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The Voice of Tamil Youth 2010

Third Issue

Finally you can get inside the head of your child!

*Released during the
Annual Dinner and Talent Show
'Natchatrum 2010'*

**On
13 November 2010**

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There have been many major events that have taken place this year, one of which was the Football World Cup in South Africa where Spain was victorious.

No one can argue that they deserved to win the competition; the manner in which they won it was impressive, but significant. It was an achievement not dominated by one or two gifted player but by the whole team. It was teamwork, a collective achievement.

Teamwork, effective teamwork is not as easy it may seem. It takes a lot of hard work and compromise, but if it is managed, it will lead to success. One of the main features of effective teamwork is good communication. We must be able express our views clearly and also accept other people's opinions to progress.

Here at 11 Stars, we are into our third year of publishing our magazine; we are letting you know of our opinions because we understand the importance of effective teamwork. We are not there yet, but we are getting there, and with more hard work, determination and of course, your help, we too can work effectively to become a very successful club in our community.

11 Stars Sports Club proudly presents;

**The voice of our pride,
The voice of our opinions,
The voice of our future,**

This is 'The Voice of Tamil Youth 2010'

White Fire Aishwarya Designer Sarees

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ஐரிகை! பாடரில் பாருங்கள்.

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Finally You can get Inside the Head of Your Child!



11 Stars Sports Club have brought together articles from young Tamils' living in the UK.

These young people have bravely agreed to share their views, opinions, and stories regarding various issues in Tamil and other cultures, and we have decided to share them with you.

It is important that you do not judge all young people on what you read, or even judge at all.

As you do, young people also have a voice, we must hear them, and we must listen hard! It is time we took notice!

**This is always
'The Voice of Tamil Youth'**





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Message from Chief Guest



I have great pleasure in sending this message of good wishes to the "11 Stars Sports Club"

Within the relatively short time of its existence, the "11 Stars Football Club" would appear to have expanded its activities so as to justify its transition to become the "11 Stars Sports Club". What this demonstrates is the dedication of the Club and its members to offer youngsters an opportunity to participate in a wider area of sporting activities.

Another success story is that, in addition to its other activities, the "11 Stars Sports Club" has been producing each year their magazine called "The Voice of Tamil Youth" which contains quite a number of interesting pieces of writing that reflects and manifests the creative talents of its members and well-wishers.

Many of the writings are of high quality and their authors have displayed their capacity to become good writers in the future.

The youth of this country are going through tough times and facing many new challenges. The Government's swingeing cuts in public expenditure, and particularly the lifting of the cap on tuition fees in universities are bound to bring major problems for the student community and especially those belonging to poorer families. One anticipates that the young writers to "The Voice of Tamil Youth" will want to discuss these new problems and challenges in their articles.

A senior member of the Club recently asked me whether "there is a chance for Tamil youth to get involved in politics in the UK nowadays." The Sri Lanka Tamil community in the UK, or for that matter in all countries where they reside in large numbers, is one of the most politicised immigrant communities. However their politics is by and large "ethnicised" because of the conflict in Sri Lanka. Their interest in the "politics of the host countries" is quite limited and their interest is in the ethnic politics in Sri Lanka. However, in recent years many Sri Lankan Tamils in the UK have participated in local government politics and elections and won seats in Local Councils in areas where substantial number of Tamils reside and have their votes registered. It is my view there is every chance for educated young Tamils, rather than remain mired in ethnic politics like their older folk, to involve themselves in the national politics of the UK and play a significant role in the governance of the country which by all accounts is their home.

I wish the "11 Stars Sports Club" every success in all their endeavours in the coming years.

P.Rajanayagam



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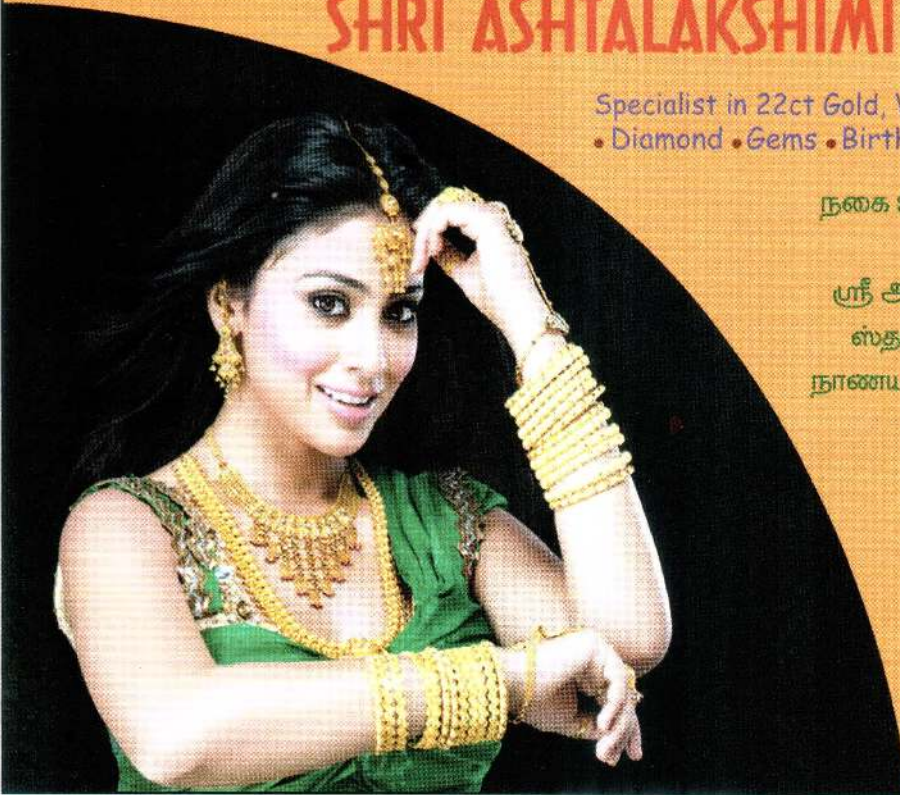
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Mr Nirmalan,
13 Arcus Road
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27th October 2010

Dear Sir,

First of all, I'd like to say how sorry I am to not be joining you all for this year's Natchatram. As the new Member of Parliament for Lewisham East, my door is always open to the local Tamil community and I was delighted to see the enthusiasm for sport that exists amongst young Tamils when I attended the Tamil Sports Day at Ladywell Fields earlier this year. I know that over the last few years the 11 Stars Sports Club has gone from strength to strength and that the Club provides fantastic opportunities for many young people. I hope the Club continues to grow and I wish you every success in the future.

Once again my apologies for not being able to make it.

Regards,

Heidi Alexander MP

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பிரித்தானிய தமிழர் விளையாட்டு அமைப்பு British Tamil Sports League

வணக்கம்.

ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட நாளில் இருந்தே, எங்களது அனைத்து மைதான நிகழ்வுகளிலும் தமது முழுஒத்துழைப்பையும், பங்களிப்பையும் நல்கிவரும் '11 stars sports club' நடாத்தும் நிகழ்வு தனது நோக்கங்களை அடையவும், வெற்றிபெறவும் வாழ்த்துவதுடன் அவர்களும் நாங்களும் இணைந்து கடக்கவேண்டிய தொலைதூரங்கள் பற்றியும் இந்த நேரத்தில் குறிப்பிடலாம் என எண்ணுகின்றேன்.

பொதுவாகவே மைதானங்கள் என்பது பரஸ்பரம் நட்பையும், சகிப்புத்தன்மையையும், முழுஈடுபாட்டுடன் முயற்சிக்கவேண்டிய பண்பையும் ஊட்டும் ஒரு களமாகவே பார்க்கப்படுகின்றது. இதற்கும் மேலாக நாம் ஒரு விடுதலையை தேடும் இனமாக இருப்பதால் மைதானங்களையும், அதன் போட்டிகளையும் எமது தேசியஒற்றுமைக்கு வலுச்சேர்க்கும் விடயங்களாகவே மாற்றிக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். பிரித்தானிய தமிழர் விளையாட்டு அமைப்பின் நோக்கங்களில் அதுவும் ஒன்று. முக்கியமான நோக்கமும் அதுதான்.

அந்தவகையில், 11Stars sports club எம்முடன் பலவிதமான தருணங்களிலும், நிகழ்வுகளிலும் இணைந்தே நிற்பது பாராட்டக்கூடியதும், நன்றியுடன் நினைவுகூரக்கூடியதும் ஆகும். ஒத்துழைப்புக்கும், முழுஈடுபாட்டுக்கும் முன் உதாரணமாக விளங்கும் இந்த இளைஞர்கள் நாளை எமது தேசியத்தின் வழிநடத்துணர்களாக இருப்பார்கள் என ஆழமாக நம்புகின்றேன்.

இவர்கள் நடாத்தும் இந்தக் கலைநிகழ்வு வெற்றிகரமாக நடைபெற பிரித்தானிய தமிழர் விளையாட்டு அமைப்பின் சார்பில் நான் இதயபூர்வமான வாழ்த்துகளையும், எமது ஒத்துழைப்பையும் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.

இனிவரும் காலங்களிலும் இந்தக் கழகம் எம்முடன் இணைந்து எமது மக்கள் மத்தியிலான விளையாட்டு நிகழ்வுகளை ஊக்குவிக்க முன்நிற்கும் என நம்புகிறோம். எங்களது நோக்கங்கள் ஒன்றாக இருப்பதால் எமது இலக்கும் பாதையும் ஒன்றாகவே இருக்கின்றது. அதை நோக்கி முன்னகர்வோம்!!

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It gives me great pleasure to give a congratulatory message on behalf of Tamil Schools Sports Association (UK) – TSSA (UK) for your souvenir, marking your third Anniversary Dinner Dance.

I was fortunate to attend your dinner dances for the last two years and would like to praise all the members for the professionalism and the mix of contemporary and traditional styles in which you organise these events.

It is always a pleasure to see all the young boys representing the 11 Star sports club when it goes to participate in football tournament with discipline and willing to help the organisers to make those events to be successful year after year.

We are pleased to see 11 Star Sports Club representing Ponalai, Tellipallai Sir Kanagasabai Vidyalayam at the annual TSSA (UK) Football tournament and performing well.

The London 2012 Olympics is two years away. It is important for young sports club like yours to try and represent our community in some way and contribute to celebrate this upcoming memorable sporting occasion.

I would like to take this opportunity in congratulating the committee on their fantastic efforts in organising tonight's event.

I wish you all to have a wonderful dinner dance today and wish you for success in the future.

