

# Monsoon

ONE DOLLAR

# Journal

OCTOBER 2018  
VOL 13 ISSUE 5

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Emil Alphonsus CA, CPA, CMA

## Riythvika wins Popular Reality Show “Bigg Boss Tamil 2” by Vijay TV



After keeping the viewers glued to the small screen, Bigg Boss Tamil 2 finally announced Riythvika as its winner and Aishwarya Dutta as the first runner-up. Riythvika won Rs 50 lakh cash prize and a trophy after surviving more than three months in the luxurious Bigg Boss house, hosted by Kamal Haasan.

Sharing her happiness, an emotional Riythvika said, “My victory belongs to everyone. I want to be an inspiration for all girls.” A Tamil film actor, Riythvika started her career with 2013 film Paradesi and was also a part of Pa Ranjith’s 2014 film, Madras.

Among the contestants on Bigg Boss Tamil 2 were Yashika Anand, Ponnambalam, Mahat, Dan-

iel Annie Pope, Vaishnavi, Janani, Ananth Vaidyanathan, Ramya NSK, Riythvika, Mumtaz, Bhalarajie, Mamathi Chari, Nithya, Shariq Hassan and Aishwarya Dutta besides the wild-card entry the season Vijayalakshmi Feroz.

After 105 days of stay in the house, Riythvika has emerged as the winner of season 2 of Bigg Boss Tamil. Riythvika received the trophy and cash prize from the host and actor Kamal Haasan.

Riythvika was one of the most expected contestants to win the title of Bigg Boss Tamil season 2. She was liked by her co-inmates, ex-contestants and by the audience too. Riythvika is an actress predominantly working in Tamil

cinema. She is a native of Salem, Tamil Nadu. She did her education in Chennai.

She shot to fame with the films of actors Karthi and Rajinikanth.

Riythvika is considered to be the most disciplined and obedient contestant in the house.

She followed all the rules of the Bigg Boss house without committing any errors. She also performed all the duties assigned to her.

Riythvika maintained her composure all through the season. Riythvika was a task master too. She was tough, both mentally and physically and put her 100% efforts in all the tasks. She wouldn’t give up on any task so easily.

Contd. on page 24...

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**The US 2020 DV Lottery  
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applications from October 3  
- November 6, 2018**



The US Immigration Act of 1990 established the Diversity Visa (DV) program, where 55,000 immigrant visas would be available in an annual lottery, starting in fiscal year 1995. The lottery aims to diversify the immigrant population in the United States, by selecting applicants mostly from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States in the previous five years.

Embassy of the United States of America in Colombo, Sri Lanka has released the following statement on the process:

To apply for a diversity visa, follow the steps on the Diversity Visa Process on [usvisas.state.gov](http://usvisas.state.gov). Once you have completed those steps, review the instructions given to you by the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC), along with the information presented on the website, for further guidance and instructions. – More and for online application visit:

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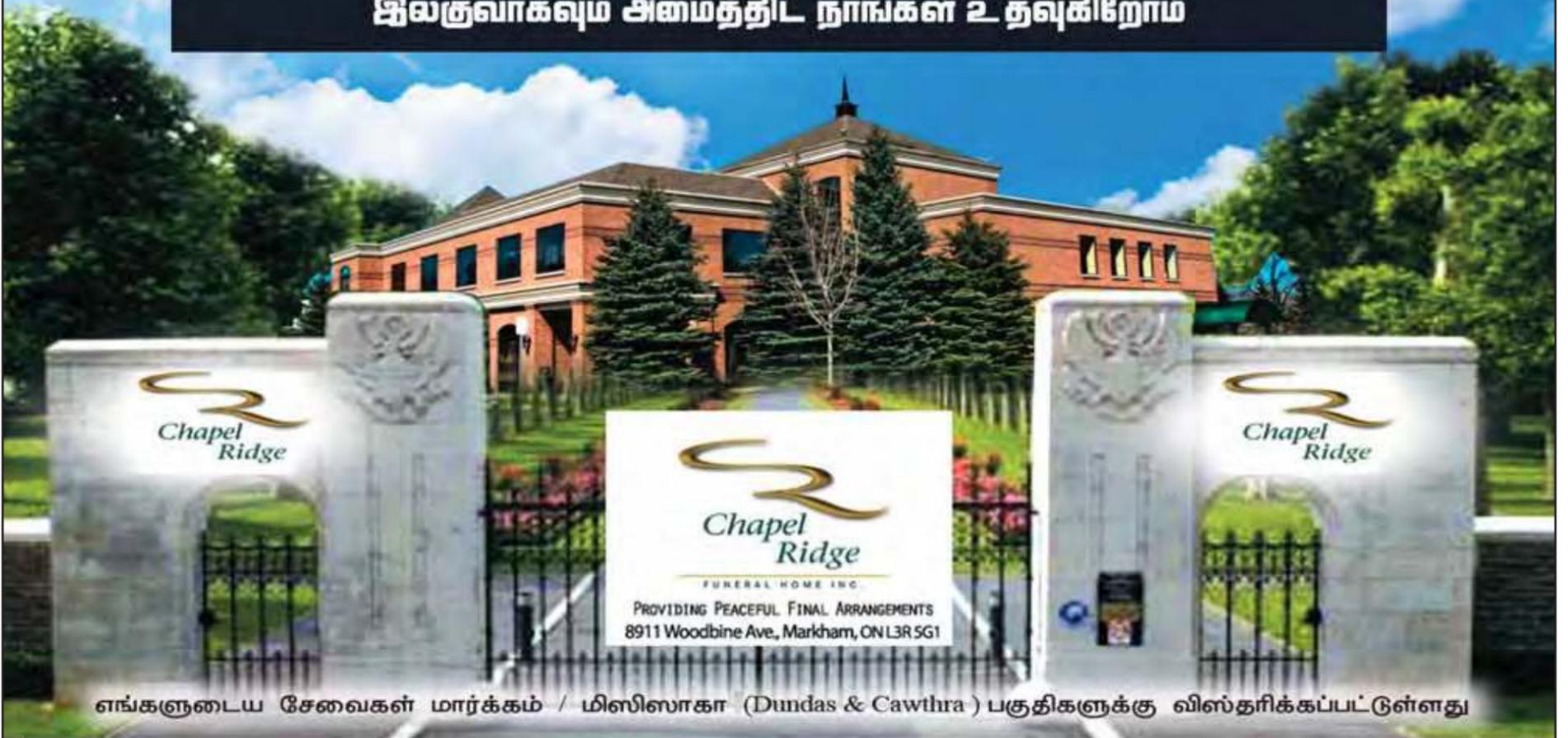
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## NDP's Faisal Hassan marks the beginning of Islamic heritage month in Ontario

QUEEN'S PARK – NDP MPP Faisal Hassan marked the beginning of Islamic Heritage month in the legislature on Monday, speaking about the vast contributions the Muslim community and inviting people of all backgrounds to celebrate together. In 2016, New Democrats worked with the Muslim community to pass legislation that established Islamic heritage month in Ontario.

The full statement follows:

“October is the month we celebrate Islamic heritage in Ontario. The Muslim community has been present in Ontario and in Canada since the country's founding in 1867. We celebrate together to inform, to educate and to share with our fellow Canadians the rich Muslim heritage and contribution to society. These are contributions in science, humanities, medicine, astronomy, architecture, history and other disciplines that have greatly benefited human progress. It is the month we

recognize the important contributions that Muslims make in Ontario as part of the vibrant social, economic, political and cultural fabric of our province.

Islamic Heritage Month brings people from all backgrounds together and provides positive vibes, especially since there are so many misconceptions in society about Islam. Muslims have been contributing to all aspects of Ontario's prosperity and diverse heritage for generations.

Islamic Heritage Month is about creating positive understanding for the Muslim community and sharing this with our neighbours. I encourage every member to take part in the events in your area.”



## Small businesses welcome new NAFTA agreement but further work needed for key sectors



Ottawa, October 1, 2018 – Small and medium-sized enterprises can breathe a sigh of relief with the progress of NAFTA negotiations. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) welcomes the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) but cautions that the federal government must work to address key issues affecting Canadian businesses as it finalizes the details.

“We are glad to see a new agreement in place and we congratulate Foreign Affairs Minister Freeland and her team on their successful negotiations. Small businesses need stability in international trade so they can plan for growth and the future,” said CFIB President, Dan Kelly. “CFIB is particularly pleased that the new agreement includes a dedicated small business chapter.”

Although the new agreement is a welcome sign of certainty for many businesses, some firms, including small retailers and producers in supply managed industries, have remaining concerns that need to be addressed:

Affected supply managed sectors will need a detailed transition plan, adequate compensation and assurance that relief measures will work for smaller producers.

The new \$150 de minimis limit for duty-free online purchases and \$40 sales tax exemption may put small Canadian retailers at a competitive disadvantage. CFIB calls on government to ensure stronger enforcement of the rules by Canada Post and work with smaller retailers on implementing other relief measures.

CFIB calls for a quick end to steel and aluminum tariffs and all retaliatory measures in light of the new agreement. “While it is good news for small firms that Canada will have more secure access to its largest trading partner, the past year highlights that we need to continue to diversify our markets and empower small businesses to succeed at home and abroad,” said Corinne Pohlmann, CFIB's senior vice-president of national affairs. CFIB is monitoring the development of the agreement closely and will release further analysis when more details are available.

*(Full text of media release by CFIB, via: [cfib-fcei.ca](http://cfib-fcei.ca))*

*(The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is Canada's largest association of small and medium-sized businesses with 110,000 members across every sector and region.)*

## Governor General congratulates Canadian Donna Strickland on winning the Nobel Prize in Physics



Dr. Donna Strickland

October 2, 2018 - OTTAWA—Governor General Julie Payette joins with thousands of Canadian scientists in hailing the exciting news of the Nobel Prize in Physics being awarded to Dr. Donna Strickland and her partner Gérard Mourou for groundbreaking work in high-intensity ultra-short laser pulses.

“I am absolutely thrilled by this news,” says Madame Payette. “Dr. Strickland is the first woman to win

the prestigious Nobel in Physics in 55 years and only the third woman overall. She joins legend Marie Curie, Albert Einstein and our Canadian researcher Art McDonald in the esteemed group of laureates. This is an enormous achievement and a tribute to women in science. Congratulations, Donna, on behalf of all your fellow Canadians!”

via: [gg.ca](http://gg.ca)

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# from the publisher's desk

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## Urban Development with a Consciousness: Tamil Housing Co-op and the 2018 Toronto city elections

Throughout my university education, I learned of the premium that is placed on critical thinking as a skill or competency for not only the workplace or professional world that you prepare for, but with civic duty and the electoral process.

One of the most remarkable issues in the 2018 municipal elections across Ontario has been the cut to Toronto city council from 47 to 25 councillors during the election period itself. It has dominated both the election as well as the news cycle, as evidenced by the complications that have followed on this issue. Yes, while this matter has significant electoral implications, it has reinforced another highly topical issue for Toronto's election as well as those in a handful of Ontario municipalities: housing. As for policy platforms, former city planner and frontrunner, Jennifer Keesmaat is committed to building 100,000 units of truly affordable, high-quality housing in the next 10 years. Meanwhile, John Tory, the current mayor of Toronto, would approve the construction of 40,000 affordable rental units over 12 years, roughly 3,300 annually. In terms of housing policy, there is something of a system around it in Canada that is not centered on the market or real estate. In that sense, it is critical to realize the valuable social and physical as well as mental health benefits on individuals in generating their own personal and professional success in Toronto and elsewhere.

In that sense, the Monsoon Journal received the opportunity to learn more extensively of this effect through one of the oldest social housing institutions in the city, which is the Tamil Housing Co-op. Indeed, at firsthand, it has an incredible depth of history for the Sri Lankan Tamil community in Toronto itself in addressing the housing needs of individuals across the city of Toronto. Co-ops are a unique form of housing as the tenants renting and occupying the units take an active role in shaping the quality and safety of their home through a system of democratic governance. The decision-making structure is comprised of a board of governors elected by the members. Their committees assist the board in many areas of governance such as finance, maintenance, youth, culture, sports and gardens. It contains 129 units, with 65 units made available for rent geared to income (RGI) subsidies that are administered by the city of Toronto.

It was founded in 1988 as affordable shelter for Tamil refugees who fled ethnic violence in Sri Lanka to have a strong start with their new life in Canada. Next, it contains a library of literature in Tamil and English from Sri Lanka, with a few collections donated to the Tamil studies program



at the University of Toronto. The Tamil language books were from Sri Lanka, India and the Toronto Tamil diaspora including books of three authors from the Co-op. It also recently received some funding from the province. CHFT offers diversity scholarships, youth and garden awards. The Tamil Co-op has been the recipient of scholarships, both youth and garden awards. The co-op receives governance support from the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto. CHFT offers diversity scholarships, youth and garden awards. The Tamil Co-op has been the recipient of scholarships, both youth and garden awards. The diversity scholarship was at one point received by Sophia Laing, a Vietnamese tenant, who went onto study biomedical science at York University as a stepping stone to become a medical doctor.

On November 10, 2018, the co-op will celebrate its 30th birth anniversary soon after the upcoming municipal elections. As with Sophia, the housing co-op has had tenants of other ethnic backgrounds, with the most recent being Burmese and Rohingya refugees making it their home. Despite the council size cut made by the current provincial government, city councillor, Ana Bailao still represents the ward where the Tamil co-op is located and has been regarded as being instrumental to the resiliency of the co-op's operations. Accordingly, she has a perspective of urban development with a consciousness in tune with thinking on affordable housing. That is a policy direction that the members at the Tamil co-op hope to continue with her re-election along with that of a like-minded mayor for not only in the next 4 years, but also the next 30 years and beyond.

As October 22 approaches, ensure you think critically about your choices for ward councillor in Toronto and in elections across the Greater Toronto Area on a variety of municipal issues including housing.

**Contributed by Harrish Thirukumaran,**  
2019 Master of Public Policy Candidate,  
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

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## Best Wishes from Monsoon Journal for a Happiest Autumn

### Gala and Festivities

October 8 : Thanksgiving Day  
 October 9- 18 : Navarathri  
 October 31 : Halloween  
 November 7 : Diwali- Deepaavali

### Canada Historic Milestones:

#### October 1, 1992

The federal government designates October as Women's History Month in Canada. This is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions to our country by Canadian women of all backgrounds and in all eras.

Throughout the month of October, Canadians celebrate the achievements of women and girls who have been trailblazers in the history of Canada.

Two special days in women's history are also observed in October: the International Day of the Girl Child on the 11th, and Persons Day on the 18th.



“Those who govern must see how the people react to administration. Ultimately, the people are the final arbiters” - Lal Bahadur Shastri (2 October 1904 – 11 January 1966) was the 2nd Prime Minister of India

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

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# “Teachers inspire us to become the very best versions of ourselves”

## Statement by the Prime Minister on World Teachers' Day

Ottawa, Ontario - October 5, 2018 - The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on World Teachers' Day:

“Today, on World Teachers' Day, we recognize teachers who, day in and day out, empower young people and shape our future for the better.

“Great teachers bring out the best in us. They discover talents and passions that become the basis of lifelong careers. They introduce us to people and passages, on the page and out in the world, that broaden our horizons and help us better understand ourselves. They are generous listeners who champion the needs of every student.

“Few people wear more hats than teachers. On any given day, they are tutors, friends, coaches, and counselors. Above all, teachers are role models and guides, who lead generation after generation to richer lives and better



futures.

“This year's theme – The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher – calls attention to the shortage of teachers worldwide, particularly among vulnerable populations, including girls, children with disabilities, refugee and migrant children, and those

living in rural or remote areas.

“Canada is playing a leading role to give women and girls greater access to quality education and learning opportunities. At the G7 Leaders' Summit, we joined international partners to mobilize a historic investment of close to \$3.8 billion CAD in education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations. Canada built on this momentum at last month's United Nations General Assembly, where we welcomed an additional \$527 million CAD to help developing countries give every child access to quality education and modern skills training.

“Through these investments, partners will support important initiatives, including to improve training for teachers to provide better curriculums for women and girls. Quality education is key to creating a more equal world, where everyone has a fair chance at success.

“I am exceptionally proud to have

been a teacher, and I am pleased to launch the nomination period for the 2019 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence, Teaching Excellence in STEM and Excellence in Early Childhood Education Competition. For over twenty-five years, these awards have recognized exemplary teachers who have helped prepare young Canadians for the jobs of the future. I encourage Canadians to recognize an outstanding educator from their community who has made a real difference in their life, or the life of one of their children, by nominating them for the awards.

“On behalf of the Government of Canada, I thank all teachers and educators in Canada and around the world for the incredible work they do. From early childhood to secondary school and beyond, they inspire us to become the very best versions of ourselves and change the world for the better.”

- via: [pm.gc.ca](http://pm.gc.ca)

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## Former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu Newspaper N. Ravi elected Press Trust of India chairman



By Siva Sivapragasam

**N. Ravi, former Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Hindu Newspaper in Chennai has been elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India.**

The Press Trust of India (PTI) is the largest news agency in India. It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a nonprofit cooperative among more than 500 Indian newspapers and has more than 1,000 full-time employees. It provides news coverage and information of the region in both English and Hindi. Its corporate

office is in New Delhi and the registered office in Mumbai.

Mr. Ravi, 70, succeeds Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group.

The elections took place at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the news agency following the company's 70th annual general meeting.

"In the incoming Chairman ... we have been blessed with a person who brings with him formidable intellect, foresight, knowledge and wisdom," Mr. Goenka said. "I am certain that he will enhance PTI's reputation and ensure its financial viability."

Mr. Ravi has been the chairman of the India chapter of the International Press Institute and a member of the executive board of the International Press Institute, Vienna.

He was president of the Editors' Guild of India and had been a member of the National Integration Council from 2006 to 2008.

Mr. Ravi has won several academic awards, including a gold medal in constitutional and international law.

He was a Fellow at the Harvard



Law School in 2000 and the Shorestein Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, in 2004. In 2013, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, and St. Anthony's College, Oxford University.

He joined The Hindu in 1972, where he served as a reporter, a leader writer, the Washington correspondent, a Deputy Editor and an Associate Editor. He was Editor from 1991 to 2011 and Editor-in-Chief from October 2013 to January 2015.

Mr. Ravi has covered several international conferences and travelled with Prime Ministers and Presidents to cover international summits. His areas of interest include constitutional and political issues, economic policy, international economy, free speech and human rights, and India-U.S. relations.

He is the recipient of several professional awards, including the G K. Reddy Memorial Award and BREAD Role Model Award, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

(Source: The Hindu)

## UN chief marks Non-Violence Day, urging world to follow Gandhi's example; 'the greatest soul that ever lived'

October 2: Mr. Guterres called on the world to follow the "enduring vision and wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi" on the International Day of Non-Violence, which falls on 2 October - the birthday of the iconic leader who led India to independence, and inspired civil rights movements across the globe.

"As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I can only hope that all those that have political responsibility in the world are able to be worthy of Mahatma Gandhi and to understand that they should reach their objectives through dialogue, through non-violence, through a strong commitment to truth and too the well-being of their peoples."

In his message for the day, the UN chief said that "at a time of protracted conflicts and complex challenges, Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence remains an inspiration. At the United Nations, a world free of violence - and the resolution of differences through non-violent means - is at the core of our work."

Mr. Guterres recalled Gandhi's commitment to social justice, with inequality on the rise. He said it was important for a fairer globalization process to take root, based on human dignity, at a time when the world is "striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, ensure gender equality and leave no one behind."

The Charter of the United Nations, said the Secretary-General, with its call in Chapter VI for the use, "first of all", of negotiation, mediation, arbitration, judicial settlement and other peaceful ways to address threats to peace, echoes the spirit of Gandhi's statement that "non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind."

Noting that Gandhi proved that non-violence can change history, Mr. Guterres called on the world to be inspired by Gandhi's "courage and conviction as we continue our work to advance peace, sustainable development and human rights for all of the peoples of the world."

