

# Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

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ISSUE 10

MARCH 2011

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## PM marks inauguration of the Year of India in Canada 2011

Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Friday March 4th, 2011 - participated in the launch of the Year of India in Canada 2011, which aims to highlight India's culture, traditions and diversity, and celebrate the contributions of the Indian diaspora to Canadian society. The Prime Minister was joined by Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and host Shashishekhar M. Gavai, High Commissioner of India to Canada.

Report on website of The Prime Minister of Canada about the inaugural event:

"Our country is home to a vibrant, nearly one-million strong, Indo-Canadian community that plays a vital role in Canada's economic and cultural landscape," said Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "This Year will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase India's colourful culture and traditions while strengthening connections between our two countries."

Organized by the High Commission of India in Ottawa, the Year of India will feature a number of cultural and artistic events across the country, including musical and theatrical performances as well as literary gatherings, book fairs, busi-



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Shashishekhar M. Gavai, High Commissioner of India to Canada, kick off the Year of India in Canada 2011

ness meetings and children's events.

Canada and India enjoy excellent bilateral relations and both countries are working together to further strengthen ties. Since 2006, twenty Canadian ministers have visited India, including an official delegation led by Prime Minister Harper in November 2009. The prime ministerial visit was reciprocated by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in June 2010 – the first visit of

an Indian Prime Minister to Canada since 1973.

"The Year of India in Canada represents a unique opportunity to explore Canada's rich cultural diversity and I encourage all Canadians to participate in festivities, which will be taking place across the country," added the Prime Minister. [For more information on the Year of Canada and related events, visit: www.hciottawa.ca]

## Tamil asylum seekers intercepted in 2009 by Indonesian authorities released after gaining refugee status in Australia



A large group of Tamil asylum seekers intercepted in 2009 by Indonesian authorities following a call from Kevin Rudd have been released after gaining refugee status, according to Australia's Sydney Morning Herald.

A report in The Sydney Morning Herald on Mar 5th stated:

At least 10 of the group who were aboard a boat carrying 254 asylum seekers on their way to Australia were released from detention on Friday with more to be let go in the coming weeks.

The large group of asylum seekers have been in the Tanjung Pinang Detention Centre on the island of Bintan since October 2009.

The Indonesian navy intercepted their boat - known as the Jaya Lestari 5 - on October 11, 2009 after then-Prime Minister Rudd personally asked Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to prevent it reaching Australian waters.

However, after being towed to the port of Merak, in West Java, those aboard refused to leave, prompting a six months standoff.

Speaking from the detention centre on Friday, Mar 4th, one of the asylum seekers, who expects to be released within a week, said he was ecstatic that his ordeal would soon be over.

Nimal Nimalaharan said: "Most of the group had been granted refugee status"

Inside Monsoon

NO MORE EXCUSES..



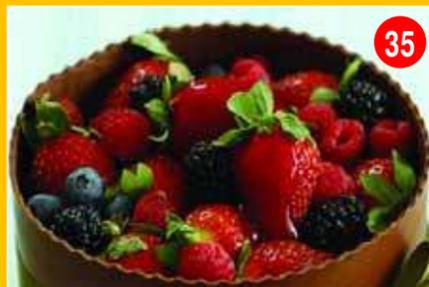
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# Canada News

## Celebrate Ontario Helps Over 230 Festivals and Events



Mayor of Markham, Minister Chan, Gary Masters

### McGuinty Government Supports Tourism and Family Fun in Local Communities

Ontario is supporting over 230 local festivals and events to help drive tourism, support jobs and generate economic activity.

This support will help festivals and events across the province enhance their

programming and services to attract new audiences, increase visitor spending and create jobs.

Recently, the province proposed changes to its liquor laws that would remove beer tent barriers at festivals. This would provide Ontarians with a more enjoyable experience at local events - enabling them to move freely with a beverage to participate in all the activi-

ties on site.

Festivals and events give visitors new reasons and ways to experience Ontario. They also provide Ontario families and visitors the opportunity to enjoy accessible and affordable activities. Celebrate Ontario supports the province's Open Ontario Plan to strengthen our economy and create new opportunities for jobs and growth.

"Tourism is a billion dollar business that supports over three hundred thousand jobs. Festivals and events play a key role in attracting visitors, supporting jobs, and generating economic activity while enhancing our quality of life in communities across Ontario."

- Michael Chan  
Minister of Tourism and Culture

"When we enhance and improve our festivals and events, we ensure they increase their ability to attract both Ontario residents and visitors from out-of-province. Whether it is a festival engaging the local community or a world-leading best-in-class event, this generates significant incremental economic activity for the community where they are staged."

- Gary Masters  
Executive Director, Festivals and Events Ontario

Other changes to Ontario liquor laws also include: extending hours of special events from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. and making all-inclusive vacation packages available in Ontario.

Celebrate Ontario 2011 is providing \$20 million to over 230 festivals and events. Since 2007, the province has invested \$57 million through Celebrate Ontario to enhance almost 800 festivals and events.

In 2008 alone, tourism spending in Ontario was \$22 billion and supported 300,000 jobs.

## TAX CUTS... WORKING FOR YOU!

There is a wide range of tax cuts available to Canadians from all walks of life. Be sure to take advantage of tax cuts. It makes sense to file electronically and on time.

For more information on these and other tax cuts, go to [cra.gc.ca/taxcuts](http://cra.gc.ca/taxcuts) or call 1-877-959-1-CRA.

<p><b>Pension Income Splitting</b> Split up to 50% of eligible pension income</p>	<p><b>Public Transit Tax Credit</b> Save up to 15%</p>	<p><b>First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit</b> Save up to \$750</p>	<p><b>Children's Fitness Tax Credit</b> Save up to \$75/child</p>	<p><b>Tradesperson's Tools Deduction</b> Deduct up to \$500 from income</p>
<p><b>Fractionnement du revenu de pension</b> Fractionnez jusqu'à 50 % du revenu de pension admissible</p>	<p><b>Crédit d'impôt pour le transport en commun</b> Épargnez jusqu'à 15 %</p>	<p><b>Crédit d'impôt pour l'achat d'une première habitation</b> Épargnez jusqu'à 750 \$</p>	<p><b>Crédit d'impôt pour la condition physique des enfants</b> Épargnez jusqu'à 75 \$ par enfant</p>	<p><b>Déduction des frais liés aux outils des gens de métier</b> Déduisez jusqu'à 500 \$ du revenu</p>

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

**"We will destroy the idiocy, of  
denigrating womanhood!"**

~ Mahakavi

**Subramaniya Bharathiyaar,**  
(11 December 1882 -11 September 1921),  
(Tamil Poet)

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# from the publisher's desk

## March, 8 - International Women's Day

Several events are being held celebrating the International Women's Day around the world.

To mark International Women's Day, Air India, for the second consecutive year, is operating on the night of March 7th an ultra long haul flight from Delhi to Toronto, with an all-woman crew.

President of India's Message on the Occasion of International Women's Day

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil in her message on the occasion of International Women's Day, which is being observed on March 8th has said: "Every year, International Women's Day is being celebrated on 8th March, to recognize the commitment, dedication and achievements of women. Indian women are playing a crucial role in a number of fields and professions over the years, as our nation progresses

on the path of development, and they play an important role in our efforts for inclusive growth. The education of women and the girl child is a very important tool for this effort, so that they can contribute towards development.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to all the women of India, for their relentless efforts in shaping the destiny of our country.

I wish the Day all success".

This year marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. The day was commemorated for the first time on 19 March 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, following its establishment during the Socialist International meeting the prior year. More than one million women and men attended rallies on that first commemoration.

Since then, International Women's Day has been celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

United Nations human rights chief Navi Pillay on Monday, March 7th in a message on the eve of Women's day said that societies in which women were excluded from public life could not be described as truly democratic.

"Women must be able to shape the future of their countries by being involved in institutional reforms from the begin-

ning," she added.

In Sri Lanka several campaigns and initiatives have been drawn to attract increased participation by women as candidates as well as voters in the upcoming elections for local governments.

Amidst the observations several challenges remain for women amidst an environment of political situations in many countries. Every nation at every level of authority must works towards improving the lives of women that are most neglected during and even aftermath of political and economic turmoil.

These are utmost important factors that needs to be remembered and addressed in these times of 're-shaping the future' around the globe.

Monsoon Journal joins the humanitarians of the world in honouring women and pledging to work towards betterment and bright future.

## New military headquarters built on graveyard earlier flattened by the army in northern Sri Lanka

A new military headquarters in northern Sri Lanka has been built on the site of a graveyard earlier flattened by the army and "the construction has come in for sharp criticism", writes Charles Haviland in a BBCnews.com report.

The report further states,

The army website has a full illustrated account of opening of the new headquarters on March 4th for the 51 Division near Jaffna.

The website said it was declared open "amidst religious rites and rituals".

But it did not mention that on the same spot there used to stand a cemetery built by Tamil Tiger militants but destroyed by the army last year.

Tamil nationalists have already criticised the destruction of other Tiger graveyards in past years.

A former MP, MK Shivajilingam, said he was shocked because there were about 2,000 bodies of Tiger fighters on the site and there had been twice that number of memorial stones.

"How can the government

build national reconciliation like this?" he said.

But army chief Jagath Jayasuriya told the BBC that having vacated its temporary premises in a Jaffna hotel, the 51 Division had to move to government land.

He said the military had been allocated this site which was owned by the prisons department, and he was "not aware of people expressing unhappiness".

Last year the government demolished the ancestral house of the late Tamil Tiger leader,



**Tamil nationalists have criticised the destruction of the graveyard Prabhakaran.**

It says its policy is to wipe out any trace of the Tigers and ensure that their violence is forgotten.

It has however built several memorials to fallen government soldiers

## Parvathi Amma passes away

Parvathi Amma, mother of LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran passed away at a hospital in northern Sri Lanka Sunday, Feb 2011. Vallipuram Parvathi was being treated at the Valvedditturai hospital following a stroke last year.

Prabhakaran's parents were captured by the military in the final stages of fighting between troops and Tamil Tigers in May 2009.

Prabhakaran's father, T. Velupillai, died in military custody last year, after which Parvathi was released.

The LTTE leader's parents had been living in Tamil Nadu



**Parvathi Amma (1931-2011)**  
in India, but opted to go to Vanni before the war broke out and they preferred to be with the people during the war.

## A SIGHT TO MAKE THE HEART FREEZE

Have you seen the naked face,  
I mean the really bare face  
Of poverty? Unembellished?  
A sight to make the heart  
Seize up, to freeze in pain.  
Emaciated, weak, hollow-eyed,  
Pencil thin, with hands like twigs,  
A protruding belly, a mockery  
Of a stomach, overloaded  
With the nothingness of hunger.  
I do not say this to shock,  
Or do I? Perhaps I wish  
To shake you out of cosy  
Slumber to see the pain,

The degradation of starvation.  
It is we who are degraded  
By our insensitive callousness.  
The starving have a quiet dignity.  
I sometimes wonder if  
They pity us our callousness.

**-By Betty Paul Thottam.**

An excerpt from the book ?Living with  
God? ISBN 978-0-9866773-0-4

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# Canada News

## Toronto's Columbus Centre and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection present a Unique Intercultural Celebration that has been Inspired by Canada!

Kleinburg, Ontario –The Toronto Italian community's beloved Columbus Centre will welcome an outstanding collection of works from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and works by artists of Italian heritage who have been inspired by the Group of Seven. This pairing of some of Canada's most important art will be unveiled at an exclusive cocktail reception that will be held Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at the Lawrence Avenue facility with food prepared by the renowned Ristorante Boccaccio.

"Enthusiasm shown by the Columbus Centre and by the leaders of our Canadian-Italian community has been spectacular. This McMichael/Columbus Centre partnership helps us understand Canada better by appreciating this country's most renowned interpreters of the land," said co-chair Lori Abittan, President and CEO of Multimedia Nova Corporation. Ms. Abittan shares leadership for the event with Ralph Chiodo, founder of Active Green + Ross, and McMichael Board of Trustees Vice-Chair, Patrick Gossage. Honourary Patrons for the Inspired by Canada event include: Senator Con Di Nino, Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, Federal Minister Julian Fantino and retired Justice of the Supreme



Court, the Honourable Frank Iacobucci.

"This year's reception, in support of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery/Columbus Centre, will give back to two worthy causes ... in a big way. The 'who's who' from our community is helping raise awareness and funds in support of Canadian art," says Active Green + Ross's Ralph Chiodo. "This spectacular event will showcase some of this country's best artists who have channeled the spirit of the great outdoors through their beautifully painted masterpieces."

The Inspired by Canada reception and exhibition will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (opening remarks at 7:30 p.m.) on March 29 at the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery/Columbus Centre

located at 901 Lawrence Avenue West. This one-night-only fundraiser is an exclusive and intimate gathering with only 400 tickets available!

The cocktail party's special multi-level exhibition will explore many works painted by members of the renowned Group of Seven in juxtaposition to works by contemporary Italian-Canadian artists including Tony Bianco, Tracy Thomson Colero (great-grandniece of Tom Thomson), Salvatore Gallo, Sam Paonessa, Giuseppe Pivetta, Joseph Catalano, Germinio Politi, and the late Albert Chiarandini, who painted with members of the Group of Seven.

In addition to the fine art, Ristorante Boccaccio will be serving epicurean delights throughout the evening. There

will be a Fine Scotch and Grappa Bar (courtesy of Via Allegro Ristorante) and a gourmet Cheese Station (courtesy of The Cheese Boutique).

### About the Galleries:

The Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, located in Columbus Centre, is part of the Villa Charities family of community-based, charitable non-profit organizations. The Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery receives no ongoing public funding and relies on private sector donors, sponsorships and income-generating activities.

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is an agency of the Government of Ontario and acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. It is the foremost venue in the country showcasing the Group of Seven and their contemporaries. In addition to touring exhibitions, its permanent collection consists of more than 5,500 artworks, including paintings by the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, First Nations and Inuit artists. The gallery is located on Islington Avenue, north of Major Mackenzie Drive in Kleinburg, and is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$185 per person. To purchase tickets contact the McMichael gallery at 905.893.1121 ext. 2207 or email mschmidt@mcmichael.com

## Grand opening of new Dental Clinic "Markham NS Dental"

A new dental clinic "Markham NS Dental" opens in Markham to serve the community better. Dr. Nalini Sutharsan at a photo below at the grand opening checking at reception. Another photo shows one of the dental chair in the clinic. The monitor above the chair as kids can watch the cartoon while getting treatment or any patient can watch the procedure of the treatment in any language. Apparently the clinic is geared with paperless to help the environment.



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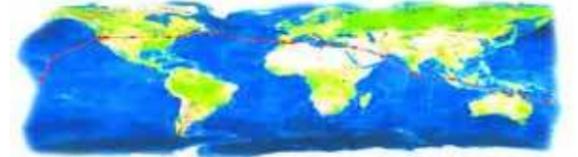
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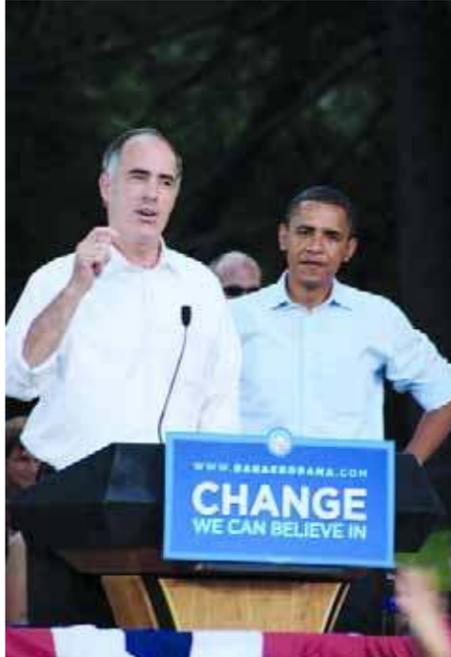


## Sri Lanka dismisses U.S. Senate resolution call for 'independent accountability mechanism' on violations of International Humanitarian Laws

Sri Lanka on Friday dismissed a U.S. Senate resolution calling for "accountability" for the alleged human rights violations during the last phase of the ethnic war, saying that the government-appointed 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission' has been adequately empowered.

"The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) appointed to look into the history of the island's ethnic question has been adequately empowered to handle any evidence of violations of human rights or international humanitarian law," the Sri Lankan government said in a statement.

Reacting to a resolution passed by the U.S. Senate calling for accountability over events during the last stages of the government's successful military cam-



President Barack Obama and Sen Robert Casey on the campaign trail in 2008

Democratic Sen. Robert Casey from Pennsylvania, who introduced the Senate resolution, said that a "state of denial" exists in the Sri Lankan government which is "not helpful" in achieving accountability for the bloodshed. He said the government, including its leaders, "has to be willing to subject itself to scrutiny."

March 1, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S1075

### AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 1, 2011, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Examination of Public Relations Contracts at the General Services Administration's Heartland Region."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 44

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 44, the 2-week continuing resolution which was received from the House and is at the desk; that the Senate then proceed to a vote on the passage of H.J. Res. 44, with no intervening action or debate; further, that the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 11, H.R. 359, be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 83 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 83) designating March 2, 2011 as "Read Across America Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 83) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 83

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance, including through the programs authorized in the Elementary and Secondary Education

Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and through annual appropriations for library and literacy programs; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to designate March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, as a day to celebrate reading; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2011, as "Read Across America Day";

(2) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) honors the 14th anniversary of "Read Across America Day";

(4) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on "Read Across America Day" in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a nation of readers; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

### SUPPORTING RECONCILIATION WITHIN SRI LANKA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 84, a resolution introduced earlier today by Senator CASEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 84) expressing support for internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to assure a lasting peace.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 84) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 84

Whereas May 19, 2010, marked the one-year anniversary of the end of the 26-year conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka established a Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) to report whether any person, group, or institution directly or indirectly bears responsibility for incidents that occurred between February 2002 and May 2009 and to recommend measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future and promote further national unity and reconciliation among all communities;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed a panel of experts, including Marzuki Darusman, the former attorney general of Indonesia; Yazmin Sooka, a member of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and Steven Ratner, a lawyer in the United States specializing in human rights and international law, to ad-

vice the Secretary-General on the implementation of the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to human rights accountability;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka expressed its commitment to addressing the needs of all ethnic groups and has recognized, in the past, the necessity of a political settlement and reconciliation for a peaceful and just society;

Whereas the United States Government has yet to develop a comprehensive United States policy toward Sri Lanka that reflects the broad range of human rights, national security, and economic interests; and

Whereas progress on domestic and international investigations into reports of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations during the conflict and promoting reconciliation would facilitate enhanced United States engagement and investment in Sri Lanka: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for creating the three-person panel to advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to human rights accountability;

(2) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka, the international community, and the United Nations to establish an independent international accountability mechanism to look into reports of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations committed by both sides during and after the war in Sri Lanka and to make recommendations regarding accountability;

(3) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to allow humanitarian organizations, aid agencies, journalists, and international human rights groups greater freedom of movement, including in internally-displaced persons camps; and

(4) calls upon the President to develop a comprehensive policy towards Sri Lanka that reflects United States interests, including respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, economic interests, and security interests.

### CONDEMNING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LIBYA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 85, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 85) strongly condemning the gross and systematic violations of human rights in Libya, including violent attacks on protesters demanding democratic reforms, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 85) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

paign against the LTTE, the government said that the LLRC had taken pro-active interest to travel to north and east in order to gather evidence.

The US Senate on March 1, 2011 unanimously passed Senate Resolution 84, calling for an "independent international accountability mechanism to look into reports of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations committed by both sides during and

after the war in Sri Lanka and to make recommendations regarding accountability."

Resolution expressed "support for internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace." Though the resolution is non binding, "it does express the concerns of American lawmakers that the government of Sri Lanka provide a credible and fair mecha-

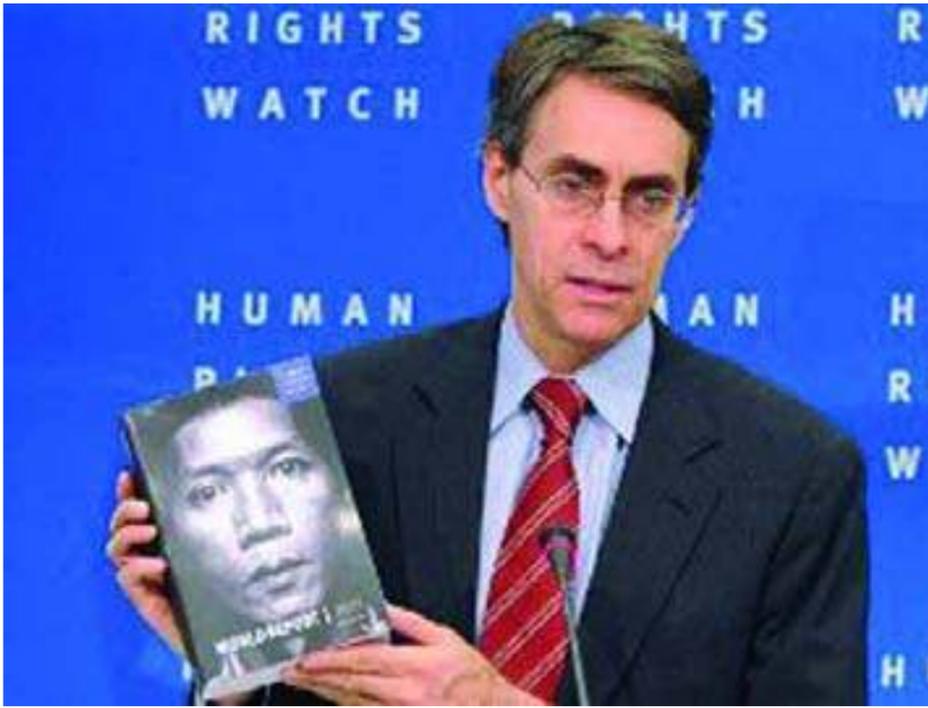
nism of ensuring accountability for possible violations of human rights during the war," a US Embassy official told Daily Mirror.lk

The following is the Resolution No: 84 passed by US Senate on Mar 1st, from the United States Government Congressional Record. A resolution on the situation in Libya was passed as well on the same day:



# Around the world

## Gaddafi call to Mahinda "Bad News" - HRW



**Kenneth Roth**

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch, NY via twitter has remarked on reports of Libya's Gaddafi calling President Mahinda Rajapaksa as follows:

"Bad news: BBC reports Libya's Gaddafi called Sri Lanka Pres Mahinda, known for indiscriminate warfare & atrocities in fighting insurgency."

According to Sri Lanka Government official news site, Sri Lanka asked Gaddafi to "establish peace in Libya" during a telephone conversation.

News.lk website further states:

Presidential Media Director General Mr, Bandula Jayasekara told Information Department that Sri Lankan President has made this request to the Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi when

he telephoned Sri Lankan President.

Mr. Rajapaksa told Gaddafi "Establish peace in Libya as soon as possible and safeguard the lives of Libyan people" said the Presidential spokesman.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka has chartered a flight to evacuate its nationals working in Libya. The charter flight carrying 400 workers will arrive in Sri Lanka this weekend, an official of the External Affairs ministry said. Already 160 workers have returned to the country. There were about 1200 expatriate Sri Lankans working in Libya and many of them now want to be repatriated. The Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau is making the logistics with the External Affairs Ministry to bring back the Lankans who are trapped in Libya.

## India's Fortis Healthcare acquires 28.6% stake in Lanka Hospitals for \$36.3mn



Fortis Global Healthcare Holdings on March 4th announced it has forayed into Sri Lankan market by acquiring 28.6 per cent stake in Lanka Hospitals Corporation Plc for \$ 36.3 million (over Rs 160 crore).

"Lanka Hospitals is the first step for Fortis Global to build its healthcare business interest in one of the fastest growing economies in Asia," Fortis Global Healthcare Executive Chairman Malvinder Mohan Singh said in a statement.

He further added: "It is one of the most advanced and comprehensive healthcare facility in Sri Lanka. We believe there are tremendous opportunities for the hospital's expansion and we will support the company's management in realising such growth."

According to Fortis officials, the deal is worth \$ 36.3 million, thus valuing the Sri Lankan hospital's overall stake at \$ 126.92 million.

Lanka Hospitals is a renowned tertiary care healthcare delivery provider and currently one of the largest hospital groups in Sri Lanka.

The hospital specialises in cardiology

and cardiac surgery, neuro-sciences, orthopaedics and complex urology/nephrology procedures.

The 350-bed hospital is majority owned by Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd, a government of Sri Lanka company.

In the last four months, Fortis Global has acquired the largest private primary care company Hong Kong, invested in the largest dental care company in Australia and announced the acquisition of an upcoming cancer speciality hospital project in Singapore.

"The acquisition is in line with Fortis Global Healthcare's vision of creating a pan-Asia healthcare platform and provides an access to one of the fastest growing economies in Asia," the company said.

In addition to Fortis Global Healthcare, billionaire brothers -- Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder M Singh -- also own a majority stake in the India-listed Fortis Healthcare Limited, a leading hospital chain in India.

-[ PTI]

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# Canada News



## Canadian Multiculturalism Is it a blueprint for harmony that the rest of the world can learn from, or are we in danger of failing miserably at it like much of Western Europe?

By John Miller

Toronto Star columnist Haroon Siddiqui argues that 40 years of official multiculturalism have given Canada a record of cultural accommodation that is closely studied and envied by other countries. Even the Aga Khan has chosen Ottawa as the site of a new multicultural research centre because "he thinks the world needs more Canada."

Historian Jack Granatstein, on the other hand, thinks we need to heed the lessons of Europe and draft new rules to prevent the abuses of multiculturalism, which he said include ethnic ghettos, lack of common Canadian values and the importation of foreign disputes. He asks: "Why didn't we make Canadians of the newcomers?"

The two Order of Canada recipients squared off in a debate on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Royal Ontario Museum's History Wars series. The question they were debating was "Multiculturalism has put Canada on the wrong course."

A show of hands before the debate showed that half the audience of 300 was undecided about the value of multiculturalism, but there was a 4-to-1 margin against the proposition that it put the country on the wrong course.

After the debate the moderator, historian Michael Bliss, declared the undecided had shrunk to about 15 percent. While 50 percent still opposed the proposition, those in favour had jumped to 35 percent, swayed by Granatstein's arguments.

The historian, author of more than 60 books including *Who Killed Canadian History*, cited recent statements by British Prime Minister David Cameron and Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel that multiculturalism had failed in their countries. He called for a royal commission to determine the rights and obligations of holding Canadian citizenship. "Why do we assume that immigrants raised under dictatorships will instantly understand our democracy?" he asked.

He said "Canada is ours," with Judeo-Christian values, and multiculturalism is a relatively new and troublesome concept. No federal money should be given to organizations to preserve languages or heritage other than English or French. He said employment equity on the basis of race should be abolished because it amounts to "quotas," and we should stop apologizing for past abuses like the Chinese head tax or internment of Japanese or Ukrainian citizens during



wartime. "Such apologies are for political purposes ... In many cases they have nothing to do with the truth."

Siddiqui countered that multiculturalism is rooted in Canadian history starting with the aboriginal concept of acceptance and accommodation, and "our Canadian response (to what's happening in Europe) should be that they're abandoning what they never had."

He challenged Granatstein's idea that all immigrants should adopt so-called Canadian attributes. "Shall we write a list? We must eat at Tim Horton's, we must watch hockey, we must drink beer? That's ridiculous."

Immigrants, he said, "do not develop instant amnesia," he said. "If they did we would not have so much trouble with the English and French."

Granatstein made clear that he supports "practical multiculturalism," which he said includes the diversity of our population and such practices as intermarriage and great food, but thinks "political multiculturalism" is intent on "pulling us apart."

He said the Canadian forces are currently aiming to recruit 28 percent French, 28 percent women, 25 percent visible minorities and 3 percent Aboriginals. "That means 84 percent of

recruits are not supposed to be white Canadians," he said. "That's simply ridiculous. Quotas breed resentment. The purpose of an army is to fight, not to engage in sociological experiments."

He also criticized the politics behind opening new consulates in India, which he said are designed "to win the 905 areas for the Tories", but Siddiqui countered that "the key to success in the 21st century will be our ability to deal across cultures, across oceans ... the world's economy is moving east, that's why we're opening consulates ... because we need them."

Granatstein criticized examples of what he called "political correctness," including the Toronto board of education's "terrible" idea of setting up an Afrocentric school and the refusal of editors of Canadian newspapers to run cartoons critical of Mohammed -- "one of the worst days for freedom of speech in Canada." He said when Muslims in Winnipeg objected to physical education classes where boys and girls played together, "someone ought to have said 'This is Canada'."

Siddiqui said "it's ironic that those most outspoken about multiculturalism are those saying free speech is being trampled on. They have a megaphone and they're complaining?"

The beauty of official multiculturalism, guaranteed in law and the constitution, is that "there are no second class citizens in Canada. No one is made to bow down to poobahs ... Perhaps that's why some people don't like multiculturalism."

The debate between the Toronto-born Granatstein and Siddiqui, who was born in India and came to Canada in 1968, was mostly good-natured. Granatstein quipped at one point that he found himself agreeing with about 80 percent of what Siddiqui said. "He's learning, he's adapting, he's becoming Canadian," Granatstein said.

## Tamil migrant accused of Tiger ties not a security threat: Refugee board

VANCOUVER - The Immigration and Refugee Board has ruled there's no merit to accusations of terrorism links against a Tamil migrant and he should be welcomed into Canada, The Canadian Press (CP) news agency said on Mar 6th.

A report by CP further stated:

The federal government has lost its defence case against the man who arrived on B.C. shores with 492 others last summer from Sri Lanka.

Board member Marc Tessler ruled that mere association with the banned Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam isn't enough to prove membership in the group.

During his hearing in Vancouver in early February, the man whose identity



cannot be published told the board he worked for a Tamil Tiger-owned garage because he lived in a controlled region, but never joined the group.

About 30 inadmissibility hearings are still expected amongst migrants who arrived on the MC Sun Sea last

August, and will test the government's accusations of terrorism, war crimes and human smuggling, Canadian Press Report further stated.

The government can appeal Tessler's ruling to the Immigration Appeals Division or Federal Court.



# Health & Fitness

## NO MORE EXCUSES!

“150 minutes of exercise per week helps prevent disease.” “Active living increases the quality of your life.” “Prevent obesity and cardiovascular disease with regular exercise.” Sound familiar? We can see the benefits of exercise on the Dr. Oz show, read about it in the health section of the Toronto star and listen to it on 680 AM news, yet even with the media drilling this in into every aspect of our lives, majority of us still

call up a friend after work and make it a social event!

### “I’m too tired”

You’re tired because you’re NOT exercising! Studies indicate that there is a positive correlation between exercise and increased energy levels! Your body releases the hormone adrenalin which gives you that boost of energy! Try to exercise in the morning to keep your energy level high throughout the day.

ming pools that are accessible to their guests. Or simply pack a resistance band in your luggage and do a workout in the comfort of your hotel room!

### “I can’t leave my kids at home alone”

You don’t have to! Take them to the gym with you. Most gyms have child minding or daycare services so you can work out without worrying about your little one. If it’s nice outside, buckle

and fitness abilities. If you’re on a budget, you may consider group training, which allows you to split the cost with a few friends and get a great workout at the same time. Gyms also have an orientation session where they introduce you to the features of the gym and show you how to safely use the equipment. Fitness magazines are also a great resource. They offer a variety of different workouts including home, outdoor, boot camp and



find excuses not to exercise. Until the unexpected day, the doctor reveals the results of your recent physical, indicating that you’ve developed type two diabetes, or your cholesterol and blood pressure levels are high, or even worse that you’re one blocked artery away from having a heart attack or stroke. Most of us think we are invincible. The truth of the matter is that each of us is equally susceptible to disease if we take our health for granted. So, how about thinking one step further, prevention over treatment? Here are some ways to “X” the excuses and make exercise part of your life.

### “I don’t have any time”

The best and most common of them all. Between a hectic work schedule, family obligations, social engagements and life in general, there never seems to be enough time. Make it a priority like anything else that is important to you. Try to go for a quick run in the morning, take a walk during your lunch hour, or

### “I hate exercising”

Exercise doesn’t have to be a dreadful experience. Try to find fun activities to do. If you’re an outdoor person, then take up hiking, walking, running, skiing, skating, jogging, tennis, cycling or soccer. If you’re an indoor person, try swimming, squash, racquetball, spinning, dance, yoga or other group classes.

### “It’s too expensive”

You don’t need fancy equipment or expensive gym memberships to get a good workout. A resistance band, stability ball, a set of dumbbells, or even items found in your home such as water bottles, towels, yoga mats or paper plates can give you a great workout! Try a simple lunge with water bottles in both hands – you’ll feel the burn instantly!

### “I spend most of my life in airports”

Travelling may be a large part of your job but it doesn’t have to be a limitation. Most hotels have basic gyms or swim-

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them up in a stroller and go for a walk in the park.

