aasai vedkam ariyaathu.

10. Haste makes waste.

Aathirakkaranukku puththi maddu.





## Rohit Sharma: Indian cricket star who made batting look like art

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION



Sharma's skill often raised batsmanship to an art form - Courtesy, AFP

## By: Ayaz Memon

Cricket writer

Rohit Sharma's abrupt retirement from Test cricket has jolted Indian fans, leaving the team without its captain and most seasoned opener just weeks before a pivotal five-Test series starts in England.

India haven't won a Test rubber in England since 2007. To lose their captain and most experienced opening batter will compel a rethink of selection strategy for the tour.

A charismatic leader and dashing batter, Sharma is widely regarded as a modern day great.

His stats in Test cricket -4,301 runs in 67 matches at an average of 40.57 are not imposing.

But the aplomb and authority, tactical acumen and lead-fromthe-front derring-do which he has displayed has won him admiration and respect all over the cricket world.

Sharma's decision to retire from Test cricket, announced via a subdued Instagram post, has sparked widespread speculation. While various factors may have influenced his choice, his prolonged slump in Test form appears to be the primary catalyst.

In his last six Tests - three against New Zealand at home, three against Australia Down Under - Sharma's form was woeful. In 10 innings in these matches, he could muster a paltry 122 runs.

To compound the problem, India lost all these Tests. Being whitewashed by New Zealand 3-0 at home - unprecedented in Indian cricket - put Sharma under harsh scrutiny in the ensuing Border-Gavaskar series in which too he found no relief. He took the laudable, but extreme step of dropping himself from the playing XI for the last Test at Sydney.

Since then, India won the ODI

Champions Trophy in which Sharma's form was impressive.

The first few weeks of the ongoing IPL were disappointing but Sharma rediscovered his touch, playing important knocks to put his team Mumbai Indians strongly in the running for a place in the knockouts. But success in white-ball cricket is not necessarily an index to similar form being replicated in red-ball cricket.

Sharma is 38. His recent Test form has been ungratifying. The next World Test Championship cycle would take two years to complete. Did he have the physical wherewithal, the mental bandwidth, motivation and mojo to continue playing Test cricket? Questions he likely asked himself before calling it quits.

Sharma was the first among a clutch of talented batters emerging from the Under-19 pipeline in the first decade of this century.

The others were Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara and



Ajinkya Rahane. These four were to take over the mantle of India's batting responsibility from Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman, Saurav Ganguly and Virender Sehwag.

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Ironically, while Sharma got the India cap first, in an ODI against Ireland in 2007, he was the last among this quartet to play Test cricket.

He was part of MS Dhoni's team which won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, but a Test place, which came relatively easily to Kohli, Pujara, Dhawan and Rahane, eluded him until Tendulkar's farewell series in 2013.

On debut at the Eden Gardens. Sharma made 177. In Tendulkar's swan song next match at the Wankhede, he made 111. These centuries were obscured by the overflowing of sentiment for Tendulkar, but Sharma's sublime skills, which often raised batsmanship to an art form, was not lost on experts.

Ravi Shastri, who was to have a huge influence on his Test career later by making him opener, likened him to a "Swiss Watch" for the precision timing in his strokeplay. Dilip Vengsarkar, former India captain who spotted him for India, highlights his ability to play late which helps in judging length of the ball quicker and better and also enables improvisation.

The style and finesse which made

But growing up in a post-modern milieu when risktaking has become fundamental to batting in every format, Sharma shifted into higher gears far quicker, often from the start in Tests too once he was secure of his place.

He did not exhibit the bravado of a Sehwag, but when in full flow, he has often shown up the destructive ability of Viv Richards. especially when playing horizontal bat shots like hook. pull and cut.

It was not until 2019, when the then chief coach Ravi Shastri and captain Virat Kohli coaxed and cajoled him to open the innings that Sharma's career in redball cricket bloomed.

By this time, he had smashed three ODI double centuries – apart from a spate of match-winning scores in T20 - establishing him as a Goliath in white-ball cricket.

When he became India captain in 2021, Sharma set his sights on bagging a hat-trick of ICC trophies,



Sharma scored 40,302 runs in 67 Test matches at an average hovering around 40 - Courtesy, Getty Images

handling bowlers. Five IPL titles for Mumbai Indians bespoke his leadership credentials even before he got the job for the national team.

Under Sharma. India reached the World Test Championship final in 2023, only to lose to Australia.

In the ODI World Cup the same year, his blazing batting as opener, and his strategy of "total attack" in which the batsmen would go after runs unrelentingly, took India into to the final where their dreams were dashed by an inspired Australian side. Winning the T20 World Cup a few months later, was some recompense, but not complete redemption.

It is pertinent that Sharma, who quit T20 cricket after winning the World Cup last year, hasn't retired from ODI cricket yet.

Not being part of an ODI World Cup winning team has been festering in him since 2011 when he was not selected in the squad under Dhoni that was to bring India glory after 28

In an interview with podcaster Vimal Kumar released a few days back, he said that his desire to be part of an ODI World Cup winning team remains alive.

The next ODI World Cup is in 2027. Whether Sharma can sustain fitness and form over the two years will be followed with interest in the cricket world. But that is hardly the concern of India's selectors. Right now, their worry is to find an opener and a captain to step into Sharma's big boots.



Sharma (left) with Jasprit Bumrah - the captain was adept in handling bowlers - Courtesy, Getty Images

the likes of VVS Laxman and Mark Waugh so wonderful to watch were manifest in Sharma's batting from his earliest days as Test player.

Weaned on the "Bombay School" of batting which boasts exemplars of orthodox technique like Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar, Sharma's batting carries that strain. and recast the team's playing strategy for each format accordingly.

A genial, fun-loving bearing, marked by endearing earthiness helped him bond with his players easily and strongly. But he was no lax or loose on the field. He was astute, perceptive, intuitive in reading match situations, and particularly good in

Courtesy: BBC, Published on May 9, 2025





19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

### By: Ffion Wynne

BBC Sport journalist

His decision comes before this summer's five-Test tour of England, which starts on 20 June, and follows captain Rohit Sharma's retirement on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

Kohli, 36, has played 123 Tests for India and scored 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket," Kohli posted on social media.

"Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me

on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life."

Kohli retired from T20 internationals in 2024, after India's World Cup victory, but is expected to continue playing one-day internationals.

After making his Test debut against West Indies in 2011, Kohli went on to captain India in 68 of his Tests, with his 40 wins in charge making him the country's most successful leader in the format.

"There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no-one sees but that stay with you forever," he added.

"As I step away from this format, it's not easy - but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude - for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile."

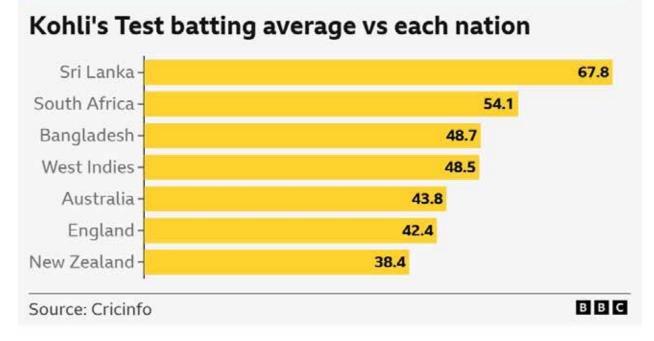
India cricket's governing body, the BCCI, praised Kohli for "redefining the standards of excellence, leadership and commitment in Indian cricket".

BCCI president Roger Binny added: "Virat Kohli's name will be remembered alongside the finest ever to have graced Test cricket.

"What set him apart was not just his hunger for runs, but his commitment to excellence in the toughest format of the game. His leadership marked a shift in how India competed overseas—with aggression, belief and a refusal to settle for second best.

"He inspired a generation to take pride in the whites, and his impact on Indian cricket will be felt for decades to come."

Kohli has long been regarded as one of the four batting greats of his era, alongside England's Joe





Root, Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Kane Williamson, and has scored 30 Test centuries.

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Only Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar have scored more Test runs for India than Kohli, while he has the most centuries for an India captain with 20.

But his most recent Test ton, 100 not out in the first Test against Australia in November, was his first in 15 innings across 16 months.

During that series, he scored 190 runs in nine innings averaging just 23.75. Only three tons have come in 39 Tests since January 2020. He averages 30.72 in that time.



