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## FIFA WORLD CUP 2026: A CELEBRATION OF UNITY, DREAMS, AND THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY

As the month of July unfolds, the eyes of the world remain fixed on the FIFA World Cup 2026—a sporting spectacle that transcends football and becomes a celebration of humanity itself. Every four years, nations come together not merely to compete for a trophy but to share a common stage where passion, perseverance, culture, and hope unite billions of people across continents....

Please see page 4...



### THE CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS ELECT SRITHARAN THURAIRAJAH AS PRESIDENT



Newly Elected President  
Sritharan Thurairajah

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) successfully concluded its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 30, 2026. The meeting brought members together to pass crucial structural amendments to the organization's constitution and to formalize the appointment of a new governing Board of Directors.

Please see page 3...

### FAITH IN ACTION THREE-DAY GYAAN YAJNA UNITES DEVOTION, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



Pandit Sunil Seetahal Maharaj of Trinidad & Tobago, leading three days of Gyaan Yajna with the devotees of the Shiva Shakti Sai Bhavan Mandir on June 26-28th, 2026.

Please see page 46...

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# Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) Announces Key Constitutional Amendments and New Leadership Team Following 2026 Annual General Meeting



Sritharan Thurairajah – President

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) successfully concluded its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 30, 2026. The meeting brought members together to pass crucial structural amendments to the organization's constitution and to formalize the appointment of a new governing Board of Directors.

## Key Constitutional Amendments Passed

To foster accountability, institutional growth, and operational modernization, the general membership voted heavily in favour of two critical constitutional revisions:

**1. Introduction of Board Term Limits:** In a major shift toward progressive governance, the CTC has amended the rule allowing open-ended tenures. The constitution now enforces strict limits on the length

of time a director can serve on the Board, encouraging healthy leadership renewal.

**2. Modernization of Staffing Protocols:** To allow the organization administrative agility, fixed staff positions, namely Executive Director, Public Relations Coordinator and National Spokesperson have been removed from the text of the constitution. This enables operational staffing models to evolve organically based on organizational needs without requiring rigid constitutional changes.

The proposed constitutional amendments arise from the implementation of recommendations identified through the Internal Review Committee's (IRC) findings. The IRC established by the Board, conducted a comprehensive review of the organization's governance practices, membership engagement, transparency, and overall relevance within an evolving community context.

## Announcement of the New Board of Directors

The AGM also marked the official selection and appointment of the

incoming leadership team tasked with executing the CTC's core advocacy, cultural preservation, and community empowerment initiatives. The new Executive Committee and Board members include:

- ▶ **President:** Sritharan Thurairajah
- ▶ **Vice President:** Dushy Gnanapragasam
- ▶ **Secretary:** Sukeevan Kailayapathy
- ▶ **Treasurer:** Kuna Nagalingam
- ▶ **Board of Directors:**
  - ▶▶ Thambirajah Vasanthakumar
  - ▶▶ Varman Cholan (appointment)

One additional Board of Director appointment remain pending. In accordance with operational procedures, the sitting Board will fulfill this appointment in the near future and announce it.

The Canadian Tamil Congress extends its deepest gratitude to all the dedicated members who attended the 2026 AGM, shared their insights, and cast their votes to usher in this new era of governance.



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## PUBLISHER'S DESK

# FIFA World Cup 2026: A Celebration of Unity, Dreams, and the Spirit of Humanity



As the month of July unfolds, the eyes of the world remain fixed on the FIFA World Cup 2026—a sporting spectacle that transcends football and becomes a celebration of humanity itself. Every four years, nations come together not merely to compete for a trophy but to share a common stage where passion, perseverance, culture, and hope unite billions of people across continents.

From bustling cities to remote villages, families, friends, and entire communities gather before television screens, in public squares, and at local venues to cheer for their teams. For a few extraordinary weeks, differences in language, religion, race, politics, and geography give way to a shared appreciation of skill, determination, and sportsmanship. Few global events possess the remarkable ability to bring people together with such genuine enthusiasm and mutual respect.

While only one nation will ultimately lift the coveted trophy, every country that earned the privilege of qualifying for the World Cup deserves heartfelt recognition. Reaching football's greatest stage is the culmination of years—often decades—of dedication, sacrifice, disciplined training, and unwavering belief. Behind every player stands a lifetime of hard work, supportive families, committed coaches, volunteers, and communities that nurtured their dreams from childhood.

For many teams, the journey ends sooner than hoped. Some dreams are shattered in dramatic fashion, decided by a single goal, a penalty shootout, or moments of brilliance from an opponent. Yet defeat should never diminish the magnitude of their achievement. Simply standing among the world's finest footballing nations is an accomplishment worthy of admiration. Every player who wears the national jersey carries the hopes of millions and leaves behind a legacy that inspires the next generation to dream even bigger.

Beyond the excitement of the matches, the World Cup also reminds us of the positive role sport plays in society. Football encourages healthy lifestyles, teamwork, discipline, resilience, leadership, and respect for others. It teaches young people that success is earned through commitment and perseverance, while setbacks become valuable lessons rather than permanent failures. Communities benefit when sport becomes a pathway toward physical fitness, social inclusion, friendship, and personal growth.

At the same time, this global tournament presents an opportunity to reflect on the values that matter most. Healthy competition should never overshadow respect for opponents, officials, and supporters. The true victory of sport lies not only in winning but also in demonstrating fairness, humility, and grace in both triumph and defeat. These are lessons that extend far beyond the football field

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into our schools, workplaces, families, and communities.

As publishers, we recognize that events such as the FIFA World Cup are more than headlines and scorelines. They are stories of courage, resilience, national pride, and shared human experience. They remind us that despite our differences, we all celebrate excellence, determination, and the pursuit of dreams. The tournament creates conversations that cross borders, builds friendships among strangers, and reinforces the belief that sport remains one of humanity's most powerful bridges.

During this month of July, as the competition reaches its most thrilling stages, let us celebrate every athlete, every nation, and every supporter who contributes to this extraordinary global festival. Whether a team advances or returns home, every journey deserves applause. Their commitment has enriched the tournament and inspired millions around the world.

May the FIFA World Cup 2026 continue to remind us that while champions are crowned on the field, the greatest victory belongs to the spirit of unity, respect, and hope that connects people across the globe.

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

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# An Educational Trailblazer

## Professor. N. Asokan, University of Waterloo



**By: Kane Siva**

On April 26th morning while I was checking online postings regarding aviation and other worldly matters, one news item glued my eyes to the screen for quite some time and digested every word of that posting. This posting was from our prestigious University of Waterloo, Canada. Quote “University of Waterloo names, N. Asokan, a University Professor, on Monday April 20th, 2026.

Conferred by the University of Waterloo, this rare and prestigious honors recognize exceptional scholarly achievement and international preeminence. Once appointed, a faculty member retains the designation until retirement.

Now the question in all our minds is this, who is Professor N. Asokan? A son of our humble soil, Yarl Panam. He was born in Jaffna, had his early education at Jaffna Hindu College, a college that produced many students who excelled in Mathematics. His education at Jaffna Hindu College was cut short as his father was transferred to Matale and Asokan continued his studies at Trinity

College, Kandy. He got selected to do a degree in Engineering in 1984, at the University of Peradeniya, after doing well in his G.C.E Advance Level examinations. Due to the Elam war and civil unrest in Sri Lanka he was unable to continue his studies at Peradeniya, proceeded to India, and started from scratch to finish his Engineering degree. He got accepted to the graduate school in Upstate New York for his master's degree. He had to an abrupt turnaround here too and had to go back to Sri Lanka due to the second phase of civil war to extricate his parents, and sisters, and bring them to Canada. After arriving in Canada, he joined the University of Waterloo and was doing a part time degree while working there to support his family. I would say, my musings, as he had gone through lots of trials and tribulations, the Goddess of luck opened its doors for him in Sweden, with the then famous IBM Computer Research section, to continue his passion in computer science and I am sure he never had to look back. On completion of his research, Asokan returned to the University of Waterloo, Canada and

continued his educational journey at the Cheriton School as a Professor I believe.

Raouf Boutaba, Director of the Cheriton School of Computer Science paid a glowing tribute to Asokan, in his statement Raouf said, “His contributions to network and systems-security have advanced the field, and influenced practice, leading to both real-world applications and broad national, and international recognition”. This appointment is more interesting to note that Professor Asokan is one of the three University of Waterloo faculty members to receive this prestigious recognition in 2026.

Professor N. Asokan joined the Cheriton School of Computer Science in September 2019 as a Cheriton Chair, a position he held until December 2025. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the association for Computing Machinery, and the Royal Society of Canada. ACM's Special Interest Group on Security, Audit and Control selected him for the 2018 ACM SIGSAC Outstanding Innovation Award. He served

## CANADA NEWS

as Executive Director of Waterloo's Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute from May 2021 to November 2025.

Professor Asokan is internationally recognized for his contributions to network and systems security. His research spans secure protocol design, mobile and trusted computing, and, more recently, the privacy and security implications of artificial intelligence.

I would like to mention his contributions are numerous to this vast ocean of Computer Science and Technology, I must be honest in saying, that I am surely the last person to comprehend his unapparelled research and innovative ways to enhance the Cyber world of security. The following has been listed as his notable contributions among many of his works:

- A. Introducing optimistic fair exchange protocols.
- B. Designing trusted device pairing protocols used by every Bluetooth device today.
- C. Pioneering mobile trusted computing technologies.
- D. Identifying and helping to mitigate man-in-the-middle attacks in many internet protocols.
- E. Advancing the use of AI to improve security of Internet-of-Things devices.
- F. Demonstrating security and privacy concerns in AI-based systems and designing techniques to mitigate them.

I like to paraphrase Prof. Asokan's invaluable contribution in Computer Science, Cyber Security and Education, that are so vast and endearing to IT professionals. His early work on fair exchange addressed a fundamental challenge: how two mutually distrustful parties can complete an exchange over an insecure network like the internet such that either party gets what it wants, or neither does. Four papers based on Prof. Asokan's dissertation appeared in top computer science venues and, together with his dissertation, have received more than 2,500 citations to date. His protocols were also implemented by IBM research. Optimistic fair exchange became a new line of research, spurring work ranging from theoretical impossibility results to improvements of the protocols themselves.

His work on analyzing security of communication protocols and designing more secure protocols continued throughout his career, with two significant examples standing out. Prof. Asokan co-designed a secure pairing protocol that was incorporated into the Bluetooth standard specifications for the Secure Simple Pairing protocol. This protocol is now used in billions of devices. His paper, related to this topic, was presented at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, IEEE, Symposium on Security and Privacy, a top security conference, and has led to significant follow-up research.

The second example arose from his observation that mobile phone infrastructure can be used for global scale authentication of users for services beyond phone calls and text messages. It is said that this research led to Generic Authentication Architecture. He co-authored a book on Generic Authentication Architecture. According to the Waterloo platform, Prof. Asokan's work on the use of AI for securing Internet-of-Things settings led to significant follow-up research.

Prof. Asokan's research, related work on IoT Sentinel, won the best award at the 37th IEEE international conference on Distributed Computing Systems. His work on model extraction attacks is also highly significant. Such an attack occurs when a malicious client of an AI service provider clones the AI model to undercut the service providers business. His paper was instrumental in demonstrating that model extraction is a real threat. His techniques to mitigate model extraction attacks were adopted by Industry partner Intel, which integrated them into Open VINO, an open-source implementation for federated learning.

The significance of Professor Asokan's research has been recognized by his peers through best paper awards in top venues including in the 15th ACM Conference on Data and Application Security and Privacy in 2025, the 45th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy in 2024, and IEEE Transactions on Computers in 2019.

In addition to his research excellence, Professor Asokan has made significant contributions to the broader academic and professional community. He served for six years on evaluation panels for the European, Waterloo, he led the growth of the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute, bringing in several new major industry partners, most notably Mastercard Canada. Mastercard thanked him, by giving a half-million dollar grant to CPI researchers. He also played a key role in establishing the National Cybersecurity Consortium, which now administers nearly 80 million \$ in funding for cybersecurity and privacy research across Canada.

Waterloo adds that Professor Asokan is the sixth faculty member at the Cheriton School of Computer Science to receive the distinction of University Professor.

Let me pen my connection to Professor Asokan. In 2023, we were invited by Professor Nalina to participate in the 90th birthday of her father S. Nadarajah, here in Scarborough, Canada, who was my Physics teacher at Jaffna Central College for 5 years, from grade 9. I met Professor Asokan on that day at the birthday party, for the first time, who is the only son of our beloved Nadarajah master, besides his three daughters. I have been blessed to be in contact with him from then on.

Wow! What a success in the field of computer science and great academic accomplishments, achievements, and carrying the flag of Education Sky High to inspire our younger generation, so that

one day our own should be on the way to Moon or Mars.

On a personal note, Professor Asokan is really a down-to-earth humble, simple and friendly person. On receiving this great honor, Asokan said this achievement belongs to all my students and research collaborators, without their outstanding work, such an honor would not have been possible. He profusely thanked the other professors and Professor Tamer Ozsu who led the nomination.

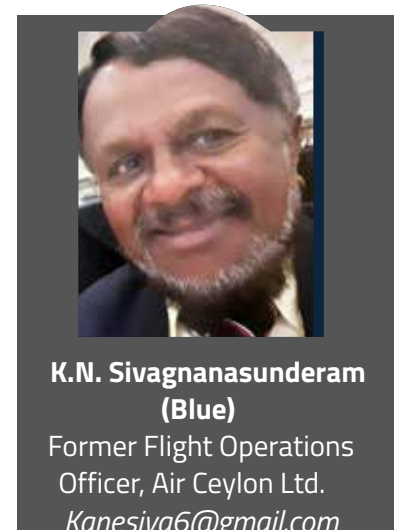
Besides his passion for Computer Science, he is much interested in Tamil literature, story writing and translating stories that were written in Tamil by renowned writers into the Queen's language, and he does this as a hobby, so that our younger generation could learn the good old days of our ancestors and their way of life.

I am really blessed, honored and fortunate enough to congratulate Professor Asokan on behalf of our community, and to pen these few lines of this beloved Professor. It is not superfluous to say that I have not seen Einstein in person but met an upcoming Einstein of our community. Good luck to Professor Asokan and his passionate Journey. I am sure Asokan must be thinking what Lincoln said in 1800s "I will study and get ready, and perhaps my chance will come".

I would like to sum it up with this quote by John Ruskin:

"Education does not mean teaching people what they do not know. It means teaching them to behave as they do not behave. It is not teaching the youth the shapes of letters and the tricks of numbers and then leaving them to turn their arithmetic to roguery, and their literature to lust. It means, on the contrary training them into the perfect exercise and kingly continence of their bodies and souls. It is a painful, continual and difficult work to be done by kindness, by watching, by warning, by percept and by praise, but above all –by example".

