

# Monsoon

ONE DOLLAR

# Journal

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Emil Alphonsus, CA, CPA, CGA

## Emergency Ambulance Service launched in Jaffna

Sri Lanka and India have jointly launched an emergency ambulance service in Jaffna recently

By Siva Sivapragasam

The Government of Sri Lanka along with India has launched an emergency ambulance service in Jaffna. This is an expansion of an island wide ambulance service promised by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his last visit to Sri Lanka.

Several ministers and other dignitaries along with Prime Minister Wickremesinghe and Indian High Commissioner Taranjit Singh were present in Jaffna to grace the launch event.

Speaking at the occasion on a video speech presentation, Prime Minister Modi expressed happiness that the promise he had made to expand the ambulance service islandwide in Sri Lanka during his visit last year, was now fulfilled. He noted that the event marks another major achievement in the development partnership of India and Sri Lanka. He underlined that India sees Sri Lanka not just as a neighbour but as a very special and trusted partner in the South Asian and Indian Ocean family.

Noting that the expansion of the service islandwide started from the Northern Province, he said that India was happy to work together with Sri Lanka to wipe away the tears of the past and usher in a bright future. He noted that the local skillset and local employment in Sri Lanka would receive a boost with the expansion of the service.

Prime Minister Modi fondly recalled his last two visits to Sri Lanka. He highlighted that India had been and would always remain 'the first responder' for Sri Lanka in both good and bad times. Prime Minister Modi appreciated the efforts of Sri Lankan



President Maithripala Sirisena and Wickremesinghe for meeting the aspirations of all the citizens of Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Modi recalled what Mahatma Gandhi had said in 1927 when he had visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of the Student Congress of Jaffna: "The message that I can leave for Jaffna as for the whole of Ceylon is: let it not be 'out of sight, out of mind'."

Prime Minister Modi said that he had the same message today. He exhorted people of India and Sri Lanka to be in touch with each other so that they could know each other better and become even closer friends. He encouraged the people of Sri Lanka to come and experience the New India that was taking shape.

Prime Minister Wickremesinghe thanked the Indian Government for the generous assistance and noted that this was an important milestone in the India-Sri Lanka bilateral relationship.

The Emergency Ambulance Service was first launched in 2016 in the Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka under an Indian grant of \$7.5 million. This grant included the purchase of 88 ambulances, operational expenditure of the service for one year and setting up an emergency response centre. This service is now being expanded to the remaining seven provinces with an additional grant of \$15.02 million, covering the cost of 209 ambulances, training costs and operational expenditure for one year in all seven provinces.

The emergency ambulance service, which can be obtained by simply dialing the toll free number '1990' on any network in Sri Lanka, is the largest Indian grant project in Sri Lanka after the Indian Housing Project. India remains committed to further strengthening its bilateral partnership with Sri Lanka based on Sri Lanka's own choices and priorities

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Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister & DMK Leader Karunanidhi passes away

The curtain falls down on the life of the DMK political patriarch

By Siva Sivapragasam

Former five-times Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and leader of the DMK party ninety - four year old Muthuvel Karunanidhi has passed away after battling with his illness over the last two weeks at the Chennai Kauvery Hospital.

The DMK Leader was taken ill two weeks ago with a urinary tract infection and has been at the Kauvery Hospital where he was on a 24 hour continuous monitoring and treated with active medical support.

His health condition deteriorated a day ago causing a challenge and concern to the doctors treating him at the Kauvery Hospital.

Karunanidhi was five times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu which boasts as India's largest culturally famous state with a population of over fifty-million. He was better and more known as "Kalaigarnar". He was the leader of the DMK Party founded by Periyar and nurtured by Arignar Annathurai.

Karunanidhi started his journey in politics at a tender age listening to the speeches of Periyar the founder of the Dravidian movement and watching his mentor and DMK leader Annathurai addressing meetings. Karunanidhi was gifted with a dual skill - an oratorical talent and finesse in film script writing. Karunanidhi was a diplomatic politician par excellence and possessed an extraordinary skill in maneuvering difficult political situations. Apart from his political ability, Karunanidhi was an excellent film script writer and the films for which he wrote the dialogues were all box-office hits. Two such films were "Parasakthi", a social satire and "Manohara", a historical movie.

The DMK Leader and former Chief Minister would probably receive a state funeral. **Please see Pg 43...**



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# Prime Minister announces increased support for NATO

July 12, 2018, Brussels, Belgium: The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today concluded his participation at this year's NATO Summit in Brussels, Belgium, where he announced increased support for NATO. These contributions underscore Canada's commitment to play an active role in the Alliance and advance international peace, security, and stability.

While in Latvia earlier this week, the Prime Minister announced Canada will extend its contribution to NATO's enhanced Forward Presence through Operation REASSURANCE for another four years and increase the number of personnel taking part in this mission from 455 to 540.

At the Summit, the Prime Minister

outlined several other leadership roles Canada will undertake as an active and key partner within NATO. Our country will provide up to 25 personnel within the next five years to NATO's Airborne Warning and Control System program. This contribution represents Canada's return to the program since pulling out progressively during the 2012-14 period.

We will also contribute to the new NATO Command Structure and support the new United States Readiness Initiative. Canada is now a member of the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats and will join the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

Prime Minister Trudeau also an-

nounced yesterday that Canada will assume command of a new NATO training and capacity building mission in Iraq for its first year. This is the next natural step for Canada, as we move forward from a successful fight against Daesh to helping Iraq transition into a country of long-lasting peace and security.

Canada, the largest contributor to NATO's Women, Peace, and Security Office, will also provide \$26.7 million to improve women and girls' livelihoods in Iraq and Syria, as announced today by Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Chrystia Freeland, at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Coalition Against Daesh in Brussels. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and

girls are essential to building real and lasting peace in both countries.

We will continue to support efforts to modernize the Alliance and advance its women, peace, and security agenda.

During the Summit, the Prime Minister also took part in the North Atlantic Council, the principal decision-making body within NATO that encourages collaboration on policy and operational issues related to matters of security that affect the whole Alliance.

On the margins of the Summit, the Prime Minister met with several NATO allies and partners.

- via pm.gc.ca



## Toronto City Council to be reduced by almost half

The Ontario Government is planning to reduce the size of Toronto city council by almost half before the city's October election



Ontario Premier Doug Ford



Toronto Mayor John Tory

By Siva Sivapragasam

The proposed legislation which has already been tabled will reduce the number of councilors from the present 47 to 25 and ward boundaries would match federal and provincial ridings. The city elections are scheduled to take place on October 22. According to Ontario Premier Ford the reduction is expected to save an amount of \$25 million over a four - year period. Nominations for the Toronto elections will now be reopened mid-September after the proposed legislation for the reduction is passed.

The changes in the reduction of councilors will require amendments to the City of Toronto Act, the Municipal Act, the Municipal Elections Act, and

the Education Act, though there will be no change to the number of school board trustees being elected this fall. The city council has formally rejected the reduction and has asked for a referendum to be held on this issue.

"I believe that the suggestion I have made that we should have a referendum and put the legislation on pause while we seek the views of the people that will be accompanied, of course, by a full debate, is the right way to go about this," Toronto Mayor John Tory has stated.

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has stated that the proposed legislation would mean "less accountability and transparency."

## Wife of imprisoned blogger Raif Badawi hopes Canada keeps pressure on Saudi Arabia



Raif Badawi

Canada is "seriously concerned" about Saudi Arabia's freeze of new trade between the countries, but standing its ground on human rights comments which set off a diplomatic row, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said on Monday August 6.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marie-Pier Baril, added that Canada was "seeking greater clarity" from the Saudi government and said "Canada will always stand up for the protection of human rights, very much including women's rights, and freedom of expression around the world."

A CBC News report by Verity Stevenson states that, "Ensaf Haidar, the wife of jailed Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, says she's worried about what will happen to her husband now that Saudi Arabia is expelling Cana-

da's ambassador.

"It's alarming news to me. It came as a surprise," Haidar told CBC News, saying she still isn't certain what impact the dispute will have on her husband's situation."

Associated Press reported that according to analysts the dispute between Riyadh and Ottawa shows Saudi Arabia won't accept any outside criticism and will continue flexing its muscles abroad, especially as the kingdom enjoys a closer relationship with President Donald Trump.

Saudi Arabia expelled the Canadian ambassador on August 6th and froze "all new business" with Ottawa over its criticism of the ultraconservative kingdom's arrest of women's rights activists.

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## Leaving your Legacy onto the World: International Day of Youth

“The hope of the world rest on young people. Peace, economic dynamism, social justice, tolerance — all this and more, today and tomorrow, depends on tapping into the power of youth,” stated Antonio Guterres, the 9th Secretary General of the United Nations.

Spanning nearly three decades since 1965, through a series of resolutions, the United Nations General Assembly has aimed at providing a set of supports for youth across the globe. So much so that it is has become entrenched in a resolution by the Security Council as recognition of the importance of young peacebuilders in collective efforts to promote global peace and positioning them as valuable partners in global peacebuilding initiatives.

This campaign has ushered in International Day of Youth throughout the globe's collective consciousness on August 12. On display will be the 12th year for its commemoration after being initiated in 1999 around this time. Accordingly, it celebrates the roles of young women and men who are racialized and disabled to raise awareness on the challenges experienced by youth.

A specific goal from this day of observance is the promotion and facilitation of safe spaces for youth to engage in a diverse set of interests and needs, participate in decision-making processes and freely express themselves. Currently, the UN has a few initiatives on this front including both Goal 11 of the Agenda for Sustainable Development and the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).

Goal 11 focuses on the need to provide a space towards inclusive and sustainable urbanization, while the WPAY promotes the significance of leisure activities for psychological, cognitive and physical development in young people. Furthermore, as young people like myself grow more into a technologically connected world, there is a sense of purpose towards engaging deeper on political, civic and social affairs. At the same time, this desire from young people signifies the importance that safe spaces offer to allow young people in leaving their legacy onto the world.

Youth in the Greater Toronto Area alongside the rest of the globe can commemorate this event with the 2018 Youth Toolkit in their communities available on the UN website. Whether independently or through a local community organization, young people can organize events such as seminars, community clean ups or reach out to media to hold talk sessions on important issues in a safe space that can contribute to youth development.

Again, given the technological world that youth today live around, leverage the far-reaching effects of social media in spreading awareness on safe spaces for meaningful youth discussions in family, community and other social circles that a young person has access to.

Spread the word and make yourself the youth leader that is needed for a global community coming under wide ranging challenges such as declining political and civic participation and political instability and labour market challenges.

**Contributed by Harrish Thirukumaran**

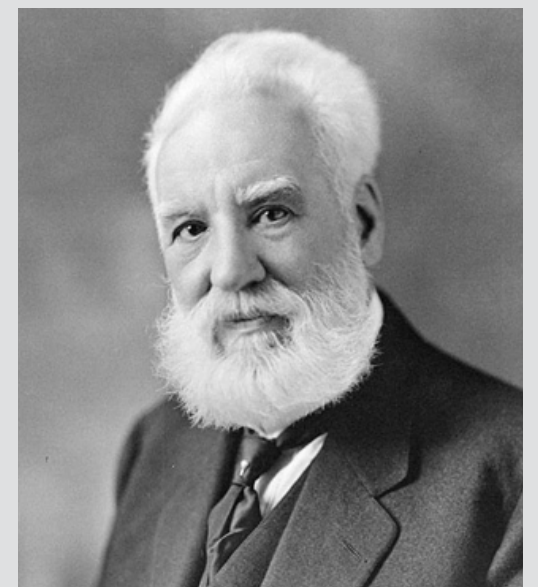


### Canada Historic

#### Milestones: AUGUST

August 3, 1876, Brantford, Ontario

Alexander Graham Bell conducted the first successful test phone call, where he heard his uncle during a one-way transmission.



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“Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within” - James Baldwin (2 August, 1924 - 1 December, 1987) American Writer

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

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## Statement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black July

Ottawa, Ontario - July 23, 2018  
The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on the 35th anniversary of Black July:



“On this day, we remember the victims of the 1983 anti-Tamil pogroms in Sri Lanka that took thousands of lives and displaced so many from their homes. We join Tamil-Canadians and members of the Tamil community around the world to mourn families and friends lost during Black July, and to reflect on the enduring human cost of the conflict in Sri Lanka.

“Black July was a week of destruction and horrific violence that followed decades of escalating tension. The ensuing armed conflict resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people and affected the lives of many more.

“In September 1983, Canada implemented a Special Measures program to respond to the violence in Sri Lanka. This measure helped more than 1,800 Tamils find their way to safety and freedom in Canada, and we thank them for contributing so greatly to the

country we enjoy today.

“The civil war ended in 2009, but the process of reconciliation is ongoing.

Canada is working closely with the Sri Lankan government and civil society to encourage lasting peace and reconciliation, including a meaningful accountability process that will have the trust and confidence of the victims of war.

“On behalf of the Government of Canada, I extend my deepest sympathies to those who suffered and those who lost loved ones during Black July. Together, we look to the future with hope for accountability, meaningful reconciliation, inclusion, lasting peace, and prosperity.”

## Throne Speech Opens Parliament to Take Action to Help the People

July 12, 2018, TORONTO — Ontario’s Government for the People is opening Parliament to take action to protect students and lower electricity bills.

The Speech from the Throne, delivered today by the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, officially opened the 42nd Parliament and set out the government’s plan to put the people first.

“We have a clear mandate from the people,” said Premier Doug Ford. “We are ending the deadlocked strike at York University so students can get back to school. We are striking the cap-and-trade carbon tax from the books. And we are cancelling unnecessary renewable energy projects to help lower your electricity bills.”

This summer session will build on the achievements the Government for the People has already made, such as freeing taxpayers from the cap-and-trade carbon tax scheme, fixing OHIP+ and reining in government spending. It will continue its work to get the province back on a healthy financial footing, so it can invest in strengthening vital public services like hospitals and



Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

schools.

The government will focus on putting everyday workers and families first. It will protect jobs by continuing to work with the federal

government to stand up to tariffs and ensure Ontario’s best interests are reflected in the NAFTA negotiations. The Government for the People will also send a message to the world that Ontario is open for business, and it will back up that message by lowering taxes and reducing regulatory burdens.

“We are getting to work quickly so people can see real change fast, and get the respect they deserve from their government,” said Premier Ford. “We are restoring accountability, so you can feel confident your government works for you — not the insiders and elites. A new day has dawned here in Ontario.”

- via ontario.ca

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## Ontario's Government for the People to Reform Social Assistance to Help More People Get Back on Track

July 31, 2018, TORONTO - Ontario is working on a plan to reform Social Assistance so that it helps more people break the cycle of poverty, re-enter the workforce and get back on track.

"We need to do more than just help people remain mired in poverty," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, in announcing the reform plan. "We're going to hit the pause button on the previous government's patchwork system and replace it with a system that helps stabilize people in need and support them to succeed."

MacLeod highlighted that the government has set an accelerated 100 day deadline to develop and announce a sustainable Social Assistance program that focuses on helping people lift themselves out of poverty. In the intermediate term, the government will provide current Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients with an across-the-board 1.5 per cent increase in support rates to help them with a higher cost of living. As part of this reform, MacLeod also announced that the Province will be winding down Ontario's Basic Income research project in order to focus resources on more proven approaches.

"Our plan will help get people back to work and keep them working, while supporting people with disabilities to work when they are able and participate in their communities," said MacLeod. "And our efforts to fix social assistance will go hand-in-hand with our commitments to reduce gas prices by 10 cents per litre, lower hydro rates, and provide targeted tax relief for working



**Lisa MacLeod,**  
Ontario Minister of Children,  
Community and Social Services.

parents and minimum wage earners, all of which will provide focused benefits to lower income families."

Over the past 15 years the number of Ontarians forced to go on Social Assistance has skyrocketed by 55 per cent. One in five people stays on Ontario Works for five or more years, and if they leave almost half return, 90 per cent of them within a year. This is what a cycle of poverty looks like.

"Social assistance will always be about compassion for people in need, but it must also be about lifting people up and helping them get their lives back on track through more jobs, more opportunities and more hope. Tackling the serious issues facing our social assistance system is not an easy thing to do. But it is the right thing to do. And we will get this right."

**via ontario.ca**

## Mayor Tory meets with Minister Blair to discuss housing assistance for refugee/ asylum claimants arriving in Toronto

3-Aug-2018: Mayor John Tory met today with the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction, to discuss details about the Government of Canada's response to the ongoing arrival of refugee/asylum claimants in the City of Toronto's shelter system.

The City is currently facing a deadline of August 9 to relocate refugee/asylum claimants who are temporarily housed in Centennial and Humber College dormitories, as the colleges require the space for the upcoming school year. The City does not have the resources or the space to relocate this population to other locations within the City's shelter system.

To assist the City, the Government of Canada has provided the City of

Toronto with an initial \$11 million in federal funding to help offset the costs associated with the influx of refugee/asylum seekers. The Government of Canada has also booked hotel accommodation within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) for the refugee/asylum claimants currently housed in the two dormitories. The City of Toronto will cover the costs of transporting this population to new facilities. The Government of Canada has also responded to the City's request to better manage inter-provincial flow of irregular migrants and coordinate the placement of new arrivals to other locations outside of the City of Toronto's

shelter system, through the introduction of a new triage centre in Cornwall.

## Prime Minister announces more money for Canadian families

July 20, 2018, Markham, Ontario:

Two years ago, the Government of Canada introduced the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) – a simpler, tax-free, new child benefit better targeted to those who need it most. Since then, the CCB has helped lift more than half a million people – including 300,000 children – out of poverty, and nine out of 10 families now have more money in their pockets to help with the high cost of raising their kids.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that the CCB has increased to keep up with the cost of living. This change comes two years ahead of schedule and will give hardworking parents more money each

month to buy the things their families need. The indexation of the CCB will provide an additional \$5.6 billion in support to Canadians and their families over the next five years. When the cost of everyday essentials like groceries goes up, families will receive more in benefits each month.

For the 2018-19 benefit year, the CCB will have a maximum annual benefit of \$6,496 per child under 6 years old and \$5,481 per child aged 6 to 17 years. On average, families will receive \$6,800 a year, tax-free, to put healthy food on the table, pay for summer camp, and buy new clothes for the upcoming school year

**- via pm.gc.ca**

## New Lower Don Project Will Help Bring Over 50,000 Jobs to Toronto

July 20, 2018, TORONTO - Ontario is cutting red tape to support new office and retail space in Toronto's Lower Don area and helping to create more than 50,000 new jobs, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark announced today.

"By reducing Ontario's regulatory burden we're smoothing the way for the first of many projects in the Lower Don area and sending the message that Ontario is open for business," said Clark. "Making a simple change in the Building Code specific to the Lower Don Lands means construction can happen at the same time flood protection infrastructure is being put in place. To protect health and safety, the Building Code amendment also prevents the buildings from being occupied until the flood risk is removed."

The Lower Don area is a prime location for development, with plans for new waterfront parks, open spaces, green infrastructure and brownfield remediation. Planning for a new integrated GO/Smart Track transit station is also underway. Streamlining provin-



cial approvals with the City of Toronto will bring the project to market faster and will enable private and public infrastructure construction that will add an estimated \$5.1 billion to the Canadian economy.

"We're making government work harder, smarter and more efficiently to make life better for the people of Toronto and everyone in the province," said Clark. **- via ontraio.ca**

"Toronto has stepped up to help in any way we can, but there is a limit to what we can do on our own," said Mayor Tory. "The City thanks the federal government for this initial funding and their collaborative efforts to find housing for those living in Toronto college dormitories. We will continue to work with all levels of government, including our municipal partners, to establish a coordinated, regional response to the ongoing pressures of irregular migration."

At its peak, there were about 675 people in the two college dormitory programs. Outside the dormitory program, there are over 1,750 refugee/asylum claimants currently in the City of Toronto hotel program on a nightly

basis. The City continues to see 15 to 20 new refugee/asylum claimants entering the system each day.

From November 2016 to date, the City has served a total of 5,315 unique refugee clients in the shelter system, and moved 2,690 refugee/asylum claimants from shelters into permanent housing during that time period, including 31 families from the dormitory program.

Over the coming months, the City will continue to proactively work with other orders of government, including other municipalities and community partners, to find appropriate shelter, accommodation and supports for refugees/asylum claimants.

**- via toronto.ca**



## Emeritus Bishop of Jaffna Rev. Thomas Savundranayagam turns 80

**Raymond Rajabalan**  
.....

"I still carry with me the early lessons learnt for life at Kayts St. Antony's College." Hard work, Honesty and Respect for our teachers and above all the Fear of God, which is beginning of Wisdom. – Rev. Savundranayagam.

Affectionately referred to as peoples Bishop, retired Bishop of Jaffna Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundranayagan turned 80 last month. He is undoubtedly a humble shepherd of his flock and belongs to the rare breed of religious personnel who believe in being easily approachable at all times.

Also known as Bishop Tom, he fulfilled his episcopal ministry enduring untold hardships, while always remaining close, not only to the Catholic flock but to everyone especially in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

Only a few will be aware that as a very young priest he had the misfortune to face the double tragedy of losing his beloved mother and sister in a train accident. While anyone else would have handled this tragic situation quite differently he decided to continue his journey to serve the Lord with great faith and strong determination. This incident probably gave him the strength to face any tough situation with calm and confidence during later years.