Kohli, right, was seen as the heir to Sachin Tendulkar in Indian cricket

## 'Farewell to cricket's greatest showman'

Analysis by chief cricket reporter Stephan Shemilt

And so cricket's greatest showman leaves its grandest stage. Not with a final century, wave of the bat or guard of honour, but with a post to his 271m Instagram followers. The end of an aura.

It is hard to overstate Kohli's fame, stardom or influence. He is the biggest presence in the most powerful cricketing nation on the planet. Maybe his name does not travel globally like a Ronaldo or Messi, yet even those two titans will have no idea what it feels like to be Virat Kohli in India.

As a batter, Kohli continued the talismanic lineage of Gavaskar, Azharuddin and Tendulkar. His cover drive is a work of art. In 2018, a Kohli net session in Adelaide went viral, the ball leaving the bat with sound of a pistol being fired. He is the first of the Fab Four to leave Test cricket and while his numbers do not stack up to Smith, Root and Williamson, Kohli is the most pleasing to watch.

As a leader, Kohli dragged the India Test side into the 21st Century. Having more Test wins than any other India captain is statistically significant, though that pales when compared to what Kohli did for his team and Test cricket itself.

It is not an exaggeration to say Kohli was the most important factor in upkeeping the relevance of the longest format when it could otherwise have been completely swallowed by the T20 leagues.

Kohli follows Rohit Sharma into retirement as the regeneration of the India Test team continues. The XI that lines up to face England at Headingley in late June will have an unfamiliar feel. There may be more one-day internationals to savour. In that format, Kohli really is the GOAT.

Even with the histrionics, everything he did was must-see. Without Kohli, Test cricket will be a poorer spectacle.

'Nobody did more for Test cricket' - tributes to Kohli. "In my time playing and broadcasting no individual has done as much for Test cricket as Virat Kohli. His passion, energy and commitment to the greatest format has helped so much. I hope the next generation of Indian players take on his mantle." - *Michael Vaughan*, ex-England captain

"I'm reminded of your thoughtful gesture 12 years ago, during my last Test. You offered to gift me a thread from your late father. It was something too personal for me to accept, but the gesture was heartwarming and has stayed with me ever since. While I may not have a thread to offer in return, please know that you carry my deepest admiration and very best wishes. Your true legacy, Virat, lies in inspiring countless young cricketers to pick up the sport." - India batting great Sachin Tendulkar

"Absolute legend of our game. I'll never forget our first game against each other when we were young. I thought this guy was a serious competitor and going to be great, someone everyone would admire. You had to fill the shoes of some great players to ever play for India and carry the nation. Wow, you did not disappoint. Thank you for being you, which got the best out of all of us who competed against you."

- Ex-Australia batter **David Warner** 

"Anything I write for you, paji (brother), will never truly capture what I feel or the impact you've had on me. From watching you bat when I was 13 and wondering how someone could bring that kind of energy to the field, to sharing the field with you and realizing no one else possibly can. You've not just inspired a generation, you've reshaped the mindset of millions."

-Shubman Gill, India batter





19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

## What is prayer?

By: J A Rajah

- 1. Prayer must request a change of mind pleasing to God.
- 2. Prayer should seek the transformation of their whole personality.
  - 3. Prayer should give you the passion to live like Jesus.

Prayer should not just seek to satisfy your material or physical conditions.

Prayer should seek to fulfil God's will in your life. Even Jesus's prayer was not answered by God. God used Jesus to fulfil His will. That's how sinners were redeemed, and the world is transformed to be fit for salvation.

Tamil lyric implores,

"we should seek the will of God and not ours".

"Um sitham pol enanai nadathum, enpiriyane , en yesuve, en sithamo onrum vendam"



## FOOD IS BUT EARTH AND WATER

#### By Kumar Punithavel

uring the Sangam era which dates about 600 BCE to 200 CE, the Tamilian landscape was ruled by three dynasties. The emperor concerned here is of the Pandiyan dynasty who won many battles to rule the whole of Tamil Land. He is called Pandiyan Neduncheliyan, not to be confused with the Pandiyan king Neduncheliyan who decreed a wrongful capital punishment for Kovalan, the protagonist in the epic, Chilapathikaram. The Chilapathikaram king Neduncheliyan on realization of his folly, died on the throne. However, there are many sonnets composed by Sangam poets praising the valour, victory and adventures of emperor Neduncheliyan of whom the sonnet discussed here in this writeup.

During his time there was a poet called Kudapulavianar (குடபுலவியனார்). Kuda (西山) in his name is a title indicating that he hailed from the west of the Pandiyan kingdom. Some believe that he was from the northern land saying Pulavianar is a distortion of the word Pulasthian. But

Pulavianar in Tamil connotes one with broad knowledge. Thus, let's accept it was a good Tamil name given to a poet who came from the west of Pandya Madura where the Sangam assembly was conducted.

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During that time erudite men of Tamil Nadu had the privilege and duty of counselling the king. Seeing that the emperor, preoccupied with all his conquests, was neglecting the needs of agriculture in his land, the poet Pulavianar composed a sonnet of 30 lines. It is interesting to note that the poet defines food as the combination of earth and water. This is an important observation all leaders of today's world should give attention to. The duty of a government is to feed the nation. To achieve this goal, it is the prime responsibility of all of us to conserve the soil and water in our planet.

Initially in the sonnet the poet praises the king's military achievements thereby not trivializing his military achievements. However, he proceeds on to advise him that in spite of all the earthly triumphs of valour, if he wants to amass wealth in the next world, or even to destroy the strength of his enemies and gain lasting fame, he must act as follows to achieve the desired goals. That portion of advice is expounded from the 17th to 30th line of the 30-line sonnet in Purananooru # 18 by poet Kudapulaviyanar.

The first observation he makes is that humans cannot survive without water. However wealthy a country may be, life is not possible without water. The great universal ethic giver Thiruvalluvar too in his couplet number 11 says thus:

#### The genial rain ambrosia call: The world but lasts while rain shall fall.

வானின் றுலகம் வழங்கி வருதலால் தானமிழ்தம் என்றுணரற் பாற்று

In the third line of the sonnet Pulavianar mentions that when a person provides food, it is like giving life. It is not the loot he gets from the invasion of other countries that provides life but ensuring his citizens have enough food to go around. Human beings are a body formed by food. In the next line he declares that food consists of nothing but earth and water.

Indeed, it is an incisive observation that all food is nothing but a combination of water and soil. He goes on to advise the king that if he creates a means of bringing water and soil together then he would have made it possible for humans to



exist. Instead, if the farmer sows on barren land and looks to the sky for water it serves ill to the king.

He addresses King Neduncheliyan as one who has faced many deadly battles, and asks him not to ignore his advice, but act quickly accordingly. He goes on to mention that rulers who build dams in low land to conserve water for irrigation are sure to be praised and glorified. If he doesn't, there won't be any legacy left behind.

The poem written two thousand years ago holds good to this day. The sovereignty of a country will depend on its ability to feed its population. If it can't then it will not deserve to be called a country.

Listen oh great trailblazer!

No life can survive sans water, Those who provide food gives life, The human body is sustained by food, Food is but earth and water......5 Those who bring together earth and water create The means for body and life to stay together. If on barren fields men sow and stare at the sky, It serves not the king who rules the land. Oh! Cheliyan of deadly battles, do not disdain my advice....10 Rather you should act quickly! Those who construct dams So that the water covers low ground in the fields Are assured, in this world, of glory! Those who don't 

தகுதி கேள், இனி மிகுதியாள!
நீர் இன்று அமையா யாக்கைக்கு எல்லாம்
உண்டி கொடுத்தோர் உயிர் கொடுத்தோரே,
உண்டி முதற்றே உணவின் பிண்டம்,
உணவு எனப்படுவது நிலத்தொடு நீரே5
நீரும் நிலனும் புணரியோர் ஈண்டு
உடம்பும் உயிரும் படைத்திசினோரே,
வித்தி வான் நோக்கும் புன்புலம் கண்ணகன்
வைப்பிற்று ஆயினும் நண்ணி ஆளும்
இறைவன் தாட்கு உதவாதே, அதனால்10
அடு போர்ச் செழிய! இகழாது வல்லே
நிலன் நெளி மருங்கின் நீர்நிலை பெருகத்
தட்டோர் அம்ம, இவண் தட்டோரே
தள்ளாதோர் இவண் தள்ளாதோரே14

MAY 2025



#### SPECIAL FEATURE

## **NURTURING CHILDREN FOR BETTER LIVING**

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

By: J A Rajah

Thildren require different training strategies at various times in their lives. Parents should teach and train instead of provoking and admonishing. The infant stage (from birth to 18 months) brings new challenges as the once-helpless newborn starts to find its place in the world, full of needs and demands that parents must channel toward healthy development. Then come the three stages leading towards successful adulthood.

