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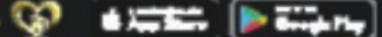
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Nov. 15, 2023

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**Former President, PM, FM  
 responsible for the  
 Economic Crisis: SC**

Former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa all three powerful brothers and several others are responsible for the current economic crisis, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka ruled on November 14, 2023.

The three Rajapaksa brothers as well as former Central Bank governors Ajith Nivard Cabraal and Prof. W.D. Lakshman, former Finance Secretary S.R. Attygalle, former Presidential Secretary P.B. Jayasundara and the Monetary Board members of the Central Bank have violated the public trust and breached Article 12 (1) of the Constitution, in their administration of the economy, leading to the economic crisis in the country, said the Supreme Court.

The ruling was delivered based on the majority view of the five-judge bench in respect of two fundamental rights (FR) petitions filed in this respect. The case was heard before all Sinhalese Judges, Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, PC; Buwaneka Aluwihare, PC; Priyantha Jayawardena, PC; Vijith Malalgoda, PC; and Murdu Fernando, PC. Out of 5 only 1 judge dint agree with the ruling. Here are the key observations by the judges: The conduct of Respondents directly contributed to the results that led to the crisis situation.

• Respondents ought to have known and should have taken actions to resolve matters that negatively impacted the economy and not further aggravate the impact and are responsible for acting in the best interest of the country. • Public officers have a responsibility to discharge their duties in the best interest of the public. • Respondents are bestowed high power to uphold public trust and are duty-bound to discharge duties according to Directives of the Constitution. Respondents cannot shirk responsibility by merely stating that the decisions they took were policy decisions. • Actions, omissions and conduct of Respondents contributed to the economic crisis.

The TISL said the petition was filed in the public interest, considering the lack of accountability and ransparency in high level decision-making that has brought Sri Lanka to its knees. Given that petitioners had come to courts in the interest of the public and did not seek compensation for themselves, the judge bench was not inclined to order compensation other than costs incurred by petitioners. The former head of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Chandra Jayaratne, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), Jehan Canaga Retna and Julian Bolling had put forward one petition on June 17, 2022, calling for action against persons responsible for the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. This ruling will help the current President in the next election, for sure.

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## AGM of CTCC, October 28, 2023, Markham.

*The Annual General meeting of Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) was held on October 28, 2023 at the CTCC Business Centre.*

The following are the new board of directors for 2023/2024:

**President: Murali Sivaguru, Executive VP: Vithu Ramachandran,**

- VP Internal Affairs: Darshan Sriharan,
- VP Finance: Rukshan Para,
- VP Membership: Poorany Sornabala,
- VP Community Relations: Christeen Seevaratnam,
- Director: Kanchana Thuraisingam,
- Director: Suresh Tharmalingam,
- Director: Rakhavan Ketheeswaran,
- Immediate Past President: Vina Devadas

**Congratulation to the newly elected Board.  
Charles Devasagayam, M.A.**



NOVEMBER 12TH 2023

# இனிய தீபாவளி வாழ்த்துகள்

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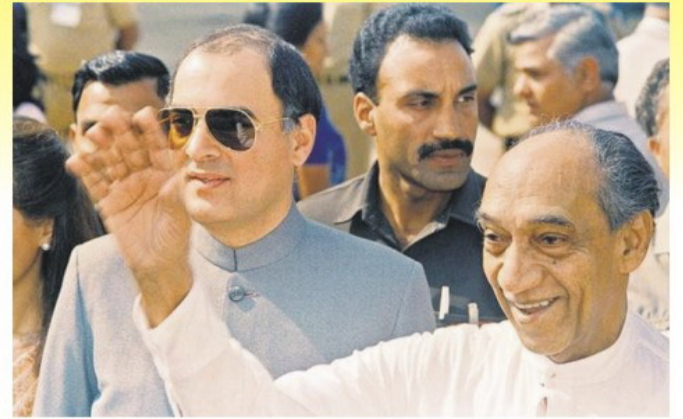
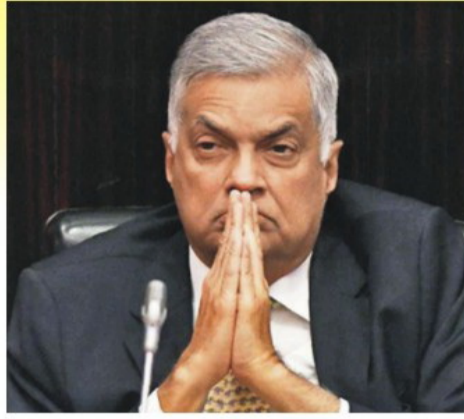
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# 13th AMENDMENT