### “The gym is too far”

Most apartments and condos have a basic gym in the building, which is easily accessible. If you’re a home owner, try using the facilities at your nearest community centre or venture out to the closest park for a walk or a hike.

### “I never know what to do at the gym”

Personal trainers are expensive but one of the best investments for your health. They can custom design a fitness program that meets your goals, needs,

quick and easy express workouts that you can take with you to the gym!

There you have it, solutions to all your excuses. Take your health in your own hands, be proactive and prevent disease from invading your body! So, put on your favourite workout gear, grab a water bottle and go break a sweat! It’s your body – fuel it, use it, LOVE it!

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## Canada Helps Millions affected by Pakistan 's Floods

At the end of February, on behalf of the Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, Bob Dechert, Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Erindale, and Honourable Senator Salma Ataullahjan announced the Harper government's continued support for the more than 20 million people affected by the devastating floods in Pakistan seven months ago. Though floodwaters have receded in many parts of the country and flood-affected people are returning to their home areas, humanitarian need is still substantial.

"Although stories about the flooding in Pakistan have left the newscasts, the need in Pakistan remains significant, and our Government is committed to continuing to help meet the essential humanitarian needs of those affected," said Minister Oda. "Canada's assistance will also combat the threat of a severe food shortage next year, since the floods affected a vast agricultural region of the country. Families who are able to return to their homes must receive help to resume their livelihoods and prepare for the planting season."

"Our government committed to matching the donations Canadians made to the people of Pakistan," explained MP Bob Dechert. "Today, we are delivering on that commitment."

In the announcement, the Harper government is supporting the efforts of the Canadian Red Cross Society, Oxfam Canada, World Vision Canada, CARE Canada, Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim), and the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation. This support will provide ongoing flood response work, emergency relief supplies, humanitarian and recovery assistance to flood-affected people. Canadian aid will also increase access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene to 200,000 flood-affected people and 7,500 households, as well as support cash-for-work opportunities to 14,000 people. In addition, to combat the threat of a food shortage, the Harper government will help restore the livelihoods of more than 69,000 households in the agricultural sector by providing agricultural resources such as seeds, fertilizers, and necessary tools.

"As a leader on the international stage, Canada remains committed to helping people affected by devastating natural disasters," said Senator Ataullahjan.

Following the floods, in recognition of the contributions individual Canadians made to help the flood-affected people, the Harper government announced that Canada would match the donation amounts to the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund. Canadians answered the call and generously contributed \$46.8 million, which the Harper government matched. Today's announcement of \$27.8 million, combined with a previously announced



\$19 million, totals the \$46.8 million in the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund.

Canada's assistance to the people affected by the Pakistan floods includes a government contribution of \$25 million, plus the \$46.8 million from the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund, totalling \$71.8 million.

For more information on Canada's support to Pakistan, please visit CIDA's website ([www.acdi-cida.gc.ca](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca)).

The Harper Government continues to support the most vulnerable who remain severely affected seven months after devastating floods in Pakistan. Although floodwaters have receded in many parts of the country, and flood-affected people are returning to their home areas, the continuing humanitarian needs are significant. The United Nations (UN) estimates that 20 million people were affected by the floods and that today close to 14 million remain in need of direct humanitarian and early recovery assistance.

Early recovery initiatives are underway in most flood-affected areas. Increased efforts are needed to enable flood-affected people to return to their normal lives more rapidly. As winter continues across the country, the need for shelters and health support are immediate priorities, principally in the north and northwest.

Bob Dechert, Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Erindale, and Senator Salma Ataullahjan, on behalf of Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister for International Cooperation, today announced additional support for flood-affected people. Working with a range of UN agencies, the Harper government will provide \$19.35 million for much needed humanitarian assistance, such as food assistance, clean water and sanitation, emergency shelter, basic medical care, protection and overall coordination of the international response.

The Canadian International Development Agency will also support the work of the following Canadian organizations:

The Canadian Red Cross Society will



be provided \$2.2 million to assist the ongoing International Federation of Red Cross and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society floods response programming in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh. This assistance will include the provision of 45,000 shelters and agricultural resources, such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools, to 55,000 farming households and will increase the capacity of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in their flood response programming.

Oxfam Canada will rehabilitate water sources and increase hygiene training in flood-affected areas as many return to their homes, ensuring safe household latrines and humanitarian and early recovery assistance to 200,000 people in four severely flood-affected districts with CIDA's support of \$2.2 million.

World Vision Canada will receive \$1.5 million to provide increased access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to 6,000 households in the province of Punjab, and will institute clean-up and early recovery activities in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by providing cash-for-work opportunities to 1,500 households.

The Center for International Studies and Cooperation will work with more than 2,000 women and 4,000 households to help rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and restore livelihoods in agriculture by distributing seeds, tools, fertilizer, and small farm animals with CIDA's

support of \$1.4 million.

CARE Canada will receive \$650,000 to contribute to the early recovery needs of 18,100 flood-affected people by providing winterized shelter, agricultural inputs to 14,000 people, and by improving the livelihoods of 2,000 people.

Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim) will ensure the provision of both humanitarian and early recovery water and sanitation services, including safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion, to 30,000 flood-affected people with CIDA's support of \$500,000.

CIDA's earlier contribution of \$44 million to experienced humanitarian organizations in the UN system, the Red Cross Movement and Canadian NGOs has helped meet urgent humanitarian needs by:

Providing close to 21 million people across Pakistan with emergency food distribution.

Ensuring 3.6 million people have clean drinking water daily.

Vaccinating 8.2 million children under 5 for measles.

Reaching 4 million people with hygiene promotion activities.

Providing 30,000 sanitation facilities for 1.8 million people.

Dispatching relief items, including tents, blankets, plastic sheets, quilts, cook sets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, plastic buckets, and bars of soap to 1.7 million beneficiaries.

This announcement of \$27.8 million is in addition to the previously announced support of \$19 million, totalling \$46.8 million from the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund (<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/ANN-811141128-PC8>). The Canadian government created the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund in recognition of the generous contributions made by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities to help the peoples affected by the floods. Canada's support for flood victims in Pakistan includes a government contribution of \$25 million and the \$46.8 million Pakistan Flood Relief Fund and totals \$71.8 million.

Pakistan is one of CIDA's countries of focus (<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/JUD-51895926-JEP>). Canada's development partnership with Pakistan stretches back more than 60 years. The program is centered on education, with an emphasis on teacher training, and women's livelihoods. CIDA's bilateral assistance has, amongst other results, supported the training of more than 200,000 public school teachers, and has provided more than 6,000 women with entrepreneurship and business management skills. In addition, CIDA is helping communities in northern Pakistan to rebuild after the devastating South Asia earthquake of 2005.

# Canada News



## CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PRIME MINISTER HARPER ANNOUNCES EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

TORONTO – Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently announced support for Pathways to Education Canada, a charitable organization dedicated to reducing poverty and its effects by increasing access to post-secondary education for disadvantaged youth. He was joined by Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development; Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance; and Senator Don Meredith. This investment will help young Canadians achieve academic success while gaining vital life skills and knowledge.

“Our Government is investing in inner-city youth, to help them get a good education and build better futures,” said Prime Minister Harper. “Today’s investment is helping Pathways to Education Canada expand their programming to new communities across the country which will help youth achieve their dreams.”

Launched in 2001 by the Regent Park Community Health Centre in Toronto, Pathways to Education provides tutoring, mentoring and financial assistance, which helps students tackle challenges both inside and outside the classroom. The program – which currently operates in 11 communities in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba – distin-

guishes itself by the fact that it relies on volunteers to engage with youth and serve as mentors and role models.

Since its introduction, Pathways has established a track-record of reducing high school drop-out rates and increasing student enrolment at inner-city high schools. Graduates of the program – who have now completed university and are giving back to their communities – are a testament to the program’s success.

Approximately 3,400 students currently receive support from Pathways to Education Canada while more than 700 more have graduated from its programs.

The Harper Government’s support will enable Pathways to strengthen its existing initiatives and reach out to more students in other cities.

### PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION CANADA

Pathways to Education Canada is a charitable organization dedicated to reducing poverty and its effects by lowering the high school drop-out rate and increasing access to post-secondary education for disadvantaged youth.

Working closely with community-based partners, Pathways provides tutoring, mentoring, financial assistance and advocacy in order to ensure that young people successfully complete high school,



continue on to post-secondary programs and participate in the jobs of today and tomorrow. The program distinguishes itself by the fact that it relies on volunteers to engage with youth, and serve as mentors and role models.

The Harper Government’s funding – in the amount of \$20 million over four years – delivers on a Budget 2010 commitment and will enable Pathways to Education Canada to strengthen its existing programming and reach out to more students by expanding its activities to other cities.

The Pathways to Education program was first launched in 2001 by the Regent Park Community Health Centre in

Toronto. Since then, the community has witnessed a dramatic rise in the number of students attending – and completing – post-secondary education. Most notably, the high school drop-out rate among program participants has fallen from 56 per cent to under 10 per cent.

In the decade since its introduction, Pathways’ award-winning program has also established a track-record of reducing high school drop-out rates and increasing student enrolment at inner-city high schools in other provinces. It now operates in ten additional communities, including seven in Ontario, (Lawrence Heights, Rexdale, Scarborough, Hamilton, Kitchener, Ottawa, Kingston), as well as one in Quebec (Verdun), Nova Scotia (Halifax) and Manitoba (Winnipeg).

Approximately 3,400 students currently receive support from Pathways to Education Canada while more than 700 have graduated from its programs.

The Harper Government believes that education is key to helping Canada’s youth build better and stronger futures for themselves and their communities. Support for this program is part of our Government’s ongoing efforts to create the best-educated, most skilled and most flexible labour force in the world.

## Working Hand in Hand with Not-For-Profits

### McGuinty Government Releases Report to Strengthen Relationship

Ontario has released a new strategy to strengthen its partnership with the not-for-profit (NFP) sector, such as charity, sport and community organizations that support over one million jobs and contribute close to \$50 billion to the province’s economy.

The Partnership Project report provides a concrete plan on ways the government can be more responsive, supportive and accessible to NFP organizations.

To help guide the strategy, the Partnership Advisory Group is being created and will include leaders from the NFP, public and private sectors. And the Partnership Project Office will also be established to help renew, streamline, and modernize the government’s relationship with community organizations and provide better coordination.

NFP organizations are vital to families’ well being and local economies. Modernizing the government’s relationship with this sector is an important part of the Open Ontario plan to create jobs and strengthen our economy.

“Not-for-profit organizations help

drive Ontario’s economy, contributing close to \$50 billion and over one million jobs across the province. They also provide important services to families in our communities. This strategy will help build a stronger partnership between this sector and government, so that we can focus on building stronger communities.”

– **Dr. Eric Hoskins**

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

“For 29 years the Ontario Trillium Foundation has helped not-for-profit and charitable organizations build healthy and vibrant communities. The recommendations of the Partnership Project reflect the important contribution of those organizations and are critical to building a strong third sector in Ontario.”

– **Helen Burstyn**

Ontario Trillium Foundation Board Chair

“The Ontario Nonprofit Network applauds the work of the Partnership Project. Not-for-profit organizations have



worked hard to have their voices heard, and it is clear that Minister Eric Hoskins and Helen Burstyn have listened. We look forward to working in partnership with the Government of Ontario as it implements the report’s recommendations and continues to engage in an ongoing and meaningful dialogue with the sector.”

– **Tonya Surman**

Executive Director, Centre for Social

Innovation and Co-Chair, Ontario Nonprofit Network

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The Partnership Project report was developed through extensive consultation with more than 600 representatives of the NFP sector in communities across the province and online.

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# Arts and Forms



## Natyasastra – Series

Sage Bharata's Natyasastra is an encyclopedic work on the theatre art. It is easily the oldest extant treatise on the subject in the world. It consists of thirty-six chapters written in the Samskrita language. From the style of presentation, as well as the syntax, it resembles Vedic literature, and it is rightly called the Fifth Veda. The work is referred to as the Natya Veda and Natyasastra.

### Contents of Natyasastra:

The thirty-six chapters are in the form of questions asked by Atreya and other sage for which Bharata Muni gives the answers. It includes interesting and symbolic stories regarding the origin of Natya and some of its elements. The subjects it includes have an amazing variety, which are arranged with some differences in their alignment in different editions. The contents included are as follows.

1. Mythical origin of Natya; Brahma presenting the Natya Veda to Bharata.
2. Theatre construction - dimension and architectural details.
3. Installation of deities on the stage and auditorium and the yajnas connected with it.
4. Siva's suggestion to include dance elements in dramas and detailed description of the basic units of dance called "Karanas" as well as their combination.
5. Preliminaries of the play, and their Yajna character.
6. A summary of the most important terms in the Sastra followed by a detailed description of Rasa or aesthetic experience.
7. Exposition of the Bhava or the various psychological states of mind.
8. Eight to Thirteen – Physical expression and analysis of major and minor limbs in the body, and their possible movements based on laws of symmetry, proportion and purpose.

14. The conventions on the stage with regard to zones and also the costumes, manners and tastes of people of various regions of Bharata Varsa.

15. Fifteen to Nineteen - Vacikabhinaya or verbal expression including Sanskrit grammar, prosody, metre, recitation, intonation, etc.

20. Ten major types of plays, which are religious and secular in nature.

21. Plot or structure of the plays.

22. Vrtti or styles in production.

23. Aharya or the external elements such as make-up, costumes and accessories.

24. Harmonious blend in the use of all the elements of expression.

25. Courtesans and their qualifications.

26. Portrayal of varied objects and situations.

27. Siddhi or attainment - its classification and results.

28. Theory of music.

29. Stringed instruments and classification of orchestra.

30. Wind instruments

31. Percussion instruments

32. Musical forms

33. Modes of playing drums

34. Characterization.

35. Distribution of roles in a play and the members of a drama troupe.

36. Mythological account of the descent of drama to earth.

From the above, one can understand the multi-dimensional character of the Natyasastra and the scope it offers to study it from various points of view.

### The Purpose of Natya

The potentiality of Natya explained by Bharata must be constantly in the mind of producers and the actors of Natya. Bharata clearly indicates how this art must cater to the tastes and needs of different types of people. In



chapter 27 he talks about the disposition of different spectators. He says, "Young people are pleased in seeing the presentation of love, the learned a reference to some (religious or philosophical) doctrine, the seekers of money (topics of wealth, and the passionless, topics of liberation. Heroic persons are always pleased with the odious of the terrible sentiments, the combats and battles, and the old people in tales of virtue and Puranic legends, and the common women, children and the murka (uncultured) are delighted with Cosmic situations, remarkable costumes and make-up (\*9). In an earlier chapter, he also cautions the actors to maintain decency and decorum in the presentation. For example, for erotic Rasa, the dramatic scene is to be represented through proper song

and dance. In spite of the necessity to build up the Rasa factor Bharata forbids certain actions on the stage. For example, if there is need to portray lying alone

or with anyone, no kiss or embrace or other acts should be presented on the stage. As a Natya is to be witnessed by the father and son, the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law all sitting together, these acts should be carefully avoided. (\*10)

In the words of Brahma, Bharata says the Natya, "teaches duty to those who go against it, love to those who desire it, chastises those who are ill-bred or unruly, promotes self restraint in those who are in disciplined, gives courage to cowards, enthusiasm to the valourous, enlightenment to those of poor intellect and gives wisdom to the learned. It gives diversion to kings and solace to those with a sorrowful mind, wealth to those desirous of it and composure to a mind of conflicts" Bharata categorically says that "there is no wise maxim, no learning, no art or craft, no device, no action, that is not found in Natya". Brahma is said to have devised Natya, which is a confluence of all departments of knowledge.

**Artistic Director  
Malarvilly Janagan**



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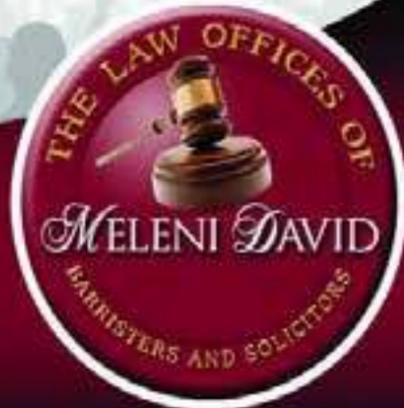


**ICC Cricket World Cup  
2011**

Match	Date	Teams	Venue
1	19 Feb	India vs Bangladesh	Dhaka
2	20 Feb	New Zealand vs Kenya	Chennai
3	20 Feb	Sri Lanka vs Canada	Hambantota
4	21 Feb	Australia vs Zimbabwe	Ahmedabad
5	22 Feb	England vs Netherlands	Nagpur
6	23 Feb	Pakistan vs Kenya	Hambantota
7	24 Feb	South Africa vs West Indies	New Delhi
8	25 Feb	Australia vs New Zealand	Nagpur
9	25 Feb	Bangladesh vs Ireland	Dhaka
10	26 Feb	Sri Lanka vs Pakistan	Colombo
11	27 Feb	India vs England	Kolkata*
12	28 Feb	West Indies vs Netherlands	New Delhi
13	28 Feb	Zimbabwe vs Canada	Nagpur
14	1 Mar	Sri Lanka vs Kenya	Colombo
15	2 Mar	England vs Ireland	Bangalore
16	3 Mar	South Africa vs Netherlands	Mohali
17	3 Mar	Pakistan vs Canada	Colombo
18	4 Mar	New Zealand vs Zimbabwe	Ahmedabad
19	4 Mar	Bangladesh vs West Indies	Dhaka
20	5 Mar	Sri Lanka vs Australia	Colombo
21	6 Mar	India vs Ireland	Bangalore
22	6 Mar	England vs South Africa	Chennai
23	7 Mar	Kenya vs Canada	New Delhi
24	8 Mar	Pakistan vs New Zealand	Pallekelle
25	9 Mar	India vs Netherlands	New Delhi
26	10 Mar	Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe	Pallekelle
27	11 Mar	West Indies vs Ireland	Mohali
28	11 Mar	Bangladesh vs England	Chittagong
29	12 Mar	India vs South Africa	Nagpur
30	13 Mar	New Zealand vs Canada	Mumbai
31	13 Mar	Australia vs Kenya	Bangalore
32	14 Mar	Pakistan vs Zimbabwe	Pallekelle
33	14 Mar	Bangladesh vs Netherlands	Chittagong
34	15 Mar	South Africa vs Ireland	Kolkata
35	16 Mar	Australia vs Canada	Bangalore
36	17 Mar	England vs West Indies	Chennai
37	18 Mar	Sri Lanka vs New Zealand	Mumbai
38	18 Mar	Ireland vs Netherlands	Kolkata
39	19 Mar	Australia vs Pakistan	Colombo
40	19 Mar	Bangladesh vs South Africa	Dhaka
41	20 Mar	Zimbabwe vs Kenya	Kolkata
42	20 Mar	India vs West Indies	Chennai
43	23 Mar	First Quarterfinal	Dhaka
44	24 Mar	Second Quarterfinal	Colombo
45	25 Mar	Third Quarterfinal	Dhaka
46	26 Mar	Fourth Quarterfinal	Ahmedabad
47	29 Mar	First Semifinal	Colombo
48	30 Mar	Second Semifinal	Mohali
49	02 Apr	FINAL	Mumbai

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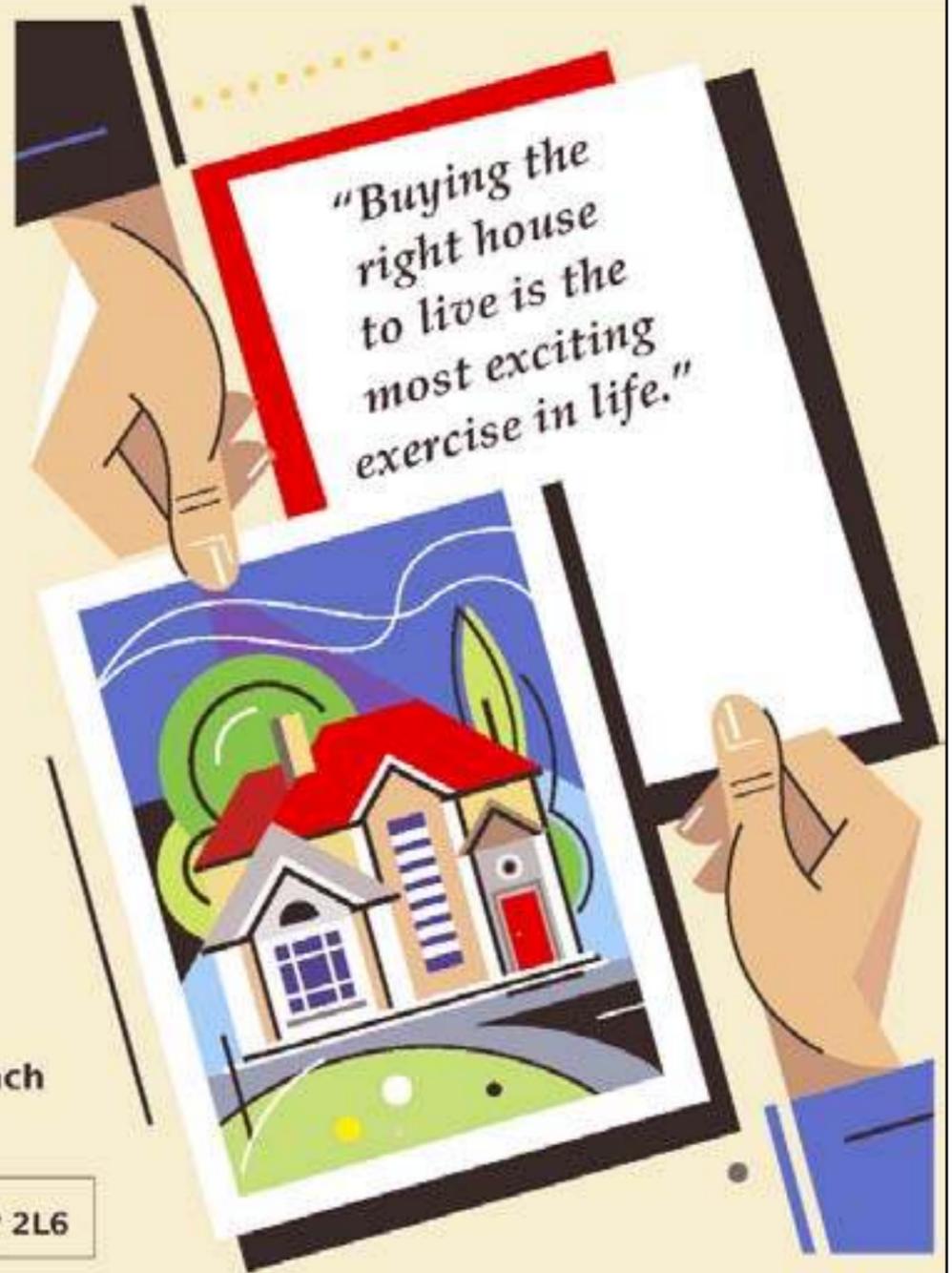
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## Exceptional care by physician in Intensive Care Unit leads to donation

When Ngoc Quang Diep passed away at The Scarborough Hospital's Birchmount campus last October, her son was so moved by the exceptional care she received by the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) staff and Dr. Subarna Thirugnanam that he donated \$2,000 to the hospital.

"Your attentiveness and empathy at all hours of the day were beyond anything we could possibly ask for," writes Honghi Tran. "We are greatly indebted to your relentless effort to keep her comfortable, and to your patience with our large family, allowing us to visit her freely in those last, precious hours of her life."

**"I am grateful to the family. Once you complete training, there are no teachers to evaluate your work; it's up to patients and their families,"**  
- Dr. Thirugnanam

For the newly graduated physician, the family's acknowledgement is appreciated.

"I am grateful to the family. Once you complete training, there are no teachers to evaluate your work; it's up to patients and their families," says Dr. Thirugnanam, who recently completed her residency and joined The Scarborough Hospital last April. "One of the things I find most rewarding about my job is the opportunity to discuss end of life issues with terminally ill patients and to provide them with a peaceful and dignified death." "Some cases are challenging, and in those circumstances, I rely on my colleagues and other healthcare

practitioners to ensure that patients get the best possible care. It would be wonderful if we could cure everyone, but many times, despite your best efforts, things are out of your hands. This is especially true in the setting of the ICU and it is a reality that you have to accept in order to be able to function effectively."

Born in Zambia of Sri Lankan parents, Dr. Thirugnanam lived in Singapore, Malaysia and Zimbabwe before her family settled in Canada when she was 16 years old.

"I always liked human physiology and science, and initially I thought I'd do my PhD and become a researcher. But after one summer working in a lab, I decided I'd had enough!" she says. "My mentor at McMaster University and my parents encouraged me to explore the field of medicine and when I did, I knew it was the right career choice for me."

Specializing in Internal Medicine and Critical Care Medicine, Dr. Thirugnanam works in the ICU at both the General and Birchmount campuses.

"I find ICU gives me a combination of doing some practical procedures as well as speaking with patients and families," she adds. "The ICU looks after the most acutely ill patients in the hospital, and consequently, they are usually the most interesting and complex patients. You never know what comes through the doors; you're always on your toes."

"I am happy to be working at The Scarborough Hospital. I was a junior volunteer at both campuses, so I've made it full circle," says Dr. Thirugnanam, who recently gave birth to her second child. "I enjoy the patient population here and I



Christopher Tran and Dr. Subarna Thirugnanam hold a portrait of Christopher's late grandmother, Ngoc Quang Diep.

have seen some remarkable cases. The staff members, and in particular, the ICU staff, have been very welcoming and I feel lucky to be working with such wonderful people."

As she embarks on the start of her career, Dr. Thirugnanam remains philosophical about her chosen profession.

"Medicine is an evolving field, and there are always new things coming up," she says. "I want to be up-to-date. I want to practice good medicine. I want to keep the humanity and compassion in medicine. I think knowing your limits is an important part of medicine, and if you become over-confident, then you can become dangerous."

"I hope that my knowledge and skills evolve through experience, but I also hope that I am able to achieve a good balance between self-confidence and humility."

## It's Time to Talk draws community out for eldercare forum

TSH speakers' series spotlights important healthcare issues



Lawrence Avenue East, TSH presented Tough Transitions: Aging, Families and Eldercare, a free forum dedicated to making community members aware of their healthcare options and community services. The forum was the first of TSH's new speakers' series It's Time to Talk. Its focus was to help community members find resources available in the community, understand what a substitute decision-maker is, plan a geriatric future and make eldercare arrangements.

### About TSH:

*Situated in the most diverse community in Canada, The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) delivers innovative, high-quality patient care at two hospital campuses and six satellite sites. The Scarborough Hospital is a regional centre for dialysis and is renowned for its sexual assault care centre and mental health programs. Affiliated with the University of Toronto, TSH is also a referral centre for vascular surgery, pacemakers and corneal implants.*

Every day, nurses, social workers and staff at The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) help elderly patients and family members who are faced with challenging, life-altering decisions. On February 9th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at The Scarborough Hospital, General campus, Auditorium, 3050



There were many participants and the following made valuable points; Pauline Chan, CTV News Health Reporter: Keynote Address and Moderator, Stephen Smith, Vice Chair, TSH Board of Directors: Town Hall update, Moji Adurogbanga, TSH Ethicist: Are You Telling Me What to Do? Consent, Capacity & Substitute Decision-Makers, Debbie Driver, RN(EC), TSH Nurse Practitioner: Having the Conversation: Advanced Care Planning with Your Loved Ones, Scott Wisner, MSW and Carol Anne Stetina, MSW, TSH Social Workers: Can We Talk? Recognizing It's Time to Discuss and Plan Your Geriatric Future, Sandra Armstrong, RN, Interim Senior Manager for CE-CCAC: Support Throughout Your Journey.

## Patient wins Toyota Camry in hospital raffle

One car, over 650,000 winners. While David Peters drives away in a brand new 2011 Toyota Camry, each and every Scarborough resident will benefit from new equipment purchased from proceeds of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation's Win a Car Charity Raffle. Thanks to a partnership with local businesses Scarborough Toyota, Toyota on the Park and Lexus on the Park, funds will go towards the purchase of two new CT Scanners for The Scarborough Hospital. In just two months, the hospital's Volunteer Services sold 3,187 tickets.



Foundation VP Guy Bonnell, winner David Peters, his wife Lilouti, George Chau from Scarborough Toyota, TSH Volunteer Alfredo Rodriguez, and Gerry MacDonald, General Manager, Scarborough Toyota and Toyota on the Park



Winner David Peters gets the keys from Gerry MacDonald, General Manager, Scarborough Toyota and Toyota on the Park



# Special Feature

## Sri Lanka flags rising oil prices as the only risk to economic growth

Sri Lanka has flagged rising oil prices as the only risk to economic growth - the central bank forecasts at a record 8.5 percent this year, a threat now made real by crises in Libya and elsewhere in North Africa and the Middle East.

In 'Fact Box' of key economic trends in Sri Lanka, C. Bryson Hull of Reuters in a report on March 1st indicated the following summary of key risks to watch in the country:

### FOOD AND FUEL PRICES

Although official numbers for inflation are low, there is almost universal agreement that food prices are among the highest in recent memory, prompted by the global rise in commodity prices, to which the island nation is acutely sensitive. Although there have been complaints about the cost of living since late 2009, none of it has bubbled up into serious agitation. Sri Lanka has no real history of food riots, but the opposition has threatened that it could become a possibility.

On top of that, the government has said that at least 35 percent of the rice crop was destroyed by two rounds of flooding in January and February, but assured that it has adequate reserve stocks to prevent

any supply shocks.

Added to that is the spike in oil prices after the Middle East-North Africa unrest.

The government is also removing fuel subsidies paid to the state-run power generation company, which will inevitably mean even higher power prices for consumers.

The government has structured billing so most of Sri Lanka's poor and middle class will be spared big increases, but that has infuriated industrial leaders who see their costs rising.

What to watch:

-- Any signs of organised political agitation over food prices, and the government's response. The central bank has said it may intervene if supply-side inflation spikes

-- Further military involvement in food distribution, or any application of subsidies which could affect the government's plans to tame its budget deficit gap under a \$2.6 billion International Monetary Fund loan programme.

-- Impact on industrial output, and if the government will give in to demands made by factory owners and industrialists that it cushion the shock.

### POLICY RESPONSES

The flooding came soon after the central bank surprised almost everyone by cutting its monetary policy rates even further and pushing commercial banks to cut the interest rate spread.

Even though the government says it expects inflation to remain between 4 percent and 6 percent this year, many economists and analysts believe it will rise further than that, especially after the rice crop was damaged and oil leapt Libya's crisis.

The government will change its inflation basket again this year, a move the main opposition United National Party (UNP) says is a ruse to artificially lower inflation numbers and cool rising discontent over spiralling food prices. Crucially, both the energy and food portions of the basket are expected to be lowered.

What to watch:

-- Any shift in the central bank's monetary policy toward tightening.

-- Signs that external investors or analysts are beginning to question official numbers, which could erode confidence Sri Lanka's government has worked hard to build since the end of its three-decade separatist war in May 2009.

### INVESTOR PERCEPTIONS

Sri Lanka's 2011 budget, released in November, was full of tax and regulatory changes designed to make it easier for offshore investors, while doing away with the

blanket tax holidays that existed under the old investment promotion scheme.

Foreign direct investment fell in 2010, despite post-war economic optimism and sound macroeconomic fundamentals, plus some big-ticket tourism deals.

The IMF forecasts it will rise to \$725 million this year.

Some analysts believe the government has been inconsistent in its investment promotion message and too slow to give assurances that investments will not be subject to political interference. That has kept wealthy local investors wary of committing capital in the post-war environment.

Most foreign investors have stuck with treasury securities. Even the booming Colombo Stock Exchange has seen foreign outflows since the end of the war in May 2009, partially fuelled by lack of confidence in regulatory oversight.

What to watch:

-- More big investments by private foreign companies, a clear sign of growing investor comfort.

-- The pace and scope of bilateral investments from countries such as India and China, which are competing for influence. -- The enforcement of new regulations in capital markets, and whether that prompts more foreign inflows.

(Editing by Daniel Magnowski)

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# The Scarborough Hospital

## THE SCARBOROUGH HOSPITAL WELL REPRESENTED ON SCARBOROUGH WALK OF FAME

Three of The Scarborough Hospital's own are being recognized as leaders in their fields and will be honoured with stars on the Scarborough Walk of Fame.

Board member Vicki Bismilla, Chief of Laboratory Medicine Dr. Dhun Noria and former Chief of Ophthalmology Dr. Harold Stein will be inducted into the Scarborough

Walk of Fame at public ceremony on May 12.