In the year 1981 when he was appointed the Bishop of the newly created Mannar diocese, the Island was heading towards a brutal ethnic conflict stemming from decades of ethno-centric discrimination and unjust political system rooted in the majoritarian mindset of the successive regimes in Colombo.

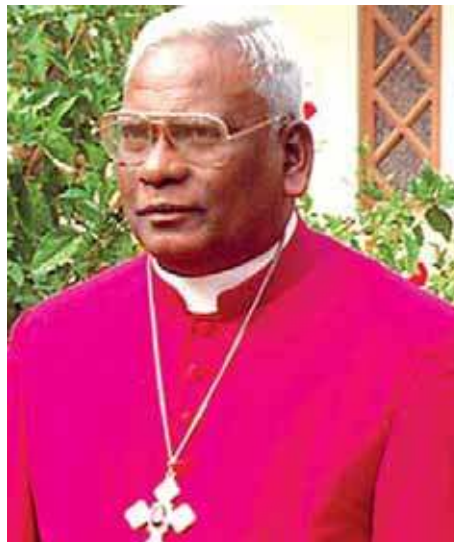
Bishop Thomas was not a son of the soil of Mannar District. However, the new Bishop had to quickly acquaint and acclimatize himself to the challenges and various issues faced by the new diocese of Mannar. Being a man of prayer and deep trust in the Lord, he delivered what was expected from his faithful and went about quietly fulfilling his episcopal ministry in Mannar.

After eleven years of service and putting the Diocese of Mannar on solid footing both spiritually and financially,

Bishop Thomas was consecrated as the Bishop of Jaffna in 1992 at the height of the brutal ethnic war in Sri Lanka in which Jaffna was the epic centre.

During that year, Bishop Thomas had to travel to his newly assigned Jaffna diocese through Kilaly Lagoon which was precarious because of constant aerial attacks and shelling from the armed forces. He travelled by land and sea in the midst of imminent dangers and constant threats, like St. Paul the Apostle, to fulfill the mission and ministry entrusted to him during the turbulent years of 1992 to 2009. It is important to note that Bishop Thomas's deep faith and prayer helped him to sail through the most difficult and dangerous times. He had the courage of his conviction even when the shells were raining and bombers were strafing over his residence. He had great resilience. He was both a victim and witness to the mass exodus of people from Jaffna in 1995. During the war numerous churches and other places of worship were destroyed, priests were brutally murdered or were missing, and the flock had to flee from place to place seeking refuge. Bishop Thomas has always been a people's bishop even through the most difficult times. He constantly followed the flock to console and heal them and help the people with their spiritual and temporal needs. He truly understood the suffering of the dispersed and displaced people and thus was able to win the love and respect of people from all walks of life and religious persuasions. His customary simplicity made him approachable and created positive rapport throughout the difficult years of civil war.

Bishop Thomas always stood by truth and justice without antagonizing the rulers of the land of the day. He put the welfare of the people and dignity of the church above the petty politics and patronage of the people in power. Any local or international VIP visiting the north during those years never failed to pay him respect and get his non-partisan opinion. Though he retired a few years ago he will be sought after by many as a truly unbiased man who has witnessed and experienced the brutalities of war. He has been a man



**Rt. REV. Bishop Davundranayagam**

of quiet eloquence with dignity in every gesture. Though he is retired Emeritus Bishop Thomas continues to remain one of the most powerful figures who articulates the struggle of the Tamil speaking people for justice, peace, dignity and self-rule.

Bishop Thomas will continue to

be remembered with deep gratitude by the ordinary people for voicing the untold sufferings of innocent civilians. There is no denying that Bishop Thomas's appeals in the past have created a positive response especially from the International Community that often times benefit the ordinary people.

The voiceless people have always looked up to this people's bishop as an elder statesman and leader, who lived with them, counseled them, consoled them and took every step in his power to alleviate their pain in whatever ways he could possibly do. He has always been a true shepherd of his flock. As a war-time Bishop of Jaffna during the most turbulent period in the history of Jaffna and Sri Lanka – our dear "People's Bishop" Thomas Savundranayagam himself belongs to the history of our ancestral homeland.

Let us all pray that he Lord Almighty may sustain him with good health, strength and happiness to continue his life of witness to the Gospel.

## Bank Deposits in Jaffna have exceeded 100 billion rupees, says Prime Minister Wickremesinghe Deposits from Diaspora money should be invested to develop the North, he says

**Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in Jaffna that the total deposits of banks in the North had exceeded Rs 100 billion and those funds could be invested to develop the region.**

Addressing a function in Jaffna to mark the beginning of "Enterprise Sri Lanka program", Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said that despite the end of the war, Jaffna remained economically backward and politically unstable. The current administration however was addressing those issues.

The PM encouraged the people of the north to invest their savings in the

region to boost the economy.

"Due to the war the area was devastated and people lost their capital. The economic development is the creation of capital and we are carrying out an initiative to do this," the Premier said.

Wickremesinghe said that savings in the province was equivalent to the Southern and North Western provinces. However those provinces had more enterprises.

"After 2015, the diaspora has sent a lot of money and the people have deposited most of it in banks. But these funds must be used to develop this region," he said.

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BY THULASI MUTTULINGAM

# HUMANS OF NORTHERN SRI LANKA

"Humans of Northern Sri Lanka" is a Facebook Community page by Thulasi Muttulingam, a journalist based in the North of Sri Lanka. To follow the updates, "Like" the page at: [www.facebook.com/pages/Humans-of-Northern-Sri-Lanka](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Humans-of-Northern-Sri-Lanka)

## 'Yes our (North) economy is failing - but it's not due to the workers'

A friend of mine is building a massive multi-purpose auditorium through his family trust for a local school in Jaffna.

Another friend is voluntarily overseeing aspects of the project on the ground.

A multi million rupee investment but something as basic as the construction of the building is going wrong.

This same school has a multi-million rupee deep diving swimming pool sitting vacant because something went wrong in its construction - and it would cost too much to rectify it.

The person behind funding the auditorium through his family trust has run into trouble with construction companies getting their orders wrong before (all for civic society buildings such as schools and hospitals) - so this time he actually had a team of architects and engineers being brought in as consultants from outside to supervise the project - and it still went wrong.

Acoustics for the large auditorium not taken into account by the builders, the hundreds of windows screwed in the wrong way, the stage set at an awkward angle, the roof leaking... all these and many more problems.

This is why people who come in to do anything in Jaffna say that Jaffna people are 'lazy', 'unmotivated' and 'unwilling to work'.

It's one of the few reasons that the economy refuses to kickstart despite several interventions; yet I have my own opinion on why that is.

No, it's not because the average worker here is lazy and unmotivated. It's the bosses behind the project.

In this case, the people who contracted the auditorium are suing the builders.

Who do you think is going to bear the ultimate cost? Not the people raking in the millions in this industry, that's for sure.

I have worked for a construction company here before. The boss was always cutting corners on costs on materials - even though he would overcharge the people who contracted him for high cost, quality materials. He was severely underpaying his workers too. There were no trainings for labourers, staffers, engineers on what needed to be done. He would give arbitrary orders - including on cutting costs on the mixing of materials - and when the whole thing came crumbling down, he would blame the workers and extract the cost in instalments from their already meagre salaries.

At one point, I calculated people were paying him to go to work, while getting screamed at continuously. Who in their right minds would be motivated and proactive under such working conditions?

And these are working conditions that I have noted repeatedly in the private sector in the North. Even those companies being brought in by the Government from outside to generate employment, take a look at prevailing exploitative working conditions and salaries around here when they arrive, and follow that lead.

This is why our people sell their land, their houses, their wives', mothers' and daughters' jewellery to get on boats to Australia or any other country that would have them. And they are known to be quite hardworking, motivated workers in those countries once they get there, in case you hadn't noticed.

Now with the construction company being sued in the case above - even though the company bosses have already made millions, they will pass the blame and the costs to the workers whom they are only paying a few paltry thousands per month.

Workers whom they would not have trained at the job.

Workers whom they would have given specifically erroneous instructions to.

Workers who would be paid less than Rs. 15000 a month to do hard labour to support their family with.

Time we stopped blaming the average worker and went after the crocodiles sapping them.

Yes our economy is failing - but it's not due to the workers. It's due to exploitative work conditions that keep workers trapped in a demotivating, de-energising cycle.

Central and Provincial Government - do something about the employers here instead of focusing only on the employees' faults.

### Status conscious

The average Jaffna worker being casteist, hierarchical and status conscious in the jobs they would do are the ones repeatedly highlighted on why we are not getting anywhere.

While they might all be true (among the caste conscious - more than 50% of Jaffna are not of the dominant caste after all) - my point is that that is not all there is to it.

A major problem not often addressed is the terribly exploitative work conditions and salaries. This needs to be addressed head-on, hence my rant focusing mainly on that aspect of it.

Re; the nurses - I have heard that accusation before but always thought it warranted more research on why people won't go into it.

### Gendered duties

At a guess I would say middle class parents educating their daughters would prefer they become teachers rather than nurses (I am guessing the pay scale is similar? have to check).

Solely because their daughters can then draw a government salary as well as have enough time to do housework - which nurses won't have time for. That is what the marriageability factor would be linked to - not the dignity of the job but the amount of time the women would have to perform their gendered duties at home.

Given the increase in teachers' salaries recently, I can imagine women themselves would prefer teaching to nursing in most instances.

Neither have I noticed stigma related to nursing, as in the case of hospital orderlies and attendants. There ought to be more to it than meets the eye on why women are not signing up

for it.

### Mother bear anxiety

Have a month long course to attend in Colombo and so will be away from home temporarily.

The mother bear is exhibiting all the symptoms of anxiety one would typically feel if their baby were flying the nest; the baby in question here being in my mid-thirties;

"Make sure you lock the door and windows when you go out."

"Don't talk to strange men."

"Check and double check the gas cooker to see its switched off before you move out of the kitchen."

"Don't iron your clothes naked."

... Errr What!?!?

"Yes. I read in the newspapers of some man who had got out of the bath and then electrocuted himself trying to iron his shirt without any clothes on. Don't let anyone find you in that state."

Right! Even if I die, I shouldn't be naked. Got it.

### The male brain

Am at an exhausting teacher training course. Spend 2/3 of the time being crammed with teacher training material as trainees and the other 1/3 preparing lessons & teaching ourselves.

As trainees when divided for group work, we are classed as apples, oranges and durians by trainers. I am often a durian.

Today I had to divide my own teaching class into groups. I divided them into the far less olfactory apples, oranges and bananas. Heard some snickers but had no idea why.

Then the trainer gave me feedback at the end of the lesson; "There's a reason why we use durians instead of bananas. I presume you heard the snickers from the male students?"

Facepalm! What is it about the male brain that it connotes sexual imagery with even everyday items?

### Women at gates

Symbolic representation of Tamil hospitality apparently. You will find some version of this at the gates or living rooms of most households in the North - women welcoming you in with lamps.

What I find interesting is the sexualisation of the imagery; their chests and thighs thrust out, hips thrust back, clearly delineating body curves to advantage.

Interesting representation from a society that still heavily polices women's 'modesty' at absurd lengths.

Thought of pointing out that the figures always show bare midriffs (and sometimes cleavage) in sexily clad sarees too - but around here midriff showing sarees are mainstream and so could give offence for being termed sexy.

The saree is a sexy dress form though - and I mean that in a positive way.







# India and the UN:

## Celebrating 70 years of invaluable service to the cause of peace

3 August 2018: From protecting civilians, disarming ex-combatants and helping countries transition from conflict to peace, Indian men and women in uniform have served the cause of peace from the earliest years of United Nations peacekeeping and continue to do so in some of the most challenging missions.

“UN peacekeeping operates in increasingly complex environments and we are grateful for steadfast partners like India, who have risen to new challenges and continue to participate meaningfully in our efforts to protect vulnerable civilians,” the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, said in a recent interview with UN News.

Mr. Lacroix visited India in June as part of a wider trip to the sub-region during which he thanked the Government and people of India, as well as Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, for their service and sacrifice in the name of peace. Together, troops and police from the four countries currently make up close to one-third of some 91,000 uniformed personnel across 14 UN peacekeeping operations.

Commencing with its participation in the UN operation in Korea in 1950, India has a long and distinguished history of service in UN peacekeeping, having contributed more personnel than any other country, as well as the first-ever all-female force that helped to bring peace to Liberia in the wake of that country’s brutal civil war.

From 2007-2016, there were nine rotations of all-female police units from India, whose primary responsibilities were to provide 24-hour guard duty, public order management and conduct night patrols in and around the capital, Monrovia, while assisting to build the capacity of local security institutions.

Hailed as role models, these female officers not only played a vital role in restoring security in the West African

nation but also contributed to an increase in the number of women in the country’s security sector.

“The contribution you have made to inspiring Liberian women, to imparting in them the spirit of professionalism, to encourage them to join those entities, those operations that protect the nation, for that we will always be grateful,” then President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf stated when the last all-female unit departed Liberia in February 2016.

### Making a lasting impact in the communities in which they serve

In addition to their security role, the members of the female Indian Formed Police Unit also distinguished themselves through humanitarian service, including organizing medical camps for Liberians, many of whom have limited access to health care services.

Medical care is among the many services Indian peacekeepers provide to the communities in which they serve on behalf of the Organization. They also perform specialized tasks such as veterinary support and engineering services. Indian veterinarians serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), for example, stepped up to help cattle herders who were losing much of their stock to malnutrition and disease in the war-torn nation.

In South Sudan, cattle are not only a valuable source of food but also a commodity for bartering.

The Indian veterinarians ran a mobile clinic earlier this year, travelling across the Upper Nile region, including to remote and dangerous locations, to treat sick cattle and educate their owners about disease prevention.

“Wherever I went I was being welcomed by people. They were very happy because there was no one, no one to look after them and whatever little we could contribute as a veterinarian and part of UNMISS, it is beneficial for them and for

UN peacekeeping operates in increasingly complex environments and we are grateful for steadfast partners like India  
- UN Peacekeeping chief Lacroix



An Indian Peacekeeper stands near helipad as a MONUSCO helicopter carrying DRC Minister of Communication Lambert Mende lands near Kanyabayonga COB, the 5th of June 2014. UN Photo/Sylvain Liechti



Serving in DR of Congo  
Indian peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo secure a helicopter landing site in the far east of the country in 2015. UN Photo/Michael Ali

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# Indian Railways to Launch Ramayana Train from 'Ayodhya' to Colombo covering Ramboda, N'Ellya and Chilaw

By: Siva Sivapragasam

The Indian Railways has decided to launch a train service that will cover all locations that are linked to the famous Hindu epic Ramayana - a journey that will start from Ayodhya, the birthplace of Hindu god Ram, and end at Colombo in Sri Lanka, where Sita was held captive by Ravana. With this initiative, the Indian Railways aim to cash in on a huge demand for religious tourism in the country.

The train, which will be called Sri Ramayana Express, would travel from Ayodhya to Colombo via Rameshwaram, an HT report said. The special train intends to cover all those places that have religious relevance to people, especially Hindus. The report says Sri Ramayana Express would take total 16 days to cover the Ramayana circuit that includes all the religious places.

The first 800-seater train under the service would start its journey



from November 14. Those who want to cover the last leg of the religious journey would have to opt for a flight from Chennai to Colombo. The journey within India, which will cover all religious destinations from Ayodhya to Rameshwaram, would cost around Rs 15,120 per person.

The amount would also cover ma-

ajor expenses of your religious journey, including onboard train meals, night stays, changing and washroom facilities at dharamshalas. Officials of the Railways catering and ticketing arm IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) said that the IRCTC officials would assist people during their travel journey.

The train would start from Safdarjung station in Delhi for its first destination Ayodhya where people will visit Hanuman Garhi, Ramkot and the Kanak Bhawan Temple. Other major stations to be covered during the journey are Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Janakpur, Varanasi, Prayag, Shringaverpur, Chitrakoot, Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram. The railways said it would provide bus service from railway station to religious destination.

For those wishing to complete the last leg of their travel will start from Rameshwaram to Chennai by train, from where they will fly to the Sri Lankan capital. In Sri Lanka, people will visit Ramboda, Nuwara Elyya and Chilaw. An official said the Railways is expecting to earn good revenue from the new trains service. Depending upon the response, the authorities would decide whether the train would run once or twice a year.

(With Inputs from Business Today)

# University of Jaffna Engineering graduate creates unique record

Raymond Rajabalan

Tharshikka Vickneswaran, an undergraduate of the Engineering faculty of University of Jaffna has created double history at the recently concluded final examination.

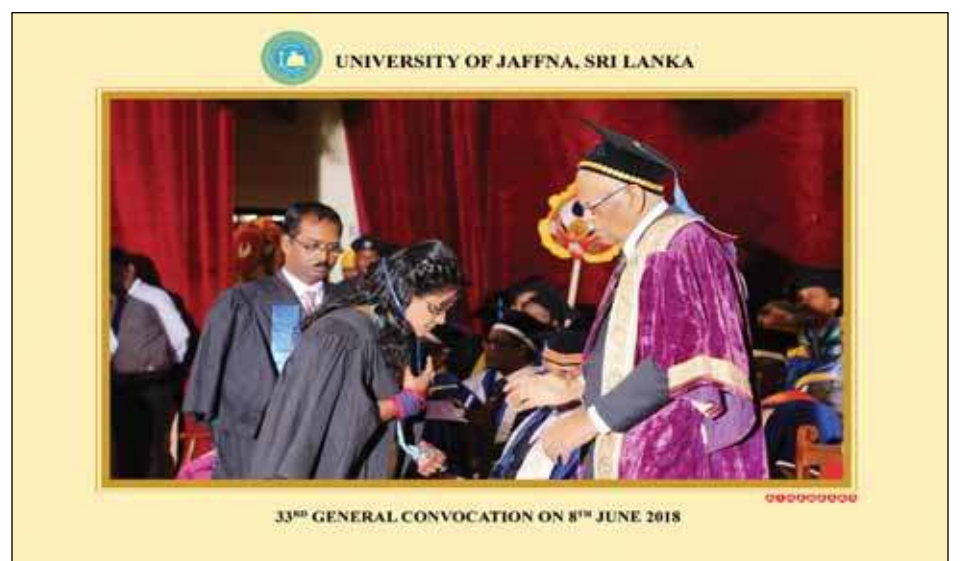
When the results of the examination of this first batch of students was released, it was revealed that this super talented student had not only obtained First class but also had become the field topper in Civil Engineering section with the highest aggregate marks.

Ms. Vickneswaran received her award from Prof. Pathmanathan, the Chancellor of the University of Jaffna at the convocation ceremony held on

June 08, 2018.

Meanwhile, Dr.N. Ravichandran, an Associate Professor attached to Clemson University, South Carolina, USA impressed by her academic brilliance as well as her proficiency in English has offered her a scholarship to continue her post graduate studies in the same university. Ms. Vickneswaran is scheduled to begin her Doctorate studies in the Geotechnical Engineering Department of Clemson University very shortly.

Hailing from Jaffna Ms. Vickneswaran had her entire education from Grade 1 up to GCE A/L at Trincomalee Sri Shanmuga Hindu Ladies College.