## A GOLDEN GOOSE TO REAP POLITICAL MILEAGE AND GAINS



**13 th Amendment of 1987**, a conceived and delivered baby of India which is now a part and parcel of the constitution of Sri Lanka has been lying partially implemented with most of the important provisions partially implemented and almost ignored by the successive Sri Lanka's governments.

It is now resurrected and given new life and blood by Ranil Wickremesinge, an unelected president of Sri Lanka including the Tamil political leaders who are now pitching their voices unanimously for the implementation of its all the provisions when and after Ranil Wickremesinghe assumed office obviously and apparently to strengthen his position locally and internationally particularly posing and positioning himself as a president of all citizens especially for the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Ranil has stated openly on 09 May 2023 that he will take steps " to implement the provisions of the 13 th Amendment but without the Law and Order Enforcing powers of the police" which are included in the 13 th Amendment and granted to the provincial councils statutorily.

In this respect, a brief of the salient provisions under this amendment are detailed below. These are the list of powers allocated to the provincial council and central government. They are the:

1. Reserved list of central government
2. Concurring list of both provincial council and central government
3. Exclusive list of provincial council

The Exclusive list of provincial government deals with its powers to exercise legislative and executive functions in the matters of

- Law and Order
- Land and Land settlements
- Education

The above subjects though appearing to grant full authority and control for the provincial council yet they are almost deceptive and shallow. The governor appointed by the Centre as its agent and Central government particularly president in fact really wield the whip hand over the provincial council which has to function with these road blocks and legal hurdles.

To come to the recent statement of Ranil on 09 May 2023 who openly declared his intention and commitment to move forward for the implementation of the provisions of the 13 th Amendment when in his speech in parliament on 09 May 2023 "he offered to the Tamils to implement the 13 th Amendment without police powers".

His rejection and /or non-approval of police powers to the North East provincial councils clearly shows his embedded fears of abuse or misuse of police powers to foster and encourage separatist feelings and possible clashes with central government's security forces (army, navy, police and air force). This is fully not acceptable in view of the central government's Reserved list of Powers which include dissolution and or suspension of provincial council at its discretion.

In this matter, TNA's leader Sampanthan has categorically and rightly rejected Ranil's offer of implementing 13 th Amendment without police powers. It is widely believed that Ranil made this offer to please the minorities (Tamils and Muslims) eyeing on their vote banks to depict himself as a leader of the nation and not as a leader to secure the interests and votes of the Sinhalese. There is no iota of doubt that this gesture to the Tamils was prompted to secure himself in power while mustering and maintaining the support of majority of Sri Lankans.

However, as usual and expected the Mahanayakas, virtual controllers of Sri Lanka's parliament, presidents and prime ministers have voiced their opposition to Ranil's proposals and also called for the abolition of the 13 th Amendment.

Also the Freedom Peoples Alliance, a newly formed group representing Sinhala radicals and also including the former ruling family of the Rajapaksas are keeping silent without opposing or supporting while exposing their cat on the wall position to jump to any side when the opportune time arises.

Besides, TNA is skeptical as to the sincerity and genuineness of the commitment of Ranil to move forward for the implementation of the 13 th Amendment viewing the decades of history of broken agreements, pacts and promises of the various Sinhala leaders and governments which is dotted with bitter lessons as learnt by the TNA.

With opposition mounting against Ranil's commitments, it won't be a surprise when a people non-mandated president succumbs to the pressure of Sinhala extremists, Buddhist clergy and Mahanayakkas, the de-facto controllers of the government since 1958 when also viewing the earlier statement of Ranil when he said that "He will not betray the Sinhalese".