- UN.org



The UN Secretary-General António Guterres (r) pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Raj Ghat memorial in New Delhi on 2 October 2018 to mark the beginning of the celebrations of his 150th birthday-pic: Giles Clarke/UN

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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)

## Menstrual pads for women prisoners When men make the rules:

Ever wonder what it is like to live as a woman in a man's world?

We are responsible for giving birth to the species but we are told that we came from man's ribs - and so are permanently crooked.

We are told that men should make all the decisions as they think better with their heads. Sorry, heads are the same. Only the genitalia are different. And when people with one set of genitals presume to make rules for the other sets without any understanding of the biological functions involved, what you get repeatedly is sadly hilarious, and often enraging results.

Remember I wrote some time ago on the women prisoners stuck 1000 to a toilet, given only one pad per day during their menstrual cycles?

It seems I was too optimistic. They are not allowed one pad per day - they are allowed only ONE per ENTIRE menstrual cycle (4-7 days).

Activists who spoke to the Prisons Commissioner on why the women were getting only one pad were met with the bewildered response, “Eh? But the State has no allocation at all for menstrual pads for women prisoners,” it seems.

Read that again. Our Sri Lankan State has made NO allowance at all to provide sanitary napkins to women prisoners.

Why? Most probably because the men in charge didn't even think of it.

The women therefore depended on pads brought in by friends, family or NGOs to staunch their monthly bleeding.

Somewhere down the line, prison officials feared that drugs were getting spirited in with the pads - so what was their brilliant solution? Limit the number of pads a woman can get to use for her monthly period - to ONE per MONTH.

It's easy to think this was just deliberate torture, but what is more probable is that a clueless male official had no idea how many pads a menstruating woman needs per month - and actually thought one would be enough.

And it got enforced by other males (and even females) without questioning what the boss said.

So now 1000s of women in prison crammed together in tiny cells intended for a lot less people when they were built by the British, having only 3 toilets between them with inhumane sanitary conditions - get only one pad per month.

Imagine bleeding for 4- 7 days with only one small pad to staunch all that flow?

And then men wonder about women's 'crookedness'.

Stop breaking us. Stop making decisions on our behalf that you know absolutely nothing about. That would help.

### On toothbrushes

VidhyaMuttulingam flashing me a cheshire cat grin: Notice anything different about my teeth?

**Me:** Eh?

**Her:** Is it whiter than usual?

**Me:** Ah yes.

**Her:** I used baking soda and salt to brush them. I am exploring different ways to reduce my carbon footprint.

**Me:** Are you telling me you are not going to use toothbrushes anymore?

**Her:** Not plastic ones. I'll continue to use my old one until I can order in a bamboo one and will never buy plastic again.

**Me:** Ordering to fly in bamboo brushes will not reduce your carbon footprint. Go break off a neem twig

like your ancestors did.

**Her:** Hmm, that's an idea, I think I'll do that.

**Me:** Ha! I can't wait to see this. <neem is insanely bitter and one has to chew the stick to make a brush out of one end.

I can't wait to capture a photograph of her doing this >

**Her:** Well I need to grow a new Neem plant first. I can't reach the branches of the giant tree in our yard. I am not a monkey.

Well, that's open to debate. Interesting development to follow.

### Fight for her right

I interviewed Tharjini several years ago, as well as lived with her (among a 140 others) at a women's hostel in Wellawatte and from those experiences I know:

1. The netball team is not paid a salary. They play free for the country.

2. They have to either themselves pay or find sponsors to pay for their travels to tournaments to foreign countries. When I interviewed Tharjini some nine years ago, she had just returned from winning another successful Asian championship (where she scored 74 of their 77 point final win) yet she spoke mainly of her exhaustion in trying to find sponsors on her own, how she didn't know til the last minute if she would get to go because she might not get enough money, and how bad she felt to be a burden on her parents who often had to pocket out the money - in lakhs of rupees.

3. She spoke of the struggle of returning from the bank she was working at her day job to the hostel she was staying at in Colombo to save accommodation costs, to going to regular netball practice in buses because she couldn't afford anything else - in which she had to travel half bent over as many people did not have the sense to offer a seat to this 6 foot 10 inches tallest and most successful netball player in Asia, who had already brought home many cups to Sri Lanka.

4. In recent times, having grown tired of her relative poverty, she decided after much soul searching to take up a job offer in Australia to play for a club there.

It would be very easy for her to gain Australian citizenship and become an Australian player but she adamantly told the Australians she should be allowed to fly back to Sri Lanka to play as a Sri Lankan for international games. The Australians agreed but guess who didn't? The Sri Lankan bureaucrats.

I know that even until recent months she was writing desperate letters to the President pleading to play for Sri Lanka internationally while playing for Australia at club level - which she feels she has no choice but to do in order to earn for her later years, something which has worried her significantly over the last few years.

Playing for Sri Lanka all these years had only burdened her financially not paid back, yet SL authorities were unsympathetic of her need to go out and earn - and effectively told her to get lost altogether.

She had to fight for her right to remain a Sri Lankan player too. Which is how she brought home this recent cup. These are some of the stories you will never, never



Tharjini Sivalingam

hear about the various trials our women heroines in Sports go through.

### Asian and Western family values

Amusing how we Asians laud our 'family values' which Westerners apparently don't have.

Just had an argument with someone who maintained that Westerners divorce at the drop of a hat which is immoral, and the downside would be that kids who might be half siblings and even siblings would grow up not knowing each other and could potentially marry each other.

Eh! No, the Westerners don't divorce at the drop of a hat, and it's not common for the kids to grow up not knowing each other.

### Know what's common?

Secret marriages and clandestine relationships among Asian communities are common - even accepted as a way of life for men who are already married. The women would of course get into a lot more trouble for their clandestine relationships.

Wink, wink for men, gasp, shock horror for women - but it sure exists.

It was an accepted way of life for men to have concubines among the oppressed castes - that's the way they put it on this side of the dominant caste divide I grew up on. I don't think those women had much agency in the matter, they were likely raped, and left to bring up their children alone - no child support other than what the man chose to give, and stopped with his death. No acknowledgement of the children either.

I asked her, what about marriages among such children who grow up not knowing they are brother and sister and her response was, “Oh well, the caste divide you know. None of us would marry in those castes anyway and so there is no likelihood of marriage between siblings there.”

She did though admit that this was not what she was thinking about when she lauded Asian marriages and culture, and this practice - still prevalent - is nothing to be proud of. Small victories I suppose.



# Republic of Sri Lanka and UNESCO host 3rd International Day for Universal Access to Information

28 September - To mark the global commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), UNESCO and the Government of Sri Lanka jointly organized a two day international conference in Colombo under the theme of "The Asian Digital Revolution: Transforming the Digital Divide into a Dividend through Universal Access".

The event addressed such topics as open solutions for universal access; online challenges to individual rights and fundamental rights and freedoms;

Recalling his country's successful response to the earlier industrial revolution through achievements and innovation which took place in irrigation, engineering and medical sciences the Prime Minister said: "Our government is committed to promoting the knowledge industry, and as a result we have to make the commitment to open access, where information is accessible and education is open and available to all".

In a statement issued from Paris on the occasion of IDUAI, UNESCO

Indrajit Banerjee, Director of UNESCO's Knowledge Societies Division, invited the audience of 250 senior officials, academicians and experts "to take a chance to address some hard issues about access to information and how to put in place the right instruments to assist universal access for all."

Eric Falt, Director of the UNESCO New Delhi Office urged participants to examine information access through a far more inclusive lens. "Access to information is rarely equitable, and it is

Dr Saima Wazed Hossain, World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Autism and Chairperson of the Shuchona Foundation in Bangladesh, also urged that accessibility for persons with disabilities must be integral to any debate on universal access to information. She noted that technology applications hold wonderful promise for persons with disabilities, including technologies for persons on the autism spectrum and for the deaf and blind, but urged UNESCO and its Member States to make applications adaptable, affordable and accessible through open-licensing.

"Sri Lanka could overcome challenges by prudent policies and strategies that led towards creating a knowledge society and digital economy" stated Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication, Digital Infrastructure and Foreign Employment of the Government of Sri Lanka.

"It is my Ministry's duty to prepare the new generation for the 21st century", said Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education of Sri Lanka and Chairperson of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, "we aim to reach 100% IT literacy rate, through a 90% geographical connectivity coverage". Stressing that access to quality education and the need for qualified teachers in rural areas remain a challenge, the Minister underscored that "many South Asian countries are facing similar challenges."

The 2018 IDUAI conference comprises seven thematic workshops and panel discussions and will conclude with the adoption of a Colombo Statement on Universal Access to Information. The event also observed the launch of the 3rd version of UNESCO's Competency Framework for Teachers.

The worldwide commemoration of IDUAI each year on 28 September reinforces UNESCO's mission to support its 195 Member States in building Knowledge Societies based upon four pillars: universal access to information and knowledge; respect for cultural and linguistic diversity; freedom of expression; and quality education for all. via: [en.unesco.org/news](http://en.unesco.org/news)



Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe of Sri Lanka (centre) with Minister of Education (left) and Minister of Telecommunication, Digital Infrastructure and Foreign Employment (right)

gender equality and opportunities and challenges of new digital technologies and algorithms.

In opening remarks, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, stated that the high pace of digital innovation requires commitment by Sri Lanka to a total knowledge-based society to drive integration within the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Director-General Audrey Azoulay stated: "The purpose of this international day is to remind governments and all the stakeholders in civil society of the need to ensure truly universal access to information. Access to information is directly linked to the enjoyment of basic rights and freedoms and influences the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

critical to ensure that the digital dividend reaches traditionally disadvantaged groups including women. Considerations of gender must be integrated into the design of new information services, technologies and products. The roll-out of these ICTs too must be truly inclusive. Let us make a gendered approach to technology and access the new normal."

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## Tourism to be developed in Sri Lanka's Northern Province

Chief Minister Wigneswaran requests the Government to tap fully the potential in the North to develop tourism.

Govt strongly considering resumption of ferry service between Rameshwaram and Thalaimannar

Tourism Minister invites Tamil Diaspora to invest in the Tourist industry in the North

By Siva Sivapragasam

Sri Lankan Government is showing interest in developing the Tourist Industry in the Northern Province.

Tourism Development and Christian Affairs Minister John Amaratunga stated at the World Tourism Day celebrations in Jaffna that among measures considered for the development of the Tourist industry in the North were the setting-up of a sub-office of the Tourist Board in Jaffna, the resumption of the ferry service between Rameshwaram and Thalaimannar together with the opening of the Palaly airport as a regional airport. The Minister was confident that these measures will be implemented soon and will give a boost to tourism in Jaffna.

Chief Minister Wigneswaran who was present at the event urged the Government to tap fully the potential that was available in the North to develop tourism.

Amaratunga also said the Palaly Airport, which operated as a military airport for a long time, has been opened for civilian transport.

The domestic airport, he said, would drastically increase the number of tourists visiting Jaffna as they would be able to fly to Palaly from the Kattunaike Airport.

The Tourism Minister also stated that the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) would soon open a sub office in Jaffna to expedite the industry's growth in the province.

He also requested the Tamil diaspora to invest in the tourist industry in the North.

"Whenever I meet members of the Tamil Diaspora when I go overseas, I request them to come back. That way, they will help themselves and help their community. Tourism offers a great opportunity to the Northern province" he added.

Northern Province Chief Minister, in his speech at the same event, urged the tourism authorities of the government to tap into the full tourism po-

tential of the North by resolving 'bottlenecks' in fund allocation, industry expertise and planning.

The Chief Minister said his province had many places that could be developed into provincial tourism hubs through right strategies and fund allocation.

"We need more tourism experts in our province to realize its full potential" the Chief Minister said, adding that he had presented several comprehensive plans to the government on tourism development in the North.

Wigneswaran highlighted the importance of the tourism industry for better revenue generation and stated that the scenic islands in Jaffna and other beaches in the Mullaitivu area could be developed into major tourist attractions, similar to those in the Eastern province.

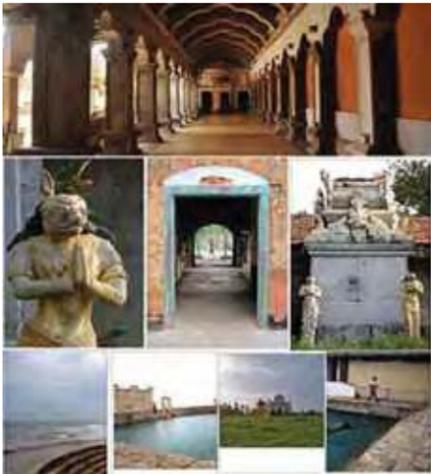
He said that although a strip between Palaithivu and Pallikuda had been earmarked for a ferry service that would benefit the tourism industry, the process had come to a halt due to Navy occupation in the area.

The Chief Minister attributed the industry's slow growth due to external factors such as anomalies in fund allocation and the absence of inclusive planning.

"We have no reservations about working with the government or tourism bodies of the central government as long as our regional rights are not violated," Wigneswaran said.

Speaking at the World Tourism Day event, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority Chairman Kavan Ratnataka promised to fast track measures to develop tourism in the province, in a holistic and sustainable manner.

"Tourism, I am sure, will be the number 01 or 02 sector in Jaffna. But the industry in the province should grow in a manner that preserves the authenticity of the tourism experience it offers. You, in Jaffna, should remain who you are. At the same time, the growth of the industry should be sustainable," he added.



## 'We must work together like never before' to realize sustainable development, says Canada at UN

October 1 - Addressing world leaders at the Assembly's annual debate, Marc-André Blanchard, chair of Canada's delegation called on the international community to find opportunities amidst challenges it confronts.

"We have to find new ways of doing things, for silos to be broken between Governments and civil society; between Governments and the private sector; between North and South; and between the traditional so called like-minded and non-traditional like-minded."

In particular, the response to climate change offers potential for new technologies, representing a 26 trillion-dollar opportunity, said Mr. Blanchard

"To harness this opportunity, starting with the most vulnerable, small island States, we must all work together with scientists, multilateral institutions, regional banks, investors, and civil society like never before," he urged.

In his address, the Canadian official spoke of the priorities of his country's G7 presidency, including its focus on strengthening climate resilience and disaster recovery.

He went on to inform the General Assembly of the North American nation's participation in UN peacekeeping efforts, highlighting the "Elsie Initiative" – a practical plan to double the number of women in peacekeeping operations.

"We know that having women in the ranks – and in charge – makes peacekeeping more effective and its results more durable," said Mr. Blanchard.

Turning to crises around the world, the Canadian official reiterated that his country's actions remain guided in its commitment to protect and promote



**Marc-André Blanchard, Chair of Delegation and Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN, addresses the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly.- UN Photo/Cia Pak**

human rights, citing a recent unanimous motion adopted by Canada's parliament calling on the Security Council to refer crimes against the Rohingya people to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Concluding his address, Mr. Blanchard announced Canada's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for 2021-22, recalling the country's "proven record" of working with other UN Member States to new ideas and approaches to tackle complex problems of international peace and security.

"If elected to the Security Council, we will bring to bear our longstanding dedication to peacekeeping, our over thirty years of service as Chair of the UN's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and our active membership on the Peacebuilding Commission," he said.

- UN.org

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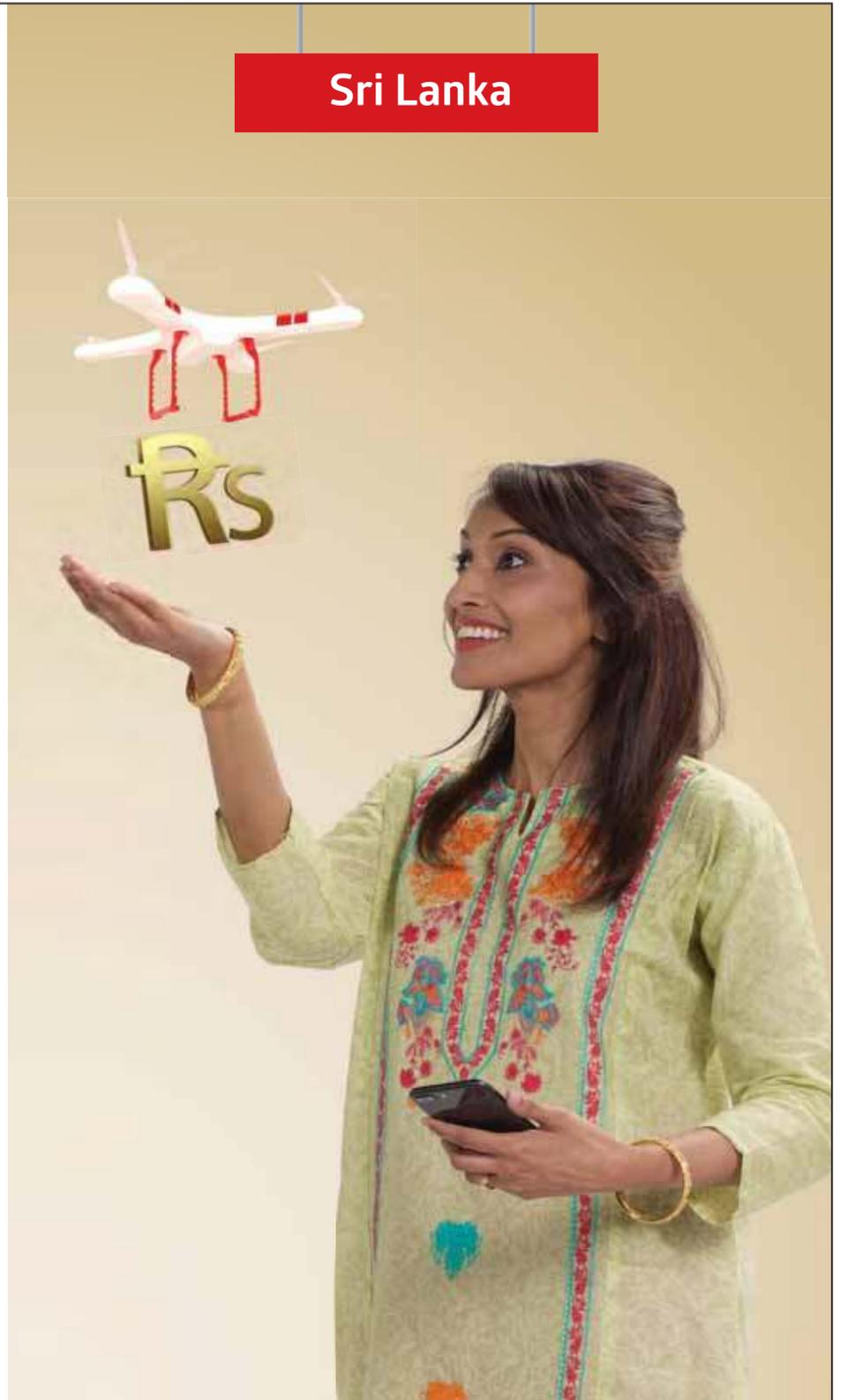
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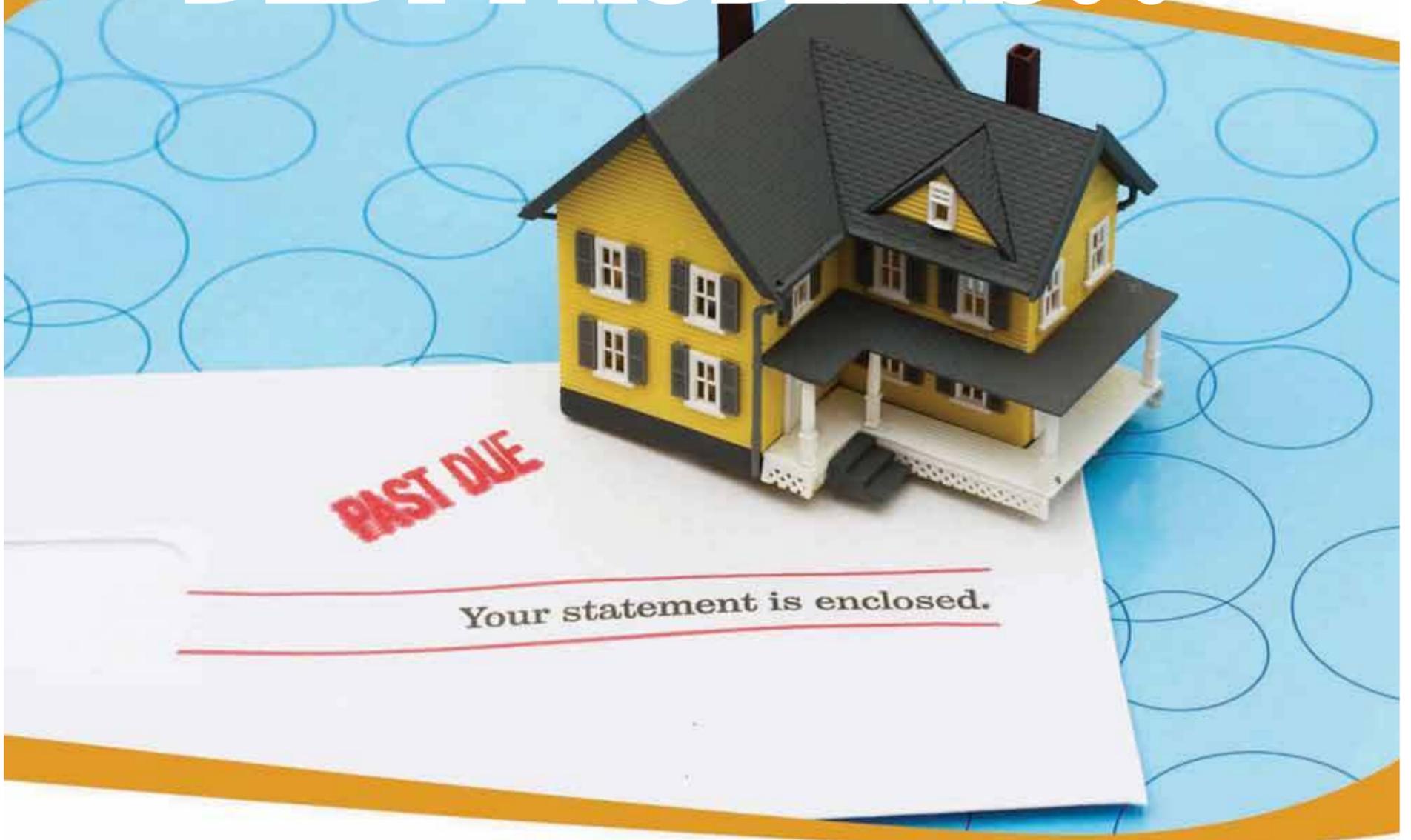
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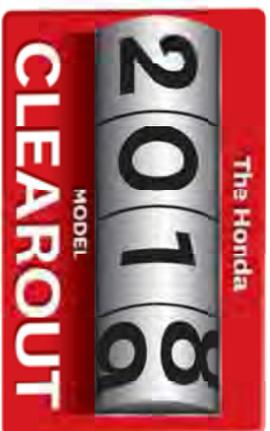
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Contd. on page 15...