A Thiruketheeswaran
President – TSSA (UK)



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TSSA (UK) is an independent, charitable collective organisation of Old Students Associations in the United Kingdom serving the Tamil Schools in Sri Lanka



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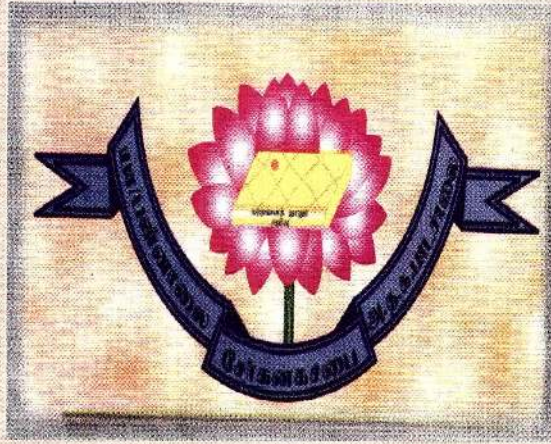
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சேர் கனகசபை அரசினர் தமிழ்க் கலவன் பாடசாலை பன்னாலை – தெல்லிப்பழை

சேர் கனகசபை அரசினர் தமிழ்க் கலவன் பாடசாலை 1855ம் ஆண்டு விழிசிட்டியில் திரு அம்பலவாணர் உபாத்தியாயரால் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு, திரு அருணாசல உபாத்தியாயரிடம் ஒப்படைக்கப்பட்டது.

155வருடகால நீண்ட சரித்திரம் கொண்ட இப்பாடசாலை பின்னர் பன்னாலை திரு சங்கரநாதர் கனகசபை அவர்களால் பொறுப்பெடுக்கப்பட்டு நடத்தப்பட்டது. அதன் பின்பு சேர் அம்பலவாணர் கனகசபை அவர்களால் முகாமையாளராகப் பொறுப்பெடுத்து நடத்தப்பட்டது. இவரின் முகாமையின் கீழ் பாடசாலை யாழ் மாவட்டத்தின் சைவமும் தமிழும் வளர்த்த சிறந்த வித்தியாலயங்களில் ஒன்றாகத் திகழ்ந்தது.

1869இல் அரசின் உதவி நன்கொடை பெற்ற முதலாவது சைவப் பாடசாலையாக விளங்கியது. 1960ம் ஆண்டு ஏனைய பாடசாலைகள் போலவே அரசினால் பொறுப்பெடுக்கப்பட்டது. இதனால் அதிபர் நிர்வாகக் கட்டுப்பாட்டின் கீழ் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டது.

1960முதல் 1986ம் ஆண்டுவரையான காலப்பகுதி இந்த வித்தியாலயத்தின் பொற்காலமாக கருதப்படுகின்றது.

இப்படியான புகழுக்கும் மரியாதைக்கும் உரிய இந்தக் கல்விநிறுவனத்தின் பழையமாணவர் சங்க விளையாட்டுக்குழுவாக இந்தமண்ணில் விளையாட்டுக்களில் பங்குகொள்வதில் பெருமைப்படுகின்றோம்.

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Senior Members Message

This year has seen a turbulent period for 11 Stars Sports Club, but with a bright future at the end of it all. For the third successive year we are producing the recognised magazine – The Voice of Tamil Youth, as well as the Tamil community programme in the South East – Natchatram 2010.



In terms of sporting ambition, the club has seen the development of its Under 10 and Under 12 football teams, and genuine interest from both players and parents. It is a great joy to see such growth and interest from the youngest Tamils. It gives us even more pride to say that in their first season, the youngsters have shown the way they intend to continue, by winning silverware. Mainly, Runners-up at this year's Hartley College open day tournament.

The senior football teams unfortunately have not had as much joy. But progress is steady. The inclusion of outside wiser coaches and support increases the opportunity of success in the future. Dasan Arulthas, a veteran of Tamil football, yet still so young and his associates, are doing a fantastic job with the senior members of the team.

The club has begun its transition from 11 Stars Football Club to 11 Stars Sports Club, with the beginnings of its Girls Netball sector, and would welcome any parents and girls, who would love to play, socialise, help and meet others.

The Voice of Tamil Youth has provided the voice that all Young Tamils need, and it shows in the growing interest from the public and the internet. It's wonderful to see so many articles translated onto Tamil websites.

The club prides itself on being run by young people, and the rewards for it, show in the aftermath of producing earlier editions of this magazine and the annual show- Natchatram. One member had an offer to write a fictional book, after his writing credentials were recognised in the first ever edition of the Voice of Tamil Youth in 2008, and the club were also gaining interest to support projects to help other neighbouring areas affected by Tamil anti-social behaviour.

The coming year proves to be one of extreme interest. The club has re-vamped its constitution, with a legal team taking charge to ensure the future of the club is in safe hands. Our first annual general meeting will take place in spring 2011. With this will come more interest, and hopefully the merger of other groups and clubs to include in South East London's first ever recognised Tamil sports club.

The reputation of the club has increased immensely over the last three years, just take a look at the sponsors who support our cause and those who donate generously towards the charities we support year on year.

Finally our success depends on you, our supporters, not just South East London Tamil supporters, but world wide supporters of the next generation of Tamils. We look forward to a successful sporting year for 11 Stars Sports club as well as writing to you all again about those successes next year.

For now, just a simple Thank you, to you all for your support and recognition of young Tamils.

Remember to...

"Always Reach For the Stars"



Message from Junior Members



11 Stars has come a long way in the past year. The club has expanded considerably with already more than double the number of players than last year. The club has moved forward very quickly. It has changed from being a football club to a sports club and has taken on young footballers at U10 level. This change could not have been done if not for the hard work of the senior members. They have put in many hours to making the transition successful; training us every weekend when they could easily be doing something else they want. The senior members take care of us very well week after week. They always provide the necessary transport and give us advice when we most need it.

We as youngsters have had many problems along the way, balancing sport and education in our daily lives. We have learnt a lot balancing homework and training and knowing which to give more priority and when to give it. In being part of 11 Stars Sports Club we learnt vital skills such as time management, teamwork and communication which we know will become important in our lives later.

Despite the positives however finance is still a problem. Collecting enough funds still proves to be a difficulty. We hope this year 'Natchatram' can be of even more of a success than last year to help with the stability of the club for the coming year and for the future. We hope to enter the same tournaments as last year and possibly more. We will continue to work hard in training to improve our football skills and techniques and aim to give our best in every match. We are immensely proud to be part of 11 Stars Sports Club hope you will proud of what we have achieved so far.

**We thank you sincerely for your support and
thank you also for coming to our show
'Natchatram'.**





Our History

We began out as football enthusiasts, as in every club, who started out literally as a group of three kicking a football around with whoever was available, on a regular basis, every Sunday as it so happens.

On one such day it was decided that we should try to establish, a team of some sort, and phone calls were made to known Tamil youngsters in South East London to see if they may be interested in playing football with us. As the days rolled on, our pursuit for players proved worthy, and more and more new players turned up. We found ourselves with many who were committed to playing football and interested in joining our club. Therefore, on the 5th of November 2006 we held a meeting with six team members to establish a foundation.

At the beginning of February 2007, the number evolved to eight, and we started to organise proper football training, utilising training cones, creating and playing in mini matches. We were no more than a few youngsters who enjoyed football, wanting to play. Eventually we managed to create a team of eleven players during the summer of 2007, and at that point, (September 2007) the team was aptly named 11 Stars Football Club.

As 11 Stars, a majority of students we had great difficulties in finance. We raised monies ourselves, and entered competitions as frequently as possible. We immediately recognised a need for funds, as we were donating our own monies to the club. Further thought was put in and it was decided that our club would yearly host a charity event named "Natchatram" and publish "The Voice of Tamil Youth" as souvenir including in it articles wrote by members of the Tamil youth and sponsored by businesses all over London. The first ever Natchatram in 2008 was a great success!

11 Stars football club entered into British Tamils Sports League on 30th of September 2007. We lost that first game very badly, but we never forget a saying, which we often repeated; "Losing is the steps to victory". With this in mind and a strong mentality, we won the following game and finished 7th on the league table and were knocked out of the cup competition at an earlier stage for the season 2007/2008. For 2008/2009 season we started with a very strong mentality and fought extremely well to improve our position in the table and we had finished 5th.

This was a big improvement however; our aim was to bring the title home. Since we failed our mission in the league, we again stepped up a level in training, reviewed our mistakes, and enhanced our strategies. We again entered the league cup competition with a passion to win it, but we played extremely well enough to grab the silver. This was our club's first ever trophy success. It was great to end the season with silver wear but not enough and we are still hungry for the golden medal.

At this stage (September 2009) we slowly started to integrate in to a sports club. As many girls was interested in starting 11 Stars Netball team. Our Coaches are FA Qualified, as well as a qualified First Aider and child protection to deal with children as to develop sport amongst the younger generations.

We again started the season 2009/10 with a hope of bringing the title home but we could only better ourselves in the league table to finish 4th. Now we have a volunteered full time coach to coach the talented young squad. This season we are progressing to pursue our dream of the gold medal and in winning titles as a reward to our commitment for our passion. Let us hope our efforts are fruitful.

**Top Three Best Articles
from last year Magazine
Judged by our Guest of honour
Clr Pete Pattission**

Finally embracing our 'Tamil' culture

The atrocities heard, witnessed and suffered, notably this year in Sri Lanka, have undoubtedly changed the views of the British Tamil youth community generating a new release of pride and passion in Tamil Eelam. Ensuring to steer away from any political topics, I have decided to reflect over what these past months have meant to me, as a teenage British Tamil, and essentially highlight the clear unity we have shown for our home country. Something we young Tamils are finally embracing; something which has made a profound change in my life.

However disparaging it is to accept this truth; many young Tamils were rather oblivious and unfortunately unconcerned about the happenings in Tamil Eelam; and yes, I was in this faction. It is apparent that some Tamils prefer to disconnect themselves from their mother tongue and have no interest in taking the effort in understanding why, when and how their parents had to leave their homeland. Many look at their position in life: modern society, new opportunities, expensive privileges, yet forgetting to be grateful for being alive. Furthermore, those who claim to stay intact with traditions, worship daily at the temple or learn cultural arts at an extensive level, still ultimately do not know the true meaning of being a Tamil. Obviously this is not depicted in every young Tamil across Britain with more and more becoming patriotic than ever before. For me it is simple sense of wellbeing; you need to feel it and see it... only until this year I have truly understood what it means to be a Sri Lankan Tamil.