As prevalent in the politics of Sri Lanka, entrenched racism, majoritarianism, communalism and Sinhala Buddhist supremacy will ultimately score and prevail over the other burning issues and ills of Sri Lanka. It is a multi-million-dollar question whether Ranil can overcome, tide and ride over the current economic doldrums and woes of Sri Lanka which is in the grip of an economic slump with depleted foreign reserves and an unstable government hanging on to Rajapaksa's favour and mercy for it's continued existence.



**By: Thambu Kanagasabai,**  
LLM [London] Former Lecturer in Law,  
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. &  
President, Tamil Canadian Elders for  
Human Rights Organization.

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(NC) Practising whole home safety includes having proper protection against the threat of smoke, fire and carbon monoxide (CO). However, just over one in three Canadian residents who experienced a residential fire had a working smoke alarm in their home, according to Statistics Canada. First Alert, a fire safety brand, shares the following safety tips to help you protect the moments that matter most with your family:

**■ Prepare a home emergency kit**

Being prepared in case of an emergency includes having an emergency kit on hand. In addition to basic necessities such as a first-aid kit, water, a flashlight and medical supplies, make sure your kit includes batteries, a multi-tool, blankets and non-perishable food.

**■ Install and maintain your alarms**

Proper smoke and CO alarm maintenance and replacement are essential to help keep your home and family protected. The National Fire Protection Association recommends installing alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, and in every bedroom.

Test your alarms regularly by pressing the test button and waiting for the alarm to sound. Replace the batteries at least every six months, or make maintenance easier with a two-in-one smoke and CO alarm such as the First Alert 10-Year Battery Combination Alarm, which means you don't have to replace the batteries or deal with late-night chirps for a decade.

**■ Equip your home with fire extinguishers**

Beyond smoke and CO alarms, having fire extinguishers is an important element of home safety. Place fire extinguishers on every level of your home, as well as in common spaces like the kitchen and garage. When selecting a fire extinguisher, look for devices designed to combat common household fires caused by wood products, grease and electricity.

**■ Create and practise a home escape plan**

In the event of a home emergency like a fire, it's important to have a home escape plan. Together with your family, identify two exits out of every room and designate a meeting spot outside of your home. Practise your plan at least twice a year to help ensure every family member remembers what to do.



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HOUSE TYPES & AVERAGE SALE PRICE:	TORONTO	YORK	DURHAM	PEEL	HALTON
Average Sales Price	\$1,127,635	\$1,293,702	\$931,548	\$1,080,216	\$1,199,254
Detached	\$1,718,440	\$1,614,301	\$1,023,307	\$1,368,367	\$1,523,458
Semi-Detached	\$1,278,347	\$1,154,596	\$751,434	\$941,935	\$995,813
Townhouse	\$1,330,772	\$1,184,708	\$794,083	\$900,312	\$1,025,633
Condo Apt	\$729,160	\$689,882	\$627,911	\$615,647	\$703,875
Total # New Listings	5,669	2,577	1,761	2,493	1,341
Total # Active Listings	7,898	3,479	1,770	3,527	1,932
Total # Sales	1,836	847	588	807	425
Avg. Listing VS Property Days On Market (LDOM/PDOM)	19/28	18/25	14/20	18/27	18/26
YOY Avg. Price Change	-4%	-4%	-9%	-9%	-8%

Prepared By: Sivage Sivagumaran BROKER CPA, CGA, GUILD™, ABR, SRES, SRS, RSPS | Source: TRREB Data As of, NOV/09/2023