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Contd. from page 14...

One of the SRH Foundation's signature events, 2018 was the third year that Canadian Tire Brave T.O. has challenged our community to "beat the best." The race is designed to reflect the challenges that police, firefighters, and paramedics face in their daily work in Scarborough.

Leading off the racers, a wave of first responders from across the GTA battled it out for team and individual bragging rights. Coming out on top of the team competition this year was the 43 Division of Toronto Police. Detective Jesse Weeks, of Toronto Police Service's 55 Division, was the fastest in-

dividual first responder for the second year in a row, with a time of 23:08.

The first responders inspired participants from 5 to 75 who showed their support for their community hospital by participating in a family-friendly 1k walk, or 3k and 5k races.

New this year, participants and donors could choose to designate their donations toward a specific hospital department or unit. This truly allowed participants to feel connected to their fundraising efforts.

"It was an outstanding day" said Michael Mazza, President and CEO of SRH Foundation after running the obstacle course himself.

"Knowing that some of the course challenges represent first responders' training helps you understand how hard they work. Thanks to support from our racers, sponsors and volunteers, we're able to make a significant impact in purchasing critically needed equipment to support patient care in Scarborough."

With vibrant entertainment – including a special SRH Strategic Plan flash mob dance – emergency services demonstrations, and special fitness challenges, Canadian Tire Brave T.O. was about more than racing. It brought our hospital and community together to support our health network's trans-

formation.

Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, or danced for the cause! And sincere thanks to six local Scarborough Canadian Tire stores, 10 Scarborough No Frills locations, Scotiabank, TD Bank, 2 RE/MAX Community Realty offices with over 50 of their agents and other generous sponsors of Brave T.O.

Next year's event is already in the planning stages and you are encouraged to bookmark and check in at [www.brave.to](http://www.brave.to) regularly to be ready to take part in the 2019 event.

More pictures on pages 17...



More pictures on page 17...



Scarborough and Rouge Hospital



Health & Care

# SRH RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVING PERFORMANCE TARGET FOR VASCULAR ACCESS SURGERY WAIT TIMES

Congratulations to SRH's Vascular Access Team within our Nephrology program!

In September, the Ontario Renal Network recognized SRH for meeting the annual target for the Vascular Access Wait Times (Priority 3) performance indicator and achieving an outstanding rate of 94.5% for the 2017/18 fiscal year.

"The Ontario Renal Network is delighted to recognize the hospital for improving their vascular access surgery wait time indicator performance. Achieving a high rate on indicator means the hospital is in alignment with provincial priorities and continues to provide high quality renal care" explained Dr. Peter Blake, Provincial Medical Director, Ontario Renal Network.

SRH's nephrology program is one of the largest in North America, and there is a growing need for vascular access surgery within our community. Last year, the vascular access team cared for 170 Priority 3 patients through their surgical journey, and the vascular access clinic had more than 1600 patient visits.

For patients who need it, vascular access surgery is a crucial procedure. The target wait time for Priority 3 patients is 28 days from initial clinic visit to their surgery.

To meet demand and provide patients and families with exceptional and timely care, SRH's vascular access team made several process improvements. They expanded clinic days to twice a

week, and created dedicated vascular access education sessions for pre-surgical patients – sessions which help patients understand the three types of hemodialysis vascular access and make informed choices about their care.

The team also standardized the procedure for booking surgeries, and worked closely with the surgeons to schedule surgeries within the 28-day target timeframe.

And, in the spirit of continuous innovation, the team checks in regularly with colleagues in the Improvement and Decision Support teams to identify opportunities to streamline processes and work efficiently.

Congratulations to the team, and keep up the good work!



## Marking a milestone: Young cancer patient rings end of treatment bell



When Leland Haley visited Scarborough and Rouge Hospital's (SRH) Paediatric Oncology Clinic on August 29, it wasn't just for another needle or procedure.

On this day, this resilient 10-year-old marked a milestone in his years-long journey battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia when he rung the end of treatment bell to signal the end of his chemotherapy treatments.

"I'm so proud of Leland and of our whole family," said his mother Natasha, who stresses how she, her husband, and Leland's 12-year-old brother Landen have been there to support him and each other throughout every part of his diagnosis and treatment.

Leland was diagnosed with cancer in June 2015. Following a brief stay at SickKids Hospital, Leland did the majority of his treatment at SRH, including two and a half years of chemotherapy and regular checkups.

"The care Leland's received at Scarborough and Rouge Hospital has been phenomenal," said Natasha. "We felt like we were at home every time we came here and the staff and physicians

treated us like family." Landen is even more complimentary. "This hospital is one of the greatest; it's one of the best in the world."

However, he's just as quick to recognize the strength of his little brother. "When he was diagnosed I was crushed, it hurt so bad on the inside and it wasn't something I thought would ever happen. But Leland's gone through a lot and he's knocked cancer down like Rocky!"

"We're so happy for Leland to ring the end of treatment bell today," said Kirsty Morelli, Nurse Practitioner in the clinic.

"As a satellite location of the Paediatric Oncology Group of Ontario, we work in partnership with SickKids to provide the very best cancer care to close to home for patients like Leland and their families."

Although Leland has been given an excellent prognosis for the future, he won't be declared officially cancer-free for five more years until he reaches the age of 15 with no relapses.

But for now, Leland has some very clear goals in mind. "I haven't been able to jump on a trampoline during my treatment, so I just want to do that again," he says with a smile.

## SRH announces launch of consultations for clinical services review



Over the past year we have worked with our patients and our community as we began to shape the future of care in Scarborough. Together, we have developed our inaugural strategic plan and have created our new, unified, identity as Scarborough Health Network. Community engagement is a crucial part of how we reach decisions that will ultimately define health care delivered today and in years ahead.

Today, we are proud to announce the launch of community and patient consultations for our clinical services review. Along with the community, our teams across our hospital sites are working closely to determine the future designs of our clinical programs.

The first program to undertake a comprehensive review will be our Women's and Children's Program.

Working with nurses, midwives, obstetricians and gynecologists, anaesthesiologists, paediatricians and other front-line staff, we are committed to transparency in our decision-making and ensuring the units and community are at the forefront of this process.

Patient-centred care requires engagement, information, and feedback from our patients, community and our networks.

We encourage community members to provide feedback through an online survey available on our website [www.srh-hospital.ca](http://www.srh-hospital.ca) beginning October 3. This feedback will ensure our decision-making is informed by those who know the impact of our work best – the people from Scarborough and our region who access services at our hospital.

We also welcome general feedback about our Women's and Children's program. Please feel free to contact Linda Calhoun, Vice President, Clinical Programs and Chief Nursing Executive at [lcalhoun@tsh.to](mailto:lcalhoun@tsh.to) or Glyn Boatswain, Director, Women's and Children's Health at [gboatswain@rougevalley.ca](mailto:gboatswain@rougevalley.ca) by October 22.

# Canadian Tire Brave T.O.

Contd. from pages 14, 15...



Election  Special Feature

# DR. ANU SRISKANDARAJAH FOR TRUSTEE FOR TDSB AT SCARBOROUGH-ROUGE PARK

**M**y name is Dr. Anu Sriskandarajah, and I am running to be your Trustee for the TDSB for Scarborough-Rouge Park. I am a proud resident of Scarborough where I live with my husband, an elementary school teacher in Scarborough.

I am a Professor in the Child and Youth Studies Program at York University. Everyday I get the honour of educating future teachers who are in the process of their teacher training. I worked for the TDSB as a research consultant. I co-authored the STEM Teaching and Learning Report for the Toronto District School Board. I have also worked on the "Renewed Math

Strategy" and "Student Achievement" reports for the TDSB. What I aspire to do as Trustee? We know the job market is rapidly changing. One of the roles of a school board is to equip our students for this change. Following my research in this area I aim to integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineer, Art, Math) more readily into the classroom, in an equitable and sustainable matter. Our realities are changing, so we need curriculum and investments in resources to match. A large part of this also means meaningful professional development for our teachers.

The role of schools is to cultivate better citizens. Better citizens make

better neighbours! We know students are under different pressures compared to previous generations. Schools need to be better equipped to deal with these changes, and I am a strong advocate for holistic understandings of wellbeing that ensure students are physically, mentally and socially successful.

Our schools and curriculum need to reflect the needs of local communities. Schools need to be hubs, playing a stronger role in community engagement.

I look forward to being your representative at the Toronto District School Board. On October 22nd, vote Anu Sriskandarajah.



# ASHISH PANDYA CONTESTS AJAX WARD 2 IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON OCTOBER 22

**Ashish Pandya, a long - standing resident of Ajax is contesting the coming municipal election in the city of Ajax for Ward 2 on October 22.**



Ashish Pandya has been a long-standing resident of Ajax and is running a non-profit organization and a seniors club in Ajax. He has been involved in running town events in Ajax and has also organized a several events for the local communities

As a resident involved in community events he has been mingling with the local community and Ashish has familiarized himself with the day-to-day issues of the local community taxpayers as well as their issues that may have significant impact in the long term.

His platform for this election includes Safe Neighborhood, Community Involvement, Sustainable City, Economic Growth and responsibility of fiscal management that includes lowering property taxes. Ashish promises to work hard on these issues.

Ashish Pandya has been a resident of ward 2 for almost 12 years now. His two children have grown up in Ajax. His daughter Akansha finished her elementary and high school studies in Ajax and is now pursuing her undergrad degree at Wilfrid Laurier University. His son Aditya finished his elementary school and attends J Clarke Richardson High School in Ajax Ward 2. His wife is successfully running a "Kumon Math and Reading Centre" at Salem and Taunton and has been owning this business for eight years.

The family is very much involved in the community and helps to organize community events in the neighbourhood. As part of his campaign journey, Ashish Pandya is reaching to all families living in Ward 2 and personally to know them individually and learning about community and municipal issues.

Ashish says "So far, I am very fortunate to learn many new issues when I met with the residents of our neighborhoods and these issues need to be addressed on a priority basis. Every street has its unique issues and some of these issues include, waste management, illegal parking, need for traffic control devices and traffic calming at various locations, noise pollution and so on. I might learn about some more issues during my campaign journey. I want to take this opportunity to assure all fellow residents that I will take all the issues seriously and work towards the best solution within the available resources."

Ashish is making a special appeal to all voters in Ward 2 to vote for him to make their voices heard and to live and prosper together.

- 20+ years of community service
- Passionate to help people
- Strong work ethics

## Elect Malar

# Varatharaja

for Ward 7 Councillor, Markham










### My Commitments to You

I ensure to keep advocating for:

- Better traffic measures** to keep our communities moving safely.
- Faster snow removal** with better snowbank management in residential areas.
- Safer** school zones, roadways and drug-free communities.
- Targeted programs** for youth and seniors empowerment.
- Respect tax dollars** and advocate for investing back into our communities.
- Keeping Markham Ward 7 **Safe and Beautiful.**

**Election Dates**  
October 12-22

## Elect Malar

# Varatharaja

for Ward 7 Councillor, Markham

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Markham Regional Councillor Joe Li

# Markham Regional Councillor Joe Li seeks support at the Oct 22 Municipal Election

Joe Li was elected Markham Regional Councillor in October 2010. He is the first Hakka Chinese from India to hold public office in the City of Markham, Municipality of York Region, and Canada. He currently serves on various committees and boards.

His passion for politics originated early in high school in India through various student movements. In 1974, he left India for Sweden upon graduating from high school to seek opportunities, where he successfully owned and operated several restaurants.

Joe settled in Canada in 1984, and four years later, he found his niche working for London Life Insurance Company. He was promoted from Sales Representative to Sales Manager, Associate Regional Manager, and finally to Director of Asian Initiative. In 1998, he started a financial services franchise and went on to achieve the designations of Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter.

As Markham Regional Councillor, Joe has chaired Transportation; International Partnership in Canada 150 Celebration, Automated Vacuum Collection Feasibility Working Group, and a Director for Powerstream.

For York Region, he is currently Chair- York Region Planning and Economic Development, Director-Toronto Global Invest and on the Transportation Task Force.

Joe speaks English, Swedish, Hakka, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi and Urdu. He is actively involved in diverse cultural events, charitable organizations, trade missions, and notably in the promotion of business development opportunities.

Joe and his wife Yvonne have three children, Francis, Melvin and Phyllis.



International Artist A.R. Rahman and Regional Councillor Joe Li



Regional Councillor Joe Li with Sunil Gavaskar, Indian Cricket Legend



Regional Councillor Joe Li with Bollywood Singer Sadhana Sargam, Kajal Chowdhury, John Neogi and Neera Chakravorty



Joe Li's Nepal Earthquake Relief Fundraiser



India Day celebrations



Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund Press Conference



## WORDS OF PEACE

# Awaken to Reality



Most people have no idea how to tell the difference between reality and belief, says Prem Rawat, who has been traveling the world for decades to spread a unique and inspiring message—that a personal experience of peace is a very real possibility.

“There was a time when people believed the Earth was flat,” he says. “They didn’t really know, but that’s what they believed. Since they believed that, it was also understood that you didn’t just keep going across the ocean, because you’d reach the end and fall off.”

What difference did it make? “One big difference,” he says, “was that all that fear of falling off the end of the Earth was based on something that not true. They didn’t need to be afraid. They could venture out to new places and they would be okay, because the Earth is in fact round.”

That, says Mr. Rawat, is the problem with belief: It mixes people up so that they don’t know what’s real and what isn’t.

“Beliefs!” he says. “Something

bad happens, and people say, ‘I must have done something bad in my last lifetime.’ I have a really good memory, but I don’t remember another lifetime. The way I see it, even if I did, I wouldn’t want to know what I did that was bad. I find myself so fortunate to go around the world and talk to people about peace that I’d want to know what I did right!

“In the same way, I find that people have beliefs about what peace is. Some people call the absence of noise peace. If that were true, we could just give everybody earplugs and there would be peace.

“So what is peace? Peace begins, first of all, with you, not with the world. That’s why understanding that peace begins with you is so important for you.

“What I talk about is not a belief system. It’s a way of knowing the peace that is within you, and understanding that when you are in that place of peace, then all is well. All is right. All is correct.”

If inner peace is really possible,

if it is so important, then why don’t more people acknowledge it?

“What would it be like,” Mr. Rawat asks, “if there were no gravity? It would be a disaster. All the water in the oceans would float. The sharks would hang in the air. Human beings would be floating, too. There’d be no end to it. We’d float away. You couldn’t get on your bed because you’d be stuck to the ceiling. You couldn’t take a shower. Without gravity, this would all be chaos.

“Yet how many temples to gravity are there? Have you ever seen one? No. It’s an extremely important power, yet how many people pay homage to that incredible power?”

It’s similar with peace and, for that matter, life itself, he says. “Without life, all the rest doesn’t mean anything, and yet life is not venerated.”

Like gravity and the life force, he says, “Peace doesn’t need to be manufactured. It doesn’t have to be imported from somewhere else. Every single human being already has peace.

“People say life is full of all these

challenges, misery and problems. How, they ask, can I be thankful for that? What if I told you that being alive is one thing and having problems is another? Some days will be problematic; some days will be great. Some days will be very happy; some days won’t be so happy. We are all here for a little while, but what’s important is that we are here.

“Awaken to reality, not belief—a reality that is beautiful, that is simple, that is real. That’s what my message of peace is all about. That’s what peace is all about. That’s what reality is all about. You can know that reality. That’s what I’m talking about.”

To learn more about Prem Rawat:

1 877 707 3221

416 431 5000 Tamil

416 264 7700 Hindi

[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)



Curatorial Gardener Paul Gellatly



# Rare flower blooms at Toronto Zoo

An Indonesian rare flower sometimes referred to as corpse flower, bloomed last month late Thursday September 13th evening.

A rare Indonesian plant that only blooms about once a decade and smells like rotting flesh is stinking up the Toronto Zoo.

*Amorphophallus titanum*, also called the corpse flower, only blooms for between eight and 36 hours.

Pablo, one of six corpse flowers the zoo has in its collection, opened up on September 13th Thursday. People queued for about half an hour to see it, the zoo said on social media. A line-up to experience Pablo in all its smelly glory occurred again on Friday.

The zoo maintained extended hours throughout the blooming period to ensure that curious observers get a chance to see and smell it.

The tropical plant usually blooms about once every 10 years. Pablo, however, "bloomed almost four years ahead of schedule," the zoo said in a news release.

"It's the largest and smelliest flower in the world," curatorial gardener Paul Gellatly said in a video posted online by the zoo last week.