33<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL CONVOCATION ON 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018



Miss. Tharshikka Vickneswaran



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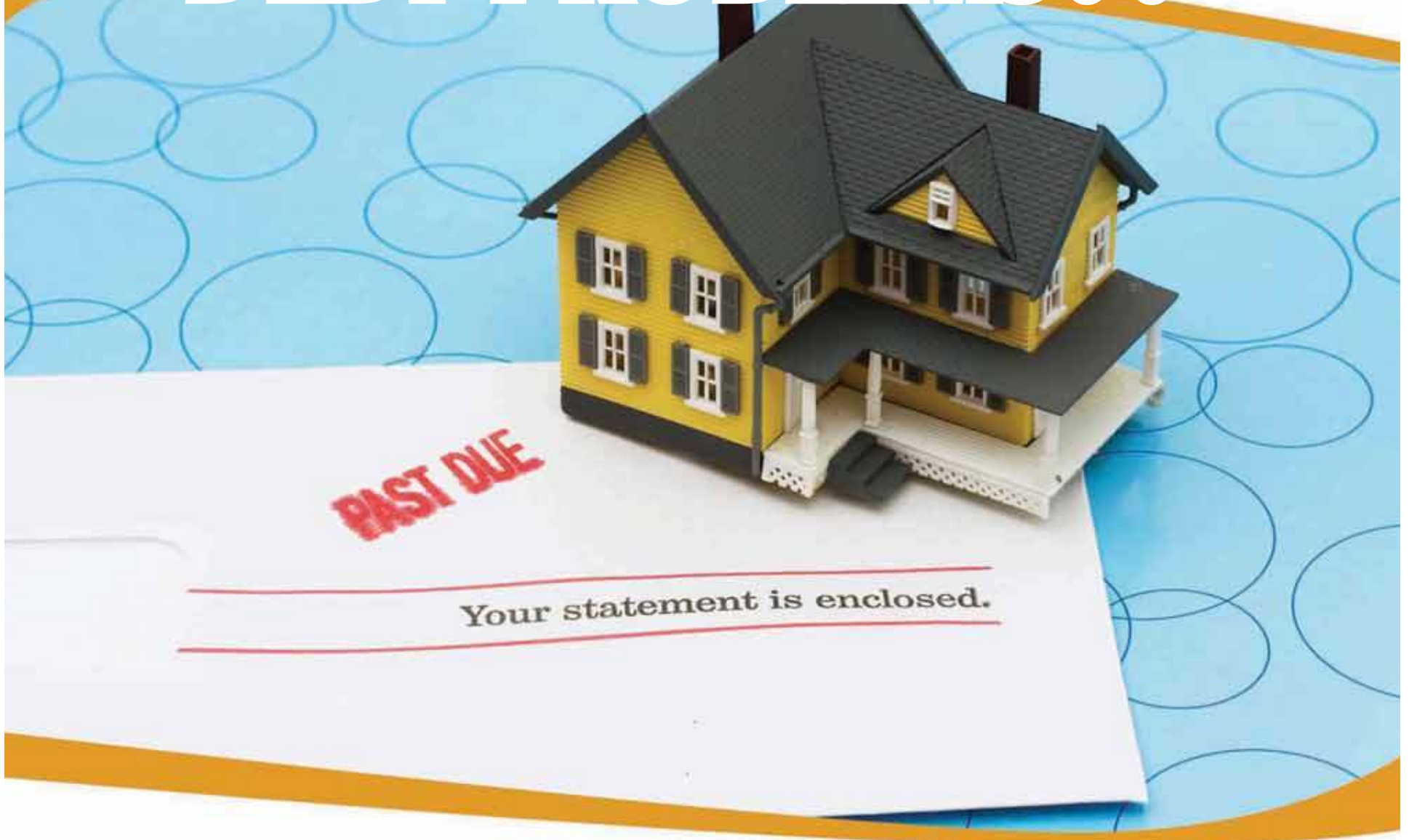
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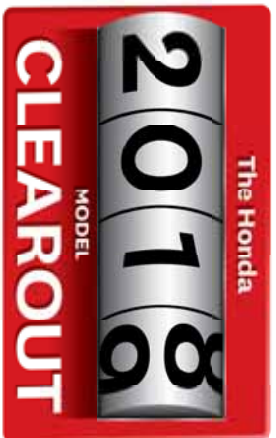
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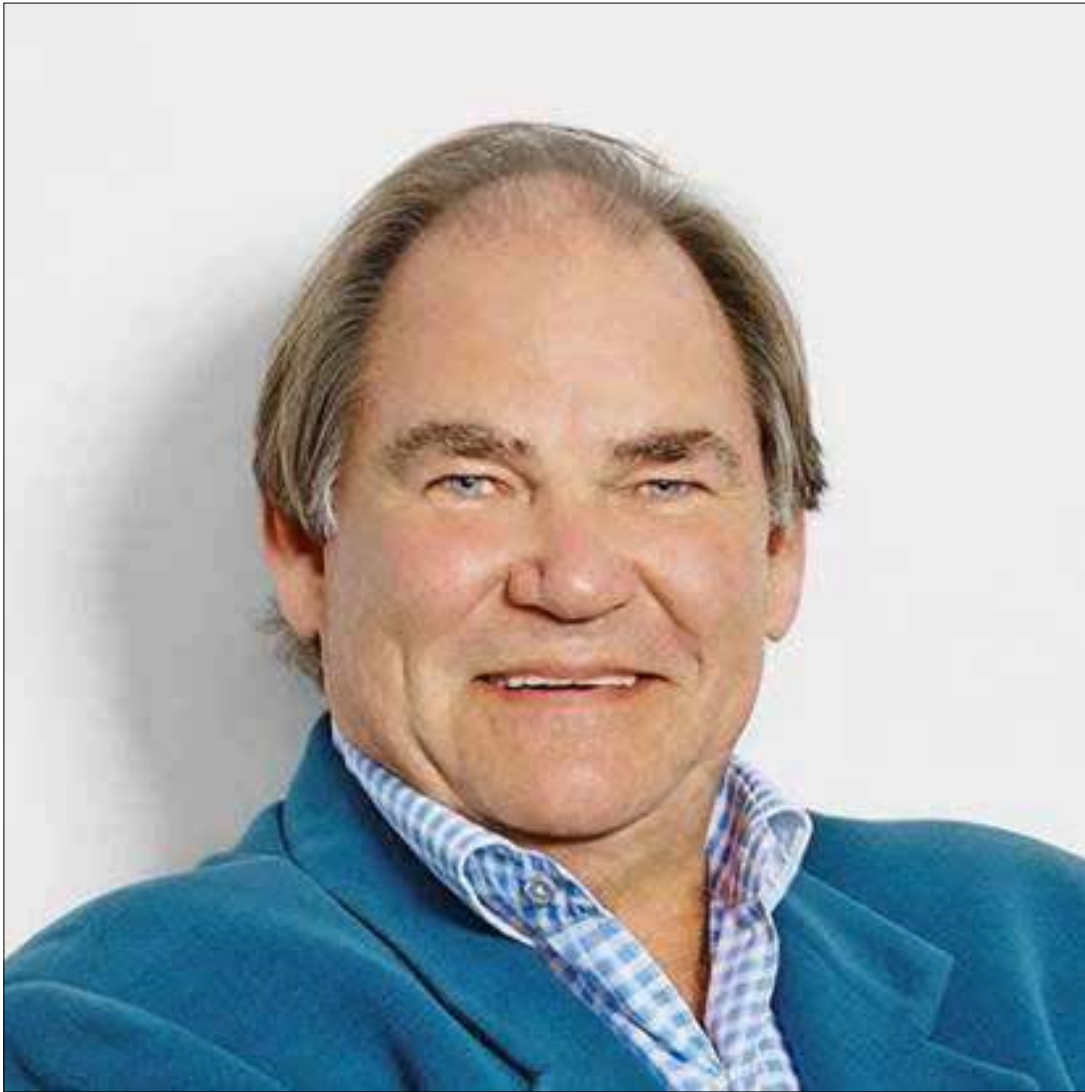
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# TSHEMBA FOUNDATION



Founder, Neil Tabatznik

Tshemba started when **South African** born founder, **Neil Tabatznik**, visited a game lodge in the **Hoedspruit** area. He was on a game drive when a ranger asked him to build a **school for his children**. At the time, the community already built a room and found a headmaster, but it was nowhere near a proper school.

After Neil built the school, which is flourishing, he sat down with the area Chief to find out how else he can help. **“A clinic,”** the Chief responded.

During the research to build a clinic, it became apparent that the infrastructure was partly in place. They visited a beautiful clinic with full, yet unused, dental suites – there were no dentists.

“It’s the most tragic thing; when someone gets sick and dies of something that, if it had been in an **urban area**, the thought would not have occurred to anybody that their **lives might be at risk**,” says Neil.

And so, the **Tshemba Foundation**, a refuge for doctors, a volunteer program that combines an African Bush experience, was built.

**Tshemba** was built for doctors who have a wealth of knowledge and experience; this is their chance to give back. The Foundation provides a stunningly beautiful and comfortable lodge in a **big five conservation area** where doctors can **safely rest, relax and take in the peaceful wonders around them**.

The **Tshemba Foundation** is not only about servicing less-fortunate people in dire need of **medical attention**, but also about helping doctors find their love for medicine again and pass their legacies on to the **next generation**.

## TSHEMBA FOUNDATION

### OUR MISSION

We aim to significantly enhance the professional skills available to less-fortunate people in dire need of healthcare. Our hope is that by drawing in skilled medical professionals, we can also ensure the transference of knowledge to the local healthcare providers.

### SINCE THE START OF THE TSHEMBA FOUNDATION, WE’VE SEEN THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- The patients receive the medical care they need and deserve in a timely fashion.
- The local medical professionals are being upskilled and able to treat their patients more successfully.
- The volunteers’ lives are enriched by the beautiful experiences they have here.
- The community is growing due to the economic surge from the increased tourism.
- Much needed equipment that would ordinarily not have been available has been donated to the hospital and clinic.

### Motto:

Let the beauty of what you love be what you do. - *Rumi*

[www.tshembafoundation.org](http://www.tshembafoundation.org)



# ROUGE VALLEY'S HYPERBARIC CHAMBERS - HEALING BREATHS FOR CANCER PATIENTS WITH RADIATION INJURIES



HBOT treatment units

Living with cancer can be a difficult journey for patients. Radiation is a common treatment option, but not without its own list of devastating side effects. Many people are familiar with the more superficial effects of the treatment such as skin dryness, hair loss, and extreme fatigue - but there are lesser known conditions that patients are at risk of developing, even after their fight with cancer has ended.

Chronic haemorrhagic radiation proctitis (CHRP) is one of the lesser known conditions, causing painful rectal bleeding in patients. While no gold standards in treatment exist currently, Rouge Valley Hyperbaric Medical Centre offers an effective treatment option for this condition, giving hope to long-time sufferers.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is the

medical use of 100 per cent oxygen at an increased atmospheric pressure to reach compromised tissues and promote overall healing. For the past two years, Dr. Nazareno, Gastroenterologist at Rouge Valley Centenary Hospital, has routinely referred patients suffering with mild to moderate CHRP to Rouge Valley Hyperbaric Centre. Dr. Nazareno cites positive feedback from the many patients who have experienced the treatment firsthand.

"[My patients] have been very satisfied with the outcomes of HBOT, with all experiencing improvement and some even experiencing complete resolution of their bleeding after one round," said Dr. Nazareno.

A typical course of treatment requires patients to visit the clinic on a daily basis, five days a week for about two hours each

time over a two to three-month period. It is a time-efficient treatment option for a lifetime of improved quality of life.

"Regardless of outcome, all patients return to my office speaking very highly of the professionalism and knowledge of the physicians and staff at Rouge Valley," Continued Dr. Nazareno.

OHIP covers HBOT treatment for patients who suffer from CHRP. Other medical conditions, such as wounds and burns, can also be treated by HBOT which is approved by Health Canada for these conditions, and also covered by OHIP.

**For more information** regarding HBOT treatment and a full list of Health Canada-approved conditions it can treat, please visit: <http://www.hyperbaric.ca/>



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO LIZ BULLER

Friends,

June 28 marked a new chapter for health care in Scarborough. That evening, at our 2018 Annual General Meeting, we launched our hospital's proposed permanent name — **Scarborough Health Network** — as well as the building blocks for our first strategic plan.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank each and every one of you for taking the time to contribute to the future of care for your hospital.

The candid insights and experiences you have shared in interviews, focus groups, community forums, and surveys have allowed us to develop a bold new roadmap that sets out how we will shape the future of care between now and 2023. Please see our new Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Directions outlined below.

The launch of our proposed new name and inaugural strategic plan is only the beginning.

We must continue to build on the energy, momentum, and excitement we've generated as we move forward in bringing these statements to life.

In the coming weeks, we will cascade our new plan throughout our organization and share it broadly with our community in order to further define the capabilities and initiatives we need to have in place to make it a success.

We also plan to introduce the hospital's permanent name and brand to the wider community later this fall, after the Minister of Health has formally approved our proposal.

Stay tuned for more information about next steps and activities, and congratulations to all on this milestone achievement! — *Liz*



## Remembering SRH Patient Family Advisor Phyllis Hill

When Kristy Macdonell thinks of Phyllis Hill, she remembers a person who was passionate about sharing her voice as a patient and community member to shape the health care experience for others.

"As one of our longest-serving Patient Family Advisors (PFAs), Phyllis used her health care story to help create a high quality health care system within

Scarborough and West Durham Region," said Kristy, Manager of Patient and Family Centred Care at Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH).

Phyllis died peacefully on June 10 at SRH's General site following a short illness.

Phyllis began volunteering with the Community Advisory Group at SRH's legacy organization Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) in fall of 2008. From there, she also became a PFA at RVHS in 2016 and subsequently at SRH.

Phyllis contributed to a variety of initiatives throughout the organization, including facilitation of focus groups on end-of-life care, accreditation planning, patient experience improvements, development of the Quality Improvement Plan, strategic planning, and pressure ulcer prevention. Most recently, Phyllis was selected to join SRH's Senior Leadership Team as a PFA. She was also recognized by the SRH Board of Directors for her involvement in interviewing and selecting community members to serve on SRH's first Community Advisory Council.

Phyllis' support for the local health care system extended beyond SRH. In 2017, she was appointed to serve on the Scarborough South Sub-Region Planning Table for the Central East Local Health Integration Network.

In addition to her volunteer

work, Phyllis had a distinguished career as an educator in the East York and Toronto school boards, which included roles as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and superintendent.

"We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to Phyllis' family and friends," said Michele James, Vice President, People and Transformation at SRH, who partnered extensively with Phyllis over the past decade in her various volunteer roles. "Although Phyllis will be greatly missed as both a PFA and as a friend, her humour and storytelling will live on through our memories of her."



## Scarborough and Rouge Hospital previews inaugural strategic plan at 2018 AGM



Government officials, health partner organizations, donors, and community members joined Scarborough and Rouge Hospital (SRH) staff, physicians, and volunteers to celebrate an unforgettable year and preview the organization's inaugural strategic plan at SRH's 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 28.

"This year's AGM was made possible because of the many individuals — both within and outside our hospital — who have taken the time to share their candid insights and experiences as part of our strategic planning

process," said Elizabeth Buller, President and CEO of SRH.

"Thanks to this support, we've created a bold new roadmap that will help us to shape the future of care for everyone in our community."

In addition to the launch of the strategic plan, the hospital welcomed three new elected Directors. Joining the Board are Lianne Jeffs, Mark Segal, and Richard Wong.

"We are pleased to welcome our new Directors and look forward to the contributions they will make in our journey to deliver the very best care experi-

ence to our community," said Maureen Adamson, who was elected as Board Chair for the third term.

"SRH is an organization that is ready to develop a highly integrated, highly coordinated, and innovative response to Scarborough's health care needs. Together with our many stakeholders, we will continue to build on the energy, momentum, and excitement we've generated as we move forward in bringing our new strategic plan to life."

To view the strategic plan, visit [www.srhhospital.ca/planningourfuture/](http://www.srhhospital.ca/planningourfuture/).

### SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CARE

#### VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Our plan clearly states who we are and what we are aspiring to achieve.

#### OUR VISION

To be Canada's leading community teaching health network — transforming your health care experience

#### OUR MISSION

Improving lives through exceptional care

#### OUR VALUES

In all our interactions we will be: Compassionate · Inclusive · Courageous · Innovative

### SETTING OUR COURSE

#### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

We'll work towards our ambitious goals by focusing on four strategic directions.

#### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Improve population health, health equity, and system integration

#### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Transform the patient experience through innovation, education, and research

#### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Set a new standard for exceptional quality and patient safety

#### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

Build our culture to empower and inspire our people

### BEGINNING OUR JOURNEY

#### NEXT STEPS

Now that we have our strategic plan, the really exciting part gets started.

Over the next few months, we will be:

Building our mission, vision, and values into our culture

Developing action plans for achieving our strategic directions

Building frameworks needed to implement the plan and align our corporate goals

Showcasing our new strategic plan at events and activities



## Special Feature

# Gain with Pain by Canadian Police Force

By: Samy Appadurai

The commitments made by the Toronto Police in terms of its operations can be shown in the following example of exemplary conduct by Constable Ken Lam in a very critical and challenging circumstance.

It was a very pleasant and lovely day on April 23, 2018. After a cold and very long winter bright sunshine was certainly welcome and office employees and those engaged in the business sector came outside and were enjoying their lunch and a break under the penetrating the rays of the sun with slight breeze on Yonge Street between Shepard Avenue in the south and Finch Avenue in the north which is one of the busiest areas in Toronto Ontario. Suddenly, a white Chevrolet Express van rented from Ryder ran a red light, then went southbound on the west-sidewalk of Yonge Street at Tolman Street and sped for several blocks. Alek Minassian age 25, deliberately targeted pedestrians and killed 10 and injured 16. Emergency Services were contacted through a 9-1-1 call by someone who was witnessing the scene at about 1:24 pm and all three of the paramedics were dispatched from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center, Police and Fire Service also arrived at the scene without delay.

The situation was dangerous, sensitive and full of tension and uncertainty. Constable Ken Lam, an officer in traffic control capacity from the Toronto Police Services intercepted the damaged van that was stopped on the north side on Poyntz Avenue and confronted in a very steady and cool manner the suspected driver Alek Minassian who was just out of the driver's seat at the opened driver-side door. Alek Minassian drew his hand from his back pocket and pointed a dark-coloured object that looked like a pistol towards the Officer. The Officer ordered him to drop the object to the ground, but Alek Minassian continued to try to provoke the officer into shooting him in the head. In return the Officer warned that he would shoot him and then Officer Lam went to his cruiser and turned off its siren. As Minassian and Lam advanced towards each other, the Officer recognized that the object in Minassian's hand was not a gun then holstered his pistol and arrested him ending the drama at 1:32 p.m.

When the public portrayed him as a hero he said very humbly that he was not a hero, rather he was merely doing his job. His actions truly demonstrate the core of the mission statement of the Toronto Police:

"We are dedicated to delivering police services, in partnership with our

communities, to keep Toronto the best and safest place to be."

Although, Police Chief Mark Saunders told the media that Ken Lam had done a fantastic job to understand the circumstances and environment to get to a peaceful resolution, still the concerned Officer exhibited true humbleness which is certainly admirable.

Toronto is unique and complex in many ways such as ethnic diversity of having people from over two hundred counties and territories with many languages, heritage values, conflicting ide-

integrity, and without prejudice, even in the most challenging circumstances, when no one is watching, and on and off duty; holding others accountable to the same standards; challenging any inappropriate behaviour; and asking ourselves, and have I lived to my word and values."

Let us now compare the nature of handling such situations our southern neighbour the United States. If a similar incident were to occur firearms would be used without hesitation even if the suspect was unarmed. The re-

complaints about racial bias against visual minorities such as members of the black community and First Nations. As far I know the Special Investigation Units have been addressing those issues and have made some progress but not up to levels deemed satisfactory by some.

I do appreciate the bridging of the gap between the police, primarily in terms of law enforcement and a prevention of unlawful activities and the education of the public by working with community leaders who have been able



ologies and many others living together as a single component of the Canadian mosaic. Just to maintain peace and harmony in such a city is one of the biggest challenges. It takes dedication, the ability to take risks and deep commitment to the cause, and a well trained patriotic team that is led by a dynamic leader.

The Toronto Police Service was established during the British era in 1841 and it was the first municipal police service that provided police services in North America. Currently it is the largest municipal police service in Canada and third largest in Canada. Currently over seven thousand and four hundred employees in which just five thousand are Police Officers serve 2.8 million people within an area of 641 square kilometers and serve in 17 Divisions

One of the core values of the Toronto Police is that they "do the right thing by acting professionally, with

results of such action would have been far worse. "Research has shown that Canadian police are reluctant users of deadly force," says Rick Parent, a criminologist at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. In comparison based on the available data, Canadian police officers while on duty used firearms far less per capita than US police force. The courage and selfless service in protecting the public in Canada by the police officers deserve a lot of appreciation.

I would not sing a song of praise only. It is also important to mention the other side of the coin though it is remote compared to the wonderful services done by the police services for the multi-ethnic communities in Canada. There are incidents where even persons who had mental health issues were victimized by police officers. There have also been reported examples of excessive, though non-lethal, uses of force. Some communities have made

to spare their time voluntarily for the cause. I have the privilege and honour to work with the South and West Asian Consultation committee of the Toronto Police Services for over two decades. Although the Police Officers are in uniform they work with us as fellow citizens and the nature of our activities in carrying out the agenda freely and frankly.

In fact, in cosmopolitan cities like Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver where the rapid growth of minorities particularly the visible ones, geographically linguistic differences, various religious beliefs and practices, extremism, economic status, education and social classes dominate the demographic pattern. The current visual minorities in these cities accounts for one fifth of the total population it is 51.51% in Toronto, in Greater Toronto 48.76% in Ontario 29% and 22% overall in Canada. In the near future this growth will likely be due to the fact that three



fourths of the current trend of new Immigrants are from Asia and mainly as visual minority.

Therefore, the ethnic composition matters more on the size of the demography. Suppose these cities have been predominantly inhabited by a mono ethnic group; it would have been easier and effective in maintaining law and order and easy in intermingling with the society. Furthermore, the demand for new Immigrants cannot be reduced due to the fact that the natural increase in the population in Canada has been in decline in ratio and in order to meet the demand for man power and having a lower supply from within Canada, it is imperative to have a constant flow of international immigrants. Since the

For example, in some of the South American countries and some of the Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries maintaining law and order is very challenging; even the respective governments find it hard to control gangs, who have economically enriched themselves so well and channel a part of their resources for their inappropriate activities. The fear of reporting crime by the public and the taking appropriate measures by the law enforcing agencies at times forces them to show blind eyes. The drug syndicate has got its own access with no stone untouched. Some of the underage children are influenced by using drug and get addicted and they keep them for safe sales of drugs, up to some ex-

My three decades in living in Canada and participation in a couple of cultural organizations and also directly with some citizens, I have realised that inter ethnic conflict, religiously based fights, and disputes have not been to a great extent under control and the role of police services in this regard is beyond doubt well appreciated. The interesting part of it, is that our South and West Asia Consultation Committee has been sharing Canadian values so well and also have more of a positive attitude regardless of their past in their respective countries. It is the impact on the Canadian mosaic and the way it has been advocated by government and non-government departments and organizations.

depression, sleep disorders, physical, mental disabilities, aggression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The police services have also taken as a preventive obligation of their mandatory function and working with the communities as fellow citizen to assist them. As far as my being part of the Consultation Committee of the Toronto Police, their very informal approach with the public directly and concerned community organizations has made a substantial contribution in reducing such unpleasant acts and some what made the life better for victims. The only drawback of it is that it is hard to measure the degree of pain and suffering that those victims have and by having under gone such remedial programs the extent that they have been relieved.