Every "star" on the Walk of Fame was born in or spent their formative years in Scarborough and is accomplished in their field. Their talents and accomplishments have deeply enriched the community. All are welcome to attend the public induction ceremony on May 12 at 2 p.m. at the Scarborough Town Centre. An induction

dinner will follow at the Delta Toronto East Hotel at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$95.

To attend the dinner, register at [scarboroughwalkoffame@gmail.com](mailto:scarboroughwalkoffame@gmail.com).

For more information, visit [www.scarboroughwalkoffame.com](http://www.scarboroughwalkoffame.com). Registration or tickets are not required for the free induction ceremony at The Scarborough Town Centre.



## \$3.1 million anonymous donation made to The Scarborough Hospital



From left, RN Thesia Thykootathil, Patient Care Director Tom Jackson, Melissa Windrim, MRT (R), Reza Bakhtiari, MRT (R), and radiologist Dr. Steven Liu will be among the staff members to soon benefit from the purchase of two new CT Scanners at The Scarborough Hospital—a goal now closer to reality following an anonymous \$3.1 million gift to the Foundation.

A \$3.1 million donation – the largest ever made to The Scarborough Hospital – means better diagnosis and treatment of disease, injury and illness for patients of the Scarborough community.

The anonymous donation supports the purchase of several pieces of urgently needed medical equipment. A portion of the generous gift completes the effort to raise enough money for two CT Scanners – one each for the General and Birchmount campuses – valued at \$1.3 million each.

The donation was made by a family whose members have been patients at The Scarborough Hospital over several years.

"We have always been pleased with the exceptional care at The Scarborough Hospital. The doctors and nurses are highly skilled and provide compassionate care," says the donor. "We want the doctors, nurses and technologists to have the best medical equipment to provide the best care for their patients."

Last year, The Scarborough Hospital Foundation committed to raising \$2.6 million to purchase two new CT Scanners to replace the dated machines. Physicians, hospital staff and members of the community made substantial donations and the hospital's Volunteer

Services ran a successful car raffle with proceeds going toward the much needed scanners.

"The donor asked that the gift be used to purchase what the hospital needed most to best serve our patients," explains Michael Mazza, President and CEO of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation. "The hospital determines what pieces of equipment are the highest priorities and we support the hospital by raising funds to help the hospital make those purchases."

The CT Scanners are used by almost every department in the hospital and run 24 hours a day. Scans can quickly identify injuries in trauma patients who come to the emergency department. CT Scanners are used to guide biopsies, assess the results of surgery, diagnose and evaluate treatment for heart disease and diagnose and identify the severity of cancer.

"I am extremely grateful to this donor as well as all those who contributed to the CT Scanner campaign. Every gift helps save lives," says Michael.

The anonymous donation will contribute to the purchase of other much needed equipment like incubators for the Maternal Newborn Department and ventilators for the Intensive Care Units.

## Patient helps pioneer nocturnal dialysis at hospital

"It's basically having your dialysis treatment while you sleep through it," explains Terri Bradshaw, the first patient in The Scarborough Hospital's Home Hemodialysis Program to go on nocturnal hemodialysis.

Terri, who recently reached a milestone with her 500th home hemodialysis treatment, was quick to volunteer when the hospital decided to offer nocturnal hemodialysis. The treatment allows patients to dialyze as they sleep, which means a longer, slower, gentler dialysis. It also offers patients more choices and enhances their quality of life.

"The biggest thing I noticed is that it frees up my time during the day because while the conventional treatment is 3-1/2 hours, it's really more like 5-1/2 hours once you set it up, do the treatment, then finish. That's really a whole day," Terri adds. "I also feel much better and my blood work results are significantly improved."

So now, Terri sets up the machine before going to bed, sleeps through the treatment, then just unhooks and cleans the machine in the morning.

Hemodialysis is a method for removing wastes and water from the blood and is a life-saving treatment for patients who have suffered from kidney failure. The

Scarborough Hospital has the largest Regional Nephrology Program in North America.

Each patient is different, and in Terri's case, she dialyzes four nights a week. A few modifications were made to her dialysis machine, which is located next to her bed ("It's part of my décor"), such as a change in the flow rate and a lower pump speed. There are also a couple of alarms that will wake her if there's a water or blood leak.

Meanwhile, Nephrologist Dr. Janet Roscoe is "ecstatic" that The Scarborough Hospital now offers nocturnal home hemodialysis, and is "pleased to be adding more flexibility, choice and personalized treatment options for our patients."

"Nocturnal hemodialysis has had very good outcomes at other centres; it has been associated with better phosphorous control, less restrictive diets and a higher quality of life," Dr. Roscoe says. "We are not the first hospital to offer it, but it bodes well for our program. We are hoping to offer it to more home hemo patients."

There are extra costs associated with using the dialysis machine more often – probably the only 'downside' Dr. Roscoe can point to with nocturnal dialysis. "There's also a perception that you need to have a more



Terri Bradshaw is the first patient from The Scarborough Hospital's Home Hemodialysis Program to go on nocturnal hemodialysis.

upscale home environment and that some of our patients may not have adequate space," Dr. Roscoe adds. "But Terri lives in an apartment, she's doing very well on home hemo, so others can, too." While Dr. Roscoe

and Terri's primary nurse, Christine Bertrand-Clarke, follow her progress very closely, she enjoys being a 'pioneer' for The Scarborough Hospital. "I feel this is the way that I'll go in the future. It's working well for me so far."



# The Scarborough Hospital

## Nurse's unique role helps ease the pain

When Pain Specialist Angela Harrinanan is called to manage a patient's pain, she undertakes a complete assessment, reviews medications, asks questions and speaks with family. It is important that she look at the patient as a whole.

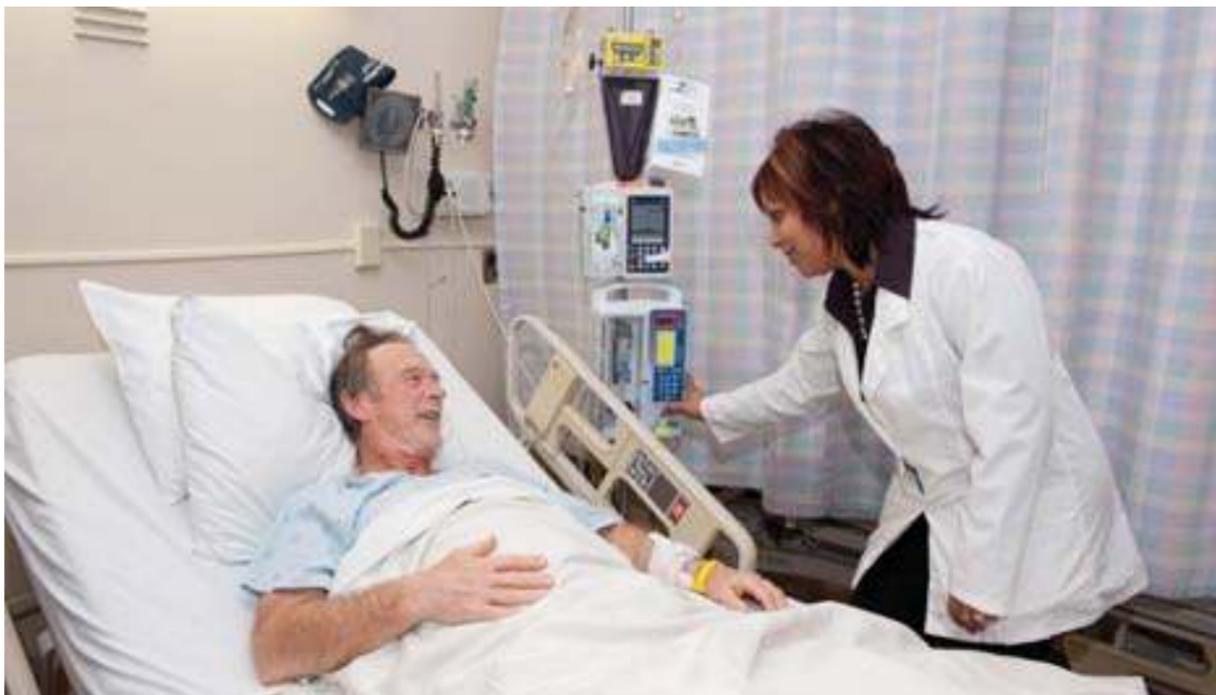
At The Scarborough Hospital, situated in the most diverse community in Canada, Angela believes understanding a patient's cultural background is also key in determining the best course of care.

"Different cultures express and perceive pain differently, and we want to deliver culturally competent patient care," explains Angela, a Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner and The Scarborough Hospital's only Nurse Pain Specialist. "I see patients as a central part of their care. I want them to be fully informed and participate in the decisions about their care. This is their body, their care, and I will advocate for them."

In a community where more than half the population speaks a primary language other than English or French, The Scarborough Hospital's vision is to be recognized as Canada's leader in providing the best healthcare for a global community.

For Angela, that means having materials in multiple languages.

"Having a tool that addresses pain in a patient's first language allows for better communication and a better



Pain Specialist Angela Harrinanan follows up with patient Bunny Ryan, who says Angela's care "made a world of difference."

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understanding of the patient's pain level," explains Angela, who sees anywhere from 20 to 40 patients a day.

Angela enhanced the pain assessment tool commonly used in hospitals by adding other languages. The series of facial expressions that sit on a scale of 1 to 10 to help healthcare professionals and patients communicate now includes text in Chinese and Tamil – in addition to English – covering the community's most commonly spoken languages. She also had the tool made into posters for patient rooms, and badges for nurses to carry and use at the bedside.

"Too often, patients who have a lot of pain are misunderstood because of the language barrier. I want to ensure all pain is managed properly regardless of language or culture," says Angela.

The hospital also has full-time interpreters onsite who speak Tamil, Cantonese and Mandarin, in addition to a diverse staff who speak over 48 languages and can be called upon to assist with translation.

In an effort to better manage pain in all units in the hospital, Angela recently recruited "pain champions," nurses with an interest in pain management and the ability to interact and lead change in their areas of practice. The pain champions attended a workshop led by Angela, who covered topics like attitudes toward pain, ways to overcome negative attitudes, non-pharmacological approaches to pain management, physiology of pain, and the role of pain champions in promoting and developing pain management strategies in their areas of practice.

With Angela's expertise and knowledge and the multi-language pain tool, the pain champions are now able to lead appropriate pain assessment to help minimize a patient's pain and keep it from elevating.

As a pain specialist, she can make some modifications to medications and makes recommendations to physicians about medication changes. Angela plays a key role in educating patients, nurses and doctors.

"I can bring research to the bedside. I'm constantly learning, gaining more knowledge and insight so that I can make sure we are doing the best we can for our patients," says Angela, who recently finished two Masters Degrees at the University of Toronto, one in Nursing, the other in Nursing Practitioner.

Angela also works closely with the department of anaesthesiology, where she is a valued member of the team.

"Angela performs a critical role in the hospital, both for the Acute Pain Service and as co-chair of the Pain Committee that looks at pain throughout the hospital," says Dr. Winston Wong, Chief of Anesthesiology. "For surgical patients, fear of post-operative pain is a recurring issue and good post-operative pain control, as provided by Angela, improves patient satisfaction as well as contributes to better patient outcomes."

# Canada News



## Digital Access to Neurosurgeons Around The Clock

### E-health Remote Consultation System has saved Taxpayers \$50 Million Since 2009

Trauma patients across Ontario now have access to a neurosurgeon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Emergency Neuro Image Transfer System (ENITS) is a centralized e-Health online consultation system that makes remote neuro-consultations easier, faster and more accurate. Hospitals across the province send head scan images to ENITS where they can be accessed and reviewed by neurosurgeons anytime, anywhere.

This process previously operated on a patchwork system of phone calls - meaning patients often needed to be transferred to be seen in person for a consultation. ENITS now significantly reduces the need for patients to travel within and out-of-province, or out-of-country for treatment. Since January 2009, 1,558 patient transfers have been avoided, sav-

ing more than \$50 million.

St. Joseph's Health Centre is the 100th and final acute care centre to join ENITS and access head scans. Seventy neurosurgeons at 13 neurosurgical centres provide online consultations to acute care centres through this system.

As part of the Open Ontario plan, the government is committed to finding savings that can be used toward the health care on which Ontario families rely and providing more access to these services, while improving quality and accountability for patients.

"This is a significant milestone for improving patient care in Ontario through eHealth. It means that people right across the province will benefit from neurological specialists regardless of geography. It also means that unnecessary transfers will be avoided, sparing

families needless travel, expense and worry."

- **Deb Matthews**

Health and Long-Term Care Minister  
"ENITS provides the critical infrastructure physicians require to eliminate unnecessary transfers by connecting them to specialized neurosurgeons across the province in real time. This is a perfect example of how collaboration within the health care system is changing the way patients receive care."

- **Greg A. Reed**

President and CEO of eHealth Ontario

"Hospitals will now be able to offer patients specialized consultations with on-call neurosurgeons across the province to determine whether or not patient transfer is required. The consultation process can be life-saving for head injured patients requiring urgent neurosurgical attention, and can facilitate the speed with which they are transferred to a specialized neurosurgical center."

- **Dr. James Rutka**

Neurosurgeon, The Hospital for Sick Children

The average cost of each out-of-country neurosurgery transfer is between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

The province is reducing the amount of paper and office equipment it uses, which is expected to save \$15.6 million over the next two years.

Better use of technology and stricter travel rules helped reduce government expenses by \$30 million last year, and is expected to save an additional \$10 million this year.

The province recently announced the merger of two agencies - Infrastructure

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"For our patients, ENITS means better and faster access to the right care at the right time and in the right place. This investment in technology means that our patients can access neurological expertise in their Community Teaching Hospital while reducing the need for unnecessary travel. The value to the patient and the system is significant."

- **Carolyn Baker**

President and CEO, St. Joseph's Health Centre

Ontario and Ontario Realty Corporation - which will save Ontarians about \$5 million annually.

Since January 2009 2,404 head trauma neurosurgical cases have been referred to ENITS.

e-Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care combined have provided \$2.3 million to support the development and adoption of ENITS.

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## S. Ponnuthurai wins Iyal Virudhu Award for 2010

Iyal Virudhu for 2010, is being awarded to S.Ponnuthurai, a pioneer Sri Lankan writer of considerable repute.

This annual award is given by the Tamil Literary Garden of Toronto for a distinguished person, irrespective of country of origin, who has over a period of several years, made a significant contribution to the growth or study of Tamil language and literature during his or her career. This award consists of a plaque and a cash prize of C\$1500.00.

The earlier recipients of this award include Sunthara Ramaswamy, K.Kanesh, Venkat Swaminathan, Pathmabha Iyer, George L Hart, Tarcicius, Lakshmi Holstrom, Ambai, Iravatham Mahadevan and Kovai Gnani.

S.Ponnuthurai, popularly known as Es Po, was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka in 1932 and is a B.A. graduate of St. Christian College of Chennai. He was a teacher by profession and taught in Sri Lanka and Nigeria and is retired and is fully dedicated to writing and publications.

S.Ponnuthurai has been writing in Tamil over a period of sixty years and is an interesting orator and a conversationalist.

His first novel Thee (Fire) in 1960 deals with homosexuality. While it was regarded a ground breaking piece by critics, but some pundits and purists demanded it be censored. His collection of short stories called Veedu (Home) is an experiment in various colloquial forms spoken in various parts of Sri Lanka. His second novel 'Sadanku' (Ritual) is an real depic-



tion of lower middle-class clerical servant's dual life that was partly spent in a boarding house in Colombo and on weekends in Jaffna with his family. The diction and colloquial speech of Jaffna in the novel is unique. His reminiscences of city of Jaffna in 1940s and 50s is clearly brought out in his Nanavidai Thoithal (Immersed in Consciousness). This non-fiction piece is a social and cultural history of Jaffna of that period worthy of literary value.

His interviews and articles are collected in Ini Oru Vithi Seivom (Let Us Make a Resolution). He has produced more than twenty five books, including short story collections, novels and translations. His recent novel 'Mayini' (Illusionist) deals with the atrocities done by the Indian Peace Keeping Forces in Northeast of Sri Lanka and the novel quickly became contentious.

Besides these fiction and non-fiction writings, he has penned his controversial autobiography in more than 2000 pages.

The award ceremony will take place in Toronto in June.

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# Around the world



## Mahashivaratri observed at Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo Sri Lanka



Vedic chanting and worship of Lord Shiva

Full of love, with melting heart, tears brimming, one who chants leading them to the Glorious path

Mahashivaratri falls on the fourteenth day of the lunar fortnight.

Mahashivaratri is considered the most important day for the devotees of Lord Shiva, and there are special celebrations at Sivan temples.

Mahashivaratri day was observed on March 2nd, 2011 at Ramakrishna Mission in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Vedic chanting and bhajans were held thorough out the night.

On this day of "great night of Lord Shiva" Ramakrishna Mission has explained the significance of:

Holy Five Syllables - Panchakshara Mantra Namah shivaaya. The core of the vedas

It is the core of the very famous chapter of vedas that stands in the middle of the Vedas - Rudra suktam.

This great mantra of veda samhita while hailing the God as the Lord of everything of the worlds, salutes the God as Namah shivaya cha shivataraya cha.

Meaning of the panchakshara mantra

The word shiva means auspiciousness and perfection. It refers to the God who is Perfect without any kind of dependency on anything external to make It complete. Naturally because of this self-perfection, It is completely blissful and ever auspicious. (All other auspicious things are in one way or the other dependent on the external circumstances etc.) The prefix namah is the mantra of salutation. The mantra namahshivaya salutationally invoke the Perfect God shiva.

The subtle meaning of this very holy mantra is:

namaH - not mine; shivaya - belongs to shiva. It is negating the ahankara (ego) and realizing everything to belong to Lord shiva.

Ways of chanting the panchakshari

While many mantras have restrictions as to when and how it can be chanted etc., there is no such restriction to the panchakshara mantra.

The great prodigy sambandhar says in thevaram, "When you sleep as well as when you do not sleep, think of the Holy Five Syllables with heartfelt of devotion ! This

is the mantra that terribly kicked out the death when chanted (by markandeya) with sincerity." Whoever you are, whenever be the time, whatever be the situation chant the Holy Five Syllables. There are no restrictions of color, creed, caste, gender or any other restrictions. All it requires is sincerity.

This mantra could be chanted as it is as panchakshara or could be chanted along with the pranava (aum) as shadakshara mantra (om namahshivaya).

In fact it is to be noted that pranava itself is panchakshara mantra (akara, ukara, makara, bindhu, natham).

Benefit of chanting the mantra

The thoughts make the person. The one who has the positive thoughts is happier and the one full of worries is the sad one. The

would be making things better, what needs to be said about the super-powered mantras that are rich in meaning as well as energy !

Given the fact that "we tend to become what we keep thinking about", when one chants the Sacred panchakshara that hails the God as Perfection and Auspicious, it would take one towards that Blissful Perfection. It takes to the union with the Supreme God. What else can be more rewarding ! Even the worst sinner would get corrected and get to the glorious states if chants this mantra piously.

The supreme mantra very simple to chant and comes with no restrictions attached in order for everybody to chant and get benefitted. With no inertia in mind chant and keep chanting as much as possible



Shrine at Ramakrishna Mission, Wellawatte, Sri Lanka on Mar 2, 2011

thoughts not only have effect at that moment but they definitely make impression on the personality of the individual, which could have a very long lasting impact. In this background while the good thoughts itself

namahshivaya. Full of love, with melting heart, tears brimming, one who chants leading them to the Glorious path, the name that is the real essence of the four vedas is the mantra namaccivaya.

## DMK-Congress split: BJP keeps a close watch

**New Delhi:** BJP on Saturday said it was closely watching the developments in the wake of DMK pulling out of the Congress-led UPA government and maintained this was "another blow" to the Manmohan Singh dispensation which has been facing serious charges of corruption.

"The Congress party which is already reeling under incessant and severe charges of corruption seemingly faces another blow with DMK threatening to part ways," BJP spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy told Press Trust of India News Agency (PTI).



He said BJP is keeping a "close watch" on the developments.

The main opposition has targeted the government in the past several months on corruption issues relating to Commonwealth Games projects, Adarsh Housing Society and the 2G Spectrum allocation scam.

DMK, which has 18 Lok Sabha MPs, on Saturday, Mar 5th withdrew support to the UPA government due to differences over seat-sharing

in the forthcoming Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu. It has stated that it will only give issue-based support to the government. - PTI

## Jayalithaa gives Vijayakanth's DMDK 41 seats



**Chennai:** Putting at rest all speculation, DMDK on Friday, March 4th evening signed a poll pact with the main opposition party AIADMK, led by Jayalithaa, to contest the Tamil Nadu assembly elections scheduled for April 13.

DMDK founder-president Vijayakanth along with party presidium chairman Panruti Ramchandran and Youth wing secretary Sudheesh called on Jayalithaa at her Poes Garden residence in Chennai, to cement the pact under which the party had been allotted 41 seats, a joint statement released to the media said.

On February 24, actor-politician Vijayakanth's DMDK had launched formal poll parleys with AIADMK to "oust DMK from power". Though backdoor negotiations were going on for some time, it was the first time that leaders of both parties had met to initiate poll talks.

Though Vijayakanth has been consistently holding that his alliance was only with the people and no other political party, the DMDK, however, opted for tie up under pressure from party cadres.

Founded in 2005 by Vijayakanth, DMDK made its debut in 2006 Assembly elections, with Vijayakanth winning from the Viruddhachalam seat, even as his party polled 8 per cent popular votes.

However, the party's performance in the subsequent by-polls and 2009 Lok Sabha polls were sub-par, even as it played spoilsport to AIADMK's prospects by splitting the votes. - PTI



# Op-Ed

## Violence still plagues my Sri Lankan homeland

By Emil Van Der Poorten

If anyone told me 10 years ago that I would be sitting down at a keyboard to produce a piece such as this, I would have said they were nuts.

I was born before the Second World War in Sri Lanka and lived the first 35 years of my life in an affluent, landowning family. As a consequence, I was saved the usual challenges that most citizens faced in a developing country in southern Asia

The imposition of land reform that severely restricted the extent of land I was permitted to own had a serious negative impact on my ability to earn a livelihood because the division of plantation land into a maximum of 50-acre parcels did not provide an economical agricultural unit. In addition, there was the clear and present danger of that 50 acres being appropriated by a government that saw anyone who had opposed it in the previous election as being fair game for victimization.

Off to Canada I went, with a wife, a young daughter and an infant son, at the end of 1973.

While the travails of integration into a new society and economy did present challenges, we had those challenges significantly cushioned by family already established in Ontario and by English being our first language. After two years in Toronto, we moved west; first to southern Alberta and then to the north-central part of the province.

When we first arrived in Ontario on a snowy December night, questions about culture shock were more than relevant, and they were asked. We answered, quite honestly then, that it wasn't an issue. A part of it "not being an issue" could well have been the fact that grappling with the challenges of a new life in a new country -- inclusive of earning a living -- consumed whatever energy we could muster.

However, when we moved, in 1981,

from Claresholm to Slave Lake, there was need for acculturation and adaptation to a different life. Here, in the isolated communities of northern Alberta, getting water from a hole in a frozen lake to one's home before the pail froze over constituted "running water." I do exaggerate, but not too much.

Despite the often desperate conditions of the Cree of the North, with whom I worked in a preventive social services

In 1989, we moved, after 15 years in small-town Alberta, to Edmonton.

A political junkie from early in life, it wasn't long before I became active in the New Democratic Party. Beginning with presiding over a constituency association in Slave Lake in the heady days of the mid-to late-'80s when the NDP's popularity peaked, I went on to employment as an organizer for the provincial party and then to manage provincial, federal and

torate.

While I had also experienced the mild violence of Sri Lankan politics in the '60s and '70s, I certainly wasn't prepared for what I encountered in terms of murder and mayhem when I returned.

The Mahinda Rajapaksa government ran a superb public relations campaign when they had the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on the run and in the last year of "Eelam War IV." This included demonizing any and all "peaceniks" and declaring open season on anyone having the temerity to criticize them. This continued after the war ended and, in fact, its pace has accelerated.

"Human rights" has become a term of opprobrium and anyone championing the concept, in even its mildest form, is immediately branded an anti-national



Journalaists led by Nava Sama Samaja Party leader Dr. Vikramabahu Karunaratne (with right arm raised) demanding investigations into assassination of the Founding Editor of Sunday Leader Lasantha Wickrematunge and other threats to Media in Sri Lanka, on Jan 18, 2011. pic: VikalpaSL

program, I count the six years I spent among them and the white folks of the area as the greatest of my 32 years in Canada. My lasting impression of the northern aboriginal people was of their warmth and great sense of humour, a very necessary attribute if one was to survive in often desperate circumstances.

territorial election campaigns in several parts of Western Canada.

Then, for a variety of personal reasons, I decided a few years ago to return to the land of my birth and, specifically, to my ancestral home. Despite protests, particularly from a new partner in life, I was soon contributing articles with political content to four of Sri Lanka's English language Sunday papers.

As anyone who has been politically active in Canada will vouch, getting a rude reception at the door or over a phone line when canvassing for a candidate is a disconcerting experience until one puts things in perspective and realizes that such hostility comes only from a small percentage of the Canadian elec-

traitor and in the pay of the "western, imperialist, capitalist powers of the international community."

The founding editor of the Sunday Leader (the last independent English-language paper standing) was gunned down by assassins, widely believed to be from the security services, within sight of an armed services roadblock, and the killers have not been apprehended yet, despite two years having elapsed.

An additional chilling fact is that the government continues to maintain the same level of armed personnel -- estimates range from 350,000 to 500,000 -- despite the war being over.

Under the circumstances, "going home again," in its fullest sense, really is problematic.

[Emil van der Poorten is a former Edmontonian struggling with the political strife in his homeland of Sri Lanka. This article first appeared in Edmonton Journal of February 10, 2011 - courtesy: Edmonton Journal ]

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# Op-Ed



## Intrusion of Indian fishermen in Sri Lanka waters is a "Fishy sort of tale"

"Sri Lankan fishermen venture out to sea to reclaim their livelihood. Should we be surprised if they assert their rights over their own territorial waters?" – writes V.Sudarshan in India's Express News Service:

Every night the radar systems in Sri Lanka pick up the presence of Indian trawlers off its coastline. Sometimes our boats go as far south as Trincomalee. To cluster around the Sri Lankan coastline in places like Point Pedro, Kankesanthurai, Delft Island, Thalaimannar, our boats have first to cross the international boundary.

Sri Lanka takes satellite pictures of these trawlers dotting their territorial waters. On the radar screen shots the boats look like countless stars twinkling in the dark night sky. Every day they count the number of boats they have a visual confirmation of. In the case of some trawlers they also manage to take down registration numbers. On some days the intrusions detected by the Sri Lankans are minimal.

On January 27 and 28 they managed, for instance to detect only 10 Indian boats. Our fishermen must have taken a well-deserved break from their exertions. On February 19, for instance, they detected as many as 700. It must be quite a sight to see that many boats speckling the waters and not flying the tricolour.

Every day the defence attaché in Colombo is given the day's list of sea incursions. Everyday, I am told, the Deputy High Commission in Chennai faxes the same list to the Director Fisheries, Tamil Nadu, whose office no doubt maintains records of ownership. From January 1 this year till the date of writing this the approximate number of Indian boats that were sighted in Sri Lankan waters was 6,466. Of which the Sri Lankans managed to take down the registration numbers of 547. Don't ask me what happens when the fisheries department gets the Sri Lankan list. It probably dutifully gets filed in the dustbin.

Usually the matter ends there. But on some other days the farce is stretched beyond credible limits. The other day, for instance, we saw the ridiculous sight of the DMK patriarch's daughter Kanimozhi being "arrested" by police who report to her father after she participated in a protest on behalf of the fisherfolk from Tamil Nadu. Some days prior to that, BJP's Sushma Swaraj made a visit to Pushpavanam so she could be part of a



**Around 400 fishermen and their families from Maathakal in Jaffna, Sri Lanka North silently agitated in front of the Indian consulate at Kantharmadam in Jaffna, on Feb 21st, demanding security for them and assurance against "poaching by Indian fishermen."**

political photo opportunity. Actor Vijay also made a fire and brimstone speech against Sri Lanka there. Now the BJP has an unenviably poor presence in Tamil Nadu, yet it senses the opportunity ahead of the assembly elections. In the days ahead, more politicians will gravitate towards that shoreline.

By the last count, Tamil Nadu's fishing community is about 7,00,000 strong in 591 fishing villages strung along the coastline of 1,076 km stretching from Pulicat, north of Chennai, down to Kanyakumari. They set out to ply their trade in almost 60,000 craft. Even during the Eelam war, according to Sri Lankan estimates, as much as a quarter of these boats were regularly detected in their waters.

Even though there are no signboards out there it is not as if our fishermen do not know when they are in Sri Lankan waters. At the shortest point between our two countries it is 18 nautical miles. That can be covered in three hours. With a Global Positioning System that each of our fishing vessels ought to have, it is impossible to wander off course. Even mobile phones come with GPS these days. What our fishermen have been known to do in those waters is not exactly confined to fishing.

A partial list of seizures in the past reveals that following have been plentiful in the Palk Straits: Petrol, diesel, mini lorries, Tata Sumos, Traveras, auto rickshaws, gas cylinders, tipper lorries, TVS 50 mopeds, Hero Honda motorcycles, Eicher vans, beedi bundles, rice, currency, batteries, jeeps, watches, ready made

dresses, Tamil and English movie CDs, soap, provisions, condensed milk, mobile phones, computer spares, milk, cameras,

flasks, tractors, medical supplies, dried sea cucumber, fishing equipment and, in one interesting instance, local arrack. I am not even listing the other perennials during the war: detonators, ball bearings, gelatin sticks, AK 56s, TNT (explosive), Yamaha outboard motor, LTTE uniform material, steel pipes, chemicals to produce cyanide, GPS systems, sulphuric acid, credit cards, mobile cards, aluminium ingots (to make ammunition)

It was a regular supply chain. Of course now that the war is over the traffic on non-lethal items could well have picked up. During the war Sri Lankan fishermen were dissuaded from fishing in their own waters because of the camouflage potential they offered to LTTE fighters.

Now that the threat of LTTE has vanished, Sri Lankan fishermen venture out to sea to reclaim their livelihood. Should we be surprised if they assert their rights over their own territorial waters?

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# Attacks on fishermen has given ordinary Indians glimpse of the lack of accountability of Sri Lanka security forces - HRW

by Meenakshi Ganguly

ON JANUARY 22, the Sri Lankan Navy intercepted an Indian fishing boat from Tamil Nadu. Two fishermen jumped into the sea, but 28-year-old Jayakumar stayed on his boat. The two survivors told the authorities that a Sri Lankan Navy official climbed into the boat and tied a rope around Jayakumar's neck. Then the naval vessel dragged the fisherman through the water, strangling him. Ten days earlier, Sri Lankan Navy personnel reportedly fired on an Indian fishing boat, killing a fisherman and wounding two others.

As protests erupted in Tamil Nadu, India's external affairs minister S.M. Krishna said such incidents were "unacceptable", while the government issued a statement expressing "strong and unequivocal condemnation of this violent incident".

Colombo denied the incident, and a Navy spokesman declared that the "allegations are baseless and without proof." To those who follow the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, its response was unsurprising. It routinely issues knee-jerk denials to allegations of abuses by its armed forces, no matter how compelling the evidence.

During its 2008-2009 military campaign against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the government engaged in repeated denials.

It deliberately misled the rest of the world, contradicting UN estimates on the number of civilians in the conflict zone, playing down the danger. The government only admitted over 300,000 non-combatants were there, while at the conflict's end it boasted of a dramatic "rescue" of civilians. Worse, despite evidence from satellite imagery and testimony from people on the ground, Sri Lanka repeatedly and robustly denied using heavy artillery in its "no-fire zone" in which civilians would be safe from the fighting. Many died. The government then proceeded to detain survivors in military-run camps, describing them as "welfare villages".

Last August, the US state department reported that Sri Lanka had failed to conduct an effective investigation into laws-of-war violations by government forces and the LTTE in the final months of the war, which ended in May 2009.

This followed an October 2009 report prepared by the Office of War Crimes

Issues documenting violations of the laws of war. Sri Lanka responded by contending it was an effort "to bring the Government of Sri Lanka into disrepute, through fabricated allegations and concocted stories", when the government forces were in fact "engaged in a humanitarian mission".

The government's response was no better to horrific videotapes that allegedly show Sri Lankan soldiers executing prisoners in cold blood. When Britain's Channel Four News first broadcast a video, showing Sri Lankan troops executing two captives, the government said experts it had commissioned found the video to be fabricated.

Philip Alston, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, commissioned a separate group of independent experts, who found strong evidence to suggest the video was authentic.

Human Rights Watch obtained photographs and video footage of the same incident from other sources, which show what appear to be the summary execution of prisoners by government troops.