The plant relies on carrion beetles and flies for pollination, which means the smell and look of the flower isn't as sweet as a normal flower. Instead, the bloom is blood red to simulate "exposed flesh" and the aroma "resembles rotting meat" according to the zoo's website.

CBC News Posted: Sep 14, 2018



Amorphophallus Titanum - Corpse Flower



The corpse flower is seen in bloom at the Toronto Zoo



# MAYA ARULPIRAGASAM URGES AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES TO REFUSE FORCED DEPORTATIONS

“By refusing to participate in the forced deportation of fleeing asylum seekers, airlines have an opportunity to play an active role in protecting human rights.”



**Rapper MIA: ‘The stories of how children, women and men are treated when they seek asylum in Australia are horrifying.’**

**By: Raymond Rajabalan**

British Rapper Mathangi Maya Arulpiragasam popularly known as MIA has called for Australian airlines to stop assisting with the forced deportation of asylum seekers, amid

well, who was deported despite pending court date for an appeal.

The deportations are part of Australia’s harsh immigration policies relating to asylum seekers and refugees, particularly those who have arrived in the country by boat, and thousands

Australia are horrifying,” MIA, whose real name is Mathangi Arulpiragasam, told Guardian Australia.

“If the Australian government won’t treat refugees and asylum seekers with dignity and fairness, then it falls to the rest of us to make sure that they are given the best chance to rebuild their life in peace.”

MIA is a UK - born artist and activist, who was raised in Sri Lanka and India with her mother and Tamil activist father, who helped found the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS). MIA returned to England with her mother and siblings as refugees after the family were displaced.

She recently released a documentary, and has continued to advocate against the mistreatment and abuse of Sri Lankan Tamils, and refugees and migrants. She has now moved her sights to Australia’s frequent deportation of them.

“Deportation is not an option. In the case of Tamils in Sri

Lanka, several organisations including the UN have outlined ongoing torture and intimidation of the community; Thousands of Tamils remain unaccounted for or forcibly disappeared in Sri Lanka.

“By refusing to participate in the forced deportation of fleeing asylum seekers, airlines have an opportunity to play an active role in protecting human rights.”

MIA’s voice adds to those of more than 60 people, representing business, human rights groups, unions and academia, who have signed a public statement calling for companies to respect human rights, and say that ignoring international law can damage a company’s reputation and risk its financial interests.

**Source: Helen Davidson, GUARDIAN AUSTRALIA**



**Sri Lankan asylum seekers forcibly deported from Australia despite torture risk.**

a campaign for the industry to take a stand on human rights.

In recent weeks, at least 12 Sri Lankan asylum seekers have been deported from Australia, and at least one Iraqi national as

are being detained in a network of facilities on Australia’s mainland as well as offshore.

“The stories of how children, women and men are treated when they seek asylum in



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# Riythvika wins Popular Reality Show “Bigg Boss Tamil 2” by Vijay TV

Contd. from page 1...

At the same time, Riythvika didn't have the habit of going overboard just for the sake of winning the tasks. When there was need to calm down a bit in the task, she was prepared for it.

Apart from all the other positive aspects, Riythvika was one of few contestants who was never part of any controversies. She was never seen speaking ill of any inmate behind their back. She was very polite too.

Riythvika is considered as the most unbiased contestant in the house.

Riythvika always stood for what's right. Riythvika had the clarity and guts to convey her thoughts over mistakes of other co-contestants on their face.

Riythvika stood synonymous to honesty. She was never seen lying to anyone about anything.

Riythvika always tried to be honest. She was never seen committing malpractices too.

Riythvika wasn't a good cook but she developed interest towards cooking.

By the end of the show, she turned a cooking enthusiast.

Riythvika had to face verbal abuse and racist remarks in the house by co-contestant Aishwarya about her appearance and color.

This act by Aishwarya became a big talking point in social media. This incident turned the tables for Riythvika. She started to gain sympathy from public.

Riythvika gained the tag of Tamil Ponnu (Tamil girl), which added up to the good will over her.

Riythvika was always regarded as the girl-next-door.

As days passed by, support from public grew tremendously for Riythvika. This helped her in gaining more votes all through the season. Thereby, she scored a good chance of winning the title.





# Highlights of Nithi Kanagaratnam- Live in Concert 2018

“Chinna mamiaye” famed Tamil Pop singer Nithi Kanagaratnam had a live in concert on Sunday September 16th 2018 at the Tamil Isai Kalamanam auditorium, Scarborough. The event was organised by the Jaffna Central College old boys’ association, Canada (JCCOBA Canada) and the Tamil Isai Kalamanam. Dr. K. Theivendirajah, an old boy of Jaffna Central College and a friend of Nithi introduced the star singer, Nithiantharajah Kanagaratnam (Nithi) to the house full audience. In his speech he said that at a time when the Sinhala Baila songs and dance was popular among the youths, especially on the playgrounds at sports events, Nithi for the first time introduced Tamil pop music. He wrote and sang with his guitar a number of songs which became a great hit among the youths in the North.

Nithi Kanagaratnam and his team of musicians and other pop singers gave a rocking performance. The audience had a wonderful evening of entertainment, cheering and clapping to his music. Towards the end many young men took to the stage and danced in the Portuguese Baila style with the singers and entertained everyone. Mr.T. Sripathy, President of Tamil Isai Kalamanam and Mr. Ravi Soundarajah, President of JCCOBA Canada honoured the two lead singers, Nithi Kanagaratnam and Amuthan Annamalai in the traditional way by placing “Ponn Adai”.





# Juanita Nathan

## York Region District School Board trustee Wards 7 & 8

Motivated to consistently demand the best for her community, Markham resident Juanita Nathan is a two-term elected public school board trustee for wards 7 and 8, a student parent support worker championing the needs of marginalized youth, Triple P parenting group facilitator, and a counsellor for abused women, among numerous other roles.

Dedicating her time to making positive changes in the lives of families and youth for the benefit of their healthy growth and learning, Juanita's record of community involvement speaks to her tenacity and ambition to advocate the needs of those most often unspoken for. Juanita is always available to support challenges whether it is a student struggling to cope with the daily pressures of school, or a family navigating the social support systems. Juanita's desk and voice mail are never too cluttered for a family in need.

Over the years she has been involved with a number of community organizations such as: The York Region Equity Council, the Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region Police Fifth District liaison committee and the Markham Tamil Organization. Juanita Nathan currently works with YouthLink, Family Services of York Region and currently serves as the vice chair of the York Region District School board.

Juanita looks forward to continuing her work together with you to



Juanita Nathan

improve public education. She has worked hard to maintain the promises made for a more transparent and accountable system, with specific attention to equity and inclusivity, and improved relationships between school and community. Working together for the next four years, we will continue this growth in public education by developing and implementing the Every Student Counts survey, encouraging and empowering ethical leadership and continuing to foster collaborative relationships to establish trust with the broader school communities.

In the upcoming 2018 municipal election, re-elect Juanita Nathan to champion Ward 7 and 8 as your public school board trustee.

[www.Juanitanathan.com](http://www.Juanitanathan.com)  
416-857-6308

Courtesy: Markham Economist & Sun

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Regional Councillor Candidate, City of Markham

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"Toronto cop who bought job interview outfit for teen said it was 'the right thing to do'."  
- Toronto Star, Aug. 12, 2017

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**VOTE ZAKIR PATEL**  
TDSB Trustee for Ward 19 Scarborough - Guildwood

"Running for our families"

**VOTE ZAKIR PATEL**  
Candidate for TDSB Trustee, Scarborough - Guildwood

"Zakir is a hard working individual who cares deeply about our community and the residents of Scarborough-Guildwood. I have known him for the past five years and we have worked together on a number of local issues and initiatives. He will be a great advocate for families and students at the Toronto District School Board, ensuring we invest in a well-funded public education system as we continue to support our youth to be successful."

Mitzie Hunter, MPP for Scarborough - Guildwood  
Former Minister of Education & Advanced Education and Skills Development



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# BROWNIE'S FIDELITY TO HIS MASTER

Based on a  
true incident  
during the  
holocaust



## *C. Kamalaharan*

Through shelling people were terrorised  
Through bombing they were traumatised  
Through both they were demoralised  
And their future jeopardised

It all commenced with firing  
As they began advancing  
While the heli was hovering  
And the people fleeing

We too followed suit  
Along a different route  
For a safe place in pursuit  
As the situation was acute

Brownie trailing behind slowly  
Soon stopped suddenly  
Returned home panting  
And ran about whining

The ear splitting sound  
Echoed all around  
Yet Brownie maintained vigilance  
At its sentry with confidence

When shelling and bombing ceased  
The situation seemed eased  
The people returned cautiously  
To their homes anxiously

Oh Brownie our dear!  
We were disheartened to hear  
That you laid your life here  
While serving without fear

In your body there weren't any traces  
Of inflicted wounds or bruises  
You've succumbed to the deafening blast  
And suddenly breathed your last

It's your sense of duty  
And conduct so lofty  
That made you lay your life  
During our civil strife

A Casabianca were you  
In canine form you grew  
A human being of your calibre  
Is yet to born to deliver



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# The Wealth of Listening

“Chellvathul chelvam chevichelvam acchelvam,  
Chelvathul ellam thalai”

The greatest wealth is earned by listening to the wise—which is the sublimest of all wealth. It is through the ear that one absorbs and internalises the essence of all accumulated learning. In those days great men all had learned men as tutors. Alexander the great of Greece had Aristotle as his tutor. When food for thought is not available through the instructions from the learned, the stomach too may be provided some food. Listening to wise men is more important than food. Bible underlines the same point when it asserts that ‘Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that cometh out of the mouth of God’. Persons who have listened and internalized from instructions of the learned, will be like Gods on earth, flourish-

ishing on oblatinal offerings. Learning is necessary, but even those who are not formally learned should listen to the wise, for such learning acquired through listening, will be a staff of support in times of weakness.

The Book of Proverbs in the Bible asserts that a “wise man will hear and increase his learning”. Even in the modern world teachers and lecturers play a very important role in the impartation of knowledge. The instructions that flow from learned men of righteous conduct, constitute a firm staff on slippery ground, to the learner. Even if it is just a little, listen and assimilate good instruction. It will be productive of great benefit. Those who have absorbed flawless knowl-

edge in searching inquiries through the faculty of listening, will not foolishly slip up even under some error. Ears that have not been penetrated by words of instruction from the learned, will be effectively deaf, even if functionally in order. Only those who have deep and incisive knowledge absorbed by listening to the wise will develop humility of speech—others will not. Kamba describes Vibeedan as a man of few words and incisive knowledge. William Penn, the Quaker evangelist said “Sense shines with double lustre when set in humility”. People who have not experienced the delights of listening to the expositions of the learned and relish only the tastes of the mouth, it matters little whether they live or not.



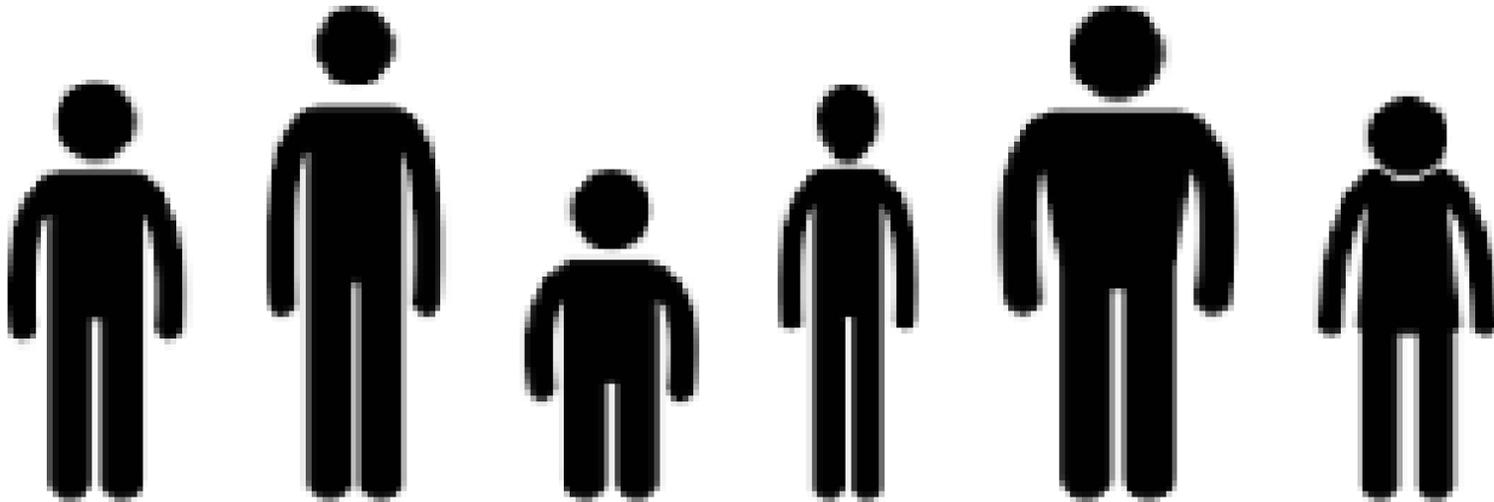
Valluvar's Views

“Cheviyin suvai unara vaai unnarvin maakal,  
Aviyinum varlium en”

- Kural:411-420



# Vertically Challenged



By *Vithu Ganesanathan*

Tears were streaming down my cheek. Leaning against the bus stop shelter, I stood with my face away from them. I didn't want them to see me cry. I always thought crying was for the weak, a sign you cannot deal with pain. How wrong I was. Crying is a natural human ability, a tool, allowing us to effectively handle our emotions. With each tear pain is released, causing less mental strain. But when suppressed it creates havoc in the subconscious. In one form or another, it eventually surfaces, uglier and scarier than the initial.

That day the tears helped, but the struggle was far from over. The problem was still there. Well to call it a problem would be false. Describing it as a gift seems more appropriate. A gift that's allowed me to look within and realize what's important. Imperfect perfection, the beauty we all possess.

Standing next to me was my older sister. She made her attempts to console me, telling me that everything would be okay, a voice of encouragement. Mothering and providing me protection was always her nature, her strong suit. "You can't let them get to you," she insisted. "You need to be strong and realize their opinions don't matter. If you want someone to come beat them up, I can arrange that."

Her words gave me courage. It was enough to momentarily stop the feelings of helplessness. The thought of her friends physically hurting those who hurt me, was amusing. A hurt for a hurt seemed fair to my underdeveloped self. Her moral support was enough to make me feel better that day, but the suffering was far from over. Suffering is necessary, a prerequisite for growth. Even at this early age I understood that.

It was the start of grade 5 and I was the new kid in school. A new school can be a daunting place for a 10-year-old. All you want to do is fit in, never an easy task. Elementary school consists of an intricate social fabric run

by immature minds that lack empathy. Being young and having little experience makes it difficult to understand how our actions make others feel. That's why careful navigation of this social system is essential. But sometimes regardless of how much caution we practice, some situations are unavoidable. We will be hurt. This tends to extend much beyond childhood.

One day after school, on my walk to the bus stop, I ran into a couple of my classmates, two girls. They initiated a conversation. At first, I was excited just to be noticed. But from sensing their tone, I became wary.

"Where's your mommy?" they asked while laughing. "Is mommy going to feed you with a bottle?" they continued. At first, I was confused at the questions. "Of course not. Why would she? I'm much too old for such parenting," I thought

And then, it hit me. I realized what they were getting at. They were making fun of my height, or the lack of it. Being the new kid at school was already tough enough, but to have someone make fun of how you look, something you had no control over, was difficult. For many years I portrayed them as the antagonists to my story, the ones to blame for my insecurity. How wrong I was.

If we've met before, you'd quickly realize I'm not very tall. I've always been the little guy. Little Vithu, they'd call me. Almost always, I was the shortest in the class, sat in the first row on picture day, couldn't see far in a crowd – things always seemed out of reach, literally. In elementary school, everyone usually assumed I was a couple grades younger. To a kid, being considered younger than they are is an insult. All kids ever want to do is grow up.

These feelings of incompleteness were perpetuated by my mother. She feared I would end up being a short person. Her fear became mine. Each doctor's visit included multiple questions about my height. "When will he grow?" she'd ask, questions that caused me to re-evaluate my self-worth. For much of my childhood, I would

hope to grow taller and catch up to my classmates. Some growth was noticed but when I became 16, a specialist confirmed my worst nightmare. I wouldn't grow anymore. Maybe another inch at best, but anything further was not likely. I was devastated.

I'm 5'4", many inches below the average height for men. For many years, I thought if I didn't mention it, no one would notice. Put it at the back of my head as if it didn't matter to me. But it did. It mattered a lot. The deeper I buried it, the more it would surface in different ways. Height wasn't something I could change, so I decided to focus on other aspects of my appearance. I developed insecurities with my weight, my body composition, my hair, and the clothes I wore. I hit the gym excessively, trying to reach this perfect appearance I held in my mind, only to see it drift further into the distance. "12% body fat is no longer enough. Getting under 10% was where the money's at," I'd think.

At some point in our life, we've struggled with our body image. Recall the number of times you've looked in the mirror and thought to yourself, "You, that person in the mirror, you're not enough. If only you were 20 lbs lighter; if only your skin was more fair, if only your nose was smaller, if only..." – a never-ending "if only" thoughts. We've developed this idea that contentment with our appearance lies in a distant future. Why do we feel this way? How can we be so hard on ourselves? Who's to blame? Kids from your childhood? Or maybe, your mother? As much as you may not want to hear it, the misery is your own creation.

Being short was a major obstacle in my dating life. Being rejected solely based on my height was my fear. I was careful to only approach women that were shorter than me, there weren't too many. Even the few that were shorter seemed to always prefer taller men anyway. My search for a mate was difficult. Once, a girl I previously dated made an inquiry out of spite. She wanted to know how I was able to

date since I was short. That was a painful.

In the past couple years, I've accepted myself. So much acceptance and confidence in who I am that I'm writing about it for the world to read. This all started after meeting this one person, a woman that'd change the way I thought about myself.

The word elegance has much to learn from her. So much so, I should write her name in place of this word – it'd make more sense, at least for me. Her beauty surpasses the physical, into dimensions that extend beyond humanly senses. All aspects of her being are ever-so attractive. "A woman so extraordinary would want nothing to do with me," I thought. To my complete surprise, we started dating. I really liked her. The feelings were mutual.

One day, after building up some courage, I openly spoke about my insecurity with my height. Bewildered at my confession, she said, "My love for you extends beyond your appearance. I love you for everything you are, and everything you're not." From the look she had on her face I knew she meant it. And then, it hit me. I got it. This appearance thing, this thing you see in the mirror, this body, how it looks, doesn't fucking matter! It's just an accumulation of food and water. Simply a tool for living life, not the other way around. Its main purpose is to allow us to experience life. Keeping it healthy is a good idea, but to become obsessed by it is stupid, pointless and unnecessary.

We come in all shapes and sizes. Each of us is unique. That's the beauty of our beings. The more we accept ourselves for how we have been created, the more enjoyable life will be. Remember: You, right now, are enough.

(Vithu Ganesanathan, B.A.Sc, (University of Toronto) is an Energy Engineer and Contributing Writer)

# Should Motorized Vehicles be Banned:

The growing issue of climate change from the use of vehicles

By: Aaren Alphonsus



A critical issue facing the planet is climate change. The world currently experiences many of its effects, such as droughts, flooding and other environmental disasters. One of the most discussed contributors to climate change is motor vehicles. Motor Vehicles have a substantial and continuous effect towards the environment through the production and use of fossil fuel, and many have proposed to ban the use of these vehicles. However, the growth of motor vehicles has been so tremendous in the past decades that the image of a motor vehicle has almost been reinvented. As they become more and more accessible, they become an integral part of daily life. I believe it is only a matter of time when motor vehicles will become entirely environmentally friendly and aid in the advancement of the world.