Seniors are other victims who have been suffering in silence with limited avenues in which to get out of these causes of suffering and able to pass their later part of life. Although the government respects and has gratitude for them for their contributions made for the better and peaceful lives for the forthcoming generations, still those who are at the tail end in executing such schemes have been making their effort substantially, still there could be room for more of a compassionate approach. The baby boomers that have made a tremendous contribution in rebuilding the socio-economic conditions those were affected by the destruction of WWII and it's after effects were very painful and unpleasant. In spite of it, they struggled in rebuilding the nation. Their number has been increasing tremendously and it has over taken the young ones in the age group between 1-14 years of age group in the census of 2016, the first time in the demographic history of Canada. I do appreciate the Canadian Police Services have taken this into consideration. For an example the Toronto police mentioned this issue as follows:

"The abuse of elderly persons is a growing concern to the Toronto Police Service due to an increasing senior's population and its reliance on caregivers to maintain levels of independence. Vulnerable persons are also a target for abuse due to an increasing trend encouraging independent community living. The elderly and the vulnerable are hesitant to report their victimization for a variety of reasons. In conjunction with the community agencies serving the elderly and vulnerable, the Service is working to encourage the reporting of abuse and to ensure that all complaints of abuse are fully investigated in a timely manner."

Both the public and the police services are two sides of the same gold coin that represent the beloved nation Canada. Let us work together for maintaining peace and harmony within and outside the home.



supply from a diversified ethnic background, the duty of the police force has to be more demanding.

Another challenge is that most of the areas from visual minorities have preconceived notions of what police officers in Canada are like. For some Immigrants to Canada, these notions come from their experiences in their home countries. It is somewhat strange and uncomfortable for those who have not been born and brought up in one of the western countries to see Police Officers perform their duties according to the law. Sadly, to a degree in some countries the Police are corrupted to an extent, some accept bribes in discharging their mandated duties, show favouritism towards relatives and friends or other persons, expecting sexual favours, taking action against innocent people by making faulty accusations, and ignoring or not prosecuting crimes committed by sophisticated or influential personalities, politicians or relatives of the police officers.

For those growing kids, getting free drugs for their newly introduced drug habits, and commission for selling drugs brings plenty of money very easily. They wouldn't realize that how long it will go without being caught by the law enforcing agencies. Furthermore it ruins their overall health. Some of the researchers concluded that the drug use to some extent influences violent types of behaviour and increases more crimes.

Research carried out by the Australian government found that benzodiazepine users are more likely to be violent. Their relationship with weapon sales and smuggling indirectly motivates more crimes committed by others.

The Canadian Border Services alone made about 9,611 seizures having the value of \$310 million in 2015-16 fiscal year and the drug offences in 2016 such as possession, trafficking, imports and exports and secret production offences were about 95,400.

Let us also look into the issue of domestic abuse and senior abuse which have not come into limelight and received due attention from government agents and the public at large, but the seriousness and the depth of suffering in silence needs to be addressed adequately. In most of the cases for South and East Asian countries and those in Africa where the norm of these societies considers that such abuses particularly by the males and mother in law to daughter in law is acceptable and therefore not a serious offense and justified on the so-called prestige of the family values. It includes verbal and physical and emotional spousal abuse by the husband and in some remote cases his parents and siblings. It also includes honour killings of their children for having the liberty in having relationships outside the respective norm of the societies. The abusers wouldn't realize the seriousness of the adverse consequence of such abuses. The victims have been undergoing stress,



## WORDS OF PEACE



## Living in Today

“Do you know how much time we waste waiting?” asks Prem Rawat, an international ambassador of peace. “We wait to go to sleep. We wait to get up. We wait for the bus. We wait for a friend. We wait to go to a party. Children are waiting to go to school. Waiting, waiting—we’re living life as if we’re going to be around forever. There is no sense of urgency. There is no understanding.”

When we’re waiting we’re living for tomorrow, Mr. Rawat says, and that’s a problem. “‘Tomorrow I will do this,’ people say. ‘Tomorrow I will do that. Tomorrow I will pray. Tomorrow I will think about my life. Tomorrow I will think about peace. What will happen to me tomorrow, and the day after that?’”

Mr. Rawat travels the world with a message of personal fulfillment and inner peace. He talks about an experience of true peace within every human heart that can be felt right now, today.

“Life is all about today,” he says.

“Today is all we have. When tomorrow comes, how does it come? It arrives as today. The reality is our whole lives are going to be spent in one very long today.

“Then, finally, the ultimate day comes, and we have no more tomorrows. In that moment everybody understands. ‘Oh my God! I should have paid more attention to my life. I shouldn’t have wasted my time.’ Then, we try to understand what life is. We ask, ‘Who am I?’ We ask, ‘Why am I here?’

“Do you ever ask, ‘Who am I?’ You should. Ask, ‘Who am I?’—and listen carefully to the heart, because there is an answer. The answer is that you are the one who wants to be content. You are the one who wants to be in peace. Because that is the call of the heart: ‘Can I please be content? Can I please just be happy? Can I please be in peace? Can I please, please be in gratitude? Can I please be in that consciousness? Can I please be aware? Can I please truly dance the

dance of life?’

“To dance the dance of life, we have to hear the rhythm of life. That rhythm of life is pulsing inside of you. Pulsing with every breath that comes into you is the blessing of life. With every breath that comes into you, the gift of all gifts is given to you. Are you willing to accept it? That’s all that has to happen: Accept! Because as soon as you do, you are filled with gratitude. If you don’t accept, how can there be gratitude?”

“Some people say, ‘I am the way I am because of my karma,’” Mr. Rawat says. “‘It’s not up to me. Something or somebody has already written how everything is going to happen.’ I say, if that is the case, then why did that creator give you two hands? You could have just been a blob, doing nothing. Well, that’s not the case. You have the power to shape your life the way you want to shape your life.”

We judge ourselves, he says, by the degrees we have, the cars we have, the size of our houses, the size

of our bank accounts. We look at others and wish we could be like them. We don’t think we’re fortunate unless we have this car or that house. We think being fortunate means having those things.

“Can we judge ourselves on a different scale?” he asks. “Call it the scale of life. The most magnificent of gifts comes to us, and we don’t think about it. It is the gift of breath, the gift of life.

“Begin with appreciating existence. Judge yourself by the scale of life itself. Be humbled by the joy that resides in your heart, by that peace that dances inside you. Those are your treasures. That is your reality.”

To learn more about Prem Rawat:  
1 877 707 3221

416 431 5000 Tamil

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[www.wopg.org](http://www.wopg.org)

[www.tprf.org](http://www.tprf.org)

[www.premrawat.com](http://www.premrawat.com)

[www.timelesstoday.com](http://www.timelesstoday.com)



# Why it's important to Venture outside this Summer

By: Janani Srikantha

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Often we get to this point in the year and think where the time has gone. It feels like we just started the summer, but the "Back to School" items that are appearing on store shelves indicate that autumn is around the corner. However, we still have a month left of summer vacation, and there are many ways that we can make the most of it.

As tempting as it is to laze around each day in front of the TV or computer, it's probably not advisable as there needs to be a balance in screen time. There are numerous reasons why playing and exploring outside is beneficial.

Students' school year, filled with assignments and projects, can be extremely stressful and often they're running on an empty tank by the time summer arrives. The British Journal of Sports Medicine says that even a short walk, for about 25 minutes, results in lower frustration levels, more alertness, and lets the brain recuperate.

Being outside allows people to become calm and their EEG shows a decrease in brainwaves associated with frustration. When a child's life is filled with activities that require a lot of concentration, their brain gets tired. However, when they are exposed to nature, we let their brain recover from this mental fatigue.

There are studies that also show the brain is more alert when children spend time outside. Research by the Landscape and Human Health Lab describe that when children are asked to spend time in a natural park, a neighbourhood, or a quiet downtown area, they do better in attention-related

tasks after being in the natural setting. Furthermore, children with Attention Deficit-Hyperactive Disorder show an improvement in symptoms after activities that occur in green, natural settings rather than other environments.

Spending time outdoors has an impact on children's cognitive and social abilities. Research in the journal for Public Library of Science states that those who spent time outdoors show improvement in problem-solving and multi-tasking, and achieve 50% higher scores on tests that are connected to creativity. Research also shows that children have increased levels of self-esteem and can adapt to change which continues into adulthood. This is because having the opportunity to be outside in nature lets children take risks, explore new things, and be creative as they develop a sense of wonder.

Research conducted at Carlton University reveal that nature has the ability to make children happier and leads to positive mental health. Further studies demonstrate that when children are in natural environments their ability to regulate their emotions is improved. Children also experience a decrease in anger, and have less risk for problem behaviour and symptoms of depression.

The benefits of being outside impact physical health as research shows children who play outside are more active and have a lower risk of obesity. Also, data highlights that nearsightedness among children is increasing, and even 45 minutes of spending time outdoors can make a difference. Research and medical professionals suggest that opportunities to use distance vision are higher when children are outdoors.

Furthermore, the higher levels of outdoor light may help the eye develop.

Children who play outside increase their body's natural production of Vitamin D3, which helps their bones and muscles develop. Also, the more time a child spends outside, their immune system improves.

A study at Nippon Medical School in Tokyo shows that people who spent time outside, hiking, had an increase in white blood cells. But, this was not seen when people walked in urban environments which indicates that the increase is not due to exercise alone, but can be attributed to being in natural settings.

Not only does being outside help individual children, but it also benefits the environment. Studies show that children who have a connection to nature are more likely to take an interest in looking after their surroundings. They begin to feel a sense of responsibility in protecting the natural habitat.

With all of these benefits, what can we do to get outdoors? We're lucky in Toronto since it has a multitude of parks and trails to explore. Riverdale Park is an excellent area to participate in numerous games on the playing fields, watch the sunset, and have a picnic. It is also next to Riverdale Farm where children can interact with many animals and even watch milk being churned to butter.

There are numerous trails connected to the Humber River allowing you to choose different hiking paths based on your ability. The Humber is also a great spot for fishing and canoeing. The Rouge Park is a mix of wetlands, meadows, forests, and a beach. My favourite part of walking through the

Rouge Trail (and other trails in Ontario) is spotting deer! The Toronto Islands are another area where you can get away from the chaos of the city and spend time in nature.

Even if you can't get to a trail or lake, just spending time outdoors in your local neighbourhood park is beneficial! So get walking, with your family, or ride a bike. Take the soccer ball or baseball bat with you. Dig in the sandpit and make a castle. Run, jump, climb and enjoy the sunshine outside!

Janani Srikantha is a teacher with experience in both the International Baccalaureate and the Ontario curriculum. She has worked in Canada and internationally where she has been a primary-junior teacher, a learning lead, and a literacy lead teacher. Janani's experiences in technology-rich



thinkshif.edu

classrooms fuelled her interest to further understand how technology can redefine learning. This drove her to pursue her MEd in Digital Technologies and Education with her research focussing on inclusive education. Through her research and experience, Janani has presented at Canadian and international conferences and workshops for educators and parents. She believes in every child being able to develop to their full potential in a nurturing environment that supports their curiosity and interests. Outside of the classroom, Janani enjoys boxing, travelling to new places and meeting people, and reading (some of her favourite books are recommendations from students).



Special Feature

# Tamil Fest expected to bring more Music, Food and Cultural Events this August

SharangahArulanantham



With August right around the corner, children and teenagers in the Canadian Tamil community have begun anticipating their involvement at Tamil Fest. "This is my fourth year attending Tamil Fest, and every year, it just seems to get better and better" says 18-year-old Atputhan Srikanthanathan, a yearly attender and supporter of the event. Making its debut to Torontonians in late August of 2015, the two-day Tamil street fest was hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress for the past three years. Spanning across Markham Road between McNicoll and Passmore Avenue, the event consists of thousands of Canadian performers, culinary artists, and many other organizations working hard to show their support for the rapidly growing and developing Tamil community. Last year's festival garnered a crowd of over 200,000 people, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. With such

a diverse amount of events, cuisine, and vendors, it was no surprise that last year's festival kept its title as the largest event in East Toronto's history for a third consecutive year. Tourists from other neighboring provinces were able to partake in the festival's activities, as there were many activities available to the public. Activities such as face painting, midway rides, festival games, and bouncy castles were a huge hit amongst the kids. Taking on a yearning to learn and enjoy from a cultural perspective, onlookers enjoyed memories of their homelands through street performers and exhibits. Bharatanatyam dancers, silambattam, and fashion shows were amongst the many different entertainers, aiming to show fellow Canadians the beauty and diversity of Tamil culture. The exhibitions of Sri Ramalingam's vintage cars such as his Austin A40 Somersets, and Charlie the light motorcycle served

as a nostalgic reminder to both the Tamil diaspora and other Canadians as to how the retro lifestyle was back home in Sri Lanka and India. Tamil fest not only accommodates the marvel of Tamil arts and cultures, but strives to spread the appreciation of other cultures as well. The festival had a cultural hour dedicated to show the various cultures of Canada. The displays and performances all tied together in appreciation of Canada's history as a melting pot of cultures. Last year's festival not only reached out to onlookers, but to its own volunteers and crew members as well. Volunteers from the previous year's fest come back yearly to show their support for Toronto and Tamil community. "I have made so many new friends and learned new things every year here at Tamil Fest. I've been volunteering at Tamil Fest for five years, but this year will bring so much more excitement, as

this year will mark my first experience as a volunteer coordinator at Tamil Fest" says 19-year-old Arun Vijayathas. This year's Tamil Fest is taking place on August 25th and August 26th 2018, along Markham Road between McNicoll and Passmore Avenue, which will be closed off solely for the festivities. One can expect to see everything they enjoyed about last year's festival, but in a more improved and accommodated manner. This year's fest will include many new performances like music, dancing, spoken word poetry, boxing, and much much more. Without a doubt, Tamil Fest 2018 continues to stand as much awaited event to end summer. For more information on this year's festival visit: [www.tamilfest.ca](http://www.tamilfest.ca)

*Please refer page 25 for Event Brochure.*



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## Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament on August 15

By Siva Sivapragasam

The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) is hosting its annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at the Deer Creek Golf & Banquet in Ajax.

Proceeds from this event will go to the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital Foundation.

This event would be a great opportunity to not only give back to a great cause but also provides a chance to build strong business relationships, attract potential customers and show unity with the community.

The CTCC welcomes all proud members and their families, friends and business associates to come out to this event and help support this important fundraising event.

The Golf Tournament is a Chamber's annual event which receives a good turn-out.



Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce.

PRESENTS

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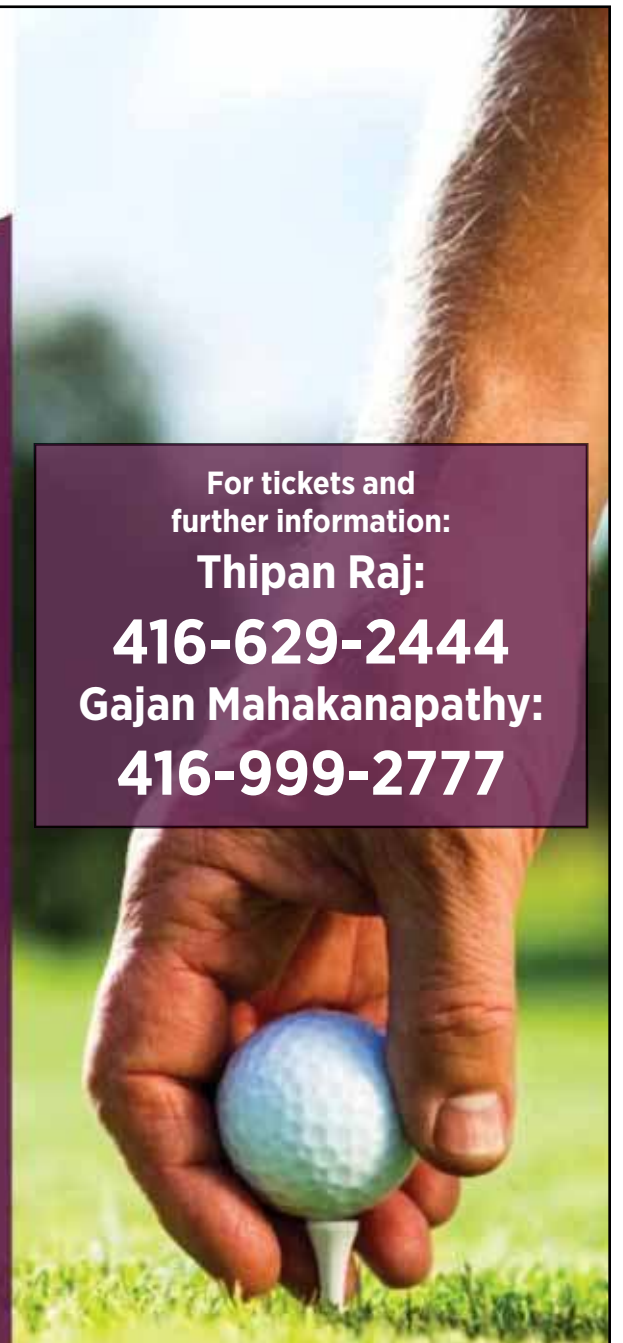
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# PROSCRIBE BY LAW AND ENFORCE LIFE IMPRISONMENT

(To free society from sex abuse and drug addiction)



C. Kamalaharan

The tragedy that befell  
A young girl dumped in a well  
After brutally handled  
Sexually abused and strangled  
Calls for stern action  
Through public reaction.

A tender bud long way to bloom  
Had been crushed to its doom.

A sight so horrid to view  
Executed without any clue.

A lustful sex maniac  
Committed the gory attack  
On this innocent child  
A barbaric crime so wild.

Returning from school she was shocked  
To see her house locked.

The innocent child deceitfully lured  
To a lonely thicket and left injured

After the gruesome act committed  
And the culprits stealthily retreated.

Later the body was found  
Both hands and legs bound.

Her uncle a notorious addict arrested  
With two accomplices also addicted.

Drastic action should be taken  
And their network completely broken.

Sex abuse and drug addiction  
Need complete proscription  
And rigorous life imprisonment  
For those guilty of involvement.

Free society from the menace  
Ensure safety and solace  
For a once peaceful society  
Longing for security and amity.



# Employing the right person



- techneeds.com

*JJ Atputharajah*

Having examined decided that a job could be completely done, with these means, by this person, he may be left free to do it on his own. Valluvar correctly points out that it is vital to place complete trust on a person after carefully choosing one in order to get the full value of his performance. Jesus had the knack of choosing the right man when he met Paul and used him to spread his message across from Asia Minor to Europe and then to the uttermost parts of the world. In assessing the good and evil that men can do, the choice for public service, will be only on the basis of good performance. Enlarg-

ing the sources of income, developing the wealth of the country, and overcoming the problems that arise shall be the function of a government or king. Proper selection is based on affectionate loyalty, discriminating mind, decisiveness and freedom from desires. Even the men selected carefully after diverse tests, may be found wanting in action.

Work should be entrusted to men of expert knowledge and dedication and not merely to favourites. Everything will go wrong if persons are nominated to such positions out of mere friendship. The nature of the job, suitability of the candidate for it and the appropriate

time should be considered before starting the enterprise. Once the right man is chosen, at great scrutiny for a job, it is but proper that he is made fully responsible for it. Good fortune will desert the chief, who mistrusts and misinterprets the actions of his trustworthy and efficient executive.

If the government regularly exercises control and ensures that its executive acts straight, everything in its administration will automatically go right. Choosing the right person for the job is the hallmark of efficient administration.



Valluvar's Views

*"Ithanay ithanal ivan mudikkum enrainthu,  
Athany avan kan vidal".*

- Kural: 511-520



# Jaffna Region- Social and Economic Issues

By: *Jesudason Atputharajah*

## A. The Current Developments:

After the aftermath of the internal strife the social and economic issues of the Jaffna Region appears to be dormant but keep blistering underneath. The social issues are mainly caused by the problems of the common man which are not well heeded to by the government or the politicians. The freedom fighters are left with the feeling that they are defeated. The families of the fighters do not know what happened to their sons and daughters who engaged in the armed struggle and later surrendered to the army.

There is also dissatisfaction in the way the so-called insurgents are treated after the declaration of peace and end to the internal conflict in 2009. The government officials say the young men and women were given the chance for rehabilitation and all the resources to live a normal life. The standing is disputed by some major political parties and human rights activists in the area and from abroad. The social issues continue to linger as there is no planned solutions to the problems people have to face. The political leadership is divided as some southern politicians have also come to canvass support in the north. Besides the TULF should be registered as a political party as it is composed of different Tamil political groups. The major political alliance in the north- namely the TULF is now giving the chance for the government to change the constitution in a bid to solve the long standing political issues. There were attempts to curb the freedom of the press and the social media under the previous government. The same pattern continues under the present government.

## B. The Social Issues:-

There are more traders from the south coming to the north for selling their products in the market. Along with that there is the influx of indisciplined behavior among the people especially the youngsters. Now they say there are more liquor shops in the area. Some youths have taken up to the habit of using drugs-mainly heroin and ganja. There is also greater incidence of theft in the area. There were cases of kidnapping being reported. They are being done by paid agents. A husband living in U.K was alleged to have got his eight month old child kidnapped as the mother refused to accept him as he had duped her into marriage as second wife. Foreign elements/expatriates should not be allowed to interfere in the life style of the people in the island. The government feels that more Tamils should be recruited to the army and the police to stem the growing rate of crime in the area. The Tamil people feel that the number of army hands serving in the Jaffna area has to be curtailed now that the militant activities have declined. Recently the provincial government protested against army officials engaged in a tree planting project. Tree planting is a welcome project in an area where there has been mass destruction of vegetation during the communal clashes.