Personally, this time last year I knew relatively nothing about Eelam. I did not know anything about the actual 'truth' and I did not know anything about the problems until the Tamil media brought it all to focus. The numerous protests to raise awareness during the months of February till June, contributed by groups of young Tamils with friends and family in various associations, undeniably showed the Tamil community that the younger generation DO care and DO understand. For the majority of Tamil youngsters taking to the streets were their way of showing their support for their country. Observing the colourful merging sea of vivid reds and yellows; rising with the strong uproar of voices; flooded by the continuous beating of drums, was enough for me to see the solidarity and the passion us Tamils have. I was enthused by the patriotic sense that rushed through the crowd and turned to see my friends urging others to follow in their chants. Those many hours were tiring, yet I knew every step we took brought me a surreal reasoning of optimism and belief in my 'Tamilness.' Inevitably, this led me to have a fuller understanding of it all. As we marched shouting our thoughts and expanding knowledge on Tamil Eelam, I felt that change; I felt a new motivation within me.

In essence, this participation showed the world that we Tamils are united through all ages. Some saw it as an obligation to do all they could in human power to help those suffering. The problems at home significantly changed countless youths' concerns even disturbing their school life.

Finally embracing

Being in my crucial year of secondary school, with GCSEs and A levels looming in the distance for others as well, numerous found it challenging to cope with the emotional stress and it encouraged many to spend their evenings standing outside Parliament in the bitter cold instead of immersing themselves in books in the comfort of their own home. For me, those who put their heart and soul into fighting for Eelam whilst sacrificing their education are truly outstanding.

Moving on, when taking into account the diverse ages of all Tamils, even those at higher education have been affected deeply as well with university students holding more visuals and congregations for charities, Amnesty International for example, or commencing campaigns to help others to understand and commit to the passion for raising awareness. Moreover, thousands of working adults gave up days' worth of income in order to protest, many including independent based employees who rely on their own businesses to provide income. Halting a business ceases the ability to trade and bring in money; something discouraged yet was done by Tamil families showing again older generations are demonstrating likewise and maintaining these events.

This unity was not only seen in the UK, but worldwide with mass protests, campaigns, boycotts and hunger strikes to draw attention to Sri Lanka's 25-year civil war; countries with Tamil Diaspora across the whole spectrum. This fact illuminates that all ages have come to terms with who they are, and where they are from. Several may look down upon the struggles fought and experienced, yet we must acknowledge that it is a blessing that finally all Tamils really do understand the emotional pain inflicted on our homeland, and more importantly to identify this understanding within the British Tamil youth. I do believe the passion for this is similarly reflected through 11 stars- a team filled with the passion for football which we collectively care about.

In the same way, we finally can stand together, us young Tamils, and look into our hearts as we embrace our 'Tamilness,' certifying to keep Eelam alive.

Saravanan Eswaravel, 17



Wake Up

"Wake up and smell the coffee, Mr Larusso..." is what the evil Terry Silver said to Daniel San in Karate Kid III. There is something about that one-liner that has made me aware of how quickly the world is changing. If you are a graduate looking for a job or fortunate enough to be working but worried about job security then it's time to do exactly that, wake up and smell the coffee!

With the economic downturn coming to a very slow but hopeful end, finding that dream job is getting harder and harder. However, it is not impossible to recession-proof your career! Now is the time to wax on and wax off your CV and bring it up to date with your most recent work experience, cultivate some solid references and do your research about the companies you are applying for.

First things first, in order to protect your career you have to look after its health. You have to understand that you will only ever excel in a job that you genuinely enjoy. Ask yourself whether you can see yourself doing this for the rest of your life and if your answer is no, then look for something that meets your ambitions.

If you are already in that dream job, congratulations! Now you have to make sure you maintain your profile within the company and request regular feedbacks from your manager and colleagues outside your department. By communicating within the framework of your employer, you are giving management the message that you are there to enhance your own capabilities and helping the company move forward. A good way to do this is by taking on more responsibilities in your current role. Take on project work and think about ways of how to improve the processes and productivity at your work place and then discuss with your manager whether it is worthwhile implementing this change. In short, you need to show your dedication to the company.

Now if you are looking for that dream job during a period of economic recession, do not assume that companies are not hiring. They are, however may be a little more selective than the usual. This is where your newly refurbished CV and thorough research comes in handy. You may also want to think about strengthening your skills and learning new ones. Do not pay attention when people talk about lay-offs, it will only prove detrimental towards your efforts. Instead, spend time trawling through job sites that let you search for roles matching your skills and experience, read the job specifications and look to match your CV to those. If you are particularly worried, look into the industry sectors with the least redundancies and highest job security.

Lastly, there are plenty of industry specific networking opportunities where you will meet people from various levels and career backgrounds with lots of great advice. You will make useful contacts and get a feel for what you should anticipate when you finally end up working in your chosen career. Good luck!

Pras Gengatharan

Are you afraid?

Is it right to be afraid when you walk down your street? Is it right that you should be afraid of leaving your Mum and Dad at home or in certain neighbourhoods alone? Is it right that we are afraid at all, in a nation which is supposed to be free? Well I am, every single day.

As a child I was never surrounded by Tamils, there was certainly no Tamil television channels or movies to watch in an era that saw VCRs priced at £180.00 or so and DVDs a fancy dream somewhere in the long-off future.

Today, DVDs are a thing of the past, and Blue-Ray is the new craze of the technological world. Most of the people I know are Tamil; I speak it, maybe not read or write it, and occasionally watch the odd Tamil film. Not to mention that fish and chips have suddenly gone out of the window, being replaced by Iddiappam and Katarikai Culombu, especially if it's Friday, and as I walk down the street I am amazed at how many groups of youngsters there are wearing loud gangster or hip-hop associated clothes and acting suspiciously menacing. Then I notice that they're Tamil, and probably all but a few are known to me. One of them is even my little cousin; my little brother.

It seems that I've reached an age, where I have almost forgotten the pressures that are seemingly on the shoulders of young Tamils as they strive from day to day. I've sat down with some of my cousins or friend's younger brothers/sisters and asked them why they seem to ignore their parents so much and continuously create a bad image for themselves. The answers that are generally murmured, but I would probably be right in assuming that maybe groups of their friends are doing certain things or have something that they themselves would like, and the need to rebel is required in order to achieve it.

I have found through speaking and arguing with youngsters that it all boils down to respect and reputation. Somewhere along the line, reputation and respect have basically been twisted in the eyes of youngsters from earning it through hard work, determination and belief to looking cool and sexy and to be seen as hard, well-known and in a good few cases, fearful. By just acting out in these ways, the natural order of our young human lives has shifted to something artificial, thinking becomes clouded without realising and what was once important; (education, sports, family and well-being) takes a back seat, to being seen to be the hottest thing around.

You may think there is nothing wrong in being cool and being the hottest thing around, and there isn't. What is wrong, is the associated risks of trying to be cool and keeping it up. The choices that can and are made due to the fact that you have to stay on top of your game; if you're a boy, you got to keep the girls interested as well as your boys loyal to you and vice-versa. Peer pressure can become a common feature, and rebellious behaviour is probably quite common. Individuals start to act and feel differently about certain aspects of life, and before you know it, you've become someone that even you don't recognise. Now imagine this spiralling further out of control and leading to what is unfortunately noticed in our community as gang culture.

By no means am I suggesting that all youngsters are like this, I would be a hypocrite if I did, as although I was no angel, I certainly wasn't the devil. What I am actually trying to address, is that maybe as parents and older siblings, we haven't taken the right methods to ensure that our young stay on the right path, or maybe we got it right and Tamil youngsters are just ignorant.

Are you

I believe that it is a mixture of both, a lack of real or required attention from the elder as well as a 'me against the world' approach from the youngsters.

A few years ago I met a young Tamil guy in a group on the streets of East London, in what is blatantly 'thought out loud of' as a gang. The others looked older, and acted OK with me, as I was with someone who they respected, and this particular youngster was well groomed with the traditional 'rowdy' look that time and stereotyping has made so familiar to us. After questioning the youngster as to his age, he said he was 17. I got chatting to him, and eventually asked him if he was looking forward to university life in a year or so, his reply was "nah man, I ain't going uni, I ain't even gone college". To which I asked him why? He told me that he had had ongoing arguments with his parents, as well as family relations breaking down at home, and he saw his boys as a means of an escape route, but was simply drifting the streets doing meaningless things. I asked him, what he would do with his life, and he said he wasn't sure. I daren't ask him how he was keeping so well from day to day, or where living expenses came from. I advised him to get a job and to do some sort of course at an adult learning centre, I pleaded and urged him. I've never seen him since, and I don't know what happened to him. I just hope he is OK and that he took my advice.

The thing that stuck in my mind was that he was a smart person, who could have had a good future, but it all went wrong at home, with his relationship to his parents. Although I believe that the older generation are set in their ways, and will find it difficult to change or understand the cultural differences which their child or children have and are being brought up in, it is not too late for all of us. It is up to me and you (the next generation) to change all that. We have to allow ourselves the means and efforts to provide them with opportunity, stability and understanding.

I have always thought that through Sports, we have a method of making a small or even large difference in the; competitive, responsible and self-worth of all young people, teaching them how to earn respect and confront problems as a team and individual, it also helps escape from the reality of everyday life, while you concentrate on something new and different.

I do not know what most of our (11 Stars FC / SKV*) young players do outside of training, but I can assure you of this. Whilst at training, I try through various methods to teach and in-still in each of them the qualities to; learn, increase fitness, work as a team, become responsible and achieve. As I get to know them better and grow closer, I continuously worry about them and their futures, but have often been shocked and very proud to see substantial positive differences in certain individuals where I thought my efforts were not rewarded. As well as its sporting elements, I am happy to say that the club has turned out like most clubs should be; a family.

At times I often wonder what would happen, if some of the guys at the club had no role models or people who understood and listened to them, and I always come to the same conclusion, Rebellion! At such a young age, they are prone to take on ideas and trends and get duped into situations which are then stuck in their mind and are hard to get rid off. They may rebel against parents, they rebel against older brothers/sisters and other family members. They may rebel against teachers, tutors and maybe eventually everyone that cares.

I would hate it if one day my kids ended up resenting or rebelling against me, so I already know from what I see today with our Tamil youngsters, that I need to pay careful attention and care to them as well as how I raise them.