Technology has come a long way and has been significant in the development of cars. As the safety and technological advancements in cars continue to improve, we see its positive correlation with fuel efficiency as well. Many car manufacturers have designed and engineered vehicles to consume less fuel, and with the replacement of naturally aspirated engines with turbo and supercharged engines, drivers are seeing more powerful in their vehicles with lower fuel consumption.

Hybrid and electric cars are also growing in popularity due to their lower fuel consumption, more powerful engines, and lesser impact on the environment. Hybrid and electric engines have less cylinders and less weight. Though these improvements are not enough, it shows how technology can be used to further improve the efficiency of a

vehicle. Data and research has even suggested hydrogen as a fuel substitute. However, this concept is still in testing.

Many people often think that when a person buys a new vehicle, the old one is thrown into a junkyard. However, this is now the case. Used vehicles are often resold and redistributed. Many vehicles can also be recycled for its material and to create new parts. They can even be used for other purposes. For instance, the body of a vehicle, can help the stimulation and growth of coral under water, by providing an object where algae and other organisms can grow on. Throughout the years, motor vehicles prove to be more and more environmentally conscious.

Motorized vehicles are an essential part of everyday life and transportation. Vehicles allow for the transportation of people, products, live stocks, and many other resources. Vehicles are used for travelling to destinations that are deemed too far or time-consuming to reach by any other method. With a vehicle, a person can travel to another city or town hundreds of kilometers a day in a matter of hours. Moreover, vehicles provide comfort, convenience, and reliability. With the many types of vehicles, such as trucks that transport materials or SUVs used off-road, there is almost no environment a vehicle cannot go through. True mobility can only be reached with the help of vehicles.

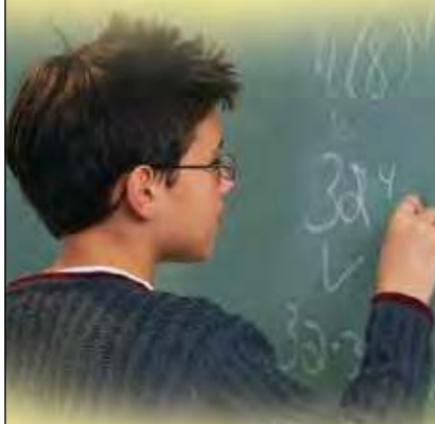
As technology continues to advance in the motor industry, the population can expect to spend less time travelling and more time on important and engaging activities. If the motor industry can allow us to save on time, there would be more time for the world to spend on advancing civilization.



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# OUR EYES ARE WINDOWS TO THE UNIVERSE

## An Early Intervention to Sustain Eyesight for the Aging Eyes



By: *UthayanThurairajah*

The eyes perceive our world through sight. Eyes play such a critical role in the quality of life that it's vital to keep them as healthy as possible. A better understanding of the common health issues related to the eyes can help you keep them operating at peak performance.

### OVERVIEW

The skinny orbit that encloses the eye provides protection and supports the fat and muscles that coordinate eye movements. The sclera is a protective collagen coating with an opening in front for the cornea and one in the back for the optic nerve to connect to the brain.

The cornea is the transparent, outermost layer that covers the pupil and iris, and the anterior body, between the iris and the cornea, contains the pure watery aqueous humor, which conveys nutrients and removes waste, then drains away. The pupil is the circular hole in the center of the iris, the color portion of the eye.

The iris is made of muscles that continually adjust the pupil opening to control the amount of light entering the eye. It opens wider in darkness and narrows in bright light. The lens, just behind the iris and pupil, controls focus, adjusting for near and distant images. Tiny ciliary muscles in the lens contract for near vision and relax for distance, maintaining a focal point on the retina. The retina is a layered sheet of light-sensitive cells called rods and cones. The central, macula region of the retina is the source of the sharpest images.

Chemicals within each cell make them respond to different wavelengths of light, providing colors and contrast. The rods and cones connect to other nerve cells that join to the brain through the optic nerve. Once light signals reach the visual cortex in the brain, they convert into the images we "see."

### COMMON EYE PROBLEMS

The departing years take a toll on our vision as with our other physical abilities. Unusually, our abilities to discern contrast and to see up close suffer. These are small issues compared to the eye diseases that can accompany aging. Cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration can cause blindness that leads to loss of independence. Prompt diagnosis and treatment for these issues are imperative.

### AGING EYES

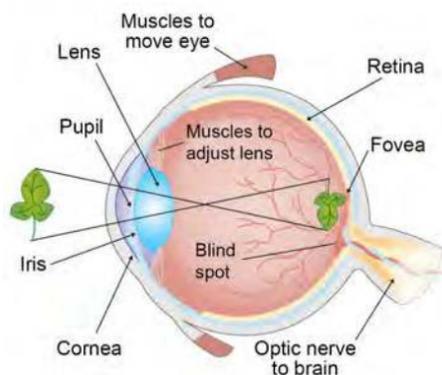


Aging eyes can affect the shape of the eye and the functionality of its parts. Refractive failures happen when the form or

anatomy of the eyes prevents light correctly focusing on the retina. Age also affects the eye's ability to produce tears.

The most common kinds of refractive failures are farsightedness, nearsightedness, and astigmatism. The most common age-related eye and vision problem is presbyopia. The eye starts to lose its strength to focus due to loss of lens flexibility in presbyopia. It is a gradual process that occurs to almost everyone who lives long enough. It usually requires corrective lenses beginning at some point in our 40s or 50s. The chronic dry eye is another common condition of aging eyes.

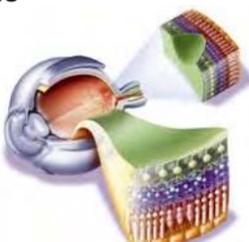
### CAUSES



Nearsightedness is called myopia. A person can see close objects, but not a distant one. It occurs when the eye is too long from front to back, causing far images to fall short of the retina. Farsightedness is called hyperopia. A person can see distant objects, but close objects are blurred. Shorter-than-average eyes cause farsightedness or hyperopia. The focal point of close objects falls behind the retina. Astigmatism occurs when the cornea is elliptical rather than round. It inhibits focus for both near and far objects, leading to distorted vision. Presbyopia is the loss of lens flexibility, and thus clear vision brought on by aging. Dry eye syndrome occurs when the eyes don't produce enough tears, or tears lack the consistency to lubricate the eye. Hormonal changes can trigger dry eye syndrome.

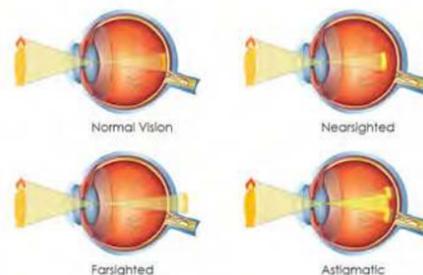
### RISK FACTORS

There are no specific risk factors for refractive errors brought on by aging, but there are a few for chronic dry eye syndrome. Menopausal



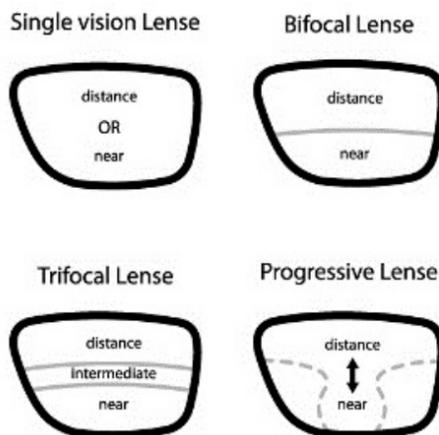
women are at the highest risk as hormonal changes affect tear production and increase eye inflammation. Declining male hormone levels increase the risk for men due to deterioration of the tear film, which provides moisture to the cornea. Overuse of the eyes (using a computer, iPhone or driving a lot), smoking, LASIK surgery, and long-term use of contact lenses are risk factors for chronic dry eye syndrome.

### SYMPTOMS



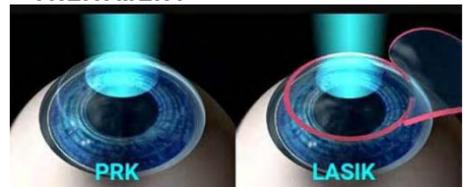
The first signs of presbyopia, or any refractive errors, may be trouble reading at your standard distance, and finding yourself holding material farther away to focus, or headaches or eyestrain when reading or doing close work. Symptoms of dry eye syndrome include aching, redness, stinging, burning, itchiness, and the sense that there is something in your eye.

### DIAGNOSE



Many people have their eyes examined by optometrists at discount outlets. This type of exam is expensive to determine your eyeglass prescription or pick up new contact lenses. However, it is not thorough enough to diagnose age-related eye diseases, because your eyes are not dilated with drops. Dilating the eyes expands the pupil, and it's a crucial step in checking for the early signs of eye disease because it gives the doctor a much better view of what's going on inside your eye.

### TREATMENT



Glasses or contact lenses compensate for distortions by bending light before it enters the eye, so the image focuses correctly and sharply on the retina. The focusing ability of the lens decreases with age. The eyeglass prescriptions go powerful when we get older.

**BIFOCALS LENSES:** These glasses correct both distance and reading vision. Typically, a horizontal line across the middle divides the lens into correction for distance,

through the upper lens, and for close-up vision, through the lower portion. Progressive bifocals accomplish this without a line.

**TRIFOCALS LENSES:** These lenses correct for distance, middle-distance (such as looking at your computer screen), and close-up vision.

**PROGRESSIVE LENSES:** Change magnifying power from near to middle to far vision gradually.

**MONOVISION CORRECTION:** This type of correction uses a contact lens for distance vision in one eye and a lens for close-up work in the other.

**LASER EYE SURGERY:** Laser eye surgery to implant a multifocal lens can function like a younger eye, adjusting between near and far objects to provide clear vision at all distances. The original lens is removed from the eye during surgery and then replaced with the artificial lens.

**LASIK or PRK SURGERY:** Laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) or photorefractive keratectomy (PRK), reshape the cornea to improve near vision.

Most cases of dry eye syndrome are easily treated with over-the-counter artificial tears. You may need to try different formulations to see which one works best with doctor's recommendation. Eye drops containing omega-3 fatty acids might help reduce inflammation. The severe dry eye may be treated with tiny plugs inserted into the eye's drainage system. The plugs force tears to back up into the eye, helping maintain moisture.

As per the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the baseline eye exam must be done at age 40. Our ophthalmologist will exam schedule after that, based on our risk factors. Vision problems are common among elderly. We cannot prevent our eyes from aging, but we can slow age-related damage by taking care of our eye health. We can take care of our eyes and preserve clear vision by getting regular eye exams, wear shades or sunglasses, enjoy the fruits of the garden, take a multivitamin, stop smoking, shed some light, take a break, get sufficient sleep, do not ignore eye doctors warning signs. We cannot stop time, but we can take care of our eyes so that they remain healthy as we age. Having a clear vision is possible at any age.

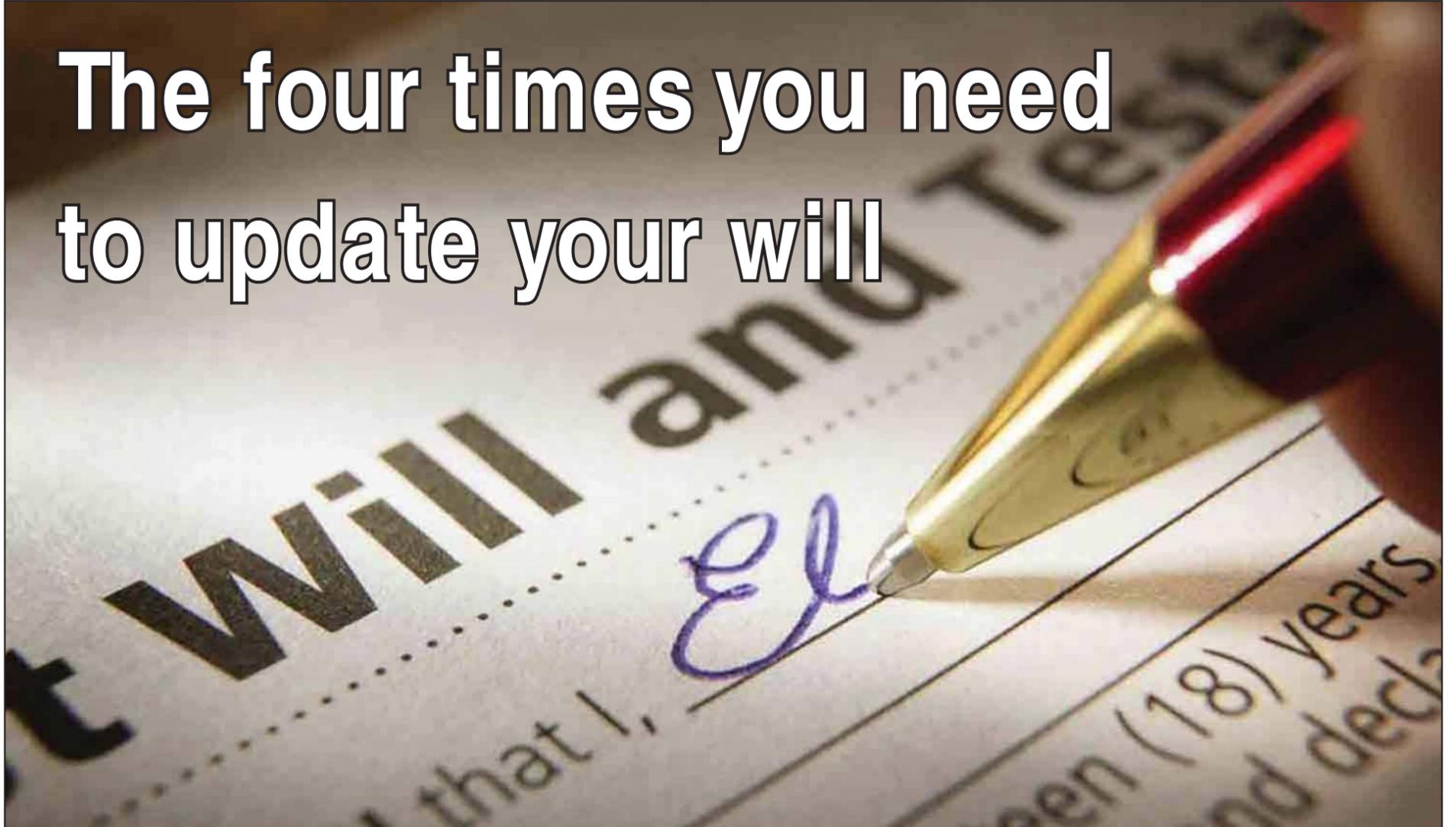


**Uthayan Thurairajah, Ph.D., RSE, LC, P.Eng., FEC,** is a Project Manager at WSP with over twenty years of experience in Electrical Engineering and Lighting field, and he also holds a Lecturer position at Ryerson University & professor at Centennial. Uthayan is a member of several Canadian and international 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.



## MANAGING YOUR MONEY

# The four times you need to update your will



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

A Will is the foundation of any estate plan. It designates how your estate should be distributed according to your documented wishes. If you die without a will (i.e. intestate), provincial legislation will determine how your estate is distributed amongst your heirs, which may not be consistent with your intentions. Suitable arrangements for minor children and other dependents could be made in a Will and in particular guardians could be named for them. Having a properly drafted will minimizes delays, costs and the complexities of passing on your estate. It reduces taxes to the extent possible, in some cases by creating Testamentary trusts for beneficiaries who are in higher tax brackets.

It is not absolutely necessary to have a lawyer prepare your Will, but it is highly recommended. You should also create a Living Will and a Power of Attorney that designates person(s) of your choice to make financial and health related decisions on your behalf should you become too ill to do so on your own. Generally speaking the purchase of Will kits and Power of Attorney kits at various retail stores or on line is NOT recommended, as it is easy to make mistakes. A holograph Will is one prepared by you in your own handwriting and signed by you without witnesses. Such a Will can raise many problems and should be avoided except in an emergency. The bottom line: When it comes to Wills, professional

advice is well worth the cost.

One thing that many people forget to do after a life change is to update their will. Most people

write it, file it and then forget about it. However, “wills need periodic updating, especially when a change comes along,” says Christine Van Cauwenberghe, Vice-President, Tax and Estate Planning for Investors Group.

Here are four times where taking another look at this critical document is a must.

**It's a girl – or boy!** A newborn needs lots of attention early on, but the child will need even

more care if something happens to you and your spouse. It's in the will where you'll indicate who will look after your child if you can't. “Designating a guardian is crucial so that someone is prepared to take physical custody of your children and their assets,” says Van Cauwenberghe.

Ensure the new child gets a fair inheritance, especially if you already have other children who are already named in the will.

**Getting married, again** Getting hitched later in life, when one or both of you already has kids,

should trigger a will update, too. But be prepared – it's going to be a complicated revision. You'll likely need to make sure that your child's inheritance is not entirely up to the discretion of the step-parent. The will needs

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to carefully state which children get what, and what happens if a surviving spouse remarries. “It's important to ensure that children from a previous relationship aren't disinherited when you have a new spouse,” says Van Cauwenberghe.

**Caring for the disabled** Having a special needs beneficiary in the family — such as a child born with health issues or a family member who develops them later in life — could necessitate a will change, too, as you'll need to think ahead to that person's needs over the long term.

**Common law and divorce** If you're living common law, you should definitely be drawing up a will as surviving common-law spouses don't have the same rights of inheritance as a married person in many Canadian jurisdictions. “It's important to know the rules in your province and to

structure your will and estate plan in a way that best reflects your intentions with respect to your partner,” says Van Cauwenberghe.

On the flipside, a separation or divorce will necessitate a will change. Pay special attention to beneficiary

designations on your pensions, RRSPs, RRIFs, TFSAs, insurance and group benefits. You don't want those dollars going to your ex.

Revising a will is easier said than done. That's why it's a good idea to enlist your lawyer and professional advisor in the process.

Your personal estate plan strategies depend on your financial situation and the rules in your province. Wills become more complex if you own a business, are in a blended family, want to set up trust, have specific bequest objectives, or want to structure your assets to minimize taxes and probate fees. A qualified financial advisor and lawyer can help ensure your legacy is left as you wish while limiting probate costs and taxes.

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## How to Handle Rising Interest Rates in Canada

Well, the borrowers can do much about the rising interest rates in Canada other than just saving money and getting prepared to deal with the next hike. When it comes to saving money, it is easy for those who are not paying any interests on other assets as part of loans, which again is not the same with everyone. In case you are at the borrower's end it is obvious that you get stress out with the fluctuating rate of interests. Do not worry as here are some ways that can help you face the rise in interest rates smoothly.

### Carry out a stress-test on your portfolio

Here stress test basically means checking your portfolio to find out whether it can deal with the rise in rate of interests. This can be checked people who are interested in investing in properties should focus on future rather than paying more attention to the low interest rates that they find currently in the market.

If you are on buying end then don't look at the current numbers. Focus on the various rates that are available currently in the market. Explore the market to find out different rate of interest.

You can also check if your portfolio can deal with the rise in interest rates to start paying the increased payments right from now. Try to set budget that can pay the increased rates. You can either pay your mortgage in lump sum that will be equivalent to the amount that would come out as a result of increased rates as it will help you be prepared and comfortable paying more

money to the mortgage. Else you can reduce other bills and pay increased amount as payment for other bills. It will be like budgeting that particular payment.

You need to be committed in doing budgeting, paying higher amounts etc.

### Focus on the market conditions

You may lose your focus especially when your attention is divided among different investment properties. Make sure you keep an eye on what is happening in the market and check if the market is beneficial for you currently or for the future investments.

You can just go through newsletters, news that you get from mortgage brokers. It will help you know about the market conditions. It is always better to change your plans as the market conditions change because that would be smart move and you won't end up losing money.

### Prepare yourself for the rise in rate of interests

Try to pay off as much debt amount you can pay before there is rise in interest rates. In case the debt you have to pay off is less make sure you pay it back and get rid of the entire debts at once. This will not only reduce your financial burden but will also help you prevent the stress of paying higher loan amounts.