*PS. Most of the information about Professor Asokan's achievement by courtesy of Waterloo online posting.*



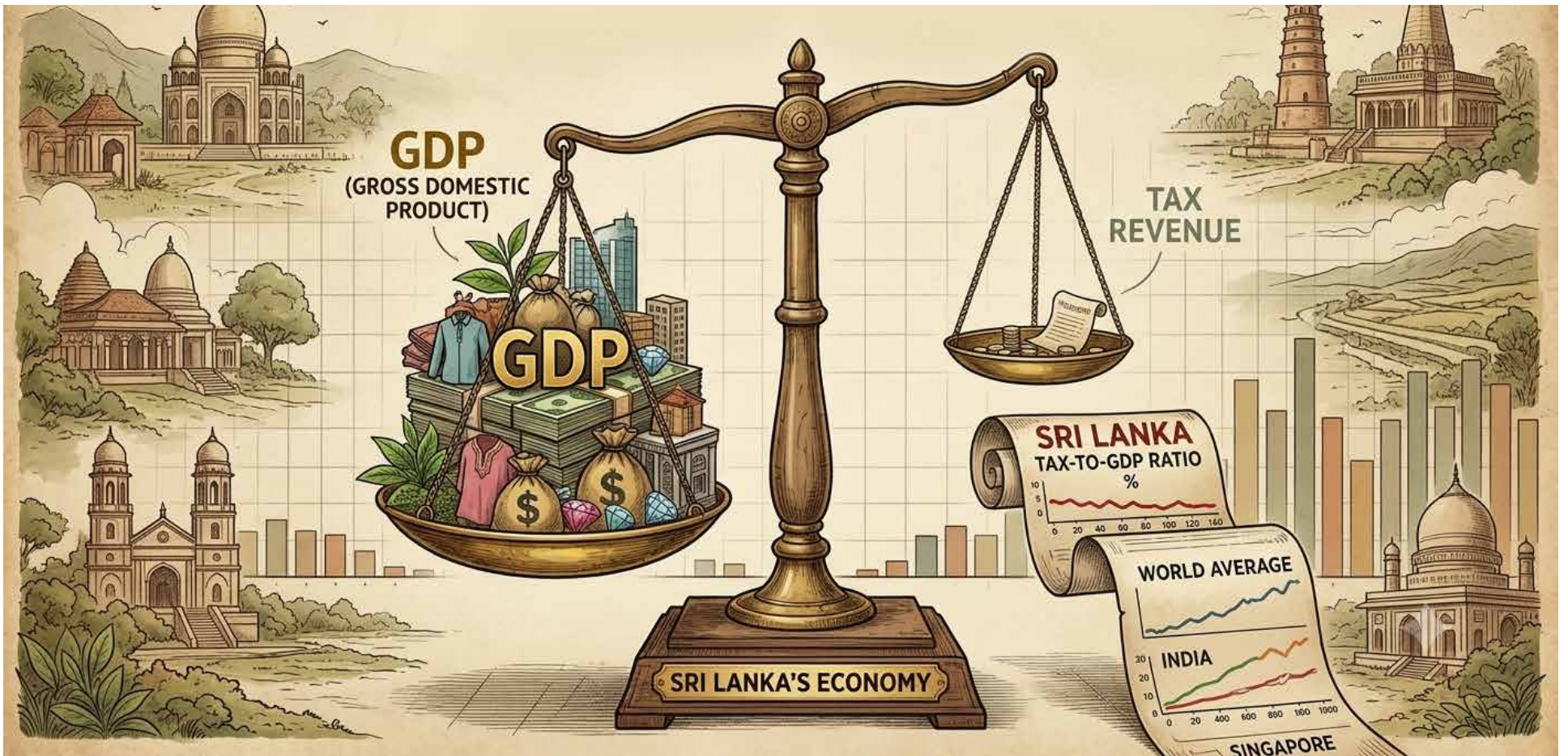
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# ESCAPING THE TWIN DEFICIT TRAP

By: Visvalingam Muralithas



For decades, Sri Lanka's economic trajectory has been severely constrained by a persistent structural vulnerability: the twin deficits. The country has simultaneously run a chronic fiscal deficit and a structural trade deficit, meaning it consistently spends more than it earns domestically while importing far more than it exports globally. While recent macroeconomic stabilization programs have successfully rebuilt foreign reserves and targeted primary fiscal surpluses, long-term wealth creation requires a decisive shift away from an inward-looking, consumption-driven model. To replicate the historical economic miracles of East Asian tigers like Singapore or contemporary export powerhouses like Vietnam, Sri Lanka must radically transform its industrial and fiscal policies. At its core, the country's macroeconomic vulnerability lies in this tight coupling of internal fiscal imbalances and an external trade deficit, where a domestic budget shortfall directly triggers an unsustainable demand for foreign currency, leaving the entire economy perpetually exposed to external balance-of-payments shocks.

## The Fiscal Deficit

Historically, Sri Lanka's tax-to-GDP ratio has hovered among the lowest in the world. Compounding this weak revenue generation is an inflexible, high-

expenditure framework dominated by:

- A massive public sector payroll and pension commitment.
- Heavy interest burdens accumulated from legacy commercial borrowings.
- Substantial financial losses from inefficient State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

## The Trade Deficit

While the domestic economy relies heavily on imports for fuel, intermediate industrial goods, and technology, the export basket has remained structurally stagnant for thirty years. Sri Lanka remains heavily reliant on low-complexity sectors: apparel, tea, and rubber products. The country lacks a significant foothold in high-complexity global value chains (GVCs), such as electronics, automotive components, machinery, and advanced digital technology.

## Strategic Lessons from East Asian Blueprints

To break this cycle, policymakers can look to the deliberate choices made during Singapore's early industrialization and Vietnam's ongoing Doi Moi economic transformation.

In the late 1980s, Vietnam had a closed, agricultural economy. By systematically pursuing an "Export-First" doctrine, it signed over 15 major Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)—including deep

regional pacts like the CPTPP and EVFTA. Consequently:

- Vietnam's trade openness (Trade-to-GDP ratio) surged past 170%, compared to Sri Lanka's historical position below 50%.
- It transitioned from basic garments to becoming a primary global hub for smartphone assembly, electronics, and semiconductor packaging by treating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as a long-term strategic partnership.

## Singapore's Institutional Agility

Singapore bypassed the limitation of a small domestic market by focusing intensely on the "Ease of Doing Business." It pioneered fully empowered, single-window statutory boards like the Economic Development Board (EDB). This eliminated bureaucratic friction, synchronized industrial infrastructure directly with investor requirements, and established a completely predictable legal and tax environment.

## The New Policy Framework

To transition from mere stabilization to high-growth emerging economy status, Sri Lanka must implement an aggressive, production-first structural roadmap. A foundational pillar of this strategy rests on comprehensive fiscal consolidation and revenue equity. Achieving long-term fiscal sustainability



requires fundamentally rebalancing the national tax mix, shifting away from a regressive indirect-to-direct tax ratio toward an equitable split. To accomplish this, the state must broaden both corporate and personal income tax bases by mandating digital tax declarations and enforcing the complete integration of the Inland Revenue Department with third-party financial databases. In tandem with revenue mobilization, the state must strictly enforce the Public Financial Management framework by adhering to statutory primary spending limits. This must be accompanied by accelerating the financial unbundling and operational restructuring of key commercial semi-government entities, such as the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), to permanently eliminate the need for treasury-backed bailouts.

Simultaneously, driving sustained economic expansion demands aggressive trade liberalization and a dedicated export-first focus. The government must dismantle inward-looking protectionism by systematically phasing out distortionary paratariffs, such as the CESS and the Port and Airport Development Levy (PAL), on intermediate capital goods. Ensuring that domestic enterprises can import components cheaply is an absolute prerequisite to making local manufacturing competitive on the global stage. To expand market access, Sri Lanka needs to fast-track strategic Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) by empowering a technically driven, centralized trade negotiation unit to finalize and upgrade comprehensive trade deals with major global growth engines, including India, China, Thailand, and wider ASEAN networks. Finally, these trade pipelines must be modernized at the border by fully operationalizing the Trade National Single Window (NSW), which will completely digitize and unify customs, quarantine, and port authorities into a single digital portal to eliminate costly delays and administrative corruption.

### Next-Generation Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

To effectively drive economic growth, Sri Lanka must modernize its regulatory framework and infrastructure by empowering “One-Stop Shops” for



foreign direct investment. This requires updating investment promotion laws to grant the Board of Investment (BOI) true statutory authority over line ministries, effectively guaranteeing automated clearances within binding timelines. Alongside these legal changes, the state should develop targeted, plug-and-play industrial zones tailored specifically to high-value tech assembly, electrical engineering, and automotive components. These zones can be further incentivized through competitive tax frameworks, such as enhanced capital allowances. To resolve a critical bottleneck for manufacturing competitiveness, these efforts must be supported by an industrial energy transition that accelerates large-scale solar and wind projects to permanently lower the baseline cost of industrial electricity.

In tandem with industrial upgrades, a comprehensive human capital transformation is essential to supply the skilled talent required for high-complexity export industries. Achieving this requires pivoting the national education system toward global supply chains by reorienting state university funding and technical vocational training networks away from traditional administrative skills and toward software engineering, industrial automation, robotics, and precision mechanics. To bridge the gap between academia and industry, the government should introduce structured public-private partnerships to co-design curricula directly with global tech and manufacturing firms. This collaborative alignment will successfully transform the local workforce into a highly skilled, specialized asset pool capable of meeting modern market demands.

### Moving Beyond Survival

Stabilizing macro-indicators and achieving fiscal surpluses are essential

starting points, but they represent the floor of recovery, not the ceiling. To achieve true emerging-market status, Sri Lanka must shift its focus from consumption to production capacity. By aggressively liberalizing trade, lowering the institutional cost of doing business, and structurally prioritizing high-complexity exports, the country can permanently break the twin deficit trap and secure sustainable, long-term economic growth.

### 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. He can be reached at muralithas.v@gmail.com*



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*Phyllis Diller*



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# Breaking Down Barriers in Scarborough: Amplifying Culturally Responsive Mental Health Care



Social Worker Nirupa Thanabalasigam facilitates a Tamil Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Group at Scarborough Health Network's Community Mental Health Centre, empowering patients to seek care in their native language.

**“Many of our patients are reluctant when they come for the first time. They may feel afraid because past experiences have made them hesitant. We’ve been here for two years now, and it’s a powerful feeling to see people feel at ease and willing to open up because they feel safe again.”**

— Nirupa Thanabalasigam, SHN Social Worker

Life is a lot better now for a 51-year-old Tamil-speaking woman living in Scarborough with her two adult sons. For years, she was experiencing difficulties coping with depression and anxiety due to extreme losses throughout her life, following a heartbreaking childhood in Sri Lanka. Her father died by suicide, and her first husband passed away during the 2004 Tsunami, following the loss of their child at nine months due to breathing complications. She then immigrated to Canada as a refugee with her two children, and later divorced her second husband after he had an extramarital affair.

“We first met her when she was referred to our outpatient psychotherapy program,” says **Nirupa Thanabalasigam**, a Tamil-speaking social worker who facilitates a Tamil Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Group at Scarborough Health Network's Community Mental Health Centre. “She had never been to therapy before, and was very reluctant to seek help due to her unfamiliarity with the mental health care system and hesitations around language and cultural barriers.”

Her outlook has now changed. She tells Nirupa she feels safe and willing to open up about her experiences. “We hear this message quite often for two reasons—first, people feel comfortable coming to our new space

because it’s in the community, easy to get to, and does not feel like a clinical environment,” says Nirupa. “Second, we are offering culturally appropriate care that builds rapport and trust. Being in the right environment and having a diverse team allows us to offer specific, personalized care based on the needs of our patients.”

Stories like hers demonstrate the importance of accessible, culturally responsive mental health care. This past year, The Slight Family Foundation Cultural Psychiatry Clinic had more than 3,000 visits from patients who speak Arabic, Cantonese, Dhari, Farsi, Mandarin, and Tamil. “When people feel safe, they are so much more likely to start treatment and continue,” says Nirupa.

**On Friday, September 25, 2026, tune into the Tamil Radiothon on East FM 102.7** to hear more about what’s in the works for mental health care at SHN, from experts such as psychiatrist **Dr. Senthuran Gunaratnam**. Plus, learn about our progress on other key *Love, Scarborough* priorities like expanding our emergency departments and our cardiac care program.

**Stay tuned & learn more at [SHNFoundation.ca/Tamil](https://SHNFoundation.ca/Tamil).**

SCARBOROUGH HEALTH NETWORK FOUNDATION

# RADIOTHON

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*Social Worker  
at Scarborough Health Network's  
Community Mental Health Centre*

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OVER  
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Scarborough is home to nearly 75% of Toronto's Tamil population, making it one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada.

**Tune in to the SHN Tamil Radiothon, presented by the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce, on Friday, September 25, 2026, Live to Air on EAST FM Radio 102.7.**

Hear from **Scarborough Health Network (SHN)** experts about what's ahead and how the **Love, Scarborough** campaign is investing in priorities that matter most to the Tamil community, including a new, modern mental health care space, expanded emergency departments, and enhanced cardiac care services.

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# TOWN OF STOUFFVILLE HOSTS FOURTH ANNUAL MAIN STREET 5K IN SUPPORT OF MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL

Today, more than 1,200 community supporters came together for the fourth annual Stouffville Main Street 5K, raising an incredible \$121,446. The Town of Stouffville and the Office of Mayor Iain Lovatt hosted the community event in support of Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH).

Since its inception in 2023, the Stouffville Main Street 5K is held each year on Father's Day and is open to both recreational and competitive participants. The event raises awareness for the MSH programs and services available to the Stouffville community and fundraises much needed support for the hospital. "The Stouffville Main Street 5K has become one of the many ways Stouffville residents are showing their commitment to local health care. We've already achieved incredible things in support of our hospital, but this is only the beginning," says Stouffville Mayor, Iain Lovatt. "Working alongside the



Mayor Iain Lovatt, Town of Stouffville, presents a cheque for \$121,446 raised through the 2026 Stouffville Main Street 5K to Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation. L-R: Mayor Iain Lovatt, Town of Stouffville, Dr. Bear, MSH Mascot, Mark Fam, President & CEO, Oak Valley Health, and Allan Bell, VP, Community Relations & Corporate Partnerships, MSH Foundation.

hospital is a key part of building a complete community, and I'm proud of everything we've accomplished together and excited for what's still ahead."

In honour of Father's Day, grateful patient Sara Marino and her family participated in the Stouffville Main Street 5K. MSH has cared for multiple



5k runners with Dr. Bear at the start line of the fourth Annual Stouffville Main Street 5K.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS



generations of Sara's family, including the births of Sara, her siblings, and most recently her niece. The hospital also cared for her father while he underwent treatment for a rare cancer before his passing in 2009, leaving Sara with lasting memories of the compassion shown to her family during a difficult time.

"I remember the doctors being so kind to me and my younger cousin," says Sara. "While my mom and aunt were focused on everything happening with my dad, they brought us into a private room and gave us Christmas presents. As a child, that meant so much."

Health care's complex landscape is rapidly evolving. The MSH of tomorrow must be ready for what lies ahead while continuing to transform care delivery for the growing, aging, and diverse community. Proceeds from the event will enable the purchase of leading-edge equipment and the enhancement of patient care at MSH. Government funding alone can't keep pace with all the hospital's priority needs. Through MSH Foundation, community investment helps ensure the hospital can continue to expand its unique campus, grow its programs and services around real patient needs, and provide exceptional care close to home.