### **Pre-Schoolers**

(Ages 3-6)

During the formative years, children continue to explore their world. Wise parents will not only begin to introduce them to numbers and the alphabet- they will also weave godly principles into their teaching and coaching. For example, learning to share toys with other children isn't just 'nice'. It is a small, entry-level step into the godly value of giving. It's learning to love one's neighbour and to act unselfishly. Unless we teach and regularly perform the action of sharing with our children, they will not practice that action with others. Why would they? When a play date comes, parents bring their children together; they will only practice what they have learned. Those who haven't learned to share will not suddenly do so, no matter how sternly their mother or father speaks to them through these experiences- parents too. to gain control of their emotions. As they learn to play games and sports and try their hand at crafts and music, there will be ample opportunity for success and failure, joy and frustration. It is not just the child who struggles through these experiences. Mums and dads do, too. Yet instructing and training children to manage their emotions gives them a head start on coping with life. Preschoolers are not too young to learn to manage their feelings. As they do, their relationships will benefit, and their mental health will improve. It starts with parental training.



## School-Age Children

(ages 6-12)

Children start to blossom as they reach this stage. They continue to soak up knowledge like a sponge. They want to know what ad, why, and how. They are still parent-oriented, wanting parents' approval as they try new activities and build new skills. Parents need to give children opportunities to learn in an organised and formal setting through a classroom setting or a curriculum at home. Providing them with other learning experiences, like sports and music, is also worthwhile. Learning to work is just as vital as learning to play, and children can learn responsibility and perseverance as they help with chores and jobs around the house as part of their education. E.g. taking care of pets or plants. Digital media offers valuable opportunities for learning., but it can easily expose them to graphic violence, foul language, and even pornography. Parents who fail to carefully monitor and limit their children's screen time will find their parental roles hijacked by peers and corporations that do not have their children's best interests at heart. Peers way of thinking and social media may be prone to affect them negatively. Children at this stage of life need oversight and subtle directions.

## Teenagers

(Ages-13-18)

The teenage years have the reputation of being a time of rebellion and obstinacy. But if the proper groundwork has been laid in the earlier stages.

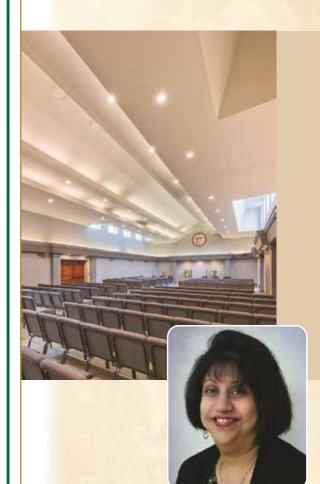
The teen years can be fascinating and fulfilling for parents. Younger children soak up everything they are learning; teens compare everything they have learned with the world around them. Without realising it, they begin to analyse the validity of what their parents have said instead of the messages they hear from society and its representatives, such as their peers. There is a common myth that as soon as teenagers, they are somehow fated to become rebellious. They love or crave to be independent. Some parents feel good that their teenagers are maturing. Responsible parents should guide their children at all the stages of their growth.

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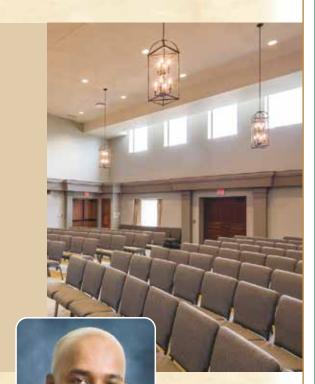
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### EDUCATION & CAREER

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING FIT

#### By: Arsh Louisbrown Grade 6 Student

**7**hat can I do to keep fit? The importance of being fit is very helpful in your daily life. There are many ways to keep fit and I am about to tell you all the important ways I know how to keep fit.



The first important thing is food. The foods help you keep fit because it gives you a source of energy and all the nutrients you need. However, some of the foods can give you fats and lots of calories. This includes chips, burgers, and fries, food that we all love to eat. There are food groups to consider as well. The groups are Fruits & Vegetables, Meat, Eggs, & Fish, Cereals, Dairy, and Oils & Sweets. You should mainly eat some of the foods from the groups every day. It will help you be fit and healthy.

Secondly, we have exercising. Exercising is really important as it helps you be in good shape. People go to this place called the gym. The gym has everything you need to exercise and to train. In the gym, you can weight lift, run on the treadmill, and more. People can buy this thing called a membership where they can go to the gym very often and exercise

Thirdly, we have jogging in the morning. People usually just wake up, brush their teeth, and then make breakfast. Other people go for a nice jog in the morning. It is helpful when it comes to being fit. It can help you burn calories and make your mind calm in the morning. It even makes you have a better heart rate, which means that your heart becomes healthier. Another thing is that it can help you get faster and it makes you have more stamina. Once you have a lot of stamina, a three kilometre run would be no problem for you.

Next, I will talk about the importance of being fit. If you just go to Tim Hortons and buy every single donut in there, it would not be good. But I doubt anyone would do that. If it were to happen, a lot of things could occur to the body. The heart rate could get lower, they could get into bad shape, their body could gain many calories, and they could have a higher risk of a heart attack. Your body is like a gift from your one and

only God. You must take care of it and you must not misuse the gift from him.

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

Additionally, you should look after your bad and good actions. People can do good actions but some people can do bad actions and they don't see why it will be harmful to them. Those bad actions can be smoking, drinking, vaping, and more. When

hair. Dandruff are these white flakes that are made by a germ called Malassezia. Lice happens when your hair is messy. It can go on forever as it makes eggs. Not to mention that it is a bug. So, if you do have these, go to a nearby doctor and get a shampoo that will get rid of it.

These reasons will make you fit and help you out a lot, especially if you



people smoke, the bad stuff inside of it called tobacco will make your lungs weaker. Your white blood cells try very hard and their best to fight it off. Eventually they may have had

enough of fighting and could turn it into a cancer cell. This cancer cell can spread and the person who is smoking could get cancer. When you drink alcohol too much, you could get addicted to it and will always be drunk. It will be the same when you eat too much junk food. It makes you all unhealthy and your body may not function properly. That is why you should look after your actions.

Lastly, you should take care of your hair. Your hair is very important to you. However, things can get in your hair that you may not even notice. Dandruff and lice can be very harmful to your

are in need of ways to improve your overall health. In conclusion, this is how you will be healthy and fit. Be healthy and stay safe!



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## COMMUNITY WATCH



## **CONNECTING WATERLOO'S BEST STUDENTS WITH CANADA'S BEST COMPANIES**

True North Fund partners with Waterloo to develop a Canadian talent pipeline to help strengthen the country's top 100 tech firms



#### By: Sam Charles, University Relations

Thris Albinson, co-founder and managing partner of Canadian venture capital fund True North Fund and co-founder of C100, says Canada is at a critical juncture in its continuing evolution as a global innovator. He says the country and its tech leaders need to work harder to retain the best and the brightest.

"We really need to build the narrative of 'Canada or bust!' The time for 'Cali or bust' that we hear from students has come to a close," says Waterloo-based Albinson. "For the first time we have a critical mass of global leaders based in Canada. We need to connect them to our best students. Considering the geopolitical environment we're in, now is the time."

Prompted by conversations at last spring's convocation with University President and Vice-Chancellor Vivek Goel and Faculty of Engineering Dean Mary Wells, Albinson says they started exploring more ways to connect Waterloo's best students with Canada's top private comp That work has culminated in a partnership between True North and the University.

"As much as we're proud to see our students thriving around the world, we also have a responsibility to show them they can build ambitious, meaningful careers right here in Canada," Wells says. "Partnerships like this one with True North connect our students to top-tier coop opportunities and help them see the possibilities that exist at home. I want them to see themselves not just working in Canada but also helping to build it for the future."

Team True North is modelled after Canada's "Own the Podium" Olympic strategy which focuses on providing resources to athletes with the highest potential for success. By merging True North's roster of tech companies with Waterloo's co-op network, it creates a pipeline for growth and innovation in Canada.

Using an objective global standard data, True North identifies the top performing tech companies in Canada. The True North branding will provide students with the knowledge and confidence that they will have a meaningful and fulfilling co-op or full time experience at a global leader, right here in Canada.

At the bottom of each job description for these companies, it will read: "This company is part of Team True North, a comprehensive group of Canadian tech firms with performance and growth rates that match the top 1 per cent of companies worldwide."