Are you

Violence in the latest Vijay film, or seeing another group of individuals acting in a certain way, carrying knives and wearing what some people think of as fearful/gang related attire, will only deprive them of what they do not know, a higher, enriched life. However I'm always hoping that it's just a phase, a passing yet long moment in time, which they will one day break away, but this is not always the case, and while they are young, we must support, encourage and ensure that they learn and shadow the right qualities from us.

I talk from experience and maybe even stories or as Tamil people like to call it, gossip. I know of people who have been sent to prison, come out and away from past related behaviour and trouble, and made a life for themselves. To be brutally honest, I am proud of them, as it's easy to show pride in high achieving individuals, but when someone has gone to the depths of destruction and turned their life around, it makes me believe that there is still hope, that the battle is not said and done, that we as a community and race are starting to change. However I have also known of individuals who have died as a result or consequence of gang related incidences. I am hoping that it's at this point as you are reading this article that you are thinking of making a few changes in your own life, whether parent or youngster.

It's raw and brutal, but these are just facts, pure and as honest as you like. I hope to God, I never see the day, that one of my cousins or nephews ends up on the wrong path. If we do not correct our ways now, we will have already failed.

After seeing and hearing of difficult and strange acts of threats, violence, and general fear related situations, I have taken it upon myself to learn some self defence, so that I can at least look after myself, should the situation arise. Although I don't think it's right for me to walk the streets needing one eye on the back of my head, but that is just how I feel that life has become sometimes.

I hope that through my experiences and ways of life, I can teach and ensure at least a hand-full of individuals within my family and the club I help train, to be happy with themselves, and ensure that they stay on the straight and narrow path to success. At least that way, I can make sure there is one less person for you to be fearful of, when walking down your street.

*SKV = Sir Kanagasabai Vidayala

Janagan Srigengatharan (Age, 25)



Roots

Lakshmi Rasaratnam (25)

Many Tamil children grow up with their parents wanting them to become Doctors, Dentists and accountants. I was lucky. My parents just wanted me to grow up and do something I would enjoy...which just so happened to be Dentistry. But I did not come to this decision for the same reason as most people do. When I was a child, I was petrified of going to the dentist; it was my worst fear. Until one day, I was riding my bike and I fell, broke my two anterior incisors and had to be taken to an emergency dentist for treatment. Due to my anxiety it was felt that my care was best dealt with at Eastman Dental Hospital. I spent the next 7 years having treatment there for various reasons including orthodontic treatment. During this time, I began to not only overcome my fear of dentistry, but also engage myself in the intricate nature of carrying out dental treatment which ultimately led me down the path of becoming a dentist.

I was never a particularly bright child when I grew up; however, I was always extremely hard working and enjoyed learning. I was lucky enough to have a grand-father who was extremely knowledgeable and always encouraged me with my learning. So once I had decided that I wanted to become a dentist, all I had to do was get the grades to do so. This was a mission in itself! I applied to Barts and the London Dental School as well as Kings College because I wanted to stay in London and I was lucky enough to get a place at Barts. Having always gone to public school, I was apprehensive about starting dentistry; especially as almost all of the other dental students in my year came from private schools. I felt that I would not be able to meet their standards and that I was out of my league even being there. So I worked harder than I had ever worked before in my life. And after I had completed the five years of dental school, not only had I got a distinction for every year, but I graduated at the top of my dental class. I felt so proud and shocked at what I had accomplished. I always felt beneath the other students because of where I had come from and all of the experiences and opportunities I never had. I realised that I had two reasons for why I was able to do so well, firstly, I had my late grandfather's support and encouragement, and secondly, by God's grace, I was able to achieve my dreams.

After graduating in 2008, I decided that I wanted to continue to educate myself further and carried out further post-graduate training. I got a job working at the Dental Hospital where I once studied and felt proud to be able to give back to the University that had faith in me. I still have so many career aspirations; including hopefully one day becoming a Consultant in Hospital and being a mentor for other aspiring students.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us, believe in yourself and achieve all that you can".



Thanks to 11 Stars Sports Club.

Garishon Nathan (9)

Hi my name is Garishon Nathan and I play for 11 Stars FC. I have been playing for 11 Stars FC for nearly two years. There are currently sixteen of us in our team and we are a family here. We are very well trained by our coach; in other football teams or clubs you would only get to play matches but in 11 Stars FC you get taught how to do everything like skills, shots, headers, dribbling and even how to do throw-ins as well as team work. I am having a great time playing for 11 stars FC and you get an opportunity to play in every tournament.



A New World Is Born

Miss Lady X

Having grown up in the west, fitted in with the society not necessarily forgetting our roots but having the need to be part of this culture also, we have all changed ourselves. From hair styles, clothes and to even our attitude, most parents have indeed accepted these changes, but others find it rather difficult. Thus, being unable to accept this as the cause of a change in environment, these parents tend to restrict their children from enjoying their lives as they wish to do so. Of course, there are limits and every parent has the right to look out for and protect their children, but does it not sometimes feel as though it is too much to handle?

One very common issue us youths have to endure is to convince our parents that befriending a boy or a girl is not bad. In my circumstance, it is about being friends with boys. When I first came to Natchatram in 2008, I hardly knew anybody- especially boys. I had seen people around and heard of them but not really spoken to them. I didn't think it was necessary. I just thought my family and girl friends are enough and when I left that hall that night, I had no idea that those people who were total strangers to me then would actually become a part of my life and would even be one of the reasons for who I am today. Now, two years later, I look back and just wonder why on earth I didn't meet them before!

If a girl and a boy are seen together, word immediately goes around that there must be some sort of connection between them. I find it extremely difficult to understand why our society responds to this like this. There is absolutely no reasons why this should be the case. Why does it have to be love? Couldn't it be friendship? You can have a girl best friend but you can just as equally have a guy best friend. I totally understand from parent's perspective that they are worried that something may happen and they do not know how to trust their children with whomever they are friends with. But I really do believe that they should be given a chance. It is all based upon trust and how valuable this friendship is to their children.

Within these two years, I have got to know a lot of people. I have formed many new friendship bonds, including with guys. It is only now that I truly understand boys and have finally believed that if you find your right friends then there is no harm. They, as all of your other friends, would stand by you and help you out at times of need. As an example, one of my friends has helped me become stronger and believe in myself more. Whether I went through hard times or whether I was perfectly happy, he was always there for me and still is and I am ever so grateful for that. Indeed we have had problems, but we have both learnt to forgive and solve these problems together. At the end of the day, what matters most is the fact that they will always be there for you and that they bring a smile to your face.

The purpose of this article is not to tell you all to start making friends with guys or girls. All I'm trying to say is that whether they are a girl or a boy, they are both equal and the only thing that counts is their personality. As for parents, I hope that you understand that most youngsters are only trying to make friends and nothing more. We are often mistaken to be girlfriend and boyfriend, but it is usually nothing like that. Maybe we should be given some chances to prove to you that we are just friends and thereafter we can behave normally and would not have to pretend like we don't know our friends in front of you!

Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.



My Love-Hate Relationship with Football

Vithy Indrakumar (22)

Okay, so where do I start? How about with the main reason as to why I hate football so much. Well it all started off with a boy, yup, just like every story of a phobia does.

Here's an equation: *He loves football + I love him + I hate the way he loves football more than me + He hates me for hating him for loving football = I hate him + He hates me, the feelings are mutual.*

To be honest, I don't really hate football, I'm just a little jealous, maybe a little attention seeking, but aren't we all?

Well I have my reasons, and I thought I would share a few with you.

Going the distance. I remember when I and Arun first started off. Travelling was always an issue, but he would manage to come down to my local park to see me every week. I was flattered, but not so much when I realized that the only reason he came down to my local park, because that where his football team train. Now didn't that make me feel very special?

Our first argument, Many people who aren't so fond of sports would just be a tag along and support the team of their partner, friends or parents do. Well there's no fun in that, so I decided to support the opposing team. Even though I originally supported the same as him, but just didn't want to feel like a lame tag along. Coincidentally, the opposing team won, and in return, somebody refused to speak to me for a week, saying I was unsupportive, as though it was all my fault. Of course, "I" was the one who was running around the pitch preventing his team from winning.

He can sometimes be very spontaneous. I could clearly recall one the most Spontaneous things he has done for me. He asked me if I would go away with him on a road trip to Manchester. Sounded so romantic, how could I refuse? I was over the moon. I was looking forward to it as Blackpool is close by. So I was looking forward to all the arcades and the beach too. I couldn't wait. Things just kept getting better as the days went. He requested for my dress size. Got me dreaming about a glamorous new dress, that I would be wearing on our romantic date in Manchester.

Now I know your probably thinking this all sounds too good to be true. Well you're absolutely right. I fell from being over the moon, into a gutter when he handed me with a Manchester United Jersey. Because the reason behind the trip was to watch Manchester United play at Old Trafford. The worse thing is we weren't going alone. Of course, his friends are coming too.

I had always adored him in his football kit, but I couldn't exactly remember implying that I wanted one. As I stared at him with my misty eyes, holding in my tears, he told me it wasn't so bad, as he had been considerate enough to invite his friend's sister along, so that I have a friend. In other words he already knew he wasn't going to spend any time with me at all so he was considerate enough to bring me a friend.

We moved on and a turning point in our love life and a big day for both of us as we are meeting my Parents. He joined me and my family to a nice traditional visit to the Temple. My parents really liked him, and were ready to accept him as their future son in law. That evening they even invited him over for dinner. But he declined the invitation and the reason was he had some important business to do that he cannot miss out on. Two hours later I was walking down my road to see him running out of my local pub screaming "ENGLAND!". That was his important work that he couldn't miss out on. However he then came over for dinner after the match and I remained silent. Of course I couldn't tell my parents that he had ditched us at the Temple, so that he could go watch the England match.

My Love-Hate Relationship

Okay I can sit here typing all day, but I think that's enough of my reasons as why I hate

football. Anyway I may hate football but I really appreciate sport, for its skill, its art, its culture, and in general the beauty of the sport itself. Football is a competitive sport, not just for the players, but more effectively for those associated with the player. I believe a sport is really important as to maintain a healthy life. So you should appreciate and support a sport. It's nice to have a sport as a hobby/ interest. It consumes a lot of time and often stands as a major interest in many people's lives, preventing them from doing any foolish and thoughtless things that many people do out of boredom and lack of aspects in life.

Here's another equation which satisfies me: He loves Football + He loves me = He has no time to love anyone else. Now here's a little question for my darling, "Just out of curiosity, if it came down it, would you choose me or football?" He replied: "Baby what have I told you about asking me difficult questions?" Why did I even bother? I should've saved myself the embarrassment.