"The continued success of the Stouffville Main Street 5K reflects the incredible generosity and spirit of this community," says Allan Bell, Vice President, Community Relations & Corporate Partnerships, MSH Foundation. "We are proud to partner with the Town of Stouffville and thank everyone who participated for coming together to invest in exceptional care close to home."

There is still time to support the Stouffville Main Street 5K. Donations will be accepted until midnight on June 21, 2026, and can be made online at <https://raceroster.com/events/2026/106549/stouffville-main-street-5k>.

Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation exists to enable the growth of Oak Valley Health's



Grateful patient Sara Marino and her family participate in the fourth annual Stouffville Main Street 5K in honour of her father and in support of Markham Stouffville Hospital. L-R: Matthew Marino, Domenica Marino, Sara Marino, and Giuliano Calabro.

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.

About the Town of Stouffville Nestled in the rolling hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Town of Stouffville combines rural charm with urban convenience. Our diverse community of nearly 50,000 residents thrives on rich cultural heritage and modern amenities. Home to over 26,000 labor force members, our economy spans high-tech industries, manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism. We boast seamless connectivity to the Greater Toronto Area through major transportation routes and public transit.

Our vibrant, family-oriented town offers numerous programs, events, and attractions, including Nineteen on the Park, Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, and annual festivals like

RibFest and the Strawberry Festival. Embracing both natural beauty and urban growth, Stouffville provides an exceptional quality of life for residents and a welcoming environment for businesses and visitors alike. For more information, visit [townofws.ca](http://townofws.ca)



Children take off at the start of the Kids 1K Dash during the fourth annual Stouffville Main Street 5K.



# A SHOT IN THE ARM, FOR CANADIAN AVIATION – BOMBARDIER - AIRBUS A-220, ON CANADA DAY.



**By: Kane Siva**

As we celebrate our great Canada's Birthday on the 1st of July, we wish her congratulations, pray and seek Gods blessings for her always, and years ahead in this turbulent world of politics. Our aviation industry has evolved, progressed in leaps and bounds. But the thirst to go further and farther never stops. We had a Canadian aircraft manufacturer, Canadair and it was struggling to be on its feet. A Montreal based company who never dreamt of being in aerospace industry, started by Joseph-Armand Bombardier, was known for making snowmobiles and rail transits. In 1986 Bombardier made a rare move by acquiring the struggling Canadair and Bombardier Aerospace industry was born.

In 1986, Bombardier became leading maker of Challenger widebody Business Jets and CL-215 amphibious firefighting aircraft. In 1994, Bombardier 415 amphibian aircraft remain the only aircraft produced for aerial fire fighting and this aircraft is also used for performing multi tasks marine search and rescue, surveillance, and personal transport too. The successful venture

of the Challenger Business jets led Bombardier to produce Challenger 350 and 650 Business jets, and these two became instant sellers because of low operational low costs, classy interiors, appreciable trans-oceanic range, efficiency, agility and large cabin size. Inspired by the demand for quality business jets, Bombardier spread its wings well beyond its borders and acquired few aircraft manufacturing companies, notably almost bankrupt Belfast, Northern Ireland, Short Brothers aircraft manufacturing firm. Acquired Wichita, Kansas, Learjet, a producer of corporate business jets and Toronto based the de Havilland Aircraft of Canada in 1990. With these acquisitions, Bombardier built a 50 - seat Canada Regional Jet (CRJ) in 1991. With the certification of this aircraft in 1992, Bombardier revolutionized the regional travel and made air travel easier for many people across Canada. In 1993, aviation world greeted the announcement by Bombardier to build the world's first Ultra Long Range business jet, the Global Express that could fly nonstop between Montreal and Tokyo. The Global Express, XRS, 6000,

G 5000, G 7500 and Global 6500 were all introduced in the following years. Spurred by these aircraft performances, Bombardier eventually produced Global 9000, and this has achieved a great milestone as the fastest commercial aircraft edging the supersonic speed.

Bombardier focused more on commercial aircraft production and developed the C-Series, unique five – abreast design, commercial aircraft was announced in 2008, to satisfy customers demands for the next quarter century in the following areas: Passenger comfort, performance, economical cost and environment friendly. Great credit and admiration should be given to a small group of aerospace engineers and specialists who spent years developing a well-planned and sophisticated commercial aircraft that satisfied the customers' highest expectations. C-Series aircraft had its maiden flight in 2013. Germany's Lufthansa expressed great interest and was the first to place an order for 60 aircraft. In 2016 Delta Airlines surprised Bombardier with the largest order of 75 aircraft and with an option for a further 50 C-Series. In a surprise move Bombardier announced a



partnership with Toulouse-based Airbus Industries on the production of C-Series aircraft. Business insiders believe due to financial constraints and international trade disputes; Bombardier sold its interests to Airbus. You can call it a master stroke move by Bombardier. With this joint venture Airbus - Canada was born by the fall of 2017. This partnership brought European aviation giant and Bombardier to develop the C-Series aircraft into Airbus 220, incorporating both industries technological knowhow to better usage. This marriage generated considerable additional value for customers, workers, suppliers and stakeholders, and a shot in the arm for our aviation industry and economy. I personally feel it gives great pleasure and pride in having the Airbus Industries in our backyard. Airbus has overtaken Boeing in building commercial aircraft, and this alliance is a boost for our aviation since A220 sells as Canada' Airbus.

Airbus 220 is a state-of-the-art, single aisle passenger jet, an extension or a derivative of the C-Series. A220 has 100 to 135 seats in 100 series and 120 to 160 seats in 300 series, said to save 25 % in fuel burn, ideally suited for regional and transcontinental routes, lower operating costs and great passenger comfort with widest economy seats in its category. The passenger seat windows offer a great panoramic view for its customers. The aircraft is powered by Pratt & Whitney, PW1500 G Geared turbofan engines. A 220 is billed as a Purpose-built for passenger comfort and performance. This aircraft is said to have Airbus's Signature, "Passenger-

first Approach". Within a short span of time A220 has become a favorite among airlines and passengers as well. This is clear by the firm orders this aircraft has secured, over 1,100 from global airlines . Delta airlines placed 145, Air Baltic 90, Air Canada 65, Air France 60 orders. Malaysia based low-cost carrier, Air Asia, placed 150 firm orders in May 2026. It is said that this order is worth 19 billion \$. The signing ceremony was held in Montreal on May 6th, 2026, in the presence of Prime Minister Mark Carney and CEO of Air Asia, Tony Fernandes. Tony, a maverick in aviation industry, urged Airbus to build an A220-500 series with 185 seats capacity and wanted to be the launch customer for this series. According to Airbus Canada, as of now 517 aircraft deliveries have taken place and 513 in service. Airbus 220 has set a new milestone as the best economical aircraft for medium and long-range operations. A220 looks like it has outsmarted Boeing 737-MAX in every aspect and especially in safety too. It so happened that according to a business news, Boeing tried its best to kill this program, Bombardier and Airbus partnership, and eventually A 220. Obviously, A 220 is a thorn in the flesh for B 737- MAX.

With all the pluses of the A 220, this aircraft has some significant issues as well, 17 % of the global Airbus fleet are currently parked inside or inactive, mainly due to the issues with the Pratt & Whitney PW1500 ( GTF) engines, corrosion and maintenance backlogs. I am sure Airbus must address these issues as early as possible to invoke its credibility as a front runner and

a formidable aircraft maker. I don't want Airbus to slip into a cascading of events that has been plaguing Boeing for the past 10 years or more. Moreover, aviation industry needs more safer and robust aircraft for the next two decades.

I am positive that the Airbus team of designers and aerospace engineers have all the ingredients in them for this long journey. I want Airbus to use our facilities at Mirabel for this long stride or advancement into the world of aviation and avionics. Airbus opening its Technology Hub in Quebec, may be a clear sign of its commitment. This move will be a moral boost to our economy.

Let me glorify our commercial aviation aircraft industry expansion and success with this motivational line.

Our Success in any field, quoting R.F. Horton,-- "Success lies, not in achieving what you aim at, but in aiming at what you ought to achieve, and pressing forward, sure of achievement here, or if not here, hereafter".

Good luck, our aviation industry and our Airbus 220 pioneers at Mirabel, Bravo & Kudos.



**K.N. Sivagnanasunderam  
(Blue)**

Former Flight Operations  
Officer, Air Ceylon Ltd.  
Kanesiva6@gmail.com



# Excerpts from the book 'HEAR YOURSELF'

by **PREM RAWAT**



## 1. People sometimes

**say to me:** 'Oh come on, get real – all this talk about inner peace is a fantasy' In fact there are many people who doubt that peace is possible. Some reach this conclusion, after careful consideration, and I respect that. Others simply write off peace in a heartbeat. If you can be threatening don't have self-knowledge in your life, big principles, like 'PEACE IS POSSIBLE' can be threatening. Some people are afraid to let any kind of doubt enter their house of strong beliefs.

Doubts can drive us crazy. If you doubt that the person you love is true to you, the fear involved is not going to be talked away by theory. We need to know.

## 2. Choosing Gratitude

When I ask people 'What are you grateful for in your life?', they often reply with something like, 'Oh my family, my friends, my home, my job.' That is all perfectly understandable – all of those things are of course wonderful blessings - but I sometimes feel that people are only really saying what they think they should be grateful for. I keep waiting for them to also acknowledge the most important gift any of us is given— life itself. Without that everything is impossible, yet it can just slip our mind.

## 3. Feeling Gratitude.

Gratitude is not something that we think into being. It is something

we feel. We can feel fulfilled, but can't think fulfilled. We can feel thankful, but we can't think thankful. It is not about thinking ourselves fortunate; it's about giving thanks for our life through how we feel.

Gratitude is not about good manners, either; it is me choosing to appreciate my existence in the way I feel. We are often cajoled into saying 'thank you' for what we are given, but gratitude for life comes from within.

When is the right time to start feeling gratitude for our life? Now. There is no need to wait for a ceremony, or the alignment of stars, or a personal crisis. We just move our attention inside.



# Avvaiyar Aruliya Nayavuraykal – 5

## Nemesis of Past Deeds



By: J A Rajah

1. When a calf is left among a number of cows, it will easily identify its mother cow; Similarly, the results of a man's past deeds will affect a man's life.
2. Good looks, youthfulness and wealth will fade away. A life without good deeds will never be a valuable life. Even if he lives, it will be a fallen life.
3. Every one likes to lead a rich life. Everyone needs wealth and glory. If one leads such a life today, it is due to the charity and righteous deeds in their past. If a wood apple appears round and a bitter gourd appears clumsy, it is their nature and no one made it like that. Similarly, a good life is the result of benevolence in the past.
4. We cannot avoid the worries that come to us; Similarly, no one can prevent the happiness that comes to us. We get rain only when it comes on its own; If it is going to be a drought, no one can bring in rain. However, if the rain is going to come down torrentially, no one can obstruct it.
5. Even if a person who had lived in great glory, will have to live quietly deprived of such joys. If one realises the cause for it, he will realise that it is the result of his past deeds.
6. Profoundly learned men may disappear but the fools without knowledge may live in the world for a long period of time. The Lord of death is attracted by the good deeds of great men and takes them early but he rejects the idiots and allows them to live long.
7. It is past deeds that force a person to go begging for food in front of others.
8. Even the learned make mistakes without their knowledge. Even such blunders are due to their evil deeds in the past.
9. No one desires to suffer in this world. Every one likes to live happily. Whatever one may like or dislike, it is their past deeds that will determine the quality of life they have to lead.
10. Whatever, will be, will be. No one can prevent it. It is the fate that is destined since a life is formed in its mother's womb. One should understand this reality and think that there is no use worrying for sorrows one has to face in life's pathways.



BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM



**Saudi Police Arrest Sri Lankan Migrant Worker Over Derogatory Social Media Comment, Sources Say**

A Sri Lankan national employed in Saudi Arabia has been arrested by Saudi law enforcement authorities following a controversial and allegedly derogatory comment made on Facebook targeting the Prophet Muhammad, according to sources.

The suspect, a resident of Kalmunai in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, was reportedly employed in the construction sector within the Kingdom.

Local Dispute Escalates Online  
According to sources, the controversy originally stemmed from a localized animal cruelty incident in Kalmunai, Sri Lanka. A dog named "Subramaniam," which was accompanying a group of pilgrims on their way to the historic Kataragama temple, was attacked.

The incident sparked massive public backlash across social media. The individual responsible for the dog attack was subsequently arrested by local police, but was later released after issuing an official apology. According to sources, this release did not quiet the situation; instead, it triggered intense, highly polarized online debates.

It was during these digital arguments that the Saudi-based construction worker reportedly posted the derogatory comment on a Facebook post.

Pre-Arrest Apology Video  
In an attempt to mitigate the growing backlash, the suspect had earlier released a video message on social media publicly apologizing for his derogatory comment. In the video, he expressed regret over the remarks he made during the heated online dispute. However, the apology failed to defuse the anger surrounding the post.

Saudi Authorities Mobilized  
Because Saudi Arabia maintains highly sensitive and strict legal frameworks regarding religious values, the comment quickly drew widespread attention despite the apology video. According to sources, Muslim groups successfully mobilized to report the offensive social media remark, highlighting the post directly to Saudi officials and notifying the suspect's workplace.

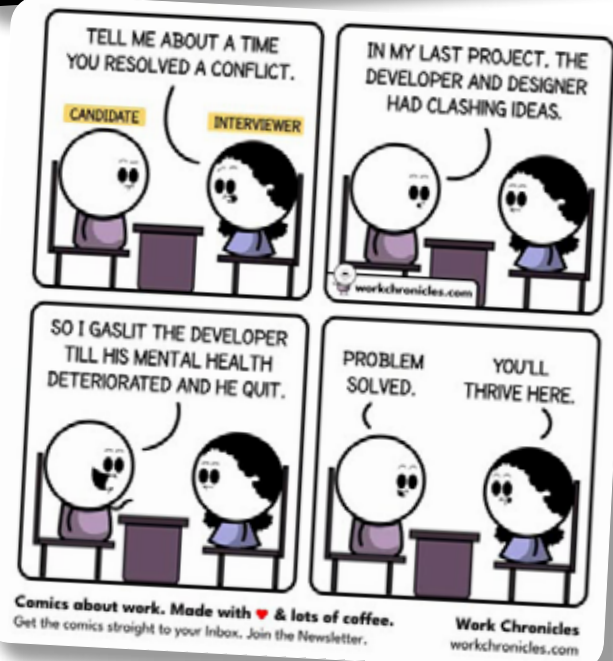
An official complaint was formally filed, prompting swift action by the Saudi Police. According to sources, the man has now been arrested and remains in custody pending further legal proceedings. Diplomatic sources frequently remind expatriates working in the region to respect the cultural and religious laws of host nations, particularly regarding social media usage, where strict cybercrime laws carry heavy penalties.



In 2017, an employee at La Sapienza University of Rome refused to leave her sick dog alone and missed work. Her boss disciplined her. She took the case to court. And the court ruled in her favor: denying her that leave, the judges determined, could be considered animal abuse.

That one person's battle took nearly a decade to change the rules of the game. In April 2026, Italy became the first country in the world to institutionalize paid leave from work to care for sick pets. Up to 3 days a year with pay, as long as a veterinarian certifies the urgency and the animal is registered with a microchip. The law also provides leave for the death of the animal and time off for veterinary appointments.