Some students might be surprised to learn that companies such as Arctic Wolf, Clearpath Robotics, 1Password, eSentire, Miovision Technologies and Faire are not only based in Canada but local to the Waterloo region.

From the beginning, the world's top high-tech companies have come to the University of Waterloo to recruit its students. They are frequently drawn to Waterloo by its track-record of developing leaders and innovators across sectors. For students, especially those seeking co-op experience, they are keen to join these large companies for the prestige and bragging rights.

The University has more than 8,000 employer partners across more than 70 countries including major tech companies such as Microsoft and Google. Despite data that shows

every dollar invested by a business in a Waterloo co-op student creates a greater economic gain, small and medium-sized companies may worry there might not be a critical mass of co-op applicants to draw talent from.

"We've heard that all high performing Canadian firms know about Waterloo, but aren't sure there are opportunities for them to recruit the University's top students when competing against the world's biggest companies," Albinson says. "The same is true on the other side of the equation, that many students simply don't realize the global leading opportunities right here in Canada, and we want to change that."

Of Canada's top 100 highest performing private companies, twothird are already working with Waterloo co-op students. Albinson wants to close the gap with the remaining third of companies who he believes are missing an opportunity. "If we want these companies to compete globally, we need to connect them to Waterloo's talent pipeline, and vice versa, we need Waterloo's students to know and seek out these global Canadian companies."

Companies like Faire, an online wholesale marketplace for retailers and brands, are already benefiting from its relationship with the University. With offices in San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Waterloo, it employs more than 200 staff, many with University of Waterloo connections.

"Our region is fortunate to be the epicentre of innovation in Canada," Albinson says. "Our new partnership with the University of Waterloo will help connect Canada's best students with Canada's best companies."

Courtesy: University of Waterloo

## COMMUNITY WATCH



## RICHMOND HILL'S NEWEST DESTINATION PARK: DAVE BARROW CIVIC SQUARE PARK

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

### A gathering place on the Hill to bring our community together

Richmond Hill Council has
Approved the Dave Barrow Civic
Square Park Plan, setting in motion
the building of the city's newest
destination park.

Located in the heart of the city, near the Central Library at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive, the Dave Barrow Civic Square Park will bring our community together, providing a space to connect with families and friends and encourage healthy outdoor living. It will foster pride and a sense of belonging by hosting public events, including concerts, performances, festivals, creative pop-ups, community gatherings, and various other recreational activities.

Last fall, hundreds of residents provided feedback on options for the park to help ensure it meets the community's needs. It will include features such as:

- an amphitheater for performances and events;
- a seasonal skating rink for wintery fun and activities;
- ample green space to enjoy the warm seasons;
- spacious open grounds for public events, with covered areas, seating, tables, bike parking, washrooms, concessions and other communitybonding offerings;



Dave Barrow Square, located on the central library grounds was officially dedicated on Sept 15, 2021 to former Mayor Dave Barrow (shown with his wife Tomye Anne) in honor of his more than 30 years service.

City of Richmond Hill Photo.

- an educational garden for outdoor learning; and
- a large Richmond Hill sign to welcome visitors to the park and the city.

The park is named in honour of the city's beloved Mayor, Dave Barrow, who passed away in 2022. Mayor Barrow was first elected Mayor in 2006 and was re-elected in 2010, 2014 and 2018, leaving an indelible

mark on the city and contributing to the growth of Richmond Hill into the thriving and vibrant community it is today.

The detailed design of the new park is scheduled to begin in 2025, with construction expected to commence in 2026. Visit RichmondHill.ca/ ParksProjects for more information on Dave Barrow Civic Square Park and other park developments.



#### Quote

"Everywhere I go in our city—from its vibrant centres to its welcoming neighbourhoods—I'm reminded of Dave's contributions to building a community that he cared for and loved. He would have been proud of this park and what it represents. Dave will be remembered and commemorated with every visit our residents make to this space that will be shared by all."

- Mayor David West

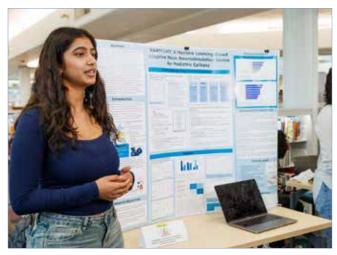
(MARKHAM





## **MARKHAM'S YOUTH SCIENCE EXHIBITION**

ome of the innovative Sustainability projects by students who represented Markham at the Annual York Region Science & Technology Fair 2025 held on April 26, 2025 at the Milliken Mills Branch is shown here.













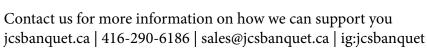


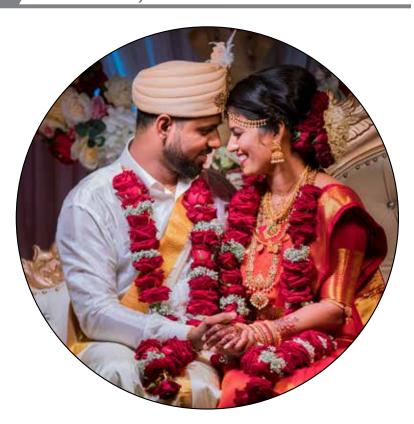






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## COMMUNITY WATCH



MAY 2025

## Durham Tamils Association Celebrating 25 Years Of Serving Our Tamil Community

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

The Durham Tamil Association has proudly served the community for 25 years and remains dedicated to supporting our members, youth, and seniors. We continue to offer a variety of activities almost every day, providing something for everyone, from children to seniors. This milestone would not have been possible without our amazing volunteers, who selflessly give their time and energy to serve the community. DTA is truly grateful for your ongoing support. Additionally, the DTA Tamil School continues its mission by offering Tamil language classes to our students, fostering a connection to our cultural heritage for the next generation.





### DTA'S HOMELAND **PROJECTS**

DTA's Homeland Projects DTA is proud to announce that we have completed over 100 homeland projects as of April 30, 2025. Watch out more for this vear 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.

#### **EMBARKING ON A CRUISE ADVENTURE**

DTA recently set sail on an unforgettable cruise with a group of fellow travelers. The journey to the Caribbean was filled with fun activities, great memories, and enjoyable experiences for everyone on board. A heartfelt thanks to the DTA Tourism team for planning and organizing such a wonderful itinerary and making this trip a memorable one.





## DAY TRIP TO **RAJARAJESWARI TEMPLE**

DTA recently organized a day trip to the Rajarajeswari Temple in Rochester for Chitrapowrami. Members enjoyed a meaningful visit to the temple and returned home safely. Many thanks to the DTA Tourism team for their excellent coordination and execution of this trip







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



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

- Free Training and a certificate of completion from Computek College in
- 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 postive impact on seniors lives while gaining valuable skills and exprences.

#### **Contact US**

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

Contact Number:

- · (647) 968-9549 · (647) 286-9549
- **Durham Tamil Association** 66 Harwood Ave, S.Ajax L1S 2H6

## Durham Serving Eight Municipalities Brock Oshawa Uxbridge Clarington

- Scugog Ajax
- Pickering
- Whitby



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

Volunteers Needed!

VOLUNTEER

#### Volunteer Gala: Twice a Year!

- Summer Gala 2024
- Winfer Gala 2024
- Spring Gala 2025 September Gala 2025

Canada



## COMMUNITY WATCH

Canada

#### 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.

www.monsoonjournal.com

#### THANK YOU TO DTA'S ANNUAL SPONSORS

DTA thanks our annual sponsors Computek College of Business, Healthcare & Technology.

Nava Wilson LLP. Chapel Ridge Funeral

Home & Cremation, and all our sponsors for your continued support throughout the year. If you are interested in being annual sponsor please reach out to the below contacts.

For more information on all DTA's Community Support

Programs and Sponsor contacts please visit:

www. DurhamTamils.Org Tel 905.428.7007 (Unity Is Strength)

## EAST COAST TRIP JULY 19TH - 27TH, 2025

DTA'S EAST COAST TRIP COVERS ONTARIO, QUEBEC, NEW BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AND NOVA

COST: \$1400 Cost per person Package Include

- ▶ Luxury Tour Bus ▶ Tour Guide
- ▶ Accommodation ▶ Breakfast

#### \*REGISTER ONLINE:

https://www.durhamtamils.org/east-coastbus-tour.html

You can e-Transfer fees to

#### dtatravel1@gmail.com

In the comments, please indicate "your name & Phone#"

Pick up & Dropoff Location in Scarborough: Walmart Morningside

799 Milner Ave, Scarborough, ON M1B 3C3.

#### Pick-up Time: **6:15AM**

Ajax Pick up & Drop off location: DTA Center

66 B Harwood Avenue South,

Ajax, Ontario L1S 2H6

Pick-up Time: 6:00AM

#### 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.

#### DTA SENIOR'S MAY MONTHLY MEETING

DTA Senior's March monthly meeting will be held on Sunday May 25, 2025 at 5:00 pm at DTA Centre.