Here is how you can prepare yourself for the rising interest rates.

- Reduce your expenses so that you can save money to pay back your debt.
- Try to make payments for debts that have higher rate of interest so that you will end up paying less money

against interest.

- Try to merge the debts having higher interest rates like debts related to credit cards with that of a loan that has lower rate of interest but maintain the payments to be the same

- Try not to get the highest mortgage/line of credit that others offer you.

- Think about how borrowing extra money can restrict your potential to save money to meet your goals.

- Find additional methods that can help you make more money to pay the debts.

- Also, maintain some funds that can help you in case of emergency that can come unexpectedly and add to your costs.

- Make all payments on time to avoid paying extra money as penalty charges.

- If required, you can go to the bank you have an account with to apply for a loan that is- debt consolidation plan. In case your loan gets approved then you will get larger instalment amount which can help you pay your small debts.

- Plan a budget and reduce the living costs, household costs as much as possible and you think is an unnecessary expense.

- If you are not paying your debt, then deposit that money in your account.

Talking about the rise in interest rates in Canada it becomes little difficult to deal with the rise without pre-planning. You should plan your financial goals for the future before time runs out. It is always recommended that you

start paying some extra money against interest every month to finish paying your debts quickly. You can make it a practice and see how things work and you will be debt free within less time span than expected. You should think about your financial situation before you apply for any credit card. You can easily manage things with proper planning and handling money the right way.

You can also seek help from financial expert to know how rising interest rates can influence your finances before you take any decision that involves money. The financial experts will help you calculate the interest rates based on your loan amount and income so that you can decide whether to go investments or not. The idea is to get a clear idea of how the rising interest rates can change your finances. It is better to plan your future financial goals as this rise in interest rates can affect your goals to a great extent. So, prepare yourself for the rising increased rates so that you do not land up facing financial crisis.

Do not ignore the fact that the rising interest rates can affect your overall lifestyle and you need to be prepared for it in advance to help maintain your current lifestyle. Just focus on market conditions and speak to your financial expert to give you proper guidance on how to manage your finances.

**If you need assistance for financial problems, contact [gtacredit.com](http://gtacredit.com) or call 416 650 1100 today. Refer Page 23 for GTA Credit Ad.**



# New priest installed for Toronto Tamil Catholic Parish



## Special community report

**Raymond Rajabalan**

“As we are called to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, we must do our part to build a gracious society and to bring joy of the Gospel to those we meet” – Fr. Charles Collins.

It was a day of great joy for the Tamil catholic community of Toronto when a new priest was ceremoniously installed for Our Lady of Good Health Tamil Parish on September 16th by Most Rev. Vincent Nguyen, The Bishop of Toronto (Eastern Region).

The ceremony for the evening commenced at the Parish church located at 131 Birchmount Road, Scarborough in the presence of several nuns and priests together with hundreds of parishioner’s. The Introduction and Welcome of the Bishop was done by Quintus Thuraisingham and few other parishioners. It was followed by the traditional Aaraathi at the entrance of the Church after which the Bishop, the new parish priest Fr. Charles Williams Collins, the former parish priest Fr. Peter Gitendran together with the Parish Priest for English Parishioners: Fr. Peter Tammearu were garlanded.

The religious services then began with the celebrated mass said by the new parish priest, the retired parish priest and the Bishop. Rt. Rev. Nguyen. In his brief homily the Bishop talked about the importance of unity and faith. He also mentioned that the new parish priest will need all the support and assistance from the parishioners and invited all the parishioners to join hands and continue to enrich the parish.

Then the installation ceremony of Fr. Charles began with the reading of the Decree and the renewal of promises. Fr. Charles then recited the Profession of Faith which was followed by the Oath of Fidelity that includes a promise to God that he will carry out his duties with great discipline, obedience and according to the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

Then the Bishop congratulated the new Parish Priest and wished him success in all his ventures. The entire congregation and parishioners then stood up to express their support and congratulation to the new priest with a huge round of applause warmly



welcoming him to the Parish.

At the end of the Mass, the new Parish Priest addressed the congregation. During his speech he repeatedly thanked all those who contributed to the growth and success of this parish that had recently begun its silver jubilee celebration.

While reminding the congregation that we are blessed to live in a very supportive diocese that is not only visionary but determined and compassionate, Fr. Charles also stressed the fact that we should never forget we are part of a humanity at large, the true members of the Family of God. As we are called to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, we must do our part to build a gracious society and to bring joy of the Gospel to those we meet.

Once the mass ended a social gathering took place at the Parish Hall where the Bishop and all the priests met and greeted the parishioners.

Further to the installation of Fr. Charles as the new parish priest by the Toronto Bishop, the Bishop of Jaffna Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam will be celebrating a Mass in Toronto with the Parishioners and have a gathering with all of them on Sunday, October 07, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

## Rev. Father Charles Williams Collins



Hailing from Kayts in Northern Province of Sri Lanka, Charles Collins had his early education at Kayts St. Antony’s College. He then joined St. Martin’s seminary and simultaneously continued his secondary education at Jaffna St. Patrick’s College.

lege.

After being ordained as a priest he served in several parishes within the Jaffna Archdiocese. He then served as the Director of Youth Council and then became the Director of St. Martin’s seminar. Most recently he served as the Director of catholic priests. After serving in Jaffna diocese for more than 25 years last year Fr. Charles was assigned by the Bishop of Jaffna Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin B Gnanapragasam to undertake a very responsible position as the parish priest for Tamil Catholics of Toronto Canada.

After serving for a brief period as an assistant parish priest in an English parish in Toronto Fr. Collins officially took over the position of parish priest of Our Lady of Good Health (OLGH) parish on June 27th 2018 replacing Fr. Peter Gitendran who recently retired after serving in the parish for the past 5 years.

OLGH parish office operates at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary located at 131 Birchmount Road (Birchmount and Danforth) Scarborough. This parish which has been functioning for the past 25 years covers a very wide area and serves the religious needs of Catholics residing in Greater Toronto Area as well as several cities in Ontario including Ajax, Pickering, Oshawa, Whitby, Aurora, Oakville, Brampton, Mississauga, Milton, Markham, New Market and Richmond Hill.

Anyone wishing to contact the parish office can call 416-264-6544.



## GENIE SISTERS

SAMAYAL  
SANTHAI

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.

**W**elcome 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!**

Aubergine  
Pollichathu

Everywhere you turn people are trying to look for alternatives to meat and dairy. As a race we are becoming more conscious of the choices we make, and here is another recipe that can help you along in this journey. Made with aubergines that are versatile and a good source of fibre and are an antioxidant that is rich in vitamins B1, B6 and potassium which amongst other benefits are good for restoring brain cell membranes.

## Ingredients:

- ✓ 3tbsp coconut oil
- ✓ 25 curry leaves
- ✓ 5 large shallots, thinly sliced
- ✓ 5 garlic cloves, minced
- ✓ 3cm ginger, grated
- ✓ 2 green chillies, finely chopped
- ✓ 1-2 tsp kashmiri chilli powder (depending on how hot your chillies are)
- ✓ 3 aubergines, roughly 900g
- ✓ 400g vine tomatoes, chopped
- ✓ 100ml coconut cream
- ✓ ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- ✓ 3 tsp tamarind paste
- ✓ ½ tsp turmeric
- ✓ 1 tsp salt

Also need: baking/parchment paper and string.

## Method:

Preheat your oven at 200C. In a large frying pan, over medium heat, add the coconut oil. When heated, throw in the curry leaves and let them crisp up for a minute. Next, add the shallots and fry for ten minutes, until they start to brown, then add the garlic, ginger and chillies. Cook these for four minutes, then add your tomatoes. When the tomatoes have broken down, add the tamarind paste, black pepper, turmeric, kashmiri chilli powder, salt and coconut cream and mix well. Let this simmer for 15 minutes, until you have a thick enough sauce to spread. Remember, the aubergine will have some water retained within it, so make sure the sauce does not have too much water in it. Once it is thick enough and darker in colour, take it off the heat and let it cool.

Take the stems off the aubergines, and cut into 1cm slices, lengthways, to get 16 slices altogether. Separate the aubergine slices into four portions and divide the sauce you made earlier into four portions in the pan. Put a slice of aubergine onto the middle of a sheet of baking paper, add a spoon of sauce, spread around, and add another slice repeating the process. You should have roughly a four-slice sandwich. Bring the paper together, like you are wrapping a parcel and tie some string to secure it. Put the parcels of aubergine into an oven tray and pop into the oven for 40 minutes. Once the 40 minutes are over, they are ready to serve!

**Credit:** MeeraSodha  
Try making this recipe this month and hashtag #monsoonjournal on Instagram and send us your pics, comments and feedback. Spread the love (and recipe!)

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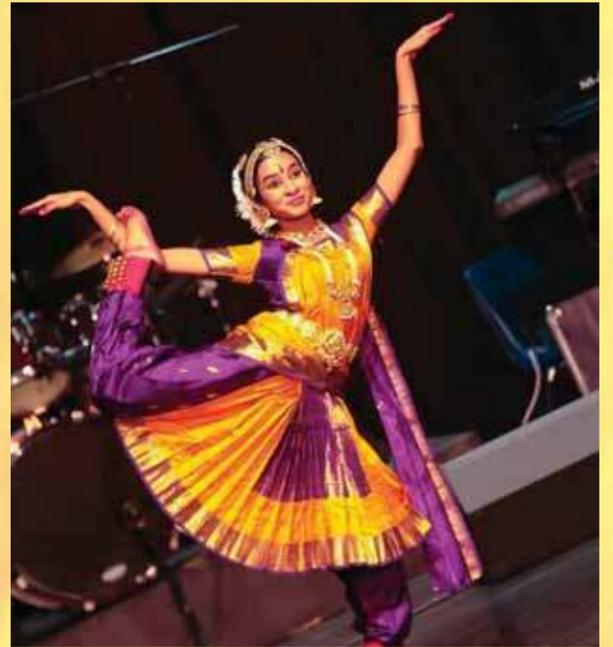


# Uthayan Festival 2018



Uthayan is one of the Tamil Weekly Newspaper published in Toronto for over 20 years. Some of the moments captured from annual Uthayan Festival 2018 held on Oct 6, 2018 at Armenian Youth Centre, Toronto

Photo Courtesy: Ravi Atchuthan Photography, Vision Media-Lucky Exclusive



# Isipathana OBA Canada hosts press meet for Green Breeze 2018 Dinner Gala

Isipathana OBA Canada committee invited press and sponsors to make the announcement of Green Breeze 2018 Dinner Gala. The press meet was held on Tuesday, September 25th at Aga Khan Museum, Toronto. The object of the press meet is to announce about the committee's past achievements and also to highlight about their future plans. The committee arranged refreshments for the guests at the press meet.

The president thanked the major sponsors Stellar Culinary Personnel and Formula Honda Scarborough and said this year gala will be very successful since they have made record ticket sales.

He also thanked the committee members, volunteers and well wishers and media for their support in organizing for the dinner gala on Saturday, Oct 20th.

The following sponsors presented their cheques to the president at the end.

**Platinum Sponsor**

Mr. Adedeji Oduwole - Owner  
Stellar Culinary Personnel

**Gold Sponsor**

Michael Alagachandra  
- Sales & Leasing Consultant  
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Isipathana OBA Canada Presents

# Green Breeze 18

LETS GET READY TO BLAST WITH THE BREEZE

October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 6.30 pm onwards

Scarborough Convention Centre

20, Torham Place, Scarborough, ON, M1X 0B3

Live Band | DJ Music | Entrance & Raffle Draw

Dress Code - Formal | Ticket Price - \$65

**Tickets Now Available**  
Please Contact

Shen Ousmand 416 802 2689	Fahmy Makeen 905 462 0162	Budrin Nizar 905 399 3818	Shalinda Nanayakkara 416 831 2115	Shiran Refai 416 880 2944
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Keep the date free

**DJ Chamil**



# Recent Community Highlights from Gary Anandasangaree, MP

These are some of the recent Facebook posts of Scarborough-Rouge Park member of parliament, Gary Anandasangaree. Gary was recently appointed as the parliament secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez.

have come and what hurdles must be overcome. The contributions of Sikh-Canadians are vital to the social, economic and political fabric of our country and we thank the Sikh-Canadian community for opening many doors and overcoming many obstacles that continue to change our country for the better.

exploring the park, participants had an opportunity to enjoy and celebrate Indigenous culture!

Thank you to Ishkhan Ghazarian from Parks Canada for the in-race photos. I look forward to returning to the continued success of the Earth Run in the Rouge for years to come!

community.

Chinese-Canadians have and continue to make a number of important contributions to the development of our country and I was delighted to take part in a series of vibrant and insightful conversations with members of the Chinese-Canadian community this weekend.

Oct 5, 2018



It was my honour to rise in the House of Commons and add my voice in support in of Bill C-376, An Act to Designate the Month of April as Sikh Heritage Month.

Canadian multiculturalism is more than just a commitment to welcoming diverse people from around the world, it is a commitment to principles of equality and freedom, grounded in human rights, and enshrined in our legislative framework.

When we celebrate our diversity, we learn about our common struggles and our shared values. We learn how far we

Oct 5, 2018

Teachers change the world one mind at a time.

I would like to wish a happy #WorldTeachersDay to all the teachers and educators who continue to inspire us, encourage us and shape our lives for the better!

Post on Oct 4, 2018

Thank you Parks Canada and 5 Peaks Trail Running for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Inaugural Earth Run in the Rouge!

In addition to running the trails and

Oct 2, 2018



Were you brave enough to compete in the Brave T.O obstacle course race this weekend at Morningside Park?

Brave TO puts local athletes to the test by simulating the rigorous training of our local first responders including the Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Para-

Sept 30, 2018

Sunday September 30th is #OrangeShirtDay, a day to commemorate the Indigenous children who endured immeasurable suffering as a result of Canada's residential school system.

I encourage you to wear an orange shirt on Sunday and show your support



medic Services!

Proceeds raised from this year's Brave TO event in Scarborough will help support the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital Foundation. I look forward to joining all of you on the course next year!

Oct 1, 2018

This weekend, I had an opportunity to join my Federal caucus colleagues the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister for Small Business and Export Promotion and MP Shaun Chen for a special Mid-Autumn Festival celebration alongside members of the Chinese - Canadian

for all children affected. #EveryChildMatters

Sept 28, 2018

When Gina Franze and her husband were unable to find an air filter capable of mitigating the effects of his severe allergies, they decided to take advantage of a gap in the market and start up a new business, Envirofilter.

Envirofilter was founded in 2002, with a specialization in replacement filters for indoor air quality products. As the demand for their products steadily increased, Gina and her husband decided it was time to move their



Petition to Stand in Solidarity with Tamil Canadians

business out of their home and into a permanent location.

I first met Gina this summer after she applied to have Ethan (featured left) join Envirofilers through the Canada Summer Jobs Program. Proudly



based in Scarborough – Rouge Park, Envirofilter employs a number of hard-working Canadians who focus on providing exceptional air quality products to local and international clientele. In addition to ensuring all customers are treated with the highest levels of pro-

business here in Scarborough- Rouge Park!

Sept 28, 2018

It was my honour to rise in the House of Commons presents a petition

on behalf of Tamil-Canadian families and their allies, in solidarity with the courageous efforts of protesting Tamil families of the disappeared from the north and east of the island.

Sept 27, 2018



fessionalism, Gina and her team have never lost sight of the importance of client service, following the motto that, "sales will go up and down, but the memory of great service stays forever".

Thank you, Gina for building your

Terry Fox is a true Canadian hero. Today, students across Canada will honour his legacy and participate in the #TerryFoxRun to help achieve Terry's goal of a world without cancer.

The blue line in the image below

illustrates the route Terry Fox ran across Canada. The red lines illustrate the same distance in other parts of the world!

Thank you to all those who are participating in today's run and supporting Terry's vision.

Sept 27, 2018

Thank you, Brampton, Ontario for your incredible warmth and hospitality during the 3rd Annual Brampton Liberals Community Appreciation Barbecue!

I had an awesome time discussing government issues and learning more about the federal priorities which matter most to Canadians during my visit

continue to provide new opportunities for Canadian middle class families and those working hard to join them!

Sept 7, 2018

Who doesn't love spending a beautiful summer day down at our local waterfront?

That's why Team Gary is doing our part to keep our shoreline an enjoyable place for everyone!

Join Team Gary this Saturday, September 8th from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM as we help clean up the Port Union Waterfront Park!

My team and I will have plenty of gloves and bags on hand for all those willing to participate in our end-of-



to Chinguacousy Park alongside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, The Honourable Navdeep Bains, and my fellow Members of Parliament Kamal Khara, Raj Grewal, Ruby Sahota, Ramesh Sangha, MP and Sonia Sidhu!

summer shoreline clean up! We hope to see you there!

Shoreline Clean Up Details:

Date: Saturday, September 8th, 2018

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: Port Union Village Common Park

105 Bridgend Street Scarborough, ON M9C 2Y2

Please RSVP at: [Tiny.cc/SRP-RSVP](http://Tiny.cc/SRP-RSVP)

My team will have a booth set up with supplies at the @Port Union Village Common Park and will direct you to the appropriate sections of the Port Union Waterfront Park!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact my team at: 416-283-1414 or [Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca)



OUR PLAN IS WORKING CREATING JOBS & GROWING THE ECONOMY



## Conference on 20th anniversary of Colombo Declaration on Media Freedom and Social Responsibility held in Colombo

By Siva Sivapragasam

Representatives from nine countries attended an international conference from 27th to 30th September to mark the 20th anniversary of the Colombo Declaration on Media Freedom and Social Responsibility organized by the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) in partnership with its constituent partners, UNESCO and the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The conference also coincided with the UN designated International Day for the Universal Access to Information (IDUAI).

The conference was formally opened by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on 27 September and on 28 September and the keynote address on IDUAI was by Speaker of Sri Lanka's Parliament Karu Jayasuriya.

The working sessions was attended by local editors, publishers, journalists, academics and information technologists. Representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, India, Norway, Pakistan and the United Kingdom participated at the conference.

The 12 sessions that covered the conference included topics such as; Revisiting the Colombo Declaration of 1998; Regulating the Media; Public Service vs. Private Broadcasting, an event to mark the International Day for the Universal Access to Information, the RTI and the way ahead; Truth and Trust: Fake news and Media Credibility; Contempt of Court; Training and Preparing for the Future and Power of Journalism. The last day of the conference was devoted to the achievements of the Colombo Declaration..

The international conference was supported by the media industry comprising; The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka (TEGO-SL), Free Media Movement (FMM), Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA), Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka (NSSL), Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL), Sri Lanka College of Journalists (SLCJ), WAN/IFRA, Commonwealth Media Trust, Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) and the International Press Institute (IPI).

(Seen here are two pictures of the conference)



Kumar Nadesan Chairman of Sri Lanka Press Institute and Managing Director of Express Newspapers Ltd. addressing the audience

## Markham Tamil Seniors Association celebrates 14th Annual Cultural & Get-Together event

Markham Tamil Seniors Association Canada hosted their 14th Annual Cultural & Get-Together Event on Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 60 Wilclay Avenue, Markham. Among the many guests, Regional Councillor Joe Li presented the certificates of participation to the Seniors. The Non - Profit Association was established on December 16, 2003 and supports cultural, social and recreational activities and the integration and adaption of its members into Canadian Society. The organizers, volunteers, and supporters contributed towards making this cultural event a great success. Seen here are pictures taken at the event and Regional Councillor Joe Li presenting certificates to the Seniors.