Italy already has penalties of up to 4 years in prison for animal abuse. Now it also has a system that recognizes something millions of people already know all too well: when your life companion is seriously ill, staying home is not an excuse — it's a necessity.



*Palestinian youth Hussam Abdo, a would-be suicide bomber, stares at journalists as Israeli soldiers present him to the media, following his arrest at the Hawara checkpoint near the northern West Bank city of Nablus. Sappers later detonated the bomb under the jacket. (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis, File)*

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## SPECIAL FEATURE

Sivan Ilango was invited to deliver the convocation address at the University of Toronto's convocation ceremony, held on June 9, 2026, in Convocation Hall, Toronto.

# Sivan Ilango's Convocation Speech

June 9, 2026



Sivan Ilango's Convocation Speech

### *Thank you for the kind introduction.*

Good evening, chancellor, faculty members, university staff, parents, friends and most importantly to all graduates. It is both an honor and a privilege to speak to all of you today.

Congratulations to each and every one of you graduating today from a world-renowned university. This is a truly momentous occasion—a milestone that marks the culmination of your hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Take immense pride in this remarkable achievement and celebrate with your friends and family.

As you move on to the next chapter, there may be challenges, difficulties and obstacles that are unexpected. There will be days when hope feels distant, and progress seems halted. But with hard work, determination, and resilience, you can continue to achieve your goals.

The great Nelson Mandela once said, “It always seems impossible until it's done,” and for me, I felt this way for many times in my journey, and I want to briefly share with you all. I was born and raised in Sri Lanka, a country deeply affected by war that disrupted our lives and education countless times. There were many days when we had to hide in bunkers from shooting,

shelling, and bombing with numerous lives lost around us. Many times, I didn't know if I would live to see the next minute. Yet, through all this uncertainty and fear, I remained committed to continuing my education and building a better future.

After completing grade 12, I entered university, only to face another setback—the university was closed for over two years due to political unrest. But I didn't let that stop me. I decided to pursue Chartered Accountancy, despite the ongoing challenges and the constant fear for safety.

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in Sri Lanka in 1994 and worked as an Audit Manager with one of the world's largest accounting firms. But the war and concerns for personal safety led me to move to Bahrain. There, I faced a new challenge: my Sri Lankan qualification was not widely recognized, so I had to start again in a junior role. But I didn't give up. I worked hard, learned continuously, and earned my way back to a managerial position.

After five years in Bahrain, I made another life-changing decision and immigrated to Canada in search of greater opportunities and a better future for my family. Once again, I faced a significant challenge. My Sri Lank-

## SPECIAL FEATURE



an accounting designation did not have a reciprocity agreement with Canada, which meant I had to start over for a third time—this time at the age of 35, in another junior position. My goal was not simply to find a job, but to continue growing both personally and professionally. To adapt to my new environment and meet the changing demands of my profession, I made the decision to study again and requalify as a Chartered Accountant in Canada. That decision changed the course of my career. It enabled me to establish myself professionally, continue growing, and ultimately achieve my goal of becoming a Partner in one of the world's largest accounting firms.

Looking back, I can say with confidence that if I had not been willing to learn, adapt, and invest in myself through further education, hard work, determination and perseverance, I would not have achieved what have today.

As new graduates, you stand at the threshold of a world brimming with both challenges and extraordinary opportunities. Our planet faces unprecedented issues—rapid technological change, climate crises, energy shortages, and the transformative rise of artificial intelligence. These challenges may seem daunting, making the future appear complex and uncertain. But within this complexity lies immense potential for those ready to rise and make a difference. Some of you may already have a clear vision of your next steps. Others may still be searching, unsure of which path to take—and that's perfectly natural. Remember, the journey to finding your true calling is as important as the destination itself. I encourage you to choose a path that truly inspires you—one that ignites your passion and stimulates your determination.

### Nelson Mandela once said,

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Today, you have acquired that powerful tool. The knowledge, skills, and critical thinking you have gained through your education can be used to make a meaningful and positive impact on society. The world is waiting for your ideas, your energy, and your leadership. Step forward with confidence, courage, and an unwavering commitment to make a difference. Your future is bright, and your impact will be profound. Whatever path you choose, remember this: there is no substitute for hard work. Stay focused, take calculated risks, and persevere through every challenge that comes your way.***



Sivan Ilangko with family

Remember that true success is measured not only by your achievements but also by the goodness you carry within. Several years ago I listened to a profound speech which left a lasting impact on me.

The speaker spoke about the word “WATCH,” a simple word with multiple meanings that we all know.

One meaning is the watch we wear to check the time.



Sivan Ilangko with University Chancellor, Principal – UFT

Another is the cautionary phrase, “Watch that, be careful.” But speaker gave it a deeper significance by breaking down each letter as a powerful reminder for life:

**W** stands for Words — watch your words, as they have the power to build or break.

**A** stands for Actions — watch your actions, as they define who you are.

**T** stands for Thoughts — watch your thoughts, because they shape your reality.

**C** stands for Character — watch your character, as it is your true identity.

**H** stands for Heart — watch your heart, as it guides your compassion and kindness.

Remember, the world will be watching you as you grow, contribute to society, and achieve success.

Let your words, actions, thoughts, character, and heart reflect the best form of yourself.

Congratulations once again to all the graduates. The future is yours to create—make it extraordinary.

*Thank you.*

 **SPECIAL FEATURE**



Sivan Ilangko with Chancellor, Wes Hall – UFT



## SIVAN ILANGKO

Sivan Ilangko is a Chartered Professional Accountant and Partner at Ernst & Young LLP Canada with extensive expertise in providing assurance services to financial institutions. As an Audit Leader, he oversees a broad portfolio of key clients within the financial services industry, providing insights and advice on their business while executing a high-quality audit. Throughout his distinguished career, Ilangko has provided strategic accounting guidance on complex technical matters while mentoring numerous CPAs and CPA students, helping shape the next generation of professionals. In recognition of his exceptional contributions to the profession and the community, he was named a CPA Ontario Fellow in 2021 — the highest distinction bestowed upon a CPA in Ontario.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Ilangko has demonstrated exemplary leadership and dedication to community service. He initiated and led the historic campaign to establish the Chair in Tamil Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough — the first Chair in Tamil Studies in Canada — transforming a single conversation into a global movement supported by thousands of donors worldwide. He currently serves as Chair of the University of Toronto Scarborough Campaign Cabinet. As a Director of Tamil Chair Inc., he also played a significant role in establishing an endowment fund to create a Tamil Chair at Harvard University.

Ilangko is a Co-Founder, Former Director, and Advisor of the Centre for Leadership and Innovation, an organization committed to fostering leadership among youth. He has also served in leadership roles with several nonprofit organizations, including the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, the Canadian Tamil Congress, and the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce.

In recognition of his exemplary service and leadership, Ilangko has received numerous honours, including the Ontario Volunteer Service Award, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Pin, the King Charles III Coronation Medal, University of Toronto's Arbor Award and the Excellence in Community Leadership Award from the Jaffna Hindu College Association Canada.

*Some of the Photos from the event can be seen here, credit to photographer, **Lisa Sakulensky***



Walking to the stage UFT



Sivan Ilangko speaking at the convocation UFT



# SEGREGATED FUNDS

**Kumar Punithavel**

Migrants from Ceylon in the mid Eighties after the communal violence, Canadian magnanimity to allow refugees with a minister's permit, had done well in their chosen land. Now they are in the dusk of their lives. They have done well in educating their children, and making useful productive Canadian citizens. However, it is the norm the human nature, it is not the duty of the grandparents to make the grandkids great. The great Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar in couplet 67 says;

தந்தை மகற்காற்றும் நன்றி அவையத்து  
முந்தி இருப்பச் செயல்

*Sire greatest thanks to son confers, who  
makes him meet,*

*In councils of the wise to fill the highest  
seat.*

As grandparents they enjoy the company of their grandkids, even indulge so much by spoiling them, by stealthily giving them presents. Even an extra scoop of ice cream after Mom and Dad said no. When time comes, they would like to leave something to their loving grandkids too. The grandkids are the VIP beneficiaries on estate planning. In fact, one of the most interesting tools available to Canadian grandparents is something called a segregated fund, and it may be one of the smartest ways to transfer wealth to grandchildren. Think of it as a financial gift basket. It contains investment growth potential, insurance protection, and some estate-planning advantages that tadeonal investments don't always offer.

**The Grandparent Dilemma:** Say Sundaram had worked his whole life. He's saved diligently, invested wisely, and at the same time he also brought up his children in his chosen country Canada in the 1980s. Now retired in his eighties he wants to leave his wealth to his beloved grand kids. His prime challenge is figuring out how to get the money to them as effectively as possible. This is where segregated funds come in.

**Avoiding the Probate problem:** The biggest advantage of segregated funds is that they will give him the opportunity to name the beneficiaries directly on the contract. The reason for this is when the grandparent passes away, the proceeds can generally flow directly to the named beneficiary instead of getting caught up in the estate settlement process.

To understand probate, think of airport security. Most of your leftover assets will have to stand in line, remove their shoes, empty their pockets, and wait for approval before moving forward. Segregated funds are like in the priority lane. The outcome will be faster access to funds for grandchildren and less administrative hassle for the family. No one enjoys paperwork, especially when dealing with emotional stress that follows the loss of a loved one.

**Keeping more money in the family:** Canadians are often surprised to learn



that settling an estate can involve fees and expenses. Depending on the province, probate costs can take a large bite out of the estate before beneficiaries receive their inheritance.

The grandparents would have spent decades building the savings. They naturally prefer that money goes towards helping their grandchildren, not towards unnecessary administrative costs. Using segregated funds may help reduce the amount of assets passing through the estate, potentially preserving more wealth for future generations.

**Privacy is a wonderful thing:** Families sometimes assume that estate matters are completely private. Not always. Once a will goes through probate, portions of the process can become part of the public record. Grandparents don't spend their lives accumulating savings so the neighbourhood can become amateur detectives. Segregated funds generally allow wealth to pass privately through beneficiary designations. Grandpa's investment decisions can remain Grandpa's business. Exactly the way Grandpa likes it.

**Protection against bad timing:** If there's one thing investors know, it is that markets can occasionally behave like toddlers who skipped their afternoon nap. Segregated funds include maturity and death-benefit guarantees that can help protect a portion of the original investment. This feature can provide comfort to the grandparents who worry about market downturns affecting the amount eventually passed to the grandchildren. No investment can eliminate risk entirely, but these guarantees can help create greater certainty around future legacy. Of course, grandparents love certainty.

**Creating a legacy, not just an inheritance:** The most successful wealth transfers are often about more than dollars and cents. Grandparents don't simply want to leave money. They want to leave opportunities. A university degree. A first home. A business idea. The freedom to pursue a dream without being buried in debt. Segregated funds can form part of a larger strategy that helps turn those goals

into reality. Instead of merely saying, "I hope things work out," grandparents can take practical steps to improve odds. That's a pretty powerful gift.

**Less stress for everyone:** Estate administration can sometimes become complicated. Executors have responsibilities. Lawyers have documents. Financial institutions have forms. And somehow everyone ends up needing three pieces of identification. Beneficiary designations through segregated funds can simplify the process because assets may transfer directly to the recipient. Thus it is less paper work and less waiting period. Of course, there will be less confusion, giving more opportunity to focus on celebrating the life and legacy of the loved one.

**The fine print:** All financial strategy has its own safety provisions. Segregated funds generally have higher fees than traditional mutual funds because of the insurance guarantees and estate-planning features they provide. They're not the right fit for every family. That's why it's important to work with qualified financial, tax and legal professionals before making decisions. A good adviser can help determine whether segregated funds align with your goals and whether the benefits outweigh the costs.

**Conclusion:** Grandparents have always been experts at giving gifts. From birthday cards stuffed with cash to surprise treats after school, they've spent generations finding creative ways to help those whom they love. Segregated funds simply bring that same spirit of generosity into modern financial planning. They can help transfer wealth efficiently, preserve privacy, potentially reduce probate costs, provide valuable guarantees, and simplify the process for future generations. Most importantly, they can help transform a lifetime of hard work into lasting opportunities for grandchildren. And if that opportunity eventually helps pay for a university degree, start a business, or buy a first home, Grandparents can take one final victory lap-even if it is only in spirit. Afterall, grandparents have always loved helping their grandkids succeed. Now they just have a remarkably smart way to do it.



# THE ABUSES AND USES OF DRUGS



By: J A Rajah

Drugs are used for both useful as well as harmful purposes. In the modern world the use of illicit drugs have increased and has proved to be a major threat to human kind. All the resources of the United States have not been able to stem the flow of illicit drugs onto the streets and into campuses, workplaces and even boardrooms across the nation. This has had disastrous consequences on families and society. There is widespread use of narcotics and other harmful drugs.

## A. Illicit Drugs and its harmful uses.

With the introduction of fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that is at least 50 times more powerful than morphine, deaths from accidental overdoses have skyrocketed nationally. Since 2017, more than 300,000 deaths have been attributed to its use in the U.S alone! Its grave danger is well known by doctors and users on the streets. There is tremendous need for illicit drugs. Those who are addicted will pay whatever it takes, generating huge sums of money for unscrupulous people willing to take risk of fines and imprisonment to provide the drugs. This revenue is so great that whole societies and even some national governments are dominated by cartels that produce, distribute and sell deadly, addictive products. The most prohibited drugs include marijuana, sedatives, heroine, cocaine, LSD and inhalants. Use of illicit drugs may lead to organ damage,

infectious diseases, accidents and injury; dependence and withdrawal; mental disorder, cognitive issues, behavioural changes and suicide risks.

## B. Need to restrict Illegal Use of Drugs.

Law enforcement has a necessary role in solving this problem. Prompt action by police, prosecutors and courts can reduce the flow and sale of illicit drugs. However, the malignant problem will continue until the demand is greatly reduced or eliminated. The demand for narcotics seems to have increased as the basic family structure has crumbled in the western world. Wholesome family values instilled from infancy and practiced in the home will effectively eliminate the demand and thus the market for illicit drugs.

## C. The Beneficial Uses of Drugs.

The uses of drugs are plenty in the modern world. Drugs are the basis of all medications prescribed for human ailments. Useful drugs are medications that safely treat, prevent or manage health conditions. ranging from essential antibiotics like penicillin to daily management of drugs for chronic illnesses. They are classified into prescription, over the counter options, designed to improve health and relieve symptoms.



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# THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

Many adults today work a full-time job as having employment is the most common way to make money. While adults work, children are usually expected to go to school. Yet this has not always been the case in some parts of the world. Centuries ago, young children were expected to help their parents if they were farmers. Then after that, during the Industrial Revolution, thousands of underaged children were essentially forced to work in factories and other manual labour fields with poor and dangerous conditions. During the later part of the 19th century, numerous laws were enacted to curb child labor. Although these laws were created, many countries such as India, China and numerous others in Africa have a child



**Aashman Srisiththanathan**  
(Grade 9)

labor problem. Child labor is the big issue because these child workers are underpaid, overworked, subject to inhumane conditions and are denied access to a proper education. Nearly every country in the world has some form of minimum wage laws. A minimum wage is the lowest possible wage that can be given to a worker under the law. Although many employers pay their workers appropriately, some bosses refuse to pay their workers above the minimum wage which leaves workers financially insecure. According to the article, "In China Child Laborers Are Paid Only a Dollar a Day." What's worse is that in some cases child workers aren't paid at all and are technically slaves. Many child laborers are paid less than their adult counterparts as it takes less money to feed and house a child than it is for an adult. Child workers still need shelter, food and clothing. Companies that use child labor make millions in profit, yet refuse to give their workers a liveable wage.