66B Harwood Ave S, Ajax L1S 2H6.

Event Time: 5-9 pm Please all Senior (ages 55+) members attend the meeting. Register online - durhamtamils.

org

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













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:

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### COMMUNITY WATCH



## City of Brampton begins 2025 grass cutting and weed control operations

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

The City of Brampton has launched its seasonal grass cutting and weed control operation for 2025, to keep over 850 parks and green spaces clean, safe and vibrant. The operation is underway and will continue through to October.

#### Grass cutting in Brampton

Grass will be maintained at an average height of three inches, with frequency determined by area type:

- High-maintenance areas (e.g., sports fields) will be cut weekly to ensure they are safe and accessible.
- Medium-maintenance areas (e.g., parklands, boulevards) will be cut every two weeks.
- Low-maintenance areas (e.g., stormwater ponds, valley lands), will be cut six times this season.

In addition, all boulevards, including hard surfaces, will be maintained.

Under the Don't Mow, Let it Grow initiative, naturalized areas such as stormwater ponds, valleys and floodplains will not be mowed. These spaces protect pollinators, improve water quality, reduce erosion and support biodiversity.

#### Brampton Grass Maintenance Tracker Tool

Residents can follow grass maintenance progress with the City's Grass Maintenance Tracker Tool, anticipated to launch by the end of May, providing updates on where crews have recently cut grass in parks and boulevards. To learn more, visit brampton.ca/parks. Residents can report overgrown grass or gardens by using the Brampton 311 app (available on the App Store and Google Play) or by visiting 311brampton.ca.

## Weed and invasive plant control in Brampton is underway

To support local biodiversity and create a thriving environment for all, City crews have begun managing



weed growth in City parks, along roads, at sports fields, within parklands and at locations where invasive species, such as hogweed and poison ivy, grow. The City is also dedicating staff to conduct enhanced dandelion and weed maintenance within local parks.

Longer grass and weeds support wildlife and pollinators such as butterflies, bees and hummingbirds, who are essential to the production of 75 per cent of the staple crop plants that feed humans and 90 per cent of all flowering plants in the world.

As a Bee City, everyone has a part to play in keeping Brampton a clean and green community while supporting pollinator habitats. Residents are encouraged to consider leaving dandelions to grow. If you prefer to manage them, there are natural ways you can:

- Mow at three inches.
- Mow regularly to remove the flower heads before they go to seed, therefore preventing seeds from spreading. Alternatively, pick off the yellow heads by hand.
- Mulch tree and shrub beds to prevent growth and seeds from establishing.
- Use a weeding tool to pull out the plant and the root by hand.

#### **Encroachment By-law**

New this year, under the Encroachment By-law, residents are permitted to grow soft landscape gardens on boulevards. Allowing soft landscaping on boulevards contributes to the beautification of Brampton's streets while supporting sustainability efforts. These gardens can improve air quality, conserve water, provide habitats for beneficial insects and pollinators and enhance biodiversity.

## Ground Cover Maintenance and Prohibited Plants By-law

The Ground Cover Maintenance and Prohibited Plants By-law promotes naturalized gardens by permitting a wider range of garden styles while protecting properties from invasive and noxious species through enforcement of a specific Prohibited Plants list, in alignment with provincial guidelines. Ground cover includes turf grass and other low-growing plants, maintenance requirements include, keeping all ground cover trimmed to under 20 centimetres and the removal and destruction of all prohibited plants. Learn more at brampton.ca/ growgreen.

## City of Mississauga announces new Director of Transit

Maureen Cosyn Heath will oversee the province's third-largest transit agency, which saw more than 58 million boardings in 2024.



Nollowing a competitive **L'** recruitment, the City of Mississauga has selected Maureen Cosyn Heath as its new Director of Transit, effective June 2, 2025.

In this role, Cosyn Heath will work with a dedicated team of more than 1,600 transit operators and staff, maintain the fleet of 500 MiWay buses, and ensure quality transit service on 71 routes throughout Mississauga, that provide 1.24 million service hours every weekday.

Cosyn Heath has more than 25 years of experience working in public transit, beginning at the London Transit Commission in London, Ontario in 1999 where she served as the Manager of Service Delivery. In 2008, she became the founding Chief Administrative Officer at Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services, a not-for-profit transportation consortium that provides daily school bus service to more than 50,000 students for the London District Catholic School Board

and the Thames Valley District School Board. For the past four years, Cosyn Heath has served as the Director of Transit for the City of Hamilton, where she is leading Hamilton's bus network redesign and supporting the Hamilton LRT project.

Cosyn Heath holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Windsor and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Western University. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Urban Transit Association since 2022 and as Communication and Public Affairs Committee Chair since 2023.

#### Quotes

"We're excited for Maureen to join our team at the City of Mississauga. She brings a wealth of experience in public transportation, which will be an asset as MiWay continues its mission of providing quality public transit to a growing number of

riders every year. Maureen joins our team at a critical time for MiWay, as the service continues to expand, thanks to continued Council investment and demand from riders. She knows how to run a transit service and is the right person to lead MiWay forward."

> Sam Rogers, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

"I am thrilled to join the City of Mississauga as the Director of Transit. Mississauga has a strong history of investing in public transit, evidenced by the robust bus network already in place. With many rapid transit projects well under construction, transit in Mississauga will continue to advance, creating even more options for safe and efficient travel. I look forward to working with staff on the many exciting transit projects ahead."

> - Maureen Cosyn Heath, Director of Transit



## BALARAMA, 9th OF DASAVATARAMS OF VISHNU AND BHADRAJ TEMPLE FOR LORD BALARAMA IN MUSSOORIE, YTTARKHAND, INDIA

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

#### Compiled by Kidambi Raj

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Balarama, also known as Bala Deva, Balabhadra, Halayudha, Haladhara and Sankarshana is a significant deity in Hinduism. He is revered as the *elder brother* of Lord Krishna and is often depicted as a powerful and protective figure. Balarama's importance in Hinduism is often multifaceted, encompassing His role in major epics, His symbolic attributes and His influence on various cultural and religious practices. Known for wielding a plough, Balarama is a symbol of strength, agriculture and duty. Balarama's role in Hindu mythology is extensive. He is a central figure in the Mahabharata and Bhagawata Purana, where His actions and teachings provide moral and ethical guidance. His attributes, such as His immense strength and His association with agriculture, make Him a unique and revered deity in the Hindu Pantheon.

#### ABOUT LORD BALARAMA



Lord Balarama and Lord Krishna

The name *Balarama* is almost inseparable from the name of *Lord Krishna*. Balarama was the elder brother of Lord Krishna and like Krishna, He Himself was an Avatar of Lord Vishnu, or as some people believe, an avatar of Sesha Naga, the celestial snake on which Lord Vishnu lies in the Kshirod Sagara. Lord Krishna on the other hand, though sometimes considered as an avatar of Lord Vishnu, but the Supreme Lord Himself. In this regard it is interesting to note that Sri Vishnu Purana states that Balarama and Krishna were both from the two strands of hair of Lord Vishnu; Balarama from the white hair and Krishna from a black hair. Krishna is praised, discussed and worshipped, while Lord Balarama is a little ignored, like *Lakshmana* of the Ramayana, who played second fiddle to Lord Rama, Lord Balarama also played the role of the second man behind the dazzling presence of Lord Krishna. Incidentally, the similarity between Lakshmana and Balarama does not end here. Actually, it is said that Lord Balarama in His previous incarnation was Lakshmana.

#### DIVINE BIRTH OF BALARAMA WITH A TWIST

**Balarama's** birth, like that of His **brother Krishna**, is surrounded by mysterious



Bharaj Temple in Mussoorie

circumstances, to shield Him from the wrath of *Kamsa*, the tyrannical King of Mathura. As Sankarshana, He signifies not only physical might, but also the divine energy that binds the universe. The name Sankarshana is derived from the miraculous circumstances of His birth, as He was extracted from another's womb when He was transferred from Devaki's womb to that of Rohini, another wife of Vasudeva. Believed to be an incarnation of Sesha, the great Serpent on which Lord Vishnu rests, His divine connections are intricate and significant. Frequently depicted wielding a plough and a mace, Lord Balarama represents both the agricultural backbone of society and also the warrior's strength to defend it. In the grand narrative of Hindu mythology, Lord Balarama may often stand in the shadow of His more famous younger brother, yet His role was equally vital. He is the protector of dharma, the guardian of the land, and the embodiment of strength imbued with wisdom. While Krishna enchanted the world with His Divine lilas (plays), Lord Balarama upheld the moral order.