**Make a Better Place for Us and For Our Future Generations.**

Keerthikan Thirukkumar (14)

On Saturdays we train in Foster Park. Our training consists of two or three parts depending on your age group. However for the first part we all start with stretching because without it we would be injuring ourselves consistently. We start with the lower body and work up to our necks. The second part varies as the U14s do fitness training while the U12s play a mini match. When the U14s have finished our fitness training, we then train with the ball to get a better ball control.

When I started to attend 11 stars training session for the first time, I wondered what would I be doing but now it has become second nature to me to do stretching before any type of training. Because only when we warm up and stretch our muscles our body becomes more flexible allowing us to play better football. Without proper warm up we could be seriously injured. So attending training session with 11 stars have made me realise how importance warm up before a match and cooling down after a match is.

The boys that come to training are respectful to their coach and each other. They help out their teammates whenever they can and treat everybody like they would want to be treated. They also give support and encouragement in every match even if they are losing.

So if the U12 can behave like that, why don't we follow their example and behave like that so we make this world a better place for us and our future generations.



Have An Aim and Work Towards it.

Jenany Chandranathan

My name is Jenany Chandranathan, I have 2 brothers who play for 11 Stars Football team, Jenarthan and Jethusan. When I was younger, I wanted to become a detective working for the police as I spent most of my time watching the TV serial "Bill". I was fascinated by what police officers do. However as my career progressed my future plans had also changed. I entered university to further develop my knowledge in Biochemistry as my favourite subjects were biology and chemistry at A-levels.

After graduation, I spent months applying for jobs as I lacked the experience required for work even though I had a good degree, I was either rejected or received no reply at all. So I decided to gain experience by working for the NHS. Even though I wanted to work in research but as we live at a time where the economy is bad with fewer job opportunities and I had no other option.

Eventually I had an opportunity to find myself a job at a lab and I became medical laboratory assistance. That job wasn't exciting at all, thankfully the lab advertised for a trainee biomedical scientist job at the same lab and I applied, Got the job at the end, but the process was long as a year.

Now I am a trainee biomedical scientist working for the national hospital for neurology and neuroscience, a branch of UCL hospital. I work in the neuropathology department where we receive brain, muscle, skin and nerve biopsies, post mortem brains. Usually brain biopsies from patients with brain tumour or lesions found in their brain. These specimens are fixed, processed, cut and stained. Neuropathologist or consultants will look at these stains through the microscope and diagnosis the patient, on what type of brain tumour and the grade. The report goes to the doctor at the hospital dealing with the patient and doctor will decide on a suitable treatment for the patient.

The job is hard at times but rewarding as you are helping sick patients with their diagnosis and treatment to help them get better. This job will create more opportunities and I am gaining the experience I needed.

Now I am doing a conversion course to get my degree accredited by the institute of biomedical scientist. Then I have to do a training portfolio to show I am competent at my work. After this, I would like to do my masters degree so that I can move up the ladder.

My advice for the younger generation is to slow down, it's like they want to do everything at a young age. You have years ahead of you so study and get a degree. If you miss up now at this particular age, it will be harder for you to get back into education and finding yourself a good job will prove even harder. Have an aim or a goal in your life and work towards it.

Those who wish to go into biomedical science, first of all decide whether you want to work in research or diagnostics. If diagnostics, then do an accredited degree in biomedical science, where the university will send you for a year to work in hospital labs. This way you will have the required experience and the qualification, which the employers love.



Expectations of Tamil Parents

Lega Satkurnathan

A lot of us find it a hard battle to find the right balance between the Tamil ways of life, which are our parents expectations, and what we as individuals expect from our lives, especially when we are growing up in a Western country.

As a Tamil son or daughter you are expected to be a doctor, dentist, engineer or an accountant. As far as Tamil parents are concerned these few careers are the ones that are accepted in the community. Although some parents are becoming very broad minded nowadays, many are still having these set expectations.

Although for many of us, it may not seem like a big issue because those maybe our career of choice as well, but for some of us it is real situation, to be able to live up to our parents' expectations and also to be able to achieve personal satisfaction from our chosen career.

Many youngsters I know have chosen to study Medicine because it is what is expected of them, and also because they do not want to face the consequences if they don't study Medicine. Since they have started school the image of being a doctor gets imprinted in their mind by the parents. They are constantly reminded about this uncles' son and that auntys' daughter who is studying Medicine. And parents use that opportunity to also remind their children that they should become like that uncles' son and this auntys' daughter.

The situation has been getting tougher for Tamil children with the whole madness over the Eleven plus exams and getting in to Grammar schools and Private schools. What parents forget to understand is the stress that the children endure from the never ending tuition classes and the constant reminders of, "you must pass these exams. Then only you can get into a Grammar School and become a doctor".

What parents also fail to understand is that if a child wants to study then it will study. The school that they attend may play a part in showing them the different directions and opportunities life has to offer for them. But at the end of the day, it is still the youngsters' choice as to which path to take and what to make of their lives. Just because they go to Grammar or Private schools, it doesn't mean they are going to excel and become doctors and engineers. And just because they go to comprehensive schools, it doesn't mean they are going to end up stacking shelves in supermarkets.

From my experience, I know many parents who have pushed their children to do well in the Eleven plus exams and managed to secure scholarship places at private schools. But that did not guarantee those children going to good university and studying one of the four careers I mentioned earlier. However, I have also come across parents who did not know anything about the Eleven plus and their children who ended up going to a normal comprehensive school, but still managed to get themselves to get in to those career paths, because that is what they wanted to do, not because it was expected of them.

So what I'm trying to say is that, the parents need to make the children understand that good education will take them far in life but they should not dictate them into their career path. And children should only choose a career because they understand the rewards of that career and must be wanting to do it more for personal satisfaction than to satisfy the parents.



தமிழ்

அஞ்சலா சுதாகரன் (15)

மிகத் தொன்மையான மொழிகளுள் தமிழ் மொழியும் ஒன்று. தமிழர் தம் தாய் மொழியைத் 'தீந்தமிழ்', 'செந்தமிழ்', என அழைத்து அதன் பெருமையை வெளிப்படுத்துவர். தமிழை 'முத்தமிழ்' என்றும் கூறுவர். முத்தமிழ், இயல், இசை, நாடகம் என விரியும்.

தமிழில் 247 எழுத்துக்கள் உண்டு. அவற்றில் 'ழ' என்னும் எழுத்தின் உச்சரிப்பு தமிழுக்கே உரிய சிறப்பாகும். தமிழ்ச் சொல் ஒரு பொருளின் பெயரைச் சுட்டிக்காட்டுவதுடன் அதன் பல்வேறு பருவத்தையும் உணர்த்தும்

எடுத்துக்காட்டாக இலையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் 'கொழுந்து', 'தளிர்', 'இலை', 'புழுப்பு', 'சருகு' என அது புதிதாகத் தொன்றியதிலிருந்து வளர்ந்து காய்ந்த நிலைவரைக்கும் பல பருவங்களைக் குறிக்கும் சொற்கள் தமிழில் உண்டு.

சங்ககால நூல்களில் மிகப் பழமைவாய்ந்த நூல் தொல்காப்பியனரால் இயற்றப்பட்ட தொல்காப்பியம் ஆகும். 'ஓல் காப் பெரும் புகழ்த் தொல்காப்பியம்' என்று இந்நூல் பாராட்டப் படுகின்றது.

தமிழில் பல்வகை காப்பியங்கள், நூல்கள் இதன் சிறப்பிற்குச் சான்றாக உள்ளன. 'உலகத்துப் பொது மறை' எனப் போற்றப்படும் திருக்குறள் உலகின் பல மொழிகளில் மொழிபெயர்க்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றது என்பது கறிக்கத்தக்கது.

குறிஸ்தவ இலக்கியங்கள், இஸ்லாமிய இலக்கியங்கள், பௌத்த இலக்கியங்கள் பலவும் தமிழ் மொழியில் உள்ளன. சைவநெறி சார்ந்த இலக்கியங்கள், 96வகைச் சிற்றிலக்கியங்கள் என்பனவும் தமிழ் அன்னைக்கு அழகு சேர்த்து வருகின்றன.



சீதனம்

லோகராஜா ஞானதிபன்

சீதனம் களையப்பட வேண்டிய சமூக நோய் என்பதை இளைஞரும் இக்காலத்தவரும் உணரத் தெடங்கியிருந்தாலும் நடைமுறையில் எவ்வளவு தூரம் கடைப்பிடிக்கப் படுகிறது என்பது கேள்விக்குறிதான்.

இதை ஆண்களின் தவறாகச் சுட்டிக்காட்ட சமுதாயம் சில வேளைகளில் முயற்சிக்கிறது. சிலசமயம் பெண்களும் அவ்வாறே நினைக்கின்றனர். பல இடங்களில் ஆண்கள் சீதனம் வேண்டாம் என மாற்றத்தைக் கொண்டுவர முயற்சிக்கும்போது 'மாப்பிள்ளைக்கு எதோ குறை இருக்கிறதால் தான் சீதனம் வேண்டாம் என்கிறார்' என்று காயப்படுத்தும் வார்த்தைகள் கிடைக்கின்றன என்பதை பலரும் அறிவதில்லை. பின்னாளில் அவர்கள்விடும் சிறு தவறுகள் கூட 'எனக்கு அப்பவே தெரியும், சீதனம் வேண்டாமெண்டு சொல்லேக்கேயே எதோ இருக்கெண்டு நினைச்சனான்' என்று புரளிகள் கூறுவது தெரியுமா? தன் தாய் தந்தையர் சொல்வதையும் மீறி சீதனம் வேண்டாம் என்று முன்மாதிரியாய் நடக்கவிரும்பும் ஆண்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கும் நல்ல பெயர் இதுதான் என்பதை அறிவீர்களா? எல்லாவற்றையும் மீறி கட்டிய மனைவியே சந்தேகப்படுவது, அபத்தத்தின் உச்சம்.

பல இடங்களில் சீதனம் கேட்பது தாய்மார் என்று ஆண்கள் வாதாடலாம். இதற்காக ஆண்கள் தவறே செய்யவில்லை என்று கூறமுடியாது. ஓசியில் என்ன கிடைத்தாலும் ஓடிச்சென்று வாங்குகின்ற சமுதாயம் தானே எம்முடையது. இயல்பாக இருந்துவரும் இவ்விடயத்தில், யாராயினும் குளிர்காய் நினைப்பது இயல்பு தானே.