In Canada the standard maximum number of hours someone can work in a week is right around 50 hours. Child laborers on the other hand do not have the luxury of a weekly hour time limit. Child laborers often have long and unusual working hours. According to the article, depending on demand, a child worker can be forced to work every day of the week. The article also states that some child workers work up to 80 hours in one week. In Canada you are allowed to call in sick to work if you don't feel well and have enough sick leave hours. This is unfortunately not the case for child laborers as they must work the scheduled hours assigned to them. The children who work 80 hours a week are essentially



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working two full time jobs and this can cause fatigue which can lead to mistakes that can cause serious bodily harm.

Labor laws also talk about proper working conditions. Some of these conditions include a workplace which doesn't harm the worker and if it can, the worker is provided with the proper safety equipment. Although these safety laws are regularly followed, there are an uncountable number of times when they are broken. Many child laborers are usually the ones who have to deal with these decreased safety conditions. According to the article, these children work in cramped spaces as well as live in unclean spaces. Due to this uncleanliness they can get numerous deadly illnesses and diseases. If child laborers don't make their daily quotas, they may be severely beaten by their superiors. Child laborers also usually don't get enough sleep so they may forget and have a poorer sense of mental health.

An education helps children immensely. With an education, children can learn very important and valuable skills. These skills can help get the child a well paying job in the future. When a child gets a full time job at a young age, they are deprived of attaining an education. Working in a factory does not teach children the proper skills they need in life.

In conclusion, child labour is very harmful to children. Children who are lucky play and spend time with their families, but child labourers are forced to work at a young age and in poor conditions. Many child labourers are separated from their families either through shady contracts or because they have to help repay their family's debts. These children are often taken advantage of and are consistently overworked and underpaid. Child labourers are also deprived of learning valuable skills and an essential education and this is why child labour is such an evil thing.



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NATE'S CUISINE



# BOMBAY CHICKPEA CAKES WITH YOGURT SAUCE

By: Chef Nate



## INGREDIENTS

- ✓ ONE ENGLISH CUCUMBER, PEELED, HALVED LENGTHWISE, SEEDED AND SHREDDED
- ✓ ONE CUP NONFAT PLAIN YOGURT
- ✓ SIX SCALLIONS, SLICED THIN
- ✓ HALF CUP MINCED FRESH CILANTRO
- ✓ ONE TEASPOON LEMON JUICE
- ✓ ONE-POUND CHICKPEAS(SOAK OVERNIGHT)
- ✓ TWO LARGE WHITE EGGS
- ✓ HALF CUP FINELY CHOPPED GREEN AND RED PEPPER
- ✓ ONE TEASPOON GARAM MASALA
- ✓ HALF OF CUP PANKO BREAD CRUMBS
- ✓ ONE TEASPOON MINCED GARLIC
- ✓ ONE TEASPOON FRESH MINCED GINGER
- ✓ THREE SHALLOTS MINCED
- ✓ OLIVE OIL

## MAKES 4 CAKES

COMBINE SHREDDED CUCUMBER, 1/2 CUP YOGURT, 2 TABLESPOONS SCALLIONS, LEMON JUICE AND 1 TEASPOON CILANTRO IN A BOWL. SEASON WITH GARAM MASALA.

PULSE CHICKPEAS IN A FOOD PROCESSOR TO COARSE PUREE, WITH A FEW LARGE PIECES REMAINING, ABOUT 8 PULSES.

WHISK EGG WHITES, GARAM MASALA AND 1 TEASPOON SALT TOGETHER, IN A MEDIUM BOWL, GENTLY STIR IN PROCESSED CHICKPEAS, PANKO, BELL PEPPERS, REMAINING 1/2 CUP YOGURT, SCALLIONS AND CILANTRO UNTIL JUST COMBINED.

DIVIDE CHICKPEA MIXTURE INTO FOUR EQUAL PORTIONS AND LIGHTLY PACK INTO 1-INCH-THICK PATTIES.

HEAT OLIVE OIL IN LARGE NONSTICK SKILLET OVER MEDIUM HEAT UNTIL SKIMMING. CAREFULLY LAY TWO PATTIES IN HOT SKILLET. COOK UNTIL SET UP AND WELL BROWNED ON FIRST SIDE, THREE MINUTES; GENTLY FLIP PATTIES. COOK UNTIL GOLDEN ON SECOND SIDE, 3 MINUTES. TOP WITH YOGURT SAUCE.

## CHEF TIPS:

TO REDUCE CARBOHYDRATES EVEN MORE, MAKE 8 SMALLER CAKES AND SERVE OVER A BED OF SPINACH, ARUGULA, AND BELL PEPPERS. TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FIBER PER SERVING

**CALORIES—520**  
**TOTAL FAT—7G**  
**SATURATED FAT—0G**  
**TRANS FAT—0G**  
**CHOLESTEROL—0MG**  
**SODIUM—110 MG**  
**CARBOHYDRATES—89 G**  
**FIBER ---23 G**  
**PROTEIN----3 OG**

# RICHMOND HILL LAUNCHES NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 NETWORK

## NO CHANGES TO HOW RESIDENTS CALL 9-1-1 ON THE UPDATED NETWORK

Richmond Hill transitioned to the Next Generation 9-1-1 network on June 25, 2026, marking an important step in modernizing emergency communications and strengthening public safety in the community.

This change happened behind the scenes. In an emergency, continue to call 9-1-1 as you always have.

Next Generation 9-1-1 is a new, digital network that replaces the existing analog 9-1-1 network with a modern communications platform designed to improve how emergency calls are received and managed. The upgraded network helps emergency operators and first responders access more accurate information, improves the reliability and security of 9-1-1 services and lays the foundation for future capabilities, including the ability to send text, images or video to 9-1-1 when those features are introduced.

The transition is part of a Canada-wide effort to modernize emergency communications and ensure communities are equipped with reliable, secure networks to support emergency response.

The technology behind 9-1-1 is changing, but how people reach emergency services is not. Calling 9-1-1 remains the primary way to



reach emergency services. New features such as text or multimedia messaging are not yet available.

Richmond Hill worked closely with its emergency service partners to complete the transition.

The Ontario government has provided almost \$2 million since 2022 to support Richmond Hill Fire



and Emergency Services' transition to Next Generation 9-1-1.

### Quotes

*"When seconds count, having the right technology in place can make a real difference. While residents will continue to call 9-1-1 the same way, this upgrade helps ensure first responders have the information they need to respond quickly and effectively and keep our community safe. It's encouraging to see this update happening across our region and beyond."*

**- Mayor David West**

*"The transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 enhances the tools available to our communications staff and first responders. With improved access to accurate caller information and a more resilient network, we're better equipped to assess situations quickly and respond effectively when every second matters."*

**- Tom Raeburn, Fire Chief, Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services**

*"Upgrading Ontario's public safety communications will be a game changer. Next Generation 9-1-1 gives first responders real-time, life-saving information which means a faster, more effective emergency response. Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government will always have the backs of those who protect our province. That's why we are proud to provide funding to Richmond Hill for this new technology which will mean more calls will be answered, more lives*

*will be saved and people across the city can count on emergency services when it matters most."*

**- Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario**

### Quick Facts

▶ Richmond Hill's Alarm Room Operators are the calm, reassuring voices behind every emergency call to Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services (RHFES), guiding residents through some of the most stressful moments of their lives.

▶ The RHFES Alarm Room provides emergency and non-emergency fire dispatch services for Richmond Hill, Aurora and Newmarket (Central York Fire Services), East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Georgina Island First Nation and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

▶ Alarm Room Operators gather critical information, coordinate fire and medical resources and support emergency responders as incidents unfold.

▶ In 2025, the dispatch centre handled more than 21,000 requests for service. In over 95 per cent of those cases, help was dispatched in under 85 seconds.

▶ Next Generation 9-1-1 modernizes the network used by emergency dispatchers, improving the accuracy, reliability and security of information used to support first responders.



## CITY OF MARKHAM EARNS “A-” RATING FROM C.D. HOWE 2025 REPORT CARD



The City of Markham has once again earned an A- rating in the C.D. Howe’s Institute’s annual 2025 report, “Making Sense of City Budgets: Grading the Fiscal Accountability of Canada’s Municipalities, 2025.” This achievement places the City in the top six and 85th percentile of 39 major Canadian municipalities that were included in the report.

The C.D. Howe Institute is an independent not-for-profit research institute, whose work focuses on economic policy intelligence and research. C.D. Howe’s evaluation focuses on transparency, accountability and municipal budgeting as it relates to how well it helps Mayor and Council make decisions, as well as overall public understanding. There are 13 criteria in total, with seven related to the 2025 Budget and six related to the 2024 Annual Report.

“The City of Markham is proud to have once again achieved the highest ranking amongst Ontario municipalities from the C.D. Howe Institute,” said the Mayor of Markham. “This achievement strongly reflects our commitment to a transparent, clear budget process. We continue to focus on delivering exceptional services to our residents, while maintaining the lowest average property increase in the Greater Toronto Area for more than two decades. This ranking highlights the dedication of City Council and our staff, ensuring we deliver budgets that are communicated effectively and on time.”

With the introduction of Strong Mayor Powers in July 2023, many Ontario municipalities were unable to present their annual budgets

before the start of the 2024 fiscal year. This timing challenge contributed to Markham receiving a B+ rating in 2024. In 2025, the City was once again able to earn an A- rating, following a four-year streak of previously achieving this distinction.

The City is committed to prudent financial management and responsible stewardship of resources, which is one of the four key goals outlined in its strategic plan, Building Markham’s Future Together.

“Fiscal responsibility is a core priority for Markham,” said Andy Taylor, CAO at the City of Markham. “Our organization is driven by a commitment to delivering exceptional service to our residents while maintaining strong financial stewardship. This approach ensures we deliver lasting value for our community and positions us well so we can continue to invest in our community’s future.”

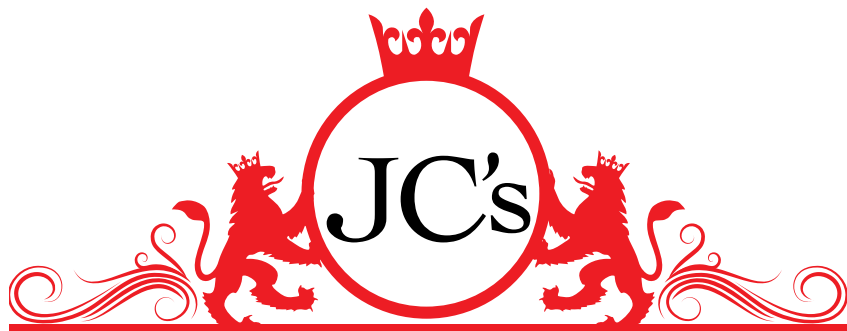
In addition to evaluation from C.D. Howe, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) also assesses municipal budget documents and annual reports for clarity, transparency and completeness. Markham has consistently demonstrated



excellence in these areas, earning both the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting every year since 2001.

### About Markham

Markham, an award-winning municipality with over 370,000 residents and the largest of nine communities in York Region, is home to over 650 corporate head offices and more than 1,500 high tech and life science companies. Markham is a leader in attracting foreign direct investment with more than 234 foreign companies located in the City. Founded in the 1790s, today Markham is Canada’s most diverse community and enjoys a rich heritage, outstanding community planning and services, and a vibrant local economy.



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# COMMUNITY WATCH



## Durham Tamils Association Celebrating 26 Years Of Serving Our Tamil Community

The Durham Tamil Association has proudly served the community for 26 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.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### DTA BEACH PARTY AT ARROWHEAD PROVINCIAL PARK

The Durham Tamil Association (DTA) is hosting a Beach Party at Arrowhead Provincial Park on August 8, 2026. The registration fee is \$70, which includes breakfast, lunch, Veg & Non-Veg Khoozh, coffee, and water.

Durham Tamil Association  
Inviting you to a  
**BEACH PARTY**  
at Arrowhead Provincial Park



**Fee: \$70**

**Included:**

- Breakfast
- Veg & Non Veg Khoozh
- Lunch
- Coffee & water

**WHEN: AUGUST 08<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**Pick up Locations & Times:**  
 6:00 am - DTA Center 66 Ave S Ajax  
 6:30 am - 401 & Milner Walmart  
 7:15 am - 401 & Hurontario carpool lot in Mississauga

**Please call for more info:**  
647-606-1222

**Departure Schedule**

- 6:00 AM: DTA Center (66 Ave S, Ajax)
- 6:30 AM: 401 & Milner Walmart
- 7:15 AM: 401 & Hurontario carpool lot (Mississauga)

**Information & Registration:**  
Please call  
**647-606-1222**  
or  
visit [www.durhamtamils.org](http://www.durhamtamils.org).

#### DTA'S ANNUAL TAMIL COMMUNITY PILGRIMAGE TO MIDLAND CHURCH

**Annual Tamil Community Pilgrimage to Midland Church**  
1 Day Tour, Saturday July 18, 26



**Fee: \$60**

**Included:**

- Round trip transportation on deluxe A/C bus
- Breakfast, water & Coffee
- Lunch at the Church

**Please call to register at:**  
647-606-1222

(need your name & phone# please)  
E-transfer: [dtatravel1@gmail.com](mailto:dtatravel1@gmail.com)

**Pick up locations:**

- 6:00 am DTA Centre 66 Harwood Ave, S Ajax
- 6:30 am Walmart 799 Milner Ave, Scar.
- 7:00 am HWY -401-Hurontario St. Carpool lot in Mississauga pick up point

The Durham Tamil Association (DTA) is organizing its Annual Tamil Community Pilgrimage to Midland Church, a 1-day tour taking place on **Saturday, July 18, 2026**. The registration fee is **\$60**, which includes round-trip transportation on a deluxe A/C bus, breakfast, water, coffee, and lunch at the church.

**Departure Schedule:**

- 6:00 AM: DTA Centre (66 Harwood Ave S, Ajax)
- 6:30 AM: Walmart (799 Milner Ave, Scarborough)
- 7:00 AM: HWY 401 & Hurontario St. Carpool lot (Mississauga)

Registration: Call **647-606-1222** with your name and phone number. E-transfers can be sent to [dtatravel1@gmail.com](mailto:dtatravel1@gmail.com).

#### DTA'S HOMELAND PROJECTS

DTA is proud to announce that we have completed over 130 homeland projects as of May 31, 2026. Watch out more for this year as we wish to continue this momentum and provide more opportunities back home.

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

#### DTA'S ANNUAL VELLIKODUKAL

DTA's Vellikodukal cultural program achieved outstanding success, providing senior citizens with a vital platform to showcase their talents in drama, singing, and dance while promoting active aging and social inclusion. The event's vibrant atmosphere and seamless execution were made possible through the strategic leadership of the board executives and the exceptional dedication of community volunteers. Ultimately, Vellikodukal serves as a powerful model for senior-focused programming, illustrating how collaborative community support can create an enriching and joyful environment for older adults.