Left to Right - Mahinda Gamanpilla, Chairman, Right to Information Commission, Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker, Sri Lanka Parliament, Kumar Nadesan, Chairman, Sri Lanka Press Institute & Managing Director of Express Newspapers Ltd., Kishali Pinto Jayawardene, Member Right to Information Commission and Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran, Member Right to Information Commission and Trustee & Board Member Women's Education and Research Centre (WERC) who attended the conference



# A brief history of how the Siva-Vishnu Temple (popularly known as Ganesha Temple) evolved.



First Bhoomi Pooja



**Dr. K. Sanmugadas**  
(A Founder Member)

**D**r. K. Sanmugadas was born on March 13, 1936 in Sithankerny, Jaffna, Sri Lanka to Ratnam and Kandiah. He was the youngest of his siblings, Saraswathi, Kandadas, Ratnavale, Vijayaluxmi and Panchacharavale.

Dr. Sanmugadas attended Jaffna College until 1954, with a short stay at Victoria College in between. He entered the University of Colombo in 1955. After graduation in 1960, he got his first job as an Assistant Lecturer at the Technical Training Institute (River Valley Development Board) in Ampara. He later went to North Wales, United Kingdom on a scholarship. Here, he received his Ph.D. in 1972. When Dr. Sanmugadas returned to Sri Lanka that same year and worked at the Agriculture Research Centre in Eraminiyaya.

In order to pursue a better life for

his young family (his wife, Vimala and his children, Suhanki and Suhan), he moved to Canada in 1975. From 1976 until he retired in 2001, he worked at York University. Dr. Sanmugadas was actively involved in the community.

He was the vice-president of the Bharathi Kala Manram for many years. Dr. Sanmugadas was also one of the founding members of the Siva-Vishnu Temple (popularly known as the Ganesha Temple) and was instrumental in the development of this temple. He served as the president of the temple for few years.

Dr. Sanmugadas passed away peacefully on Friday, September 21, 2018 surrounded by his family peacefully. Viewing and cremation for Dr. Sanmugadas was held from Tuesday, September 25 to Thursday, September 27 at the Elgin Mills Funeral Centre in Richmond Hill.

The article below was written by Dr. Sanmugadas in 2017.

Being a founder member, I would like to share some facts. These facts, unknown to many, are about the beginnings of the Siva-Vishnu Temple (popularly known as the Ganesha Temple). I would like to share these while I'm still active and healthy.

When I became a member of the Hindu Temple Society of Canada, Venkatraman, Kodeeswaran, Sivalingam, Basaviah and Gillu Rangan were already existing members. Our goal was to build a Hindu Temple here in the greater Toronto area to serve Hindus from all parts of the world. Our first step was to purchase a piece of land. A team of us, Venkatraman, Basaviah, Kodeeswaran, Sivalingam, Ampikapathy, Gnanalingam and I were involved in this search. This was not an easy task. After many failed attempts, my friend Paramalingam called about an advertisement of the present land. I immediately telephoned the owner, Mr. Kozak and he wanted \$200,000 for the land. Venkatraman and few of us

negotiated for a lower price. With the help of Sithamparanathan, the purchase was fixed at \$158,000. So in 1983, with only \$12,000 in hand we decided to purchase the land. The initial finances were arranged through a loan of \$100,000 from CIBC, with 5 trustees (Gopalakrishnan, Sathi, Sivalingam, Venkatraman, Sanmugadas) standing in with a personal guarantee of \$100,000 each. In addition to the land, we needed funds to begin building our temple. We continued to collect donations of \$1000 from many devotees. Dr. Anandanarayan and Sam Krishnan contributed \$5000 each. Drs. Polavarappu donated a very generous sum of \$125,000. Over the next few years, we continued to raise funds for the building of our temple. Mr. Somasundram has generously donated about \$250,000 to date.

With the first hurdle complete, many volunteers, including Senthivel, helped clear the land of the tall grass which was probably more than 4 feet tall. We had a small ground breaking ceremony and the Mayor was invited. When I received him he said, "Sanmugadas there is no way you are going to have temple here!"

Then came our next hurdles, obtaining a permit to build a structure. First, the Town gave us a permit to build a 10'x10' structure to hold Lord Ganesha.

I remember bringing people from the Thiagaraja Festival at York University in groups to dig the foundation. The structure was built with the help of volunteers and a tent was placed in front. Lord Ganesha was brought from India and installed in the fall of 1983. It was a rainy Sunday afternoon, but the excitement of the children and adults alike is still a very vivid memory. Kodeeswaran and Rampillai (from our South African Group) took an active and instrumental part on this day.

The Town then conveyed that we could have a temple as long as it is not a permanent structure. So it was decided to build the temple on a tractor trailer bed.

The following morning, Vignarajah informed me that two trailer beds were available. I immediately called Venkatraman who instructed me to purchase them right away. Without delay, the trailer beds were bought. The problem now was to bring the trailer across the river. Thanks to Kannan (Vigna's Nephew) who paved stones across the river and made it possible to bring them in. From this day on, every Friday, Vimala cooked lunch for the volunteers at the temple. After this delicious lunch, work would begin. Many volunteers (men, women and children) joined in and the work continued until late Sunday. Many devotees brought good food including ghee thosai, rice and curry, roti and curry for the volunteers. Upon the completion of the trailer beds, Lord Ganesha and Goddess Durga were installed in Oct 1984.

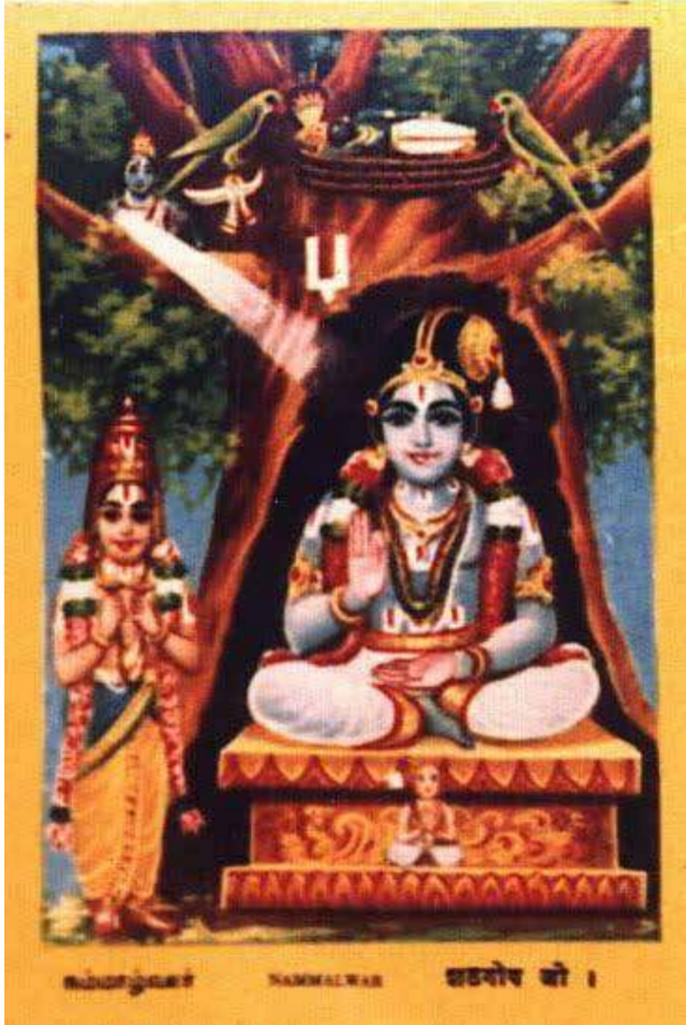
The permit for the main temple involved lot of work and more obstacles. Thanks to Venkatraman and others involved, these were overcome as well. Venkatraman had to drive officers from our town all the way to Pittsburg in order to show them an existing temple and convince them to allow us to build ours.

Construction of the main Temple was supervised and managed by M. Kodeeswaran and we are thankful to him and his team for this beautiful temple. Contributions of volunteers saved lot of money. Many of these volunteers are still actively involved. The Vimanams and the Raja Gopurams were supervised by Vignarajah, who you will see still very much involved in lot of the temple work. We are thankful for his hard work and dedication. The various contributions made by Venkatraman are tremendous and must always be remembered. I may have forgotten some vital names and my apologies to them. One thing we must always remember...this temple is a legacy... it stands here today because of many hands working together ...and must continue to flourish with many hands working in unison ...for our future generations!

by Kidambi Raj

Sep.21-23, 2018

# Azhwar Festival



Azhwars, also spelt as Alwars (those immersed in God) were Tamil poet-saints of South India who expoused *bhakti* (devotion) to the Hindu Supreme God Vishnu or His avatar Krishna in their songs of longing, ecstasy and service. They are venerated especially in Vaishnavism, which regards Vishnu or Krishna as the Supreme Being. The word Azhwar has traditionally been as from “Azh” to “immerse oneself” as one who dives deep into ocean of the countless attributes of God.

The devotional outpourings of Azhwars, composed during the early medieval period of Tamil history, helped revive the *bhakti* movement, through their hymns of worship to Vishnu and His avatars. They praised the Divya Desams, 108 “abodes” (temples) of these Vaishnava deities. The poetry (hymns) of the Azhwars echoed both depth of feeling and felicity of expressions. The collection of their hymns is known as **Divya Prabandham**. The *Bhakti*



literature that sprang from Azhwars has contributed to the establishment and sustenance of a culture that broke away from the ritual-oriented Vedic religion and rooted itself in devotion as the only path for salvation. In addition they helped to make the Tamil religious life independent of the knowledge of Sanskrit. Azhwars are considered the twelve supreme devotees of Lord Vishnu, who were instrumental in popularizing Vaishnavism in the Tamil-speaking regions. The religious works of these Azhwars in Tamil, songs of love and devotion, are compiled as *Nalayira Divya Prabandham* containing 4,000 verses (hymns) and the 108 temples revered in their songs are classified as *Divya Desams*. The verses of all the Azhwars were compiled by Nathamuni (824-924 AD), a 10th century Vaishnavite Theologian, who called it the “Dravida Veda or Tamil Veda”.

The Azhwars had different origins and belonged to different castes. As per tradition, the first three Azhwars, Poigai, Bhutha and Pey were born miraculously. Thirumizhai was the son of a sage; Thondaradi, Mathurakavi, Periya and Andal were from Brahmin caste; Kulasekhara was a Kshatria, Namm was from a cultivator family, Tiruppanar from Tamil Panar community and Thirumangai from Kalwar community.

This is the 16th year of Azhwar Festival at the Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple. It started with 1st

to the 12th Azhwar in order each year and this year was the 4th year of 2nd round and was dedicated to Nammazhwar. He is highly regarded as a great mystic of the Vaishnavite tradition. He is also considered the greatest among the twelve azhwars and his contributions amount to 1,352 among the 4,000 pasurams in the *Nalayira Divya Prabandham*.

According to traditional scriptures, Nammazhwar was born in 3059BCE in Thirukurugur (modern day Azhwarthirunagiri) which is on the banks of the river Tamraparani. Alwarthirunagiri is one of the nine Tirupatis (Nava Tirupatis). The word *Tirupati* means a *holy place*. It is said that he must have been born fully enlightened because as a baby, he never cried or suckled and never opened his eyes. As per the legend, as a child he responded to no external stimuli and therefore his parents left him at the feet of the deity Sri Adhinathar of Azhwarthirunagiri. The child it seems then got up and climbed into a hole in a tamarind tree, sat in a lotus position and began to meditate. It seems he was in this state for as long as sixteen years. Then a Tamil poet named Madhurakavi Azhwar who was born in Thirukolur and had travelled to North India on a temple trip. And one day as he was performing his *Nitya Anushtanam* (daily routine of rituals), he saw a bright light shining to the south and followed it until he reached the tree where the boy was residing. Unable to elicit any reaction from the boy, he asked him a riddle: “If the small is born in a dead’s body (or stomach), what

will it eat and where will it stay?” meaning, if the subtle soul is embodied in the gross body, what its actions and thoughts? Nammazhwar broke his life long silence and responded, “**That it will eat, it will rest!**” meaning, that if the soul identifies with the body, it will be the body but if it serves the divine, it will stay in Vaikunta and eat (think) of God. Madhurakavi right away realized the divinity of the boy.

Madhurakavi Azhwar was the first disciple. He composed 11 pasurams in praise of his Acharya, Nammazhwar, called as *Kanninum Siruthambu*, which are included in the 4,000 pasurams of *Divya Prabandham*.

Nammazhwar lived for only 32 years and attained Vaikuntam. It is said that since he was all the time absorbed in deep meditation on the Lord, he could not go to any divyadesa to sing in praise of the deities there. All the deities of all the Divyadesams presented themselves in his yogic vision. The total number of Divyadesams that Nammazhwar sang are in all 36. It is said that Madhurakavi, his disciple arranged for the installation of Archa image of Swami Nammazhwar at Thirunagiri and for the regular conduct of festivals there.

The Sthala Vriksha (tree associated with the place) is Tamarind Tree. The leaves of this tree do not close even at night and hence called “Urangaa Puli Maram (The unsleeping Tamarind tree). It has seven branches. It is in the hollow of this tree that Swami Nammazhwar sat in meditation for sixteen years. It is believed that the tree is an incarnation of *Adi Sesha*, the Divine Couch of Lord Vishnu.

As in every year besides Thirumanjanam for all the Azhwars, Saint Ramanuja, Saint Manavala Muni and Swami Vedanta Desika, had *Garuda Vahana* procession of Lord Vishnu with His Consorts.

On third and final day of the festival there was a *Kalyana Utsavam* Lord Srinivasa with His Consorts Sri Devi and Bhoo Devi.

Good crowd of devotees came, took part in the festivities and the Blessings of Lord Srinivasa and His Consorts!!!



Compiled by Kidambi Raj

## Sri Vaishnava Guru/ Philosopher Swami Vedanta Desika

### Swami Vedanta Desika (1268-1369)

This year is his 750th birth anniversary. It so happened that his actual Thrunakshatram, Thiruvonam in the Tamil month of Purattasi coincided with the first day of this year's 3-day Azhwar festival, Friday, September 21st.

He was born in Thoopul near Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu, India, to a pious couple named Ananta Suri and Thothaaramba about 130 years after Bhagavad Ramanuja attained paramapadam. Vedanta Devika's parents were childless for a long time and one day Lord Venkateswara of Thirupathi ordered them to go for a pilgrimage to Thirupathi. In those days there were neither buses nor trains and so they walked from Kancheepuram to Thirupathi and climbed the Hills and had the darshan of the Lord. That night Lord Venkateswara appeared in their dream as a small Vaishnava boy and gave Smt. Thothaaramba a golden bell and she swallowed the bell in the dream. Next day the archakas did not find the bell in the perumal sannidhi and they were worried and started searching for it. Perumal told in a heavenly voice that the bell has been given to Smt. Thothaaramba and she will deliver a son who will be a great scholar like Bhagavad Ramanuja, who will firmly establish the supremacy of our srivaishnava sampradayam. To remind us this incident, even today there is no bell in the Perumal sannidhi. Only the huge bell suspended in the front hall is used while doing the thiruvadanam. So, he is rightly considered to be an avatar of the divine bell of Lord Venkateswara of Thirumalai by the Vadakalai sect of Sri Vaishnavites. He was given the name Venkatanatha by his maternal uncle and teacher Kidambi Appullar.

### Childhood days:

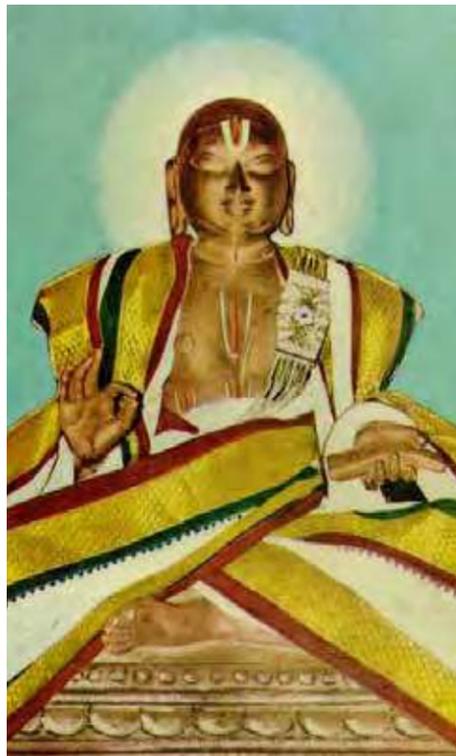
When he was about 5 years old, his uncle, Kidambi Appullar took him to Sri Varadarajar temple in Kancheepuram, a vaishnavite scholar, Sri Nadadhur Ammal was giving a lecture on Sri Ramanuja's Sri Bhashyam. As soon as the scholar saw Sri Desikar he saw the divine radiance on him. Desikar and his uncle prostrated to the scholar and in term he stopped his lecture briefly and blessed them. When Desikar and his uncle were about to leave the scholar wanted to resume his lecture and forgot where he left before blessing the young boy. To everyone's astonishment including the scholar, Desikar reminded him where he had stopped his lecture. Sri Ammal was deeply impressed and blessed him and predicted that Venkatanatha would become the main torch bearer of Sri Vaishnavism.

When Desikar turned 7, his uncle Sri Appullar took him under his wings and taught him arts, sciences and scriptures.

### Adult days:

By the age of 20, Desikar became famous for his mastery over poetry, logic, linguistics, sciences, Vedanta, debate and allied arts. When he was 21, he married a beautiful girl, Smt. Thirumangai. Though Desikar was multi-faceted and famous, he lived a very humble and simple life with the support of his wife. He took a vow called uhhavritti, whereby he depended wholly on the Supreme Lord for his household needs by accepting grains and vegetables donated by disciples voluntarily, without actively seeking them.

Swami Desikar has lived in several cities through his life, such as Thiruvaheendrapuram,



Sri Vedanta Desika

Kancheepuram, Srirangam and Melkote. Besides these places he has travelled widely all over India on foot. At each place, he composed many different works in languages such as Tamil, Sanskrit, Prakrit and Manipravala (a mixture of Tamil and Sanskrit) that revealed in ingenuity, creativity, logic, linguistic expertise, devotional fervor and erudite scholarship.

In 1317, Sri Varadaraja Perumal of Kancheepuram blessed Swami Desika and his wife Smt. Thirumangai with a boy, who was named appropriately as Varadhacharya. His birth star was Rohini, the same as that of Lord Krishna. Sri Varadhacharya followed the footsteps of his father Swami Desika and shined as his father.

### Swami Desika at Thiruvaheendrapuram:

After the death of his maternal uncle, Sri Appullar, Swami Desika wanted to chant the Garuda Mantra taught to him for many days without food and sleep to receive the blessings of the divine bird, Garuda on which Sriman Narayana travels. It is said in the scriptures that the divine bird Garuda is a *Veda Swarupi* (incarnation of Veda). Desika went to Thiruvaheendrapuram and climbed the small hill and started chanting the Garuda mantra. Garuda was so pleased with the devotion of Desika, he blessed him with Hayagriva Mantra and instructed him to chant that mantra continuously to receive the blessings of Lord Hayagriva. Then Lord Hayagriva appeared before Desika and blessed him with the nectar flowing from His mouth. Lord Hayagriva took the seat of Swami Desika's tip of the tongue as prayed by Desika. Lord Hayagriva gave an idol of Himself for Desika's daily worship. This vighraha is still being preserved in the Devanatha temple in Thiruvaheendrapuram. Swami Desika composed famous *Hayagriva Stotram*, *Devanayaka Panchashat* in Sanskrit and *Achutha Shatakam* in Prakrit and *Mummanikkovai* and *Nava Mani Malai* in Tamil.

### Swami Desika at Kancheepuram:

After visiting Diya Desams Swami Desika went back to Kancheepuram and while there composed several stotras explaining the concept of prapatti or surrender. The stotras are: *Nyasa Vimshati*, *Nyasa Dashakam* and *Nyasa Tilakam* in Sanskrit

and *Adaikkalapatthu* and *Artha Panchakam* in Tamil.