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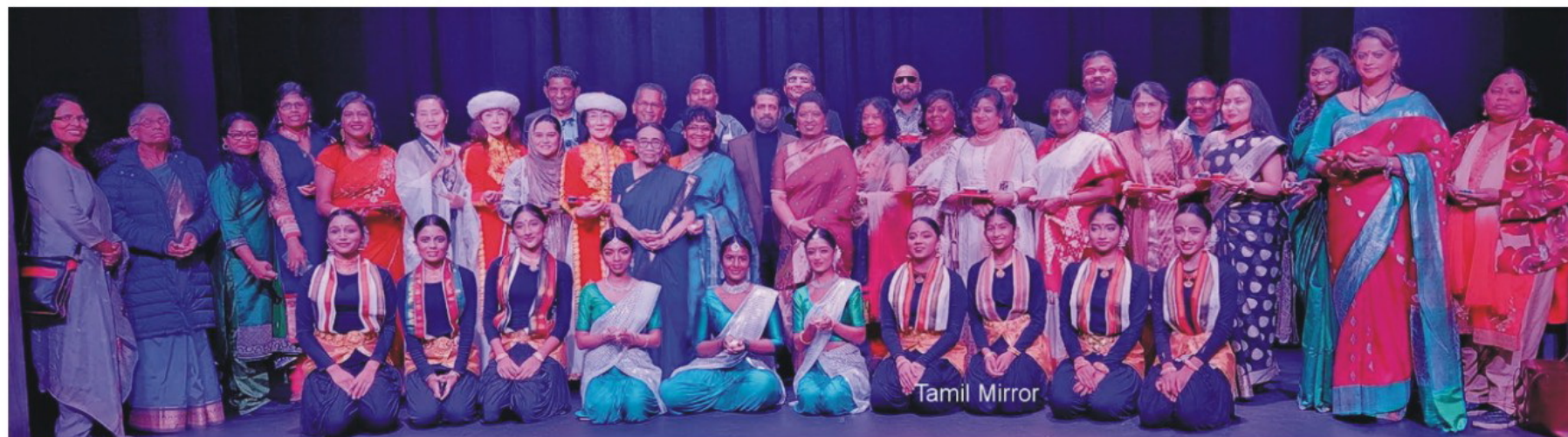


# RISE & RESIST, November 12, 2023, Ajax.

Niro Dance Creations ( NDC ) & Global Tamil Cultural organization hosted an event called 'Rise and Resist 2023,' on November 12, 2023 at St. Francis Centre For Arts & Culture in Ajax. The event included performances and Exhibition by local Artists promoting diversity and inclusion. A full day display of Art Exhibition by Rashmi Agarval, Niro Dance Creations was held. The following dance performances were staged:

Sweta Pararajasingam ( Global Tamil Organization ), Paromita Kar (Rajastani Dance ), Karen Wong ( Chinese Collective Arts Association), Atsuko Abeta ( Fantasy Dance ), Swetha Pararajasingam, ( Bollywood Dance ), Jenny Shao, ( Litmus Chinese Dance ), and Linto and Lijo Mathew ( Bollywood Dance by Delicious Academy ). There was a Natya Yoga presentation by NDC as well.

City Of Pickering Mayor Kevin Ashe and Associate Minister, Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP also delivered speeches. I wish NDC and GTO for their first ever event. **Charles Devasagayam, M.A.**





# Tamil Mirror GALA

## November 5, 2023, Toronto.

Tamil Mirror Awards Gala 2023 and 18 th anniversary Celebrations were held on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at Chinese Cultural Centre, Toronto.

The refreshments started at 4 pm and the event commenced around 5.15 pm. From 4.45 pm onwards Rishi Sriskanthan was entertaining the attendees on Veenai. After the lighting of the Lamp Canadian National Anthem and Thamil Thai Vaazthu were sung by Students of Athirai Sivapalan. Lingkan Nadarajah introduced Vithusayni Paramanathan, MC and the program commenced with Welcome Performance by Rishi Sriskanthan, followed by the Welcome address by Charles Devasagayam. He explained the purpose and the theme of the event.

Anushka Sabeshan, an upcoming young artist sang a song in English while Mayurathi Thevathas sang an old song in Tamil that took back the audience to their school years. Students of Thenuja Thirumaran performed a Bharathanaty dance. Students of Vanitha Kugenthiran performed a dance for Lord Shiva beautifully which was appreciated by the audience.

This group is a highly trained one in the Tamil Community with precision in their execution of Dance. Priyanthy Sebastiampillai sang another Tamil Song called "Enakku Piditha Paadal," and Charles dedicated that song to his wife. Then while Students of Sutharsini Thileepan performed a Bharathanaty dance for Lord Shiva, Students of HB Grooves performed a dance which was liked by the younger generation. The high light

of the event was "Sevel" A dance drama that lasted for more than 20 minutes. Its impressive to see how 48 students danced with precision.