Social unrests are also caused by efforts by the government to plant Buddhist statues and Bo- trees in the area. 131 vihares have been erected in the area with 69 of them in the Mullaithivu district. There are not many Buddhists in the northern region and any attempt by the interested parties to engage in these activities are viewed with suspicion. Conflicting arguments are brought



*sangiliyan statue Jaffna - ttnotes.com*

in by the government to support its interest in promoting these kinds of religious activities in the area.

There is also allegations that caste issues are brought into focus nowadays in Jaffna. During the militant regime such problems were shunned and never heard of. Interested groups are also reported to have been involved in perpetrating these kinds of activities to realize their aims. Widows and former female militants were reported to have got into the habit of getting loans and subsequently committing suicides due to their inability to pay back their debts.

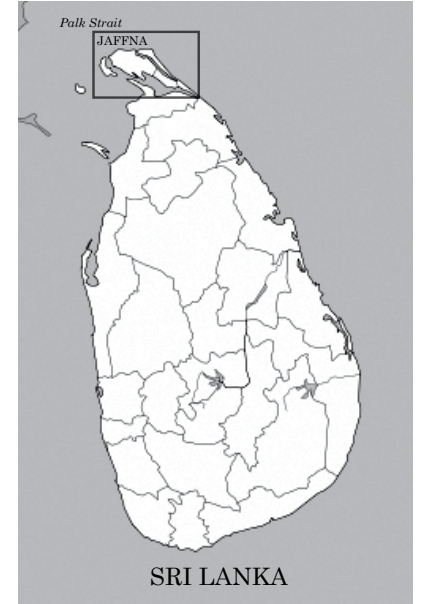
One of the reasons cited for indiscipline in the area is lack of opportunities for employment. Several relatives who have migrated to foreign climes are in the habit of sending money to their kith and kin and many have got used to the habit of enjoying a kind of care free life. Youths are owning motor-bikes and there are larger incidence of accidents in the area. Besides there is environmental pollution in the area caused by excessive use of vehicles. It is estimated that one in every four persons are owning motor cycles. Only the major roads are well laid out. Most cross roads and minor roads are in a state of repair mainly due to the past insurgent conflicts in the area. Jaffna needs more money for development. Only 0.5 % Of the money allocated for development is made available for the north. That was calculated to be just 800 crores of rupees. When it was pointed out to the Prime-minister recently he had said that the north does not contribute much for the national product of the country. The Prime minister does not realize the lack of production in the area was due to the mass destruction of natural and infrastructural assets of the area during the period of internal conflicts. For example Myliddy, the foremost fishing center in the north was able to contribute 15 % of the fisheries production in the island. Now it is in a state of disarray. It was freed from the army occupation only recently. Surprisingly, some of the petitions handed over to the prime minister on his recent were reported to have been found in the garbage bin in the hotel where he stayed.

## C. The Economic Issues:-

Economic issues appear to be inter-

twined with social issues. There is acute poverty amongst the war affected widows in the area. There are a vast number of single mother families. Though there are many aid societies operating in the area the services are not equitably made available. Some of the funds coming in are not going to the intended persons. There is many a slip between the cup and the lip. A journalist who visited Toronto recently said that there are some recipients having different bank accounts to receive aid from donors. It is in the Kilinochchi area where the situation is more acute. There are children in school going age who are unable to attend schools.

Many of the economic activities of the area are at a standstill. Agriculture is affected very badly. Many of the farmlands are occupied by the army. It is only recently that these lands are being released slowly and the owners are being settled in their places. Lands in Palaly, Tellipalai, Chepankulam and Vavuniya are reported to be occupied by the army. Though some of these lands have been released by the army the problem continues. The army says that some of these lands were given to them by the owners themselves. The Resettlement Minister, D.M. Swaminathan says that the problem is tricky and he is finding it difficult to settle people in their lands. The marketing facilities available for vegetables are also limited. The farmers are unable to get rewards for their hard labor. It is reported that army hands are using some farmlands to cultivate vegetables and selling them in the south. Recently there was an army van from which vegetable were sold in front of the Wellawatte market. Proper marketing facilities should be centrally organized for the Jaffna farmer. Fishing was one of the lucrative activities of the north. Now fishermen from the south have invaded the northern shores like Madurankerni, Thalaiady, Kokillai and Mullaithivu and causing problems to the fishermen of the north. It is said that the army is backing up the fishermen from the south. There were 300 boats of fishermen from the south engaging in catching sea leeches for export. The northern fishermen are also unaware of the financial advantages of catching sea leeches. The army should abstain from interfering in the civilian activities. Besides there are reports of



South Indian fishermen engaging in netting fish in the north -eastern fishing areas. Clashes between the fishermen in both the neighboring countries have become a regular occurrence.

## D. The Panacea:-

There is also greater degree of unemployment amongst the educated. Recently many unemployed graduates organized protest rallies. Though southern politicians are frequently visiting the area, no effective solutions are being found to these economic problems. Since the Tamil political leadership is chronically divided more than ever no effective solutions are forthcoming. There should systematic rehabilitation and resettlement of the young men who were involved in militancy in the past. Planned economic development is the need of the hour. More funds for the economic and social development of the area should be made available to the north. They should be centrally collected and diverted for suitable projects. The Provincial government should be given greater say in the development of the area. All lands occupied by the army should be redeemed and given to the right owners. There should be adequate cooperation between the Tamil political leaders and the provincial government. Mr. Vigneswaran, the chief minister of the provincial government has shown relatively greater interest in the progressive actions for development. The rehabilitated militants who have grouped themselves to form a party state that Vigneswaran should not plan to form a party of his own and that the leadership of the TULF should be persuaded to accommodate his views. On a proportional basis the Northern Province should be allocated 5% of the national budget-but only 0.5% is made available to the provincial government and hence the area lags far behind in development. Since the area was badly affected by the internal strife before 2009, relatively more funds should be made available for the area. Though repeated assurances are being made by the authorities, speedy actions are hard to come by. Human rights activists both inland and abroad like the UN should make fruitful efforts for the much needed planned development of the area. Effective steps should be taken to replace the Anti-Terrorist Act with a Human Rights Act. The anti-terrorist act is abused by the government to punish its political opponents. The envisaged new constitution should focus on these issues that have blossomed into a 'canker that eats into the body politic of the nation'. In gist, people thrive only in a free and democratic environment.

# Snowy the Pomeranian Puppy

By: Sherry Thambithurai



**I have a dog.** His name is Snowy. He is a Pomeranian. He is a male. I named him Snowy because he is as white as snow. For two years, I was searching for a puppy on a website.

One day, my dad showed me on the computer that some Pomeranian puppies were for sale. I wanted one because they looked cute. There were 5 puppies for sale – three females and two males. I wanted a male. The puppies were born on July 20, 2017. My dad emailed the Pomeranian seller, and he emailed back!

After, I went to the seller's house with my dad to put down a \$200 deposit. I saw the puppies. They were so cute! The puppies were on a bed doing nothing. They were just sleeping and crying so much. I was playing with one of the puppies. I wanted the big, fluffy male puppy. He had the whitest fur of them all. My dad asked questions about how to take care of them. My mom didn't want a dog, so we didn't get the puppy right away. It was also too young to leave with us at the time.

A few weeks later, on September 16th, I went to the Pomeranian seller's house again. There were two males and one female left. The puppies were walking around and biting my dad's shoelaces. I asked to see the puppies' mom and dad. The puppy I wanted was the only one to cry and go when he saw his mom and dad. I asked to take him, and finally we took him home.

On our way home in the car, I couldn't carry the puppy, so my dad did. My mom didn't touch the puppy because she was scared. In the car, the puppy was

crying a lot. The seller's house was very far from our home, so it was a long drive. The puppy was trying to go on my brother's lap. It was not staying in its bed. My dad decided to stop at a pet store and bought a basket for the puppy, so he couldn't get out. The puppy vomited three times in the car. He was crying because he missed his mom and dad. When we got home, the puppy was frightened, but it was still running around. My brother and I were so excited to play with the puppy. My dad bought lots of things for the puppy, like two beds, two bowls, a crate, toys, food, puppy pads, a leash, and a collar. I wanted to take good care of him.

My brother and I named the puppy Snowy. He became more active and comfortable as the days passed. My mom and dad didn't want Snowy running all around the house, so they tied Snowy to the stairs with his leash and collar. When someone rang the doorbell, Snowy would bark and cry. My dad bought a puppy play pen for Snowy, so he would be more comfortable. Snowy is getting potty-trained now.

When Snowy goes out, he runs around with excitement. Snowy knows how to climb stairs. Sometimes when he gets a treat, he hides it and saves it for later. Snowy loves to eat and go outside. He is very active and big for a Pomeranian. He is the size of a soccer ball, but I know how to carry him now. He loves toys, and I love to play with him. Snowy is like a friend to me, and I will always take good care of him.



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# DOES CELL PHONE RADIATION CAUSE CANCER?

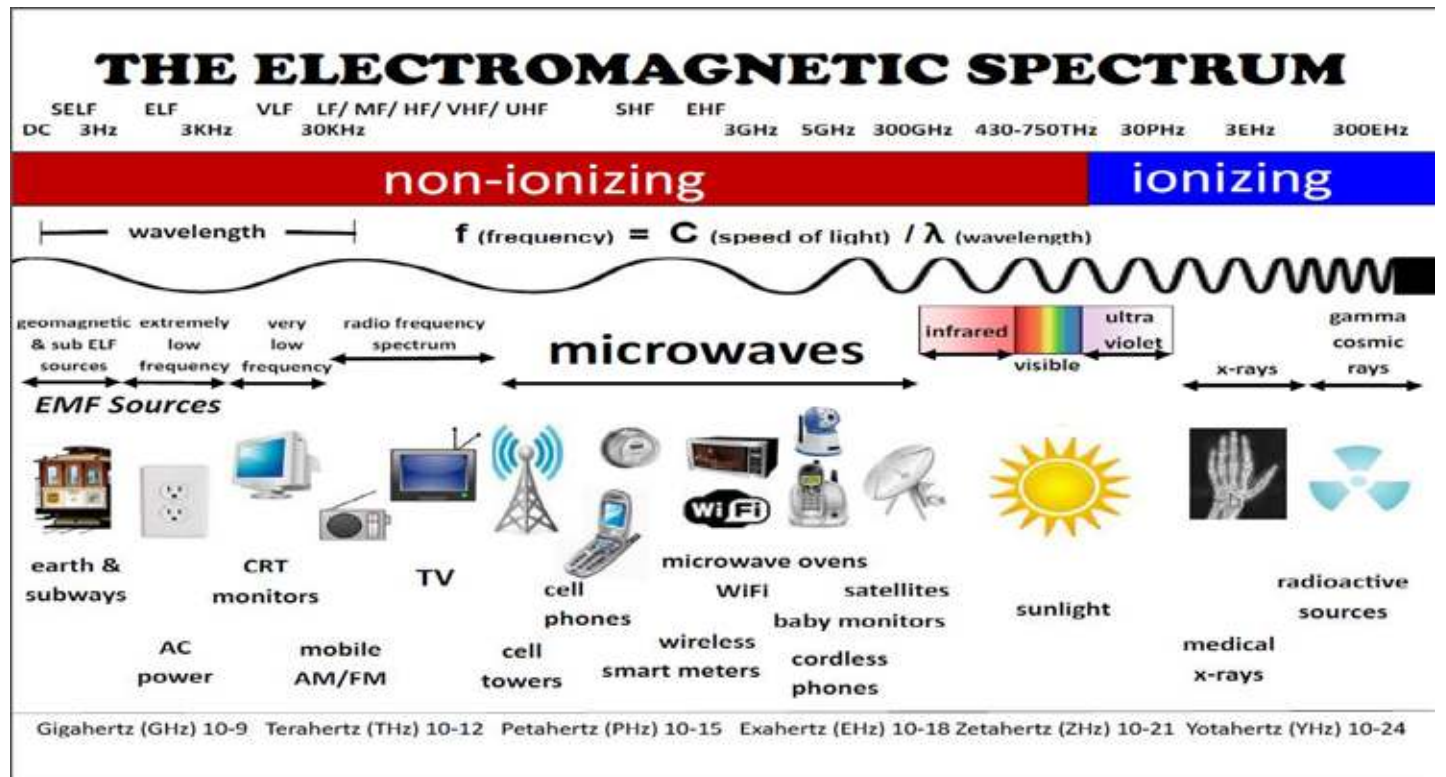
California Hid Warning on Cell Phone Radiation for Many Years

By: Uthayan Thurairajah

A cell phone is not only a friend but also an accessory. A majority of cell phone owners would abandon their cats and dogs rather than leave their smartphones. A recent survey by Motorola revealed that people were so attached to their cell phones than their pets.

It is not only for calling and texting to people, but also, it can surf the Internet, game console, personal organizer, take pictures and video. A cell phone is a friend, and also it turns out to be hazardous. The Cell phones can emit a form of electromagnetic radiation called radio frequency (RF). We have believed that this radiation is harmless because of the low power levels involved and it is non-ionizing.

### Cell phone radiation



The cell phone radiation can penetrate our bodies and cause untold damage. In 2011, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified cell phone radiation as a potential 2B-carcinogen. The WHO did only classify cell phone radiation as a possible carcinogen. Experts believe that this classification does not sufficiently protect the public.

There are the thousands of peer-reviewed studies states that using Cell Phone Increases the Risk of Brain Tumor By 40% if we use a Half Hour Per Day. Thousands of studies links cell phone radiation to a long list of serious illnesses including cancer. Cell phone radiation exposure has been mainly related to two types of brain tumors – gliomas and acoustic neuromas.

**Gliomas:** The tumor starts in the brain or spine are typically dangerous and deadly. Most people survive only 1 to 3 years after diagnosis.

**Acoustic Neuromas:** Non-dangerous (low-grade cancer) are in many cases life-threatening given that they are an intracranial (within the skull) tumor.

The Interphone Study is the mother of all studies of cell phones. It cost of \$25 million, to find the use of cell phone and the tumor risk. The regular use of a cell phone can increase the chance of gliomas by 40% with more than 1640 hours of use. It is equivalent to 30 minutes per day over ten years.

In 2013, a study carried out in the UK on 790,000 middle-aged women discovered that “women who used cell phones for more than ten years were two-and-a-half times more likely to acquire an acoustic neuroma.”

The Radiation of cell phone Linked to DNA Damage and Other Cancers. Studies link cell phone radiation exposures to many other cancers, including Pituitary Gland, Thyroid, stem Cell, parotid gland, Leukemia, Lymph Node, Multifocal Breast, Eye and more.



### EMF Radiation

The human body resonates around 10 Hz (Hertz) of earth frequency. Frequencies above the earth frequency disturb our body's internal harmony. It can adversely affect our health. The cell phones emit non-ionizing radiation in the microwave range, and can often exceed 2.0 x 10<sup>9</sup> Hz. The



most concern frequencies expose to near the body are those that are very strong or of high frequency including microwave and all cell phones frequencies.

### Radiation and DNA

One of the mistakes about radiation from cell phones is that it cannot damage DNA. Many studies link that the exposures to cell phone radiation produce DNA damage. A milestone study carried out by Professor Lai at the University of Washington established



that the RF radiation exposures could cause DNA damage.

The cell phone radiation can alter the genetic material of our cells given the hundreds of investigations that have been carried out on this question. It is significant because one-way cancer and other diseases are believed to develop when the DNA in a cell becomes damaged.

### Scientists Concerns

Scientists voice concerns about cell phone use. 190 scientists from 39 different coun-



Uthayan Thurairajah, Ph.D., RSE, LC, P.Eng., FEC, is a Project Manager at WSP with over twenty years of experience in Electrical Engineering and Lighting field, and he also holds a Lecturer position at Ryerson University & professor at Centennial. Uthayan is a member of several Canadian and international professional association including Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) and Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR). He has worked on multi-disciplinary lighting and electrical projects for various clients. He researches the subject of light and lighting and taken part in several projects. He also has extensive research experience in the value of lighting design in the mental, emotional, and social well-being of a person. He is a frequent presenter and author of lighting design & health. He is passionate about integrating science and health into the lighting design.



tries submitted an appeal to the United Nations, UN member states, and the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2015. The scientists requested to use an extra exposure protective guideline for electromagnetic fields (EMF) and wireless technology in the light of increasing evidence of risk.

These exposures are a rapidly growing form of environmental pollution worldwide. The “International EMF Scientist Appeal” asked the Secretary-General and UN-affiliated bodies to support rigorous criteria to limit EMF exposures, and to educate the public about health risks.

### California Hid Warning

California Department of Public Health Hid Warning on Cell Phone Radiation for many years. The harmful of cell phone radiation is an open secret. The cell phone companies and the media do not talk about it. At the same time, most cell phone user manuals warn you not to keep these devices too close to your body. The cell phone companies think that their cell phones may be dangerous.

Most of the government also refuses to talk about the cell phone dangers while quietly admitted that there may be a problem. A recently discovered document from the California Department of Public Health indicates the concerns of cell phone radiation. It was hidden from the health officials eye.

The document has stamped across the pages “Draft and Not for Public Release.” The document states that the “cell phone EMFs can affect nearby cells and tissues and may increase brain cancer risks.”

### Tips for Radiation Protection

The most efficient method of protection from cell phone radiation is complete avoidance. We can try precautionary steps in our

daily practice:

- ❖ Limit cell phone calls
  - ❖ Avoid using the cell phone where the lousy reception
  - ❖ Keep on airplane mode when we are not using wireless
  - ❖ Avoid carrying a cell phone (switched on) anywhere on our body.
  - ❖ Use earphones and headset so that we can avoid cell phone close to the head (Bluetooth headset also emits radiation).
  - ❖ Do not keep cell phone into the bedroom at night. If you must, keep it in airplane mode.
  - ❖ Choose to text instead of calling
  - ❖ If a long conversation, try to meet the person or use a landline
- Overuse of cell phone can put individu-



als at risk for developing health problems ranging from sleep disorders to headaches, dizziness, fatigue, heart problems, miscarriage, skin rashes, Alzheimer, leukemia, and other types of cancers. It also links to the alarming increase in autism, asthma, ADD/ADHD and behavioral and physiological dilemmas in kids.

For adults, the adverse impacts appear to occur slowly. For example, it may take 5-15 years in the case of leukemia or perhaps 20 to 40 years in the case of Alzheimer's. It appears that people develop different conditions due to their unique immune strengths. Therefore, it is advisable to avoid overexposure as much as possible.



## MANAGING YOUR MONEY

## Pensions decisions – six keys to a great retirement

David Joseph, M.A. (Economics), CFP®, CLU, RRC.

You've undoubtedly thought a lot about the "shape" of your retirement – but whether your plans include traveling, volunteering, starting a new career, or a myriad of other retirement dreams, the most important thing is having sufficient finances to ensure all of them become reality. If you are a member of a pension plan, now is the time to make some important decisions that will have a strong impact on the amount and length of your pension.

**1. Decide when your pension payments will begin.** If you have a defined benefit pension plan, your annual benefit may be reduced if you retire before reaching a certain age or completing a minimum service requirement. However, your plan may have a bridging benefit to offset an early retirement pension reduction that is paid from the date of early retirement up to age 65 when it will stop.

Creating your retirement pay cheque requires that we take a closer look at all the sources of income that the average Canadian can expect in retirement.

**CPP (QPP)** is a government pension fund designed to assist Canadians during retirement by providing them with a monthly income. The amount you receive throughout your retirement is calculated based on your total contributions and the length of time during which you were a contributor and is fully taxable. One thing that many people fail to realize is that CPP (QPP) payments do not happen automatically – there is an application process that must occur before you can begin to benefit.

**The Old Age Security** program is financed from Government of Canada general tax revenues – you make no direct contributions to this program. The Old Age Security pension is a taxable monthly benefit available to most Canadians 65 years of age and older. The amount received is determined by how long you have lived in Canada and based on your income levels at the time of receipt. It is said to be an "income tested benefit."

**Defined Benefit (DB)** pension plans "define" or guarantee a specific pension amount paid to you regularly from when you retire for the rest of your life. The amount of your DB pension benefit is set according to your age, length of service and your salary.

**Defined Contribution (DC)** pension plans, also known as money purchase plans, do not guarantee the amount of future benefits. Instead, DC retirement income depends on accumu-

lated contributions and the investment returns earned by these contributions.

Certain smaller businesses have employee Group Registered Retirement Savings Plans (Group RRSPs), where regular contributions are deducted from your employment income. It's important to remember that the total contributions into your Group RRSP, plus other personal RRSPs, cannot exceed your personal annual maximum contribution limit.

**Deferred Profit Sharing Plans** are funded solely by your employer and do not have the same rules as registered pension plans. With a DPSP, the size of your retirement benefit depends on how well the investment performs over time.

**RRSP**

Contributions to an RRSP are the most common way Canadians privately save for retirement. The contributions



you make grow on a tax-deferred basis allowing you to fully benefit from long-term compound growth and help reduce your immediate income taxes. It's important to know that you must convert your RRSP savings into something that pays you an income no later than December 31st of the year of your 71st birthday.