One of about a dozen bodies visible, most of them bound and blindfolded, was identified as Isaipiriya, a 27-year-old woman reporter for the LTTE. A Sri Lankan defence ministry website lists a Lt. Col. Issei Piriya as an LTTE leader killed on May 18, 2009 by the 53rd Division, thus linking the Army to the alleged summary execution of prisoners.

The Sri Lankan government, however, said that the video is fake.

Human Rights Watch has examined more than 200 photos taken on the front lines in early 2009 by soldiers. Among these are a series of five photos showing a man identified as a long-term member of the LTTE's political wing.

The first two show him alive, with blood on his face and torso, tied to a palm tree. He is surrounded by several men wearing military fatigues. In the next three photos, the man is lying - apparently dead - against a rock. While Human Rights Watch cannot conclusively determine that he was summarily executed in custody, a full investigation is warranted.

Photos also show what appear to be dead women in LTTE uniforms with their shirts pulled up and their pants pulled down, raising concerns that they might have been sexually abused or their



Indian fishermen along with their trawlers were brought to the shores from the seas off Point Pedro, Sri Lanka North - 15th Feb 2011

corpses mutilated.

Faced with credible allegations of violations of the laws of war, the government has insisted on only pointing to abuses by the Tamil Tigers.

In his speech in September at the UN General Assembly, President Mahinda Rajapakse said: "Over the past year, much has been reported and much has been said regarding my country's liberation from terrorism.

However, far less has been said of the suffering we had to undergo and the true nature of the enemy we have overcome." No one, least of all human rights defenders, will question that the Sri Lankan government faced a terrible challenge from the Tamil Tigers with their penchant for suicide bombings, recruiting children into combat, or using civilians as human shields. Human Rights Watch and others documented and condemned all of this. At the war's end, Mr Rajapakse promised UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon that his government would investigate wartime abuses by both the LTTE and the Sri Lankan military.

But it's clear the government has no intention of doing so. Instead, it has followed the practice of its predecessors of creating commissions or inquiries to give the appearance of taking action, without ever really doing anything. Since independence in 1948, Sri Lanka has established at

least nine such commissions and numerous other inquiries, none of which have produced any significant results.

There is no reason to believe that its new commission will be any different.

Last year, Mr Ban Kimoon appointed a panel of experts to address accountability issues relating to alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the final stages of the conflict.

The government's response was predictable - it publicly denounced the new panel, and a senior minister led a protest outside the UN offices in Colombo.

The government has toned down its rhetoric but has not cooperated with the panel.

Undeterred, the panel will submit its report to the Secretary-General in March.

India should take the lead in demanding that the full report of the panel be made public and, as warranted, encourage the Secretary-General to implement its recommendations.

The brutal attacks on fishermen who stray into Sri Lankan waters has given ordinary Indians a brief glimpse of the lack of accountability of Sri Lanka's security forces, and the unresponsiveness of the Rajapakse government to serious abuses. The Indian government was right to condemn the murder of its own citizens, and demand an investigation. But it also should ensure justice for Sri Lankan victims. When the UN panel of experts submits its report next month, it will be important to have the Indian government standing behind them.

Meenakshi Ganguly is South Asia director of Human Rights Watch

# Cinema World



Host of stars and industry members including Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Rampal, Yash Chopra, Riteish Deshmukh, Karan Johar, Sonu Sood and Ramesh Sippy, among others cast their vote

4th March, 2011, Mumbai: The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Voting Weekend for the IIFA Awards in Toronto, opened on Friday to the members of the Indian Film fraternity. The 4th, 5th and 6th of March marks the 12th year of IIFA's Voting Weekend, where the reigning superstar of the big screen, Kareena Kapoor cast her first vote, followed by Arjun Rampal, Karan

Johar, Sonu Sood, Riteish Deshmukh, Yash Chopra, Ramesh Sippy, J.P. Dutta, Manmohan Shetty and other members of the film fraternity and the IIFA Advisory Board. Akin to past IIFA Voting Weekends, many prominent members from the fraternity would participate this year.

Each year over 1000 industry stalwarts, actors, directors, producers, technicians and composers among others cast their votes, which decide the nominations for the awards. Each year, the IIFA management invites the Academy members and the Film Industry to cast their votes and shortlist nominations in the category of the Popular Awards. The



## 2011 CELEBRATIONS KICK START WITH THE 12th IIFA VOTING WEEKEND



Canada this year wherein the three-day long IIFA Weekend and Awards is all set to take place from the 23rd to 25th of June.

Ramesh Sippy, IIFA Advisory Board member said, "In its 12th year, IIFA has continued its focus of promoting the very best of Indian cinema globally and the IIFA Voting Weekend is a key component of making IIFA, the success it is."

"2010 has been a great year for the Indian movie business. The IIFA Voting Weekend is a wonderful opportunity to honour colleagues by voting for the best of the best. With the Videocon IIFA Weekend and the Micromax IIFA Awards 2011 in Toronto, Canada, we will continue to bring the on-screen magic to the Indian diaspora with the grandest celebration of Indian cinema." said Wiz Sabbas Joseph, Director - Wizcraft International Entertainment.

The IIFA Voting process is a stringent and methodical procedure that is closely monitored by PriceWaterHouse Coopers (PwC), the official auditors for the event. The popular category nominations will then be available for the global audience to participate in the voting process. The final winners of the IIFA Awards are revealed on the night of the Awards ceremony when the envelope is opened onstage, in front of the live audience. The results are surrounded by secrecy and the credibility of the voting process is one of the key parameters of this prestigious award.

Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt. Ltd promotes the IIFA celebrations globally each year and travel to a new beau locale taking the Film fraternity with it to amalgamate and celebrate the best of both cultures, thereby taking Indian Cinema to a wider audience.

Voting Weekend also derives the Technical Award winners.

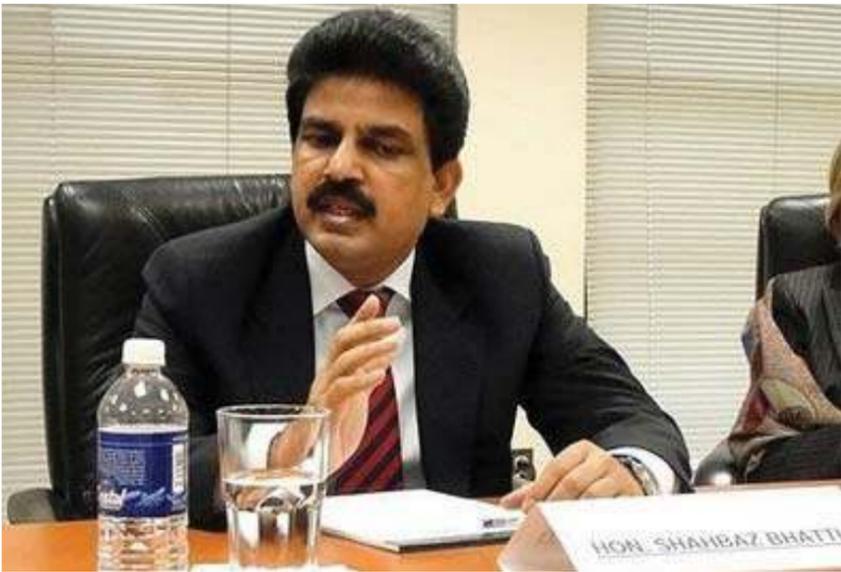
Having cast the first vote, previous IIFA awardee Kareena Kapoor shared, "It is a great privilege that has been bestowed upon me to cast the first vote and inaugurate the 12th IIFA Voting Weekend. IIFA has set a high standard with its voting procedure and hence established a benchmark for excellence and credibility. This being the IIFA's premiere in North America, I am eagerly looking forward to the IIFA Weekend in Toronto."

2011 marks the twelfth year of the IIFA celebrations. The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) will make its North American debut in Ontario,



# Around the world

## PAKISTANIS MOURN MURDERED MINISTER SHAHBAZ BHATTI



By Ayaz Gul

Minority Christians and civil rights activists have taken to the streets throughout Pakistan to protest the assassination of the country's only Christian member of the federal Cabinet. Minister of Minorities Shahbaz Bhatti was gunned down Wednesday, March 2nd after challenging Pakistan's blasphemy law.

Pakistani investigators have issued sketches of suspected attackers but have not reported any progress a day after gunmen opened fire on Minister of Minorities Shahbaz Bhatti near his residence in Islamabad.

Militants linked to Taliban and al-Qaida extremists have claimed responsibility, saying they killed the politician for opposing Pakistan's blasphemy law. He has become the second high-profile official killed this year for supporting reforms to the controversial legislation which carries the death penalty for insulting Islam.

Two months ago, the governor of Punjab province, Salman Taseer, was shot dead by one of his official police guards who said he killed Taseer for criticizing the blasphemy law.

Bhatti's assassination on Wednesday drew condemnation from both Pakistani and international leaders. Members of the country's minority Christian community joined by civil rights activists are staging protest rallies around the country to demand justice.

During a protest in Islamabad Thursday, demonstrators criticized the government for failing to protect Bhatti, who had been receiving death threats for opposing the blasphemy law.

## Food Prices Continue to Rise in Asia

By Daniel Schearf

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says rising food prices in Asia are hurting the poor but have yet to reach a crisis level. The U.N. body says if the price of oil continues to increase the region's food prices will follow suit.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says in Asia food prices have been affected by rising costs but not as dramatically as in other regions.

The FAO says the retail price of rice, Asia's major staple, rose in Bangladesh by 33 percent from last year and in China by 23 percent.

But the region's major rice producers, Thailand and Vietnam, are having good harvests that are expected to keep prices steady overall.

The FAO's representative for the Asia-Pacific region, Hiroyuki Konuma, says rising food costs in Asia are mainly affecting the region's poor.

"Many of poor people who are so poor, they spend 50 to 70 percent of their income for food. So, if [the] price increases by 30 percent 40 percent it severely affects their purchasing power for food. And then it results in chronic hunger," Konuma said.

Konuma says the region's rice production

"It's a matter of shame and it's a matter of extreme sorrow for every Pakistani Muslim today," said Ghazala Minnallah, a law teacher by profession, who was part of the rally. "Our heads are bowed in shame because we are so helpless and we cannot do anything about it."

She said that the government has failed to protect its citizens and urged Islamic clerics in the country to help defuse religious extremism.

"They are the only people who can try and bring some sanity in this madness because no one is going to listen to you or me or to the government," she said. "Yes, people will listen to religious leaders when they tell the people that this not Islam. So it is their responsibility to come out and to try and save this country from further anarchy because that is where we are heading."

Human rights activist Rehana Hashmi says that religious extremists are using violence to silence critics of laws that discriminate against non-Muslims and women in Pakistan.

"We are all determined that this voice is not silenced," said Hashmi. "There will be many more voices [raised] against these discriminatory laws and all discriminatory behaviors."

On Thursday, Mar 3 lawmakers representing Pakistani minorities in parliament staged a symbolic walkout during a meeting of the National Assembly. They demanded the government make all possible efforts to bring Bhatti's killers to justice.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani declared three days of official mourning, while vowing his government will arrest and punish the culprits. [VOA News]

is expected to increase by more than two percent this year while wheat production will decline about four percent.

The FAO says world food prices hit a record high in February as the cost of oil was driven up by political instability in the Middle East and North Africa.

Despite adequate supplies of rice, some Asian nations appear concerned that rising oil costs could eventually affect food supplies.

Reports say Burma in February halted all rice exports.

Burma is not a major rice producer but the move indicates concerns that rice prices may rise as transportation costs increase.

Konuma says the FAO is carefully monitoring oil prices for any effects on Asia.

"It's a bit premature to say, but if the oil price goes up to the level that happened in 2007, 2008, to \$140, \$150 per barrel, it will seriously affect the production costs of the food," Konuma added.

Food price increases in 2007 and 2008 led some countries in the region to stockpile food and temporarily ban grain exports.

The FAO says while stockpiling emergency supplies is understandable, hoarding staples and banning exports only made the situation worse. [VOA News]

## Bangladesh Nobel Laureate Challenges Dismissal

The Bangladeshi man who helped pioneer microfinancing is fighting efforts to remove him from the bank he founded and getting help from the bank's board of directors.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus lodged a case with the country's High Court Thursday, Mar 3rd challenging his dismissal as Grameen Bank's managing director for staying on past the legal retirement age.

Grameen's nine directors also filed a petition with the court challenging the dismissal.

Outside the court, Yunus told reporters he would like to step down, but has stayed on at the request of the board. He also said he does not want the current situation to cause people to lose faith in the bank.

Bangladesh's central bank removed Yunus, 70, Wednesday Mar 2nd saying the mandatory age of retirement is 60.

High Court officials say they expect to issue a ruling Soon.

Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for helping poor people and women get loans to start businesses and earn a living wage. But he has been under pressure in Bangladesh for alleged financial irregularities at Grameen. His supporters say he is being targeted for political reasons.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called Yunus a "blood-sucker of the poor." Relations between the two soured in 2007 after Yunus briefly proposed setting up a political party.

The government owns a 25-percent stake in Grameen Bank.

There had also been concerns that Grameen Bank transferred millions of dollars in development funds from Norway to a separate



Muhammad Yunus, Bangladeshi Nobel Laureate and founder of Grameen Bank.

venture without permission. A Norwegian investigation later concluded the money had been returned and that none of it had been stolen or misused.

U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh James Moriarty told reporters Thursday he finds the development troubling and called for an amicable settlement of the issue. He said that outside the country, Yunus is considered "one of the greatest Bangladeshis."

Grameen currently has nearly 9 million borrowers and has handed out about \$10 billion in loans.

The bank provides credit without any collateral to people it describes as "the poorest of the poor" in rural Bangladesh. [VOA News]

## Colombo 10Th Worst City In The World To Live In

Colombo, Sri Lanka's financial capital, is among the ten worst livable cities in the world, according to a recent survey carried out by the reputed The Economist Intelligence Unit.

According to latest livability index compiled by The Economist, the worst city to live in the world is Harare, Zimbabwe, followed by Dhaka, Bangladesh, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, Lagos, Nigeria, Algiers, Algeria, Karachi, Pakistan, Douala, Cameroon, Tehran, Iran, Dakar, Senegal, and then, the best of the worst 10 cities on the index, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The following were the top 10 most livable cities as ranked by The Economist Intelligence Unit: 1. Vancouver, Canada, 2. Melbourne, Australia, 3. Vienna, Austria, 4. Toronto, Canada, 5. Calgary, Canada, 6. Helsinki, Finland, 7. Sydney, Australia, 8. Perth, Australia, 9. Adelaide, Australia and 10. Auckland, New Zealand.

The Economist Intelligence Unit survey ranks cities based on 30 factors such as healthcare, culture and environment, and education and personal safety.

In 2010, it was The Economic Intelligence Unit that said Sri Lanka was the 8th fastest growing economy in the world.

The Urban Development Authority of Sri Lanka is now directly under the Ministry of Defence and attempts are



A couple sit by a coastal walkway in Sri Lanka;

being made to clean up and beautify the city of Colombo and enforce traffic laws strictly. Authorities are also trying to contain a Dengue outbreak.

Sri Lanka Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal questioned the veracity of the information used in the Survey. "People in the city of Colombo can see how much it has improved, if they rank us in the bottom 10 then I don't know what kind of criteria they are using," he said.

Officials in the city of Colombo responded strongly to the report by the Economists Intelligence Unit (EIU) ranking Colombo as one of the worst livable cities in the world.

"I am surprised as to how they made this assessment, I'm sure it was made on outdated data about 10 years ago. Colombo is far ahead of any other South Asian country in terms of road discipline and cleanliness and those dignitaries who visit the island tell us that all the time," Colombo Municipal Commissioner Omar Kamil said.

# JOHN BODDY HOMES PRESENTS 'EAGLE GLEN'

John Boddy Homes has been voted 'Best Builder' in Ajax/Pickering for the fourteenth year in a row for this year's Readers' Choice Awards and has released its next phase at their 'Eagle Glen' community in Ajax. Located just minutes east of Toronto 'Eagle Glen' combines the closeness and convenience of city living with a suburban feel, and its prime location makes it a great place to call home. Classic two-storey homes are available, as well as side and back splits, semi detached and townhomes. Homes start at 1,700 square feet and range up to a spacious 3,534 square feet. John Boddy Homes offers traditional size lots with a minimum of 105 feet in depth and a great selection of extra deep lots, pie shaped lots, walk out basements and a select few backing onto 3.5 acres of mature trees. With such a broad range of house sizes and styles 'Eagle Glen' has the ideal home to suit every preference. From the unique exteriors and charming streetscapes to the elegant interiors, various John Boddy Homes include such impressive standard features as vaulted ceilings, double door entries, décor columns, mirrored sliding closet doors, ceramic kitchen backsplashes, double basin bathroom vanities with make-up counters and so much more. Their gourmet kitchens, welcoming great rooms with cozy gas fireplaces and elegant dining rooms with coffered ceilings are all spacious and comfortable, making them the perfect location to enjoy time together with family or entertaining friends. In addition, some models include such impressive extras as classic French doors, transom windows and custom octagonal skylights allowing light to travel throughout the home for a bright and spacious feel.

For their homeowner's convenience, most John Boddy Homes include main or second floor laundry rooms, laundry chutes, kitchen breakfast bars, private water closets, interior garage access, high efficiency furnaces and basement rough-ins for future bathrooms. Also, windows are vinyl clad wood which allows for interior custom colours with a maintenance free exterior. Other features include arched entryways, custom millwork, window mullions on all front and rear facades and decorative garage doors featuring appealing window lites. Custom landscaping packages and paved driveways are also included in all homes providing the renowned curb appeal that enhances the entire 'Eagle Glen' community.

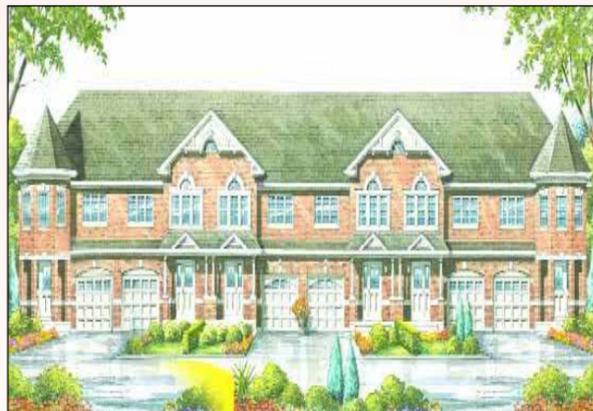
Innovative floorplan designs combined with an extensive array of standard features included with every new home have become a corporate trademark of John Boddy Homes and 'Eagle Glen'. Not only does a John Boddy home offer such striking standard features, there are also a wealth of opportunities to upgrade, making their homes



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Wyndham Semi

as unique as each individual homeowner. The 'Eagle Glen' Sales Office features a Décor Centre that contains a wide range of upgrade items to select from in order to customize your home. Their high-tech electrical and décor consultants allow homebuyers to make upgrade selections on site, enabling them to conveniently personalize their home.

When you purchase a new home in 'Eagle Glen' there are no hidden closing costs. John Boddy Homes pays for education levies, development charges, water and hydro meter hookup fees, boulevard tree planting, landscape package and a paved driveway.

Currently John Boddy Homes is offering an incentive package of \$5,000 in free upgrades for single family homes, \$3,000 in free upgrades and 5 appliances for semi detached and townhomes. All new home buyers also receive one year of Rogers's services for free! Included in this package are home phone with 150 long distance minutes and 2 calling features, personal TV with free rental of a standard definition box, a HD digital box, VIP package, free on demand programming, Canadian timeshifting channels as well as Rogers Hi-Speed internet service and all are installed for free.

The 'Eagle Glen' community offers many important neighbourhood amenities such as a brand new on-site public elementary school, places of worship, fully equipped parks and easy access to both Ajax and Go-Transit Services. Toronto is easily accessible from nearby Highways 401 and 407. Located just north of a host of shopping and recreation centres, 'Eagle Glen' allows residents all the amenities of the urban

lifestyle while providing the beauty and tranquility of the neighbouring countryside.

Since 1955, John Boddy has been involved in the construction of thousands of new homes throughout Ontario, and has earned a reputation as an accomplished builder of fine residential communities. Of significance are the award winning 1000-acre 'Bridlewood Community' developed during the 1960's and 1970's in Scarborough, the 'Forestbrook' Community' in Pickering developed in the 1980's, 'Willowcreek' in Peterborough, and 'Eagle Ridge on the Green' in Ajax developed in the 1990's and early 2000's.

The John Boddy Homes' team of experienced management, planners, designers, supervisors, marketing and sales personnel have distinguished themselves by creating innovative and unique designs in truly outstanding communities that meet the needs and desires of today's families.

With five fully furnished model homes and new semi-detached and townhome models a visit to 'Eagle Glen' is a must. Drop by the Sales Presentation Centre located on Stevensgate Drive, north of Rossland Road West, one half kilometre west of Westney Road three kilometres north of Hwy. 401. Sales office hours are Monday through Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 11:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m. Let their friendly knowledgeable staff help you determine which of the many home styles available is perfect for you and your family and get set to join the ever-growing 'Eagle Glen' family community. For more information, please call (905) 619-1777 or visit their website at [www.johnboddyhomes.com](http://www.johnboddyhomes.com).

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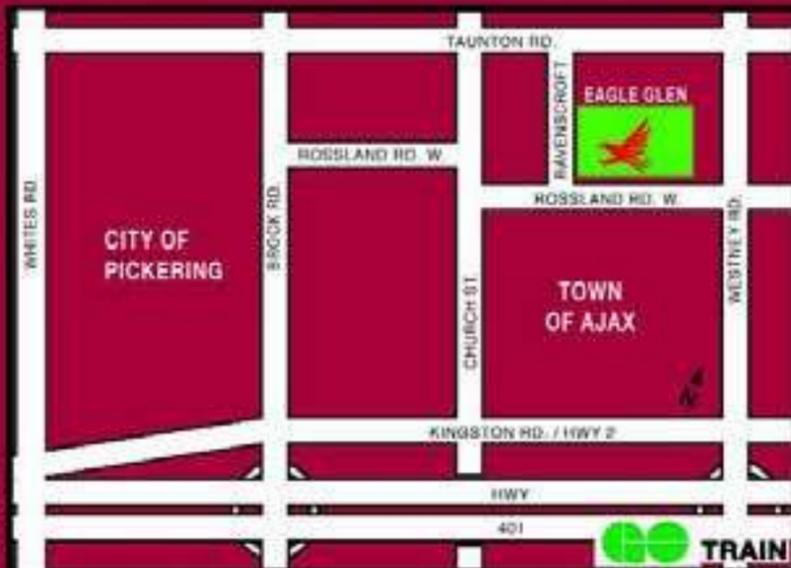
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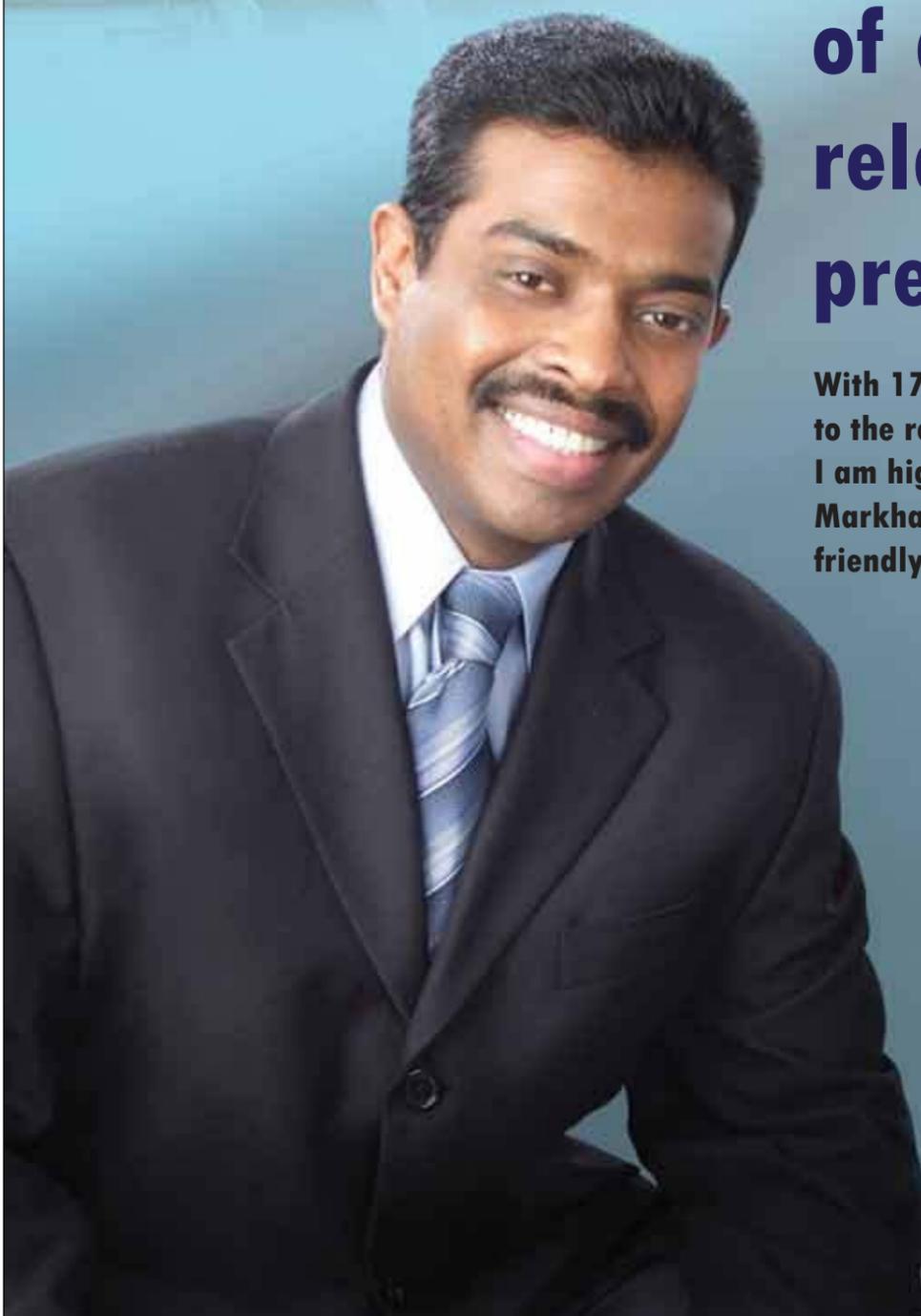
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**Monsoon Journal**

# Sports



# The Score on Cricket

By Tashvir Narine

## Biography: Sachin Tendulkar

Over the past two decades, there have been many cricketers who frequented the highest ranks in batting and bowling for both test cricket as well as one-day internationals. When it comes to using the bat, one can think of Ricky Pointing and Brian Lara, however few have seen consistency in this ranking as India's little master, Sachin Tendulkar.

In Bombay 1973, Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar was born on April 24th, to Rajni and Ramesh Tendulkar. As an early teenager, Sachin attended high school at Shradashram Vidyamandir, where he began his cricketing career. During this time, he actually trained as a fast bowler, however his batting talents were recognized by Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee, who suggested that the young Tendulkar concentrate on bat-

against Pakistan away from home. At the end of the test matches, Sachin finished with an average of 36 runs, and the world was beginning to take notice of his talent and capabilities. A year later in England, he scored an impressive test century upon which a variety of exquisite shots were displayed, and subsequently the English county side Yorkshire later made him the first overseas player to play there.

Sachin's batting form is a great balance of perfect technique and impeccable timing. He has a unique cricket mind that allows him to create different variations of shots to find the boundaries. Small in stature, he generates multitudes of runs from finding gaps in the field and placing shots through these holes. Sachin is renowned for his front foot straight drives, and thus many coaches use his style as a template to guide young cricketers.

The rise to the top was a quick ascent

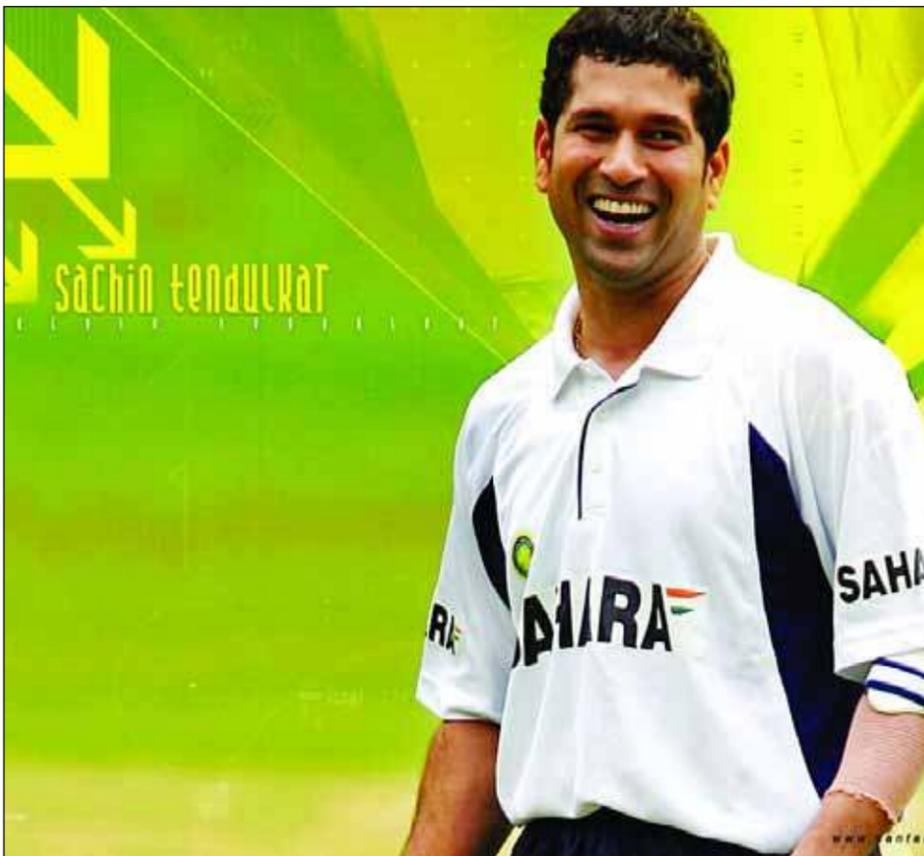
against England with a top score of 120 for his 47th ODI century. This match turned out to be one of the most entertaining ones the World Cup thus far, with play going up to the very last ball, and the game ending in a remarkable tie.

## Biography: Muttiah Muralitharan

A cricket bowler's action during the delivery of the ball is very unique and personal to each individual. Similar to baseball, batsmen need to be wary of the bowlers' varying actions and how to adjust for differences in speed and move-

sides.

Murali has experienced a long and winding career to this time which has seen lots of ups and downs. His short run-up and strong wrist action have made him into one of the most dominant spinners in our generation. On pitches not known for having much turn, Murali is a trump for the Sri Lankans, and this lead to many brilliant spells in test and one-day cricket. To date, Murali holds the record for most test wickets as well as most one-day international wickets, a statistic he is still increasing this World Cup.



ting instead, a decision that has graced the cricketing world ever since.

While at school, Sachin developed a strong batting reputation, and was the talk of Bombay as the next child superstar. In 1988, Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar graced the young star a pair of his batting pads, which only further enhanced Sachin's increasing popularity at only fifteen years of age at the time. Later in December of that year, he would make his domestic career debut for Bombay, scoring 100 not out. Sachin, aged 15 years and 232 days at the time, became the youngest Indian to score a century on his first-class debut.

It was one year later in 1989 that Tendulkar, then only 16 years old, stepped into the international scene and represented his country in a series

for Tendulkar. His quiet character along with steady batting results made him an icon at home and a fan favourite worldwide. In over 175 test matches and 445 ODIs, Sachin continues to be a vital part of the Indian batting attack, even at thirty-seven years old to-date. In February of last year, he passed his ODI top score of 189 runs with a remarkable 200 not out against stiff rivals, South Africa.

In the first match of the 2011 World Cup, Sachin was run out unfortunately between the stumps during his partnership with Virender Sehwag, who went on to a top score of 175. He was well on his way to a healthy innings at a score of 28 himself, so everyone expected Tendulkar to come out strong in the second match against England. This was fulfilled with no doubt as Sachin came out in fine form



ment. In Sri Lanka, there is a man known simply as Murali, who has been the ace for his team for many years, and who even at the end of his career, strikes fear into his opponents hearts whenever he has the ball in his hands.

Shortened to just Murali, Muttiah Muralitharan hails from the surrounding areas of Kandy, born on April 17th of 1972. He began his cricketing career many years ago and started bowling as a pace bowler, as many children did in their early teens during Murali's time. When he was fourteen years of age, a school coach advised him to consider spinning the ball. Murali accepted the advice and within a couple of years, his offspin was impressing cricket-watchers in the country.