## ORIGINS, VARIATIONS AND SYMBOLIC MEANING OF NAMES

The name *Balarama* is derived from two Sanskrit words: *Bala*, meaning strength or power, and *Rama*, meaning pleasing or delightful. Thus, Balarama can be translated to the one who is delightfully strong or the strong and pleasing one. He is also referred to as, **Bala Deva** (divine strength) or Balabhadra (strong and auspicious). In South India, He is often called, Halayudha which means, the one who wields the plough. The name **Balbhadra** combines two key two key elements: Bala, meaning strength and **Bhadra**, **meaning** auspicious or noble. This name encapsulates Lord Balarama's dual nature of immense physical power and moral integrity. According to the legends, Sara Garga Muni, the family priest of the Yadavas, bestowed this name upon Lord Balarama during His naming ceremony, recognizing His exceptional strength and the noble character. The name **Balarama** symbolizes strength, duty and protection. His association with the plough, highlights His connection to agriculture and sustenance of life. Balarama's name and attributes collectively represent the virtues of hard work, responsibility, and the protection of dharma (righteousness). The symbols associated with Lord Balarama carry deep meaning. This signifies His role in promoting agriculture and sustaining life, while the *mace* represents His strength and ability to protect *dharma*. These symbols collectively highlight Lord Balarama's attributes of strength, duty and protection.

## BHADRAJ TEMPLE HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE



Bhadraj temple is a perfect blend of beautiful architecture, scenic location and spirituality. The temple is the right choice for avid trekkers who can enjoy the views of the Himalayas from the summit. Also, its 360-degree view brings enticing views of the Doon Valley, Jausar Bawar, the Shivalik ranges, and the Dakpathat and Assan Barrage Dams. The temple was renovated using white marble, which perfectly complements the natural beauty that surrounds the temple. The architecture of Bharaj temple reflects the typical North Indian Temple Style. It has a square-shaped sanctum sanctorum (Garbhagriha) and pyramidal roof



(Sikhara) on top of it. Bhadraj temple is simple and elegant, with stone construction, intricate carvings of Hindu deities and mythological scenes adorn the temple's exterior walls. The sanctum of Balram lies in the centre of the temple complex. It is a square-shaped structure that houses the idol Balram, the main deity. The area in front of the sanctum is very spacious. The Garbhagriha is small and dark space. Four strong pillars support the mandap, and its ceilings have paintings from Hindu mythology. The temple has a carved stone gateway that leads to the entrance. The gateway (Torana) has elaborate carvings of deities and mythological scenes. There is a small shrine for Lord Shiva on the left side of the Mandap Shiva (courtyard). A small Shiva Linga is inside this shrine, which has a pyramid-shaped roof. Overall, Bhadraj Temple is a fine example of traditional North Indian architecture.

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## FESTIVALS AND RITUALS IN BHADRAJ TEMPLE



Inside Bahdraj Temple for Lord balarama.

Bhadraj fair is one of the biggest of the festivals celebrated at this temple. This four-day festival attracts thousands of devotees from across the country. It is specially dedicated to the main deity, Lord Balarama. The other festivals that are celebrated here include Janmashtami, Navratri, Diwali and Balarama Jayanti. The Balarama Jayanti is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Lord Balarama. It is celebrated on the Sashti Tithi or the sixth day of Krishna Paksha in the month of Badrapada. The temple typically opens in the morning around sunrise and stays open until late in the evening, allowing devotees to visit at their convenience. As for the rituals, the temple often conducts regular prayers and ceremonies throughout the day. These rituals may include offerings of flowers, incense and prayers to the Deity worshipped at the temple. Devotees often participate in these rituals to seek blessings and express their devotion.

#### LEGEND OF BHADRAJ TEMPLE

#### Lord Brahma's Penance:

After the epic Mahabharata war, Lord Balarama, embarked on a journey for penance. His travels led Him to the serene spot of *Binhar*, where people were known for their kindness and care. A special Bond: Lord Balarama found solace in Binhar and took residence there for a considerable period. He even imparted His knowledge of warfare to the shepherds. As the time for His onward journey to Badrinath approached, Lord Balarama made a promise to the people that He would return not in flesh, to forever watch over them and their cattle. That voice belonged to Balarama. The Statue's Guidance: Mehra followed the voice's instruction to carry the statue to a specific location. Miraculously the heavy statue felt lighter as he began, but grew heavier as he neared



Sri Baldevji Temple in Odisha.

the designated spot, Bhadraj. This indicated that it was the chosen site for the temple. *The Spring of Gratitude:* 

Before departing, the voice (of Lord Balarama) directed Mehra to a spot up the hilltop. There, Mehra found a hidden spring, a token of gratitude for his role in establishing the temple. Offerings of Milk and Butter: Devotees believe that Lord Balarama was particularly pleased with offerings of milk and butter. This practice is likely to stem from His association with cattle and agriculture. Equivalent to Badrinath: A strong belief holds that a visit to Bhadraj temple bestows blessings similar to those received at the renowned Badrinath Temple. This makes Bhadraj a more accessible option to some devotees. Wish Fulfillment:

Local faith suggests that praying with devotion at this temple can grant wishes. This belief draws devotees seeking divine intervention in various aspects in their lives.

#### **DEATH OF LORD BALARAMA**

Lord Balarama died before the death of Lord Krishna and the destruction of the Yadava Clan. Lord Balarama left His immortal body to deep meditation. It is said, that at His death, an enormous red-coloured snake with thousand hoods (supposedly, the snake was Sesha Naga himself) escaped from His mouth and went into the sea.

#### DICOVERIES RELATED TO LORD BALARAMA

Excavations at various sites have unearthed terracotta figurines and seals depicting Lord Balarama wielding His iconic plough and mace, emphasizing His role as an agricultural deity. Notable findings include places like, *Gwalior*, *India* and *Karachi*, *Pakistan*.

#### LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILTY

The *Bhadraj Temple* dedicated to *Lord Balarama*, is a hidden gem located in the hills near Mussoorie in Uttarakhand in India. It is situated at an elevation of 2,200 km. After the Mahabharata war, Lord Balarama is said to have embarked on a penance journey and found solace and left a sacred stone in this beautiful location leading to the temple's establishment.

#### PLACES TO VISIT NEAR BHADRAJ TEMPLE

• Tehri Lake: Just a short distance way from



Balarama with Krishna (Jagannath) and Subhadra in Pruri Jagannath temple.

the Bhadraj Temple, *Tehri Lake* offers stunning views and opportunities for boating and water sports. It is a perfect spot to relax and enjoy the serene surroundings.

#### • Surkanda Devi Temple:

Situated atop a hill near Tehri, Surkanda Devi Temple is another revered religious site. The trek to this temple offers breathtaking views of the Himalayas and surrounding valleys.

#### • Dhanaulti:

Known for its lush greenery and tranquil atmosphere, Dhanaulti is a hill station located close to Bhadraj temple. Visitors can enjoy activities like trekking, camping and nature walks amidst the beautiful pine forest.

#### • Mussoorie:

This is one of the most popular hill stations in India. It is a short drive from Bhadraj temple. It offers panoramic views of the Himalayas, picturesque landscapes and attractions like *Gun Hill, Kempty Falls* and *Lal Tibba*.

#### • Dehradun:

The capital of Uttarakhand, Dehradun is not far from Bharaj temple. It is known for its pleasant climate, colonial architecture and attractions like *Robber's Cave, Saharadhara* and the *Forest Research Institute*.

#### • Rishikesh and Haridwar:

Both Rishikesh and Haridwar are famous for their spiritual significance and are easily accessible from Bhadraj Temple. Visitors can attend *Ganga Aarti*, explore ancient temples and indulge in adventure activities like river rafting and trekking.

#### FEW OF THE OTHER BALARAMA TEMPLES

- Balarama Temple in Mathura
- Balaram Temple in Vridhavan
- Baldevji Temple in Odisha and
- Puri Jagannath Temple in Odisha
  Here Lord Balarama is worshipped alongside
  Krishna (Jagannath) and Subhadra. The
  temple plays a vital role in the annual Ratha
  Yatra, where, the deities are paraded through
  the streets, symbolizing brotherhood and
  devotion.