**TFSA**

The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) is a registered plan that allows you to contribute up to \$5,500 in a savings plan that grows tax-free and provides you with tax-free withdrawals. Of course, contributions do not reduce your taxable income at the source like an RRSP.

**Non-Registered Investments**

With the introduction of the TFSA,

non-registered investments have definitely taken a back-seat in terms of investment tools. However, non-registered investments still have their place, especially for those who have maxed-out their contributions to both their RRSP and TFSA.

**Post-Retirement Employment**

Not that long ago, men and women worked to age 65 and then abruptly left the workforce. Today, many members of the baby boom generation continue to work past the standard retirement age – on their own terms. For example, some are choosing phased retirement, which provides a balance between

ship option. While your monthly benefit will be lower, the "joint and last survivor" option is usually better unless your spouse has his or her

own pension, Registered Retirement Savings Plan, non-registered assets and/or adequate insurance coverage.

**3. Choosing the survivor benefit.** Not all plans allow you to do this – check the details of your plan. In most jurisdictions, the "standard" survivor benefit is 60% of the pension that was being paid to you prior to death, however some plans will include other options such as 66 2/3%, 75% and 100% survivor benefits.

**4. Do you have the option of receiving your pension benefit for a guaranteed minimum number of payments?** Some plans allow you to choose to receive monthly pension payments over a minimum term of 5, 10 or 15 years – meaning that even if you die prematurely, the benefit will continue to be paid for the period you selected.

**5. Does your plan have a CPP (Canada Pension Plan) or OAS (Old Age Security) integration option?** If so, you can choose to receive an advance on your pension in the form of larger monthly payments until age 65, when CPP and OAS benefits normally begin. This option will result in reduced monthly payments after the age of 65.

**6. Do you have the option to transfer the commuted value of your pension to a locked-in account?** Instead of receiving a monthly lifetime pension, you transfer the commuted value of your pension to an account you control.

Among other financial decisions, these six key pension decisions will help ensure your retirement dreams will become reality. To be sure your decisions are right for you, talk to your professional advisor.

*Disclaimer:*

*This report specifically written and published as a general source of information only, and is not intended as a solicitation to buy or sell specific investments or insurance, nor is it intended to provide investment advice. For more information on this topic and/or to arrange a free educational seminar please contact me.*

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# Volunteer Leader Manickampillai Velauthapillai

The following is the speech delivered by Manuel Jesudasan, Barrister and Solicitor at the celebration of appreciation for volunteer leader Mr. Manickam Velauthapillai for his remarkable contribution as a volunteer for a period over 20 years, held on July 16, 2018 at the Council Chambers, City of Markham.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,  
When the invitation was extended to me to join in the celebration of this remarkable person's journey into his 90s, and to speak, I asked myself a question. Why me? I tell you why? Although I am diminutive and that helps me to hide my age, I am a senior and entitled to senior discount at shopper's drug mart and a member of the club, the Senior Tamil Centre of Ontario, this young man, we fondly call as Pillai Aya, is part of. Now you know the direction my speech will go. Actually, it will have no direction and I am sure that I will be excused because I am a senior. Talking about seniors, a story/a joke I read recently comes to mind. Two seniors, a widow and a widower, lived in a senior home. The old man had a crush on the old lady, but did not have an opportunity to express it. An opportunity presented when the senior home had a dinner party. The man was excited and he proposed to the lady, 'I love you, will you marry me'. The lady was equally excited and said, yes... yes. They both had a great time dancing away through the night and at the end of the party retired to their respective rooms. In the morning the man had some doubt as to whether the lady said yes to his proposal. So, he called her and asked her whether she said yes or she said no. The lady replied, yes, yes, I said yes. The man then thanked her. The lady replied, no.. no.. Don't thank me. I have to thank you, because I was wondering who it was that proposed to me.' Of course Aya is not anywhere near that stage. He is as sharp as a teenager, and I wish none of us here will get there.

The other reasons for my choice are that I have known the hero, whose life we are celebrating today since 1996, when he served as a treasurer and I as the secretary of the organization, SACEM. And also, the organizers of this event had known my admiration for Mr. Velauthapillai.

According to google speech writing I have now established my connection to the event and also to the person whose special event we are celebrating. The next step is to speak about the celebrant. The time given to me is not enough to read out in detail of Mr. Velauthapillai's record of volunteer work. Instead, I would like to explore as to how it was possible for him to enthusiastically and energetically devote his valuable time for service of mankind by serving in that many volunteer organizations and the secret of his longevity. He has held responsible positions in 15 organizations. The senior Tamil Centre of Ontario, Oriole Community Resource

Centre, SACEM, Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organization, Toronto Vegetarian Association, Nortown Armature Radio Club, Canadian Diabetes Association, Armadale Public School & School Council, Middlefield Collegiate Institute, Markham Economist & Sun, Family Services Association of Toronto, Middlefield Seniors Wellness Club, Senior Advisory Committee, City of Markham, Mayor's Senior Hall of Fame Awards Committee City of Markham and lastly Armadale Older Adults Club, Armadale Community Centre. In today's fast paced world it is difficult for an average person to find time to take up important position in one organization and perform satisfactorily. Mr. Velauthapillai has found time for many organizations at the same time and to impress the members of the organization with his dedicated service.

In his own words, "volunteerism is inborn and there is nothing else in my heart". For many of us volunteerism was not a priority in Sri Lanka. But for Mr. Velauthapillai, volunteerism was a way of life from his childhood, and the desire to help others started from the elementary school in helping his peers with maths. I was told that he was a brilliant math student and as a child, one day, he went home crying for getting 98 marks. He was sad for missing the 2 marks. He is known for his math skill in the elementary school where his grandchildren studied. He trained them to do maths without using a calculator. With his training his grand daughter obtained perfect score at the Gauss mathematics contest conducted by the University of Waterloo. I also understand that the H&R Block supervisor, where he worked in the 90s was mesmerized when he observed him add huge numbers without the use of a calculator. Pillai Aya's conviction, his firm belief to be able to enjoy life with an active and sharp mind at the old age is to avoid mechanical calculator and use the inborn calculator from childhood. I understand that his grandchildren excel in Mathematics in the university and they do not use calculator. We must Learn from this genius. This is the strong message; a valuable lesson, I would like to impress on young mothers and fathers who are here. Discourage your children from using calculator. Instead encourage them to use their mind.

Time management is another challenge that everyone encounters. Inefficient time management, as we all know, cripples the aspirations of many people. One of the attributes to the success of Mr. Velauthapillai in all his en-



deavours was excellent time management. He started his career as a chief engineer with the Telecommunication Department in Sri Lanka. Everyone who worked with him would bear testimony to his time management skills. As an anecdotal evidence to his masterful time management, I would like to share his personal story during the time he was the President of the Senior Tamils Centre: During this time his oldest, middle and youngest daughter, Shanthini – this how she introduced herself to me to make me understand that she is the only heir to the estate, more particularly to the intellectual property; intellectual mind of Mr. Velauthapillai- she has three children and she admits that her father spent more time with the children than with both her and her husband. Getting back to the story, Mr. Velauthapillai would make breakfast for the kids and drop them at school and go to the Seniors' Centre by TTC sharp at 9:00 am and work there till 11:30 and then rush to the school to pick up the grandchildren on time to feed them lunch. I understand that he is a good cook and his son in law has admitted to his wife that Mr. Velauthapillai's vegetarian dishes are much tastier than Shanthini's. Sorry Shanthini, this is nothing but the truth. Not only his son in law, but also those who were victims of the 1983 riot in Sri Lanka and who sought refuge in Bambalapitiya Hindu temple having lost their entire livelihood would acknowledge that he was a good cook. This man would invite all those who stayed in the refugee camp to his house, in Bambalapitiya, let them bathe and then would feed them. Someone said that his dhal curry is the best. Getting back on track, our hero understood the importance of time management at a young age and he says that 'nothing to do people' are the most busiest people doing nothing and a 'lot to do person' will always find

time. This is another important lesson we must learn from Pillai Aya.

"It was not easy to carry out duties in any capacity in any organization without opposition. I faced oppositions for my views from my colleagues. Some didn't like me. But, I was not afraid, because I was genuine, and I did not have any self interest in any project I initiated or supported." I have paraphrased what Aya told me when I asked him whether he faced any oppositions in any organization. "I love to see smile on others faces. This is the only reward I always wanted" was his answer to my other question. All the members of the Senior Tamil Centre of Ontario are witness to his statement, "to see smile on others faces". He initiated a program for the Senior Tamil Centre to send birthday wishes by telephone to each and every member. One of the members cried as being over whelmed when Aya called to wish her as that was the first time in her life that someone wished her happy birthday, and I understand that she has saved the message to this day.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Velauthapillai is a kind hearted and loving man. He is living his life to the fullest, because he trusted the process of his life. Although he suffered a severe adversity in his life when his wife departed him at a young age, yet he understood and accepted his calling and was and is faithful to his calling. His calling was for volunteerism and by that to see smile on others' faces. He shared his life not only with his only daughter and later with his son in law and the grandchildren, but also with the community at large that encompasses not only the Tamils but also other races. His life is a lesson for all of us to emulate.

Mr. Velauthapillai has and is living the life according to the preaching of Buddha,

"In the end what matters most is  
How well you love  
How well did you live  
How well did you let go"

He loved all; he lived well and he let go of all his adversities.

As the time allocated to me is up, let me conclude with a final note; Aya thank you for sharing your life with us and teaching us valuable lessons. We wish you good health, happiness and many more birthday celebrations.

I thank Sumi and the organizers for having given me this opportunity to speak at this milestone birthday celebration, where the community has gathered to express its appreciation to this great man, Mr. Manickampillai Velauthapillai.



## Journalism Awards for Excellence 2018



The Journalism Awards for Excellence 2018 event was held recently at the Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Picture shows Mr. Kumar Nadesan Managing Director of Express Newspapers Ltd., Publishers of Sri Lanka's premier Tamil daily newspaper "Virakesari" presenting The Denzil Pieris Young Reporter of the Year Merit Certificate to Journalist Amra Ismail. Late Denzil Pieris was the Editor of the Ceylon Observer and Sunday Observer newspapers published by Lake House.

## Shanthi Bhagirathan, Group Director of MTV/ MBC Networks Pvt Ltd., recognized as one of Asia's top 25 Women Leaders

By Siva Sivapragasam

Shanthi Bhagirathan, Group Director of MTV/MBC Networks Pvt Ltd., a subsidiary of The Capital Maharaja Organization Limited (TCMOL), was among Asia's top 25 Women Leaders recognized at a recent function in Singapore.

Shanthi Bhagirathan received her Bachelor's Degree from Stella Maris College, Chennai and completed her Master's in Business Management (MBA) from London. She has had a successful media career in electronic media broadcasting in both television and radio for over 15 years.

Shanthi is a skilled marketeer, good business finance professional and an experienced media person. She also served as CEO for Pepsi Co International in Sri Lanka.

Speaking to the Media about her recent recognition, Shanthi expressed her gratitude to the Maharaja Organization Chairman Raja Mahendran for



the encouragement and guidance he had given to her in her career.

She stated that the recognition of being one of Asia's top 25 Women Leaders encourages her to strive to bring more for the industry, her company and the country while raising the bar for what women can achieve in a highly demanding career.

## Dandelion the downy tufts



I was being driven along high n' subways:  
In the City of Toronto; with dense population.  
Along the sides I felt seeing carpeted ways  
Beside the road and above the green congestion  
Glittering in the spring sun, brightly luminous,  
Was aware, that they are golden Dandelion.

Stretching as far as human eyes can reach  
And fluttering as the traffic move on both sides.  
The downy tufts on all sides beyond search  
Was visible through the window beside.  
Thousands I saw all along the beach  
Winking at the Sun, that shines from above.

Returning on the same route, I was surprised  
To see mowers moving over the golden mat  
And quickly beheading the beautiful golden heads  
Making them beautiful as green pavement.  
I turned and peeped, but I couldn't find  
The joy filled memory that Dandelion had brought.

My eyes tear dandelion, you grow wild:  
Very cute, pleasing, beautifying the landscape,  
But we humans become very heart hearted  
Though we appreciate, we destroy you and sweep  
And dump you in furnaces that are hot.  
But my heart winks with you Dandelion.

- Kingsley

## Mastering the art of the job search



Whether it's your first job out of post-secondary or the next step up the corporate ladder, finding a new job is never easy. If you've recently arrived in Canada, the process can be even more daunting. Your day-to-day life, as well as navigating the job market might be quite different from what you are familiar with. Understanding how it works in Canada will help set you on the path towards a fulfilling career.

Here are a few tips to help you along with your job search:

Leverage social networks. There are many online platforms that are frequently updated for job seekers, and are available for free. LinkedIn is a popular example where professionals can network, learn more about different industries, search, and or apply for jobs. Having an up-to-date profile with relevant work experience, education

and volunteer experience will be an asset when it comes time to applying on this social platform.

Find local resources. Look for free resources available in your neighbourhood. Organizations like ACCES Employment can help you with your job search and so much more. Aside from just helping you search for jobs, community-based companies may also be able to offer skills training, language courses and resume help.

Make time to volunteer. While you settle in and get your job search underway, explore volunteer opportunities. While they may not lead to a full-time job, volunteering is a great way to expand your network and help you hone in on skills or develop your interests.

Find more information at [www.rbc.com/newcomers](http://www.rbc.com/newcomers).



# Monsoon Kitchen



## GENIE SISTERS SAMAYAL SANTHAI

Welcome to our recipe corner! We sisters will entice you with recipes that we have fallen in love with and teach you a little Tamil along the way, as all the ingredients will have their Tamil names. Both of us love to cook and we have developed very different styles. Niranjini has a very refined palate and cooks more contemporary world cuisine with an Asian touch. Rajini is a seasoned homemaker who loves making traditional dishes for her friends and family. Follow us on Instagram: @ninjaeatsfood and @tamil\_food

*Eat more, learn more!*

Sisters Niranjini Thirunesan and Rajini Nathan are both food enthusiasts from England. Niranjini, who lives in London, has a degree in Human Biology and is a trained chef. She makes it her business to know everything about what she eats, from nutritional value to source producers. Follow her food obsession on Instagram @ninjaeatsfood.

Rajini, lives in Toronto and has a background in psychology. Her speciality is in Tamil food from around the world, catch up on her meal ideas on Instagram @tamil\_food.

The Banana flower is another superfood that is full of nutrition which also helps to fight infections, manages diabetes and anemia, boost mood, and reduces anxiety and is a rich source of vitamins and minerals.



Known as vaazhai poo or vaazhai potthi in Tamil, it is something that is readily available in most Tamil grocery shops in Toronto and is definitely one that you should add to your weekly menu.

To sort, clean and cut the banana flower we recommend finding a video on YouTube as it is a little tricky to explain. However the benefits of this dish far outweigh the work that goes into the preparation.

## BANANA FLOWER VARAI



- Veg Recipes of India

### Ingredients:

- One cleaned and chopped medium banana flower (vaazhai poo)
- ½ tsp cumin seeds (seeragam)
- ½ tsp ginger/garlic paste (Inji/poonduvizhuthu)
- 3 small green chillies –sliced (patchaimilagai)
- A pinch each of asafoetida and turmeric (perungaayam and manjal)
- 1 tbs of oil (ennai)
- Salt to taste (uppu)

### Method:

Wash the cut banana flower in salt and turmeric, drain and set aside. In a wok, heat the oil and add the cumin seeds followed by the ginger/garlic paste and the green chillies. Add the asafoetida and next the chopped banana flower. Turmeric and salt goes in next and let it cook for 10-15 mins on a medium flame until done. This is best cooked with moringa leaves (murungailai) or grated coconut (or both) but can be made on its own too. Pair it with a simple paruppu (dhal/lentils) and rice, and it makes a perfect healthy meal. Try making this recipe this month and do hashtag #monsoonjournal on Instagram and send us your pics, comments and feedback. Spread the love (and recipe!)

## Want to Work in the Food Services Industry?

### Food Service Worker Program

Certificate for Immigrant Women

Start your journey to finding work in Canada's Food Service Industry!

This FREE Program can help you find a career within the hospitality industry!\*

\* Eligibility criteria may apply

Next Session Starts September 4!

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905-305-7748

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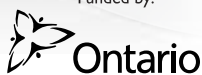
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@Tamil\_food



# Inspiring journey of Lawyer Meleni David in assisting others to overcome

## A success Story in the field of Law

When Meleni David left Sri Lanka to immigrate to Canada, she knew that she wouldn't be able to pick up where she left off in her legal career and rise to become a prominent lawyer in Toronto without tremendous hardship. However, these costs were outweighed by the possibility of building a life free from the unrest of a country in the middle of a civil war. It was this determination to create a life better than the one she left behind that spurred Meleni David on to become one of Canada's leading female civil litigation lawyers.

From an early age, Meleni had a passion for social justice. Growing up in Mannar, Sri Lanka, Meleni was inspired by her aunt and uncle, well-respected lawyers who worked with vulnerable members of their community to help improve their clients' quality of life. As a consistent top student, Meleni was accepted to the Faculty of Law at the University of Colombo in 1985, but the burgeoning conflict in the country made it impossible for Meleni to complete her studies. Industrious and resourceful, Meleni secured employment with a communications company and Sri Lanka's national airline before immigrating to Canada a decade later.

While her flame was diminished, the fire that drove Meleni to pursue law in the first place was not extinguished. Despite balancing the competing priorities of raising two young children and working odd jobs to bring in an income, Meleni began her studies anew in 1998 at York University where she completed her undergraduate studies in psychology. In 2001, Meleni was accepted into one of Canada's top law schools, Osgoode Hall Law School, where she completed her LLB and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 2005.

Meleni launched her personal injury law practice shortly after and has served as a prominent civil litigation lawyer in Ontario over a decade. She is continually driven by defending the rights of victims and has worked tirelessly to build a team of like-minded professionals within her practice. The Law Offices of Meleni David include more than five lawyers, articling students, paralegals and a team of 30 legal assistants.

Meleni's firm is known for employing immigrants. Over the past 13 years, she has hired seven foreign-trained lawyers and two foreign-trained doctors before they attained their Cana-



Meleni David



Meleni David receives the NEPMCC Award for Community Services from Ontario Lt. Governor David Onley



Barrister & Solicitor Meleni David, with her family members and the Aide-de-Camp of the Lt. Governor at the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada (NEPMCC) award reception.  
(Pictures by The Sri Lanka Reporter)

dian qualifications and the chance she gave them helped them gain the experience they needed to complete the licensing process. They all went on to open their own practices and excel in their careers. Her efforts have created a web of opportunity for people from around the world to achieve their dreams in Canada, and her work in this area has been recognized by many of the country's top organizations.

In complement to her law practice, Meleni is deeply engaged within her community. During the years from 2010 to 2017, she served as a director on the Board of the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre. Not only has Meleni spearheaded fundraising efforts for the organization, but she has also set up programs for individuals with autism to gain meaningful work experience within her practice.



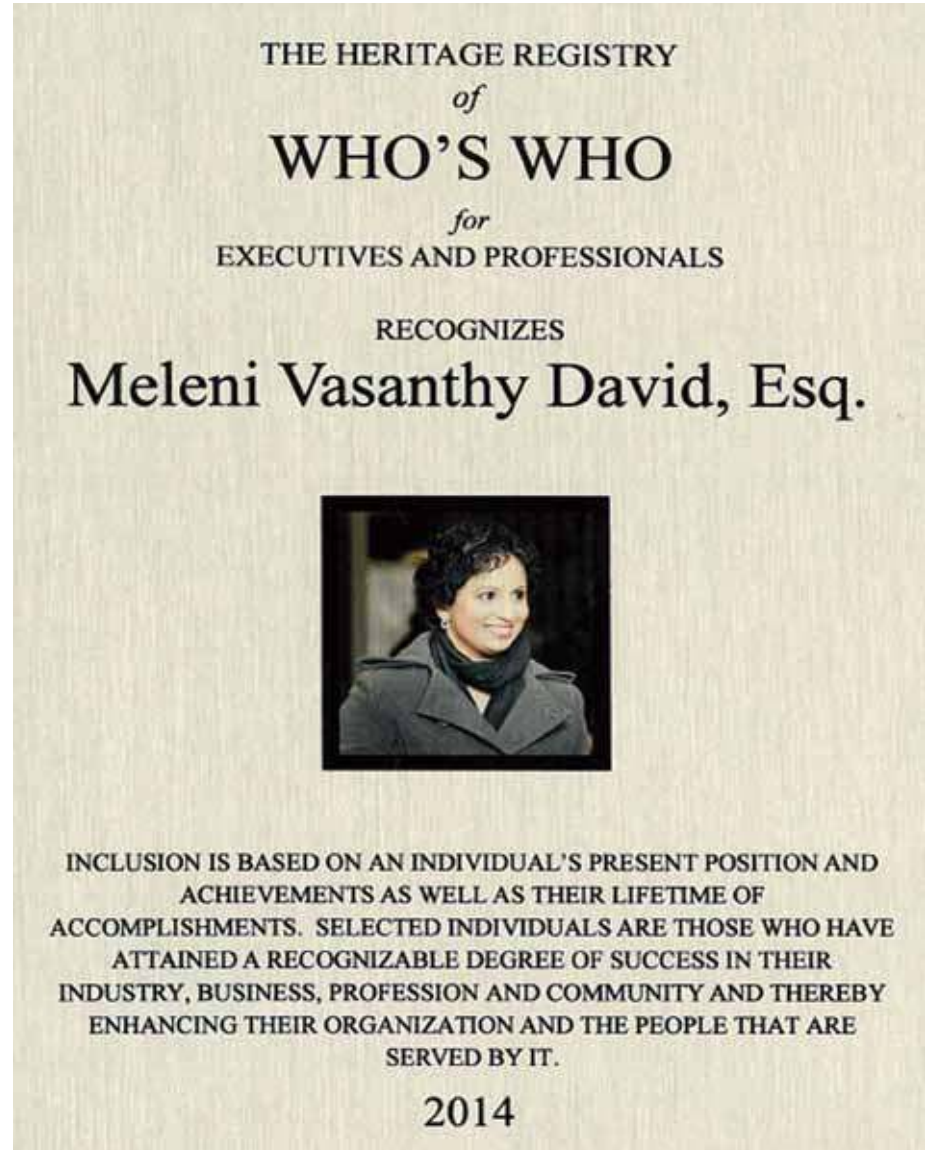
Meleni David is the recipient of the Top 25 Canadian Immigrants for 2012 Award



Meleni David made the major contribution towards the donation of \$36,000 by Canadian Tamil Congress for the fundraising at Tamil Canadians Walkathon and presenting the cheque to the Canadian Cancer Society representative at CTC Gala Event



Appreciation note by South Asian Autism Awareness Centre to Meleni David for being the Event Sponsor at the Radiant Night 2014



Other notable professional highlights include being selected to deliver the keynote speech at York University's graduation ceremony for a class of the University's Bridging Program for International Education Professionals (IEPs). Meleni has also been recognized with numerous awards for her contributions to the community, including: the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada Award from the Lieutenant Governor.