Following his school career, he joined the Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club. In 1991, Murali was named to the Sri Lanka squad that was touring England. It was the first time a Tamil player of Indian origin had been chosen to represent Sri Lanka in international competition. Since then, his name has been a consistent selection for the Sri Lankan test and one-day international

Success has not come easy to Murali however. His bowling action has also been a source of controversy worldwide, as many critics and umpires questioned the validity of his delivery, stating that Murali was illegally bowling the ball, a term known as chucking. This phenomenon was due to the fact that Murali's arm was uniquely shaped, giving him the ability to bowl differently from other spinners. In a 1995 series against Australia, Murali was called for no-ball on many occasions during a match on Boxing Day, with an explanation that he was chucking. The following year however, he was cleared by the ICC of this claim and was allowed to continue bowling. A follow-up claim was also dismissed in 1999 and Murali has been bowling the same ever since.

Last July, Murali retired from test cricket, and he also announced that World Cup 2011 will be his final one-day competition. Like many spinners, Murali continues to be an intimidating bowler towards the twilight of his career, and he is still an invaluable member of the Sri Lankan team.

# HEALTHY START

By: Chef Nate

No matter how many times we've heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, many of us still don't give breakfast much thought. Whether we choose fast over healthy while on the run or skip breakfast all together, many of our breakfasts are not living up to their potential.

## Is breakfast really that important?

Recent research says yes. People who eat breakfast are less likely to be overweight than those who skip breakfast even if they eat more overall. Eating breakfast may help us eat better later in the day by keeping us from impulsively snacking and overeating at lunch and dinner. As an added bonus, eating breakfast might even be able to improve your mood!

## What's for Breakfast?

While simply eating breakfast is a good thing, what we eat is important, too. Try these suggestions for a healthy breakfast:

- ▶ Whole grain cereal with low fat milk and fresh fruit.
- ▶ Low fat yogurt with granola and dried fruit.
- ▶ Whole wheat pancakes or muffin with fresh berries and a glass of skim milk.
- ▶ Peanut butter and banana on a whole grain bagel.
- ▶ Vegetable egg white frittata with whole wheat toast.

## Not Hungry in the Morning?

Starting off small with a cup of yogurt or a piece of whole grain toast can help you get in the breakfast habit. Venture off the breakfast menu. If you like salads, try them at breakfast. It might seem funny at first, but the key is to get the energy you need to start your day off right. Which food you choose for that energy is up to you.



wholegrain Bagel

## Make it a Family Affair

Children with parents who eat breakfast are more likely to eat breakfast themselves. Make breakfast a daily habit for your family. Everyone will reap the benefits and you may help to instill a lifelong healthy habit in your children. Breakfast is the first meal of



Jak fruit and Mango

the day. The word is a compound of "break" and "fast," referring to the conclusion of fasting since the Previous day's last meal. It is widely referred to as the most important meal of the day. Breakfast usually consists of foods that are high in energy  
The American Heart Association states



Fruits

that eating breakfast may reduce the risk of obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Eating a bowl of oatmeal has been a part of healthy breakfast for centuries. This is due to the fact that oats contain soluble fiber, which has been shown to help lower LDL (bad) cholesterol. Cholesterol is the fatty substance produced by the liver and other cells in the body. While you need some cholesterol to make hormones and breakdown the fats you eat, levels that are too high can cause problems. Part of the American Heart Association's new dietary guidelines recommends at least 6 daily servings of grain products, including whole grains.



Walnut

There are a variety of whole grains that when cooked and flavored properly are a great alternative to oatmeal. These grain cereals bring a new flair to the morning hot cereal concept. With keeping the healthy concept that oatmeal offers, these grains are a great source of vitamins, minerals and fiber. Nearly any grain can be cooked into hot cereal. Look for grits, meal, bran, germ, grouts, flakes, and other forms.

Cooking procedures and times vary slightly according to the type of grain, and whether it is a regular or instant variety. Prepare hot cereal with milk or water, and follow the directions on the package. Add dried fruit, chopped nuts or crushed flaxseeds to hot cereal, or top cooked cereal with fresh fruit. Combine several varieties of grain for maximum flavor and nutrition. Although best known as a breakfast food, hot cereal can be enjoyed in the afternoon or evening.

## Honey Orange Quinoa

This super healthy grain is slightly sweetened with a touch of Cinnamon, Honey and Orange.

## Mixed Berry Muesli

This Muesli mix of grains has been simmered with Cinnamon, Sugar and Fresh Mixed Berries to give every morning a taste of freshness.

## Assorted Toppings to include:

- ▶ Roasted Cinnamon Apples - Dried Apricots
- ▶ Sliced Strawberries - Golden Raisins
- ▶ Crushed Pineapples -
- ▶ Granola Brown Sugar - Cinnamon

## Whole grain Pancakes

eggs, content. milk  
Buttermilk, Flour, whole wheat,  
Sugar, baking, powder,  
salt, Butter,  
vegetable oil,  
Walnuts (optional),chopped

1. Grind the oats in a blender or food processor until fine.
2. In a large bowl, combine ground oats, whole wheat flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt.
3. In another bowl, combine buttermilk, milk, oil, egg, and sugar with an electric mixer until smooth.
4. Mix wet ingredients into dry with a few swift strokes.
5. Stir in nuts, if desired.
6. Lightly oil a skillet or griddle, and preheat it to medium heat.
7. Ladle 1/3 cup of the batter onto the hot skillet; cook the pancakes for 2 to 4 minutes per side, or until brown

## Artichoke & Red Pepper Frittata

olive oil (2tsp)  
parmesan cheese, grated  
oregano, dried (1tsp)  
red bell pepper, diced  
garlic cloves, minced  
red pepper, crushed ¼ tsp  
artichoke hearts  
eggs  
Salt & pepper mix



Oatmeal Squares

1. Heat 1 teaspoon oil in a 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add bell pepper and cook until tender, about 2 minutes.
2. Add garlic and crushed red pepper; cook, stirring, for 30 seconds. Transfer to a plate. Wipe out the pan.



Berries: Blueberry, strawberry, cranberry, blackberry and raspberry; these healthy "brain berries" bring nutritional benefits to the brain and prevent memory loss.

- Whisk eggs in a medium bowl. Stir in artichoke hearts, Parmesan, oregano, salt, pepper
- And the bell pepper mixture.
3. Set a rack about 4 inches from the heat source; preheat the broiler.
4. Brush the pan with the remaining 1 teaspoon oil; heat over medium heat. Pour in the egg mixture and tilt to distribute evenly. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook until the bottom is light golden, lifting the edges to allow uncooked egg to flow underneath, 3 to 4 minutes.
5. Place the pan under the broiler and cook until the top is set, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 minute.



Artichoke Frittata with Roasted Red Pepper Sauce



# Op-Ed



# Time for Pakistan to think

**Kanayalal Raina**

Don Quixote of Pakistani politics did not fail to repeatedly boast of his bravado of returning to Pakistan, floating a new political party, engaging the political class in spirited debates and plan for the future of the country.

Has it a future? Anyway, now that the Pakistani court has asked him to present himself before it in connection with a hearing in a case of alleged involvement in the murder of Benazir, the architect of Kargil war has gone underground in the United Kingdom, the country he chose to seek unofficial asylum in after losing power.

In the initial stages of his dethronement, he put up a brave face and even lectured in the US but then finding that Uncle Sam was extending its largesse to his rival Asif Ali Zardari, the starless General thought it advisable to be at large but not fall in the clutches of his political adversaries whom he never spared when he was in power. There was a time when the military in Pakistan was considered a bulwark against extremism. It is no longer so. During his dictatorship, General Zia-ul-Haq launched an Islamisation programme, as part of which he promoted madarsas. Mullahs at the helm of these madarsas have been poisoning young minds with hatred towards other faiths as well as Muslim sects. Significantly, this internalising of hatred has now begun to haunt Pakistan as the lower ranks of the Army are recruits from these madarsas.

The General at large is tormented by another demonic apprehension and that is the killing of the Baluch leader Nawwab Akbar Khan Bugti. If he is to be prosecuted on charges of conniving at the assassination of Benazir, then by the same token he should be prosecuted for alleged connivance in the assassination of Baluch leader Nawwab Akbar Khan Bugti also. How is the Pakistani army looking at graduated humiliation of its former commander? He will have to plead his case in his country and exonerate himself in the court of the people.

General Pervez Musharraf during his regime sought to contain these fanatics. At the behest of the US, he tried to get these madarsas registered and force them to adopt a modern curriculum. But this made him unpopular among the mullahs. He even dared to take on the Taliban-inspired radicals when they resorted to violence. The siege of Lal Masjid in Islamabad is a case in point. However, towards the end of his rule, he found the Army's support to him waning.

After the PPP formed a Government following the early-2008 election, the Army launched an operation to curb the Taliban in northern Waziristan — more to please the Americans rather than neutralise the extremists. Now that this operation has come to a halt, the US and Nato troops in Afghanistan have been left entirely on their own, trying to do their best by resorting to drone attacks on Taliban targets. These drone attacks have made the US even more unpopular.

Any country placed in the situation in which Pakistan is today would have been concerned about the biggest threat haunting it, the sub-continent and the world — terrorism. Instead, it goes on beating about the bush. Hardly a fortnight passes without its leaders raising one extraneous issue or the other. In the latest such move its President Asif Ali Zardari has linked the Kashmir problem with the Middle East conflict.

He has not stopped at that. He has accused India of playing a destabilising role in this part of the globe. Yet, he has claimed that he and his country are not obsessed with India! It is possible that Mr Zardari is trying to win over the confidence of his country's army and intelligence machinery both of which are not fond of him. Of course, he is not the darling of the media. He is also widely perceived to be a corrupt politician. Well, this is something for the neighbouring country and its inhabitants to worry.

What concerns us in the immediate neighbourhood is that the Pakistani leaders are not devoting enough attention to catch the bull of extremism by the horns. For the sake of record Mr Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani have said on a number of occasions that they will "chase the militants till their complete destruction." Quite contrary to it one finds that it is their government that is feeling the heat. Terrorists in their land have already turned Peshawar into a scary dateline. Thousands have lost their



lives in Pakistan in terrorism-related incidents during the last two and a half years. Their number is growing with each passing day. The reason is that Pakistan's present approach vis-à-vis terrorism is selective and is bound to prove counter-productive. There is no doubt that it is going full blast against the Taliban in its tribal regions bordering Afghanistan. At the same time it is exposed to the charge of acting hand in glove with the militant outfits like the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) in its Punjab province. As it seems it has made itself oblivious to the danger that it faces because of linkages that the Taliban has forged with the LeT.

The Obama Administration has been pleading with the Pakistani Army to drop its 'India is our sole enemy' position but a defiant General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani has openly refused to accept the US's advice. What is unfortunate is that the Obama Administration is aware of Pakistan's arm-twisting tactics but has failed to find a way out of the situation. The US must realise that no matter how much money it gives as aid, the Pakistani establishment will not end its dangerous alliance with jihadis. At best, it may occasionally partake in some token gestures of cooperation with the US.

## Sri Lankan Expatriates and the boost to Tourism

**J.J. Atputharajah**

The virtual end of civil war and commotion has enabled a large number of Sri Lankans to visit their home country, some of them going there after more than a lapse of twenty long years. Many of them left their homes in a hurry leaving behind all their treasured possessions. The absence of gun fire, roaring helicopter sounds and shelling has dared most of them to go and see their habitats. Expatriates, mainly Tamils from Canada, Australia, Western Europe and the U.K make Sri Lanka their favourite holiday destination. They come to visit their relatives, tour their favourite sites, attend weddings and other family functions with all enthusiasm and splendour. For them, Sri Lanka is home, sweet home. Peace, political stability, global travel facilities have helped them to realise their dreams.

Making use of the peaceful environment the government has taken steps to give a new boost to its tourist industry. Now it is estimated that there about 500,000 tourist visiting the island every year, specially from Western Europe, South Asia, North East Asia, Eastern Europe, Australia and North America. Wild life parks and Zoos are upgraded. Hotel-building and recreational facilities are being accelerated. Sri Lanka with its 100 kilometres of coastline, rainforest and wild- life parks abounds with a variety of holiday attractions. It is also gifted with

eight UNESCO World Heritage sites. Tourists feel that Sri Lanka is an affordable destination and they can get their moneys' worth of food and entertainment. Already the international tourists coming into the island nation have increased Sri Lanka has the locational advantage of being in the middle of the Old world and tourists could easily access it from all parts of the world.

Government still has to do many things to better the situation. The transport facilities have to be improved. The main road to the North has to be renovated early. People travelling by bus have to undergo several hardships as the roads are filled with pot-holes and ill-maintained terrain. The railways lines have still to be re-laid after the years of terrorism and conflicts. The security situation in the North has still to be re-established. There are frequent incidents of theft, kidnapping and unnecessary loss of lives which have to be stopped immediately. Political revenge-taking and vested interests of political sycophants should be abolished. The ethnic problem should be solved constructively, amicably and expeditiously. It has taken its toll over the years and as Colvin R De Silva put it, it should never be allowed to continue 'corroding the body politic of the nation'. If the total money spent on war and conflicts were used for national development Sri Lanka would have been a veritable para-

dise on earth. The island nation has lost tremendously due to continued arms struggle which has not found a lasting panacea for the continuing ills of the nation. The peace established should be preserved and the country should flourish. Sri Lanka has all the natural assets but its only the human activities that have to be improved and made better. As the Tamil poet and sage, Valluvar put it, 'Nellum Uyiranre, neerum uyir anre; Mannan Uyirthe maalar thalai ulagam'. It is good government that is the essence of peace and prosperity.

Moreover Tourism needs an overall and comprehensive development. A facelift is vital for all historical and cultural sites. New avenues could be open as health resorts. Government has already engaged in new projects to boost its tourist industry. Infra-structural facilities as well as transport routes to tourist sites have to be renovated and maintained in good condition. Hassle free access is indispensable. Recently Kalpitiya area in the North West is to be developed under the Kalpitiya Integrated Report Project (KITRAP). The project will build 5000 eco-friendly hotel rooms in 4000 acres. The resort will be built with water spills and recreational facilities and will take four years to be completed. Every thing augurs well for Sri Lanka but the peace and stability should be maintained at any cost.



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# Recent Event



## Some Tamil Business leaders meet Ontario's PC Candidate for Ajax-Pickering

Todd McCarthy, Ontario PC candidate for the riding of Ajax-Pickering, held a lunch meeting with business leaders from the Tamil community in Ajax recently. The meeting was an opportunity for local business leaders to discuss provincial issues that affect their ability to grow and succeed in their community.

Since being nominated as the candidate, McCarthy has heard from a large number of local business leaders that Dalton McGuinty's rising taxes and increasing red tape are hurting their ability to create jobs in Ajax-Pickering.

"The McGuinty Liberals have repeatedly demonstrated a total lack of understanding or support for small business in Ontario," said McCarthy. "This government completely ignores the economic

benefits of small businesses, overtaxing them and their employees to fund wasteful Liberal spending. This government is hurting the vibrant communities these businesses help to support. I believe that governments don't create real jobs. Small businesses do."

McCarthy said that a change in government is necessary to lift the burden on small businesses in Ontario.

"A Tim Hudak government will create an environment in which small businesses can grow and thrive. I look forward to working with Tamil business owners and with small businesses across Ajax-Pickering to reduce red tape, lower taxes and rebuild Ontario's competitiveness and prosperity."

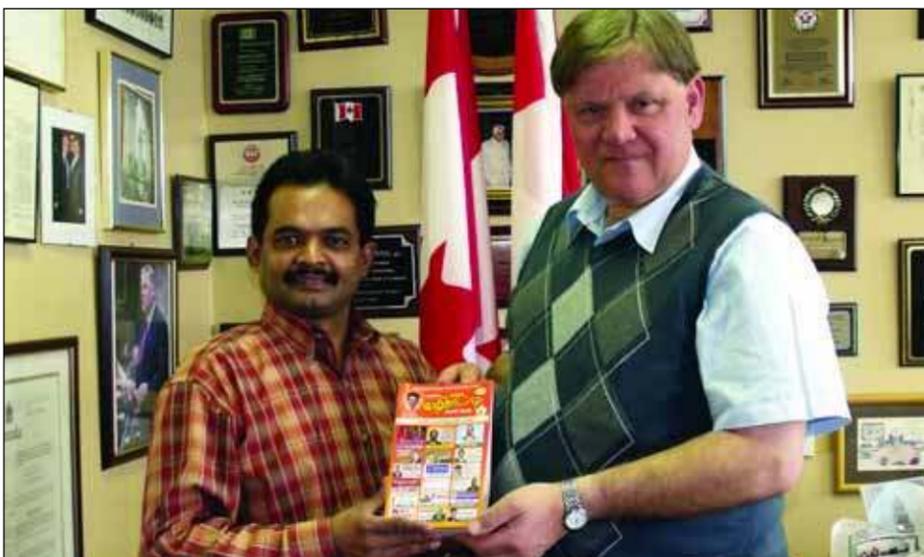


## 2011 Tamils' Guide is released

The 2011 issue of the Tamils' Guide is released as usual in January. Hon Jim Karygiannis, M.P for Agincourt and a dedicated friend of the Tamil Community received the first copy from Senthil Chelliah, the president of the Tamils'

Guide. Copies can be obtained from all Tamil Commercial outlets. The president thanks all those who were supportive in this venture.

Athavan Publications: 416-615-4646  
www.tamilsguide.com



## Our City, Our Services, Our Future: Toronto Women Deliver Letter to Mayor Ford on Service Cuts



Facing cuts to key public services including transit, libraries, recreation, and community centres, women representing diverse communities and groups gathered today to give a letter to the Mayor and to ask that services be reinstated. On March 12, Toronto women will rally to defend city services as they mark the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

"Committed and courageous women take on issues in their neighbourhoods every day and these cuts will seriously undermine their work to bring change to their communities," said Rosemarie Powell from the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre. Powell was one of many women speaking at a press conference earlier today held at City Hall.

"This is real - when bad policies are made, women are usually the first ones to be directly impacted. We can't just simply walk away. Our lives are embedded in our neighbourhoods, places where our children should be safe to learn and grow."

Other speakers stressed that the City's budget decisions will have a direct impact on women's safety. "My bus route is going to be cut after 10 pm starting May 8 and women like me who live and work in Scarborough are going to be particularly affected," said Hafsa Zarook from the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians. "There have been service cuts in 41 bus routes and this is going to affect marginalized communities, including racialized women like me that need transit to meaningfully participate in the city and get around safely."

Women attempting to deliver a letter to Mayor Ford were told only 1 of them could meet with him and no media would

be allowed in. Women said the Mayor should meet them all as after all women and girls are 52% of Toronto's residents. They said, he should uphold his promise of always being available to meet the residents of Toronto. Thirty minutes later Mayor Ford turned up to meet the women. When women told the Mayor about the impacts of the cuts in transit, recreational, and immigrant settlement services on them, his response was that he was elected to "make the city efficient", and that is what he was doing. He did not respond as to why the cuts and 'efficiencies' were being made at the expense of low income women and children and all low income Torontonians and was quickly whisked away by this press secretary. It is a sad day for Toronto when the Mayor can only spare 2 minutes to speak with the women of the city.

The letter delivered to Mayor Ford called on City Hall to prioritize the maintenance and funding of city services. Citing the disproportionate impact of cuts on women and girls, the letter encouraged all levels of government to work together to ensure that city services are accessible and affordable for all.

Toronto International Women's Day Organizing Committee is a coalition of women's groups, immigrant women's organizations, unions, student federations and women from a range of organizations working on issues of equality and equity in the city.

For further information: Jennifer Arango, 647-235-8575, Prabha Khosla, 647-867-3363

IWD Organizing Committee



# Spirituality

## WORDS OF PEACE



## A Platform of Peace

When people are tossed about by circumstances, life can seem wonderful one day and terrible the next. It's all a matter of perspective. Maharaji talks about finding a perspective that is not swayed by the winds of change.

"Imagine a huge, beautiful field," Maharaji says. "In this field, there are huge statues. Some of these statues are of pain, and some of these statues are of joy.

"You are a traveler going from statute to statue. Sometimes you stand at the base of a statue of pain. You look up, and it is so enormous that you cannot believe it. All of a sudden, all the other statues start to look small. Then one day you go by a statue of joy. You look up, and that statue is so big that the statues of pain look small.

"Do you really want to see these statues the way they are? Then you have to stand on the hill of peace."

Peace, Maharaji says, is a word that's used to mean a lot of different things, from the absence of war to the quiet of the countryside. He has made it his mission to introduce people to a peace that dwells in the heart of every human being.

"When all the masks are off, and you are left with who you are," Maharaji says, "then this human being—you, me—needs peace. The real peace, not an imagined peace or social peace.

"From the platform of peace, and only from there, you will have the perspective that no statue is bigger than any other.



They're all the same, whether they are joy or pain. Pain will come, and it will go. Joy will come, and it will go.

"We need the peace that begins from the heart, that can be felt. Not a concept, but a peace that already is shining in the heart of every single person on the face of this earth."

Maharaji travels around the world talking to people in a variety of settings about finding peace within. He often answers questions from the audience to help clarify his remarks.

Q: Do you think that there can be peace on this earth?

A: All I know is that there can be peace in you. That's all I know. The problem is that we have defined what peace is. I'm saying: Undo those definitions and

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Peace is possible.  
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be felt.

see the possibility of peace for every single human being.

Q: Don't you think it's important to address the problems in this world?

A: I could say a lot of negative things about this world if I wanted to. I could paint a future that is really gloomy, and I could point to all the mistakes that we should never have made. I'm not here for that. I'm here for the good news—the most elusive, yet the most wanted news throughout history—that peace resides within inside of you. I don't know of any greater news than that.

Q: Where does the pain in this world come from?

A: You know, there was a little child who went to the doctor and said, "Doctor, it hurts." The doctor said, "Where does it hurt?" The child said, "Everywhere I touch, it hurts. I touch my forehead, it hurts. I touch my cheek, it hurts, I touch my foot, it hurts. I touch my stomach, it hurts. I touch my ear, it hurts." The doc-

tor said, "I think your finger is broken."

The source of the pain is very simple. It is the lack of your true identity.

Q: Then how can I know who I truly am?

A: Whatever may happen, whatever may come, your want for peace will be there—and the way to fulfill that peace will also be there. Why is this important? It is important because this is your true nature. This is who you are. If you understand that peace is within you and the thirst for peace is within you, then you have taken the biggest step towards realizing peace in your life.

To learn more about Maharaji, visit:  
[www.wopg.org](http://www.wopg.org)  
[www.tprf.org](http://www.tprf.org)

To know more about the practical way to enjoy inner peace, please call  
1 877 707 3221 Toll Free for a Free DVD.

# Special Feature



# Sri Lanka must set up cricket school with Murali in charge

by Amarnath Paul

From the moment Muralitharan entered the arena of cricket he has been an awesome competitor. He worked tirelessly to get to the top and put his heart and soul into the game he so loved. Unexpectedly, he then had to battle the unjust and vitriolic accusations of umpires and other great pundits and some retired players who accused him of chucking, followed by the ugly chants of Australian crowds.

This kind of unforeseen combat to prove his credibility for a prolonged period, made the little master of spin even more resilient and strong. His endurance and courage to stand up to international criticism and suspicion of his bowling action is truly amazing. Finally with the help of Australian specialists themselves and their technical expertise the legitimacy of his bowling was proved to the Australian critics and the rest of the world. Thereafter, the modest Murali super charged with more confidence than before, enjoyed the glory and plaudits that came his way with the icing on the cake being the crowning achievement of becoming the spinner who took the most number of wickets in the world, in Test cricket.

Being the best in the world instantly attracts contract deals and other lucrative offers to a man who deserves it all. But, when I read the sports page of The



Island two days ago, it took me by complete surprise that Australia of all countries had wanted him as coach to Brisbane's prestigious centre of excellence! Indeed the wheel has come one circle, and what a slow, gruelling circle it has been for the Smiling Assailant!

After Arjuna Ranatunga retired in 2001, Sri Lanka were again scheduled to play Australia in Australia and the former captain who stood by Murali in times of adversity, advised his ex team mate, Murali, (with good intentions of course) not to go on that particular tour, fearing the aggressive taunt of the Australian spectators, although his bowl-

ing action was cleared by ICC in 1996. As a non professional cricket enthusiast I was of the opinion he must go to allay any further rumblings from his detractors, especially the antagonistic Aussie crowds. Finally, he did go, and came back, smarter, taller, grittier and happier than ever before! And, if I am not mistaken some of the banners carried by Australian crowds, read, "We Love You Murali" !

Whether Murali takes the Australian assignment or not, I wish this unassuming gentleman of cricket the very best in everything he does, especially at the forthcoming world cup which would be

"Adversity cause  
some men to  
break;  
others to break  
records"

– William A. Ward

his swan song. May he have a happy and satisfying closing chapter to his international game of cricket. Whether he walks out of this World Cup with roses and jasmynes strewn around him or not, he will remain a legend. A Sri Lankan Icon loved by people of all walks of life, here and abroad. We will not see the likes of him for a long, long time on the world arena of cricket, I am sure.

My present thinking is that the Ministry of Sports should set up a school of excellence for spin bowling and entice the great master to be in charge, before someone else grabs his expertise and above all his honorable and graceful approach to playing the game of cricket in an era where too many players around the world rubbish the game by their pathetic display of hooliganism. [transCurrents.com]

## Rehabilitation Residential Facility for Differently Able Children Facility in Achchuvely Another Project of Gods Own Children Foundation Creators & Administrators of "Puloly Children's Village"

The Civil War in Sri Lanka, which came to a brutal end in May 2009, has left an indelible mark in the lives of Thousands of innocent Civilians. Many Children lost both of their Parents, and many more Children were maimed for life. Children who were in the prime of their Childhood ... Children who should be running around in Playgrounds, lost their limbs, and became dependant on another person's assistance. Since, the war affected families of the Vanni, were below poverty level, obtaining assistance for these maimed Children, was absolutely impossible. Children, who prior to being disabled, had ambitious Educational Dreams, found all their hopes dashed. The Children became depressed, traumatic and boister-

ous. Some of the Children openly cried that what happened to them should not happen to other Children.

However, almost Two Years later, there is some hope for these Children. War Disabled Children are now being taken care of in a Dedicated Differently Able Children's Rehabilitation and Resettlement Facility in Achchuvely, in the Jaffna Peninsula. This Facility is Managed and Administered by the GODS OWN CHILDREN FOUNDATION, Administrators of Puloly Children's Village, a Mega Residential Facility for Orphan and Disadvantaged Children.

Some of the pictures seen here shows how, the happy faces now of the Disabled Children, now in Achchuvely. Some of the

Children have disregarded their disability and have even excelled in Dance and Drama. A Newsletter on the progress of all our Children in Achchuvely Home for Differently Able Children and Puloly Children's Village will be released by GOC.  
www.godsownchildren.com  
email: godsownchildren.srilanka@gmail.com





# Spirituality

## Playing Cricket Without Opposition Accepting the other team is most important

**When acceptance is total, there is no more opposition.**

As children, we played a game simply because we enjoyed it. Slowly, sport has evolved into an investment opportunity. Take the Cricket World Cup for example. Sadly, as the players become more and more involved in the Championship, they forget the play. In fact, play becomes work. Only when players enjoy playing, they can perform their best.

Playing for India means fulfilling a billion people's expectations and that is not easy. When players start playing to satisfy other people's expectations, their minds are stressed and their physical activity also becomes limited.

When a man is truly happy and care-free, he can engage in incredible physical action. This is the main aspect of yoga for sport, that action can be performed without prior thought. With thought, intentions can be visible.

So one does not think, one simply acts, as is needed in this moment. When the players practise intensely, everything that they have to do on the field becomes like their second nature.

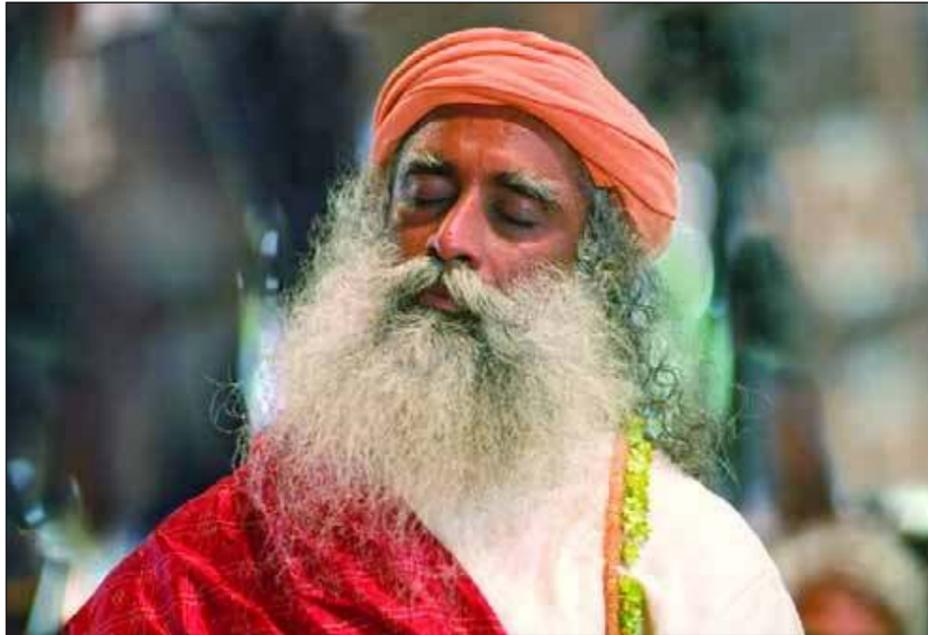
Action can simply flow out of them - as the game demands. This way, they can respond with agility to whatever the other team throws at them. With proper practice of yoga, bringing sufficient control over their mind and body, they can learn to act without prior thinking.

Meditation means going back to one's original nature. When one is simply with this breath, all identifications dissolve. It is impossible to meditate as a champion. Similarly, when playing a game, the cricketer should drop all identity.

If the cricketer constantly thinks of himself as per his identity, it would be very burdensome. Once he becomes 100% free of identity, he doesn't have to play the game. It just happens.

How is a cricketing legend born? Surely not because the team he played against was not competent. For such a player, coordination is at its peak. He knows what he wants in his life. He is so committed to what he wants, that it becomes a reality. If our cricketers can organise their energies, bodies and minds in such a way that they get more and more focused, everything happens for the best.

Cricket is just one form of activity the player has chosen. It is important that this person becomes truly aware - physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Then whatever game he plays, he will play very well. When fools are playing cricket, cricket will be a foolish game. When intelligent people play cricket, it will be an intelligent game. It all depends on who is playing the game.



Sadhguru Vasudev is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being. For world-wide program information, visit [www.ishafoundation.org](http://www.ishafoundation.org)  
Toronto local contact 1-866-424-ISHA (4742) or email [Toronto@ishafoundation.org](mailto:Toronto@ishafoundation.org)



What the players make of themselves is more important than cricket. Without bringing a certain quality into themselves, they cannot bring quality into the game. If they cultivate humility, they can aspire to reach unimaginable heights of performance. Humility is just acceptance of what is. Out of this acceptance, they can use their intelligence and act.

Acceptance is important to connect to a situation and to respond to the situation intelligently. Accepting the other team is most important. When acceptance is total, there is no more opposition.

Only if the other eleven people are

there can a game be played - only then is a match possible. With acceptance, there is no tension. The other team's capabilities and victory record will no more be a problem. With total acceptance, their presence will diminish. This is a spiritual process also. When acceptance is total, the entire existence becomes a part of oneself. This is the way of nature.

Sadhguru J. Vasudev is a contemporary mystic rooted as strongly in worldly and pragmatic matters as he is in inner experience and wisdom. Named one of India's 50 most influential people, he has addressed prominent global forums on

issues as diverse as socio-economic development, leadership and spirituality. He has served as delegate to the United Nations Millennium Peace Summit and the World Peace Congress and has been a special invitee to the World Economic Forum (2006-2009), the Australian Leadership Retreat (2006) and TED (2009).

His interviews are featured in The New York Times, BBC, Bloomberg, CNNI and CNBC. He is the author of several books, the subject of four books and co-author of the Amazon Bestseller "Midnights with the Mystic". His public talks frequently draw crowds of over 300,000 people.

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# Special Feature



## 50th Anniversary of 1961 Tamil

### “Satyagraha” campaign

By D.B.S.JEYARAJ

*“Thus the violence of the oppressor silenced the non-violence of the oppressed; the armed might of Sinhala chauvinism crushed the ahimsa of the Tamils. This historical event marked the beginning of a political experience that was crucial to the Tamil national struggle, an experience that taught the Tamils that the moral power of non-violence could not consume the military power of a violent oppressor whose racial hatred transcends all ethical norms of humanness and civilized behaviour.*

*To the oppressor this event encouraged the view that military terrorism is the only answer to the Tamil demand and that the non-violent foundation of the Tamil political agitation is a weak and impotent structure against the barrel of the gun.” - Anton Balasingham in LTTE booklet “Liberation Tigers and Tamil Eelam Freedom Struggle”*

February 20th 1961 is a very important date in the history of the Sri Lankan Tamil political struggle to regain lost rights.