Sri Krishna, Sri Balarama Temple in Mathura.

# KALKI, THE 10th & LAST OF DASAVATARAMS OF VISHNU

19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN CIRCULATION

## **Compiled by Kidambi Raj INTRODUCTION**

*Kalki* is the only one of the ten Avatars (Dasavatarams) of Lord Vishnu, that is yet to be born, which is mentioned in Srimad Bhagavatham, Vishnu Purana, Mahabharata, Matsya Purana and Kalki Purana. If people are asked as to how many incarnations did Lord Vishnu take, the chances are, almost all would say ten, referring to *Dasavataram*, where *dasa* means ten and avatarams mean incarnations. It is explained in Srimad Bhagavatham Canto 1, chapter 3, that Vishnu had innumerable incarnations, but the important ones are 24. It also says that in each and everyone of the 23 incarnations, He had different forms. In addition, it says that Lord Vishnu would appear on earth, one last time as 24th incarnation, at the end of the present Kaliyuga, as Kalki. This appearance marks the end of Kaliyuga (also known as the *Iron Age*) and the establishment of a new spirituality based on divine revelation and scriptural truths, both of which comes forth directly from Lord Vishnu Himself. Thus, He will end all evil by defeating the demon Kali and starting a new Satya Yuga or Kalkiyuga.

## WHY IS LORD KALKI'S APPEARANCE IN WORLD STAGE SO IMPORTANT?

There are actually many reasons, two are most critical for the current race of humanity to understand:

- When Lord Kalki incarnates, He does so to usher in, the end of Kali yuga, an age known much for the degradation of the earth realm as it is for the decrease in true spirituality.
- Lord Kalki, comes as a response to the yearnings of the many righteous truth-seekers, spiritual aspirants and faithful devotees across the planet. His global mission focuses on the re-establishment of spiritual wisdom, true religious traditions and authentic scriptures for the upliftment of humankind.

#### THE COMING OF LORD KALKI, AS PER KALKI PURANA

The birth of Kalki Avatar is well described in the *Kalki Purana*. However, one must be schooled in the most esoteric schools of Vedic astrology to correctly determine just who it is that would be born as the final and last incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Of course, to many of those who have been seeking the Lord in their hearts and whose lives hinged on the Second Coming of the Lord, He did appear in the world stage for but a brief moment in time. These words of prophecy were spoken by another incarnation of Lord Vishnu, as described below. The context is quite relevant and can be found in Mahabharata. What is most significant is that this promise was made during the darkest period of the last major age known as Dwapara Yuga or Bronze Age. As that era began to accelerate towards its



final days, it was plunged into a war to end all wars. These words uttered by Lord Krishna, more than 5,000 years ago on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, stands as the promise made by God to mankind. True to this promise, the Divine has always come down to help Humanity, whenever the dark and negative forces overpowered the good and righteousness. This descent of the Divine power in a human form is commonly known as an *Avatar*, a special incarnation who takes birth on earth to set right the balance between good and evil. At this important juncture of Humanity's transition from the Dark Age of Light, the Tenth Incarnation of Lord Maha Vishnu, is taking birth on our Earth to remove all darkness and help us move into a Golden Age of Satya Yuga. And this avatar is Lord Kalki.

#### KALKI AVATAR – THE REMOVER OF DARKNESS

The Kalki Avatar, the tenth and final avatar of Lord Vishnu would appear at the end of the present Kali Yuga. At the end of Kali Yuga, when dharma would reach the nadir point, then to restore the righteousness in the world, Lord Vishnu would incarnate as Kalki. He is often depicted as mounted on a White Flying Horse named *Devadatta* and wielding a blazing sword in His right hand.

#### \* The Meaning of the Name Kalki:

The name *Kalki* is said to have originated from the Sanskrit word *Kalka*, which means foulness or filth. Therefore, the meaning of the name Kalki is the destroyer of filth (darkness).

\* The Origin of the Kalki Avatar: Kalki avatar is not mentioned in the Vedas. The epithet Kalmaalinam, meaning Brilliant Remover of Darkness, is found in, the Vedic Literature of Rudra, which has been interpreted to be the Forerunner of Kalki. Kalki avatar is mentioned in many Hindu texts, including but not limited to the Mahabharata, Vishnu

Purana, Matsya Purana, Kalki Purana and Bhagavata Purana.

\* What would the Kalki Avatar look like:
Lord Kalki is often depicted as riding a Flying
White Horse named Devadatta. The horse
Devadatta is none but Garuda, the carrier of
Lord Vishnu. He is carrying a blazing sword
in His right hand and a shield in the left. He is
dressed as a King with a crown on His head. As
per Kalki Purana, the Lord's eyes would be like
Lotus Petals, His complexion would be very
dark, and His effulgence would be as bright as
the Sun. His arms would extend to His knees.

#### \* The Story of Kalki Avatar:

The Kalki Purana is a minor Purana dedicated to Lord Kalki and elaborates what would happen in His life. *The Birth of the Kalki Avatar:* At the end of the *Kali Yuga*, in a village named *Shambhala*, Lord Kalki would be born into a Brahmin family as a son of *Vishnuyasa* and *Sumati*. He would be born in the month of Vaishakha on the twelfth day during the fortnight of the waxing moon.

#### \* The Siblings of Kalki:

Lord Kalki would have three elder brothers, named *Kavi, Prajna* and *Sumantra* who would be heroic warriors.

#### \* The Wives of Kalki:

Lord Kalki would have two wives, named *Padmavati* and *Ramaa. Goddess Lakshmi* would incarnate as Padma and would be the wife of the Lord. She would be born from the womb of *Kaumudi*, the wife of *Brihadratha*, *the King of Simhala. Ramaa* would be the daughter of *King Shashidvaja* and *Queen Sushanta*.

#### \* The Children of Kalki:

Kalki Avatar would have four children in total; two from Padmavati and two from Ramaa. Padmavati would give birth to *Jai and Vijaya*, and Ramaa would give birth to *Meghamaala* and *Balaahaka*.



#### \* The Mission of Kalki's Life:

As per the Kalki Purana, the main aim of Kalki's life would be to kill *Kali* and establish Satya Yuga. Kalki Avataer would set out to conquer the entire world and in the course of conquest, would defeat many sinful kings who are representatives of Kali.

#### \* The Teacher of Lord Kalki:

**Lord Parasurama** would be the teacher of Kalki, and He would give Him spiritual knowledge as well as the knowledge of warfare. Kalki would be the Master of 64 arts and would be proficient in Vedic Knowledge

#### \* Mahadeva Gives Weapons to Kalki:

After completing the training, He would go to Lord Siva and praise Him. Lord Siva would give Him the Devdatta Horse manifested from Garuda that would go anywhere at will and assume many different forms. Then He would give Him a parrot, that would know, the past, the present and the future. He would also give Him a Divine Sword.

#### \* Kalki's Marriage to Padmavati:

Lord Siva and Goddess Parvati had given a boon to Padmavati that She would get Lord Vishnu as Her husband. If anyone looks at Her with lust, then he would immediately turn into a woman. But after waiting for many years without any news from Lord Kalki, King Brihadratha would arrange a Svayamvara for his daughter, Padmavati. Many Kings and Princes would gather there. Padmavati would be allowed to choose the husband of Her choice. When the Kings would see Padmavati, they would be mesmerized. Ass they would look at her with lust, they would be transformed into females. After that, Lord Kalki would arrive there and marry Her.

#### \* Kalki's return to Shambhala:

After that Kalki would return to His native village Shambhala, along with Padmavati. *Indra* would order *Vishwakarma* to decorate the village with many palaces, apartments and other amenities.