#### Durham Tamil Association Youth Leadership PUBLIC SPEAKING



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



## DTA'S SENIORS

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

## THANK YOU TO DTA'S ANNUAL SPONSORS

DTA thanks our annual sponsors Computek College of Business, Healthcare & Technology. **Nava Wilson LLP. Chapel Ridge Funeral Home & Cremation Ctr, Shilo Financial** and all our sponsors for your continued support throughout the year. If you are interested in being annual sponsor please reach out to the below contacts.

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

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

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## 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.

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**FAMILY KARAOKE**

Let your inner star shine with a night of family fun and music!

EVERY FRIDAY  
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

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பாடலாம்

Open to Moms, Dads, Kids, Youth and friends Join us for a fun night of singing and smiles

POTLUCK - Enjoy the food and music

Location: DTA Center 66  
Harwood Ave S Ajax Phone# 905-428-7007

Website: [durhamtamils.org](http://durhamtamils.org)

## DTA SENIOR'S JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

DTA Senior's monthly meeting will be held on Sunday June 28, 2026 at 5:00 pm at DTA Centre.

66B Harwood Ave S, Ajax, L1S 2H6.

Event Time: 5-9 pm

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

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

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

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## BRAMPTON TRANSIT MARKS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE, CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

For five decades, Brampton Transit has been part of Brampton's daily rhythm, helping residents reach the people, places and opportunities shaping their lives.

Established in 1976 through the amalgamation of two transit services, Brampton Transit began as a modest operation serving a newly formed city with a small network of fixed routes and a Dial-A-Bus service. As Brampton grew, so did its transit system, adapting to new neighbourhoods, changing travel patterns and the evolving needs of residents.

Today, Brampton Transit serves over 800,000 residents and remains a vital part of daily life, connecting people to work, school, recreation, local businesses and destinations across Brampton and the Greater Toronto Area.

### Five decades of service

Over the past five decades, Brampton Transit has become woven into the everyday experience of living in Brampton.

Archival photos from the early years of service capture vintage buses travelling through neighbourhoods and along roadways now transformed by decades of growth. These images reflect not only the evolution of public transit in Brampton, but also the changing story of the city itself. View more images on 50 Years of Brampton Transit.

Major milestones throughout Brampton Transit's history include expanded service across the city,



Celebrating 50 years of Brampton Transit. Credit: City of Brampton.

Transit has continued to connect people to the moments, responsibilities and opportunities shaping everyday life.

### Celebrating in the community

Residents can look forward to anniversary activations, including Music on the Move events at transit terminals, community outreach appearances and Customer Appreciation Week from September 21-25. These celebrations will recognize riders and the community whose support has helped shape

and supporting residents through generations of change.

Their dedication has helped create the transit system residents rely on every day.

As Brampton Transit celebrates this milestone anniversary, the organization looks ahead with a continued focus on reliable, accessible and connected transit service for residents today and for future generations.

For 50 years, Brampton Transit has helped move Brampton forward, connecting communities, supporting residents and travelling alongside the city through every stage of its journey.



Brampton Transit bus in 1976. Credit: Paul Bateson.

continued investments in transit infrastructure and the launch of the Züm bus rapid transit service in 2010, which helped improve regional connectivity and travel times for residents. Buses, routes and technology have changed. Brampton has changed. Through it all, Brampton

Brampton Transit over the last five decades.

The anniversary also recognizes all employees, past and present, who have helped build and strengthen Brampton Transit. They have played an important role in keeping the city moving



Brampton Transit has helped keep the city connected for 50 years. Credit: City of Brampton.

### About Brampton Transit

Brampton Transit is one of Canada's fastest-growing transit systems, providing safe, reliable and accessible service across Brampton and the Greater Toronto Area. With a strong focus on sustainability, innovation and customer service, Brampton Transit connects people to where they live, work, learn and play. Learn more at [bramptontransit.com](http://bramptontransit.com). Follow Brampton Transit on X, Facebook and Instagram.



# INVITING WOMEN-LED TECH BUSINESSES TO GROW WITH EMPowHER

IDEA Mississauga and YSpace are accepting applications for the EmpowHER Tech Launchpad accelerator program.

IDEA Mississauga, in partnership with YSpace ELLA—York University's women's innovation hub—is now accepting applications for the EmpowHER Tech Launchpad. The 12-week accelerator program helps women-led product and technology companies grow and scale. The program offers one-on-one mentorship, expert led workshops and support to prepare investor and partner pitches. Participants also connect with a network of mentors, partners and peers. EmpowHER Tech Launchpad helps entrepreneurs grow faster, reach new markets and build lasting businesses.

## Applications close July 12, 2026.

The City invests in such programs to help equity-deserving women entrepreneurs overcome barriers and grow their businesses. This helps contribute to a more inclusive local economy.

## Who should apply

Ideal applicants are Canadian incorporated businesses that:

- ▶ Are at least 51 per cent women-led.
- ▶ Are in Mississauga or plan to expand there.
- ▶ Have moved beyond the product launch stage.
- ▶ Have at least one co-founder attend all in-person sessions.
- ▶ Are available for the full 12-week program.

## What participants can expect

Participants will get:

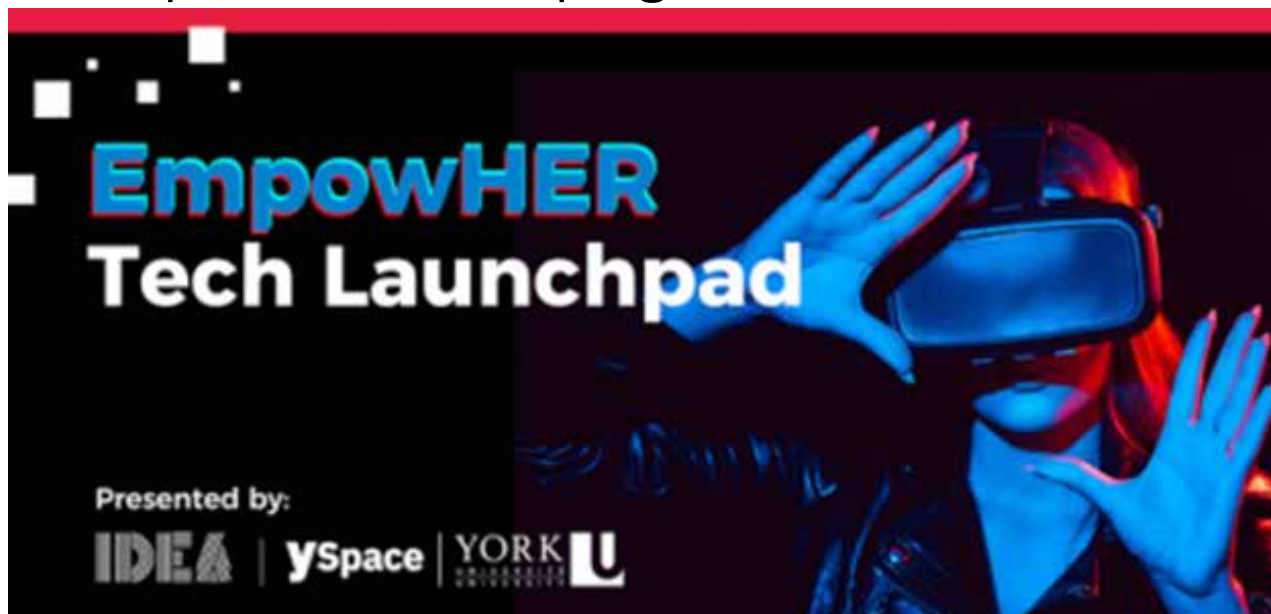
- ▶ Up to \$200,000 in business resources to support growth.
- ▶ One-on-one mentorship from industry experts.
- ▶ Workshops on sales, fundraising and growth strategy.
- ▶ A peer network of women entrepreneurs in tech and product businesses.
- ▶ Regular office hours with program facilitators for support.

The program finishes with a showcase event, where participants present to investors, mentors and potential clients.

## Proven impact

Past participants have reported strong growth with measurable results.

Angélique Bernabé, founder of LOCVM and a 2025 participant, entered the program at the testing phase. Since completing the EmpowHER Tech Launchpad, LOCVM has grown from 150 to more than 500 users. The company has also secured its first paid pilot and formed partnerships with the Ontario Medical Association and several



universities.

Hira Malik, co-founder of Food Mamba and a 2024 graduate of the EmpowHER program, leveraged the program to refine financial modelling and sales strategy. The company has since secured multiple contracts, surpassed \$1 million in revenue in 2025 and expanded to more than 300 clients. It now works with 200 vendors and a distribution team across Canada and Pakistan.

## About IDEA Mississauga

IDEA Mississauga, powered by Invest Mississauga, brings together industry, government, education and organizational leaders. It helps start-ups and scale-ups bring those ideas to market. IDEA Mississauga gives entrepreneurs access to mentorship, services and a strong network of partners and talent. From start-up to scale-up, IDEA supports businesses in turning ideas into real-world impact.

## About YSpace

YSpace is York University's entrepreneurship and innovation hub. It supports start-ups and scale-ups across sectors. Its programs help companies grow by building customer traction and

accessing capital. YSpace also supports diverse founders through initiatives such as ELLA for women-led businesses and the Black Entrepreneurship Alliance (BEA) for Black-led businesses.

## Quotes

*"Ambition is a starting point, and it needs to be fostered to help achieve real growth. At IDEA Mississauga, powered by Invest Mississauga, we're focused on helping businesses start, grow and thrive. EmpowHER Tech Launchpad plays an important role in this work. It gives women founders the tools, connections and support they need to accelerate. It also helps build confidence to take their businesses to the next level."*

— Christina Kakaflikas,  
Director, Invest Mississauga

*"Championing women entrepreneurs is central to our work at YSpace. EmpowHER Tech Launchpad, developed with IDEA Mississauga, helps innovative women-led businesses build, scale and thrive. Through ELLA, we've supported more than 2,000 women founders across Canada. With EmpowHER, we're creating more opportunities for the next generation of women to lead in tech. We're excited to meet what's next."*

— Marlina Ramchandran,  
ELLA Entrepreneurship Manager,  
YSpace and Office of the VP, Research and  
Innovation, York University





## SPECIAL FEATURE

# SRI PARTHASARATHY SWAMI TEMPLE, CHENNAI, TN, INDIA

Compiled by Kidambi Raj

### INTRODUCTION

**Sri Parthasarathy Temple** in Chennai, TN., is the third on the list of *Four powerful Krishna temples in South India known for miracles*. The other three temples are: Sri Krishna Temple in Guruvayur, Kerala, Sri Krishna Temple in Udupi, Karnataka and the Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple in Kerala. These are the places where devotion feels deeper than usual, where faith is not just practiced, but experienced. These temples have earned a reputation that goes beyond history and architecture. They are spoken about in whispers of Miracles, Healing and Unseen Grace. For centuries. Devotees have walked into these temples carrying heavy burdens and walked out feeling lighter, calmer and somehow protected. These are not just temples; they are living spaces of belief, where the presence of Lord Krishna is felt in ways, words often fail to explain.

The *Parthasarathy Temple* in Chennai is a 6th-century Hindu Vaishnavite temple dedicated to Vishnu in Chennai, India. Located in the neighbourhood of Thiruvallikeni, the temple is glorified in the *Naalayira Divya Prabandham*, the early medieval Tamil literature canon of the Alvar saints from the 6th to 9th centuries CE and is classified as among the *108 Divya Desams* dedicated to Vishnu. The name 'Parthasarathy' means the 'charioteer of Arjuna', referring to Krishna's role as a charioteer to Arjuna in the epic *Mahabharata*.

It was originally built by the Pallavas in the 6th century by king Narasimharvarman I. The temple has icons of five forms of Vishnu: *Yoga Narasimha, Rama, Gajendra Varadaraja, Ranganatha*, and *Krishna as Parthasarathy*. The temple is one of the oldest structures in Chennai. There are shrines for Vedavalli Thaayyar, Ranganatha, Rama, Gajendra Varadar, Narasimha, Andal, Hanuman, Alvars, Ramanuja, Swami Manavala Mamuni-gal and Vedanthachariar. The temple subscribes to Vaikhanasa agama and follows Tenkalai tradition. There are separate entrances and dhvajastambhas for the Parthasarathy and Yoga Narasimha temples. The gopuram and mandapas are decorated with elaborate carvings, a standard feature of South Indian Temple Architecture.

### LEGEND

As per Hindu legend, the Saptarishis, the seven sages worshipped five deities Panchaveeras, namely, *Venkata Krishnaswamy, Rukmini, Satyaki, Balarama, Pradyumna*, and *Aniruddha*. As per the Mahabharata, Vishnu, in his avatar as Krishna was acting as charioteer for Arjuna, the Pandava prince during the war with Kauravas. Krishna did not take any weapons during the war. During the fight between Arjuna and Bhishma, Krishna was injured by the arrow from Bhishma. The mark in the image in the temple is believed to follow the legend. The place is called *Allikeni*, meaning a *pond of lily* as it is believed that historically the place was full of lily ponds. The place is the only place where the presiding deity is sported with a moustache. As per another legend, the place was once a tulasi forest. A Chola king named Sumati wanted to see Vishnu in the form of Parthasarathy and prayed at Srinivasa temple in Tirupati. Srinivasa directed the king to visit the temple here built by *Sage Atreya* and worshipped with another sage called *Sumati*.



### HISTORY

The temple was originally built by the Pallavas Between the 6th and 8th century, subsequently expanded by Cholas and later by the Vijayanagara kings in the 15th century. The temple has several inscriptions dating from the 8th century in Tamil presumably from the period of Dantivarman, who was a Vishnu devotee. Thirumangai Alvar, the 8th-century poet-saint also attributes the building of temple to the Pallava king. From the internal references of the temple, it appears that the temple was restored during 1564 CE when new shrines were built. In later years, endowments of villages and gardens have enriched the temple The temple also has inscriptions about the Pallava king, Nan-



divarman of the 8th Century. One of the earliest Alvars Pey Alvar (who lived between 5th and 6th Century) has mentioned this temple which makes the temple the oldest structure in Chennai.

The temple was extensively built during the Chola period and a lot of inscriptions dating back to the same period are found here. The outer most mandapam is replete with sculptures of various forms of Vishnu, especially the avatars. One can also see inscriptions of Dantivarman Pallava of the 8th century, Chola and Vijayanagara in the temple. The first architectural expansion of the temple took place during the reign of the Pallavas (Tondaiyar Kon) as

vividly described by Tirumangai Alvar.

A Pallava king built the present temple in the eighth century. The gopuram was also built by a Pallava king - Tondaiman Chakravarthy. There are inscriptions that record the contributions of the Chola kings Raja and Kulottunga III, Pandya King Maravarman and many rulers of the Vijayanagara dynasty including Ramaraja Venkatapathiraja and Vira Venkatapathy. For a while the East India Company administered the temple.