என்னைப் பொறுத்தவரை இதனை ஆண் - பெண் பிரச்சினையாக நினைத்துப் பட்டி மன்றம் நடாத்துவதை விடுத்து, சமூகத்தின் பிரச்சினையாகக் கருதித் தீர்வுகாண முயற்சியுங்கள். உங்கள் காலில் ஒரு நோய் வந்தால், காலின் மீதோ அல்லது கையின் மீதோ பழி போட்டுவிட்டுச் சுமமா இருப்பீர்களா? உடம்புக்கு வந்த ஒரு நோயைத் தீர்ப்பது போலவே இந்தச் சமூகத்தைப் பிடித்துள்ள 'சீதனம்' என்கின்ற கெட்ட நோய்க்கும் தீர்வுகாண முயற்சியுங்கள்.



Living Life Through Art

Indu Kesavarajan (20)

Having been raised by parents who are both artists, I have always felt that creating and enjoying art in any form, was innate in me. I have always either been surrounded by my mother's intricate embroidery, my father's numerous camera lenses or a combination of both their effortlessly inspiring drawings. I suspect that this almost immediately triggered the onset of my appreciation for this new world of expression across an array of different mediums.

Although I maintain a very practical ambition of studying at university in pursuit of becoming a psychological researcher (another passion of mine), I persistently try to ensure that I'm creatively engaged in at least one project, for my own sake whether it be grand or minor. It keeps me sane. For instance, in addition to the constant flow of silly doodles weaving through my notebooks, I make it a point to practice drawing techniques as I compose a portrait of my 'muse of the moment'.

I've experimented with many different means of expression at various points in my life so far such as drawing since I was a young child, modern dancing from the age of 8, singing from a fairly early age and taking up voice lessons from the age of 12, writing poetry and spoken word pieces within the past 2 years and most recently film photography. I could probably compare myself to a kitten who'll jump from one shiny thing to the next in that I'm very easily amused and will want to play with or experience as many things as I can, as soon as I can. However unlike the kitten, I tend not to discard the old shiny things and instead take them with me to refine them as I move on.

In the past few months my new shiny thing has become the ancient art of Bharatanatyam, a classical dance native to Tamil Nadu. I've been completely moved by watching performances on Television, and have been influenced by hearing about my mother's own passion for it that acknowledging such an incredible spectrum of beauty with an enchanting story told along the way has made me want to be a part of something so magical and historical. Hopefully sometime in the future I'll be able to say "I *am* a dancer", instead of "I *was* a dancer" while embracing a huge part of Tamil culture in the process, which the mere thought of I find so exciting.



The game called Football!

Rathin (11)

It all started when I was three years old. It was a beautiful sunny day and my father and I were at the park playing on the swings. It was then, that I saw some boys playing a game with a round ball, they were spilt into two teams and they were trying to kick the ball in the opposite goal nets to score; they weren't allowed to touch the ball with their hands apart from the goalkeepers. Only then I learnt that game was called football when my father started to watch the world cup.

Since then I wanted to play football and become a better footballer. So I decided to join my local club 11 Stars. Where I enjoy football every Saturdays. I have also made new friends after becoming a member of 11 Stars Sports Club.



What is the Attraction of Gang Culture?

Sam Ventharkone, (18)



The huge rise in the number of teenagers being killed on the streets of London is the biggest threat facing the capital after terrorism, senior police officers believe.

In 2007 alone twenty-six young people were killed in gun or knife crime in London. Many people are putting the blame on gangs. So the question is why are so many people interested in joining gangs today?

What is a gang? A gang is a group of three or more people who, through the organisation, formation, and establishment of an assemblage, share a common identity.

In a recent study several youth workers identified that peer pressure and wanting to look 'bad' are two reasons, but during investigation, one thing stood out. Young people are searching for some kind of family unit.

A youth worker at Sulgrave Youth Club in Shephard's Bush, a place that gives young people something to do during the weeknights and keeps them from falling into things like gangs said; "What gangs offers you in comparison to a family are security and protection. Being in a gang means you always have someone watching your back, and people that feel they don't have that protection and support at home will look elsewhere for it.

Another youth worker when interviewed said "There are many reasons to why young people get into gangs. The main reason is just to have friends. Peer pressure can lead people into a situation where there is a need to feel like you belong to something. It can seem like a family, not all families are good though, but some are. It depends on what your gang does. You could be in a gang that helps old people across the road. A youth club is a gang, but not a negative one."

In the same study, a one time gang member who later became a youth worker said "Once you're in a gang it can be hard to break free. But I did."

"We didn't have guns or knives. We were actually scared to use knives. It was only the few that used knives to make a big point, and this isn't going back too long ago. But we were scared most of the time. We weren't really troublemakers we were just doing it to fit in." "I doubt gangs will fade away. People always want to fit in and even if it's in the bad or wrong crowd or the right crowd, people just want to fit in."

"A friend of mine is in prison. He's older than me but he's in a gang and he's still got that gang mentality. I managed to get out but he stayed in, and now he's in prison for stabbing someone. If he comes out now he can't get a job. He can't have a proper life he's going to be trapped for the rest of his life."

"If any young person came to me for advice, I'd just tell them don't go into a gang. Seriously, gangs are just not worth it. Because when you reach my age you won't have anything to look back on, or have nothing to live off. You won't have education you won't have a job, you won't have money, you will be constantly on job seeking, allowance, and I know how much that is; that's £90 every two weeks and that's ridiculous."

It seems that gangs come in different shapes and forms and not all are bad. Some are there to support and back up kids and teens like families. Joining a gang or entering a certain group is common for young children and teens. Some find it a necessity in order to gain recognition and fame whether in school or in other groups that they belong to. Others find joining a group "cool" while some feel the need to belong, especially those who lack attention or lack close human interaction with family members.

What is the Attraction of

The young generation often craves for attention simply because they want to feel that what they do is given importance. These kids are still in their formative years and are still trying to search for their true identities. Sometimes, joining a gang gives them a chance to find out more about themselves because they are given an opportunity to showcase what they can do. For other teens, joining a gang is a form of rebellion. In other cases, some enter a gang because they have nothing else to do, are forced by other kids, or simply out of curiosity.

It is relatively okay for parents to allow their kids to join a certain group as long as there is nothing destructive about it. When the group that children are into encourages them and brings out the best in them, then it is perfectly healthy for them to stay with that group.

The only time that parents need to worry is when they notice that the gang that their kids are into is beginning to have a negative influence on them. When the children start to show a change in their behaviour, become indifferent, and begin to break rules, this is a sign that parents or family members should start to intervene.

When children and teens are well-taken care of and feel loved, there is less chance for them to feel the need to look for a particular group that will accept them. The young generation of today needs all the support and understanding that they can get from the people who are important to them so that they will no longer find a need to seek the company of others.

**More to Football than Trophies**

Sucane Rajagi (17)

To represent achievement in football isn't about winning trophies, here at 11 Stars it's about enjoyment, assisting each other and not giving up.

11 Stars is growing fast, with many new players joining every year. In the past 3 years since I joined, 11 stars have been playing weekly in the Tamil League and have entered almost 5 tournaments or more a year for both seniors and U19 (former U16). However, last season was the only season where we managed to win a trophy as league cup champions. This was due to our determination and our high team spirit.

At 11 Stars, not only have I gained football experience, but I have learnt a few morals and principals of life. Due to the age range within the club, we've been able to seek help and assistance from senior members as well as getting advice on and off the pitch. This has ultimately helped us as youngsters to stick together and work as a team. The handling and control of the club has definitely contributed to the stability of club.



Find Your Talent and Show It To The World

Suji Sothilingam (14)

Since, I have joined 11 stars sports club, I have noticed a change in me and I started to enjoy myself. I never knew that there is this much to learn in football. Only then I realised I had lot to learn in order for me to become a better footballer. So I wanted to improve, therefore I work hard at training session provided by 11 Stars coach. My hard works are starting to pay off, I have improved so much and I am beginning to enjoy myself. I honestly didn't know I had this much talent in myself, but with the help of 11 stars I have identified my talents. Now I need to build and develop my talent. I will continue to work hard and also be prepared to learn from mistake. One day I will show the world of my talents. We are all gifted with talents and nothing is impossible. So work hard and bring out your talent hiding in you for years. Hard work and patients is the key to bring out the talent you have, and show it to the world what you are capable of. "Nothing is Impossible; work hard and impossible will become possible"

Nothing is impossible!

Suji Kanna

Since, I have joined 11 stars sports club, I have noticed a change in me and I started to enjoy myself. I never knew that there is this much to learn in football. Only then I realised I had lot to learn in order for me to become a better footballer. So I wanted to improve, therefore I work hard at training session provided by 11 Stars coach. My hard works are starting to pay off, I have improved so much and I am beginning to enjoy myself. I honestly didn't know I had this much talent in myself, but with the help of 11 stars I have identified my talents. Now I need to build and develop my talent. I will continue to work hard and also be prepared to learn from mistake. One day I will show the world of my talents. We are all gifted with talents and nothing is impossible. So work hard and bring out your talent hiding in you for years. Hard work and patients is the key to bring out the talent you have, and show it to the world what you are capable of. "Nothing is Impossible; work hard and impossible will become possible"

My time at 11 Stars Sports Club

Pravin Thirukkumar (7)

My time at 11 Stars has been great. I have even been able to experience playing football in a tournament where I was a striker. In the tournament we came runners up and we each rewarded with a trophy. Weekly football training takes place in Foster Park, Catford. Training starts promptly at 8am on Saturdays. We start with stretching and then play a big match where we all have fun. In one match, my team scored lot of goals after which the other team scored a lot of goals too and made it a tie. In the last minute I scored the winning goal and everyone was cheering, we then shook hands and had our drink. I poured some of my water over my head, it felt nice as the cooling sensation passed over me, I then drank the rest and that was the end.

Don't Be Afraid To Dream

Archana RaviVarma (20)

As a young girl I was into the typical 'girly' things; my main interest being fashion and as I grew up my passion and love for this field grew stronger. I became interested in art and fashion while taking my GCSE's and felt encouraged to pursue a career in this field. When I achieved high grades in these subjects, I worked thoroughly hard for the GCSE grades I achieved. I have always been an average student and I am very proud of myself. My parents really encouraged me to pursue this as they could evidently see this was something I was passionate about. I appreciated that they did not pressure me into going into a field I didn't like, as it is known for Tamil families to want their children to pursue careers in medicine if you are a girl or else engineering. However my parents were just happy that I was doing something that had good prospects and I enjoyed.