#### \* Kalki would Begin the Mission to Conquer the World:

He would then set out with His army to first conquer Kikarapura. The dwellers of the kingdom would be Buddhists mostly who would not be following the path of dharma. The ruler of this kingdom would be *Jina*. In the battle, first, he would flee the battlefield but soon would return because of taunts by Kalki. He would then injure the horse Devadatta and would make Kalki unconscious with the shower of arrows. He would try to capture Kalki but would fail to do so. Therefore, he would flee the battlefield. After regaining consciousness Kalki would find and kill him and defeat the **Buddhist Kingdom** 

#### \* The Killing of the Demoness Kuthodari:

After defeating Jina, Kalki would return to His capital where some sages would inform Him about a demoness named Kuthodari. She would be gigantic and ruthless demoness and live in the Himalayas. So, Kalki would leave for the Himalayas. When He and His army confront the demoness, she would eat many horses, elephants and soldiers along with Lord Kalki. Therefore, within the dark stomach of the demoness, Lord Kalki would create a fire with one of His arrows and then make it blaze up by adding clothes, leather and wood. When the fire would blaze brightly, the Lord would raise His powerful sword and tear open the right side of her ribcage. The soldiers would attack her with arrows and she would be put to death. Being overwhelmed by the grief of his mother's death,

Vikanja, the son of Kuthodari, would begin to torment Lord Kalki's soldiers. To eliminate this five-year-old demon, Lord Kalki would invoke the Brahmastra, That Supreme weapon would sever Vikanja's head from his body.

#### \* Kalki Goes out to Conquer Demon Kali and his Allies:

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Lord Kalki would depart for the favourite places of Kali along with His huge army consisting of His brothers, nephews and other pious kings. When Kali would hear about Kalki's conquest, he would leave the kingdom, Vishasana, but Kalki's army would stop him and fierce battle would begin. Kalki would kill two powerful demons named Koka and Vikoka. Personified Dharma and Satya Yuga would confront Kali and injure him seriously. Kali would get down from his donkey and return to the capital. The army of Kali would also be defeated by Kalki's army. Dharma and Satya Yuga would enter Kali's capital and set the whole city on fire, Kali would also be burnt, but would survive, but his wife and children would be killed. He would leave the city in distress and travel to another country.

#### \* Kalki would Travel to Bhallatanagara:

When Kalki would reach Bhallatanagar, the King Shashidhvaja would attack Him, and a fierce battle would take place. Shashidvaja and Kalki would start fighting each other and exhaust all the weapons. In the end, King Shashidhvaja would smash Kalki and Kalki would fall unconscious. Then, he would bring him to his home, along with Dharma and Satya Yuga. Thus. King Shashidvaja would defeat Kalki. Seeing the Lord in front of her, Sushanta would be overwhelmed and would eulogize Him. Being greatly satisfied by Sushanta's prayers, Lord Kalki would be awakened from His state of unconsciousness. The King and his wife would tell Him that they were His devotees and offer their daughter, Ramaa in marriage to Him.

#### \* An Encounter with Vishkanya:

After marriage with Ramaa, Kalki and His army would depart for Kanchananagara, which would be protected by poisonous serpents. After killing the serpents, Lord Kalki would enter the fort, but there would be no human beings. The celestial voice would tell Him, that His army would die if they enter the city. So, only H and His parrot would enter the city, where He would find a Vishakanya named Sulochana. Her poisonous glance would not harm Kalki, and she would be relieved of the curse by His darshan. She would then go to Gandharva Loka to see her husband.

#### \* Kalki's Return to Shambala:

Lord Kalki would appoint His relatives and colleagues as kings of different kingdoms that he would win and return to Shambhaka. There He would spend some years with His wives Padmavati and Ramaa. It was at this time that Satya Yuga would commence. The demigods would resume moving about freely, bestowing benedictions upon their worshippers. Everyone , would become happy and well nourished. Cheating, stealing, lies, duplicity, natural disasters would vanish from the face of the earth.

#### \* Death of Kalki's Parents:

Kalki would perform sacrifices at the advice of His father. After hearing wise words from Narada, His father would go to Badrikashrama and perform severe austerities and would leave his material body. Kalki's mother would perform Sati.

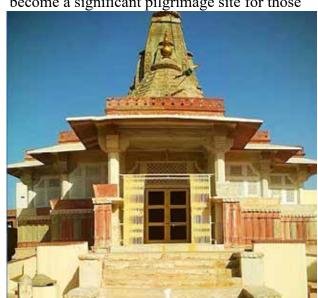
#### \* Kalki's return to Vaikuntha:

Kalki would rule Sanbhala for around 1,000

years. On a day, all the Gods along with Gandharvas, Apsaras etc. would come to Shambhala. Gods would tell Him that His mission on Earth was finished. Kalki would tell them that He also wanted to return to Vaikuntha along with His wives. He would summon His four sons and would hand over the rule of the Kingdom to them. Then, He would say farewell to His subjects and would go into the forest with Padma and Ramaa. Then, He would go into the Himalayas and would go into deep meditation. He would appear as brilliant as thousands of Suns. His wives would also join Him on the journey to His eternal abode

#### KALKI AVATAR TEMPLE IN JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

The Kalki Avatar Temple in Jaipur, Rajasthan, stands a s a testament to the anticipation and reverence for the prophesied future incarnation of Lord Vishnu, known as Kalki Avatar. Situated in Sireh Deori Bazar, just opposite the Palace Gate, the temple has become a significant pilgrimage site for those



who await the arrival of Kalki, the divine warrior. It is believed that Kalki Avatar will ride on a White Horse and there is a murti of horse in the temple. Constructed in the 18th century by Jai Singh II, the temple reflects the rich cultural and religious heritage of Rajasthan. The architectural style mirrors the traditional craftsmanship of the region, combining elements of Hindu Temple design with the distinctive aesthetics of Jaipur. The focal deities of the temple are Kalki Avatar and Goddess Lakshmi, symbolizing divine protection and prosperity. Devotees gather here to offer prayers and seek blessings, anticipating the future appearance of Kalki, who is believed to be the harbinger of a new era and the final incarnation of Lord Vishnu in the present cosmic cycle.

One of the unique features of the Kalki Avatar Temple is the presence of a statue of a White Horse. According to the prevailing belief, this horse is destined to come alive when Kalki Avatar descends to the earthly realm. The symbolism of the White Horse is deeply rooted in Hindy mythology, representing, strength, purity, and the swift arrival of the Divine Savior. The atmosphere within the temple is charged with a sense of anticipation, and devotees hold onto the conviction that the prophesied time will arrive, marking the advent of Kalki Avatar. Until then, the Kalki Avatar Temple stands as a beacon of faith, inviting believer to come and pay homage to the divine presences that are central to their spiritual aspirations.

#### **TEMPLE TIMINGS**

Morning Darshan Timing is from 6 AM to 11 AM Evening Darshan Timing is from 6 PM to 8 PM



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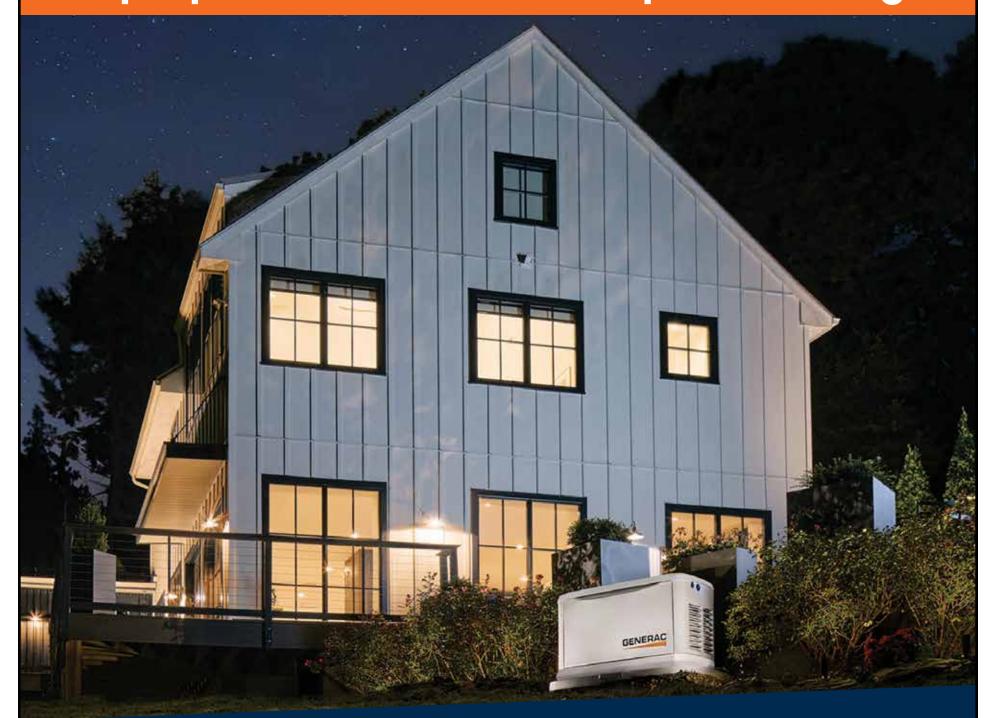
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