The pushkarani is called Kairavani and five sacred teerthams are believed to surround the tank – *Indra, Soma, Agni, Meena* and *Vishnu*. Seven rishis – *Bhrigu, Atri, Marichi, Markandeya, Sumati, Saptaroma* and *Jabali* – performed penance here. All five deities in the temple have been extolled by Tirumangai Alvar There is also a separate shrine for Andal, one of the 12 Alvars who is also considered as a consort to the presiding deity. It is one of the very few shrines in the country dedicated to Krishna as Parthasarathy, charioteer of Arjuna and to contains idols of three avatars of Vishnu: *Narasimha, Rama, and Krishna*.

Unusually, he is depicted with a prominent moustache and carries a conch in his hand. Also unusual is the iconographical combination found in the sanctum. Here, Krishna is seen standing with consort Rukmini, elder brother Balarama, son Pradyumna, grandson Aniruddha and Satyaki. Because of the association of the temple with Krishna, Tiruvallikeni came to be regarded as the Southern Vrindavana. He also mentioned about the Telliya Singar shrine within the temple.

### RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

. The temple follows the traditions of the Tenkalai sect of Vaishnavite tradition and follows the *Vaikhanasa Agama*. The temple has grand *brahmotsavams* (big festival) for Parthasarathy during the Tamil month of Chittirai



(April–May), on the same month Udayavar utsavam is also celebrated.

As per Sri Pillailogam Jeeyar Swamy in his work *Ramanuja Divya Charithai* it is stated that Sri Asoori Kesava Somayaji, father of Ramanuja, performed Putrakaameshti Yagam at Kairavini the temple pond at Thiruvallikeni, and prayed to Parthasarathy to bless him with a son. Parthasarathy appeared in the dreams of Sri Asoori Kesava Somayaji and promised he will be born as his son to impart teachings of his Gita for the benefit of mankind. The *Bhagavad Gita Bhāshya* (a review and commentary on the *Bhagavad Gita*), was later written by Ramanuja. In conformity of the above tradition during the annual festival, unlike other Alvars and acharyas, Ramanuja has independent processions both in the morning and evening.

In the month of Vaikasi, the occasions of Sri Varadarajar utsavam, Sri Nammalvar utsavam (vaikasi-vishakam), and Vasantotsavam are celebrated while Alagiyasingar (Narasimha) is venerated during the Tamil month of Ani (June–July). There are also festivals for Ramanuja (April–May) and Manavala Mamunigal (Oct–Nov) besides festivals for Alvars and acharyas. The occasion of Vaikuntha Ekadashi during the Tamil month of Margazhi (December–January) draws a lot of pilgrims.

## UTSAVAMS

### *Sri Vaikunda Ekaadasi festival:*

The most important among these festival is the Vaikunda Ekadesi – as huge crowds from not only Chennai, but also various parts of Tamil Nadu and India come to the temple on this day; Theppam or Thepotsavam – the colourful float festival, and the utsavam for the main deity Parthasarathy.

### *Theppam (Float) festival:*

Also known Teppotsavam (Theppam + Utsavam), this pictorial and colourful festival takes place on 7 days in the Tamil month of Masi, 3 days for Parthasarathy, one each for Sri Narasimhar, Sri Ranganathar, Sri Ramar and Sri Gajendra Varadhar. The seven-day event attracts a large number of devotees and onlookers from different parts of Chennai and Tamil Nadu.

A floating structure made up of drums, timber would be constructed and would be beautifully decorated with lights, flowers, religious paintings, silken buntings, etc. which serves as a visual delight. For better ambience, lights were also installed in the garden around the tank and additionally, focus lights were placed on the corners of the Neerazhi Mandapam (the Mandapam (structure) in the Center of the temple tank). Perumal (God) would come to the temple tank in Purappadu (departure) and be placed majestically inside the float. On all the days, the float completed five rounds around the Neerazhi Mandapam. After this, the deities were taken in a procession around the four Mada Streets.

According to legend, King Sumati, a devout follower of Lord Vishnu, longed to see the Lord in the form He took as Arjuna's charioteer during the great Kurukshetra war. The Lord blessed him

by appearing in that very form here. At the king's request, He remained permanently in this temple as Parthasarathy — the divine charioteer. True to His vow during the Mahabharata war that He would not wield weapons, the Lord here holds only the **conch (Shankha)** in His hand, but no discus (Chakra).

Another unique feature is that His divine face still bears the scars from the arrows of *Bhishma*, which He bore while shielding Arjuna. Hence, devotees lovingly refer to Him as *Venkata Krishna* as well. The temple's presiding deity is Parthasarathy and later times, the temple itself came to be called by His name. It is believed that Sage Vyasa consecrated the deity here. The temple houses the Lord in three divine postures: standing as Venkata Krishna, seated as Narasimha (Thelliya Singar) and reclining as Sri in

## TEMPLE SHRINES

Inside the sanctum, Venkata Krishna appears with His Consort Rukmini Devi, His brother Balarama, grandson Aniruddha, son Pradyumna and warrior Satyaki, symbolizing harmony in family life. Other shrines include:



- Goddess Vedavalli Thayar
- Sri Ranganatha, Sri Rama, and Varadaraja Perumal
- Sri Narasimha
- Sri Andal
- Sri Anjaneya (Hanuman)
- The Alvars, Sri Ramanuja, Manavala Mamunigal, and Vedanta Desikar

Notably, Parthasarathy and Narasimha have separate flag posts and entrances, making them feel like two distinct temples within one complex.

## THE STORY OF VEDAVALI THAAYAAR

In ancient times, Sage Bhrgu performed penance here, praying for Lord Vishnu as his son-in-law. From the lotus in the sacred tank, Goddess Vedavalli emerged and the sage raised her. When she came of age, Lord Ranganatha married her here. This celestial wedding is still celebrated in a grand style in the Tamil month of Masi (Feb. – Mar.).

Vedavalli Thaayaar resides in a separate shrine and never leaves the temple. However, on Fridays and on the day of Uttara Nakshatram, She gives darshan in procession within the temple premises..

## UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE DEITY

- **Lord with Family:** Unlike most temples, here, Krishna blesses devotees with His entire family — Rukmini Devi, Balarama, Satyaki, Pradyumna, and Aniruddha. This emphasizes family unity and harmony.
- **Without the Sudarshana Chakra:** True to His vow during the Mahabharata, the Lord holds no discus, only the conch. It is rare to find Vishnu in such a form.
- **Bearded Appearance:** The deity here has

## SPECIAL FEATURE



a **moustache**, symbolizing His role as the charioteer in battle. Because of this, He is fondly called *Meesai Perumal (the Lord with a moustache)*. During *Vaikuntha Ekadasi*, for five days, He is displayed without the moustache.

## The Glory of Sri Parthasarathy



The scars on His divine face remind devotees of the Kurukshetra war, where He took arrows to protect Arjuna. For this reason, offerings to Him avoid spicy dishes and include more ghee. The main deity here stands **nine feet tall** with His **distinct moustache**, a rare form found only in this temple.

Another specialty is that while most temples conduct the *Garuda Seva festival* on specific days, here Garuda Seva takes place **every single day of**

**the year!** This is because, the Lord (in the form of Gajendra Varadar) permanently resides on Garuda. Devotees believe that a darshan of Venkata Krishna with His family here removes sins and brings happiness in life.

*Krishna Jayanti* is celebrated uniquely here. Lord Krishna is brought out with grand alankaram, offered butter and milk, and taken through the streets, where devotees joyfully offer Him fruits and delicacies.

## Prayers and Beliefs

- Worshipping **Sri Narasimha** here is believed to bless devotees with wisdom and excellence in studies.
- Praying to Lord Parthasarathy with devotion grants **marriage blessings, children, and family prosperity**.
- Devotees fulfill vows by performing **Thirumanjanam (sacred bath)** and offering sweet pongal.

## How to Reach Parthasarathy Perumal Temple

### *By Road:*

Chennai is well-connected by road to major towns in Tamil Nadu. State Transport Buses and private taxis operate regularly to Triplicane, where the temple is situated.

### *By Train:*

Nearest railway stations: Chennai Central and Egmore Railway Stations. From these stations, buses or taxis are available to reach the temple in Triplicane, Chennai.

### *By Air:*

Chennai International Airport is the nearest airport and there are all possible modes of transportation are available.



# ARANMULA SRI PARTHASARATHY TEMPLE, KERALA

Compiled by Kidambi Raj

## INTRODUCTION

**Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple** in Aranmula, Kerala, is the fourth and final on the list of **Four powerful Krishna temples in South India known for miracles**. The other three temples are: Sri Krishna Temple in Guruvayur, Kerala, Sri Krishna Temple in Udipi, Karnataka and the Sri Parthasarathy Temple in Chennai, TN, India. These are the places where devotion feels deeper than usual, where faith is not just practiced, but experienced. These temples have earned a reputation that goes beyond history and architecture. They are spoken about in whispers of Miracles, Healing and Unseen Grace. For centuries. Devotees have walked into these temples carrying heavy burdens and walked out feeling lighter, calmer and somehow protected. These are not just temples; they are living spaces of belief, where the presence of Lord Krishna is felt in ways, words often fail to explain.

**Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple** is a Hindu temple located in Aranmula, a village in Pathanamthitta District, Kerala, South India, on the southern bank of Pamba river, the third longest river in Kerala. It is dedicated to the Lord Krishna, who is worshipped as Parthasarathy (Arjuna's charioteer). Constructed in the Kerala style of architecture, it is one of the **Divya Desams**, the 108 temples of Vishnu revered by the Alvar saints.

It is one of the most important Krishna temples in Kerala and is one of the five ancient shrines in Kerala, connected with the legend of the *Mahabharata*, where the five Pandavas are believed to have built one temple each; Aranmula is built by the Pandava prince Arjuna.

The sacred jewels, called **Thiruvabhara-**



**nam** of Ayyappan are taken in procession to Sabarimala each year from Pandalam, and Aranmula Temple is one of the stops on the way. Also, the **Thanka Anki**, golden attire of Ayyappan, donated by the king of Travancore, is stored here and taken to Sabarimala during the Mandala season of late December.

Aranmula is also known for snake boat race held every year during Onam linked to the legends of the *Mahabharata*. The temple has four towers over its entrances on its outer wall. The Eastern tower is accessed through a flight of 18 steps and the Northern tower entrance flight through 57 steps leads to the Pamba River. The temples has paintings on its walls dating back to early 18th century.

The temple is open from 4 am to 11:00 am and 5 pm to 8 pm and is administered by Travancore Devaswom Board of the Government of Kerala.



## LEGEND



The Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple is one of the five ancient shrines in the Chengannur area of Kerala, connected with the legend of the Hindu epic *Mahabharata*. Legend has it that the Pandava princes, after crowning Parikshit as king of Hastinapura left on a pilgrimage. On arriving on the banks of Pamba River, each one is believed to have installed a tutelary image of Krishna; Thrichittatt Maha Vishnu Temple by Yudhishtira, Puliur Mahavishnu Temple by Bheema, Aranmula by Arjuna, Thiruvanvandoor Mahavishnu Temple by Nakula and Thrikodithanam Mahavishnu Temple to Sahadeva. Legend has it that Arjuna built this temple, to expiate for the sin of having killed *Karna* on the battlefield, against the dharma of killing an unarmed enemy. It is also believed that here, Vishnu revealed the knowledge of creation to the god Brahma, from whom the Madhu-Kaitabha demons stole the Vedas.

The image of the temple was brought here in a raft made of six pieces of bamboo to this site, and hence the name "Aranmula" (six pieces of bamboo). There is another story, which says it was brought in a raft made of seven pieces of bamboo, out of which one got separated at a place 2 km upstream of the current Temple's location on the banks of Pamba. The place is called **Mulavoor Kadavu**, meaning, river bank where the bamboo pole came off. There are still descendants of a family of Ayurveda physicians with great lineage by that name Mulavoor residing there. As per other legend, the place derives its name from **arin-villai**, a land near a river.

As per another legend, during the battle of Kurukshetra, the Kaurava prince Duryodhana had taunted Bhishma of not using his full might in

fighting the Pandavas. This taunt by Duryodhana filled Bhishma with rage. Bhishma took a vow to fight with such ferocity the next day that Krishna himself would be forced to break his vow of not using a weapon during the war in order to protect Arjuna. On the ninth day of the battle, the Kauravas reigned supreme under the leadership of Bhishma, when Krishna motivated Arjuna to take initiative and vanquish his foe. Bhishma was unparalleled with the use of celestial weapons in such a manner that Arjuna could not counter the onslaught. Arrows after arrows fired from Bhishma's bow breached the defenses of Arjuna and inflicted wounds to his body by penetrating his armour. The string of Arjuna's bow, the Gandiva was snapped during the battle. Seeing Arjuna's plight, Krishna jumped down in rage, and took up His Sudarshana Chakra charging towards Bhishma. Bhishma was overfilled with joy and surrendered to Krishna. Meanwhile, Arjuna beseeched Krishna not to kill Bhishma, as it would have been against Krishna's vow to take up arms in his battle. It is believed that it is this image of Krishna that is enshrined here, with the Sudarshana chakra This symbolizes the Lord's act of compassion to both his devotees on either side of the battle. Krishna broke his vow to protect Arjuna and also to fulfill the promise that his ardent devotee Bhishma had made.

Krishna presiding here in the Vishvarupa form is considered as **Annadana Prabhu** (The Lord who provides food) along with other temples like Vailom Mahadeva Temple and Sabarimala. It is believed that those whose Annaprashana is performed at the Aranmula Parthasarathy temple would never be affected by the pangs of poverty throughout their life.

Aranmula Mirror is also related to the history of this temple The king of Travancore wanted to donate a crown made of rare metal to the temple and he found a rare combination of copper and lead. It is believed as per the tradition that preparing the metal polished mirror was produced only by a family. In modern times, the College of Fine Arts have started producing it on commercial scale.

## ARCHITECTURE



The temple is built in Kerala style architecture, which is common in all temples in the South Indian state of Kerala in eastern axis. The temple has an elevated structure reached by a flight of 20 steps. The temple has a two-storeyed gopuram or a gateway tower, with the upper storey having wooden trails covering the **Kottupura** (a hall of drum beating during festivals). A rectangular wall around the temple, called **Kshetra-Madilluka**, pierced by the gateways, encloses all the shrines of the temple. The metal plated flagpost or **Dwajasthambam** is located axial to the temple tower leading to the central sanctum and there is a **Deepastamba**, which is the light post. **Chuttuambalam** is the outer pavilion

## COMMUNITY WATCH



within the temple walls. The central shrine and the associated hall is located in a rectangular structure called *Nallambalam*, which has pillared halls and corridors. Between the entrance of *Nallambalam* to the sanctum, there is a raised square platform called *Namaskara Mandapam* which has a pyramidal roof. *Thevrapura*, the kitchen used to cook offering to the deity is located on the left of *Namaskara Mandapa* from the entrance. *Balithara* is an altar is used for making ritualistic offering to demi-gods and the festive deities. The central shrine called *Sreekovil* houses the image of the presiding deity, who is a standing four-armed Lord Vishnu worshipped as *Parthasarathy*. It is on an elevated platform with a single door reached through a flight of five steps. Either sides of the doors have images of guardian deities called *Dvarapalakas*. As per Kerala rituals, only the main priest called *Thantri* and the second priest called *Melshanthi* alone can enter the *Sree Kovil*. The central shrine has a circular plan with the base built of granite, superstructure built of laterite and conical roof made of terracotta tile supported from inside by a wooden structure. The lower half of *Sree Kovil* consists of the basement, the pillar or the wall, called *stambha* or *bhithi* and the entablature called *prasthara* in the ratio 1:2:1, in height. Similarly the upper half is divided into the neck called *griva*, the roof tower called *shikhara* and the conical *kalam* (made of copper) in the same ratio. The roof projects in two levels to protect the inner structure from heavy rains during monsoon. The roof of the temple and some of the pillars have lavish wood and stucco carvings depicting various stories of ancient epics, Ramayana and Mahabharatha. The outer walls around the sanctum have a series of wooden frames housing an array of lamps, which are lit during festive occasions. The temples have paintings on its walls dating back to early 18 century. The image of the presiding deity is 6 ft (1.8 m) tall, making it the tallest among the idols of all Krishna temples in Kerala. Krishna is in Vishvarupa pose, the one he depicted to Arjuna during the Mahabharatha war. It is thus considered to be in fierce form. As per one legend, Arjuna is believed to have built the temple in Nilakal Narayanapuram and later brought to Aranmula in a raft made with six bamboo. In the second precinct, there are shrines of *Sastha*, *Yakshi*, *Nagaraja* and *Erangavil Bhagavathy*. There is another shrine for Balarama in the lower shrine, considered to be older than the main shrine.