### Swami Desika at Thirupathi:

Swami Desika when he went to Thirupathi he composed the beautiful stotra called *Daya Shatakam*. Lord Srinivasa has blessed Swami Desika conferring the title *Vedantaacharya*.

### Swami Desika at Srirangam:

All the Srivaishnava Acharyas have a special love to Lord Ranganatha of Srirangam. Bhagavad Ramanuja stayed there for a long time. Swami Desika was asked to come to Srirangam by other acharyas, for a debate to prove the correctness of our sampradayam which is strictly in accordance with the scriptures. Swami Desika on his way to Srirangam, stopped at Sri Perampudhur, the birth place of Bhagavad Ramanuja and composed a stotra on Sri Ramanuja to seek his blessings to win in the debate. This slokam is called *Yatiraja Sapatati* which glorifies all our acharyas and Sri Ramanuja in particular. The debate with the scholars of other sampradayams went on for seven days and in the end, Swami Desika demolished every argument of the opponents. The scholars who have debated with Sri Desika have accepted the defeat and became his disciples. This discussion has been compiled as *Satha Dhudhani*.

While there, he composed the famous *Bhagavad dyana sopanam*, glorifying the beauty of Sri Ranganatha from the feet to the head. This stotra is like *Amalanadhi piran* of Thiruppanaazhwar.

### Swami Desika at Melkote in Karnataka:

In 1327, Srirangam was invaded by Muslims. They came to Srirangam to rob the temple and kill the satvik devotees. Fear gripped in the minds of everyone and they were afraid and didn't know how to preserve the glory of the temple. It was decided that Swami Desika will travel to Karnataka along with the manuscripts of Sri Bhashya commentary along with the sons of Sri Sudharshana Bhattar, a great acharya who wrote the commentary for Sri Bhashya. Other acharyas left for Thirupathi with the idol Sri Ranganatha. The temple was closed and many bhagavathas were brutally killed by the muslim invaders and even Swami Desika had to hide among the corpses for one night before travelling to Karnataka.

While in Karnataka, he composed a stotra called *Abhithi Sthava* praying to Lord Ranganatha to restore the glory of Srirangam.

### Swami Desika in Srivilliputtur:

He went on a pilgrimage to south and visited many divya desams in Kerala and Madurai. While in Srivilliputtur, he composed the famous *Godha Sthuthi*. He had a special bhakthi to Aandaal and this stotram glorifies Aandaal. She has commended that this stotra should be recited during her utsavam along with divya prabandham.

### Accolades for Swami Desika:

It is recorded in Sri Vaishnava books how Goddess Lakshmi, also known as Ranganayaki in the holy place, Srirangam, personally conferred him the title of *Sarva-tantra-svatantra*

or master of all arts and crafts. It is also believed that Lord Ranganatha, the presiding Deity of Srirangam was so pleased with the performance of Swami Desika against all the other acharyas and commended that the Thaniyan glorifying Swami Desika *Ramanuja daya patram* should be recited every day in the temples before starting the Prabandham recitation. Lord Ranganatha also conferred on Swami Desika the title *Vedanta Desika*, meaning, the supreme teacher of the conclusion of all knowledge. This was done because Lord Ranganatha was immensely pleased when Desika debated with differing scholars, and established the supremacy of the path of loving surrender or prapatti-marga.

He was awarded the titles such as *Kavitarkika-kesari* and *kavitarkika-sinham*, the lion amongst poets; and *Ramanuja-daya-patram*, the recipient of Ramanuja's causeless mercy, given in laudatory verse composed by the famous Brahma Tantra Svatantra Swami.

### Swami Desika's works:

- 28 Devotional poems in Sanskrit such as Hayagriva stotram, Gopala vimshati etc.
- 24 Devotional poems and treatises in Tamil such as Githartha sangraham etc.
- 11 Philosophical treatises such as Shata dushani, Mimamsa paduka and Tattva-mukta-kalapam
- 10 Commentaries on the works of previous acharyas such as Stotra-ratna-bhashya, Chatu-shloki bhashya and Tatparya-chandrika
- 5 Narrative poems such as magnum-opus, the Paduka-sahasram etc.
- 32 Esoteric texts revealing the hidden meanings of Prapatti-marga such as Srimad Rahasya-trya-saram, Paramapada-sopanam, Amrita-ranjani and Amrita-svadhini
- 1 Drama named Sankalpa-suryodayam
- 13 Works on arts and sciences such as Bhugola-nirayam and Silpartha-saram
- 4 Works that codified religious rites and practices such as Sri-vaishnava-dinasari and Bhagavad-aradhana-vidhi

### Swami Desika's last days:

Swami Desika lived for 101 years and felt that the time had come for him to go to the spiritual abode of Sriman Narayana. He went to Sri Ranganatha of Srirangam and took his permission. His disciples and his son were feeling the pain of separation and cried. Swami Desika consoled them and instructed them to continue their divine works and follow the Ramanuja Dharshanam. Finally in the year 1369 being satisfied with his work on earth, Swami Desika cast his tabernacle of flesh, praying to Udaiyavar (Sri Ramanujacharya) and Kidambi Appullar by placing their Padukas on his head. With Swami's head kept on the lap of his son, Sri Kumara Varadhachariar and his Lotus feet on the lap of Brahma Tantra Svantrrarar (Sri Periya Parakala Jeeyar of Sri Parakala Mutt, while his sishyas chanted Tiruvoimozhi and Upanishads. He left for the Divine Abode of God-Head Sriman Narayana. He attained Paramapadam in Tamil Sowmya year in the Tamil month of Karthigai in the star of Karthigai.

Later, Sri Ranganayaki Thaayaar of Srirangam ordered that a small sannidhi should be made for Swami Desika close to her sannidhi inside the temple. Also, it is believed that she ordered that no other acharya sannidhi should be made thereafter inside the temple as a mark of respect to this great acharya, which is being followed to this day. One can see the Desikar sannidhi in front of the Thaayaar sannidhi in Srirangam.



## Lofty goal for annual Walkathon for Cambridge Hospital

Cambridge: Through its first 21 years, the East Indian Community Walkathon has been held in and around the University of Waterloo, drawing walkers from all over the region.

However, for the first time ever, the walkathon was held in Cambridge in 2018. This year's route was six kilometers and began at the Sri Guru Singh Sabha, at 11 a.m., on Sunday, Sept. 16, in Cambridge. The walkathon was planned by 13 organizations in the region, including Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo

Region and this year aims to raise funds for the Cambridge Memorial Hospital (CMH) for the next two years. Surekha Shenoy, co-chair for the event, has lofty goals for the 2018 edition, hoping it can raise \$50,000 for equipment at the new wing for the CMH. While the goal is high, Shenoy stressed the importance of setting a very high bar for a good cause.

Shenoy, a past chair at the CMH, has been part of the walkathon committee for eight years. "It's the South Asian community's way of giving back to the commu-

nity and hospital," said Shenoy. Throughout its history, Walkathon has donated to St. Mary's General Hospital, CMH and Grand River Hospital. The walkathon's funds played a role in the opening of the cancer center at Grand River. Over 21 years, the walkathon has raised over \$400,000 for the hospitals in the region.

"It's an annual opportunity for our regional network of cultural groups to come together in celebration of the unique fellowship and flavours of Indian Culture while demonstrating support for lo-

cal health care," said fellow chair of the event, Chandrika Anjaria.

Tamil Cultural Association and its members play a leading role in supporting this worthy cause says Yoga Arumugam. Collectively we allocate funds from our annual budget. "Our Tamil members have been working with other organisations for sometime on this project. This is a team effort to support local hospitals" said Siva kumar. The event concluded with lunch at the Guru Singh Sabha.

*See more pictures on page 45...*



## Former LinkedIn senior software engineer helps tech workers move to Canada

By Terry Pender,  
Waterloo Region Record

Vikram Rangnekar is the founder of Mov North, a website that helps tech workers from outside Canada move to Canada. - Vikram Rangnekar

Vikram Rangnekar might be the best ambassador and talent scout that tech companies in the Toronto Waterloo Corridor never met.

"I think Canada is super under-marketed," says the founder of Mov North, a website that connects companies with skilled workers looking for a new job. "Traditionally, the U.S. has been the destination for tech talent, but I see that changing."

Rangnekar was living the techie dream in Silicon Valley with a house in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and driving to his job as a senior software engineer at LinkedIn in Mountain View.

He worked at LinkedIn for seven years. He was born in India, carries an Indian passport and had an American work visa known as the H1B. He did not have a Green Card, and figured it would take another seven or eight years to secure one. Meanwhile, anti-immigrant rhetoric is on the rise south of the border.

"Putting all that together it was a per-

fect political storm, and I did not want to be in the middle of that or be a pawn," he says.

"At that point I wanted more permanence, and just the chance to put down roots and know where my future stands, and not be in this immigration limbo."

He filled out the Canadian government's online application for a Global Talent Stream work permit. It has a point system for education, career experience and skills. About two weeks later, his work permit was approved, and within a month of arriving in Toronto he was granted permanent resident status. After three years, Rangnekar can apply for citizenship, if he wants it.

"The Canadian process was refreshing," says Rangnekar.

He moved to Toronto about 18 months ago, and fell in love with the city that boasts the biggest tech cluster in Canada.

When he started working at LinkedIn in 2010 the social media platform had 100 employees. When he left it had



about 6,000. Rangnekar wanted to work for himself again and had a couple of ideas for startups. But everything changed after he wrote a post on his LinkedIn account about how much he liked Toronto. About 20,000 people viewed it within two days.

"That one post really exploded," says Rangnekar. "I sensed there was this unease in the immigrant tech community in the U.S., and they are looking for options."

So he created Mov North. The site uses machine learning to match job vacancies with candidates interested in moving to Canada. The website has had more than one million visits. While it is free for individuals, tech companies pay to be on it.

Rangnekar bought a house in Toronto's Leslieville neighbourhood and his website pays the bills.

"Our neighbourhood is great, our kids are playing outside, they have so many friends, everyone seems to have a much more laid back life than in Silicon Val-

ley," he says.

"The costs are definitely lower. If you think Toronto is expensive try California."

He is coming to Kitchener on Thursday for a tech talk at Terminal, a company that provides software talent and teams to other firms. Rangnekar will talk about the lessons he learned while helping to grow LinkedIn's user base from about 100 million to 450 million. Microsoft bought LinkedIn for US\$26.2 billion in 2016.

Companies that want to scale like that must keep investing in engineering even as sales and marketing are expanded, Rangnekar says. And they must keep all of their data to help build products that appeal to current and future users, he says.

"So it is building products from data, the value of data and managing all of that," he says. "That was a big take-away."

Before moving here Rangnekar knew almost nothing about Canada, but he was familiar with the University of Waterloo.

"I interviewed so many kids from Waterloo, and I think almost all of them got jobs," he says. "They were coming down for co-ops."

[tpender@therecord.com](mailto:tpender@therecord.com)



வி.என்.மதிமுடன்  
**சொல்லும்  
செய்திகள்**



**நூல்  
அறிமுக விழா**



நீகழும் 2018ம் ஆண்டு  
நவம்பர் மாதம்  
முன்றாம் திகதி  
சனிக்கிழமை

பிற்பகல் 3:00 மணி  
ON  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 03, 2018  
3:00PM

ஸ்காபரோ  
சுவீக் சென்ரா  
அங்கத்தவர் சபா மண்டபம்

சுற்றுண்பு விருந்துபசாரத்துடன்  
ஆரம்பமாக  
நடைபெறவுக்குகும்  
வி. என். மதிமுடன்  
"சொல்லும் செய்திகள்"  
**நூல் அறிமுக விழா**

தங்களை  
அன்புடன் அழைக்கின்றோம்

உங்களின் வருகை எங்களின் உவகை  
நகர்த்தி குறிப்பிட்ட நேரத்துக்கு  
ஆரம்பமாகும்

# தமிழ் மாலைப் பொழுது

South Asian Performing Arts festival

18th annual

Tamil Cultural Nite 2018

Saturday, October 20

5.30 - 10.00pm

Humanities Theater  
University of Waterloo  
Free Admission

South Indian Dance,  
Tamil Classical Music  
Fashion Show

**Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region**

தமிழ்க் கலை பண்பாட்டுக் கழகம் இனாட்டிலூர் வட்டாரம்





# JAFFNA YMCA

## Sri Lanka - Best Performance award Ceremony 2018



The Best Performance Award Ceremony was conducted on Saturday 25th, August 2018 at 4 PM. The Clergy, Heads of NGOs, Principals of Schools, Y members and the Parents of award winners were present to encourage the winners. The Awards were sponsored by Mr. M C. Francis of Waterloo, Canada past president of Jaffna YMCA.

The Chief Guest was Hon Dr. Kandiah Sarveswaran, Minister of Education, Northern Province. Dr. Rajeevan Hoole was the Special Guest. Mr. PonThayanathan, Divisional Secretary NP, Mr. A. Subaharan, Assistant Director of Education, Jaffna and Mr. S E. Reginald, Senior Assistant Registrar, University of Jaffna were Special Guests.

Best Performance Award winners were selected on the ranking at the GCE A/L Examination held in 2017. First rankers received a Shield, and a cash award of Rs. 35,000. Second rankers received a Shield and Rs. 25,000; The Winners were:

**Bio Science:**

1. Thangarani Francis Award: Mr. Mukunthan Vasikan, Jaffna Hindu College
2. Dr. K M. Thillaiyampalam Award: Miss. Thevarajah Suthaniga, Vembadi Girls' High School

**Mathematics:**

1. S K. Sandrasegeran Award: Mr. Sritharan Thavarakan, Hartley College
2. Dr. Abdul Kalam Award: Mr. R D. Jeyanjan Paul Janson, St. Patrick's College

**Commerce:**

1. Kamaladevi Ramalingham award: Miss. Vijayakumar Saranga, Kokuvil Hindu College
2. Dr C W W. Kanangara Award: Mr. Kannapiran Nivekithan, Kokuvil Hindu College

**Arts:**

1. Rev J T. Arulanantham Award: Miss. Balasubramaniam Thadshagini, Kokuvil Hindu College
2. Rev G U Pope award: Mr. Kannapiran Nivekithan, Kokuvil Hindu College

**Bio System Tech:**

1. K. Velumailum Award: Miss. Kameleswary Senthilnathan, Vembadi Girls' High School
2. Dr. Samuel F Green Award: Miss. Ravindiran Tharshika, Kokuvil Hindu College

**Engineering Tech:**

1. V J A. Mariathan Award: Mr. Ratnasri Nilakshan, Jaffna Hindu College
2. Swami Vipulananthar Award: Maikkal Ferash, Hartley College

**All Rounder Awards:**

(Male): William Twynum Award: Mr. Tharamakulasingham Sivananthan, St. John's College  
(Female): C Y. Thamotherampillai Award: Miss. Andrya S Robert, Chundikuli Girls' College

**Inter School Debate Award:** This year the debate was between last year winner Chundikuli Girls College and Kokuvil Hindu College.

**Poobalasingham Shield** was won by KHC team; each participant received a cash award of Rs. 5000

**Arumuganavalar Award:** Miss. Kanmany Vallipuram a teacher of Mullaithheevu, who served long years in a difficult area and retired in 2017.

This year new awards were introduced. Two all rounder awards were introduced to encourage multi talented A/L students who gained admission to the University. Five new awards with shield and cash awards have been introduced to promote Tri-lin-

gualism. Winners selected from those who sat the GCE O/L in NP and under thirty years and proficient in three languages and Excellent performance by the Jaffna university students at the University final examination. The winners were:

**Tri-Lingualism Award:** Veeramamunivar Award: Miss. Sankavi Mohan and Ranganathan Sivanesan Award: Miss. Nilanki Kesava-moorthy

**YMCA Best Achievement awards** (Best top student in the selected fields)

**Medical Science award:** In Memory of Dr. S. Mahadeva (Chavakachcheri and London). Miss Manisha Puspika DE Silva

**Physical Science Award:** In memory of Engineer K. Thevathasan of Nunavil West and London. Mr. Mahendran Arunmaran

**Engineering Award:** In memory of M. Theyagarajah of Jaffna and Chennai. Miss Tharshika Vickneswaran,

Each winner received a Shield and cash Rs. 35,000.

YMCA and Mr. Francis of DFFS Canada wish to thank the following who contributed the cash awards.

Media Sponsor Monsoon Journal Canada and Messrs. Logan Velumailum, Thulasithas Sivanesan, R. Cumarasamy, K. Rajakulasingham (Babu), Mrs. Rajeswary Sandrasegaran, Mrs. Logi Mariathan, Doctors Mohan Retnasingam, K. Kirupananthan, S. Sauchiyadevan, Vanumathy Nada, Pararasan Arulanantham, S. Thayalan, SF. Asokanathan, Kumares Sandrasegara, Selvamagal Karper and Joanne Mariyampillai.

DFFS is considering to increase the University awards in 2019 to toppers in other fields such as Arts, Commerce, Bio science, Nursing, Law etc. Anyone interested in sponsoring an award in memory of their dear parents, teachers or other dear ones may contact, marcilfrancis@gmail.com



# Joe Li

## REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

[www.joeli.ca](http://www.joeli.ca)

**RE-ELECT**

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**RE-ELECT**

# JOE LI

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**MOVING MARKHAM FORWARD**



"Joe is a hard-working and focused individual, determined that the City of Markham flourishes to achieve its full potential." **Peter Kent, Thornhill MP Former Minister of the Environment**



"As a colleague, I can attest that Regional Councillor Joe Li is a man of integrity & consistency. His experience and partnership approach with other municipalities is a definite asset to York Regional Council." **Steve Pellegrini Mayor of King City**



"As former budget chair, I can attest that Joe Li is a fiscally responsible councillor that keeps the city financial in good shape." **Gordon Landon Former Regional Councillor City of Markham**



"As a colleague I can say that Joe Li is a honest man with great integrity. He means what he says and is consistent in his approach." **Alex Chiu, Ward #8 Councillor City of Markham**



"Joe Li brings a fresh perspective & new ideas as well as the energy and enthusiasm required to lead a multi-cultural Markham in this time of economic & social challenges." **Amar Erry, President ASM-Vedic Cultural Centre Prominent Indian Community Leader**



"Joe Li, in his term has proven to be a hard working and dedicated Regional Councillor, contributing positively to York Region." **Wennie Lee, B.A., LL.B., LL.M., Principal of Lee & Company leading Immigration Law Firm.**

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE - FOR 8 CONSECUTIVE YEARS SPENT ZERO DOLLARS OF COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY BUDGET**



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You must be on the Municipal Voter's List to vote during October 12-22. Register: [www.markhamvotes.ca](http://www.markhamvotes.ca)

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# YALINI

## RAJAKULASINGAM

### TDSB Trustee Scarborough North

### Scarborough Students First



(647) 946 2842

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## YALINI RAJAKULASINGAM



### TDSB Trustee Scarborough North



Together, we can  
put students first.

I am an advocate for public education; I believe we can do better for our students. I believe public schools are at the heart of our community and the foundation of our future. More than ever, we need someone who understands the issues of our community. As a graduate of schools in our community, I understand the needs of our students.

In 1987 my parents arrived in Canada as Tamil refugees. Our public education system gave my brother and I a chance to succeed, and our education system needs improvements to keep up with the changing population.

I believe we need to invest in arts education and prioritize mental health in our education system. As someone who has worked closely with students, I see the impact of early and consistent exposure to the arts. The arts contribute to creative problem solving and multidisciplinary thinking. By prioritizing arts education, we are investing in an education system that our students will continue to benefit from for generations to come. It creates a space for self-expression and supportive healing. As lifelong learners, our students will face daily challenges. This being said, it is our responsibility to equip them with the tools that prepare them to navigate their futures.

**This is why I'm running.**  
On October 22nd, I hope I can count on  
your support.

Yalini is a first generation Canadian. She studied and currently is working in Scarborough.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in Political Science.

She also studied Arts and Cultural Management at Humber College.