The hardest challenge which I had was to get in to London College of Fashion and pursue the career of becoming a fashion designer. The interview day came and the same reoccurring thought kept running through my mind, was my work good enough? Will everyone else's be better than mine? Well judgement day was here and as I opened the letter to find out if all that I have worked had paid off and it said I am pleased to inform you.... that's all I needed to know, I got in.

Over the past year I have interned for a number of designers and experienced what its like to work with companies with such prestige and these have been experiences I will never forget. However, I have also realised that I still have a long way to go to really 'make it' in the industry. Now I am starting my second year and am really looking forward to the challenges to come and the experiences that are yet to happen in the future. Looking back on my journey so far I think that everything has happened for a reason and living in London and applying to London College of Fashion were the best choices I ever made and I am so glad I had the support of my family and friends to help me make these decisions. I know I am a small fish in a big pond but I feel as though I have something special to give and hope to make my mark on the industry very soon.

More Challenges to Come

Abinaash Thirukkumar (11)

I'm Abinaash Thirukkumar and I'm 11 years old and I play as a goalkeeper for 11 Stars F.C., in the U12 team. For me 11 stars football training is the best training I have attended and is the only enjoyment I have in the weekend. Even though it starts at 8am and finishes at 10am, in the 2 hours of training not only do we learn how to play football but we also create and build new and strong friendships. We learn new skills in every training session.

Since I joined 11 Stars I have played in two tournaments. The first one was at Warren Farm Sports Centre and our first match was against Union College and we lost 4-0. Then in our second match we lost 1-0 to a penalty against West London Tamil School. In our second tournament the first against Union College; let's just say that game didn't go to plan. In the second game, after a few courageous words from our coach we won our next match against Hartleys 3-2 to become runners up in the tournament. That's my time at 11 Stars F.C. so far and I know that there are plenty more challenges to Come.

How 11 Stars Makes Us a Better Footballers.

Mohith Das

What I like about being in 11 Stars is that they help us to become good at football. They help us learn by explaining what part of the body is affected when we warm up. This helps us to understand the reason behind the warm up and each different stretches as well as how important warm up before a match is. We also learn about other factors that can be controlled to make us better footballers. Our daily diet is the main factor we must control; this helps us improve football as well as a healthy life. Fitness is another which can also help us maintain a good life.

When we turn up to a tournament, we learn a lot from our seniors and they gives us some useful tips. But if we do lose in tournament we always get extra support to train and get ready for the next tournament. The best thing about 11 Stars is that the coach and the other players are always prepared for the tournament; it feels amazing when we get trophies and medals. This gives us an extra boost for the next tournament.

My First Day at 11 Stars FC.

Moiskumar Rajkumar

I am going to talk to you about, one of the exquisite moments in my life, My First Day at 11 Stars FC. I always dreamed about playing for a football team and finally, it came true. I think I was the oldest one in the training. I was nervous when I stood there in the pitch, like a painted ship upon a painted ocean. I felt so lonely but I managed to stay focused. There was nobody to talk to or ask help because I didn't know anyone. However the coach was so friendly and helpful and made me comfortable. As the days went by, I soon made lots of friends and learned new things.

So I would like to encourage young people, who are interested in football, to join our team. Not only will you feel delighted but also be able to participate in great events like tournaments and Natchatram.

How football can improve your life skills.

Umesh Yoganathan (9)

11 Stars Sports Club has helped me in many ways. After attending Saturday morning training session with 11 Stars, my football skills have improved considerably. Playing with my team mates have made a big impact on my social life and I have made new friends. Playing football have taught me how to handle disagreements with my team mates and opposing players in a non-violent manner. Since joining the club I have learnt how to work as a team, co-ordinate with the players and to improve my physical and mental fitness. The club has given me many different types of experiences and some of the toughest lessons of life, while offering me ways to work through them through the support and guidance of my coach.

Most importantly, I have learnt that a football team needs different types of players and talents and hard work to be successful. Participating in football tournaments has enabled me to build on my self-esteem and confidence as well as motivating me intellectually. So far I have enjoyed being a member of 11 Stars and I love going to tournaments and winning trophies with my team and this is just the beginning.

As a Tamil Youth

Luxshi Raj

As a Tamil Youth, I have been brought up in an environment where Tamils are the minority. From a young age my parents have taught me manners and always encouraged me to have an ambition and have always said "Nothing is unachievable, if you work hard." Besides this they have made sure that I take part in and know our traditions and our mother tongue. Even though I can understand and speak Tamil, I falter and think twice about my pronunciation. Is it right or not? This thought leads me to speak insufficiently.

Some young people are forced to do activities which they don't find appealing. As a little girl, I was brought up listening and practicing carnatic music since the age of four. I am very keen on Tamil culture; learning and watching items such as carnatic music and barathanatyam are interesting and it also gives people who are not into Tamil culture a taste of how it is. This may lead them into a new path.

Attending music and dance lessons has developed my vocal and dance skills, patience and above all discipline. Due to school exams I decided to leave dance and carry on with music. I am pleased that my parents are also enthusiastic about me attending music lessons and want me to achieve my aim which is to finish my diploma in music. Unfortunately we all know that miracles don't happen on a blink of an eye, it takes commitment and discipline to get where you wish. It is difficult to attend lessons when school exams are approaching and you have coursework to complete nevertheless only on the odd occasion I would miss a lesson.

To conclude, eleven and half years of carnatic music has not just developed my vocal skills, patience and discipline in addition to all this, I have also made friends who are like elder sisters since I am the youngest, who help me in and out of lessons.



Expectations, and My School Life as a Tamil.

Suhanya Kugathanan (15)

Doesn't everyone dread the word expectation? Well, I have to say; especially as a Tamil I have many expectations. Funnily, I have always felt that Tamil parents want their children to be a doctors or entrepreneurs. My parents want me to aim high and attain outstanding grades; so the pressure is on. I am at a vital stage in my life where GCSE'S and A-level's is mostly spoken of when I am confronted by my family and friends. Despite the pressure, I have learnt that it is a way to make me work harder to reach my goal. Imagine, what it would be like if we didn't have any expectations. I know some people find it stressful to even talk about expectations so my advice is not to go against it but to embrace it.

At school, there is a clear division in my class and because of the colour of your skin people assume that you act a certain way. I've noticed that some teacher's have been doing the same; I have been treated slightly differently because of who I am friends with. Strangely it's almost as if you have to dress a particular way or listen to a specific type of music to be known as a 'role-model'. I know some people who have been tempted to change who they are to be 'categorised'. My friend told me once, that I could become friends with anyone and she admired that I didn't change myself to fit in because I am the only Tamil in my class.



The Benefit of Sunday's Tamil school.

Henshiya Uthayakumar

I have been attending my Tamil school for at least six years. I have lots of friends there and I do many subjects. I do Tamil writing and reading classes, a violin class, and a classical Indian dance class (barathanatyam) and also a Tamil singing class (caranarttic music).

I enjoy attending my Tamil school, because every time I go I learn something new! This is very beneficial, as instead of sitting at home every Sunday watching TV, I am out there learning things that give me extra skills and thus helping me more in later life even for university. I guarantee you that each one of us attending Tamil school has learnt much more than Tamil children who have a lie in on Sundays, waking up at noon and playing games. I have made great friends here and for me at my young age, I feel like I have been given a great opportunity!

I am sure you now understand the benefits of sending your child to Tamil school. Or if you are a child yourself, like me, I hope you understand why it is great to go and know how much fun you will have!

My weekends at Tamil school!

Priyanga Jeyarajaguru.

For the past few years I have attending Tamil school on Sundays. The transition of going to Tamil school is easy as it is just like a normal school in the way it functions. If I get homework from Tamil school I do it in the evening the day after. I have found Tamil school to be interesting because it offers you diverse subjects to study such as; keyboard, violin, veena, barathanatyam and many more. Sacrificing my Sundays to go here as given me a great opportunity, because you learn so much about the culture and heritage of the generations before us. And besides you get to meet different people, make new friends and the teachers there are very encouraging. I love going to Tamil school because I learn so much.

Antacids

Roshan Sathiakeerthy(12)

My name is Roshan Sathiakeerthy, aged 12 years old and I am currently studying in year eight. I hope to become a cardiatric consultant and my interest include violin,piano,basketball and badminton as well as reading and I listen to a variety of music including Carnatic. I am informing you on the importance of Antacids and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Antacids are used by physicians to treat hyperchlorhydria. Its common use is to treat the parietal cells often outlining the abdomen and the acid works by neutralising the acid in your stomach.

The stomach creates gastric acid to help digestion. This acid is generally collected of hydrochloric acid that is concealed by cells of the stomach lining called parietal cells. Unnecessary secretion of this acid is frequent and can lead to many stomach problems such as gastritis, gastric ulcers and peptic acid disease.

These disorders can be treated by antacids which reduce the amount of acid in the stomach by various means. Science is my favourite subject and I want to further develop my knowledge in science and go to university to become a cardiac consultant.

Ghosts?

Sujan Sriram(12)

Why do people make up false stories about paranormal beings that follow you and haunt you for the rest of your life, about people that have died in your house and want to kill you?

HAVE THEY EXPERIENCED IT?

Some things in life are there to scare you, but the weirdest one is about paranormal beings, things you can't see but are there ready for the right moment to strike! Ghosts! The most feared ones are called Poltergeist. They are the most likely ones to harm a human as people have encountered some in their own houses lifting tables, turning things on and off, moving things or chucking objects at you. Some can even threaten your life, trying to hurt you, stab you, or maybe even hang you. These unusual events occur in the dark when you are blind. People sometimes sell their houses to get away from them but sometimes it follows you. What would you do?

One story

One day in a house in Chicago, a family of three (two parents and a one year old baby) moved into a new house, but they didn't know that in the loft a long time ago someone had been murdered. On the first two days they had heard some weird activity going on in the loft. They called some video crew to come and record the weird activity. One day they came to record it but they wanted to see it in action so they put the two parents in there and recorded it. The two parents came down twenty minutes later, one with a rope around his neck and the other with scratch marks on her neck!

Is this story true or false, no one knows, I personally think there is no evidence or proof to show ghosts are real but that doesn't stop me from getting a spine-tickling thrill from just the thought of them. Is there such a thing as a paranormal being out there, I wonder. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?