The Opposition Leader Hon. Pierre Pollivere delivered a speech and took photos with the audience. Another high light of the event was a dance performance by Students of Jenani Kumar. 22 students mesmerised the audience with a unique chorography. The Chief Guest mentioned that although the song briefly froze the students didn't move from their position which showed their professionalism.

The Key Note Speaker, Thiru Thangapandian Ramalingam delivered a speech for about 40 minutes followed by Awards Ceremony. Audience were given take out dinner. The event came to a close around 10 pm.











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**About CGTA**

The Connecting GTA Networking Club was founded by Suresh Kumar, President & CEO of Kashden Consulting Group.

Suresh is passionate about delivering value in every connection that he makes. As a Specialist Business Strategist & Coach, he revels in efficiently maximizing potential and fostering professional relationships within organizations. And as the Founder and CEO of Connecting GTA, he is dedicated to help propel your business forward.

Connecting GTA began as a meeting place for businesses of diverse backgrounds to connect, collaborate and promote individual businesses in the GTA.



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# Inauguration of "Ignite Sports Club," November 11, 2023.

**Chandrika Rajalingam**, a long time Badminton player and community activist hosted her Holiday Party on November 11, 2023 at The Estate Banquet Hall, Toronto.

There were variety of fun filled activities including arrival of Santa Claus that were enjoyed by every one, as usual. As the high light of the event Mr and Mrs Rajalingam announced the inauguration of "Ignite Badminton Club," a new Badminton club.

*I wish her the very best in her future venture. Charles Devasagayam, M.A.*





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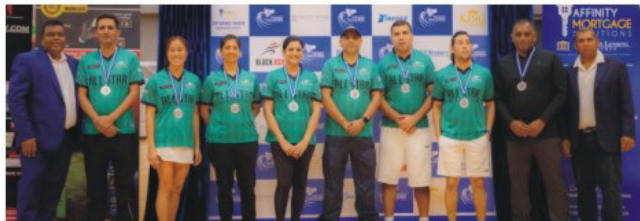


# 5th Toronto Smashers badminton league; October 29, 2023.

The 5th Toronto Smashers badminton league was successfully hosted on October 29, 2023 at Markham Pan Am Center for 4 divisions with 22 teams and 200 players. Over 300 people were visited the venue to watch the games.

Around 70 volunteers supported the tournament along with the League and Club Executive Committees. Over 50 provincial, national and international Champions were participated in the tournament It's another milestone tournament for Toronto Smashers. Congratulates to the League Committee

The winners are : **DIAMOND DIVISION:** Champions - DREAM TEAM; 1st Runners-up - RECKLESS WARRIORS & 2nd Runners-up – EAGLES. **PLATINUM DIVISION:** Champions – BATTS; 1st Runners-up – EAGLES; 2nd Runners-up: FAST & FURIOUS. **GOLD DIVISION:** Champions - MIXED BAG OF NUTS; 1st Runners-up - ALL STAR; 2nd Runners-up - HBC . **SILVER DIVISION** Champions - RW WARRIORS; 1st Runners-up - E-BADMINTON 1 & 2nd Runners-up - WRAPS IN 6IX.





# JMFOA – CANADA & USA ANNUAL DINNER, October 21, 2023.

Jaffna Medical Faculty Overseas Alumni, Canada and USA hosted its Annual Dinner, October 21, 2023 at Jc's Banquet Hall, Toronto.

The Jaffna Medical Faculty Overseas Alumni, ( JMFOA ) is an organization of medical professionals who have graduated from the Jaffna Medical Faculty in Sri Lanka and are currently living and practicing medicine overseas.

The organization was established in 2002 to foster a strong network of Jaffna Medical Faculty graduates worldwide, promote their professional development and support health care initiatives in Sri Lanka.

I wish them the very best in their future endeavors. **Charles Devasagayam, M.A.**





EELANADU CANADA HOSTED "OOTUM KARANKAL" AND "INNISAI MAALAI" on October 28, 2023 at Armenian Youth Centre, Toronto. Here are some selected clics from that event.



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