As a lawyer in a city like Toronto, Meleni David is keenly aware of the unique legal plight facing immigrants attempting to navigate an unfamiliar system. Every day, she is reminded of the obstacles she is privileged to be able to assist others to overcome. She was personally awarded the pres-

tigious Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award in 2012, an award that signifies to her that she's living a life that never would have been possible without her initial leap of faith.

Meleni David is the recipient of several awards in appreciation of her contribution to the growth and wellbeing of the community.

**Honors:**

The wide range of honors Melanie received over the years include in 2008 - Creating Opportunities for Change Award - "Empowering Youth and Newcomers by Breaking the Barriers to employment" by AYCE Tropicana Community Services, in 2009 - Appreciation Award in recognition of her partnership in the co-operative Education Program by Cardinal Newman

High School, in 2010 - Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce /Marketing Award,

2012 - Top 25 Canadian Immigrants for 2012 Award and the 2012 - Community Service Award by Canada-Sri Lanka Business Council. This award was presented by the Sri Lanka High Commissioner H.E. (Mrs.) Chitrangane Wagiswara. The business council recognizes individuals who went beyond their call of duty in their day-to-day lives in Canada. In 2014 -

Meleni David had the honor of delivering the Key Note speech at York University Graduation in Toronto to a graduating class of the University's Bridging Program for International Education Professionals (IEPs) of 2014.

**Association:**

Meleni was very active with the South Asian Autism Awareness Center. (SAAAC) Not only she was an active Director of this board, she was also one of the main sponsors in spreading awareness of Autism and helping the organization face challenges in the community. She has proven this by providing employment assistance to young adults living with autism.

In addition there are many untold and unpublished annual events including fundraising and Tamil, Sri Lankan charity events that help local communities as well as serving Toronto, Ontario and Canada as well as globally which Meleni David have been supporting throughout the years.



# FOR THE NEEDY PEOPLE IN TAMIL HOMELAND

## JESSICA JUDES SET TO STAGE A GREAT MUSICAL EVENT TO RAISE FUNDS



By-Raymond Rajabalan



Community Special Event Report



Vijay TV's Super Singers winner Jessica Jude who shot to fame in early 2015 after her astounding performance in Chennai is getting ready to stage a great musical event titled Jessica's Musical Night. The announcement was made at a press meet held in early June.

This grand show is scheduled to take place on August 11th 2018 at Markham Event Center (Kennedy /14th Avenue, Markham) and is being staged to support the people in East and North, with various needs.

According to the organisers of this event, three projects have been already planned. They include the following.

1. Preschool for 50
2. Vocational Training Centre for widows and young girls
3. Cataract Surgery for 30 people

Jessica had already made history in 2015 by donating her entire winnings to orphanages in Chennai as well as in Sri Lanka. Not resting on her laurels, this talented youngster has in the recent

past performed at various musical programs in Canada as well as USA to raise funds for the establishment of a Tamil chair at Harvard University. Amidst her busy schedule, she recently attended an event in July to raise funds to establish a Tamil chair at the University of Toronto, Scarborough,

Mega Tuners, a leading Tamil musical band lead by Aravinthan will be performing with Jessica and other local Singers at the Musical night event. Mortgage Specialist Mr. Anton Dharmaseelan is the Title Sponsor of this Event. Several other sponsors including PRIYAS, Velu's Discount Pharmacy, ARYA Canada Inc., Sritharan Thurairajah of LIFE 100, Alfred Remisair of Re/Max Community Realty Inc., Dr. Raj K Kiruba of Fenton Medical Centre, Mayuran Tharmabalan Professional Corporation, and Pakeer Sahadevan of RE/MAX Community have also come forward to support this worthy cause. The Funds to be raised through this great event, will be handed over to

Canadian Tamil Humanitarian Association (CTHA ) and the Association will utilize the funds in North and Eastern Provinces in a few Projects for assisting people with various forms of basic needs.

"Clean water, Wash room facilities, health and education are vital for a healthy, economically-stable community. They help disadvantaged communities become stronger and, ultimately self-sustaining", a spokesman for CTHA said.

CTHA's Adopt-a-Village project seeks to address these serious issues. It was launched with a pilot project in September 2016. CTHA visited several villages in Sri Lanka before selecting Pavatkodichchenai, a village in the Manmunai District, Batticaloa.

Pavatkodichchenai and its neighbouring villages consist of approximately 867 men and 891 women.

"The Adopt-A-Village project seeks to target development holistically, including access to clean water and wash rooms. The first stage was to provide villagers

with clean, accessible water through five tube wells, which will pump water from a hundred feet underground to a reserve tank to distribute to nearby areas. This has a huge impact for all villagers, but especially women and children" the spokesperson explained.

Jessica's dad Jude Soosaithasan addressing the participants of the recent press meet said he was expecting a large number of people to attend this event, enjoy the show and most importantly help needy brethren back home.

"This is not Jessica's show, rather all of us working together to raise funds for a meaningful purpose for the people in need back home.- If it becomes successful, Jessica wants to continue this on a yearly basis" he added,

Tickets: \$100, \$50 and \$20 Available PRIYAS (McCowan/Denison) in Markham at Sun City Super Market at Sun City Plaza, Scarborough.

May call 416-668-2476 for tickets as well

### Jessica's Musical Night



For Humanitarian Efforts in Northern & Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.

**AUGUST 11. 6:00 PM**

Markham Event Centre  
95 Duffield Drive,  
Markham, ON L6G 0A8

Contact: 416 668 2476 / 416 707 9104

### Jessica's musical night

தாயக உறவுகளுக்கு உதவும் இசை நிகழ்ச்சி

PRESENTED BY  
Mortgage Agent  
Anton Dharmaseelan



**AUGUST 11, 2018**  
6:00 PM

TICKETS  
VIP \$100 \$50 \$20





# Tamil Canadian Talent wins Title at FeTNA 2018

On Friday June 22nd, 2018 The Canadian Tamil Congress hosted a preliminary singing competition to recognize a singer and provide them with the opportunity to participate in the annual FeTNA Convention which took place in Dallas, Texas on July 1st, 2018.

The Canadian Tamil Congress initiated the initiative with the goal of recognizing the many local talents that are in our community and promoting them at an international level. On Friday June 22nd Steve Cliff Valentine and Prabha Balakrishnan were judging the singing talents in our community and chose two young singers; Thamiraa Ragikaran and Samantha Yohanathan. These two young girls have been singing for several years and the Canadian Tamil Congress was proud to send them to Texas to represent CTC in the FeTNA Annual Convention.

Numerous young talents participated in the competition at FeTNA and we are proud to say that Thamiraa Ragikaran representing the Canadian Tamil Congress won the title at the annual FeTNA Convention 2018.

This would not have been possible without the coordination of Raveena Rajasingham and Tharani Thayparan and the generous sponsors; Dr. Santhakumar, Dr. Chandra, Dr. Shanmugavadivel, Rajkumar Gunaratnam, Raj Thavaratnasingam, who supported the Canadian Tamil Congress to send the talented girls to Texas.

The Canadian Tamil Congress takes great pride in her achievement and look forward to the many opportunities that awaits for us to promote our Canadian Tamil talents.





# Thirukkural: a Book of Universal Ethics for All Religions

By: Kumar Punithavel

I am extremely proud to be Canadian and represent such a great, secular country as Canada. The Canadian National Household Survey (NHS) conducted in 2011, proclaims that people of more than 200 ethnic origins live in Canada (1). The report also states that 80% of the populace follow Christianity, with the remaining accounting for all other predominant religions in the world. However, it is interesting to note that nearly 14% percent have no religious affiliation as more and more countries are becoming secular. Under these circumstances, how a secular country such as Canada teaches ethics to adolescence is a big predicament!

For thousands of years, religious beliefs have influenced human civilization. Religion has been instrumental in imparting core principles such as kindness, honesty, patience, and forgiveness to children. These humanistic core values are formulated in religious terms, whether they are from theistic religious point of views such as Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism or Sikhism, which are based on the belief of God as creator or the absolute basis of all. These core values are also espoused by non-theistic religions such as Buddhism, Jainism, and the ancient Indian Samkhya School of philosophy, which did not subscribe to the idea of an all-powerful, creator God but anchored the teaching of ethics in the core philosophy of causality - meaning 'what you sow, you will harvest.'

In our modern day educational systems, there is a tendency to segregate religion from education in order to ensure that there is no inherent bias towards one religion over another. While this is an admirable effort to establish harmony amongst people, it has the unintended effect of creating a vacuum for the teaching of ethics. In the absence of religious teaching, the education system does not provide a viable substitute for the teaching of ethics. The Dalai Lama in his book 'Beyond Religion' (2), points out the following: "As I see it, spirituality has two dimensions. The first dimension, basic spiritual wellbeing, by which I mean inner mental and emotional strength and balance, does not depend on religion but comes from our innate human nature. The second dimension is what may be considered to be religion-based spirituality, which is acquired from our upbringing and culture and is tied to particular beliefs and practices." He



compares them to a cup of tea - the first dimension of our innate nature of inner mental and emotional strength which serves as the base, much like the water and the second of acquired religion-based spirituality which mimic condiments such as sugar, cream, etc. One can take away the condiments but not the core ingredient of water!

The Thirukkural was originally written in Tamil, but the word Tamil nor the race to which the author is ever mentioned! It is comprised of one thousand three hundred and thirty couplets dealing in one hundred and thirty three subjects, starting with "The praise of God" and ending with "The pleasure of temporary variance".

What is remarkable is that one finds that the core human nature and principles for conduct outline in this work is not aligned to any particular religion. Rev U.G. Pope, in his famous translation of Thirukkural (First published in 1886) points out this in the introduction. He illustrates that 'M. Ariel (in Journal, Asiaticque in Nov-Dec 1848,) has said: "That which above all is wonderful in the Kural is, in fact, what its author addresses himself, without regard to castes, people or beliefs, to the whole community of mankind; the fact that he formulates sovereign morality and absolute." (3)

This approach has made Thirukkural an ideal treatise with universal

appeal. St. Thiruvalluvar was a theist who wrote the book without reference to any religion. He realized that religion gives hope and strength to those facing adversity, and there will always be a need for it. However, he used generic terms in reference to God so that the book would have universal appeal and thus be easily welcomed by everyone.

In Thirukkural, he uses names such as Bahavan, Vaalarivan, Malarmisai Ekinan, Venduthal Vendamai Ilanadi, Iraivan, Thankkuvamai Illathan, Enkunnathan, pattataran, vakuttan, irai, Thamarai Kannan, Inthiran, Theivam and Ulakiyattian and they can be analysed below:

## Couplet # 1

1. பகவன் Bahavan

A, as its first of letters, every speech maintains;  
The 'Primal Deity' is first through all the world's domains

அகர முதல் எழுத்தெல்லாம் ஆதி  
பகவன் முதற்றே உலகு

For the translation of Bahavan, Rev. G. U. Pope has used the word 'Primal deity'. Though this is a generic term and can be used by all religions, there is another meaning put forward by the Tamil scholar Ke. Va. Jaganathan in his book entitled, 'Thirukkural Aarachchipathipu.' (Thirukkural research publication) (4) According to Ke. Va. Jaganathan, the word 'bahavan' means the person, who poses

paham (gfk;). Paham refers to six attributes, which are 1.; I;tupak; Ieswar-iam (Wealth); 2. tPupak;Veeriam (Valour); 3. Gfo; Puhai (praise); 4. jpU Thiru (Sainthood); 5. Qhdk; Gnanam (Wisdom); 6. tapuhf;fpak; Vairakiyam (resolve). Hence the meaning should be Primordial God with these six attributes. These attributes are universal to Gods of all religions.

## Couplet # 2

2. வாலறிவன் Vaalarivan

No fruit have men of all their studied lore,  
Save they the 'Purely Wise One's' feet adore

கற்றதனால் ஆய பயனென்கொல் வாலறிவன்  
நற்றாள் தொழாஅர் எனின்

The word Vaalarivan is another word used to refer to God and it has been translated as 'Purely wise.' It is worth observing, as stated the purpose of learning is to serve the all knowing one, thus personifying God as all knowledge therefore the God is said to be 'a personification of wisdom.' The term used on the second couplet too is very generic in nature to all religions of the world.

## Couplet # 3

3. மலர்மிசை ஏகினான் Malarmisai ekinan

His feet, 'Who o'er the full-blown flower hath past,' who gain  
In bliss long time shall dwell above this earthly plain

மலர்மிசை ஏகினான் மாண்டி சேர்ந்தார்  
நிலமிசை நீடுவாழ்வார்

Accordingly, God resides in the heart of the believers, which is like a bloomed flower. He compares heart of the believers to full-blown flowers on which God resides. Those who place God's feet in their hearts shall dwell with bliss in this world for a long time, says the Saint. Thiruvalluvar believes that the God will appear in the form that the devotee believes him to be in, as he is beyond all forms. If the devotee believes God to be Shiva, he will appear as Shiva, if the devotee believes him to be the Jesus, he will appear as Jesus, and if the devotee believes in Allah, he would appear as Allah, and so on.

## Couplet # 4

4. வேண்டுகல்வேண் டாமை இலாண்டி Venduthal vendamai ilanadi

His foot, "Whom want affects not, irks not grief," who gain  
Shall not, through every time, of any woes complain

வேண்டுகல்வேண் டாமை இலாண்டி சேர்ந்தார்க்கு  
யாண்டும் இடும்பை இல

In this couplet, Thiruvalluvar refers to God as one who has no likes or hates. Literally, the saint points out that the God doesn't play favourites but deals with the merits of each person's actions. Most would always agree that the God they worship is beyond favouritism and embodies fairness. Only





some religious individuals say that God would favour those who worship him in the form of their belief so that they may gain more followers. This clearly indicates that one cannot flatter God to gain favours. This quality is acceptable to all religions.

#### Couplet # 5

The men, who on the 'King's' true praised delight to dwell,  
Affects not them the fruit of deeds done ill or well

இருள்சேர் இருவினையும் சேரா இறைவன்  
பொருள்சேர் புகழ்புரிந்தார் மாட்டு

Couplet # 10

They swim the sea of births, the 'Monarch's' foot who gain;  
None others reach the shore of being's mighty main

In the above five couplets, we find the word Iraivan has been used to refer both temporal king and God. The word itself means 'King' or 'Monarch' who protects and levies taxes. We find the word King for God is acceptable to all religions. As a king is considered the protector of his kingdom, God is revered as protector of the entire universe which he created! This concept follows a logic that is accepted by all theistic religions.

#### Couplet # 7

6. தனக்குவமை இல்லாதான் *Thanakuvamai illathan*

Unless His foot, 'to whom none can compare,' men gain,  
It's hard for mind to find relief from anxious pain

தனக்குவமை இல்லாதான் தாள்சேர்ந்தார்க் கல்லால்  
மனக்கவலை மாற்றல் அரிது

In this couplet, Thiruvalluvar mentions God has none comparable. The concept of God is to believe that he is supreme therefore this description of God, which defines God as incomparably great will be universally accepted by all.

#### Couplet # 9

7. எண்குணத்தான் *Enkunathan*

Before His foot, 'the Eight-fold Excellence,' with unbent head,  
Who stands, like palsied sense, is to all living functions dead ...

கோளில் பொறியின் குணமில்வே எண்குணத்தான்  
தானை வணங்காத் தலை

In the ninth couplet, God is referred to as the one with eightfold excellence. The eight excellences are the eight attributes of God. They are; 1) Absolute independence, 2) Absolute purity, 3) Absolute self-knowledge, 4) Absolute freedom, 5) Boundless grace, 6) Boundless happiness, 7) Omniscience, and 8) Omnipotence. One can see that the names given to God's eightfold excellences are also generic in nature.

#### Couplet # 350

8. பற்றற்றான் *Patratan*

Cling thou to that which He, to Whom nought clings, hath bid thee cling;  
Cling to that bond, to get thee free from every clinging thing

பற்றுக் பற்றற்றான் பற்றினை அப்பற்றைப்  
பற்றுக் பற்று விடற்கு

Couplet 350 is the last one in the chapter entitled 'on renunciation'. St. Thiruvalluvar refers to God as one who has renounced everything by clinging to nothing. What a great way to discuss God as one who has nothing to cling to! After all, theistic religions certainly accept God as the Primary One, who created everything, has no favouritism and gives out justice in fairness to all.

#### Couplet # 377

9. வகுத்தான் *Vahuthan*

Save as the 'sharer' shares to each in due degree,  
To those who millions store enjoyment scarce can be .....

வகுத்தான் வகுத்த வகையல்லாற் கோடி  
தொகுத்தார்க்குந் துய்த்த லரிது

In the chapter on fate, St. Thiruvalluvar comes out with an unusual name for God by referring to him as the sharer in couplet 377. Accepting God as the Supreme who confers out the effect of our action, he refers to God as the sharer. He further mentions that without his conferring we cannot escape the cycle of birth and death. Literally, he should give it so one can escape rebirth!

#### Couplet # 388

10. இறை *Irai*

Who guards the realm and justice strict maintains,  
That king as god o'er subject people reigns

முறைசெய்து காப்பாற்றும் மன்னவன் மக்கட்  
கிறையென்று வைக்கப் படும்

Previously, we found in five different couplets where the word Iraivan was used to refer to God. The word Irai has a connotation of tax. King is the one who levies tax therefore, the word Irai is used to refer to king. In this couplet the St. Thiruvalluvar observes a king who performs his duties and protects (his subjects) will be esteemed as a God by his subjects.

#### Couplet # 1103

11. தாமரைக் கண்ணான் *Thamarai Kannan*

Than rest in her soft arms to whom the soul is given,  
Is any sweeter joy in his, the Lotus-eyed-one's heaven?

தாம்வழிவார் மென்றோள் துயிலின் இனிதுகொல்  
தாமரைக் கண்ணான் உலகு

In couplet 1103 of the chapter 'Rejoicing in the Embrace,' St. Thiruvalluvar refers to 'Lotus eyed one's world' meaning heaven. This name too remains a generic term that can be referred back to all religions that believe in heaven. He wonders whether the sweet joy in heaven with the lotus eyed one (God) would be as great as the embrace of a loved one! Who other than St. Thiruvalluvar was able to compare divine bliss to the embrace of a loved one?

#### Couplet # 25

12. இந்திரன் *Inthiran*

Their might who have destroyed 'the five', shall soothly tell  
Indra, the lord of those in heaven's wide realms that dwell

ஐந்தவித்தான் ஆற்றல் அகல்விசும்பு ளார்கோமான்  
இந்திரனே சாலுங்கரி

In the chapter on the 'greatness of ascetics', couplet 25 refers to Inthiran. The legend states that Inthiran, the King of Devas, was cursed by Gautama who was a great ascetic. When he found that the King of Devas (Celestials) deceived his wife Ahalya, the ascetic was able to curse even the celestials' royalty. Thus Thiruvalluvar went on to prove that ascetic life is even greater than the celestial life. This is the only instance that the Indian mythology was used in this book.

13. தெய்வம் *Theivam*

Couplet # 55

Her spouse before God, who adores,  
Is like rain that at request pours

தெய்வம் தொழாஅன் கொழுநற் றொழுதெழுவான்  
பெய்யெனப் பெய்யும் மழை

Couplet # 50

Who shares domestic life, by household virtues graced  
Shall, mid the Gods, in heaven who dwell, be placed

வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ்வன் வான்உறையும்  
தெய்வத்துள் வைக்கப் படும்

Couplet # 619

Though God should make your labour vain;  
Effort its labour's sure reward gain

தெய்வத்தான் ஆகா தெனினும் முயற்சிதன்  
மெய்வருத்தக் கூலி தரும்

Couplet # 702

Undoubting, who the minds of men can scan,  
As deity regard that gifted man.