It was on this day, fifty years ago that the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK) known in English as the Federal Party (FP) led by SJV Chelvanayakam commenced a non – violent direct action campaign against the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) Government headed by the world’s first woman Prime minister Sirima Bandaranaike.

Years and years of witnessing a brutal armed struggle by Tamil militants has created an impression in the minds of many that the nature of Tamil politics in this country has been intrinsically violent. This violence has even served vested interests to dismiss the justice of the Tamil cause and portray the “problem” as being an issue concerning law and order only.

What is forgotten, ignored or conveniently overlooked is the fact that for over three decades in post – Independence Sri Lanka the Tamil political struggle was basically non – violent and adhered to the noble doctrine of “Ahimsa” (avoidance of injury/violence) enunciated by that great apostle of non – violence Mahatma Gandhi.

It has been argued by many that it was the failure of the non – violent Tamil struggle to remedy prevailing political maladies that paved the way for an emerging, frustrated generation of Tamil youth to take to the gun.

Whatever the merits or otherwise of this argument there is no denying that



Trincomalee Convention 1956: Federal Party leaders at the Trincomalee Convention, August 1956. (L-R) M. M. Mustapha, MP for Poththuvil, K. Thurairatnam (smiling), MP for Point Pedro, N. R. Rajavarothayam (foreground), MP for Trincomalee and Chairman of the Reception Committee for the Convention. V. A. Kandiah, MP for Kayts, A. Amirhalingam, MP for Vaddukoaddai, C. Vanniyasingam, MP for Koappaay and President of the Party for the year. S. Sinnathurai (with mustache) retired Postmaster and administrative secretary in charge of Party headquarters at 2nd Cross Street, Jaffna. S. Nadarajah (later Senator), S.J.V Chelvanayakam, MP for Kaangkeasanthurai and Leader of the Party (holding thalikody and neck chains of gold donated by women from Trincomalee ), V. Navaratnam, then General-Secretary of the Party and Organizer of the Convention and later MP for Kayts (holding rupee notes donated by the public) and Dr. E.M.V Naganathan, Joint General-Secretary, later MP for Nalloor.

the third quarter of the twentieth century is replete with instances of non – violent political dissent and protest conducted by the Sri Lankan Tamils. Hartals, Satyagrahas, black flag demonstrations, marches, processions, mass demonstrations, protest fasts, days of mourning, civil disobedience, civil resistance, boycotts, etc were a regular feature of Tamil politics in those days.

The high watermark of this politics of non – violent protest was the great “Satyagraha” campaign launched on February 20th in 1961.

It is an event that the Tamils of Sri Lanka can be proud of as an achievement where a small, unarmed, defenceless people through united effort and dedication paralysed the administrative machinery of the Colombo government for nearly two months in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka until military repression was unleashed.

#### HARBINGER

The deployment of the armed forces was in a way a harbinger of the future of the Tamil dominated Northern Province and Tamil majority Eastern Province where increased radicalisation was met by increased militarisation.

Today there is a pervasive presence of the armed forces in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Representative politics is in a state of decline and decay in those provinces.

The 1961 Satyagraha despite its fundamental non – violent nature also displayed signs of the future course of Tamil politics. The impatience displayed by some youths who engaged in acts of defiance indicated the possible rise of militancy.

Also the acts of civil disobedience like running a parallel postal service during the campaign were straws in the wind pointing towards flourishing separatism of the future.

What is sadly noteworthy about the entire exercise is the fact that the FP was an electoral ally of the SLFP in the 1960 July elections that propelled Mrs. Bandaranaike to power.

Despite this positive feature, events took a turn for the worse and within a year the chief political parties of the Sinhala and Tamil people were at loggerheads with each other. This political breakdown resulted in the politics of confrontation and culminated in the 1961 Satyagraha.

#### SIGNIFICANT

In order to understand this state of affairs it is necessary to delve deep into the two general elections of March and July 1960 where the FP played a significant role in unmaking and making the governments of Dudley Senanayake and Sirima Bandaranaike.

What led the FP to throw in its lot with the SLFP against the UNP and

what caused the rupture in this SLFP – FP relationship are developments worthy of detailed scrutiny in this respect.

An analysis of those by – gone events are necessary at this juncture to appreciate fully the backdrop against which the 1961 Satyagraha was staged.

Intricate political negotiations were on between the March and July elections of 1960. The FP played a prominent role in these behind the scene moves. These matters need to be examined more closely in order to comprehend the political environment which paved the way for the 1961 Satyagraha.

The vehemence and determination shown by the SLFP govt and opposition FP during the Satyagraha turmoil can be contextually understood only if the political foreplay between March–July 1960 is scrutinised.

The assassination of SWRD Bandaranaike in September 1959 saw the maverick W. Dahanayake becoming Prime minister. His tenure however was short lived and fresh elections were conducted in March 1960. For the first time polling in all parts of the country from Paruthithurai to Devinuwara were held on a single day.

The number of seats in Parliament increased from 101 to 157. Six of these were appointed MP’s while 151 were elected from 145 electorates. The con-

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# Special Feature

stituencies of Colombo South, Akurana, Batticaloa and Mutur had two Members each while Colombo Central had three.

## CAMPAIGN

Dudley Senanayake who had gone into voluntary retirement in 1953 had re-entered politics in 1957. He led the United National Party (UNP) in the 1960 Polls. The SLFP was led by CP de Silva.

SWRD's widow Sirima did not take the centre stage when the election campaign got underway but got involved in canvassing at a later stage

Other Prime ministerial aspirants were Philip Gunewardene of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) Dr. NM Perera of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) and of course the outgoing caretaker PM Wijayananda Dahanayake of the Lanka Prajathanthrawadi Peramuna (LPP).

When results were announced it was a hung Parliament. The UNP had 50 and the SLFP 46. The LSSP and MEP had 10 each. The third largest party was the FP with 15 seats. It appeared that the FP held the balance of power in the new Parliament

The party had won the seats of Kankesanthurai (KKS), Vaddukkodai, Nallur, Chavakachcheri, Point Pedro, Uduvil, Kayts, Kopay, Kilinochchi and Mannar in the Northern Province and the electorates of Batticaloa, Paddiruppu, Kalkudah, Trincomalee and Mutur in the Eastern Province.

Governor – General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke regarded as partisan towards the UNP called upon Dudley Senanayake to form a new government as the party had the most number of seats in Parliament. It was however doubtful whether Dudley could cobble together the majority required to form a stable government.

Even with the aid of the six appointed MP's nominated by the new Premier and the support of a few Independent MP's and crossers over from the LPP, Dudley had only 60-61 out of 157. But if he could get the 15 seat support from the FP the UNP leader was optimistic of garnering further support from more Independent MP's and by weaning away some breakaways from smaller parties.

## CHELVANAYAKAM

Thus the support of Chelvanayakam was crucial for Senanayake to form a viable government. Likewise the Support of the FP was equally important for the SLFP if it was requested to form an alternative govt

So when the victorious FP leader Chelvanayakam flew from Palaly to Ratmalana he was a much desired person politically.

Eminent persons such as ex –Prime minister Sir John Kotelawela, former state councillor Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva, retd chief justice Sir Edward Jayatileka and former Justice minister and Senate leader Sir Lalitha Rajapaksa wooed Chelvanayakam ardently on behalf of the UNP and set up meetings with Dudley Senanayake.

But the SLFP had an ace up its sleeve



S. J.V. Chelvanayagam

which the UNP could not compete against.

That was the agreement signed by SWRD Bandaranaike and SJV Chelvanayakam in June 1957 known as the Banda – Chelva or B-C pact.

This pact agreed to set up one regional council for the North and two for the east with provision to amalgamate. It also agreed for positive measures on the use of Tamil in administration and in courts and set out guidelines on colonisation.

Opposition to the BC pact by the UNP and sections of the Buddhist clergy had compelled Bandaranaike to abrogate the pact unilaterally.

Chelvanayakam had a surprise visitor when he landed at Ratmalana. This was none other than former Up Country Tamil MP D.Ramanujan.

He was there representing Saumiyamoorthy Thondaman the president of the Ceylon Workers Congress. With Dudley Senanayake being close towards Plantation Tamil leader SP Vaithilingam, the resourceful Thondaman was moving closer to the SLFP at that time.

The CWC had reached a general understanding with the FP that the Sri Lankan Tamil party should also espouse the cause of Up Country Tamils in negotiations with any government in power. As such there was political affinity between both parties.

Ramanujam persuaded Chelvanayakam to drop in at Thondaman's CWC office to meet with a surprise guest. Chelvanayakam obliged. Waiting for him with Thondaman was Dr. Badi – ud – din Mahmood the educationist.

Dr. Mahmood who later became Education minister in Mrs. Bandaranaike's govt was very close to the Bandaranaike family and was one of those who played a role in bringing her to active politics.

## BANDA – CHELVA PACT

Dr. Mahmood told Chelvanayakam that the SLFP was prepared to resurrect the Banda –Chelva pact and set up

Regional Councils with even more powers over lands and colonisation if the FP refrained from supporting the UNP .

He also promised progressive concessionary measures for the use of Tamil in the administrative and legal spheres. The shrewd Mahmood pointed out that the UNP could not grant the B-C pact to the FP.

Thus Chelvanayakam was fortified with the knowledge that the B-C pact was in the pipeline when he engaged in talks with Dudley Senanayake.

Besides the FP was also miffed at premature media reports that Dudley Senanayake had informed the Governor –General of the FP's support even before negotiations had commenced.

At discussions with Dudley Senanayake the FP leader placed four broad demands orally. One was that Regional Councils as envisaged by the BC pact be set up with powers over land alienation and development.

The second was parity of status for Tamil as a language of administration and courts.

The third was for amendments to the Ceylon citizenship act no 18 of 1948 enabling speedier, enhanced registration of de- citizenised and disenfranchised Up Country Tamils.

The fourth demand was that four of the six Appointed MP slots be given to Up Country Tamil representatives

Chelvanayakam informed Senanayake that the FP was prepared to compromise slightly on the demands if necessary. The party would support the UNP if Senanayake would make a genuine effort in alleviating the travails experienced by Tamils.

The meeting ended without Senanayake inquiring about demands Chelvanayakam was willing to whittle down. The next meeting was scheduled for March 26th.

Again the SLFP moved fast and outsmarted Dudley.

## FELIX.R.D.BANDARANAIKE

Chelvanayakam had a young visitor on March 23rd. This was Felix R Dias

Bandaranaike – the nephew of SWRD Bandaranaike –elected from Dompe.

The brilliant young lawyer was the rising star in the SLFP. Felix's father the Supreme court Judge was a close friend of Chelvanayakam

Felix assured Chelvanayakam that the SLFP would follow the measures agreed between SWRD Bandaranaike and SJV Chelvanayakam in 1957. The B-C pact would be implemented in full and regional councils set up. Felix also told Chelva that the SLFP would make a policy declaration on this in presenting the throne speech.

When Senanayake met Chelvanayakam on March 26th, the UNP leader outlined his difficulties in acceding to FP demands. He requested Chelvanayakam to tone down the demands if possible.

SJV then told Dudley that the FP would drop its demand for parity of status between the Sinhala and Tamil languages. The FP would be satisfied with provisions for use of Tamil as an official language in the North and East and for reasonable usage in the administrative and legal spheres.

The FP was also ready to accept one Plantation Tamil representative to be appointed MP instead of four as demanded.

The party however was not ready to compromise on the other two demands pertaining to the regional councils and citizenship act. Senanayake then asked the FP to submit the final demands in writing. This was done on the same day.

On March 27th morning, Senanayake contacted Chelvanayakam and asked for his support in electing a UNP candidate as Speaker. Chelvanayakam declined saying the party had pledged support to the opposition candidate.

Subsequently the opposition nominee TB Subasinghe defeated the govt nominee Sir Albert Peiris.

Senanayake met with Chelvanayakam again on March 27th evening.

## SEPARATION

On that occasion Senanayake candidly informed Chelvanayakam that he could not help set up regional councils as envisaged by the B- C pact as the UNP had opposed it vehemently as a stepping stone for separation.

Instead he asked the FP to trust him and promised that he would not act detrimentally towards Tamils. He also offered ministerial portfolios to the FP.

Chelvanayakam declined the portfolios and withdrew from discussions. It was apparent that the talks had collapsed.

Nevertheless there was constant pressure by prominent Colombo Tamils on the FP in general and Chelvanayakam in particular that Dudley Senanayake as a "gentleman in politics" should be unconditionally supported.

The FP remained firm in resisting these pressures

An important reason for the FP

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# Special Feature



stance was because the party had already arrived at an “understanding” with the SLFP on matters concerned.

Apart from the preliminary “talks” between Chelva and Felix an official SLFP delegation comprising CP de Silva, Maithripala Senanayake, AP Jayasuriya and Felix Dias Bandaranaike also met with a FP team led by Chelvanayakam.

Chelvanayakam placed the same four demands submitted to the UNP to the SLFP also. The SLFP at the outset declared that the party would not enter into a formal agreement with the FP.

Given the history of Sinhala opposition to the B-C pact it was not practical to forge another official pact again. But the SLFP proposed to make an explicit policy statement on issues raised by the FP when it presented its own throne speech if and when asked to form a government after the anticipated fall of the UNP govt.

## DISTRICT COUNCILS

On the four demands raised the SLFP delegation led by CP de Silva deviated slightly from the position articulated by Felix Bandaranaike.

The SLFP was transparently frank in saying that it too was opposed to the setting up of regional councils for the North and East. Notwithstanding SWRD's readiness to set up regional councils, subsequent events had eroded that concept.

The SLFP said it was not possible to make special arrangements for the Tamil majority North and East alone. That would lead to a Sinhala backlash

What the SLFP proposed instead was the setting up of District Councils for each administrative or revenue district. There were 22 then. Each district council would in essence have the powers and functions as envisaged for the Regional council.

The Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa councils would have Tamil dominated administrations. The SLFP re-iterated that the basic powers of the Regional council would be available under the District council also.

On the question of Language the SLFP was not prepared for parity of status. It was however ready to introduce and implement measures enabling Tamil to be used for administrative purposes and in courts in the North and East. Provision for reasonable use of Tamil outside the north and east would also be made.

The Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act presented by SWRD Bandaranaike and approved by Parliament in August 1958 would set out the guidelines in this.

The SLFP however rejected any amendment to the citizenship act. It was inflexible on that count but agreed to nominate two Plantation Tamils as appointed MP/s.

The SLFP also said that the CWC's Thondaman would be nominated as appointed MP and that issues concerning Up Country Tamils would be ironed out with him

## THRONE SPEECH

The SLFP stated that all assurances and pledges on these issues would be given concrete form as a statement of policy in the throne speech. There would however be no pact or agreement in written form.

After laying out its cards openly the SLFP told the FP that if the Sinhala party defaulted on its assurances the Tamil party always had the option of voting against it after the throne speech debate.

Without FP support the SLFP govt would fall. As such the party cannot afford to dishonour its promises it was pointed out.

Despite the SLFP position being non – conciliatory on certain aspects, the FP decided then to extend support towards it and vote against the UNP.

The proposed implementation of the essential aspects of the agreement reached with SWRD Bandaranaike proved irresistible.

There was also the antipathy towards the UNP for its role in opposing and scuttling the B-C pact. The UNP fate was sealed.

Parliament ceremonially opened on April 19th. The Throne speech debate commenced on April 20th. On the third and final day Chelvanayakam addressed the house and attacked the UNP harshly.

“The real enemy of the Tamil speaking people is not the SLFP but the UNP. It was the UNP Bhikkus who pressured Mr. Bandaranaike to tear up the B-C pact” charged Chelvanayakam.

When the vote was taken on April 22nd the Federal Party voted along with the opposition against the UNP govt. The Throne speech was defeated by 25 votes. The Govt had 61 and opposition 86 with 08 abstentions.

After an emergency meeting of cabinet Dudley Senanayake recommended to the Governor –General that Parliament be dissolved and fresh polls held.

Sir Oliver however summoned the heads of all opposition political parties and told them that he was exploring prospects of forming an alternative government instead of holding elections. It was now the turn of the SLFP with 46 seats to have a go at govt formation.

## CP de SILVA

The SLFP leader CP de Silva then called upon the Governor –General and urged that he be given an opportunity to form a government. He said he had the required numbers and was confident of securing FP support.

Thereafter Sir Oliver asked SJV Chelvanayakam to call over at Queens House to ascertain whether the FP was indeed extending support to the SLFP.

On his way to Fort from his Alfred House Gardens residence in Kollupitiya, Chelvanayakam dropped in at Felix's house in Mahanuge Gardens. Waiting there were CP de Silva and AP Jayasuriya.

Once again Chelvanayakam queried whether the assurances given by the SLFP were valid still. The answer was in the affirmative. Then Chelva asked

whether the essence of the B-C pact would be implemented as promised. Again the answer was positive.

At this stage Chelvanayakam looked at fellow old Thomian and potential premier CP de Silva and asked him point blank “what guarantee is there that you would honour these assurances”? To which CP de Silva gave a characteristic response. “I drive a hard bargain and when I've made it, I keep it”, CP replied.

A satisfied Chelva left for Queen's House while CP de Silva awaited his tryst with destiny. Alas! Fate decreed otherwise!

Sir Oliver Goonetilleke received Chelvanayakam and told him that he was trying to ascertain whether CP de Silva could form an alternative govern-



Chelvanayakam known as “Thanthai Chelva” (father) at Satyagraha

ment. If the SLFP did not have the required numbers he was going to dissolve Parliament.

## “UNQUALIFIED” SUPPORT

Stating that the support of the FP was crucial in this respect the Governor – General asked the FP leader categorically whether the FP would provide “unqualified” support to the SLFP led alternative government for a minimum period of two years.

Sir Oliver had stressed on “unqualified” support because he felt that the FP could be forced to withdraw support quickly if the SLFP reneged on its pledges to the party. Therefore he wanted to satisfy himself of it's stability by eliciting a firm guarantee from Chelvanayakam.

But the lawyer in Chelvanayakam balked at the prospect of pledging “unqualified” support as requested by the G-G.

Being an honourable politician, Chelvanayakam realised that he and the FP would be firmly bound for two years if he stated so to Sir Oliver. At the same time he could not take the political risk of extending unqualified support for 24 months if the SLFP dishonoured its assurances.

In a bid to extricate himself from this tricky situation, Chelvanayakam gave what could be termed a “smart” answer.

Chelvanayakam replied that the FP had arrived at an understanding with the SLFP and that his party would support the SLFP led govt not merely for two

years but for its full term.

By this answer Chelvanayakam had avoided giving a categorical assurance about extending “unqualified support”. But the politically sagacious Sir Oliver cited this perceived reluctance on the part of the FP leader to explicitly guarantee unqualified support as proof of the proposed government's “fragility”.

Stating that he was dissatisfied by Chelvanayakam's answer the Governor – General went ahead and dissolved Parliament.

## GOVERNOR –GENERAL

It is widely believed that Sir Oliver's bias towards the UNP was the cause for this and that the Governor – General had made Chelvanayakam the “scapegoat” for this.

But there is also a less charitable explanation for Sir Oliver's conduct.

According to Chelvanayakam's son in law and political scientist AJ Wilson the real reason was “caste”. CP de Silva belonged to the “Salagama” caste. Wilson quotes Dr.N.M Perera as having been told by Sir Oliver “How can I appoint a Salagama man”?

Although the concept of caste is frowned upon in polite Sri Lankan society and is tabooed as being politically incorrect, a harsh reality of politics and arranged marriages is the role of the caste factor in both spheres.

It is an incontrovertible fact of contemporary history that all the Governor – Generals, Prime Ministers and Presidents of Sri Lanka have been from the Govigama caste with the singular exception/aberration of Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Whatever the reason governing the Governor – General's action the immediate consequence was dissolution and the staging of fresh elections.

All the opposition parties including the FP protested against Sir Oliver's action and wrote a letter criticising the move. Nevertheless new elections were held in July 1960.

As the election campaign began it soon became clear that a re-furbished SLFP would do better than it did at the March elections.

## WEEPING WIDOW

The main reason for this was the

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# Special Feature

campaigning by Sirima Bandaranaike. Dubbed as the “weeping widow” by sections of the media Mrs. Bandaranaike drew unprecedented crowds at meetings.

Many of the leaders and influential segments of the SLFP who had broken away after SWRD’s death now returned to party folds. Supporters who voted for the MEP and LPP in March were also returning to the SLFP.

The SLFP also entered into a no contest pact with the Samasamajists and Communists. Thus fragmentation of the left vote was prevented.

Apart from these factors the unwritten understanding with the FP created a situation where the leading Tamil party was an “indirect” electoral ally of the SLFP.

Given the fractured verdict of March 1960 it was assumed that July 1960 too would result in a hung Parliament with the SLFP having the most amount of seats. The support of the FP was seen as crucial for govt formation.

The FP expected the SLFP to implement the promises made earlier after victory at the July elections.

Chelvanayakam met Mrs. Bandaranaike in a brief, unpublicised meeting along with Felix Bandaranaike where she assured the FP leader that she would abide by the assurances given to the FP by the delegation led by CP de Silva.

Strengthened by that assurance the

son in law.

No explicit guarantee on this had been sought or obtained. This lapse by the FP indicated that the party was politically naive to say the least.

Despite the absence of such a concrete guarantee the FP took a leap of faith and backed the SLFP. It appealed to Tamil voters in electorates not contested by the party to vote for the SLFP.

The FP also told crowds at political meetings that the party had arrived at an understanding with the SLFP and that the BC pact would be implemented.

This in turn resulted in the UNP launching a vicious campaign against the SLFP – FP alignment. The UNP accused the SLFP of conspiring with the FP to divide the country.

A highlight of this campaign was the widespread display of a colourful poster portraying the Island of Ceylon as a gigantic cake.

The poster showed Mrs. Bandaranaike slicing up the North and east of the cake with CP de Silva looking on. Chelvanayakam waits with an outstretched tray for his slice with his deputy EMV Naganathan standing behind.

### SECRET DEAL

The UNP allegation that a secret deal had been worked out between the SLFP and FP put the former on the defensive. Felix Dias Bandaranaike urged the FP to deny publicly that there was a SLFP- FP



Federal Party pamphlet with Leader and Members of Parliament

The FP was in an unenviable position of being unable to acknowledge the unwritten understanding in deference to SLFP wishes

In spite of these difficulties the FP once again romped home the winner in Tamil majority electorates. It retained all 15 electorates won by the party in March. In addition the FP also won the Muslim majority electorate of Kalmunai where MC Ahamed was returned on the House symbol.

The FP had 16 seats in a Parliament of 157 and was once again the third largest political party. The UNP came second with 30 seats. The SLFP was first with 75 seats.

### MAJORITY

Together with the six appointed MP’s and support from a few Independents the party now had a slender yet stable majority. More importantly it was not dependent on FP support.

History was made when Mrs. Bandaranaike became Prime minister.

But the FP was in for a shock. Its naive expectation that the unwritten understanding with the SLFP was binding even in a situation where the government did not require FP support was rudely shattered.

The SLFP went ahead with government formation without resorting to any dialogue with the FP. The party did not regard the arrangements made before elections as binding on it. Efforts made by FP leaders to communicate with SLFP leaders failed.

When the Throne speech of the new government was presented on August 12th the FP was initially pleased. For the first time the throne speech was present-

ed in Tamil also. This initial happiness evaporated rapidly as the content was revealed.

There were no references to the pre-poll promises made to the FP about district councils or Tamil language provisions.

Instead the govt announced full implementation of Sinhala as the sole official language from January 1st 1961. The govt also said Sinhala would be the sole language of courts.

A thoroughly disillusioned FP was now the laughing stock among its Tamil detractors.

The party was seen as being deceived and let down by the SLFP for the second time. The FP was accused of having blundered badly in not supporting Dudley Senanayake

On the other hand the SLFP govt went ahead at full speed with total “Sinhalaisation” of the administration.

### CONFRONTATION

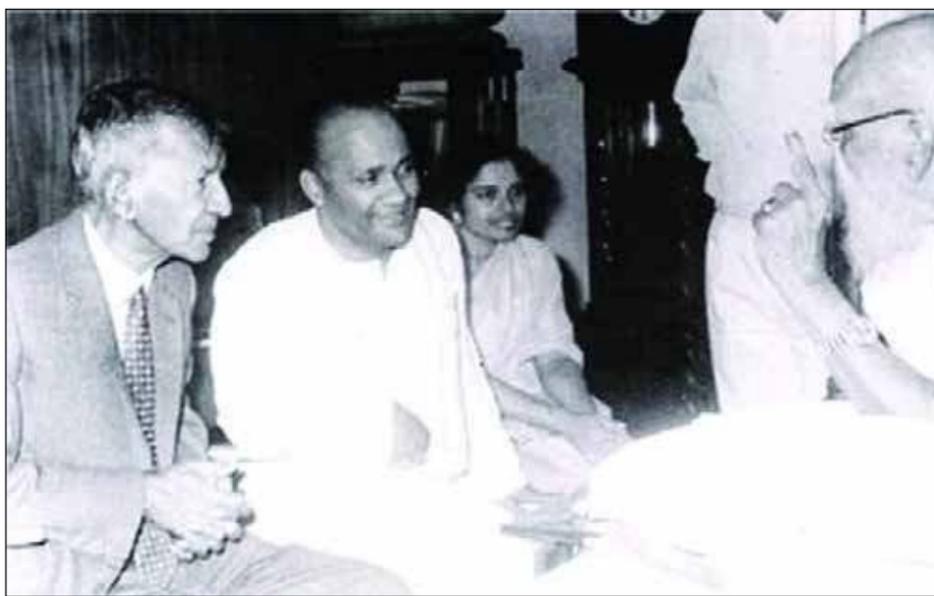
This rendered the Tamil people increasingly vulnerable and made them insecure. In that climate there was tremendous pressure on the FP to resist these moves.

The stage was being set for an inevitable political confrontation. The course of events between the March and July elections had laid the groundwork for such a clash.

Events gathered momentum and reached a logical conclusion on February 20th 1961 in the form of a “Satyagraha” campaign.

The nature, scope and consequences of the 1961 Satyagraha would be related and examined in the next issue.

[dbsjeyaraj.com]



Periyar Periyar E. V. Ramasamy in conversation with S. J. V. Chelvanayagam and A. Amirthalingam

FP hitched its wagon to the SLFP star.

While Chelvanayakam elicited an assurance from the SLFP over implementation the party failed to obtain guarantees in a vital respect.

### BINDING

Professor Wilson the biographer of Chelvanayakam points out that the FP did not obtain assurances from the SLFP as to whether the pledges would be binding on the party even if it won the polls with a comfortable majority and did not have to depend on FP support.

Apparently Chelvanayakam interpreted the assurances as being of a binding nature on the SLFP even if it had an absolute majority and did not need FP support. But this was only Chelvanayakam’s interpretation says his

agreement.

Chelvanayakam obliged reluctantly by issuing a statement where he said the FP had supported the SLFP without obtaining any agreement. He re-iterated this position in media interviews.

This in turn had the FP’s chief rival the All Ceylon Tamil Congress led by GG Ponnambalam criticising the party for missing a golden opportunity in not supporting the UNP and instead supporting the SLFP without any guarantees.

It was in this atmosphere that the SLFP and FP faced the hustings in July 1960.

Despite the alignment of convenience the SLFP could not admit to it publicly due to fear of alienating the Sinhala constituency.

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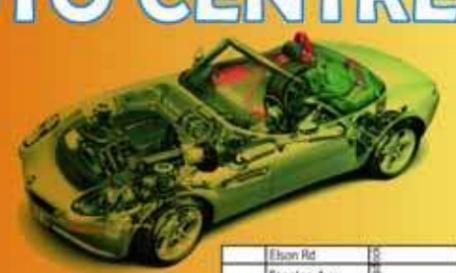
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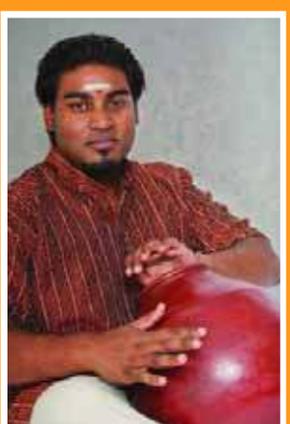
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## Tribute to our Grand Father



### Arumugam Vallipurathanar

June 2, 1916 - March 7, 2011

Our grandfather is a big part of our life. We still remember the way he laughs and how he always cared about all of us, he's a grandfather that we will never forget in the future. If he were to do something, he would always ask if the others did it before he does himself.

He will not only be missed by his grandchildren but by everyone who knows him. I personally always remember him saying in Tamil, "What do we do."

We are so proud to be his grandchildren, we will never forget him and he will always be in our hearts.

**Loving Grandchildren**

# Tribute



## A Final Goodbye to our Grandmother Mrs. Annapackiyam Santhirasegaram

14th June 1934 – 19th February 2011

Words cannot begin to express how deeply our grandmother will be missed. She was such a big part of our lives and now that she is gone, there is an empty space in our hearts. We are so grateful to her for all the childhood memories she has given us as we were growing up. Some of our best memories with Appamma were playing at home with her, dressing up and listening to her stories and jokes. When we were young, she looked after us, fed us, bathed us, and secured us with her love. We only hope that we gave to her even half the joy she gave to us over the years. We will cherish these memories forever.

When we were hurt, she cried for us. She had a magic touch that made our pain vanish. She had love in everything that she did for us. There was a kindness to be found in her embrace. Her laughter was a source of joy and happiness. She showed compassion towards every living thing, especially when she would feed the squirrels and birds in our garden.

We feel that you passed away too soon, but we know you will be watching over us and someday we will see you again.

Appamma, we love you, we miss you and we will never forget you.

**Rest in peace, Appamma.**

**From her loving grandchildren.**

# Uthayan Awards



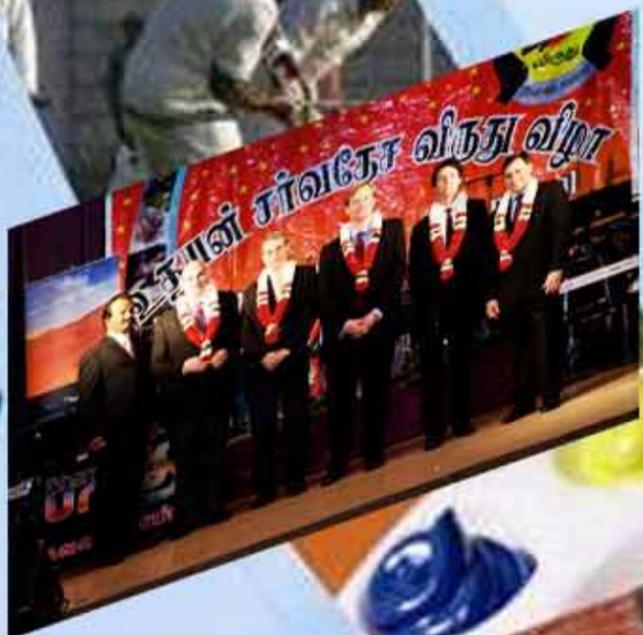
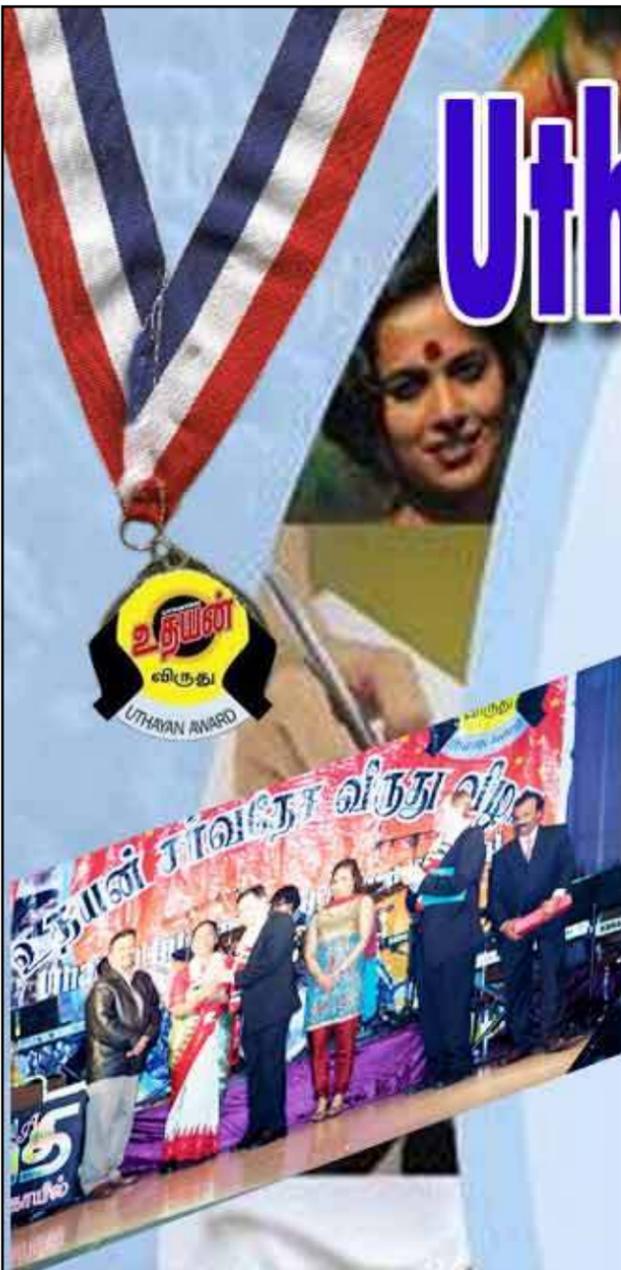
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# Durham Tamil Association



## DTA's Heritage Day 2011

Durham Tamil Association was proud to take part in the Heritage Day 2011 Celebration by the City of Pickering. This was hosted by the City of Pickering as part of the ongoing Bicentennial Celebrations. Durham Tamil Association displayed an information booth which was decorated by the DTA Youth. Cultural performances were showcased by 46 chil-

dren of age 12 and under. 32 kids under the age of 6 performed the depiction of a Hindu wedding and Tamil culture. This show was the highlight of the entire day. Many multicultural organisations that were present invited our youth to take part in their events. Our sincere thanks to the City of Pickering for being DTA's Community Partner.