Achievements

TSSA Tournament

TSSA Tournament Open				
SKV	0	Vs	6	St.Francais Trinco

SKV	0	Vs	3	Vaviniya Central
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TSSA Tournament U19				
SKV	0	Vs	3	St.Thomas Mathahal

SKV	3	Vs	0	Chithampara College
-----	---	----	---	---------------------

Quarter Final

SKV	0	vs	2	Kokkuvil Hindu College
-----	---	----	---	------------------------

TSSA Tournament U12				
SKV	1	Vs	3	Union

SKV	0	Vs	2	West London Tamils
-----	---	----	---	--------------------

TAB Tournament

TAB Tournament Open				
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11STARS	0	Vs	2	Gnanasariar
---------	---	----	---	-------------

11STARS	0	Vs	1	Valvai Blues
---------	---	----	---	--------------

Leagu FA Cup

League FA Cup Season 2009/2010

11 Stars FC 1 Vs 4 E17

Tamil Diversity Sportd Day Tournament – U19

Tamils Diversity Sports Day Tournament U19

11STARS	2	Vs	1	Suban A
11STARS	0	Vs	2	Valvai Blues
11STARS	0	Vs	1	Suban B

Goal Scorers for the Season 2009 / 2010

Goal Scorers for Season 2009/2010.

Hussain	4
Niro	4
Sucane	4
Thanu	3
Sam	2
Bershan	1

Top Goal Scorers in the Previous Seasons.

Name	Season	Goals
Thanu Thangavel	08/09	12
Jenarthan Chandranathan	07/08	09

Result of League Matches for The Season 2009 / 2010

League Matches Season 2009 / 2010

Home Games

**11 Stars FC 2 Vs 0 West
London
Tamils**

Thanu
Sucane

11 Stars FC 4 Vs 2 MTSC-B

Niro
Niro
Thanu
Hussain

11 Stars FC 1 Vs 5 Valvai Blues

Hussain

**11 Stars FC 3 Vs 0 Harrow
Boys**

11 Stars FC 2 Vs 3 Gold Star

Hussain
Niro

11 Stars FC 1 Vs 2 Union

Niro

11 Stars FC 0 Vs 0 CTSO

Away Games

**11 Stars FC 4 Vs 6 West
London
Tamils**

Sucane
Hussain
Sam
Thanu

11 Stars FC 3 Vs 0 MTSC-B

**11 Stars FC 1 Vs 5 Valvai
Blues**

Sucane

**11 Stars FC 3 Vs 0 Harrow
Boys**

11 Stars FC 1 Vs 2 Gold Star

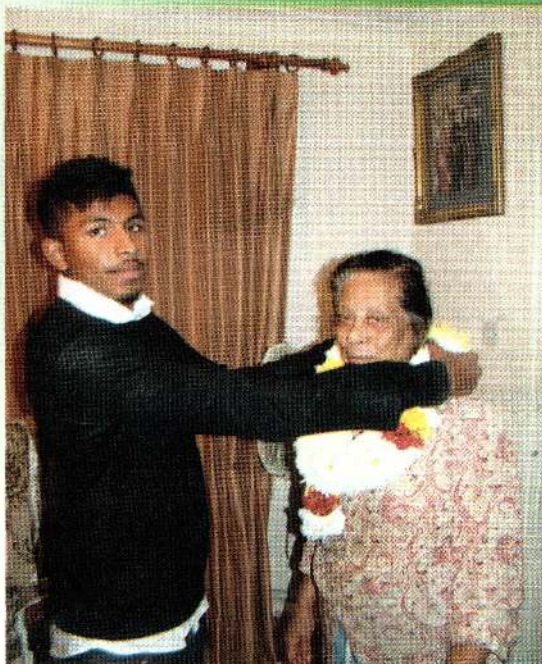
Sam

11 Stars FC 0 Vs 1 Union

11 Stars FC 3 Vs 0 CTSO

- MTSC - Melbourne Tamil Sports Club
- CTSO - Croydon Tamil Sports Organisation

CHIEF GUEST OF NATCHATRAM 2009



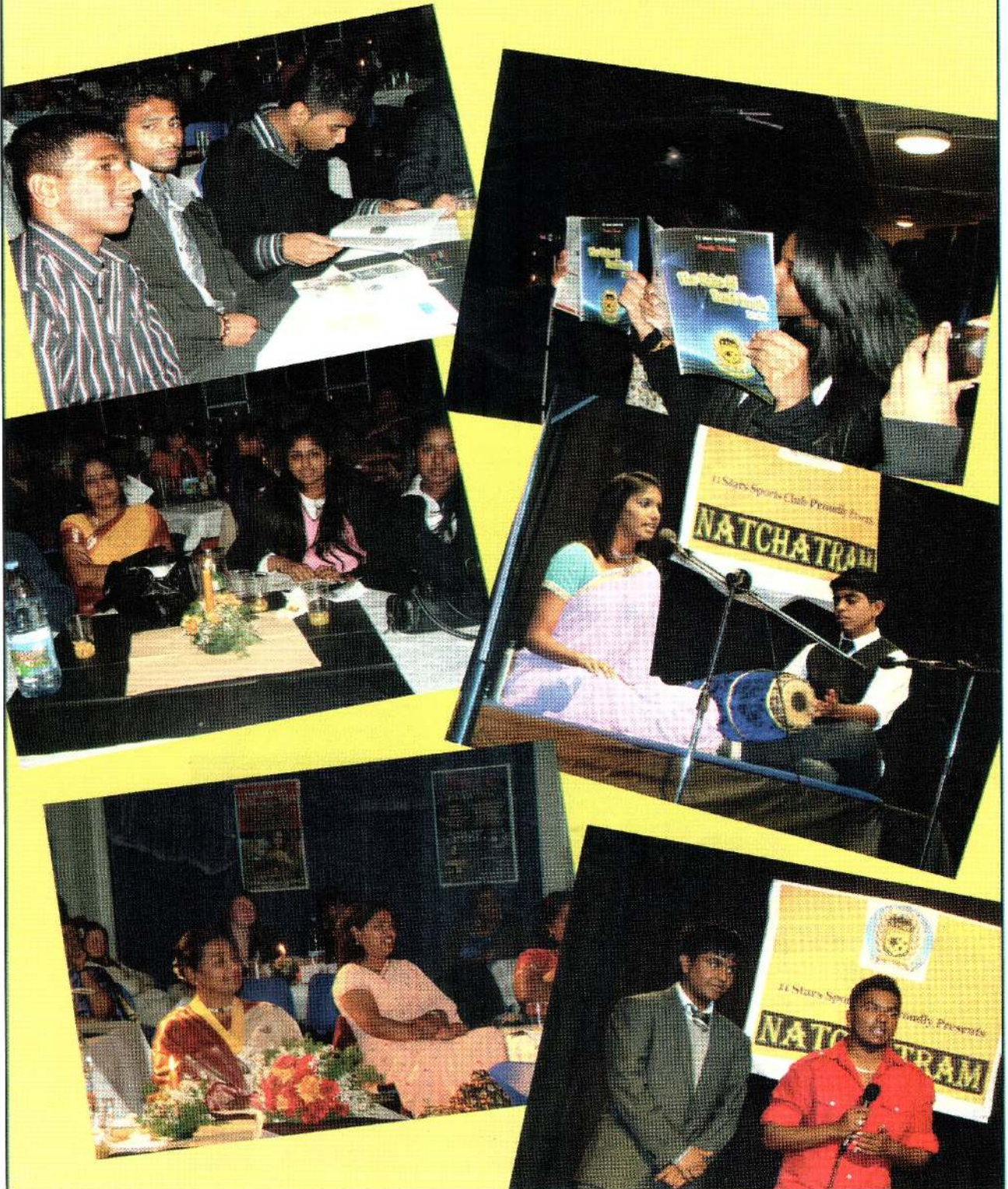
X'mas Dinner 2009



Natchatram 2009



NATCHATRAM 2009



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Garishon Nathan	Pravin Thirukkumar	Jeroge Yogarajah	Sajenth Gnanavel
			
Mohith Das	Brinthapan Sivarajah	Vinithkumar Vijayakumar	Parithan Nuges
			
	Rathin Subramaniam	Abinaash Thirukkumar	

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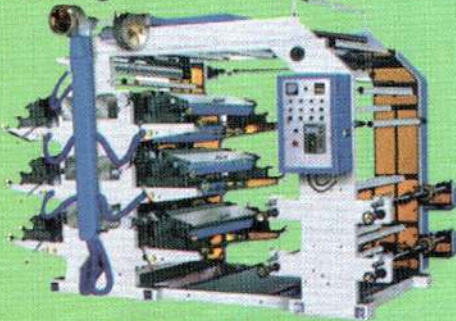
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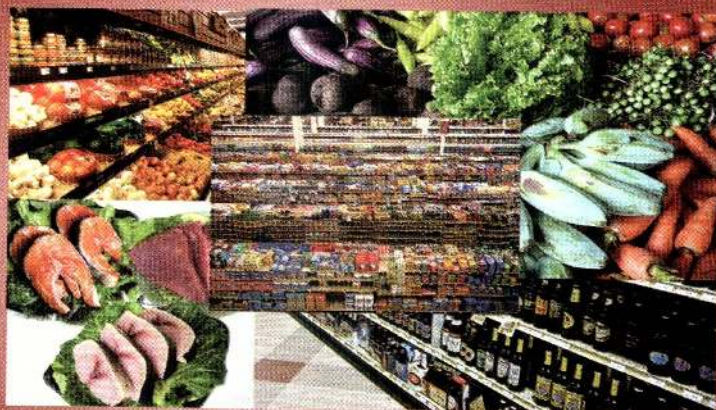
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Acknowledgement

We would like to thank;

- Mr. P. Rajanayagam Our Chief Guest
- Mr S & Mrs M Mylvaganam our Guest of Honour
- Mr A Thirukketheeswaran, President of TSSA (UK)
- Mr T Uthayanan, Secretary of British Tamils Sports League
- The Tamil youth, who participated in writing articles for 'The Voice of Tamil Youth 2010'
- All our sponsors for their efforts in our magazine; 'The Voice of Tamil Youth 2010' as well as our annual event; 'Natchatram 2010'
- The Caterers, for providing such wonderful food for Natchatram 2010
- The Editors, Assistants and other helpers, who gladly gave up their time to produce this magazine
- Our Designers, Publicists and Printers for the production of this magazine
- Those individuals who generously donated funds towards the club
- Our Club Members, for making this club a joy to be a part of

And finally

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