ஐயப் படாஅ தகத்த துணர்வானைத்  
தெய்வத்தோ டொப்பக் கொளல்

Couplet # 1023

When one resolves to raise his race  
Lo! he rises up, God leads his ways.

குடிசெய்வல் என்னும் ஒருவருத் தெய்வம்  
மடிதற்றுத் தான்முந் துறும்

The word 'Theivam' for god is a simple translation for the word God. It is independent of all religions and could be adapted to the thoughts of all religions of the world. It is also worthy of note that St. Thiruvalluvar mentions in couplet 50 shown above, that if one lives his or her house hold life to its fullest virtue they will be placed amongst Gods in heaven. Literally, there is no need for prayers and penance.

#### Couplet # 1062

14. உலகியற்றியான் *Ulkatiyiran*

If he that created the world desires that man should begging go,  
Through life's long course, let him wander he perished so

இரந்தும் உயிர்வாழ்தல் வேண்டின் பரந்து  
கெடுக் உலகியற்றியான்

Not only did Thiruvalluvar write his great treatise of ethics and the good art of living, he was ready to reprimand even the creator of this wide world if he deemed that a person must beg to live his life. In couplet 1062 he mentions:

If the Creator of the world has decreed begging as a means of livelihood, may he too go begging and perish. In this couplet, he refers to God as 'the one who shaped the world', and goes on to say, may he perish if he deemed a person should undergo the humiliation and suffering of begging. One can easily see St. Thiruvalluvar was an extremely compassionate person who could not

bear to see someone suffering!

#### Conclusion

The Thirukkural is a book of ethics of a non-sectarian nature written more than two millenniums ago. It appeals to all races, religions, casts, creeds and languages. St. Thiruvalluvar's view of the world certainly resonates with the view expressed by the great poet Kavian Poongkundanar. Two thousand years ago Poongkundanar stated that 'World is my hamlet and humanity my kin.' (5) Thiruvalluvar too viewed humanity as his kin and wrote this book to benefit all humankind.

Throughout the Thirukkural, God has been referred to in generic terms, thus rendering the book's couplets acceptable to all religions. As such, we can conclude that the Thirukkural is a book of universal applicable ethics. This work can then serve as a great aid to teach ethics within the sphere of secularism. It can be taught in countries such as Canada which prefer a separation of religion from public education. This work will ensure that people from different ethnic origins and religious background can gain ethical unity without the undue influence of religious teachings.

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**Note:** All English translations of couplets of Thirukkural is by Rev. G. U. Pope (Published by Asian Educational Services, New Delhi 1995. (ISBN: 81-206-0022-3)

This article was submitted and presented by Kumar Punithavel at the 2nd International Conference on Thirukkural held from June 27 to 29, 2018 at Liverpool, England. Kumar is one of the delegates participated from Canada.





# SIGNIFICANCE & FESTIVALS IN THE MONTH OF AADI

Compiled by  
Kidambi Raj



Aadi Chevvai - Durgai



Aadi Velli - Lakshmi

Varalakshmi Vratam -  
Ashtalakshmi

Aadi Pooram

Aadi Krithikai - Muruga,  
Valli & Deyvanai

## Significance of the month of Aadi:

The Tamil month Aadi is the fourth month of the Tamil Calendar which falls between mid-July to mid-August. This month falls during the second half of the year known as Dakshinayana (Dakshina means South and Ayana means period), when the Sun transits from the northern hemisphere to the Southern hemisphere. Dakshinayana is the six-month period between Summer Solstice (Solstice describes the exact moment when the Sun reaches its northernmost or the southernmost point from the earth's equator) and Winter Solstice, when the sun travels towards the south on the Celestial sphere. Dakshinayana begins on Kataka Sankranti or July 16, as it marks the transition of the Sun into Kataka rasi (cancer). According to the Puranas, Dakshinayana marks the period when the gods and goddesses are in their celestial sleep or the beginning of the night time of Devas. This month is considered extremely auspicious for performing religious activities and worshipping the divine, especially the Goddesses. Starting this month the heat of the sun reduces and the rains start. It is during this time that the monsoon peaks on the west coast and the rivers in Tamil Nadu which were shrunk in the summer heat, gets fully replenished, often almost near full levels. The important days in the month of Aadi, which are celebrated as festivals by Hindus in South India and Sri Lanka.

## Aadi Pirappu (birth of the month of Aadi) or Aadi Pandigai:

The first day of Aadi month is observed as Aadi Pirappu. Hindus celebrate the auspicious day visit temple and pray to Goddesses. This day is very important especially to newly-weds. It is marked with a special Pooja, followed by a feast with various delicious dishes.

## Aadi Chevvai (Tuesdays of the month of Aadi):

The Tuesdays in the month of Aadi is known as Aadi Chevvai and is considered auspicious to perform to Goddesses particularly to Goddess Durga. During this month the Special Poojas to Goddess Durga is performed in the afternoon during Ragu Kalam.

There is a legend that explains the reason for this: A couple blessed with a child after their continuous prayers to

Divine Mother. The child reached her puberty age and the parents decided to seek an astrologer to ask the fate of the child in future. The couple were shocked to get to know that their daughter has "Ragu Dosham (very bad time - Ragu is controlling her time) and the ninth day from her birthday, a black serpent will bite her to death. Hearing this, the couple rushed to get the protection and remedies from Mother Durga. At this moment, Goddess Parvathy who wander as a saint in earth to help her devotees and Parvathy took the vow to save the child. The time comes and as predicted before, Ragu (the serpent-head) changes himself as a serpent and try his very best to kill the girl. Each of his attempt been blocked by Sakti and at last Sakti herself reincarnate as the girl and Ragu mistakenly bite Sakti thus made a sinful act. Ragu beg for forgiveness and as a reward he let go the girl. In forgiving his mistakes, Goddess Durga remind him that Ragu dosham and Ragu's influences will ease for those who are performing Pooja for her at Ragu Kalam. Goddess Durga is the power that guides and protects the devotee's spiritual practice from its many danger and pitfalls. So, by performing this Ragu Kalam Durga Pooja, Mother Durga will bestow peace and prosperity in our life.

## Aadi Velli (Fridays in the month of Aadi):

The Fridays of the month of Aadi are of great significance to women as numerous rituals are performed. Prayers to Goddess Lakshmi is very special on Fridays during this month.

Varalakshmi Pooja - Worship of Goddess Lakshmi:

The Friday before the Full Moon or Pournami day of the Tamil month Aadi is chosen to perform Varalakshmi Pooja. Worshipping Goddess Lakshmi on Varalakshmi Vrata day is equivalent to worshipping Ashtalakshmi, the eight Goddesses of Wealth, Earth, Learning, Love, Fame, Peace, Pleasure and Strength. Varalakshmi Pooja is mentioned in Skanda Purana. It is believed that importance of Varalakshmi Pooja was narrated to Goddess Parvathi by Lord Siva. Goddess Parvathi wanted to know about a Vrata that is highly beneficial to a woman, which will help her lead a happy and prosperous life on earth. Lord Siva then mentioned about the Varalakshmi Vratam.

## Aadi Amavasai:

Amavasai or No Moon day in

Aadi month is dedicated to offering Sraddham and Tarpanam to dead ancestors.

## Aadi Pooram:

Aadi is the birth month of Sri Aandal one of 12 Azhwars of Sri Vaishnavism. According to the legend, Vishnu Chitthan (Periyazhwar), a devotee of Lord Ranganathar of Srivilliputtur. He was childless for a long time. His prayers were answered and on Aadi Pooram day, when the devotee was collecting flowers for his pooja in his garden, as he always does, he found a baby girl amidst "Tulasi" plants. Periyazhwar named the baby, as Kothai and she grew up with extreme devotion to Lord Ranganathar. Every day, Vishnu Chitthan made a garland of Tulasi leaves to offer to the deity at the temple. But Kothai always used to wear the garland before it was offered to the Lord. When one day Vishnu Chitthan happened to see Kothai wearing the garland and he was upset and so replaced it with a new garland and offered it to the Lord. However, the Lord refused to accept the new one and said that He would only wear the garland worn by Kothai. This made Vishnu Chitthan realize that his daughter, Kothai is none other than Goddess Maha Lakshmi Herself. From then on Kothai came to be known as Choodi Koduttha Sudarkodi, meaning "garland offered after being worn". Aadi Pooram festival at many Vishnu temple is a ten day one and on the last (10th) day, Aadi Pooram, Thirukkalyanam (divine marriage of God and Goddess) is conducted. It is believed that if unmarried girls who worship Goddess Aandal on this Thirukkalyanam day, will get married soon. In Siva temples, this day is celebrated as Valaikappu festival for Ambaal, where glass bangles are offered to Ambaal and then distributed to the devotees. These bangles are said to provide off springs and generally protect us all from evils.

## Aadi Perukku or

## Padinettamperukku:

Aadi Perukku is celebrated on the eighteenth day of the month of Aadi. In Tamil Nadu, people celebrate monsoon through this festival. This festival is very special to all the perennial river basins of Tamil Nadu and major lakes water source areas and is intended to celebrate the water rising in levels due to the onset of monsoon, which is expected to occur invariably on the 18th day of the solar month, Aadi corresponding to 2nd or 3rd August every year. The festival pays tribute to

water's life-sustaining properties. For the blessing of mankind with peace, prosperity and happiness, nature worship in the form Goddesses are organized to shower nature's bountiful grace on human beings. Hence "Padinettam perukku", as Padinettu means eighteen and Perukku means rising. On this auspicious day, Goddess Parvathi is worshipped by offering chitraannam (rice cooked in different flavours, colours and ingredients) to river-goddess.

## Aadi Krithikai:

Aadi Krithikai is a day auspicious for Lord Muruga and Especially This Day Denotes the divinity between mother and child relationship, Muruga the second son of Lord Siva and Mother Parvathi. Interesting and inspiring are his birth and feats, which are elaborately described in the 'Skanda Purana'.

## How did Aadi Krithikai festival came into belief and existence:

According to Skanda Purana, Lord Muruga took birth from third eye of Lord Siva as six flames. Agni and Vayu deva carried the six Flames of Lord Muruga to the Saravana Poigai. Karthigai Ladies took care of the six babies from Lotus flowers in Saravana poigai. When Lord Muruga attained boyhood, Goddess Parvati took six babies from Karthigai Ladies and made them to a single boy with six faces. Hence Lord Muruga is also called Lord Shanmuga. Lord Siva and Goddess Parvathi granted Karthigai ladies boon that special poojas for Lord Muruga will be held in every Krithika nakshatra.

The Krithikai star or Nakshatram is considered highly auspicious to worship Murugan and Aadi Krithikai is more important because Aadi is the first month in the Dakshinayana punyakalam - when the sun god changes his direction from north to south.

## Putthukku Paal (milk for snake bill):

Lots of people also worship snakes during the Tamil month of Aadi and Thai. They visit a Snake bill and offer cow milk, as offerings to the Snake God. They also bring the sacred mud from the snake bill and apply the same on their body with a belief that it will help in getting rid of health ailments. They offer milk to snake idols and perform pooja to remove the naga dosha for wealth and prosperity.



# Tamil Nadu Former Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi – *A Pictorial Gallery*

Muthuvel Karunanidhi, popularly known as Kalaignar ('artiste'), was born in 1924 and served as the Chief Minister of the state of Tamil Nadu, the largest State in India, for five separate terms in the 1969–2011 period. He is a long-standing leader of the Dravidian Self-respect movement and ten-time president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam political party. Before

entering politics Karunanidhi worked in the Tamil film industry as a screenwriter. He has also made contributions to Tamil literature, having written stories, plays, novels, and a multiple-volume memoir. One of his major literary contributions is "Kuraloviam", a volume of the meanings of "Thirukkural".

The pictures on this page depict a pictorial memoir of his life.



Karunanidhi with daughter Kanimoli



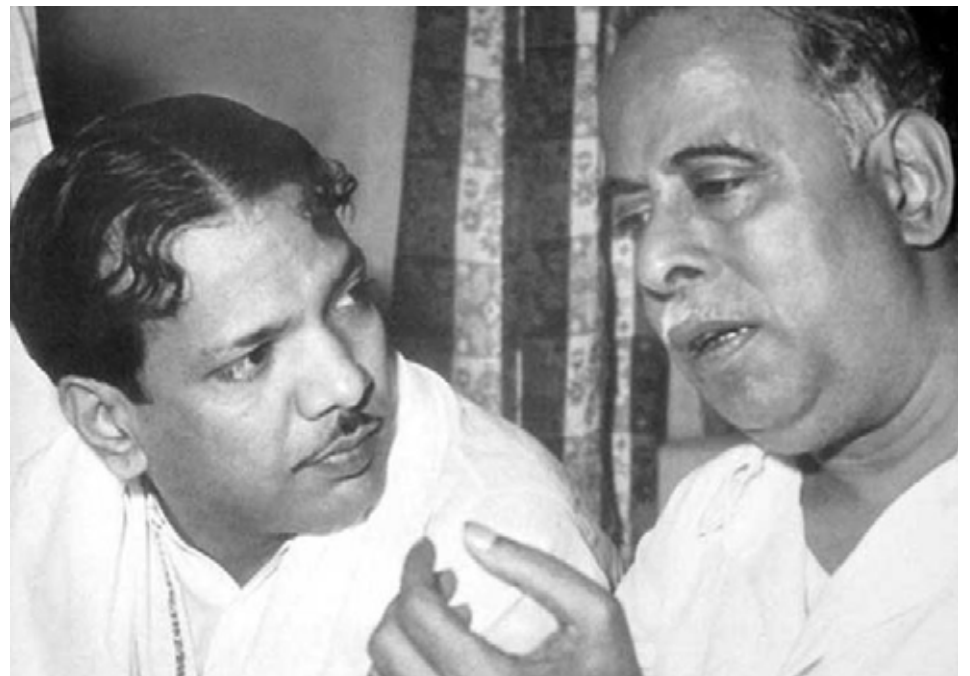
Karunanidhi with actor Sivaji Ganesan



Karunanidhi with Periyar & Annathurai in the background



Karunanidhi with MGR



Karunanidhi with DMK Leader Annathurai



Karunanidhi with son Stalin



Karunanidhi with Indira Gandhi



# BBQ & Sports Event by DTA

AJAX - The Durham Tamil Association 18th BBQ for seniors and family picnic started off wet and soggy but that didn't dampen the spirits of the faithful who came to support us. It quickly picked up to a great start with fresh, hot kottu roti, hot dogs and samosas being served to a hungry audience. The

event was held at the Greenwood Due to the rain they pitched up tents and played board games. We had a full house in the tents. The kids enjoyed the time they had with their parents challenging them to a game of checkers.

After the rain let up, they played

soccer, cricket, hoola -hoops and had a sack running race.

Along with the BBQ, DTA also organized a sports meet that many youth participated in. The event was well attended by local dignitaries including our MP Mark Holland. The adults also played field games and both youth

and adults used it as an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Overall, it ended up to be a wonderful time for all ages that helped develop a sense of camaraderie and taught more about Tamil Culture to our youth.



## Canada Day Celebration by DTA

AJAX - DTA's Canada Day booth was a rousing success, with people from all ethnicities coming to see and share in our culture.

For the first time we were invited to participate in multiple Canada Day celebrations across 4 different locations: Whitby, Pickering, Oshawa and Ajax. We showed off youth talents such as henna, face painting, multiple dance groups from multiple schools and used the opportunity to educate

people about our organization and what we stand for. The dressing of a saree was big hit with the visitors and we had lots of volunteers to support all four booths.

The event was an incredible success and many peoples learned about DTA and Tamil culture. The volunteers cooked hot, fresh kottu roti for all.

The Canada Day celebration, like always, ended up as a fun and engaging way to enjoy the day.



## Educational Programs by DTA

AJAX - The DTA and the Canadian Tamil Medical Association was proud to host the first Medical Seminar "Healthier You" on July 8th for adults, youth and seniors alike, with all of them being interested in the topics discussed. They learned about Obesity and how to stop it with a balanced diet and a nutritional guideline, education on mental health and addictions. The audience spent an entire day having

access to some of the best doctors from the region. It was very interactive and more than a 100 people benefited by this free seminar.

The participants were also treated to a sumptuous lunch and healthy snacks. A big thank you to all the doctors who volunteered their time, the organizing committee, member volunteers and executives of DTA for making this a great success.

# Comdu.it names overseas volunteers

Comdu.it names overseas volunteers who will be supporting the important work of local partners in North, East and Central Sri Lanka

Beginning July 2018, comdu.it has successfully placed five (5) volunteers on the ground with a number of different partners in Mannar, Mullaitivu, Nuwara Eliya, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya.

Comdu.it is a growing global network of diaspora changemakers committed to the sustainable development of the North and East of Sri Lanka. Currently, they operate in Canada and Germany. Comdu.it's mission is to help shift diaspora engagement from charity to sustainability, from aid to economic development, and from supporting remittance economies to building knowledge economies.

Below are the profiles of the volunteers who will be participating in the projects:

**Sunitha Subramaniam** (Leadership Facilitator, Nuwara Eliya - ESL) is a Teacher with the Toronto



District School Board where she teaches Physical Education and French as a Second Language. She received her B.A. (Hons.) in Kinesiology from McMaster University and completed her Teacher Education Program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Sunitha is an active member in the diaspora community as a Fitness Instructor and previously as a Clinical Supervisor with the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre. Sunitha was born and raised in Germany, and moved to Canada in 1996. This will be her first trip to Sri Lanka.



**Mathura Thiagarajah** (Trauma Councilor & Trainer- Vavuniya) is currently working as a school settlement counsellor, supporting students and families who are new to Canada. She has ten years of experience working with children, youth, families and seniors in various capacities, including as a youth worker, violence against women counsellor, and distress centre volunteer. In these roles, she has provided individual and family counselling, facilitated support groups, and engaged in community development and capacity building. Mathura holds a B.Sc (Hons) in Psychology and Integrative Biology from the University of Toronto and a Master of Social Work from the University of Windsor. Her practice is strengths-based, inclusive, trauma informed and is grounded in anti-oppressive theory.

**Saina Sivakumar** (Youth Facilitator – Trincomalee (ESL) is a Registered Early Childhood Educator at the YMCA Greater Toronto Area where she teaches, supervises and cares for children 0-12 years of age. She has experience working with children at



the Toronto District School Board where she assisted French-Immersion and ESL students, Kumon Math and Reading Centre and the City of Toronto. She is currently completing her Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies from Ryerson University. Saina was born and raised in Toronto, Canada and first visited Sri Lanka with her family in 2004.



**Thenoosiya Ratnasingam** (Youth Facilitator, Mullaitivu - ESL) recently graduated from the University of Waterloo with a B.A. (Hons.) in Social Development Studies and Cognitive Science, and plans to pursue further education in Social Work. Thenoosiya is active in the diaspora community. She has a particular interest in creating awareness about sexual abuse and mental health in the Canadian Tamil community and recently completed the Peer Champion Certification Program with Abuse Never Becomes Us. Thenoosiya was born and raised in Canada, and visited Sri Lanka in 2002, 2014, and 2017.

**Sanhar Balachandran** (Graphic Designer – Mannar) is based in San Francisco, California working as a software developer at Credit Karma where he specializes in mobile apps. He graduated from the University of Waterloo with a B.A.Sc. in System Design Engineering.

Sanhar has a keen interest in creating awareness about mental health issues in the Canadian Tamil community which motivated him to participate in training workshops such as QPR – More Feet On The Ground. Sanhar was born and raised in Canada and last visited Sri Lanka in 2003.



# நீங்களும் மூன்று வருடங்களில் BA (தமிழ்) பட்டதாரியாகலாம்



Thanjavur Tamil University has been granted special permission by The Tamil Nadu Govt to propagate Tamil outside Tamil Nadu. For this purpose Tamil Valar Maiyam has been established at the university and 10 million dollars has been allocated for this purpose.

Thanjavur University and Tamil Education and Research Centre UK have signed a MOU to conduct BA, MA Degrees in Tamil, Music, Yoga and Diploma courses in Bharatham and Music in EU-ROPE and CANADA.

Applications are now called for BA first year and BA second year.

MA first year to be held in May 2019; Any one with Grade 12 Canada, AL Sri Lanka three passes, 2 plus India or any diploma or degree are allowed to appear for the BA degree. Those who have any Bachelor degree may apply for MA.



தமிழ்நாடு தமிழ்நாடு TAMILNADU

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Memorandum of Understanding  
Between

Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India  
&  
Tamil Education and Research Centre-UK

This MoU agreement is entered on 28<sup>th</sup> December -2017 between the Tamil University, Thanjavur-613010, Tamil Nadu state, India, referred to as First Party represented by the Registrar of the Tamil University, Thanjavur and

Tamil Education and Research Centre, 1, Jacklin Drive, Coventry CV3 6QG, West Midlands, UK referred to as Second Party represented by the Registrar of the Tamil Education and Research Centre

சுந்தர்சென

CO-ORDINATOR  
Tamil Education and Research Centre-UK  
1, Jacklin Drive, Coventry CV3 6QG  
West Midlands, UK

1

Vice-Chancellor  
Tamil University  
Thanjavur-613 010.

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**SALE** Hwy 401/ Mccowan



**\$365,000**

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**Toronto**

**SALE** Rossland/ Tamarisk



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**SALE** Taunton/Harmony



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**SOLD** Brock/Taunton



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Washroom : 4  
**Whitby**

**SOLD** Taunton/Country Lane



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