### UTSAVAMS

The annual Utsavam commences on the Atham Nakshatra in the month of Makara and concludes



ten days later on the Thiruvonam day. Garuda Vahanam Ezhunellippu is the main event during this ten day festival. This event falls on the fifth day of the annual festival and is also called *Anchaam Purrappadu*. The deity is taken out from the sanctum sanctorum mounted on Garuda. It is believed that all 33 million Devas (the elements of nature) and Gandharvas would be present in the temple at that time to witness Lord Krishna riding on his vahana, the Garuda.

### OTHER FESTIVALS

As per Hindu legend in Mahabharata, Arjuna, one of the Pandavas was returning with the image of Krishna after a long penance. He faced a huge flood in the Pamba river. A poor low caste Hindu helped him cross the river with a raft made with six bamboos. It is believed that the Aranmula Boat Race is celebrated annually on the Pamba river to commemorate the poor Hindu. The race is held on the last day of the Onam festival when snake boats around 100 ft (30 m) with four helmsmen, 100 rowers and 25 singers participate. The boats move in pairs to the rhythm of music. After the watersport, there is an elaborate feast in the Aranmula temple. The festival is the largest boat race festival held in Kerala and is attended by thousands of



visitors. The festival was largely a religious one until 1978, when the Government of Kerala declared it a sports event, but during 2000, the religious festivities were restored.

The Malayalam month of Meenam witnesses a festival where Aranmula Parthasarathy is taken in a grand procession on the Garuda mount to the Pamba river bank, where an image of the *Bhagawati* from the nearby *Punnamthode temple* is brought in procession for the *Arattu* festival.

Another festival celebrated here is the *Khandavanadhanam* celebrated in the Malayalam month of Dhanus. For this festival, a replica of a forest is created in front of the temple with dried plants, leaves and twigs. This bonfire is lit, symbolic of the Khandavana forest fire of the Mahabharata.



The heads of three Brahmin households in Aranmula and nearby Nedumprayar follow a tradition of fasting on Thiruvonam. The tradition reportedly dates back to more than two centuries. It is believed that once a Brahmin made a vow to feed one pilgrim every day. Pleased with his devotion, the presiding deity appeared to him. From then on, the Brahmin was overjoyed and he made it a custom to feed to conduct a feast every year, which is practised in modern times. The feast is conducted after the boat race.

### RELIGIOUS IMPORTANCE

The temple is revered in *Nalayira Divya Prabandham*, the 7th–9th century Vaishnava saint from Tamilnadu, Nammalvar in one tamilhymn. The temple is classified as a *Divyadesam*, one of the 108 Vishnu temples that are mentioned in the tamil pasurams in *Nalayira Divya Prabandham*. *Thirumangai Alvar* have sung in praise of the perumal in this temple with eleven Pasurams.

*Thulabaram*, the practice of weighing oneself against material and donating it to the temple is practiced here. The Vanni tree in the temple is believed to have medicinal values. The fruits of the Vanni tree are also weighed in Thulabaram and also used for curing diseases of the devotees. It is the place where Brahma is believed to have worshiped Vishnu to retrieve the Vedas from the two demons named *Madhu* and *Kaitibha*. The image of Parthasarathy is believed to have been installed by Arjuna himself. The temple is used to store the jewels of the Sabarimala temple.

### TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION

The temple is administered by Travancore Devaswom Board of the Government of Kerala. The king of Travancore maintained the golden dress in the temple, offered to Sabarimala *Ayyapan Temple*. The practice of offering the golden dress to Sabarimala temple annually is done by the board.

### MAJOR FESTIVALS

- **Aranmula Uthitattathi Boat Race**  
A world-famous event held during Onam, symbolizing unity and devotion.
- **Thiruvonam and Ashtami Rohini**  
Celebrated with grandeur, featuring traditional music, rituals and offerings.
- **Annual Temple Festival** Conducted in the Malayalam month of Makaram (Jan. – Feb.).

### NEARBY TEMPLES 7

#### ATTRACTIONS

- **Thiruvandoor Divyadesam** : 10 km
- **Thirupuliyoor Divyadesam** : 15 km
- **Sabarimala Temple** : 75 km
- **Pandalam Palace**
- **Aranmula Mirror Craft Village** : 1 km

#### HOW TO REACH

- **Nearest Town** : Chengannur - 12 KM
- **Nearest Railway Station** : Chengannur Railway Station (12 km)
- **Nearest Airport** : Cochin International Airport (125 km) or Trivandrum Airport (130 km)
- **By Road** : Regular buses and taxis connect Aranmula to Chengannur, Pathanamthitta, and Pandalam.



# A MESSAGE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO COMMUNITY FROM PRESIDENT GOEL



**President Vivek Goel reflects on his time as president and vice-chancellor.**

**By Vivek Goel, President and Vice-Chancellor**

**A**s I conclude my term as President, I want to thank you for the opportunity and the privilege of serving this extraordinary university community.

When I look back over my time here, what stands out most is all of you: your passion, your curiosity, and your commitment to making this institution even better. It's what makes Waterloo distinctive.

Waterloo's accomplishments over the past five years belong to this entire community. My role has been to listen, learn from you, and help move forward the many ideas that come from members of our community. I'm deeply grateful for

the opportunity to have worked alongside you.

These have not been easy years. We have faced a global pandemic and a period of significant change and uncertainty in the world around us. What has always stood out to me is how this community comes together to meet those challenges. We have held true to our core principles of academic freedom, free inquiry and integrity, and we continue to focus on the important work we do by living our values of thinking differently, acting with purpose, and working together.

I leave this role with a deep sense of gratitude and a great deal of

confidence in Waterloo's future. I know this community will continue to come together, to support one another, and to take on the big challenges ahead.

I am also happy to share that I'm not going very far. I will be continuing as a faculty member at the University of Waterloo, with appointments in the School of Pharmacy and the School of Public Health Sciences. I look forward to staying connected and contributing to work in health, technology, and society in the years ahead.

Thank you for all that you do for Waterloo. It has truly been an honour.



# FROM CO-OP TO CEO: SANJAY BERI ON BUILDING COMPANIES THAT LAST

**Netskope founder and CEO gives an inside look at his entrepreneurial journey**

By Staff, Office of Advancement

For software entrepreneurs like Sanjay Beri (BASc '99), data is a core driver of company value.

"If you have proprietary data, in many cases that's commensurate with your market cap," Beri said during an exclusive event for the University of Waterloo community in Santa Clara. The event featured a fireside chat between Beri and Jagdeep Singh Bachher (BASc '93, MASc '94, PhD '00), Chancellor of Waterloo. Together, they discussed Beri's career path and perspective as Co-founder and CEO of Netskope, a global cybersecurity company.

Beri has spent decades at the intersection of technology, leadership and risk. From early roles at Microsoft to senior leadership positions at large enterprise firms and multiple startups, he developed a clear-eyed view of how organizations succeed in an increasingly volatile digital world.

That perspective was shaped early at Waterloo, where Beri studied computer engineering during the program's first year. He credits the University's co-op system with helping him discover not just what he wanted to do, but what he didn't.

"Waterloo was really my definitive period," he said. "You get to experience different companies, different geographies, different leadership styles — almost a decade of experience in a short time."

Those experiences helped Beri realize that while he loved technology, his passion lay in building organizations around it.

"I realized I didn't just want to build great technology, I wanted to build the team, the culture, the whole thing," he says. "Technology is the foundation, but the company you build around it is what actually creates lasting impact."



## A strategy that acknowledges the inevitable

That blend of technical fluency and business leadership became the foundation for Netskope. Launched as cloud computing was gaining momentum, the company was built on the assumption that breaches are inevitable and security strategies must be designed accordingly.

"You have to live with the notion that you have vulnerabilities," Beri said. "You have to design your security strategy with that in mind."

Rather than focusing solely on preventing attacks, Netskope emphasizes protecting what matters most: sensitive data, users and systems operating in real time across cloud platforms and AI-powered applications. As artificial intelligence accelerates both innovation and cybercrime, Beri believes the imbalance between attackers and defenders is only widening.

"Criminals can adopt technology way faster than organizations," he said. "They don't have regulation, bureaucracy or politics. They just move." That reality has profound implications for leaders, particularly as AI becomes embedded in everyday work. According to Beri, insider risk (whether malicious or accidental) now accounts for the majority of security incidents. This trend is amplified by uncertainty about how AI will reshape jobs and industries.

## Focus on culture and people

For Beri, technology alone isn't enough to meet those challenges. Culture matters just as much.

"Culture is kind of what we believe. It's how we want to work, how we want people to feel when they're at the company," he said. "It also has real business value."

At Netskope, that belief translates into transparency, open dialogue and minimizing hierarchy. Beri regularly hosts open forums where any employee can ask questions about strategy, leadership decisions or even office snacks. The goal, he says, is to create an environment where information flows freely and problems surface early.

That people-first approach also extends beyond the company. Beri views giving back as a responsibility that comes with success, particularly for entrepreneurs shaped by institutions like Waterloo.

For students and alumni navigating careers in an era defined by rapid technological change, Beri's advice is pragmatic: explore widely, learn quickly and stay grounded in what truly differentiates your work.

"Use this time to collect experiences, not just credentials. The things that make you different from everyone else in the room — that's what compounds over time."



## SPECIAL FEATURE

# FAITH IN ACTION: THREE-DAY GYAAN YAJNA UNITES DEVOTION, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**S**hiva Shakti Sai Bhavan Mandir concluded a spiritually uplifting weekend as devotees from across Canada, the Caribbean and beyond gathered from June 26–28 for Gyaan Yajna, a three-day celebration of sacred knowledge, devotion and selfless service.

Following a special 75th Birthday Guru Pooja and Gayatri Mata Pooja held in honour of a lifelong devotee and supporter of the mandir, the Gyaan Yajna continued with three days of scriptural discourse led by Pandit Sunil Seetahal Maharaj of Trinidad & Tobago. His inspiring presentations invited participants to reflect on the timeless wisdom of Sanatan Dharma and its relevance in today's world.

Centred around the mandir's guiding message, "From Mantra to Seva," the Gyaan Yajna emphasized that authentic spirituality extends beyond ritual and prayer into everyday acts of compassion, integrity and service. Throughout the weekend, devotees immersed themselves in Vedic chanting, devotional music, sacred worship, scriptural reflection and fellowship, creating an atmosphere of reverence, learning and spiritual renewal.

Pandit Sunil reminded attendees that the purpose of spiritual knowledge is not merely intellectual understanding, but inner transformation. His teachings encouraged participants to cultivate humility, strengthen their relationship with God, uphold dharma in daily life, and express devotion through loving service to others.

One of the weekend's most meaningful expressions of this philosophy took place on Saturday morning through the mandir's Sai's Helping Hands Annadaan Seva Pop-Up Food Bank. A total of 108 grocery hampers containing essential food staples were distributed to individuals and families



throughout the community. Each hamper represented far more than nourishment - it was an offering of compassion, dignity and hope, demonstrating that the blessings of the yajna extend beyond the mandir and into the lives of those in need.

The initiative reflected the ancient Hindu principle of annadaan - the sacred offering of food - which has long been regarded as one of the highest forms of charity. By integrating



community outreach directly into the spiritual program, the mandir demonstrated that worship and service are inseparable expressions of the same devotion.



Throughout the three days, seva dals worked tirelessly behind the scenes, preparing the mandir, welcoming guests, assisting with ceremonies, serving prasadam, coordinating hospitality and organizing the Annadaan Seva initiative. Their dedication embodied the teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who taught that selfless service performed with love is itself a form of worship.

Families worshipped together, youth participated enthusiastically alongside elders, and many first-time visitors experienced the welcoming spirit that has become a hallmark of Shiva Shakti Sai Bhavan Mandir. The Gyaan Yajna became not only an opportunity to deepen one's understanding of scripture, but also to strengthen friendships, build community and reaffirm the shared values that unite people across generations.

The weekend also reflected the mandir's continuing commitment to integrating spiritual practice with meaningful community engagement. Through regular worship, educational programming, charitable outreach and cultural initiatives, Shiva Shakti Sai Bhavan Mandir continues to cultivate a model of contemporary Hindu life rooted in the timeless principles of Sanatan Dharma while responding compassionately to the needs of the broader community.

As the sacred fire offerings concluded and the final prayers were offered, participants departed carrying with them more than the inspiration of three days of spiritual learning. They left with a renewed commitment to transform knowledge into character, devotion into service and faith into compassionate action.



Shiva Shakti Sai Bhavan Mandir extends its heartfelt gratitude to Pandit Sunil Seetahal Maharaj, the yajna pujaris, the yajman family, the dedicated seva dals and every devotee whose collective efforts made both the Gyaan Yajna and the 108-hamper Sai's Helping Hands Annadaan Seva Pop-Up Food Bank a resounding success.

Reflecting the mandir's enduring philosophy, From Devotion to Divinity, the Gyaan Yajna once again demonstrated that when sacred knowledge is lived through service,



faith becomes a force for strengthening families, uplifting communities and preserving the timeless continuity of Sanatan Dharma for generations to come.

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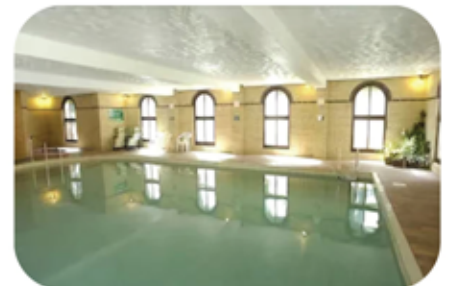


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# DISCOVER THE ISLE OF WIGHT



The Isle of Wight is an island off the south coast of England which, together with its surrounding uninhabited islets and skerries, is also a ceremonial county. The county is bordered by Hampshire across the Solent strait to the north, and is otherwise surrounded by the English Channel. Its largest settlement is Ryde, and the administrative centre is Newport.

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