Traditional KOLAATTAM performed by DTA's young girls @ HERITAGE DAY



DTA's booth @ HERITAGE DAY



DTA's young kids performing a Hindu wedding @ City of Pickering's HERITAGE DAY

## DTA's Snowfest 2011

Lots of hot chocolate, cookies and pizza charged up the young children of Durham Tamil Association to take part in the SNOWFEST Competition. The first Annual SNOWFEST was held on Sunday February 6th, 2011 at 10 am. Peter Rodrigues, Pickering Regional Councillor was the Chief Guest who enjoyed helping the children in the making of snowmen. 46 kids of all ages participated in this fun filled event who built snowmen with different themes. His competition lasted for about 3 hours. The children had a blast while making snow forts and tobogganing. The winning teams were awarded with prizes sponsored by the local businesses.



DTA's SNOWFEST 2011



Team building their Snowman @ DTA's SNOWFEST



Teams gathering snow @ DTA's SNOWFEST



The VEGE THEME Winners of DTA's SNOWFEST



# Durham Tamil Association

## Vigil by DTA

Durham Tamil Association ("the voice of Tamils in Durham") representing Tamils from Ajax, Pickering, Whitby and Oshawa, held a candle light vigil for the Tamil women and children who continue to suffer in our homeland. All levels of Government official attended and con-

veyed their condolences and support and called for an immediate action by the Canadian government.

MP. Mark Holland, MPP Joe Dickson, Ajax Councillor Renrick Ashby, Pickering councillors Deputy Mayor Doug Dickerson, Regional councillor

Jennifer O'Connell, Councillor David Pickles, Durham School board trustee Chris Braney, local municipal and provincial Candidates Kim Dowds, Salman Farooq, Human Rights activist Maurice Brenner.

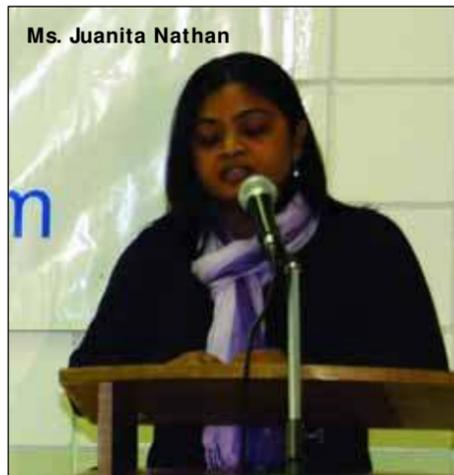
Baha'i community Director Roland Rutland. Oliver Forbes Community Development Council Durham. Messages from Dan McTeague MP, Ontario Premier Dalton Mcguinty, Mayor Dave

Ryan & council-Pickering, Mayor Steve Parish and council were read.

Keynote speaker was Mrs. Selvanayaki Sridas, MA and Harvard Graduate, well known Tamil activist. Pon Balarajan Secretary of TGTE, Juanita Nathan School board Trustee Markham, CTC secretary. S. Umasuthan all spoke for the need for urgent action.



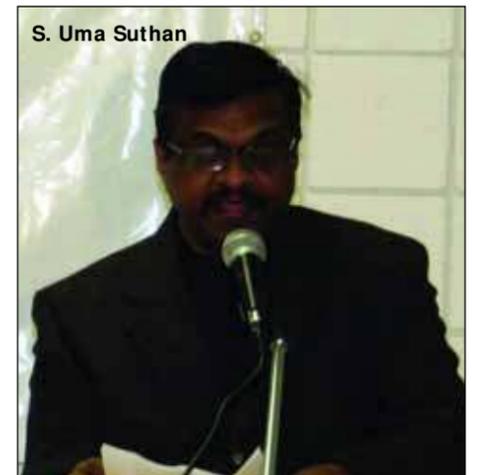
Mrs. Sridas



Ms. Juanita Nathan



Pon Balarajan



S. Uma Suthan

## DTA's LADIES CLUB

Colorful outfits, beautiful smiles, soothing music, and delicious food was filled at Durham Tamil Association's LOVE YOUR LIFE Ladies Club opening ceremony. This cheerful event was held @ East Shore Community Centre on February 27th @4 pm.

The Ladies Club opened its doors with the speech on "Living With Passion" by the Spiritual Psychotherapist, Ms. Bahi Krishnakan-than. The chief guest for the evening was Esther Enyolu,

Executive Director of WMRCC of Durham. Some of the other special guests were Cindy Holland, Donna Dickson, Sashi Bhatia and Kim Dowds.

The main objective of this monthly ladies club is to implement a healthy balanced life style, to enhance the lives of women and to provide them a relaxing environment for learning. There were 53 women who made this a successful evening. For more information, please call 905-428-7007.



Cindy Holland, Esther Enyolu, Kim Dowds, Bahi Krishnakanthan & Sashi Bhatia @ DTA's Ladies Club opening ceremony



Guests @ DTA's Ladies Club



## DTA's YOUTH EMPLOYMENT and VOLUNTEER SEMINAR



Durham Tamil Association and its Youth Advisory Committee presented The Youth Employment and Volunteer Seminar on Sunday February 20th, 2011 @3.30pm at Ontario Power Generation. This event was catered to all youth 13 years of age and above who were interested in obtaining information about employment and/or volunteer opportunity in their community. Steven Philips, Job Skills Counsellor of YMCA, Whitby hosted the evening while providing informations on resume building and interviews. The seminar was filled with knowledge that helped all the youth who attended to prepare themselves for optimal success.

# News from Durham



## 2011 Heritage Day Celebration

February was Heritage month. The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham (TCASD), once again, was a proud participant at the City of Pickering's 2011 Heritage Day Celebration held on February 26 at the Pickering Town Center. This year's celebration was extra special because it's the bicentennial year, 200 years of growth in diversity, population and great service to the community for better Pickering.

To mark this special day TCASD had a booth set up displaying various TCASD Brochures, a non-stop video presentation and a huge beautiful display board of photographs on TCASD events.

In addition TCASD presented a remarkable 30 minute dance performance dedicated to City of Pickering's Bicentennial. It was a unique presentation as history of Pickering was narrated through Pushpanjali, the Pot dance, the Peacock dance, the stick, scarf, karagam dance and the Fusion dance.

A special thanks to the city of Pickering for giving us the opportunity to be part of this memorable celebration and to all the performers and volunteers from TCASD for making is day very special and a successful one.

**Susiladevi Pathmanathan**



## TCASD Seniors Fun Night

**By: Sigogini Sivarajah**

On February 26th, Tamil Cultural & Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) had pot luck and bingo night for all the Tamil seniors living in Durham as their monthly event. Many seniors took part in this joyful evening. The senior club president Thuraijah had given an opening speech welcoming the guests to this amazing event. After the excellent welcoming speech done by the senior club president, TCASD president Raveena Rajasingam had talked and explained to the senior about TCASD and its focus. After the speech from Raveena, the seniors were motivated and pumped to get started on the future events of the evening.

To start the evening off smoothly, the members had decided to start with an icebreaker. Two amazing youths had taken the seniors through the icebreaker. In this game the seniors had shared their past experiences and stories about their lives. The seniors were very enthusiastic about this game, and had lots of fun playing it. After the icebreaker, the seniors had taken part in doing word searches. This was a very amusing activity that the seniors had enjoying a lot. After a great

time of doing word searches, the seniors had a healthy and filling dinner. Their dinner was exceptionally tasty and satisfying. After their dinner they went onto the last event of the evening, which was bingo. Bingo was a blast and all the guests enjoyed every minute of it.

The seniors had enjoyed this amazing evening, and after their bingo game the secretary had given a speech. The secretary had given a thank you speech to the members who had made this evening possible. Special thanks were given to Sigogini Sivarajah and Thiviyaah Pushparajah for their extensive help.

Also, another special thanks went to Sivarajah Ayadurai and Latha Pushparajah, for transportation and other help that was given by them. For the end of the evening, the senior citizens had expressed their gratitude and how they had loved the evening. The secretary had also said that the evening was spectacular and well planned out. The senior citizens, as well as the secretary, had said that they are looking forward to next month's event. In the end the senior citizens had a great time, and the evening was a night to remember.



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# News from Durham

## Tamil Cultural & Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) Women's Wing

by Washington Irving

### TCASD Women Wing's Journey begins...

Our Successful Opening Ceremony with Career Development Workshop was on the February 12th 2011. It was a great beginning for our Tamil Women in Durham. TCASD invited community supporters to provide knowledge on career oriented courses, applying for jobs, tips on successful interviews and community supports for better living.

Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- Comutek College
- JRS College
- Town of Ajax
- WMRCC of Durham
- CDCD
- Aarusha Cake House

We are proud to announce our TCASD Women's Wing coordinators are Mrs Sutha Thirukumar and Mrs Jeya Karalasingam. They are highly committed and motivated young mothers, talented individuals and would like to support our Tamil women in Durham. Their goal is to motivate our young women and mothers to understand and benefit the many valuable resources available in the community and in the nation. They believe that together, they could make a difference in our community and among our Tamil women.

### OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to assist our Tamil Women to overcome obstacles, enrich their lives, celebrate individuality and undertake important roles in our community.

### OUR GOAL:

We want to assist our women in their personal development, decision making, using their talents to the fullest and participate in community leadership. TCASD's women's club philosophy incorporates our culture and language. We encourage and motivate all women to live with confidence and self-worth to accomplish dreams and projects.

### TCASD Women's Wing View and Upcoming Events:

To encourage new members and vol-

unteers to join our Wing

To promote healthy well-being within the community.

To organize Health, Finance, Safety and Security, internet knowledge seminars and workshops

Motivational speakers on the current women issues

Information sessions on Job Opportunities, Career development and Entrepreneur skills

Group sessions on Baking, Needle work, hair styling and Crafts

Trips to Interesting and Historical places

### Complimentary Services from TCASD Women's Wing:

- Yoga Classes
- New Tamil Immigrant Translation Services
- New Tamil Immigrant Transportation Services
- English Classes for New Tamil Immigrant Women
- A woman's whole life is a history of the affections.



### Up Coming Events

Tamil Cultural & Academic Society of Durham and Association for Sri Lankan Graduates of Canada Jointly Presents Academic Planning Job and Volunteer Fair  
 When: March 12th  
 Time: 9:30 -3 PM (9:30 AM registration starts)  
 Venue: Pickering Council Chamber  
 One The Esplanade  
 Pickering, Ontario, Canada  
 High School students grades 9 and up, university students and parents are welcome  
 Contact: 416-857-0846 for more information and registration

### Seniors Activity Day

March 26th, 2011  
 Venue: TBA  
 Time: 5-8 PM

# Special Feature



**Full Text of Interview: AFP - Amb. Robert Blake, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs**

February 28, 2011

**QUESTION:** Basically what I was seeing if we can discuss with you is essentially after the end of the conflict in Sri Lanka how you kind of place U.S.-Sri Lankan relations now, particularly in the post-war, but not necessarily post-conflict? But how do you sort of see the situation since you left Colombo?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** As you know, we've been focusing on three primary issues since the end of the war. First, the return of all of the internally displaced persons from the camps and all of the issues surrounding that. Secondly, the whole question of reconciliation and accountability. Then third, the whole question of human rights.

In each of these areas there's been some progress, but in each of these areas there's also more work that needs to be done. So we are in good, close dialogue with Foreign Minister Peiris, other members of the government about all of these areas. I'd be glad to discuss each of these in more detail, if that would be helpful.

**QUESTION:** Ambassador, you talked about reconciliation and accountability. I think I was just seeing some of your recent interviews where you talked about these two things, reconciliation and accountability, and you were saying that without introducing these two, Sri Lanka will not be able to put the past behind and sort of get on with nation-building and sort of have a unified nation.

So how far do you think they have moved in this direction, and how satisfied are you with the efforts that have happened, that have taken place so far?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** Let me answer that in several ways. First, I think it's important to point out that Sri Lanka's one of the countries in South Asia that really has great promise. Your country has the best social indicators in South Asia in terms of the progress that has been made on things like health and literacy and education. You have a growing economy. You have abundant natural resources. You are located to the south of India. You have a free trade agreement with India and with Pakistan. So there are a lot of very positive things that your country has going for it. But we believe that to truly realize the promise that Sri Lanka has, that it's going to be very important to achieve national reconciliation so that all of the citizens of Sri Lanka feel there's a just and durable peace after the end of the war in May of 2009.

So as you say, we've been encouraging the government of Sri Lanka to really take steps to ensure such a just and durable peace. We welcome the fact that the Sri Lankan government has entered into a dialogue now with the Tamil National Alliance, and that two rounds of

dialogue have been held. I understand those have been quite constructive. I understand a third round was to have been held but has been postponed, so I hope that can be rescheduled as soon as possible.

We've also I think been encouraged that the government has acted on some of the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. For example they've appointed I think 350 Tamil-speaking police to serve in

tutions.

I want to make a point here, which is that the United States is not holding Sri Lanka to any special standards here. You will note that, for example, over the weekend the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed a resolution against Libya on Saturday night. One of the provisions of that resolution was to refer Moammar Qadhafi to the International Criminal Court so that they could investigate alleged war crimes

agency committee to implement some of the interim recommendations of the LLRC and that some steps have been taken.

We've also urged that the government enter into a dialogue with the Panel of Experts that the United Nations has appointed, that was appointed really to advise the UN Secretary General. We believe they have a lot of expertise on these matters and could really be of great benefit to the Sri Lankans as they move

## Achieving national reconciliation essential to truly realize all the promise and positive things going for Sri Lanka

- Asst. Sec. Robert Blake



Handing over written submissions to the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) Secretariat during the session in Jaffna, November 11-14. pic: By Center for Human Rights - SL

Jaffna. They've released many of the detainees, although I still think that a full accounting is necessary of who remains in custody and who has been released.

But I'd say that the really major issue now for us and for many members of the international community is the question of accountability. As you know, the UN has estimated that many thousands of civilians were killed at the end of, in the final few months of the war. Those need to be investigated, preferably by the government of Sri Lanka and its own insti-

and abuses against his people. So this is a very common thing.

The United States has welcomed the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and we've urged that the Commission apply best international practices so that there could be a credible investigation, and we look forward to the Commission submitting its report to President Rajapaksa in May. Obviously we hope those recommendations will be public.

We also welcome the fact that the government has established an intera-

forward on this.

So I think there are still a number of important steps to be taken, and our preference is that the Sri Lankans themselves take these. It's always best for a host nation to take responsibility for these sensitive issues. But I think also it's important to say that if Sri Lanka is not willing to meet international standards regarding these matters that there will be pressure to appoint some sort of international commission to look into

Contd. in Next Page...



# Special Feature

these things.

**QUESTION:** Ambassador, when you talked about Libya and the sort of possibility of Libyan leaders being brought before the International Court of Justice, is that a kind of situation where you think it will apply to Sri Lanka? How far are we down the road to Sri Lankan leaders being brought to that kind of situation?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** I didn't mean to make a direct comparison between the situation in Libya and the situation in Sri Lanka. They're very different, obviously. But I wanted to just make the general point that around the world there is an interest in assuring accountability for crimes that have been committed, and I think you saw in my recent interview that I gave to the National Public Radio, I was very careful to make a point that the LTTE was probably responsible for a lot of violations of international humanitarian law in the final stages of the conflict, primarily by not allowing freedom of movement for all the IDPs to move south. That itself would have saved hundreds of thousands of lives had they been willing to do that. It would have saved not hundreds of thousands of lives, but it would have provided for the safety of hundreds of thousands of people. But they also put heavy weapons in the midst of civilian encampments and things like that. So they also were guilty of things.

The point is, all these allegations need to be investigated so that this difficult period in Sri Lanka's history can be brought to a closure.

**QUESTION:** Ambassador, actually I was listening to that interview where you were very critical of the LTTE, but at the same time you also say that the government also must be held accountable for what happened, especially in the final stages. But is this question of war crimes and the possibility of the Sri Lankan government's fear that the U.S. is leading an international campaign to bring Sri Lankan leaders before some sort of War Crimes Tribunal, is that affecting your relations with Colombo? Is that sort of the defining factor now in your bilateral relations?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** I wouldn't say it's a defining factor, but I would say it's an important factor. Again, this is not something that is confined only to Sri Lanka. We have made similar representations with regard to the situation in Gaza after there was an Israeli attack there. Again, most recently in Libya. So we're applying consistent standards in all of our relations with many countries. Again, I think this is an important issue for Sri Lanka to address, and we hope that it can do so. It's taken many positive steps.

**QUESTION:** Ambassador, if you look at the EU, for example, the EU took off the GSP Plus facility concession to Sri Lanka as kind of part of this dialogue about accountability. But do you see that

kind of measure in any way helping? Or do you think the international community has any sort of levers to put pressure and get these standards, the standard that you're talking about, to make sure that they are met?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** First of all, with respect to the EU, I'm not really close enough to know whether the lifting of GSP Plus privileges has had any effect or not. It's better for you to talk to the EU itself about that.

On the question of leverage, I don't think it's terribly useful to talk about leverage. The point I would make is that it's important for any country to want to achieve justice and to want to achieve accountability, and they should do so because they feel it's in their own interests to do so, not because the international community is somehow obliging them to do so. So I would hope the Sri Lankan government would see that it's in its own interest to, again, take the measures that are necessary to assure a just and durable peace.

**QUESTION:** Ambassador, the question of the Sri Lankan government sort of shifting towards Iran, China, and to some extent India, and sort of drifting away from the ties, the bilateral ties with the West. How concerned are you? What's your view on that front?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** Again, those are sovereign decisions that will be made by the government of Sri Lanka. We would like to have good relations with Sri Lanka. Again, it's a country that has tremendous promise so we hope that Sri Lanka can take some of the steps that I outlined earlier. I think those will really help to completely normalize relations with the United States, and more importantly, they will help to really allow Sri Lanka to achieve the promise that it has always held.

**QUESTION:** When you say the normalized relations, there is a suggestion that it could improve. What would you say are the sort of--apart from the war crimes issue which the Sri Lankan government thinks you are sort of pursuing--apart from that, do you feel that if you get that out of the way perhaps there is more scope for trade ties or political ties? How do you see it evolving if you address it and put this issue behind you?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** We're already pursuing trade ties and we have a lot of U.S. assistance that's going to various programs, but I think the other area in addition to the whole reconciliation piece is the area of human rights where we have expressed our concerns in the past about the passage of the 18th Amendment which we felt weakened the system of checks and balances inside Sri Lanka. And we hope that the government can take steps to improve human rights, to enhance democracy, enhance transparency, and that these again will be an important part of the national reconciliation effort.

I'd like to say when we talk about

human rights, the area that we've been I think particularly concerned about has been the area of media freedom where there continue to be attacks on independent journalists. Most recently the question of Lanka e-News I think was one of those. It's important for those kinds of attacks on the free media and independent media institutions to stop and for those to be investigated, and for there to be a completely open climate and a free media. That, again, I think is a very important part of the whole effort of achieving national reconciliation.

**QUESTION:** But Ambassador, when you talk about media freedom, these issues have been raised for the last so many years. If you think of Lasantha's assassination, I think the U.S. has taken a very strong position on that. Also Tissainayagam's case, I think President Obama singled out Tissainayagam as an example of a persecuted journalist. But have you really been able to make any progress? Do you see any sign of making any headway with authorities in Colombo in addressing this particular issue of media freedom?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** It's not up to us to make progress, it's for the government to make progress.

**QUESTION:** No, my question is, were you able to make headway with them?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** The point I would make is now here we are almost two years after the end of the war and still these kinds of challenges to, particularly to press freedoms and media freedoms continue. It's a bit unusual and a bit counter-intuitive. Again, the LTTE is no longer a force to be reckoned with. Peace has now emerged there. There is a lot of progress being [made]. Most of Sri Lanka's friends in the international community sort of scratch their heads and wonder why there's still this kind of intimidation that is occurring.

**QUESTION:** One other thing I wanted to check with you, the Sri Lankan President was in the U.S. on an unannounced visit. There were some reports that you yourself were somewhere in Texas at the time so there was lots of talk about whether did you actually meet, or if you did, what did you discuss. Maybe you could fill us in on that.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** Sure. We didn't meet. That was purely coincidental that I happened to be in Houston at the time. I think the President was there on a private visit, and I was there to meet and speak to the Baker Institute of Public Affairs which is part of Rice University, and you can see the speech that I gave on our web site. Then I also spoke to the students and met with some of the Indian Diaspora that live in Houston. But I didn't have a meeting with the President.

**QUESTION:** Did you know he was going to be there? Or would you think there would have been some sort of contact if you --

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** I

heard about it at the last minute, but even had I wanted to try to arrange something I don't think there would have been time.

**QUESTION:** On the example of Libya, not comparing it, but it looks like the international community is sort of moving fairly swiftly in terms of sanctions against Qadhafi's family and freezing his assets and things like that. So if you compare that with Sri Lanka, you probably had similar concerns in May of 2009. It's two years after the conflict, and some of these issues have not been addressed yet, the question of accountability. So why has the international community in a sense been slower to respond here and probably faster in Libya?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** Again, I don't think it's terribly useful to try to compare the two because they're completely different. In the case of Libya there has been a complete erosion of the faith of the Libyan people in their government and in their leadership. We're almost to the point of a near civil war now where opposition forces control most of the country except the area around Tripoli itself. And we have pulled out our staff because the situation is so dangerous there. So again I don't think the situation is really comparable at all between that and the situation in Sri Lanka, but we do, again I just want to say, we do look to the government of Sri Lanka as we do to any government to address the needs of its people, to ensure that the aspirations of all of its people are met, and if there are any shortcomings, that there should be a dialogue with the opposition, with other democratic forces to try to resolve those and to, again, create independent institutions of governance, to respond to some of the concerns of some of the people.

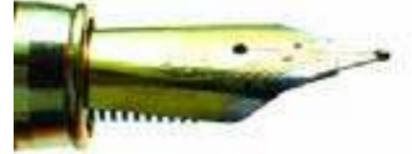
**QUESTION:** Ambassador, on the question of accountability, is there any other way to get past that? Or do you see the international community actually insisting on accountability? Is that a possibility to sort of sweep it under the carpet and say okay look, start on a clean slate. Is there a possibility of that?

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE:** I don't think you can sweep it under the carpet. If you look at longstanding cases like what happened in Serbia and cases like that, eventually people were brought to justice for crimes that were committed. Again, it's important for the government to deal with these matters, and again, we hope that the government will do so itself and do so in a credible manner, in a manner that is consistent with international standards. So we've always received assurances from the government that they would do so. We hope that's the case.

I can take one more question.

**QUESTION:** No, I think that's about all. It was a very useful interaction. Thanks again. [Text via US Dept. of State]

# Special Feature



## Valentine Day Getting popular in India

by Kanayalal Raina

If you ask a 10 or 15 year old, the question, which day is 2nd October, he or she may have or may not have the answer. But if you pose the same question about 14th February, the reply is most likely to be spontaneous - Valentine's day.

Gone are the days when children and youngsters cherished the great days such as 15th August, 26th January and 2nd October. They hardly care about them, now. These days only serve the purpose of having a day off from the school or the college.

Youth may not know why Holi, Lohri is celebrated but they surely know why valentine's day is celebrated. 14th February seems to have become more important and interesting to the youth than any other day of importance in our country. In fact it is true of all the western things in our country, be it the pizza, burger, coffee shop, soft drink, jeans, etc. We, it appears, have given it to the western things and culture.

Our festivals are losing the sheen with our youngsters. This is cause for great concern as the youth of today will be mature people of tomorrow. Then, what they will teach to their children? Will their children care about Baisakhi, Lohri, Basant Panchmi of course they will be taught about the Rose day, Friendship day and the Valentine day. They will know which color rose is appropriate for which occasion, which gift is good for the valentine day etc. Wonder whether the most important Indian festival- Diwali will be remembered by them or some other western festival will appear more interesting to them!

"Valentine day provides us the unique opportunity to express our love towards anybody. On this day, one can gift a bunch of flowers or just any other cute gift to somebody, he or she loves. Last year I gifted flowers to my parents. This year, I m going to gift something special, to my husband. So I am in favour of V day celebration. But I think as we celebrate this day, we should not forget our own great traditions and rich culture."

Today, the west is aping Indian cultural in many things, be it yoga, spirituality, ayurveda, etc, but we Indians are not being able to see the positive aspects of our rich cultural heritage. We just fall into the trap of the publicity of the MNCs who have big ad budgets. We start praising the foreign culture, and at the same time start criticizing our own culture. We should be cautious about the designs of these MNCs by not falling prey to them and respecting our own culture instead. Valentine day is also a product of the western culture. Being proud Indians, we should not pay heed to these things blindly. If some youngster who is a fan of the western things and western festivals and the western language, would be surprised when he will visit any of these foreign countries.

For example, Germans do not speak English, nor do the French.

And when some youngster from India would be taking a walk in any of the western countries, he will find out how these people look down upon us. At that moment one realizes the importance of one's own country, the people, the festivals, the culture, just everything starts seeming so good"

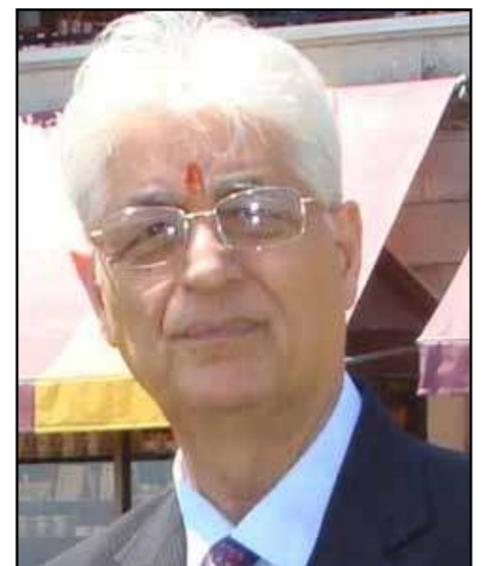
V day brings in a lot of business for our country. The economic activity rises during such days and there is a huge demand for flowers, greeting cards, and other gift items. For example, in case of flower sale alone, the days like Rose day, valentine day etc have increased the scope of floriculture in our country. While it is true that we should not forget our own culture while celebrating these western occasions, at the same time, we should not be so blockheaded to not let any foreign thing enter in our country, especially in these days of globalization. And we also should not forget the age old principle of our country - to absorb all the good things of the outside world while at the same time, preserving our rich culture."

An interesting thing to be noted here is that, as the likes of these days, which symbolize love and affection, are making in roads into our culture, the family bonds, the marriages, the friendships should have been getting stronger by the day. But, unfortunately, the opposite of this is happening. For instance, joint families are giving way to nuclear ones, divorce rate is rising, strong friendships are becoming less common and love affairs are becoming shorter and a less serious matter (especially for girls!). So whatever may be the case, one thing is clear that these 'special' days have not contributed something of significance to our society.

The question arises, how the days like the valentine day, acquired so much popularity in a short span of time. The media is hugely responsible for popularizing this day. Today we are influenced by the media in a more intensive way than

before. The reason being, today we all have become less social and more engrossed in our living rooms. The means of entertainment have increased in our living room. The TV now offers hundreds of channels in high clarity. Internet has eclipsed everything in a youngster's life, be it friends, sports, spending time with parents and others, cooking, and so on. The talk of valentine on the TV, internet, FM radio, 24x 7, a week before the day, ensure that youngsters may not miss out of the so called 'valentine fever'.

Valentine day means big business for the business houses dealing in cards, gift items, restaurants chains etc. For TV channels like MTV etc, this day is like their most important day. And it seems that they have kept all their energies saved for this very day. For some political parties it is a day to gain popularity by raiding restaurants, and card galleries, manhandling the customers, and creating havoc. The schools and colleges have started organizing valentine parties.





# Tribute

## Anant Pai, 81, Is Dead; Comics Told Indian Children Their Country's Stories

Amar Chitra Katha comic book series are a treat to 'kids of all ages,' widely read and enjoyed by many around the globe, particularly by readers with interest in Hindu heritage and/or Indian History and folklore.

Creator of Amar Chitra Katha, Anant Pai - passed away on Feb 24th. Vikas Bajaj of New York Times, wrote the following obituary for NYTimes.com:

MUMBAI, India — Anant Pai, the creator of a popular comic book series that taught several generations of Indian children the country's history and mythology, died here on Thursday. He was 81.

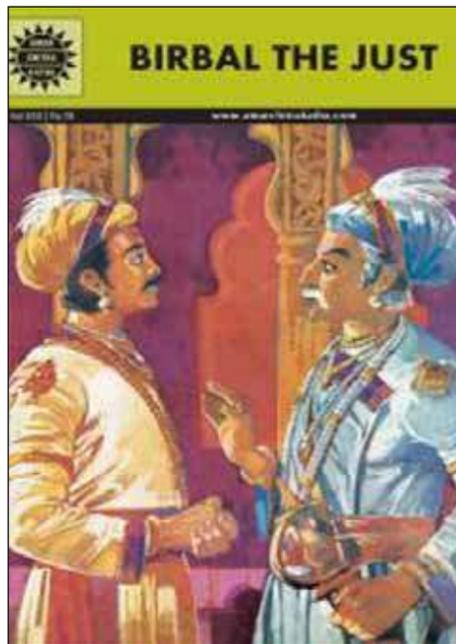
The cause was a heart attack, his family said. He was in the hospital at the time recovering from a fall.

Mr. Pai founded Amar Chitra Katha, or Immortal Illustrated Stories, in 1967 after watching a TV quiz show in which many Indian children could not identify an important character in the Ramayana, one of the two great epics of Hinduism, his wife, Lalita, said.

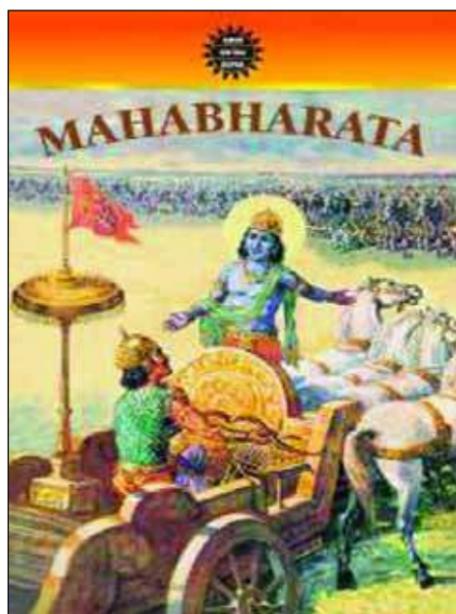
"He came back thinking, 'I have to do something for the country,'" Mrs. Pai said. "He pleaded with me to let him do this."

Anant Pai was born on Sept. 17, 1929. Orphaned at an early age, he grew up with relatives near the southern coastal town of Mangalore and in Mumbai, said Mrs. Pai, who as a child was tutored by Mr. Pai. He developed a love for literature and learned several Indian languages.

Trained as a chemical engineer, he gave up engineering early in his career and went to work for The Times of India. There he was involved in managing Indrajal Comics, an imprint that brought American comics like The Phantom and Mandrake to India. But Mrs. Pai said he



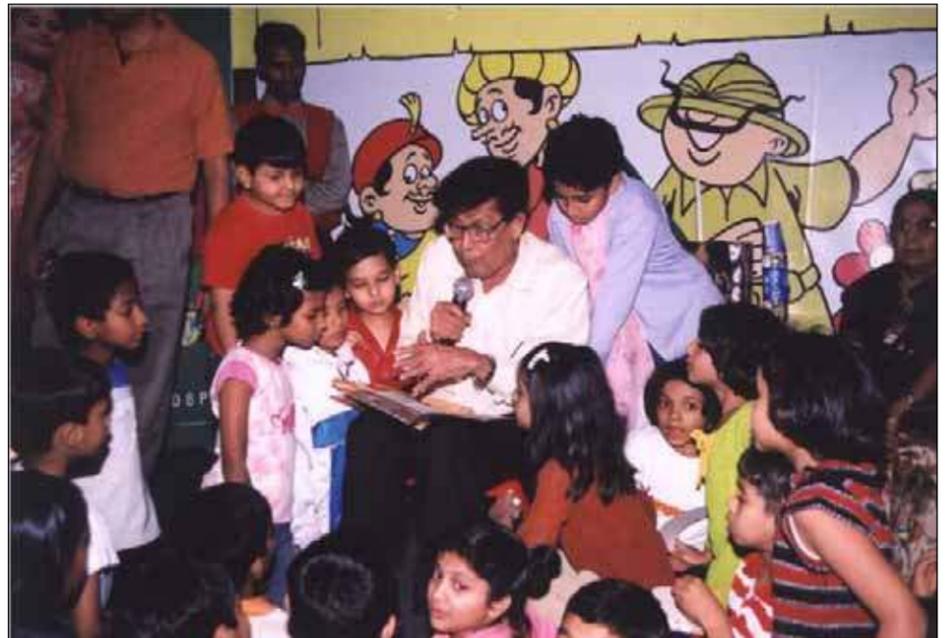
Amar Chitra Katha comic books



Amar Chitra Katha comic books

was dissatisfied with the job because it involved publishing imported stories.

At first, Amar Chitra Katha struggled to find a market, said Subba Rao, a former teacher who joined the enterprise



Anant Pai used his comic books to teach Indian children the country's history and mythology. Pic: NYTimes.com - via ACK Media

in 1976. Schools would not buy its publications because they considered comic books frivolous, and stores would not stock them because they were not associated with an established brand.

Mr. Pai and Mr. Rao persuaded a school in Delhi to run an experiment in which one group of students was taught history using his comic books and another using traditional methods. Later, both groups were given the same test. The results showed that those who had studied using the comics learned more than those who did not, Mr. Rao said.

Indian children knew Mr. Pai as "Uncle Pai" because he solicited questions from them and answered their letters under that name in Tinkle, a magazine that Amar Chitra Katha published.

A vegetarian teetotaler, Mr. Pai in many ways lived the life of the ascetics depicted in some of his comics. Mrs. Pai said he went to sleep every night at 9 and rose at 3:30 a.m. to start working after

having a cup of tea. Even after his comic books started selling millions of copies, he and his wife stayed in a modest two-bedroom apartment in central Mumbai.

In 2007, the publishing company that owned Amar Chitra Katha sold it to two entrepreneurs, who have been building on the comics business by investing in TV shows and movies. Mr. Pai stayed on as chief storyteller.

Besides his wife, Mr. Pai is survived by a sister, Sumati Prabhu.

In a 2009 interview, he said his comics had helped foster the "integration" of India, which is made up of hundreds of ethnic groups, by teaching children about its history and legends.

"Unless you have continuity with the past, you can't easily be adjusted with the present," he said. "The acquaintance with the past is a must. You may not agree with it. You can disagree with it, but be aware of it."

[NYTimes.com]

## Time To Shine Re-Opening Celebration

On January 20, Providence Healthcare – along with special guests including donors, and members from the Providence Healthcare Board of Directors, the Foundation Board of Directors, and committee members – celebrated the re-opening of Providence Hospital's Specialized Stroke Rehabilitation Unit A3. The re-opening of the transformed unit marks the end of the first of phase of Transformation by Design, a multi-year project to create a new model for improved patient flow. Improvements are focused on managing the flow during three transitions in the patient's journey: from acute care to Providence; as an inpatient at Providence; and from inpatient to home and outpatient

support.

The transformation was made possible through Providence Healthcare Foundation and generous donations from Michael Stephen, his wife Beatrice and his family; Manulife Financial; George Macri and his family; Bob Cronin and his wife Gayle; Len Gillis; Gigi Doores; Stephen D'Arcy; Jennifer Stewart and her husband Michael Levy; The Bedolfe Foundation; and The Leslois Shaw Foundation.

**Unit A3 Opens: Members of Providence Healthcare's Board of Directors, Foundation Board of Directors, and donors join staff in cutting the ribbon at the re-opening ceremony for unit A3 on January 20**



# Short Story



## My Grandma and her village

Original in Tamil by T. Agilan

English version by Thuraiyooran

Her one grand daughter got married in London and she couldn't remember the name of the wedding Hall. On the sixth day after that wedding another grand daughter attained womanhood. But Grandmother died about a week before these events .I was held responsible for her death.

She was over sixty and that was the age for dying in our villages. She carried many pills for her ailments. But she was fortunate to die in her own village. This was not possible to others of her age. This village was very close to her. When her husband ran away with the neighbour, she came to this village with her seven children.

Those days there were only a few people living there. There were no roads then. She had the rare chance of boasting to every one, that she knew the origin of all roads in the village.

In 1996 when the whole village moved to a far away places for safety, she refused to budge from there. But she was forcefully placed in a tractor box by her oldest son. Most of those of her age who moved, died and was cremated there. Some of them chose places, which they thought was safe from war and settled down there permanently.

But Grandma was very firm in returning to this village. May be she was holding her life to come back here. I knew for sure that she madly loved two things. One is my Siththi (Mom's sister) and the other is the Amman temple, she established with help of others. She used to say that the Amman deity was the one, who looked after her children, got them married and was always helpful to the entire family.

When her husband eloped with another woman, she was in a desperate mood to kill her children and herself. But with determination she came here, cleared the forest and built a small house, constructed a temple, educated her children and got them married. She claimed that Amman was responsible for her activities. After her husband deserted, her she never went to any temple. That is why she put up a temple for her deity in her own land. She claimed the temple is her's to pray and worship.

After Selliah (her husband) left her, she came to Thirunagar and earned her livelihood by making hoppers and string hoppers and selling to the tea shops around the village. Also sent her older son to work in the paddy fields and started her life from scratch.

She loved her temple very much .There are many reasons for that. She was called "hopper achchi "by people in the village. But after the temple was established she was called 'temple achchi ', which she liked very much.

Her love to the temple and the village was special .The village was like one of her

daughters. She started her life when the whole village was watching her, as she watched the growth of the village.

The day her husband left her she regarded herself as a widow and abstained from wearing flowers and "pottu". She cut off all her connections with him. She remained like that till her death.

She wrote new chapters of her life story as a single woman .Sometimes she was feeling anger and frustration in struggling alone in life. She became a respected woman in the village because of her temple. Many villagers became devotees of the temple. Many came there and cooked sweet rice and distributed to all who were there. Many sought the Grace of Amman to tide over their difficulties. Hence the temple and "temple achchi" became well known in the village.

When I was a small boy and when Grandma was conducting "pooja", I used to stand by her side ringing the bell. My brother and I had many fights over this. Grandma used to talk to the deity, laughed at her and sometimes was mad at her.

She was forced to leave her temple because of the war. A shell fell at the far end of her land. The war drove her away from the temple and the village, she liked so dearly. Even though she was shouting and crying to leave the village, her eldest son forcibly took her in a tractor and kept her in a safe place. She couldn't bear the separation and after that she stopped talking to anyone. The sound of shells and gunshots drove her to a far away place .We took refuge in the outskirts of a house in Akkarayan and kept awake the whole night. No one spoke. Even the insects and frogs were silent .Darkness spread over every one and held us tight. Shells were falling and exploding at a distance. After that no one was able to return to Kilinochchi. We were accustomed to a refugee life on someone else's land, after putting up a shed.

Fourth day after leaving Thirunagar, Grandma suddenly woke up from sleep and started shouting and crying. At a distance an explosion of a bomb was heard. She shouted that, they have destroyed her temple and stopped talking to anyone except Siththi at times. Siththi whose love was a failure stayed with Grandma as a spinster. We were surprised when Grandma spoke to us sometimes. One day after that, Siththi was bitten by a snake and due to unavailability of antidote in the hospital, she died. This was a big blow to Grandma and she was moving around as a dead woman .She never cried so much at Siththi's death as she did, when she left Thirunagar. She was staring at her body and kept mum. After Siththi's death she started talking to me in short sentences. "Did you eat?". "Did you buy betel leaves?". I was surprised at this as she started talking to me after Siththi and this is a clear indication that she loved me



Hindu temple in ruins in Thennamaravadi, Trincomalee district - pic: Drs. Sarajevo after her.

War started again. Shells, jets, blood, injuries, death and martyrdom. This time the sounds were far off. This went on for days. One day when the people heard that the "boys" have captured Elephant Pass, they started celebrating. This gave us a ray of hope to return to our village.

We were asked to wait till the land mines were removed. People who went in search of their children lost their legs or even their lives. People who were missing were found as skeletons. Women who expected the return of their husbands lost their pottus. Funerals were conducted after four or five days. Children lost their fathers. Mother's lost their sons .Many skeletons were kept in the police station to be identified.

"This is his shirt"

"This is his silver ring."

"This is my son's chain."

The belief that they are alive was shattered, tears and believes were destroyed and new sadness took over.

Some skeletons remained unidentified. These never had any identifying marks. Some were reluctant to accept the fact their loved ones, who were missing were dead and refused to attend the identification.

At this sad situation, one day Grandma was found missing. She was chewing betel sitting at the front of our shed. I took my bicycle and went searching for her lane by lane. At last I saw her walking briskly on the road to Kilinochchi. I tried to stop her and asked where she was going. She never replied and went on walking. I dropped the bicycle in front of her and held her hand.

She said "Leave me alone .I am going to my mother, my Amman"

"Why are you walking? I could have taken you on Kumar anna's motorcycle, had you told me."

I promised to take her next Friday and brought her back.

From that day onwards she was sitting outside, so as to drive the sun away .We started on Friday. I was happy that I had a chance to ride a motor cycle. Grandma

was very bright that day than usual. I thought the Amman at Thirunagar must have felt happy.

On the way she asked me to buy matchbox and camphor. She was speaking a lot on the way .She also told that "You must perform puja today and I will pass the ownership of that land to you". Along the way she was speaking a lot and I answered in monosyllables. This was unusual.

I returned to the village I was running around as a small boy .Every thing looked foreign to me. All the identification marks in my memory were all destroyed. After getting the lost article I was unable to identify it. I was lost in the childhood days streets, which were now appeared as bunds and hiding pits. We arrived through streets full of shrubs and herbs. My Grandma was silent now. The motorcycle was struggling through the pits. I was unable to identify grandma's land or the temple. Nothing was there, all the houses were destroyed. Grandma suddenly alighted from the motorcycle and started shouting.

"Oh my Amma. Where are you? I never expected to see you in this stage."

She was fumbling for words. Shouted what ever words came to her mind. Came out with full emotions and cried like a small girl. She was unable to identify the temple and finally lit the camphor on the street.

Suddenly she was overcome with anger and started abusing Amman in foul language. "You allowed me to live to see you in this state. You whore?"

I was dumfounded at her behaviour. There was not even a crow to watch all these crying and shouting.

While crying she jumped in front of the shelled remains of the temple. I held from doing so. She shouted at me to allow her to go. I held her tight .Suddenly she collapsed on my hands. That was her last speech and breathe. All was over. In front of the temple she loved and on the soil she loved and grew, my Grandma lay dead on my hands. She was unable to bear the pain of her temple being destroyed.



# Tamil Scholar Bishop Caldwell's House now a Memorial

**IDAIYANKUDI:** English Protestant missionary Bishop Robert Caldwell's house at Idaiyankudi, a small hamlet situated in Tirunelveli district, is now a memorial. The 19th century house has been renovated at a cost of Rs.18.50 lakh by the State Government. It was inaugurated by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi through videoconferencing on Thursday, Feb 17th.

Report by Hindu.com on the inauguration of the memorial as follows:

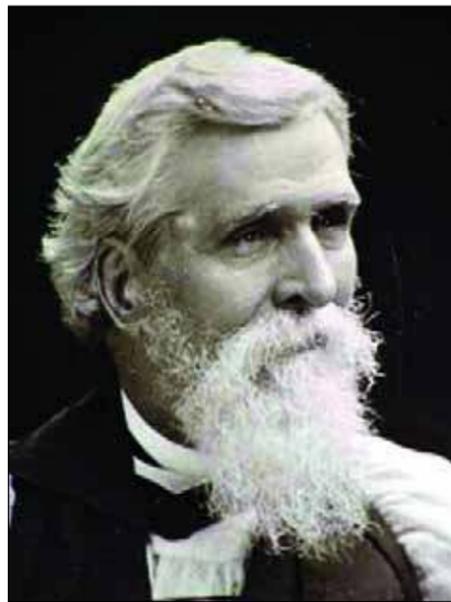
Addressing the function from Chennai, Mr. Karunanidhi said that though several foreigners such as G.U. Pope and Beschi were enticed by the beauty, ancient nature and strength of Tamil, Bishop Caldwell was the foremost among all of them, as he came out with an authoritative work – 'Dravida Mozhigalin Oppilakkanam' (a Comparative Grammar of Dravidian Languages) in 1856 which established the uniqueness of Tamil. He had learnt Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and

Tulu, during his stay at Idaiyankudi between 1841 and 1882.

Former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai had earlier honoured Bishop Caldwell by installing his statue on the Marina Beach on February 2, 1968, on the occasion of Second World Tamil Conference. The statue was unveiled by multi-lingual scholar Appadurai.

Mr. Karunanidhi recalled the release of a special stamp of Bishop Caldwell during the World Tamil Classical Conference held in Coimbatore on June 17, 2010. The Chief Minister also listed the contributions of Rev. Fr. Constantine Joseph Beschi, popularly known as 'Veeramaamunivar', Henry Alfred Krishna Pillai, Vedhanayagam Pillai, Samuel Pillai and others in enriching Tamil with their contributions.

Apart from releasing Rs. 1.26 lakh for installing a bronze bust of Bishop Caldwell at the entrance to the memorial, the State government also sanctioned Rs. 30 lakh for constructing a new resi-



**Bishop Robert Caldwell**

dence for the priest, who was hitherto living in the house of Bishop Caldwell. A cheque for this amount was handed over to CSI Bishop of Tirunelveli Diocese Most Rev. J.J. Christdoss at the function. Bishop Caldwell first came to Madras

on January 8, 1838 from Clady, Northern Ireland, at the age of 24 as a member of the London Mission Society. A graduate from the University of Glasgow, Caldwell, who joined the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Mission (SPG), was fascinated by the comparative study of languages. Caldwell served as the Bishop of Tirunelveli along with Bishop Sargent and did much original research on the history of Tirunelveli. He studied palm leaf manuscripts and Sangam literature and made several excavations, finding the foundations of ancient buildings, sepulchral urns and coins with the fish emblem of Pandya Kingdom.

Speaker R. Avudaiyappan, Ministers K. Ponmudy, Parithi Ilamvazhuthi, T.P.M. Maideen Khan, Poongothai Aladi Aruna and Geetha Jeevan, Rajya Sabha MP S. Thangavelu, MLAs M. Appavu and P. Veldurai, Vicar General of Palayamkottai RC Diocese Rt. Rev. Fr. S. Antonysamy and District Collector M. Jayaraman spoke.

## Community celebrates hospital's redevelopment

After years of planning, construction and fundraising, the community of west Durham celebrated the official opening of the redeveloped Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP) hospital campus.

Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews was the featured guest speaker at the opening on Thursday, Feb. 17th.

"This celebration was a result of vision and hard work long shared by our staff, our doctors, our auxiliary, our many volunteers and the community to expand and modernize our hospital. To see that vision finally come to fruition will mean a lot to this community. As west Durham continues to grow, so will our ability to provide quality care, close to home," says Jay Kaufman, chair of the Board of Directors of Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS).

The opening event took place at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17, at RVAP, 580 Harwood Ave. South, Ajax, in the new Harwood Bistro, located on the ground level of the east wing. This cafeteria was also among the many new features of the redevelopment. The public and the media also in attendance at the event.

RVHS is an excellent acute care community hospital with many programs, including 24/7/365 emergency, cardiac care and mental health. Rouge Valley consists of several health sites,



including two community hospital campuses: Rouge Valley Centenary in east Toronto; and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering in west Durham. Together, a team of physicians (224 general practitioners and 325 specialists), 1,000 nurs-

es and many other professionals care for a broad spectrum of health conditions. Working in consultation and partnership with community members, other hospitals, health care organizations, the Central East Local Health Integration

Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Rouge Valley continues to improve its programs and cater to the needs of the growing communities of east Toronto, Ajax, Pickering and Whitby.

## Op-Ed



WHY RELIGION, DISCUSSIONS OF KARMA AND INTENTION, RESTRICT GENUINE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN

# Sinhala and Tamil communities

By Amarnath Amarasingam

Over the past month, there has been some speculation among members of the global Tamil community on whether Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited Texas to obtain cancer treatment in secret. The story in itself is not particularly interesting, but it does have relevance for the post-conflict situation in Sri Lanka. Many reacted to the news not with sadness, but with a sense that cosmic justice was being meted out.

Some argued that Rajapaksa, responsible for mass human rights violations during the final months of the Sri Lankan civil war, was now getting his just desserts. Although many nationalist Tamils profess to be atheist or secular, the reaction to the news was always framed in Hindu and Buddhist notions of karma, popularly defined in the West as “what goes around comes around.”

For Sinhala soldiers as well, the notion of karma was ever-present throughout the war with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which came to a bloody



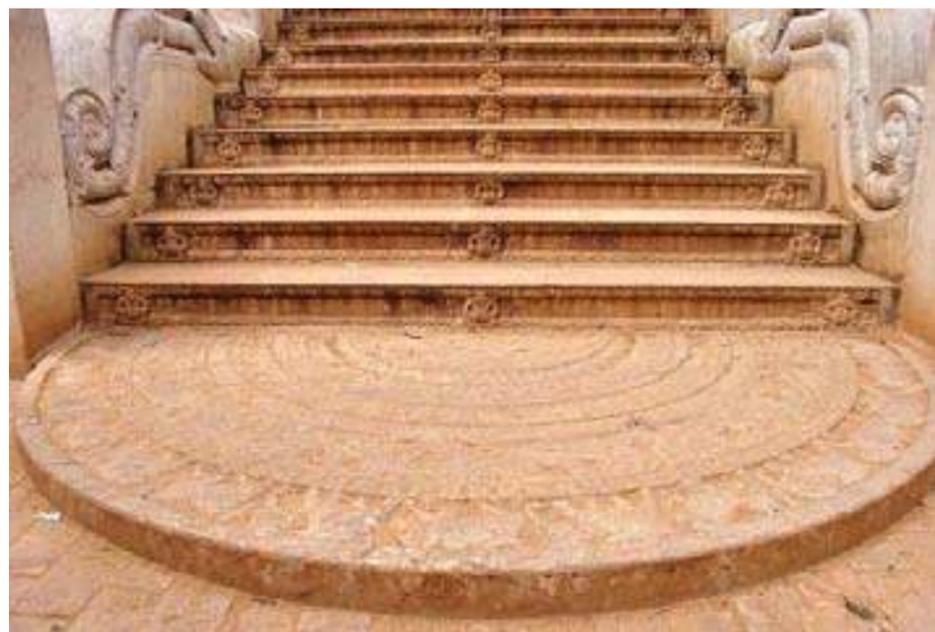
**“there is real debate within the Sri Lankan army about notions of karma and intention in the killing of enemy soldiers”**

conclusion in May 2009. As Daniel Kent’s recent research makes clear, Buddhist monks blessed Sri Lankan soldiers before they went out for training, preached at their funerals, and counseled soldiers and their families about the conduct of war and its justification.

For many years, scholarship on Buddhism, and Eastern religious traditions generally, was often guided by a crude assumption that Western religions held a monopoly on violence, while the East was largely peaceable. Over the last several years, research into conflict in Buddhist societies has forced scholars to rethink our assumptions. According to Kent’s research in Sri Lanka, for example, there is real debate within the Sri Lankan army about notions of karma and intention in the killing of enemy soldiers. While there are many different aspects to the discussion, I focus here on one important question: whether religion, particularly discussions of karma and intention, restrict genuine reconciliation between Sinhala and Tamil communities in post-conflict Sri Lanka. I rely heavily on Kent’s research on the Sri Lankan army, but much of what follows can likely be applied to the Tamil community as well.

Karma may complicate moves toward reconciliation in Sri Lanka, firstly, by assigning causal explanations to events that are largely inexplicable. Kent recalls interviewing a Sri Lankan Corporal, named Specs, at Panagoda army camp near Colombo, who told the story of narrowly escaping a blast from an improvised explosive device. His friend, who was not so lucky, was blinded and had both of his hands blown off. For Specs, his survival is explained with reference to karma. “That sort of thing must occur as the result of merit,” he says, “one becomes disabled like this because of some sort of negative karma, but one’s life is saved because one has done some sort of merit. That is what we think. It must be that. It is the way of karma.” Not only do karmic explanations bring a spiritual rationalization to bear on worldly events, but these justifications often tend to be self-serving. In other words: I survived because I am good.

Perhaps more important for our present purposes is the way in which karma is linked with intention. Kent interviewed one monk, the Venerable Pilassi Vimaladhajja, who pointed out that negative karma does not accrue when an enemy is killed. “Vimaladhajja is not giving soldiers a blank check to kill whomever they wish while fighting the enemy,” writes Kent, “He stresses that if a soldier has the intention to kill, a negative karma occurs. If a soldier’s intention is to fight the



Ruwanveli Seya ~ Moon Stone - by: Manori R

enemy in order to protect the country and religion, however, their actions do not produce negative consequences.” As Kent observes, those who hold this belief look at killing as secondary with the primary intention being the protection of the country.

As with the example above, however, it is assumed that karma, as a cosmic force, is supremely capable of discovering one’s underlying intentions. Depending on how the soldier’s life subsequently turns out, his ideas of karma and intention may have to be re-evaluated. As one soldier told Kent: “Honestly it is possible to rape and pillage during war without being caught. However, if you do that, nothing will ever go right for you ... there was one incident when we were in Trinco ... the Tamils had cultivated a field and left it. Our guys went and harvested the rice. They harvested the rice, sold it and took the money ... there were 21 guys who did that. All 21 of them were killed on the same day at the same time.”

Such faith that karma will mete out punishment with mathematical certainty may work against the potential for remorse, regret or reconciliation. The very fact that some soldiers are still alive and living a life of health, wealth and happiness, is, with profound circular logic, seen as evidence of just conduct during war. This, in essence, is the problem with karma.

Amarnath Amarasingam is a doctoral candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University, and is currently completing his dissertation entitled, Pain, Pride, and Politics: Tamil Nationalism in Canada.

He can be reached at: amar2556@wlu.ca [This article first appeared in the Huffington Post]

## The internet has become the public space of the twenty-first century

Voice of America Editorial – Mar 3, 2011

The United States supports the freedom for people everywhere to connect over the internet and calls on other nations to do the same.

“The internet,” said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, “has become the public space of the twenty-first century.” That’s why the United States supports the freedom for people everywhere to connect over the internet and calls on other nations to do the same.

Unfortunately, many countries continue to restrain the internet. In China, the government censors content and redirects search requests for specific topics to error pages. In Burma, independent news sites have been taken down with distributed denial of service attacks.

In Cuba, the government is trying to create a national intranet, while not allowing their citizens to access the global internet.

In Vietnam, bloggers who criticize the



government are arrested and sometimes mistreated. In Iran, the authorities block opposition and media websites, target social media, and steal identifying information about their own people in order to hunt them down. For the United States said Secretary Clinton, the choice is clear: “On the spectrum of internet freedom, we place

ourselves on the side of openness.” That openness comes with challenges. It calls for ground rules to protect against wrongdoing and harm. One of the challenges facing internet use is achieving both liberty and security. The U.S. is aggressively tracking and deterring criminals

and terrorists online and investing in cyber security. But in all its efforts, the U.S. retains a commitment to universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. Security is often invoked as a justification for harsh crackdowns on freedom. Many governments arrest bloggers, pry into the

peaceful activities of their citizens, and limit their access to the internet in the name of security. The internet also needs to protect confidentiality. There must be secure communication online in order to conduct business, to work as journalists, and governments rely on confidential communication online as well as offline.

A third challenge for internet use is protecting free expression while fostering tolerance and civility. The U.S. believes that efforts to curb the content of speech rarely succeed and often become an excuse to violate freedom of expression.

“Liberty and security, transparency and confidentiality, freedom of expression and tolerance,” said Secretary Clinton, “make up the foundation of a free, open, and secure society as well as a free, open, and secure internet where universal human rights are respected, and which provides a space for greater progress and prosperity over the long run.”



# News from Waterloo

## Family Day activities brings the community together

WATERLOO REGION — There's no shortage of activities to keep the clan busy on Family Day in the Waterloo region. A number of area attractions were offering special family-friendly programming on Monday, 21st of February.

The Tamil community from Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge and Guelph were part of the Westvale community on their "Family Day activity day" at the Westvale Public school in Waterloo. A large number of community booths and food stalls were set up in the school Gym. The event, started with an Irish dance

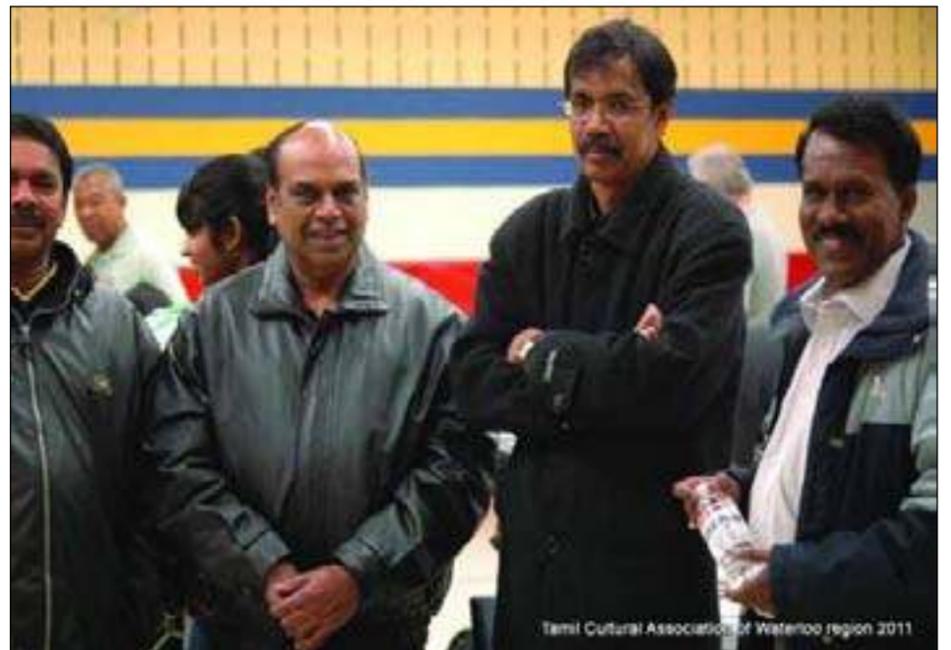
performance by Strathyre Highland Dancers. The Tamil event was inaugurated by a welcoming song by Miss.Lakshmi Sivakumar, Ramya Ramachandran and Divya Ramachandran. They are students of Shyamala Ramachandran of Kitchener. The song "Theeratha vilayattu pillai" was a super hit among the audience. It was followed by a classical South Indian dance performance by the students of Sri Abiramy Dance Academy of Waterloo. Miss. Pavithra Nagul Sundaram was the Master of Ceremony for this program.

She very well explained the meaning of the dance and what the gesture means to the large number of Canadian audience. It was followed by a Bolloywood hit song by Ramya Ramachandran. The audience joined in to be part of her musical performance.

The final performance of the day was a Bharatha Natyam by 9 yr old Lakshimimaya Nambiar. She is a dancer from Laya Lasya Dance Studio of Cambridge and presented jatheeswaram. Jatheeswaram is a series of footwork, which gets more intricate and complicat-

ed, as the dance progresses towards end. In the particular song, because of the switch between different tunes, it was more harder for the artist to adapt to the changing tempo.

The event was organized by Fran Pappert-Shannon of Waterloo. She was "Miss Fran" on the widely popular children's program, Romper Room which aired on CKCO-TV (now CTV Southwestern Ontario) in Kitchener. The Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region was one of the leading sponsors of this event.



# News from Waterloo



## Growing Asian community celebrates New Year

Kitchener, Ontario: The Central Chinese Cultural Association (CCCA) celebrated its annual Chinese New Year celebration at the Kitchener Farmers Market square, on the 5th of February. This year, the theme was "The year of the Rabbit". A large community gathering with dance performances, song and speeches took place. Other performances include a Chinese calligraphy art work-

shop, the Lunar New Year film series, Tai Chi lessons and more were part of the cultural activity.

The members of the Tamil cultural association of Waterloo region were on hand to support their Asian partners. CCCA has been supporting the Waterloo region Tamil community and also gives cultural programs at the Tamil cultural nite festival.



## Redragon wins chamber award for its commitment to hiring immigrants

Redragon: Prakash Venkataraman's company, Redragon Oil and Gas Systems, has helped many new immigrants get settled in Canada by giving them a job. Philip Walker, Record staff file photo Source: Philip Walker, Record staff file photo By Chuck Howitt, Record staff

February 18, 2011

KITCHENER — Prakash Venkataraman knows what it's like to immigrate to a country where everyone is a stranger.

When he came to Cambridge in 2001, it was to set up a Canadian office for an oil company based in the Middle Eastern country of Oman.

While he had a job when he arrived, he also set out to prove that immigrants like himself could make a contribution to Canada.

In 2005, he launched his own company, Redragon Oil and Gas Systems, a manufacturer of oil recycling equipment, and began hiring immigrants — lots of them. Today nearly all of the Cambridge company's 25 employees hail from other countries and speak more than 20 languages.

The Red in the company name stands for reflecting ethnic diversity.

For his efforts to help newcomers settle in this country and find jobs, Venkataraman and Redragon captured the Waterloo Region Immigrant Employment Network award at the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Thursday night.

Redragon was one of 11 award winners at the annual gala attended by nearly 800 people at Bingemans in Kitchener. The competition featured 63 nominees in the 11 categories.

Other winners were:

Young Entrepreneur of the Year: Paul Maxwell of Maxwell's Music House. When Maxwell graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2008, he had a large student loan and no job. But he had an idea. Today Maxwell's Music House in Waterloo is a veritable Taj Mahal of tunes, featuring concerts seven nights a week, practice space, lessons for kids, adults and special-needs students and an in-house radio station.

Volunteer of the Year: Caroline Oliver. In addition to chairing the Chamber of Commerce's networking breakfast committee, Oliver has been director of development and marketing with the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery since 2003. She also volunteers with Conestoga College and the Canadian Association of Gift Planners.

Non-Profit/Charitable Award: Nutrition for Learning. With a staff of only four people, but aided by 600 adult and 250 student volunteers, the organization provides a nutritious meal to more than 9,000 school children in Waterloo Region.

Workplace Training Award: St. Mary's General Hospital. Training programs are



geared to helping the Kitchener hospital's 1,200 staff, 800 physicians and 400 volunteers.

Environment Award: Seven Shores Urban Market & Café. From their shop in uptown Waterloo, owners Sean and Amy Zister sell food items made from local farms and bakeries, and fair-trade art and furnishings made by Third World artisans.

Hospitality/Tourism Award: Bingemans. Five new waterslides and an open-air concert area are among the new features at the sprawling, 51-year-old recreation park and conference centre on the east side of Kitchener.

Innovation Award: Igloo Software. Launched in 2004 as an online network linking researchers at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, Igloo has evolved into a for-profit company based in Kitchener. Its social-networking platform, a kind of Facebook for business, helps clients improve employee productivity and build stronger relationships with key stakeholders.

Business of the Year (20 employees and under): K-W Cornerstone Paving. A commercial asphalt paving company established in 1956, the firm has 17 employees and also does excavation, storm-sewer installation, concrete work and landscaping.

Business of the Year (more than 20 employees): Steed and Evans Ltd. Founded 58 years ago by Roy Steed and Denis Evans, for many years this road-building company has offered stock options to key management employees to ensure succession plans are carried out smoothly. In 2008, the company built a new head office at its Heidelberg-area gravel pit. Work ranges from public infrastructure projects to private development sites throughout southern and central Ontario.

Michael R. Follett Community Leader Award: Jacqui Murphy. Murphy is co-founder of Social Venture Partners Waterloo Region, a new organization that practices social finance by helping non-profits become viable businesses. A partner in the local venture capital firm Tech Capital Partners, she also founded Art Allies, a company that tries to increase exposure for local artists.

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